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Food to Bank On program now taking applications

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Applications are now available for the 2011 Food to Bank On, a Sustainable Connections project that connects beginning sustainable farmers with training, mentors and market support while providing fresh food to Whatcom County's hungry.

The Food To Bank On program provides farmers with less than three years experience with a consistent source of income at market rates, and helps them learn the intricacies of seasonal production and delivery. Twenty-seven farmers have participated in the three-year program.

Participants also gain business training, farmer-mentors, an educational stipend, marketing assistance and are paid market rates to deliver thousands of pounds of fresh produce to local food banks. This training provides a foundation to build their business through relationships with retailers and restaurants, and seasoned area farmers.

In 2009, Food To Bank On farms delivered 5,000 pounds of food worth over \$9,000 to area food banks, soup kitchens, shelters and social service agencies.

2011 Food to Bank On applications are due November 1 and are available at sustainableconnections.org/foodfarming/FTBO. For more information contact Sara Southerland at sara@sconnect.org.

Read more: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2010/09/14/1618944/food-to-bank-on-program-now-taking.html#ixzz10OkF9c3q>