



**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.

Vicky Sharlo, 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

Amy Fry, Boldly Grown Farm  
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 Bounds, 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

