



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter

April 2025

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



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- AgWest New Producer Grant - Due May 31

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

Make a Gift Today!

Early Blue Conservation Grazing Demonstration

Public Engagement and Education
Make visible to the public conservation grazing methods that support healthy, productive grasslands increasing the viability of long-term agricultural use while also supporting populations of culturally important wild foods such as carnes.

Ecological Benefits
Demonstrate efficacy of prescribed grazing practices in combination with other treatments such as seasonally appropriate mowing and patch seeding to address scotch broom invasion, promote soil health, enhance biodiversity and support the conservation of south Puget Sound native prairie species.

Agricultural Viability
Demonstrate pasture management techniques that improve forage quality for healthier livestock and provide grazing lease opportunities to local producers.

Deepening Understanding
Utilize an adaptive management strategy to accomplish a complementary set of objectives while trialing a variety of grazing treatment types. Support the development of best management practices that support native species habitat, maintain productivity, and provide opportunity for indigenous food production and harvesting.

Grazing Lease Opportunity

The Thurston Co WSU extension office is excited to share an opportunity to graze your animals at the Early Blue conservation grazing demonstration site in Tenino. WSU is seeking local livestock business operators interested in participating in implementing a conservation grazing management strategy on a site with remnant prairie species and a long history of agricultural use. To meet the objectives of the grazing plan WSU is looking to establish grazing leases with several operations of varying sizes and livestock types including cattle, goat, horses, and sheep as follows:

- 12 Animal units from April-July for rotational grazing (likely cattle)
- 2 Animal units from April-July in an isolated pasture for continuous grazing – should be animals not interested in joining a larger cattle herd on site (horses/sheep)
- 10 Animal units in October (Likely sheep or cattle)
- Scotch broom control herd/flock in late fall (Estimated at 4 animal unit months, but likely a large

Grazing lease applications will be accepted through the calendar year 2025. Applications will be reviewed and recipients selected as they are received until all grazing slots are filled. Please contact Sierra Smith to receive the lease application, the grazing plan, or to ask any questions.

WSU is also developing a community-based steering committee for this site that will review grazing plans and participate in adaptive management decisions. If you are a local farmer, community member or technical service provider and are interested in becoming more involved with this exciting demonstration property, please reach out to Sierra Smith to learn more about participating in steering committee activities.

Please email sierra.smith1@wsu.edu for more information.



Demonstration Workshop: Native Seeding with a No-Till Drill

Saturday, April 26th
Rochester, WA

Join Native Plant Salvage Foundation for an up-close look at the ecological and economic advantages of using no-till drill equipment, as they install an herbaceous add-on block to the woody hedgerow planted on March 22. You'll learn how to use Thurston Conservation District's no-till drill for native seeding and have all your questions answered by the expert team at TCD! Plus, they'll discuss the role of native seeds in hedgerow and other conservation plantings. Hosted by Independence Valley Farm, Rochester.

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



Food Preservation Online Training Series

Have you always wanted to learn how to safely preserve food but need help getting started? Are you a seasoned canner but have questions or want to know the latest information on safe canning? If so, then join us for a series of online canning workshops this spring!

April 30th Canning 101: Unlocking the Secrets
Food Preservation

May 7th Fundamental of Water Bath
Canning Basics: Preserving Summer's Flavors

May 14th Mastering Pressure Canning: Safely
Preserve Food with Confidence

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Fee is \$25 per training.
Trainings hosted on
Zoom platform.

Please visit the QR to register!



You can register for one
training or all the trainings.
There are no prerequisites.

Questions contact steph.smith@wsu.edu
or visit our site: <https://tinyurl.com/2nz3hy7m>



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



The Art of Range Podcast - Artisanal Mezcal & Ranching in
Mexico

Bildo Saravia is the owner and manager of Rancho el Ojo and Origen Raiz Mezcal. His story showcases the ways global marketing and communication can benefit local people

oriented around rangeland economies. By "grazing the wild" he is growing agave in sustainable polyculture with a diversity of other native plants for livestock and wildlife in Durango, Mexico.

Click [here](#) to listen.

Value-Added Food Product Development: Concept to Market

Are you a food or farm business owner looking to scale a new value-added product?
Do you work with Washington grown, caught, or raised ingredients?

Join WSU and WSDA for a full-day workshop covering the food product development process. Participants will leave with actionable next steps for developing preserves, sauces, dressings and vinegars, snacks, baked goods, and other value-added products.

Topics include

- Current marketplace trends
- Food ingredients & processing
- Scaling from the kitchen to commercial production
- Technical details on food safety
- Up-to-date regulatory info
- Small-scale business aspects, marketing & business planning

Use QR Code to Register



or visit our website
tinyurl.com/2h9urbfz



May 8th, 2025



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Washington State Department of Agriculture
Regional Markets Program

Location & Time
WSU Spokane
412 E Spokane Falls Blvd
Spokane, WA 99202
Nursing Building
Room 205
8 am to 5 pm

Fee
\$25



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



AgWest New Producer Grant

At AgWest Farm Credit, they recognize that a lack of start-up funds can be challenging for many new producers. This grant opportunity celebrates the ingenuity and passion of new producers and helps them bring dreams to fruition. This program was developed for those who have a vision for their operation but lack the funds to put their plans into action. Successful applicants will receive a one-time \$15,000 grant to support their operation's growth.

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



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