Thomas Forster

Mr. Forster is a small farmer in San Juan County, Washington (located 70 miles north of Seattle) and has worked to develop direct urban - rural partnerships to promote local food systems. In the past he helped bring about a community development loan fund for local farms and the first community-owned county mobile livestock processing infrastructure for small scale independent producers in the United States. He has 20 years of national and international public policy experience working with rural development, sustainable agriculture, food security and sustainable development issues. Since 2000, the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Initiative facilitated by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization has been a major focus and was recently launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. Currently Thomas is Policy Director for the Community Food Security Coalition, in Washington DC, where he works to bring policies in support of community food systems forward in federal policy including the forthcoming reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act.

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