



Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter



September 2022

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

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The Center for Biological Diversity is hosting its 3rd annual virtual **Food Justice Film Festival** Sept. 15-18. The festival is free and open to the public!

Each film explores the links between food justice, sovereignty and security, and environmental sustainability.

Thursday September 15, *Poisoning Paradise*. Many Native Hawaiian communities are surrounded by experimental test sites for genetically engineered seed corn, and pesticides are sprayed upwind of their homes, schools, hospitals and shorelines. Poisoning Paradise details the ongoing struggle of Hawaiians fighting to advance bold new legislation governing the fate of their island home.

Friday September 16, *Fruits of Labor*. This is the story of a Mexican American teenager who works long days in the strawberry fields and the night shift at a food processing factory. We follow along as she navigates the forces that keep her trapped in poverty and threaten to separate her family. Fruits of Labor is a lyrical meditation on agriculture, nature and ancestral forces.

Saturday September 17 (short films).

RETURN: Native American Women Reclaim Foodways for Health and Spirit Tlingit, Muckleshoot, Oglala Sioux, Menominee and Seneca women are sparking physical and spiritual rejuvenation across the continent by reclaiming traditional foodways and eating as

their ancestors did.

From Gangs to Gardens Itef Vita (aka DJ CAVEM) is an organic gardener, vegan chef, activist, and award-winning hip-hop artist working with Denver's young people to build healthy eating habits and prevent gang violence through gardening and hip-hop culture.

The Seed Saver. The challenges of a young farmer expands on the idea of what and who American farmers are as Kristyn Leach explores her Korean heritage with other Korean American farmers.

Here are instructions on how to sign up for the festival. Register to get your free entry to view the films between September 15th-18th!



Last chance to apply for **Thurston Strong Agricultural Recovery COVID Grant assistance!**

Thurston Strong Agricultural Grant assistance for farms, ranches, and value-added producers impacted by the COVID pandemic is still available. If you are a Thurston County farmer/rancher/producer who has been in business since 2019 and has experienced an increase in operating costs, has lost revenue, or had to implement new safety measures, you can qualify for a COVID relief grant of up to \$10,000.

All of the following were purchased or occurred in 2019-2021 and were reimbursed with this grant:

- Fencing was installed for social distancing purposes.
- A pivot to another form of marketing in 2019, which necessitated a packshed expansion.

- The purchase of a new cooler bought to streamline delivery.
- A wash station was reconfigured to allow for socially distanced processing of produce.
- The purchase of personal protective equipment, and anti-bacterial soap.
- Animal feed bought because of a delay in slaughter, due to supply chain issues.
- Missed market days because of market closures or immune issues.
- A substantial increase in the cost of supplies, due to supply chain issues.
- **A loss of a stream of revenue (even if replaced by another).**

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, and you can use receipts, taxes, and/or a P&L as your documentation.

Contact Annie Salafsky of Thurston County Extension with questions about qualifying, or for help looking over your P&L or assembling your documentation at anna.salafsky@wsu.edu

Thurston Strong Agricultural Recovery Grant application.



Cultivating Success Washington presents Whole Farm Planning, a 12-week course to help you prepare a plan for your land, life, and farm business.

Cultivating Success Whole Farm Planning will teach you how to use a whole-system approach to create a living plan for your small farm. Classes will be held weekly on Zoom, where you will be able to connect with a statewide community of other aspiring farm planners. Leave with tools for decision-making and a road map for your farming endeavors. Includes many opportunities for networking and community building in smaller breakout groups too! Come build a solid plan for a farm or food business that suits you. Topics include Sustainability, Whole Farm Planning, Ecological Soil Management, Crop Production Methods and Planning, Livestock Management, Resource Evaluation, Weeds,

Pests, and Diseases, Marketing Strategies, Enterprise Assessments, Farm Stress, and Risk Management.

- \$200 for a 12-week course from September 19th through December 5th, 2022.
- Cultivating Success meets weekly on Mondays from 6:00-8:30 pm.
- Online course classroom through Zoom with in-person field trips.
- Scholarships are available for Military Veterans and anyone for whom the course fee is a barrier.
- This course is offered with Spanish language interpretation and facilitation.

Register for Cultivating Success [here](#).

Mazama pocket gopher



Oregon spotted frog



Taylor's checkerspot butterfly



Oregon vesper sparrow



WSU Extension information night for farmers and rural landowners: New easement opportunities for working and conservation grasslands in [Thurston County's Habitat Conservation Plan \(HCP\)](#).

Three events are scheduled around Thurston County:
-Thursday September 29th from 6-8 pm, in Littlerock*

- Tuesday October 18th, in Tenino*
 - Wednesday November 9th, in Rainer*
- *Exact locations to be announced

Agricultural grasslands support people and serve as habitat for rare species. With the passage of Thurston County's HCP, significant funds will soon be available to keep grasslands in agriculture and conservation. Come learn what opportunities are available for your property.

Short presentations by WSU Extension and Thurston County will be followed by an opportunity to speak with service providers about your property.

Refreshments included. Contact Sierra Smith for more information at sierra.smith1@wsu.edu or leave him a voicemail at (360) 867-2165.

Get the most current information about Thurston County's Habitat Conservation Plan meetings [here](#).

NUTRITION IN PASTURED ANIMALS WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 24th, 1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Colvin Ranch, Tenino WA



Join us at Colvin Ranch to learn from Don Llewellyn, Livestock Extension Specialist who specifically focuses on nutrition and the impact it plays on production and health. The workshop will begin with a presentation focused on the influence of pasture management on animal nutrition, protein levels in pastures throughout the year, and choosing the right hay and supplements for your operation. We'll then walk Colvin Ranch and see some examples of managing cattle for good nutrition in the late summer season.



RSVP to sierra.smith1@wsu.edu or (360) 867-2165



ALL GRAZERS, RANCHERS, AND CURIOUS FOLKS
WELCOME!

Grazing Association Education Series: **Nutrition in Pastured Animals Workshop**, Saturday September 24th at Colvin Ranch.

SW Washington Grazing Association is leading a free workshop at Colvin Ranch, Saturday September 24th from 1-4 pm.

Learn how:

- Pasture management influences animal nutrition
- Protein levels in pasture cycle through the year
- To choose the right hay and supplements for your operation

*Featuring speaker Don Llewellyn, WSU Animal Nutritionist.

For more information or to RSVP contact Sierra Smith
at sierra.smith1@wsu.edu or leave a voicemail at (360) 867-2165.



Starting this Fall, the Southwest Washington Food Hub will partner with the City of Lacey to offer Workplace Wellness Farmshares.

This 12-week food box subscription program aims to help city employees eat more vegetables and fruits for better health. The program, based on successful programs in Wisconsin and Kentucky, consists of two components:

- A weekly box of delicious, fresh, regionally grown organic produce supplied by the Hub, delivered directly to the workplace.
- Nutrition education in the form of weekly cooking videos and newsletters containing tips and recipes to support healthy eating habits.

By offering convenient workplace pick-up and nutrition education, the Worksite Wellness Farmshare has the potential to attract those who may like the idea of regionally grown foods, but do not routinely buy them.

For more information, contact program coordinator Marilyn Sitaker at marilyn.sitaker@wsu.edu

November 8-9, 2022



The Northwest Food Safety & Sanitation Workshop is November 8th-9th in Portland OR.

The Northwest Food Safety & Sanitation Workshop addresses basic sanitation as well as cutting-edge issues related to food sanitation and food safety. Topics having broad interest are covered in the general sessions. There are more specific subjects discussed in small breakout sessions, with basic and advanced tracks available.

For more information on the workshop or to register please [click here](#) .



Free online Western Washington Fall Forest Owners' Field Day, October 22nd, from 9 am-2 pm.

Is it time to sharpen the saw of your forestry knowledge? Do you want to learn new things about enjoying and caring for your property such as:

- How to make your trees more resilient in a changing climate
- Heat, drought, Ips beetles, sooty bark disease, and other current forest health threats
- Agroforestry and nontimber product opportunities
- How to improve wildlife habitat
- Gerry Oak restoration techniques, and much more?

The Online Fall Field Day is designed to let you attend multiple workshops and will help you address challenges on your property and restore healthy forest conditions. The event will feature unique webinars specifically for people with forested property in Western WA. Whether you are a novice to family forestry, or your family has owned land for many generations, there is something new for everyone to learn. This is a family-friendly event. Youth are encouraged to participate, so tune in with your next generation of forest stewards.

To register or find out more about the free Online Western WA Forest Field Day please [click here](#).



HARVEST FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCT. 8TH

10 AM - 3 PM

SOUTH UNION GRANGE HALL

Come join Thurston Conservation District and friends as we celebrate the harvest and kick off our 75th anniversary. This family-friendly event will feature:

- PIE BAKING CONTEST! Enter by 11am, Judging at 12pm
- CIDER PRESSING - Bring your apples and bottles to make juice!
- SOIL TEST DROP-OFF & INFORMATION BOOTH
- KIDS ARTS & CRAFT ACTIVITIES
- FACE PAINTING!
- FOOD TRUCKS!
- LIVE MUSIC!

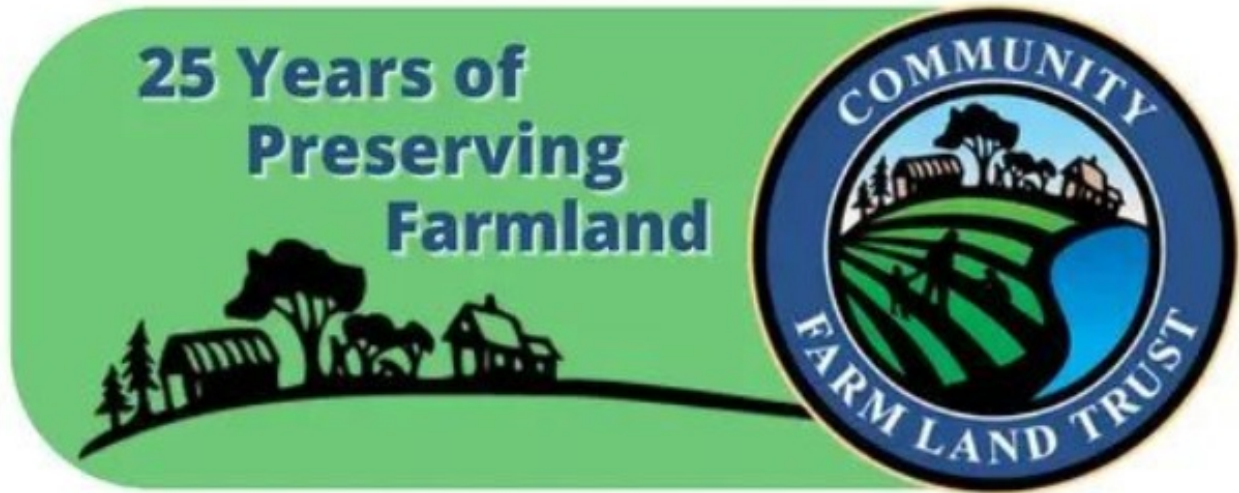
COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

WWW.THURSTONCD.COM

Come celebrate the Thurston Conservation District's 75th anniversary and bring a pie!

There will be lots of fun for the whole family, Saturday, October 8th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the South Union Grange Hall (10030 Tilley Rd SW Olympia, WA 98512).

Find out more about the Thurston Conservation District's Harvest Festival [here](http://WWW.THURSTONCD.COM).



The Community Farm Land Trust is seeking board members.

The Community Farm Land Trust is a membership-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving farmland and to keeping it farmed forever. Based in Olympia, WA, it concentrates on the areas south of Puget Sound. At present, the organization consists of a working board of directors, a 3-person part-time staff, volunteers, and a general membership of about 140. In addition to its new farm acquisition, James Family Historic Farmland, CFLT has stewardship responsibility for three other farming properties: Scatter Creek Farm and Conservancy, Oyster Bay Farm, and the production ground for GRuB (Garden-Raised Bounty) a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working with youth and communities at the intersection of food, education, and health.

Find out more about CFLT [here](#).



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!](#)



The **Farmer-to-Farmer Program** Rural Adaptation and Resilience Project in Jamaica is looking for volunteers!

Partners of the Americas' USAID-funded Farmer-to-Farmer program provides technical assistance to individual farmers, farmer associations, agricultural cooperatives, education institutions, and others in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica, Colombia, Guyana, and Burma as well as select other countries.

Farmer-to-Farmer recruits experienced agriculturalists who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents to volunteer and complete short-term assignments (15-day minimum stay; trips are generally 2–3 weeks). Farmer-to-Farmer covers all volunteer costs including airfare, lodging, meals, insurance, and any other assignment-related expenses.

Requirements to Volunteer:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident
- Experience in relevant field
- Submit a trip report, recommendations form, questionnaire, and timesheet

To apply or receive more information on a particular assignment:

Please email farmertofarmer@partners.net with the name of the country and the title of the assignment in the subject line and attach your resume/CV and cover letter.

Find out more about how to apply here.



Western SARE Funding Opportunities, for farmers, ranchers, and farm professionals!

Farmer/Rancher Deadline: Nov. 2, 2022

The Western SARE Farmer/Rancher Research & Education Grant Program focuses on advancing on-farm sustainability solutions by funding innovative producer-driven research and outreach. This grant program involves agricultural producers (main applicants) and technical advisor(s) implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. Projects with 1-2 producers may apply for up to \$25,000 and projects with 3 or more producers working together may apply for up to \$29,900.

Professional + Producer Deadline: Nov. 3, 2022

This grant program involves an agricultural technical advisor (main applicant) and producers implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. With the collaboration of at least three producers, projects must integrate research and education aiming to advance the three components of sustainable agriculture -

environmental, economic, and social- and use innovative educational outreach to disseminate new knowledge to producers and other agricultural stakeholders. It is expected that the outcomes of funded projects will result in quantifiable benefits for producers, increase the preservation of the natural and social resources upon which agriculture relies, and be shared with other producers. \$75,000 limit/one-three years in scope.

Professional Development Program Deadline: November 9, 2022

This grant program focuses on training agricultural professionals to help them spread knowledge about sustainable agriculture concepts and practices. Grants can run for up to three years, with the final year to be focused on project evaluation. Ag professionals and educators are eligible to apply. \$100,000 limit/one-three years in scope.

[Find out more about Western SARE Grants here.](#)



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

This episode of the Farm Walks Podcast features Shelley Muzzall of 3 Sisters Family Farm on Whidbey Island and her butcher Travis Stockstill of Island Grown Farmers Cooperative (IGFC). Learn about the unique Island Grown Farmers Co-op model (the first ever USDA Mobile processing unit of its kind!) and how it has impacted its members and the local meat economy. Later in the episode, Alyssa Jumars, Local Meat Marketing &

Capacity Specialist for the WSDA Regional Markets Program, shares some tips and resources for producers and processors in Washington state.

The Island Grown Farmers Cooperative and 3 Sisters Farm Episode.

Events, News, Farms, Funding, Jobs

- [Thurston Conservation District's Fall Native Bulb and Seed Sale](#)
- [Learn to Grow Your Own Groceries](#)
- [Thurston Conservation District is Hiring Habitat Restoration Field Crew Members](#)



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