



THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

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Bellingham Farmers Market hopes to offer beer, wine samples as part of pilot

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Bellingham Farmers Market officials hope to be part of a pilot program to offer samples of beer and wine available for purchase at the market.

Gov. Chris Gregoire signed a bill Thursday, April 14, that establishes a 14-month pilot program for beer and wine tasting at 10 farmers markets throughout the state, beginning Sept. 1. Samples will be limited to 2 ounces each, and no customer may receive more than 4 ounces.

Wineries or microbreweries providing samples must offer food to customers or be located adjacent to a food vendor.

"We would like to be considered because we feel that having locally produced beer and wine is a natural extension of a farmers market," said Caprice Teske, market director of Bellingham Farmers Market, in an email. "Allowing customers to sample the product before purchase will help build awareness that these products are not only available, but they are also great tasting options."

How the pilot participants will be chosen was not immediately clear.

Businesses including microbreweries and winemakers supported the bill, saying farmers' markets would be a good place to promote their products.

The state Liquor Control Board will oversee the pilot program and may establish additional requirements to ensure alcohol is not served to people under 21 or customers who are visibly intoxicated.

Read more: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/04/14/1968611/bellingham-farmers-market-hopes.html#ixzz1JY0eI8hf>