



WORC Annual Conference

“Bringing Our Soils Back to Life”



November 14-15, 2017

Semiahmoo Resort | Blaine, WA

Biographies:

Dr. David R. Montgomery, Professor of Earth and Space Sciences at the UW, Seattle

David is a MacArthur Fellow and professor of geomorphology at the University of Washington. He is an internationally recognized geologist who studies landscape evolution and the effects of geological processes on ecological systems and human societies, & an author of award-winning popular-science books.

Chris Benedict, Whatcom County Extension

Began working for WSU Extension in 2009 and moved to the Whatcom County office in 2011.

Gregg & Kyle Ovenell, Ovenell Farms

Ovenell Farms has been in operation for six generations beginning in Stanwood, WA with crop & dairy production & moving to Eastern WA in the early 1990's to raise dairy replacement heifers. Ovenell Farms began processing the manure from its facility in 2006 for the purpose of providing a soil amendment to local crop farmers. Since 2010, Ovenell Farms has been a permitted Compost facility & has been producing compost under the brand name Cowpost.

By 2011, Ovenell Farms made the decision to focus solely on soil amendments in order to fill a growing need in the agricultural community. With GPS guidance systems and variable rate technology, Ovenell Farms is able to broadcast beneficial soil amendments to large-scale agricultural ground. Essentially, the company's mission is to turn nutrient rich waste streams into viable resources for agriculture with the added benefit of applying the product in an agronomic manner which contributes to overall soil health and profitability for farmers.

Kate Kurtz, formerly King County Wastewater

Kate is a soil scientist with over 13 years of experience. She specializes in biosolids and compost management, science, and marketing. She has served as a biosolids project manager for King County Wastewater Treatment Division, as well as a research assistant at the University of Washington and a chemist at Soil Control Lab in Watsonville, CA

Thad Schutt, Royal Organic Farms

President, Royal Organics BS Central WA University
WORC Board member 2007-2015
WORC President 2009-2010
WORC Treasurer 2011-2015

Randy Honcoop, Honcoop Farms

Born and raised on a Whatcom County dairy farm. I have been growing raspberries for over 30 years and have supported/facilitated research on my farm most of those years.

Dr. Bill Snyder, Professor of Entomology at WSU, Pullman

Bill did his Biology BA at University of Delaware, MS in Zoology at Clemson University, and PhD in Entomology at the University of Kentucky. He came to WSU in 2000.

Mark Fuchs, Washington Department of Ecology

Mark is a Hydrogeologist in the Washington Department of Ecology's Waste 2 Resources Program. His focus is developing waste organic materials process methods that protect ground and surface water from contamination, reduce greenhouse gases,

produce high value products, and store carbon in soils to improve productivity. Mark has extensive outreach with the organics industry and has planned, presented at or moderated sessions at Waste 2 Resources Program workshops, and meetings and conferences: Bio-cycle, Northwest Biosolids Management, Washington Future Energy Conference, Washington Organics Recycling Council, Building Northwest Biochar Markets (2012), U.S. Biochar Initiative, 2016. Mark has over thirty five years' experience in environmental work. He holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Soil Science and Agricultural Economics from WSU and is a Washington licensed Hydrogeologist.

Austin Allred, Royal Dairy

Born in Royal city, raised on a potato and apple farm. Austin is passionate about cows. Got involved with Royal Dairy almost ten years ago. Austin purchased it a couple of years ago. Has a wife, 3 year old boy & 2 year old girl.

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