



Photo Credit: Emily Blume

OUR MISSION

The OSU Extension Service engages the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education that strengthen communities and economies, sustain natural resources, and promote healthy families and individuals.

HOW WE SERVE

Youth education and outreach

Unlocking the potential of young people to learn, grow, and thrive

Agriculture, food security and gardening

Enhancing farming practices and profitability, and strengthening community horticulture

Resilient and productive ecosystems

Sustaining a vibrant economic and ecological future

Lifelong health and well-being

Building thriving, equitable and healthy communities



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SOLVING REAL PROBLEMS WITH REAL PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Photo Credit: Chris Branam

Coastal forage research offers new guidance for Oregon Coast pastures

After three years of research on working farms in Lincoln, Tillamook, and Clatsop counties, Oregon State University researchers and partners now have clearer answers about which forage plants grow best in the pasture conditions of the central and north Oregon Coast. The findings were shared in October during a series of Coastal Forage Variety Field Days hosted by OSU Extension Service small farms programs in the three counties. [Read More](#)



Photo Credit: Ben Davis

Collaborative OSU effort reduces whale entanglement, earns national honor

Whale entanglement in fishing gear is a serious threat that can cause drowning, injury and interfere with feeding. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 2022 West Coast Whale Entanglement Summary, 30 whales were confirmed entangled off Washington, Oregon and California. Until recently, little was known about how often whales and crab gear overlapped in Oregon waters, making it difficult to reduce risk. That changed through a collaborative effort led by Oregon State University's Marine Mammal Institute and Oregon Sea Grant Extension. [Read More](#)



Photo Credit: Patrick Breen

Volunteers collect Oregon ash seeds to fight EAB

Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) is an ecologically important West Coast tree that may disappear from much of its range from British Columbia to California as the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect, spreads in North America. In response, the Oregon State University Extension Forestry and Natural Resources Program and partners supported a volunteer-driven seed collection effort to gather Oregon ash seeds across the West for genetics research. [Read More](#)

Find more Extension impact stories at ourimpact.oregonstate.edu



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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - FY26 | LINCOLN

Master Gardeners Evie Smith & Stormi Dykes



Photo Credit: Zeph Mullins

Coastal Hazards Felicia Olmeta-Schult

Youth Engagement & Community Art: Led 4 workshops and 2 painting days with 18 youth, resulting in the “A Resilient Newport” mural and bilingual StoryMap.

Grant Funding & Guide Development: Secured a Sea Grant internship to support a coastal erosion planting guide; developed 40 native plant profiles and drafted key sections.

Workplace Preparedness Training: Facilitated the 8-unit Be 2 Weeks Ready program; participants reported reduced stress and improved preparedness at work and home.

Educator Training: Co-facilitated a virtual Tsunami Curriculum workshop for 28 educators.

Sea Grant Angee Doerr

Shop at the Dock: Expanded 2025 program with 20 tours and 250+ participants, adding Saturday tours and accommodating large and accessibility-focused groups.

Commercial Fishing Safety: Delivered two Fisherman First Aid & Safety trainings and co-organized a Drill Conductor Course to prepare fishermen for medical and vessel emergencies. Partnered with the Newport Fishermen’s Wives to distribute PFDs and test/replace immersion suits for local fishermen.

Community Awareness of Commercial Fisheries: Updated all 10 commercial fishing educational signs along the Bayfront with new information and artwork by fisherman/artist Tom Crestodina

Community Education & Events: Hosted 26 presentations and 18 tabling events, including the free Spring into Sustainable Gardening conference and expanded outreach at coastal farmers markets (10 events across Lincoln City, Newport, and Yachats).

Expanded Visibility: Promoted the Fall Education Series through OCCC’s Catch the Wave catalog (28,000 circulation); launched a new Master Gardener™ website, expanded to Instagram and X, and began a weekly KYAQ 91.7 FM radio show, The Lincoln County Gardener.

Program Enhancement: 11 newly Certified Master Gardeners™ through the Apprentice Training Program and 56 Recertified MGs with 6,930 volunteer hours valued at \$252,529

4-H Youth Development Heather Tower & Shelley Spangler

School & STEAM Programming: Shelley Spangler delivers in-school 4-H STEAM programming at Sam Case Elementary and ABC Education Center in Newport, bringing curriculum into classrooms multiple times each month.

Grant Support: Secured nearly \$1,000 for afterschool programming and a \$2,000 RMEF grant to support four shooting sports clubs.

Fair Partnership & Staffing: Through an MOA with the county, funding supports one EPA position and 4-H’s role in managing the Lincoln County Fair, including collaboration on the Fairgrounds redevelopment project.

Scholarships: Awarded \$15,000 in scholarships to seven youth in 2025, funded through the annual Market Auction and a local 4-H Foundation endowment.

Food Preservation & Safety Stormi Dykes & Emily Blume

Community Food Access & Youth Engagement:

Hosted 5 free cider pressing events serving 27 families and 15 4-H after-school youth.

Food Preservation Education: Delivered 8 preservation classes (canning, fermentation, cheese making), serving 90 adults and 15 youth.

Program Expansion & Future Planning: Scheduled 10 preservation classes for 2026–27, including jams/jellies, tuna, pressure canning, salsa, and meals in a jar.



Photo Credit: Emily Blume

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - FY26 | Lincoln

Fire Aaron Groth

Post-Fire Recovery Leadership: Delivered 10+ statewide and regional outreach events reaching hundreds of natural resource professionals; presented at CONNECT, OACD, SAF, and IUFRO conferences.

Tools & Publications: Produced the 2025 OSU Extension publication Postfire Follow-up: Using the LEAF Assessment Template, contributed a Small-scale Forestry journal article (under review), recorded an Into the Woods podcast episode, and are developing an offline LEAF Site Assessment tool (2026).

Statewide Impact: Over 50 professionals have adopted LEAF-based tools in post-fire assistance programs, strengthening Oregon's recovery network and improving landowner support statewide.

Family & Community Health Beatriz Botello

Community Impact: Partnered with 16 nonprofits to deliver 157 nutrition and physical activity sessions to 1,728 participants, plus 3 food preservation classes (31 participants), and engaged 6,404 community members at 76 outreach events. Programs were offered in English and Spanish across diverse community settings. (SNAP-Ed funding: \$174,863)

Grants & Partnerships: Collaborated with Food Share of Lincoln County on a 2.5-year Social Accountability (SHS) grant (\$10,000 OSU; \$69,000 partner) to expand food security education; also received a \$500 OSU DEI grant to increase physical activity access.

Capacity Building: Expanded outreach through support from a public health intern, temporary staff, and a volunteer.



Photo Credit: Emily Blume

Agriculture Evie Smith

Agricultural Water Resilience: Secured a \$60,000 Western SARE grant to train coastal farmers in dry farming, developed irrigation scheduling education, and co-applied for two additional water resilience grants.

Coast-Specific Research: Led a 3-year multi-county pasture species study, conducted irrigation scheduling research, and collaborated on economic analysis of lime application, all driven by farmer-identified needs.

Local Information Access: Coordinated or contributed to 20 coastal education programs in 2025, reaching approximately 250 farmers on topics from water rights to soil testing.



Photo Credit: Tyler Clouse

Forestry & Natural Resources Dan Stark

Landowner Support & Outreach: Responded to small woodland owner needs on reforestation, seedlings, and forest health; partnered with OSWA on the annual seedling sale benefiting Waldport High School's Forestry Team.

Community Education: Hosted a public forum on spruce aphid impacts in Yachats (28 attendees) and taught Woodland Management in the Living on the Land series.

Publications & Leadership: Published a guide on growing redwood and giant sequoia in Oregon, co-produces the multi-county Tall Timbers newsletter, and serves on the coastal OWEB grant review team supporting watershed restoration projects.