



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter

May 2024



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

In This Issue:

- WSU's New Grains Northwest Program Article
- Demystifying Debt - Leveraging Loans to Grow Your Business - June 3
- Hands-on Pork & Lamb Processing Workshop - June 10-11

- Grant Assistance Workshop- June 11
- Colvin Ranch Silvopasture Field Walk - June 12
- Fire Resilience Workshop - June 22-23
- Bioenergy Crops Survey

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

Make a Gift Today!



WSU's New Grains Northwest Program Yields Farm-to-School Opportunities for Buckwheat

Funded by a four-year Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant, WSU [New Grains Northwest](#) faculty are researching underutilized grains like buckwheat and millet and building farm-to-school markets throughout Washington.

In 2022, Justin O'Dea, WSU Extension and regional agriculture specialist faculty, began conducting buckwheat variety trials for the project in Vancouver. "With so much urbanization west of the Cascades, it's helpful for growers with larger acreages to have alternative grain crop options that can provide more returns per acre," he said.

As O'Dea's buckwheat research progressed in 2022, Stephen Bramwell, director of WSU Thurston County Extension, was partnering with the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to integrate new buckwheat recipes into school menus...

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Demystifying Debt

Leveraging Loans to Grow Your Business

June 3rd @ 6-7:30pm



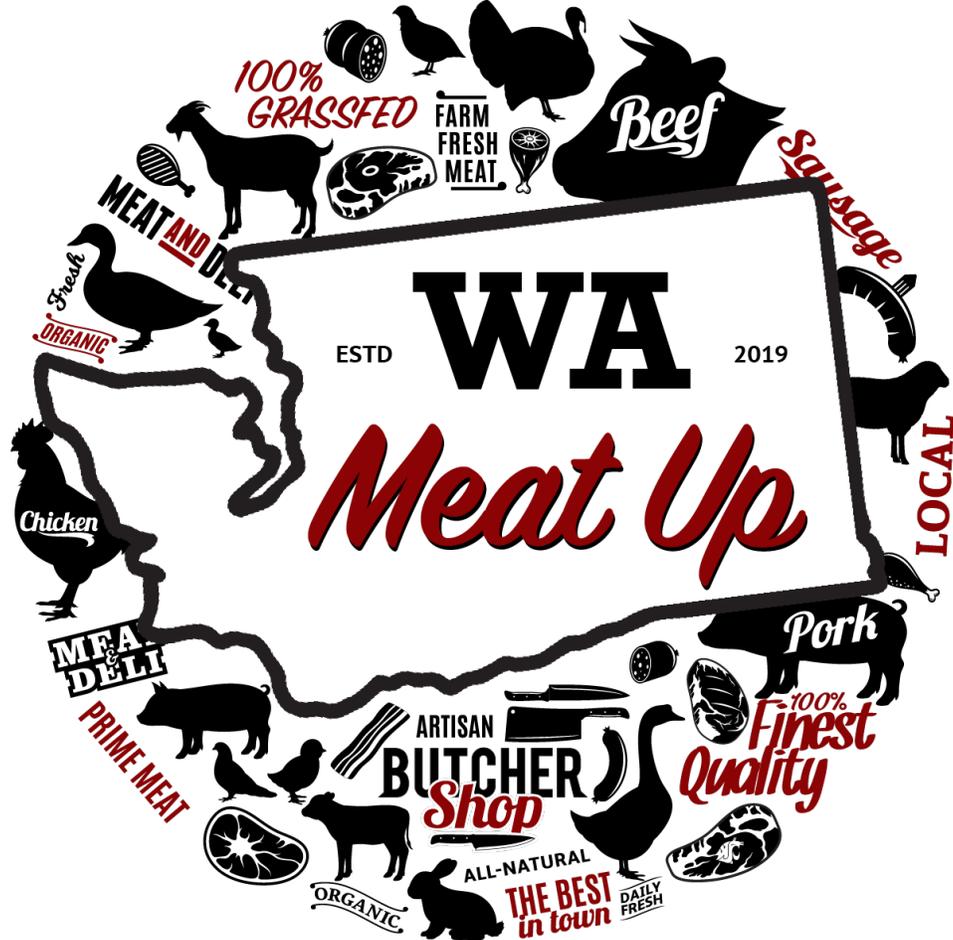
Clallam/Jefferson/Kitsop County
Regional Small Farms
Program
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Demystifying Debt - Leveraging Loans to Grow Your Business

Monday - June 3rd
Zoom

In partnership with North Olympic Development Council and WSU Regional Small Farms Program. Come learn about ag lending opportunities and supports available to navigate smart debt to grow your farm or food business - from federal loan programs to local peer-to-peer investment. This class goes beyond loan program overviews and more into the nuts and bolts of how to make decisions to access capital at times of growth. Also hear directly from a farmer how she has successfully taken on and leveraged different lending opportunities to profitably scale up her business. Other examples of successful business strategies will be shared. Let's demystify debt together!

Click [here](#) to register.



Hands-on Pork & Lamb Processing Workshop

Monday - Tuesday, June 10th - 11th
WSU Puyallup Research & Education Center

The 300 series of producer and processor species specific educational events are back. This course will be taught using the WA Meat-Up mobile education unit. Attendees will participate in a learner engaged program that will span the following topics: selection, marketing, harvest, sensory evaluation, carcass evaluation, fabrication and further processing, etc.

Registration is \$125 per person and must be submitted by Friday, May 31, 2024. Late registrations received after May 31st will be \$175 per person. There are a total of 16 participant spots and this will be a first come first served event, so register early.

Note: Registration fees will cover all meals and supplies for hands-on activities. Lodging and transportation in the Spokane area will be on your own. Participants will need to be 21 years or older.

Click [here](#) to register.



Grant Assistance Workshop: Filling Our Your FSA Paperwork

Tuesday, June 11th 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Thurston Conservation District Conference Room
582 Tilley Ct. SE, Suite 152 Tumwater, WA 98501

Have you been interested in applying for grant funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)? Has the initial paperwork felt really overwhelming? Join us with staff from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), who processes your initial paperwork in order to submit an application, to learn about the next steps and processes.

This workshop is timed to give you lots of lead time prior to NRCS's next application ranking period. We will go over how to fill that out and have time set aside to do so in-person that evening. Feel free to bring your laptop/tablet to work together. This paperwork is necessary when applying for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funds which can help initiate and maintain Best Management Practices such as cross fencing, manure management, pasture renovation and much more.

This will be the first in a series of grant assistance workshops we hold in 2024.

Click [here](#) to register.



Colvin Ranch Farm Walk 2024

Wednesday, June 12th 5:00pm - 7:00pm
16816 Old Hwy 99 SE Tenino, 98589
Parking at main house visible from highway

Join the Southwest WA Grazing Association for an evening pasture walk at Colvin Ranch. We'll be looking at a pasture that is being transitioned to silvopasture as we discuss what that means, how that can be achieved, and the benefits of silvopasture. We'll also touch on how this practice can support wildlife habitat on working farms and the intersection with home fire safety as we approach the hot season.

Click [here](#) to register.



Fire Resilience Workshop

June 22nd - 23rd
Cheney, WA

In August of 2023, the Gray Fire burned 10,000 acres of urban/suburban/rural interface west of Spokane, WA. Over half the Lazy R Ranch, the learning site for Roots of Resilience, was burned in the fire. Roots of Resilience, in collaboration with Lazy R Ranch, is proud to announce a comprehensive workshop, "Tame the Flames," aimed at educating and demonstrating effective wildfire management strategies through grazing and forestry practices. Scheduled for June 22-23, this event will gather experts and stakeholders to share insights, strategies, and practical demonstrations on wildfire management. Over the two days, attendees will have the opportunity to engage with prominent speakers from various organizations.

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



Survey of Agricultural Industry for Knowledge of, Attitudes Towards, and Willingness to Produce Bioenergy Crops

This survey aims to assess your knowledge of, attitudes towards, and willingness to produce or have second-generation bioenergy crops produced in your community. For clarification, a second-generation bioenergy crop is a non-food crop produced in an agricultural setting that will be used to produce energy. Examples of second-generation bioenergy crops include XanoGrass, napier grass, switchgrass, miscanthus giganteus, and energy cane. Bioenergy products produced from second-generation bioenergy crops include energy pellets, green hydrogen, ethanol, and renewable diesel.

Click [here](#) to take the survey.



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Email
Us

Visit our
Website



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

[Unsubscribe ashley.downs@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:ashley.downs@co.thurston.wa.us)

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

Sent by ashley.downs@wsu.edu powered by



Try email marketing for free today!