



# WSU EXTENSION Clark County

Extending Knowledge. Changing Lives



## Winter 2026 QUARTERLY REPORT

Serving Clark County for more than 100 years

At **Washington State University Clark County Extension**, we engage people, organizations, and communities to advance knowledge, economic well-being and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning and the application of research.

### Our Commitment:

- **Innovate:** Faculty and staff create and evaluate educational programs rooted in research and real-world experiences.
- **Collaborate:** Hundreds of volunteers and community partners amplify our efforts.
- **Educate:** Access resources from Washington State University and the National Land Grant University Extension System.
- **Support:** Offering both virtual and in-person education, we deliver impactful programs to Clark County residents.
- **Get Involved:** This quarter, our programs reached approximately **3,247** community members. For more information, contact us via email, phone, or visit our website and social media. Stay safe and informed!



Kristine Perry  
Interim Director  
[Kristine.perry@wsu.edu](mailto:Kristine.perry@wsu.edu)  
564-397-5718





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### BY THE NUMBERS



Total Reach  
Winter Quarter  
2026: 425

- 285 Youth Participated in 72 Club Programs, Mentors
- 1 Outreach Event 30 Participants,
- 25 Workshops, 33 Youth Participants
- Restorative Community Service, 7 Youth, 4 Adult Mentors
- SET Project 70 Youth Participants, 18 Adult Mentors



[Click Here to Learn More](#)



## 4-H Youth Development

### "To Make the Best Better"

The mission of the 4-H Youth Development Program is to help young people grow into responsible, contributing citizens. To reach this goal, 4-H has developed educational materials that emphasize development of life skills in young people through fun, hands-on projects.

### Meals That Matter: 4-H Culinary Connections

In partnership with Clark County Juvenile Court, 48 youth participated in hands-on cooking experiences where they prepared pizzadillas, crunch wraps, and chicken sandwiches. Through these activities, participants built practical cooking skills, practiced food safety, and explored creativity in meal preparation. The program fostered confidence and independence while emphasizing teamwork and the value of preparing simple, nutritious meals they can recreate at home.



4-H Youth making pizzas

**Missy McElprang**

4-H Youth Development  
Specialist, Faculty  
[missy.cummins@wsu.edu](mailto:missy.cummins@wsu.edu)



4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.



# 4-H Youth Development

**"To Make the Best Better"**

## Planting Possibility: 4-H & Shifted Theory



Youth participating in gardening project at Heritage Farm

In March, youth and adult mentors engaged in hands-on, interactive learning experiences designed to build agricultural knowledge and sense of place. Participants explored different aspects of the garden, including a Community Garden scavenger hunt that encouraged observation and discovery, planting onions where youth gained practical skills in growing food, and a vermicomposting demonstration with the Master Composters to learn about the role of worms in maintaining healthy soil. Together, these activities created an engaging environment where youth connected with the land and deepened their understanding of where food comes from.

## Advocating for Change: 4-H Know Your Government 2026



4-H Youth participating in Know Your Government

The WSU 4-H Know Your Government program focused this year on *Advocating for Change 2026*, preparing youth through sessions on their legislative districts, the bill process, and respectful political dialogue. Our delegation of four members from Clark and Skamania counties submitted a bill for the statewide conference and spent the weekend at The Evergreen State College engaging in mock House and Senate sessions, practicing testimony, and learning parliamentary procedure. Alongside these activities, they built friendships through dorm life, service projects, and shared meals. Inspired by the experience, the delegation is committed to helping develop a year-round KYG program to broaden civic learning opportunities and prepare younger members for future participation.



**4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization.**



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Total Reach  
Winter Quarter  
2026: 335

- 13 Class series,  
310 Participants
- 15 Outreach Event,  
35 Participants



[English Recipes](#)  
[Recetas en español](#)



[@wsuclarkefnep](#)



## EFNEP Program

### Expanded Food and Nutrition Education

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a federal nutrition program for low-income parents and youth that focuses on healthy eating, food safety, physical activity, and saving money on groceries. Classes are currently offered online and in-person.

### Making Food Dollars Last: A Family's Success with EFNEP

Chelsea, a mother of five, struggled to stretch her SNAP benefits and often ran out of food before month's end. While staying in a shelter offering EFNEP classes, she joined after learning the program could help her save money. Through the Plan, Shop, \$ave lesson, she learned practical strategies such as using grocery apps for weekly deals, planning meals around sales, comparing unit prices, using digital coupons, and sticking to a list. Over the next month, Chelsea applied these skills and was surprised to have nearly \$20 left on her EBT card, while also providing healthier meals for her family. She credits EFNEP with helping her make her benefits last and improve her family's food choices.



**Sara Peitzmeier**

EFNEP Manager

[sara.peitzmeier@wsu.edu](mailto:sara.peitzmeier@wsu.edu)



Assisting limited resource families in acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and changed behavior necessary to maintain nutritionally sound diets.



## Winter 2026 QUARTERLY REPORT

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Total Reach  
Winter Quarter  
2026: 843

- 4,956 Master Gardeners Volunteer Hours
- 21 Workshops, 524 Participants
- 3 Outreach Events, 210 Participants
- 50 Answer Clinic Workshops, 109 Participant Contacts
- 3567 Social Media Likes to Date



## Master Gardener Program

### Community Horticulture and Natural Resource Stewardship

The Master Gardener program trains volunteers through over 60 hours of university-led education in horticulture and environmental stewardship. Volunteers provide at least 50 hours of service to become certified. Veteran Master Gardeners continue with at least 35 hours of service and education annually.

### Congratulations Master Gardener Graduates!

Forty-six individuals completed Master Gardener training, concluding in February. Training included reading 24 chapters, taking quizzes, attending presentations, and passing a 100-question final exam with a minimum score of 80%. Participants completed 12 field trips to sites such as the NatureScaping Wildlife Botanical Garden, the 78th Street Heritage Farm, and a Vancouver park where they planted trees and learned about pruning and tree risk. To earn certification, volunteers will provide 40 or more service hours in 2026. Service opportunities include answering home gardening questions in the clinic, teaching children about nature, instructing adults, and maintaining the program's demonstration gardens.



Master Gardener Graduates



**Erika Johnson**

Master Gardener Coordinator  
erika.d.johnson@wsu.edu



Click here to find out more about the  
Master Gardener Program  
in their monthly newsletter



[MGP Newsletter](#)



# Master Gardener Program

## Community Horticulture and Natural Resource Stewardship

### Clark County Farm Forestry Association and WSU Extension Master Gardeners; An Enduring Partnership

Master Gardeners participated in the Clark County Farm Forestry Association Seedling Sale in Battle Ground in March. Not only did they answer questions about planting and caring for seedling trees, they also assisted people waiting in line, in choosing the best species and discussed ways to address heat and pests such as rabbits and deer. Board member Gene Jones said, "We know the community appreciates our efforts, because we routinely see a line 200 to 300 yards long waiting for us to open in the morning. The Master Gardeners enrich that customer experience even more by mingling with the customers to help them make the best choices for their soil, sun exposure, space available, etc. The Forestry Association said they appreciate MG volunteer spirit and can-do attitude, looking for ways to boost their positive impact without waiting to be asked. In general, we believe that our values align well with the values of the Master Gardeners, and so we are honored to have them participate in our sale."



Master Gardeners providing education and outreach at Farm Forestry Association Seedling sale.

### Stone Fruit Workshop – A New Way to Grow Peaches

A first of its kind workshop was held at the 78th Street Heritage Farm in March, taught by Master Gardener Carolyn Long and focused on successfully growing stone fruit. Because Western Washington's wet spring weather often causes foliar fungal issues in peaches, nectarines, and cherries, the class emphasized growing these fruits in containers that can be moved or covered to prevent disease. Instruction included selecting rootstock suitable for containers, pruning to manage size, and hands-on grafting, with multiple scion varieties available to the 17 attendees. One participant said, "The instruction was great, very thorough and clear. I enjoyed grafting my own tree to take home!"



Participants learning how to grow stone fruit without pesticides

**Master  
Gardener  
Program**

*It's in Your Nature!*

**Answer  
Clinic**

Tuesday and Wednesday • 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.  
Thursday and Friday • 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Call 564-397-5711  
OR

Email us your question at

[askamastergardener@clarkmg.org](mailto:askamastergardener@clarkmg.org)



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Total Reach  
Winter Quarter  
2026: 952

- 1 Workshop, 5 Participants
- 7 Outreach Event, 108 Participants
- 61 Technical Assistance to Farmers
- 778 Educational Video Views
- 523 Social Media views



### SW WA Commercial Agriculture Program

#### Program Purview, Impact Potential:

Our program develops and delivers research and education relevant to an agricultural community of ~2500 commercial farms operating across 125K acres within Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties. Approximately 75% of these farms and acreages lie within Clark County; 53% of our soils are classified as agricultural, and our soil productivity ratings and density of farm businesses (3.14 farms/sq. mi.) are the highest in the state.

#### Supporting Farmland Protection and Statewide Conservation Efforts

In the first quarter, our program continued its service on the County's new Agricultural Commission, contributing to foundational work on a prospective Transfer of Development Rights program and other farmland protection strategies for Clark County. This effort supports long-term land conservation and strengthens the agricultural viability of the region.

Our program also participated in a state-level working group focused on policy related to Washington's marine ecosystem recovery. Engagement in this group ensures that Extension perspectives remain part of statewide dialogue on natural resource stewardship and long-term ecological health.

**Justin O'Dea**  
Regional Agricultural  
Specialist Faculty  
[justin.odea@wsu.edu](mailto:justin.odea@wsu.edu)



The ANR program conducts locally relevant applied research in the fields of agriculture and natural resource sciences.



# SW WA Commercial Agriculture Program

## Expanding Momentum in Forest-Grown Shiitake Production

Work in the first quarter advanced our \$175,000 grant-funded project focused on forest-grown shiitake mushroom production. Three growers participated in a new-grower training held at the Heritage Farm, OSU Extension produced a podcast episode highlighting our shiitake work, and annual interviews were completed with new growers to document project impacts. Two hands-on shiitake workshops have also been announced for delivery in the second quarter.

A substantial share of first-quarter effort was devoted to preparing a \$350,000 grant proposal aimed at expanding mushroom production research and education at the Heritage Farm and partner sites. If awarded, the project would grow our shiitake mentorship model and significantly increase research and demonstration capacity through collaboration with OSU Extension, Hopkins Demonstration Forest, and mushroom production partners Cascadia Mushrooms and Field and Forest Products.

## Here What Farmers Had to Say...

*"When I've mentioned that this is a project we're getting through WSU Extension, people are real interested in it. ...as a startup it hasn't been very expensive... We did 102 logs... I would say about 30 hours total... [it's] something fun to do that could supplement retirement income... I don't think there's anything I would really do significantly different because your outline [WSU Extension mentorship] was so good."*

*"...forest-cultivated mushrooms are a natural fit for farms like ours... The shiitake system [developed by WSU Extension] has helped us demonstrate that productive forestland can be economically justified within a farm system, not just ethically-motivated. It gives us a practical reason to grow with the forest rather than around it."*



**SARE** Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Projects

National



**OSU Extension Service Forestry...**

@osuextensionserviceforestry8904  
368 subscribers · 125 videos

We cover forests and natural resource management...more

[extension.oregonstate.edu/forestry](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/forestry) and 3 more links

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**Episode 72**  
SHIITAKE MUSHROOM CULTIVATION  
"Cultivating it is so growing mushrooms in a field and growing with nature. With the shiitake production method in the forest, it's really hard [to] make it, and it's not growing anymore."  
JUSTIN O'DEA & PATRICK SHULTS  
44:50

Episode 72 Cultivating Shiitake Mushrooms

Projects Home Search Projects Search Project Coordinators Help

### Forest-Cultivated Mushroom Production for Pacific Northwest Diversified Farms and Startups, Phase II

ID: 1363895  
Link to share: <https://projects.sare.org/proposals/1363895/1692/>  
Download PDF  
Grant: 2026 Western SARE Research and Education Full Proposal  
Status: Submitted  
Amount Requested: \$349,985.00

Applicant: [Justin O'Dea](#)  
Principal Investigator: [Justin O'Dea](#)

[show everyone's info](#)

**Description for search results if funded:** This project targets scaling-up Pacific Northwest forest-cultivated mushroom production through added education capacity, expanded production options and refinements, production economy innovations, and added peer-mentor development and producer adoption via a unique Extension mentorship program.

**Project start date:** September 01, 2026



**Oregon State University Extension Service**



**HOPKINS**  
Demonstration Forest



**CASCADIA**  
MUSHROOMS



**Field & Forest Products**

**Select program activity, Quarter 1, 2026:** *Top left:* We offered a new grower training at the Heritage Farm to three up-and-coming shiitake mushroom businesses in Q1; *top right:* OSU Extension's Forestry and Natural Resource Program produced a podcast episode on our shiitake mushroom work in Q1; *bottom:* we submitted a \$350K grant proposal in Q1 to scale-up our mushroom production research and demonstration at the Heritage Farm and is poised to leverage expansive collaborations with OSU Extension, Hopkins Demonstration Forest, and mushroom production supply companies Cascadia Mushrooms and Field & Forest Products.



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- 6 Outreach Event, 8 Participants
- 2 Workshops, 31 Participants
- 1 Class Series, 88 Participants
- 37 Technical Assistance for Rural Residents
- 265 Educational Video Views
- 73 Farms and Business Impacted; 70 Acres Impacted
- 3867 Social Media Views

EAT  
LOCAL  
FIRST

**Terry Koper**

Small Acreage Coordinator  
terry.koper@wsu.edu



Supporting local land caretakers through education, marketing support, and statewide program implementation.



### Small Acreage Program

#### Land Stewardship Education and Economic Development

**The Small Acreage** program provides educational workshops and other outreach to county residents on animal, land and water stewardship, such as mud and manure management, fencing and pasture management, and other water quality topics unique to rural land. The Small Acreage Program works in partnership with Clark County Public Works Clean Water Program.

### Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Business Planning Course

The Small Acreage Program Coordinator joined forces with six fellow coordinators across Washington to co-lead the Agricultural Entrepreneurship class series through the Cultivating Success Program. Designed to empower aspiring farmers and agricultural innovators, this multi-week experience was delivered online with English and Spanish interpretation, breaking down barriers to access. By reaching participants in even the most remote corners of the state, far beyond the reach of traditional WSU Extension offices, the program opened doors for a more inclusive and connected agricultural community.



Agricultural Entrepreneurship Class-Series promotional flyer

# Small Acreage Program

## Regional In-Person Intensives offered as part of the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Course

As part of the Agricultural Entrepreneurship series, full-day, in-person regional intensives brought business finance training to participants across the four regions of the state. In Southwest Washington, Small Acreage Program Coordinator Terry Koper and Thurston County Coordinator Sierra Smith co-facilitated an intensive in Vancouver at the 78th Street Heritage Farm, with local farmer and former CPA Lorrie Conway leading engaging, hands-on sessions.

Participants gained practical skills in financial management, including profit and loss, balance sheets, cash flow, and depreciation, along with enterprise and operational budgeting, taxes, risk management, insurance, regulations, and labor management. By applying these concepts directly to their own business plans, attendees left with stronger strategies and valuable local connections.



Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Business Planning website photo.



Agricultural Entrepreneurship SW WA Intensive practicing individual business elevator pitches.

### Here What Participants Had to Say...

*"Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart for this course. I am incredibly grateful for everything I have learned and all of the resources you have shared with me. I feel empowered to turn my dream into a goal."* -Ag Entrepreneurship Participant

*"I really enjoyed the presentations from the farmers and speakers as well as the in-person intensive. I loved hearing from others and learning about their endeavors and experiences. Thank you!"* -Ag Entrepreneurship Participant

*"Thank you so much for the great foundation! I can tell a lot of time and care went into developing this course. Getting to listen to the different speakers and talk with other folks who want to do similar things was so beneficial."* -Ag Entrepreneurship Participant

*"The resources provided were so thorough, it's practically a flood of great information. Highly recommend this course for those who are new to ag-business or those who want to be in ag-business. Thank you."* -Ag Entrepreneurship Participant



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
**EXTENSION**



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Winter Quarter  
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A community gardener prepares newly built raised beds ahead of the spring growing season at Heritage Farm Community Garden



### Community Gardens

#### Supporting Local Agriculture

The community garden provides a place for community members to grow food for themselves and their families. There are 88 plots, 20ft by 20ft each. It is the most diverse program here at Heritage Farm. We have families from Botswana, Korea, Thailand, Mexico and many of the Eastern European countries. This pesticide free, year-round community garden is highly sought after.

#### Heritage Farm Community Garden: Preparing for the 2026 Growing Season

Heritage Farm Community Garden continues to serve as a vibrant, pesticide-free space where community members grow food for themselves and their families. The garden includes 88 plots and supports a large group of gardeners from multiple countries and backgrounds. During the winter, activity was focused mostly on infrastructure improvements and seasonal preparation to ensure the garden is ready for a successful growing season once weather conditions improve.

Although planting activities were limited during the winter due to temperature, the nice weather allowed many gardeners to take advantage of the dryness and make many necessary improvements to their spaces. Many gardeners built new raised beds and upgraded various aspects of their gardens like their irrigation systems and fencing. 14 new families are preparing for their first growing season in the Community Garden and Phoebe is very excited to see what the Spring brings for everyone!

**Phoebe Jud**  
Coordinator  
[Phoebe.jud@wsu.edu](mailto:Phoebe.jud@wsu.edu)



Are you interested in gardening but don't have room to do so at your home or apartment? The Heritage Farm Community Garden has a waitlist, Contact Phoebe for more info!



4-H

AGRICULTURE  
PRODUCTIONCOMMUNITY & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

FAMILY &amp; HOME



FOOD &amp; NUTRITION

AGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCESAGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCESWSU FACULTY  
AND STAFF

## Partnerships, Collaborations and Cooperations



Clark County and Washington State University have a long-standing partnership in providing educational programs and research-based information to residents throughout the county. This partnership ensures that resources are committed from Federal allocations and University funds to keep important educational programs available in Clark County.

Alliance for a Healthier Generation  
 Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities  
 Arthritis Foundation Walk With Ease Feet First  
 Battleground Health Clinic  
 Bonaventure of Salmon Creek  
 Bridgeview Community Center  
 Camas Farmers Market  
 CASEE Center  
 CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 Chartwells Food Service  
 City of Camas  
 City of Vancouver  
 Clark Conservation District  
 Clark County Event Center  
 Clark County Environmental Health Food Safety Program  
 Clark County Fair  
 Clark County Farmers  
 Clark County Farm Forestry Association  
 Clark County Food Bank  
 Clark County Food System Council  
 Clark County Green Schools  
 Clark County Juvenile Justice  
 Clark County Public Works  
 Clark County Public Health  
 Clark County Composter Recycler Program  
 Clark County Saddle Club  
 Community Garden Club of Camas Washougal  
 Community Voices Are Born

Core Home Fruit Services  
 Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
 Diabetes Technical and Training Center DSHS  
 (Dept of Health and Human Services)  
 Educational Service District 112  
 Evergreen School District/Family and Community Resource Centers  
 Fort Vancouver Regional Library  
 Fort Vancouver National Historic Site  
 Goldendale Farmers Market  
 Handmade Gardens  
 Hardy Plant Society of Oregon  
 Hazel Dell Elementary School  
 Hewlett-Packard  
 Hubert Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project  
 Illahee Elementary School  
 IQ Credit Union  
 Latino Community Resource Group Learning Adventures Child Care  
 The League of United Latin American Citizens Lifeline  
 Longview Garden Club  
 Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County  
 Meals on Wheels People  
 NAACP  
 Lacamas Watershed Council  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 WSU Extension Forestry  
 WA Farm Forestry Association  
 Women Owning Woodlands



WSU EXTENSION  
**Clark County**



4-H

AGRICULTURE  
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NATURAL RESOURCESAGRICULTURE AND  
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AND STAFF

## Partnerships, Collaborations and Cooperations

### Partnerships and Collaborations continued

- National Park Service
- Nature Scaping of SW WA
- Nautilus Inc.
- OSPI (Office of Schools and Public Instruction)
- OSU Extension Service
- Parks Foundation of Clark County
- Partners in Careers
- PeaceHealth
- Pearson Field Education Center
- Portland Nursery
- Ridgefield Garden Club
- Salmon Creek Farmers Market
- SeaMar Community Health
- Second Mile Marketplace and Hub
- SHARE House
- Skamania Farmers Market
- SWW Accountable Communities of Health
- SWW Health Living Collaborative
- The Gardner School of Arts and Sciences
- Truman Elementary
- TSMC Washington
- Underwriters Laboratory
- United States Department of Agriculture
- USDA-NRCS
- Vancouver Farmers Market
- Vancouver Garden Club
- Vancouver School District
- Vancouver Housing Authority
- WSU Edward R Murrow Center for Health Comm. Research and Promotion
- WSU Nutrition & Exercise Physiology Program
- Washington State University-Vancouver
- Washington State VetCorp
- Waste Connections
- White Salmon Farmers Market
- Washington Green Schools
- Washington State Chronic Disease Leadership Network
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Washington State Department of Health SNAP
- Washington State Farmers Market Association
- Disease Leadership Network
- Watershed Alliance
- West Van for Youth Substance Abuse Coalition
- WIC (Women, Infant and Children)
- Yacolt Primary School



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