



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter

December 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!



A Farmers' Market Just For Kids!

Fun was had by all at a Youth Farmers' Market that took place at Garfield Elementary School this fall! Third, fourth, and fifth graders got a chance to "shop" at the market, which was put on by WSU Thurston County Ag Extension and Thurston County SNAP-Ed courtesy of a BIOAg grant from WSU.

There was a beautiful rainbow of local produce provided by Southwest Washington Food Hub, that was artfully arranged by WSU Extension and Evergreen State College (TESC) ag students, who helped to staff the market. The TESC students had a blast helping the kids choose what to buy and passing out recipes and advice. They also handed out samples of kale Caesar salad and roasted delicata squash, which many of the students enjoyed. One student's mom said that kale Caesar salad is now his favorite food!

Each participating Garfield student took home \$14 worth of produce they chose themselves, a cute tote bag, and a mini honey bear. Watching the Garfield students proudly negotiate what to buy, and then excitedly paw through their bags of vegetables like it was candy was thrilling! When asked between mouthfuls of raw carrot how they chose what to purchase, students said things like "I'm buying this for my family," and "we

needed some vegetables for my lunch.”

Garfield teachers and the principal declared that the Youth Farmers’ Market was a wonderful event and they hoped to make it an annual tradition. One student’s mother remarked that for weeks after the Youth Farmers’ Market, her daughter kept asking if “her” vegetables were part of dinner that night.

The second part of the project was a visit to the Olympia Farmers’ Market, where the Garfield students were given \$15 in tokens to spend on fruits and vegetables. They had a blast touring the market and figuring out how to spend their tokens. They got to pet moss in a moss garden, they saw apples that were pink inside, and they toured the entire market. Jim McGinn of Rising River Farm said, “that he really appreciated seeing kids buying veggies, and that they did a great job!”

The WSU Ag program applied and received another overlapping grant, which provides funds to hold another Youth Farmers’ Market. They also plan to write up their experiences and the data they collected to provide a how-to manual for others wishing to replicate their results.

Please contact Annie Salafsky at anna.salafsky@wsu.edu with any questions.



Sheep Harvest & Butcher Course

January 25-26, 2025 9:00am-12:00pm

Withywindle Valley Farm

Learn to ethically harvest, then butcher a sheep and take half a lamb home with you! During this two-day weekend course, you will learn how to humanly dispatch, skin, gut, and butcher a lamb. You will be working closely with professional butcher and farmers, Brett Jensen and Carissa Miller. We will be working with four lambs (two people on each

lamb) that were born and raised in the pastures of Withywindle Valley Farm. Each participant will get hands on experience with every step, and walk away with half a lamb that they have processed themselves!

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

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.



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.

This course will be offered with Spanish interpretation.

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.



Grants Training/Technical Assistance Resources

National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA) has developed a number of new resources for applicants and grantees, especially to assist new and underrepresented applicants to NIFA programs. Visit this one-stop page for most Grants Training/Technical Assistance information. You will find links to recordings of some past events on this page as well, including:

- Multi-day grant support technical assistance workshops.
- Grant applicant/awardee technical assistance sessions.
- Webinars in collaboration with the National Agricultural Library to increase awareness about their resources.

This site also includes a mock panel video to demonstrate how a panel operates, information about volunteering to serve as a panelist, and required training for panel managers and panelists. The Competitive Grants Application Process Overview is a new tool which assists new applicants and those at small organizations to help search and write applications. In addition, the site has information about planned activities and registration information. NIFA is seeking input for additional topics to be included on the website and in future webinars. Your feedback will help NIFA enhance access to its grants programs and improve services for all.

Click [here](#) to access the resource site and [here](#) to provide feedback.



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