

HISTORY OF OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY LINCOLN COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE

1918 - 2011

Oregon State University Extension Service is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Oregon State University Lincoln County Extension Service is celebrating its 93rd anniversary this year.

Extension got its roots with the 1862 Land Grant System of colleges being set up in the United States establishing access to higher education for the common people. In Oregon, the Land Grant college is Oregon State University formerly the Oregon Agricultural College established in 1868. This was followed by the Hatch Act of 1887 setting up a network of Agricultural Experiment Stations across the United States to further the mission of the Land Grant colleges by linking local farmers with the latest agricultural technology. This followed with the passage of the Smith-Lever Cooperative Extension Act of 1914 essentially establishing the nationwide Extension network as we see it today. Oregon State University Extension has its roots in the Oregon Agricultural College dating back to 1911.

The Extension office was opened in Lincoln County in Toledo on March 29, 1918, with Albert A. Ashbahr as its first agent for only four months. J. F. Costar replaced him and served a little over one year. Next, was John E. Cooter followed by James R. Beck and then Melvin J. Conklin who served many years. Howard G. Smith served from 1939 until 1944. This followed with Turner H. Bond, Gray Thompson, Amos Bierly, and then Rufus Cate, Jr., who served from 1955 until 1969. Jack Gurton was onboard from 1969 until 1974 when Evelyn Brookhyser who was the first woman to serve in Lincoln County and one of the first in the state, also served as a Home Economist agent until budget cuts by the university phased out the home economic agents in 1995. Next was John Fitzpatrick until 1979 when extension went down briefly before passage of the tax base in Lincoln County giving extension a new life. This was followed by Bill Rogers and more service by Evelyn Brookhyser. Evelyn retired in 2002 with 36 years of service between being a staff chair and home economics agent, and Bill retired in 2003. James Hermes served a short time before our current Staff Chair Sam Angima began his service in January of 2006. Many of the extension agents also served in an expanded capacity having not only agricultural responsibilities, but also 4-H, Forestry and administrative duties as well.

The first extension office was located in downtown Toledo. Main Street in downtown Toledo was called Hill Street at that time. There was even a telephone number listed as 903. The Extension office opened up on March 29, 1918, with Albert A. Ashbahr as the first Lincoln County agent. He was there just about four months when J. F. Costar came and he formed a wool and mohair pool to assist producers in their marketing. He also assisted in the location of a blackberry cannery in Toledo. John E. Cooter replaced Mr. Costar in 1919. In 1922, he reported that he traveled 3,716 miles by car and 2,229 miles by "other means". James R. Beck came in 1923. His educational activities included teaching farmers to blast stumps and dig drainage ditches with a material used at the time called pyrotel. Four hundred eighty-eight acres of stumps were cleared from pastures alone in 1926. He also introduced vetch as an annual hay crop for the dairy farmers of Lincoln County. In 1926, 700 acres were planted and vetch was grown in all parts of the county. He encouraged the use of lime and fertilizers for both pastures and root crops. One hundred forty acres of root crops most of them potatoes were planted in 1926. He conducted 45 demonstrations on 245 acres.

An Agricultural Economic Conference was held in Toledo on November 16 – 17, 1936. The presiding Extension agent at the time was Melvin J. Conklin. He called for a "closer cooperation of all agencies to the end that cut-over, and that fern lands could be burned over and otherwise handled to provide

better range.” Most of those “cut-over and fern lands” are now some of the most productive Douglas-fir timber growing lands in the world.

In 1947, a Lincoln County Economic Planning Conference was organized by agent Turner Bond. Committees of farmers proved recommendations for clear cutting of timber, proper burning of cut-over areas, adding lime to pastures, controlling livestock predators, increasing goat herds for brush control, and controlling an invasive weed called Tansy Ragwort. From this conference a report was derived which describes the importance of extensive drainage of lowland areas to create new pastureland, especially in the Salmon River area. Dikes and other drainage systems in this river estuary have been pulled out over the past 20 years to recreate natural conditions. The report also mentions that 30% of farm homes have electricity, 49 have running water, 21% have flush toilets, and 85% have “mechanical refrigeration.” It was also mentioned in the report that the population of Lincoln County in 1947 was about 20,000 people. The major industries were lumber, agriculture, and fishing, which are still important industries in 2011. The total number of farms was 963. The farm population was 3,267.

In April 1956 there was an Agricultural Planning Conference. General Chairman of it was Ken Zeek and Lincoln County Extension Agent R. H. Cate, Jr., was the General Secretary. This was a conference dealing with the future of Lincoln County dealing with its problems and offering possible solutions. It was organized and conducted by the county agricultural planning council with the cooperation of the Oregon State College Extension Service. These conferences as held in the past with the last being in 1947 have proven effective in accurately predicting trends in the local society and economy and in influencing developments in farming and rural living in Lincoln County. It was noted in the Nutrition report of 1956 that candy and soft drink machines were considered a problem even then recommending that they be removed from schools. It was also noted in the Dairy and Livestock report that the high cost of feed and difficult marketing conditions will cause the decrease of dairy cattle and the leveling off and future decline of beef cattle. Also, that hog and poultry numbers were vastly decreasing. However, sheep had shown a definite increase and would continue to rise. Where in the past the county had three major industries being forestry, agriculture and fishing, now tourist trade as it was referred to then had become a major player. In 2011 tourism is even more important.

R. H. Cate, Jr., the County Agent mention in a document dated November 1, 1955, that Lincoln County farms units average 30 acres of tillable land. There was also a need for farm forest acreage to equal or supplement present farm income. There was a problem then on the best way to market crops. There was also a need for better silage programs, pasture protection, and the use of new fertilizers and seeds especially adapted for the coast region. There was an increase of sheep production since sheep played an important part in controlling Tansy Ragwort. This also brought a need for a full time government hunter to control predatory animals.

In a document on Lincoln County Livestock and Forage Trends comparing the years of 1919 with 1997 for example in 1919 there were 1,400 horses and mules and in 1997 it was 496. Beef cattle in 1919 was 1,600 and in 1997 was 2,815. Dairy cattle there were 5,500 in 1919 and in 1997 it was down to 200. Hay production was 14,249 tons in 1919 and in 1997 is was 8,959 tons. Other agricultural trends were land in farms was 118,788 in 1919 and 31,935 in 1997. The number of farms was 489 in 1919 and 306 in 1997.

The Extension office was in downtown Toledo until May of 1954 when it moved to Newport in temporary quarters next to the temporary courthouse which was located at 506 N.E. Olive, which today is a used car lot. Also, at this time many other businesses relocated from Toledo to Newport with the

county seat change. In March of 1955, they relocated to the basement of the new courthouse at 225 West Olive and remained there until they moved into our present location at 29 S.E. 2nd Street in 1980.

At one time Extension in Lincoln County had Home Extension agents. They really got underway in 1946 but some extension womens programs were conducted as early as 1922. Home economists visited from Oregon State College which was what Oregon State University was before it became a university and after the name was changed from Oregon Agricultural College. In 1922 sewing classes were conducted at Toledo, Siletz, Ona and Yachats. Nutrition work was done in Toledo, Chitwood, and Eddyville resulting in hot lunches being served at the Toledo public schools. In 1923 sixteen hats were made at the millinery schools. One interesting story on what hardships they faced to travel to Lincoln County from Corvallis before good roads and bridges were built is mentioned here. Mable Mack was one of those specialists from Oregon State College who taught clothing remodeling in 1928. The first workshop was held in Yachats. She had to rent a car and driver in Corvallis to take her to Yachats because the county agent had lost his car on the beach the previous week. In those days before Highway 101 and bridges were built, the only way to get to Yachats was to drive the beach at low tide. Thirty-five people did attend this event. She returned sometime later and went south of Yachats with the county agent. They drove as far as they could and then carried heavy suitcases with instructional materials three miles to a farmer's home. They stayed overnight and returned a couple of days later. She mentioned that these journeys no matter how treacherous they became were gratifying because the people deeply appreciated the program so much.

With the strain of World War II, Extension conducted programs to help take care of the necessities of families. In 1942, the Pomona Grange and Extension office co-sponsored a program resulting in 650 mattresses and 500 comforters. Miss Izola Jensen from Oregon State College taught 58 project leaders who taught techniques in their communities. Having victory gardens and doing home freezing were projects done. In 1944 the Extension office had three pressure cookers available for a rent of 10 cents a day.

In 1946, there were six charter home Extension groups and later there were about twelve Extension groups in Lincoln County for many years. Today there is only one group remaining. Many of these Extension groups made elaborate scrapbooks of their projects and functions for the year. The programs studied in the early years were taught by the agent. In the 1950's the agent trained one or two group members to teach the topic to their group. This resulted in leadership training and personal growth for all participants. The programs were always planned by the participants and reflected the interests of homemakers. Projects included food preparation, nutrition, home furnishings, clothing and textiles, care of home, gardening and landscaping and in the later years such projects as planning and county government, powder puff mechanics, heating with wood, recycling, microwave cooking, and consumer rights and topics affecting family life were added.

In 1943 employment of a full time Home Extension Agent was approved, but no person was available to fill the position until September 1, 1946. The first one was Dorothy Tolleth. This followed with Corrine Hansen in 1947, Eleanor Purcell in 1948, Lorena Logan in 1949, Ardis Eagy in 1951, Doris Brodersen in 1952, Damaris Bradish in 1955, Evelyn Stowell Brown in 1959, Evelyn Brookhyser in 1971, Joyce Brown in 1973, and Evelyn Brookhyser again from 1974 – 1995 when the program was discontinued due to budget cuts.

Pamphlets were available on such subjects as making clothes, tailoring shirts and suits, food preparation, how to iron clothes, how to shrink clothes, fixing sticky drawers, how to clean a stove,

drapery making, tips on fire prevention, simple home maintenance, and even how to use basic tools. Remember, in the 1950's it was before permanent press clothing and self-cleaning ovens were readily available.

There was a yearly Spring Festival held in different Lincoln County communities, which was a huge event for the county. Guest speakers were lined up and even a free babysitting service was available though they had to furnish their own child's drink and food and tag their children. There were various workshops on such subjects as making centerpieces for the holidays, food preparation, interior decorating, easier ironing, herbs and other seasonings and lampshade making. There was also a Better Dresses Fashion Revue. There was even a Home Extension song that was performed. This festival was a time when homemakers and their guests and neighbors from all over the county got together to exchange ideas, view exhibits and just enjoy themselves.

There was even a Homemakers Festival held throughout the county with one of the first being in 1948 in Newport. At the 1948 festival, a vitamin display was done with the emphasis put on Vitamins A & D. Another function that was held over the years was the Christmas Arts & Idea Fair. In 1984 – 1985, the Home Extension had a Lunch & Learn workshop. February 9 – 15, 1986, was known as Homemakers Week. Also, in 1986, they celebrated forty years of Home Extension in Lincoln County.

A monthly newsletter called Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics was sent out with tips on many subjects including getting enough calcium in your diet, recipes, bread making, canning tips, gardening tips, housekeeping tips, cheese making, cake decorating, how to make baskets and making tufted rugs, making jewelry for Christmas gifts, how to refurnish wood furniture, and an upcoming events calendar. This was a forerunner to *The Coast Ranger* which was started in its current format about 1984. One newsletter from the early 1950's mentioned trying to get people back into canning like they did after World War II, but that there was a shortage of canning jars since the manufacturers had cut back production of them.

In 1967-1968 Mable Mack retired and returned to Lincoln County to help assist senior adult needs and set up a program. The Lincoln County Council on Aging helped with this and formed a close tie with Extension.

Many people called Extension or stopped by to get information about a specific problem and received pamphlets or fact sheets on that particular topic of interest. Today they can still call or stop in but now the internet is also a very useful source for Extension support staff to research information if it is not readily available in the office.

In response to the state budget cuts for Home Economics programming in Lincoln County, Family Care connection was created in 1998 to serve as an umbrella program for two collaborative efforts that were currently underway in the community. Family Care Connection became the state Child Care Division designated Child Care Resource & Referral on July 1, 1998. This program had been operating on a temporary basis in Lincoln County through a community collaboration formed in 1995. This program offers a critical link for parents to find child care providers in their communities, as well as essential consumer education on the importance of choosing a high quality child care environment. Child care providers receive trainings, consultations and technical assistance to help them to be successful. As the Child Care Resource & Referral, Family Care connection is the primary organization that works with and relates to all parts of the child care system – families, child care providers, educators, businesses and policymakers.

Also in 1998, a group of individuals from community and county agencies representing persons with disabilities, seniors, children and families in Lincoln County came together in partnership to develop a countywide respite care system. The State of Oregon Lifespan Respite Care Program grant was awarded to Oregon State University Extension Service, Family Care Connection, to provide the resource and referral for respite care services in Lincoln County. The respite care program dovetailed nicely with the Child Care Resource & Referral.

In 2003, Family Care Connection added the Child Care Health Consultation Program, a collaborative effort with the Lincoln County Public Health Department. The program gave child care providers new accessibility to community resources including help to identify physical and mental health needs of children, families and/or providers; assistance to providers in developing health policies and forms; trainings and ongoing health consultations; and a link to resources in the community.

In 2009, Family Care Connection officially became the Child Care Resource & Referral for the north coast area of Clatsop, Lincoln, and Tillamook counties, with staff located in both the Lincoln and Clatsop County Extension offices. Tillamook is mostly served out of the Clatsop Extension office through an 800 number and staff travels there to provider training and meetings.

On July 1, 2010, the Child Care Health Consultation Program and Lifespan Respite Care Network were defunded due to state budget cuts. Family Care Connection currently serves as the Child Care Resource & Referral for Clatsop, Lincoln and Tillamook counties. It will continue to be a big part of extension and fulfill a great need as more people in the future will be in need of child care services.

Oregon State University Extension Nutrition Education Program, specifically the Oregon Family Nutrition Program (OFNP) was introduced in Lincoln County during the mid 1990's to provide nutrition education programming to limited income youth and adults. OFNP is offered through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education, better known as SNAP-ED. Community partnerships are a key component of OFNP. Our nutrition education programs, delivered through classes, food demonstrations, displays, and educational materials reach adults, seniors, teen parents, and youth, both in and out of school. Participants learn practical skills in the following areas: Healthy Eating and Activity; Increasing Household Food Security; and Reducing Food-borne Illness. During the past two decades, many individuals have been involved in delivering nutrition and food safety education to county residents, including the following educators: Amber Lacey, Janice Gregg, Rachel Saunders, Evelyn Brookhyser, Nancy Tido, and Nancy Ludwig. Jan Ostby has been our Nutrition Educator since 2010; Beatriz Botello is a part-time Education Program Assistant, who also teaches nutrition classes in Spanish. Nutrition has played a part in Extension's past and has become even more important in the present and will continue to be in the future.

4-H has been around since the beginning of Lincoln County Extension Service in 1918. 4-H has been and will continue to be an important part of the Extension Service since training youth is our future. 4-H provides leadership, character, citizenship and skill development. 4-H clubs teaches members to "learn by doing." In a report from 1947, it was mentioned that there were about 2,391 children between ages 9 and 18 in the county. There were 427 boys and girls enrolled in 4-H clubs with a 62% completion record in 1945. It was suggested that this number should be doubled. Today there are about 225 children involved in the Lincoln County 4-H program and 42 adult volunteer leaders. About 1962, Scott P. Clevenger was a 4-H Agent. Jerry L. Cannon was the 4-H Agent in 1965. From about 1970 – 1975 Nellie Beck was a 4-H Program Assistant, Barbara Koppel served in this same capacity from 1975 – 1977,

followed by Sarah Hauser from 1977- 1978. Dana Moore was next from 1978 – 1979. Karen Brenneman was a 4-H Aide around 1980. Susan(Roy) Baumgartner was the 4-H Agent from 1980 – 1985 with Leslie Richardson being an Interim 4-H Agent from 1985 – 1987. Susan Busler was a 4-H Agent from 1987 – 1996 with Evelyn Brookhyser serving as Chair Agent/4-H from 1996 – 2001. From 2001- 2003 Bill Rogers served as Chair Agent/ 4-H and Nancy Fitzpatrick was the 4-H Program Assistant. Jim Hermes was the Chair Agent/4-H from 2003 – 2004 and Lorraine Rich was the 4-H Program Assistant. In 2005, Chris Schmitz was the 4-H Agent and Lorraine Rich the 4-H Program Assistant. In 2006 from March to September there was no agent, with Sue Giles Green the Interim 4-H Program Assistant along with Lorraine Rich as 4-H Program Assistant. From March 2007 until September 2009 Vanessa Klingensmith was the 4-H Agent and Lorraine Rich 4-H Program Assistant. From September 2009 until the present Vanessa Klingensmith has been the 4-H Agent.

Most of the Forestry duties handled over the years was done by the County Extension Agent since there was no forestry agent here full time until about 2008. One thing that has been emphasized in the past thirty plus years was awarding the Tree Farmer of the Year in Lincoln County. This award was sponsored by the Oregon Tree Farm System and co-sponsored by the Lincoln County Small Woodlands Association and the Oregon State University Extension Service in Lincoln County. This award was given to recipients who had a forest management plan for their property and also were active in their communities. Some years no award was given. The first award was given out in 1977 to Don F. Kessi, followed by 1980 to Rex Wakefield, 1981 to Donald & Darlene Deardorff, 1982 to Five Rivers Ranch, 1983 – Rex Wakefield (also the first runner-up in the state), 1984 to E. E. Wedman, 1985 to Don F. Kessi, 1986 to W. H. Springer, 1987 to Joe Steenkolk, 1988 to Gene & Jessie Cooper, 1989 to Steven Brown, 1990 to Gene Nyhus, 1991 to Gary Springer, 1992 to Darrel & Glen Faxon, 1993 to Margaret J. Cook, 1994 to Thad & Bev Springer (also the first runner-up in the state), 1995 to Doris Phelps, 1996 to F. Lee Barclay, 1997 to Joanne & Norman Kittel, 1998 to Tim & Catherine Grant, 1999 to Mary Jane Robb & Theresa Miller, 2000 to Joe & Jan Steenkolk, 2004 to F. Lee Barclay, 2007 to Gene & Jessie Cooper, 2009 to Jim & Betty Denison, and 2011 to Virginia McKinnie & William McKinnie.

Sea Grant was the idea of William Q. Wick, OSU Extension specialist in 1967. He suggested why not take the Extension model that had been successful with agricultural interests and apply it to in a similar and dissimilar way with the challenges facing the people, communities, businesses and natural resources of the Oregon Coast. In 1971, Oregon State University became one of the first four national Sea Grant college programs in the United States. Sea Grant has been involved in most of the major issues facing the coast from the rise and fall of fisheries stocks to the challenges posed to coastal communities by our ever changing climate. This program today is recognized as a leader among 31 such programs nationwide, and a pre-eminent home for marine research, outreach and public engagement in the Pacific Northwest. In the past Extension had served coastal communities in several counties promoting the greater consumption of seafood. It had also supported the oyster industry. When Mr. Wick was assigned to the new Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport he helped guide Extension's coastal efforts in a more marine-intensive direction. That resulted in the hiring of the first full time marine agent and the first of its kind in the United States. That person was Bob Jacobson who had grown up on the coast in North Bend. He became acquainted with the commercial fishing industry at an early age. He was the first Marine agent serving in hip boots serving the needs of people in the fishing industry. He found there was a complete lack of communication between fishermen and the agencies regulating them. He developed and convened a series of town hall meetings from Astoria to Brookings to bring together fishing communities and regulators to plan a shared future. This was a forerunner of the good communications the industry and agencies have today. People in these fields are constantly changing so you have to continuing try to sell the program you are promoting. He also helped to

establish Oregon's first watershed councils of which this pioneered community-based management of shared water resources. He also found that most fishing boats in the late 1960's and early 1970's had very few life rafts or survival suits. Also, no training on how to use them was available. He got into selling survival suits at a reasonable rate fishermen could afford and started training exercises with the help of the Coast Guard. Today all boats require these items. Also, sea safety training called Drill Conductor classes are held several times a year for fishermen. He began his career with the Oregon State University Extension Service of Lincoln County in 1967. In 1968, he was relocated to the new Hatfield Marine Science Center. This led to expansion and the establishment of the Oregon Sea Grant program. Starting with the 1970's there became a full complement of marine agents on the Oregon coast and a number of marine specialists at the campus in Corvallis. Mr. Jacobson served until his retirement in 1995 after 28 years of service. Today he remains active in the community affairs of Newport and his daughter Kaety Hildenbrand has continued on in his role. She has extensive knowledge of the marine field having grown up around it. At the moment she is working on developing a Working Waterfront Tour of the Newport Waterfront and other coast waterfronts using a handheld smart phone application and a map.

The Lincoln County office of Oregon State University Extension Service receives more than 5,000 requests for home gardening information annually to provide information and answer residents' questions. Extension enlists the assistance of Master Gardener volunteers who are in the office three mornings a week except during no gardening season to field questions, answer phone calls and emails and look over samples of problems that have been dropped by. Master Gardeners was begun in Lincoln County in 1982. This program teaches and trains volunteers to answer questions in person, by phone or by email. Many new residents to Lincoln County experienced and inexperienced gardeners are interested in receiving local gardening advice. The Master Gardener program is designed for volunteers to help home gardeners in diagnosing plant and insect related problems, soil preparation, plant maintenance and propagation, correct pruning methods, identifying plants, and selecting appropriate plant materials for coastal gardening. Volunteers do not need to know all the answers, but where to find them! The program teaches volunteers how to answer questions using sources of gardening information available through state and local publications, education programs and workshops, research conducted at Oregon State University, and the Extension Service. It provides Master Gardeners with tools to become better gardeners, an awareness of sustainable gardening practices, an opportunity to give service to others, and to become part of a network of fellow, like minded gardeners. In looking over past information from Lincoln County Extension, people as far back as the early 1940's were looking for tips on how to plant their garden and what would be the best items to plant in our coastal climate. As we continue to want to grow our own gardens even more in the future, Master Gardeners will play an important role.

The Extension Advisory Committee consists of appointed members from Lincoln County who are community leaders interested in the development of informal educational opportunities for residents of Lincoln County. They identify the needs and interests of clientele and to determine the direction of the Oregon State University Extension program. They help assess needs, evaluate the overall Extension program, and publicize its effectiveness. The committee helps communicate that Extension is the people's resource in Agriculture, Consumer Science, 4-H, Sea Grant, Forestry and Community Development. The Extension Service District was created in 1980 with a need for a stable funded tax base. Funding did not take place until its passage in November 8, 1988. However, with today's costs this funding is no longer adequate to maintain and increase innovative programs in Lincoln County.

The Lincoln County Advisory Committee set up an endowment fund to support future programs in Lincoln County. This endowment was designed to be set up as a whole or a specific program of your choice. Contributions are used to build principal in the endowment fund with the earnings used to enhance Extension programming. These funds stay within Lincoln County and are managed by the Advisory Committee. This will help realize the future goals for our community as Extension rolls into the next centennial.

In October 2010, Lincoln County Extension Service in cooperation with Oregon Coast Community College conducted its first annual Natural Resources School at the community college campus. Other classes and workshops are held in various locations in Lincoln County throughout the year to educate the public on various resources available and how to utilize them. This has been an ongoing process throughout Lincoln County Extension Service history.

Even though through the years things have changed, but some things never change and that is continuing to serve the needs of the people of Lincoln County providing them the information they need to maintain their farms, homes, community, jobs, and family needs. The Extension guideline is "helping people to help themselves." This education directs helping people solve the various problems which they may encounter day to day. Extension educational programs help meet the needs of the people it serves by providing educational programs not only in the past, but the present and into the future.

The Extension Office current plans are to move into a new facility in 2012 and continue to serve the people of Lincoln County as things constantly change and will face the needs to adapt to current situations as we approach our own centennial in Lincoln County in 2018.

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