



**Snohomish County
County Executive's Office**

For immediate release – Monday, March 14, 2005

Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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Media alert

Reardon to release ‘Agriculture Action Plan’ boosting \$126 million-a-year local industry

- **Who:** Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and local farmers
- **What:** The Snohomish County Agriculture Action Plan
- **When:** 11 a.m.
Thursday, March 17
- **Where:** Twin City Foods, Inc.
10120 269th Place NW
Stanwood, WA. 98292

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon will unveil his administration's Agriculture Action Plan during a press conference Thursday, March 17 at Twin City Foods.

Reardon committed County government to producing the action plan after last November's highly successful "Focus on Farming Conference," in which more than 350 local farmers, ranchers and growers met to discuss obstacles and opportunities for local agriculture.

Areas addressed in the Agriculture Action Plan include farm regulation reform, economic development, cultural heritage, and outreach and education.

Twin City Foods is hosting the press conference. The business, which employs nearly 450 people during harvest, will celebrate its 50th year of operation in 2006. It has been a fixture of Snohomish County's agricultural economy since 1946 and is consistently one of the world's top producers of frozen peas and cut corn.

There are approximately 1,600 farms in Snohomish County today, but there has been a 26 percent decline in farmland over the past two decades. Nonetheless, the total market value of Snohomish County agricultural products sold was \$126 million in 2002, the most recent year measured.

The agriculture action plan was vetted by 10 representatives of the local agriculture community. Reardon's appointments included:

- Don Bailey - Farmer/owner of Bailand Farms, Inc., Snohomish Valley;
- Hank Graafstra – Owner/Operator of Country Charm Dairy, Arlington;
- Carolyn Henri, PhD. – Natural Resources Economist, Resource Consulting Service, Stanwood;
- Tristan Klesick – Farmer/Owner of Klesick Family Farm, Stanwood;
- Jackie Macomber – Farmer/Owner of Macomber Farm, Granite Falls, and chair of the Snohomish County Agricultural Advisory Board;
- Linda Neunzig – Farmer/Operator of Ninety Farms, Stillaguamish Valley;
- Dale Reiner – Farmer/Owner of Reiner Farm, Tualco Valley, and president of the Snohomish County Farm Bureau;
- Keith Stocker – Farmer/Owner/Operator of Stocker Farms, Snohomish Valley;
- Mick Lovgreen – Vice President of Operations, Twin Cities Foods, Inc., Stanwood; and,
- Rick Williams – Farmer/Owner of Williams Farm, Stillaguamish Valley.

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For additional information, please contact:

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