



# THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

POSTED: Tuesday, Sep. 08, 2009

## **Free Whatcom County farm tour set for Sept. 12**

ISABELLE DILLS - THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

Sample local flavors while wandering through orchards and fields during the second annual Whatcom County Farm Tour later this month.

The tour will feature nine farms and the Bellingham Farmers Market. The free tour is self-guided so people can visit as many farms as they wish.

The tour takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12. The stops on the tour are: The Bellingham Farmers Market, Joe's Garden, Boxx Berry Farms, Silver Springs Creamery, Bellewood Acres, Cloud Mountain Farm, Edelweiss Dairy, Heritage Lane Farm, Grace Harbor Farms and Common Threads Farm.

Last year's farm tour featured seven farms and the Ferndale Farmers Market. About 250 people toured the farms, and those in charge of the tour are hoping that number will double this year.

"We're hoping for an exponential increase of 500 to 1,000 people," said Shonie Schlotzhauer, the food and farming program manager at Sustainable Connections.

All of the participating farms are members of Sustainable Connections, which helps connect people with local growers.

The tour's purpose is to show people where their food comes from and understand how important agriculture is to Whatcom County, Schlotzhauer said.

At Silver Springs Creamery, people can see a cheese-making room, watch ice cream being made and, at 5 p.m., watch cows being milked, owner Eric Sundstrom said.

In Everson, visitors to Cloud Mountain Farm can go on tours, enjoy fruit tastings and see the "demonstration gardens," which show the different ages of ornamentals and fruits as they grow, owner Cheryl Thornton said.

"It's a nice venue for people to come out and see what we do," she said.

At Bellewood Acres, visitors can enjoy an "apple flower" - a freshly cut apple with hot caramel, peanuts, whipped cream and a cherry. They also can go on a guided tour of the orchard to learn how the farmers grow, pack and process their fruit.

"This is an opportunity to let people know we are out here and what we have to offer," said Dorie Belisle, co-owner of Bellewood Acres. "We really appreciate their support."

---