



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter

August 2024

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

Make a Gift Today!



SEEDSAVING WORKSHOP

With Marisha Auerbach and Henry Soto



Workshop highlights:

- Hands-on instruction
- Basics of seed saving
- Pollination
- Plant selection
- Landraces
- Cleaning and storage
- Unique considerations

Offered in two locations:

AUG. 10 - PORTLAND, OR
AUG. 24 - OLYMPIA, WA

10 AM to 4 PM

\$100

\$85 early bird - see website for details
Some low income tickets
available

→ [REGISTER AT FERTILEGROUND.ORG](https://www.fertileground.org)



Click [here](#) to register.

Washington Field Day & Buckwheat Festival

August 26th | 10 AM - 12 noon; and 2 - 6 PM
Chimacum, WA | Co-hosted with WSU

Join us for a day of seed-to-plate learning and culinary celebration! OSA's Washington Field Day & Buckwheat Festival is right around the corner.

Date | August 26, 2024

Time | 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; and 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Place | OSA's research farm at Finnrivier Farm & Cidery, Chimacum, WA

Farm Tour Field Day - 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

All are invited to join the OSA NW Research and Education team for a field walk and tasting to learn about our current research projects and partnerships. Featured projects include carrot, spinach, tomato, sorghum, mung bean and buckwheat trials. We'll start with an overview, walk through the trials and culminate with a participatory taste test of a diverse rainbow of carrot varieties.

Buckwheat Festival - 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Co-hosted with Washington State University. Come on out and join conversations about the potential of buckwheat to diversify our local diets and enhance our farm ecosystems. The festival will include discussions on crop agronomics and variety qualities, conversations with farmers about experiences in growing buckwheat for local markets,

seed processing and milling demonstrations, storytelling about buckwheat's histories and cultural pathways, farm to school opportunities, tastings, celebrations, and more. Hear from event co-hosts at the Sustainable Seed Systems Lab, WSU and WSDA farm to school leaders, along with chefs, millers, and bakers.

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



Grant Assistance Pt 2: Learn How to Apply & Receive Grant Funding Workshop

Monday, August 26th - 6:00pm-8:30pm
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) or the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)? Has the initial paperwork felt really overwhelming? Join us with staff from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), and NRCS, and REAP program coordinators to learn more about available grants programs and how to get involved in the next steps and processes. We will go over how to fill important paperwork 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 and information is necessary when applying for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Rural Energy for America Program (REP), funds which can help initiate and maintain Best Management Practices such as installing a high tunnel, hedgerow, cross fencing, manure management, pasture renovation, solar panels, and much more.

Click [here](#) to register.



Help Shape the Future of Farming in Puget Sound

Farmers support their communities by producing fresh food, supporting ecosystem services, and contributing to the local economy. However, the viability of agriculture is a deep challenge, as reflected in the most recent Census of Agriculture. To address these challenges, **American Farmland Trust** is conducting a survey of current, former, and aspiring farmers in the Puget Sound region to understand the needs and challenges they are facing.

This survey will inform the development of a roadmap and action plan to address Puget Sound agricultural viability, along with a toolkit for county governments to better plan for and serve farmers in their communities. We are offering farmers a chance to win a \$100 VISA gift card or “No Farms No Food” cap for their participation. The survey is available in English and Spanish.

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



WSDA Compost Reimbursement Program

The Compost Reimbursement Program (CRP) is a grant program that reimburses Washington farmers who purchase compost from certain commercial facilities in the state. CRP provides a financial incentive for applying compost onto agricultural land. In addition to providing funding, the program studies the impact of compost on soil quality and carbon storage. Note: This year the application is *not* first-come, first-served. You can apply up until the application deadline.

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



Farm Photography Judges Needed

Would you like to help local agriculture be more visible and more understandable to consumers and the general public? The WSU Extension agriculture team is seeking farmers and non-farmers from Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, or Thurston Counties to help judge a farm photography contest. The time commitment for judging would be only two to three 30 to 40 minute meetings over the remainder of 2024. This is an opportunity to help farmers and farms be more visible using public arts venues. Please consider joining for this artistic, practical, and educational effort.

"In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught." Baba Dioum, Senegalese Forestry Engineer

Please contact bramwell@wsu.edu to express interest.

WHOLE FARM PLANNING

PLANIFICACIÓN DE TODA LA GRANJA

This course will be offered with Spanish language interpretation and facilitation. Este curso se ofrecerá con interpretación y facilitación en español.

Whether you are just exploring the opportunities available or already have an existing operation, you'll learn what it takes to create, sustain, and grow a viable small farm.

There are scholarships available for anyone for whom the course fee is a barrier.



**CULTIVATING™
SUCCESS**
small farms education

Ya sea que este explorando nuevas oportunidades disponibles o que ya tenga una operación existente, aprenderá lo que se necesita para crear, sostener y hacer crecer su granja pequeña.

Hay becas disponibles para cualquier persona para quien la tarifa del curso sea una barrera.

SUSTAINABLE SMALL FARMING AND RANCHING AGRICULTURA SOSTENIBLE DE PEQUEÑA ESCALA

Online course
Mondays 6pm -8pm
Sept. 23- Nov. 4
Field trip options Oct 5, 12
&19 throughout the state



Curso en línea
Lunes 6pm-8pm
23 de sept. - 4 de nov.
Opciones de visitas de
campo el 5,12, y 19 de oct



<https://www.cultivatingsuccesswa.org/whole-farm-planning> 360-399-6052 (español)

Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Evidence of non-compliance may be reported through your local Extension Office. For reasonable accommodation or language access to participate in the event, please contact Kate Smith, WSU Food Systems Program, at kate.smith@wsu.edu or 360-395-2363 no later than two weeks before the event.



Food Systems
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



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



'Women's Work': Female Farmer Documentary Set to Premier

The documentary film "Women's Work: The Untold Story of America's Female Farmers," will premiere Sept. 26 on Spokane PBS station KSPS, and be available for viewing through streaming.

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



Thurston County Veterans Service Needs & Awareness Survey

Are you a veteran, relative or friend of a veteran, or interested in veterans' services in our community? Your valuable input will help us determine where to focus efforts and resources to better support veterans in our community.

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



July Sets Heat Record in California, Just Misses in Oregon & Washington

"California had its hottest July in 130 years of record-keeping, while Oregon and Washington recorded their second-hottest Julys, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information. Idaho had its eighth-warmest July. All four states had below-average rain totals."

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



Resilerator™ Northwest: Business Skills Intensive For Mid-Scale Farms

FARMER CAMPUS PORTAL,
VIA VIRTUAL ZOOM PLATFORM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Looking to grow your farm business into a thriving and resilient enterprise? The Resilerator™ is like a business accelerator, but with an emphasis on developing long-term sustainability and resilience rather than sprinting toward short-term profits. This 10-week cohort-based course is for farmers and ranchers who are ready to evaluate and improve the health and resilience of their agricultural business.

Each week participants watch one or two hours of videos at a time of their choosing and then participate in weekly live question and answer and discussion sessions with course instructors and farmer-peer instructors. We will prioritize farms and ranches who are members of, or selling into, agricultural cooperatives. Topics include how to structure land and business ownership, labor, accounting, taxes, cash flow, credit, insurance, regulatory compliance. We consider short-term profitability and long-term wealth creation resilience as part of each class.

MEET THE INSTRUCTORS

The Resilerator was developed by Poppy Davis through California FarmLink and other partners with funding from USDA and other sources. The lead instructors are Poppy Davis and Winona Dorris.



Poppy Davis is a business and policy adviser to agricultural, fishing, and food and beverage enterprises, as well as nonprofits, and local governments. She has been teaching small farm business, tax and accounting issues in various capacities her entire career. Previously she worked at the USDA, most recently as the National Program Leader for Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. She began her career as a California CPA. She holds a JD from Drake University Law School, a Masters in Journalism from Georgetown, and a BS in Agricultural Economics from UC Davis.



Winona Dorris is a farm business advisor with 20+ years of experience advising business owners on accounting, tax, and insurance, with a focus on empowering communities who are more at risk for injustice. She is the great niece of Ed Scott, a Mississippi sharecropper and claimant of the Pigford lawsuit and settlement. Through her family's history, she understands the effect injustices have had on generations of people stripped of their livelihood. She has long career experience in finance and accounting as a CFO, and COO. Winona holds a BA in Economics and Accounting, a Masters in Business Administration, and a Masters in Taxation, and is licensed as an insurance agent and a tax preparer.

Course Dates: 10 week class meets 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Pacific from October 1st - December 17th with a break the week of Nov. 4th and Nov. 28th.

Course Fee: Course requires a \$200 deposit which is fully refundable upon graduation from the course.

Registration: Priority application deadline September 1st, 2024. Applications will be accepted until the cohort reaches 20 farms. Registration closes September 15th.

Eligibility: The Resilerator is intended for individuals who have at least two years of experience with one of the following roles:

- *Owner of a farm, ranch that has been in business for at least two years*
- *Significant involvement in managing their family's farming or ranching business*
- *Substantial managerial experience as an employee in a farm or ranch (subject to case-by-case review and acceptance)*

Questions? Contact Aba Kiser at aba@agbizcenter.org or (360) 531-0312.

Presented by



Thank You Collaborators:



Special thanks to our friends at **Mission West Community Development Partners** for helping us spread the word.

The Resilerator™ is a trademark and program of California FarmLink offered in Washington State through a license agreement with the Northwest Agricultural Business Center.

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



Food Forests Workshop

Saturday - October 19th
Olympia, WA

Food Forests are cultivated intentional forests using edible and useful plants, assembled together to maximize relationships and enhance ecological function. This workshop will provide a primer on Food Forestry in the Pacific Northwest with an experienced instructor and many hands-on examples. Curriculum will include design considerations for food forests, tending the soil, plant relationships & guilds, animals in your food forest, pest and disease control, food forest management throughout the year, and more!

Click [here](#) to register.



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