



Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter



April 2022

Do you have a story you would like featured in The Ag Sounder Newsletter? Let us know!

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SW Washington Food Hub's Local Farm Boxes are available!

The Local Farm Box is a monthly subscription box that sources produce, meat, and value-added products from Southwest Washington Growers Co-op member farms and artisans. Each box will come with a corresponding recipe, to help you get the most out of your bounty.

Subscriptions will go out on the first Wednesday of every month. Pick your box up at our Tumwater warehouse from 4-7 pm. Purchase just one box or subscribe for the year for a discount.

Subscribe to the 2022 Local Farmbox now!



Western SARE, 2021-2022 report from the field.

Stories in *Report from the Field* that demonstrate how SARE grantees are improving the sustainability of U.S. agriculture include:

- Increasing Food Security in a Mohican Tribal Community
- North Dakota Farmers Lead the Way With Bale Grazing
- Giving South Carolina Farmers Better Access to Wholesale Markets
- Texas Farmers and Scientists Explore Carbon Markets for Soil Health Practices
- Low-Cost Energy Solutions for Appalachian Greenhouse Growers
- Centuries-Old Nursery Methods Prove Successful in Rice Paddies
- Farmer-Focused Research Identifies Practical Climate Change Adaptation Strategies
- Attracticidal Spheres and IPM Help Wage War on Invasive Pest
- Trainings Support Tribal Management of Blackfeet Nation's Agricultural Plan
- Seed Production in Southern Oregon has a Promising Future
- On-Farm Assessments Provide Data on Improving Breadfruit Production

[View the Western SARE report here.](#)



2022 Grassland Conservation Reserve (CRP) signup is open until May 13th!

The CRP program, is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. The FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is 10 or 15 years. Grassland CRP helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs under the greatest threat of conversion. Grassland CRP is reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill. The Grassland CRP signup runs until May 13, 2022.

[Read more in the USDA's news release.](#)



Online Forest Stewardship Coached Planning, Southwest Washington: Your Land. Your Trees. Your Goals.

Double Session

Tuesday (9 am-12 pm), May 3 - June 21

Wednesday (6 pm-9 pm), May 4 - June 22

Natural beauty, wildlife, ecosystem health, harvest income, family ties, privacy, and peace and quiet are some of the many reasons people value their forestland. Whatever your values are, this comprehensive university-based forestry class will help you get the most out of the land you love. Whether you have just a few wooded acres or a larger forest tract, if you have trees on your property, this class is for you.

Southwest Washington Forestry Stewardship.



Local and Regional Food Systems Response to COVID, presents the May 13th webinar, Going Far by Going Together: Building a Network of Food Systems.

- May 13: Building a Better Network of Food Systems
- June 10: Looking Ahead at Innovations and Programs Targeting Local and Regional Supply Chains

Sign up for the webinar series [here](#).



If you are a Thurston County farmer, rancher, or value-added producer, and have considered applying for Thurston Strong Agricultural Recovery COVID Grant assistance but aren't sure if you qualify, please let us help!

Applying for this grant is extremely quick and easy, it should take less than an hour, and there have been many successful applications! Your statement only needs to be a short paragraph or a couple of sentences.

Since the grant is reimbursing you for past expenditures, there are no stipulations on how you spend the money you receive, as long as you spend it on your business. Best of all, because it's a grant, you don't pay it back!

If you would like assistance looking through your P&Ls, you are welcome to email them to us. Even if you can't qualify for the whole \$10,000 grant, smaller amounts will also be awarded.

Contact Annie Salafsky of Thurston County Extension with questions about qualifying, at anna.salafsky@wsu.edu or call the Grant Hotline at 888-821-6652.

Thurston Strong Ag Recovery Grant guidelines and application.



Value-Added Producer Grants are due April 25th!

The objective of this grant program is to assist independent producers, agricultural producer groups, and farmer and rancher Coops in starting or expanding value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of value-added agricultural products. Grants will be awarded competitively for either planning or working capital projects directly related to the processing and marketing of value-added products. Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income are the end goals of the program. All proposals must demonstrate economic viability and sustainability to compete for funding.

Find out more about the Value-Added Producers grant [here](#).

2022

25 YEARS

COMMUNITY FARM LAND TRUST

FREE

FRESH FROM THE FARM

FARMER INTERVIEWS • FOOD BANK GUIDE • CSA GUIDE

MARKET GUIDE • CONSERVATION • AND MORE!

A South Sound Food & Farm Resource Guide

GRAYS HARBOR • LEWIS • MASON • THURSTON

Preserving working,
affordable farmland in the
South Sound for 25 years

Regional Farm Map & Directory • Farm Stand & Market Map

For the latest information on our work please visit: CommunityFarmLandTrust.org



@SSCFLT

2022 CFLT Fresh From the Farm Guide!



WA State Farm Walk Podcasts, brought to you by WSU Extension and Tilth Alliance

The most recent episode features Hilario Alvarez of Alvarez Farms. Hilario and his family own and operate Alvarez Organic Farms, a certified organic diversified vegetable farm in Mabton, WA, where they grow 200 varieties of peppers and 300 varieties of vegetables. They have been in business for over 30 years; learn about their experience during the COVID pandemic with a focus on employee management and sales.

Hilario Alvarez of Alvarez Organic Farms

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

held virtually with Zoom*

Registration is limited!

Visit our website for more info: bit.ly/WSU_PSA

Fee is \$25 per attendee, includes manual and certificate



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

Produce
Safety
Program

Produce Safety
ALLIANCE

April 6 - 7
9 am - 1 pm,
both days, PST

April 28 - 29
9 am - 1 pm,
both days, PST

*We will be hosting these workshops remotely, live through Zoom. All participants will need to have access to a computer/laptop (not mobile device) with the following:

- An Internet connection – broadband wired or wireless (3G or 4G/LTE)
- Speakers and a microphone – built-in or USB plug-in or wireless Bluetooth
- A webcam or HD webcam – built-in or USB plug-in
- Required: Video must be turned on the entire time, and instructors must be able to see the attendee to receive the certificate

Find out more about the safety training [here](http://bit.ly/WSU_PSA).

Events, News, Farms, Funding, Jobs

- Scientific Assistant: Organic Farming Systems/Berry Breeding Research Technician Wanted
- Veterans Conservation Corps Member Wanted
- Spring Pasture Walk and Plant ID at Violet Prairie, April 28th
- Bigleaf Maple Syrup Festival in Eatonville WA, May 14th!
- Study Shows 29% of American Jobs are Tied to Food and Agriculture
- Sign the Nation's First Women in Agriculture Resolution



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Website



WSU Extension Thurston County | 3054 Carpenter Rd SE, Lacey, WA 98503 (360) 867-2189

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