



# THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

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## Upcoming seminar to focus on agricultural business expansion

DAVE GALLAGHER - THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

The Northwest Agriculture Business Center and the Sustainable Connections Food & Farming Program are holding a business development and educational seminar to help Whatcom and Skagit County agricultural producers with business expansion.

The event will be held 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 26 at Re-Sources Sustainable Living Conference Room, 2309 Meridian Street. RSVPs are requested by Tuesday, Jan. 11. E-mail NABC project manager Jeff Voltz at [jeff@agbizcenter.org](mailto:jeff@agbizcenter.org) or call 360-593-4744.

The event will provide an overview of three different types of business structures - cooperative corporations, limited liability companies and benefit (B) corporations.

"We live in a region that has a tremendous capacity for food production, yet most of the food available in the Puget Sound region comes from somewhere else," Voltz said in a press release. "This seminar will provide good nuts and bolts information on business structures and business formation, and how those relate to positive examples of producers who are working together to increase local and regional market share."

On-hand at the event will be two agricultural producers and a food manufacturer, who have formed and operated these different types of organizational structures. The event also will feature a panel discussion covering the areas of tax-accounting, legal requirements, and federal agricultural development programs.

Panel participants include Phil Tucker, owner of Whatcom Natural Beef and six year board member of Island Grown Farmers Co-op, Allan Merritt, owner of Merritt Apples, Inc. and founding owner of Skagit Fresh Natural Beverage LLC, Trudy Scherting, owner of Moka Joe Coffee, Jason Perry, CPA at Larson Gross, Pllc, Erin Crisman Glass, Barron, Smith, Daugert, Pllc, and Sharon Exley, Business Programs Specialist, USDA Rural Development.

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Read more: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/01/06/1803620/upcoming-seminar-to-focus-on-agricultural.html#ixzz1AO848TrG>