



**Water, Labor, Economic Viability, Innovation  
and Leadership**

**Friday, January 31st**

**WSU NWREC**

**16650 S.R. 536, Mount Vernon, WA**

1 WSDA Re-certification Course Credit has been requested



# Conference Schedule

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## Agenda

### Friday morning, Jan 31st

- 9 am Registration
- 9:15 am Introduction/Opening remarks: Don McMoran, WSU Skagit County Extension.
- 9:30 am **Action Team 1: Water**  
Moderator: Don McMoran  
Objective: To educate the Skagit agricultural community on irrigation water, availability and alternatives  
Jenna Friebel– Accessing Diking, Drainage and Irrigation Districts (Confirmed)  
Rep. Lekanoff, B. Roozen e?– Ways to Access Water (Wells, Ground Water, PUD, City of Anacortes, Water Catchment Systems)  
Haly Neely - Soil Management to Reduce Water Use. (confirmed)
- 10:45 am *Break*
- 11 am **Action Team 2: The Future Meets the Past**  
Moderator: Bill Blake  
Objective: Highlight Innovative ways Skagit Valley Farmers are keeping their operations in business.  
Tom Boland and Dwayne Faber (confirmed) - Alternatives for Improved Efficiency and Profitability  
Farm Succession Panel - Alan and Ben Mesman (confirmed), Pablo and Maura Silva (confirmed), Michael Hughes (confirmed)  
Tradition v's unorthodox

All– Small group, farmer share (potential topics— Nutrient/soils, pest and disease, natural disasters, value added, land preservation, capital investments, sales and marketing)



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## In detail

### Friday afternoon, January 31st

12 pm Lunch

12:30 pm **Lunch with Leadership**

Moderator: Don McMoran

Objective: The continued viability of Skagit agriculture.

Skagit County Commissioners: Ken Dahlstedt, Ron Wesen and Lisa Janicki (confirmed)

1:15 pm **Action Team 3: Economic Viability**

Moderator: Jennie Goforth

Objective: The continued economic viability of Skagit agriculture.

John Sternlicht, Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County. (confirmed)

Don McMoran- NACAA Ireland Agriculture tour

Emmitt Wild e? and Kent Stokes (Confirmed)—  
Funding Opportunities

2pm **Innovation**

Bill Blake

Objective: To educate the Skagit agricultural community on innovation that is occurring in Skagit County.

Blake Vanfield—Genuine Skagit Label (confirmed)

Lav khot – Drones in Agriculture (confirmed)

David Brown- Using computerized tools (Ag weather net) to better predict irrigation water needs. (confirmed)

3 pm break



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## In detail

### Friday afternoon, January 31st

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 3:15 pm | Chad Kruger (confirmed) Synthesizing Discussion: Reframing the Top Priorities from each session. |
| 3:30 pm | Closing and Evaluation   |
| 3:30 pm | LOCAL FOOD & FARM MIXER  |

### Join us Friday evening

**directly following the Skagit Ag Summit  
for a Social Hour Sponsored by  
17406 S.R. 536, Mount Vernon, WA  
(Please carpool as parking is limited)**

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