



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter

June 2024

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



In This Issue:

- Management Intensive Strip-Grazing Workshop - July 10
- Compost Facility Operator Training Scholarship Opportunity
- Working Lands Riparian Lands Survey
- Poultry Processing Workshop - June 29th

- Pac Mountain Region Agriculture Labor Survey Findings
- WSU Food Systems Summer Farm Walks
- Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant
- Rural Energy for America Program Grants & Loans

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

[Make a Gift Today!](#)

MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE STRIP-GRAZING WORKSHOP



Join the SW Washington Grazing Association for a pasture walk at Deskins Ranch. This evening walk will focus on strip grazing, which is at the management-intensive end of the planned grazed spectrum. We'll hear from the Deskins family about fencing equipment, management systems, and infrastructure they use.

Some topics we'll cover are:

- Moveable livestock watering systems and tank sizing
- Financial costs/gains of irrigation for forage
- Soil fertility and high-energy forage species selection
- Labor requirements for intensive management
- Opportunities and challenges in this multi-generational business

NORTHFORK LAND & LIVESTOCK

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

5:00pm - 7:00pm

19428 Old Hwy 99 SW
Rochester, WA 98579

All are welcome!



Click [here](#) to register.



Compost Facility Operator Training Scholarship Opportunity

The composting industry is growing fast, leveraged by state and governments as a powerful tool in the fight against climate change and soil degradation. Essential to the process of composting are Compost Facility Operators.

Since February of 1995, WORC has raised compost facility operator technical knowledge through the annual, five-day long Compost Facility Operator Training. The current curriculum consists of classroom training, hands-on interactive sessions, field trips, and a written examination. Topics covered include:

- Compost Use in Agriculture and Horticulture
- Compost Biology
- Feedstock management
- Regulations
- Compost Facility Management

This scholarship provides an opportunity to help minimize the cost of attending CFOT for people who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. This enriches our collective training experience and the Washington composting community by welcoming people with diverse backgrounds who deserve to contribute to our shared mission, regardless of cost.

**This year's training will be held in-person at WSU Puyallup
from October 14th – October 18th, 2024.**

This year, full scholarships will be awarded to 2 applicants and partial (50%) will be awarded to an additional 2 applicants. Successful applicants will show an outstanding interest in organic materials management and potential contributions to the industry. The scholarship, if awarded, covers the cost of the 5-day training and the food provided over the course of the training (\$1,800/\$900 value).

If you would like to be considered for one of this years' CFOT scholarships, please submit the form by July 31, 2024.

Click [here](#) to apply.

WORKING RIPARIAN LANDS SURVEY

Are you a farm or forest owner in Washington State? Tell us what you think about agroforestry and managing riparian lands.

Scan the QR Code or go to:

<https://bit.ly/workingriparianlands>

Fill out the survey for a chance to win a jar of bigleaf maple syrup or forest-grown shiitake mushrooms!



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension Forestry

Click [here](https://bit.ly/workingriparianlands) to take the survey.



Poultry Processing Workshop

Saturday - June 29th
Bright Ide Acres
Orting, WA

Curious about how that chicken actually gets from farm to table? Join Bright Idea Acres for an unforgettable day at the farm! The day will start with a quick tour of Bright Ide Acres poultry operation observing birds at every stage of growth from a few days old to market ready. Then, an in depth discussion about humane handling and dispatch, observing a trained slaughter person as they transition a live animal to a carcass ready for fabrication. Lastly, you will get hands on experience pulling feathers and removing internal organs preparing a bird for the table. Each participant will take home a whole pasture-raised chicken that they processed themselves - no chicken will ever taste better!

This class is ideal for backyard chicken owners, aspiring farmers, food service workers and folks who just want to connect more deeply with the food they eat. Minimum age to participate is 16 (with a waiver signed by a legal guardian), and each participant needs their own ticket. Coffee, tea, and snacks provided.

Click [here](#) to register.



Pac Mountain Region Agriculture Labor Survey Findings

An agriculture workforce development survey was conducted as part of an evaluation of the needs of agricultural employers in the Pac Mountain region of western Washington.

This region covers Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston Counties. Results from the survey are reported [here](#). As we know farms face financial and other challenges hiring sufficient and adequate workers.

Feedback and ideas regarding survey findings are welcome.

Please email bramwell@wsu.edu with any feedback or ideas.

FARM WALKS



2024 EVENTS



Flansburg Farm - June 26th 12pm-4pm

Palouse, WA

Benefits of incorporating pulses into grain production



Matsuda Farm - July 22nd 12pm-4pm

Vashon Island, WA

Preserving history and farmland: climate mitigation and habitat restoration



Infuse Organics - Aug. 5th 12pm-4pm

Leavenworth, WA

Adding value with flowers and medicinal herbs



Early Bird Farm - Sept. 9th 12pm-4pm

Tacoma, WA

Building soil health through cover crops, reduced tillage, and pastured poultry in a vegetable operation

REGISTER AT WWW.FARMWALKS.ORG



Food Systems

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Click [here](#) to register.



Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has received funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to support the one-time-only Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI).

The purpose of this program is to build resilience across Washington state's middle-of-the-food-supply-chain – aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution – for locally and regionally produced foods including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, *excluding* meat and poultry.

WSDA will award \$7.32 million in federal funding for infrastructure grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$3,000,000. This federal grant requires a 50% match, or 25% match for historically underserved farmers, ranchers and business owners.

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



Rural Energy for America Program Grants & Loans

This program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. Funds may be used for the purchase and installation of renewable energy systems, including anaerobic digesters (that can incorporate food waste as a feedstock). This program is open for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024.

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



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Email

Visit our

Us

Website



WSU Extension Thurston County | 3054 Carpenter Rd SE | Lacey, WA 98503 US

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



Try email marketing for free today!