

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, agriculture and farms contribute to the quality of life in King County; and

WHEREAS, a strong farming community is essential to the health and welfare of citizens, our local economy, the preservation of open space, wildlife habitat, flood control, and promotion of tourism; and

WHEREAS, for a farming community to remain healthy, it is vital that rural, suburban, and urban residents alike have ready access to locally grown, nutritious food and farm products and support efforts to maintain the viability of local agriculture; and

WHEREAS, fall is harvest time, one of the best times to visit our local farms, taste the wide variety of produce grown by local farmers, and enjoy chef demonstrations, hayrides, corn mazes, pumpkin patches, music, and more; and

WHEREAS, the 12th annual Harvest Celebration Farm Tour this year will feature two days of “free-range” farm activities: at nine farms in the Snoqualmie Valley on September 25 and at seven

farms on Vashon Island on September 26, as well as a new partnership with Pierce County's HarvestFest on October 2; and

WHEREAS, this free event is presented by Washington State University King County Extension, in partnership with King and Pierce Conservation Districts and King County, and is sponsored by 4Culture, Bastyr Center for Natural Health, Puget Sound Fresh, King-Pierce County Farm Bureau, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Cascade Harvest Coalition, and others;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, proclaim Saturday and Sunday, September 25 and 26, 2010, as

HARVEST CELEBRATION DAYS

in King County and encourage county residents to participate in this event and enjoy the bounty of our local farms.

DATED this twentieth day of September, 2010.