



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter



January 2024

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

In This Issue:

- SoilCon: Diversified Organic - February 8
- Climate Change & Food Production - A Growers Conference - January 26-27
- WSDA Regional Markets Traveling Office Hours - January 24-25
- Save the Date: 2024 Southwest Washington Grazing School
- Local Farmers Have Banded Together to Sell You Fresher Produce - The Olympian Article
- New SARE Bulletin: Best Practices for the Sustainable Urban Farm
- USDA On-Farm Food Safety Expenses Assistance
- Agroforestry Volunteers Needed
- Local Advocacy 101: Protecting Farmland in Washington - February 8
- 2024 Conservation Futures Grant Funding - Now Accepting Applications
- Land Protection Specialist Job Opportunity
- Remote Work Certificate Course
- Wanted: Plastic Mulch Lifter for Rent
- Wanted: Upright Piano for Extension Office

Help support the Cougs with a donation to WSU College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences

[Make a Gift Today!](#)

SOILCON24

Diverse Solutions for Diverse Soils

SoilCon: Diversified Organic

Feb. 8th, 8 am – 12 pm PST

WSU Puyallup Research & Extension Center - Puyallup, WA or anywhere online

Featured Topics

Basics of livestock integration

Producer Panel

Long-term soil health research

An equipment tour

Featured Speakers



Helen Atthowe, *Author & Farmer*

Helen Atthowe has worked for 35 years to connect farming, food systems, land stewardship, and conservation. She is author of the recently published book, *The Ecological Farm*. She has farmed in Montana, California, and Oregon and her on-farm research includes ecological weed and insect management, organic minimum soil disturbance systems for vegetable and orchard crops and managing living mulches for soil and habitat building. **The Ecological Farm will be available for purchase at the event.**



Dani Gelardi, *Senior Soil Scientist*

Dani Gelardi is the Senior Soil Scientist at the Washington Department of Agriculture, where she leads the WSDA portion of the Washington Soil Health Initiative. She received her Ph.D. in Soils & Biogeochemistry from the University of California, Davis, as a Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) Fellow. Prior to graduate school, Dani worked with farmers through agricultural nonprofits and advocacy groups.

Find more information and register at
wasoilhealth.org

CCA CEU's Available *



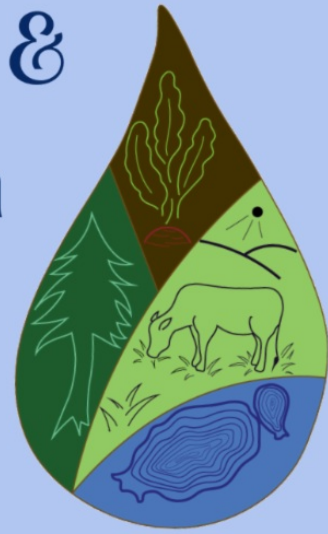
Proudly organized
and sponsored by:



Anyone attending this program who requires auxiliary aids or services, please contact Molly McIlquham at 360-610-7353 or molly.mcilquham@wsu.edu. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.
*CEUs only available for in person attendance.

Click [here](http://wasoilhealth.org) for more information and to register.

Climate Change & Food Production A Grower's Conference



DAY 1: FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Join us for our Friday night celebration of local food at the Eagles Ballroom in Olympia. This evening event is a fundraiser for the Southwest Washington Food Hub and will feature local food prepared by local chefs. Engage in a fireside chat between our communities' farmers and chefs to learn about local food infrastructure and access, and enjoy live music from Briarfinch.



Scan for Friday
Tickets!

DAY 2: SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

Join us for our Saturday conference to learn about emerging climate change science, how this is impacting our farming community, and tools and practices to support adaptation and mitigation of climate change. This event will begin with an opening speaker, Chantay Anderson from the Nisqually Community Garden followed by workshops, a resource fair, and an exciting keynote address by author, Dr. David Montgomery!



Scan for Saturday
Tickets!

*Growers, gardeners, farmers, and all
interested people are welcome!*



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



WSDA Regional Markets Traveling Office Hours

Wednesday, January 24th - Thursday, January 26th

WSDA Regional Markets Program is visiting several locations around the state in the next several months to connect with farmers and support new farm to school purchasing relationships. These events are geared towards local farmers and school/childcare food purchasers.

Each gathering will have two hours:

Office Hour for Farmers: Come learn about the WSDA Regional Markets Program, which offers information, resources, training and technical assistance, and regulatory guidance to farms and local buyers of Washington agricultural products. Program Staff will be on hand to answer your questions and share resources to support your small farm business. Other regional farm service providers will also be on hand to share resources.

Farm to School Networking for School Buyers & Local Farmers: Join WSDA for a facilitated networking hour to learn about successful farm to school partnerships and meet one-on-one with interested farmers and school/childcare food purchasers.

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

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON GRAZING SCHOOL

MULTI-DAY INTENSIVE

April 18 - April 21 - Skookumchuck Grange - Tenino, WA - 8:00am-8:00pm

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Beef, sheep, or goat producers, dairy operators, and horse owners
- Technical service providers supporting livestock producers including NRCS, Conservation District, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees

LEARN HOW TO:

Half of the time will be spent in the field for hands-on learning

- Evaluate biomass for planned grazing
- Portion out forage through grazing paddocks
- Design grazing cells for a targeted stocking rate and density
- Install, troubleshoot, and fix electrical fencing systems
- Assess pasture health
- Improve soil and forage resources to improve health and productivity

HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT:

- Improve pasture management skills
- Develop, improve and practice grazing management skills
- Reduce hay production and save feeding costs
- Improve pasture productivity
- Diversify with more resilient and nutritious forage resources
- Extend the grazing season and reduce harvested forages
- Raise healthier livestock


PARTICIPATION COSTS:

Includes 3 meals per day

- Cost Per Person: \$300
- Cost Per Family/Ranch Team: \$300 for the first person, and \$200 for each subsequent person
- Please inquire about scholarships
 - Available to all veterans
 - Others welcome to inquire

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Stephen Bramwell

 (360) 790-9308

 bramwell@wsu.edu

 <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/event/sw-wa-grazing-school-2/>

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodations need to contact Stephen Bramwell.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office or to the WSU Center for Human Rights.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Local Farmers Have Banded Together to Sell You Fresher Produce. Here's why

This fall and winter, dozens of residents are opting to pick up weekly boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables at local businesses and workplaces rather than buying similar produce from supermarkets.

They are each members of regional farm box programs operated by the Southwest Washington Food Hub, a farmer-owned cooperative that launched in 2020.

The cooperative modeled their box programs, now in their third season, after similar Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs. These crop-sharing systems usually allow consumers to buy part of a harvest directly from a local farm.

But rather than buy from one farm, members of the SW WA Food Hub's farm box programs are getting produce from a collective of over 20 small- and mid-sized farms.

"I think it's a really convenient way to get local produce," said SW WA Food Hub sales manager Annie Salafsky. "It's kind of similar to going to the farmers market without any of the hassles, so it's like an online farmers market."

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



New SARE Bulletin: Best Practices for the Sustainable Urban Farm

For decades, urban farms and community gardens have helped meet demand for fresh and local produce. Urban farming creatively utilizes limited space, conserves land and transforms vacant lots or buildings into productive greenspaces. Farming in cities can be a rewarding way for communities to grow healthy food while receiving a wide range of other interrelated environmental, economic and social benefits.

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



USDA On-Farm Food Safety Expenses Assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds specialty crop growers that assistance is available for producers who incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses to obtain or renew a food safety certification through the Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) program. Producers can apply for assistance on their calendar year 2023 expenses through Jan. 31, 2024.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Agroforestry

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH AN AGROFORESTRY PLANTING ON A LOCAL FARM!



AGROFORESTRY IN ACTION

February 7, 2024

6:30 PM - 7:45 PM

Online Webinar

PLANT & LEARN WORKSHOP

February 10, 2024

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Cosmic Carrot Farm, Yelm

PLANT & LEARN WORKSHOP

February 17, 2024

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Dancing Goats and Singing Chickens Farm, Yelm



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension Forestry



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



American Farmland Trust

SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

Local Advocacy 101: Protecting Farmland in Washington

Thursday, February 8th - 10:00am

Are you concerned about farmland loss in your community in Washington? Many farmers are seeing urban sprawl threaten their farms and the local food system.

The primary mechanism to protect farmland in Washington is the Growth Management Act (GMA). Through comprehensive plans, local elected officials balance many priorities to manage population growth, including farmland protection. But the success of the GMA relies on active communities that advocate for the things we want to protect. Counties across western Washington are currently updating their comprehensive plans, and the rest will follow in the coming years.

Join American Farmland Trust for an upcoming virtual training that will teach farmers and farmland enthusiasts how to influence change in their communities through upcoming comprehensive plan updates. Participants will learn how to engage in county planning, develop talking points to share stories that inspire change, elevate the urgency of farmland protection, and offer tangible solutions to local policymakers.

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



Conservation Futures Grant Funding Opportunity

Conservation Futures is a Thurston county program providing grants to protect farmland, historic properties, wildlife habitat and other types of eligible land through preservation.

The program provides grant funding to qualified conservation organizations so they can purchase property or future development rights.

Submit completed application now through Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 5 p.m. Pacific Time.

Ways to Submit a Completed Application

- **Submit via Email:** Andrew.Deffobis@co.thurston.wa.us
- **Submit in Person:**

Board of County Commissioners Office
3000 Pacific Avenue SE, 1st Floor reception desk
Olympia, WA 98501

- **Submit via Mail:**

Thurston County
ATTN: Andrew Deffobis, CPED
3000 Pacific Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501

To be eligible, a property must have unique or valuable wildlife habitat, agricultural, forestry, historic, or recreational features. Applications must be sponsored by an eligible organization such as a land trust or city government.

In order to be accepted for consideration, completed applications must be received at or before 5 p.m. Thursday, February 29th.

Click [here](#) to learn more and find application paperwork, criteria, and instructions.



North Olympic Land Trust Land Protection Specialist Job Opportunity

Based in Port Angeles, on the beautiful Olympic Peninsula, the Land Protection Specialist is a permanent, full-time, non-exempt position that reports to the Conservation Director and serves as the principal staff member working with willing landowners toward the permanent conservation of their land. The Land Protection Specialist is crucial to the Land Trust's Strategic Plan and its emphasis on farmland conservation, habitat and biodiversity, and climate resilience. The position is responsible for moving projects through the land protection process using a diverse conservation toolbox including conservation easements and property purchases.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Learn to *Work from Anywhere.*

Earn Your Remote Work Certificate Today!



"I really believe because of this program, it gave me a leg up."

JUSTINE SALAZAR, AN OKANOGAN COUNTY RESIDENT WHO OBTAINED A REMOTE WORK POSITION AFTER COMPLETING THE COURSE

The Remote Work Certificate is a specialized training course that will equip rural residents with the skills needed to compete for remote on-line jobs.

81%



Percentage of graduates who are currently employed

57%



Percentage of graduates who were hired after they took the course

Class Details:

- 9 Modules
- 4-Week Course
- Creates Access to Jobs
- Work from Home

A STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP



REMOTE
ONLINE
INITIATIVE



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

AWB
INSTITUTE



REMOTE
ONLINE
INITIATIVE™



› **SIGN UP
NOW!** ›

Extension.WSU.edu/RemoteWorkCertificate

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



Wanted: Plastic Mulch Lifter for Rent

Do you have a plastic mulch lifter that you are willing to rent to a local farmer? Or do you know someone who would be willing to rent out their equipment?

Contact bramwell@wsu.edu with information.



Wanted: Upright Piano for Extension Office

Do you have an upright piano that you're ready to part ways with? The Thurston County WSU Extension office is looking to add an upright piano to our conference room.

Contact bramwell@wsu.edu for details.



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Email
Us

Visit our
Website



WSU Extension Thurston County | 3054 Carpenter Rd SE, Lacey, WA 98503 (360) 867-2189

[Unsubscribe](#) nicole.ross@co.thurston.wa.us

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by yashley.downs@co.thurston.wa.us powered by



Try email marketing for free today!