

**OSU EXTENSION FACULTY
SERVING WASHINGTON
COUNTY***

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OSU to You

November/December 2009

OSU Extension Service engages the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education that focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals.

Extension hosts Harvest Fair of learning



The Extension Harvest Fair, held in October at the Washington county fairgrounds attracted community members interested in everything from joining 4-H to raising chickens in their backyards. While it's not currently legal to keep a backyard flock of poultry within Hillsboro city limits, the Urban Poultry class drew a large crowd from all parts of the county. Additional speakers addressed food preservation and edible landscaping. Participants visited a covered wagon used each year on the 4-H wagon train, tried



out saddles perched on straw bales in the musical saddles game and toured the Master Gardeners demonstration gardens located at the



fairgrounds. 350 people stopped by the free event, held for the first time this year.

OSU Poultry Specialist, James Hermes, PhD traveled from campus to share his insights on Urban Poultry. A 4-H member introduces her turkey. A covered wagon draws visitors and Maureen Quinn, 4-H faculty greets visitors.

The Key to Successful Clover Seed Production: Bees



Bees have been buzzing on our TV screens, radio stations and newspapers for the past several years. Many are concerned about reports of a drop in bee populations across the world. Native bumble bees happen to play a major role in production of clover grown for seed in Washington County and other parts of the North Willamette Valley. Washington County clover seed is sold to forage producers and livestock operations across the country and world. Without bees, clover produces no seed. From July – September, OSU Crops Agent Nicole

Anderson and an OSU student traveled weekly to clover fields across the county to monitor native bee population and bloom pollination in red clover fields being grown for seed.

Fortunately, there is good news to report. Native bumble bees are thriving in numbers and remain fond of feeding on clover nectar. On average, 8 native bumble bees per minute were counted at any given time in Washington County red clover fields. This equates to at least several thousand native bees visiting fields on any given day during bloom. News of this rate is welcomed by clover seed producers who are striving to produce strong crops and high yields. With the help of local bees, clover seed production in Washington County will continue to be amongst the best in the world!

Upcoming Events

October 27. **Basic Sheep Production Seminar.** 6:00 pm-9:00 pm. Ext. Ofc.

November 2. **Caregiving in Tough Times.** 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Tuality Health Ed Ctr. Free to caregivers.

November 3. Climate Change Series. **Population, growth, global warming.** 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. PSB, Hillsboro. Free.

November 5. **Mold Control in your home.** Elsie Stuhr Center. 2:00 pm.

November 7. CAO Energy Fair. Extension display and presentations. **Mold Control.** Cornelius Elem. 10 am – 2 pm. Free.

November 10. Climate Change Series. **Climate models, predicting the future.** 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. PSB, Hillsboro. Free.

November 10. **Current trends and economics in local agriculture.** CPO 8, North Plains. 7 pm. Free.

November 12. **Winter safety for Seniors.** Elsie Stuhr Center. 2:00. Free.

November 17. Climate Change Series. **Humidity and Seasonality of Influenza.** 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. PSB, Hillsboro. Free.

November 18. **Aging in Place.** Wilsonville Community Center. Noon.

November 19. **Nutrition/ Osteoporosis.** Shute Park Aquatic and Rec Center, Hillsboro. Noon.



Anthony receives congratulations and a certificate of completion from Neal McKeever upon completion of the first Financial Education series offered.

Washington County OSU TO YOU is a bi-monthly publication of the OSU Extension Service in Washington County highlighting the activities and accomplishments of local programs. More information on all program areas and events can be seen on our website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington> or our location at 18640 NW Walker Road, Suite 1400, Beaverton, OR 97006 (CAPITAL Center Entrance D1).

Family and Community Educators and Extension



2009 marks the 70th Anniversary of the Oregon Association for Family and Community Education (FCE). Originally formed to provide community learning groups taught by the Extension Family and Community Health state specialists and county agents in the 1930's, much has changed over time. In the first years of existence, these groups were called Extension Home Demonstration Clubs and were community groups that gave farm women a chance to join together for rare educational and social opportunities. The Home Economics agent (as they were known at the time) traveled throughout the area giving hands-on demonstrations on everything from how to make mayonnaise (which was to be used to encourage children to eat more vegetables) to how to safely preserve foods.

The groups quickly added community service to their activities. They sponsored numerous 4-H clubs, food banks, and Red Cross blood drives locally, as well as working toward nutritional school lunches, placing ratings on televising shows and activating rural bookmobiles on a national level. In 1949 Oregon State College (OSC, now known as OSU) President August Strand said "Never again will I underestimate the power and ability of women," as the Oregon Extension Homemakers Council handed him a check for \$25,000. A tremendous amount of money in the post WWII recession, a result of a fundraising effort by the group to provide safe, affordable housing for young women on the OSC campus. This donation, along with \$20,000 more by 1951, enabled the university to build Azalea House, a unique cooperative housing option for young women. Named after OSC's State Home Demonstration leader from 1936 to 1952, Azalea Sager, Azalea House still houses young women at OSU, a lasting tribute to the FCE organization. This October, the Washington County FCE organization met for their annual fall "Holidaze Faire" which featured Oregon Author Jane Kilpatrick as guest speaker. Among the 90 participants were a number of 50 year+ FCE members and 2 women who lived in Azalea House for their studies at OSU. There are 8 FCE groups with a membership of about 100 in Washington County today. Most members are over the age of 65. In past decades, membership has topped 2500. Jeanne Brandt, Washington County FCH faculty acts as advisor and instructor for the 22 groups through the metro area.

Photos: Mrs. J.B. Thomas and Mrs. Ross Furby share dishes they prepared with home canned vegetables at an Extension Homemaker event in this 1951 Hillsboro Argus photo. Washington County FCE president Kathy Starr greets author Oregon Jane Kilpatrick at the recent FCE event.



Financial Education underway

Anthony (see photo at left) is the first student to complete the Dollar Works 2 financial education course offered by OSU Extension. Personal budgeting techniques were covered during the 6 week course with creating a monthly savings plan, consumer protection skills, and debt management. The clients had a positive response to the course and made concrete plans to change existing spending patterns, start monthly accounting practices to track expenditures and to build an emergency savings fund.

Financial Ed instructor, Neal McKeever has recently finished classes at Portland Community and Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. and is now teaming with Adelante Mujeres in Forest Grove, El Programa Hispano of Catholic Charities in Gresham, and with Hacienda CDC, located in North Portland, among others.