

SNAP-ED

SNAP-Ed has added four new farmers market partners to their activity plan this year, including Tumwater, Tenino, Toledo and Morton. Tumwater and Tenino opened this past weekend, with a great community turnout and abundance of fresh veg and plant starts. SNAP Ed will be promoting EBT use at the market, the Market Match program, and providing produce tip sheets and seed-starting kits for kids.



Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

THE EXTENSION CONNECTION

WSU THURSTON COUNTY EXTENSION NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2021

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The Washington legislature allocated \$1.75M to fund installation of 600 tons of upright grain storage in the region that will serve the SW WA Growers Cooperative and other users. The WSU Extension program supported this effort with survey work, and support of the Growers Co-op Board. In related work, the WSU Ag program presented to Thurston Strong coalition on opportunities for “resetting” the agriculture sector stronger after COVID-19, with a focus on building livestock processing infrastructure. Separately, the program conducted three interviews of Food Hubs across Washington State for a Food Hub Guidance Document that will help development of the SW Washington Food Hub. And the research team completed a field day quantifying % forage cover of annual and perennial pastures grasses at ranches implementing conservation grazing practices for prairie species protection. Research assistants gained exposure to field protocol, and ensured no frogs got in the way.



WSU MASTER GARDENER/ MASTER RECYCLER COMPOSTER PROGRAM

Our volunteers have been busy in the gardens with spring garden tasks. The food bank garden volunteers have planted a variety of vegetable seeds at the Dirt Works demo garden. Eleven new composting piles were created to process the backlog of garden and yard debris. Check out our upcoming Lunch and Learn webinars starting in June: <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/gardening/upcoming-workshops/>

Our annual May, large-scale, plant sale has been cancelled. Instead customers can now sign-up for an individual appointment to shop at our nursery site. Appointments are available on Wednesday and Saturday's through September. WSU Master Gardeners will be there to help answer customer questions and give planting advice while shopping.

To sign up for an appointment, visit <https://www.mgftc.org/personal-shopping-appointments/>. Use the password “plantsale” and follow the instructions. You will receive a confirmation email with instructions — including the very important COVID rules we must adhere to.

May is a good time to aerate lawns and apply mulch to beds.

4-H PROGRAM

4-H grows here in Thurston County! The Program launched a new, virtual 4-H club for Tumwater School District elementary students (grades K-5) and their family members in April. The new, virtual 4-H club combines the evidence-based Positive Action prevention program with hands-on 4-H project activities. 4-H project activities help link prevention lessons to real-life experiences.

The new, virtual club currently meets via Zoom during the out-of-school time hours and is delivered primarily by a “Teens as Teachers”, 4-H teen leader team with 4-H staff support. This pilot project is currently serving 24 families and 32 youth from the Tumwater School District. Student participant families receive “take home kits” prior to each club meeting. Kits include the supplies needed to participate in the virtual 4-H club prevention lessons and hands-on 4-H project activities.

Combining Positive Action prevention lessons, with hands on activities, is an engaging way to promote healthy living and wellness to Tumwater students and families. By providing the “take home kits” we can deliver evidence based prevention to families in their homes.

