

WSU Extension Island County

# Food Systems Newsletter

February 2019



## WSU Agriculture News

### [Students share their reflections on the 2018 Tilth Conference](#)

This year, the WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR) sponsored travel for several WSU students studying agriculture to attend the Tilth Conference in Spokane. CSANR has posted reflections written by the students over the past several weeks. Lots of very bright and thoughtful young people are headed into careers in agriculture and related fields.

### [WSU Extension podcaster brings grazing, conservation together on 'Art of Range'](#)



Helping maintain and preserve rangelands and inform the ranchers and professionals who manage them, Tip Hudson, WSU associate professor of rangeland and livestock management and director of Kittitas County Extension, recently launched a new podcast, "Art of Range."

Seeking to provide education through conversation with national experts on managing and conserving rangelands—the grasslands, forest lands and prairies that support grazing—Hudson began the podcast last fall, posting new episodes every two weeks.

"Healthy land, healthy animals, and healthy communities are inextricably linked," says Hudson. "My goal with this podcast is to help people produce food and fiber on naturally-occurring plant communities in ways that promote sound ecology and economy."

### [Washington Grown Season 6 Episode 3 "Spinach"](#)

WSDA's "Washington Grown" episode is all about Spinach! Features Skagit County seed growers and the disease research done by Dr. Lindsay du Toit. After you are finished with that one, binge-watch the rest!

### [Plant immune response blueprint found](#)

Washington State University researchers have discovered the way plants respond to disease-causing organisms, and how they protect themselves, leading the way to potential breakthroughs in breeding resistance to diseases or pests.

### [A 'farm-to-bottle' movement takes off in the Pacific Northwest](#)

Local coverage of the recent WSU Cascadia Grains Conference.

### [CIDERCRAFT Magazine features an article on WSU Fermentation's Bri Ewing.](#)

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## Upcoming WSU Workshops, Classes and Events

### Puget Sound Region Agricultural Drainage Conference

Wednesday, February 6, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, WSU  
Puyallup Research and Extension Center



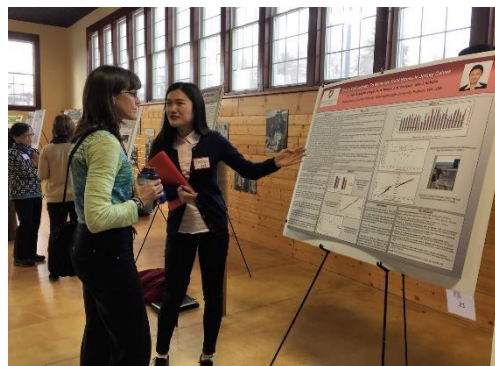
The first Puget Sound Region Agricultural Drainage Conference, hosted by WSU's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, will be a day for staff and District Commissioners from regional organizations working on agricultural drainage issues to share challenges, solutions, lessons learned, and begin to set the stage for potential future collaborations, research efforts, or conversations. The day will feature interactive panels, relevant discussions, and ample time for networking and meeting folks working on similar issues.

Registration is FREE. [Learn more and register here.](#)

### 2019 BIOAg Symposium

Thursday, February 7, 3:00 - 6:00 PM in Ensminger Pavilion,  
Pullman

The Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR) hosts the 2019 Biologically Intensive Agriculture & Organic Farming (BIOAg) Symposium in Pullman this winter on February 7th. The event will include a poster session, and a keynote panel addressing the topic, "The Intersection of Agriculture and Human Health: Developing Opportunities for Research and Education."



Panelists will include:

- Dr. Kevin Murphy Associate Professor at WSU Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences;
- Dr. John Roll Professor and Vice Dean for Research at WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine; and
- Dr. Pablo Monsivais Associate Professor at WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine.

The event is free and all are welcome.

### Blueberry Pruning Workshop

Friday, February 8, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM, Lynden Public Library Meeting Room, 216 4th St, Lynden

This free event will entail a 1.5-hour presentation delivered by Dr. Bernadine Strik (Oregon State University Professor of Horticulture) on the rationale and fundamentals of highbush blueberry pruning in Western and Central Washington. The presentation will be followed by a short in-field demonstration in cooperating grower fields. Sponsors are Oregon State University, Washington Blueberry Commission and WSU Extension.

Limited seating, [registration](#) is required.

## Risk Management 101 for Small and Mid-Sized Farms

Monday, February 11, 1:00 -5:00 PM, Sakuma Auditorium, WSU Mount Vernon NWREC

Join Tilth Alliance staff, industry experts, and local farmers for an interactive risk management and crop insurance workshop. The workshop will cover crop insurance options for diversified farms, strategies for risk management, and will end with hors d'oeuvres and community building.

[More information and registration can be found here.](#)

## Western WA Forest Owners Winter School

Saturday, February 23, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Green River College, Auburn

Does your farm include forestland? Learn how to properly maintain your chainsaw, grow your own edible mushrooms, avoid thorny legal issues, deal with dying trees, how to improve wildlife habitat, get a sustainability certification, get cost share for that project you always dreamed of, and more.

Registration is open and early bird rate is still in force! [More information here.](#)

*[Please let us know](#) if you have a suggestion for a class or workshop you would like to see in Island County!*

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## Selected New or Revised WSU Extension Publications

[2019 Pest Management Guide for Grapes in Washington](#)

[Potato Virus Y and Organic Potato Production in Western Washington](#)

[Growing Parsnips in Western Washington](#)

[Pulse on Health: Garden-based Pulse Nutrition and Biology - A curriculum publication for fourth grade teachers](#)

Find the complete catalogue of WSU Extension Publications [here](#)

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## Island County Weather Data

### Frost dates for Langley

Year	Last Spring Frost	Last Spring Frost Temp	First Fall Frost	First Fall Frost Temp	Frost-free Days
2019	February 03, 2019 00:00	28.6 °F			
2018	March 25, 2018	29.7 °F	November 07, 2018	31.6 °F	227
2017	February 28, 2017	31.6 °F	November 03, 2017	27.4 °F	247
2016	March 18, 2016	30.7 °F	December 06, 2016	26.1 °F	263
2015	April 05, 2015	31.2 °F	November 10, 2015	32.0 °F	219
2014			December 29, 2014	30.1 °F	
'Average'	March 11	30.4 °F	November 23	29.4 °F	239

## Frost dates for Coupeville

Year	Last Spring Frost	Last Spring Frost Temp	First Fall Frost	First Fall Frost Temp	Frost-free Days
2019	January 30, 2019	28.9 °F			
2018	March 11, 2018	31.2 °F	November 08, 2018	30.7 °F	242
2017	March 20, 2017	31.5 °F	October 31, 2017	32.0 °F	225
2016	March 17, 2016	30.8 °F	October 11, 2016	31.8 °F	208
2015	March 04, 2015	27.3 °F	November 10, 2015	30.7 °F	251
2014	March 22, 2014	31.5 °F	November 12, 2014	23.4 °F	235
2013	March 25, 2013 06:00	31.8 °F	October 29, 2013 05:15	31.5 °F	218
2012	April 07, 2012 04:00	31.1 °F	November 09, 2012 00:00	28.3 °F	216
2011	April 23, 2011 05:15	30.9 °F	October 27, 2011 06:00	30.7 °F	187
2010	April 10, 2010 05:30	28.4 °F	October 17, 2010 06:45	31.1 °F	190
2009	April 04, 2009 05:15	30.7 °F	October 08, 2009 07:00	30.0 °F	187
2008	April 26, 2008 05:00	29.9 °F	October 11, 2008 06:45	28.6 °F	168
'Average'	March 24	30.3 °F	October 27	29.9 °F	211

## Frost dates for Stanwood

Year	Last Spring Frost	Last Spring Frost Temp	First Fall Frost	First Fall Frost Temp	Frost-free Days
2019	February 03, 2019 23:00	26.0 °F			
2018	March 25, 2018 01:45	31.7 °F	November 08, 2018	31.3 °F	228
2017	March 20, 2017	31.5 °F	November 04, 2017 02:30	31.2 °F	229
2016	March 17, 2016	31.0 °F	October 11, 2016	31.7 °F	208
2015	March 05, 2015	31.7 °F	November 20, 2015	29.8 °F	260
2014	March 22, 2014	31.4 °F	November 11, 2014	27.6 °F	234
2013	March 24, 2013 06:30	31.5 °F	November 04, 2013 05:30	32.0 °F	225
2012	March 24, 2012 04:45	30.4 °F	November 09, 2012 06:45	30.0 °F	230
2011	April 08, 2011 05:15	30.8 °F	November 03, 2011 23:45	31.8 °F	209
2010	April 10, 2010 05:00	27.9 °F	November 21, 2010 22:30	27.2 °F	225
2009	April 04, 2009 04:15	31.5 °F	October 11, 2009 06:30	29.8 °F	190
2008	April 03, 2008 04:00	30.0 °F	October 11, 2008 06:00	31.4 °F	191
2007	April 03, 2007 05:30	31.6 °F	October 26, 2007 06:15	31.0 °F	206
'Average'	March 22	30.5 °F	November 01	30.4 °F	219

Visit WSU's [AgWeatherNet](#) website for more weather data from 175 stations across Washington State.

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If you do not wish to receive these communications, please contact [loren.imes@wsu.edu](mailto:loren.imes@wsu.edu) to be removed from the list.

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Thank you for your interest and support of small farms in Island County.

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