

Whatcom County Farm Tour features 10 farms, two wineries and one farmers market

WHATCOM – The annual Whatcom County Farm Tour organized by Sustainable Connections will take place Saturday, Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and feature a total of 10 farms, two wineries and the Bellingham Farmers Market. The tour is free and self-guided, with maps available online (sconnect.org) or in print at the Community Food Co-ops, Haggen stores in Whatcom, and Bellingham Farmers Market, among other places.

Each stop along this family-friendly tour features educational and interactive activities and products for sale, as well as three bicycle routes for visitors heading out by bike. A total of 5,500 individual farm visits were recorded during last year's farm tour.

This year's participating farms and locations are:

BelleWood Acres: Home to 25,000 apple trees, BelleWood Acres is open September through December. During the farm tour, participants can tour the farm while riding the Apple Bin train, take the stream walk, and pick up apples and homemade treats. The farm is located at 231 Ten Mile Road in Lynden.

Bellingham Country Gardens: This Kelly Road farm offers u-pick to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays. During the farm tour, check out the no-spray produce, including strawberries (available until frost) and variety of veggies, as well as the scarecrow-making contest and ripe corn ready for picking. The farm is located at 2838 E. Kelly Road.

Boxx Berry Farm: Tour the farm on the tractor trailer, let the kids ride the kiddie train and enjoy the playground, and pick up treats like sweet corn on the cob and a berry sundae. U-pick is available throughout the season, and lots of produce and items are available in the farm store. The



Visit with the young pigs at Farmer Ben's. COURTESY PHOTO

farm is located at 6211 Northwest Road in Ferndale.

Camelot Ranch Alpacas: This five-acre farm features huacaya alpacas. Participants can learn about raising alpacas and their soft fiber, and make their own fiber project. The farm is located at 3405 Bay Road in Ferndale.

Cloud Mountain Farm: This long-time Everson-based farm offers a beautiful nursery and fields, with dozens of varieties of rare fruits, vegetables, ornamental plants, nut and fruit trees, and farm stand. The farm is located at 6906 Goodwin Road in Everson.

Dakota Creek Winery: Participants can tour the wine cellaring cave (a metal arch building covered with native soil and bark), and purchase a variety of wines. The winery is located at 3575 Haynie Road in Blaine.

Edelweiss Dairy: Not usually open to the public, this 80-acre family farm is part of the Organic Valley Coopera-

tive. Participants can tour the farm, see the cows, and taste organic treats. The farm is located at 1519 Timon Road in Everson.

Farmer Ben's: This sixth generation farm features grass fed Angus beef, pastured Berkshire pigs, free range laying hens, eggs, and pastured poultry, all antibiotic-free and chemical-free. The farm is located at 1461 Van Dyk Road, near Lynden.

Half Acre Farm: Generally open weekends during the season for u-pick, this half-acre farm offers a wide variety of u-pick, no-spray vegetables. The farm is located on the Boxx Berry Farm at 6211 Northwest Road in Ferndale.

Heritage Lane Farm: This small farm is focused on raising rare breed livestock (including Navajo-Churro, Southdown and Oxford sheep, large Black and Mulefoot pigs, geese, chickens, turkeys and ducks), and heirloom vegetables in a sustainable manner. The farm is located at 9333 Guide Meridian in Lynden.

Twisted S Ranch: Visit this complete bison ranch, with up close viewing of animals, a display of bison hide and fiber, and samples of bison meat products. The ranch is located at 2530 Douglas Road in Ferndale.

Vartanyan Estate Winery: Tour the vineyards and try a glass of wine at this small boutique winery featuring limited edition wines, and a tasting room and gallery. The winery is located at 1628 Huntley Road in eastern Bellingham.

Bellingham Farmers Market: This Saturday market in downtown Bellingham at Depot Market Square (corner of Railroad and Chestnut) features approximately 100 vendors, from farmers and food operators to local crafters and musicians. The market is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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