



# Oregon State University

## Extension Service

### Marion County

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Welcome to the first newsletter of the new decade! This is the January/February 2020 issue of the OSU Marion County Extension e-Newsletter! In it you will find educational articles and event information for you, your family, your business. You can find us in the Oregon Natural Resources building (aka Oregon Farm Bureau pictured above) a few blocks from the capital building.

#### [Find our Extension Office:](#)

1320 Capitol St NE (corner of Gaines)  
Suite #110  
Salem, OR 97301  
Mon-Fri 8:00 - 4:30  
Phone: 503-588-5301

#### [Visit our Website](#)

[Click here to watch the video](#) about our Marion Co. Extension programs

#### [Get Gardening Advice](#)

The Master Gardener Help Desk is open Mon-Fri 9A-1P Phone: 503-373-3770

#### [Visit Local Farms, Markets &](#)

[Events](#): let the Marion Farm Loop be your guide!

Have a question? [Ask an Expert](#)



### Coming and Going

OSU extension in Oregon is a large organization of almost 500 people. In Marion County we have around 20 faculty and staff serving the agriculture, youth development, and health and nutrition needs of its citizens. Like any company, we are constantly changing and in transition. This month we bid farewell to Victoria Binning, our small farms program coordinator, and on February 3 we welcome Joshua Davalos as the new 4-H youth development coordinator. Victoria has worked with small farm owners to build viable and sustainable farms in the region. If you ever walked around a farmer's market, you have seen the face of small farms and tasted their delicious products. Small farms have become a more robust part of the agricultural landscape in

recent years, and Victoria has delivered programs to help them to grow and prosper. In particular she connected farmers to other farmers, allowing experience to be their teacher. While extension information will always be based on sound research, the school of hard knocks has plenty to offer as well. Victoria understood this and blended the two teaching approaches very effectively. She also used technology for outreach to growers such as

the Broadfork podcast, which harkens back to the days of KOAC in Corvallis, when public radio was an important means to disseminate research-generated knowledge to farmers. She was in the field and on the airwaves and we will miss her, and we hope to refill her position to continue to serve this important extension stakeholder group.

Josh Davalos comes to extension via the Albany Public School system. He will join 4-H veterans Melanie McCabe and Kelly Noack in helping Marion County youth to thrive, particularly in areas related to agriculture, STEM, nutrition and health, the arts, environmental science and more.

We are also expecting to welcome two new extension program assistants in SNAP-Ed and 4-H in the near future, who will extend health and nutrition education into Marion County neighborhoods and schools.

Our faculty are woven into the fabric of Marion County, working with youth and adults to improve their lives. We welcome you to engage with them in the field, at workshops and meetings, and at our office in the Natural Resources Building in Salem.

Mark L Chien, office manager

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## To Flush or Not to Flush



**By Chrissy Lucas, Groundwater Program Coordinator**

Most of us flush a toilet without giving it much thought. But if you are on a septic system, or really any waste removal system, you should give careful consideration to what enters it and how it will affect the system. We take sewage and treatment for granted in our modern society, but we should appreciate the convenience and treat it kindly, or it may seek revenge. Chrissy Lucas, the extension groundwater quality outreach coordinator provide helpful hints. Read more [HERE](#)..

*Photo credit to John Johnson*

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## Oregon Olive Growing



**By Javier Fernandez Salvador, Small Farms and Mike Bondi, NWREC Director**

Oregon has a highly diversified agricultural landscape but so far it has not included olive groves. Horticulture extension faculty are working with aspiring growers to define the practices and olive varieties that will be most successful and suitable in Oregon fields and farms. The samples of Oregon grown olive oils are extremely promising. The extension team is providing applied research and educational workshops to fuel this emerging crop. [READ](#) about a recent meeting at the OSU N Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora.

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## Working Together to Eat Well

**By Tonya Johnson, Family & Community Health**

OSU Extension and Marion-Polk Foodshare have joined forces to bring together farmers, administrators, organizers, and health providers to encourage people in Marion County to eat and live healthy lives in a program called Food Connections. Click [HERE](#) to read more about how food connections can improve your life.

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## How Now Backyard Cow (and Goat & Sheep)



**By Jenifer Cruickshank, Dairy Management**

This four-class series is for those interested in owning a dairy animal to provide milk for home use. If you currently have a milk cow (or goat or sheep) or are thinking about raising them, this program will help you with the basics on animal production and management. This class will not

cover rules and regulations for selling milk or milk products.

**When:** Tuesdays, Jan 28, Feb 4, Feb 11, Feb 18, 2020 from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**Where:** [Linn County Extension Office](#), Tangent, OR

**Cost:** \$60 for the series, a partner can be added for a discounted \$35

**For details and to registration click [HERE](#).**



## Junior Master Gardeners Reach into Marion County Schools

**By Kelly Noack, 4-H/Youth Development Educator**

The Extension Master Gardener program is one of the most visible points of light for OSU in communities across the state. One way to assure the sustainability of Master Gardeners is to create little gardeners. Getting youth interested in how plants grow and the foods they create has many benefits for health and education, and we are always seeking new youth participants. Click [HERE](#) to read about this amazing youth development program.

## New Field Crops Newsletter!

The [Mid-Valley Field Crops Extension](#) Program primarily serves commercial producers of grass seed, cereal grain, legume seed, oil seed, hops and mint. We conduct applied research and education to help regional farmers improve production and implement more sustainable practices. In August we started a newsletter to help spread the word about the projects and work we are doing. The newsletter talks about our research, any emerging pest or disease issues, answers common seasonal questions, promotes upcoming events, and provides timely management reminders. Please check it out and sign up to receive it online at <https://beav.es/Zt5>. Subscribe and archive tabs are in the upper left of the field crops home page.

Also... OSU Extension and the Polk County Farm Bureau are offering a **CORE Pesticide Training for Private Applicators** on Thursday, February 27 from 8 am to Noon at the Polk County Fairgrounds. 4 ODA CORE credits are anticipated. Click [HERE](#) to see a meeting brochure.



## Marion County Fair Foundations Receives Award

At the OSU Extension Annual Conference in December, the Marion County Fair Foundation was recognized for its significant contributions over the years in support of the Marion County fair and other 4-H programs and projects. Read more [HERE](#) about the award.

## National Agritourism Survey that can Help Farms in Marion County!

**By Audrey Comerford, Extension Agritourism Program Coordinator**

Agritourism seems to be taking the farm industry by storm these days. There are more farm-based activities and farmer's markets than ever in Oregon, and Marion County is home to many of these. To better understand agritourism in Oregon, Audrey is distributing an important national survey to learn more about direct-to-consumer sales on farms. This information will help extension to develop valuable educational materials for farm owners and operators. Click [HERE](#) to read about the survey and participate before January 31!

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## Upcoming OSU Extension Events in Marion County - January/February

Please contact the [OSU Marion County Extension](#) if you have any questions about any of these extension events or need assistance with registration.

### Marion County 4-H Horse Clinic with Hunt Seat and Dressage

Saturday, February 1 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Salem Saddle Club, 7005 Lardon Rd NE

This horse clinic covers Hunt Seat and Dressage. The host club is Get Up and Gallop. The event is free. Contact Jessica Wheeler for information at [jessicawheeler80@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicawheeler80@yahoo.com).

### Winter Wonder Western Oregon Retreat for Leadership Development (FULL)

February 15-17

Oregon 4-H Center in West Salem

This is a 4-H leadership retreat for older youth. Activities include pancake art, rock painting, knitting, public speaking and leadership classes. It is planned by youth for youth in Western Oregon. Registration fee is \$130. Contact Melanie McCabe to be placed on a waiting list.

### Leap into Camp Cloverbud (ages 5-8)!

Saturday, February 29 (Leap Day) from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

[Marion County Extension](#) office, 1320 Capitol St NE, Salem.

Leave the sleeping bag and tent at home! All youth ages 5-8 are invited to Camp Cloverbud, a camp-themed, indoor day-camp designed to engage younger youth in new 4-H experiences including science, culinary, & crafts! Youth will rotate in small cabin-groups to attend fun 45min sessions taught by and with 4-H Teen Teachers, Volunteers, and Staff! This day-camp is limited to 40 youth and is first-come, first-serve. Plan to bring your own lunch. The cost for this day-camp is \$15 for enrolled 4-H Cloverbuds, and \$25 for non-enrolled/non-4-H youth. Click [HERE](#) to enroll in the 4-H program. Parents, click [HERE](#) for event information and registration. You can connect with us at [kelly.noack@oregonstate.edu](mailto:kelly.noack@oregonstate.edu) if you have further questions or concerns!

## OSU Extension Service: Our Attitude

We believe that the best way to make a difference is to get straight to the heart of the matter. We start with an accessible and relatable approach and build on it with passion. We listen to our clients, respect their needs, and amplify their voices to create research-based solutions together that empower real and sustainable change. It's what we've done for more than 100 years, and we're committed to doing it for the next 100 years.



**Oregon State University**  
Extension Service

**Thank you for reading our newsletter!**  
**Do you have questions, comments, or suggestions?**

We would love to hear your comments about this newsletter, and what you would like to read about in our next issue of OSU Extension Marion County E-newsletter!

Please send your questions and comments to: [mark.chien@oregonstate.edu](mailto:mark.chien@oregonstate.edu).

Thank You! -- Mark Chien, Editor

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#### Declaración de Discriminación

El Servicio de Extensión de Oregon State University prohíbe la discriminación en todos sus programas, servicios, actividades y materiales en base a la raza, color, origen nacional, religión, sexo, identidad de género (incluyendo la expresión de género), orientación sexual, discapacidad, edad, estado civil, estatus de la familia/padres, ingresos derivados de un programa de asistencia pública, creencias políticas, información genética, estado de veterano, represalia o represalia por actividad previa de los derechos civiles. (No todos los términos prohibidos se aplican a todos los programas.)