



**Snohomish County
County Executive's Office**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Aaron Reardon

County Executive

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Reardon Convenes Agricultural Economic Development Action Team

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon is ramping up his effort to improve the economic health of the Snohomish County farming community.

The Snohomish County Agricultural Economic Development Action Team convenes its inaugural meeting Wednesday, October 26, from 10 – 12 noon, Snohomish County Campus, Admin East, 1st Floor Conference Room.

“The inauguration of this group gets us one step closer to our end goal of preserving this county’s farming community,” said Reardon.

The preservation and enhancement of the agricultural economy in Snohomish County is one of Reardon’s top priorities. The Snohomish County Agricultural Economic Development Action Team is an outcome of Reardon’s Agriculture Action Plan Advisory Group.

“Long-term financial stability was identified as a serious issue by the farming community,” said Reardon. “This committee will develop innovative strategies to strengthen and grow our agricultural economy for the next 100 years.”

The Snohomish County Agricultural Development Action Team is comprised of various agricultural disciplines, members of the financial community, infrastructure businesses and other agencies. Co-chairs are Cliff Bailey, retired

dairy farmer/owner Bailand Farms and Tristan Klesick, farmer/owner of Klesick Family Farm.

Three subcommittees will be convened to assess and analyze specific issues and to develop and recommend a set of action plans and outcomes. The goals of the committees are to:

1. Preserve a land base for agriculture for the next 100 years.
2. Develop strategies for new products and markets including, agri-tourism and value-added product processing.
3. Create more effective infrastructure services for agriculture.

Sub-committee chairs are: Don Bailey, owner of Bailand Farms, Dr. Carolyn Henri, consultant and Carol Krause, owner of The Farm, Snohomish.

The Ad Hoc group will meet twice a month during the next eighteen months. Committees will meet as needed to get the work done.

The Snohomish County Agricultural Economic Development Action Team will review and present approved recommendations to Executive Reardon for County implementation.

For more information about this subject contact, John Roney at: 425.257.7112, or jronney@co.snohomish.wa.us.

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