

WSU Mason County Extension

Summary of Accomplishments, June 2014

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Mission

Washington State University Mason County Extension connects the people of Mason County to the research and knowledge bases of the state's land grant research university providing solutions to local problems and stimulating local economies. Our county-based educators work with partners in your communities to provide educational programs and leverage the broad resources of a major university to resolve issues and create a positive future for the residents of Mason County.

Program Updates

4-H Youth Development Program

Staff: **Dan Teuteberg**, Regional Specialist - Assistant Professor
Kathy Fuller, Program Coordinator.
Mollie Taylor, AmeriCorps

Mission: 4-H Youth Development empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

Updates: Mason County 4-H Horse Camp was held at Panhandle Lake 4-H Camp June 22-28. This week of education, outdoors and fun was attended by 30 youth from four counties. Generous volunteers and qualified instructors provided opportunities for learning, personal growth, life skill development and new friendships.

The Discovery Science Camp was held at Timberland Regional Library June 23-25. This free day camping experience provided hands-on science activities and healthy snacks to 30 local Mason County youth.

Published the Spring, 2014 issue of 4-H Clover Connections. Distributed copies to local businesses, county offices and 4-H families. This document highlights recent 4-H events, members and alumni.

Food Safety & Food Preservation Program

Staff: **Lisa DeWall & R. Jeanne Rehwaldt**, Food Safety & Preservation Information Assistants

Mission: Provide resident's current up to date research based answers to their home canning questions to reduce risk of food borne illness.

Updates: Food Safety & Preservation staff along with two volunteers completed the new online course "Preserve the Taste of Summer". It is a series of eight online lessons for the in-home consumer who wants to learn about food preservation and food safety.

Continue to check pressure gauges on Monday's from 10-12.

Food \$ense Nutrition

Staff: **R. Jeanne Rehwaldt**, Program Coordinator
Diana Castro & Pamela Lyons, Educators.
Michelle Lapp, AmeriCorps

Mission: Providing outreach to youth and adults via direct education, environmental supports, and policy work to reduce childhood obesity and stretch food dollars for SNAP recipients.

Updates: Jeanne Rehwaldt attended the Western Region Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) “Models of Success” training session in Seattle June 2nd and 3rd. Topics included

- Incorporation of public health obesity prevention approaches into existing nutrition education program delivery models.
- Requirements for evidence-based programs and the use of the updated SNAP-Ed Interventions Toolkit for States
- Frameworks, tools, and resources for evaluating policy, systems, and environmental changes
- Working toward a common goal of developing high-quality nutrition education and obesity prevention services for low-income households.

The Food \$ense program in Mason County is well situated because of existing partnerships and efforts to establish new partners to achieve the outcomes set forth by USDA FNS

Water Resources Program

Staff: **Erica Bates & Cammy Mills**, Water Resources Associates

Mission: The Water Resources program helps members of our community make the best choices in caring for our local waters by providing research-based tools and information. We connect people with appropriate resources through collaboration with other extension programs, government agencies, businesses, schools, and other organizations

Updates: The month of June was busy with outreach and education activities at a homeowner septic system workshop, shellfish seed sales, and Evergreen Elementary School’s 5th grade camp. We also produced the 2013 Oakland Bay Progress Report on behalf of the Oakland Bay Clean Water District Advisory Committee.

Significant current partnerships include: Mason Conservation District, Mason County Public Health, Taylor Shellfish, Mason ECO Net, Puget Sound Partnership, and Native Plant Salvage.

Master Gardener Program

Staff: **R. Jeanne Rehwaldt**, Program Coordinator.
Michelle Lapp, AmeriCorps

Mission: To provide relevant, research based, ecologically sound resources to meet the home horticultural needs of Mason County.

Updates: Warm and humid weather conditions are contributing to an increase in insect populations and plant diseases. We have also noticed a large number of questions regarding vole problems. The garden at Catalyst Park is experiencing loss of seedlings from voles and an infestation of flea beetles. Work is continuing on scheduling docents for the 2014 Through The Garden Gate Garden Tour which will be held on July 12, 2014 9 am – 4 pm. The seven featured gardens will be in the City of Shelton including the beds and rain garden at WSU Mason County Extension. Tickets cost \$12 each and are available at local retailers.

Small Farms Program

Staff: **Erik Hagan**, Program Coordinator

Mission: Work to build a socio-ecologically sustainable agricultural community through education, outreach and conservation programs.

Updates: Managed Intensive Grazing Workshop: This 3 part workshop series is provided to aid local farmers to maximize the productivity of their pastures while minimizing impacts to our local natural resources. This program will enhance local economics and reduce water quality concerns to meet the goals of conservation programs, shellfish producers, and the agricultural community.

Key Partnerships: Mason Conservation District, Mason County Public Health Department, Taylor Shellfish, Capital Land Trust, Shelton and Belfair Farmers' Market, KMAS News Radio, Mason PUD.

Noxious Weed Program

Staff: **Patricia Grover**, Coordinator.
Connor Cordray, Assistant

Updates: Bolstered by WSDA funding, the program assisted nearly 20 Mason County property owners with control of the Class A noxious weed, giant hogweed.

Additional funding has been secured from the Olympic National Forest to continue control efforts on National Forest land and support the program's education efforts within the county.

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