



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter

January 2025

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



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October Camas Planting Update

On October 8th, 2024, Nisqually tribal members, WSU extension employees and other community members tucked 5000 bulbs of camas (*Camassia quamash*) into the old forest soils of the hay field at Meyer's Point Environmental Field Station. A recent visit to the site confirmed that the plantings of this culturally and ecologically important native prairie plant have broken the soil surface! We are so excited for the lovely spring blooms to come and for more opportunities to help expand the population of this treasured species in the south Puget Sound.



Shelton Forest Stewardship Coached Planning

January 7 - March 28, 2025
Fridays, 12:00pm-2:30pm

Natural beauty, wildlife, ecosystem health, harvest income, family ties, privacy, and peace and quiet are some of the many reasons people value their forestland. Whatever your values are, this comprehensive university-based forestry course will help you get the most out of the land you love. Whether you have just a few wooded acres or a larger forest tract, if you have trees on your property, this course is for you.

Topics covered include:

- How do you know if your trees are healthy? What should you do if they aren't?
- Are characteristics of your property attracting or repelling the wildlife you enjoy? What can you do if wildlife cause damage?
- Are there certain trees you should always keep or remove? How do you cut trees without damaging your land?
- What types of trees do you have? Does your forest look like a "mess"?
- How do you know if your trees need to be thinned, and how do you go about it?
- How do you identify and mitigate fire risks?
- Are invasive and noxious weeds taking over your underbrush? What are the risks and what can you do about it?
- What kind of soil do you have and how does that affect what grows?
- How will climate change impact your property and what can you do to improve the resiliency of your trees?

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



Zero Foodprint Restore Grant

Farmers and ranchers can receive up to \$25k to implement climate-smart practices that sequester carbon. The primary goal of the program is to sequester atmospheric carbon in the form of soil organic carbon, resulting in myriad co-benefits for the public ranging from climate resilience to improved nutrient density. The secondary goals of the program are to distribute funds in a manner that reflects the following values: (1) spurring broad adoption of regenerative agricultural practices; (2) increasing awareness of and demand for ingredients produced through regenerative agriculture; and (3) distributing Restore funds equitably.

Grants range from \$1,500 - \$25,000. The maximum grant is \$25,000. Applicants must be producing food for human consumption on agricultural land and work with a Technical Assistance Provider.

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



OFFAL Composting Workshop

Meat and poultry producers and meat processors: Join us for this one-day workshop to learn about using composting as a waste management strategy for your operation.

WHEN:

February 19,
2025
8:30-4:30

REGISTER:

<https://forms.office.com/r/tkFN5KJ1hi>

WHERE:

Skookumchuck Grange #584
Tenino, WA

QUESTIONS:

rachel.wieme@wsu.edu
509-524-2685



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Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who notify us by February 5, 2025 at 509-524-2685 or rachel.wieme@wsu.edu. WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.

Click [here](#) to register.



Washington State Organic & Sustainable Farming Fund

Tilth Alliance is accepting applications from farmers who seek financial assistance in support of projects that improve the economic viability, social impact, environmental sustainability and overall resiliency of their farm business. The goal of this grant program is to support organic and regenerative agricultural practices as a means to improve soil health, increase biodiversity, conserve water, sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change; projects that further these objectives will be considered for an award.

- **Individual Farm Business Projects:** Grant requests can be made up to \$10,000. Please note: an individual farm business is not eligible to receive more than \$20,000 over a five-year period.
- **Collaborative Projects:** Two farm businesses working together on a shared project that will benefit both businesses can request up to \$15,000. Collaborative projects that will benefit three or more farm businesses can request up to \$20,000. Only one application is required but all participating farms must include their information.
- **Basic Farm Establishment Grant:** Farmers establishing a farm business in a new location can request up to \$5,000 in grant funds to procure basic supplies.

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



Viva Farms Practicum In Sustainable Agriculture

The Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture is a hands-on, applied course in certified organic production and small farm business management. The Practicum is offered at both of Viva Farms' locations — in Burlington in Skagit County and in Woodinville in King County. In Skagit County, the Practicum is taught bilingually, offered in English with simultaneous interpretation into Spanish. The Practicum course takes place over 8 months from early April through mid-November, following the farming season. Over the course of the program, participants will apply knowledge and practice techniques of sustainable agricultural production on a certified organic parcel, located at the Viva Farms Skagit County or King County student farms.

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



Diverse Markets Business Builder Grant

The Northwest Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center Diverse Markets for Climate Resilient Agriculture team is offering grants between \$3,000 and \$50,000 that are designed to build and expand local and regional non-commodity markets for climate resilient grains, pulses, and pseudocereals.

Business Builder grants will fund:

- market research, branding and marketing materials
- business development
- post-production infrastructure and processing equipment
- value chain coordination across producers, processors, distributors, and buyers

In order to be eligible, farms, ranches and non-farm food businesses must be growing, producing, processing and/or supporting the aggregation, distribution and marketing of grain, pulse and/or pseudocereal products within local and regional value chains. Entities must have been in operation for a minimum of two years at the time of application.

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



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