Hello everyone,

Today we have seen another week of COVID-19 social distancing and tackled new and shifting dynamics to the way we do business. Many of you are tackling the challenges to meet a new demand and many are dealing with significant losses. The times are rapidly shifting but our commitment to valley farmers is not. We are here for you, working to connect you with the most recent news and resources, to share your voice and concerns with local agencies and to help guide the growing consumer interest in local foods to a lasting and permanent change in support for sustainable food and fiber production.

The complexities that the coronavirus brings to our farming systems is almost as complicated as the systems themselves but I am motivated and enthusiastic about the rapid and widespread response from local government and service agencies. We are all working collectively to tackle the issues facing agricultural businesses right now. To me the most exciting shift is that we are beginning to clearly see the holes, and are finding ways to address them. We can really focus on solutions that are going to bring about lasting change for the betterment of local agriculture. It may be that there will never be a “traditional” return to normal but we can collectively decide what the new normal will be.

Last week's farmer gathering helped us to clarify our organization's path forward, in a way that will best serve our own farming community. We see new trends in the need for technical support, we see room for advocacy on the local and federal levels and we are seeing that the power of community can really shift the outcomes for the local food economy. We are committed to finding new ways to support these community-building efforts under the extended Stay-at-Home Order. In addition, SnoValley Tilth is engaged in partnerships that collectively assess the changing needs on a weekly basis. We will be bringing you new resources each week and will be adapting some information to be presented in a more accessible way so that you can remain focused on the farm-related tasks at hand.

Below you will find a list of newly relevant resources and upcoming webinars. See our website for a complete resource list here.

- TODAY, 2:00-3:15pm - WSU Regional Markets Program WEBINAR – Safe Operating Guidance for Small Farm Businesses During COVID-19
- CARES Act Resource Guide for Agriculture
- Farm King County COVID-19 Resources

Finally, I just heard SBA still has not issued new guidance on whether farmers are eligible for the $10,000 SBA grants and EIDL loans. The current decision excludes agricultural producers from eligibility. We are continuing to monitor and advocate for farm business inclusion. Farm
businesses with less than 500 individuals are eligible for the Payment Protection Program (PPP).

Best,

Jill Farrant
Executive Director