

# Newsletter

May—June 2024



WSU EXTENSION  
**Garfield County**



Making a stop for Ferdinand's Ice Cream while waiting for results

## Welcome to the WSU Garfield County Extension Newsletter!

This is an electronic newsletter highlighting events and topics of interest to residents of Garfield County and the surrounding area. This newsletter can also be viewed on our website: <https://extension.wsu.edu/Garfield/>

Do you have an event or subject you would like added to our newsletter or website? Would you like to be removed from our Extension Newsletter email list?

Contact the Extension Office

**Phone: 509-843-3701**

**Email: [mbartlow@co.garfield.wa.us](mailto:mbartlow@co.garfield.wa.us)**

### Contact Us:

**Office Location:** 757 Main St.  
Pomeroy, WA 99347

**Mark Heitstuman, County Director**  
[heitstuman@wsu.edu](mailto:heitstuman@wsu.edu)

**Mailing:** PO Box 190,  
Pomeroy, WA 99347

**Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:30 –5:00  
(closed 12:00-1:00)

**Michelle Kelp, 4-H Coordinator**  
[michelle.kelp@wsu.edu](mailto:michelle.kelp@wsu.edu)

**Phone:** 509-843-3701  
**Fax:** 509-843-3341

**Monica Bartlow, Office Manager**  
[mbartlow@wsu.edu](mailto:mbartlow@wsu.edu)

**Website:** <https://extension.wsu.edu/garfield/>

Washington State University helps people develop leadership skills and use research based knowledge to improve their economic status and quality of life. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension Office.

## What are Conventional, Minimum, No-till Farming?

Wheat Life- April|2024

Washington Wheat Foundation| WAWHEAT.ORG

Farming practices have evolved significantly over the years, with different approaches aiming to balance productivity, soil health, and environmental sustainability. Three common methods used in agriculture are conventional tillage, minimum tillage, and no-till farming. Each method has its own set of benefits and challenges, and the choice of method often depends on factors such as soil type, climate, and farmer preference.

Conventional tillage is a traditional method that involves using mechanical implements to work the soil. After harvest, a large harrow is used to break up the stubble and spread it evenly across the field. In the spring, a cultivator is used to turn the top few inches of soil and incorporate the organic material into the soil. Weeds are controlled mainly by mechanical process and tilling the soil. This method provides good seed-to-soil contact, creating an optimal seedbed for crops like wheat. However, conventional tillage can lead to soil erosion and loss of organic matter over time.

Minimum tillage, as the name suggests, minimizes soil disturbance compared to conventional tillage. Some herbicides and pesticides are used to control weeds and pests, reducing the need for multiple trips around the field with mechanical cultivation. At seeding time, a quick cultivation of the soil is done to prepare the seedbed, followed by seeding the crop immediately. This approach helps to conserve



soil moisture and reduce erosion, while also saving time and fuel compared to conventional tillage.

No-till farming is a practice that eliminates mechanical soil disturbance altogether. Instead of plowing or cultivating the soil, no-till farming relies completely on herbicides and pesticides to control weeds and pests. A specialized drill is used to seed the crop directly into the untilled soil. The drill has a sharp spade that cuts through the stubble and soil, placing the seed directly behind it. No-till farming helps to improve soil health by reducing erosion, preserving soil structure, and retaining moisture. It also reduces fuel and labor costs associated with tillage.

Each of these farming practices has its own set of advantages and challenges. Conventional tillage provides good seedbed preparation but can lead to

soil erosion and loss of organic matter. Minimum tillage reduces soil disturbance and conserves moisture but may not be as effective in controlling weeds. No-till farming helps to improve soil health and reduce erosion but may require more herbicides and pesticides to control diseases and weeds.

The choice of farming method depends on various factors such as soil type, climate, crop type, and farmer preference. Some farmers may choose to use a combination of these methods, known as conservation tillage, to achieve the right balance of productivity and sustainability. Ultimately, the goal of all farming practices is to produce healthy crops while preserving the health of the land for future generations.



## INFORMATION FROM WSU GARFIELD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER BARB DEHERRERA

### The Science Behind Gardening Myths and Old Wives Tales

This article is a reminder that Science is real! The earth is not flat, vaccines work, we have been to the moon, chemtrails are not a thing, and climate change is real. "I read it on the internet, it must be true!"-We all get that joke!

There are many, many gardening sites to look up information. Some are very good. For instance, companies that sell herbicides and pesticides state the facts, if you look for them. Lawn companies want their products to work, so they will tell you the most reliable information. To ensure you are receiving good information, verify what you find with a reliable source, such as your extension agency or extension websites, such as [Oregon State Extension](#).

#### **Your garden must be "prepared" by turning the soil.**

Soil is the most precious thing in your garden, yet we believed it must be "turned", roto-tilled, or dug up, in order to prepare it for planting. Digging, we are told, will remove weeds, reduce 'compaction' by adding air or improving drainage, and boost soil fertility. Research now shows that the reverse is true. Farmers around the world are ditching their ploughs to switch to more efficient 'no till' practices.

#### **Slug traps work**

Cast aside notions that eggshells, copper wires or beer traps stop will prevent your hostas from being ravaged by slugs, or your lettuces being gobbled up by snails. These mollusks' thick slimy bellies slide over obstacles with ease and, while slugs are tempted by the heady aroma of beer, only a handful of unlucky souls end up drowning in the drink.

#### **Plant your potatoes on Good Friday.**

This myth most likely started in Ireland, who are fond of their superstitions. Planting after the last hard frost will work.

#### **Apply coffee grounds to the soil around your acid-loving plants.**

This one actually may benefit the soil. First check to see what the acidity is, if alkaline, coffee grounds will help acidify the soil, especially if worked into the top few inches.

#### **Epsom salts cure all plant problems.**

Epsom salts can provide magnesium, which is essential for plant growth. But this will only be needed if you have a deficiency in this mineral. Using them unnecessarily can cause a nutrient imbalance in the soil.

#### **It's necessary to rotate crops in a home garden.**

Crop rotation is more important for large-scale agriculture to prevent the buildup of pests and diseases. In a small home garden, proper soil care and pest management can mitigate most risks associated with planting the same crop in the same place each year.

**May you all have a fun gardening season!**  
Your WSU Garfield County Master Gardeners.



## FIGHT BAC!® LIKE A producepro



As you enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables at home, follow these safe handling tips to help protect yourself and your family from food poisoning. It is important to be consistent in practicing safe food handling at home. For more information, go to [www.fightbac.org](http://www.fightbac.org).

### CHECK

fresh produce for signs of cuts or bruising, where harmful bacteria can breed



- Check that the fresh fruits and vegetables you buy are not bruised or damaged.
- When choosing pre-cut fruits and vegetables like packaged salads and sliced melons, check that the product is refrigerated or on ice.

### CLEAN

hands, surfaces and utensils to prevent contamination



- Wash hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds before and after handling fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Clean all surfaces and utensils with hot water and soap, including cutting boards and knives, before and after preparing fresh fruits and vegetables.

### RINSE

fresh fruits and veggies just before eating



- Just before use, rinse under running water only the fruits and vegetables you plan to eat, including those with skins or rinds that are not eaten.
- Firm-skinned fruits and vegetables should be rubbed by hand or scrubbed with a clean brush while rinsing under running tap water.
- Packaged fruits and vegetables labeled "ready-to-eat," "washed" or "triple washed" should not be washed.
- Dry fruits and vegetables with a clean cloth or paper towel.
- Do not use soap or bleach to wash fresh fruits or vegetables. These products are not intended for consumption.

### SEPARATE

produce from raw meat, seafood, poultry, eggs and household chemicals



- In your shopping cart and in bags at checkout, separate fresh fruits and vegetables from household chemicals and raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs.
- In your refrigerator, keep fresh fruits and vegetables separate from raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs.
- When preparing food, keep fresh fruits and vegetables separate from raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs. Do not use the same cutting board or utensils without cleaning with hot water and soap before and after preparing fresh fruits and vegetables.

### CHILL

cut fresh produce within two hours to prevent bacteria growth



- Keep your refrigerator at or below 40°F.
- Refrigerate all cut, peeled or cooked fresh fruits and vegetables within two hours of preparing.

### THROW AWAY

bruised, damaged or potentially cross-contaminated produce



- Throw away any fresh fruit and vegetables that have not been refrigerated within two hours of cutting, peeling or cooking.
- Remove and throw away bruised or damaged portions of fruits and vegetables when preparing to cook them or before eating them raw.
- Throw away any fruit or vegetables that have touched raw meat, poultry, seafood or eggs.
- If in doubt, throw it out!



Pomeroy FFA competed at the State FFA Agronomy contest on March 20 in Pullman on the WSU Campus. Team one (Caroline McKiernan, Grayson Slaybaugh, Gunner Magill, Peyton Cannon, and Levi Henderson) placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the State event, and team two (Baby Johnson, Heather Hastings, Kyzer Herres, Levi Bowen, and Jack Baser) placed 9<sup>th</sup> at the state contest!

Agronomy is a tough contest that encompasses many facets of agriculture- including crop and weed identification, fertilizer calculations, machinery and equipment identification, insect identification (along with the economic impact and mouth parts of the insects), a general knowledge exam, and a team application activity. There is a lot to know, but these students did an outstanding job!

**-Kristina Knebel**



State FFA President Andrew Shultz congratulating the team with their 4<sup>th</sup> place in state award! They will go on stage at State Convention in May to receive their plaque. From left to right- State FFA President Andrew Shultz, Levi Henderson, Peyton Cannon, Gunner Magill, Grayson Slaybaugh, Caroline McKiernan



Pomeroy FFA Agronomy Team Ensminger Pavilion waiting for results! From left to right- Back row- Levi Henderson, Levi Bowen, Grayson Slaybaugh, Peyton Cannon, Gunner Magill, Kyzer Herres. Front row L to R- Caroline McKiernan, Baby Johnson, Heather Hastings, Jack Baser



Pomeroy FFA members work to identify the machinery and equipment at the contest



Heather Hastings works to identify the insects at the agronomy contest

**APPLY  
NOW!**

# Bi-County 4-H CAMP

**JUNE 17-21**

**CAMP WOOTEN RETREAT CENTER**



- APPLY @ 4HONLINE.COM**
- APPLICATION & \$25 DEPOSIT DUE MAY 15TH**
- CAMP FEE IS \$200  
SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!**
- CAMPERS MUST BE ENROLLED IN 4-H AND  
8 YEARS OLD BY OCTOBER 1ST 2023**



Follow us  
[facebook.com/bicounty4hcamp](https://facebook.com/bicounty4hcamp)



**Contact your Local WSU Extension Office**

WSU Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of non-compliance may be reported to your county Extension Office.



Hello Campers and Parent Volunteers!

This year's Bi-County 4-H Camp is June 17th-21st, 2023.

Registration is open!!!! It will be open until May 15th. Registration is online through [www.4honline.com](http://www.4honline.com), the same place and login you use to enroll in 4-H. Please see the link below for step-by-step instructions on registering for events in v24honline.

<https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/documents/2017/01/event-registration-instructions.pdf/>

The camp fee this year is \$200.00. The total balance is due on or before 5/28/2024, but a \$25.00 deposit is due 5/15/2024. Cash or checks ONLY. Checks should be made out to Bi-County 4-H Camp and can be delivered to your local Extension Office.

The following scholarship opportunities are available:

Garfield County (only) kids: The Shepherd Foundation 4-H Camp Scholarship –

To be considered for a scholarship, 4-H members must write a short paragraph telling why you want to go to camp, what camp means to you, and why you deserve a scholarship. Turn your letter into the Garfield County Extension Office by 5/15/2024.

Any 4-H Camp Eligible applicants: Roland & Betty Schirman 4-H Camp Scholarship –

Write a letter to the Schirman 4-H Camp Scholarship Committee asking for consideration for a scholarship to attend 4-H Camp. In the letter, please describe what you are looking forward to learning at Camp, and a memory of Roland or something that he taught you during past 4-H Camps if you had the opportunity to meet him.

Mail to: Roland & Betty Schirman 4-H Camp Scholarship Committee  
c/o Emmalee Cole  
1515 S 4th St.  
Dayton, WA 99328

**Parent Volunteers are needed.** Please reach out if you are available and we will get the volunteer process started.

If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Extension Office at 509-843-3701

Michelle Kelp  
4-H Program Coordinator  
WSU/Garfield County Extension



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



WSU EXTENSION  
**Garfield County**

PO Box 190  
Pomeroy, WA 99347  
509-843-3701

Mark Heitstuman, County Extension Director  
Michelle Kelp, 4H Coordinator  
Monica Bartlow, Office Manager  
Email: [mbartlow@wsu.edu](mailto:mbartlow@wsu.edu)  
<http://ext100.wsu.edu/Garfield>

**Did You Know WSU is expecting record number of injured and orphaned wildlife?**

By Devin Rokyta, College of Veterinary Medicine  
WSU Insider|April 30,2024

Wildlife rehabilitators at Washington State University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital are accustomed to caring for hungry and chirping mouths once spring rolls around, but since the start of April the crew has seen a substantial increase in injured and orphaned wildlife over past years. And they are anticipating record numbers through the summer.

Much of the uptick can be attributed to the recent announcement that Blue Mountain Wildlife, a rehabilitation center in Pendleton, Oregon, is no longer operating out of its central Washington location and is unable to accept wildlife rescued in Washington. Now, many of the hundreds of animals the center typically receives from the Evergreen State will be heading to WSU Pullman. That's a lot of additional hungry mouths to feed, which, WSU wildlife veterinarian Dr. Marcie Logsdon said, will severely stress the service's limited budget. Donations and assistance from the public will help WSU to continue to care for as many animals as possible. "Even before the announcement, we were spending more on wildlife rehabilitation than we were getting on donations," Logsdon said. "We will really need the public's help for us to continue to provide the best care for these animals so they can be released back into the wild."

In a typical year, WSU's wildlife rehabilitation service takes in more than 600 wildlife patients ranging from owls, hawks and other birds to squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, foxes and deer. Numbers usually begin to increase in April and remain high into August. With intake numbers expected to rise, Logsdon anticipates more than just a strain on the budget, as the service's staffing and capacity will also be affected. Currently, many of the wildlife patients are housed at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, while others are sheltered in the wildlife hospital ward in nearby McCoy Hall. Some raptors are accommodated at WSU's Stauber Raptor Facility. Logsdon said additional facilities are needed to meet long-term needs. "We have outgrown our current facilities, and, long-term, we are hoping to put in a new wildlife-specific hospital and rehabilitation center," she said. "That would help us to increase our capacity to care for animals and also ensure we are teaching veterinary students best practices when it comes to wildlife medicine and wildlife rehab." Transportation of injured and orphaned wildlife is also a pressing need, particularly from the Tri-Cities and Spokane areas. Those interested in helping can reach out to Logsdon at [mlogsdon@wsu.edu](mailto:mlogsdon@wsu.edu) for more information on how to contribute.

Logsdon said it is easy to mistake a healthy baby for one that may be orphaned or injured, and she reminds the public to call a wildlife rehabilitator before intervening. Calling ahead allows a wildlife rehabilitator the chance to assess the situation and to ensure the animal needs veterinary care or is orphaned. It also provides an opportunity to discuss how to safely handle the animal in question.

To reach the WSU wildlife service, call 509-335-0711. Donations in support the WSU wildlife service and the care of injured or orphaned animals can be made to the Wildlife Care and Support Fund.



(photo by College of Veterinary Medicine/Ted S. Warren).

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported

Washington State University helps people develop leadership skills and use research based knowledge to improve their economic status and quality of life.

**Helping You Put Knowledge To Work**