

WSU Extension Island County

Food Systems Newsletter

October 2018

WSU Agriculture News

[WSU research included in \\$4.6 million awarded for Washington specialty crops](#)

WSU bee researchers are among [25 recipients](#) of \$4.6 million in 2018 USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funds awarded by WSDA for innovative projects to support the state's fruit, vegetable, and nursery industry through the federal Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBG).

[Grapes, onions, garlic: \\$5.6M research projects aim to protect specialty crops](#)

Two national research teams led by scientists at Washington State University will protect valuable U.S. grape, onion and garlic crops from devastating and fast-adapting pests and diseases, thanks to more than \$5.6 million in Specialty Crop Research Initiative grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[Fall 2018 issue of WSU Viticulture and Enology Extension News](#)

Topics discussed: WA state soil salinity and sodicity, northern root-knot nematode, sprayer pressure gauges, a highlight of the Washington State Grape and Wine Research Program, and some updates from the Washington Wine Industry Foundation and Washington Winegrowers!

[Cougar donations feed momentum to build a world-renowned pollinator center](#)

"A large proportion of seed crops rely on bees for pollination," said Ken Christianson, a retired seed grower. "The WSU bee program really resonated with both my wife and I because the work they do is so essential to the future of agriculture."

More news from [WSU Insider](#)

Upcoming WSU Workshops, Classes and Events

Pesticides: Do they have negative effects on the environment?

Monday, October 1, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, WSU Extension Coupeville, 406 N Main St.

Join us in the WSU Extension Island County Coupeville office (401 N. Main St.) to participate in a live video seminar titled: "Pesticides: Do they have negative effects on the environment?" The speaker is Dr. John Stark, Ph.D., Professor of Ecotoxicology at WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center, and Director of the Washington Stormwater Center. Dr. Stark's research deals with protection of endangered species and ecological risk assessment of pollutants with particular emphasis on salmon and their food.

More information on Dr. Stark at <http://entomology.wsu.edu/blog/faculty/research-extension/stark/>

Whidbey Island Growers Association

Monday, October 8, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM, WSU Extension Coupeville, 406 N Main St. (Note that we'll begin our "winter hours" for the monthly potluck – meeting 1 hour earlier.)

The October monthly meeting and potluck dinner will feature a live video presentation from Dr. Doug Collins – WSU Soil Scientist and Small Farms Educator on soils, soil fertility and cover cropping. Fall is a great time to test your soils and look to improving them for the next growing season.

Open to all farmers, growers and those interested in local agriculture. Bring a potluck dish to share and eating utensils. A no waste event. The Growers Association is a partnership between WSU Extension Island County and the Whidbey Island Conservation District.

Contact Loren Imes at loren.imes@wsu.edu or 360-639-6059 for more information.

Cover Cropping Workshop

Wednesday, October 10, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Morningstar Farm, 244 John Jones Rd., Orcas Island

Chris Benedict, WSU Extension will present a hands-on workshop at Morningstar Farm. Topics will include pros and cons of various types of cover crops, when to plant and terminate and how to work with weed biology to get ahead of next season's weed problem. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch. Snacks provided.

Please RSVP with Angie Freeman Shephard at angie.freeman@wsu.edu or 360-370-7664.

Stockmanship & Stewardship

October 12-13, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM, TRAC facility in Pasco, WA

Stockmanship & Stewardship is a unique two-day educational experience featuring low-stress cattle handling demonstrations, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) educational sessions to best run your operation and industry updates. With a regional focus in mind, the planning committee of Washington, Idaho and Oregon Extension staff will be sharing applicable research in beef production, animal health as well as range and pasture management for Pacific Northwest beef producers.

To learn more and register, [visit here](#).

Orchard Care and High Value Fruit Production Workshop

Sunday, October 14, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Warm Valley Farm, 7483 Orcas Rd., Orcas Island

Wondering how to care for the fruit trees you have? Curious about how you could integrate a high value fruit production system into your farm? WSU San Juan County Extension welcomes Tom Thornton, Director of Cloud Mountain Farm Center and a fruit grower with more than 35 years' experience at a free workshop. We will spend the morning in hands on orchard care techniques and the afternoon with a discussion on the principles behind developing a high value fruit production system for your farm. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch. Snacks provided.

Please RSVP with Angie Freeman Shephard at angie.freeman@wsu.edu or 360-370-7664.

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

Monday, October 17, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, WSU Mount Vernon

Fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires *'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.'*

\$35/person (typically \$150). [More information and registration.](#)

Farm Walk: Willowood Farm

Monday, October 22, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Willowood Farm of Ebey's Prairie, Coupeville

Recovering from a Loss & Building Up the "Community Good Will Credit Card". Find out how Willowood Farm of Ebey's Prairie overcame losing their barn in a fire early last spring by involving their community to support them through the season. There will also be a demo and discussion about the benefits of walk behind tractors in diversified vegetable production from Jason Weston of Joe's Gardens.

Sponsored by Tilth Alliance and WSU Food Systems. [Register here.](#)

Registration Now Open!

7th Annual Women in Agriculture Conference

Saturday, October 27 at 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM,

"PUMP UP YOUR FINANCIAL FITNESS" is the theme for the seventh annual Women in Agriculture Conference. It will be an engaging, interactive day full of inspiration, learning and networking with other women farmers. The 2018 conference is a one-day event held simultaneously at locations throughout Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Oregon.

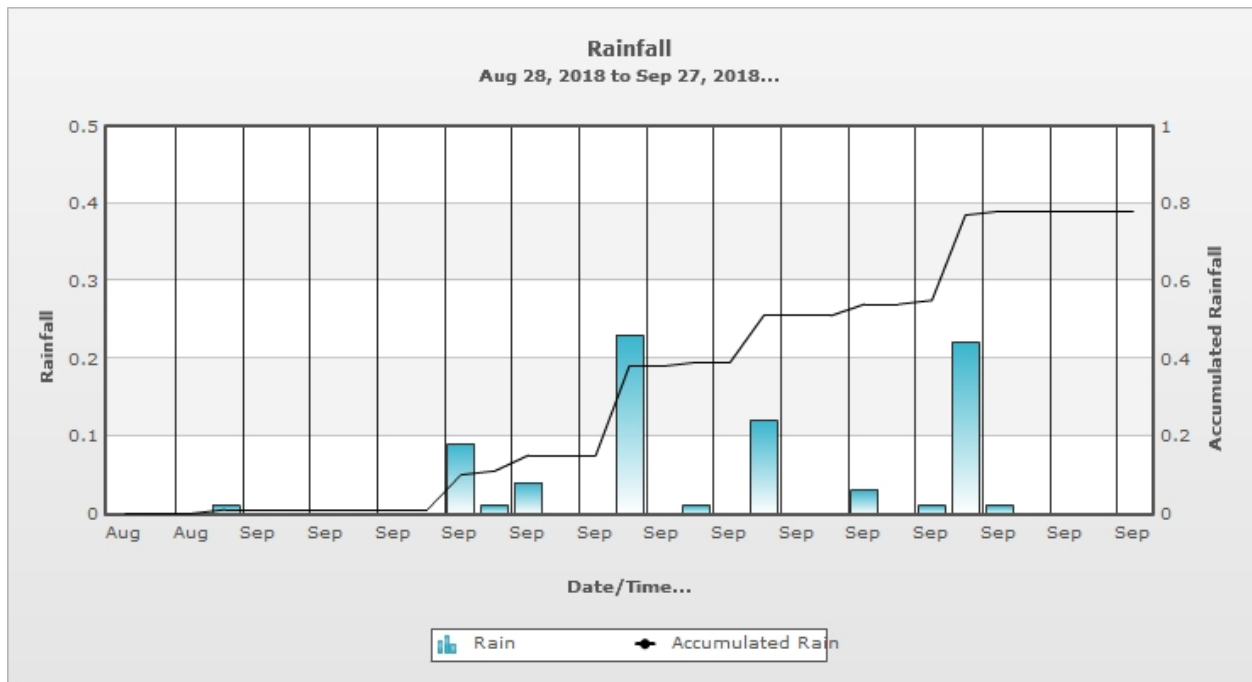
The day starts with learning how to use your "financial numbers" to establish a cash flow that includes your farm and personal living expenses to strengthen your farm operation. The day continues with a local panel of women farmers who will talk about the different ways they balance their lives - with their top tips for handling finances and their personal lives. The final take-away message with the cap note speaker will be all about making it possible to do what you love the most!

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and interact. It will be a full day of learning and networking!

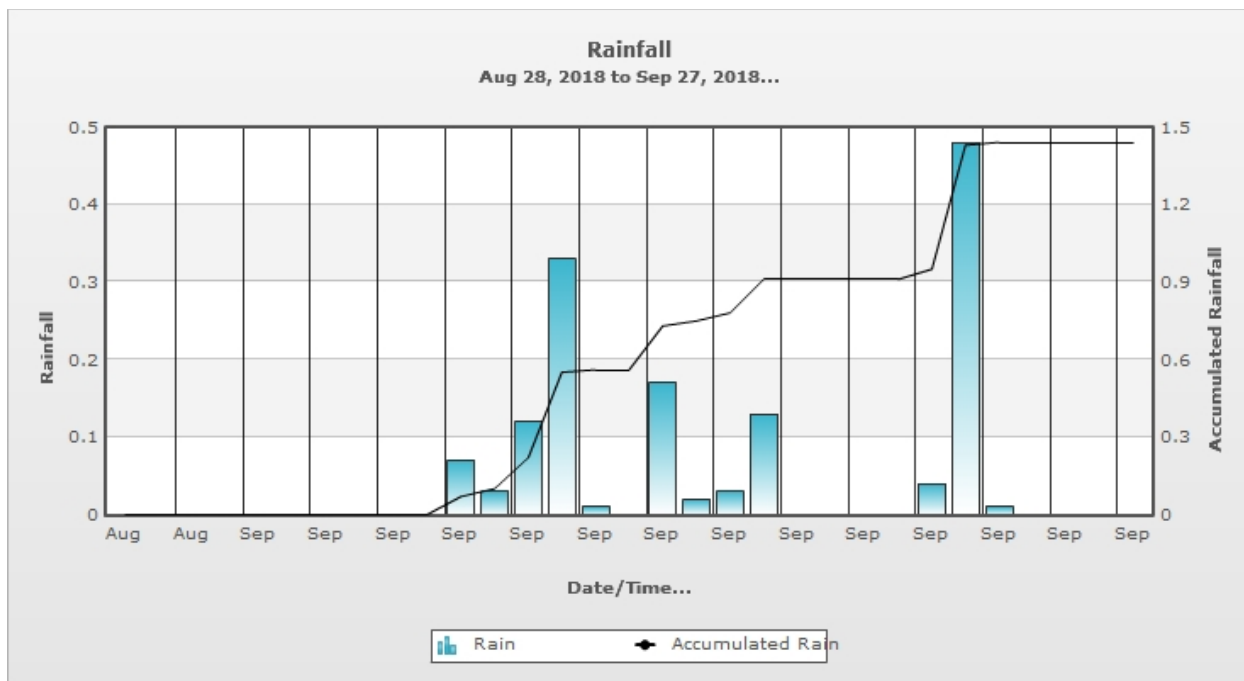
Registration and information on scholarships and financial assistance is available at www.womeninag.wsu.edu

Whidbey Island Weather Data

September Rainfall at Coupeville



September Rainfall at Langley



Visit WSU's [AgWeatherNet](#) website for more weather data from our two island locations.

Follow WSU Extension Island County Food Systems on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

If you do not wish to receive these communications, please contact loren.imes@wsu.edu to be removed from the list.

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