



# Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

## The AG Sounder Newsletter



## May 2022

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

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# LIVESTOCK FENCING WORKSHOP

**Saturday, June 18th**

**9:30am - 12:30pm**

*Withywindle Valley Farm*

**RSVP to [nwhite@thurstoncd.com](mailto:nwhite@thurstoncd.com)  
for address & directions**

Cross fencing, rotational grazing, grounding rods, voltage, high tinsel wire... confused? Want to learn more?

Join us to look at examples of fencing systems for cattle and sheep. We will discuss portable and temporary fencing, show a variety of products and tools, and give an opportunity for you to try them out yourself. Come meet fencing professionals and other ranchers and grazers.

RSVP to [nwhite@thurstoncd.com](mailto:nwhite@thurstoncd.com) for address and directions





**Join WSU Puyallup Research and Extension for their free live demonstration of tools and strategies for the successful small farm, on June 1st from 9 am-12:30 pm.**

Live demonstrations will include a variety of walk-behind tractor implements, and other innovative hand tools and machines. Presenters include Pierce County Conservation District, BCS, and two farmers with small farm tool experience. This event is free to attend, coffee, refreshments, and lunch will be provided. Please note any dietary restrictions.

**Please RSVP to [omarr@ncat.org](mailto:omarr@ncat.org) by May 27th.**

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## Biodegradable Mulch News!

This semiannual newsletter aims to provide current science-based information on soil-biodegradable mulches (BDM) that can be a sustainable alternative to conventional polyethylene mulch. Note, the National Organic Program is considering an annotation change on the use of soil-biodegradable mulches in organic agriculture. Additional updates are pending, but passing of the annotation would still mean commercially available soil-biodegradable mulches are not allowed in organic agriculture.

- Labor savings are a big benefit of BDM use
- Farmers also say BDMs simplify end-of-season field clean up and are safer than mulch removal equipment
- Long-time (20+ years) BDM users have not seen declines in soil health or plastic build-up in soil

**Sign up for the quarterly newsletter, Sustainable Mulch Management.**

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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!





City of DuPont  
Parks & Recreation

# FARMERS MARKET

**THURSDAYS 3:00PM - 7:00PM • 2022**

**JUNE: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**JULY: 14, 21, 28**

**AUGUST: 4, 11**

**FALL MARKET:  
Sunday, September 18**

**CLOCKTOWER PARK - 1400 PALISADE BLVD.**

**FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES  
ALL SUMMER LONG**

**WATCH FOR CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT OR  
CONCERTS IN THE PARK ON MARKET DAYS!**

**New farmer's market in DuPont looking for farms to participate, at no cost to farmers!**

DuPont does not currently have a grocery store, the population is right under 10,000 and they are directly across from and serve JBLM, a joint military base. During the pandemic, they had to get creative and their community voiced this need. They are offering no-cost participation to farmers! Dupont Farmer's market is open Thursdays from 3:00 – 7:00 pm, June thru August, with a Fall Market in September.

**More info on Dupont's new farmer's market.**

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**Local and Regional Food Systems Response to COVID, presents the June 10th webinar, Looking Ahead at Innovations and Programs Targeting Local and Regional Supply Chains.**

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

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**Isn't this the kind of agricultural year we could all use a little help?**

**If you are a Thurston County farmer, rancher, or value-added producer, there is still time to qualify for Thurston Strong Agricultural Recovery COVID Grant assistance!**

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](mailto:anna.salafsky@wsu.edu) or call the Grant Hotline at 888-821-6652.

**Thurston Strong Ag Recovery Grant guidelines and application.**

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<b>Where do I report sick/dead birds in WA?</b>	
<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Wild</b>
 <p>WSDA Sick Bird Hotline!</p>	 <p>WDFW online reporting form!</p>
<b>1-800-606-3056</b>	<b><a href="https://bit.ly/sickwildbirds">bit.ly/sickwildbirds</a></b>



## WSDA Sick Bird Hotline, for reporting dead and sick poultry

Since its arrival in Washington state two weeks ago, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has now hit nine flocks in seven counties, all in backyard flocks. Tests confirmed the latest case in Thurston County on May 17. The WSDA tested the flock after the owner contacted their Sick Bird Hotline reporting several dead and sick birds in the flock. After the flock samples tested positive at state and national labs for HPAI, the state veterinarian euthanized the flock. As with every flock that has tested positive for HPAI so far, the Thurston County flock had substantial exposure to wild waterfowl. Dr. Amber Itle, Washington State veterinarian, is urging bird owners to take steps to stop the virus from spreading, including keeping flocks away from wild waterfowl and skipping fairs and exhibitions until at least 30 days after the last detection. Public health officials say human infection is very unlikely, especially with this year's strain of HPAI.

**WFDW online reporting form.**

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

The most recent episode features Osman Ruiz Amador, owner of Amador Farms, who runs a direct market operation of diversified fruits and vegetables with his family. His farm focuses on selling directly to consumers through farmers' markets throughout the state. Osman explains how he trains everyone who works on the farm and in the markets on produce safety standards and practices. Later in the episode, Jacqui Gordon Núñez shares additional resources and tips for growers on employee training, food safety, and details about what Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and the Produce Safety Rules mean for growers.

## Events, News, Farms, Funding, Jobs

- [Exotic Hornet Identification Training](#)
- [Tilth Alliance Summer Class Schedule](#)
- [Farm Link, Where Farmers and Landowners Can Connect](#)



# Thurston County

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