



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
**EXTENSION**

## The AG Sounder Newsletter



## December 2023

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

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Help support the Cougs with a donation to WSU College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences

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# Climate Change & Food Production

## A Grower's Conference

# SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 26TH & 27TH, 2024  
THURSTON COUNTY, WA



Join Thurston Conservation District for a locally-based conference for farmers and ranchers, growers and gardeners, and those passionate about local food. This two-day event will celebrate our local food economy while also diving into some of the place-specific impacts of climate change.

Join the Friday night celebration of local food at the Eagles Ballroom in Olympia. This evening event is a fundraiser for the Southwest Washington Food Hub and will feature local food prepared by local chefs. Engage in a fireside chat between our communities' farmers and chefs to learn about local food infrastructure and access, and enjoy live music from Briarfinch. Please note, this venue is only accessible by stairs.

Join the Saturday conference to learn about emerging climate change science, how this is impacting our farming community, and tools and practices to support adaptation and mitigation of climate change. Our Saturday event features an exciting keynote address by Dr. David

Click [here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

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## Violet Prairie Preserve Grazing Lease - Call for Bids

The Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife is soliciting sealed bids for a 1-yr (Exp. 15 October 2024), 485-acre grazing agricultural lease located on portions of S23-26, T16N, R02W in Thurston Co. within the Violet Prairie Unit of the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. An onsite pre-bid meeting will be held on 27 Dec 2023. Prospective bidders must register for the meeting no later than 22 Dec 2023 by contacting the Wildlife Area Manager shown below. Bids will be accepted until the bid opening at 0900, Wednesday, 3 January 2024, at the office of Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, 16801 Case Road SW, Rochester, WA, 98579.

Contact Bill Kronland, Wildlife Area Manager at (360) 701-5145 for additional information. The Department reserves the right to renegotiate leases which will be used for the same or similar purposes with an existing lessee, after reviewing all written requests to lease. The department reserves the right to reject all bids.

Please email [Bill.Kronland@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Bill.Kronland@dfw.wa.gov) for more information.

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# Washington State Organic & Sustainable Farming Fund

Receive financial assistance for sustainability projects on your farm!

Now accepting applications · Aceptamos solicitudes

## WA State Organic & Sustainable Farming Fund

Tilth Alliance is now accepting applications from farmers seeking financial assistance to support projects that will improve the economic viability, social impacts, or environmental sustainability of their farm businesses and/or community. The goal of these grants is to enhance the operations of farmers practicing responsible and progressive methods such as sustainable soil management, crop diversification, habitat preservation, climate change mitigation and environmentally-safe waste management practices.

### Eligibility Requirements

Note: An individual farm business is not eligible to receive more than \$20,000 over a five-year period. This grant program is open to all *Washington State* farmers who:

- Currently employ or are adopting practices that follow regenerative, sustainable, and/or organic principles (this includes conventional farms that are transitioning into organic, sustainable, or regenerative production).
- Have been in business for at least two years.
- Are seeking to improve and/or expand their operation, improve environmental impacts, or become a more sustainable business.
- Previous grantees are eligible to apply but *priority will be given to new applicants*.

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

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## Young Farmer Grant Program

The National Young Farmers Coalition is partnering with Chipotle to offer \$5,000 grants to 50 farmers across the country. Eligible farmers and ranchers must be between the ages of 18 and 40 as of May 1, 2024. This program is designed to support farmers and ranchers who are currently, or are working toward, financially supporting themselves through their agricultural careers. This will be the fifth and *final year* of this grant program.

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

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## FACT'S "Fund-A-Farmer" Grant Program

Food Animals Concerns Trust (FACT) awards competitive grants of up to \$3,000 to working, independent farmers located in the 50 United States and five major U.S. territories who raise beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys. Grant funded projects can either improve or expand pasture access for animals, help farmers pursue animal welfare certifications, or help farmers who are already certified build capacity.

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

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# SOILCON24

## Washington Soil Health Initiative Soil Con 2024

Join in on SoilCon24 to find diverse solutions for diverse soils through a network of both online and in-person learning opportunities across Washington. Learn about soil health programs and projects across the world and find tailored information on managing soil health in your region.

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

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## Washington Soil Health Initiative Health Ambassador: Kesler Farm

Over the river and through the woods, WaSHI team members went to catch up with Kolbey Kesler to learn more about pasture intercropping with cover crops.

Click [here](#) to read about Kesler Farm.

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### THE OPPORTUNITY

Cooperate with research scientists to conduct senior level research and assist with the extension program emphasizing:

- 1) organic diversified cropping systems, including reduced tillage
- 2) soil health and cover crop research; and
- 3) compost systems research and education.

### SUMMARY OF DUTIES

Identify and define research objectives in organic agriculture and alternative tillage and composting. Ensure quality control, make improvement to crop production techniques and field methods, including ground covers, tillage, cultivation and transplanting. Design and maintain sprinkler and drip irrigation in the field and greenhouse. Collect and analyze data and share findings with stakeholders in field days or other extension formats. Supervise hourly employees and assist graduate students working in support of the research. Conduct general laboratory maintenance and routine care of instrumentation and machinery; orders supplies, keeps inventory records and maintains a safe working environment.

### QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- A Bachelor's degree in an appropriate related scientific or engineering discipline and three (3) years of progressively responsible related professional research experience. Any combination of relevant education and experience may be substituted for the educational requirement on a year-for-year basis. A Master's degree in an appropriate related scientific or engineering discipline may be substituted for up to one year of the required work experience.
- Demonstrated ability to lead support staff.
- Have, or ability to obtain, a WA pesticide license within 6 months of hire.
- Must have, or able to maintain, a valid driver's license by time of hire.
- Demonstrated ability to operate farm equipment which includes, but not limited to: tractors, trucks, forklifts, sprayers, etc.
- Ability to travel to remote worksites and meetings to work independently and on teams.

### WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center

WSU Position  
R-10783

#### TITLE:

- Scientific Assistant: Organic Farming Systems Research Technician

#### LOCATION:

- Washington State University- Puyallup Research and Extension Center

#### SALARY:

- Competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience

#### START:

- Feb 1, 2024, negotiable

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Members of ethnic minorities, women, special disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam-era, recently separated veterans, and other protected veterans, persons of disability and/or persons age 40 and over are encouraged to apply.

Click [here](#) for more information.



## Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Administrator Job Opportunity

The Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) is a project program that aligns with the Focus on Food initiative. This initiative promotes food as the cornerstone of agriculture and agriculture as the bedrock of our rural and urban communities. Specifically, this program supports expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry. This program also works to strengthen Washington's supply chain coordination and targeted market development services for both local and regional produced products.

The RFSI Administrator provides technical expertise and supports and coordinates with local stakeholders across Washington State and fosters multi-partner initiatives to evaluate and make recommendations to benefit agricultural stakeholders. This position is instrumental in researching and interpreting information used in the establishment of state policies related to RFSI. The RFSI Administrator will develop, implement, and monitor the RFSI program to ensure the program and its grant awardees are in compliance.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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## Farm Program Director Job Opportunity

Tilth Alliance is seeking a farm program director to lead their services across the state in support of farmers who strive to implement organic, sustainable, and regenerative farming practices.

This role calls for a strong degree of passion for expanding engagement with our statewide farming community, as well as oversee and participate in all Farm Program activities including: Farm Walks, the annual Tilth Conference, the Washington Sustainable and Organic Farming Fund grant program, the Eat Local First Collaborative and the Coalitions for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture.

Click [here](#) for more information.



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

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