

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ann Leason; Puget Sound Food Network (PSFN)

360-336-3666, ann@psfn.org

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The Puget Sound Food Network Seeks Buyers for Skagit Wholesale Market

Mount Vernon, WA - Local food producers are ready to sell their products to commercial and institutional buyers in the underpass parking lot of the Skagit Valley Food Coop located at [202 South First Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273](http://202%20South%20First%20Street%2C%20Mount%20Vernon%2C%20WA%2098273). This local food aggregation site will be open for business Thursday mornings from 8:35-10:00 a.m., starting July 21 and ending September 8th.

The Puget Sound Food Network is actively seeking buyers for the Skagit Wholesale Market in Mount Vernon, WA. The purpose of this wholesale market is to make locally grown and produced goods easily available to institutions and businesses at a wholesale quantity in Skagit county and surrounding areas. Institutions and business that will benefit from this wholesale market include; schools, daycare centers, retirement communities, country clubs, hospitals, restaurants, bakeries, grocery stores, and caterers.

The 2011 Skagit Wholesale Market season will feature a diverse selection of fresh, seasonal and value-added foods—from berries to pasta; from beef to zucchini—produced in the Puget Sound region. Each week up to fifteen vendors will bring a limited selection of product to display and sell, but most orders will be placed in advance from the weekly fresh sheet. “The Skagit Wholesale Market is not a traditional farmers market but rather a pick up and pay site for restaurant chefs, grocery buyers and food service operations such as hospitals, preschools, churches, and senior centers,” explains Lucy Norris, PSFN Project Manager.

On Monday, July 18, PSFN will begin distributing weekly fresh sheets that will include vendor contact information, available products, and quantities available for wholesale. Buyers interested in receiving Skagit Wholesale Market email updates are encouraged to request a subscription to info@psfn.org. There is no fee to participate in the Skagit Wholesale Market. Interested vendors should contact Ann Leason, ann@psfn.org.

Puget Sound Food Network is a project of the Northwest Agriculture Business Center. NABC is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to farmland preservation by helping to make farming in the region more profitable. For more information about last year’s Skagit Wholesale Market, visit <http://www.psfm.org/skagitmarket/>.

LOCAL EATERS PSA

**The Skagit Wholesale Market Isn't for Everybody....
But Locavores/ Local Eaters Can Help Spread the Word!**

Thursday mornings from 8:30-10am in the Co-op's parking lot in downtown Mount Vernon, a baker's dozen of local producers sell fresh-from-the field harvest on the wholesale scale. The market runs for 8 weeks: from July 21st – September 8th.

It's a great way for food service buyers to get their produce, grains, beans, meat (lamb, chicken, beef and pork), and pasta in the same place at the same time, at wholesale prices!

Interested Buyers can visit <http://www.psfm.org/skagitmarket/> for more information, and sign up for the weekly Fresh Sheet, to help plan seasonal menus and place orders with producers ahead of time.

To join our weekly market Fresh Sheet, send an email to info@psfm.org with your contact information (name, email, phone number, and business name).

Local Eaters – here's where you come in:

* If you've got a wedding or special event planned this summer, tell your caterer that you'd like local food on the event menu.

* If you've got a favorite restaurant, ask them for local Friday specials.

* Send your kids to summer camp? Ask the camp kitchen how much of their menu is locally sourced.

*If you've got family in a retirement, suggest a Fresh Local Friday Lunch.