



**Leadership
Economic Viability
Innovation
Water**

Friday, February 9th, 2024

at

WSU NWREC

16650 S.R. 536

Mount Vernon, WA



Conference Schedule

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Agenda

Friday morning, February 9th, 2023

- 9 am Introduction/opening remarks/ WSU Skagit County Extension Grant Funding: Don McMoran, WSU Skagit County Extension.
- 9:10 am Skagit County **Leadership**
- Moderator: Don McMoran
- Objective: The continued viability of Skagit agriculture.
- Mikala Staples Hughes, Washington Ag Forestry
- Peter Donovan, Mount Vernon Mayor Elect
- Danny Haggen, Skagit County Assessor
- 9:50 am *Break*
- 10:00am **Action Team 2: Highlighting Positive Work**
- Moderator: Kara Rowe, Western Washington Ag Association
- Objective: Highlight positive works that are occurring in Skagit County and Washington State.
- Cornelia Kirchhoff, WSU Psychology Clinic, Voucher program
- Sarah Stoner, Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program
- Rebecca Rising, Voluntary Stewardship Program Coordinator, Skagit County Public Works
- Madelyn Loy, Skagit County Weed Board Coordinator
- Owen Peth, Farmer, Peth Farms



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11:00 am

Action Team 3: Economic Viability

Moderator: Diane Smith

Objective: The continued economic viability of Skagit agriculture.

Panel

Nelida Martinez, Pure Nelida

Jason VanderKooy, Harmony Dairy

Michael Hughes, Hughes Farms

Daniel Valdez, Fuerza Labor

12 pm

Lunch

1 pm

Innovation- Dealing with Variable Weather

Moderator: Carol Miles

Objective: To educate the Skagit agricultural community on how to deal with variable weather.

Panel

Gabe LaHue, WSU NWREC

Nick Bond, Washington State Climatologist

Nathan Sakuma, Sakuma Brothers Berry Farm

Kate Smith, WSU Skagit County Extension

Chad Kruger, WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, (CSANR)



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Friday afternoon, February 9th

2 pm **Action Team: Water**

Moderator: Don McMoran

Objective: To educate the Skagit agricultural community on water, water quality, availability and alternatives

Jenna Friebe, Drainage and Irrigation Consortium,
Drainage and Irrigation

Neil Mauna, President of the Pacific Water
Association

Kellie Gillingham, Department of Ecology

3 pm Closing by Rebecca Scrinde

3:20 Evaluation

3:30 Social Hour at Sean O'Donnell's sponsored by



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