



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter



March 2023

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

In This Issue:

- Southwest Washington Multi-Day Grazing Intensive, April 21-23
 - Economics of Grazing Webinar and Grazing Association Calendar of Events
 - USDA Value-Added Producers Grant
 - USDA Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants
 - Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training
 - Western WA Family Forest Field Day June 10th
 - Community Farm Land Trust's Fresh From the Farm Guide
 - Agricultural Water Update From the WSDA's Produce Safety Program
 - The National Cover Crop Survey
 - List your CSA for Free on CSA Finder and Get Free Help Promoting It
 - Events, News, Farms, Funding, and Jobs
-



SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON GRAZING SCHOOL

MULTI-DAY INTENSIVE

April 21 - April 23 - Skookumchuck Grange - Tenino, WA - 8:00am-8:00pm

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Beef, sheep, or goat producers, dairy operators, and horse owners
- Technical service providers supporting livestock producers including NRCS, Conservation District, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees

LEARN HOW TO:

Half of the time will be spent in the field for hands-on learning

- Evaluate biomass for planned grazing
- Portion out forage through grazing paddocks
- Design grazing cells for a targeted stocking rate and density
- Install, troubleshoot, and fix electrical fencing systems
- Assess pasture health
- Improve soil and forage resources to improve health and productivity

HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT:

- Improve pasture management skills
- Develop, improve and practice grazing management skills
- Reduce hay production and save feeding costs
- Improve pasture productivity
- Diversify with more resilient and nutritious forage resources
- Extend the grazing season and reduce harvested forages
- Raise healthier livestock

PARTICIPATION COSTS:

Includes 3 meals per day

- Cost Per Person: \$300
- Cost Per Family/Ranch Team: \$300 for the first person, and \$200 for each subsequent person
- Please inquire about scholarships
 - Available to all veterans
 - Others welcome to inquire

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Stephen Bramwell



(360) 790-9308



bramwell@wsu.edu



<https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/events/>

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodations need to contact Stephen Bramwell.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office or to the WSU Center for Human Rights.

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](#).

ECOSTUDIES INSTITUTE
THURSTON COUNTY
Thurston Conservation District
 Celebrating 75 Years

GRAZING ASSOCIATION CALENDAR 2023

**QUESTIONS?
 E-MAIL 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 Malinnee 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!		

Economics of Grazing Webinar April 27th.

Contact Sierra Smith for more information at sierra.smith1@wsu.edu or leave him a voicemail at (360) 867-2165.

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



The USDA is making \$31 million in grants available to help farmers and ranchers access new and better markets by adding more value to their products.

The USDA is making the grants available under the Value-Added Producer Grant program. The grants help agricultural producers generate new products, create marketing opportunities and increase their incomes through value-added activities. The USDA is offering priority points to projects that help rural communities and people address climate change and environmental justice, advance racial justice, place-based equity, and opportunity, and create more and better market opportunities.

Eligible applicants include independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

Funding priority will be given to beginning farmers or ranchers who are military veterans or socially disadvantaged individuals; small and mid-sized family farms or ranches; and farmer or rancher cooperatives. Priority also will be given to projects that propose a mid-tier value chain by developing a supply network that moves agricultural products from production through consumption in a local or regional market.

The funding may be used for planning activities or working capital expenses related to producing and marketing a value-added agricultural product. Planning activities may include conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans. Working capital expenses may include costs associated with processing, marketing, advertising, inventory, and salaries. The maximum award for a planning grant is \$75,000. The maximum award for a working capital grant is \$250,000.

You can find out more about the grants and apply [here](#).



USDA Announces Grants for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.

Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production (UAIP) competitive grants initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

Grants are divided into two categories:

Planning projects initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

Implementation Projects accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor, and other agricultural practices that serve multiple farmers. Projects will improve local food access and collaborate with partner organizations and may support infrastructure needs; emerging technologies; educational endeavors; and urban farming policy implementation.

Find out more about the Urban Agriculture Grants [here](#).



Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training for small to medium-sized growers and processors.

This training helps small to medium-sized growers and food processors fulfill Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations by attending annual food safety training. All training will be held in person, the fee is \$25. This covers materials, instruction, and lunch.

This Produce Safety Alliance grower training will be located at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver WA, on April 14th.

For more information and to register online for the Produce Safety Alliance training click [here](#).



Western Washington Family Forest Field Day, June 10 in Eatonville WA.

This event features a rotation of forestry classes taught by experts from around the Pacific Northwest, including forest health, thinning, non-timber forest products, wildlife habitat, and more. It's also a great opportunity to network with other landowners and connect with foresters and other professionals that can assist you on your property.

The Field Day will be held at the University of Washington's Pack Forest in Eatonville, WA. Sessions will be held from 9-4 with a break for lunch.

For more information or to register click [here](#).



Community Farm Land Trust's Fresh from the Farm Guide is here.

It's an invaluable guide to South Sound food and farm resources. They highlight local farmers specializing in heirloom varieties, regenerative farming, and carbon-negative farming practices. Throughout the guide, you will also find all sorts of facts and stats about local agriculture, farmland, food insecurity, and more! Learn more about the ongoing stewardship and habitat protection occurring on Community Farm Land Trust's four farmland properties. Get details on how to support their work by donating time, money, or farmland. Learn more about how CFLT purchases and protects local farmland and ensures sustainable farming practices on their properties.

2023 Fresh From the Farm Guide is now available [online!](#)



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.



Farmers: Share Your Thoughts on Cover Crops in the National Cover Crop Survey!

Farmers are invited to share their thoughts on cover crops in an online survey. Why do you plant cover crops...or why don't you? What do you want to know? Your insight will help guide research, communications, seed development, and more. "Since 2012, the National Cover Crop Survey has been extremely valuable in helping guide research priorities, direct communications and education efforts, provide data to researchers, and illustrate the effects of policy on cover crop use and adoption," says Dr. Rob Myers, regional director of extension programs for North Central SARE and director of the University of Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture. "Data from previous surveys have been used in scientific papers, business planning, extension efforts, media coverage of cover crops, and even included in testimony to Congress."

Take the survey [here](#).



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

- [Director of Regenerative Agriculture at Carnation Farms Wanted](#)
- [Thurston Conservation District Seeking Administrative Project Coordinator](#)
- [Future Organic Farmer Grants of \\$5000 for Ag Students Available](#)



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Email
Us

Visit our
Website



WSU Extension Thurston County | 3054 Carpenter Rd SE, Lacey, WA 98503 (360) 867-2189

[Unsubscribe](#) nicole.ross@co.thurston.wa.us

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by anna.salafsky@wsu.edu in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!