



## 4-H PROGRAM

4-H grows here in Thurston County! During these challenging times, our youth members continue to work towards their project goals and contribute to their communities. The 24 Carrots 4-H Club has been active with virtual project activities and working on service projects that can be accomplished while social-distancing. Club members decorated St. Patrick's Day clovers individually at home and then families dropped off the finished artwork to the 4-H Club leader's front porch. The decorations were donated to a senior assisted living facility to add cheer for the residents.



## SNAP-ED

Spring is in the air and that means Farmer's Market season is right around the corner. SNAP-Ed has recently formed new partnerships with the Tenino and Tumwater Farmer's markets. Both markets have been small but they continue to see significant growth each year. While we wait to see how we can be of service to local farmer's markets in the area, we look forward to supporting our community over the next growing season.

Garfield Elementary school garden is ready for Spring too! We are planning some upcoming workdays in the garden and providing the 1st grade classes with seed starting kits. We are hopeful that there will be some planting days in the garden with students very soon.



# Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES — MARCH 2021



## WSU MASTER GARDENER/MASTER RECYCLER COMPOSTER PROGRAM

A limited number of Master Gardener volunteers have returned to our demonstration gardens. Their focus is on tasks needed to maintain plant health. The food bank garden volunteers have begun cleaning up the raised beds in preparation for planting. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 gathering size restrictions, we will not be hosting our annual Plant Sale in May. The plant sale crew is working on maintaining the nursery stock so that it is ready for when we can have a sale again. Master Recycler Composter volunteers are starting to process the backlog of composting needs at our demonstration gardens. Due to COVID-19 policies restricting access, and most garden operations, the amount to plant material needing to be composted is the highest it's ever been. April is a good time to plant cold season vegetables, perennials, and bare-root woody plants.



## AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The WSU Extension agriculture program is completing year 3 of the prairie grazing trials and providing economic and ecological data to Community Planning. This information will provide contributing data to the Environmental Impact Statement for the County's HCP. The Ag program was part of several successful grant awards that we were notified about in March:

support landowners implementing conservation grazing (USDA Western SARE: \$100,000); outreach work for landowner conservation easements as part of HCP (Dept of Defense: \$193,480 over 3 yrs); specialty buckwheat trials (\$25,000 over 2-yrs); development grassland management and grazing academy (\$80,000 over 4 yrs).

The Southwest Washington Cooperative Food Hub has released the first direct-to-consumer subscription box, the Local Gourmet Sampler Box! The box connects local eaters to local creators and farmers. Every month you get to sample different delicacies from the South Sound region, and we donate 5% of the profit to your favorite local non-profits. Purchase your box at [www.swwafoodhub.com](http://www.swwafoodhub.com).

