



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The AG Sounder Newsletter

October 2025

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



In This Issue:

- Free Soil Health Samples opportunity for farmers and ranchers in Washington
- Hedgerow Planting Workshop - Oct 25th
- SW Washington Grasslands & Grazing Photography Competition

- Veterans Conservation Corps Internship Opportunity
- SWWA Food Hub Fall Harvest Boxes - Available from Oct 2nd - Dec 11th
- Update on Early Blue - Conservation Grazing Demonstration Site
- Withywindle Valley Farm Lamb Harvest & Butcher Course - Nov 8-9 or Jan 17-18
- Reimagine Wool Digital Poster Contest - Entries due Jan 1, 2026

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

Make a Gift Today!



A new public-private partnership for improving how soil health can help with management decisions is being conducted in the United States. The project is called “**Probing Our Country’s Soil Health**”. They are looking for farmers and ranchers to participate.

Participating landowners will receive:

- Compensation for your time (~ 1 hour) for helping
- A personalized soil health report of your fields. The value of this lab work (at no cost to you) is about a thousand dollars per field.
- A copy of a book called “Probing Our Country's Soil Health”. This will be a hard-copy photo book illustrating soil health across the country and the outcomes to this project.

To learn more about this project, click on [Probing Our Country’s Soil Health](#) to see a short video

If interested in participating, you will need to:

- **Sign up** for a one-hour Zoom Meeting where a facilitator will lead you through a management survey for 2 or 3 fields.
- Grant access to fields for hand-probe soil sampling 2 or 3 sampling sites from each field. Normally this will happen 3-6 months after the survey; you will be notified beforehand.



DISCOVER HEDGEROWS

Hands-on Hedgerow Demonstration Workshop
Broadfields Farm (Littlerock, WA)
Saturday, October 25th
9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Noontime Talk
Successfully Using Silvopasture in Your Farming Operation
With Local Agroforestry Expert and WSU Extension Forester, Patrick Shults
All Learning Enthusiasts Encouraged to Join!

Hands-on Hedgerow Demonstration Workshop

- Broadfields Farm (Littlerock, WA)
- Saturday, October 25th, 9:00am - 3:30 pm
- Noontime talk - Successfully Using Silvopasture in Your Farming Operation, with local agroforestry expert and WSU Extension Forester Patrick Shults

Click [here](#) to sign up!

ANNOUNCING: SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON GRASSLANDS & GRAZING

Photography Contest!



Agricultural photography can convey stories about farming, natural resources, and the day-to-day lives of farmers.

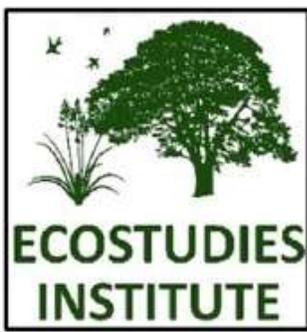
No matter your skills, consider participating in this photography contest to showcase your work and tell the story of local, grass-based agriculture.

Farmers have the inside story, so producers themselves are encouraged to join in!



For more information:
<https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/swwa-grasslands-arts/>

Click [here](#) to learn more.



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3054 Carpenter Rd SE

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<https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/>



"Serving Those Who Served"

**Join the Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC) – Support
Local Farms and Sustainable Agriculture!**

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

Veterans Conservation
Corps Crew Internship at the
Southwest Washington Food
Hub and Early Blue
Conservation Site

Location: Tenino and Centralia, WA

Compensation: \$1,600/month for a
part-time internship (20 hours/week)

Work Hours: Flexible Schedule

Duration: Up to 2 years

Start Date: October, 2025.

Position will remain open until filled

Veterans Conservation Corps Internship Opportunity!

Position Description:

We are seeking a Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC) member to work with the Southwest Washington Food Hub and the 35 farms and value-added businesses it represents. This is a great opportunity for someone interested in the field of agriculture. You'll spend one day per week of work at Early Blue - a Thurston County Conservation Site

To Apply:

Email a copy of your DD214 or service discharge certificate, a copy of your driver's license, a resume, and a cover letter explaining your interest in this internship to Kim Pham, Veterans Conservation Corps Program Manager: kim@dva.wa.gov



A 10 week
customizable
CSA-style box
delivered to a
convenient
neighborhood site

**Southwest Washington
Food Hub's Fall**

Harvest Box



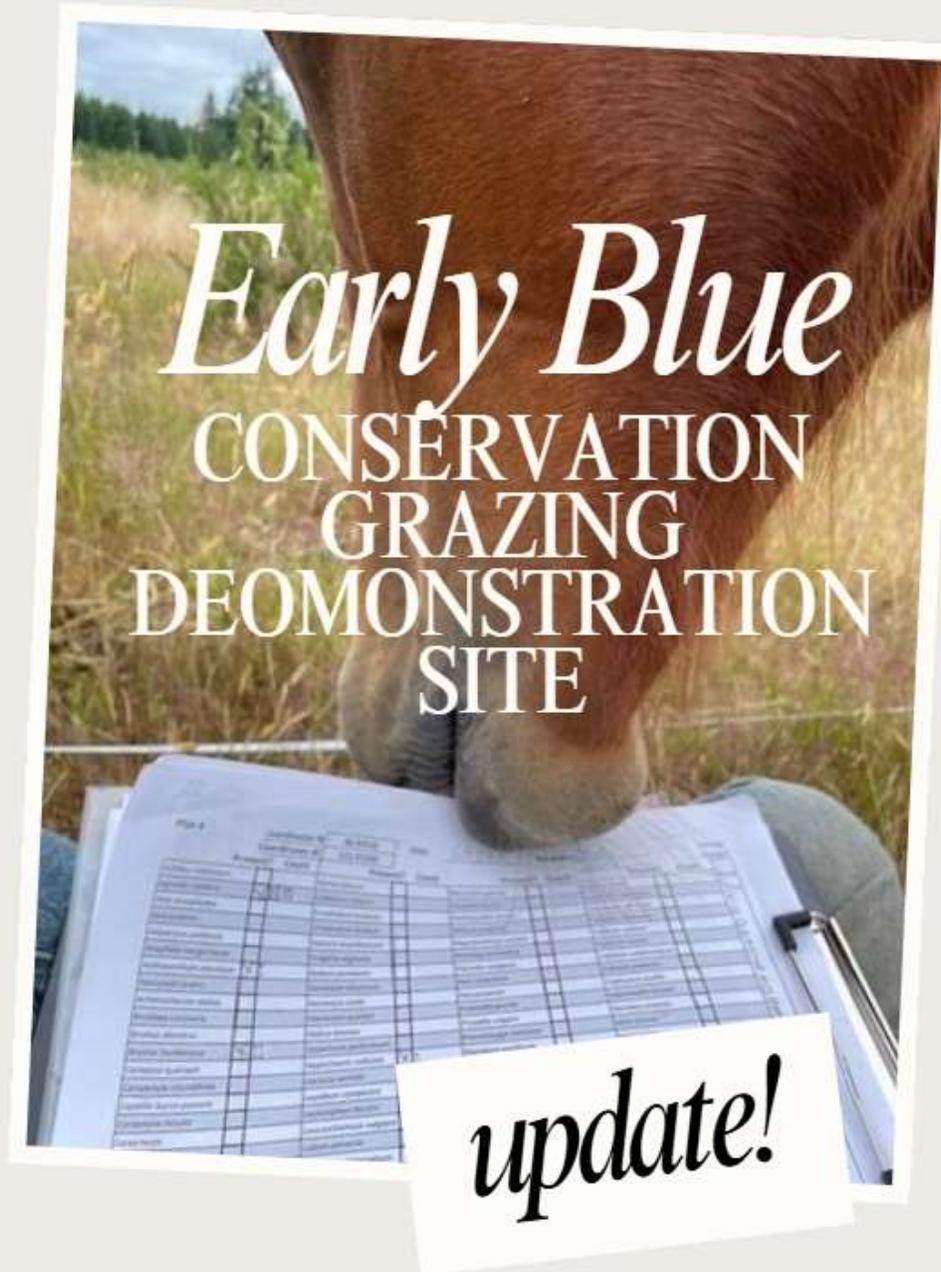
Support over 30
local farms, receive weekly
fresh produce from
October 2nd to December
11th, with no deliver on
November 27th



Southwest Washington Food Hub Fall Harvest Boxes

Support over 30 local farms, received weekly fresh produce from October 2nd to December 11th, with no delivery on November 27th.

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



Update from Early Blue Conservation Grazing Demonstration Site

We have had busy and exciting summer at the Early Blue Conservation Grazing Demonstration Site. In late May WSU Extension Thurston County partnered with Weeping Willow Ranch to implement the first iteration of the grazing plan at Early Blue. 14 cattle and 3 horses provided grazing services to targeted paddocks from May through July. As you can see in the photo above the horses also provided assistance for the vegetation monitoring conducted over late June and early July. To manage scotch broom on the site, we mowed the entire 40-acre parcel over late July and early August. We plan to continue invasive shrub management with another round of prescribed grazing targeting scotch broom resprouts, this time with goats. The first round of patch-seeded native species was sown at the end of September just in time for the beginning of autumn rain. Starting this month, we are welcoming a member of the veteran's conservation corps into the work at Early Blue and the SW Washington Food Hub. We are so grateful to have the support from our new VCC Intern, Lon and from the local producers providing grazing services as we implement conservation grazing methods at Early Blue. Stay tuned for more updates soon!

LAMB HARVEST AND BUTCHER COURSE

Learn the ancient craft of harvesting and butchering a lamb. Two different two-day courses are available.

Course 1:
November 8th - 9th

Course 2:
January 17th - 18th

Leave with half a lamb you processed yourself!

In this two day course, each participant will learn how to humanely dispatch, skin, gut, and butcher a grass-fed lamb raised on the pastures of Withywindle Valley Farm.

This course is great for hunters, farmers, and anyone wanting to experience processing their own meat.

Meals of lamb will be provided each day in the cozy barn.

Learn in a safe and supportive environment from farmer Carissa and butcher Brett.

Class fee per person: \$675
Sign up with a friend and receive \$100 off.

More information at:
withywindlevalleyfarm.com



*Withywindle
Valley Farm*

**Withywindle Valley Farm
Lamb Harvest and Butcher Course**

Learn the ancient craft of harvesting and butchering a lamb. Two different courses are available: November 8th-9th and January 17th-18th.

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

REIMAGINE WOOL

DIGITAL POSTER CONTEST

Wool is the Miracle Fiber!
Right now, there is untapped potential with millions of pounds of American wool being underutilized.

Submit your innovative idea for >25 micron wool that showcases a new use, twist on a current product, or a new method of processing and you could

WIN BIG!



Win
\$1,000
+ Networking Opportunities



Entries due January 1, 2026

www.sheepusa.org/reimagine-wool-digital-poster-contest



Reimagine Wool Digital Poster Contest

The new Reimagine Wool Digital Poster Contest is now live, inviting producers, designers, students, and agricultural advocates nationwide to reimagine the potential of underutilized

U.S. wool. This initiative is part of our broader effort to elevate domestic wool as a valuable resource—one that deserves fresh attention, creative solutions, and practical applications.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



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