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| |  | | --- | | **Washington State NEWS BYTE - 3/5/2024** [View this News Byte in your browser](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbraverangels.us20.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D4cad42759d6fbe27267b31ec5%26id%3D6e096e7e2c%26e%3D0880298446&data=05%7C02%7C%7C6af16428cd9445ff0fb508dc3d97ecc6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638452969926967086%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DPjft%2FxA2fsQPJ8JVXc0rFBUwyUno10U8OKCmiNOlbM%3D&reserved=0)  Image     Bringing Braver Angels to    Spokane's Ag Show 2024     Spokane’s 2024 Ag Show was an opportunity to build bridges across multiple divides in American culture – Red/Blue, urban/rural, and Washington’s Cascade Curtain. Last month the Central/Eastern Alliance of Washington Braver Angels, together with the Wider Horizons group from Seattle, hosted a booth at Spokane’s annual Ag Expo and Pacific Northwest Farm Forum (known as the “Ag Show”).   Braver Angels volunteer Phil Gerson came from Seattle as a member of both groups, setting up a listening station to ask Ag Show attendees the question “*“What do you think city folks need to know about the farming community?”*  It was a great opportunity to listen and learn, and to reach out to a Red-leaning audience to share opportunities to join in the work of Braver Angels to depolarize America. A wide variety of Inland Northwest farmers and ranchers, young and old, took the time to share their thoughts in answer to Phil’s question. They mentioned environmental concerns, the importance of the Lower Snake River dams, economic pressures on agriculture, and the frustrations of dealing with state and federal government. But the most frequently mentioned subject was the realities of farm life, the hard work and long days that go into a lifestyle they love to grow food and get it to market.  As the Ag Show came to a close, while the Braver Angels volunteers were breaking down the booth they were already talking about doing it again next year. And a bonus - conversations are underway between Braver Angels State Co-coordinator Sue Lani Madsen and Wider Horizons Coordinator Judie Messier to plan a cross-state visit for urban folks to experience farm life firsthand this spring or summer at the Cloverdale Ranch in eastern Washington’s Lincoln County. Watch for future NewsBytes to learn more as plans develop.   Image  Image L - Judie Messier, Coordinator of Wider Horizons' One Small Step Project, shares its goals. R - Phil Gerson engages with a group of youth about Braver Angels at the Ag Show.  - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -  **ARE YOU READY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF BRAVER ANGELS?** [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE.](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbraverangels.us20.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D4cad42759d6fbe27267b31ec5%26id%3D414b400e02%26e%3D0880298446&data=05%7C02%7C%7C6af16428cd9445ff0fb508dc3d97ecc6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638452969926972713%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tAQhEJd0I78R1pUFrEdfefSGg%2BF%2BxWe%2FCkySxi7KcHg%3D&reserved=0) Send a note with your skill sets and interests to Sharmin Banu, one of Washington's two State Coordinators, at [sbanu@braverangels.org](mailto:sbanu@braverangels.org). She will help you explore options that might be of interest to you. | |

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