



THE EXTENSION SERVICE

Working behind the scenes to support communities

Across the nation, in every county of every state there is an Extension Service office that is there to serve anyone who has a question or interest in learning. Jackson County Oregon is no exception.

Established by Congress, the Jackson County Extension Service is a part of Oregon State University

What is the Extension Service and what does it do? The Extension Service does just what the name implies; it is a part of and **extends the knowledge and expertise of each state's Land Grant University** (in our case Oregon State University) to the citizens of the state. When the Extension Service was first, established by Congress in the late 1800's, the mission of the organization was to extend unbiased, research-based information to help citizens solve problems in engineering and agriculture. Today the main emphasis is still on agriculture but the Extension Service provides information and classes on much, much more.

The Extension Service in Jackson County offers programs in; **4-H Youth**, which includes raising animals large and small, food and nutrition, technology, robotics, and shooting sports, to name a few; **Forestry**, managing small woodlands, fire proofing your home; **Commercial Agriculture**, orchards, vineyards, pests control; **Small Farms**, marketing, developing business, small acreage stewardship, community and organic farming systems, beginning farmer education; **Family and Community Development**, food safety, nutrition, healthy aging; **Urban Horticulture**; plant clinic, water conservation, landscaping, gardening, urban pest control, recycling, **Commercial Livestock** and more. Other programs offered in Oregon but not in Jackson County are **Sea Grant**, which addresses marine and coastal issues along the Oregon coast and the **Food**

Innovation Center located in Portland that works with food producers, processors, marketers, and entrepreneurs.

The Extension Service provides unbiased, research-based answers that are relevant to the county's environmental conditions.

With so much information available in books and on the internet these days why would anyone need the services of the Extension Service? While information is readily available from many sources, the advice and educational classes provided by the Extension Service are unbiased, research based, and relevant to each county's environmental conditions. Our staff are faculty at Oregon State University, are not there to sell you anything, nor are they there to convince you to make one decision over another such as organic vs. conventional growing. They are there to provide you the best, most accurate information on the subject requested. If for some reason they are unable to provide that information themselves they have the entire faculty of Oregon State University to draw on to get the answer to your question or solve your problem.

Typical questions received by our staff these days are all over the board. Examples range from: "My laying chickens ate poison set out for rats, is it still safe to eat the eggs they produce?" "How do I create a business plan for my organic farm, vineyard, or orchard so that I can obtain a loan from the bank?" "How do I: grow a garden, can food, get my well water tested and for what, deal with my aging relative, learn to live a healthy life style with a chronic health condition, reduce the fire risk on my forest land, manage the trees on my land and market them, determine what will grow on my land, find out what kind of bug this is, what is killing my lawn, garden, or house plant."

Extension youth programs develop life skills that make our youth productive citizens.

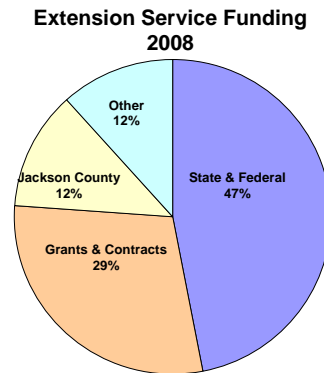
The youth programs and projects offered by the Extension Service provide opportunities for all age groups, no matter if you live on a farm or in the city. Our youth projects are a means to an end... to develop life skills, to make our youth productive citizens, emphasizing leadership, public speaking, financial management, record keeping, goal setting, responsibility, problem solving, and decision-making.

During 2007, Oregon State University had a total of 28 staff working in Jackson County, 15 of which worked in the local Extension Service office and the remaining 13 people worked at our research office. Of the 28 people working in Jackson County, 12 are full fledged faculty at Oregon State University, housed in this county.

Our faculty in 2007 conducted over 3,100 classes or workshops, had over 9,900 boys and girls involved in our youth programs, and had over 1,200 youth involved in our 4-H clubs, of which 720 4-H youth entered in the county fair. We worked with over 850 farmers in the community to minimize their pesticide use and improve their production, and had over 700 small woodland landowners involved in our forestry programs. We had over 17,500 people involved in our Healthy Aging and Food Safety programs. In total, over 95,000 citizens in Jackson County utilized our services for information or enrolled in our classes during the past year.

The Extension Service obtains its funding primarily from three sources: the federal and state governments and the county where the Extension Service office resides. The federal and state governments pay faculty salaries and support projects through grants. The county government provides for operational costs such as; building maintenance, clerical support, custodial service, local travel and supplies. Without any one of these three funding sources, the Extension Service office would be closed or the facility moved to a county that could support their Extension activities.

Few people know that Jackson County's Extension office was the first Extension office establish in the state of Oregon, back in 1914, over 94 years ago. The citizens of this county have been and continue to be very fortunate to have had elected and appointed officials through the years that have understood the value that the Extension Service brings to our community. Given an opportunity, you might let the County Administrator's office or our County Commissioners in Jackson County know how much you appreciate their funding the local Extension Service office and making the services available to you.



Check us out by visiting our office located at 569 Hanley Road, or by visiting our web Page at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/> . My staff and I look forward to seeing you.