Spring is here! Welcome to the March/April 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) a few blocks east of the state capitol building.

Find our Extension Office:
1320 Capitol St NE (corner of Gaines)
Suite #110
Salem, OR 97301
Closed until further notice (COVID-19)
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

Office Closure and Programs Cancelled: but we are still here for you!

Given recent events we know that your family and work are your utmost concern. But it is the mission of extension to improve people’s lives no matter what the situation is, and we hope the information in this newsletter will be useful, if not a little bit of a relief from other concerns you have.

Response to the coronavirus hit the university hard and fast the week of March 9, with leadership statements and information arriving seemingly by the hour. The bottom line for OSU Extension is that all county offices are closed to the public and in-person events have been postponed or canceled, and the Master Gardener counter is shuttered. Despite these conditions, OSU Extension is far from closed, with our faculty still working and available by all virtual media including phone, e-mail, text, and electronic meeting technology. You can even send a letter or postcard and we’ll answer you!

If you call our main number 503-588-5301, please leave a message with your question, concern or information, and your contact information. We check this voicemail often and will have the appropriate authority get back to you as soon as possible.
For example, if you need to register a grass seed field, please call OSCS in Corvallis and they can help you. If you have a Master Gardener question, use this e-mail to contact them. Or, if you have a 4-H or food preservation question, please contact our office. We can probably get the information you need. The full depth and scope of OSU research and extension is available to clients, just temporarily in a modified format. We do not know when normal office hours and programs will return, but we’ll be ready to serve you again when they do.

We all know that CLEAN HANDS are a vital part of fending off germs. Kelly and Carly gathered the MCE crew together to do a speed hand washing instructional video, complete with music track and captions. Click HERE to see how your group can make hand washing fun!

SOCIAL DISTANCING is a new word added to our everyday lexicon. Here’s a fun and instructional video from OSU about keeping your distance. Click HERE to see it and smile.

We are all adjusting to a new reality, and being asked to be patient during this time, and we look forward to seeing you again at our counter, in the field or meeting room.

Mark L Chien, office manager
Outline on the wall and inserted numbers for the different colors, and on January 18 thirty-four colleagues, family and friends showed up to paint by number in a party atmosphere. After a week of detail and touch up work, it was done! Now, anyone who walks by the wall not only feels transported to the farms, fields and markets in Marion County, but also immersed in the extension mission.

Click HERE for the pictorial mural story, and HERE for a time-lapsed video of the paint-by-number session. Better yet, drop by the Marion County Extension office to see it in person, which is the only way to appreciate the scale and vivid colors.

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**Oregon Hop Terroir**

*By Betsy Verhoeven, Field Crops*

If you are a wine consumer you are probably familiar with the word "terroir." It signifies the place that the grapes were grown that contribute to the unique characteristics of a wine. It is the complex interaction between soil, climate, plant and farmer. Could these same properties influence the quality of hops grown to make beer? A collaboration between OSU faculty in the departments of crop and soil science and fermentation sciences and a Mid-Valley hop grower is studying the differences between two varieties of hops grown at three hop yards. Someday your beer label may have an indication of origin on it. Click HERE to read more...

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**Master Gardeners Launch Blog so you can Learn at Home!**

Our plant clinic help desk at Marion County Extension may be closed, but we are still available to help you solve your garden problems and answer your questions. A [Cabin Fever Blog](#) has been created to provide gardening information while we are sheltered-in-place, and a special [email address](#) for your questions, ideas, and comments. Visit the blog every day for new information with the tag "cabin fever."

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**Eat your Vegetables!**

*By Mike Bondi, North Willamette Research and Extension Center*

If variety is the spice of life, then developing novel and delicious foods like vegetables and fruits will help us to eat better and more with greater pleasure. That is the essence of basic and applied research that seeks to identify new cultivars that will be pleasing to consumers. Click HERE to read more...

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**Helping Landowners Manage for Healthy Forests**

*By Glenn Ahrens, Forestry*

Forests in western Oregon are quite healthy overall, but local areas of tree decline triggered by heat and drought are a concern. What do we know about options for managing forest health in the future?
Addressing this question is a high priority for the OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources team. Extension education programs focus on helping private landowners and natural resource professionals manage to sustain healthy, resilient forests in the face of increasing threats from climate stress and wildfire. Click [HERE](#) to read more…

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**Introducing Josh Dávalos**

Starting February 2020, Josh Dávalos joined the Marion County 4-H Youth Development team alongside Melanie McCabe and Kelly Noack. Josh has more than a decades’ experience in working with youth through a combination of non-profit organizations and public schools. His focus is working directly with youth in underserved communities to help them prepare for college using various methods of outreach. Years before becoming a licensed secondary teacher, Josh was an advocate of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education, which he would implement into programs, and later into his classroom curriculum.

Josh identifies as a member of the Latinx community, and is proud to be Spanish-bilingual professional. He plans to use his bicultural literacy to help connect Latinx families in Marion County to educational resources and create 4-H members who will lead positive changes in the world. When he’s not working, Josh enjoys discovering new technology to be creative with, as well as exploring Oregon. When asked how he feels about this new position, Josh stated "I am excited to work with the Marion population and offer the skills I have to help the area. I look forward to meeting our students and families!"

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**Ask an Expert: who needs Google?**

Ask an Expert is a way for you to get answers from the Oregon State University Extension Service. We have experts in family and health, community development, food and agriculture, coastal issues, forestry, programs for young people, and gardening. Ask a question and get an answer based on scientific research from someone who understands Oregon issues, and not named Google!

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**Upcoming OSU Extension Events in Marion County - Spring 2020**

*Note: Many extension events have been affected by the COVID-19 alert. Please check the Marion County Extension website event listings for rescheduled and new events. Thank you for your patience.*

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

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**Hyslop Field Day**  
Cereal and Field Crops Breeding and Extension Program  
Wednesday, May 20 - All Day  
3455 NE Granger Ave. Corvallis
More information forthcoming. Contact Betsy Verhoeven for information at betsy.verhoeven@oregonstate.edu.

Family and Community Health Events for Master Food Preservers
In light of COVID-19, MFP class has been postponed until after May 1st. The help hotline is still active and experts are available to answer your food preservation questions. Moving forward we are planning events and classes for late spring and summer. We hope to see you then!

SNAP-Ed Update: All scheduled SNAP-Ed nutrition education in-person activities have been postponed until further notice. At this time, we are unsure of when it will be safe to resume these educational activities. Our local team in collaboration with Family and Community Health colleagues statewide, are currently identifying ways to share information and educational resources with SNAP-eligible families in our communities while emphasizing and adhering to safety protocols. Thank you for understanding.

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.

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.

Thank You! -- Mark Chien, Editor

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