



# Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

## The AG Sounder Newsletter



## August 2022

Do you have an event or story you would like featured in The Ag Sounder? Let us know!

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# Cover Crop Trials Field Walk

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 11TH | 10AM - 12PM**  
MALLONEE FARMS  
CURTIS, WA

Join us at Mallonee Farms, along with NRCS staff, to look at their cover crop trial plot in their pastures. Together, we'll look at the test plot and see how their varieties of millet, sun hemp, oats, cowpeas, radish, and more are doing in order to make informed decisions about what to plant in pastures and fields in Western WA in the future. This is a great opportunity to see a wide variety of cover crops in action and to ask questions of regional professionals and researchers in order to choose the best cover crop for your landscape now and in the future.



WSU EXTENSION  
Thurston County



**RSVP to**  
**[nwhite@thurstoncd.com](mailto:nwhite@thurstoncd.com)**  
**or 360-999-3727**



## Cover Crop Trials Field Walk, August 11th!

Join the NRCS at Mallonee Farm to tour their cover crop trial pastures. They have test plots of millet, sun hemp, oats, cowpeas, radish, and more. This is a great opportunity to see a wide variety of cover crops in action and to ask questions of regional professionals and researchers in order to choose the best cover crop for your landscape now and in the future.

RSVP for the event to Nora White at [nwhite@thurstoncd.com](mailto:nwhite@thurstoncd.com) or 360-



## **Cultivating Success: Whole Farm Planning, offered statewide, online, and bilingually with Spanish interpretation.**

Cultivating Success covers a broad range of topics and will teach you how to use the decision-making tools necessary to create a successful small farm enterprise! Whether you are just exploring the opportunities available or already have an existing operation, you'll learn what it takes to create, sustain, and grow a viable small farm.

- \$200 for a 12-week course from September 19th through December 5th, 2022.
- Cultivating Success meets weekly on Mondays from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.
- Online course classroom through Zoom with in-person field trips.
- Scholarships are available for Military Veterans and anyone for whom the course fee is a barrier.
- This course is offered with Spanish language interpretation and facilitation.

**Register for Cultivating Success [here](#).**

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## **The Washington State University Extension Office is seeking a highly motivated independent Senior Office Assistant.**

The Senior Office Assistant is responsible for providing general office and clerical support. Specific responsibilities include: assisting program staff with tasks, managing and ordering office supplies, coordinating meetings, agendas, and room reservations, being the main point of contact with the public for the WSU Extension office as well as other county departments, updating department social media and website, supporting the Extension Director, updating the Extension Office website and social media, supporting the WSU Extension Director in tracking, and monitoring the program budget.

For over 100 years, WSU has been connecting citizens with their neighbors and community through Extension programs. WSU Extension serves the residents of Thurston County by providing reliable information, growing the community, finding new opportunities, and improving lives through local research and education programs. The WSU Extension Office offers the following programs: 4H Youth Development, Agriculture Research and Education, Food Safety and Nutrition, Master Gardner and Master Recycler Composter Program, and the Native Plant Salvage Project.

**[Click here to find out more about our Senior Office Assistant Position.](#)**

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October - December 2022  
**Business Skills Intensive**  
for Mid-scale Farms

# RESILERATOR

**Looking to grow your farm business into a thriving enterprise?  
Seeking a strong foundation upon which to scale up your  
production and systems?**

Join Northwest Agriculture Business Center and the Resilerator for an 11-week agricultural intensive from October 2022 - December 2022. Limited to a maximum of 15 farms, this cohort-based program will meet weekly for discussion with experts and farmers for peer-to-peer support. Questions? Contact Emily Manke [emily@agbizcenter.org](mailto:emily@agbizcenter.org) (360) 223-2008 to learn more.

**Find out more about the Resilerator Program.**



**Are you passionate about reducing, re-using, recycling, and composting in our community? If you are, then join the Thurston County Master Recycler Composter volunteer program!**

Thurston County MRC volunteers are trained on how to reduce waste and increase public awareness about waste reduction, recycling, and composting in Thurston County. Training begins September 22nd. The deadline to apply is 5 pm on September 1st, 2022 (applicants must be 18 years of age or older, and either live, work, or operate a business in Thurston County).

**Learn more about what MRC volunteers do and how to apply to the MRC Volunteer Training [here](#).**

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## **Bigleaf Maple Syrup Workshop Friday, September 9th in Olympia!**

Tapping bigleaf maples is an exciting way to engage with your forest, spend time with family and friends, and create a unique and delicious syrup for personal use or even commercial sale. At this hands-on workshop, you'll learn about the essential tools needed for tapping, how and when to tap trees, and how to process sap. Join us for a fun day in the woods and get prepared for the next sap season! Pre-registration is required. Registration closes on Tuesday, September 6th.

**[Click here to learn more and to pre-register.](#)**

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## Check out SW Washington Food Hub's Local Farm Boxes!

The Local Farm Box is a monthly subscription box that sources produce, meat, and value-added products from Southwest Washington Growers Co-op farms and artisans. Each box comes with a corresponding recipe, to help you get the most out of your local bounty.

Subscriptions go out on the first Wednesday of every month. Pick your box up at the Tumwater warehouse from 4-7 pm. Purchase just one box or subscribe for the year for a discount.

**Subscribe to the 2022 Local Farmbox now!**

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Your opinion/vision is needed, please take the Olympia Strong: A

## Roadmap for Economic Resiliency survey, which is open until August 15th!

This survey marks the start of Olympia's public process to form a long-term economic resiliency plan. This will be a strategic framework and specific actions the City and partners can take to strengthen our local economy and help residents, businesses, and the broader community weather challenging times. Building off Thurston Strong, Olympia Strong invites the public to explore how we can expand upon valued economic strengths, remove barriers and create new opportunities that elevate more people of all backgrounds and abilities into financial stability, help more businesses succeed and prosper, attract investment and generate new revenue to fund community goals and needs.

**Take the Olympia Strong: A Roadmap for Economic Resiliency survey [here](#).**

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### More Japanese beetles found in WA State.

Japanese beetles (*Popillia japonica*) are highly invasive pests of more than 300 plants, including roses, grapes, and hops. The adult beetles damage plants by skeletonizing the foliage. Adults also feed on buds, flowers, and fruit on the plants and are frequently intercepted with air cargo from the Eastern U.S. Japanese beetle larvae are found in soil associated with the roots of host plants. They are common under turf or sod and can be moved from one location to another in potted plants, infested turf/sod, gardening soil, and yard waste. In 2021, WSDA detected two Japanese beetles near Grandview and one near

Sunnyside. Additionally, a resident Japanese beetle devouring her roses in Grandview that summer. In 2022, WSDA trapped over 24,000 beetles in the same area. If Japanese beetle were to become established in Washington, it would pose a serious threat to gardens, parks, and farms by destroying vegetation. Costly quarantines would also be established, making it increasingly difficult and expensive to move Washington agricultural products and even nursery plants within and outside of the state.

**Report Japanese Beetle sightings here.**

# Summer Class Series

***Presented weekly all summer long!***

Tickets: \$5.00 each, limit 10 people per class

Family Day: \$10 per family, limit 8 families per session

Visit [www.burntridgenursery.com](http://www.burntridgenursery.com) for the full course schedule & details



**Wednesday, July 20 at 10:30am**

Designing Your Edible Landscape

**Thursday, July 28 at 10:30am**

Kids Day!

**Friday, August 5 at 10:30am**

Misunderstood Plants

**Friday, August 12 at 10:30am**

All About Apples

**Monday, August 15 at 10:30am**

Kids Day! #2

**Wednesday, August 24, 10:30am**

Making the Most of Your Harvest

**Friday, September 2 at 1:00pm**

Rare and Underappreciated Fruit Trees

**Friday September 16 at 1:00pm**

Land Transition

**Friday, September 23 at 1:00pm**

All About Nuts



432 Burnt Ridge Rd.

Onalaska, WA 98570

phone: 360-985-2873

[mail@burntridgenursery.com](mailto:mail@burntridgenursery.com)

[www.burntridgenursery.com](http://www.burntridgenursery.com)

## Enjoy Burnt Ridge Nursery's summer class series.

This year Burnt Ridge Nursery is running a new summer class series, featuring short talks on a range of subjects, and time for questions-and-answers. Some will include demonstrations and hands-on activities as well.

[View the full summer class schedule here.](#)

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## WSDA Local Food System Infrastructure Grants are due August 11th.

The Washington State Legislature allocated \$ 17 million from the coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund—federal for grants to support local food system infrastructure, supply chains, and market access for farms, food processors, and food distributors, with a portion of the funds prioritized for small business owners, including those owned by women and minorities.

[Find out more about the Local Food Systems Grant here.](#)

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## WA Farmland Trust's Love the Land event, September 15th from 6-9 pm.

Local farmers are at the heart of our food system. And yet, the barriers that they face are staggering, especially for marginalized growers. From finding and affording land to keeping it productive and resilient in the face of climate change, local farmers need our support now more than ever. WA Farmland Trust is thrilled to be able to host Love the Land in person this year to support this important work. Join Washington Farmland Trust leaders and local farmers, delicious seasonal bites by local chefs, and live music from local funk band, True Loves, in a picturesque botanical garden adjacent to the UW Farm. They look forward to gathering with you, our community, around good food and drinks as they aim to raise \$200,000 to sustain a future for farming in Washington.

[Purchase tickets to Love the Land here.](#)

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## Deadly rabbit disease confirmed in Thurston County, vets urge vaccination.

The WSDA state veterinarian's office confirmed the presence of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus type 2 (RHDV2), a highly contagious and fatal disease, in two Thurston County rabbits from a single household last week. This is the state's second confirmed detection of RHDV2 this year following a King County case in May. With two detections in two separate counties in Oregon last week as well, the state veterinarian says now is the time to increase biosecurity efforts. "Stopping this disease from spreading starts with rabbit owners employing biosecurity measures such as eliminating contact with wild rabbits, isolating new rabbits from existing ones for 21 days, paying attention to where feed is sourced from, and keeping your rabbits housed off the ground or indoors," Dr. Amber Itle, Washington State Veterinarian, said. "Please talk to your veterinarian about getting the vaccine for your rabbits." Vaccinations could save both domestic and native wild rabbits.

For more information on RHDV2, biosecurity, and prevention, please visit [WSDA's Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease webpage](#).

Where do I report sick/dead birds in WA?	
Domestic	Wild
 <p>WSDA Sick Bird Hotline!</p>	 <p>WDFW online reporting form!</p>
<b>1-800-606-3056</b>	<b><a href="http://bit.ly/sickwildbirds">bit.ly/sickwildbirds</a></b>

**WSDA Sick Bird Hotline, for reporting dead and sick poultry.**

Since its arrival in Washington state, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has now hit 28 flocks in 12 counties, all in backyard flocks. As with every flock that has tested positive for HPAI so far, all have had substantial exposure to wild waterfowl. Dr. Amber Itle, Washington State veterinarian, is urging bird owners to take steps to stop the virus from spreading, including keeping flocks away from wild waterfowl and skipping fairs and exhibitions until at least 30 days after the last detection. Public health officials say human infection is very unlikely, especially with this year's strain of HPAI.

**[The WFDW online reporting form.](#)**

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## **Sandstone Distillery opened a new tasting room in historic downtown Tenino!**

After months of hard work restoring the historic sandstone building, Sandstone Distillery owners John Bourdon and Justin Bourdon have opened the doors of their new Tasting Room in downtown Tenino. Emerging from the pandemic in late 2021, the Bourdons set their sights on growing their craft distillery beyond the rural footprint where their main facility can be found just a few miles West of Tenino. Sandstone's flagship Distillery on Wright Road in rural Thurston County will continue to offer tours, tastings, and bottle sales, and the new Tasting Room will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for tastings and bottle sales as well. Visitors at both locations can sample their craft spirits, which are offered in two different flights, and include both spirits and samples of their Ready-To-Pour cocktails, light snacks, and chocolates. For those who don't imbibe, Sandstone also serves flights of their distinctive sipping vinegars.

**[Read more about Sandstone Distillery here.](#)**

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**WA State Farm Walk Podcasts**, brought to you by WSU Extension and Tilth Alliance, features Thurston County Farmer Imad Ahmad of Olive Branch Ranch!

This episode of the Farm Walks Podcast is the first part of the WA Meat Up Double Feature. In this episode, they talk with Imad Ahmad of Olive Branch Ranch. Imad is a diversified livestock farmer in South Puget Sound, providing Custom Exempt Halal meats for his local community. They dig into all the meaty details with Imad about his operation and raising and harvesting Halal livestock. Later in the episode, Alyssa Jumars, WSDA Regional Market Program's Local Meat Marketing & Capacity Specialist, shares some tips and resources for producers and processors.

**The Olive Branch Ranch Episode.**

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## Events, News, Farms, Funding, Jobs

- **The Coalition for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture (CORA) seeks a Program Manager**
- **Find Land or Find a Farmer for Your Land, at Farm to Farmer**
- **New 988 Hotline is the 911 for Mental Health Emergencies**



# Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

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Website



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