



Extension Service
Washington County

**OSU EXTENSION FACULTY
SERVING WASHINGTON
COUNTY***

Staff Chair, Washington and Multnomah
Patrick Proden 821-1113

4-H Youth Development
Patrick Willis 821-1120
Octaviano Merecias 367-6840

Citizen Involvement (CPO)
Linda Gray 821-1123
Margot Barnett 821-1114

Family and Community Health
Jeanne Brandt 821-1117

Financial Literacy
Neal McKeever 821-1118

Forestry
Amy Grotta 397-3462

Nutrition Education Program
Janice Smiley 821-1110
Maureen Quinn 380-9456

Watershed Health
Samuel Chan 722-6718

Commercial Horticulture 678-1264

Agriculture
Field Crops and Soils
Nicole Anderson 821-1127
Community and Urban Horticulture
Weston Miller 650-3124
Small Farms
Nick Andrews 678-1264 x 149
Commercial Tree Fruits/Nuts
Jeff Olsen 434-7517

Master Gardener Hotline 821-1150

General Information 821-1150

*All 503 area code Email format:

firstname.lastname@oregonstate.edu

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington>

18640 NW Walker Road, Suite 1400,
Beaverton, OR 97006 (CAPITAL Center # D1).
Oregon State University Extension Service offers
educational programs, activities, and materials
without discrimination based on race, color,
religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin,
age, marital status, disability, or disabled
veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status. Oregon
State University Extension Service is an Equal
Opportunity Employer.

Agriculture, Forestry, Family and Community
Development, 4-H Youth, and Extension Sea
Grant programs, Oregon State University,
United States Department of Agriculture,
and Washington County cooperating.

OSU to You

May/June 2010

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.

Kids 4-H Gardening Day at Sherwood library

Sherwood Youth Services Librarian Sue Decker attended a staff training which covered resources available from OSU Extension. Then she coordinated a great morning of books, action...and soil. Over 25 children and their parents gathered for a morning of shared reading, seed planting and science exploration on April 10, with OSU faculty member Maureen Quinn. Decker explained that there is so much interest in gardening with children that the library really wanted to bring that to the community, so she enlisted Extension's partnership. Science inquiry was fun. Armed with magnifying glasses, children from 3-10 years old examined roots like radishes and beets, and leaves, stems and other plant parts at the Veggie Petting Zoo, set up in the council chambers the library borrowed. After the chance to see and pet some things that grow in home gardens, kids acted out the growth cycle and planting directions, and then worked with their own parents to plant seeds to take home. They made markers to identify their plants. Older kids got a chance to make seedling pots from newspaper, another way to have containers which can be planted with the seeds. Children found books from the garden-related selection Decker had assembled and spent some quality story time too, before checking out their favorites. Parents were pleased that so much hands-on learning occurred and were happy to have take-home resources, too.

All families got a copy of "Growing Your Own" gardening directions for our region, and information about teaching kids through 4-H. Both are available at the library or online at <http://oregonstate.edu>



Activate Oregon: Project 2010

4-H hosted *Activate Oregon: Project 2010*, a program that brought 190 youth together to share, learn and participate in sustainability workshops and action planning sessions. Middle and high school students from 18 counties participated in two events. Students joined experts in the field of health, natural resources, project development, volunteer management, marketing and more as they gained valuable skills that will help them make a difference in their community.

The two conferences engaged youth leaders in a wide range of socio-economic and community systems topics including Cultural Collaborations, Rural/Urban Connections, Water, Biodiversity, Natural Step, Food Systems, Habitat Conservation, and Fair Labor/Farm Workers.

Using concepts from the Partners for a Sustainable Washington County Community, youth developed working groups based on a triple bottom line approach; Healthy People, Healthy Communities, Healthy Planet. Students crafted their take home action plan and were given the opportunity to share their project with the entire group.

The youth engaged in *Activate Oregon: Project 2010* are now back in their home towns, creating partnerships and implementing plans to improve and enrich their local community. 4-H and the vision from the Partners for a Sustainable Washington County Community continue to make positive impact in Washington County and throughout the state of Oregon.



Back to Growing Wheat

The Willamette Valley has not seen wheat acreage top 200,000 in nearly 20 years. In a survey taken in the spring of 2010, local OSU extension agents and specialists reported that about 198,750 acres of wheat were planted in the 2009-2010 crop year. However, just three years ago, OSU's OAIN statistics report estimated that the valley wheat acreage had dropped to an all time low of about 40,000 acres. This change was attributed to a thriving grass and legume seed market and poor prices at the grain elevator. It became much more profitable to produce seed than grain.

Wheat continues to not be a very lucrative crop to produce in the Willamette Valley. Today's wheat prices remain just *under* the calculated cost of production per bushel. This brings us to the question of "then why are we back to growing wheat?" The answer is quite simple. The markets for grass and legume seeds have declined quite significantly in the past 2-3 years resulting in extremely low prices and even the loss of contracts available to farmers who grow grass seed. The trend has been largely linked to poor economic conditions globally, including low housing starts, high input costs, a struggling livestock industry, and presence of a strong dollar against foreign currencies.

As the combines begin to harvest the 2010 wheat crop, we can expect to see nearly 23 million bushels of grain making its way to the Port in downtown Portland. Most of the grain will be hauled by truck to the port where it will be loaded on ships destined for foreign markets in Asia and the Middle East. Many countries in this region prefer to buy their grain from the Pacific Northwest because of our ability to produce very low protein wheat (as a result of high rainfall) which is desirable for noodle making and some flat bread production.

OSU extension agents and researchers continue to work with local grain and seed farmers to identify alternative crops to grow, explore new markets for grass and legume seeds and reduce the costs of wheat production. This year, over three hundred Willamette Valley grain growers have participated in OSU Extension production seminars, breakfast meetings and crop tours where they have been able to gain valuable information that will help them to better manage their production systems and improve their long-term profitability.



Local Extension Faculty honored

Jeanne Brandt and Janice Smiley, both OSU Extension Service Family and Community Health faculty assigned to Washington County, were recognized for their service and accomplishments at the recent OSU Spring Conference. Brandt received the "Distinguished Service Award" for leadership and excellence in extension programming. Her programs focus on healthy aging, housing and food safety and preservation. Smiley was awarded the "Administrative Leadership Award" for noteworthy administrative enthusiasm, performance and accomplishment. She has managed the Extension Nutrition Education Programs for over 30 years, focusing on outreach to families with limited resources. *Congratulations, Jeanne and Janice!*



Family Living and Learning Day

Extension faculty from all project areas banded together to offer a day of community learning and fun at Reedville Elementary School and Presbyterian Church on May Day. Sessions included healthy snacks and activities, basic gardening, small animal care, building and driving robotics, well maintenance, food preservation, hands-on nature science, basic financial management and creating rain gardens; many of the sessions were offered in both English and Spanish. Volunteers from the church provided supervised childcare and freshly baked refreshments. Following the classes, representatives from the school district, church, Clean Water Services and Extension Service met to begin planning rain and community gardens on the neighboring sites.



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).