



A Newsletter for Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center

FALL 2018 / WINTER 2019

Fresh Oregon Strawberries in November? Definitely!

Javier Fernandez-Salvador's idea about developing a new fresh strawberry market in Oregon was showcased in late October at his demonstration project at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. Farmers from around the region attended including growers from as far away as the Skagit Valley, King's Valley and Eugene. Javier's work at NWREC has been supported with Oregon Legislative funding provided during the current biennium and through June 2019. Oregon Representative Rick Lewis, Silverton, secured the special two-year funding to initiate new research and education for strawberry and caneberry growers.



"A year and half does not give us a lot of time to demonstrate many results in the field, but the strawberry project really does show potential—even though we won't have all the answers by next June," said Fernandez-Salvador. "I am adapting and evaluating strawberry growing practices from multiple production regions including California where day-neutral strawberries are grown and are responsible for about 90% of the entire nation's supply of strawberries. For example, with our current season extension evaluation, I want to show that we can produce a fresh market berry that is big, red and has a great flavor right here in Oregon for up to 8 months of the year"

Techniques being used include plastic covered raised beds with fertigation, planting farm produced containerized transplants, use season extension low tunnels in the early spring and late autumn, plus careful attention to insect, disease, weed, irrigation, and nutrient management in organic and conventional systems.

"By the time we got started on this project last winter, we didn't
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DOTF Back!

As you may have noticed, it has been a long time since my last issue of **Down on the Farm**—back in December, 2017. The past year has been crazy, to say the least. And, I just haven't found the time or energy to get my usual spring and summer editions out. I do apologize. It hasn't been for a lack of news, as you will see in this issue. But, let's assume we are back on track and you can expect the more typical three **Down on the Farm** editions, in the coming year, delivered to you electronically or by mail copy, as you request.

Thank you for your patience!



Fresh Oregon strawberries—flowering and bearing big red berries in November.

Calendar of Events

November 27 Blackleg Workshop (1:00-3:30pm). NWREC, Aurora. Contact: Kristie Buckland.

December 11 Blueberry Nutrition Workshop (9:00am-Noon). NWREC, Aurora. Contact: Wei Yang.

December 14 Blueberry Pruning Workshop (9:00am-Noon, English and 1:00-4:00pm, Spanish). NWREC, Aurora. Contact: Wei Yang.

January 22-March 5, 2019 Growing Farms Course (6:30-8:30pm). Hybrid course features six on-line modules plus classes and field tours on selected dates. Marion Food Share, Salem. Contact: Nick Andrews, Heidi Noordijk.

January 16 North Willamette Horticulture Society Meeting (8:00am-5:00pm). Clackamas County Fairgrounds and Event Center, Canby. Contact: Nick Andrews, Wei Yang, Kristie Buckland.

February 25-26 Produce Safety for Growers Workshop (all day). NWREC, Aurora. Contact: Luisa Santamaria.

February 27 Winter Vegetable Field Day (Time TBD). NWREC, Aurora. Contact: Nick Andrews, Heidi Noordijk.

Please contact the NWREC office at 503-678-1264 for more information or visit the website at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC>

Solarization Workshop Attracts Interest



NWREC's Lloyd Nackley (bottom left) and team installing solarization plots at the Research Center last summer.

Here Comes the Sun: Soil Solarization Workshop was held at NWREC on October 29. The purpose of the event was to share the latest information about how soil solarization can be used as a non-chemical method for managing weeds to reduce labor costs of hand weeding and reduce the need for tillage. Thirty-six attendees spent an afternoon learning the latest research at OSU on solarization techniques and receive practical advice, see demonstration trials at the Research Center, try out an online soil solarization program for decision making, and hear from a panel of commercial nursery and vegetable growers working with the soil solarization concept.

NWREC's Lloyd Nackley, Nursery and Greenhouse Production Research Leader,

and Kristie Buckland, Extension Specialist for Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crops, organized the free event that included presentations by OSU Plant Pathologist, Jennifer Parke; Len Coop from OSU's Integrated Plant Protection Center; OSU's Professors Maria Dragila, Soil Physics and Carol Mallory-Smith, Weed Science. A panel discussion by growers who use soil solarization included: Sam Doane from J. Frank Schmidt and Son Nursery, Ryan Koch from Koch Farms, and James Cassidy from the OSU Organic Farm.

Nackley shared, "We had great attendees who were engaged and interested in this chemical-free method for controlling weeds and soil-borne pathogens."

Fresh Oregon Strawberries in November? continued from page 1

get planted until mid-June. But, using different techniques, we had fresh berries the second week of July. And, our berries are still beautiful now in the end of October. Our latest goal is to show that we can have fresh Oregon strawberries for Thanksgiving!"

Beds have already been prepared and are ready for planting in February with the hope of having fresh berries, again, by March or April. That could mean an eight-month strawberry season for Oregon's fresh market and the possibility of revitalizing the industry in our state.



One example of low tunnels season extension covers for strawberry production.

Harvest Dinner Continues to Grow

This year's NWREC Harvest Dinner was another successful event. Attendance increased by 15% from the previous year to more than 250 attendees—the largest crowd ever for the thank you/appreciation event in late September. Oregon's Governor, Kate Brown, and OSU President, Ed Ray, were among the attendees. 24 local businesses, organizations and individuals were table sponsors and, collectively, raised all of the funds to cover the invitation-only event.

"We are very proud of this event and how it has grown and how the agricultural community has supported the work our faculty and staff and OSU does in the community," said Mike Bondi, NWREC Director.

The Harvest Dinner included special recognition, too, honoring retiring College of Agricultural Sciences Dean, Dan Arp. Dean Arp retired the end of July but has been at every Harvest Dinner since inception in 2012. Dr. Arp was beginning his tenure as OSU's College Dean at the time Bondi started the dinner as a thank you for local growers who wanted to come out to meet the new Dean. The Harvest Dinner has grown every year since.



NWREC Director Mike Bondi recognized retiring College of Agricultural Sciences Dean, Dan Arp.

Also, Dr. Robert B. Pamplin, Jr. was awarded NWREC's inaugural Agricultural and Community Leader Award. Dr. Pamplin, best known as the owner of the *Portland Tribune* and two dozen local community weekly newspapers—with most in the greater Portland and north Willamette



Guests checking in for the Harvest Dinner.



Big crowd in the tent on the north lawn at NWREC for the Harvest Dinner during the program.

Valley area—has been involved in agriculture much of his life.

Pamplin's agricultural enterprises include ownership of Columbia Empire Farms, a fully integrated berry business growing, processing, and producing value-added products since 1976; two wineries, and a cattle ranch.



Dr. Robert B. Pamplin, Jr.

A summary of the 2018 Harvest Dinner—including photos from the evening and accompanying highlights of those involved in making the evening a fun and memorable event—can be found at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/nwrec>.

End of Year Giving Opportunity

At the North Willamette Research and Extension Center we are very fortunate to have many friends—individuals, businesses, and organizations who support the work we do in many ways from cash donations and sponsorships at events like the Harvest Dinner to funding research, providing sites for our field trials, hosting education events, and providing in-kind materials, supplies and services. We can't thank you all enough!

If you haven't had the chance to show your support for NWREC, our Friends of NWREC organization is one more way you can help sustain these programs, increase our outreach into the community, and improve our facilities. All cash contributions go into our OSU Foundation account specifically for NWREC and can be used for discretionary projects—and, all cash donations are tax-deductible. Our 2019 priorities include producing the *Down on the Farm* newsletter, continuing landscaping improvements around our office buildings and grounds, and upgrades to our meeting rooms. A donation form is included in this newsletter on the back page.

Thanks, again, for your support!

Hazelnut Tour Brings Huge Crowd to NWREC

This past August marked the first ever visit by the hazelnut industry to NWREC to review the research trails at the Center and learn about new technologies. Sure, there have been a number of workshops, classes, and demonstrations over the past three years of since Nik Wiman joined the NWREC faculty to lead the Orchard Crops program as Extension Specialist. But, these sessions have included 20 or 40 or 60 growers and industry participants at a time.

But, when the Nut Growers Society wanted to feature Nik's work during their annual summer tour, we knew there would be a big crowd. And, there was—approximately 870 growers and industry professionals. This was, by far, the largest educational event ever held at NWREC.

"Everyone did a great job," said Wiman. "Our farm crew, staff, and all of Nut Growers Society members and volunteers did an amazing job of organizing and preparing for the crowd. And, everything went off without hitch."

The tour including a gathering of the entire crowd to kick-off the event and to view a drone flight demonstration organized by NWREC's Kristie Buckland. Then, the crowd divided into four groups for concurrent and rotating field tour stops led by Nik and his staff—Aaron Heinrich, Heather Andrews and David Lowenstein—plus NWREC's Robin Rosetta and OSU's Extension Plant Pathologist, Jay Pscheidt,

who demonstrated their Intelligent Sprayer technology.

Congratulations to all for a very successful event!



Orchard Crops Faculty Research Assistant, Aaron Heinrich, leading a discussion about irrigation and establishing new hazelnut plantations. **BOTTOM PHOTO:** This aerial photo was being taken during Kristie Buckland's drone flight demonstration at the hazelnut grower tour to NWREC in August.



A Special Thank You

Another huge change for us at NWREC this past year was the retirement of Geoff Lewis the end of May. Geoff had worked at the Center for 28 years. Geoff had been at NWREC longer than anyone else. He managed all of the facilities, was our irrigation specialist, and jack of all trades. Geoff knew how everything worked and where every pipe or line underground was at.

We knew Geoff was planning retirement in 2019, so we were start-



ing to plan for an orderly transition within the farm management staff. But, a medical situation occurred in mid-May for Geoff's partner and he needed to retire immediately to help.

Geoff's contributions throughout his career at NWREC can't be underestimated. He was one of the hardest working people you ever would meet. He would rarely say "no" to any need. He was cheerful and positive. Everyone loved working with Geoff. We all miss him.

We did bring on temporary staff for the summer to help us get through the busy field season and assist with irrigation needs. We are now in the process of realigning our farm management staff to better meet the needs of our growing faculty and staff.

New Field Crops Building Taking Shape

When Nicole Anderson relocated her Field Crops program to the North Willamette Research and Extension Center last winter her hope was to have a place to store farm and research equipment and process field samples. With space at NWREC for existing faculty at a premium—and, becoming more and more limited as staffing and programs have grown in recent years—a new building was needed.

Nicole's Department Head, Jay Noller (Crop and Soil Science), agreed to fund the needed space for Nicole and a 24' X 84' seven-bay agricultural building is now taking

shape. The building will include indoor processing equipment for field samples, a seed cleaning room, plus equipment and materials storage. In addition, there will be outdoor covered storage for farm equipment including a weigh wagon, tractor, sprayer, ATV and trailers.

"This is going to be a really good addition to my research program. It provides me an opportunity to locate a lot of my field equipment and supplies at my office location which will reduce the amount of time we spend traveling back and forth to Corvallis to access equipment, process



Contractor Dave Yoder has been leading the Field Crops building project at NWREC this fall.

samples, and clean seed," according to Nicole. "I'm glad we are finally getting this project going after a number of months of planning and designing. It will really be nice to have a dedicated space where we can get work done efficiently and not be in the way of other programs. Ultimately, my goal is to have all of the equipment that we need to conduct critical on-farm research, from start to finish, located at NWREC." Nicole and Faculty Research Assistant, Brian Donovan, serve the needs of field crops farmers in Polk, Yamhill and Washington Counties plus lead on-farm grass and clover seed research efforts for growers throughout the Willamette Valley.

Noller said the funding for this project principally comes from royalties and gifts collected by his Department over the years—notably on field crops and from their growers in the north valley, respectively. "Nicole's field crops program focuses on providing research-based information for commercial cereal grain, grass seed, legume seed and oil crop producers. Having her located at NWREC with adequate facilities and support to manage her program in the Willamette Valley has been and will continue to be a high priority for us and the field crops industries. I am so glad we have this opportunity to work together."

Vegetables on Display

For the fourth year NWREC has hosted vegetable variety trials sponsored by local, regional, and international seed companies interested in evaluating potential new varieties for farmers and home gardeners. Extension's Metro Small Farms program manages the program, recruits the seed company partners, and provides an educational program and field tour to showcase the end-of-season results.

"This program gives seed companies a chance to highlight their varieties. We're now getting 50-75 growers at these field days. It's a great way for growers and seed companies to network. It also gives us a chance to highlight ongoing research at NWREC," said Metro Small Farms Extension Agent Nick Andrews.

This year's summer veggie field day included 20 different vegetable crops featuring more than 230 varieties. Until now, all the trials have been observational with no replication or data collection.

USDA's Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program is funding our replicated evaluations of winter vegetables and cover crops this year, and summer vegetables and cover crops next year. USDA is also funding our new Oregon Specialty Crops Block Grant to "Develop Oregon's Winter Vegetable Industry" during 2019 through 2021.

Shaina Bronstein from Vitalis Seeds has sponsored trials at NWREC since 2015. "Heidi is wonderful to work with. She manages the trials really well, and always

accommodates extra demos I plant at NWREC. The field day provides a great way for growers and seed companies to meet and mingle."

Nick and Heidi will be hosting another vegetable variety trial later this winter to evaluate cool season crops like broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. That field day for evaluations will be Wednesday, February 27, 2019. Time to be determined. Watch for more information.



Shaina Bronstein showcasing a new cutting lettuce variety her company is developing for field harvesting.



Vegetable variety tasting and evaluating is always an important part of these trials, too!



IR-4 Program Update

As many may be aware, our IR-4 Pesticide Registration Research program at NWREC has gone through a huge amount of turmoil in the past year. The resignation of the program's newly hired leader, Greg O'Neill, after only one year, and the departure of Pete Sturman, a Bio-Science Technician in the program, left us short-staffed and in transition since this past spring.

Gina Koskela, long-time Faculty Research Assistant in the IR-4 program, has continued as our only field staff person through this time and managed 11 research trials during 2018—about 2/3s of the trials originally planned for the year prior to the staff departures.

We have recently formed a Search Committee that will be managing a national search for the next leader of our IR-4 Pesticide Registration Research program at NWREC. We hope to have a

viable pool of candidates identified by mid-January and interviewing top prospects in February. The goal is to have a new program leader hired and on staff before the coming field season ramps up.

The IR-4 Search Committee includes: Cindy Ocamb (Chair), OSU Extension Plant Pathologist, Corvallis; Ed Peachey, OSU Extension Weed Specialist, Corvallis; Kristie Buckland, NWREC Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crop Extension Specialist; Michael Horak, Western Region IR-4 Field Manager, University of California, Davis; Rose Kachadoorian, Program Manager, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Salem; Steve Salisbury, Oregon Seed Council; Mike Iverson, Aurora Farms; and Wendy Hein, Extension 4-H Faculty, Clackamas Extension, Oregon City.

Currently, approximately 21 pesticide registration research projects are planned for 2019 including 9 berry projects, 5 grass and clover trials, and the remainder vegetable and specialty seed crops.

Farewell, Aaron!

Orchard Crops Faculty Research Assistant, Aaron Heinrich, has resigned to take a new position as Ag Field Research Technician with Wilbur Ellis



Company, Woodburn. In his new role, Aaron will manage Wilbur Ellis' field research trial program for the PNW region—from Skagit Valley, throughout the Willamette Valley, and south to the Klamath Basin and Christmas Valley.

Aaron has worked with Orchard Crops Extension Specialist, Nik Wiman, since January 2017 and has been responsible for a variety of field projects at NWREC including the hazelnut nutrient and irrigation projects and the cider apple variety orchard. Aaron's last day at NWREC was November 20. A search for a new Faculty Research Assistant is planned soon.

Best of luck, Aaron, in your new opportunity!

Speaking of Hiring

Besides the hiring plans in the IR-4 program, several new field research staff positions are in the process of hiring or will be soon. Nearly all of our research assistants, bio-science technicians, and education program assistants are hired by our faculty at NWREC and are grant or contract funded. So, faculty need to have enough external funding to sup-

port their work before making the commitment to hire permanent staff.

The following positions are now being recruited—or will be soon.

- Vegetable and Specialty Crops Faculty Research Assistant (working for Kristie Buckland)
- Intelligent Spray Project Faculty Research Assistant (working for Lloyd Nackley and Robin Rosetta)

- Blueberry Extension Faculty Research Assistant (working with Wei Yang)
- Nursery Pathology Faculty Research Assistant (working with Luisa Santamaria)
- Orchard Crops Faculty Research Assistant (working with Nik Wiman)
- IR-4 Faculty Research Assistant (transitioning with Gina Koskela)

Summer Open House Shares NWREC with Public

A warm summer evening in July brought out about 200 community members to learn about NWREC's work supporting agriculture in the region.



Extension Specialist Chal Landgren (right) describing his seed orchard project with Clackamas County Commissioner Ken Humberston and his wife, Grace.



Kristie Buckland (left), Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crop Extension Specialist, sharing information about her quinoa project at NWREC.

North Willamette Research
and Extension Center
Faculty & Staff

Administration & Support Staff

Mike Bondi, *Director*

Shelley Hughes, *Administrative
Assistant*

Jan Egli, *Office Specialist*

Marc Anderson, *Farm & Facilities
Manager*

Derek Wells, *Farm Management*

Trevor Wood, *Farm Assistant*

Extension & Research Faculty

Bernadine Strik, *Berry Crops Research
Leader*

Wei Yang, *Berry Crops
Extension Agent*

Javier Fernandez Salvador, *Special
Berry Initiative*

Lloyd Nackley, *Nursery & Greenhouse
Production & Management Research*

Robin Rosetta, *Nursery IPM Extension
Agent*

Luisa Santamaria, *Nursery Pathologist/
Bilingual Extension Agent*

Chal Landgren, *Christmas Tree
Extension Specialist*

Nick Andrews, *Metro Small Farms
Extension Agent*

Kristie Buckland, *Vegetable & Specialty
Seed Crops Extension Specialist*

Joe DeFrancesco, *Pesticide
Registration Research, Emeritus*

Nik Wiman, *Orchard Crops
Extension Specialist*

Nicole Anderson, *Field Crops
Extension Agent*

Research & Program Staff

Amanda Vance, *Berry Crops Research*

Pat Jones, *Berry Crops Research*

Erica Chernov, *Berry Initiative Research*

Will Osmer, *Berry Initiative Research*

Heather Andrews, *Orchard Crops*

Aaron Heinrich, *Orchard Crops*

David Lowenstein, *Brown
Marmorated Stink Bug Research*

Gina Koskela, *Pesticide Registration
Research*

Judy Kowalski, *Christmas Tree
Research*

Heidi Noordijk, *Small Farms
Program Assistant*

Brian Donovan, *Field Crops Research*



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15210 NE Miley Road
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Membership forms for the *Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center* are also available by contacting the NWREC office at 503-678-1264 or downloading from the website at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC>.

Contact Director, Mike Bondi, for more information or to discuss life or deferred gifts options.

Phone: 503-678-1264 • E-mail: michael.bondi@oregonstate.edu

Cell. 503-705-2434

Oregon State University—North Willamette Research & Extension Center
15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002 • Phone: 503-678-1264 • Website: oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm