HEALTHY FARMS, FORESTS, FOOD, AND FAMILIES IN POLK COUNTY

OREGON-GROWN SEED INCREASINGLY BEING USED FOR COVER CROPS | PG. 6
Cultivating is a quarterly publication of Oregon State University Polk County Extension Service and Polk Soil And Water Conservation District. Included in these pages, readers can find practical information on farm and forest management, on home and lifestyle choices, and on the many programs and services available through the Service and the District.
The Polk County Office of the Oregon State University Extension Service provides research-based educational information and programs in Agriculture, Forestry, 4-H/Youth and Family and Community Development for the citizens of Polk County.

OSU Extension’s mission is to convey search-based knowledge in a way that is useful for people to improve their lives, their homes, and their communities.

Office Location & Hours
289 E Ellendale, Suite 301
Dallas OR 97338 | 503.623.8395
extension.oregonstate.edu/polk
Mon-Fri 8am-12pm, 1pm-5pm

Staff Contact Information

Nicole Anderson | Field Crops
503.434.8912

Alisha Atha | Office Manager & County Leader
971.612.0022

Neil Bell | Community Horticulture
971.612.0026

Susan Busler | 4-H Youth Development
971.612.0028

Jennifer Cruickshank | Dairy
971.600.1222

Carla Cudmore | Front Office & 4-H Support
971.612.0024

Javier Fernandez-Salvador | Small Farms
503.573.5766

Tonya Johnson | Family Community Health
503.573.5765

Mitch Lies | Cultivating Editor
matchies@comcast.net

Chrisy Lucas | Well Water Program
541.766.5556

Richard Riggs | Regional Director
503.269.6389

Christopher Scadden | SNAP Ed
971.612.0030

Rachel Villwock | Front Office & Comm. Horticulture Support
971.612.0023

Brad Withrow-Robinson | Forestry & Natural Resources
541.766.5554

December
17 | OSU Extension – White Feathers Rifle/Pistol Club Orientation – Polk Co Ext – 7 p.m.
25 | PSWCD – Closed for Christmas Day
23-28 | OSU Extension – Closed

January
I | PSWCD – Closed for New Years Day
2 | PSWCD – Finance Committee Meeting – 9 a.m. – PSWCD Office – 580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338 – NRCS Meeting Room
8 | PSWCD – Board Meeting – PSWCD Office – 580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338 – 6 p.m. – NRCS Meeting Room
20 | PSWCD – Closed for Martin Luther King Day
21 | OSU Extension – Cloverbud Painting Class – Polk Co Ext – 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.
25 | PSWCD – Drinking Water Provider Forum – Monmouth Senior Center – 180 Warren Street South, Monmouth, OR 97361 – 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
27 | OSU Extension – 4-H Intro to Textiles class – Polk Co Ext – 6:30 p.m.
27 | OWEB Small Grant Application Window opens
31 | Local Working Group Meeting – Polk County – OSU Extension Office – 289 E Ellendale, Suite 301, Dallas, OR 97338 – 9 a.m.

February
6 | PSWCD – Finance Committee Meeting – 9 a.m. – PSWCD Office – 580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338 – 6 p.m. – NRCS Meeting Room
6 & 7 | PSWCD – Bare Root Sale Online NPS – PSWCD Office – 580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338 – 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
10 | OWEB Small Grant Application Window closes
12 | PSWCD – Board Meeting – PSWCD Office – 580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338 – 6 p.m. – NRCS Meeting Room
17 | PSWCD – Closed for Presidents Day/Washington’s Birthday
18 | OWEB Small Grant Meeting – PSWCD Office – 580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338 – 4 p.m. – NRCS Meeting Room
18 | Cloverbud Cinnamon Hearts class – Polk Co Ext – 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.
24 | OSU Extension – 4-H Knitting Basics – Polk Co Ext – 6:30 p.m.

March
5 | PSWCD – Finance Committee Meeting – 9 a.m. – PSWCD Office – 580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338 – 6 p.m. – NRCS Meeting Room
11 | PSWCD – Board Meeting – PSWCD Office – 580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338 – 6 p.m. – NRCS Meeting Room

April
8 | PSWCD – Board Meeting – PSWCD Office – 580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338 – 6 p.m. – NRCS Meeting Room

Staff Contact Information

Marc Bell | Senior Resource Conservationist
marc.bell@polkswcd.com | Ext. 103

Patti Gray | Office Assistant
clerk@polkswcd.com | Ext. 108

Jackson Morgan | Farm Specialist
jackson.morgan@polkswcd.com | Ext. 113

Karin Stutzman | District Manager
manager@polkswcd.com | Ext. 110

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By Mitch Lies
Cultivating Editor

Long prized for its turf and forage properties, Oregon grass seed today is increasingly being prized for the benefits it provides Midwest farm acreage as a cover crop. And farmers like Polk County’s Garth Mulkey are a big reason why.

For many years now, Mulkey and other Oregon farmers have been promoting the use of cover crops as a means to improve soil health, protect water quality and improve yields in Midwest corn and soybean production systems. And, increasingly, U.S. farmers are taking to the concept.

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, cover crops today are employed on more than 15.4 million acres in the U.S., up 50 percent from 2012, when 10.3 million acres were in cover crops. In many areas, seed from Oregon is the primary source of those cover crops.

Oregon’s penetration into Midwest farm operations dates to the mid-1990s when a team from the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission first traveled to the Midwest to explore whether there was a market for cover crops in corn and soybean production systems. The promotion has involved continuing education, much of it backed by the Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission, where Oregon growers and consultants instruct Midwest farmers on how to maximize benefits from cover crops. This year, for example, the commission co-hosted several educational events in the Midwest.

The promotion also has included the input of individuals like Mulkey, who has traveled extensively to the Midwest to talk to producers one-on-one.

“We’ve spent a lot of time back there,” Mulkey said. “The cover crop thing is still relatively new, and a lot of those growers don’t have the knowledge and expertise. They are still learning, just like we are, so, as a service to my distributors and my dealers, I am gathering and distributing that knowledge.”

Mulkey and his wife, Susan, operate a fourth-generation seed farm just south of Monmouth. The farm has been producing cover crop seeds for the Midwest since the mid-2000s.

“Our product has been well accepted,” he said. “We’ve got solid relationships with our dealers. We got in the market at the right time.”

Cover crops provide multiple benefits for production systems and for the environment, according to Dan Zinkand, a cover crop consultant for the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission. Among other benefits, cover crops reduce erosion, which is helping preserve water quality by keeping sediment and nutrients out of waterways. Cover crops also improve soil fertility by returning nutrients to soil, they enhance water filtration and they can improve yields, particularly in drought years when corn and soybean root systems utilize pathways created by cover crop roots to reach water deep in soil.

Mulkey said he stumbled into the cover crop market while researching how to preserve topsoil on his farm. “I would always read the no-till literature from the Midwest, and then that kind of turned into cover-crop literature,” he said. “The thing that became apparent to me is they are going to need seed.”

Over the years, Mulkey has expanded his cover crop seed production and eventually started a company, GS3 Quality Seed, that caters to the market. Today, in addition to selling clovers and annual ryegrass seed into the cover crop market, he sells radish seed into the market under the brand name NitroRadish.
and hairy vetch under TNT Vetch. Mulkey also purchases seed from about ten other growers in the valley to supply GS3 Quality Seed.

While bringing multiple benefits to production systems in the Midwest and parts of the Southeast, the escalation of cover crop usage in the U.S. also has transformed seed production in the Willamette Valley. Two decades ago, for example, Mulkey was producing just a few crops under conventional tillage. Today, he is producing about a dozen crops a year under primarily a no-till regime.

Bruce Ruddenklau of Ruddenklau Farms in Amity, one of the growers who produce for Mulkey, said he, too, has dramatically changed his crop production in recent years, going from largely conventional tillage to largely no-till, while expanding his crop diversity. And the advent of the cover crop market is a big reason why.

“We are very fortunate that the different seed markets have developed the way they have over the last ten years or so,” Ruddenklau said. “It has been a real benefit for our farm, both in terms of revenue and in terms of providing us an incentive to increase our crop diversity.

“It is pretty neat how the different seed crops work together in rotation with no-till,” Ruddenklau added.

“We get multiple benefits out of our crop diversity,” Mulkey said, “both in terms of risk management and in things like improved weed and disease control. Also, because different crops are ready for harvest at different times, the diversity helps minimize our harvest-equipment needs.”

New research out of the University of Kentucky now is shining even a stronger light on the benefits annual ryegrass can provide production systems when used as a cover crop. Retired UK Extension soil scientist Lloyd Murdock has discovered that the species, which is produced on about 120,000 acres in the Willamette Valley, is excellent at breaking up fragipan, a cement-like layer in soil that inhibits yields on 50 million acres of U.S. farmland. New research shows that annual ryegrass breaks up fragipan.

“At a field day in Kentucky last year, a field day sponsored in part by the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission, Murdock explained how the physical properties of annual ryegrass combine with its root exudates to break up fragipan in a way that no other plant has been shown to do.

“It takes several years,” he said, “but you can go from a soil that is 20 inches deep to a soil that is 30 inches deep, and you can improve your yields.”

Bryan Ostlund, administrator of the Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission, said the research could further increase demand for annual ryegrass seed.

“Something like this, coming along to build on what we already have in other production areas, is a great new stepping stone to bigger and better things,” Ostlund said.

In the meantime, Oregon growers seemed to have found a niche that is both improving soil health and preserving water quality in the Midwest, as well as helping diversify operations in Oregon and improving their bottom line.
Q: Why native plants?
A: If you’ve been following Soil and Water Conservation Districts’ native plant sales around the valley, you know we sell out of our inventory quickly. Why is that, you say? What makes native plants so desirable? Well, for one thing, once established, native plants require less care and water than most non-native plants. The Pacific Northwest climate has typically wet winters and dry summers so native plants are already adapted to the ecosystems here. They help to preserve declining habitats like mixed deciduous forests, wetlands, oak woodland, savannah, and upland prairie. They are food sources for nesting birds, butterfly caterpillars, and other native wildlife. They provide nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds, and shelter for native amphibians and reptiles. Some native plants are the sole source of food for endangered insect species (like Kincaid’s Lupine) or have become resistant to deer and elk browse (like yarrow). They provide excellent erosion control for slopes and as understory plants in coniferous forest settings. Be mindful that we have a variety of habitats here in Polk County, so it’s important to pick the right native plant for the right habitat. We have a one-page guide we include with our native plant sales to help you choose what plants will work best for you. We source and buy the plants right here in the Willamette Valley, making them the hardiest for our customers. (Adapted from: Gardening with Oregon Native Plants W of the Cascades, EC 1577, OSU ES, McMahan 2008) https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1577

Q: Will native plants still need your care and attention?
A: Yes, they will! It would be nice if you could just stick them in the ground and go, but in order to establish themselves, any plant, even natives, need to grow in the soil and light conditions they have adapted to and to be watered regularly for the first couple seasons of growth. Be patient because some native plants need a few years to get going. Lastly, unlike nursery stock, native plants DON’T need much fertilizer after the first year of establishment. It is recommended that non burning organic fertilizers such as composted manure or fish emulsion be used.

Q: Where can I buy or harvest these plants?
A: Soil and Water Conservation Districts in each county of the Willamette Valley generally host native plant sales in November and February. The Polk District has a November Bulb Sale and a February Bare Root Sale. Bulbs are better placed in the ground in November so they can establish over winter with the rain. Bare root trees and shrubs are best established in February when it is cool and wet, but not over winter, when their tender shoots might freeze. You’ll be able to place orders soon for our bare root sale, check our website. https://www.polkswcd.com/bareroot-sale.html

We give away free one-page guides at our sales to help you decide what to plant where, based on sunlight exposure, habitat type, and moisture requirements. Information on height, growth habit, and attractiveness to wildlife is also included. Other places you can find native plants include: OSU Extension’s Master Gardener’s plant sales, and native plant nurseries sprinkled throughout the valley. Some forest products can be harvested with a permit from BLM public lands. https://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/forests-and-woodlands/forest-product-permits

Submit Your Questions To:
KARIN STUTZMAN
manager@polkswcd.com
Save the Date!

Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?

A Community Water Forum featuring a panel of Polk County water providers and groundwater safety expert, Chrissy Lucas

January 25  1:00 - 3:00 PM
Monmouth Senior Center

**Register for this FREE event at LuckiamuteLWC.org/community-water-forum**

Do you know where your drinking water comes from? Are there water quality issues you should be aware of and who you can contact with any questions about your drinking water? Whether your water comes from a private well or a water provider, get your questions answered and the resources you need to be informed about drinking water quality and protection!

Own a well? For a free nitrate screening of your drinking water, please bring a 1/2 cup of well water in a clean container.

Polk Soil And Water Conservation District

NATIVE BARE ROOT SALE
Online Sales begin 12.16.19 Until Sold Out!

We’ll have all the usual list of suspects, including many flowering shrubs and ground cover, like: serviceberry, golden currant, kinnikinnick, yarrow, and more!

Pick up dates begin on February 6&7
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Ordering arrangements can be made by calling 503.623.9680.

580 Main Street, STE A, Dallas, OR 97338

Our Native Plant sale proceeds go to support over 350 acres of conserved Oregon White Oak Habitat!!

Check our website for more information!
https://www.polkswcd.com/bareroot-sale.html

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Polk Soil And Water Conservation District

Own a well? For a free nitrate screening of your drinking water, please bring a 1/2 cup of well water in a clean container.
Growing Apples in the Home Orchard

Neil Bell
OSU Extension Community Horticulture

Growing tree fruit in a home orchard is a great way to add home-grown produce to the table and is possible for most homeowners, even if you don’t have a large area to devote to an orchard. A home orchard usually provides a good return of fresh produce for a relatively modest investment of time and money. There are many tree fruit to choose from, but this article will look at the most common and in some ways the easiest tree fruit to grow in the relatively cool, damp Willamette Valley: apples. These typically bear well under our conditions and by following a few basic cultural practices, you can reward yourself with a bountiful harvest of high-quality fruit.

If you are considering growing apples, the first consideration is how much space you have and therefore what type of tree you can accommodate. Breeding and selection of both cultivars and dwarfing rootstocks have made it possible to grow productive trees in very restricted spaces, including in containers. Other techniques for cultivation in small areas include espalier, in which the trees are trained to a flat vertical trellis. These types of systems allow you to grow apples on the perimeter of a patio in your back yard, or in similar restricted areas.

Also consider how much light the area under consideration will receive and the availability of water. All tree fruit, including apples, will require a minimum of six hours of direct sunlight, most of this preferably occurring during the afternoon when it is warmer. If it is shadier than this, you will see a reduction in flowering (and fruit production) and possibly an increase in disease issues. A convenient source of irrigation water is important, too. It is possible to grow tree fruit in the Valley without irrigation, but this would apply only to established trees growing in the ground. Young trees will require regular summer irrigation to get established, and any trees in containers will always require summer irrigation. Generally speaking, it’s better for all orchards, whatever the cultural practices, to receive summer irrigation, as it reduces stress, especially on poor soils and increases fruit size.

With this taken care of, it’s time to choose cultivars and rootstocks. There are seemingly countless apple cultivars available to homeowners, so you can choose from many pie and dessert apple choices as well as crabapples. The advantage of all this choice is that ripening times of the various cultivars, especially dessert apples (those for fresh eating) vary significantly. Some ripen as early as mid-August, while others are done in early October. With careful selection of cultivars, you can ensure fresh apples over a long late summer season. You will also choose the rootstock, which will determine the vigor and size of the tree. Rootstocks vary from full size (a 25-35’ tree) to super-dwarf, which
restricts a tree to 6’ or so in height, suitable for a container or small garden.

Note that most (not all) apple cultivars require a pollinizer. This means that any given apple cultivar requires another tree of a different cultivar to be planted nearby to ensure pollination of the flowers on each tree and therefore fruit production. The cultivars that those you choose should exhibit good resistance to apple scab, a very problematic fungal disease that is best managed (like all diseases on plants) in home gardens by plant resistance. You can find a table showing resistance of a wide range of apple cultivars to several common diseases in the PNW Disease Management Handbook at: [https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/cultivar-tables/apple-cultivar-susceptibility](https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/cultivar-tables/apple-cultivar-susceptibility)

Once you have chosen your cultivars and rootstocks and planted your apple orchard, management of the orchard follows a pretty straightforward yearly schedule, which stays constant as the trees mature and become larger. It’s important to prune during the dormant period to ensure good tree form, which you can learn more about in the publication PNW 400 “Pruning and training your home orchard”, available at no charge from OSU Extension Publications: [catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu](https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu). In late May or early June, you will want to thin fruit on each cluster to a single fruit for crop management and fruit quality. This is not easy to do, as apples bear flowers in clusters of five or so and often, if pollination is good, there may be 5 small fruit crammed together in late spring. These should be reduced to a single fruit by selecting the best-positioned apple to leave and snipping off the others with a small pair of pruning shears.

After this, you just need to scout the orchard for evidence of disease or insect pests. If you have selected scab-resistant cultivars and prune well for an open canopy, you should be free of this debilitating disease. The one pest problem that typically affects apples is codling moth, whose larvae bore into the fruit. This pest can affect a significant proportion of the fruit if not managed, but the good news is there are any ways to effectively reduce or eliminate the damage. Check with the OSU Extension Master Gardeners in the Polk County Extension office in Dallas for help in identifying and managing this and any other problems in the orchard.

The best part about a home orchard, of course, is picking and consuming the fruit you have grown. Because different apple cultivars ripen at different times, the way to determine when your apples are ripe is simple: pick a fruit from the tree and bite into it. If it tastes ripe, you are ready to pick! Apples are a once-over harvest, so after you’ve confirmed it’s ripe, all the fruit on a given cultivar are harvested. If you pick into bins, then these can be stored in a cool, dry location. If you do have any refrigerated space, this is even better as they will retain their quality longer. After this, it’s time to enjoy your efforts!
Polk County has its first agritourism coordinator. Audrey Comerford, formerly an assistant in Oregon State University Extension’s Marion County agritourism program, started in the newly created position on Sept. 23. She is serving Polk, Marion and Yamhill counties.

Mary Stewart retired earlier this year as agritourism coordinator for Marion County. The Extension Service since expanded the program to cover the three counties.

“I think it was very smart to have this position covering multiple counties, because while there are differences between the counties, they have a lot of similarities,” Comerford said.

Prior to working under Stewart, Comerford worked at Bauman’s Farm and Garden in Woodburn, where she, among other duties, coordinated and led school tours of the farm’s pumpkin patch each October.

“I have a lot of practical experience in this field,” Comerford said of agritourism.

Comerford said she hopes to expand agritourism in the three counties by showing farms opportunities in the field and by helping farms meet agritourism regulatory requirements. Initially, however, she plans to develop a comprehensive sense of how much agritourism is in place in Polk and Yamhill counties.

“Currently, there is not a complete list of agritourism destinations in Yamhill and Polk counties, so we are looking to gather that information to see the scope of the industry,” Comerford said.

She also plans to work closely with tourism bodies, such as Travel Salem, Travel Oregon and the Willamette Valley Visitors Association, to help promote agritourism in the three counties.

Although Comerford didn’t major in agriculture at Oregon State University, instead securing a degree in English, she grew up near Perrydale and is no stranger to farming. “I have always been around agriculture in one form or another,” she said. “My father’s side of the family had a Christmas tree business and my father was a professor of horticulture.”

She sees agritourism as a means for farms to gain an extra revenue source and as an opportunity to educate the general public about farming.

“A very small percentage of people today are connected to farms,” she said, “so these farms engaged in agritourism are providing valuable education to the general public.”

Comerford encourages farmers exploring agritourism opportunities to contact her. She can be reached at the Polk County Extension office by calling 503-623-8395.

Photograph by Mitch Lies

Audrey Comerford started in her position as Polk County Agritourism Coordinator on Sept. 23.
By Susan Busler
OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development

National Winners

Jillian Layton, Monmouth, is a Junior at Central High School has served as an Oregon State Teen Ambassador for the past two years. This summer she was selected to represent the state of Oregon at the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia, over Thanksgiving. National Congress is one of the highest honors available to 4-H members. It recognizes those who excel in leadership, community service and sharing what they’ve learned through the 4-H program with others.

February will find Jillian representing Oregon once again at the National Family Consumer Sciences Conference in Denver, Colorado. She will be competing in presentations as well as consumer decision making. She qualified in both of those categories at this summer’s Oregon State Fair.

Jillian is completing her term as secretary of the Polk County 4-H Teen Ambassadors and also serves as a Youth Representative for the Polk County 4-H Association. She was honored in November at the County Awards Night with the top senior records. Congratulations, Jillian for an awesome job representing the state of Oregon and Polk County 4-H.

Jake Hedrick Allen is the epitome of an outdoorsman and certainly a sure-shot with rifle, pistol and bow. He represented Oregon at the National Shooting Sports Competition summer of 2018 in Western Heritage and Hunting Skills Competitions. Jake had another fantastic shoot at the 2019 State Shooting Sports Competition. His scores resulted in Champion of the Senior Division in the compound bow competition. He will represent Oregon at the National Shooting Sports Competition in Grand Island, Nebraska in July. Jake is a 4-H member of the Toxophilites Archery Club, White Feathers Rifle/Pistol Club, Outdoor Club and Polk County Teen Ambassadors. He is a Sophomore at Willamina High School and lives in Grand Ronde.

Both Jake and Jillian are working on fundraisers to help cover the costs of their National Trips. Those individuals wanting to support them can make tax deductible contributions to the Polk County 4-H Program.

Volunteers Recognized

The Polk County 4-H Association recognized and thanked adult volunteer leaders for their years of service ranging from one to 61 years at the November 4-H Awards Night. The 4-H Association special recognition for New Leaders went to William Latham, two-year leader of the Spring Valley 4-H Horse Club for his assistance in the club and in particular his work with fair and county horse events in managing the set-up of arena equipment for equitation, dressage, trail, and western gaming plus much more.

A Distinguished Service Award was presented to Paul Burger, 13-year leader of the Achievers 4-H Club and Polk County Fair Poultry Superintendent.

Friend of 4-H winners included Nate Woods, Focal Point Photo, Dallas for their support of the 4-H photography project and awards for many years. Gene Pirelli, retired Extension Agriculture Agent was recognized for his support and assistance for many years with the Polk County 4-H program.

Check our Facebook and webpage for additional 4-H award winners, upcoming classes, events and educational programs, as well as information on how to get involved as a 4-H member or volunteer.
FFA is a student leadership development organization that strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students through agricultural education. Members must be enrolled in an agricultural education class in a state approved program of study. The Dallas FFA chapter is an affiliate of the National FFA organization, was chartered in 1956, and has been helping students develop skills for their futures ever since. Our students focus in one of three career areas: plant & natural resources, animal science, and agricultural mechanics, which includes wood and metal working, small engine repair, welding and much more. Members use knowledge and skills gained in the classroom in real world situations through their supervised agricultural experience or through career development events. Career development events or CDE’s place students in competitive situations with their peers from other chapters. During these events students often must work as a team to demonstrate their abilities to effectively communicate as well as exhibit their own knowledge and skill. Dallas FFA participates in a wide range of CDE’s including public speaking, agribusiness management, dairy cattle evaluation, soil evaluation and much more. Our goal is to tailor a student’s FFA experience to their future career objectives. We understand the majority of our students may not be involved in production agriculture, however the skills developed in FFA can be applied across a broad spectrum of career fields.

Community service and involvement are also important to FFA. Dallas FFA tries to give back to our community through service learning projects such as trick-or-treating for cans, the Les Schwab Drive Away Hunger event, participation in the Adopt-a-Family program, the Food-for-All program, a petting zoo at a local pumpkin patch and assisting others as the need arises. We have many fundraisers that we do throughout the year; some which
include a booth at Holiday Market selling student-crafted projects, a drive-thru tri-tip BBQ dinner and annual Christmas tree lot. The tree lot is our primary fundraiser and runs from shortly after Thanksgiving until Christmas. We also raise and market flowers, vegetables and hanging baskets in our greenhouse. Our primary goal in our fundraisers is to provide learning opportunities for our students where they may put into practice the skills they have developed in class. Through our fundraisers, students engage in customer service and develop marketing and sales skills as they interact with the public. Another benefit of these fundraisers is that the public has the opportunity to see what our students are learning and provide feedback to our students on their progress.

...which include a booth at Holiday Market selling student-crafted projects, a drive-thru tri-tip BBQ dinner and annual Christmas tree lot.

If you would like to learn more about our organization or are interested in providing assistance please contact Ryan Rowley, the Dallas FFA Advisor at ryan.rowley@dsd2.org or Marci Johnson, our Alumni and Booster President at mjohn10676@yahoo.com. The Dallas FFA Alumni and Boosters organization is affiliated with the National FFA Alumni and assist our chapter in fundraising, team coaching, assisting with events and activities and provides scholarships to our graduating seniors. The primary means of fundraising for the alumni is through our annual Hearts and Wine Dinner. This year’s event will be February 1, 2020 at Eola Hills Winery in Rickreall. Childcare is provided off-site by our FFA chapter and all proceeds go to benefit the Dallas FFA.
Winter is upon us! As a child, I anxiously awaited December. Some may think that may be because of the holidays, which I do enjoy, but mostly it was because we could FINALLY open up a jar of the home canned fruit we worked so hard to prepare over the summer. My brother and I would argue over who could have the first – and the last – bite, and which fruit we’d eat that night. We’d often say, “Cots mom… more cots please”.

As many people, we relied on home canned foods to keep us fed in the winter. We were fortunate to have access to the Extension Service to help us find safe recipes to preserve our food. Importantly, several decades later, the Extension Service continues to provide research-based food preservation information. Several food preservation publications are now posted on our website at: https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mfp/publications, and we also work with trained Master Food Preserver volunteers who share up-to-date, research-based information in the community.

This past year, Master Food Preserver volunteers shared safe food preservation information through community booths in Dallas, Falls City, Grand Ronde, Rickreall, West Salem, and Willamina reaching over 800 people. They also offered hands-on classes in Dallas, Falls City, and Grand Ronde, teaching important life skills. Thank you to our volunteers for giving so much to Polk County!

Plans for 2020 community food preservation classes and events are under development. If you have suggestions for class topics, or would like to attend a class or schedule the Master Food Preserver volunteers to come to an event, please contact me at tonya.johnson@oregonstate.edu or 503-373-3763.

If you would like to learn more about the Master Food Preserver program and when the next training will be offered, visit: https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mfp/master-food-preservation-program
The Oregon Small Farms Conference, a daylong event geared toward farmers, agricultural professionals, food policy advocates, students and managers of farmers markets, is being held in 2020 on Feb. 22. Twenty-seven educational sessions are offered on a variety of topics relevant to the Oregon small farmers. Speakers include farmers, OSU Extension faculty, agribusiness, and more.

In our 2020 conference, we’re excited to welcome Andrew Mefferd, who will be speaking on best practices for greenhouse growing, as well as Renard and Chinnette Turner, who will be sharing their expertise on the business of raising and selling goats.

There will be many other opportunities to learn about olive production, dairy practices, and even what to do when you’re starting out! More information will be available on our Small Farms website (smallfarms.oregonstate.edu) in mid-December. Don’t forget to register early!
HOW DO I MAKE MONEY FROM MY FARM WITH MINIMAL EFFORT?

By Victoria Binning
OSU Extension, Small Farms

Often get the question from new landowners, those who have never owned land before and now find themselves with a few acres to play with, “What can I grow that doesn’t require a lot of work but I can make money off of?” After a little digging, I find that many of these question-askers are driven by a desire to live a rural lifestyle, and they are looking for ways to maintain their Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) tax deferral to keep expenses down.

The State of Oregon has some pretty strict rules around the use of agricultural lands, because the people of Oregon value their rich agricultural soils and their farmers so highly. Unlike other states, Oregon has a special zoning status for rural properties, EFU, that prohibits activities other than farming on prime agricultural soils. For this reason, it is difficult to divide properties into parcels smaller than 80 acres and to build houses or structures not necessary for the farm business.

Given those considerations for the preservation of our fertile soils, what can you do with your parcel of paradise?

Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zoning requires that you honestly try to make a profit from a farm business on your property in order to receive the tax deferral, which is really an incentive to keep those lands productive. There is no minimum income requirement, but you must be farming with the intent to make a profit. Farming includes vegetable, fruit, pasture, livestock, and nursery operations, as well as boarding and breeding, among many other farm enterprises. You can find more clarity on what qualifies in “Assessment of Farmland in Exclusive Farm-Use Zone” from the Department of Revenue.

If you are hoping that events like weddings, corn mazes, or glamping experiences might be the way to make an income, make sure this is not your primary source of income. Events such as these first require that you have a farm business producing crops or livestock to sell. It is called “Exclusive Farm Use” after all, and your farm business comes first! It is important to note here that each county has different rules around EFU land and it behooves you to get familiar with your county’s code. Decisions around land use and the zoning code are determined by county planners, and you should contact them while you are building out the vision of your farm property, not after you’ve started the actual building!

Deciding on which crops to grow or livestock animals to raise is a matter of choice. How much time do you want to spend tending your crops or animals? What sorts of activities do you enjoy doing? Feeding chickens and collecting eggs may bring you more joy than pruning trees, or vice versa, and that’s okay! In fact, it’s important to recognize what forms of work will be sustainable for your lifestyle and keep you invested.

Further narrowing down your options are the resources available on your property. Do you have water rights? What is the quality of your soil, or your soil classification? Little or no water will limit you to more drought resistant crops like wine grapes, Christmas trees, garlic, hay, asparagus, and rhubarb. Similarly, poor soils will require amendments for crop production or are often used for pasture. To determine if your property has water rights, check out the Oregon Water Resources Department database. To determine what types of soil you have, check out the Web Soil Survey. If you have questions about what it all means, don’t hesitate to reach out to OSU Extension.

See PAGE 17
THINGS TO CONSIDER:

**VEGETABLE CROPS**
- Annual plantings
- Requires irrigation water
- Harvesting by hand takes longer, but harvesting by machine requires $...
- Requires well drained soils
- May take several years to turn a profit

**BERRIES & ORCHARD CROPS**
- Typically requires irrigation
- Annual maintenance lessens after first 2-3 years
- Annual pruning requirements
- Important to research disease resistant varieties
- Requires well drained soils

**LIVESTOCK**
- Require 24/7 care
- Budget for veterinary needs
- Fencing!
- Make a plan for deceased animals
- Livestock will damage soils during wet season without management
- Larger animals can be challenging to handle
- Need hay or other feed for the winter
- Can raise livestock on marginal lands

For a more in-depth guide through considering what to produce on your farm property, as well as a guide for other questions you will want to answer as you start your farm, read “What Can I Do With My Small Farm?”, which can be found in our OSU publication website catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu.

If thinking of all the work needed to successfully raise a crop or maintain livestock makes your head spin, you might consider leasing your land to someone who is ready to actively farm. You can lease EFU land so long as they are farming and you are receiving an income from them. In order to lease your land, you draw up a contract with an interested party, outlining the duration of the contract, who is responsible for what, and what to do if/when things go wrong. Lease agreements are not only a good idea to protect you, but you may need to provide the county assessor’s office with a copy as proof of income. Our Small Farms agent, Melissa Fery, wrote a great article called “Exploring Leased Land” that is well worth a read!

Access to farmland is one of the biggest challenges facing young and beginning farmers, so if you have land to farm but are not interested in doing the work yourself, connecting with these folks is a win-win situation. You can find interested parties on places like OregonFarmLink.org, Craigslist.com, the Small Ag Press, and Facebook groups like “Willamette Valley Farming and Homesteading Classifieds”.

In farming, there is no silver bullet product that is easy to produce and makes a lot of money. If there was, everyone would be producing it. Farming requires hard work and dedication. Many of your farming decisions will be dependent on your available resources, both those from the land and those from your farming team or family. Finding an enterprise that is manageable and fulfilling is a matter of reflecting on your own goals and preferences and aligning those with what your land and the local markets will support. Start small and grow sustainably.

Still have questions? The Marion County Assessor’s office put together an FAQ sheet on tax deferral programs.

For questions about what you can do on your EFU land, contact the Marion County Planning Division at 503-588-5038 or the Polk County Planning Division at 503-623-9237.

For additional farm deferral questions, contact the Marion County Assessor’s office at 503-588-5049 or the Polk County Assessor’s office at 503-623-8391.

For farming questions and support, contact the OSU Mid-Valley Small Farms program at 503-373-3774 or victoria.binning@oregonstate.edu.
Olive Growing in Oregon and OSU Research

SU Extension’s Olea Project Team hosted a field tour at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in October that attracted a crowd of over 50 attendees. The group included current and future growers, nursery, field and other industry representatives, as well as, consumers and press.

Growing olives in Oregon is not a new idea, but it has faced challenges with cold hardiness of planting stock, plus field establishment and production practices. Nevertheless, a small and dedicated group of a dozen or so landowners have been working to develop an olive oil industry in this state. OSU Extension faculty have been cooperating in this process the past three years.

The recent NWREC tour started with an introduction to the project and research objectives followed by a preliminary results update. “The growers interviewed for our Industry Survey and Needs Assessment stated that plant injury and dieback, fruit set and productivity are some of their most important priorities,” said Tessa Barker, a graduate research assistant at OSU. A Q&A session followed, where an interesting discussion on the challenges and issues for state production of olives ensued. “Olive production in Oregon faces cold winter freeze that can damage tissue and delay plant development and production, as well, destroy large sections of an orchard,” said Extension agent Neil Bell.

The attendees were split in two groups to tour NWREC. One stop visited the propagation facilities. Extension agent Heather Stoven shared about experiments involving plant production from cuttings and propagation techniques for nurseries and small farms. Another stop focused on basic care and management for potted plants. The next tour stops, led by Extension agent Javier Fernandez-Salvador, reviewed research examining field establishment practices.

One common question from growers and those considering olive crop production has been about which olive varieties to plant and when to expect production? There is no simple answer to this question. Some cultivars are definitely more tolerant of cold and freezing temperatures, but there are other factors to consider, too, such as, the age of the planting stock and plant size going in the field, the site microclimate, and resources such as irrigation availability.

“You need a little luck, too, to be successful—like any farming,” said Fernandez-Salvador. “The winter at time of planting could be mild or harsh. This may be the most important factor for establishment and production. The last two years have been mild, but this year may be very different.”

The final tour stop visited Neil Bell’s Pacific Northwest Olive Collection. More than 60 varieties from around the world have been planted at NWREC to see how they produce—side-by-side on the same site over a several year period. The data collected from the evaluation will be critical to answering the hardiness questions.

OSU’s Olea Project Team includes Javier Fernandez-Salvador, Marion and Polk County Small Farms Extension Agent; Heather Stoven, Yamhill County Small Farms and Community Horticulture Extension Agent; Neil Bell, Marion and Polk County Horticulture Extension Agent; Victoria Binning, Marion County Extension Outreach Coordinator; and Tessa Barker, OSU Graduate Research Assistant.

Javier coordinates field establishment research and grower site winter damage evaluation. Heather coordinates olive propagating techniques. Neil directs the cultivar evaluation for winter cold hardiness. Victoria Binning manages the outreach coordination for events and publications. Tessa provides research assistance for various components of the project.

For additional reading about olive production in Oregon, see these articles:


Do you have a cow that you’re milking for home use? Maybe it’s a goat or two, or even a dairy sheep. (Yup, dairy sheep exist, and sheep cheese is delicious.) Or perhaps you intend to tie yourself down with daily milkings at some point in the future. If you would like to learn more about very small-scale dairy production and the care and management of such animals, join OSU Extension for our workshop series: How Now Backyard Cow (Goat, Sheep).

This series of four workshops will cover four major topics: Nutrition & Feeding, Facilities & Manure Management, Milking & Milk Handling Procedures, and Health & Reproduction. Note that we will not cover marketing or the economics of such an enterprise. This series is focused on meeting the needs of the animals.

Feeding animals is usually the biggest expense in keeping them. We will cover the nutritional needs of milk-producing ruminants and what to feed them. Topics will include nutritional requirements of different life stages, basic pasture management, winter forages, and other diet components. We want facilities that keep animals healthy and are functional for the animal caretaker. We will discuss bedding options, accommodating animal handling, and considerations for inclement weather. Manure (nutrients for soil!) needs to be handled using environmentally-friendly methods that enhance your property instead of polluting it. We will cover manure storage and options for using the nutrients to enrich soil.

Of course, you want to keep your animal robust and to provide safe, high-quality milk for your family. We will cover procedures that maintain udder health and human health. We will also discuss mastitis, vaccinations, parasite control, reproductive management, and newborn care, because managing the health and reproduction of your animal are critical to not only maintain milk supply but to promote animal welfare and longevity.

The workshop series will be Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:00 PM, January 28, and February 4, 11, and 18. The classes will be held at the Linn County OSU Extension Service office in Tangent.

Learn more about managing your homestead milk producer

Dairy Workshop Series Upcoming

By Jennifer Cruickshank
OSU Extension, Dairy

For more information, go to https://extension.oregonstate.edu/program/all/smallfarms/events or contact Teagan Moran, 541-713-5011, teagan.moran@oregonstate.edu.
SAVE THE DATES!

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- Nutrition & Feeding
- Facilities & Manure Management
- Milking & Milk Handling Procedures
- Health & Reproduction

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6:00-8:00PM
TANGENT, OREGON

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One of the most popular parts of my class, Living With Your Well & Septic System, is discussing what should and should not be flushed down the toilet. Toilets are NOT trashcans. Whether you flush it down the toilet, grind it in the garbage disposal, or pour it down the sink, shower, or bath, everything that goes down your drains ends up in your septic system. What goes down the drain affects how well your septic system works. Keep in mind that these items should not be flushed; even if you have paid sewer services, your city’s sewer maintenance folks would appreciate it. Just remember before you are tempted to flush anything, these items contribute to your sludge layers, because they do not break down. Most of these items are better thrown in the trash can, unless they have special handling requirements.

**MEDICATIONS:** Any medication both prescription and non-prescription should not be flushed. If you have any medications that you need to get rid of, please reach out to your local health department or pharmacy to find the best place to drop those items off.

**ANIMAL WASTE/CAT LITTER:** Animal waste from our pets can have different microorganisms that are not appropriate to go into a septic system. The systems were designed with human waste only in mind. Bag up your animal wastes and toss in the trash can. There is no such thing as flushable cat litter. While some brands say they are flushable, just because you can flush something does not mean you should! Cat litter is primarily composed if items that are not biodegradable (basically just going directly into your sludge layer that has to be pumped out).

**WET WIPES (BABY, MEDICATED, MAKE-UP):** These are not designed to break down after flushing. They also can get tangled in pipes and cause clogging.

**PAPER TOWELS/TISSUES:** These are not designed to break down after flushing. They also can get tangled in pipes and cause clogging.

**COOKING GREASE:** Cooking grease can cause clogs, but also has an anti-microbial effect in your septic tank.

**FOOD:** Use that garbage disposal sparingly. Any excess food material requires your tank microbes to work harder to break down undigested food scraps.

**DENTAL FLOSS:** Floss is not biodegradable and can cause serious clogs and damage.

**Q-TIPS/COTTON BALLS:** You might think that cotton will break down, since some toilet paper is made from cotton linen, but they don’t! They will clump together, causing stoppages at bends in the pipes.

**DIAPERS:** Just because there is human waste inside does not mean that they are OK to flush. Diapers are made to expand in water. In the unlikely case you actually get the diaper to flush, it will likely get caught in the bends of the pipe.

**CONDOMS:** Flushed condoms do NOT break down in septic tanks because of the materials they are made from. In addition, they can clog your plumbing, which can be expensive to fix. Just throw them away in the trash can.

**FEMININE PRODUCTS:** Tampons and other feminine hygiene products are designed to not break down easily in water. As noted on the packaging they are not supposed to be flushed down the toilet.

**ADDITIVES:** There are many products out there that claim that they reduce sludge, maximize performance, add in additional bacteria, add in enzymes, and many more claims that do NOT have any research to support their effectiveness. Your bodily wastes (specifically your poo) are all the bacterial additive you need to keep your septic tank working perfectly.

Remember that your septic tank is not a trash can. There are even some toilet papers that do not break down easily. While labeled septic safe, that may not mean that it will not cause clogs or readily degrade. Do an experiment with your toilet paper. Grab a big bowl, fill it with cold water, add the amount of toilet paper you would use at one bathroom event. Let the paper sit in the water for 20 minutes. If the paper isn’t broken down and easily swished into a paper water slurry, it might be time to look for a new brand. In addition, just in case you were wondering, dead fish, paint, band-aids, and toys are also not recommended to be flushed.

For additional information about septic systems visit http://wellwater.oregonstate.edu
Assisting Landowners in Ag Water Quality

Despite having the official title of “Farm Specialist” with the Polk SWCD, my position is in fact funded by an agricultural water quality specific Oregon Department of Agriculture grant. Although this grant allows for me to pursue and complete a wide variety of projects (large wood debris placement, oak habitat restoration, pollinator and endangered species enhancement, etc.) a majority of my, and the district’s, time is focused on agricultural water quality projects and compliance cases. Our position, contrary to what may be popular belief, is to serve as the non-regulatory, non-reporting, voluntary assistance/restoration intermediary between landowners who have received pre-enforcement letters and ODA.

Simply put, if a complaint is received by ODA, ODA will consult with the relevant SWCD and landowner in question, completing a site visit addressing and identifying concerns. If a violation is found, ODA will issue a pre-enforcement letter, advising that said landowner’s current practices “may not be consistent with water quality regulations in their water quality management area.” After the pre-enforcement letter is sent, an ODA rep will schedule a follow up date to determine compliance, at which point, if compliance has been achieved, the case is closed, and if not, the case continues down the regulatory chain potentially leading to the issuance of civil penalties.

Along with assisting landowners with compliance cases, one stipulation of our funding agreement with ODA is that we designate a watershed within the county as a “focus area,” where we plan to emphasize water quality enhancement efforts for the next two years. Since 2016, the Polk SWCD has named the Lower Salt Creek watershed as our focus area, and we are continuing to direct our efforts in the basin. Initially, during the torrential downpours of winter 2016, several landowners within the watershed came to the office with concerns regarding flooding that was impacting public and private infrastructure, as well as harming operations economically, asking us to help address the problem of flooding, and in the process, understand and address concerns in the watershed in a way that would lead to positive, beneficial impacts for everyone: landowners, operators, ODA, DEQ, etc. anyway we could. The process and methods with which we have sought to achieve this goal have undergone significant change since 2016, but are finally grounded and have a clear, concise idea as to where we’re going, and how we are going to best attempt to achieve our goal.

Through our outreach efforts stemming back to 2016, one of the glaring issues that was raised by the landowners was a lack of any data to inform what conditions within the basin actually are, and it’s hard to address a problem if you don’t actually know if there is one! Currently, all water quality compliance concerns had been identified by individual reporting or via satellite imagery to ODA, rather than analysis of any actual data regarding water quality parameters of interest: temperature, streamside condition, pH, dissolved oxygen, etc. As a result of this, in conjunction with Oregon State University, the district has decided to implement, a watershed-wide, ag. water quality study, focusing on the parameters of streamside condition, temperature, and stream flow. While this is just a start, we are hoping to build on this study, introducing more parameters of measure as time allows, that ultimately will help us focus our efforts on to what truly, if anything, will need to be addressed in the Salt Creek system leading to an ecologically and economically healthy system, that ideally eliminate the concerns of all relevant parties.

If you own Salt Creek frontage and would like to participate in this research effort, or think you might be of help in anyway, please feel free to reach out to me, as we are always looking for more and more partners!
Difference between normal and flood stage on the main stem of Salt Creek.
With winter weather approaching and rain returning to the valley, the Polk SWCD puts the final touches on a restoration project that has been in development for over four years. Around 2015, the Polk SWCD became aware of a potential project within the Luckiamute watershed in need of additional support and funding. Jont Creek and its tributaries represent approximately 10 miles of seasonal river channel habitat that could be used by a number of sensitive fish species that have been inaccessible for many years. Less than one river mile away from its confluence with the Luckiamute River on private property, three culverts at one creek crossing prevented fish passage due to velocity in high flow times and are perched above the low water as late spring and summer flows dropped.

Partnering with the landowner, United States Fish and Wildlife Services, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, River Design Group and Trask Design and Construction, the Polk SWCD was able to successfully remove these culverts while maintaining the landowner’s access to the farmland on the opposite side of the creek. In place of the undersized perched culverts now sits a pre-cast concrete bridge spanning the 20 feet river channel, restoring the natural flow of Jont Creek critically close to the Luckiamute River. This allows steelhead, chinook, cutthroat, pacific lamprey and Oregon Chub (a recently delisted endangered species) access to the habitat above this point, a major gain not only simply for passage but also the opportunities for better maturation of healthy adolescents of these species.

Starting with grant funds from OWEB in 2015, the Polk SWCD was able to employ an engineering firm to survey the area and develop preliminary alternatives to replace the culverts. The landowner and partner agencies looked at a pre-cast concrete bridge, concrete box culvert, and an aluminum plate box culvert all which fit fish passage requirements but with different costs and benefits. The pre-cast bridge option was selected and River Design Group fully developed blueprints and engineering documents to satisfy local, state and federal requirements. By fall 2017, the...
Polk SWCD submitted for funds again from OWEB to implement the solution developed. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the landowner helped match the funds requested to additionally restore and develop a pond which further facilitates wildlife needs just off of the Jont Creek channel and crossing. Besides the direct benefits to these fish species song and wading birds, red legged frogs, and pond turtles are expected to utilize this habitat to a much greater degree.

Due to the chaotic material and labor markets across the country in 2018, it became apparent that the funds acquired to implement the culvert removals and bridge installation were deemed inadequate. Through patient partnership work and an additional grant from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation, the project was safely back within budget with all permits acquired but availability of contractors and the actual fabrication of a 20-foot-span bridge dwindled out of reach during the mandated in-water work window for Jont Creek. The pond creation a generous matching effort from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services were able to be installed but the barrier removal itself would need to wait for late summer 2019.

Finally, more than four years since the initial project proposal, Trask Design and Construction, the project’s general contractor was able to dig out and remove the culverts, which the landowner will reuse elsewhere on the property, and excavate a stable footprint. Bucking the trends of 2016, 2017 and 2018, the summer and early fall weather of 2019 became a concern as the valley did not stay as dry through August and September but the work was able to be completed without issue or impact on water flows, despite the September rains, as water did not enter Jont creek until after the work was concluded.

The bridge was brought to the site in six pieces, three U-shaped pieces forming the bottom and sides and three slabs which would be driven across by equipment accessing the farm fields across Jont Creek. A crane operator lifted and placed each section. These parts were welded together forming the completed bridge. Several truckloads of road gravel, sidewall armoring and simulated streambed later, the project was completed. Significant fish species suddenly are now able to access an almost 10 additional miles of stream habitat and will facilitate natural flow of water through Jont creek in ways that haven’t been possible in many years.
Need Good Clean Water?
Local Working Group Meeting to discuss natural resource concerns last Friday in January

By Karin Stutzman
District Manager, Polk SWCD

Each year on the last Friday in January, the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Polk Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) hold a Local Working Group (LWG) Meeting (LWG) to discuss natural resource concerns in Polk County and to help prioritize funding committed to addressing priority concerns. The meeting is designed to solicit input from conservation partners representing a broad spectrum of natural resource groups, agencies, landowners and land managers working together to improve natural resources in Polk County. For many years the topic of water quality and water quantity has come up. There is an initiative to provide funding through NRCS called the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) that is designed to address and improve agricultural sources of water pollution; specifically, nutrients, sediment, and pathogens. The improvements can be directed toward a watershed with an affected group of private wells tied to a single source of ground or surface water, or to a drinking water provider’s source water (like the many water co-ops we have in Polk County). The initiative would provide monetary incentives to the affected area participants to promote best management practices to improve a documented water quality concern.

For instance, is the area already on the state’s 303(d) list of impairment or have a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan? Section 303(d) requires identifying waters that do not meet water quality standards and where a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) pollutant load limit needs to be developed. https://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/assessment/rpt2012/search.asp Impairments include elevated levels of nitrate, phosphorus, sediment, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, or pesticides from sources such as crop growing operations, animal feeding operations, septic system leaching, wastewater lagoons, or active and non-active landfills. Or is there another documented impairment that is not part of the state required assessment for water quality standards? Like results from a private test by Edge Analytical, or similar private water quality testing center showing elevated levels of nitrate, phosphorus, sediment, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, or pesticides.

Eligible projects would work to improve the area around where ground or surface water intake happens—pastures, crop fields, grape, nut, fruit or berry orchards; dairy headquarters; or a group of rural properties with aging septic systems, before it is drawn from a well intake pipe or delivered to a processing center. For instance, if you have a grape, nut, fruit or berry processing plant on acreage and you want to make sure to have good clean water for processing this funding may work for you. Project areas must be more than 10 acres. Area must already be developed or in production as no new agriculture can be put into production with these funds.

If your operation is concerned about the potability of irrigation water, or water needed for cleaning and preparing fruits and vegetables or other crops that will be consumed by the public, there may be a solution available for you. We would like to utilize part of our LWG meeting, on January 31, to solicit comments and ideas from growers who irrigate or those concerned with their drinking water sources.

Please contact Karin Stutzman at: manager@polkswcd.com to reserve a spot for you.
If buying or selling a home is part of your plan for the new year, I am here to empower your move. I am a full time local agent committed to making dreams become a reality. If you or anyone you know has any questions about the real estate market, you can reach me directly at the number below.

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