



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

SAN JUAN COUNTY

2021 Impact Report



Photo by Benjamin Massello



WSU EXTENSION
San Juan County

221 Weber Way, Suite LL, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
360-378-4414
sanjua.wsu.edu



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



SAN JUAN COUNTY

Our Mission

Washington State University Extension engages people, organizations and communities to advance knowledge, economic well-being, and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.

What We Do

As a part of Washington State University, San Juan County Extension is dedicated to strengthening the community by providing education, applied research, and a connection to university-based information and resources. Our programs are funded through partnerships at the county, state, and federal levels as well as by grants, program revenue, and donations. Impact is leveraged by training volunteers to deliver university-based programs. WSU Extension has had an active presence in San Juan County since 1919. Today, our county-based programs provide community education in agriculture; pest identification and management; noxious weed control; home horticulture; forest resource management; environmental stewardship; Strengthening Families Program 10-14 and 4-H youth development.

Our Programs

- 4-H Program
- Agriculture Program
- Noxious Weed Control Program
- Master Gardener Program
- Forestry Education

Our Staff

- **Brook Brouwer**, PhD, County Extension Director and Regional Agriculture Specialist
- **Liang Bao**, MA, Office Manager
- **Wendy Waxman Kern**, MA, 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator
- **Caitlin Blethen**, Master Gardener Program Coordinator
- **Kathryn Mikulak**, Agriculture Program Coordinator
- **Walton Andrews**, Agriculture Research Assistant
- **Jason Ontjes**, Noxious Weed Program Coordinator
- **Amber Michele Smith**, Noxious Weed Field Specialist



WSU EXTENSION
San Juan County

Brook Brouwer, PhD

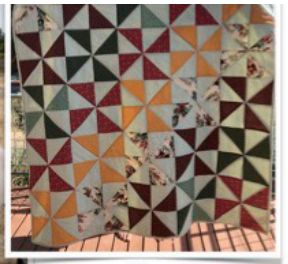
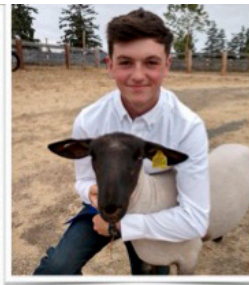
County Extension Director and Regional Agriculture Specialist

brook.brouwer@wsu.edu | 360-370-7667

sanjuan.wsu.edu



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



LETTUCE THANK EWE!

2021 4-H HYBRID SAN JUAN COUNTY FAIR

4-H PROGRAM

By the Numbers:

- 87 club members.
- 28 volunteers.
- 38 4-H youth exhibitors entered more than 380 items for judging at 2021 4-H Fair.

Goals for 2022:

- Continue partnerships with community organizations to reach a broad range of San Juan County youth.
- Continue online programming and in-person programming when allowed for by COVID-19 restrictions.
- Increase focus on teen leadership and mentoring of younger members; collaboration across islands and clubs.
- Support international participation through States 4-H Programs.

4-H Pledge: I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

Highlights from 2021:

- New partnership with San Juan County Economic Development Council delivered ongoing trades series to middle schoolers, in cooperation with OPALCO, San Juan Island Firefighters, Conservation District, and local stone mason. Classes involved hands-on project for participants and were conducted online. Resulted in 19 participants on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands.
- Co-launched statewide "Explore 4-H" initiative to expose youth to hands-on activities during Zoom sessions with 4-H volunteers and staff. Promotion on Facebook and through local emails resulted in participation on San Juan and Shaw Islands, as well as across Washington State.
- 7 Orcas Island teens attended the 4-H Know Your Government virtually after completing the preparatory curriculum with 3 enrolled 4-H adult volunteers.
- Building on the 2020 virtual Fair, San Juan County 4-H cooperated with the San Juan County Fair to host a hybrid 4-H Fair, including a still life and livestock auction in August 2021.



4-H members show their market lambs

Mixes in Jars

Join us on December 10th
at 3:00 pm
Open to youth ages 5-18
with a Zoom account



Explore
4-H

WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



WSU EXTENSION
San Juan County

Wendy Waxman Kern, MA, 4-H Program Coordinator

wendy.waxman@wsu.edu | 360-370-7662

sanjuan.wsu.edu/4h



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

By the Numbers:

- 77 active Master Gardener volunteers in San Juan County.
- 35 volunteers logged 1,344 hours in the new WSU database, Give Pulse, since January.
- \$36,222 economic impact as a result of volunteer hours.
- >1,400 individuals served by diagnostic clinics, online educational workshops, plant sales, and monthly educational newsletter.

Goals for 2022:

- Continue to offer diagnostic clinics and high quality horticulture education to the community.
- Offer Master Gardener Basic Training which includes presentations from sixteen regional horticulture experts, and online trainings.
- Continue to follow all WSU, state, and local COVID safety guidelines.



Orcas Island Master Gardeners providing information at Driftwood Nursery in Eastsound

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program trains volunteers to be effective community educators in gardening and environmental stewardship. Master Gardeners provide information generated from research at WSU and other university systems. Master Gardener volunteers teach local community members to: manage their gardens and landscapes in a science-based, sustainable manner; address environmental and social priorities such as water conservation; reduce the impact of invasive species; and increase public awareness of healthy living through gardening.

Highlights from 2021:

- Organized and offered two Sustainable Gardening webinars to increase local food gardening knowledge and practices. Speakers were Dr. Linda Gilkesen and Dr. Carol Miles. We advertised to San Juan County residents and had 200 registrants. 99% of attendees said they will change their gardening practices based on information they learned in one of these presentations.
- Improved our process to help community members with plant diagnosis, general gardening, and plant and insect identification questions. Answered ~ 100 questions via email and phone.
- Grew and sold over ~ 2,000 heirloom vegetables and 200 perennials well suited to our island ecosystem. Used online ordering and curbside pick-up, and plants were available to all islanders on San Juan, Lopez and Orcas.
- Grew and donated over 1,700 lbs of produce from our Demonstration Garden located on the Mullis Senior Center property. Volunteers met weekly to tend, grow, and harvest this garden.
- Held outdoor clinics at Driftwood Nursery in Eastsound, Sunset Builders on Lopez, and one clinic at the San Juan Island Farmers Market.
- Continued to maintain the Native Plant Demonstration Garden within the Orcas School Garden, and the Demonstration Heritage Apple Orchard in Lopez Village.
- Organized eight Gardening Workshops via webinar in October 2021.
- Published and distributed 6 educational newsletters to over 200 subscribers.



Linda Thompson tending a demonstration 'straw bale' potato garden at the SJI Food Bank Demonstration garden

Caitlin Blethen, Master Gardener Program Coordinator
mg.sanjuancounty@wsu.edu | 360-370-7663
sanjuan.wsu.edu/master-gardeners



WSU EXTENSION
San Juan County



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

By the Numbers:

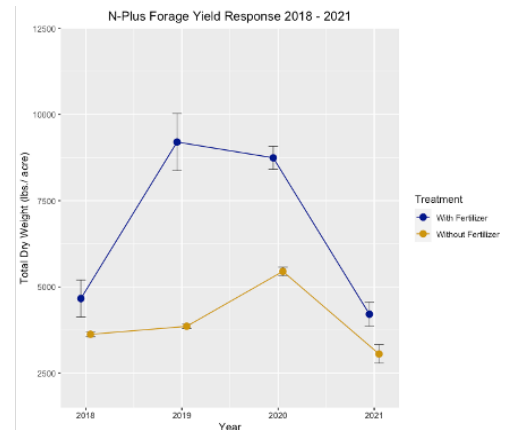
- 260+ subscribers to San Juan County Food and Farm list-serve.
- 10 on-farm research and demonstration sites.
- >250 participants in educational programs representing over 10% of agricultural land in SJC.
- Partner on \$304,637 Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Grant Farmers-to-Farmland: A collaborative model to enable new farmers and ranchers in the remote San Juan Islands, Washington.

The Agriculture Program provides education and outreach, conducts applied research, and facilitates food system development. We serve as an on-call resource to answer producer and community member questions.

Highlights from 2021:

Applied Research

- Conducted on-farm research and demonstrations on pasture management and crop variety evaluation with 10 collaborating farmers and the San Juan County Land Bank.
- Continued multi-year studies of forage improvement research to measure impact of organic fertilizer, no-till seeding and aeration on forage productivity, quality and soil health.
- Led state-wide effort to monitor for three species of click beetles, the adult form of wireworms, a damaging crop pest.
- Hosted a potato variety trial on Orcas to help identify new varieties for fresh market production.



Graph of hay yield over 4 years at Beaverton Marsh Preserve. With and without a single application of organic fertilizer in 2018

Outreach and Education

- The 2021 Ag Summit was reimaged as a multi-session online event with a specific focus on issues of racial and social justice in local food systems. 197 registrants signed up for presentations and study groups spanning a month.
- Facilitated three no-till drill trainings with the San Juan Islands Conservation District. These trainings reached over 35 participants who manage over 1,500 acres of agricultural land.
- Partnered with the San Juan Island Ag Guild to offer 2-day intensive introduction to value-added product development led by Girish Ganjyal, of WSU School of Food Science, reaching 24 participants interested in developing new products.



Lamb helping conduct pasture research

Kathryn Mikulak, Agriculture Program Coordinator
kathryn.mikulak@wsu.edu | 360-370-7664
sanjuan.wsu.edu/agriculture



WSU EXTENSION
San Juan County

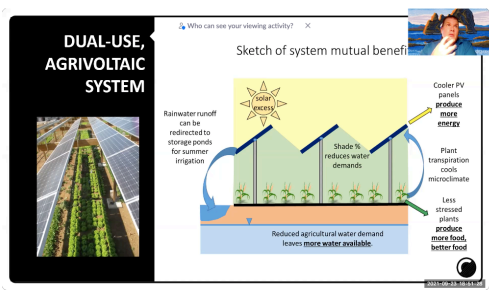
Goals for 2022:

- Carry out on-farm research trials and translate results into actionable information for local producers. Emphasis on crop variety evaluation, organic production techniques, and pasture improvement.
- Facilitate development of local food system infrastructure.
- Partner on expanding educational opportunities and land access connections for beginning farmers.
- Deliver the annual San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit.

- Collaborated with statewide effort to deliver the “Cultivating Success - Whole Farm Planning” course online, providing San Juan County beginning and prospective farmers with 9 weeks of classes covering a comprehensive set of topics to create a living plan for their small farm future.

Local Food System Development

- Completed report for SJC Land Bank on Coffelt Farm Preserve based on 2 years of review and analysis with farmers, agricultural and land conservation organizations, and public input.
- Shared results from a county-wide local food consumer survey with local food system partners to inform marketing, planning, food access, and policy efforts.



- Developing a San Juan County Food System Action Plan in partnership with San Juan County Health and Community Services, San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild, San Juan Islands Conservation District, and San Juan County Agricultural Resources Committee.

FORESTRY EDUCATION

The North Puget Sound Region WSU Extension Forestry Program provides education and outreach opportunities for San Juan County. This program is also supported by surrounding counties and partner organizations.

Forestry program highlights from 2021:

- SJC had second highest number of participants in WSU regional Forestry Program out of all Washington counties.
- 2021 Online Forest Owners' Winter School
 - 65 San Juan County participants registered representing 2,200 acres.
- Winter and Summer Forestry Webinar Series
 - 6 topical webinars per series addressing a wide range of forest health and management topics.
 - With 105 unique individuals registering from San Juan County representing 1,131 acres of forest in San Juan County.
- Four Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Course Annually
 - 14 San Juan County participants in 2021 representing over 140 acres.
 - In a one year follow-up survey 95% of survey respondents indicated they had implemented new practices based on 2020 Coached Planning Course.



Kevin Zobrist, WSU Extension Forester



WSU EXTENSION
San Juan County

Brook Brouwer, PhD

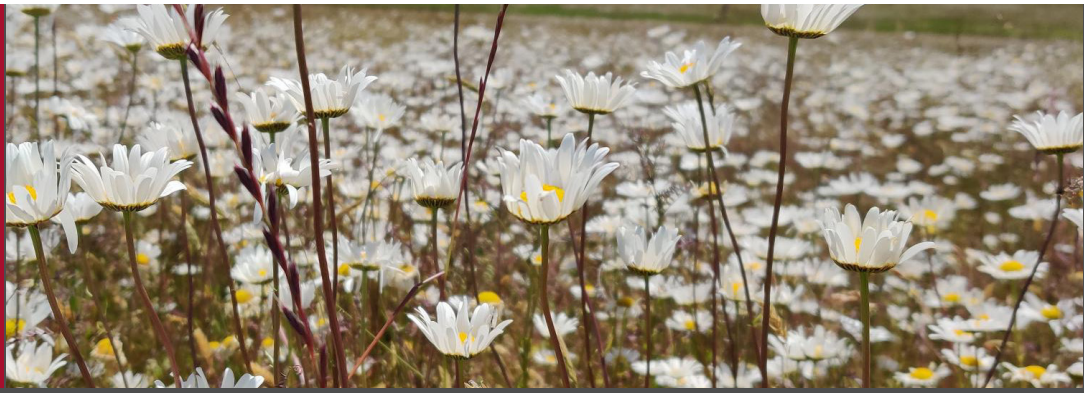
County Extension Director and Regional Agriculture Specialist

brook.brouwer@wsu.edu | 360-370-7667

sanjuan.wsu.edu



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Noxious Weed Control Program

By the Numbers:

- 1,400 contacts with the public and agency partners.
- 200 site visits to private properties.
- Over 17 acres of noxious weeds controlled.
- Over 12 tons of noxious weeds disposed of by the public.

Goals for 2022:

- Continue collaborations with local, state and federal partners to manage noxious weeds in SJC.
- Continue to expand capacity for noxious weed control through hiring seasonal staff and partnerships.
- Complete Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan for Sportsman's Lake.
- Improve efficiency to work with solid waste transfer station operators on the noxious weed disposal program.

The Noxious Weed Control Program provides information and outreach to county residents who seek to control or eradicate noxious weeds on private or public properties, helping individuals, government entities and others to comply with RCW 17.10, Washington State's noxious weed law. The program is funded by a property fee assessment and receives remuneration for noxious weed control services performed on behalf of State Parks, OPALCO, and the Port of Friday Harbor. Program staff report to the SJC Noxious Weed Control Board with support from WSU Extension.

Highlights from 2021:

Collaborations

- Supports WSU Extension's Integrated Weed Control Project, to distribute biological control agents for control of noxious weed species in SJC.
- Provides noxious weed distribution data to the Washington State Department of Agriculture.
- Coordinates roadside noxious weed control activities with Public Works.
- Developing an Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan for Sportsman's Lake with grant funding from the Department of Ecology.

Continuing Education and Outreach

- Provided presentations and educational materials to Lopez and Orcas Garden Clubs.
- Supported the Youth Conservation Corps and trained 48 participants in noxious weed control.
- Took on management of Noxious Weed disposal program allowing members of the public to dispose of select species at no cost.
- Provided information to the general public and partner organizations as well as direct assistance to public and private land managers.
- Contributed news articles to the local press on noxious weed topics.
- Published and distributed nearly 15,000 'property tax inserts' on Scotch broom in 2021.
- Loaned weed wrenches to 18 individuals through November 2021.



Youth Conservation Corps members clearing Scotch Broom at Skagit Valley College



WSU EXTENSION
San Juan County

Jason Ontjes, Noxious Weed Program Coordinator
jasono@sanjuan.co.com | 360-376-3499 | sanjuan.wsu.edu/noxious
Amber Michele Smith, Noxious Weed Field Specialist
ambers@sanjuan.co.com | 360-338-5017 | sanjuan.wsu.edu/noxious