Washington State University Clark County Extension helps people put research-based knowledge to work, improving their lives, communities, and the environment.

To realize this mission, faculty and staff plan, conduct and evaluate research and experience-based educational programs. WSU Clark County Extension also employs the assistance of hundreds of volunteers and community partners and provides access to the resources available at Washington State University and the National Land Grant University Extension System. Clark County Extension stays committed to providing impactful programming to support its residents. Extension staff provide both virtual and in-person education and support.

This quarter Extension programs reached approximately 18,100 community members. To find out more about our current programs and events please contact us through email, phone or go to our website or social media outlets. Stay safe!

Kristine Perry
Interim Director and SNAP-Ed Manager
Kristine.perry@wsu.edu
564-397-5718
4-H Youth Development
“To Make the Best Better”

The mission of the 4-H Youth Development Program is to help young people grow into responsible, contributing citizens. To reach this goal, 4-H has developed educational materials that emphasize development of life skills in young people through fun, hands-on projects.

Seed Swap
The first 4-H Seed Swap was held in February at the WSU Clark County Extension office in partnership with Clark County Green Neighbors and Sow, Bud, & Blossom 4-H club. 25 youth and adults from the community joined us as we gathered to exchange seeds, plant starts, bulbs, and garden tools. We offered experiential educational activities such as making paper pots with recycled paper and exploring a worm compost bin by playing worm bingo.
4-H Youth Development
“To Make the Best Better”

National Agriculture Day at Vancouver Farmers Market
4-H enthusiastically participated in a vibrant community celebration alongside the Vancouver Farmers Market, highlighting the indispensable contributions of agriculture. The event was designed to engage attendees, especially children, in interactive experiences aimed at deepening their understanding of agriculture's significance within our community. As an integral part of this celebration, 4-H played a pivotal role by disseminating valuable information to more than 150 community members. They shared insights about the diverse array of agricultural education opportunities available through 4-H programs, both locally in Clark County and across the broader landscape of Washington state. Through engaging conversations and informative materials, 4-H effectively showcased the wealth of educational resources and hands-on learning experiences that empower youth to explore and appreciate the multifaceted world of agriculture.

Join 4-H
To join a club or volunteer in Clark County 4-H please contact Chantal Krystiniak (564) 397-5737 or chantal.krystiniak@wsu.edu in the WSU Clark County Extension office to get started.

4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization.
The Health, Wellness and Nutrition Program is a community-based partnership that promotes health where people live, learn, work and play. Our science-based chronic disease prevention, and self-management interventions improve well-being and quality of life.

**Intuitive Eating Class**


These are just some of the word's participants of the Intuitive Eating for Preventing Diabetes pilot used to describe how their lives have been transformed in just 3 months (January to March 2024).

**Intuitive Eating** is a practical approach to making peace with food, gaining freedom from chronic dieting, and treating the entire body with dignity, respect, and care regardless of weight.

The 10 Intuitive Eating principles work together to promote flexible, individualized eating based on hunger, satiety, nutritional needs and pleasure, and joyful movement rather than any externally regulated eating plan or exercise regime focused on weight control.
The process of Intuitive Eating works by:

1. Helping individuals cultivate attunement to the physical sensations that arise from within their bodies to get both biological and psychological needs met and

2. Removing the obstacles and disruptors to attunement, which usually come from the mind in the form of rules, beliefs, and thoughts. Participants learned how to reconnect with their own instincts, emotions, and rational thought to help them become experts of their own bodies. Intuitive Eating was created in 1995 by two dietitians. Today there are over 100 studies supporting the health benefits of Intuitive Eating. One of the major benefits of intuitive eating is better psychological health. Participants in intuitive eating studies improved their self-esteem, body image, and overall quality of life while experiencing less depression and anxiety.

“I like the autonomy of Intuitive Eating! Diets create rigid rules, restrict entire food groups, and take up so much time and energy asking you to track everything. They ultimately leave you feeling like a failure and searching for the “next best thing” that will consume your money and energy without any beneficial lasting effects. Intuitive Eating allows you the freedom to get in touch with your body signals, enjoy food and movement, and gain back the time and energy to focus on your true values.“

Courtney Mercer, MS, RDN & WSU Extension Lifestyle Coach

What she likes about Intuitive Eating: Freedom-the permission I give myself, learning to taste food, slow down-pause.

Professional and/or personal Changes made:
• It is not necessary to clean my plate, every time I eat
• Recognizing that I have succumbed to the pressures of “Diet Culture” and how it has affected me,
• Clearly recognize why diets do not work

Marcia Ward, WSU Vancouver Graduate Nursing Student

To learn more about intuitive eating go to:
https://www.intuitiveeating.org/
The goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that families who are eligible for SNAP benefits can make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose a physically active lifestyle.

**Nourishing Bonds**

The SNAP-Ed program partners with Clark County Public Health to convene the Clark County Wellness Coalition. It meets to promote wellness and nutrition among low-income populations, particularly systemically non-dominant communities. They aim to create a healthier community by addressing food access and health challenges for low-income families. The coalition shifted from formal meetings to a "world café method," fostering engagement and collaboration among members. This approach helps identify common goals and streamline services, especially for hard-to-reach populations like immigrants and those with language barriers. By leveraging diverse expertise and resources, they enhance health and nutrition services for priority populations across Clark County.
Getting Ready for Spring in Vancouver School Gardens

With Spring upon us, the SNAP-Ed program has teamed up with Master Gardeners to support Vancouver School gardens. Master Gardener volunteers have been busily planting early spring crops in six different Vancouver elementary schools, representing over 650 students. Participating schools will plant early spring crops of peas, carrots, lettuce, kale and radishes throughout the spring that will culminate in a Salad Harvest party in early June. On many of these classroom garden visit days, school parents and community members are on hand to help with planting and garden activities as well.

While planting their peas and carrots, students have learned not only how to plant seeds for successful growing, but they have also learned how all food they eat is connected to plants! Students created murals either from seed catalog cuttings or sidewalk chalk of the various colorful fruits and vegetables they enjoy eating while also talking about the importance of eating a variety of these delicious foods. Other classes have also discovered the different parts of a plant and the functions of those plant parts.

Following spring break, students will be back in their gardens planting leafy crops and flowers.
The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a federal nutrition program for low-income parents and youth that focuses on healthy eating, food safety, physical activity, and saving money on groceries. Classes are currently offered online and in-person.

**EFNEP Program**

**Expanded Food and Nutrition Education**

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a federal nutrition program for low-income parents and youth that focuses on healthy eating, food safety, physical activity, and saving money on groceries. Classes are currently offered online and in-person.

**Youth Education Classes**

This quarter, EFNEP educator Scotty initiated youth nutrition classes at Fircrest, Walnut Grove, and Marshall Elementary in Vancouver and Evergreen Public School Districts. Notably, Mrs. Johnson, a 4th grade teacher, has hosted EFNEP classes for her students for three years. Through these sessions, Mrs. Johnson recipes annually improved her own healthy habits, adopting healthier drink choices and embracing recipes introduced by EFNEP. She lost 75 pounds, increased her energy and focus, and feels happier overall. Mrs. Johnson continues to host EFNEP lessons, benefitting from ongoing support and learning new concepts and recipes annually.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- Total Reach Winter Quarter 2024: 331
- 15 Class series, 291 Youth, 55 Adult Participants

**EFNEP**

_Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program_

Washington State University Extension

**Sara Peitzmeier**

EFNEP Manager

sara.peitzmeier@wsu.edu

Assisting limited resource families in acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and changed behavior necessary to maintain nutritionally sound diets.
EFNEP Program
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education

Adult Education Classes
Maria, EFNEP Educator, continues to engage parent groups through the Family Community Resource Centers in the Vancouver school district. One notable story involves "Jessica", a busy mom of two who, due to her hectic schedule, relied on fast food and ready-to-eat meals. Recently diagnosed with diabetes, Jessica felt stressed about changing her diet while preserving her cultural foods and managing costs. Upon learning about EFNEP classes, she enrolled seeking guidance to control her diabetes and instill healthier habits in her family.

Following the classes, Jessica learned to substitute ingredients to create healthier versions of her favorite foods, like lentil tacos, reducing her reliance on fast food. She discovered that eating healthily can be affordable and enjoyable through online recipes. Before the classes, she lacked guidance on managing her condition and navigating dietary changes. The sessions provided her with strategies to lower fat, sodium, and sugar intake and manage portion sizes.

The most impactful lessons for Jessica were on making dietary changes and staying active. She now refrains from adding salt after cooking and enjoys regular walks and dancing games with her children. Jessica feels more confident managing her diagnosis and is eager to pass on what she has learned to her family.

Recetas en español
English Recipes
The Master Gardener program engages university-trained volunteers to empower and sustain diverse communities with relevant, unbiased, research-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education.

WSU Extension Master Gardeners receive over 60 hours of training and give back a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service to become certified Master Gardener Volunteer Educators. Once certified, Veteran Master Gardeners continue their education and their volunteer service by providing at least 35 hours of service and continuing education each year.

**The Importance of Pollinators**

Mason bees are small, solitary, non-stinging, native bees who take well to nesting in boxes erected by orchardists, farmers and interested homeowners. Uber pollinators, just 6 mason bees can provide the same pollination services of 360 honeybees. Master Gardener Anne Bulger is a champion of these beautiful critters. She has developed and delivers presentations designed to educate and inspire the public to support and care for mason bees and other native pollinators.
Anne presented to a standing-room-only crowd of 51 at the Camas Library. The talk included the basics of mason bees, working with mason bees, the life cycle of mason bees and a timetable of care and bee diversity. Participants, including some already playing host to this native uber-pollinator and others planning to embark on it now.

Anne took audience questions at the end. Participant understanding of the somewhat complex life cycle of mason bees was evident by the astute questions asked. One member of the group took home a mason bee box after responding correctly to a fun fact question posed at the beginning of the talk.

Workshop participants completed an evaluation to assess their knowledge about topics before and after the class session. A response of one equal's poor, two fair, three average, four good, and five excellent.

Out of 47 participants, 92% completed evaluations. On average, people knew one or two points more about the topics discussed after the talk compared to before it. Important points included:

- Significant environmental contributions of mason bees
- Importance of bee diversity
- Risks that face our native pollinators

“I plan to start my own care and game plan for mason bees. I am new to caring for mason bees and am excited to get started after taking this workshop. Anne was great!” - Workshop Participant
Program Purview, Impact Potential:
Our program develops and delivers research and education relevant to an agricultural community of ~2500 commercial farms operating across 125K acres within Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties. Approximately 75% of these farms and acreages lie within Clark County; 53% of our soils are classified as agricultural, and our soil productivity ratings and density of farm businesses (3.14 farms/sq. mi.) are the highest in the state.

Extension Research Benefits to Farmers
In our ongoing three-year project, funded with $175K, we’ve recently trained two new shiitake growers at Heritage Farm and provided consultation to another preparing for a 2025 launch. So far, we’ve trained 12 growers, supporting them through their first production year. Three workshops in Q2 will introduce shiitake production to 45 more farms. Our website, pnwforestmushroomgrowers.net, now offers expanded resources from our Heritage Farm work.

Our research on rose stem girdlers, including work at Heritage Farm, gained national media attention and contributed to two international scientific journal articles in Q1.

Justin O'Dea
Regional Agricultural Specialist Faculty
justin.odea@wsu.edu

The ANR program conducts locally relevant applied research in the fields of agriculture and natural resource sciences.
IN 2021 THE WSU FOOD SYSTEMS DOCUSERIES CREW SET OUT FOR THE PORTLAND, OR AND SEATTLE, WA-METRO AREAS TO TALK WITH FARMERS FIRST-HAND ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE FARMING IN AN URBANIZING REGION.

Justin O'Dea, Project Lead, WSU Clark County Extension

FARMING ON THE URBAN EDGE DOCUSERIES

FAMILY & HOME
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION
FOOD & NUTRITION
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Program Highlights
Top, center right, lower right- Our shiitake mushroom production research efforts at the Heritage Farm have provided invaluable information and image and video media backdrops that were used in Q1 to develop new resource pages on our pnwforestmushroomgrowers.net website, which is aimed at supporting new shiitake growers.

Center left- some of our rose stem girdler work at the Heritage Farm contributed to a new scientific article on this pest which was published in an international journal in Q1, and our rose stem girdler work was also featured in a USDA Agricultural Research Service news article this quarter.

Up, center- top three images- our shiitake mushroom production research efforts at the Heritage Farm have provided invaluable information and image and video media backdrops that were used in Q1 to develop new resource pages on our pnwforestmushroomgrowers.net website, which is aimed at supporting new shiitake growers.

In 2021 the WSU Food Systems Docuseries Crew set out for the Portland, OR and Seattle, WA-metro areas to talk with farmers first-hand about their experience farming in an urbanizing region.

Justin O'Dea, Project Lead, WSU Clark County Extension

A review of Agrius cupreascens (Ménétries, 1832), the rose stem girdler, in North America
Justin K. O’Dea

Agricultural and horticultural entomology U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, USDA Extension, Washington, DC

Program Highlights
Top, center right, lower right- Our shiitake mushroom production research efforts at the Heritage Farm have provided invaluable information and image and video media backdrops that were used in Q1 to develop new resource pages on our pnwforestmushroomgrowers.net website, which is aimed at supporting new shiitake growers.

Center left- some of our rose stem girdler work at the Heritage Farm contributed to a new scientific article on this pest which was published in an international journal in Q1, and our rose stem girdler work was also featured in a USDA Agricultural Research Service news article this quarter.

In 2021 the WSU Food Systems Docuseries Crew set out for the Portland, OR and Seattle, WA-metro areas to talk with farmers first-hand about their experience farming in an urbanizing region.

Justin O’Dea, Project Lead, WSU Clark County Extension

A review of Agrius cupreascens (Ménétries, 1832), the rose stem girdler, in North America
Justin K. O’Dea

Agricultural and horticultural entomology U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, USDA Extension, Washington, DC

Program Highlights
Top, center right, lower right- Our shiitake mushroom production research efforts at the Heritage Farm have provided invaluable information and image and video media backdrops that were used in Q1 to develop new resource pages on our pnwforestmushroomgrowers.net website, which is aimed at supporting new shiitake growers.

Center left- some of our rose stem girdler work at the Heritage Farm contributed to a new scientific article on this pest which was published in an international journal in Q1, and our rose stem girdler work was also featured in a USDA Agricultural Research Service news article this quarter.

IN 2021 THE WSU FOOD SYSTEMS DOCUSERIES CREW SET OUT FOR THE PORTLAND, OR AND SEATTLE, WA-METRO AREAS TO TALK WITH FARMERS FIRST-HAND ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE FARMING IN AN URBANIZING REGION.

Justin O’Dea, Project Lead, WSU Clark County Extension

A review of Agrius cupreascens (Ménétries, 1832), the rose stem girdler, in North America
Justin K. O’Dea

Agricultural and horticultural entomology U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, USDA Extension, Washington, DC

Program Highlights
Top, center right, lower right- Our shiitake mushroom production research efforts at the Heritage Farm have provided invaluable information and image and video media backdrops that were used in Q1 to develop new resource pages on our pnwforestmushroomgrowers.net website, which is aimed at supporting new shiitake growers.

Center left- some of our rose stem girdler work at the Heritage Farm contributed to a new scientific article on this pest which was published in an international journal in Q1, and our rose stem girdler work was also featured in a USDA Agricultural Research Service news article this quarter.

IN 2021 THE WSU FOOD SYSTEMS DOCUSERIES CREW SET OUT FOR THE PORTLAND, OR AND SEATTLE, WA-METRO AREAS TO TALK WITH FARMERS FIRST-HAND ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE FARMING IN AN URBANIZING REGION.

Justin O’Dea, Project Lead, WSU Clark County Extension

A review of Agrius cupreascens (Ménétries, 1832), the rose stem girdler, in North America
Justin K. O’Dea

Agricultural and horticultural entomology U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, USDA Extension, Washington, DC

Program Highlights
Top, center right, lower right- Our shiitake mushroom production research efforts at the Heritage Farm have provided invaluable information and image and video media backdrops that were used in Q1 to develop new resource pages on our pnwforestmushroomgrowers.net website, which is aimed at supporting new shiitake growers.

Center left- some of our rose stem girdler work at the Heritage Farm contributed to a new scientific article on this pest which was published in an international journal in Q1, and our rose stem girdler work was also featured in a USDA Agricultural Research Service news article this quarter.

IN 2021 THE WSU FOOD SYSTEMS DOCUSERIES CREW SET OUT FOR THE PORTLAND, OR AND SEATTLE, WA-METRO AREAS TO TALK WITH FARMERS FIRST-HAND ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE FARMING IN AN URBANIZING REGION.

Justin O’Dea, Project Lead, WSU Clark County Extension

A review of Agrius cupreascens (Ménétries, 1832), the rose stem girdler, in North America
Justin K. O’Dea

Agricultural and horticultural entomology U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, USDA Extension, Washington, DC

Program Highlights
Top, center right, lower right- Our shiitake mushroom production research efforts at the Heritage Farm have provided invaluable information and image and video media backdrops that were used in Q1 to develop new resource pages on our pnwforestmushroomgrowers.net website, which is aimed at supporting new shiitake growers.

Center left- some of our rose stem girdler work at the Heritage Farm contributed to a new scientific article on this pest which was published in an international journal in Q1, and our rose stem girdler work was also featured in a USDA Agricultural Research Service news article this quarter.
The Small Acreage program provides educational workshops and other outreach to county residents on animal, land and water stewardship, such as: mud and manure management, fencing and pasture management, and other water quality topics unique to rural land. The Small Acreage Program works in partnership with Clark County Public Works Clean Water Program.

Cultivating Success
The Clark County Small Acreage Program offered educational workshops, including ones on agricultural entrepreneurship, well and septic system maintenance, and cover crops. These collaborations extend statewide, promoting wider access to valuable resources, with Spanish translation available. The well and septic system workshop not only educates residents but also offers certification for self-inspection, potentially saving them around $100. This initiative aims to protect family health, save costs, and preserve water quality in rural areas.
The community garden provides a place for community members to grow food for themselves and their families. There are 88, 20ft by 20ft plots. It is the most diverse program here on the farm. We have families from Botswana, Korea, Thailand, Mexico and many of the Eastern European countries. This pesticide free, year-round community garden is highly sought after.

Since February, members of the Heritage Farm Community Gardeners (HFCG) have been actively engaged in planning for the upcoming growing season in their plots. Several notable changes have been implemented this year. Firstly, the introduction of a new warning system has significantly enhanced garden maintenance and accountability.

Secondly, a Community Garden Steering Committee has been established, convening monthly meetings. The primary objective is to cultivate a sustainable and inclusive community garden environment that nurtures a sense of belonging, champions environmental stewardship, and ensures access to fresh, nutritious food for all community members.

Thirdly, the HFCG has partnered with the SNAP-Ed Program and other community garden coordinators to establish a coalition. This collaborative effort aims to exchange best practices, address surplus produce management, and facilitate access to fresh produce for families in need.

“I am getting such a workout here at the farm that I don’t need my gym membership anymore” — HF Community Gardener

Are you interested in gardening but don’t have room to do so at your home or apartment? The Heritage Farm has a Community Garden with available garden plots for rent!
Partnerships, Collaborations and Cooperations

Clark County and Washington State University have a long-standing partnership in providing educational programs and research-based information to residents throughout the county. This partnership ensures that resources are committed from Federal allocations and University funds to keep important educational programs available in Clark County.

Alliance for a Healthier Generation  
Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities  
Arthritis Foundation Walk With Ease Feet First  
Battleground Health Clinic  
Bonaventure of Salmon Creek  
Bridgeview Community Center  
Camas Farmers Market  
CASEE Center  
CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Chartwells Food Service  
City of Camas  
City of Vancouver  
Clark County Conservation District  
Clark County Event Center  
Clark County Environmental Health Food Safety Program  
Clark County Fair  
Clark County Farmers  
Clark County Farm Forestry Association  
Clark County Food Bank  
Clark County Food System Council  
Clark County Green Schools  
Clark County Juvenile Justice  
Clark County Public Works  
County Public Health  
Clark County Master Food Composters  
Clark Public Utilities  
Clark County Saddle Club  
Community Garden Club of Camas Washougal  
Community Voices Are Born  
Connect Evergreen Substance Abuse Coalition  
Core Home Fruit Services  
Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
Diabetes Technical and Training Center DSHS (Dept of Health and Human Services)  
Educational Service District 112  
Evergreen School District/Family and Community Resource Centers  
Fort Vancouver Regional Library  
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site  
Goldendale Farmers Market  
Hardy Plant Society of Oregon  
Hazel Dell Elementary School  
Hewlett-Packard  
Hubert Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project  
Illahee Elementary School  
IQ Credit Union  
Latino Community Resource Group Learning Adventures Child Care  
The League of United Latin American Citizens  
Lifeline  
Longview Garden Club  
Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County  
Meals on Wheels People  
NAACP
Partnerships, Collaborations and Cooperations

Partnerships and Collaborations continued

- National Park Service
- Nature Scaping of SW WA
- Nautilus Inc.
- OSPI (Office of Schools and Public Instruction)
- OSU Extension Service
- Parks Foundation of Clark County
- Partners in Careers
- PeaceHealth
- Pearson Field Education Center
- Portland Nursery
- Ridgefield Garden Club
- Salmon Creek Farmers Market
- SeaMar Community Health
- Second Mile Marketplace and Hub
- SHARE House
- Skamania Farmers Market
- SWW Accountable Communities of Health
- SWW Health Living Collaborative
- The Gardner School of Arts and Sciences
- Truman Elementary
- Underwriters Laboratory
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Vancouver Farmers Market
- Vancouver Garden Club
- Vancouver Housing Authority
- Vancouver School District
- WSU Edward R Murrow Center for Health Comm. Research and Promotion
- WSU Nutrition & Exercise Physiology Program
- Washington State University-Vancouver
- Washington State VetCorp
- Waste Connections
- White Salmon Farmers Market
- WaferTech
- Washington Green Schools
- Washington State Chronic Disease Leadership Network
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Washington State Department of Health SNAP
- Washington State Farmers Market Association
- Disease Leadership Network
- West Van for Youth Substance Abuse Coalition
- WIC (Women, Infant and Children)
- Wise Woman
- Yacolt Primary School

Notice of Non-Discrimination:
In matters of admission, employment, housing or services, or in the educational programs or activities it operates, WSU does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex and/or gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, creed, genetic information, marital status, protected veteran status, honorably discharged veteran, member of the military, disability, or immigration or citizenship status (except as authorized by federal or state law, regulation, or government contract). WSU is required by federal and state laws and regulations, including Title IX of the education Amendments of 1972, to not discriminate in such a manner. WSU provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.