

Newsletter



# THE CAMAS



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE. CHANGING LIVES.

## TURN, TURN, TURN

As we pull on our rain jackets and hats for a cooler fall season, we at WSU Extension are grateful to be closing out a full and active summer. Through all of our community activities, it is volunteers who keep Extension programs going. Volunteers help in hundreds of ways, both visible and invisible. We are so, so grateful for all of the quality volunteer time and expertise that extend and amplify what Extension can offer. If you would like to volunteer, or to learn more about WSU Extension in Jefferson County, please reach out. Our contact information is at the back of this newsletter.

### WATER RESOURCES

## Wooden Boat Festival



In September the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) hosted the Marine Science and Stewardship Stage speaker series at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival, and it was a great success! The stage was a new outreach initiative for our MRC this year, where we partnered with Washington Sea Grant and the Port Townsend Marine Science Center (PTMSC) to invite 25 speakers to present over the course of three days. We had 1403 visitors to the stage, who learned about topics ranging from plankton to whales and from new jetties to derelict vessels.

The success of this event is thanks to our amazing MRC volunteers, and our project lead Betsy Carlson. All hands were on deck for this three-day event to help staff the stage and tabling booth, act as emcees to introduce our presenters, provide tech assistance, and lead a hands-on plankton microscope activity. We were excited to find a new venue to share marine science with the public, and look forward to next year!



Alexa MacAulay. Kay Gaul, Photo

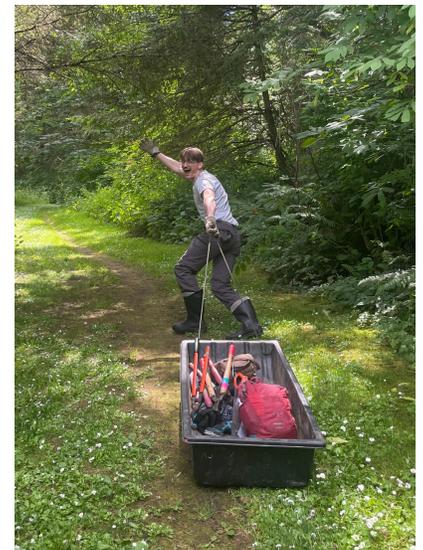
## End of Season Farewell

We are bidding a grateful farewell to Alexa MacAulay, who served for six months as a field inspector for the Noxious Weeds program. Alexa assisted Noxious Weed Control Coordinator Sophie DeGroot with surveying and managing noxious weeds, and educating the public. Sophie, Alexa and crews from the Washington Conservation Corps managed to get a significant amount of poison hemlock under control. They found some rare species of noxious weeds for Jefferson County, such as giant hogweed and sulfur cinquefoil, which they are now monitoring and educating nearby landowners about. They partnered with Washington State Parks to remove noxious weeds such as holly in a few State Parks. And they worked to keep wild chervil from spreading along roadsides.

Alexa said that she found it gratifying to make a big dent in the weed populations. As someone with a strong botany background, she enjoyed learning about new plants, what their preferred ecosystems were, and what to anticipate in different environments. Alexa says, “It was an honor to help steward the land in Jefferson County, especially the roadsides or corners that are often neglected or seen as having less value. I feared when I started the job that I would feel frustrated or annoyed with the weeds, but in reality I find that I'm very inspired by their resilience! They find so many ways to grow with very little, and it's impressive to witness.” Alexa encourages others to learn about the Noxious Weed Board, what plants are on their lists and why, and how to manage them.



Photos by Sophie DeGroot



## Master Gardener Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of the WSU Jefferson County Extension Master Gardener Program, contributing immense value to the smooth functioning of the program's outreach and education efforts. Their work in the office—prepping supplies, answering public inquiries, and providing crucial administrative support—ensures that the program can effectively serve the community.

For instance, volunteers meticulously organize and prepare materials for outreach events, from brochures to gardening tools, allowing educational activities to run seamlessly. These events are essential for spreading the program's mission of sustainable gardening and without volunteers, the preparation would be much more challenging and time-consuming.

Volunteers also are a resource for community members who come to the Extension office, answering questions about gardening practices, plant health, and other relevant topics. This not only aids in educating the public but also lightens the load on the program's staff, freeing them to focus on larger strategic initiatives.



Mark DeDominick packing seeds for the Growing Groceries class. Bridget Gregg, photo.

In addition to outreach and public interaction, volunteers handle office tasks such as filing, data entry, and organizing supplies. These behind-the-scenes efforts are invaluable, as they maintain the organization and efficiency of the office, making sure resources are always accessible for staff and other volunteers. Their support helps the program run like a well-oiled machine, allowing it to focus on its mission to educate the public on gardening and sustainability.

Overall, the dedication and hard work of volunteers in the WSU Jefferson County Extension Master Gardener Program create a ripple effect, enabling the program to have a greater impact on the local community.

## Annual Farm Tour

This fall marked the 22nd annual Jefferson County Farm Tour! Despite some rainy conditions, over 1,700 visitors explored local farms on the weekend of September 14-15. Volunteers helped direct traffic from Farm Tour Central in Chimacum. From there, they could choose from 29 farms in the area to learn about growing fruits, vegetables, poultry, livestock and fiber production. Visitors could learn about the many value-added approaches farmers are creatively using to enhance their farm businesses. Visitors generously donated more than \$5,500 at 16 Welcome Booths located throughout the county.



Glendale Farm with Dharma Ridge Farm's pumpkin patch. Kellie Henwood, photo.

The Farm Tour helps to promote small farms in our region, connecting consumers to their food sources. This event is presented by the Production Alliance in partnership with WSU Jefferson County Extension and local farmers, with support from Jefferson County Farmers Markets, Jefferson Land Trust, The Food Co-op, and Chimacum Corner Farmstand. If you missed the Farm Tour this year, you can still connect with your local growers through local Farmer's Markets, on-site Farm Stands, and through the Eat Local First [food finder map](https://eatlocalfirst.org/) located here: <https://eatlocalfirst.org/> (See also [GetOnTheFarm.org](http://GetOnTheFarm.org)).

## Buckwheat Festival



Kevin Murphy and Micaela Colley.  
Kay Gaul, photo.

We had a wonderful time at the Buckwheat Festival at FinnRiver Cidery in Chimacum in late August. This event showcased some of the diverse and creative partnerships WSU Extension cultivates. Partners included the WSDA Regional Markets Program and Farm to School Program, with funding support from the USDA Regional Food Business Center. Micaela Colley with the Organic Seed Alliance and Kevin Murphy, endowed chair at the WSU Breadlab, helped to lead the learning discussion. The Buckwheat festival celebrates local agriculture and community connection through sharing research and expertise. Tasting buckwheat dishes made by local chefs was a highlight!



Buckwheat conference, FinnRiver Cidery.  
Kay Gaul, Photo

# 4-H NEWS



4-H kids, families and leaders all put in a tremendous amount of work to prepare for the Jefferson County Fair in August. This year's fair saw some growth as the fair continues to find its footing following the pandemic; we had the most entries and exhibitors since 2018.

Alpacas were the newest highlight, from the The Happy Haystacks club. Other clubs support kids to develop projects in cats, horses, cattle, sheep and goats, rabbits, navigation and woodworking, plant science, art and more. For a full list of existing clubs, check out our website here: [https://extension.wsu.edu/jefferson/4-hclubs\\_projects/](https://extension.wsu.edu/jefferson/4-hclubs_projects/).

We just started our new 4-H year and have a few new clubs getting started. A cooking club that will feature local foods and makers, and an entomology club that is being formed by one of our county 4-H alumni, Alex Kunz, who owns Kunz Pest Inspections. We also have a new horse club forming that will focus on vet science with a local veterinarian as the leader.

If you know any youngsters who are interested in getting involved with any of these clubs, reach out to Anji Scalf at [anji.scalf@wsu.edu](mailto:anji.scalf@wsu.edu).



# COMING UP

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

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

November 7 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm: End of Season Sweetpotato Grower Round Table  
Register here: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6467613> (Zoom; free)

November 7 Rain Garden Work Party, Chetzemoka Park

December 20 Rain Garden Work Party, Franklin and Adams

January 18 Rain Garden Work Party, Quilcene

## 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](#), call, or drop by. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9-4:00pm. 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 feedback about this newsletter, ideas for stories you would like to share, or want to join our mailing list, please contact us at [jefferson.county@wsu.edu](mailto:jefferson.county@wsu.edu).



# DID YOU KNOW?



<https://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History/Clover/>

Did you know that 4-H has been around longer than Extension? In 1902, a couple of after-school, agriculture-related clubs were started in Ohio and Minnesota. The clover emblem was put on a club pin, initially made up of three cloverleaves. The Cooperative Extension System was initiated with the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, and 4-H was then nationalized.

The Cooperative Extension system--now simply known as Extension--is linked to more than 100 land grant universities and tribal colleges across the country. Extension offers 4-H to nearly six million youth in rural, urban and suburban areas in virtually every county in the US. 4-Hers learn practical life skills through hands-on learning in countless areas, gaining community leadership experience. 4-Hers learn practical skills for food and farm production, many makers' skills in arts and crafts and cooking, as well as critical skills for "addressing community health inequities, engaging in civil discourse and advocating for equity and inclusion for all." <https://4-h.org/about/>



4-H Club members on the University of Arizona Campus, Tucson AZ, 1937



4-H Club stamp first issued January 15, 1952 to commemorate 50 years of 4-H.

# Our Team



## Director

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

## Program Coordinators

4-H & Youth Empowerment Coordinator: Anji Scalf, anji.scalf@wsu.edu

Master Gardener Coordinator: Bridget Gregg, bridget.gregg@wsu.edu

Noxious Weeds Coordinator: Sophie DeGroot, sdegroot@co.jefferson.wa.us;

Regional Small Farms Coordinator: Kellie Henwood, kellie.henwood@wsu.edu

Water Programs Coordinator: Katie Kowal, kkowal@co.jefferson.wa.us

## Administrative Staff

Financial and Business Operations Coordinator: Owen Rowe, owen.rowe@wsu.edu

Administrative Clerk, Communications and Outreach: Kay Gaul, karen.gaul@wsu.edu

**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!**

This is the 4th of our quarterly newsletters for the year. Thank you for reading and for being a part of the Extension community. Have a safe, productive and happy holiday season, and we will share more in the new year!



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