

Dan Bartelheimer

I am a third generation farmer located in the Snohomish River valley. I farm with my son as Sno-Valley Farms, Inc. I am also the president of the Snohomish County Farm Bureau. It is disappointing to see that governments response is always similar, impose a larger, more comprehensive law with the intent to cover every conceivable situation. It usually fails, while creating a lot of frustration and expense within the community. Each new law forces some out of the industry while making it more expensive to conduct business for others. The laws are frequently interpreted and enforced by individuals that are unfamiliar with agriculture.

An alternative approach of encouraging and rewarding farmers for being good stewards would be better received and possibly improved the end results. With the rewards being significant, a farmer may not be able to financially survive unless he was also a good steward. Rewarding for doing the right thing verses penalizing for doing the wrong thing seems to be more appropriate.