Announcements

4-H Enrollment night, November 1, 2017, 5:30-7:00 PM, High School Library. Starting this year all 4-H enrollment will be online for new 4-H members and re-enrolling members. Come get assistance online and get answers to any questions you may have. For more information, call Lisbeth or Sheree at the Extension Office, 509-843-3701.

Women In Agriculture Conference, November 18, 2017, Host sites in Pullman and Walla Walla
In 2016, over 600 women at 27 locations gathered to learn, network and be inspired. Watch featured speakers on videoconference, have the opportunity to ask questions and interact. At each location, a panel of women farmers will talk about their leadership roles, the challenges they faced and how they used a mentor to develop their skills. Join in for a day full of learning and networking. For more information, please visit the website at: WomenInAg.wsu.edu or email: donna.rolen@wsu.edu call: 509.745.8531

Pesticide Recertification Training, December 11, 12, 2017 Pasco, WA TRAC Center Expo Hall.
Directions and Training Agenda: pep.wsu.edu
Registration Questions: 509-335-2830
mailto:pest@wsu.edu
License Information
WSDA 877-301-4555
mailto:license@agr.wa.gov
agr.wa.gov/FP/Pubs/docs/Form4375.pdf

Livestock & Farming

WSU Extension Launches Statewide Animal AG Website
Animal agriculture has an important role in Washington’s economy and communities. WSU Extension faculty and specialists involved in animal agriculture production from across Washington state have launched an updated version of the Washington State University Extension Animal Ag Website (http://extension.wsu.edu/animalag/). Information from the WSU Extension Central Animal Agriculture website (http://www.animalag.wsu.edu) will be included in the new site and the URL will direct you to the new statewide site.

Residue Yield Calculator Now Available Online
Crop residue is a valuable by-product in crop production. Leaving adequate amounts of residue on agriculture fields can effectively control soil erosion and improve soil health. Crop residue can also be used as a feedstock for biofuel, paper, or mushroom production as feed and bedding for livestock.
Estimating how much crop residue your crop can produce is important for understanding how the residue can be used to add economic or ecological benefits to your farm’s operation. Unlike estimating grain yield, which is typically measured directly through yield monitoring, residue production is generally estimated indirectly based on grain yield. Washington State University has developed a Residue Production Calculator.

Crop residue estimates are based on peer-reviewed equations that describe relationships between residue and grain yield for dryland cereal and legume crops grown in the inland Pacific Northwest (iPNW). Although iPNW-calibrated equations are unavailable for rye, triticale, and canola, the Residue Production Calculator estimates residue production based on typical harvest indices for these crops.

Access the Residue Yield Calculator. (https://residueproduction.cahnrs.wsu.edu/).

For questions or comments, contact Haiying Tao by email at haiying.tao@wsu.edu at the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Washington State University.

Seeding Rate Converter Is Now Online

Seeding rate is among the many factors that affect grain yield that can be controlled. The ability to control seeding rate allows farmers flexibility in their management practices. For example, when fall seeding is delayed the tillering period is shortened. To compensate for this reduction in fall tillers, farmers can increase seeding rates.

To some Extent, wheat is inherently capable of compensating for factors that influence yield. However, optimum seeding rates are required to optimize the plant population, which in turn is important for maximizing grain yield and quality and controlling weeds.

Seeding rates are typically expressed as seeds per acre or pounds per acre. Determining seeding rates using pounds per acre is problematic because seed size and weight can differ considerably among plant varieties. Seeding different varieties at the same pounds per acre can result in significantly different plant populations. Therefore, to maximize yield seeding rate recommendations in pounds per acre should be converted to seeds per acre.

Sometimes recommendations for good wheat stands are based on seedlings per foot of row. To use this recommendation, a farmer must decide the optimal number of seeds per foot of row at a time of planting. This number can be estimated by identifying the target seedling number per foot of row and adjusting that number for seed germination and mortality rates. This adjusted target number of seeds that should be planted per foot of row. The final seeding rate can then be calculated as pounds per acre.

Calculating seeding rates and converting among the different units of measure—seeds per acre, pounds per acre, or seedlings per foot of row—can be tedious and time consuming. Washington State University has developed a user-friendly, online seeding rate converter (https://seedingrate.cahnrs.wsu.edu/) that is now available for your convenience.

For questions or comments, contact Haiying Tao (mailto:haiying.tao@wsu.edu) at the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Washington State University.

Food Safety

Choose A Pressure Canner To Safely Preserve

Adapted from Janet Hackert, University of Missouri Extension

With each year’s growing season, there seems to be another round of “new and improved” kitchen gadgets to make preserving the harvest easier and better. Some can be a great help; others, like the electric multi-cooker appliances, may not result in the safe canned product one might be expecting.
University of Georgia Cooperative Extension’s National Center for Home Food Preservation (NCHP) released comments warning against the use of electric multi-cookers for canning. They warn “We do not support the use of the USDA canning processes in the electric, multi-cooker appliances now containing ‘canning’ or ‘steam canning’ buttons on their front panels.”

The NCHFP, which has conducted testing and made the canning recommendations the USDA endorses, explains their cautious reception of these appliances. The purpose of canning is to first destroy any microorganisms that may be present in food, which can cause foodborne illness, and then seal the jar to preserve the food’s safety and make it shelf-stable. Testing involves measuring the temperature inside and throughout the jar of food during processing to make sure all food will reach required temperatures for the necessary length of time to render it fully safe.

For Low acid foods, like vegetables and meats, the USDA’s recommendations for pressure canning must be followed. Because of their low acid content, temperatures higher than the boiling point of water must be reached and this is only possible by processing under pressure. But the environment in the pressure canner is also critical to safely can. For example, the USDA guidelines say to vent the pressure canner for ten minutes. This evacuates the interior of air which, if left in the canner, can lower the actual pressure (AND temperature) inside the canner. Likewise, elevation affects the pressure inside the canner and so tested recommendations include appropriate altitude adjustments. According to NCHP, “The position of jars in the canner and flow of steam around them also impacts the temperature in the jars.”

It is unknown if the new appliances have been adequately tested with thermal process canning work. So although they may have a button that indicates canning, the resulting safety of the food is smaller than what is required to follow the USDA recommendations. The USDA recommends “using only pressure cookers/cannners that hold four or more quart-size jars.”

For more information, visit the National Center for Home Food Preservation website and search for electric multi-cookers. For a fact sheet on this topic, see Burning Issue: Canning in Electric Multi-Cookers. To watch a short video explaining what to look for in a safe canner and showing what is approved for both pressure canning and boiling water canning, go to http://nchfp.uga.edu/video/pressure_canners.html.

Have Your Pressure Gauge Checked Annually

A pressure canner is essential for canning low-acid vegetables and poultry. Two basic types are available. One has a dial gauge to indicate the pressure inside the canner; the other has a metal weighted gauge. Dial gauges must be tested for accuracy before each canning season.

The University of Idaho, Nez Perce County Extension Office offers free testing of your canning pressure gauge. Bring your gauge in to the office located at 1239 Idaho Street, Lewiston, ID 83501, or call 208-799-3096 for more information. They can test it within 24 hours, and sometimes while you wait.

Check the rubber gasket if your canner has one; it should be flexible and soft, not brittle sticky or cracked. Also, make sure any small pipes or ventports with openings are clean and open all the way through.
A note from Master Gardener Sue Fitzgerald

The Master Gardener gardening class will begin this January and run through April. The classes will be held Tuesday’s at the Clarkston Campus of Walla Walla Community College. Anyone wanting to increase their knowledge is welcome. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener, this is your chance! There will be speakers from WSU and U of I as well as local experts. For more information, contact Janice Reed at the Asotin County Extension Office, 509-243-2009 or email janice.reed@wsu.edu.

The Master Gardeners are working with the Pomeroy Elementary third grade class again this year. We are using the new raised beds on the south side of the school. These were made possible from a grant from the Shepherd Foundation and the talents of Larry Carey for making them.

The Master Gardeners were busy at the fair this year! We had a concessions booth to raise money to purchase fruits and vegetable snacks as well as growing supplies and seeds for the third grade class.

If you are looking for some fall color, try the following plants that do well in our area.

- **Mums**: come in a wide variety of flower types and colors.
- **Asters**: come in purple, violet and pink flowers.
- **Shrub Roses**: The David Austin and Knock Out series may bloom from October to November.
- **Virginia Creeper**: Blooms in summer with red/orange flowers with a lot of fall leaf color.
- **Oak Leaf Hydrangeas**: Produce a white summer flower and burgundy fall leaves.
- **Spires Mallow**: Produces yellow/gold to rust leaves.
- **Beauty Berry and Winter Berry**: Both have gold fall leaves with red or white berries.
Fall Garden Chores

It is time to dig Gladiola corms when their leaves turn yellow. Dahlias, after a heavy frost, wait a few days and then dig. Remove the top growth and allow to dry in a cool dark place. After they have cured, store in sand vermiculite or peat moss. Clean up your flower beds and vegetable gardens. The more you get done now the less you will have to do next spring! Consider a cover crop in your vegetable garden, such as winter wheat or a legume. This will add organic material to the soil after it is tilled in next spring and help keep the soil from compacting over the winter.

Rake up your leaves! Those leaves are a source of calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium and trace minerals. Leaf humus can lighten heavy clay soil or increase moisture retention of sandy soil. If you want to speed up decomposition, shred the leaves or mow over a pile of leaves to turn them into smaller pieces. You can also add to the pile soil, grass clippings, manure and kitchen scraps. If you don’t want to rake the leaves, just mow them where they are. They will break down over the winter and feed the lawn next spring. Mow once a week, as long as you don’t have a heavy cover; if so you should mow more often. Mowed leaves feed worms, fungi and soil bacteria, which helps to keep the lawn healthy.

Winter annual weeds should be controlled now. A few types of winter annual weeds are, chick weed, annual blue grass, hare barley, and hen bit. The seeds of these weeds have germinated or are just waiting for the right conditions to germinate. They grow slowly over the winter, then as spring warms up the soil, their growth accelerates, they will flower and spread thousands of seeds in your garden. At this time they are small and easy to pull or dig out.

So get out and get busy in your gardens! The winter snow is coming soon! Happy Gardening!

Sue Fitzgerald
Fair was a tremendous success and we thank the many volunteers that gave countless hours of their time to help make it happen! Also a huge Thank You to the buyers that purchased animals and the Market Sale Committee for their support and organization.

2017 Garfield County Fair Beef Carcass Winners Announced
Data was collected on 14 of the 2017 Garfield County Fair 4-H and FFA Steers. Steers were evaluated on back fat, rib eye area, and on their ability to marble (Quality Grade). Four of the 14 steers met the WSU Carcass of Merit requirements. Congratulations to Makayla Miller, who had the overall top ranked carcass with a Yield Grade of 2.1 and a Quality Grade of Low Choice. Makayla’s steer was also named the FFA Grand Champion at the fair.

Other steers receiving Carcass of Merit designation included Kyzer Herres (2nd place overall carcass); Grayson Slaybaugh (3rd place overall carcass); and Carmen Gingerich (4th place overall carcass).

Carcass data on all 14 of the steers is available at the WSU Garfield County Extension Office; or by contacting Mark Heitstuman at mailto:Heitstuman@wsu.edu

2018 4-H Enrollment
We are now in a new 4-H Year! Join us November 1st in the computer lab of Pomeroy High School, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, to explore the opportunities that 4-H has to offer! 4-H offers more than 100 different hands-on projects, including animal science, art, global citizenship, leadership, STEM and more!

WSU Extension 4-H Youth Development is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all youth and adults.

Take this opportunity to explore the possibility of becoming a 4-H leader! Leaders are the foundation of 4-H, and play a key role in helping young people grow and become active members of their communities.

The Pomeroy Ag Issues Team traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana! The had the opportunity to present to and tour the Kelsay Dairy Farm and present to a group of students and faculty at Purdue University, as well as AgReliant Genetics Corporate Headquarters.
Tried and True Minestrone, from www.pulses.org

**Ingredients**

- 1 1/2 cups tubetti pasta
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 8 cups chicken or veggie broth
- 2 tbsp. garlic, chopped
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 large carrots, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tbsp. fresh thyme
- 1 can white kidney beans rinsed
- 2 medium zucchini, chopped
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp pepper
- 3 cans white kidney beans rinsed
- 1 can chickpeas rinsed
- 1 can red kidney beans rinsed
- 2 cans white kidney beans rinsed
- 1 can white kidney beans rinsed
- 1 can chickpeas

1. Cook pasta according to direction on package. Cook until al dente, Drain and toss with olive oil. Set aside.
2. In large saucepan on high, heat oil. Add garlic and sauté until golden.
3. Lower heat to medium adding carrots, celery and onion. Cook until soft, stirring often, about 10 minutes. Add herbs and raise heat to high. Add beans, chickpeas, tomatoes and zucchini.
4. Add chicken stock and bring to a boil.
5. Lower heat and simmer for 15-20 minutes, skimming foam from top.

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