TILTH 2021
CONFERENCE

THE INNOVATIVE WA FARMER: SHARING WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

NOVEMBER 19-21 | LYNNWOOD, WA
Welcome to Snohomish County!
Preserving Our Roots, Planting Our Future

1,560 farms; farmgate value of 157,565,000

Diverse range of high-quality agriculture products

Home of the Food & Farming Center, and Focus on Farming Conference

Snohomish County Focus on Farming

www.focusonfarming.org

Stop by our booth to learn more
Welcome!

It is with a full heart, immense gratitude and great joy that I welcome you all to Tilth Conference 2021. We will miss those who cannot be here in person — but oh, the thrill of meeting face to face after more than two years, even if we are wearing masks!

While we will have plenty of opportunities for play while here, the work we have to do feels more important than ever. We have entered a time that truly feels historic, a time that requires us — this community of farmers, researchers, policy makers, businesses and food activists — to lean in. Food production is not only significantly impacted by many of the existential challenges of our time, it has a significant role to play in addressing them. The way we produce food can either decrease or improve biodiversity, contribute to or mitigate climate change, increase consumption or conserve water, exacerbate or address historic inequities.

Moving agriculture to the positive side of the impact ledger will require leadership from all of us. It will require broad changes in agricultural practice, investments in research, policy changes and activism. My hope is that we leave this conference together having stepped into our power as a community, with a deeper understanding of the roles we need to play in addressing these challenges, invigorated, refreshed, connected and ready for the work ahead.

I look forward to diving in with you for the next two days. Let’s play hard, and work hard, and leave ready to contribute to a better future.

— Melissa Spear, Executive Director

We want to respectfully acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands of the Snohomish people, and their successors, the Tulalip (pronounced Tuh’-lay-lup) Tribes, who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial. We are grateful for their continued care of this land — as an organization working within the food system, Tilth Alliance understands healthy land is essential for all beings to survive and thrive. We recognize past mistakes with honesty and seek to build a future with their people and culture at the table. We encourage each of you to acknowledge the land of the indigenous peoples where you live, work, farm and garden.
# Conference Schedule

## Friday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15-9 am</td>
<td>Registration and Check-In</td>
<td>Room 2A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15-9 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 am-2:30 pm</td>
<td>Farm Walk: Sound Sustainable Farms and Sammamish Farms</td>
<td>Meet at Registration Desk!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6 pm</td>
<td>Community Roundtable</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Happy Hour &amp; Farmer Bingo</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
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## Saturday

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15-9 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 am-7 pm</td>
<td>Trade Show</td>
<td>Upper Concourse &amp; Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-8:40 am</td>
<td>Welcome!</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 am-noon</td>
<td>Sessions A &amp; B</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noon-12:50 pm</td>
<td>Lunch / Open Space Conversations</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:50-1:40 pm</td>
<td>Keynote: Thea Maria Carlson</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:55-3:10 pm</td>
<td>Sessions C &amp; D</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:55-3:10 pm</td>
<td>Bonus Virtual Session:  Northwest Women: Why We Were, and Are, Critical for the Future of Sustainable Food and Agriculture</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6:30 pm</td>
<td>Seed Salon &amp; Swap</td>
<td>Lower Concourse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8:30 pm</td>
<td>Banquet Dinner</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30-8:10 pm</td>
<td>Awards Ceremony</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:10-8:30 pm</td>
<td>Live Music — Anthony Reyes and Sheryl Wiser</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30-10 pm</td>
<td>Stories from the Farm</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
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## Sunday

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<td>Trade Show</td>
<td>Upper Concourse &amp; Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:8:40 am</td>
<td>Farmer Yoga</td>
<td>Room 2BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am-12:15 pm</td>
<td>Sessions E &amp; F</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15-1:05 pm</td>
<td>Lunch / Open Space Conversations</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:05-1:55 pm</td>
<td>Keynote: Katherine Un</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:10-3:25 pm</td>
<td>Session G</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>Conference concludes</td>
<td>Room 2DE</td>
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</table>

## Help us create a welcoming and positive environment!

- Remember to wear your mask at all times, except while actively eating, drinking, or speaking into a microphone.
- Be respectful of all speakers, presenters, MCs and performers. Give them your attention.
- Let people finish their thoughts. Please do not talk over one another or interrupt each other.
- Share the air time! Encourage everyone to participate.
- Listen and ask questions to deepen your understanding.
- Be respectful, kind and inclusive of one another throughout the conference.
- Have fun, connect and learn!

## Fill out your Tilth Conference evaluation form!

¡Complete su formulario de evaluación de la conferencia!

You can find an evaluation form inside your conference tote bag or at the registration desk. Encuentre el formulario dentro de su bolsa de mano de la conferencia o en la mesa de registración.
Logistics

Family & Friends
Guests may purchase a full meal package ($150) at the registration desk depending on availability. There is no fee to join us at the Friday night happy hour or Saturday night happy hour, and all are welcome to attend our keynote addresses on Saturday and Sunday.

Conference Evaluation
Please complete the conference evaluation found in your tote bag! Your response helps inform future conference planning. Drop off your evaluation at the registration desk.

Enter the Raffle!
Stop by the registration desk during the day on Friday or Saturday and enter to win one of two prizes: a collection of Patagonia gear or a swag bag of Tilth Alliance merchandise! Tickets are just $10. Winners will be drawn at Saturday’s Banquet Dinner. Must be present to win.

Interpretation
We are so grateful to have live English-Spanish interpretation provided throughout the whole conference by Malaquias Flores, Maribel Lopez Garcia and Gwen Vernon. The welcome addresses, keynotes, awards ceremony and six educational sessions all have live interpretation. Sessions with this feature are indicated by this symbol 🗣️.

Trade Show
Upper Concourse & Room 2DE
A dynamic industry trade show will take place throughout the conference featuring a wide array of exhibitors displaying, demonstrating and discussing their latest products and services. Be sure and visit with all 27 vendors located in the Upper Concourse and Room 2DE to gather valuable resources and inspiration! Find the full list of vendors on page 9.
OVER 1,800: farms, farmers markets, u-pick, CSA, restaurants, value-added products and local resources listed to date.

Eat Local For the Holidays - December 2021
Wholesale Buyer Outreach - January 2022
CSA Finder - CSA Campaign Jan-March 2022

ADD OR UPDATE YOUR BUSINESS INFO TO BENEFIT FROM UPCOMING PROMOTIONS:

- Eat Local For the Holidays - December 2021
- Wholesale Buyer Outreach - January 2022
- CSA Finder - CSA Campaign Jan-March 2022

eatlocalfirst.org | Questions? Contact info@eatlocalfirst.org
Thank you sponsors!
Thank you trade show vendors!

- American National Insurance
- Business Impact NW
- Charlie’s Produce
- Chelsea Green Publishing
- Concentrates, Inc.
- Eat Local First
- Farms For Life
- Food4All
- Garden Hotline
- Haki Farmers Collective
- High Mowing Seeds
- Johnny’s Selected Seeds
- Local Yokels
- Northwest Agriculture Business Center
- Puget Sound Food Hub
- Scratch and Peck
- Skagit Farmers Supply
- Snohomish County Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Spark NW
- Sustainable Connections
- Urban Garden Wisdom
- WSDA Organic Program
- WSDA Produce Safety Program
- WSDA Regional Markets
- WSU Food Systems
- WSU Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Degree Program
- WSU Skagit County Extension
Seeds & Tools Selected for Your Success

Superior seed germination rates
Quality labor-saving tools & supplies
Expert support from our team

Ask for Johanna Willingham,
your Johnny’s Sales Representative
jwillingham@johnnyseeds.com  |  207-238-5320
Friday

Farm Walk  
*Farm Walk ticket required.*

9:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (Meet at Registration Desk)

**SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45-10 a.m.</td>
<td>Gather at Registration Desk and board tour bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Tour Sound Sustainable Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noon-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch and travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Tour Sammamish Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Return to Conference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOUND SUSTAINABLE FARMS**

*Sound Sustainable Farms* strives to bring fresh, locally grown, organic food to the tables of diners at our finest area restaurants, fans at our region’s iconic ballparks and the tables of hungry families throughout our region.

Founded in 2017, Sound Sustainable Farms was launched by Cedar Grove, a local company with regional roots dating back to 1938. Cedar Grove brought its locally manufactured, organic compost generated from local residents and restaurants to a dormant farm in Redmond, WA. To restore soil health and initiate productivity on land that was intended for and protected for farming.

The benefits of compost in agriculture are well researched, documented and known. Sound Sustainable Farms seeks to provide a venue for this region to see firsthand how the valuable resources we recycle every day can be used to grow healthy food for the community we live in.

Please wear boots/shoes that can get muddy/dirty and please dress grubby as the dirt has a way of making its way onto the whole outfit. No dogs are allowed so please leave any four-legged friends at home.

**SAMMAMISH FARMS**

Join *Sammamish Farms*’ Erik Goheen on a tour of their no-till market garden to see how and why no-till principles have been applied on a large scale and learn how local consumer demand has driven the garden’s four-season production.

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**Community Roundtable**

4-6 p.m. | Room 2DE

Join us for a community roundtable discussion to share your thoughts on current challenges faced by the Washington farming community. This facilitated conversation will focus on what organic, regenerative, small, and medium-sized farmers in Washington need to thrive while meeting the demand for healthy, local, sustainably produced food. The more voices at the table the better - your contribution to the conversation is important!

**Happy Hour & Farmer Bingo**

6-7:30 p.m. | Room 2DE

Let’s start the weekend off right! Join us for a mix and mingle event. Enjoy this evening with plenty of hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar, music and a fun game of farmer bingo. Prizes will be awarded to the first three Bingo winners. We’re excited to offer this celebration to reconnect with friends and colleagues and welcome our newest community members. Come by and gather ‘round!
### Saturday Morning

**Breakfast** 7:15-9 a.m (Room 2DE)

**Trade Show** 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. (Upper Concourse & Room RDE)

**Welcome** 8-8:50 a.m. (Room 2DE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room 1D</th>
<th>Room 1E</th>
<th>Room 1F</th>
<th>Room 1A</th>
<th>Room 1BC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A1:</strong> From Seed to Harvest: Optimizing Your Seed Investment (Ada Snyder, High Mowing Organic Seeds)</td>
<td><strong>A2:</strong> Using Assistive Technology for Working Farmers (Curt Johnson, Washington Assistive Technology Act Program; Kristen VanValkenburg, Washington AgrAbility)</td>
<td><strong>A3:</strong> Lessons Learned from Establishing a Producer-Owned Food Hub Cooperative in Southwest WA (Stephen Bramwell, Washington State University; Mike Peroni, Northwest Agriculture Business Center)</td>
<td><strong>A4:</strong> Agricultural Commoning - Rethinking Farmland Access in WA State (Addie Candib, American Farmland Trust; Rhys-Thorvald Hansen, Agrarian Trust)</td>
<td><strong>A5:</strong> Relocalizing Flowers - Farm to Market Best Practices (Hannah Morgan, Fortunate Orchard; Tammy Myers, LORA Bloom; Debra Prinzing, Slow Flowers Society; Brad Siebe, Seattle Wholesale Growers Market; Sarah Wagstaff, SUOT Farm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**9-10:15 a.m.**

**10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Sustainable Production Systems I**

**Technological Innovations in Agriculture**

**Creative Partnerships for Innovative Solutions**

**Pathways Forward for WA Agriculture**

**Pursuing New Markets**

| **B1:** Raising Pastured Poultry on a Diversified Vegetable Farm: Best Practices and Lessons Learned (Rawley Johnson, Early Bird Farm) | **B2:** Weather, Climate, and WA Agriculture (Nicholas A. Bond, WA State Climatologist; Lav Khot, Washington State University) | **Open Session** | **B4:** Rebuilding the Washington Organic Voice: Coalition for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture (Brenda Book, WSDA Organic Program; Anne Schwartz, Blue Heron Farm; Aimee Simpson, PCC Community Markets; Melissa Spear, Tilth Alliance; Amy Wong, Oregon Organic Coalition) | **B5:** Institutional Buying, Grants and Technical Assistance Opportunities for Washington Farms (Laura Raymond, Annette Slonim, and Karen Ullman, Washington State Department of Agriculture) |

**Lunch** 12:00-12:50 p.m. (Room 2DE)

**Keynote** **ES **— Thea Maria Carlson: “Farming for Our Collective Future” 12:50-1:40 p.m. (Room 2DE)

Farming is at the nexus of all of the crises we currently face, including climate change, wildfires, drought, massive social disparities and injustice, the failure of the industrial food system, escalating land prices, disappearing topsoil and biodiversity, and a pandemic with no end in sight. How can we grow food and steward land in a way that fully faces and embraces these crises with courage and innovation? Drawing on diverse streams of wisdom, Thea will explore what it might look like for farmers to lead the way to a more vibrant and just future for everyone.

**Break** (15 min. — Visit the Trade Show!)
Saturday Afternoon & Evening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:55-3:10 p.m.</td>
<td>C1: Wash/Pack Design - Increase Shelf Life, Lower Risks, Reduce Bottlenecks (Ryan Lichtenegger, Steel Wheel Farm; Billy Mitchell, National Farmers Union)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C2: Grazing Management to Limit Wildfire Risk (Tip Hudson, Washington State University)</td>
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<td>C3: On-Farm Trials, Evaluation, and Decision Tools for Cover Crop Management (Nick Andrews, Oregon State University; Doug Collins, Washington State University; Rawley Johnson, Early Bird Farm)</td>
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<td>C4: The Delridge Farmers Market: Creating a New Kind of Farmers Market (Bilan Aden &amp; Rachel Perlot, African Community Housing &amp; Development)</td>
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<td>C5: The Story of Farm Labor in Washington — Past, Present and Future (Tomás Madrigal, United Farmworkers Union; Nora Sanchez, Baird Orchards)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ES: Eat Local First - Building Digital Capacity for Local Farmers (Dr. Laura Lewis, Washington State University; Maressa Valliant, Sustainable Connections; Sheryl Wiser, Tilth Alliance)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bonus Virtual Session (1:55-3:10 p.m.)**

Northwest Women: Why We Were, and Are, Critical for the Future of Sustainable Food and Agriculture (Margaret Clark; Lynn Coody; Diane Dempster; Gretchen Hoyt, Alm Hill Gardens; Anne Schwartz, Blue Heron Farm; Cheryl Thornton, Cloud Mountain Farm Center)

Join from your device! Go to https://bit.ly/tilth-bonus-session (Meeting ID: 846 8710 4951; Passcode: 148205)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:25-4:40 p.m.</td>
<td>D1: Grazing Management to Limit Wildfire Risk (Tip Hudson, Washington State University)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>D2: Opportunities and Challenges for the Smaller Enterprise in Indoor Growing (Robin Hones, Cascadia Greens)</td>
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<td>D3: By Air, By Land and By Sea (Zsofia Pasztor, Farmer Frog; Lynda Zambrano, National Tribal Emergency Council Management)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>D4: Resilience in WA Agriculture: What Can We Learn from COVID? (Sarah Collier, University of Washington)</td>
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<td>D5: Introduction to the USDA Value-Added Producer Grant (Luke Woodward, Northwest Agriculture Business Center)</td>
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Break (15 min. — Visit the Trade Show!)

3:25-4:40 p.m.

Seed Salon & Swap 5-6:30 p.m. (Lower Concourse)

Banquet Dinner & Awards Ceremony 7-8:30 p.m. (Room 2DE)

Stories from the Farm 8:30-10 p.m. (Room 2DE)
### Sunday

**Breakfast** 7:30-9:15 a.m. (Room 2DE)

**Trade Show** 8 a.m.-noon (Lower Concourse & Room 2DE)

**Farmer Yoga** 8:40 a.m. (Room 2BC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainable Production &amp; Systems II</th>
<th>Operating a Viable Farm Business</th>
<th>Pathways Forward for WA Agriculture</th>
<th>Rethinking Food Distribution</th>
<th>Open Sessions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Room 1D</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Room 1A</strong></td>
<td><strong>Room 1BC</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>E1: Learning from the Land: Building Organic Tree Fruit and Table Grape Programs in NW Washington (Elizabeth Hayes &amp; Tom Thornton, Cloud Mountain Farm Center)</td>
<td>E2: Breaking the Habit: How Adapting to Changing Environments with Innovative Techniques Could Save Our Farms (Liz Gillispie, Badger Mountain Vineyard)</td>
<td>E3: Farm Policy for the People: What You Need to Know to Advocate for a Better Food System (Eric Deebly, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition; Katherine Un, National Young Farmers Coalition)</td>
<td>E4: Overcoming Barriers to Grow and Sell Produce for Emergency Food Distribution (Diane Dempster; Jillian Moore &amp; Jeremy Vrablik, Cascadia Produce; Amy Moreno-Sills, Four Elements Farm; Vicky Navarro &amp; Fia Taito, Lend a Hand Community Outreach; Kamal Sidhu, Sidhu Farms)</td>
<td>Open Sessions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Break** (15 min. — Visit the Trade Show!)

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Session</th>
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**Lunch** 12:15-1:05 p.m. (Room 2DE)

**Keynote** **ES** — Katherine Un: “We Hold the Answers: How WA Farmers Can Build a More Just and Sustainable Future” 1:05-1:55 p.m. (Room 2DE)

Agriculture is looking for a future that is resilient and brings answers to climate change; that lives up to our vision for a more equitable society. Young and BIPOC farmers have the passion, drive, and expertise to disrupt the status quo. Katherine Un will show how, once given true access to the agricultural sector, a new generation of farmers can steward lands and heal communities for a brighter farm future.

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**Community Roundtable, Part 2**

Missed the roundtable on Friday? Share your thoughts on current challenges faced by the Washington farming community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Session</th>
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</table>

**2:10-3:25 p.m.**

**ES**
At Cascadia Produce, our guiding principals are supporting local farms and providing dignified, life-sustaining food to people.

Cascadia works in emergency food, utilizing federal, state, and other funding to source produce, dairy, and protein which are delivered in bulk or assembled into food boxes and given out to people in need all over Washington at no cost to recipients.

- Cascadia buys from local farmers at every opportunity for inclusion in these programs. We work with farms to overcome barriers and help them grow to meet new opportunities.

For more information about participation email info@cascadiaveg.com

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Supporting Farmers, Protecting Farmland

Two websites that serve our local farmers

FARM KING COUNTY
A one-stop resource for your King County farm.

LOCAL FOOD Initiative

QR codes for additional information.
After nearly 20 years of helping farmers find land across the state, Tilth Alliance’s Washington FarmLink program is being folded into Farm to Farmer, a land access program of Washington Farmland Trust. As long-time partners, Tilth Alliance and Washington Farmland Trust are proud to make this decision together as a way to offer one go-to resource for farmers to buy, sell, or lease land in Washington.

Learn more at farmtofarmer.org


Learn more at wafarmlandtrust.org
CERTIFIED ORGANIC VINEYARD SINCE 1990

WINES MADE WITH NO ADDED SULFITES & 100% USDA CERTIFIED ORGANIC GRAPES.

NO PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES OR INSECTICIDES USED IN THE VINEYARD.

VEGAN, NON-GMO, GLUTEN-FREE WINES.

Tasting Room Location:
1106 N. Jurupa St.
Kennewick, WA 99338
Phone: 509-627-4986

Tasting Room Hours:
Open daily, 12-5pm

www.badgermtnvineyard.com
Keynote Address: Thea Maria Carlson

“Farming for Our Collective Future”
12:50-1:40 p.m. | Room 2DE

Farming is at the nexus of all of the crises we currently face, including climate change, wildfires, drought, massive social disparities and injustice, the failure of the industrial food system, escalating land prices, disappearing topsoil and biodiversity, and a pandemic with no end in sight. How can we grow food and steward land in a way that fully faces and embraces these crises with courage and innovation? Drawing on diverse streams of wisdom, we will explore what it might look like for farmers to lead the way to a more vibrant and just future for everyone.

Thea Maria Carlson is an earth steward, farmer, facilitator, community weaver, speaker, writer, and co-creator who collaborates with organizations, individuals, and communities at the intersections of food and agriculture, environmental stewardship, social justice, and regenerative economy.

Sessions

**SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION & SYSTEMS**

A1: From Seed to Harvest: Optimizing Your Seed Investment
Ada Snyder, High Mowing Organic Seeds
Join Ada Snyder, your Northwest Regional Commercial Grower Representative from High Mowing Organic Seeds, for a discussion that will help you achieve the best possible results from your seeds. We will explore best storage options once the seed is received to preserve quality prior to planting. We will then discuss how to achieve successful germination and growth for vegetable crops. Special attention will be given to best practices and things to avoid for those crops that can often prove most challenging. The presenter will share successful methods, strategies, and tricks of the trade they have gained through first-hand experience and from growers throughout the country.

B1: Raising Pastured Poultry On A Diversified Vegetable Farm: Best Practices And Lessons Learned
Rawley Johnson, Early Bird Farm
Lessons learned from raising 500 egg laying hens per year on a vegetable farm over the last decade. How a careful rotation of hens in mobile coops over fallowed and cover cropped vegetable fields can improve soil health and fertility for future crops, as well as provide income for the farm through the eggs produced.

C1: Wash/Pack Design - Increase Shelf Life, Lower Risks, And Reduce Bottlenecks
Ryan Lichtenegger, Steel Wheel Farm; Billy Mitchell, National Farmers Union
A produce farm’s wash/pack area is important real estate! It should be a clean and comfortable place that creates a positive environment for your farm community to effectively and efficiently wash and pack produce - keeping the quality high and the produce safety risks low. We’ll cover simple design strategies, brainstorm solutions to common bottlenecks, and experiment with different tools. There will be prizes!

D1: Grazing Management to Limit Wildfire Risk
Tip Hudson, Washington State University
Wildfires are a risk in any climate region with primarily wintertime precipitation and dry summers. And while wildfire is a natural disturbance in most of these ecosystems, the effects of fire are often exacerbated by
exotic annual plants that fundamentally alter the fire cycle and vegetation response. Domestic livestock grazing is one of the few inexpensive biological control methods that is effective in reducing fire risk, but there is often a fine line between helping and hurting. Understanding plant physiology and plant community response to various combinations of grazing variables is necessary to make targeted grazing work. Tip Hudson will discuss grazing strategies before and after wildfire on a variety of plant community types to limit the extent, severity, and community cost of wildfire.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS IN AGRICULTURE

A2: Using Assistive Technology for Working Farmers
Curt Johnson, Washington Assistive Technology Act Program; Kristen VanValkenburg, Washington AgrAbility
Washington AgrAbility focuses on keeping and enhancing a quality lifestyle for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers battling disabilities, injury and/or aging. AgrAbility seeks to eliminate or at least minimize obstacles that block success in production agriculture or agriculture-related occupations.

A2: Uso de tecnología de asistencia para agricultores
Curt Johnson, Washington Assistive Technology Act Program; Kristen VanValkenburg, Washington AgrAbility
Washington AgrAbility se enfoca en mantener y mejorar un estilo de vida para agricultores, ganaderos y trabajadores agrícolas que luchan contra discapacidades, lesiones y/o envejecimiento. AgrAbility busca eliminar o al menos minimizar los obstáculos que bloquean el éxito en la producción agrícola o en ocupaciones relacionadas con la agricultura.

B2: Weather, Climate and WA Agriculture
Nicholas A. Bond, WA State Climatologist; Lav Khot, Washington State University
Through three 20-min invited talks and follow-up discussion, this session will educate participants on aspects of (Topic 1) Is PNW/WA weather changing---relevant extremes & future climate forecast trends, (Topic 2) WSU Ag Weather Network---how the mesonet monitors & shares (Ag) weather & hydrological data (& products) to stakeholders, and (Topic 3) a stakeholder use case on effectiveness of weather data tools to better manage conservation districts/farm operations.

C2: On-Farm Trials, Evaluation, and Decision Tools for Cover Crop Management
Nick Andrews, Oregon State University; Doug Collins, Washington State University; Rawley Johnson, Early Bird Farm
The newly formed Western Cover Crops Council is promoting cover crop adoption in the western U.S. Current projects include multiple on-farm trials to evaluate cover crops, and development of a suite of cover crop decision tools including a cover crop selection tool and nitrogen mineralization models.

C2: Ensayos en la granja, evaluación y herramientas de decisión para el manejo de cultivos de cobertura
Nick Andrews, Oregon State University; Doug Collins, Washington State University; Rawley Johnson, Early Bird Farm
El recién formado Western Cover Crops Council está promoviendo la adopción de cultivos de cobertura en el oeste de los EEUU. Los proyectos actuales incluyen múltiples ensayos en finca para evaluar cultivos de cobertura y el desarrollo de un conjunto de herramientas de decisión de cultivos de cobertura que incluyen una herramienta de selección de cultivos de cobertura y modelos de mineralización de nitrógeno.

D2: Opportunities and Challenges for the Smaller Enterprise in Indoor Growing
Robin Hones, Cascadia Greens
This session will cover a detailed tour of the practical opportunities and challenges that the smaller enterprise will find in implementing a four-season growing environment. What opportunities exist for creating a year-round business and lessons learned from operating my own system.

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

A3: Lessons Learned Establishing a Producer-Owned Food Hub Cooperative in Southwest WA
Stephen Bramwell, Washington State University; Mike Peroni, Northwest Agriculture Business Center
This presentation will report on a USDA-funded Local Food Promotion Program grant project to open new markets for regional food producers by planning the development of aggregation, sales, and distribution infrastructure and services. Topics to be covered include formation of a chartered producer committee, development of operational plans, and training for
producers and buyers to facilitate participation in a farmer-owned, cooperative food hub. Approaches to education and outreach to buyers and sellers, market and production data collection, and development of business and marketing plans will be discussed, including the design and launch of a pilot aggregation-distribution network in response to the need for food aid distribution. Challenges, approaches, “aha”, and “uh oh” moments will be shared.

C3: The Delridge Farmers Market: Creating a New Kind of Farmers Market
Bilan Aden & Rachel Perlot, African Community Housing & Development
The Delridge Farmers Market was launched in June 2021 with two goals: to bring local, healthy, culturally-relevant food to the African Diaspora immigrant and refugee community in the USDA-designated food desert of South Delridge (Southwest Seattle), and to create economic opportunity for BIPOC-owned food-based small businesses in South King County. In this presentation, Ms. Aden and Ms. Perlot will share the story of how the Delridge Farmers Market came about, and the lessons they’ve learned along the way.

D3: By Land, By Air and By Sea
Zsofia Pasztor, Farmer Frog; Lynda Zambrano, National Tribal Emergency Council Management
Zsofia Pasztor, Executive Director and co-founder of Farmer Frog and Lynda Zambrano, Executive Director and founder of the National Tribal Emergency Management Council will share with us how two non-profits came together during the largest pandemic in history to feed more than 3 million people in 36 states... by land, by air and by sea.

PATHWAYS FORWARD FOR WA AGRICULTURE

A4: Agricultural Commoning - Rethinking Farmland Access in WA State
Addie Candib, American Farmland Trust; Rhys-Thorvald Hansen, Agrarian Trust
We are in the midst of 400 million acres of U.S. land changing hands as thousands of farmers and ranchers retire, yet next generation farmers struggle to access land. Innovative models of ownership and stewardship are needed to support the next generation, heal the land, and grow food sustainably. This workshop will begin with a presentation sharing the growing movements in agricultural commons both nationally and locally, with a focus on Puget Sound Agrarian Commons and the Gardner Farm opportunity on Whidbey Island.

B4: Rebuilding the Washington Organic Voice: Coalition for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture
Brenda Book, WSDA Organic Program; Anne Schwartz, Blue Heron Farm; Aimee Simpson, PCC Community Markets; Melissa Spear, Tilth Alliance; Amy Wong, Oregon Organic Coalition
What does it take to create a diverse, unified and effective voice for organic in Washington? Learn about the work being done to build a new advocacy coalition whose purpose is to advocate for public policies and programs that support the broad adoption and utilization of organic and regenerative growing practices.

C4: The Story of Farm Labor in Washington — Past, Present and Future
Tomás Madrigal, United Farmworkers Union; Nora Sanchez, Baird Orchards
Without a reliable on-farm labor force agricultural production in Washington would be in dire straits. Yet we have not always treated farm workers with the respect they need and deserve. The UFW has been working for many years to ensure that Farm Workers enjoy the same rights and protections as other laborers. Important gains have been made but the UFW is clear that more needs to be done. In this presentation Tomas Madrigal will provide us with an overview of the past, present and possible future of farm labor in Washington and beyond. Nora Sanchez will provide context on how Washington labor laws apply to agricultural workers where the rubber meets the road – on farm.

D4: Resilience In Washington Agriculture: What Can We Learn From Covid?
Sarah Collier, University of Washington
Over the course of 2020 and 2021 farms and ranches in Washington experienced numerous impacts and adapted to COVID-19 in myriad ways. This presentation will synthesize the results of surveys and interviews conducted during the course of the pandemic, including what is known about what types of impacts were most significant, what types of adaptations were most prevalent, how different farm characteristics may have contributed to food system resilience in different ways, and how lessons learned may be put to use in the future. Farms in Washington are diverse, and the experiences of farmers were equally diverse.

Don’t forget to visit the Trade Show!
Upper Concourse & Room 2DE
A5: Relocalizing Flowers -- Farm to Market Best Practices

Hannah Morgan, Fortunate Orchard; Tammy Myers, LORA Bloom; Debra Prinzing, Slow Flowers Society; Brad Siebe, Seattle Wholesale Growers Market; Sarah Wagstaff, SUOT Farm

There is a heightened interest in local and seasonal flowers as an economic opportunity for farmers and florists alike, fueled by the Slow Flowers movement, our speaker’s personal passion project. Debra Prinzing will host a panel of PNW local flower experts to discuss how the audience can participate in Relocalizing our Flowers. Each panelist represents an important role along the continuum -- including those who grow, wholesale/retail/ market and design. They will share best practices for the current consumer climate and answer questions about the progressive momentum that’s changing attitudes around local, seasonal and sustainable flowers. The panel format includes a PowerPoint slide presentation and live floral design demonstrations with seasonal flowers.

B5: Institutional Buying, Grants and Technical Assistance Opportunities for Washington Farms

Laura Raymond, Annette Slonim, and Karen Ullman, Washington State Department of Agriculture

COVID-19 disruptions to food supply chains have led to challenges and opportunities. Some wholesale buyers are looking to local farm suppliers in new ways, including schools and hunger relief programs. New grants and resources are also available for farms and food businesses. Come learn from WSDA Regional Markets Program and partners on how you can take advantage of new sales opportunities, local food system infrastructure grants, and specialized farm business support services, including a GAP cost-share. Buyers and farmers with experience will also be on-hand to share tips and first-hand experience.

C5: Eat Local First - Building Digital Capacity for Local Farmers

Dr. Laura Lewis, Washington State University; Maressa Valliant, Sustainable Connections; Sheryl Wiser, Tilth Alliance

Come learn how you can benefit from the power of collective and collaborative marketing with local roots. More than a directory, the Washington Food & Farm Finder is a powerful marketing engine for all stakeholders in our Washington State food system. Whether you want to increase sales to institutions, or a local co-op; connect with a local manufacturer looking to source local ingredients, or you want to expand your CSA or online subscription service. Learn more about how you can leverage this statewide resource to reach and expand market channels and increase visibility to the buyers and partners you want to connect with most.

D5: Introduction to the USDA Value Added Producer Grant

Luke Woodward, Northwest Agriculture Business Center

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program provides up to $250,000 to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities and increase producer income. You may receive priority if you are a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative or are proposing a mid-tier value chain. The application process can be quite overwhelming. NABC has a long history of writing and assisting the development of successful applications. Furthermore, we work closely with USDA personnel who oversee this grant program in our region. NABC Project Manager Luke Woodward will provide an overview of the grant program and application process, concluded with a question and answer session.

D5: Introducción a “Subvención de Valor Agregado para Productores” del USDA

Luke Woodward, Northwest Agriculture Business Center

El programa de Subvenciones de Valor Agregado para Productores (VAPG) proporciona hasta $250,000 para
Saturday
Social Events

SEED SALON & SWAP
5-6:30 p.m. | Lower Concourse
Join us for a happy hour featuring your favorite seed experts! Ada Snyder of High Mowing Seeds, Johanna Willingham of Johnny’s Selected Seeds, Laurie McKenzie of Organic Seed Alliance, Linda Fenstermaker of Osborne Quality Seeds, Darien Payne of King County Seed Lending Library, Mercy Kariuki-McGee of Haki Farmers Collective and Laura Matter of The Garden Hotline will be on hand to chat about seed interests, answer questions and share knowledge. Join us for seed games, samples, happy hour beverages and more! Bring seeds to share, or just take some home. We invite you to contribute what you can. Here are some helpful guidelines:
- Bring seed that is viable
- Bring seeds you have saved in a labeled baggie or envelope
- Do not bring seeds collected from hybrid plants, as they won’t grow true to type
- Make sure your seeds are clearly labeled with crop type, variety name and the date they were packaged/harvested

AWARDS CEREMONY
7:30-8:10 p.m. | Room 2DE
All are welcome to help us honor the Farmer and Advocate of the Year. The Farmer of the Year award is given to someone who exhibits outstanding or innovative efforts in the field. The Advocate of the Year award goes to an individual who’s made a significant contribution to the sustainable agriculture community. We will also be presenting a Lifetime Achievement Award. These individuals have had a profound impact on Washington State’s food system and statewide agriculture!

STORIES FROM THE FARM
8:30-10 p.m. | Room 2DE
Come ready to take the stage for 5 minutes and share a story from your farm in this storytelling activity inspired by “The Moth.” A panel of random judges will assign scores, and the three top-scoring storytellers will each receive a prize at the end of the night. We look forward to hearing your story!
Sunday

Keynote Address: Katherine Un
“We Hold the Answers: How WA Farmers Can Build a More Just and Sustainable Future”
1:05-1:55 p.m. | Room 2DE

Agriculture is looking for a future that is resilient and brings answers to climate change; that lives up to our vision for a more equitable society. To that end, we see a plethora of policy, resources, and educational opportunities focused on “transitioning” farmers to a new way of growing. Our future’s richest resource is overlooked. Young and BIPOC farmers have the passion, drive, and expertise to disrupt the status quo. We don’t need to be shown how, we simply need to be given true access to agriculture as a sector. Then, you will see us live into our true potential as we steward lands and heal communities in full recognition of the histories that have shaped this system we inherit and the tangible shifts in practice and policy necessary for a brighter farm future.

Katherine Un is passionate about finding creative ways to connect people to power in the movement for a just and sustainable farm and food future. As the Organizing and Advocacy Director with Young Farmers, Katherine oversees national campaigns and grassroots organizing for holistic, structural change in our agricultural system.

Sessions

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION & SYSTEMS

E1: Learning From the Land: Building Organic Tree Fruit and Table Grape programs in NW Washington
Elizabeth Hayes & Tom Thornton, Cloud Mountain Farm Center
Cloud Mountain Farm spent over 40 years evaluating varietals, training systems and pest management programs for growing organic peach, cherry, apple, pear, and table grapes in Western Washington. With the introduction of high-quality disease resistant varieties, coupled with constant improvement in fruit growing systems, there are new opportunities for Organic Market Farmers to take advantage of small-scale commercial production in Western Washington. This presentation will highlight the many business and horticultural challenges as well as successes along this journey. An overview of training systems, yield data/potential, pest management overview, and scale appropriate models for 100' row or small acreage will all be covered. Towards the end of the presentation the Cloud Mountain Farm Center’s current director will discuss the latest project developments and ways for farmers to access this on-going work.

F1: Impact of Organic Amendment and No-Till Seeding on Forage Production
Brook Brouwer, Washington State University
Complete pasture and hay field renovation, with tillage and reseeding, can be expensive, labor intensive and remove fields from forage production for multiple years. Is no-till seeding directly into established hay fields, without use of herbicides, a viable way to introduce desirable plant species to increase forage quality and productivity? Fertilizer can be expensive and time consuming to apply. What are the impacts of organic fertilizer application...
on species composition, forage quality and quantity? To try and answer some of these questions we established multiple on-farm trials in San Juan and Pierce counties including evaluation of direct seeding legumes into established hay fields, and varied rates of organic fertilizer. Results from these on farm experiments will be shared including the impact on forage production, quality and species composition.

G1: Organic Herbicides: What We Know and How Do They Fit Into Your IWM Plan
Aaron Appleby, Lynne Carpenter-Boggs, & Rachel Wieme, Washington State University
The difficulty and expense of managing weeds is a major barrier to successful organic transition and production. Newly registered organic herbicides are more effective than previous generations of organic registered herbicides. Repeated use of organic registered herbicides over 5 years on the same plots led to shifts in weed populations, emphasizing the need for an integrated weed management plan that fits each production method.

G1: Las herbicidas orgánicas - Qué sabemos y cómo cuadran con su plan de IWM
Aaron Appleby, Lynne Carpenter-Boggs, & Rachel Wieme, Washington State University
La dificultad y el costo de manejar las malezas es una barrera importante para el éxito de la transición y producción orgánica. Los herbicidas orgánicos recién registrados son más efectivos que las generaciones anteriores de herbicidas orgánicos registrados. El uso repetido de herbicidas orgánicos registrados durante 5 años en las mismas parcelas provocó cambios en las poblaciones de malezas, lo que enfatiza la necesidad de un plan de manejo integrado de malezas que se adapte a cada método de producción.

E2: Breaking the Habit: How Adapting to Changing Environments with Innovative Techniques Could Save Our Farms
Liz Gillispie, Badger Mountain Vineyard
This lecture presentation with some audience interaction aims to provide attendees with practical solutions to challenges we’ve faced in our vineyard over the years. I will discuss how our vineyard started and why we chose some of the management practices we did at the time. Next, I will bridge into how we are working towards adapting those practices to a more sustainable and regenerative approach to preserve our soil and increase long term soil and grape quality and struggles we face. Lastly, I will touch upon how we are using innovative practices together with research and collaboration to adapt to a climate we often don’t talk about – urban development. The lecture approach will help layout how we are learning and adapting in an organized format attendees can understand. Additionally, I will weave in audience interaction by engaging them with questions focused on what habits they tend to form, what struggles they face, and what fears they have with changing their techniques.

F2: The Food Resiliency Project: Pairing Agriculture and Technology Together
Nate Krause, Swans Trail Farms; Steve Mantle, Innov8. Ag; Dan Maycock, Loftus Labs; Linda Neunzig, Snohomish County; Kurt Steck, 5G Open Innovation Lab
Imagine being able to instantly check the temperature and nutrient levels of your soil, or automate irrigation all from a click of a button on your smartphone. The Food Resiliency Project has created a platform for Snohomish County to bring together local food growers and technology companies to create a new form of farming innovation. Agriculture test beds of emerging 5G technology were implemented at two Snohomish County farms at the end of 2020, with the goal being to collaboratively develop new capabilities that will improve the resiliency of the county’s agriculture sector. In this session, you will hear about the exciting potentials of pairing agriculture and technology from a panel of experts spanning from technologists to farmers. There will be ample Q&A time at the end to discuss the plethora of possibilities behind these agritech platforms, and gain exposure to perspectives from all key players involved in this innovation. COVID-19 has shown us how fragile our food system is, and how vital it is to build new modes of resiliency. Technology offers tools and insights to revolutionize our food industry in an era of uncertainty.

G2: Sustainable Farm Finance: Budgeting for Success
Grant Jones, Hungry Hollow Farm
Your farm is not sustainable unless it’s financially sustainable. In this interactive workshop, we’ll dive deep into the finances of a real Washington farm and lay the foundation for your own farm’s 5-year operating budget.
E3: Farm Policy For The People: What You Need To Know To Advocate For A Better Food System
Eric Deeble, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition; Katherine Un, National Young Farmers Coalition
What is the farm bill? How can you put farm bill programs to work on your farm? How can you advocate for federal policy that builds a more just and sustainable future for agriculture? Come join the conversation, get up to speed on the basics of federal farm policy, unpack some of the structural racism baked into the farm bill, and get ready to work for change!

F3: Harvesting Wisdom and Planting Seeds of Renewal
Thea Maria Carlson
As we head into the season of cold and darkness, our bodies, minds, and spirits are naturally inclined to let go of what’s no longer needed and turn inward to rest, reflect, and dream of what’s possible for the future. In this interactive session, we will collectively harvest the insights and questions that have emerged through this conference and all that we have experienced in the past year, and find seeds of inspiration and innovation to plant for vitality and renewal in the year ahead.

G3: Agroecology: Defining a Science, Practice, and Social Movement
Masra Clamoungou, Small Axe Farms & Black Farmers Collective; Shanelle Donaldson, University District Food Bank Rooftop Roots & Percussion Farms; Anthony Reyes, 21 Acres; Webster Walker, Community Alliance for Global Justice
Agroecology is understood as a science, practice, and social movement that “values all forms of knowledge and experience in food system change” (Gliessman, 2018) and is heavily influenced by an individual’s narrative and positionality. To that end the most important question to ask when defining agroecology is “to whom?” We will delve into this concept hearing from three different voices and perspectives on agroecology, defining what the concept means to them, what these systems look like, and how it shows up in their work and/or life. Through dialog and conversation, we will gain a greater understanding of the complexities of agroecology and develop a framework to explore what agroecology means to each of us.

E4: Overcoming Barriers to Grow and Sell Produce for Emergency Food Distribution
Diane Dempster; Jillian Moore & Jeremy Vrablik, Cascadia Produce; Amy Moreno-Sills, Four Elements Farm; Vicky Navarro & Fia Taito, Lend a Hand Community Outreach; Kamal Sidhu, Sidhu Farms
Panel discussion between Cascadia Produce, a wholesale produce company providing emergency food through federal, state, and food bank level programs, Sidhu Farms, a BIPOC farm that sold berries included in emergency food boxes during summer 2021, and Lend a Hand Community Outreach, a non-profit distributor of emergency food to the public. Selling produce into emergency food programs is a new avenue for farms to transition from small market sales to bulk sales which go directly to people in need who otherwise don’t get vibrant, local items on their dinner table. Learn what you need to know about this emerging market and how you can position your crops for inclusion.

G4: Three Critical Concepts for Launching a Mobile Farmers Market
Anika Moran, Tacoma Farmers Market
Farmers markets work for many farmers and consumers but are unsustainable and inaccessible for others. Mobile markets offer a unique opportunity for farmers
to participate in the local economy without resource-intensive investments while getting their products to communities lacking an affordable source of fresh and local food. In this session you will learn three key components of launching a successful mobile market. Take steps toward determining whether a mobile market is an appropriate and sustainable solution to market access and food insecurity for your community and identify community assets that will support this work. You will hear successes, failures, and adaptations from Tacoma Farmers Market’s Fresh Express Mobile Market and leave prepared with strategies to help you address challenges to equitable access to local food.

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For more details regarding the grant program, please contact: terirakusin@tilthalliance.org

For more details regarding the loan program, please contact: niscovitz82@mail.com.
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