



Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES — AUGUST 2020

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The WSU Extension Agriculture program in Thurston County worked with a local group of farmers, the NW Ag Business Center, Thurston EDC and others to prepare to launch the SW Washington Food Hub. This farmer-owned cooperative venture will provide product distribution, marketing, and administrative services to its members. Launching in August 2020, the Food Hub will strive to improve producer access to markets through aggregated sales, one-stop online shopping, delivery options in participating counties, and single-point of payment across multiple farms and value-added products. As a newly formed cooperative, the Food Hub is excited to welcome new members in on the ground floor.



SNAP-ED

Working with agencies across the state to adapt in-class curriculum to an online format for Fall/Winter direct education. Once the virtual education is up and running, they will continue to offer school partners fun, engaging nutrition education. Activities will include a cooking portion, a physical activity "brain break", and a mindfulness moment, staying connected to students and families.



Eat the Rainbow!

Food Literacy Kids Workbook p. 27



4-H PROGRAM

During the month of August, Thurston County 4-H teens and staff planned for and assembled 75 "Healthy Living" kits containing healthy recipes and the ingredients to prepare the recipes, along with activities for families to do together outside. We then donated the kits to the ROOF Community Services Food Bank to share with their families. Our county virtual contests have ended, and 4-H youth are now entering their projects in the 2020 Virtual State 4-H Fair. 4-H youth have the opportunity

to not only submit many types of still life projects in the Virtual State Fair, but also participate in public presentations, the state horse judging contest, and National Equine Presentations. As our 2019-20 4-H year comes to a close, we are planning for and looking forward to making the 2020-21 4-H year, which begins October 1, great!

On the Administrative side, July 31 marked the last day for enrollment in 4-H Online for 2020. During August we performed data cleanup at the county level so the migration to 4-H Online 2.0 could occur at the state level. We are excited that 4-H Online "2.0" is on target to be rolled at the beginning of the new 4-H enrollment year - October 1, 2020.

Also, In August, 4H began the new "FOURward" campaign! This is nationwide fundraiser that has never been done before and is a way for 4-H to raise money for activities at the state and county level. The fundraiser will run through October 30.

WSU MASTER GARDENER/MASTER RECYCLER COMPOSTER PROGRAM

Master Recycler Composter and WSU Master Gardener volunteers continue to monitor our Question/Answer clinic remotely. They are answering questions related to gardening, recycling, composting and waste reduction via email. Volunteers continue to meet via Zoom every other week and answer questions and share continuing education opportunities. Dirt Works Garden volunteers continue to harvest the 25+ raised beds that were planted back in May. All food is donated to the Thurston County Food Bank. Over the last few weeks, they have been averaging about 100lbs to 150lbs of produce per harvest day. This dedicated group of volunteers working on the food bank garden is truly amazing!

