



Extension Service
Washington County

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SERVING WASHINGTON
COUNTY***

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OSU to You

August/September 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.

Financial Literacy Educator joins Extension

Financial education is becoming increasingly important in the new economic reality, post real estate bubble collapse. Financial literacy is an even more important factor for all income level families as daily and monthly household economic obligations become more difficult to meet.



OSU Extension is helping with financial education outreach by offering courses to lower income English and Spanish speakers using the DollarWorks2 curriculum. This solid, bi-lingual curriculum provides the necessary foundation to make a positive contribution in financial education outreach. Outcomes from the financial classes are recorded and quantified through online resources and a data collection system that is part of the DollarWorks2 curriculum. Neal McKeever is the new Financial Education Coordinator for OSU Extension in Washington County and will be providing classes and training sessions for organizations and people interested in financial literacy using the DollarWorks2 program. He is interested hearing from organizations that are either starting a financial program or are in need of a curriculum for an existing program. Neal has a decade of experience in instruction, training and administration in the education field. Along with an International MBA and a small business background, he is an excellent fit for the position.

Welcome Neal!

Food Preservation classes popular

"The most important part of safe and healthy food preservation is obtaining current, tested instructions and following them!"

A dramatic increase in home food preservation fueled our decision to resume the practice of offering instruction this summer. We responded with numerous classes and information booths at health fairs, farmer's markets and the county fair. Hundreds of calls by consumers were fielded by the local office and thousands more by the state-wide hotline staffed out of the Lane County office. The renewed interest is a result of the consumers' attempts to preserve local products, control ingredients and in some cases save money, although this is not always the case when equipment or fresh produce must be purchased. Fourteen classes were offered covering jams and jellies, fruits and pie fillings, pressure canning and tomatoes and salsa. The tomatoes and salsa class was the most popular. One set of classes was offered in cooperation with Portland Community College Community Education program and marketed through their class catalog. OSU and the National Center for Home Food Preservation post their recommended instruction and recipes online to provide economical and easy access for community members.

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington/food_safety



Upcoming Events

Sept. 15. Stormwater Management: One Backyard at a Time. 9:00-11:30 am. Extension Office

Sept. 16. Nutrition and Osteoporosis. Noon. Wilsonville Comm. Ctr.

Sept. 21. 4-H Leaders Kick-off 2009-10 year. 7 pm. Extension Office

Sept. 22. Are you ready? Preparing for disasters. 9:30 – 11:00 am. Ext. Office

Sept. 25. Grass Seed Weed Management. 8:00-10:00 am. Elmer's Rest. Hillsboro

Oct. 10. 4-H and Extension Harvest Festival. Classes, garden tours, 9 am – 2 pm. Fair Complex, Hillsboro



Local farmers talk change over breakfast

Accounting for over 351 million dollars in 2008, agricultural production in Washington County is alive and well. In the face of a troubling economy, local farmers and OSU Extension faculty are teaming up to find innovative ways to create productive and sustainable solutions to today's farming challenges. Each month, wheat, grass and clover seed producers meet around the breakfast table in West Hillsboro to share success stories and learn about new farming practices including: variety selection, crop rotation, no-till seeding, integrated pest management and soil tests that minimize fertilizer application. An average of 30 local commercial growers attend monthly.

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).

4-H wraps up summer events

4-H Washington County summer programs are winding down and programs in schools are just beginning. This summer, Horse Fair and County Fair had many successes with 2,982 separate projects from 1,024 kids in 4-H. With record high temperatures for the week of fair, no animals were lost, but the Dairy Women's Ice Cream helped keep everyone on task. Estimates of direct volunteer time contributed by 4-H volunteers for the Washington County fair add up to 7,300 hours. This equates to 3.5 FTE.

While the Fair is a showcase for many youth in 4-H, a series of GIS workshops and classes were held as part of the 4-H Tech Wizards program. 4-H high school students met throughout the summer, working on community projects including a street tree inventory with staff from City of Hillsboro, and a bicycle transportation inventory and survey for Forest Grove.

4-H also held a residential summer camp at the 4-H Center just west of Salem. Kids eight to twelve years of age with high school camp counselors had a week full of adventures in science and outdoor living. The campers even headed out to sea from Newport in search of marine mammals and gray whales (they saw three whales while holding back sea sickness!) This was the first 4-H residential camp offered in many years for Washington County. 4-H is developing plans to offer a wide range of camp experiences for the coming year.

4-H campers search for whales off the Oregon coast.



CPO Volunteers Host Urban Rural Reserve Talks

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.



Children spend summer learning and eating

OSU Extension Nutrition Education staff shared healthy eating messages at apartment complexes, community rooms, and USDA meal sites this summer. More than 500 youth participated in hands-on activities and food experiences using fresh fruits and vegetables in season and other

low-cost ingredients during classes held at sites offering the USDA summer lunch program. Participants were encouraged to "eat more fruits and veggies," and recipes prepared in class were sent home to parents.

CPO Volunteer Leaders Participate in Survey

Volunteer citizen leaders of active CPOs throughout Washington County are participating in a confidential online survey which will identify unmet needs and evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Analysis of responses will assist CPO coordinators in assessing the needs and preferences of the leadership and guide development of program enhancement. Survey results will be shared with CPO leadership and county Board of Commissioners.