



# THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

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## Applications being accepted for Food To Bank on program

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Applications are available for the 2012 Food To Bank On, a business training and mentorship project for beginning farmers organized by Sustainable Connections' Food & Farming Program.

The three-year project helps connect sustainable farmers in their first one to three years of experience with business planning resources and experts, mentor farmers, and new market opportunities.

In addition, Food to Bank On participants receive free Sustainable Connections membership, an educational stipend, marketing assistance, and market rate payments to deliver thousands of pounds of fresh produce to local food banks, providing a foundation to build their business through relationships with retailers, restaurants and seasoned area farmers.

The fledgling farmer-run businesses offer products ranging from produce to medicinal herbs, grass-fed beef and heritage meats to eggs, the agency said.

In 2010, Food To Bank On farms delivered 5,000 pounds of food worth over \$12,000 to area food banks, soup kitchens, shelters and social service agencies.

Food to Bank On applications are due Nov. 1, 2011, and are available online by going to [sustainableconnections.org](http://sustainableconnections.org) and clicking the "food & farming" link. For more information, contact Sara Southerland at [sara@sconnect.org](mailto:sara@sconnect.org).

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