



Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter



February 2023

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

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Southwest Washington Multi-Day Grazing Intensive, April 21st-23rd.

This conference offers lots of hands-on learning for beef, sheep, or goat producers, dairy operators, and horse owners. Technical service providers supporting livestock producers, including the NRCS, the Conservation District, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees will also benefit!

- Learn how to improve your pasture management skills.
- Develop and practice grazing management skills and improve pasture productivity.
- Reduce hay production and save feeding costs and learn how to diversify with more resilient and nutritious forage resources.
- Raise healthier livestock.

For more information please contact Stephen Bramwell at bramwell@wsu.edu. To purchase tickets click [here](#).

Parasite Management Workshop

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

4PM - 5:30 PM,
SOCIALIZE UNTIL 6 PM

Thurston Co Fairgrounds

Join TCD, WSU Extension Th Co, and Ecostudies Institute to learn from a veterinarian about the parasite life cycle, good de-worming practices, grazing for parasite management, refugia and resilience in animals, and nutritional needs for animals recovering from heavy parasite loads.

We'll be mostly focusing on sheep and goats with a chance to meet other local livestock owners.

RSVP to nwhite@thurstoncd.com



HOSTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
SOUTHWEST WA GRAZING
ASSOCIATION
ALL ARE WELCOME!



A Parasite Management Workshop is being held at the Thurston County Fairgrounds, Monday February 28th from 4-5:30 pm.

Join Thurston EDC, WSU Extension, and the Ecostudies Institute to learn from a veterinarian about parasites in livestock.

Find out more about the workshop [here](#). For questions or to RSVP email

ECOSTUDIES INSTITUTE
WILL ETTERSON
Thurston County
Thurston Conservation District
1922
Celebrating 75 Years

GRAZING ASSOCIATION CALENDAR 2023

QUESTIONS?
E-MAIL [NWHITE@THURSTONCD.COM](mailto:nwhite@thurstoncd.com)

| February | March | April |
|---|---|---|
| Parasite Management Workshop Feb. 27th, 4-5:30 pm Thurston Co Fairgrounds Parasite management in small ruminants & fecal egg count methods to monitor parasites. | Grazing Association Annual Meeting March 24th, Morning Conversation & presentation about emissions reduction strategies and carbon sequestration. | Economics of Grazing Webinar April 27th, Evening A presentation on the economics of rotational and conservation grazing. |
| May | June | July |
| How to Use a No-Till Drill Demonstration May 20th, 10am - 1pm Come see TCD's new no-till drill in action and get a hands-on chance to try the machinery with an equipment expert. | Grazing Endangered Flora Pasture Walk June 17th Malrose Farms Come see an example of grazing for endangered species and habitat enhancement. We'll be looking at Kincaid's lupine. | Livestock Nutrition Webinar Date TBD Converting grass to nutrition: how to support the complex biochemistry of ruminant digestion in grazing systems. |
| August | September | October |
| Grazing Systems Part 1: Pasture Walk Date TBD Mima Creek Paddock layout & grazing management for targeted habitat enhancement. Fencing, irrigation, & pasture renovation as well. | Rotational Grazing Workshop Date TBD Rotational grazing types: strip grazing, mob grazing etc. Learn about different types of intensive rotational grazing in irrigated pasture systems. | Grazing Systems Part 2: Demonstration Date TBD Violet Prairie Demo Site Practical on-the-ground exercise in laying out paddocks, drawing up fencing, irrigation, and pasture management planning. |
| November | | |
| Grazing Association Meeting Date TBD Focus TBD | | |

For more information about upcoming Grazing Association events [click here](#).



MANAGE WEEDS ON YOUR FARM

A GUIDE TO ECOLOGICAL STRATEGIES



Charles L. Mohler
John R. Teasdale
Antonio DiTommaso

New SARE video: Managing Weeds in Organic Row Crops.

Farmers have long relied on herbicides to control weeds in row cropping systems. But as consumer preferences change, many farmers are seeking to eliminate or reduce their use of synthetic herbicides where possible. Managing weeds without herbicides can be daunting, and it requires producers to understand the biology and behavior of problem weeds in order to develop control strategies that exploit their weaknesses.

In two new videos from SARE, Charlie Johnson shares how he and his family control weeds on 1,600 acres of organic corn and soybeans in Madison S.D. Ecological Weed Management at Johnson Farms and Managing Weeds in Organic Corn and Soybeans are the first in a series of new SARE videos featuring farmers who use ecological strategies to control weeds without herbicides.

Watch the videos [here](#).



Want free tips and guidance for successfully marketing your farm-raised meats? Signup to talk with an expert consultant about your farm and unique marketing strategies, one-on-one!

WSDA Regional Markets and the **Good Meat Project** are collaborating to bring direct-marketing farmers and ranchers in Washington an opportunity to meet one-on-one with meat marketing expert consultants.

During these FREE, 45-minute (online or phone) consultations, farmers can ask for advice on topics such as: scaling into new markets, finding your sales niche, telling your farm story, setting up and/or expanding online sales, and other marketing advice.

[Click here](#) for more information or to register .



Good Food Connections conference, a farm-and-sea-to-table trade conference connecting the Puget Sound food community for a day of conversation, education, and great food.

When: Monday, February 27, 8:30 am-5:30 pm

Where: 115 Bell St, Seattle, WA, 98121

This event will be a great opportunity to connect local farmers, fishers, artisans, restaurants, grocers, retailers, institutional buyers, food assistance organizations, and the organizations that support their work. This event is an opportunity to:

- Network with other industry professionals
- Find new markets for your products or local producers to source from
- Learn about infrastructure projects geared toward supporting local food businesses
- Discover innovative models around land access for processing and production
- Participate in discussions about the future of food labor
- Hear the latest on food assistance programs filling food scarcity gaps

A seated, farm-to-table lunch from That Brown Girl Cooks! and a light breakfast featuring local makers are included with your ticket.

Tickets and more info are available [here](#).



Seed growers can register for the 2023 Organic Seed Production Online Course.

Applications are being accepted for the Organic Seed Alliance's 2023 Organic Seed Production Online Course! This interactive course is designed to supplement an on-farm seed production training experience. Any beginning producer working on a seed farm is invited to apply. Applications will be accepted through March 8, 2023.

The course includes six modules over six months and is focused on the biological, technical, and economic aspects of organic seed production. The 2023 course will run from March through August of this year. [Check out the draft syllabus here](#).

Click [here](#) for more information or to register.



Harvest and post-harvest agricultural water update from the WSDA's Produce Safety Program.

January 26th marks the end of enforcement discretion for harvest and post-harvest agricultural water. Farms that pump their own water need to comply with the harvest and post-harvest agricultural water requirements by the following dates:

- For farms with produce sales of more than \$500,000 annually, these rules are effective immediately.
- For farms with produce sales between \$250,000 and \$500,000 annually, the rules are effective by January 2024.
- For farms with produce sales of less than \$250,000 annually, the rules are effective by January 2025.

Harvest and post-harvest water requirements:

- **Quality Standards:** Your water must be safe and of adequate sanitary quality for its intended use, including no detectable generic E. coli per 100 ml of agricultural water.
- **Testing:** Untreated groundwater must be tested 4x per year initially, then 1x per year if meeting no detectable generic E. coli per 100 ml. Testing is not required for public water sources provided you obtain written documentation from your city or municipality.
- **Annual inspection:** Conduct inspections on your harvest and post-harvest water system at least once per year, to identify and correct conditions that introduce hazards and to conduct relevant maintenance.

What does this mean for inspections?

- For the first year, FDA and states intend to take an educational approach, ensuring

farms are aware of compliance dates and working closely with partners to prepare for implementing these provisions prior to initiating routine inspections.

- Exception: For-cause investigations. Inspectors will continue to evaluate farms for signs of adulteration and egregious conditions.

If you need technical assistance regarding the Produce Safety Rule, please contact us at producesafety@agr.wa.gov. We are available to help over the phone or on-site.

Click here to read the FDA Water Proposal Fact Sheet or **here** for more information about the WSDA's educational On-Farm Readiness Review program.



List your CSA for free on CSA Finder and get free help promoting it!

The Eat Local First Collaborative is embarking on a statewide CSA education and promotional campaign for WA State farms in March & April. The CSA Finder is a tool within the WA Food & Farm Finder that helps people search for and learn about CSA near them. The CSA Finder will be promoted through a larger CSA campaign designed to bring awareness of CSAs, and help consumers make informed decisions to sign up, and deepen their connection with and commitment to local farms.

Elements of the campaign:

- CSA Finder: Helping people search for CSA that serves their area, connect with and learn about local farm offerings, and sign up early!
- Statewide campaign promoting CSA and farm shares
- Social Media ads and organic posts from Eat Local First media channels and Eat Local First Collaborative member channels
- FREE to participate

The Washington Food & Farm Finder is helping consumers connect with farmers and local food businesses all across Washington.

The **Washington Food & Farm Finder** from the **Eat Local First Collaborative** is a robust online directory of local farms and food businesses that is dedicated to helping consumers find and access local food across the state.

For questions please contact Micha Ide: at micha@eatlocalfirst.org.

To create your free listing [click here](#).

Events, News, Farms, Funding, Jobs

- [WSDA Produce Safety Field Inspector Wanted](#)



Thurston County

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Website



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with



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