



# THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

POSTED: Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010

## **Whatcom County farmers graduating from Sustainable Connections' program**

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Four farmers are graduating from the Food To Bank On, a part of Sustainable Connections' Food & Farming Program.

Food To Bank On connects sustainable farmers with less than three years of experience with seasoned farmers who serve as mentors. It also provides business planning classes and pays the new farmers wholesale rates to deliver a small portion of their produce to a local food bank or shelter.

The graduates at the end of 2010:

- Alex Winstead of Cascadia Mushrooms, who has developed a successful business selling mushrooms to restaurants, grocers and at farmers' markets in Seattle and Bellingham.
- Michael Long of Alpenhorn Farm, who will be taking over operations of The Growing Garden, which is the farm of his mentor, Brent Harrison.
- Jeff Ellsworth and Danielle Chevalier, who sell diverse vegetables from their Highwater Farm in Skagit County to Bellingham and Skagit food co-ops and at their farm stand.

Meanwhile, some new participants in the program will be direct selling meats.

- Leah VanderStoep and Randall Reinders will be in their second year of grass-fed beef production in 2011 and hope to raise their herd from 12 to 40 head of cattle in the coming year.
- Brandie Lambdin and Bradley Tremper plan to have a diversified pastured livestock operation and a large market garden on their Sandy Spade Farm near Concrete
- Scott and Cheryl Perry of Rustic Moon Farm currently offer pastured pork, chicken, turkey, lamb and eggs, and will continue to build their business alongside their growing construction business, Common Ground Construction.

For more information about Food To Bank On, visit [sustainableconnections.org](http://sustainableconnections.org) or contact project coordinator Sara Southerland at [sara@sconnect.org](mailto:sara@sconnect.org).

**Send your business news to [business@bellinghamherald.com](mailto:business@bellinghamherald.com) or mail it to Business Notebook, 1155 N. State St., Bellingham, WA, 98225. Please include a contact name and phone number.**

Read more: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2010/12/23/1784016/whatcom-county-farmers-graduating.html#ixzz19zolfPgG>