# Small Acreage Landholder Outreach Program 2006 Annual Report

Submitted to Clark County Clean Water Program

Submitted by WSU Clark County Extension

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# **Executive Summary**

The Small Acreage Landholder Outreach Program completed one Living on the Land: Stewardship for Small Acreages class series and graduated 33 people in 2006.

The program completed seven well and septic workshops and provided one workshop on drainage and mud management.

The program conducted four small acreage property tours. Ten properties were evaluated in 2006 for the merit and model property portion of the program and nine of the properties were awarded signage.

The program completed two fact sheets, Septic Additives and Natural Insect Control for Small Acreages.

# **Best Management Practices (BMPs) Guidelines**

# Task 1 a - Reference Materials

The program tracks web site visitors and document downloads monthly throughout the year. Program fact sheets were downloaded over 7,400 times in 2006. The fact sheet *Improving Drainage* was the most downloaded document at over 2,200 downloads (Table 1). The event

**Table 1: Small Acreage Webpage Activity** 

Fact sheets	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	YTD
BMP's for small acreages	141	167	112	97	517
Do You Qualify For Reduced Property Taxes? Current Use Taxation	42	52	40	0	134
Keeping Clean Water Clean & Reducing Mud - Managing Roof Runoff	129	218	192	116	655
Simple Steps To Protect Your Surface and Well Water	49	34	0	12	95
What Can You Do On Your Land? Frequently Asked Questions	89	84	42	46	261
Constructing Ponds and Water Features - What Does It Take?	68	105	79	21	273
Reduce Mud and Keep Water Clean: Sacrifice Areas	129	119	75	78	401
Information on Small Acreage Management - Resource List	89	99	52	23	263
Tips On Land & Water Management for Small Acreages in Southwest Washington	66	52	18	25	161
Protecting Your Inve\$tment: Inspecting Your Septic System	85	122	76	74	357
Keeping Clean Water Clean & Reducing Mud - Improving Drainage	325	840	625	371	2161
Save Time and Money - Properly Landscape Your Septic System	175	397	269	122	963
Manure Management: Strategies for Collection, Storage & Disposal	59	82	70	47	258
Water Quality Self-Assessment for Small Acreages	49	34	0	38	121
Septic Additives	0	0	54	153	207
Total Downloads	1495	2405	1704	1223	6827
Other Documents					
2003 Annual Report	246	101	37	13	397
2004 Annual Report	79	76	55	72	282
2004 Annual Report Appendices	55	29	0	0	84
2005 Annual Report	12	18	0	0	30
2005 Annual Report Appendices	9	0	0	0	9
2006 Small Acreage Expo Program	42	197	15	0	254
2006 Small Acreage Expo Registration Form	31	78	39	0	148
Total Downloads	474	499	146	85	763
Website Visitors					
Small Acreage Web Page	500	534	333	287	1654
Direct access	187	216	164	126	693
Living on the Land Web Page	147	180	123	116	566
Direct access	47	33	0	35	115
Total Visitors	647	714	456	403	2220

program and registration form for the upcoming Small Acreage Expo were added to the Small Acreage Program website as well as the front page of the WSU Extension website in March. This resulted in website hits nearly doubling in March and April. Over the year more than 1,700 visitors accessed the program's website, 767 directly (via bookmarks). Staff continues to track visitors to the webpage on the *Living on the Land* program series, and more than 600 people accessed this webpage.

The Coordinator added more than 20 new fact sheets and other reference materials to the resource files on topics ranging from interacting with wildlife and native plants to water quality and water rights. These materials will be added to the resource list along with additional weblinks, and the updated reference list posted to the website early next year

## Deliverables

The Program tracked hits and downloads throughout the year and the reference files were updated as additional materials were located.

## Issues and Recommendations

WSU provides web site tracking and download information for the entire Extension website and only lists data for the top 50 (increased to 100 in April) most visited pages and most downloaded files. The Living on the Land web page did not generate enough hits to make the top 50 list in March, therefore no data is available. The Program Director purchased software to tracking visitors and downloads for the Small Acreage Program separately. This software will be installed in early 2007.

#### Task 1 b - Fact sheets

The Coordinator completed an adapted fact sheet on <u>Septic System Additives</u> (Appendix A) and it was posted to the website in September. This fact sheet will be used in handout packets supplied to participants in Well and Septic System workshops. The second fact sheet *Natural Insect Control for Small Farms* explains integrated pest management techniques to reduce use of pesticides and will be posted to the website web site in January.

The Coordinator submitted two articles to *Flying Changes*, a locally published regional horse magazine. The first article, published in April, detailed methods to reduce mud, creating a mud free turnout or paddock for horses, and selecting footing materials (Appendix A). Based on this article, one reader contacted the Coordinator expressing interest in the program and requesting additional information. Another reader requested additional information and advice on setting up a mud free turnout for her mare this summer. A participant at the Small Acreage Expo in April mentioned he had seen the article featured in the October 2005 issue, featuring one of the program's model horse farms. This suggests these articles do reach small acreage owners in Clark County.

The second article featured the Svendsen Arabian horse farm in Vancouver, a farm which received a program sign. The article highlighted the landowner's efforts to fence their horses out of springs,

streams and ponds on their property, along with minimizing mud and reducing erosion. In addition, the article discussed implementing best management practices to minimize neighbor conflicts and reduce regulatory intervention (Appendix A).

#### Deliverables

Both two fact sheets were completed on topics appropriate to small acreages and water quality protection. The last fact sheet will be formatted and posted to the web in January. The two articles to *Flying Changes* magazine were also submitted and published.

Issues and Recommendations

There are none at this time.

#### **Public Education & Outreach**

## Task 2a - Living on the Land: Stewardship for Small Acreages

The program completed one *Living on the Land: Stewardship for Small Acreages* (LOL) class series in 2006. Classes began on September 12 and ran through November 28. The syllabus changed slightly from the last series in fall 2005, with the addition of a basic soils class (Table 2). Sixty-one people owning 45 parcels registered for the series, but over the course of 12 weeks, 21 registrants withdrew due to scheduling conflicts, while five never showed up to any classes. Attempts to contact these five resulted in no response. All but two of those who withdrew were placed on the waiting list for the next series.

Of the remaining 35 participants, 33 attended at least six classes, meeting the requirements for graduation which included a small gift and a certificate of completion (Appendix B). When asked why they signed up for the class, participants cited stewardship, a desire to explore options for their property and improve land utilization, water quality and water use issues, livestock care and pasture improvement.

Of participants in the series, 65% attended at least 75% of the class sessions, with nine attending every session (Table 3). This is a slightly lower percentage than previous classes in 2003, 2004, and 2005, where 70% or more of participants attended at least 75% of the sessions.

**Profile of LOL Participants.** The following tables list the attributes of the participants and their properties. Participants manage 433.8 acres of land, 30 septic systems, 38 wells and 16 properties with streams. This demonstrates that positive actions taken by participants will have an immediate and positive impact on the landscape.

Table 3: LOL attendance

Classes	#	As % of
Attended	Participants	Participants
12	9	26%
11	9	26%
10	6	17%
9	2	6%
8	5	14%
7	1	3%
6	1	3%
5	2	6%
4	0	0%
3	0	0%
Total	35	

Classes were held on the Center for Agriculture Science and Environmental Education (CASEE) campus in Brush Prairie, a location reasonably central to small acreage owners throughout Clark County. Overall, more residents from the northern parts of Clark County attend than from other areas (Table 4). The program reached the target audience in the unincorporated areas of Clark County and continued to increase attendance from the Camas and Washougal areas to a new program high of six attendees. A paid ad in the *Camas Washougal Post Record* was the main contributor to increased attendance from this area.

**Table 4: Geographic Distribution of Participants** 

		Fall 2006	Fall 2005	Spring 2005	Fall 2004	Winter 2004	City Totals	Area Totals
	Amboy	3	1	7	4	3	18	
	La Center	10	4	6	7	9	36	
North	Ridgefield	2	9	2	5	5	23	99
	Yacolt	10	1	0	0	6	17	
	Woodland (Clark County)	2	1	0	2	0	5	
Central	Battle Ground	7	3	8	12	13	43	59
Central	Brush Prairie	0	3	2	7	4	16	39
	Camas	2	5	4	0	0	11	
South	Vancouver	2	8	4	3	4	21	41
	Washougal	4	0	0	4	1	9	
Out of Co	ounty	3	5	0	2	0	10	10
	Totals	45	40	33	48	45	164	164

Participants manage a total of 433.8 acres, with an average property size of 13.56 acres. When looking at acreage, 75% of the properties comprise 10 acres or less, while only 12% are greater than 20 acres (Table 5). Residence time on properties averaged about 13 years, with one family owning property for 66 years. Four participants moved onto their properties within one month or less of the beginning of the class series (Table 6). Ninety-six percent of class participants have septic tanks while 90% use wells for potable water (Table 7).

**Table 5: Acreage Distribution of Participants** 

# Participants	45
# Properties	33
Total Acreage	433.80
Average Ac. / Property	13.56
Range	1.00 - 79 ac
<= 5 ac	9
>5 ac - 10 ac	16
>10 ac - 20 ac	2
> 20 ac	4

Table 6: Years Lived on Property

Average	12.97
Range	0 to 66

Table 7: Participants with Wells and Septic Systems

	<u> </u>
Septic Systems	30
Wells	28
(# respondents)	31

Over half the attendees use land for pasture, vegetable production, and/or lawns. Forest production utilizes the greatest amount of overall acreage in the class (Table 8). Participants

appear to have multiple uses and corresponding goals for their properties. Nearly sixty percent of participants own animals, primarily goats, cattle, horses, and poultry (Table 9).

**Table 8: Land Use On Participant Properties** 

	No. LOL Participants (acres*)
Pasture	22 <i>(79.23 ac*)</i>
Hay	3 <i>(12 ac*)</i>
Forest	20 <i>(119.5 ac*)</i>
Vegetable Production	22
Orchard Production	16
Landscape	14
Wildlife	16
Lawn	26

<sup>\*</sup> Understates total since not all participants listed acreage.

Table 9: Numbers of Livestock Owned\*

Animal	Number
Horses	24
Poultry	101
Swine	19
Goats	83
Cattle	43
Llamas	1
Donkeys	2
Total	273

<sup>\*</sup> Understates total since not all participants listed numbers of livestock.

**Field Trips.** Instead of conducting separate field trips for the class series, the Coordinator scheduled three model or merit property tours in September and October and invited participants to these. Between six and 10 LOL participants attended the three property tours.

**LOL Class Evaluations**. Participants evaluated each class and the program as a whole. On a scale of one to five (five being the highest), participants did not rank any class lower than 4.2 and most sessions rated between 4.6 and 4.9 (Table 10).

**Table 10: LOL Evaluation Summary** 

	Inventory 1			Soils 2	Water 1	Animals	Grass 1	$W_{\text{eeds}}$	Water 2	Grass 2	Business	Wildlife	Water 3
Current?	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.9
Understandable?	4.5	4.6	4.1	4.6	4.7	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.9
Interesting?	4.5	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.6	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.8
Answer questions?	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.6
Learn new things?	3.9	4.4	4.0	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.5
Use the info learned?	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.4
Worth your time?	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.6
Average	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.7

When evaluating the series in its entirety, participants thought the series was about right for length of time (Appendix C). They also thought they learned useful information and the classes answered their questions. Many indicated they would utilize the information from the series to change their practices and some of them had already started to implement changes on their properties before class was completed. These changes included creating a sacrifice area, installing gutters, pasture rotation, fencing animals away from water bodies, well water testing, and manure management.

In general, participants in the fall 2006 class series appreciated the information provided, as indicated in their comments below:

"This class was extremely interesting and will be useful in the planning and implementing stages of our property."

"I wish we had taken this five years ago when we first moved onto our property."

"Erin is fabulous!!! She has been invaluable in keeping this program fun and informative! [I] would attend another program like this without hesitation. Erin, thank you so much!!"

"Thank you for a class I looked forward to every week."

"I enjoyed the class so much I was ready to learn more!"

"Excellent. I never expected to receive so much information in a single venue."

"Erin and all the speakers were fabulous. We looked forward to all the classes and loved the way we could ask questions and customize each session or interact with each other about our specific property. Thanks so much for this program, makes me proud to be a part of the big picture."

**Publicity and Promotion**. The program sent press releases to five newspapers which resulted in published announcements in *The Reflector* and *The Columbian*. The Program also placed paid ads which ran the last two weeks of August in *The Reflector* and one week in the

Camas/Washougal Post-Record. The Coordinator sent a letter to the outreach database advertising the class. Other methods included placing flyers at several booths at the 2006 Clark County Fair, direct contact with the Coordinator, the program website, and previous Small Acreage Program workshops and events. These other methods together accounted for the greatest response (Table 11). Copies of all announcements, paid advertisements, the direct mailing and flyers can be found in Appendix D.

Table 11: How Participants Heard About The LOL Class

Letter	16
Reflector	8
Columbian	7
Oregonian	0
E-Mail	3
Camas/Washougal Post Record	2
Other	21

## Deliverables

The program completed the Living on the Land: Stewardship for Small Acreages class series graduating 33 people. The syllabus changed slightly, but profiles of the participants indicate the program is reaching the intended audience.

#### Issues and Recommendations

In lieu of field trips, the Coordinator scheduled three model or merit property tours in September and October and invited participants to these. Participants comments provided verbally suggest this worked well for them.

# Task 2b – Wells and Septics Maintenance Workshops

Seven Maintenance of Well and Septic Systems workshops attracted 166 participants (Table 12). Staff from Clark County Public Health, with help from the Coordinator, utilized the LOL

 Table 12: Wells & Septics Workshop Attendance & Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Attendance
1/11/2006	6:30 – 9 pm	Dollars Corner Fire District #11	41
3/15/2006	6:30 – 9 pm	Washougal Fire District #1	26
5/10/2006	6:30 – 9 pm	CASEE Center	27
7/12/2006	6:30 – 9 pm	La Center Fire District #14	23
9/13/2006	6:30 – 9 pm	Hockinson Fire District #3	23
11/7/2006	3 – 5:30 pm	CASEE Center	17
11/7/2006	6:30 – 9 pm*	CASEE Center	9+

<sup>\*</sup> Workshop incorporated into LOL class series; members of the public will be invited, but limited to 10 participants.

PowerPoint presentation on well and septic system maintenance and adapted it for use in the workshop curriculum (Table 13), which focuses on regular septic system inspection and maintenance and well head and drinking water quality protection. This prevents pollution and saves the landowner time and money.

**Table 13: Wells & Septics Workshop Agenda** 

Time	Topic	Speaker
15 Min	Introduction	Erin Harwood, WSU Extension
45 min	Maintenance Of Wells Origin Of Drinking Water / What Is A Well & How It Works / Protecting Water Supplies / How To Tell If Water Is Safe / Sampling	Joe Ellingson, Clark County Public Health
60 min	Septic System Maintenance and Inspection Water Pollution / Septic System Failure / System Components / Maintenance Steps & Typical Repairs /Alternate Systems / Safety	Reuel Emery, Clark County Public Health
15 min	Discussion and Evaluations	

Public Health advertises these workshops using class schedule inserts into maintenance notices to landowners on septic systems. These schedules are also handed out at all Small Acreage Program events (Appendix E). The program sends e-mails to the Small Acreage listserv, places paid advertisements in *The Reflector* newspaper, and sends press releases to local media (Appendix E).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>+</sup> does not include 24 LOL class attendees

As indicated in Table 14, published announcements in *The Columbian*, along with flyers from Public Health, attract the greatest number of participants. The Coordinator also sends postcard reminders to registrants two weeks prior to the workshop.

Table 14: How Participants Learned About the Workshop (110 of 166)

Columbian	36
Reflector	15
Camas/Washougal Post-Record	7
Public Health Letter	34
E-mail	11
Other	6
Oregonian	1

Attendees appreciated the information provided and ranked the sessions well (Appendix F), with no ranking under 4.2 (on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 the highest) (Table 15). Overall, participants' viewed the classes positively and indicated they would alter some of their practices based on the information provided in the workshop:

**Table 15: Well and Septic Evaluation Summary** 

Was this lesson: (scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being	
most useful)	Average
Current and up to date?	4.7
Understandable?	4.7
Presented in an interesting way?	4.5
Did the program answer any questions you had?	4.5
Learn new things or to do others better?	4.6
Will you use the information learned?	4.8
Was this program worth your time?	4.7
Overall Average	4.6
Participants	166
<b>Evaluations Completed</b>	111
% evaluations completed	67%

<sup>&</sup>quot;[Liked the] septic tank presentation - I learned how they work! Erin was excellent, as was Reuel."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Covering our well head; can't believe we didn't cover it after we broke the cover!"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Clean & protect well head and filter"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Inspect septic system & our well"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Good presentation - made effort to be clear in description. They make a strong point their offices are eager to help guide your endeavor"

<sup>&</sup>quot;[Liked] the volume of information provided and additional resource information"

<sup>&</sup>quot;[I will] keep horses off drainfield"

<sup>&</sup>quot;[Plan on] checking the well and septic tank!"

"Change where I allow my alpacas to go [and] try to use less water"

"Inspect filters and pump on regular basis"

"Having a team of subject matter experts doing this workshop, especially [from] Clark County. Also appreciated the handouts (well organized)."

#### Deliverables

The program completed seven workshops, one more than proposed in the scope of work and met the expected overall attendance.

Issues and Recommendations

There are none at this time.

# Task 2c – Best Management Practices Workshops

The Coordinator organized two workshops in 2006 which covered topics such as manure management and composing, and improving drainage, controlling mud, and reducing standing water.

**Manure Management.** The first BMP workshop, scheduled for Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> at the CASEE Center, was to include a lecture format in the morning with presentations on managing manure through regular collection, proper disposal, composting, and other uses. The afternoon included a hands-on portion where participants would be able to help the Coordinator build a three bin manure storage and composting system, suitable for one to four horses. Flyers on the manure management workshop were handed out at all workshops and promotional events (Appendix G).

Despite numerous press releases to the local media and the flyers, the Coordinator cancelled the workshop due to insufficient signups. In general, attendance lower than 10 people does not justify staff time and resources. Few newspapers published press releases for the event (Appendix G), likely contributing to the low interest. For the three people who signed up, the Coordinator offered handouts and additional information on an individual basis.

The materials purchased to build the manure compost bins are safely stored under cover at the CASEE Center. A student from school district was working to bring goats on the site, but this fell through. Therefore, it became unlikely the site would have a reliable source of manure. A nearby, consistently available manure source is essential to maintaining a working compost demonstration bin for workshops and classes, therefore an alternative site may need to be found. This may be challenging as there are few public sites with a consistent manure source. The workshop may be rescheduled in the future and the materials will be used at that time.

**Installing Drainage**. A second BMP workshop on managing runoff and installing drainage occurred on October  $21^{\rm st}$  at the CASEE Center. Grant Johnson, a local landscape

architect and drainage specialist, presented to participants. Topics included installation of gutters, downspouts, french drains, and swales to manage runoff, reduce mud, and protect water quality. Flyers for the workshop have were handed out at the Clark County Fair, program events, Clark Conservation District events and other WSU Clark County Extension events (Appendix G). Announcements in *The Columbian* attracted the most participants (Table 16).

Table 16: How Participants Learned About Workshop

Columbian	6
Reflector	2
E-mail	2
Other	5

The workshop attracted 15 participants who greatly valued the information provided by the speaker and Coordinator. They gave the class an average rating of 4.8 on a scale of one to five (with 5 being the highest). Based on attendees' comments, many of them planned to implement various drainage projects on their property:

Table 17: Attendance and evaluations for Drainage Workshop

Was this workshop:	Average
Presented in an interesting way?	4.6
Answer any questions you had?	4.7
Help you learn new things or do others better?	4.8
Do you intend to use any of the information learned today?	4.9
Overall was this program worth your time?	4.8
Overall Average	4.8
Participants	15
Evaluations Completed	12 <i>(80%)</i>

<sup>&</sup>quot;[I plan to improve] drainage [in my] livestock area."

## **Deliverables**

The program completed one of the two proposed Best Management Practice workshops, which attracted 15 participants, less than the expected 40 for the two workshops.

<sup>&</sup>quot;[Plan to install] perforated drain sections [and] trenches to collect water and direct it to a local point."

<sup>&</sup>quot;[Plan to install] a french drain."

<sup>&</sup>quot;I thought the course was very informative"

<sup>&</sup>quot;[Enjoyed] examples of existing conditions & the approach to eliminate the problem"

#### Issues and Recommendations

The first BMP workshop was cancelled due to low interest. The Coordinator safely stored the compost bin materials at the CASEE Center to be used in the future. A new location and the overall feasibility of the project will need to be examined before proceeding with another workshop and construction of a demonstration site.

## Task 2d - Outreach to Youth

The program received a copy of the Snohomish County 4-H'ers for Clean Water: Guide to Health Horsekeeping, a manual created for 4-H horse youth by Horses for Clean Water and the Snohomish Conservation District. The Coordinator will base a BMP and clean water curriculum for youth in Clark County on this manual along with information from an Ohio State University curriculum oriented towards youth livestock owners and environmental stewardship.

At a February horse leaders meeting, the Coordinator presented information on BMP's and handed out a flyer promoting the BMP poster contest scheduled for the 2006 Clark County Fair to 40 4-H horse leaders, parents, and youth (Appendix H). One 4-H leader requested the Coordinator speak on BMP's and horse farm management at a 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology meeting. In March, the Coordinator provided a presentation on horse health, farm management, and water quality protection to three parents and 12 youth at a regular meeting of the 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology teams.

Packets of handouts on BMP's for horse owners, along with flyers, were sent to all Clark County 4-H Horse leaders to further promote the project. Cash prizes were offered to entice entrants. Since county funds cannot be used, the WSU Extension Small Farm Advisors agreed to sponsor the cash prizes for this year's event.

Thirteen youth participated in the first annual *Healthy Horses and Clean Water Poster Contest*. Six volunteers judged the posters based on criteria provided on scoring sheets (Appendix H). The judges included two local professional level horse judges, Clark Conservation District staff, a 4-H youth member, and two LOL graduates. Certificates, along with cash prizes donated by WSU Clark County Extension Small Farm Advisors, were provided to the top three posters in each of the three age groups (Appendix H). Winners received awards and certificates in a small presentation in the horse arena at the Clark County Fairgrounds on Wednesday



Intermediate age division entries.



Junior age division entry.



Senior age division entries.

August 9<sup>th</sup>. Clark County Clean Water program staff designed a certificate to honor all participants' efforts (Appendix H).

Posters were displayed in the horse arena throughout the Clark County Fair, along with an informational banner on the contest (Appendix H) and a poster about the Small Acreage Program. Winning posters were identified with small certificates placed on the poster.

At the 4-H In Action event in March, the Coordinator conducted a presentation on soil quality, erosion, and water quality with the Watershed Stewards Coordinator. Seven youth and four adults enjoyed a hands-on, interactive presentation.

#### Deliverables

The program completed one of the two promised presentations to 4-H youth and also completed the promised presentation at the 4-H In Action Event.

#### Issues and Recommendations

The Coordinator was unaware of the limitation on the use of county funds for cash prizes until after the poster contest had been advertised. The WSU Extension Small Farm Advisors will cover the cash prizes for this year's event. Future poster contests will utilize gift certificates as awards.

Despite repeated advertising and mailings to the target audience of 4-H horse youth and presentations at several leader and club meetings, response to the poster contest was low. Several 4-H parents, youth, and leaders suggested moving the entry deadline for the contest to an earlier time, after school is out, but several weeks prior to the beginning of county fair. The Coordinator will consider an appropriate deadline that will incorporate these suggestions and hopefully garner more entries next year.

## Task 2e – Outreach Events and Promotional Activities

**Advertisements.** The program purchased a full page advertisement in the *Equine Services Directory*, the annual publication of the Clark County Executive Horse Council, which is distributed to feed and tack stores, boarding facilities, and horse clubs throughout the county (Appendix I).

Mane Event. The Mane Event Equine Education and Trade Fair occurred at the Clark County Fairgrounds February 17 – 19. The program set up a display booth with information on the program and BMP implementation for small acreage landowners (Appendix I). The



The Small Acreage Program display and booth at the Mane Event in February 2006.

booth included copies of program's fact sheets and flyers for upcoming events. Ten volunteers helped the Coordinator staff the booth throughout the weekend, answering questions and providing substantive information to 120 people. Seventeen visitors filled out postcards requesting information on upcoming workshops, Living on the Land, and farm tours. The Coordinator facilitated two hourlong workshops on Saturday and one on Sunday at the demonstration stage (Table 6). Mike Maghetti of Animal Management Systems. presented to as many as 40 people about using fencing to improve pastures and provide water quality protection. Peter Moon of  $O_2$  Compost presented on manure management, composting, and forced aeration composting to about 30



Volunteer Allisan talks to a visitor and explains the program.

participants. The third workshop, Beautiful Barns, a co-presentation by the Coordinator and staff from *PCR Contracting*, was cancelled due to a lack of participants. Attendance at these events was difficult to track since participants came and went throughout the presentation, which also meant evaluations were not collected from attendees. Several participants thanked the Coordinator and speakers for the information and one couple drove from Astoria, OR, specifically for the fencing presentation.

Date	Time	Topic	Speaker	No.
2/18/06	11:45 am to	Fencing: Improving Pastures	Mike Maghetti, Animal Management	40
2/18/00	1:00 pm	and Reducing Mud	Systems	40
2/18/06	6:00 pm to	Advanced Manura Managament		
2/18/00	7:00 pm	Advanced Manure Management	Peter Moon, O2 Compost	30
2/10/0/	12:15 pm to	Deputiful Dame	Curtis Miller and Mark Martin, PCR	NI/A
2/19/06	1:30 pm	Beautiful Barns	Contracting Inc.	N/A

**Table 18: Mane Event Workshops** 

**Clark Conservation District Annual Plant Sale.** The Program participated in the Clark Conservation District's annual plant sale in February 23-25 by providing flyers on upcoming events to attendees in a small booth shared with the Conservation District.

**Clark County Small Acreage Exposition.** The first annual Small Acreage Exposition (Table 19) took place April 22 at Brigands HideOut, a small farm in Battle Ground. Twelve different speakers presented on 16 topics ranging from mud and manure management to stream side property management to tractor maintenance. While morning sessions were mainly presentations, afternoon sessions provided several hands-on opportunities for participants.

Expo participants received general handouts on small farm management upon check-in, as well as an Expo program and information on upcoming events and promotional materials. Speakers provided handouts pertinent to their particular session.

**Table 19: Small Acreage Exposition Schedule** 

	Time	Session	Title	Speaker(s)						
			A1	What size tractor for your property?	Kevin Williquette & John Banks, <i>Clark County Lawn and Tractor</i>					
n A	9:00 -	A2	Streamside Property Management	Gary Bock, WSU Extension						
Session	10:15	А3	Extreme Farm Makeover: Drainage & Mud Reduction	Karin Hunt, Shady Springs Farm						
		A4	Fencing for Your Property	Mike Maghetti, <i>Animal Management</i> Systems						
8 L		B1	Small Farm Business Options	Kelli Sanger, <i>Washington State Dept of Agriculture</i>						
sior	10:25 -	B2	Pasture Management & Evaluation	Gene Pirelli, OSU Extension						
Session	11:40	11:40	11:40	11:40	11:40	11:40	В3	Selecting the Right Hay	Gary Fredricks, WSU Extension	
		B4	Natural Insect Control	Erin Harwood, WSU Extension						
		C1	Hands -On: Fencing for Your Property	Mike Maghetti, <i>Animal Management</i> Systems						
	12:20 - C2 1:35 C4		Pasture Assessment: Hands-On Tour	Gene Pirelli, OSU Extension						
Sessio			_			_	_		Tractor Maintenance & Winterization	Kevin Williquette & John Banks, <i>Clark County Lawn and Tractor</i>
			Farm Tour: Management In Action	Erin Harwood, WSU Extension & Nancy Ward, Brigands HideOut						
D		D1 Hands -On: Fencing for Your Property		Mike Maghetti, Animal Management Systems						
	1:45 -	D2	Manure Management	Erin Harwood, WSU Extension						
Session	3:00	D3	Weed Management	Ron Hendrickson, <i>Clark County Weed Management</i>						
		D4	Dog Herding Demonstrations	Dave Viklund, Brigands Staff						

Registration fees, collected and handled by the Small Farm Advisors, funded sandwich lunches which encouraged participants to remain on-site throughout the day. Light morning refreshments were provided by the Program.

One hundred and four people attended the six hour event. Attendees rated the entire program a 4.7 (Table 20) on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest. Door prizes drawn at the end of the

day encouraged participants to complete and return evaluations.

Fifty-two participants (50%) completed evaluations for the event as a whole. Of those completing evaluations, 42 indicated they would recommend the program to others. Most felt there were adequate class choices, although three indicated there were too many, thus preventing them from attending all sessions they were interested in. One person suggested repeating classes more than once, something to consider for next year if a speaker is willing. Suggestions for additional classes or future



John Banks from Clark County Lawn and Tractor teaches during Session A.

topics included: animals husbandry (5 participants), ponds (2), invertebrate pests (2), business/marketing (2), and taxes (1).

**Table 20: Small Acreage Exposition Evaluation** 

	Average
What overall score would you give this event?	4.7
Did the program classes answer most of your questions?	4.8
Did you learn useful information?	4.7
How much will you use this information to change what you do on your land?	4.5
	4.7

When asked what management practices they might implement or change within a year as a result of what they learned at the Expo, participant's responses included: better composting practices, stream side management, constructing winter paddocks, better pasture management, rotating fields, mud and manure management, and better weed management.

For the 16 sessions, no individual session rated below an average of 4.5 (Table 21). A total of 191 individual evaluations were completed for the sessions. One speaker forgot to request evaluations from participants, so no data is available from that session. The highest rated sessions, receiving an average rating of 4.9 were all afternoon sessions, the first hands-on fencing demonstration by Mike Maghetti, the farm tour hosted by Nancy Ward and Erin Harwood, *Manure Management* by Erin Harwood, and *Weed Management on Small Acreages* by Ron Hendrickson.

The event was promoted through a flyer at outreach events and workshops, a postcard listing the classes and event information sent to the outreach mailing database in March, and a program and registration form posted on the WSU Extension web page and the Small Acreage Program webpage. Paid advertisements were placed in *The Reflector* and the *Camas/Washougal Post-Record* two weeks and one week prior to the event. The Coordinator also submitted press releases to all local media (Appendix J). A freelance writer from the *Capital Press* agriculture newspaper attended the event and interviewed the Coordinator, which resulted in a story that ran the first week of May (Appendix J).

The Coordinator contacted local agencies and businesses related to small acreage management to set up information booths at the event. In addition to the Small Acreage Program and the Clean Water Program, three businesses and one speaker set up displays: Karin Hunt of Shady Springs Farm, Clark County Lawn & Tractor, Animal Management Systems (fencing and livestock watering systems), Soil Builders Incorporated, and Northwest Solutions Incorporated.



Participants get hands-on experience for fence installation.

# **Washington State Conservation Commission Tour.**

The Clark Conservation District (CD) hosted a tour of properties and partner organizations in Clark County for members of the Washington State Conservation Commission in July. This tour included the Svendsen Arabian horse farm, a program farm awarded a merit sign and used for program tours. As part of the tour, the Coordinator promoted the program and the partnership with the CD, including the well and septic workshop, Living on the Land class series, and the model/merit farm program.



Denise Smee (Clark CD) watches a young participant as Sue discusses fencing their pond.

**2006 Clark County Fair.** Along with the display in the horse arena with the *Healthy Horses and Clean Water Poster* 

Contest, the Coordinator provided fliers on upcoming events, workshops, and the Living on the Land class series to three organizations with booths at the county fair. Four registrants for the LOL class series heard about the series from flyers at the fair.

Deliverables

The deliverables were met.

Issues and Recommendations

The Mane Event workshop format made it difficult to track attendance and collect evaluations. The Coordinator will work to better facilitate future workshops to incorporate sufficient time to hand out and collect evaluations. Attendees at such events will be counted at the beginning and the end of the presentation to try and gauge more accurate attendance.

An unexpected low response rate from businesses and agencies for the Small Acreage Expo resulted from scheduling conflicts for some vendors and agencies arose with Earth Day activities occurring at the same time. In addition, some businesses did not have available staff or informational materials to provide. The Coordinator will work to create a list for future events, and begin contacting potential participants earlier for next year's event.

Some confusion arose among participants regarding door prizes, as some of the smaller prizes were taken prior to the drawing. The Coordinator will display door prizes at the registration table to enable volunteers to monitor them.

# **Model Properties**

# Task 3a – Property Tours

The program completed a total of four tours demonstrating sound management practices that minimize pollution to surface waters and improve overall property aesthetics. Tours also provided a casual, peer-to-peer learning environment which has continued to prove as a valuable way for participants to gain information about BMP implementation.

The Program promoted the property tours through flyers handed out at outreach events and workshops. Press releases were sent to local media while a paid advertisement appreared in *The Reflector* one week prior to each tour (Appendix K). The Coordinator also sent e-mails to the Small Acreage listserv. The emails and ads in the newspapers attracted the greatest number of attendees.

**Spring Tours.** Two landowners hosted tours in the spring: Columbia Gorgeous Alpacas in May and the Svendsen horse farm in June. Despite a paid ad and several published announcements (Appendix K), insufficient sign-ups resulted in cancellation of the Columbia Gorgeous Alpacas tour.



Laura (landowner) explains efforts to protect wetlands and reduce mud on their property.

Several people called after the date, expressing interest in attending a future event, so this tour was rescheduled for the fall.

Svendsen's Arabian horse farm in Vancouver attracted 18 participants. This farm received EQUIP funding from the Natural Resource Conservation Services in 2005 to implement various best management practices. Clark Conservation District (CD) staff attended the tour to provide participants information on available funding for BMP implementation in the county. As a result of contact with tour participants, Clark Conservation District developed farm plans for two tour participants and provided technical assistance to five others. Attendees greatly appreciated the information provided by the owner, the Coordinator, and the CD Manager.

**Fall Tours.** Three landowners agreed to host tours in the fall: Columbia Gorgeous Alpacas in September, and Compass Rose Alpacas and Vossenberg Farm in October.

Columbia Gorgeous Alpacas in Amboy attracted 35 participants. This farm received cost share funds in 2005 from the Clark CD to fence animals away from the stream on the property. CD staff attended the tour to provide participants information on available funding for BMP implementation in the county. As a result of the tour, five participants contacted the CD seeking technical assistance and information on their annual native plant sale.

A photographer from *The Columbian* newspaper attended the tour, taking pictures of participants, the Coordinator and the property. Reporter Kim Jarvis contacted the Coordinator for more information on the tour. A write-up was featured in an October issue of the Neighbors section of *The Columbian* (Appendix K).



Participants learn from the landowner how he manages manure from his 36 alpacas.

The second fall tour occurred at Compass Rose Alpacas in Ridgefield and attracted 23 participants. The tour featured the landowner's efforts to compost manure, reduce mud, and control drainage, as well as their efforts to protect more than two acres of wetlands on their seven acre property.

Participants were especially interested in their use of bedding in lieu of more expensive rubber mats to control mud and reduce chore time. CD staff attended this tour as well, and as a result of the tour, three participants contacted the CD seeking technical assistance.

The final tour occurred at Vossenberg Farms in Ridgefield, owned by Norma Furlong, a 2005 LOL graduate. The landowner's daughter, the Coordinator, and CD staff led 27 participants on a tour showcasing the family's efforts to reduce mud, manage pastures, and provide boarding and training facilities for as many as 30 horses on 26 acres. This farm received EQUIP funding from the Natural Resource Conservation Services in 2006 to implement various best management practices. As a result of the tour, 10 participants contacted the CD seeking technical assistance.

**Evaluation.** All tour attendees ranked the tours highly, with no score lower than 4.4 on a scale of one to five, with five being the highest (Table 22). Attendees indicated they would utilize the information provided and implement changes, such as gutters, better footing materials, and mud control. Participants comments included:

"Absolutely [worth my time]! So much info in 2 hours. Great to be with others for exchange of ideas."

"Great information to check out [the grants], [and] great information on mud control"

"Had a great time! [I plan to create a] sacrifice area and [install footing] for animal pen, mud management"

"I loved this! So informative, helpful"

Table 22: Property Tour Evaluation Summary

Was this tour: (scale of 1-5 with 5 being most useful)	6/17	9/30	10/21	10/28
Presented in an interesting way?	4.7	5.0	4.5	4.7
Did the tour answer any questions you had?	4.6	5.0	4.5	4.7
Learn new things or do others better?	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.7
Will you use the information learned?	4.4	4.9	4.7	4.7
Was this tour worth your time?	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.8
Average	4.6	5.0	4.6	4.7
Participants	18	35	23	27
Evaluations Completed	9	9	6	13
% Completed Evaluations	50%	26%	26%	48%

## Deliverables

Four tours were completed of model and merit farms from the program.

#### Issues and Recommendations

Due to low interest, the first scheduled farm tour at Columbia Gorgeous Alpacas was cancelled. This tour was rescheduled for the fall and registrants for the spring tour were notified, all of them attended the fall tour.

# Task 3b - Signage Recognition

The Coordinator contacted 10 properties in 2006 for site visits, nine which qualified for signage. The program solicited properties through the LOL class, the listserv, property tours, workshops, and other program events. Of the properties provided signage in 2006, two qualified as model properties and the remaining seven were awarded merit status. Five of the nine signs handed out have been installed.

The Coordinator continued to follow up with landowners awarded signage in 2005 from site visits conducted in 2004 and 2005. Of 18 signs awarded to farms assessed in 2004 and 2005, 14 have been installed. Efforts to contact those who have not yet installed their signs were unsuccessful.

## **Deliverables**

Nine of the promised ten properties for signage were identified. The Coordinator continued to follow up with properties identified in 2004 and 2005.

Issues and Recommendations

There are none at this time.

#### **Outreach Database**

## Task 4 - Outreach Database

The outreach database was updated in March. New data was downloaded from the Clark County GIS database, and narrowed down to include parcels between 2 – 80 acres in size, properties located in unincorporated areas, parcels zoned agriculture, forest, or rural residential (5, 10 and 20 acres), and land use types comprising single family homes and vacant land.

The Coordinator sent postcards to landowners listed in the database notifying them of the upcoming Small Acreage Expo. The Coordinator used returned postcards from the Expo mailing to update the outreach database and correct inconsistencies and wrong addresses. This newly updated database was used in the next quarter to mail an announcement about the fall *Living on the Land* class series. The Coordinator continued to update the database based on returned mail from the mailing for the *Living on the Land* class series.

#### Deliverables

The database was updated in March to increase accuracy of mailings to promote the Small Acreage Expo and the *Living on the Land* class series.

Issues and Recommendations

There are none at this time.

# **Impact Evaluation and Project Reporting**

## Task 5 a - Evaluation

**Workshop Evaluation.** The Coordinator tracks attendance for all classes, workshops and tours. All attendees are requested to fill our evaluations (Appendix L) and spouses and partners are encouraged to fill out separate evaluations. Results from the evaluations are utilized to improve workshops and tours as well as come up with ideas for future program events.

**Information Requests.** The Coordinator responded to 88 telephone requests for information and assistance during the year. Requests generally involve whole farm management, mud control and reduction, septic maintenance, weed control, pasture management, rotational grazing, and manure management. The Coordinator sends individuals relevant fact sheets along with invitations to upcoming classes and workshops of interest.

# **Impact Evaluation**

**Overview.** The program developed a survey in 2004 designed for former participants in the *Living on the Land* series to determine what, if any, impacts occurred based on the knowledge participants gained while taking the course.

**Methodology.** The close ended survey measures self-reported changes from *Living on the Land* from participants. The first round of surveys was mailed to all graduates of the first two class series in fall 2003 (23) and spring 2004 (45), the second round was mailed to those who did not respond in the first round, as well as graduates of fall 2004 (35) and spring 2005 (27) classes, while the third round was mailed to non-responding participants (10 from fall 2004 and five from spring 2005) and the 27 graduates from fall 2005. The timing allowed potential respondents at least one summer to potentially implement suggested Best Management Practices (BMPs).

After the initial mailing, the staff followed-up with non-responders by email and/or telephone. This resulted in a combined response rate for all three survey rounds of 76% (119 respondents), although only 56% of the latest class (fall 20050 responded (Table 23). While all responses were entered into an Excel spreadsheet and the data checked, a problem with the statistical program, SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), has delayed analysis. Data analysis will be finished and submitted in February.

**Table 23: Survey Response Rate** 

Class	No Response	Returned Evaluation	Total	Returns as % of Total
Fall 03	4	19	23	83%
Spring 04	11	34	45	76%
Fall 04	15	30	35	71%
Spring 05	6	21	27	78%
Fall 05	12	15	27	56%
	Totals	119	157	76%

## Deliverables

The Coordinator tracks attendance and conducts evaluations for all classes, workshops and tours. The Coordinator continues to respond to requests for information and tracks the topic of interest to the caller. The impact study was completed by the Director for fall 2005 LOL graduates, as well as previous non-respondents from fall 2004 and spring 2005 class series.

## Issues and Recommendations

Due to a technical issue and subsequent problems with technical support at SPSS, the statistical software program was only re-installed in late January, delaying the analysis until February.

# Task 5 b - Reporting

## **Deliverables**

All quarterly reports and the 2006 annual report were submitted by the Director.

Issues and Recommendations

There are none at this time.

Table 24: Summary Table for 2006

Program Elements			2006 Goals	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	YTD	% 2006 Goals
		Materials added to reference files	ongoing	1	1	1	1	4	
Best	Information Resources	Post links and resources to website	ongoing	1	1		1	3	
Management		Track Web site hits		1	1	1	1	4	
Practices		Web site document downloads		1	1	1	1	4	
(Task 1)		Original researched factsheet	1				1	1	100%
	Factsheets	Factsheet adapted to Clark Co	1			1		1	100%
		Articles for Flying changes Magazine	2		1	1		2	100%
	LOL Class	LOL session	1				1	1	100%
	Series	Attendance	30				33	33	110%
	Well & Septic	Well & septic workshops	6	2	1	2	2	7	117%
	Workshops	Attendance	90	67	27	46	26	166	184%
	BMP	BMP Workshops	2		1	1		2	100%
	Workshops	Attendance	40		0	15		15	38%
	Workshops	Revise & maintain speaker's list	ongoing			1		1	
Public	4-H Youth	4-H In Action Workshop	1	1				1	100%
Outreach and		Attendance	20	11				11	55%
Education	Outreach	Presentations to 4-H Youth	2	1				1	50%
(Task 2)		Attendance	40	15				15	38%
	Outreach Events & Promotional Activities	Small Acreage Expostion	1		1			1	100%
		Attendance	100	_	104			104	104%
		Mane Event and Trade Fair	2	3				3	150%
		Attendance	40	50				50	125%
		Clark Conservation District Plant Sale	1	1				1	100%
		Additional Events as identified				1		1	
	Property	Conduct tours	2		1	1	2	4	200%
	Tours	Attendance	30		18	35	50	103	343%
Model Properties	Signage	Follow up with Previous Assessments	1		1			1	100%
(Task 3)	Recognition	Enroll new farms and install signs	10		4	4	1	9	90%
		Install 04-05 signs	7	2	1			3	43%
Outreach	Database	Update Database	1	1					
Database	Database	Maintain database	ongoing		1	1	1		
Impact	Impact         Workshop evaluations           Evaluation and Evaluation         Requests for assistance		12	2	3	3	4	12	100%
				34	26	15		75	
Project			1				1	1	100%
Reporting	Reporting	Quarterly Reports	3	1	1	1		3	100%
(Task 5)	oporting	Annual Report	1				1	1	100%