



Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter



February 2022

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

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Inaugural SW WA Grazing Association presentation from the Ranchers' Stewardship Alliance!

Join WSU Extension, Thurston Conservation District, and EcoStudies Institute for an conversation with Martin Townsend from the Ranchers' Stewardship Alliance. This Montana based non-profit is a rancher led conservation organization which works to continually strengthen rural communities, economies, and culture. Come learn about their work and how it might connect to grazing and prairie conservation in our region. For questions contact Sierra Smith, Thurston County WSU Extension, at

Register for the event.



State Legislature allocated \$3.6 million dollars for grants to assist small and midsize meat and poultry processors in WA.

The grants are to expand the capacity of small and midsize farmers, and ranchers who sell their farm-raised meat products directly to individual consumers, stores, food hubs, restaurants, and schools, in order to improve access to local meat products for the people of Washington State. This public need became apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, when food supply chains were disrupted, and the importance of resilient local food economies became evident.

WSDA Local Meat Processing Capacity Grant info.



Annual Native Plant Festival

The 2022 Thurston Conservation District's Native Plant Festival & Sale, is March 5th from 10:00–3:00!

Come to the Thurston County Fairgrounds for a fun day of hands on activities, educational demo booths, local food, live music, and affordable native plants!

Click [here](#) to view a list of plant species that will be available at our walk-up sale on March, 5th.

2022 plant sale pre-orders are closed. Pre-order customers will be contacted to pick up pre-ordered plants March 3-5, 2022 at the Thurston County Fairgrounds.

[More about the Native Plant Festival & Sale.](#)



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

The most recent episode features Bryan Mesa of De La Mesa Farms, who runs a 2.5 acre no-till, regenerative market garden in Tacoma, Washington with his family. Bryan moved their farm from Hawaii during the pandemic, and this episode explores food safety factors he considered when setting up the farm on their new property.

The De La Mesa episode.



Farming on the Urban Edge Online Conference: Session 5 Navigating Tight Quarters, March 11th.

The final webinar in this series focuses on policy and community level actions that have potential to affect systemic change, and support peri-urban agriculture in the long run. Classic and innovative models of farmer associations, commissions, advocacy groups, and other collective strategies for supporting growth of the peri-urban farm at the market and policy level will be examined. Guest speakers and discussions will bring insight to strategies for improving cross community relationships, and will illustrate the profound value of peri-urban agriculture.

For more about the conference and to register click [here](#).



Local and Regional Food Systems Response to COVID, presents the March 11th webinar, Data Sharing for Local Food Networks.

- April 8: Tracking Consumer and Market Trends
- 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](#).



WA State/WSU Extension's AgrAbility Project, is hosting a series of webinars focused on the resources and services available if you've experienced a farm injury, or otherwise acquired a disability.

Webinar topics included information on grant funding, assistive technology, medical debt (including free and discounted medical care, past and present), and help with applying for social security benefits.

Webinars are Fridays at 1pm from April 11th-25th.

Webinars for cultivating accessible agriculture.



Manage weeds on your farm!

Sustainable weed management is essential for improving crop yield and increasing farm and ranch profitability. SARE's newest book, *Manage Weeds on Your Farm: A Guide to Ecological Strategies*, examines the biology and behavior of common weeds and provides an integrated set of non-chemical control strategies that exploits their weaknesses. *Manage Weeds on Your Farm* will help organic and conventional farmers alike better understand and manage weeds efficiently, effectively and ecologically.

[Purchase the book here.](#)



GRANTS still available for Thurston County farmers who have experienced an increase in expenses, a decrease in revenue, or had to change the way they do business since COVID began.

Thurston Strong Agricultural Grant assistance for farms, value-added processors, co-ops, and Farmers Markets impacted by the COVID pandemic is still available. If you have experienced an increase in operating costs, have lost revenue, or had to make changes to meet demand or new safety measures in the last two years, you can qualify for a grant of up to \$10,000. There is dedicated funding for those of you who are BIPOC producers. 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 Grant guidelines and application.

Events, News, Farms, Funding, Jobs

- **Farm Manager at Evergreen State College Wanted**
- **The Megadrought Affecting the American West**
- **San Juan Islands' 10th Annual Agricultural Summit, March 4-5**



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