



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
**EXTENSION**

## The AG Sounder Newsletter



## November 2023

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

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- Thurston County Community Planning Survey
- Sapsuckers Community Science Program
- WSU Master Gardener Program Day of Giving - November 28

- Farmer-Led Trials Program - Sign up by December 3
- 2023 Promote PSA Training Course - December 13-14
- Grazing Association Annual Meeting - December 12
- Thurston Economic Development Council Noteworthy News

# Your county. Your vision.

## THURSTON



## 2045

The Thurston County Comprehensive Plan is getting an update and your involvement is important! This plan will guide development and growth over the next 20 years.

### 3 Ways to Comment



Take the survey on the website



Send a comment at anytime



Publicly comment at a hearing

**Our population is expected to grow 30% by 2045. Help us plan for it.**



[tinyurl.com/Thurston2045](https://tinyurl.com/Thurston2045)



Click [here](#) for more information.



Funding for this program is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service

## SAPSUCKERS

### A COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROGRAM FOR MAPLE TAPPERS

Are you tapping maples on your property? If yes, then we want to learn from you!

Maple sugaring is catching on in the Pacific Northwest. Sapsuckers is a community-based science program that sources on-the-ground data from individuals who are tapping bigleaf maples in western Washington and Oregon. The data is used to determine the best practices for tapping in our region.

First time tapping? WSU Extension can provide resources and guidance on maple sugaring. Learn more about the program and how to join below.

#### HOW TO JOIN:

Scan QR code or visit  
[forestry.wsu.edu/sapsuckers](http://forestry.wsu.edu/sapsuckers)

#### QUESTIONS?

Patrick Shults  
[patrick.shults@wsu.edu](mailto:patrick.shults@wsu.edu)



Click [here](#) to learn more.

*What if we could do more?*

# TO PROTECT OUR SOILS



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
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Master Gardener  
Program

## WSU Master Gardener Program - Day of Giving

Tuesday, November 28th

The Washington State University Extension Master Gardener Program is raising \$1.5M to help establish the first ever professorship fully dedicated to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program through the Endowed Chair Campaign.

The National Day of Giving, created in 2012, is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving; November 28th of this year. It harnesses the power of radical generosity by giving to important causes.

With your help, they can reach their goal of \$500K by the end of 2024!

Make a **gift** today!

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## Organic Farming Research Foundation - Farmer Led Trials Program

Are you an organic or transitioning farmer or rancher with a production idea that you would like to test at your farm? Are you looking for some funding and technical support that can help you conduct this research?

OFRF's new [Farmer-Led Trial \(FLT\) Program](#) was created to help you accomplish just that!

This new program will provide growers with the necessary tools to investigate and learn about solutions to their most pressing production challenges through structured scientific exploration.

OFRF's Farmer Led Trials Program Applications will close on December 3, 2023.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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## Washington State Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

This training is geared toward fruit and vegetable growers who are interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety.

At least one supervisor or responsible party for every covered farm must attend the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training or other standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.

The supervisor or responsible party (e.g. Orchard Manager) is expected to have on-site and direct management of growing, harvesting, holding and/or packing activities for the farm.

The training is recommended for qualified exempt and exempt farms. Not sure if you are covered by the Produce Safety Rule? Check out our [Produce Safety Rule Status Tool](#) and exemption flow charts.

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

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# SW WA GRAZING ASSOCIATION

Annual Fall dinner  
& meeting

**December 12**  
**5 - 8 pm**

Join the SW WA Grazing Association at the **Ford Prairie Grange Hall** (2640 W Reynolds Ave, Centralia, WA 98531) for a catered dinner featuring locally sourced food, plenty of social time, and group presentations and discussions about fun and educational Association events in 2024!



All are  
welcome



RSVP Required  
Scan the code to register  
or RSVP to  
[nwhite@thurstoncd.com](mailto:nwhite@thurstoncd.com)



Click [here](#) to learn register.

# THURSTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

THE CENTER FOR  
BUSINESS & INNOVATION

ADVANCING ECONOMIC &  
COMMUNITY PROSPERITY



## Thurston Economic Development Council Noteworthy News

For more than thirty years, the Thurston EDC has worked to strengthen the local economy. Since our founding in 1982, the leadership of this organization has remained true to our foundational mission – that a healthy, diversified local economy functions as the base to support community prosperity. Want to stay in the loop? Sign up for their newsletter [here](#).

Click [here](#) to see recent news.



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