



THE CAMAS

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE. CHANGING LIVES.

Building Strong Communities in Uncertain Times

SHEARING FESTIVAL

Nothing says spring quite like frolicking lambs! We are pleased to be co-hosting a Shearing Festival on Saturday, April 12, 11:00-3:00, at WSU Extension’s Twin Vista Ranch on Marrowstone Island. The event will feature sheep handling and shearing; border collie sheep herding; and skirting, grading and sorting fleece. Skilled fiber artists and members of the local spinners’ guild will be on hand to demonstrate their skills. This event is co-sponsored by Shepherd’s Bounty, Skycroft Farm, and Marrowstone Veterinary Service as well as Jefferson County 4-H. 4-H’ers will be on hand to sell baked goods to raise money for scholarships. Come join the fun! Located at 6456 Flagler Roadm Marrowstone Island. RSVP at the QR code on page 8 for this free event.



Photo credit: Amit Sharma

Co-sponsored by Shepherd’s Bounty, Skycroft Farm, Marrowstone Veterinary Service, WSU Extension Jefferson County, and Jefferson County 4-H.

MASTER GARDENERS

Sustainability in Action



Master Gardener Lee Bebout showing Students for Sustainability volunteers how to check and remove weeds from the salvaged plant.

In a recent collaborative effort, Master Gardener volunteer Lee Bebout of the Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building, AmeriCorps volunteer Stella Stretch, and four enthusiastic members of the Port Townsend High School Students for Sustainability Club came together for a native plant salvage mission. Working at a Habitat for Humanity home site prior to construction, the group successfully rescued over 60 sword ferns, 20 rhododendrons, 10 salal plants, and several native honeysuckle vines.

The students played an integral role in this project, learning to identify a variety of native plants, understanding how to care for them, and recognizing the importance of monitoring for invasive species. Through this hands-on experience, they gained valuable skills in plant identification and environmental stewardship while contributing to the preservation of native flora.

One of the students, Tallulah, took some of the salvaged plants home, where she and her father are incorporating them into their own garden. This heartfelt act underscores the personal connection and commitment to sustainability fostered by this project.

The majority of the rescued plants were relocated to a newly constructed rain garden at the Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building in Port Hadlock. This rain garden serves a critical role in protecting the local ecosystem by collecting and filtering road runoff before it reaches Port Hadlock Bay. By intercepting pollutants, the garden helps safeguard water quality and promotes a healthier environment for marine life.

This collaborative effort highlights the power of education, community engagement, and teamwork in environmental preservation. Thanks to the dedication of the students, volunteers, and local organizations, this project not only contributes to the health of Port Hadlock Bay but also enhances the biodiversity and beauty of the school's landscape. It's a shining example of how youth involvement can drive meaningful, lasting change for the environment.

4-H NEWS



4-Hers pledging head, heart, hands and health

Leader Council News

We are so lucky to have a fully staffed Executive Committee for our 4-H Leaders Council for the first time since 2019. This group serves as an advisory committee to our county program, plans county wide events, and raises funds for our Scholarship Fund. Amber Miller (Happy Haystacks) was elected as our President or Chairperson. Jessica Dehnert (Northwest Rangers) and Stacy Pratt (Quilcene Wranglers) agreed to share the role of Vice President or Vice chairperson. Bethel Moore (Jefferson County 4-H Horse Club) has served as our Treasurer for more than two years with great accuracy and wise financial investments. Laurie Hampton (Paws N Claws) has also served for a long time as our Secretary or Reporter and continues to fill this role.

Community Garage Sale

A recent community garage sale at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds was made possible through 4-H volunteers. Our 4-H'ers help set up the buildings for the garage sale, bake items for the bake sale, work as door guards for the VIP shopping early entry portion of the event, and afterwards help vendors take down their booths. They load items into storage for a truck pick-up, and do an all around clean up of the Fairgrounds. This in-kind service is how we pay for our use of the fairgrounds each year. Last year our 4-H'ers and families gave the equivalent of over \$19,000 in labor in their service-in-kind efforts. One of the new features of the Community Garage Sale is that after the event we box and bag up all the leftovers and bring them to Value Village. They pay us a bulk rate which adds to the fundraising effort for the Jefferson County Fair and Fairgrounds. Every little bit helps, and helping prevent items from being added to the landfill is another motivating factor.



4-H volunteers loading up the truck full of donations after the garage sale.

WATER RESOURCES

The Water Resources Program is excited to once again be holding our annual Beach Naturalists Training! We've been busy checking our tide charts, contacting speakers to talk about everything from kelp forests to sea stars to bluff erosion, and visiting local beaches to find the best field trip spots. We're looking forward to meeting our new trainees, and getting back out on the beach!

The Beach Naturalists training provides Jefferson and Clallam County residents with the opportunity to turn environmental knowledge into action! Through this multi-day training, participants will learn about Salish Sea habitats and species, conservation efforts, and ways to get involved in local marine stewardship. We'll learn about Salish Sea coastal processes, zonation and tides, seaweeds and seagrasses, intertidal species (anemones, sea stars, clams, crabs, etc.), restoration efforts, Tribal Treaty Rights and natural resource management from regional experts, and then practice what we've learned out in the field!

The goal of the Beach Naturalists training is to empower community members to feel confident on our beaches, and find opportunities to share their knowledge with other local residents.



Beach Naturalists Training, 2023, Discovery Bay, WA Photo credit: Monica Montgomery
Beach Naturalists learn from local biologist Neil Harrington about invasive European Green Crabs

REGIONAL SMALL FARMS

Financial Planning

The recently-completed Cultivating Success Agricultural Entrepreneurship in-person Financial Planning Intensive was a statewide online course that started in January. This in-depth farm and food business planning course led participants through the steps to create a business plan for an existing farm-based business or a completely new enterprise. Participants heard from many experts in the field and engaged in regional groups for networking and community-based support.



Photo credit: Kellie Henwood



Photo credit: Kellie Henwood

Farm Succession Planning

A robust group of 45 participants joined the interactive workshop, Your Farm's Future: Farm and Business Succession. This event was intended to help farm owners consider what might happen to their farms in the future. The event was created in partnership with American Farmland Trust, Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative (which WSU Extension is a member of), Washington Farmland Trust, North Olympic Development Council, and Jefferson Land Trust. As a result, landowners have better planning tools to start the succession process and a network of support services available.

Language Accessibility

WSU Extension's Regional Small Farms program is thrilled to offer language translation to those who need it. In 2024, we received a grant from WSU's College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) to acquire translation equipment that can potentially serve multiple people at a time. This device can assist people for whom English is not their first language to participate in lectures, demonstrations, tours and so on. The equipment will be available for check out from WSU Extension.

NOXIOUS WEEDS



Since 2018, the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board (JCNWCB) has partnered with the Jefferson County Public Utility District (PUD) to provide noxious weed management services and control on property maintained by the PUD. The PUD operates and maintains the County's public utility infrastructure in order to provide reliable, efficient, and safe transportation of water and electricity to residents of Jefferson County.

The PUD Corridor is a unique mix of wonderful, native species. And Scotch broom. Though Scotch broom is not required for control in Jefferson County by RCW 17.10, the PUD Corridor is a great place to try and manage it. First, we want to continue to protect and maintain the native species that truly make it the wildlife corridor it is: salal, snow berry, spirea, ocean spray, and flowering currant are just some of species one can easily find. Second, Scotch broom is a serious fire risk due to its high content of volatile oils. Having fields of Scotch broom under active power lines is a high fire risk. Removing Scotch broom is a two-birds, one stone kind of project. We get to help the natives thrive, while reducing the risk of fire in the area.

Thanks to our wonderful partners at the Washington Conservation Corps, in 2024 these crews removed over 11,000 pounds from the corridor between Parkridge Drive and Old Fort Townsend Rd. In 2025, they have already removed over 6,000 pounds. This labor is incredibly tedious and time consuming. However, the benefit to pollinators and fire risk reduction is well worth the effort. Huge thanks to the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group crew, the North Olympic Salmon Coalition crew, and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe crew for the time they have spent with the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board.



Volunteers remove scotch broom (above), receive instruction in the field; and jump into a pile of scotch broom! (photo credit: Emmy Trivette)

FARM TO COMMUNITY FARM TO FOODBANK



Port Townsend Food Bank produce

Recent federal funding cuts will impact local food purchases for food banks in Jefferson and Clallam Counties. In early March the USDA canceled two federal food programs: the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement (LFPA) supporting food banks purchasing directly from local farms, and the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement (LFS) funding purchases from local farms for school cafeterias.

USDA LFPA funding has supported local food purchases and distribution to food banks in Clallam and Jefferson counties over the past several years. Olympic Peninsula Community Action Programs (OlyCAP) held an LFPA grant that served nine food banks sites in Jefferson and Clallam County, including Jefferson County Food Bank Association (Port Townsend, Tri Area, Quilcene, and Brinnon food banks), OlyCAP Free Mobile Market, Port Angeles Food Bank, Sequim Food Bank, Forks Community Food Bank and the Makah Food Bank.

Between August 2023 and December 2024, LFPA funded purchases of fresh, local food grown on farms in Jefferson and Clallam Counties, and distributed 135,875 pounds of produce to the above nine sites. The loss of LFPA 2025 federal funding represents a major reduction in resources for local purchasing and a reduction of nutrient dense, fresh food choices for food bank visitors as well as a loss in business for local farms.

Karyn Williams, farm owner and operator of Red Dog Farm in Chimacum, who regularly supplies orders through this funding shared, “The funding that enabled OlyCAP to purchase and distribute our produce across the peninsula over the past few years has significantly benefited our farm. The consistent weekly orders substantially contributed to our bottom line, especially in managing surpluses from particularly productive crops. The loss of funding for OlyCAP after June is a real blow to Red Dog Farm. My concern extends to those who depend on the produce we provided. Will they continue to have access to fresh, nutritious food?”

If you are interested in supporting local farm purchasing for food access, you can donate to the WSU Extension Olympic Peninsula Farm to Food Bank Fund. Donations are accepted year round, but keep an eye out for WSU Extension’s annual spring Olympic Peninsula Farm to Food Bank Fundraiser in May! If you are interested in being a sponsor for the fundraiser or collaborating on outreach, reach out to Farm to Community Coordinator Sallie Constant at sallie.constant@wsu.edu.

For additional opportunities to support local food access, consider donating or volunteering at your local food bank, Jefferson County Food Bank Association. Or supporting the Jefferson County Food Bank Growers through donation or volunteering. Need assistance accessing food? Check out the Jefferson County [Free Food Resource](https://rb.gy/xf6m2l): (URL: <https://rb.gy/xf6m2l>)

COMING UP

Please consult our online [calendar](https://extension.wsu.edu/jefferson/) for more details about upcoming events (URL: <https://extension.wsu.edu/jefferson/>).

First Tuesday of each Month: Ask a Master Gardener clinics 12:00-2:00 at Jefferson County Library

April 12 Shearing Festival at Twin Vista Farm, Marrowstone Island

April 15-May 15 2025 Beach Naturalists Training (See website or contact Katie Kowal)

**April 17 10:00 AM Farm Human Resources and Employee Management: Part 1
Practical strategies for hiring, managing, and supporting farm employees.**

April 17 6:00 PM Dirt Talk: Cucumber Beetles Integrated Pest Management strategies

**April 21 Registration open for Washington State 4-H Teen Conference.
Contact Anji Scalf at anji.scalf@wsu.edu for more information.**

April 22 6:00 PM Garlic & Onion Diseases and Integrated Pest Management

May 3 Digging for Dinner

**May 27 9:00 AM Processing of Acidified Foods: Jams, Jellies, Pickles, BBQ and Hot Sauces
Peninsula College**

June 25 Crabbing 101



WSU Extension Team at Twin Vista Ranch

Sheep Shearing Festival!

April 12, 11-3:00pm

Register for this
free event here!



HOW CAN WE HELP?

This is the WSU Extension mission for Jefferson County:

“WSU Jefferson County Extension programs connect the people and communities of Jefferson County with the knowledge base of Washington State University to promote quality of life and advance economic well-being through fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.”

Do you have any questions for our team? We are here to help! If you have questions about your farm, garden, yard, soils, weeds, or pests, reach out to us! You can fill out an [inquiry form online](https://extension.wsu.edu/jefferson/gardening-2022/plant-clinic/) (URL <https://extension.wsu.edu/jefferson/gardening-2022/plant-clinic/>), call, or drop by (contact info below). If we do not know the answer, we will help connect you to someone who can. We can also share more information about our Water Resources, Master Gardener, 4-H, Regional Small Farms, or Noxious Weeds programs.

And if you have ideas for stories you would like to share, or want to join our mailing list, please contact us at jefferson.county@wsu.edu.

OUR TEAM



Director

Jefferson County Director: Amit Sharma, amit.sharma1@wsu.edu

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**Our work is only made possible by the time and energy
of many wonderful volunteers!**

**Huge thanks to all WSU Extension volunteers--
you are central to our success!**



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