



Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES — DECEMBER 2020



4-H PROGRAM

To help prevent the spread of Covid-19, the Thurston County 4-H Program offered virtual learning opportunities in the month of December.

Virtual offerings focus on helping participants gain new knowledge and helping 4-H youth members connect with others during these difficult times.

4-H teen leaders help as presenters and demonstrators. This experience helps teen 4-H members gain leadership, decision-making, and communication skills as they teach their peers.

Using virtual technology provides Thurston County 4-H youth members a unique opportunity to connect with subject matter experts and guest presenters from around Washington State and beyond.



CULTIVATING SUCCESS CLASS GOES ON-LINE

The Whole Farm Planning course for new farmers is being taught this winter using a virtual classroom with live instruction and weekly guest presentations by local farmers. A grant from the Washington Department of Veteran Affairs has allowed us to offer scholarships to military Veterans and create a 2020 cohort of new farmers that is 2/3 veteran. While farming can't be learned over the computer, a strong foundation in farm planning can still be gained during the pandemic.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The WSU Extension agriculture program kept up a brisk pace of presentations in December, holding two Hedgerow workshops (30 attendees in each event), one Conservation Easements Essentials workshop (23 attendees), an Ecological Soil Management presentation to the WSU Farm Planning class (21 attendees), and presentations on Regional Agriculture Development (RAD!) to the Board of County Commissioners, on a Washington

Department of Commerce panel, and to the WSU Food Systems Team (24 attendees statewide).

The WSU Farm Planning class is partially funded through the Washington State

Department of Veteran's Affairs, and supports off-set tuition for 11 partici-

pating veteran aspiring or current farmers. Recordings of the workshops were posted to various WSU Thurston Extension program pages.

2. SOIL FORMATION, PHYSICAL PROPERTIES, AND NATURAL HISTORY

• 2.3 Soil structure

Granular: Resembles coarse crumble and is usually less than 0.5 cm in diameter. Commonly found in surface horizons where roots have been growing.	Blocky: Irregular blocks that are usually 1.5 - 5.0 cm in diameter.	Prismatic: Vertical columns of soil that might be a number of cm long. Usually found in lower horizons.
Columnar: Vertical columns of soil that have a soil "cap" at the top. Found in soils of arid climates.	Platy: Thin, flat plates of soil that lie horizontally. Usually found in compacted soil.	Single Grained: Soil is broken into individual particles that do not stick together. Always accompanies a loose consistence. Commonly found in sandy soils.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY: UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MANOA

SNAP-ED

One of the ways SNAP-Ed supports Garfield Elementary during the holiday break is by providing holiday food bundles. These bundles are full of great shelf stable



pantry items and fresh foods so that families have extra food during the long holiday break. This year we were lucky to get fruit donated from Trader Joes & Jay's Farm stand. These generous donations allowed us to stretch our allocated dollars further and offer a wider variety of baking supplies including fresh eggs! The pandemic has made this year especially difficult for families and we saw the need for food assistance grow. This year we built 36 food bundles. With school closure continuing into the new year, we also cleaned out the in school Food Pantry and offered a "Last Chance Table" during pick up. The few items that remained were then donated to the local food bank.