



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter



October 2023

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

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WSDA Organic Office Hours

Friday, October 27th

Are you curious about transitioning to organic production? Have you wondered if organic certification would be a good fit for your farm and markets? Or do you have questions about your existing certification and organic standards?

Don't miss the opportunity to sit down face to face with WSDA and get your questions answered! Join the WSDA Organic Program team for Organic Office Hours on Friday, October 27. Sign up ahead of time to reserve a time, or simply stop by on a break or in between sessions. Knowledgeable inspectors and review staff will be ready with forms, factsheets, and expertise to help you navigate the organic certification requirements and help you determine next steps for your farm.

Click [here](#) for more information and to reserve a timeslot.



WSDA Local Food System Infrastructure Grant

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is offering Local Food System Infrastructure Grants to support local food supply chains and market access for farms, ranches, and food businesses. The intention is to fund projects that expand and strengthen collaboration across linkages in the regional food supply chain.

This includes planning, equipment, and facilities that support on-farm post-harvest handling, aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, distribution, and sale of Washington grown, caught, and raised foods.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Hedgerows

WEBINAR + WORKSHOP

GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH A HEDGEROW PLANTING ON A LOCAL FARM!

FREE WEBINAR: Hedgerows 101

- Designing a hedgerow: benefits, site prep, plant choice, and maintenance
- Overview of local hedgerow project at Helsing Junction Farm

November 1, 2023
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

FREE WORKSHOP: Installation

- Bareroot, potted, and livestock planting techniques
- Site prep & maintenance
- Planting plans & plant-spacing
- Pollinators & beneficial insects

November 4, 2023
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Snacks &
warm drinks
included!



Native Plant Society
FOUNDATION



WSU EXTENSION
Thurston County

Click [here](#) for details and registration link.



Southwest Washington Food Hub Winter Multi-Farm Produce Box

Sign up for the winter Multi-Farm Box to enjoy a customizable weekly share of produce.

The Multi-Farm produce boxes will feature winter's *greatest hits* from our 20+ local farm members! Multi-Farm Boxes will contain 8-11 items per week of a curated mix of produce that you can choose for yourself.

The season lasts 10 weeks, with pick ups on Thursdays from November 30 to February 9,

with no deliveries on December 28.

Winter is right around the corner, sign up now to reserve your spot!

Click [here](#) for more details and to sign up.



Introducing the Coalition for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture

Did you know that Washington is home to 949 certified organic farms that generated \$769 million in sales in 2021? Did you know that certified organic acreage in Washington has more than tripled from 45,000 acres in 1995 to 149,343 acres in 2021? Did you know that Washington is second only to California in both sales volume and diversity of organic crop production? Washington is an organic powerhouse, but there is so much more potential to grow the sector and realize the environmental, health and social benefits that organic and regenerative agriculture can deliver. The Coalition for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture, or CORA, was formed in 2022 with just that in mind!

Click [here](#) to learn more.



Prairie Protection Lead Job Opening with Washington

Department of Fish & Wildlife

WDFW is hiring a “Prairie Protection Lead” who will focus on assisting WDFW and partners with the land acquisition and easement and process to benefit South Sound SGCN and the partnership in meeting shared objectives.

The roles of this individual will include:

- Shepherd priority project opportunities through WDFW processes to select conservation lands for acquisition
- Coordinate with partners to develop habitat protection opportunities in South Puget Sound prairie habitats
- Develop and deliver habitat protection grant applications
- Internal cross-program coordination

The position is slated as full-time for 18 months but may be extended if successful.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



Digital Dialogues Offer Orcharding Advice

"A Yakima, Washington, startup is inventing an AI chatbot for the tree fruit industry. They're not alone.

Kragworks Ag Solutions is one of several farm service companies, startups and technotinkerers launching virtual consultants to answer questions about yield, weather and profitability in conversational style with generative artificial intelligence using large language models."

Click [here](#) to read the full Good Fruit Grower Article.

2024 AgrAbility National Training Workshop

March 25-28

Save the Date!

Join us in **Atlanta, GA** on March 25-28, 2024 for the AgrAbility National Training Workshop, the premier training event addressing issues of disability in agriculture. Professionals and consumers from all over the country will participate in four days of plenary sessions, breakouts, tours, networking, and special events. This year's conference headquarters is the **Grand Hyatt Atlanta/Buckhead** in Atlanta.



Click [here](#) for more information.



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