

Columbia County Connection

OSU Extension Newsletter

4-H In this Issue:

- New Enrollment Year Starts
- State Fair Recap

Ag In this Issue:

- MG Plant Clinic
- Take our Needs Assessment Survey
- Seasonal gardening tips
- Upcoming Events

Forestry in this Issue:

- Upcoming Events
- Birding Tour Recap
- Podcasts and Newsletters

FCH in this Issue:

- Preserving your Harvest
- Pressure Gauge Testing
- Canning App

Introducing the Columbia County Connection

Introducing the Columbia County OSU Extension Newsletter. We are pleased to present a comprehensive newsletter encompassing all four program areas represented at the Columbia County Extension Office: Agriculture, 4-H, Forestry, and Health Extension. This newsletter will provide updates, announcements, articles, and volunteer opportunities from each of our programs, consolidated in one place.

The general layout of the newsletter:

- Front page will provide general office information and an overview of the contents.
- The list to the left will give you a glimpse of what is in this issue under each heading.
- The calendar of events in the back lists events and office closures, for more information about each event, scan through the newsletter for the correlating heading.
- For emailed versions ONLY: Each county program is color coordinated, 4-H is GREEN, Agriculture is YELLOW, Forestry is BROWN, and Health is BLUE. This color coordination carries into the calendar in the back of the newsletter, so if you are looking for events from specific programs, search for that program's color to quickly locate what you are looking for.



<https://beav.es/xXg>

Subscribe to our emailing list or request a paper copy of our newsletter be mailed to your house!

Contact us

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 8am-4:30pm

Closed from Noon-1pm

Friday: 8am-Noon

Phone: 503-397-3462

columbia.extension@oregonstate.edu

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia>

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**Oregon State University
Extension Service**

4-H

New 4-H Year Began October 1

Did you know that 4-H is a youth development program that applies to ALL youth, not just those interested in agriculture? In the past year, we've had kids learn how to build a bench, sew a jacket, and take beautiful photos. And those 4-H members who are interested in animal science learned how to care for lambs and goats, steers and pigs. And don't forget about the horses, chickens and rabbits!

We couldn't reach more than 400 Columbia County youth each year without the help of our volunteers! 4-H volunteers are essential to help youth make the most of a wide variety of learning experiences. Volunteering is an opportunity for you to share your personal interests by demonstrating expertise in subjects as varied as robotics, food and nutrition, public speaking, animal science, community service and more.

In 4-H, you can leverage your experience and skills to help a young person find their own passions and interests. We welcome adults to become volunteers in our programs! Without our volunteers we cannot offer club enrollment to children.

Please contact our 4-H staff to see what clubs are accepting new members in your community or how you can become a 4-H volunteer.

Columbia County 4-H Winners at State Fair!

Thank you Columbia County for your support of 4-H at the county fair this summer! Our 4-H members were able to enter exhibits that they've spent the year working on, whether that's an animal they've raised or a project they've made. We had several members that represented us at State Fair as well.

Congratulations to these 4-H State Fair Exceptional Ribbon winners: Natasha B. – Photography; Finnley C. – Photography; Merryn C. – Photography; Keira H. – Crochet; Declan K. – Public Speaking; Daisy S. – Illustrated Talk; Bailey W. – Original Art; Josie Z. – Photography.

Congratulations to these 4-H State Fair Animal Science winners: Declan K. – Beef Cattle Champion; Aspen E. – Dairy Cattle Champion; Daisy S. – Fiber Goat Champion & Pygmy Goat Reserve Champion; Kerrington P. – Cavy Reserve Champion & Rabbit Reserve Champion; Madeline C. – Rabbit Champion & Reserve Champion; Rhylee Y. – Rabbit Champion & Reserve Champion.

We have amazing talent here in Columbia County, and we are very proud!



Gardening and Small Farms

Help OSU Extension Columbia County Improve Gardening & Small Farm Support!

OSU Extension Columbia County is working to better support gardeners and farm growers/producers, and we need your input!

We're conducting a needs assessment survey to understand what resources, education, and assistance would be most helpful to you.

Why your input matters:

OSU Extension provides research-based gardening and farming support through workshops, technical assistance, and community programs. To ensure we're focusing on what truly benefits community, we need to hear from you—whether you're a backyard or indoor gardener or running a small farm. If you grow food, flowers, or houseplants—indoors or outdoors—we want to know what challenges you face and what support would help you succeed. And if you own or work on a farm, your insights will help us develop better resources for local producers and growers.

How to participate:

We have two separate surveys—one for gardeners and one for small farm growers/producers. Each is only two pages and takes about two minutes to complete.

Gardeners Survey link:



<https://beav.es/Nqs>

Small Farm Survey link:



<https://beav.es/Nqe>

Your feedback will directly shape and update the programs and support we offer. Thank you for taking the time to share your inputs—we appreciate your help in strengthening our gardening and farming community!

OSU Master Gardener™ Plant Clinic Now at the Columbia County Extension Office!

Have a gardening question? Ask a trained OSU Master Gardener™ volunteer!

OSU Master Gardener™ volunteers will be onsite at the Columbia County Extension Office to help with all your gardening questions. We started offering the on-site plant clinic starting this September in addition to the seasonal farmer's market clinics!

What you can bring to the Plant Clinic:

- Plant, weed, or insect samples for identification
- Problem leaves, branches, or photos for diagnosis
- Soil samples for free pH testing



Our Master Gardener volunteers provide research-based answers for identifying weeds, diagnosing plant diseases, and managing insect pests.

How to connect with us:

- Visit us in person during Plant Clinic hours (10 am-12 pm)
- Drop off samples anytime during office hours (they will be handled during the next clinic)
- Call during clinic hours (503-397-3462 Ext: 39705) to speak with a Master Gardener volunteer (or leave a voicemail for a call back)
- Email your questions anytime—we'll respond during clinic hours

Fall 2025 Plant Clinic Schedule

- Tuesdays weekly, 10 AM – 12 PM
- Select Saturdays: Oct. 4, Oct. 18, Nov. 1, Nov. 15



Gardening and Small Farms

Seasonal Garden Tips: October-December

As the weather cools, your garden slows down but there's still plenty you can do to care for your soil, plants, and tools! Here are a few easy seasonal reminders to keep your garden healthy and ready for spring.

October: Wrapping up the Growing season

- Dig and store potatoes; keep in darkness, moderate humidity, temperature about 40°F. Discard unused potatoes if they sprout.
- Cover asparagus and rhubarb beds with a mulch of manure or compost.
- Harvest squash and pumpkins; keep in dry area at 55°–60°F.
- Remove diseased plant material and compost what's healthy. Mulch around roses, berries, and shrubs to protect roots from winter cold.
- Drain hoses, clean and oil garden tools, and store fertilizers safely.
- Plant garlic, trees, shrubs, and ground covers.
- Clean greenhouses and cold frames, and cover beds with mulch or manure
- Start cooling and shading Christmas cacti to encourage holiday blooms.



November - Getting the Garden Ready for Rest

- Rake leaves (use healthy ones for mulch), drain irrigation systems, and tidy up tools and equipment.
- Prune roses (tea and floribunda, but NOT climbers and ramblers) to around 3 feet in height to prevent winter damage.
- Still time to plant bulbs like tulips, daffodils, and crocuses (don't deely!) or try an indoor herb garden with lettuce, chives, and parsley.
- Bait for slugs during rainy weather and clean up fallen or diseased fruit tree leaves to prevent pests next year.
- Take cuttings of rhododendrons and camellias for propagation; propagate begonias from leaf cuttings.
- Service your lawn mower before storing so it's ready for spring!

Find more monthly garden tips and local resources at extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening

December - Keep It Cozy and Simple

- Avoid walking on frosty lawns to avoid compaction.
- Turn your compost pile and cover it from heavy rain. Watch for drainage issues. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a longer-term solution.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, and fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Look for gnawing around tree trunks and keep mulch pulled back a few inches to discourage hiding spots.
- Keep poinsettias warm and away from cold windows. Water sparingly and give houseplants some winter sunlight.
- Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.

Gardening and Small Farms

Events



Honey Bees & Honey Production 101

Date & Time: November 12th @ 5:30pm

Location: OSU Extension Office, 505 N.
Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens.

Registration not required, contact Janhvi Pandey
by Nov. 3rd for an accommodation request.

Join us for an engaging session with Linda Zahl
from the Columbia County Beekeepers
Association to explore honey bee biology, hive
care, honey production, and the costs and
rewards of beekeeping. Perfect for aspiring
beekeepers or curious learners- buzz into
beekeeping with us!

Email: janhvi.pandey@oregonstate.edu

Call: 503-397-3462

OSU Master Gardener™ Program 2026

The Master Gardener™ program is a volunteer-based
initiative that provides comprehensive training in
gardening and horticulture.

Registration for OSU Master Gardener™ Program
2026 will start in November 2025. We will post the
schedule for the program and registration link on our
website page. <https://beav.es/xX6>

Our 2026 classes are tentatively planned to run from
mid-January through April, with several hands-on
workshops offered on weekends. We'd love to have
you join us!

To know more about the program and to add your
name to 2026 interest list, please use the link above.
Space is limited, and a few scholarships will also be
available.

Soil Health Workshop

Date & Time: November 22nd @ 9 AM-12 PM

Location: SWCD Office 35285 Millard Rd, St. Helens

Register at

WWW.COLUMBIASWCD.COM/UPCOMING-EVENTS

Calling all farmers, landowners,
and soil enthusiasts in Columbia County!

Join OSU Extension, USDA Natural
Resources Conservation Service (NRCS),

and the Columbia Soil and Water

Conservation District (SWCD) for a

free, hands-on workshop to learn about
the principles of soil health and steps
you can take to improve your soil health.

Presented by:

Dr. Nathan Stacey, OSU Extension

Dr. Janhvi Pandey, OSU Extension

Marissa Theve, USDA NRCS

Rebekah Gaxiola, Columbia SWCD

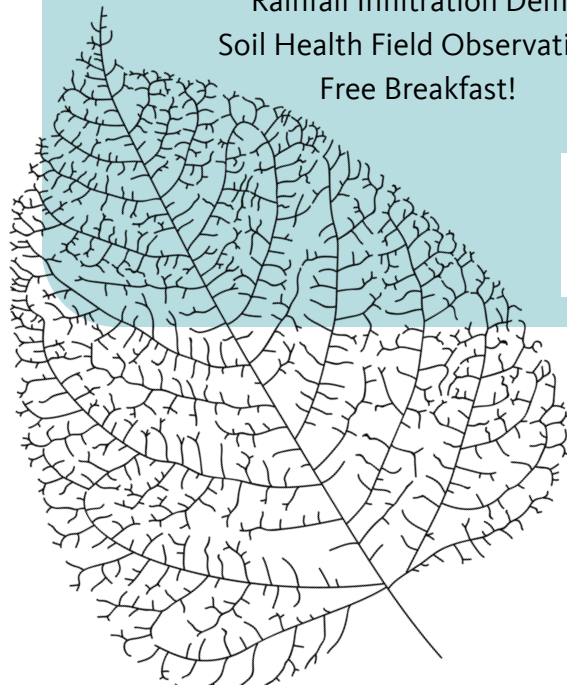
Event Highlights:

Soil Testing and Sample Collection Methods

Rainfall Infiltration Demo

Soil Health Field Observations

Free Breakfast!



Forestry



Events

Getting Started with Digital Mapping Apps

Date: Thursday, 10/16/2025

Time: 9am to 12pm

Location: Columbia County OSU Extension Office (505 N Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens, OR 97051)

Cost: \$10

Registration link: <https://beav.es/xqN>



Description: Get the most out of digital mapping apps on your smartphone or tablet. Using two commonly available digital mapping applications, Avenza and CalTopo, the instructors will lead you through detailed tutorials and demonstrate how to integrate these digital tools into daily forest and land management activities. Features Alicia Christensen and Norma Kline (OSU Extension Foresters) as instructors. Funding for this program is provided by USDA NIFA RREA. Smartphone or tablet required.



Ties to the Land



Dates: 11/7 and 12/5, 2025

Time: 1pm to 4pm

Location: Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, 7175 NE Evergreen Pkwy, Suite 400, Hillsboro, OR 97124

Cost: \$20 per family

Registration Link: <https://beav.es/x8t>

Description: The Ties to the Land program seeks to assist farmers, ranchers, growers, and forest landowners in succession planning for the future of their land, livelihood, and loved ones. Effective succession planning considers the emotional, financial, and legal aspects of completing a transition to the next generation of owners and managers.

Over the course of two sessions, attendees will fill out worksheets for their properties and learn from case studies.

Participants will receive a Ties to the Land Workbook with helpful worksheets.

Scappoose Bay Watershed Council Oak Forum

Date: 11/12/2025

Time: 4pm to 6pm

Format: Online (Webinar)

Description: Join SBWC to hear from conservation and environmental experts about a variety of Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*) topics including: oak restoration projects, oak forest management, oak insect herbivory, oak habitat connectivity and more!

Link and registration: <https://beav.es/xXZ>

Partner Events

Columbia County Small Woodlands Annual Dinner

Date: 11/8/2025

Time: 5pm

Location: Quincy Grange

RSVP: to Mark Dreyer 503-369-9592

Description: Join the local OSWA chapter for their annual dinner, including guest speakers, historical videos, and catering by Sunshine Pizza.

2026 CCSWA Tree Sale

The Columbia County Small Woodlands has opened their 2026 February Bare Root Forest and Riparian Seedlings sale. We will have Douglas fir and Western Red Cedar seedlings available. Douglas fir are 2-year-old (1 + 1) seedlings.

Order here: <https://beav.es/x8v>

CCSWA Website: <https://beav.es/xXk>

Forestry

Highlights



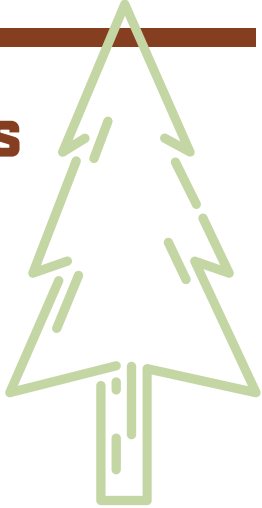
Photo Credit: Jake Barker

OSU Extension partnered with the Forest Stewards Guild and the Columbia Land Trust to host an educational birding and forestry tour of the Columbia Stock Ranch. Over 30 attendees joined to learn from CLT staff about restoration and management approaches to riparian forest, grazing, and wildlife habitat. We discussed Columbia white-tailed deer conservation, blackberry management, and identified key bird species for the region and forest type.

Forestry Podcasts and Newsletters



Recent podcast episode: Check out the most recent 'In the Woods' podcast episode where Jake Barker discusses assisted migration and gene flow with Dr. Jess Shamek!
Follow the link or QR code here: <https://beav.es/xXo>



The Tall Timbers Newsletter is a Forestry Newsletter covering Columbia, Yamhill, Washington, Lincoln, Tillamook and Clatsop Counties. OSU Extension Foresters share forestry-specific information and events. To view the latest edition and subscribe.



EXTENSION SERVICE
Forestry and Natural Resources



<https://beav.es/xXJ>


Health

Moving into fall means preserving your harvest. Food preservation techniques may seem daunting at first, but Health Extension. OSU Extension Food Security and Safety program provides trusted, research-based information to help Oregonians preserve food safely and confidently at home. We offer step-by-step guides, tested recipes and hands-on classes covering canning, freezing and drying methods that protect flavor and reduce waste. Check out our Home Food Preservation page <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/food/preservation> or sign up for upcoming virtual classes.

There's An App For That!

OSU Extension professionals created a canning timer and checklist app. Select from over 50 popular foods used in home canning to generate a checklist and timer for processing. This app lets you set your jar size, pack type, canning method, and elevation. It also reminds you of the steps necessary to prepare jars and canning pots. Find the article and link to download the app here:
<https://beav.es/xXN>



 Pressure canning is the only safe way to can meat, poultry, seafood, and vegetables. If you are planning to pressure can with a dial gauge pressure canner this season, don't forget to have your dial gauge tested. The Columbia County office is able to provide gauge testing for Presto gauges by appointment. Call ahead to make your appointment and then drop off your gauge we will assess your gauge for accuracy and overall condition.



October





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4-H Enrollment Opens	2	3	4 MG Plant Clinic 10am-Noon
5	6	7 MG Plant Clinic 10am-Noon 4-H New Leader Training 10/7 @ 5 PM	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 MG Plant Clinic 10am-Noon	15	16 Getting Started with Digital Mapping Apps	17	18 MG Plant Clinic 10am-Noon
19	20	21 MG Plant Clinic 10am-Noon	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 MG Plant Clinic 10am-Noon	29	30	31	

November






Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 MG Plant Clinic 10am-Noon
2	3	4 MG Plant Clinic 10am-Noon	5	6	7 Ties to the Land	8 CC Small Woodlands Annual Dinner
9	10	11 Closed for Veteran's Day	12 Honey Bee & Honey Production 101 Scappoose Bay Oak Forum	13	14	15 MG Plant Clinic 10am-Noon
16	17	18 MG Plant Clinic 10am-Noon	19	20	21	22 Soil Workshop 10 AM- Noon Pre register!
23	24	25 MG Plant Clinic 10am-Noon	26	27	28 Office Closed for Thanksgiving	29
30						

*All dates are subject to change. Please refer to extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia to stay up to date.

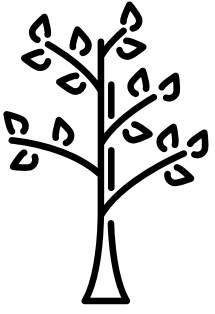
December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 	25 	26 	27
28	29	30	31 			

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2 	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 	16	17
18	19 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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Check inside for up-to-date Extension Service Information

- Forestry Events
- Gardener/Small Farms Survey
- 4-H Deadlines
- OSU Extension Calendar of Events

