



Extension Service
Washington County

**OSU EXTENSION FACULTY
SERVING WASHINGTON
COUNTY***

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and Washington County cooperating.

OSU to You

April / May 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.

New Focus on Field Crops

The Agriculture Program is pleased to announce that **Nicole Anderson** has joined OSU Extension in Washington, Polk and Yamhill counties. Nicole brings a long list of skills and expertise to Extension Agriculture to further the aim of promoting improvements in the economic, environmental and social well-being of Oregon citizens. Nicole has worked in agriculture for many years, most recently at Janus Youth Programs- Urban Agriculture Services in Portland.



There she managed an agriculture program that supports low-income growers to produce food for home consumption and small markets, led horticulture trainings, provided technical field assistance, and organized all aspects of crop production. Before diving into field crops, Nicole spent several years as a graduate student studying soil ecology and nutrient management at Washington State University. She later went on to spend several years investigating soil management practices on coffee farms with the USDA in Latin America. She is eager to begin conducting field research projects and organizing educational programs for commercial wheat, grass and clover seed producers in the North Willamette Valley. Welcome Nicole!

Extension Service Featured at Better Living Show

The Better Living Show is the Northwest's largest sustainability show attracting 20,500 attendees during March 27-29, 2009 at the Portland Expo Center. OSU Extension service sponsored the Seminar Series for the show, coordinating 38 presentations on a wide range of sustainability topics- from gardens to electricity from waste water to food preservation. The Seminar Series showcased 18 presentations from OSU faculty. Over 950 people attended presentations.



Additionally, the OSU Solar Trailer was parked in front of the Expo center helping to educate the general public about solar electricity and promote OSU



and Extension Service's leadership in sustainability. OSU Extension's booth on the main floor of the show was staffed full-time, providing an opportunity to engage 2700 attendees. Overall, this event was a successful and high-profile opportunity for outreach and engagement for OSU.

Photos: OSU Solar Trailer (left). Washington County faculty Jeanne Brandt demonstrates safe, healthy food preservation (right).

Upcoming Events

April 2. Peonies. Master Gardeners. 7 pm. Extension Office.

April 4. Spring Odyssey 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show. 8 am – noon. Fairgrounds.

April 4. 4-H Poultry showmanship clinic. Noon- 4 pm. Fairgrounds.

April 18. Clean and Healthy Homes, classes for residents of Tualatin Valley Housing Partners, Fircrest and Merlo Station Apartments.

April 22. Mold and indoor air quality issues. Workshop for housing pros. PCC - Rock Creek, 8:30 – 12:30.

April 25. Washington County Master Gardener Plant Sale. Kinton Grange.

April 25. 4-H Super Saturday. Learning event for 4-H'ers, leaders and parents. 8:30 – Noon. Extension Office.

May 7. Heirloom Vegetables. Master Gardeners. 7 pm. Extension Office.

OSU Master Gardeners Standing By!

Trained volunteers answer phone and walk-in questions for local gardeners

Monday – Friday

9 am – noon and 1 – 4 pm

503-821-1150

Insect I.D. and management, garden soil preparation, plant selection, lawn care, disease I.D., organic gardening top current questions being asked.

In 2008, Washington County Master Gardeners responded to over 4500 calls from local gardeners.



Multnomah County Master Gardener Office is now open in the headquarters of the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, which is providing the equipment, phone line and office space as part of a new partnership. Phone: 503-445-4608

CPOs Host Urban and Rural Reserve Discussions

Citizen Participation Organizations (CPOs) throughout Washington County are hosting discussions regarding which lands should be preserved for the next 40-50 years as Rural Reserves, designated for the agricultural industry, forest land, or natural resource protection. They are also engaging residents in discussions about which lands should be designated Urban Reserves or potentially available for development over the next 40-50 years. The discussions will inform County and Metro decision-makers as they move toward decisions by December 2009. Information is kept at www.co.washington.or.us/reserves

Nutrition Ed Partners with Adelante Mujeres

Women at Adelante Mujeres are finishing an interactive nutrition series on economical and healthy cooking as part of their adult education. An education, empowerment and enterprise organization for Latina Women and their families, Adelante Mujeres, promotes work which translates to the idea "Upward and Flourish, Women." The partnership with OSU Extension Service allows women to integrate how to eat well and budget economically as part of the learning rotation in the Forest Grove Education Center. Instructor Matilde Rodriguez combines cooking and research-backed health information to focus on family wellness. The classes are well received. Executive Director Bridget Cooke asserts "It's hands-on and team-building and still doing math and reading (while) cooking in ways that are healthy and simple since they are students." Cooke also affirms that "the students asked for help and support in making healthy meals for their children in their new home country. Many of the students are very conscious of obesity and diabetes and this responds to their concern about healthy lifestyles. The students come away feeling like 'I can do this' and also prepared their recipes at home. We definitely like this collaboration."

Agricultural Commodity Sales and Harvest Reported

Washington County farmers report annually on the value of their crop and livestock sales and the acres harvested. Below are the 2008 estimates.

Nursery crops	128,340	Cattle	3,528
Greenhouse crops	32,470	Dairy products	12,595
Grain & hay	22,016	Other animal products	3,527
Grass & legume seeds	41,409	ALL LIVESTOCK	\$19,650
Small fruit & berries	22,841		
Woodlots/Christmas trees	8,999		
Vegetable & truck crops	2,778	ALL CROPS & LIVESTOCK	\$302,058
Tree fruit & nuts	14,852		
Other crops	8,703		
ALL CROPS	\$282,408		

Washington County farmers reported 79,614 acres harvested in 2008. Top 5 crops were:

Grass and Legume seeds	39,130 acres
Hay and forage	13,350
Grains	12,650
Tree fruits and nuts	7,808
Small fruits	3,310



Source: Extension Economic Information Office, Oregon State University, 2/4/ 2009

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).