



WELCOME CLASS 45



2702 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite B
Spokane, WA 99224

agforestry.org

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The leadership journey for Class 45 starts in October with a strong network of over 1,000 alums cheering them on. Here's a look at what the next cohort of leaders in natural resources will be up to over the next 18 months:

Module ONE: Personal Leadership

Module ONE is where each participant will take a deep dive into who they are as a current leader, and who they want to become. What their strengths and weaknesses are, and how to best work with other personality types to get the most out of everyone.

Module ONE is the foundation for the entire program, concepts and themes will continue to be woven through Modules TWO and THREE.

Locations: Pullman, Spokane, Ellensburg

Module TWO: Leadership in Public Policy

In Module TWO, participants shift gears to look at the inner workings of public policy. How does policy at different levels work? What are the levers that need to be pulled?

How can the every day citizen get involved in pulling such levers?

Locations: Seattle, Olympia, Washington DC

Module THREE: Leadership and Systems Thinking

Module THREE is where the concepts and themes introduced in the first two modules are shown in actions. Class 45 will visit various locations across the state to view agricultural systems, water issues, forestry, transportation and more.

Locations: Six Seminars in total.

Shelton in May 2024, the remaining four locations for fall 2024 will be announced at a later date, and one international seminar.

Applied Leadership and Graduation

This is where it all comes together. Participants will present their group public policy projects, reflect on their journey over the past 18 months and celebrate with their achievements with AgForestry friends and family.

Location pending, April 2024.



Morgan Adams

Jr. Partner
Adams Farm Partnership
Coulee City

I was born into agriculture as a fifth-generation dry land wheat farmer, where I still work on the farm daily. Following in the footsteps of my family members, I am involved with industry associations and groups at both the local and state level. I strive to push myself out of my comfort zone and look forward to AgForestry uncovering opportunities for personal growth. I am looking forward to further developing my understanding of all natural resource industries so I can be a more well-rounded advocate.



Patricia Bowlby

Commercialization Manager
Stemilt Growers
Wenatchee

Growing up in Australia and being raised on a family run beef and sheep farm I spent my formative years learning about how sustainable land husbandry can work hand in hand with profitability and environmental protection. During my adolescent years I became aware of how poor representation and forward planning within the industry and policy can impact the sustainability of farming business. I look forward to further developing my leadership skills and knowledge in public policy to better understand how practical and purposeful policy can assist in better serving the areas of trade, innovation and environment.



Kyle Buckmiller

Forest Practices Forester
Wash. Dept. of Natural
Resources
Kettle Falls

For over a decade, I have been invested in the forestry and natural resources arena as a forester and wildland firefighter. I work with landowners, consultants, and loggers regularly to help them navigate their natural resources management journey. I am driven by finding solutions that could potentially help bring costs down, increase productivity and efficiency, or create new opportunities within the natural resources industries, which would improve quality of life within many communities, including my community.



Allisa Carlson

South Central Regional Manager
Wash. State Conservation
Commission
Ellensburg

I recognized the interconnectedness of the natural and agricultural environments growing up in Plains, Montana. My father worked as a firefighter in the forest service, and my mom ran a small sheep operation. This inherit knowing led to a career change in 2015, from working as a landscape architect in Seattle to finding employment at a rural-based conservation organization. I can't wait to use the experience gained in AgForestry to communicate ideas more fully in shaping programs and policies at the Washington State Conservation Commission, and giving back to the community that has supported me these last four years.



Paul D'Agnolo

Farmland Preservation Specialist
Wash. State Conservation
Commission
Bellingham

My passion for natural resource management has grown through a myriad of experiences over the past few decades. From work in State and National Parks, Forest Service areas, and privately held forests to urban farms, direct marketed farms, wholesale operations, and running my own farm. All of these wonderful experiences have been through the lens of restoration or small-scale organic farming. I now serve the state of Washington, and the more I can understand the reasons behind the diverse iterations of natural resource management across the state, the better suited I am to fulfill my role.



Michael Dixon

Asst. Manager Ag Services
Lamb Weston
Kennewick

After growing up in a widely diversified agricultural area, I thought I'd head in a different direction when attending college, but after my first year, found myself drawn back into agriculture. Once I completed my studies, I started to focus on seed management and grower inputs, before moving on to focus more on building farmer/grower interactions. I have found building communication between myself and family farmers as opportunities to build lasting connections that are beneficial to all.



Kari Fagerness

Product Sales & Leasing ADM
Wash. Dept. of Natural
Resources
Carson

I grew up in a family with historic ties to logging and farming. Being involved with natural resources feels like home to me and I am passionate about the wise use of our natural resources, their importance in our Washington state economy, our culture, and the generations of families and companies that provide food and wood products and care for the land. I don't think we have done a good enough job of telling the story about the importance of farming and timber and the goal of sustainability. The intersection between industry/policy/community is kind of a dance, my plan is to use the knowledge and experience in AgForestry to better understand the dance and to be a better dance partner.



Paige Hake

Project Manager
Alamo Organic Orchards
Yakima

I grew up on one of the first organic apple orchards in Washington State. I have enjoyed the chaotic organization of harvest and the clean look of a block after it has been pruned in the winter. I love the seasonality of farming. There is always another project around the corner and another problem that needs to be solved. As a current board member for Washington Farm Labor Association (WAFLA) it is so important to tell the story of agriculture and imperative to understand the process of public policy, which can seem detached from our day-to-day responsibilities. I'm looking forward to my AgForestry journey to learn how to make a difference in Washington agricultural policy.



Jackie Hancock

Hydrogeologist
Wash. State Dept. of Agriculture
Olympia

I have spent the better part of the last decade working on projects relating to water resource vulnerabilities across Washington State. Connecting with stakeholders has provided me with a deep respect for growers of the diverse agriculture across our beautiful state. Connecting with stakeholders and learning about the challenges involved with food production has been eye opening and a favorite part of my job. I am dedicated to supporting the agricultural industry and finding solutions to water resource challenges.



Curtiss Ickes

Senior Sales Representative
Elanco Animal Health
Kennewick

I was born into an agriculturally grounded family. My education and career have been devoted to the cattle industry where I've been working and training diligently to expand my knowledge and resources to help build the cattle industry in Washington state, a natural passion of mine, as a cow/calf rancher and local beef producer. I look forward to improving my public speaking skills so I can more confidently and effectively share industry knowledge, with Washington communities who are removed from agricultural industries.



Spencer Klein

Director of Enterprise Services
Yakima Chief Hops Inc.
Yakima

Born and raised in the Yakima Valley, most of my childhood was spent playing in the orchards and sneaking as many Rainier Cherries as I could. Through college I worked first as a cherry inspector and then moved into hops inspection, where my love for agriculture only grew. I strive to be a great leader not just for the company and industry that I am so passionate about, but also in my marriage, family relations, and my community.



Cody LaRiviere

Area Manager
Washington Fruit and Produce
Yakima

I have spent the better part of the last decade planting apple orchards and working on projects relating to water resource vulnerabilities across Washington State. Connecting with stakeholders has provided me with a deep respect for growers of the diverse agriculture across our beautiful state. Connecting with stakeholders and learning about the challenges involved with food production has been eye opening and a favorite part of my job. I am dedicated to supporting the agricultural industry, producing fruit for the United States and the world, and finding solutions to water resource challenges. I find it rewarding to watch the apples I grow make it from the orchard to delighted consumers.



Natalie Marshall

Public Affairs Coordinator
Green Diamond
Montesano

Forestry is rooted in my family's history, and I am proud to say that I am a fourth-generation forest industry employee. I grew up in a rural area, where the local economy is directly impacted by forestry. As a public affairs professional working for a forest landowner, I feel that it is necessary to educate the public on forestry and natural resources from a working forest viewpoint. Effective collaboration and communicating efficiently is extremely valuable in this mission and more. I am looking forward to further developing these skills, as well as building relationships with and learning from others within natural resource industries.



Joe O'Callaghan

Operations Manager
Palouse Trading
Pullman

I love going to work every day, knowing that I am helping to feed people around the world. Having worked in a small agri-business for the past 15 years, I want to gain the skills to be a voice for other small businesses such as ours. I plan to use the tools and confidence I could glean from AgForestry to improve my skills at navigating the conversations with organizations we work with and relationships I have yet to forge. Additionally, I hope to use this experience to broaden my understanding of all natural resources industries and the people who work within them.



Stacey Rasmussen

President/Owner
Westside Farms, Inc.
Harrington

As a third-generation wheat farmer, I have taken a non-traditional route to my place on the farm. After college, I spent several years working my way into a career in fundraising/education before pivoting and moving back to Harrington to farm. My non-traditional route does not dull my love of family farms or my desire to see them continue and thrive for years to come. My strengths lie in advocating for, and teaching others about knowing where their food comes from and why continuing to work the land is important. I look forward to participating in AgForestry to grow as an individual, network within the agricultural community, gain perspective on a broader level of issues that impact agriculture and be able to use this experience to help my local agricultural community in the future.



Sasha Sleiman

Housing Program Manager
Chelan County
East Wenatchee

I see myself as a servant leader. My goals are not to be in leadership roles for power or credit but rather to serve. I love my community and want to be able to help the most people and do the most good that I can. The agricultural industry in Chelan and Douglas counties is our lifeblood. I am eager to participate in the AgForestry program to be more directly exposed to natural resource industries, to grow my leadership skills, and view public policy and systems thinking through the lens of the natural resource industries.



Tiffany Towne

Marketing Advisor
AgWest Farm Credit
Ritzville

I have always had a passion for agriculture. I was raised on a dryland wheat and cattle operation in Eastern Washington and participated in all manner of 4-H and FFA competitions. My husband and I are raising our two girls 15 miles from where I grew up, on a small but thriving direct-to-consumer beef business; and I now get to watch our girls participate in 4-H and FFA. As an adult I was fortunate to find my professional passion - ag marketing and communications. With the knowledge, relationships, and tools I gain from AgForestry, I plan to become a stronger and more well-informed advocate for natural resources in my small community, the state of Washington and beyond.



Teddy Zografos

Director of Sales and Marketing
Stevens Hay Exports
Soap Lake

Agriculture is the center of my life, and is something I want to have a positive impact on so I can help leave it better for the next generation. As a young pupil of the agriculture industry, I am excited about the opportunity to increase my involvement in areas beyond our own operation, and to gain a greater perspective of the natural resources industries beyond my current lens. My goal is that by growing my leadership skills, I will become more confident to get involved in the industry on a larger scale, where I can provide perspective from a farm/processing level to legislatures and law makers.

You're invited to join us!

Below is a list of all receptions 2023.

[Click here to register!](#)

Yakima/Prosser

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Pullman

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Lynden

Thursday, October 12

Spokane

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ellensburg

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Walla Walla

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Save the Date!

Class 45 - Seattle

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Class 45- Thursday, February 8, 2024

Class 44 - Friday, April 12, 2024 - Applied Leadership and Graduation



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