

## New composting facility under development at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center in Aurora



A bioswale is planned to handle runoff from the concrete composting pad.

Most growers seek to improve soil quality by increasing organic matter content. As costs for conventional fertilizers increase, there is growing interest and markets for organic and other certified agricultural products. Examples of organic wastes separated at their source include livestock manure, crop residues, mixed yard debris, municipal leaves, and wood and food waste. While composting provides environmental benefits by reducing waste volumes and increasing soil organic matter, poorly managed composting operations are a threat to water quality. It is imperative that any growth in agricultural composting be done intelligently in order to prevent water pollution.

With funding from the Agricultural Research Foundation, Extension scientists Nick Andrews and Dan Sullivan developed an agricultural composting facility at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center. The first goal is to establish a pilot scale facility for compost research and conduct an initial study for custom compost for blueberry production. Long term goals include:

- Developing a compost recipe for commercial horticultural crops
- Evaluating cost effective on-farm composting methods that also meet environmental protection standards
- Teaching composting workshops focusing on proper composting methods and quality evaluation

Because of the growth of composting as a waste management strategy, DEQ is implementing new Rules that will govern composting facilities in Oregon, including those on farms. Designed to protect human health and the environment while promoting composting, the Rule includes a Memorandum of Understanding that ODA will implement the Rule on most farms.

*Nick Andrews, Extension Agent*

*Small Farms, North Willamette Research & Extension Service, Aurora*

## 4-H and Master Gardeners light the imaginations of metro area residents



Over 250,000 people turned out for the Rose Festival Starlight Parade with many more watching on television. Portland's annual event is one of the rare nighttime, illuminated parades in the country. The OSU Extension service was well represented by a float built by the Clackamas County's 4-H Ambassadors and a marching entry of Metro Master Gardeners.

## Extension District begins with new office hours



**Mike Bondi, Staff Chair, Clackamas County Extension office.**

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Clackamas County Extension office will expand its service to the public to five days per week, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, for the first time since 1994.

Shrinking local budgets forced Extension to reduce staff and hours of service 15 years earlier. Last November, Clackamas County voters approved an Extension and 4-H Service District that provides dedicated and permanent funding to ensure

Extension's future in the county. The new District officially begins July 1, 2009.

"This is a great day for Extension," said Staff Chair Mike Bondi. "We look forward to continuing to serve

the education and outreach needs in the county and to continue working with hundreds of our Extension volunteers — 4-H leaders, Master Gardeners, Master Woodland Managers, Family Food Educators, and others — who help us bring valuable information to local residents."

A strategic planning process is now underway that will help Extension faculty identify priority education and outreach needs in the community. More than 30 community focus groups, to be held between now and mid October, will provide information and ideas for growing Extension programs and services in the county.

Watch Extension and see us grow like we never have before!

*Mike Bondi, Extension Agent & Staff Chair  
Forestry & Christmas Trees*

## What's cooking?

Nearly 20 Family Food Educators, trained by OSU Extension, are taking their expertise in safe food preservation methods to Clackamas County citizens in their own communities. Over 20 classes are offered in Wilsonville, Sandy, Estacada, and Oregon City throughout the summer.

Interested residents learn how to make jams and jellies, pickling foods from cucumbers to watermelon rinds, drying herbs, fruits and vegetables, pressure canning meat and fish, and how to make pie fillings in jars.

Safe and proper food preservation methods is the key focus of the educators' message, along with various ways to use Oregon's abundant and nutrition produce.

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**Barbara Derkocht, an OSU trained Family Food Educator, explains how to properly preserve jams and jellies.**

## What's Happening

**Fire Prevention Twilight Tour**, June 24, 6:30pm, Clackamas County Fire Station, Oregon City; contact Mike Bondi, 503-557-5880.

**4-H Dog Fair**, July 10, 6:00pm, Molalla & July 11, 9:00am, Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby; contact Janet Nagele, 503-650-3125.

**4-H State Summer Conference**, June 24-27, Oregon State University, contact Wendy Hein, 503-650-3122.

**Horse Fair**, July 11-17, Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby; contact Wendy Hein, 503-650-3122.

**Noble Fir Culturing Demonstration**, July 11, 8:30am-noon, (location to be announced); contact Mike Bondi, 503-557-5880.

**Portable Sawmilling Demonstration**, July 22, 6:30pm-dark, Kaster's Kustom Cutting, Mulino; contact Mike Bondi, 503-557-5880.

**4-H Summer Camp**, July 27-August 1; 4-H Center, Salem, registration required; contact Janet Nagele, 503-650-3125.

**Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association Picnic and Farm Tour**, August 1, 5:00pm, Jones Creek Tree Farm, Beaver Creek; contact Mike Bondi, 503-557-5880.