



INVESTING IN LINN COUNTY

2023

IMPACT REPORT

Photo: Crystal Kelso

OSU Extension serving Linn County and here for you

Rooted in the communities we serve, tailored to local needs, connected to Oregon's statewide university and building a more resilient future for all.

Our research, programs, partnerships and volunteer opportunities are focused on:

- Healthy communities and economies
- Resilient and productive forests and natural ecosystems
- Sustainable agriculture, food systems, and gardening
- Thriving youth, individuals, and families



Oregon State
University

4-H Youth Development



4-H Participation

- **144** volunteer leaders
- **669** youth members

Linn County Fair

- **460** 4-H youth exhibitors

Record breaking auction

\$2,995,482.00



Inaugural Linn County Fair T-shirt Design Contest

Jodi Jorgensen
2023 winner

Sponsors
Coastal Farm
and NoDinx.

Youth Tractor Safety Certification Train the Trainer

- **142** youth certified



High Desert Leadership Retreat

120 7th-12th grade youth representing 22 counties attended the annual retreat in Redmond. Linn County continues to have a large number of participants in this leadership retreat making new friends and gaining valuable life skills.



Four Rivers 4-H Camp

Youth in grades 4th-8th experience outdoor recreation, team building, life skills, and crafts/projects at this four-night camp located in West Salem.

- **30** Linn County youth campers
- **10** Linn high school/college counselors

4-H Youth Development



New this year

- Dog Program – revitalized with **8** youth participating combined with Benton County
- Cupcake Wars at Fair – **8** youth participated
- Super Static Saturday – **30** youth were introduced to static projects



4-H Ambassadors

16 teen Ambassadors between 7th-12th grade serve as teen leaders. They help with events and represent 4-H publicly. Monthly meetings focus on team building, leadership, communication and skill development.



Cloverbud Explorers Club

A county educator led program held twice monthly at the Linn County office.

- **35** youth (5-8yrs) participate monthly

4-H Embryology Project

4-H staff educated teachers from Lebanon, Sweet Home, and Albany bringing Ag into the classroom. Kits/eggs were provided with support from set-up thru incubation.

- **350** students reached
- **11** Linn County classrooms

Master Gardener

Highlights

56 Master Gardener Volunteers

5442 Volunteer Hours

10,397 Linn County Gardeners Reached

\$138,415 value of volunteer hours

688 lbs of garden produce donated to food pantries



9th annual BEEvent Pollinator Conference

164 attendees and 50 Linn volunteers

1378 subscribers to Bee Notes (e-news), 14 issues about pollinator best practices and research

Master Gardener Program Activities

- Community & Youth Garden
- K-12 & Adult Classes
- Demonstration Garden
- Community Seed Swaps
- Extension Office Walk-Ins, Phone, Email
- County Fair
- Social Media
- 10 Cocoon Harvesting Classes - 117 attendees

Master Gardener Program celebrates
47th anniversary in Oregon

Small Farms

Program Reach

Willamette Women's Farm Network - 258 members

Regional Farmer Network- 462 members

Military Veterans listserv - 83 members

Monthly Small Farms Newsletter - 1831 recipients

Individual Contact Teaching- 350+ residents

Small Ruminant Network -145 members

Willamette Valley Agritourism Network - 462 members

Dry Farming Network - 348 members



Making Connections: Tours & Events

- 2 Military Veteran Farmer Network Events
- 5 Regional Farm Tours
- 4 Willamette Women's Farmer Network Farm Tours and Meet-Ups
- 3 Dry Farming Project Field Tours and events
- 1 Regional Large Small Farm Social bringing farmers together and connecting them to resource providers



New Programming & Resources

- For the Love of Farming – Podcast features Linn County & Regional Farmers
- Field to Market Selling Farm Direct, Producer-Processed, Value-Added Products in Oregon/Linn County
- Agritourism 101 Class - explore new direct marketing opportunities
 - Thinking of leasing your Farmland
 - Before you Buy Rural Lands webinar
 - Finding and Listing Agricultural Farmland
- Joined Linn County Food Systems Working Group hosted by Linn Health Department

Skill Building Workshop

- Women's Farmer Network Hands on Electrical Skills Workshop
- Women's Farmer Network Hands on Value Added Project Workshop

Family & Community Health

Food Hero at Albany, Lebanon, and Sweet Home Farmers' Markets provide incentives and hands-on learning activities which empower increased exposure to AND consumption of new fruit and vegetables.



Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

Las Comidas Latinas provides practical, skill-based nutrition education to Spanish speaking families.

- **25** participants (96 family members)
- **100%** participants showed improvement in diet quality
- **63%** increased physical activity
- **38%** improved food security indicators

2023 Linn-Benton Latino Family Food Security completed six community forums in Spanish to explore food access helps and hinders.

Improving Health and Wellness What's Cooking with Food Hero?



Emergency Food Pantry Engagement and Education:

- Give participants simple and nutrition meal ideas
- Teach participants how to cook unfamiliar foods
- Inspire new recipe ideas with food pantry staples
- Provide participants with Food Hero's nutrition resources

SNAP-Ed Food Hero

The Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) helps low-income families make healthy food choices and be physically active

Growing Healthy Families

36 second graders at a bilingual elementary school were taught in Spanish, an evidence-based garden and nutrition education curriculum.

28 community education events provided reaching **3,213 adults**.

Food Hero 2023 Grow This! Oregon is a leading state for fruit and vegetable (F&V) intake, which can increase Oregonians' health and lower health care costs.

- **831** household participated
- **42** K-12 educators received classroom kits

Family & Community Health

Master Food Preservers

Canning • Pickling • Freezing • Drying • Smoking • Food Storage • Food safety

Trained volunteers provide current and complete home food preservation and food safety education. They responded to community requests in various methods.

- Food Safety and Preservation hotline
- Ask Extension online
- Facebook



Highlights

- **7** new volunteers trained through a new hybrid model
- **30** Events staffed
- **1655** People engaged
- **137** pressure canner gauges tested



Complete, current food preservation information

Website:
beav.es/4eC
including a
Free Canning
Checklist app



Forestry & Natural Resources



- Community Engagement strategy-developed and implemented including three community engagement events.
- 2 listening sessions with 30+ key stakeholders
- Wildfire Ready Community Meeting in Sweet Home – 40 residents 22 agency representatives
- CWPP approved by advisory

Fire Awareness & Preparedness

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

- Advisory Committee
- 19 new partner organizations were engaged in the process via the community engagement sessions, including 12 partners from the social services and public health domain who represent fire vulnerable populations:

Non- English speaking, mobility impaired, low income, housing challenged residents, outdoor workers, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and residents with medical conditions that would be compromised by evacuations and/or smoke events.



Natural Resources & Groundwater



Oregon Season Trackers

Community volunteers contributing to climate science research by observing and reporting precipitation from their backyards, farms, woodlands, and schools.

- CoCoRaHS training video translated to Spanish to increase reach and benefit new audiences. To be posted on the CoCoRaHS YouTube channel

Well Water Nitrate Screening

Year round FREE screening available at the Linn County Extension office in addition to drive-through testing clinics and community events.

17 Screenings at Extension office

210 Screenings at Events

558 Total Contacts

8 Well Water Screening Events

- Scio Farmers Market
- Jefferson Farmers Market
- Albany Farmers Market
- Lebanon Farmers Market
- Lacombe Grange
- Harrisburg Summer Sounds
- Brownsville Farmers Market
- Sweet Home Farmers Market



Regional webinars/classes:

Living with your well and septic system. Classes offered for FREE to rural residents to learn more about the basics of living with their groundwater, wells, and septic systems.

- **5** Classes, 2 hours each, **87** contacts
- **68** Total contacts 2 hour Finding and Listing Agricultural Farmland course

Livestock and Forage



Supporting Ranching and Farming Communities

Making a difference when our community needs us most.

- Individual ranch consultations on forages and livestock
- Ranch families served with monthly email communications
- Selenium publication (peer reviewed journal)
- Providing Certified Pest Consultant-backed integrated pest management and general weed management information

Program Activities

Exploring potential of using spent hemp biomass (post-extraction for CBD) as livestock feed.

- Website & Facebook with Livestock & Forages educational materials
- Livestock & Forages Newsletter
- Herbal Leys forage research- International research project
- Collaborates with Linn County Livestock Association

OSU Educational Programs

- Beef Quality Assurance certification
- Best Fields First: forage planning series
- Agronomic Soil Testing
- Weed Wednesdays
- Secure Sheep and Wool Supply plan
- Sheep and Goat Nutrition
- Renovating Pastures



Field Crops

Mint Pest Alert Newsletters

- Newsletter distributed for 9 years
- Helping mint producers use integrated pest management practices
- Improved pest control and fewer pesticide sprays
- **\$453,000 savings** in pest control across mint production acres state wide

Seed and Cereal Crop Meetings

- Crop and pest management shared in Fall and Winter
- **425** attendees
- Improved pest control and fewer pesticide sprays
- **685** pesticide recertification credits earned by licensed pesticide applicators

Field Crops Coffee Hours

- Virtual program delivers a variety of crop production and research updates
- **7** sessions
- **220** contacts



Ongoing Research Projects

Testing bait boxes and rodenticides for vole control

- Voles can cause substantial yield losses in grass seed crops.
- Bait boxes may give farmers a new tool that they can use to manage this pest.

Managing white clover seed weevil

- Insecticide resistance was detected in this pest
- Through educational programming, two thirds of growers plan to stop using the ineffective pesticide entirely.
- Alternative control practices were tested in a field trial in 2022 and 2023.

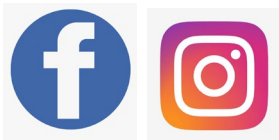
Resources

Resources accessible by Linn County residents:

- OSU Extension youth portal providing educational resources by subject and by grade level extension.oregonstate.edu/families-health/youth
- Food Hero's budget friendly and nutritious recipes [foodhero.org](https://www.foodhero.org)
- Ask Extension. We have experts in family and health, community development, food and agriculture, coastal issues, forestry, programs for young people, and gardening extension.oregonstate.edu/ask-expert

- Extension publications and more catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu
- Monthly Linn County E-News <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/linn-county-e-news>
- Bi-Monthly GROWING newspaper <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/growing>

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