

WSU Extension Island County

# Food Systems Newsletter

October 2019



## WSU Agriculture News

### [New Plant Growth Facility](#)

Thanks to significant funding from Skagit County and a private donor, Phase 1 of the new Plant Growth Facility is fully funded and construction will begin soon at WSU's Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research & Extension Center.



### [Meet Dr. Lindsey du Toit, President of the American Phytopathological Society](#)

Women in Ag Science has published a profile of Dr. Lindsey du Toit as she begins her term as president of the American Phytopathological Society (APS).



### [AgWeatherNet expands presence in Northwest Washington](#)

AgWeatherNet has placed a meteorologist at the WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research & Extension Center for the first time.

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## WSU Job Announcement

### [SNAP-Ed Curriculum, Training and Website Senior Coordinator](#)

The Extension Coordinator Senior is responsible for developing and conducting statewide training in direct education, Policy Systems and Environment and other topics pertaining to the Washington State SNAP-Ed program. In conjunction with the Extension Coordinator Specialist, the position develops material for the statewide curriculum fidelity monitoring program, statewide training for SNAP-Ed program implementation and content for two statewide websites. This position exercises independent judgment in coordinating, developing, evaluating and conducting extension programs. The successful candidate can choose to be based in Puyallup, WA or Spokane, WA.

Closing date for applications is October 13, 2019. Learn more and apply at

<https://www.wsujobs.com/postings/47976>

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## WSU Workshops, Classes and Events

### Programs and Opportunities through the Farm Bill

Monday, October 7, 6:30 PM

WSU Extension Office, 406 N Main St., Coupeville

Come to the October **Whidbey Island Growers Association** for our monthly potluck and presentation. We will have Kent Stokes, from the USDA Farm Service Agency and Jared Hamman from USDA NRCS share info on the many opportunities farmers have to access loans and cost share programs to fund conservation practices such as composting facilities, high tunnels, and more.



The potluck begins at 6:30 with the presentation at 7:00. Please bring a dish to share and your own plate/utensils/cups for eating to minimize waste.

The Whidbey Island Growers Association is sponsored by WSU Extension Island County and the Whidbey Island Conservation District. Monthly meetings are the first Monday of each month and are open to all who support Whidbey Island agriculture and local food systems. Contact Loren Imes (WSU) or Kelsi Mottet (WICD) with questions and comments or visit [www.whidbeycd.org/agricultural-community.html](http://www.whidbeycd.org/agricultural-community.html) to learn more.

### Pollinator Conservation in Agricultural Landscapes Course

Tuesday, November 19th, 9am-3pm

WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center, Puyallup

This full day workshop will focus on concepts around protecting and enhancing populations of pollinators, especially bees, in agricultural landscapes. The course will provide an overview of bee natural history and farm practices that support pollinators, such as protecting and creating habitat, modified horticultural practices, and advice on how to manage pests while protecting pollinators. Registrants will receive the Xerces Society's Pollinator Conservation Toolkit which includes Xerces' book, *Attracting Native Pollinators*, as well as habitat management guidelines and relevant USDA-NRCS and extension publications. Course content is tailored to the needs of producers of bee-pollinated crops, NRCS, SWCD, Cooperative Extension, and state department of agriculture employees, as well as crop consultants and natural resource specialists.

\$25 per person. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Agenda, speaker bios, and to register, [visit the event posting here.](#)

### 2019 edition of the *Handbook for Small and Direct Marketing Farms*

Commonly known as "The Green Book", the 2019 edition of the Handbook for Small and Direct Marketing Farms: Regulations and Strategies for

Farm and Food Businesses, from WSDA has been released. This book is free for agriculture and small



business resource providers. Copies will be available soon at the WSU Extension office at 406 N Main St. in Coupeville.

## **Save The Date: Women, Farms and Food**

Join us Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020 for the 7th annual Women in Ag Conference for a day full of inspiration, learning and networking with other women farmers, to be held at WSU Extension Island County in Coupeville. This yearly, statewide event for women involved in agriculture, provides risk-management and financial management education, and guidance in mitigating problems in running your businesses. [Check out past presentations 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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## **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](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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