



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
**EXTENSION**

## The AG Sounder Newsletter



## August 2023

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

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## **Gordon Farm - Farm Walk**

**Wednesday, August 23rd, 5:00pm to 7:00pm + social time**  
**5154 US Highway Elma, WA 98541**

Join us for a farm walk at Gordon Farm in Elma Washington on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Gordon Farm is run Jay and Susan and is a 7<sup>th</sup> generation farm first established in 1872. The 600-acre farm boasts a rich diversity of grain, forages, vegetables, and wildlife along the Chehalis River. The farm is approximately divided into 450 acres of grass and alfalfa, 175 acres of corn, 20 acres of barley, and anywhere from a half to a couple acres in vegetables row crops including pumpkins and melons.

The farm supports a rich ecosystem, and is home to bald and golden eagles, buzzards, hawks, falcons, trumpeter swans, geese, ducks, bears, cougars, coyotes, and in most years, salmon. The Gordons have a 55-ac conservation easement on pastured wetland with the Trumpeter Swan Society to support this migratory species, 50 to 400 of which stop over at their property every winter.

Jay Gordon is also a founding member of the SW Washington Growers Co-op, and sells into both the grain and the vegetable sides of this farmer-owned cooperative established in 2019.

**On this farm tour you'll learn about:**

- Grain production
- Fertigation systems for vegetable row-crop production
- Wholesale vegetable crop production for the SW Washington Food Hub
- Contract malting barley production through the SW Washington Growers cooperative for regional for Great Western Malting
- The vagaries of keeping a 7<sup>th</sup> generation farm going through 150 years of change

Please email [anna.salafsky@wsu.edu](mailto:anna.salafsky@wsu.edu) to register.

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# Conservation Grazing for Oregon spotted frog



**AUGUST  
26TH**

**9AM-12PM**

RSVP Required  
Parking is limited  
and attendees will be  
shuttled to site.  
RSVP with the QR  
code below



Join the SW Washington Grazing Association at Mima Creek Preserve in south Thurston County to learn about grazing as a restoration tool for the Oregon spotted frog, a federally threatened species. The Center for Natural Lands Management, Tracking Y Ranch, Ecostudies Institute, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been working together for several years to experimentally evaluate how well different grazing regimes affect reed canarygrass, frog habitat, and water quality. Come see the impacts of these treatments and learn about additional opportunities for conservation grazing!

**This event is one of our SW WA Grazing  
Association events.  
All are welcome!**



Click [here](#) to register.



WSU Puyallup  
Research & Extension Center  
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



Oregon State **OSU** Extension  
UNIVERSITY Service

# COVER CROP ESTABLISHMENT: WORKSHOP FOR VEGETABLE FARMERS

**Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> 2:30-6:00 pm**

**WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center:  
2606 W Pioneer Ave, Puyallup, WA 98371**

**Cost: \$10.00**

**Event page and registration link:** <https://wsucovercropworkshop.bpt.me>

This workshop will feature seeding equipment, calibration demonstrations, interseeding, reduced tillage, and lively discussions with a panel of experienced farmers. Learn more about selecting and establishing cover crops in vegetable rotations.



*Interseeded cover crop (right) compared to no cover crop (left)*



*Tractor-mounted interseeder*

This event is for vegetable farmers of all production scales and other interested professionals. Forward to help spread the word.

## **Farmer Panelists**

Rawley Johnson, Early Bird Farm  
Ryan Lichttenegger, Steel Wheel  
Burr Mosby, Mosby Farms  
Emily Strong, The Farm at Franklin  
Pierce Schools

## **Other Speakers:**

Doug Collins, WSU Extension  
Nick Andrews, OSU Extension  
Ali Nichols, Pierce Conservation District  
Nick Sirovatka, NRCS

Click **here** to register.





WSU EXTENSION  
Thurston County

## *The Extension Connection*

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE. CHANGING LIVES.

Our Ag, 4H, WSU Master Gardeners, Master Recycler Composters, SNAP-Ed, Native Plant Salvage & Water Resources programs have been hard at work this past quarter. Check out the latest issue of The Extension Connection to learn more.

Click [here](#) to read the full newsletter.

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### **AgWest New Producers Grant**

AgWest Farm Credit recognizes that the lack of start-up funds can be challenging for many new producers. This grant opportunity celebrates the ingenuity and passion of new producers and helps their dreams come to fruition. This grant was developed for those who have a vision for their operation but lack the funds to put their plans into action.

Click [here](#) for more information & to apply.

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## Burnt Ridge Nursery & Orchards - Farm Tour

Saturday, September 9th, 1:30pm to 3:30pm  
Onalaska, WA

Join Burnt Ridge for a public Farm and Nursery Tour, with their founder Michael Dolan leading the way as they share with you their 20 acres of organic fruits and nuts, with a special focus on crops that ripen in the summer.

Click [here](#) for more information & to register.

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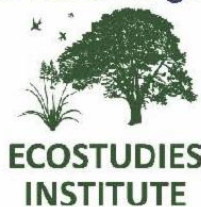


## CONSERVATION & ECOLOGICALLY FRIENDLY GRAZING

SEPTEMBER 9TH, 9AM - 4PM  
LITTLEROCK, WA

SPACE LIMITED - REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
**RSVP TO [NWHITE@THURSTONCD.COM](mailto:nwhite@thurstoncd.com)**

Join the SW WA Grazing Association in welcoming Beth Robinette and Alex Machado of the New Cowgirl Camp for this workshop! Come learn practical tools for how to assess pasture health and plan your grazing to maximize ecological benefit. This full-day workshop will give participants a simple framework to observe ecological processes that can be applied to their own land, empowering producers to track changes over time and adapt their management in response. Participants will also get an introduction to the creation of a holistic grazing plan and a step-by-step walk-through.



WSU EXTENSION  
Thurston County



Please email [nwhite@thurstoncd.com](mailto:nwhite@thurstoncd.com) to register.





## Piece by Piece - Farm Walk

Wednesday, September 13th, 5:00pm to 7:00pm  
8615 James Rd SW Rochester, WA 98579

Join us for a farm walk to with Laura and Kelly at Piece by Piece Farm. This Rochester-based farm is a long-time organic vegetable operation originally based out of the South Bay area in North Thurston County. Kelly and Laura produce a wide variety of the best vegetables you will ever to eat in your life. The farm sells through farmers markets, an occasional CSA program, and through a variety of wholesale accounts.

### On this farm tour you'll learn about:

- Organic production practices
- Crop rotation & cover crops
- Habitat enhancement & management
- And much more!

Please email [anna.salafsky@wsu.edu](mailto:anna.salafsky@wsu.edu) to register.

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# WSU EXTENSION WHOLE FARM PLANNING

Online course Mondays 6pm-8pm

Sept 25th - Dec 4th, 2023

Whether you are just exploring the opportunities available or already have an existing operation, you'll learn what it takes to create, sustain, and grow a viable small farm.



## PLANIFICACIÓN DE TODA LA GRANJA

Curso en línea los lunes 6pm-8pm  
25 de septiembre al 4 de diciembre 2023

*Ya sea que este explorando nuevas oportunidades disponibles o que ya tenga una operación existente, aprenderá lo que se necesita para crear, sostener y hacer crecer su granja de pequeña escala.*



Scholarships available for Veterans and anyone for whom the course fee is a barrier. This course will be offered with Spanish language interpretation and facilitation.

*Hay becas disponibles para veteranos militares y cualquier persona para quien la tarifa del curso sea una barrera. ¡Curso traducido al Español! Este curso se ofrecerá con interpretación y facilitación en español.*



Learn More/Más información:

<https://www.cultivatingsuccesswa.org/whole-farm-planning>  
[cultivating.success@wsu.edu](mailto:cultivating.success@wsu.edu)/360-399-6052 (español)

Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Evidence of non-compliance may be reported through your local Extension Office. Nuestros programas y políticas son consistentes con las leyes y regulaciones federales y estatales sobre la no discriminación por motivos de raza, color, género, origen nacional, religión, edad, discapacidad y orientación sexual. La evidencia de incumplimiento puede ser reportada a través de su Oficina de Extensión local.

Click **here** for more information & to register.





## WSDA Compost Reimbursement Program

The Washington State Legislature has allocated grant funding to reimburse Washington farmers for purchasing and spreading compost on their land. The Compost Reimbursement Program aims to encourage on-farm use of commercial compost. For eligible farms, the program will pay up to 50% of the cost to obtain, transport, and spread compost, not to exceed \$10,000, per farm per year.

The program also studies the benefits of compost application on soil quality. Farms participating in the program are required to collect and submit soil samples for several years from fields where compost was applied. Soil sample collection prior to compost application is required for participation. WSDA will analyze and evaluate the results of the soil samples over time for department reporting requirements.

Farms must sign a grant agreement contract with WSDA to participate in the program. All program records and data are subject to public disclosure.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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## Plastic Mulch is Problematic - and Everywhere. Can We Do Better?

"Plastic is used abundantly in agriculture, but it's nearly impossible to dispose of sustainably. Researchers and growers are searching for solutions, and they're using strawberries to do it."

Click [here](#) to read the full Modern Farmer article.

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## Inflation is Hurting Meal Providers as Need for Food Rises

"When Robert Avery goes to the grocery store, he compares the prices, just like his mother taught him.

He'll buy an extra loaf of bread or block of cheese if it will get him a deal, but because he's currently living outside, he doesn't have a place to refrigerate perishables. And there's only so much food prep he can do on a bench, he said.

Over the last year, Avery has relied on Community Lunch on Capitol Hill from Monday through Friday to meet his nutritional needs. He receives about \$300 in food benefits a month, but that's hardly enough to cover his evening meals, he said, especially with inflation rates.

A recent **Seattle Times** analysis found that costs rose over 20% in the Seattle area over the last three years, putting it on par with increases in San Francisco."

Click [here](#) to read the full Seattle Times article.

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## **Agriculture Summit to Focus on Food Security, Aquaculture**

"The Thrive Hawaii Agrifood Summit will bring together leaders in agriculture, aquaculture and investing for the Asia Pacific region on Sept. 26-27 at the Hawaii Convention Center on Oahu.

The two-day event will focus on the following topics: soil health and biodiversity, increasing food security, decreasing or offsetting greenhouse gas emissions and aquaculture technology."

Click [here](#) to read the full Bizjournals article.

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# 2023 Master Recycler Composter Volunteer Training



## WANTED:

Passionate people who love to:

- Recycle or compost
- Re-use or re-purpose items
- Reduce food waste
- Raise community awareness

The WSU Thurston County Extension and Thurston County Public Works are recruiting for the 2023 Master Recycler Composter (MRC) Volunteer Training.

MRC volunteers are trained on how to reduce waste and increase public awareness about waste reduction, recycling, and composting in Thurston County. Upon completion of training, course graduates agree to give a minimum of 25 hours of yearly service inspiring others to reduce waste at home and work.

### 2023 Training Schedule

Thursdays 6:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

September 21, 28

October 5, 12, 19, 26

November 2, 9

Saturdays 9:00a.m. — 1p.m.

October 7, 14

November 4

### Training Fee

\$25

### Application Deadline

Friday, September 1 at 5 p.m.

Scan code for more information



**For more information or how to apply for the MRC Volunteer Training, visit our website:**

<https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/gardening/mc>

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, and either live, work, or operate a business in Thurston County.

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office. If you require special accommodations please contact the Thurston County Master Recycler Composter office at least two weeks prior to the event at [cori.carlton@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:cori.carlton@co.thurston.wa.us).



Click [here](#) for more information & to apply.



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