

# The Future of Farming in the Methow Valley

*Ecological and Economic Resilience in Local Agriculture*

## Farmers' Forum: practical opportunities for a resilient farm

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 2pm at Winthrop Barn**

*Free. Space limited; registration required. Preference given to active agriculturalists and agricultural land owners/managers in the Methow Valley. Local agriculturalists: please let us know by Feb. 5 if you plan to attend. Other interested parties, please let us know if you'd like to attend. We will contact you after Feb. 5 if there is space available. Contact: [events@methowconservancy.org](mailto:events@methowconservancy.org)*

9:30 Doors open, with coffee and muffins (BYO mug if possible!)

### 10am-12:15pm Morning Sessions

Thoughts and reflections on the history of agriculture in the Methow Valley, [David Granatstein](#), Sustainable Agriculture Specialist, Emeritus, Washington State University  
*Interesting reflections from a 1982 report that looked at the future of agriculture in the Methow Valley.*

Climate projections for the Methow Valley – [Chad Kruger](#), Director of WSU's Center for Sustaining Agriculture & Natural Resources (CSANR)  
*Specific modeling for the Methow Valley to elucidate the climate-related challenges and opportunities for farming in the years ahead.*

Resilient Practices: a 90-minute discussion with David Granatstein, Chad Kruger, and [Michael Brady](#) (Assistant Professor and Extension Economist in the School of Economic Sciences, WSU).  
*A wide-ranging (and interactive) conversation focused on specific, practical ways to build climate resiliency on the land, including drought tolerance, water efficiency, crop selection, "footprints", economic implications, etc.*

LUNCH (provided onsite)

### 12:45-2pm Afternoon Sessions

12:45-1:25pm Diving Deeper – Concurrent Sessions

Session A:

Practical ideas for water efficiencies, [Troy Peters](#), Ph.D., Professor of Biological Systems Engineering, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, WSU).

*A more specific look at irrigation options and tools for a wide range of crops, feeding people and animals.*

Session B:

Virtual Fencing with [Edd Townsend](#), Rancher, Board of Supervisors, Okanogan Conservation District.

*Learn about virtual fencing as a burgeoning management tool for grazers*

1:25-2pm Making it Happen: A conversation about what it takes to make changes toward resiliency on Methow Valley farms and ranches. Edd Townsend, Board of Supervisors of Okanogan Conservation District and Tonasket-area Rancher  
*We'll share what we know about funding resources, accessible tools, and other pilot projects, and hope to hear from the audience about what barriers still exist.*

2pm Conclusion