



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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Contact: Brian Parry, Executive Office

Office: 425.388.3050

Cell: 425.508.4552

Email: Brian.Parry@co.snohomish.wa.us

Reardon appoints Hembree to Agriculture Coordinator post

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon announced today the appointment of Ryan Hembree as the County's new Agriculture Coordinator during the annual Farmer's Breakfast at the Evergreen State Fair.

Hembree will replace John Roney, who served as the County's first Agriculture Coordinator, and will retire after 19 years with Snohomish County.

"In three years John has helped the County take giant steps forward to preserve our farming heritage and advance our local farm economy," said Reardon, who presented Roney with a proclamation declaring "John Roney Day" and a framed display signed by local farmers and County staff. "His ability to listen and solve problems helped to eliminate years of mistrust between farmers and County government, and spearhead our Focus on Farming Initiative."

Ryan Hembree comes from the County's Planning and Development Services Department where he focused on agriculture viability, farm policy and public involvement. He has served the Agricultural Advisory Board for six years and is leading a County-wide project to identify prime farmlands and plan for sustainable agriculture.

"Ryan's strong reputation in the farming community, knowledge of the challenges facing local agriculture and his ability to get results will mean continued progress for our local agriculture economy," said Reardon.

Agricultural Advisory Board Chair, Dave Remlinger said, "Ryan's appointment will bring good things for agriculture in Snohomish County. He is dedicated to his community, to agriculture, and has the skills necessary to move us forward."

"I grew up in Snohomish County and have seen many changes in our local farms," said Hembree. "Since my youth on my uncle's dairy, the farm has always represented a way

of life and our region's heritage. Our local farms give us the ability to ensure a secure and healthy food source, preserve open spaces and salmon habitat and are a source of family recreation. I look forward to doing my part to tackle the challenges facing our local agriculture industry."

As the Agriculture Coordination, Hembree will continue the County's efforts to preserve farmland through programs such as transfer and purchase of development rights, develop a comprehensive sustainability plan, work with the Agriculture Advisory Board to implement the recommendations of the Snohomish County Agriculture Economic Development Action Team and implement the recommendations of Executive Reardon's Agriculture Action Plan. Hembree will step into the Agriculture Coordinator post on September 1.

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