

Sustaining Agriculture in the Pacific Northwest

You are invited to a conference to plan the sustainability of agriculture in the Pacific Northwest. The conference will be February 10, 11 & 12, 2009 at the Shilo Inn in Richland, Washington. Sustainable agriculture is economically viable, environmentally sound and socially acceptable.

“Creating a Sustainable Future for Agriculture in the Pacific Northwest,” is the title of a special conference being sponsored by Washington State University Extension, the WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, Kittitas County Conservation District, Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network, Rural Roots, Managing Change Northwest, NUView Evaluation & Learning, Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association, Healing Hooves and Solar \$.

“The conference will review participants’ experiences with sustainability, highlight lessons learned and craft a plan to sustain Pacific Northwest agriculture and rural communities. The plan will address the interests of decision makers in families, organizations, businesses, cooperatives, communities, higher education, government agencies and the media who influence the future of the region’s agriculture and natural resources,” said Don Nelson, WSU Extension Beef Specialist, speaking for the conference planning committee.

Participation in this conference is open to everyone interested in sustainability. The conference specifically invites each of the 158 graduates of WSU’s Integrated Farming Systems/Holistic Management Project (WSU-Kellogg Project), conducted between 1995-1999, directed by Nelson and partially funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Graduates of the project include ranchers, farmers, agency representatives, organizational leaders and community leaders from Washington, Oregon and Idaho, as well as members of the Colville Confederated Tribes. The WSU-Kellogg Project led to a number of other projects and programs, such as the Consensus Institutes and the Multi-Species Grazing Project, to name a few. These involved additional people, all of whom are invited to attend this conference.

Project graduates and special guests will summarize their experiences with sustainability during the last decade and highlight lessons learned. Then, conference participants will apply lessons learned to create an action plan to sustain the future of agriculture and rural communities in the Pacific Northwest.

Registration for the conference will begin October 1, 2008. On or before January 15, 2009, registration is \$150 for one person and \$275 for two people from the same family. After January 15, 2009, registration will be \$175 for one person and \$300 for two people from the same family. High school and college students may register for \$120 before January 15 and \$145 after January 15. The registration fee includes four meals during the conference. To register for the conference, send payment in the amount of your registration fee to the Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD), indicate that it is for

the Sustainability Conference and mail it to: Sustainability Conference c/o KCCD, 607 E. Mountain View Ave., Ellensburg, WA 98962.

For conference registrants, the special nightly room rate at the Shilo Inn is \$70 per room plus tax. To reserve a room at the Shilo Inn, call 509-946-4661 and tell them you are with the Sustainability Conference.

For more information on the conference, contact Don Nelson, nelsond@wsu.edu, 509-335-2922; or Doug Warnock, dwarnock@charter.net, 509-525-3389.

Participants in the WSU – Kellogg Holistic Management Project are encouraged to bring visuals that illustrate results of your efforts over the last decade. We'll schedule times when conference goes focus on your visual and visit about a sustainability interest, such as:

- Monitoring and managing land, nutrients, water, forages, livestock, field crops, vegetables, wildlife, equipment;
- Involving family members;
- Working with groups and communities;
- Developing markets and public policies

Visuals might include, for example, photos, charts, drawings, maps, objects, samples most anything that illustrates the application of holistic management. Items will be displayed on eight-foot tables.

To reserve your cost-free table, contact Doug Warnock at dwarnock@charter.net or 509-525-3389 by December 31, 2008.

Conference sessions and exhibits will provide powerful historical information about impacts of the five year WSU – Kellogg Holistic Management Project and other contributions to sustaining agriculture and natural resources and will highlight potentials for Pacific Northwest communities in the *next* decade.

Sustainability Conference Registration

Name(s) of persons attending: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone No. _____

Registration Fee submitted: _____

Mail this form (with payment to KCCD) to Sustainability Conference c/o KCCD, 607 E. Mountain View Ave., Ellensburg, WA 98926.

Here is some additional information on the conference:

Title: Creating a Sustainable Future for Agriculture in the Pacific Northwest

Planning Committee: John Fouts, Joann Hutton, Jim Long, Craig Madsen, Sandy Matheson, Don Nelson, Maurice Robinette, Doug Warnock & Dick Wedin

Purpose: To energize people to develop a collaborative action plan to create a holistically sustainable PNW. We plan to convene many of the 158 participants of the 5-year (1995-1999) Kellogg funded Integrated Farming systems/Holistic Management Project and attract others who are interested in connecting and collaborating in a sustainable agriculture movement.

Expected Impacts

Short-Term: connect people, energize participants by hearing first-hand success stories and develop a collaborative action plan.

Intermediate-Term: Groups of people connected at the conference continue to work together after the conference to refine and implement the action plan.

Long-Term: Positive on-the-ground changes that lead to increased profitability; more integrated use of natural resources in PNW agriculture; fewer conflicts over natural resources and agricultural practices.

Evaluation Plan: Jim Long, retired WSU Extension Evaluation specialist, will develop an evaluation process to: (1) estimate the contribution of the conference toward connecting and engaging people in action planning and (2) further enable conference participants after the conference to monitor progress toward implementing the plan.

Program Speakers & Presenters

The following people will be involved in the conference program:

Bob Chadwick, conference facilitator: Bob is the founder and director of Consensus Associates, an organization that specializes in helping groups in conflict achieve consensus and work collaboratively to achieve mutual goals. Bob will be facilitating the group's development of an action plan.

Dick Coon, presenter: Successful beef producer, who manages holistically, he is involved with the Ag Pilots Project (Beefing Up the Palouse) and would report on that project with Maurice Robinette. Dick is the president of the Washington Cattlemen's Association.

Dave Duncan & Anna Lael, presenters: Dave is an Ellensburg area rancher and Anna is the manager of the Kittitas County Conservation District. Dave helped alleviate a highly volatile conflict over fish habitat by bringing together environmentalists, agricultural producers and fish & wildlife representatives to improve habitat and preserve irrigators water rights.

Jeff Goebel, Jeff is currently NRCS Regional Director in central Oregon. Jeff has had extended experience in working with and within agencies, especially in building teams to achieve a common goal and overcome existing conflicts.

Shannon Horst, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives for Holistic Management International. Shannon has been with HMI for 15 years, having served for most of that time as Executive Director. During that time, HMI has created a world-wide network of independent trainers, offering Holistic Management training, in their own language and culture, to as many individuals and communities as possible. HMI has developed powerful partnerships with other organizations, such as the Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union, Heifer International, and USDA's Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education division. Shannon will be sharing some of her experiences in working with groups on sustainability. She will also be seeking input from conference participants as part of her role in charting HMI's future.

Joel Huesby, keynote speaker: Involved with the Ag Pilots Project (Beefing Up the Palouse), Changed the family farm from a traditional crop/livestock to a sustainable one that produces and processes livestock and poultry products, which are marketed directly. He established his own slaughter facility and developed pasture finished beef.

Kim Kidwell, keynote speaker: She is Associate Dean of WSU's College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences. She is an enthusiastic supporter and promoter of managing for sustainable agriculture and natural resources.

Roland Kroos, special evening speaker: He is a long time Certified Educator of Holistic Management and ranch management consultant who has a special message on leadership.

Karl Kupers, both a keynote speaker and presenter: One of the people who developed Shepherds Grain, a value added marketing program involving a group of grain producers who are members of the PNW Direct Seed Association.

Jim Long, presenter: He has worked extensively with collaborative groups and has a special interest in issues of family forestry. As well as being our conference evaluator, Jim plans to discuss how to quantify impacts of applying what we learn in organizations and communities.

Craig Madsen, presenter: He made a major life change by resigning his position with the NRCS after 12 years and establishing a vegetation management business that utilizes a herd of goats and some sheep. He contracts with both private and public land managers to

manage undesired plant communities and change landscapes. He is a Certified Educator of Holistic Management.

Bonnie Mager, presenter: She has been active in organizations such as the Washington Environmental Council, Rural Roots, etc. Has much experience in achieving social and political change. She is currently a Spokane County commissioner.

Sandy Matheson, presenter: As an experienced manager of a livestock operation and Certified Holistic Management Educator, she has worked with a number of groups and individuals to help them improve their management and achieve their long term goals. Well experienced in helping families maintain a balance in their lives as they manage holistically.

Don Nelson, presenter: He conceived, developed and directed the WSU-Kellogg Holistic Management Project, which brought together a diversified group of 158 people from across Washington to learn more about sustainability and to improve their management and leadership skills. Has directed a number of similar projects and programs in the last decade, including the Ag Pilots (Beefing Up the Palouse) Project.

Kathy Panner, presenter: She has been active for some years with Oregon Country Beef-Country Natural Beef. Is both a beef and sheep producer with experience in developing successful direct marketing programs.

Maurice Robinette, presenter: Successful manager of a sustainable beef operation and experienced in teaching Holistic Management, he is currently Eastern Washington Organizer for the WSFFN. He is co-manager of the Ag Pilots Project, Beefing Up the Palouse.

Ann Schwartz, presenter: She is an organic farmer in western Washington, who is currently on the board of WSU's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources. She has been active with Washington Tilth and WSFFN.

Gary Wegner, presenter: He has developed systems to apply and utilize bio-solids on the land. Has become quite experienced as an advisor on nutritive management for dairy farms.

Doug Warnock, presenter: As an experienced educator and Certified Educator of Holistic Management, he has developed guidelines for success in collaboratively addressing natural resource issues.

Our committee is convinced that through this conference, we in the Pacific Northwest, can make significant progress toward improving the use of sustainable practices in managing all of our agricultural land and natural resources.