

From: King County Council Communications
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County Council, local farmers celebrate harvest

Public can visit working farms during "Harvest Celebration Tour"

The arrival of fall is a reminder that it's harvest time at farms and orchards across the region. In celebration of the harvest and the working farms throughout King County, the Metropolitan King County Council today proclaimed Saturday, September 25 and Sunday, September 26 as Harvest Celebration Days in King County.

On September 25 and 26, between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., working farms will open their gates for the free-range farm adventures of the twelfth Annual Harvest Celebration tours. September 25 will feature nine farms in the Snoqualmie Valley, and September 26 will feature seven farms on Vashon Island. The farm tours are presented by Washington State University King and Pierce County Extension, King County, and Puget Sound Fresh.

"Farms and farming in King County are alive, productive and sustainable, and we're lucky to have their bounty available for our residents," said Councilmember Larry Phillips. "In the densest, most urbanized county in Washington, King County is also home to over 1,500 active farms and a vital rural area. Harvest Celebration Days is an opportunity to visit these farms and thank them for providing King County residents with access to fresh, locally grown, and environmentally responsible produce."

"Support for local agriculture is at the heart of developing a sustainable community," said Councilmember Kathy Lambert, who represents the Snoqualmie Valley and Sammamish Valley agricultural areas. "Locally grown food is fresher, healthier and requires fewer natural resources for transportation and packaging. We are fortunate to have such productive agricultural areas so close and accessible to our large urban centers. The Harvest Celebration is a good opportunity to recognize the contributions of farmers to our quality of life."

"I'm excited that we have farmers on Vashon Island as part of the tour this year," said Councilmember Jan Drago, who represents Vashon and Maury islands. "My hope is that having two tour areas will encourage even more King County residents to come out and celebrate Harvest Celebration Days and connect with what's growing locally."

"Harvest Celebration Days is a chance to celebrate and showcase our thriving agricultural community here in King County," said Council Vice Chair Jane Hague. "I've always believed that we need to continue our work to create new local markets for our growers. Neighborhood farmers markets, for instance, have been very successful on the Eastside."

The Harvest Celebration Tour is a free event featuring chef demos, wine tasting, hayrides, corn mazes, pumpkin patches, farm animals, fresh produce, live music, and hands-on fun. It's an opportunity to meet local farmers, taste farm-fresh food, learn farm stewardship skills, and walk the fields of local farms.

For more information on Harvest Celebration Day, visit the WSU King County Extension webpage at: www.king.wsu.edu/foodandfarms/HarvestCelebration.html

The proclamation is attached



harvest.docx

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