

2001 PROGRAM REPORT

WSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION CLARK COUNTY

Gateway to the University



World Class. Face to Face.

*Bringing the University to You -
Taking Your Needs to the University*

ABOUT COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Origin. The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 gave each land-grant university a mandate to extend results of research and experience based knowledge to the people of each state to improve the quality of their lives and enterprises. This Act created a unique partnership of federal, state, and local governments to bring non-credit, practical education to people using the expertise and resources of this nationwide network that is Cooperative Extension.

Washington State University Cooperative Extension

- ◆ Helps people develop leadership skills and use research-based knowledge to improve their economic status and quality of life.
- ◆ Emphasizes holistic and systems approaches.
- ◆ Builds the capacity of individuals, organizations, businesses, and communities, empowering them to find solutions for local issues.
- ◆ Addresses critical issues in developing programs.
- ◆ Focuses on prevention.
- ◆ Collaborates with government, industry, community organizations, and others.
- ◆ Provides high accessibility.
- ◆ Values the indigenous knowledge of our constituents.
- ◆ Recognizes the commitment of our volunteers.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WSU Cooperative Extension wishes to recognize our critical partnership with Clark County for bringing informal life-long learning opportunities to all residents of the county.

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2001 HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Extension trained 186 volunteers during 2001.
- ❖ Volunteers worked over 49,000 hours (equivalent to over 23 full time staff) valued at \$754,000 based on \$15.39/hr established by the Independent Sector Value of adult American volunteers.
- ❖ Staff and volunteers provided educational services to over 60,000 people through workshops, conferences, clinics, individual consultations, phone calls, email, and other educational methods.
- ❖ The *Environmental Information Cooperative*, a six agency partnership, provided environmental education to over 5500 students and teachers.
- ❖ Extension leveraged \$58,000 in grant and fee for service funds, in addition to \$20,000 worth of in-kind services.
- ❖ Extension programs worked with 108 partners from the public and private sector.

OVERVIEW

This report outlines the 2001 programs implemented by the Washington State University Cooperative Extension Clark County office. Extension trains volunteers in different subject matter areas by providing at least 25 hours of instruction. Trained volunteers return a matching number of hours in service to the educational projects of each Extension program area. Current volunteer programs include: *Master Gardeners*, *Master Composters*, *Livestock Advisors*, *4-H Club Leaders*, *Watershed Stewards*, and *Master Clothiers*.

GENERAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

- ◇ Over 6100 phone calls from the public were answered in 2001.
- ◇ 1,371 publications were sold through the Extension office.
- ◇ 3,705 publications and fact sheets were provided free of charge to the public.

Green Thumb Work Training. The national Green Thumb program refers work training participants who must be over 55 years of age and meet certain income requirements. Extension provides work training on an on-going basis for trainees in basic office skills and computer use in return for the half-time services of trainees for six to twelve months. This program provides essential public contact support for Extension at a small cost to Clark County while also providing needed job skills and experience to trainees.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The WSU Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development program reaches Clark County youth between the ages of eight and nineteen years of age. Youth participate primarily through three program areas: the *4-H Club Program*, the *Grow Cart School Program*, and the *Juvenile Justice Community Garden Program*. 4-H develops life skills in youth. The staff includes two half-time Program Coordinators and a full time Cooperative Extension Educator. ***A total of 486 volunteers representing the three program areas contributed 15,000 hours of service and worked with 6,000 Clark County youth.***

4-H CLUBS

1,500 youth participated in 138 clubs, the second largest club program in Washington. These clubs were led by 371 volunteer leaders. 4-H provides leadership training for both club leaders and members. Clubs include:

Animal Sciences (livestock, dogs, cats, Guide Dogs, Llamas, etc.);
Expressive Arts (photography, performing arts, etc.);
Family Living (clothing, food preparation, etc.);
Mechanical Sciences (computers, small engines, aerospace, etc.);
Plant Sciences (gardening, beekeeping, entomology);
Environmental Stewardship (water resources, geology, earth savers, etc.).

4-H leaders teach youth life skills such as responsibility, planning, goal setting, decision making, and evaluation of their projects. Programs foster leadership, team work, problem solving, self-confidence, caring, and sharing.

- ◆ Eight counties sent 271 SW Washington youth to the annual camping program stressing leadership development. Thirty-two teens also mentored younger children.
- ◆ 4-H in Action 2001 provided learning opportunities to 500 youth and adults.
- ◆ 82 adults were trained as 4-H leaders.
- ◆ 50 SW Washington 4-H leaders and members attended training on “How to be an effective 4-H club officer.”



Clark County Boys and Girls Club. The 4-H Program Assistant implemented an after school activities program with *Boys and Girls Club* staff that included cooking, quilting, and aerospace for elementary youth at Hazel Dell Elementary Schools. This school has a large population of at risk youth. 4-H is providing the volunteer resources.

4-H GROW CART PROGRAM

This school enrichment program teaches classroom gardening to grades K-8 by using a portable raised indoor bed on a lighted, rolling cart. Students can grow vegetables and flowers on the *Grow Cart* throughout the school year. This program works closely with WSU Master Gardeners. Staff developed the *Grow Cart* curriculum and recently integrated it into the state science curriculum standards to facilitate its implementation by teachers. The program focuses on teaching positive life skills, helping young people understand the interdependence of all living things, and the responsibility everyone has to keep our environment safe and clean.



In 2001, the *4-H Grow Cart Program* instituted an eight-week summer pilot program with eleven Russian, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, and Romanian youth at the *New American Social and Cultural Center*. The Center's director reported that the eleven participating youth learned many skills and even caused one boy to comment that he would like to be a farmer.

4-H JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM

The *4-H Juvenile Justice Program* provides an alternative community service to first-time youth offenders. Participating youth referred from the Juvenile Court work with WSU Master Gardener and community mentors on a community garden. In 2001, 27 young offenders between the ages of 11 and 17 produced 655 pounds of produce distributed to 45 community families and the Battle Ground Food Bank. This project allows offenders an opportunity to provide service to the community harmed by their actions, while helping youth become "integrated into the fabric of the community as positive, contributing citizens" (Arlan McMullen, *Community Resource Coordinator*).

Participating youth commented that:

"They didn't treat me like a criminal."

"My mentor cared about me."

"I liked the idea that the food would be given to people who needed it."

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS

Columbia River Mental Health
Educational School District #112
Vancouver School District
Battle Ground School District
Evergreen School District
Camas School District
La Center School District
Vancouver Parks & Recreation
Washougal School District
Clark County Parks and Recreation
Vancouver Parks and Recreation
Master Gardener Foundation
Vancouver Housing Authority
Battle Ground and Vancouver libraries
New American Social and Cultural Center
Battle Ground Alternative School

Boys and Girls Club
Gate Work Study Program
SW Washington Medical Center
Clark County Solid Waste Program
SW Clean Air Agency
American Red Cross
State Grain Inspector
Vancouver Libraries
School Employees Credit Union
H & H Recyclers
Clark County Juvenile Justice Division
City of Vancouver Neighborhood Assoc.
Water Resources Education Center
Clark County Corrections - Maybry Center
Battle Ground River Home Link
Linstead Farms

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES (ANR)

Extension faces the challenge in the near future of developing programming that meets farmers' changing needs as agriculture in Clark County transitions from commodity based wholesaling to value-added, specialty niche farms selling directly to consumers and retailers.

WSU FOOD & FARM CONNECTIONS TEAM (FFCT)

The *Food and Farm Connections Team* consists of 29 faculty and staff, mostly in Western Washington, dedicated to enhancing sustainable community food and farm systems through education, research, and partnerships. Clark County Extension ANR faculty participate in this team which helps local agriculture through regional initiatives and projects.

Harvest Celebration. The FFCT organized the third annual Harvest Celebration Day on October 6, 2001 that included eight counties (King, Pierce, Skagit, Clark, Clallam, Kitsap, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom, and Grays Harbor). Local county events included organized tours and open houses of area farms, festivals, banquets/dinners featuring locally produced food prepared by local chefs, music, dances, and other activities to celebrate local agriculture, local farmers, and food. Over 17,000 people visited 90 farms and helped connect local residents with local farmers.



In Clark County, 1028 people visited 15 sites and learned about the diverse farming culture in Clark County, as well as the basics of what and how farmers produce food and animal products. A participating 7 acre blueberry farmer said

that her sales justified being open even though she normally sells only through her catalog. Farm visitors commented:

"I wish this was a 2 day event so that I could see all the farms."

"I never knew that you could farm on a few acres. I would really be interested in taking classes to learn more."

"I never knew there were so many places to buy food produced here in the county. I'll be back here with my family again."



Farming West of the Cascades Publication Series. The FFCT continues to publish a series of Extension publications on farming in areas west of the Cascade Mountains.

Web Site. The FFCT maintains a site to serve farmers with an emphasis on niche and value-added farming. This site offers a diversified range of production and marketing alternatives for agricultural producers in Western Washington. The site also features a calendar listing local, regional, and national events of interest to area farmers. The site can be found at <http://foodfarm.wsu.edu/>.



HORTICULTURE

Commercial Horticulture

The commercial horticulture faculty worked directly with over 200 commercial horticulture operations including berries, Christmas trees, greenhouse production, ornamentals, and direct marketing operations. Questions often involve looking at alternative agricultural systems that provide a higher return per acre than conventional commodity production. In addition, the horticulture faculty oversees the Master Gardener volunteer program.

Christmas Trees. Forty people attended the day-long workshop in September at the WSU Vancouver Research & Extension Station. This workshop reflects a growing interest among Clark County residents in starting family Christmas tree farms. The current economic returns for u-cut Christmas trees and wholesale trees has been on the upswing. Christmas



trees lend themselves well to the rolling terrain in this area. This workshop resulted in quite a few inquiries at the Extension office.

Horticulture Farming Alternatives. This annual series of workshops started in 1995 and provides those interested in farming with ways to remain profitable in our region. The November 2001 conference drew 50 participants from southwest Washington and northwest Oregon to Clackamas Community College in Oregon City. Workshops focused on what farm enterprises work on smaller acreages and marketing strategies. Some potential “crops” featured Christmas trees, winegrapes, specialty vegetables, and nursery stocks.

Master Gardeners Volunteer Program

This program supports over 320 active volunteers who serve the residents of Clark County. Fifty-five volunteers graduated in 2001. The Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County, formed by Master Gardeners (MG) to help support this program, partially funds the MG program by providing financial support for the program coordinator. Volunteer retention speaks to the quality of this program: an 85% retention rate after one year and a 70% retention rate after two years. ***Volunteers provided over 29,700 hours of time and interacted with over 30,000 members of the public in 2001.***

Answer Clinics. MGs answer horticultural questions on insect identification and infestation problems, plant cultural and disease problems, and plant identification (e.g., weeds, poisonous plants). MGs staff regular clinic hours in the Extension office year-round while off-site clinics occur at other events, such as the *Home & Garden Idea Fair*, farmers’ markets in Vancouver and Battle Ground, the *Clark County Fair*, local nurseries, and neighborhood associations.

Speaker's Bureau. Master Gardeners make presentations to neighborhood/home owner associations, church groups, garden clubs, granges, youth groups, business groups, and local nurseries. Presentation topics include ground water protection, pesticide safety, the safe handling of garden equipment, to moles, seed saving, disease resistant varieties of plant materials, home food supplies, landscaping, over-wintering bulbs, container gardening, and cover crops.

Demonstration Gardens. Volunteers worked with several demonstration gardens in 2001. These included the *Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Garden*; the *Kaiser Permanente Poison Prevention Garden* meant to educate citizenry in the prevention of plant poisonings; *Wildlife Botanical Gardens* that demonstrate the use of Northwest native plants; an *edible landscape garden* at the Clark County Fairgrounds in its fifth year; and an integrated pest management garden.

4-H Support. MGs work with the *4-H Grow Cart Program* in combination with financial support from the MG Foundation. MGs also judge horticultural activities within 4-H.

Special Projects

- ◆ The volunteer coordinator organized a committee of MG's to work closely with *The Columbian* for the *Thursday Inspirations Magazine* where volunteers write columns and answer questions.
- ◆ Funded (through the MG Foundation) two small grants to help two students attend community college.
- ◆ Worked for the tenth year with the *Vancouver Housing Authority* on a 'self-sufficiency' fundraiser to help young people get off public assistance and into jobs and homes.

ANIMAL SCIENCES

Dairy numbers have decreased in the region, but dairy sales increased over \$11 million during the last ten years to \$72 million. Clark County dairies contribute \$14.2 million to these total farmgate sales. Other animal species have increased their farmgate sales to \$40 million, with Clark County accounting for \$12 million of this amount.

The animal sciences faculty member works in six SW Washington counties on both dairy and other animal species. Issues addressed include management efficiency, herd health, labor, breeding, feeding, forage, food safety, water quality, and animal rights. Such education efforts help reduce the incidence of disease and the incidence of non-point pollution.

Dairy and Other Animal Species

4-H Youth Support. Extension provided support to Clark County 4-H youth in animal science clubs where youth learn animal management, fitting and showing skills, and other practical skills that teach discipline, responsibility, self-confidence, better communication, and leadership. Those youth lacking access to activities that develop positive life skills are more likely to participate in actions with negative social outcomes.

Fitting & showing quiz bowl and judging contests were held at county fairs and local workshops. Clinics helped develop youth communication skills through emphasis on oral reasoning. As a result, twenty-six youth from Southwest Washington improved their oral reason scores over the previous year at the state Dairy Judging Contest. Youth attended national contests in the National Dairy Conference dairy quiz bowl and dairy judging. Twenty-four Clark County youth participated in the state dairy quiz bowl, dairy judging and dairy conference contests.

Youth Animal Workshop. This workshop provides youth with hands-on experience in working with animals. The workshop offered 23 classes providing management information on horses, dairy cattle, rabbits, sheep, beef cattle, animal health, llamas, as well as teaching

youth leadership skills. Over 300 youth and adults attended these classes. Of the participants responding to an evaluation survey, 95% said they would make better decisions, 78% said they learned to better express themselves, 83% learned to set goals and plan, and 84% learned the importance of following through with commitments.

Junior Livestock Auction Marketing Seminar. Ninety 4-H and FFA youth raising livestock attended this seminar and learned how to market their animals to potential buyers and solicit new, non-traditional buyers. As a result, the 2001 Junior Livestock Auction sales increased 36% over 2000 figures despite the 10% drop in animals auctioned. Additionally, one-third of the 2001 buyers at the sale were new, reversing a declining trend from two previous auctions.



Dairy Days. Dairy Days started in 1992 as a way to introduce youth to farming and to teach youth and adults how food is produced and how it gets to the store. This event grew from 410 school children the first year to 19 schools and home school programs in 2001. Over 1,900 kids and adults participated in the three-day event. Activities included a health and nutrition station (complete with ice cream!). Several organizations assist with Dairy Days: 4-H, FFA, Clark County Dairy Farmers, Clark County Dairy Women, Land-o-Lakes Feeds, and Darigold Inc.

Tri-State Dairy Conference. This annual conference attracted over 150 dairy farmers, farm employees, and agribusiness personnel from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, including participants from Clark County. The 2001 sessions emphasized learning new methods for improving farm management to increase their profitability. Most participants stated that they would incorporate at least part of what they learned into their farm operations.

Master Goat Farmer Training. This session trained 38 attendees on dairy goat production management. Follow-up demonstrated that many participants decreased their annual operating costs through the application of what they learned.

Livestock Advisor Volunteer Program

This program trains volunteers to work with small-scale family farmers and small acreage landowners. Trainees receive 60 hours of instruction in return for volunteer service within their local communities. Washington State University staff, Oregon State University staff and local experts provide instruction to trainees. Training in animal production combines with the study of water quality and land management issues. Leadership skills, the environment and how agriculture fits into and affects the local community also comprise

elements of the training. ***Thirty active volunteers provided 1,500 hours in educational service to over 3500 people during 2001.***

SW Washington Horse Symposium. Sponsored by Extension Livestock Advisors and the Clark County Executive Horse Council, this event provided education and networking opportunities for the owners of the estimated 30,000 horses found in Clark County. (Figure based on a survey commissioned by the Clark County Executive Horse Council in October of 2000. Market Decisions Inc. developed the methodology and performed the survey.) A volunteer developed the web site for the Horse Symposium, which helped entice some of the 125 participants. Topics included dental care, pasture management, horse behavior, and genetics, reflecting the growing interest in our community for natural and holistic approaches to animal care. The Executive Horse Council donated a generous \$1,000 to be used for continuing education for horse owners.



Winter Livestock School. This sixth annual workshop changed its venue to the Clark Community College campus. The classes offered novice and experienced small farmers instruction on a variety of topics, including a youth track which proved especially popular, and one class on first aid for animals and one on the science of necropsy (the study of dead animals). While the first class focused on how to keep animals healthy and alive the second class focused on why they die. "You can learn as much from the ones who have died as you can from the ones who are still alive," said Dr. Scot Lubbers. Our young participants took their role as detectives quite seriously as they examined the animal remains for clues as to why this animal had died. Dr. Scot helped the participants focus on how learning what went wrong could help them to prevent needless animal suffering in the future. Youth commented:

"I want to be a veterinarian, I think it is cool."

"It is kind of yucky, but interesting."

True to the spirit of partnership, faculty from Oregon participated in the planning and instructional offerings for the 2001 Winter Livestock School. This multi-state collaboration increases the workshop's outreach effectiveness.

Workshops. Livestock Advisor volunteers offered 20 workshops in 2001 to the general public and to other volunteers for advanced training.

Maintenance of Wells and Septic Systems
Pasture Management
Mud Management
Lambing Management School

On-Farm Manure Composting
Farrowing School
Fencing
Weed Management

Volunteers partnered with the Southwest Washington Health District, Clark County Public Works, and the Clark Conservation District in several of these workshops.

International Alliance for Animal Therapy and Healing (IAATH). This is the second year Extension participated in this conference that brings together professionals in non-traditional healing practices. Encouraged by the success of the 2000 conference, IAATH asked the Extension Livestock Advisor Program Coordinator to direct the planning for the 2001 conference, *"Initiating the Paradigm Shift"*. This partnership brought in \$1,500 in supplemental funding for extension programs. Several leaders in the field of complimentary medicine were among the forty practitioners from the United States and Canada who participated. IAATH commits itself to the continuing development of education, communication, support and opportunities for all those interested in animal health care. They seek a more holistic approach to animal health care that has only recently entered mainstream thinking.

General Outreach. Livestock Advisors also participated in various outreach events and provided speakers as requested.

- ◆ *Clark County Fair Educational Booth.* Done in collaboration with the Clark County Cattle Producers and the Clark Conservation District.
- ◆ *Touring Farms* - Advisors bring animals to schools and public events to foster an awareness of the role of animals in agriculture and our society, the importance of supporting our local farmers, and the importance of protecting the environment.
- ◆ *Farm Visits* – Advisors made on-site visits to small farm operators to help find solutions to common problems: weeds, pasture management, mud, manure and animal management.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Watershed Steward Volunteer Program

The Watershed Stewards donated over 1600 hours and reached 5000 people during 2001 in their educational outreach on the effects of non-point source pollution and practical ideas for individuals to reduce pollution in our watersheds.

The Watershed Steward program gained a full-time Coordinator in 2001 thanks to support from Clark County Public Works Clean Water Program. The program trained 25 new volunteers in 2001, bringing the volunteer pool to 42. Stewards worked on restoration projects with Clark Public Utilities, Fish First, Vancouver/Clark Parks, Habitat Partners, the Clark Conservation District, and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Working with partners, the Watershed Stewards helped plant and protect about 10 acres, removed invasive weeds on another 8 acres, and



cleaned up trash along several miles of shoreline. Restoring native trees and shrubs along streams helps reduce polluted runoff, reduces high temperatures that can be fatal to salmon, and provides habitat for a wide variety of species.



The Stewards have staffed watershed education booths at fairs, festivals, schools, and community groups. Stewards answered questions about water quality, discussed practical things people can do to improve water quality, and promoted volunteer programs.



The Stewards also worked with Clark County to develop a volunteer water quality monitoring program. Stewards are already monitoring local streams and are developing data in preparation for the program. Stewards assess habitat values, monitor restoration projects, sample chemical parameters, and sample benthic macroinvertebrate populations. Water quality monitoring helps identify impaired streams, guides restoration and mitigation activities, and gauges the effectiveness of habitat restoration projects.

Master Composter / Recycler Program (MC/R)

The Master Composter/Recycler Program, in partnership with Clark County Public Works, provides education to the public about the importance, benefits and methods of diverting yard debris, food scraps and recyclables from the waste stream. The *Master Composter/Recycler Program* trains volunteers to work with homeowners to better compost organic debris that would otherwise enter the solid waste stream. In 2001, the MC/R program trained 24 new volunteers who received 45 hours of instruction in composting biology and fundamentals, soils, bins and systems, compost tea, turf management, water quality, household hazardous waste, worm biology, vermicomposting, recycling, and waste reduction. ***Fifty-four volunteers provided 2500 hours of educational service to more than 9000 people in 2001.***

Workshops. The MC/R offered three basic types of workshops in 2001: composting workshops that teach homeowners the fundamentals of composting household organic materials and how composted material might be used around the home; wormshops for community members that teach the basics of vermicomposting food scraps without causing odor or pest problems; and wormshops presented to school teachers and their students.

Backyard Composting. Staff and MC/R volunteers offered 14 workshops on the fundamentals of yard debris composting and recycling. Backyard composting workshops include information on how composting works, why it is important and how to do it. Participants leave the hands-on event with a starter compost bin and an enthusiasm towards composting.

Worms Go To School. In partnership with the Environmental Information Cooperative, the MC/R *Worms Go To School* program offered 29 classroom worm bin presentations and demonstrations that reached 966 students and teachers. In addition, the program provided four *Wormshop* workshops attended by 99 teachers. Teachers spend four hours learning about worms and take a functioning worm bin back to their classroom along with information to use in their science and math curriculum.



Community Wormshops. Five community *Wormshops* attracted 125 participants who left the workshops with fully functioning worm bins to use for composting their food scraps at home. These very popular classes teach about the care and feeding of the red worm and what to do with the rich vermicompost that the worms produce. Comments included:

"I learned a lot. It was well worth my time. Never knew worms could be so interesting!"

General Outreach. Displays at community events, demonstration sites, and the distribution and/or sale of compost bins round out the educational outreach provided by the MC/R program.

- ◆ Displays at the Home and Garden Idea Fair, Clark County Fair, Home Depot, Columbia River and Lacamas Lake Watershed Festivals, Battle Ground Harvest Days, Clark College Earth Days, Manure Composting event, Vancouver Farmer's Market, Water Resources Education Center and Nature's Market.
- ◆ Compost cages and bins were distributed to 286 people. MC/R volunteers assisted Earth Machine NW sell over 700 additional bins at three different events.
- ◆ Staff fielded 2001 requests for composting information.



Demonstration Sites. The MC/R program maintains three compost demonstration sites: at the Center for Agriculture, Science, and Environmental Education (CASEE) in Brush Prairie; at H & H Wood Recyclers in Orchards; and at the Michael Servetus Universalist Unitarian Fellowship site in Vancouver. The demonstration sites provide a variety of compost bins and systems along with signage describing the pros and cons of each bin. General composting information is also posted at each site to provide the public an opportunity to visit the site at any time and learn about composting yard debris and kitchen scraps. Composting workshops were taught at the CASEE site.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES PARTNERSHIPS

3K Livestock	Head Start
4-H Dairy Endowment Committee	Hearty Plant Society of Oregon
All West Breeder's Service	Hough Elementary School
Amazia Veterinary Clinic	Hough Foundation
Battle Ground Farmers' Market	Hoyt Arboretum (Portland)
Camas Safeway	Interstate Rock
Clackamas Community College	King Elementary School
Clackamas County Extension	Lower Columbia Dairy Holstein Club
Clark Conservation District	Lower Columbia River Estuary Enhancement Group
Clark County Cattle Producers	OR Association of Conservation Districts
Clark County Dairy Federation	Oregon Department of Agriculture
Clark County Dairy Goat Association	Oregon State University Extension
Clark County Dairy Women	Pleasant Valley Elementary School
Clark County Department of Public Works	Portland Community College
Clark County Fair	Portland Exposition Association
Clark County Fairgrounds	Portland State University
Clark County Farm Foresters	Rain or Shine supply house
Clark County FFA	Shorty's Nursery
Clark County Indoor Play Park	Specialty Nursery Association Clark County
Clark County Pork Producers	Student Watershed Research Project
Clark County Public Utilities District	SW WA Health District
Clark County Weed Board	SW WA Llama Association
Columbia County Extension	Trout Unlimited
Columbia Land Trust	USDA / NRCS
Columbia Springs Environmental Ctr	Vancouver Audubon
Cowlitz County Fairgrounds	Vancouver Botanical Garden
Dairy 4-H Clubs in Clark County	Vancouver Downtown Association
Dairy Women and Dairy Farmers of Washington.	Vancouver Farmers Market
Darigold	Vancouver Housing Authority
Elks Club	Vancouver School District
ESD 112	WA Department of Ecology
Farm Credit Services	WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
Fish First	Washington Dairy Products Commission
Fort Vancouver National Park	Water Resources Education Center
	Wilco Farmers
Growscape Nursery	WSU Research & Extension Unit
Habitat Partners	WSU Vancouver
Harney Elementary School	Xerces Society

FAMILY LIVING & CONSUMER SCIENCES

FAMILY NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Food stamp recipients and their children learn healthy nutrition, food buying and preparation, and food safety and handling through this federal, USDA grant funded program. This program serves communities that are often underserved, such as immigrants,



African-American, Hispanic, and others. Classes and publications provide parents information on feeding children, nutritious food selection, and how to budget food stamp dollars. Children learn about making healthier choices using the Food Guide Pyramid, creating healthy snacks, safe food handling, and proper handwashing techniques. Through this education, participants learn self-esteem and self-confidence that fosters their personal growth. **Staff in this program reached 1,130 children and 1,790 adults in 2001.**

This program includes events such as:

- ◆ *Food Guide Pyramid*, a series designed to help third graders make healthy food choices;
- ◆ *Super Snacks for Kids*, an after-school program that teaches how to make healthy snacks;
- ◆ *Feast with the Beasts*, a program where children learn about nutrition through comparisons to zoo animals;
- ◆ *Food, Fun, and Facts*, a newsletter on nutrition and food to children's parents outlining possible family projects;
- ◆ *GloGerm* programs that emphasize handwashing for children;
- ◆ Materials for parents such as the *Parent Letter* and the *Handwashing Chart*;
- ◆ Training for Head Start cooks in food safety and sanitation;
- ◆ *Ready to Learn*, a series of classes for adults on nutrition, food handling and storage;
- ◆ Teen parenting classes for proper child nutrition.

Impacts. A parent survey of 55 families demonstrates how this program positively impacts the lives of those it touches.

Desired Outcomes	Before	After
My child is making good food choices when selecting his/her own snacks.	67%	95%
We wash our hands before eating.	76%	98%
We eat more than one kind of fruit and vegetable each day.	62%	93%
We use the Food Pyramid when deciding what to feed the family.	44%	65%
We read food labels to choose more nutritious foods.	45%	84%

"Overall, your program has made me look at things more closely when making purchasing decisions." -- *Adult Participant*

"The most important thing I learned is when you are young, you need calcium, or when you're old, your bones break." -- *Youth Participant*



CLOTHING, TEXTILES, AND FOOD PRESERVATION

Volunteers in this program area provided about 900 hours of service to 2500 people in Clark County.

Master Clothier Volunteer Program. The Home Sewing Association provided funding to implement a pilot project to teach quilting enthusiasts about textiles and educating others. In return, these trained volunteers would teach youth in their local communities. Twenty-one volunteers started training in 2001 and will finish in February 2002.

Staff and volunteers organized a two-day *Fiber Arts Conference* for this region. Seven home based business vendors set up at this conference which attracted 130 participants. Local textile artists taught sessions.

A Master Clothier volunteer coordinated a three-day *Historical Quilting workshop* that boasted 29 home-based business vendors and drew participants from nine states.

Extension Homemakers Program. Volunteers in this program deliver education on general household management, particularly economical food choices and preparation, and clothing. Volunteers taught families in the Vancouver Housing Authority neighborhoods. Volunteers provided support to the Clark County Fair in organization and superintendent duties. Extension Homemakers raise funds to buy equipment for their programs and to award small scholarships to low income students for a summer camp experience.

Master Food Volunteer Program. Food volunteers answered telephone referrals on food safety and food handling, such as e-coli contamination and pressure canning. They also provided pressure gauge testing for canners.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES PARTNERSHIPS

Battle Ground Food Bank
Battleground School District
Caton CPA
Clark College
Clark County Department of Social & Human Services
Coats & Clark store
Daisy Kingdom
Early Childhood Education Assistance Program
Elahan House (mental health)
Evergreen School District
Fred Meyer, Safeway, McDonalds
George Schwary Graphics
Habitat for Humanity
Hancock Fabrics
Lewis & Clark High School

Open House shelter
Safe Choice shelter
Salvation Army
SW Washington Health Department
Taie Silk
Utah State University
Vancouver food banks
Vancouver Housing Authority
Vancouver School District
Warm & Natural Store
WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)
WinCo
WSU Small Business Development Center
YWCA

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION COOPERATIVE

The Environmental Information Cooperative (EIC) was formed in 1993 as an innovative partnership between six organizations: Clark County, the City of Vancouver, Clark Public Utilities, WSU Vancouver, WSU Cooperative Extension, and SW Clean Air Agency. The programs and services offered by the EIC are designed to be mutually beneficial to the partners, to minimize duplication of services and to promote and make best use of environmental resources in the County. Programs (teacher workshops, youth programs, and classroom presentations) and resource materials are provided to educators, K-16 students, businesses, and to the Clark County community.



EIC Mission. Through the shared resources of a cooperative partnership, the EIC creates and nurtures greater awareness and stewardship for the environment and encourages action taking by the people within Clark County that will protect, conserve and restore our natural environment.

Staff. Staff includes a Director and an Environmental Education Specialist who coordinate efforts with and between the EIC partners and grantors to develop and present education and outreach to schools, serve as a central clearinghouse of environmental information and provide research assistance, public education and outreach to the community.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Classroom and Assembly Presentations. Through interactive classroom presentations such as River Rangers (grades 3 & 4), interactive activities like the Enviroscape and Groundwater models, and Mother Nature's Puppet Show, EIC staff and volunteers provided 84 action-oriented environmental education classroom experiences for 2693 students. Students wrote:

"We all enjoyed your talk. We also learned a lot. Like how water needs protecting and how we can help."

"Thank you for the great presentation you gave us with the models. We know more now about why water needs extra protection"

"Thank you Mother Nature. We had fun!"

Columbia River Watershed Festival. Working in cooperation with the Water Resources Education Center, the Department of Ecology and the national Project WET program, the EIC offered a two-day watershed festival on September 20 and 21, 2001. The event was funded in part by a grant from Metro. Over 600 students, 22 teachers, and 100 parents and volunteers participated in interactive, hands-on activities designed to promote awareness and appreciation for wetland habitats, groundwater, and drinking water.



Professional Development for Educators. EIC continued to improve on its established environmental education workshop series, providing more than 319 teachers, youth leaders and environmental educators with the most current information on environmental curriculum and activities, with hands-on experience in how to integrate environmental education into existing course materials. A total of Nineteen workshops were offered and included:

Birds Go to School
Good Bugs Go to
School

Salmon Go to School &
Salmon in the
Classroom

Worms Go to School
A-Way with Waste

Project WET
Wild Aquatic

Project Learning Tree: Environmental Education
Activity Guide and Exploring Environmental Issues –
Municipal Solid Waste and Focus on Risk
NatureMapping Levels 1 & 2
Care for Air

In addition to the environmental information provided in the workshops, teachers are provided with information on how to align courses with Washington's Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs). EIC workshops are also approved for Washington State Clock Hours to assist teachers in maintaining their certification. Teachers attending the Project Learning Tree Environmental Education Activity Guide were provided stipends from the Washington Forest Protection Association to attend summer workshops. The EIC budget also includes monies to reimburse school districts to hire substitute teachers to enable their teaching staff to attend workshops scheduled during regular school hours.



Participants' comments included:

"Can not think of how this workshop could be any better!"

"I appreciated the diversity of people presenting, their range of knowledge and expertise."

"I learned so much about environmental issues, wildlife, habitat, and activities!"

Community Outreach. The EIC continued to serve as a valuable resource in the community by providing education and information on a variety of environmental issues like salmon and fish recovery, natural gardening and less-toxic pesticide alternatives. Staff participated in community events that included the Lower Columbia River Estuary Project, Master Composter/Recycler training, Lacamas Lake Festival, McDonald's/Kyocera Science Fair and the Home and Garden Idea Fair.

In 2001, the EIC produced and distributed three comprehensive issues of the *Greenlines* newsletter to a mailing list of over 1200 teachers and environmental educators. Copies of fact sheets, bibliographies, flyers, booklets, community resource lists, and other resource materials were also distributed to educators and community members.

The EIC has 20 education kits or trunks (like the Audubon Bird Discovery Box and the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Salmon Trunk) and demonstration models (like the Enviroscope water run-off model and the Groundwater models) available to educators on loan to assist with classroom and community education efforts.

EIC RESOURCE LIBRARY AT WSU VANCOUVER

The EIC maintains an environmental resource library located within the Washington State University Vancouver campus library. The EIC collection comprises books, periodicals, curriculum, videos, a lateral file of newsletters and reports, and internet access and links. In 2001, more than 100 new items were added to the collection bringing the total collection to more than 2,000 books, videos, and curricula available for reference and checkout. Resources available for checkout can be accessed through the WSU Vancouver library's on-line catalog.



During the 2001 calendar year, over 1600 books, videos and curriculum were checked out, over 20,000 print items were distributed, and staff responded to over 2000 phone and e-mail inquiries and provided 179 in-person consultations.

EIC COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The EIC works with a expansive network of local, regional and state resource specialists and environmental agencies to support community environmental programs and to benefit from the important, up-to-date information and resources available. During 2001, these partnerships included:

City of Vancouver
Clark College
Clark County
Clark Public Utilities
Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center (CSEEC)
Directors of Volunteer Programs Association (DVPA)
ESD #112: <i>Science and Math Education Resource Center (SMERC)</i> <i>Partnerships in Education (PIE)</i>
Environmental Education Association of Washington (EEAW)
Habitat Partners
Lower Columbia River Estuary Project
Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces
Mount St. Helen's Institute

National Wildlife Federation
Partnerships for Environmental Education Resources & Services
PSU - Stewards of the Environment
Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge
SW Clean Air Agency
US Department of Fish and Wildlife
Vancouver Audubon
WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Library Media Association
Waste Connections, Inc.
Waste Reduction Education Advisory Committee (WEAC)
WSU Vancouver

APPENDIX A: ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

