

June 11, 2014: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **WSU Mount Vernon Field Day features tour, talks, research updates and BBQ**

MOUNT VERNON, Wash. – A field tour, research project updates, and an agricultural community barbecue are part of this year's WSU Mount Vernon Field Day, to be held Thursday, July 10, at the Research Center, 16650 State Route 536.

The annual event, which is free and open to the public, starts off at 3:30 p.m. with a walking field tour of nearly 100 acres of the Center's active research plots. A tractor-driven wagon ride will be available for those who prefer not to walk.

Faculty members and graduate students representing the Center's current research and Extension programs will be on hand to talk about their current projects and how their work impacts the region's growers, consumers, agricultural businesses, and local economies.

"We have had these field days here since the 1940s, and it is a great opportunity for us to show what we do to help the region," said Steve Jones, WSU Mount Vernon Research Center Director. "It also allows us to thank the many people and groups such as the Port of Skagit County, the Northwest Agricultural Research Foundation, and the many growers and industry representatives that fuel our research and contribute to our mission."

The mission of WSU Mount Vernon is to serve the agricultural, horticultural, and natural resource science interests of the state through research and extension activities that are enhanced by the unique conditions of northwestern Washington: its mild, marine climate, rich alluvial soils, diverse small and mid-sized farming enterprises, and unique rural-urban interface.

Brief Field Day presentations will highlight the Center's eight research programs: plant breeding, small fruit horticulture, entomology, vegetable seed pathology, vegetable horticulture, vegetable pathology, weed science, and dairy and livestock.

The Field Day will conclude with a chicken barbecue at 6 p.m., when attendees can visit with others in the agricultural community. For those working toward pesticide recertification through the Washington State Department of Agriculture, attendance at this event will count for two credits.

"We're looking forward to hosting a large crowd this year, especially if the weather is nice," Jones said. "Every year, more people from across the region seem to turn out to catch up on what's happening in the agricultural community and learn more about how our research impacts them and the local economy."

More information about this year's Field Day is available from Program Assistant Kim Binczewski, 360-848-6153.

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**PHOTO ATTACHED:**

Visitors tour the agriculture research fields by foot and by wagon during the 2013 WSU Mount Vernon Field Day. (Photo by Cathy McKenzie)