



# Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

## The AG Sounder Newsletter



## November 2022

Do you have an event or story you would like featured in The Ag Sounder? Let us know!

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## **Developing a Food Safety Plan, and Good Manufacturing Practices and Sanitation Training for small to medium-sized growers and processors.**

This training helps small to medium-sized growers and food processors fulfill Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations, by attending a food safety training every year. All training will be held in person, the fee is \$25. This covers materials, instruction, and lunch.

Developing a Food Safety Plan and Good Manufacturing Practices and Basics of Sanitation Training dates:

- The Pioneer Center, White Salmon WA, January 17, from 8:30 am - 4 pm.
- The Veterans Memorial Museum Chehalis WA, March 10th from 8:30 am - 4 pm.





**You may be eligible for financial assistance if your specialty crop operation recently incurred on-farm food safety program expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification.**

**Basic Eligibility:**

- Have obtained or renewed food safety certification that was issued in the calendar year 2022 or 2023.
- Have paid eligible expenses.
- Be a specialty crop operation.
- Meet the USDA definition of a small or very small business (sold less than \$500,000 on average of specialty crops in the preceding 3-year period).

**Types of Eligible Expenses:**

- Developing or maintaining a food safety plan.
- Food safety certification fees.
- Microbiological testing of products, soil amendments, and water.
- Training.

\*A higher reimbursement rate is available for historically underserved farmers or ranchers.



## **New online produce safety resource on cleaning and sanitizing farm tools and equipment.**

An online educational resource on how to properly clean and sanitize tools and equipment in a farm setting. Cleaning and sanitizing minimize the risk of cross-contamination from pathogenic microorganisms and are a valuable risk management strategy. Proper sanitization is not only a best practice, but it is a requirement of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule.

The modules are visually engaging and interactive, requiring users to apply critical thinking and realistic decision-making. All content is available in English and Spanish, to help educators and farm managers reinforce fundamental cleaning and sanitizing concepts. It emphasizes how to select and monitor sanitizers using test strips and titration kits. The interactive animation simulates how to follow proper monitoring procedures, evaluate results, and record findings.

**[Find out more here.](#)**

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# FAMACHA CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

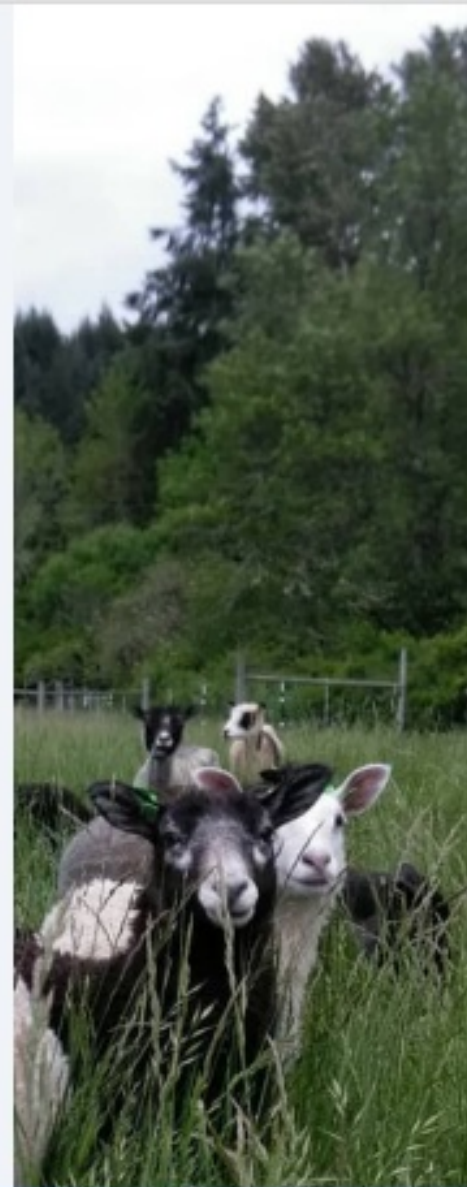
Learn to manage parasites for  
your sheep and goats using a  
**FAMACHA card**

Join us for an evening discussing parasite management in sheep and goats and completing the steps to become certified in FAMACHA. Facilitators will assist participants in completing the steps necessary to receive the FAMACHA card used for gauging anemia and the need to use de-wormer.

**REGISTRATION AND PRE-CLASS VIDEO-WATCHING ARE REQUIRED.**

**PARTICIPANTS WISHING TO RECEIVE THEIR CARD MUST BE AT LEAST 13 YEARS OLD.**

**\$20 FEE FOR THE FAMACHA CARD**



**December 15th  
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Thurston Co Fairgrounds**

**Space Limited!**  
Register by scanning the QR code  
or emailing  
[nwhite@thurstoncd.com](mailto:nwhite@thurstoncd.com)



**Register for FAMACHA Certification to help manage parasites in sheep and goats, Thursday, December 15th, 5:30 – 7:30 pm at the Thurston County Fairgrounds.**

Join Thurston CD, WSU Extension, and the EcoStudies Institute for an evening discussing parasite management in sheep and goats and to complete the steps to become certified in FAMACHA. Facilitators will assist participants in completing the steps necessary to receive the FAMACHA card used for gauging anemia and the need to use a de-wormer on

sheep and goats.

Registration and pre-class video-watching are required. Participants wishing to receive their card must be at least 13 years old. Workshop space is limited to 30 people and there's a ~\$20 fee to receive the FAMACHA card. Contact Nora White at [nwhite@thurstonedc.com](mailto:nwhite@thurstonedc.com) with any questions.

**Register for the FAMACHA workshop [here](#).**

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## **Online forest stewardship coached planning.**

Wednesday evenings from 6 pm-8:30 pm, January 25th to March 22nd, 2023.

Your Land. Your Trees. Your Goals. Natural beauty, wildlife, ecosystem health, harvest income, family ties, privacy, and peace and quiet are some of the 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, this class is for you.

**For more information [click here](#).**

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## Crop Insurance for your small farm.

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) is offering a virtual workshop on December 13th for agricultural producers. This workshop is especially important for specialty crop, organic, urban, and direct market producers so they can learn about the latest updates and improvements to the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) and Micro Farm insurance options.

RMA will host these workshops for agricultural producers via Microsoft Teams Events to help them understand and know more about these important insurance options. The Roadshows will include RMA Administrator Marcia Bungler and other team members, highlighting important improvements to Whole-Farm and Micro Farm insurance and answering questions about the two options.

**[Find out more about the virtual workshop here.](#)**

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## **SW WA Food Hub partners with WSDA Farms to School Program to provide fresh local food to regional schools.**

The Southwest Washington Food Hub, a grower-owned cooperative, has partnered with four school districts in Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties to run a WSDA Farm to School program. The program enriches communities' connection with fresh healthy food and local food producers, by enhancing food purchasing practices, and educational opportunities at schools and education facilities. Students enjoy better access to healthy, local foods, and participating in school gardens, cooking lessons, and farm field trips. This has helped to develop a deeper connection to their food and where it comes from.

The Washington State Legislature provided \$5 million dollars in grants to the 2021-2023 state budget, to expand the WSDA Farm to School program. These grants help buy Washington-grown foods for child nutrition programs. The Farm to School program also helps farms and farmers flourish by creating a reliable market for their products while improving the health of students in our communities.

Since April 2022, the program has purchased \$74,000 of locally-grown food through the SW WA Hub!

**Find out more about the SW WA Food Hub's Farm to School program [here](#).**

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## High diesel prices on the PNW strain farmers and ranchers.

The average price of diesel is \$5.32 per gallon, more than \$1.50 above the same time last year. While prices are below the \$5.81 peak in June, the high cost of fuel is hitting farmers hard as they navigate the fall harvest season. American Farm Bureau Federation economists analyzed the factors driving up fuel prices in the latest Market Intel report.

A ban on U.S. imports of petroleum from Russia, lower domestic production capacity, and seasonal demand are all contributing to higher costs. Russia provided 20% of the petroleum imported into the U.S. in 2021, but that was halted after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Beyond the impact of Russia, since 2019, domestic diesel production capacity has dropped by 180,000 barrels per day. Several plants closed during the coronavirus pandemic and are not yet back online.

**[Read the full article about diesel prices here.](#)**

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## Check out SW Washington Food Hub's Local Farm Boxes!

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

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

**Subscribe to the 2022 Local Farmbox [here!](#)**

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## Jobs at GRuB!

- **SNAP-Ed Research Assistant**, priority deadline of December 1, to start in January. Part-time seasonal.
- **Campaign and Events Manager**, priority deadline of November 27th, to start in January, long-term staff position, full time
- **Farmer Veteran Programs Specialist**, priority application deadline of November 25th, long-term staff position, full-time, target start date in January.
- **GRuB Garden Project - Lead Garden Builder**, priority deadline of December 1, to start in January. Part-time seasonal.
- **Here** is the link for GRuB's main jobs page; please check back for a full-time office position coming soon!

[Learn more about GRuB here.](#)

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## Events, News, Farms, Funding, Jobs

- **WSU Pesticide Recertification Safety Educator**

- **Jobs at Global to Local: FIN Program Director and Incubator Operations Manager**



# Thurston County

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