



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter

November 2024

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



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WSU's First Buckwheat Variety Named for Inspiring Olympic Peninsula Farmer

Washington State University's first buckwheat variety honors the late Tinker Cavallaro, an Olympic Peninsula farmer who inspired neighbors to sustainably grow their own healthy food.

For over two decades, Cavallaro was a friend and mentor to Kevin Murphy, WSU professor and grain breeder.

“She introduced me to buckwheat, seed saving, and organic farming on the peninsula,” said Murphy, the Burlington-based Clif Bar and King Arthur Baking Company Endowed Chair in Organic Grain Breeding and Innovation.

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

SWWA GRAZING ASSOCIATION

Grazing Plan Writing Workshop

Workshop designed for those who write grazing plans: NRCS and Conservation District Technical Service providers, and also open to all producers



Workshop Overview:

This is a short course focused on how to write grazing plans with a focus on conservation outcomes. We will start with fundamental principles of grazing plans, and add emphasis on the conservation component at each part of the plan, including: farm map, farm and site goals, resource inventory, forage and non-forage resource inventory, forage animal balance, and conclusions or recommendations.

Topics Covered:

- Introduction to conservation grazing plan elements
- Ecology of grazing for conservation: principles and example practices
- Producer perspective on development of grazing plans
- Integration of grazing on restoration ecology
- Plan writing with a conservation focus
 - Goal setting how-to and considerations
 - Inventories how-to and considerations
 - Plan recommendations



DECEMBER 3, 2024

9:00AM - 3:00PM

LUNCH PROVIDED

**17028 VIOLET PRAIRIE RD. SE
TENINO, WA 98589**



REGISTER HERE



WSU EXTENSION
Thurston County



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Click [here](#) to register.



Farm & Food Business Survey

The USDA Northwest & Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center needs your help shaping its programs, Business Builder and other grant priorities, partnerships, and other investments. By taking 10-15 minutes to complete a questionnaire, you will help them determine how to allocate funding to best meet your current business development, funding, marketing, infrastructure, supply chain, and market development needs:

Please participate if you own or operate any type of farm, ranch, or a value-added/processed food business in Idaho, and/or if you have a farm or food business that grows or processes grains, pulses, or pseudocereals anywhere in our region (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, or Wyoming).

The questionnaire will close on November 16. Participation is anonymous and does not ask you to provide your name or other identifying information.

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



Value Added Producer Grant Workshop

Tuesday, November 19th 9:00am-12:00pm

Virtual

The Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) from USDA helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. Carlotta Donisi from USDA Rural Development will provide an overview of the program and how to prepare your application. Melissa Moeller, a grant writer and previous VAPG recipient, will share tips and tricks for a successful application. This workshop is organized by Northwest Agriculture Business Center.

Click [here](#) to register.

Washington Department of Licensing - Agriculture Support Program

The Department of Licensing has rolled out the Agriculture Support Program, which is providing one-time payments to farms that paid surcharges on exempt fuel purchases in 2023. Payments range from \$600 to \$4500, depending on the amount of eligible fuel purchases (in gallons).

There is still over \$20 million left in this fund pod, which is provided by Washington's Climate Commitment Act.

Eligible Fuel:

- Fuel used exclusively for ag purposes, by a farm fuel user
 - Includes gasoline, diesel, propane, natural gas, kerosine, and biodiesel used for agricultural purposes
- Fuel used for the transportation of ag products on public highways

Are You Eligible?

- Did you purchase any fuel for your farm at a gas station? *You are eligible.*
- Did you purchase any fuel at a gas station for transporting your products to market? *You are eligible.*
- Did you purchase any fuel directly from a fuel dealer? Check with your dealer to see if you paid the surcharge. *If so, you are eligible.*

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



Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings

The course will provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information, FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement for those farms that the rule covers.

Individuals who participate in this course are expected to gain a basic understanding of:

- Microorganisms relevant to produce safety and where they may be found on the farm
- How to identify microbial risks, practices that reduce risks, and how to begin implementing produce safety practices on the farm
- Parts of a farm food safety plan and how to begin writing one
- Requirements in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and how to meet them

Click [here](#) to learn more and register for remote trainings on December 2nd or 3rd.

Click [here](#) to learn more and register for December 7th in Puyallup, WA.

AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS PLANNING

EMPRENDIMIENTO Y PLANIFICACIÓN DEL NEGOCIO AGRÍCOLA

This course will walk you through the steps to create a farm business plan through weekly online classes with guest speaker farmers and resource providers and connections in regional groups.

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

This course will be offered with Spanish interpretation.



Este curso le guiará en los pasos necesarios para crear un plan de negocio agrícola por medio de clases semanales en línea con expertos y agricultores invitados, y conexiones en grupos regionales.

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

Este curso se ofrecerá con interpretación en español.

Online course
Tuesdays 6pm -8pm
Jan. 21- Mar. 11
Regional in-person intensives
on March 8 throughout WA



Curso en línea
Martes 6pm-8pm
21 de ene. - 11 de mar.
Clases intensivas regionales
en persona el 8 de marzo



<https://www.cultivatingsuccesswa.org/agricultural-entrepreneurship> 360-399-6052 (español)

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



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