



Extension Service
Washington County

**OSU EXTENSION FACULTY
SERVING WASHINGTON
COUNTY***

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and Washington County cooperating.

OSU to You

February/March 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.

Greetings from new Extension Staff Chair

It is a welcomed experience to be part of OSU's Extension program in Washington County and further into the metro area engaging the people our programs serve with research-based knowledge and education which focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals. Extension does this in a number of ways to support sustainability through our 4-H, Food and Community development, Nutrition Education and Citizen Participation programs. As staff chair, my vision resides in building upon the expertise and knowledge of faculty and staff in Washington County to develop a well funded program which supports the rapidly changing needs of learners, while supporting strategies and initiatives for faculty and staff to collaborate and grow professionally as a well defined, cohesive team. To build upon the success of Extension in Washington county, it is important to take the program a step further by forming partnerships with other organizations, securing continued funding for Extension's programs, cultivating relationships with advisory groups of local citizens and programs, promoting a greater diversity of people and interests within the groups, ensuring Extension is meeting the changing needs of the metro area, and creating opportunities for faculty and staff to increase internal collaboration among Extension's programs.

Your help, vision and input as leaders and learners in the community would be appreciated and will assist the Extension team as we forge ahead with existing and new programming in the years ahead. Please let us know what help and resources you need. Feel free to contact either myself or any one at the Washington county office.

Regards, Patrick Proden



Patrick Proden's jobs have taken him from one extreme to another: from the concrete jungle of Baltimore's rough inner city, to a tiny town in rugged Alaska with no indoor plumbing, to the hot and humid coast of Tanzania. And now to Oregon. Read more about his background and experiences on our webpage. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington>

CPO 15 Blooming/Fern Hill Member Wins Nat'l Award

Our very own Holly Witte was honored in January by the National Peace Foundation. She received the 2009 Peace Quilt Award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Holly, a host coordinator with the National Peace Foundation, has welcomed eleven delegations of Russian leaders to her home and community since 1999. If schedules allow, Holly brings her guests to CPO meetings to enhance their understanding of citizen involvement program in Washington County. She also worked with Clean Water Services to provide an opportunity for Russian leaders to study water management. Congratulations to Holly and family for their achievement in working toward local and international peace and citizen involvement. For more information see www.nationalpeace.org.

NWREC compost facility



The concrete compost pad. A bioswale will handle runoff.

Compost pile built from dairy solids, wood chips, chicken manure.



George Lucas Foundation “DIGITAL YOUTH”

In December, Intel 4-H Tech Wizard Luis Chavez, Forest Grove, was one of 10 youth selected nationally to be featured in the George Lucas Educational Foundation, publisher of *Edutopia* media, DigitalYouth Project. The multimedia portfolios feature youth who are deeply immersed in digital media of all kinds: blogs, social networks, virtual environments, games, media making projects, so on. These portraits are intended to provide an in-depth look at how young people are using new media for learning, socializing, and entertainment; giving adults insight into the new generation’s digital lives. Chavez was selected for the project based on his portfolio of multi-media work with Tech Wizards, his service learning projects which include GIS work for the Hillsboro Planning Department, participation as a Digital Connector (tutor and trainer) through Centro Cultural, mentoring young children in Lego Robotics after-school, and a series of essays. The portrait will appear on the Lucas Foundation website in May. <http://www.edutopia.org/>

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).

Composting facility under development at NWREC

Most growers seek to improve soil quality by increasing organic matter content and while organic wastes are available as soil amendments, if used incorrectly, they can inhibit crop production. More organic wastes are being separated at their source, so the volume and types of unprocessed waste available to farmers is growing. These are livestock manure, crop residues, yard debris, municipal leaves, wood waste and food waste. The cost of conventional fertilizers is increasing, and there are increasing markets for organic and other certified agricultural products. As space in landfills becomes more difficult to find, Oregonians are more interested in reducing the volume of organic waste being discarded. Together, these create growing interest in agricultural composting. DEQ is implementing new Rules that will govern composting facilities in Oregon, including those on farms. The Rules include a Memorandum of Understanding that ODA will implement the Rules on most farms. The draft Rules are designed to protect human health and the environment while promoting composting. A central concern addressed in the Rules is the risk of water contamination by leachate. While composting provides environmental benefits by reducing waste volumes and increasing soil organic matter, poorly managed composting operations are a threat to water quality. It is imperative that any growth in agricultural composting is done intelligently, in order to prevent water pollution.

With funding from the Agricultural Research Foundation, Nick Andrews and Dan Sullivan are developing an agricultural composting facility at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center (NWREC). The goal of this project is to establish a pilot scale facility for compost research at NWREC and to conduct one initial research study (custom compost for blueberry production) that will demonstrate the utility of the facility. Over the long-term, this compost facility will attract additional funding for compost recipe development, evaluation of on-farm composting methods and workshops.

Extension offers help “Managing in Tough Times”

Extension’s mission to bring relevant, research-backed education to local communities is working to help families respond to economic challenges. Recent Family and Community Development classes have taught thrifty, simple ways to include more whole grains and when possible, local produce, in the diet to promote health and the feeling of fullness the fiber in these foods provides. Co-scheduling with Head Start has reached families with economical eating and child-health education at community sites where families already gather. These partnerships with Hillsboro and Beaverton School districts and the Commission on Children and Families also include pre-planning for summer Snack Attack day camps at summer feeding sites to respond proactively in our county to the continuing economic cycle. Local faculty Lynn Steele, Janice Smiley and Maureen Quinn are also training staff in a new curriculum “Eating Smart, Being Active” which will further support local health outcomes.

OSU Extension Faculty, Janice Smiley with Ginny Sorensen, Oregon Food Bank and Beaverton School District Community Transition Program staff and students. This new partnership is planning a targeted program to provide nutrition education classes for students with Intellectual Disabilities at the Capital Center. The program is scheduled to begin this spring. As a broader response to the facets of the economic cycle, OSU announced a statewide release of the website:



http://extension.oregonstate.edu/emergency/tough_times.php