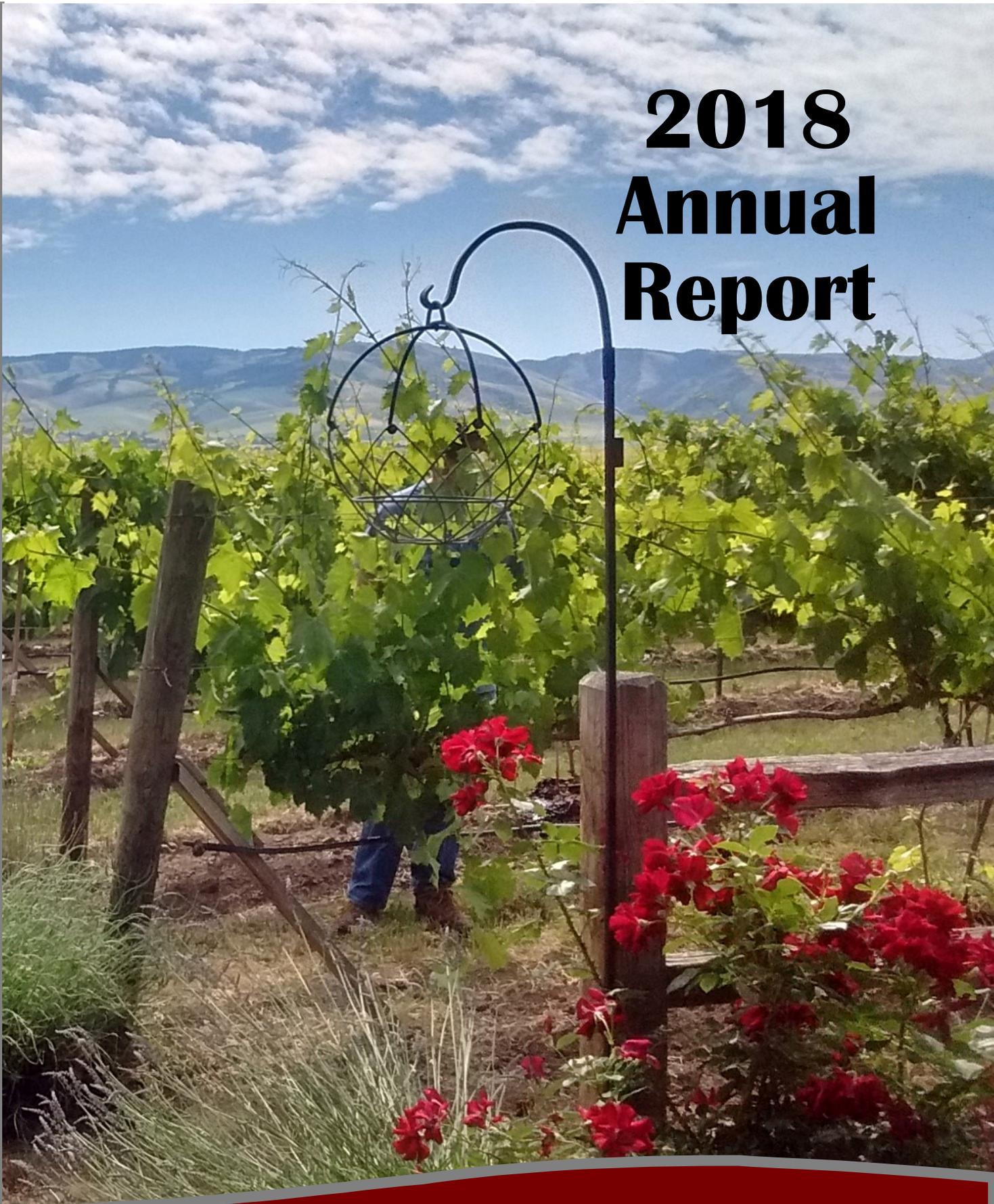


# 2018 Annual Report



**WSU Walla Walla County Extension**

# Programs & Impacts



Bryan Colombo

## Agriculture



Bryan Colombo

**W**ashington State University Extension engages people, organizations and communities to advance knowledge, economic well-being and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.



With a location in Walla Walla County since 1913, WSU Extension is the front door to the University. Extension builds the capacity of individuals, organizations, businesses and communities, empowering them to find solutions for local issues and to improve their quality of life. Extension collaborates with communities to create a culture of life-long learning. WSU is recognized for its accessible, learner-centered, relevant, high-quality, unbiased educational programs.

We leverage every dollar we receive from Walla Walla County with federal, state, grant, and private funding to maximize our reach and effectiveness. In fact, for every \$1 invested by Walla Walla County, WSU Extension provides more than \$2.25 in state and federal resources. Faculty and staff in the county raised an additional \$80,870 in grant funding in 2017. Therefore, every dollar that Walla Walla County spends in support of WSU Walla Walla County Extension generates \$2.75 — a 275 percent annual return on investment. In addition, WSU provides support and expertise to Walla Walla County with researchers and specialists ready to assist in the areas of agriculture, families, food safety, emergency management, to safeguard our community's economic wellbeing and the health of our community



Bryan Colombo

**Dry Land Cropping Systems** WSU Walla Walla County Extension supports dryland cropping systems in our county including wheat and legumes. The annual Cereal Seminar provides updated information to local growers. Annual variety trials provide information to local growers on varieties, diseases, and pests from research trials held in local fields. Specialists provide education and

information on innovative crop production methods, soil management, pest identification and control, and new seed varieties to local farmers through field tours, workshops, seminars, and pesticide courses. Specialists are available to troubleshoot production and pest problems that threaten our economy.

**Pesticide License Testing and Recertification Credits** WSU Walla Walla County Extension provides local WSDA testing for Private Applicators Licenses and study materials for growers and homeowners. Last Chance Pesticide recertification credits are provided for community members to maintain their pesticide licenses.

**Forage Crops, Pasture, and Livestock Management** WSU Walla Walla County Extension provides research-based information to large and small scale farmers to improve their economic situations while they create quality products in an environmentally friendly manor.

Forage crops, pasture, and grazing management support can help farmers make decisions. Our area provides challenges with water issues with drought conditions being “normal” for most of our county. These challenges include limited irrigation during the growing season, water rights, livestock consuming drought stressed forages, and crop diversity options. Extension provides support to landowners raising beef, swine, lamb, goats, chickens and horses.

**Women in Agriculture Program** WSU Walla Walla County Extension provides annual Women in Agriculture programming through webinar technology and live training. Annual multi-state conferences offer speakers, practical advice, collaborative discussion, and networking opportunities. Subjects include financial management, marketing, record keeping, goal setting, and risk management. Local attendees network with more than 500 women simultaneously in 35 locations across 5 states.



## 4-H Youth & Development

90+ 4-H Club Leaders

69 Activity Leaders

21,519 hours contributed in 2018



Many youth comment that 4-H has given them the strength:

...to go out of their comfort zone,

...to be a selfless leader,

...to be more open, and

...to express their ideas.

*"The most important thing I have gained from participating in 4-H is learning how to present myself and speak in front of a group."*

—4-H member

**Traditional Club 4-H** The Walla Walla County 4-H program includes more than 400 youth participating in over 5,000 projects in 40 clubs. More than 150 volunteers serve as positive adult role models to youth and give more than 8,000 hours annually. The traditional club program focuses on building life skills through responsibility, leadership, community service and mentoring. Youth involved in the 4-H program are twice as likely to plan to attend college. They are also four times more likely to give back to their communities thereby building a life pattern of civic engagement according to Tuft University research.



**Special Interest 4-H** 4-H serves over 150 youth in its special interest programs in addition to traditional 4-H clubs. 4-H special interest programs offer youth in Walla Walla County the opportunity to participate in the 4-H program without committing to the demands of the traditional club program. These programs also allow 4-H members to experience programs outside their traditional club offerings. Walla Walla County 4-H offers programs like Challenger Horse Camp that teaches 4-H members about community service and empathy for others as they assist youth with disabilities experience horseback riding.

**Summer Programs** What's Cooking and Beginning Quilt Camps encourage youth to explore areas of interest while teaching basic living skills. Photography, watercolor, and STEM camps are programs for youth to explore self-interests while developing marketable skills.



**Afterschool Program** Walla Walla County 4-H program partnered with the Walla Walla School District's 21<sup>st</sup> Century program for the last four years focusing on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programming in afterschool programming. Youth in the US continue to be under-educated in STEM curriculum in comparison to their global peers. The partnerships between 4-H and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program at four elementary schools and three public libraries reached more than 328 youth and provided hands-on education in the STEM areas.



**Teen Leadership** Walla Walla county 4-H program empowers youth to become true leaders. True leadership is not only about leading but encouraging others. 4-H teaches youth to be confident, endure challenges, work as a team, and communicate with others. All youth involved in the Walla Walla County 4-H program are encouraged by 4-H volunteers to become leaders.

The 4-H Teen Leadership Program engages members to interact with youth outside their 4-H projects and school districts. These members experience a higher sense of 4-H belonging, independence, generosity, and mastery. They learn how to encourage younger members in their club environments, learn program planning, organization and problem solving. Teen Leadership allows youth to become more comfortable attending regional and state events such as Teen Rally; Know your Government, Teen Leadership Summit, and Teen Conference.



# Health & Wellness



## Partnerships with:

- Local Schools
- BMAC Food Bank
- Whitman Court
- Valle Lindo Homes
- Children's Home Society
- Catholic Charities
- VA House Site

**Food Sense/SNAP-ED**– This year the Walla Walla County Food Sense/SNAP-Ed program served more than 400 youth in 5th grades throughout 6 school where more than half of the students participate in the free and reduced lunch program. SNAP-ED joined 19 classrooms, once a month, teaching nutrition topics such as sugar in drinks, reading nutrition labels, importance of breakfast, and making healthy nutrition choices. SNAP-Ed continued to provide healthy taste tests for students, with

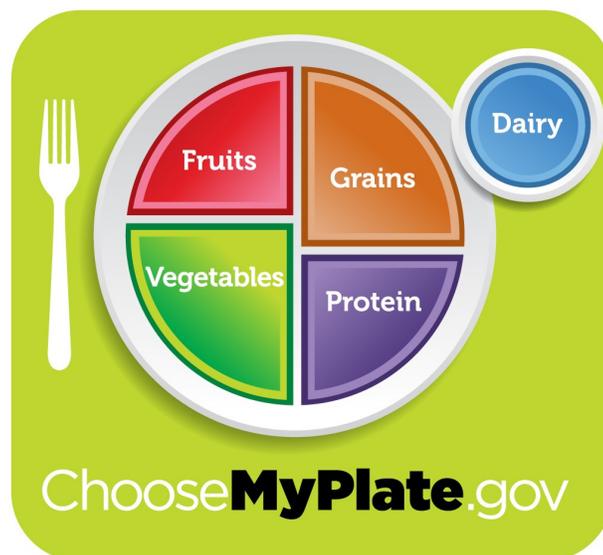


many students trying various fruits, vegetables, and whole grains for the first time. Teachers saw their students make healthier snack and celebration choices as well as increase in their fruit and vegetable consumption at school.

The Walla Walla County SNAP-Ed program serves other qualified low-income audiences. In 2017-2018, SNAP-Ed taught classes at the BMAC Food Bank, BMAC Mobile Food Bank, Whitman Court, and VA Housing. At both BMAC Food Bank and Whitman Court, classes were once a month and taught clients cooking classes on various ways to utilize foods they receive in their food boxes from the food bank. The SNAP-Ed classes teach ways to stretch their food dollar and eating healthy on a budget.

Each summer, SNAP-Ed goes out to the Valle Lindo Homes to teach an 8-week series through Children's Home Society. This summer, we also taught an 8-week series to youth at the VA Housing site. In 2017-18, SNAP-Ed taught youth how to make simple recipes and snacks and incorporated fun ways to eat fruits and vegetables. Parents received handouts and newsletters throughout the series.

The Walla Walla County SNAP-Ed program also provides programming in Asotin, Benton and Franklin Counties. The SNAP-Ed program served more than 270 youth in 14 classrooms in 6 schools, focusing on 5th grade as well as pregnant and parenting teens. Newsletter in both Spanish and English went home to parents each month.



# Environmental Stewardship

- Master Gardener Volunteers contributed 1666 hours of time valued at \$32,487.



## Funding

Return on Investment = 275%

For every \$1 spent from the Walla Walla County funds, the County Extension generates \$2.75 for the county.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program** WSU Walla Walla County Master Gardeners (MG) teach local community members to manage their gardens and landscapes in a science-based, sustainable manner. Twenty-four current volunteers address environmental and social priorities such as water conservation and water quality protection. MGs reduce the impact of invasive species and increase the public awareness of healthy living through gardening. The primary focus of the WSU MG program is to reach out to the community through office plant clinics, workshops, and community events to promote responsible and sustainable gardening practices. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is stressed to individuals dealing with pesticide spray issues. Our focus is to find the most environmentally friendly options first and not rely on pesticides to solve all pest issues.



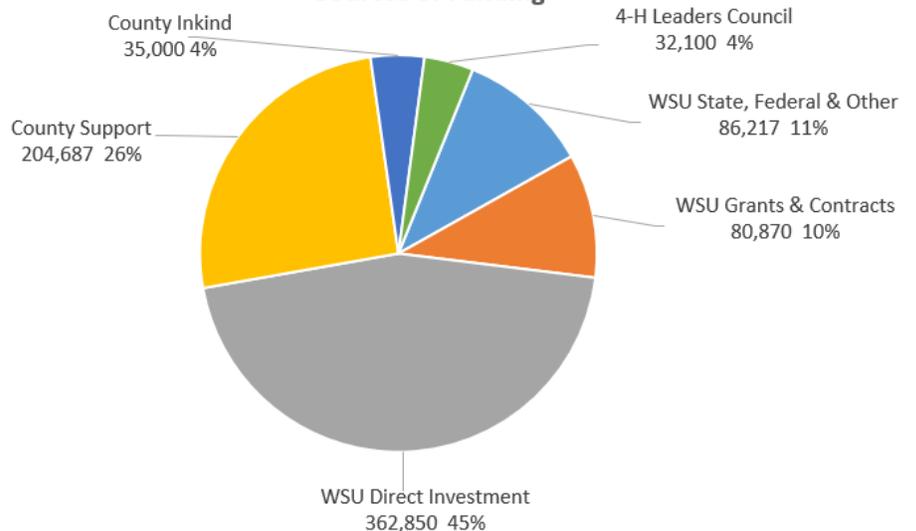
**Plant Clinics** Plant Clinics are open to the public where Master Gardeners answer questions regarding plant and insect identification, plant disease solutions, tree health, and general lawn and garden care. Community members can walk in, email, or call in their questions. Research based information is used to assess each question brought to the clinic. In 2018, Master Gardener volunteers assisted nearly 500 people through our plant clinic.

**Farmer's Market Booth** Master Gardeners interact with the community on a weekly basis at the WSU Master Gardener booth from spring through the fall. In 2018, MGs answered a broad range of gardening questions for more than 350 community members.

**Outreach** Master Gardeners partner with community events throughout our county. They provide two educational programs and an educational booth at the Hospice Pond & Garden tour. They also staffed a booth at the Walla Walla County Fair delivering pest management, best IPM practices, weed management, and water use practices. They provide vegetable gardening advice to low income housing residents weekly through summer months.



Walla Walla County Extension 2017 Sources of Funding



## Thank you to all our WSU partners .....

**Dr. Michael R. Bush**– Yakima County Horticulture Board Program Coordinator; Entomology, Vegetable IPM, Tree Fruit IPM

**Paul Carter**– Agronomy, Precision Farming, Soils and Nutrition, Remote Sensing, Soil Quality, Weeds, No-Till, Soil Acidity, Cropping Systems

**Mark Heitstuman**– Livestock Management, 4-H Youth Development, Animal Sciences, Plant Science

**Frank Hendrix**– Animal Sciences, Irrigated Pasture, Range and Riparian Management

**Ryan Higginbotham**- Regional Extension Specialist – Cereal Variety Testing

**Joe Jacobs**- Small Business Development Center

**Dr. Susan Kerr**– Livestock and Dairy Regional Specialist, Animal Health, 4-H Curriculum Development, Small Ruminants

**Don Llewelyn**– Livestock Management, 4-H Youth Development, Animal Sciences, Plant Science

**Sarah Maki Smith**– Animal Sciences Regional Specialist

**Ana Maria Diaz Martinez**– Extension Youth and Families Specialist

**Dr. Rebecca McGee**– Research geneticist (plants) specializing in Legume Research

**Lizann Powers-Hammond**– Regional Specialist in Nutrition, Health, Wellness, Food Safety, Food Preservation, Safe Food Handling

**Janet Schmidt**– 4-H Youth Development, Animal Sciences

**Steve Van Vleet**– Extension Specialist in Agriculture and Natural Resources, Managed Grazing, Integrate Invasive Plant Control, Sustainable Small Grain Production

**Margaret Viebrock**– Extension Specialist in Food Safety, Nutrition, Farm Family Issues

**Dr. Tim Waters**– Extension Specialist in Commercial Vegetables, Pest Management, Alternative Cropping Systems, Potato & Vegetable Production

## WSU Walla Walla County Staff

**Debbie Williams**– County Director

**Becki Green**– Extension Coordinator

**Melanie Owens**– 4-H Coordinator

**Meike VanDonge**– Food Sense/ SNAP-Ed Coordinator

**Christine Monger**– Office Assistant I

**Jodi Guttromson**– Office Assistant



Photo by Bryan Colombo