

Sustainable Connections Food & Farming Program 2017 Calendar

	Events	Opportunities
January	1/18 Farmer.Chef. Meet-up Cloud Mountain Farm Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing & Ads in <i>Whatcom Food & Farm Finder</i> and <i>Culinary Agritourism Map</i> • Register for Farm-to-Table Trade Meeting • Get on Farmer CSA List, CSA Census
February	2/9 SC All Member Meeting & Awards Ceremony @ Leopold Ballroom 2/21 Farm-to-Table Trade Meeting @ Bellingham Technical College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill out Food & Farming Member Survey • Attend Farm-to-Table Trade Meeting
March	March 18 - CSA Fair @ Bellingham Farmers Market March 22 – Chefs Breakfast @ Ciao Thyme March 29 – CSA Happy Hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers offering CSA, be featured at CSA Fair AND CSA Happy Hour
April	4/1 Whatcom Food & Farm Finder launch @ Bellingham Farmers Market 4/15 Chef in the Market	
May	5/17 Farmer Mixer 5/20 Chef in the Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up for Eat Local Month participation • Sign up for Farm Tour participation • Sign up for Downtown Market Walk
June	6/20 Chefs Breakfast @ Maikham Thai 6/17 Chef in the Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place an Ad in the Eat Local Month guide: 50,000 copies and affordable!
July	7/ 12 Chef Farm Tour 7/ 15 Chef in the Market	
August	8/19 Chef in the Market	
September	<u>September Eat Local Month</u> 9/3 Farm Fund Hootenanny @ Boundary Bay 9/6 Member Networking Breakfast: Eating Local 9/9 Downtown Market Walk 9/9 Chef in the Market 9/10 Whatcom County Farm Tour 9/18 Chefs Breakfast @ Rifugio's Country Italian (Mt. Baker Hwy)	
October		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10/15 2018 Food To Bank On applications due
November	11/8 Farmer. Chef. Meet-up @ Drizzle in Lynden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update info for Wholesale Producers directory
December	12/12 Chefs Breakfast @ Boundary Bay	



Event & Opportunity Details

Chef in the Market The 3rd Saturday from April-September, two chefs have the opportunity to showcase local ingredients and provide an educational cooking demo at the Bellingham Farmers Market.

Chef Breakfasts A new quarterly series for all food businesses. Includes a family style breakfast, networking and a speaker; with a focus on hot issues, ingredients, sharing best practices, and good food. Cost: \$25 or become a member of the Chefs Collective and get entry to all events for free.

Chef Farm Tour We load up a bunch of grocery buyers and chefs in a van for a tour of the hottest new farms and local products. An event we look forward to every year! Cost: \$20 or become a member of the Chefs Collective and get entry to all events for free.

CSA Promotions Sustainable Connections helps promote CSA farms through producing the annual CSA list, and promoting the CSA model to the public and businesses. The CSA Fair is an opportunity to connect with consumers, and the CSA Happy Hour to connect with businesses. Participation is free.

Culinary Agritourism Map A guide focused on drawing regional residents and visitors from the Seattle area and lower B.C. to discover culinary and agritourism experiences and businesses in Bellingham and Whatcom County, 15,000 copies printed and distributed in high traffic areas in 8 counties.

Downtown Market Walk A downtown walk-about featuring businesses that sell grocery-type items (grocery stores, bread, wine and meat shops, etc), 2016 was our first year and was a huge success! This year we're moving it to September, business participation cost: \$40.

Eat Local Month In September we celebrate Eat Local Month. This year, we'll have a restaurant week, a markets/grocer week, a farm week, and a beverage/beer week (alongside Bellingham beer week). Get involved by hosting a featured event we can promote, or by offering a special throughout the month.

Farmer. Chef. Meet-ups Facilitated networking, aimed at making more producer/wholesale relationships. In January we make business pairings and talk through how to use forward contracts. In November, we celebrate successes, and plan for the next season. Good food and valuable connections.

Farmer Mixer An annual spring farmer celebration before things get really crazy.

Farm-to-Table Trade Meeting An annual one-day conference and connections event bringing together around 200 food and farming businesses of all kinds for a day of networking and education. Find local products, new markets, and grow your business.

Whatcom County Farm Tour This annual, free, self-guided tour is a great opportunity to educate our community around where their food comes from and gain more customers. We're looking for new farmers to participate in 2017. Business sponsorships are also available.

Whatcom Food & Farm Finder A well-used annually printed guide for all things local food: farmers, markets, restaurants, locally-made products, and more. Listing and ad opportunities for great rates, 30,000 copies printed and distributed each year – a popular publication!