



Lewis County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

2016 Program Outcomes

2017 Plan of Work

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE AND CHANGING THE LIVES OF LEWIS COUNTY RESIDENTS



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Mission Statement

Washington State University Extension Lewis County helps people put research-based knowledge to work improving their lives, communities, and the environment.

To realize this mission, faculty and staff plan, conduct and evaluate research and experience-based educational programs to improve the lives of Lewis County residents.

WSU Extension Lewis County also engages the assistance of hundreds of volunteers and community partners and provides access to the resources available through Washington State University and the National Land Grant University Extension System.

Local Programs Include:

- 4-H Youth Development
- Master Gardener/ MRC Program
- Food Safety & Preservation
- SNAP-Ed Program
- Small Farm/Agritourism
- Stewardship Forestry
- Noxious Weed Education and Control
- University Student Exam Proctoring

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.
Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.
Washington State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Lewis County cooperating agencies.



2016 SNAP-ED NUMBERS

- SNAP-Ed delivered 31 educational trainings in the community, reaching 430, primarily youth, participants
- Educators provided 7 different training programs reaching low-income families
- PSE (policy, systems and environmental) reach of over 2,200 across all sites
- 9 new partnerships were formalized, with PSE interventions provided at 5 sites
- New 2017 partnerships were coordinated through baseline data collection at 2 sites and shared goal establishment at 2 sites
- Student behavior change following SNAP-Ed training:
 - ◇ 44% observed their students making healthier meal and snack choices
 - ◇ 52% observed an increase in fruit and vegetable consumption
 - ◇ 86% reported an increase in students' willingness to try new foods

SNAP-Ed Program

Situation & Issue

This project targets adults and children with messages that are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines and teaches the skills to select and prepare the lowest-cost, most nutritious (and tasty) foods. Educators emphasize increased consumption of fruits, vegetables, low fat milk, and decreased consumption of high fat and high sugar foods. Additional messages emphasize portion size and the importance of physical activity.

In 2016, Lewis County ranked 27th out of the 39 Washington counties in health factors. 33 % of the adult population is obese with 22% of the population age 20 and older being physically inactive, this is 4% higher than the average for the State of Washington. 16% of the youth (10th grade) are listed as Obese while 72% of the youth (10th grade) in Lewis County are reported to have insufficient physical activity. 18% of Lewis County Adults are considered to be food insecure.

Response

In 2016 Lewis County Extension welcomed the SNAP-Ed Program to our office in partnership with Thurston County. WSU Lewis County Extension is committed to improving the health and wellness of Lewis County residents through the SNAP-Ed program. SNAP-Ed is a collaborative effort of the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), USDA-Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), Washington State University, Lewis County and local partners throughout the community.

SNAP-Ed Policy, Systems and Environmental Initiatives (PSE) included:

- Healthy Backpack program with the Thurston Food Bank, providing youth at 2 schools with 300 pounds of fresh produce;
- Assembled Student Nutrition Advisory Committees at 2 schools;
- Began re-establishment of a garden at Olympic Elementary.
- Promoted healthy choices in the school lunchrooms
- Enhanced access to healthy food

SNAP-Ed education focuses on the key behavioral objectives for obesity prevention:

- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables, at least half your grains whole grains, and switch to fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products.
- Increase physical activity and reduce time spent in sedentary behaviors as part of a healthy lifestyle.
- Maintain appropriate calorie balance.

Empowering low-income residents to make healthy food choices and choose active lifestyles through education and environmental supports.

Outcomes and Results for 2016

The SNAP-Ed direct education program partnered with Chehalis School District (Cascade, RE Bennett & Olympic Elem), Toledo School District (Elem & MS), and Centralia College Youth & Family Studies Dept. (TEEN Program, ECEAP & Children's Lab School) to provide a multiple class series to educate youth and adults on basic nutrition, smart shopping, food preparation skills, food safety, gardening, and physical activity.

Staff

Tara Witten, SNAP ED Coordinator
Julie Pirtle, SNAP ED Educator

Collaborators

Thurston County Extension, Lewis County Extension, Chehalis School District, Toledo School District, Centralia College Youth and Family Studies Dept., Centralia Salvation Army, Community Farmers Market.

Goals for 2017

- Reach more SNAP-eligible adults/audiences
- Increase community involvement through presence at Local Farmers Markets
- Participate in gleaning programs to bring the food from the fields to the families in our community.
- Partnering with Olympic Elementary, Toledo Elementary and Middle Schools, and Boistfort SD to provide a direct education series and support with school wellness policies
- Chehalis Farmers Market: providing healthy cooking demos, promoting the use of EBT and WIC/Senior Farmers Market Vouchers
- Salvation Army: providing technical assistance related to "shopping" model for food bank, providing 4-week educational series



Mock Farmers market set up at Olympic Elementary on Back to School Night



Figuring out what can be purchased with the farmers market tokens



Students at Olympic Elementary in a foods class



2016 4-H BY THE NUMBERS

- Over 3600 reached through 4-H enrichment programs including 976 Youth traditionally enrolled in 4-H Clubs
- 156 Certified and Enrolled Adult Volunteers
- 16 teens in County Wide Teen Leadership Club

4-H Youth Development

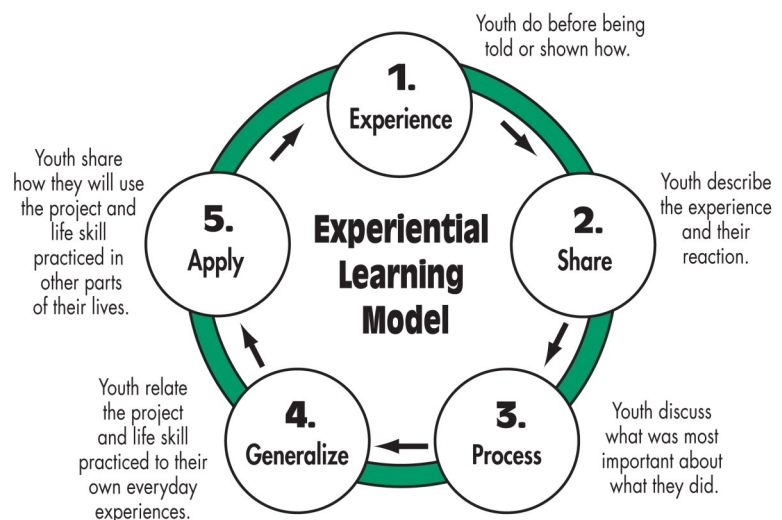
Situation & Issue

Youth have certain developmental needs--emotional, social, intellectual and physical--and will attempt to meet those needs throughout their day-to-day lives. Research through the Tufts University longitudinal study confirmed that the structured out-of-school time learning and gaining leadership experiences, along with adult mentoring that young people receive through their participation in 4-H, plays a vital role in helping them achieve success.

Response

The Lewis County 4-H Youth Development Program reaches out to youth and their families to build skills for life in a variety of ways including project clubs, In-school programs, after school programs, summer camps, special interest projects, internship programs, and special events. Programs focus on three important areas with an emphasis on the experiential learning model:

- Positive and sustained relationships between youth and adults
- Activities that build important life skills
- Opportunities for youth to use these skills as participants and leaders in valuable community activities



Providing programs that foster opportunities for experiential learning and life skill development to help youth become confident, contributing citizens.

Outcomes and Results for 2016

Eighty-five adults and teen leaders attended Volunteer Continuing Education sessions covering topics including communication, learning styles, record books, decision making, life skill development, and youth/adult partnerships. The Lewis County 4-H Youth Development Program reached over 3600 youth. The contributions of 156 adult volunteer leaders provided youth with a wide variety of learning experiences including public presentations, record books (record keeping, financial documentation, and narrative writing experience), judging, clinics, fairs (teaching poise and social competence in addition to project content skills), and community service projects (civic responsibility).

Staff

Pam Watson, Assistant Professor, 4-H Youth Development agent. (1.0 FTE position with WSU Lewis County Extension)

Funding

The WSU Lewis County 4-H position is funded through contributions by Lewis County and WSU.

Goals for 2017

- As a board member for Lewis county Thrives, provide support and help collect survey data for “Cradle to Career” Grant.
- Continue working as a member of the East Lewis county Community Consortium (ELC3) to support multiple programs in the East end of the County
- Continue with the “Morton Up” program as a board member to put on community building workshops. Support an underserved, low income and diverse audience in the East end of Lewis County.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS ABOUT 4-H

4-H'ers are:

- Nearly 4x more likely to make contributions to their communities
- About 2x more likely to be civically active
- Nearly 2x more likely to participate in science programs during out-of-school time
- 2x more likely (Grade 10) and nearly 3x more likely (Grade 12) to take part in science programs compared to kids in other out-of-school time activities
- Nearly 2x more likely to make healthier choices

*The Positive Development of Youth:
Comprehensive Findings from the 4-H
Study of Positive Youth Development*



2017 NOXIOUS WEED BOARD

Members:

Bob Taylor, District 1
Chehalis, Adna, Curtis,
Pe Ell

Brian Thompson, District 2
Galvin, Centralia, Chehalis,

Gary Gorremans, District 3
Napavine, Evaline, Toledo,
Winlock

Nancy Toenyan, District 4
Salkum, Onalaska, Mossyrock

Victor Khvoroff, District 5
Morton, Glenoma, Mineral,
Randle, Packwood

Ex-Officio member:
Sheila Gray, WSU-Lewis
County Extension

Noxious Weed Program

Situation & Issue

The Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board recognizes the control of noxious weeds as a total community effort focusing on education, prevention, technical assistance and control of noxious weeds through voluntary compliance. This requires landowners to engage in the control and spread of noxious weeds on their lands and to prevent infestations moving to adjacent lands. Preventing the spread of weeds is more effective and less costly than eradication.

From May through October, when weeds are growing the most rapidly, the program employs field staff to survey public and privately owned lands in Lewis County for noxious weeds and to work with landowners to achieve weed control. Much of the survey work is the result of citizens reporting infestations and/or asking for information and assistance in getting rid of noxious weeds on their property. Field staff finds additional infestations as they travel the county.

The County Weed Board works to develop programs that reflect local priorities, meets the needs of county landowners and carries out the mandate of the Washington State noxious weed law.

Response

Washington's weed laws spell out responsibilities of landowners, and create the government infrastructure needed to educate citizens and ensure that the laws are respected. Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board:

- Informs landowners of weed infestations and works with them towards control.
- Engages all members of the community in noxious weed awareness.
- Partners with other land managers to get greater results.
- Utilizes Integrated Pest Management guidelines.



Bill Wamsley, Program Coordinator for the Lewis County Weed Control board points out knotweed along the Chehalis river near Adna

Photo Credit Pete Castor
pcastor@chronline.com

Working to educate and assist Lewis County land owners

Staff

Bill Wamsley, Coordinator

Funding

The Weed Control Board expenses are funded through the County's general fund

Goals for 2017

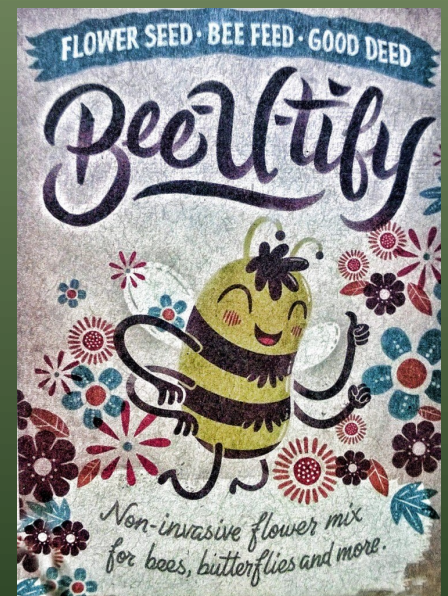
- Assist with identification and control methods for landowners
- Increase noxious weed awareness
- Expand collaborative partnerships
- Increase opportunities for funding
- Continue to offer "Weed Free" inspections in cooperation with the WSDA for hay, gravel and rock
- Work with our Board members to represent the weed districts in Lewis County
- Survey and map noxious weeds
- Work with Washington state Bio-Control agents to help manage Tansy ragwort, Canada thistle, Scotch broom, Meadow knapweed and other weed populations in Lewis County.

Services Offered

- Available for weed management presentations or related educational programs targeted towards adults and youth.
- Reference sources and publications available to assist in weed identification and management.
- Free "weed wrench" rental for scotch broom and woody shrub removal Contact us at (360) 740-1215
- Please contact us regarding your concerns about noxious weeds in your neighborhood at (360) 740-1215.
- We are available to do on-site visits for landowners regarding noxious and poisonous weeds and other pasture weeds.
- We work with Washington State University, Integrated Weed Control Project, to acquire and distribute Bio-control agents in Lewis County.
- Assist landowners with identification of aquatic weed species and their management.
- Demonstrate new weed management strategies on properties of local landowners.
- Information about how to become a WSDA licensed pesticide applicator .

A commitment to protecting our environment, economic resources, and recreational lands from noxious weeds does not need to come at the expense of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators!

The State Weed Board has compiled information about our non-invasive flower blend as well as pollinator-friendly weed control.



For more information on the seed packets visit:
<http://www.clallam.net/Weed/doc/BeeUTify.pdf>



2016 MASTER GARDENERS BY THE NUMBERS

75 volunteers

10,600 Volunteer
Hours =
\$318,424.00 * =
5 FTE

More than 3,600
youth learned
nutrition and
gardening skills
through our Master
Gardener in-school
programs.

*Value of volunteer time in
Washington \$30.04/hr (2016)
[www.independentsector.org/
volunteer_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)

Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Situation & Issue

Healthy landscapes help provide food resources and a sound environment, protect water quality, and improve the quality of life in Lewis County. There is a strong need for educational outreach and technical assistance for rural and suburban landowners in Lewis County to assist them in making wise landscaping and gardening decisions. Recent statistics indicate that Washington has one of the highest hunger rates in the United States. The Master Gardener program has taken leadership in offering gardening expertise to assist low-income audiences by providing educational outreach.

Response

Seventy-five WSU Master Gardener volunteers donated more than 10,600 hours of service conducting a number of highly visible educational programs throughout the year.

Master Gardeners offered free public workshops on topics as varied as pruning, compost, growing vegetables, container gardening, noxious weeds, pest management, rose care, grape and blueberry care, growing tomatoes and herbs, soil health, companion planting, fiber dying, concrete leaves, drought resistant gardening, heirloom gardening, and pollinators.

Significant events hosted by the Master Gardeners included two "Gardening for Everyone" workshop series consisting of eighteen 1.5 hour free gardening workshops. 15 free workshops were presented at any one of our three demonstration gardens. Participants learned about sustainable garden practices such as water conservation, composting, use of mulch, non-chemical insect and disease control, and appropriate plant selection for our climate. The Christmas Tree, Holiday Lights, and Styrofoam recycling event was sponsored in concert with the Master Recycler Composters. This two-week event, with an attendance of over 800 community members is the only event of its kind in our area, minimizing landfill usage by chipping the trees into a mulch and then returning the mulch back to the public without a fee.

Our Demonstration Gardens are located at Historic Fort Borst Park, Centralia; Providence Place HUD Residence, Chehalis; SW Washington Fairgrounds; and Salkum Timberland Library, Salkum. Master Gardener volunteers illustrate techniques and best practices, as well as displaying appropriate ornamental and edible plants that grow in various environments.

Promoting responsible environmental stewardship with relevant information to meet the home horticulture needs of Lewis County residents

Master Gardeners demonstrate their commitment to youth through workshops in school classrooms and gardens, children's activities at Toledo Elementary and RE Bennet Elementary schools, and their significant efforts to support the Toledo Elementary school Garden Project.

Outcomes and Results for 2016

- Over 600 home gardeners had their insect, plant disease and weed problems correctly identified/diagnosed at diagnostic plant clinics. These clients were provided with remedies including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) options for their control to reduce overall herbicide and pesticide use.
- Over 3,600 youth participated in youth development opportunities through gardening skill building, work experience, and other activities.
- Master Gardener Volunteers reached more than 2,100 clientele through workshops, demonstrations, and tours, providing best practices and educational information and publications.

Staff

Sheila Gray, WSU Extension Agent & Director
Art Fuller, Master Gardener Coordinator

Funding

Project funding is provided by the Master Gardener Foundation of Lewis County, WSU Extension, Lewis County and DOE grant monies through the Lewis County Solid Waste Department.

Goals for 2017

- Expand our Youth Outreach Program
- Increase Trainee recruitment and membership
- Construct and operate a greenhouse at Borst Demonstration Garden for training.



The many facets of WSU Lewis County Master Gardener volunteer program.



Master Gardeners at Toledo Elementary teaching youth to make newspaper pots for planting.



Attendees at a Blueberry workshop at Providence Place Demonstration Garden classroom



Master Gardener Trainees touring a local garden as part of year long training sessions.

WSU Lewis County Extension Master Gardener volunteer training program offers year around enrollment for community residents. Interested? Call today, 360-740-1216 and visit with Art.



The **Washington State Farmers Market Association** was founded in 1978 to promote local and direct farm sales, facilitate networking, educate farmers markets and producers, research best practices, and share technical information. The work continues on and today includes also advocating for policies that promote farmers markets, small farms, and food access. Currently, 114 Washington farmers markets are proud members of the WSFMA, representing over \$44.2 million in annual sales from thousands of farm, processed food, prepared food, and craft vendors (2015).

For the latest
information about our
farms visit:

DiscoverLewisCounty.com

Agriculture

Situation & Issue

Without a local farmers market for producers and growers to sell directly to the public, farmers depend on wholesale markets and direct sales to the consumer from their farms. Direct sales through local farmers markets make it possible for local farms to contain labor and transportation costs, while providing quality products.

Lewis County is fortunate to have five primary farmers markets in operation for the year of 2016. WSU Extension supports all of the markets that are located in Centralia, Chehalis, Winlock, Pe Ell and Packwood.

Response

Since 2005, WSU Extension has partnered with the Community Farmers Market (CFM) in Chehalis putting out the all call to assist in the establishment of a farmers market focused on locally grown produce and value-added goods. The response was remarkable and in 2016 the CFM held its 11th season of operation as a Tuesday afternoon market running 22 weeks per year beginning in June and running until the last week of October. The CFM is a non-profit local farmers market with the mission of promoting a healthy food system through the tradition of agriculture by providing a community gathering place for local farmers and artisans to sell their products.

The Centralia Farmers Market is the oldest continuously running farmer's market featuring farm products ranging from food stuffs, nursery plants and flowers to craft and sundry goods. This market is open on Fridays during mid-day from May until September each season.

The Winlock Saturday Market-The city of Winlock is host to one of Lewis County's newest farmers and artisan markets, brought to you by the non-profit Winlock Improvement Network! Part of a revitalization effort in the south Lewis County town once well-known for its egg production, the brand new Winlock Farmers Market started its season the first Saturday in June on State Route 505 near downtown Winlock. Fresh produce, artisan crafts and goods, food vendors and more are a part of the market now in its second year! This market also includes a swap meet, so come check out the deals.

Outcomes and Results for 2016 Farmers Market Survey

The majority of those attending farmers markets are within short travel distances from their homes with the exception of Packwood, many that stop are on their way to or from Mt. Rainier.

Most shoppers spend between \$10-20 per visit and stay less than 30 minutes each week.

Fostering profitable family farms, land and water stewardship, and access to healthy food.

Agriculture in Lewis County

Lewis County agricultural producers are among the less than two percent of the population in the United States today that produce the food and fiber consumed by the remaining population and they do it more efficiently and at less cost to the consumer than any other industrialized country in the world. The following comparisons are from the 2012 Census of Agriculture released in May, 2014. The census also indicates that Lewis County ranks #1 in Washington for Broilers and other meat-type chickens, poultry, and eggs.



The mild climate, productive soils and abundant water supply in Lewis County provide nearly ideal conditions for a wide diversity of agricultural crops. In addition, the county has a highly visible livestock industry which includes dairy animals and horses as well as exotic livestock like emu, Nigerian dairy goats and alpacas.

The county produces over 8,200 acres of vegetable crops including sweet corn and cannery peas.

The county is also well known for the production of quality, cut Christmas trees, raspberries, blueberries, and hay. There are approximately 350,000 acres of Christmas trees in Washington State of which Noble fir ranks in at 54%, followed by Douglas fir at 32%. Lewis County ranks #1 for cut trees in the state.

Both traditional, established agricultural producers as well as new alternative crop growers rely on Extension as a point of contact for information on growing and marketing local agricultural products. WSU Extension in Lewis County is recognized as an educational resource for crop cultural recommendations, pest identification and control, and marketing.



Photo credits: 3 Feathers Emu Ranch, Chehalis WA. Goats at the SW Wa Fair.

AGRICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS

1,647 Farms

Over 134,000 Acres
Are Farmed
Annually

Market Value of
Products Sold
Crop Sales
\$29,075,000

Livestock Sales
\$103,253,000
(majority are
broilers)

Average Per
Farm
\$80,345

2012 Census of Agriculture
Lewis County Profile
[http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/
Publications/2012/Online_Resources/
County_Profiles/Washington/cp53041.pdf](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Washington/cp53041.pdf)

Forest Stewardship Program

“WSU Extension Forestry has engaged forest landowners and resource professionals to learn and apply the best cultural practices that protect public resources, enhance their management objectives, improve economic status, and reduce forest health, wildfire, and financial risk.”

“I thought the stewardship course was outstanding. It is the kind of program that makes a citizen proud of government and pleased to pay taxes to support it. Thank you!”

"I've taken quite a few different classes in my life, but this class was the best one by far. From the teachers, to the specialists that came in every week, they were informative, and kept my interest. It's made such a difference by having a plan, I'm focused and on schedule! Thanks again!"



ISSUE

There are approximately 215,000 family forest landowners that control 5.8 million acres in Washington, making them the largest private land user group in the state. These forests contribute significantly to environmental, economic, and social well-being, but are at risk due to land-use conversion, shifting and diminishing commodity markets, landscape fragmentation, tree health, degraded habitat, and invasive species. This results in increased water pollution, stormwater management problems, elevated wildfire risk, species and biodiversity loss, destabilized hillsides and stream banks, economic losses to property owners, and degraded aesthetics and quality of life for property owners as well as the broader community.

Landowners face a lack of technical expertise to understand and implement best practices to improve land stewardship. Education and technical assistance are effective tools to empower landowners to implement best practices for accomplishing their management objectives. Education and assistance further help landowners to develop written stewardship plans to qualify for property tax reductions and other forms of financial assistance, helping landowners keep forests in use, and implement best management activities.

RESPONSE

WSU Extension Forestry aims to empower forest owners to become experts of their land. Our overall goal is for landowners and managers to understand their forest ecosystems and manage them in a positive way that avoids risks, so that forestlands will remain permanently productive sources of goods and benefits to the landowner and to society.

“[Forest Stewardship Coached Planning](#)” short courses are offered to landowners throughout the year in Washington State. These comprehensive, multi-week training programs teach landowners about best management practices and how to write their own management plans for decision-making, documentation, communicating with contractors and family, and to qualify for economic incentives. Three “[Forest Owner Field Days](#)” are offered in the summer. These all-day, out-in-the-woods events feature educational presentations on different aspects of planning and implementation of best practices for achieving personal objectives. Presenters utilize real examples to provide hands-on learning. Coached Planning classes and field days are augmented throughout the year with topical workshops, field tours, newsletters, websites, online modules, and other resources.



IMPACTS

Through Forest Stewardship Coached Planning courses and summer field days, we provided leadership and training to more than 12,000 families representing 540,000 acres in Washington.

Evaluations demonstrate that Coached Planning participants show a significant increase in knowledge across 15 key topic areas. Within one year, 65% of participants completed a written forest stewardship plan, and 90% used course knowledge to implement stewardship practices such as wildlife habitat enhancement, invasive weed control, fire-risk reduction, forest health improvement, tree planting, and brush control.

Within three years:

- 57% of participants reported greater wildlife use of their land;
- 66% reported reduced invasive species cover on their land; and
- 45% generated income from timber and non-timber products (collectively totaling tens of millions of dollars).

100% of participants reported increased confidence in executing sound practices, and 97% reported greater quality of life due to knowledge gained and practices implemented because of the course. Participants shared course knowledge with an average of 11 other people per year.

Coached Planning has helped more than 500 families qualify for reduced property taxes, an annual financial savings of several thousand dollars per family. Over the course of one generation, this will save families hundreds of thousands of dollars

STAFF

Andy Perleberg, WSU
Regional Extension
Specialist and WSU
State Forestry Team
Leader, Chelan County
Sheila Gray, WSU Lewis
County Extension
Director

Funding:

USDA Federal Grant
\$180,000 (3 years).
FTE -1.0



Fir seedlings.

*Empowering family
forest landowners to
become experts of
their properties*



BY THE NUMBERS

*More than 10,000
landowners have
executed fire hazard
risk-reduction practices.
This equates to \$97
million in firefighting
costs if the land were to
burn.*



2016 CONSUMER FOOD SAFETY BY THE NUMBERS

128 logged food safety/
preservation call
responses

- 117 Pressure canner gauges tested
- 37 of which were accurate
- Additional 22 were within range
- 58 gauges were recommended to be replaced

Assisted with 18
multi-county
workshops and Q & A
sessions on
fermentation, food
preservation, food
safety and cooking -
reaching
over 600 community
members of Lewis
County.

Surveys indicate 97%
increased their
knowledge and skills
and 93% intended to
apply/practice at least
one skill learned from
those trainings

Consumer Food Safety

Situation & Issue

The home preservation of foods is seeing a large rebirth. Whether it is for economic reasons, wellness, fun, to be trendy or just for the satisfaction of knowing what exactly is in your food, it doesn't matter. What matters is that it is done safely. Improper processing can cause illness and in extreme cases, even death. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that each year roughly 1 in 6 Americans get sick (approximately 48 million people), 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die of foodborne illnesses. Those new to home food preservation, along with experienced canners, must use the most current information available. A problem with current technology and social media is that people need to be aware that not everything they see on the internet is correct (YouTube/etc.). Some people use the original manual that came with their canners, however using that outdated material is mistake. The common thread is that people need to be trained correctly and use the most current information to preserve food at home safely.

In addition, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) suggests that dial pressure canner gauges be checked annually for accuracy to prevent inadequate processing of low-acid foods that allows for the survival of *Clostridium botulinum* spores.

Response

- Provide and promote pressure canner gauge testing
- Make informational displays for outreach events
- Promote the online course "Preserve the Taste of Summer"
- Answer food safety/preservation questions via phone, email, social media and face-to-face using current USDA research
- Provide food preservation/safety information and resources on the Lewis County Extension website
- Use social media to promote events and to answer questions
- Write informational articles for local release
- Be available at county fairs to answer preservation questions

Staff

Kim Weiland, WSU Food
Safety Assistant

Funding

Lewis County



Increasing the number of consumers that use safe food preservation and food handling practices.

Outcomes and Results for 2016

- Over 600 people attended the food safety/preservation outreach events, coming from a multi-county area.
- Written surveys indicated that people increased their knowledge/skills (95%) and intended to apply/practice them (92%).
- 128 food safety/preservation inquiries were logged in 2016.
- 117 pressure canner gauges were tested in 2016, many for the first time. 37 gauges were spot on, 22 were within the acceptable range, and 58 gauges were more than two pounds off, resulting in the recommendation that they be replaced.

Goals for 2017

- Increase awareness of USDA food safety and preservation resources provided by WSU Extension using social media, local news and our web page
- Provide pressure canner gauge testing in the office and at clinics in the community this spring/summer
- Provide an educational component at the Southwest Washington Fair
- Provide information tables, educational displays and materials at other outreach education opportunities
- Provide at least 2 hands on canning classes
- Reach out to the ESL population with food preservation information opportunities.
- Work with WSU to create a volunteer program for Food preservation and food safety for Lewis County.



Dehydration and Pickling Class, 2016
Borst park Kitchen #2

Food preservation articles were written for our website, local newspapers and newsletters, which directly sparked or renewed interest for several people.

QUOTES from Workshop Participants:

"I am excited to get started...I am no longer afraid."

"Your workshops have been very educational. I use this information all the time. Thanks!"

"I enjoyed this very much I will definitely be at all the classes I can attend."

"Exceptional, very informative. The presenters were very knowledgeable and helpful in their answers. Continue doing what you are doing. It is working great!"



The Smith-Lever Act of 1914

The **Smith-Lever Act of 1914** codified into federal law, and provided funding for, outreach endeavors at the Land-Grant Universities founded by the **Morrill Act of 1862**. The act was introduced by Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia and Representative A. F. Lever of South Carolina to expand the vocational, agricultural, and home demonstration programs in rural America. Specifically, the Act stated as its purpose, "In order to aid in diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and to encourage the application of the same, there may be continued or inaugurated in connection with the college of colleges in each State, Territory, or possession . . ."

The appropriation for Cooperative Extension as established by Smith-Lever was unique in that it set up a shared partnership among the Federal, State, and County levels of government. A formula funding mechanism was designed to insure that there was support from each of the levels to help the fledgling system achieve stability and leverage resources. The funding would flow from Congress to the **United States Department of Agriculture** and then out to the Land-Grant Universities to be matched with monies from the states and counties receiving programs.

The original formula called federal funding to be divided in the following manner:

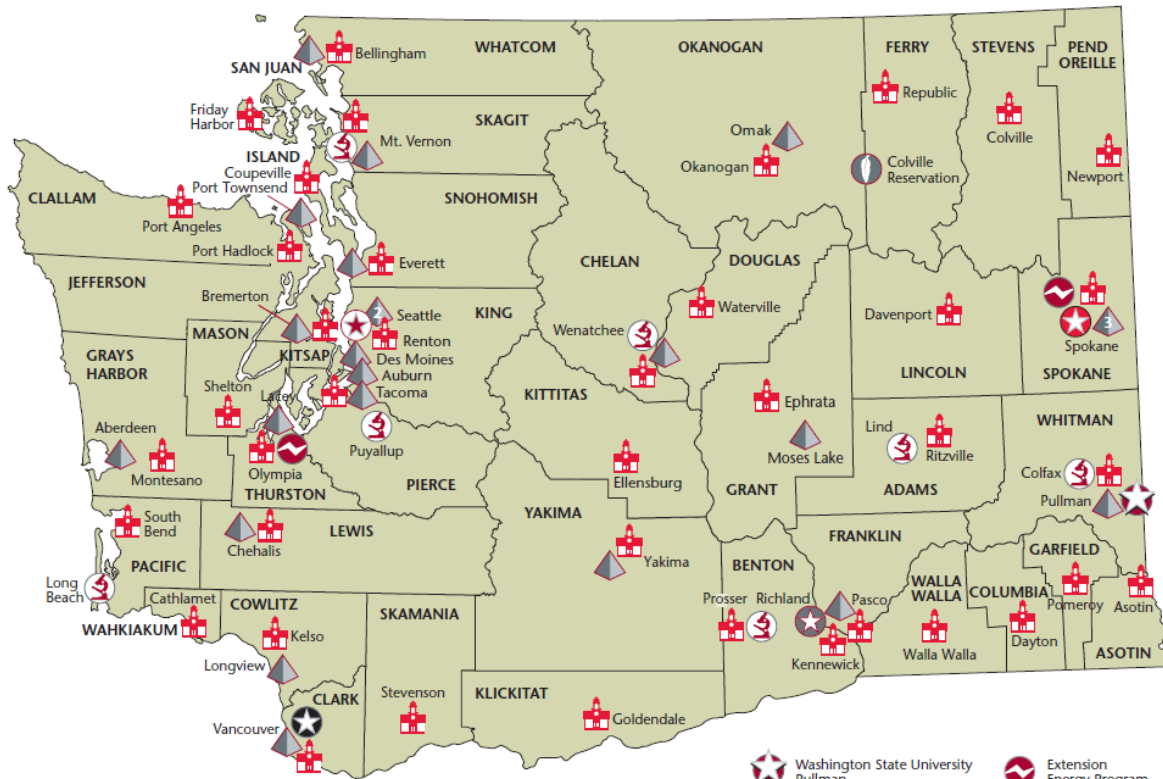
- 20% shared by all States in equal proportions;
- 40% shared in the proportion that the rural population of each bears to the total rural population of the several States as determined by the census;
- 40% shared in the proportion that the farm population of each bears to the total farm population of the several States as determined by the census.

The unique nature of the Smith-Lever Act brought a systemic process for funding the on-going Extension education work that had been started in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by educators such as **Seaman A. Knapp, A. B. Graham, Jane McKimmon, and Booker T. Washington**. The ideals espoused by these educators were transformative in the manner in which the Land-Grant Universities saw their role in their state. The move toward a model of cooperative extension education allowed for professional educators to be placed in local communities in order to improve lives.

Although the original Smith-Lever Act was far reaching, it was later amended to be more inclusive of schools beyond the original funding for 1862 Land Grant Institutions. In 1971, Rep. Frank E. Evans from Colorado presented a proposal to USDA that amended the funding formula and gave an appropriation in the amount of \$12.6 million directly to the **1890 Land-Grant Universities** for research and Extension. Additionally, in 1994, there was a second revision to the language which added the **Tribal Colleges** in order to increase the system's ability to serve Native American communities.

Current information regarding the Act and its applications in contemporary society can be found on **USDA's website**.

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