



Extension Service
Washington County

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COUNTY***

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and Washington County cooperating.

OSU to You

June/July 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.

Supporting Tomorrow's Farmers

You may have heard the statistic that the national average age of farmers is rising. Currently the average farmer is 57 and approaching retirement. Fortunately, there is increasing interest in farming. Youth are spending their summers as farm apprentices and professionals are deciding it is time to get out of the office and into the field. Unlike the last generation of farmers many of today's beginning farmers did not grow up on a farm. These farmers face a daunting learning curve. Even those that do have extensive farm experience are entering into a risky business that requires a broad knowledge base. OSU's Small Farm Program is developing a unique curriculum for beginning farmers. The course, *Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Management*, is a holistic farmer training program giving farmers the knowledge, tools, and contacts they need to be successful. In 8 classes *Growing Farms* addresses both the business and biological side of farming. Experienced farmers and agricultural professionals present on a variety of topics from marketing to soil management. *Growing Farms* also offers beginning farmers a chance to meet those involved in their local farm community, which is undoubtedly the most important part of the class.

This spring the Small Farm Program, with funding from the USDA Risk Management Agency, completed the first Growing Farms Courses. Four separate courses were held in distinct regions of the state (Central Oregon, North Willamette Valley, South Willamette Valley, and Southern Oregon). The courses were well attended with a total of 105 participants and waitlists at most locations. With continued funding from the Risk Management Agency, Growing Farms will be held again in the beginning of 2010. Stay tuned to smallfarms.oregonstate.edu for updates as the next round of classes develop.

New Extension Forester serving Washington County



Amy Grotta has joined OSU Extension in Washington and Columbia counties as the Extension Forester. Amy is a graduate of OSU, having received a masters' degree from the College of Forestry in 2002. Amy spent the past four years in the Seattle area as the Washington State University Extension forestry educator in King County. There, she worked closely with the county government to deliver educational programs for the thousands of small acreage woodland owners in the urban fringe of Puget Sound.

Amy is happy to be returning to Oregon and to have the opportunity to work with woodland owners and the larger community to help maintain the vibrancy and sustainability of our forest resources. She is currently conducting a survey that will help shape her program and its delivery. To take part, please visit our website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington/>.

Upcoming Events

June 24, **Making jams and jellies.**
Extension office, 6:30. \$15.00

June 27. Washington County Master Gardener **Tour of Gardens.** Free.

June 27. Washington County **Small Woodlands Association Tour,** Lone Fir Farm, Gales Creek.

July 10. **Measuring Forests for Carbon Credits.** Hillsboro. \$35/45.

July 18. Washington County **Small Woodlands Association Tour,** Arbor House tree Farm. Gales Creek.

July 22. **Canning fruits and pie fillings.** Extension Office. \$15.00

July 25. **Red Alder Management Tour.** Columbia County.

July 7-12. **4-H Horse Fair.** Fair grounds, Hillsboro. Free admission.

July 30-August 2. 4-H Exhibits and Contests at **Washington County Fair.** Free admission. Hillsboro.



Intel 4-H Tech Wizards

Miguel Mandujano, a tech wizards member and a tireless team leader, is in Panama sharing his expertise on community mapping and GIS/GPS technology with other youngsters and teachers in that tiny country of Latin-America. Upon his return to the United States, Miguel and a team of five tech wizards will mentor 14 students on GIS/GPS and ArcGIS as part of the summer 2009 capstone program at the Capital Center. Equipo GIS will map bike paths of a neighborhood in Hillsboro. This community-mapping project involves a public display of their results. Additionally, the students will share the importance of exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle hoping to inspire collaborations with other sectors to promote healthy living among the Latino community in the Washington County area.

4-H Program preparing for Fair

This time of year, for youth in Washington County, County Fair is synonymous with 4-H. Families and kids from every corner of the county are busy preparing for this mid-summer event. As of June 12th, OSU Extension 4-H in Washington County has 3,354 different projects that 4-H youth are participating in at the County Fair. The schedule for the four day event is packed full from 8:00 in the morning to 9:00 at night.

Two weeks before county fair, 155 4-H members will bring 130 horses to the fairgrounds for six full days of activities, challenges, and demonstrations.

A variety of programs from 4-H in Washington County involve youth in other regions of the state. 4-H has started a new residential summer camp for youth with a special focus on Oregon natural resources. Kids will be investigating Oregon's mountains and coastline. 4-H will also have 86 youth and leaders embarking on a 9 day, 100 mile traditional wagon train trip in central Oregon. This is definitely an exciting time of year for 4-H in Washington County.

PNW IPM alerts now available on TWITTER

What is Twitter? It is a new communication tool available on the internet at Twitter.com. All one needs to follow a particular information source is to sign up for free account. Tweets (as the messages are known) are quite pithy, limited to 140 characters so alerts will be succinct.

Why would one want to Twitter? One of the unique features of this tool is that one could receive alerts by text message on a regular cell phone. So, if you wanted to be out in the field on a nice day like this . . . you could still find out that spruce spider mite eggs have hatched, alert your field scout to monitor your conifers for activity and activate your management program and spray crew, if necessary. All, within minutes!

Twitter.com will get you to the Twitter website where you sign up for an account. In your settings, activate your mobile device (cell phone) by checking the appropriate box and later texting a message to the number given to signal agreement to receive text messages (Note - Standard text message charges apply). Once you are set up, search for *PNWNurseryIPM* at the search link <http://search.twitter.com/search> and you should be able to follow the tweets (or alerts). Many of us are new to this tool and just learning, so a little patience will be helpful. Robin Rosetta, who focuses on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Extension encourages those who want a little extra mobility with their communications to consider trying this new technology.

Clean and Healthy Homes highlighted

Asthma and allergies are a growing problem among Oregon children. Many of the symptoms are a response to their own homes where they are exposed to dust, dust mites, molds, pests, pets and cleaning chemicals. To help low-income families and adults with developmental disabilities reduce their exposure to indoor air pollutants and to be able to keep their homes clean with low-cost and healthy methods and products, OSU Extension Service has teamed up with Tualatin Valley Housing Partners (TVHP) to offer classes at each of TVHP's multi-family housing sites. Participants learn the importance of regular cleaning including damp dusting, vacuum maintenance, filling cracks that allow pests to enter and regular washing of bedding with enough soap and hot water to kill dust mites (a major allergen in all homes). Buckets with non-toxic cleaning supplies were popular door prizes.



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).