



GROWING

Extending Knowledge and Changing Lives in Linn and Benton Counties

Farm-Direct Sales Brimming in Mid-Valley

By Mitch Lies,
GROWING Editor

Four years ago, with the Covid pandemic raging, small farmer Eliza Mason of Monroe, Oregon, found herself shut off from her primary sales outlet.

“We had been selling at farmers’ markets and those shut down,” she said. “So, we figured out that we could market at our own farm and have a farmstand.”

Today, Mason and her partner, Thorin Nielson, operate Lilliputopia, a small farm store in Monroe that carries a variety of locally grown and crafted items and provides a healthy sales outlet for their own farm production.

To the east of Monroe, small farmers Pete and Jan Boucut of Sunflower Hill Farm in Lebanon have also found a niche in selling direct to the public. The couple sell their fruit and produce at a small store they have erected on their farm, drawing customers from Lebanon, Brownsville, and other local communities within easy driving distance.

“One of the reasons we started doing this was to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to our customers,” said Jan Boucut. “Plus, we enjoy interacting with people. They are getting experiences here that they wouldn’t get in a grocery store.”

Sunflower Hill Farm and Lilliputopia are two of the many small farms in Linn and Benton



Eliza Mason at her farm store in Monroe is among many small farmers in Linn and Benton counties who sell direct to the public.

counties that are a part of what is becoming an increasingly prominent sector of Oregon agriculture, the farm-direct experience.

“Small farms are trying to figure out how to be economically viable,” said Melissa Fery of the Linn, Benton, and Lane counties Small Farms Extension program, which supports small farmers through education and other programs. “And they know that means collecting as much money as they can. And that means selling directly to consumers.”

Once the Norm

Selling direct to consumers, Fery pointed out, was once

the norm in agriculture. With the introduction of the refrigerator, and more specifically the mass production of refrigerators in 1918, those farm-direct sales have long been replaced by grocery-store sales. And, while the convenience factor of shopping in a grocery store is undeniable, there has been something lost in the process, Fery said.

“When people go to a grocery store, they pick out their bell pepper and off they go, maybe not even considering where that pepper was grown or how far it was shipped to be there,” Fery said. “It’s very different when customers are meeting with a farmer directly

at a farm or at a farmers’ market, and they get to see the person who grew that product. Maybe there is an exchange of information about how they grew it or what other crops they grow or why they farm. I mean, there is a dialogue that could provide education about farming to the customer.

“And when farmers are able to educate their customers and share information about the practices they use to grow food and why they farm, that’s beneficial to helping bridge the urban-rural divide and the conflict that might come out of it,” Fery said.

Local farm-direct marketers also help create community, Fery said, given that most

farm-direct sales are made to people living within 50 miles of a farm. “They are not visitors from far away that come and maybe just pick some blueberries and continue on their road trip,” Fery said. “They are people that are in contact with the farmer more frequently. So, it is a way to build community or build that stable customer base.”

Also, most farm-direct customers return again and again, according to Teagan Moran, Extension small farms coordinator for Benton, Lane, and Linn counties. “We have learned that when buyers have access to the farm, they tend to become more loyal customers, returning season after season to support that farm. This return-customer model cuts back on the time farmers need to spend trying to find buyers for their farm products.”

Although they account for less than 2 percent of total farm sales, small farms, defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as those having less than \$350,000 in gross farm income, make up around 90 percent of the farms in the U.S. In 2020, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, small farmers produced and sold \$9 billion of local edible food commodities directly to consumers, retailers, institutions, and intermediaries, an increase of 3 percent from 2015.

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Who We Are

The Oregon State University Extension offices in Linn County and Benton County offer practical, lifelong learning experiences. We sponsor conferences, workshops, demonstrations, tours, and short courses. We recruit, train and manage volunteers who assist us with community outreach and education. Our Extension faculty and volunteers answer questions and give advice by phone, in person, through e-mail, and on our Websites. We provide brochures and flyers with specific information on a variety of subjects. We are funded by a cooperative partnership between Oregon State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and our local counties.

Office locations and hours

The Benton County office is located at 4077 SW Research Way in Corvallis. Office hours are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Telephone: 541-713-5000. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton>.

The Linn County office is located at 33630 McFarland Rd (on the corner of Old Highway 34 and McFarland Road), in Tangent. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Phone 541-967-3871. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn>.

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Administration and program support serving Benton County

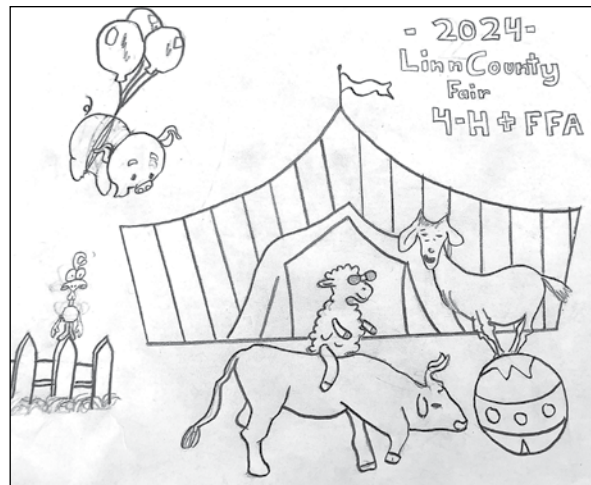
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Oregon State University
Extension Service



Congratulations to our 2024 4-H/FFA t-shirt contest winner MATTHEW ENNIS! This is the second year that we've had youth enter their original designs - and this year we had close to 50 entries. Matthew's design will be put on t-shirts, which all 4-H and FFA youth and leaders will be wearing during fair.



All entries were displayed in the OSU Extension office hallway. A big thank you to all youth that participated and to No Dinx and Knife River for their support.

Farm-Direct Sales Brimming in Mid-Valley

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Farmers' Markets

Many farm-direct marketers in Linn and Benton counties start by securing a table or space at one of the local farmers' markets, choosing from markets in Corvallis, Albany, Sweet Home and Lebanon.

Multiple farmstands also operate in the two counties, many of which are listed on the Fresh and Local Guide for Benton and Linn Counties, which can be accessed by going to <https://beav.es/cVt>. Local farm-direct marketers also are listed through Travel Oregon on the Mid-Willamette Valley Food Trail website.

Small farms also sell directly to consumers through community supported agriculture, or CSA, a model of farm-direct sales where consumers pick up fresh produce from farms on a regular basis over the course of a growing season.

"The CSA model continues to be a model that small farmers are exploring, in part because they can start small, get a handful of people to go in on it, and then build from there," Fery said.

And u-pick remains a popular option for selling direct to consumers. "There are a lot of opportunities for u-pick in Linn and Benton counties," Fery said. "We have a lot of u-pick blueberry operations, for example, and there is really nothing that compares to the taste of fresh berries that come right from the farm. They are pretty amazing when it comes to flavor."

Strawberries, cherries, peaches, pears and apples also are available for u-pick or farm-direct sales in the mid-valley. And a diverse mix of vegetables are grown and sold locally, including broccoli, cauliflower, snap peas, green beans, tomatoes and storage crops, like pumpkins and winter squash that are available in the fall.

And many growers have invested in tunnels that

TOMATO CREATIONS

For farmers selling value-added products



July 10, 2024
11 am - 2 pm
Junction City

Fee: \$35

Register by July 1:
beav.es/pwo




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can increase the length of a growing season, providing consumers access to fresh, local produce in spring and fall months, as well as the peak summer growing season.

"You'll be able to find tomatoes in the market much earlier than when they might ripen at home, for example, because of the season-extension methods using high tunnels," Fery said.

Looking back in time, Fery noted that historically, most people either grew what they ate or bought it directly from another farmer. While the recent embrace of farm-direct sales doesn't capture that, in its own way, it is helping steer society back to the farm, and growers and consumers alike are benefiting.



Chrissy Lucas
541-713-5009
chrissy.lucas@oregonstate.edu

Groundwater Protection Education

Community Nitrate Screening Clinics

The OSU Extension Service will be offering free nitrate screenings in selected locations across the southern Willamette Valley this summer. A water quality educator will be on site at all of the clinics. Clinics will be held at the following locations and times.

- July 7 - Philomath Farmers Market: at Philomath Community Library, Philomath, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- July 11 - Brownsville Farmers Market: at Park Ave. & N Main St., Brownsville, from 3-7 p.m.
- July 17 - Taste of Tri County: at Greenwood St. & W 5th Ave., Junction City, from 3-7 p.m.
- July 20 - Corvallis Farmers Market: at NW 1st St., Corvallis, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- July 25 - Lebanon Farmers Market: at Rt 20 & Grant St., Lebanon, from 2-6 p.m.

- August 1 - Harrisburg Summer Sounds: at Harrisburg gazebo on the riverfront, starting at 5:30 p.m.
- August 13 - Sweet Home Farmers Market: at 1141 12th Ave., Sweet Home, from 2-6 p.m.
- September 14 - Albany Farmers Market: at SW Ellsworth St. & SW 4th Ave., Albany, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

A portion of the Southern Willamette Valley has been designated as a Groundwater Management Area by the Department of Environmental Quality due to elevated nitrate in well water. While it is especially important for households with pregnant women or newborns to test for nitrate because of a rare type of blue-baby syndrome, all homes with private wells

should be aware of their nitrate level.

For your free nitrate screening, bring about 1/2 cup of untreated well water in a clean, water-tight container. You may either wait for your results (the test takes 5 to 10 minutes if the well water clinic is not busy) or drop off your container with your contact information and we will mail your results and recycle your container.

Visit <http://wellwater.oregonstate.edu> for more scheduled workshops and free nitrate screening clinics. Summer interns will be all over the Willamette Valley this summer hosting clinics. If you are interested in hosting a neighborhood screening on your driveway, please reach out to Chrissy.lucas@oregonstate.edu



Welcome Summer Interns



Elias Stroock



Jackie Ruff

The Groundwater Program is excited to have FOUR interns joining us from June through September. Elias, Jackie, Zoe, and Elsa. *Learn more about Jackie and Elias now, and Elsa and Zoe in our next issue.*

Elias Stroock is a Senior at Oregon State University studying Environmental Science with a specialization in GIS. "I have enjoyed learning about water quality from a human geography point of view and am excited to learn how to educate these topics in public health."

Jackie Ruff is a 3rd year undergrad studying Environmental Science and Education at OSU. "My favorite hobbies are hiking and making bracelets! I am so excited to meet so many new people this summer and help teach about groundwater!"



Living With Your Water Well & Septic System Summer Class Schedule

Did you know there are possible contaminants in your well water that you cannot see, taste, or smell? Municipal water is regulated by the EPA so consumers can be quite confident that the quality of the water coming from their tap is sufficient. However, well water does not face such stringent regulations and contamination testing often only occurs when the well is first installed or in some locations when property ownership changes.

It is so important that well water users understand when and how to monitor their water quality and the associated

benefits of doing so. Proper maintenance and monitoring of your septic systems ensures proper treatment of the effluent and a longer life of the system.

Learn steps to protect the health of your family, neighbors and animals, your property investment, and the safety of groundwater resources during these FREE in-person classes and webinars.

Choose the session you want to attend. Make sure to double check if a session is in person or through Zoom. Zoom links are traditionally sent the day before the session. Multiple selections are allowed.

- July 30 WEBINAR, Living with your septic system - noon to 1:15 p.m.
- July 31 WEBINAR, Living with your water well - noon to 1:15 p.m.
- August 6 WEBINAR, Living with your water well & septic system - 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- August 11 WEBINAR, Living with your water well & septic system - 1-3 p.m.
- August 21 WEBINAR, Living with your water well - noon to 1:15 p.m.
- August 22 WEBINAR, Living with your septic system - noon to 1:15 p.m.

- September 12 IN PERSON, OSU Extension Service Office, Newport - Living with your well and septic system - 6-8 p.m.
- September 15 WEBINAR, Living with your water well & septic system - 1-3 p.m.

Register at <https://beav.es/qiT> (case sensitive)

Registration for webinars is required to receive the zoom link ahead of time. For additional questions you can email Chrissy.Lucas@oregonstate.edu or leave a message at 541-713-5009.



Prepping for Canning Season

By Jennie Gilbert

By now you have planted your garden and are thinking about what kinds of delicious things you want to preserve. Well, maybe not, but let's just say this article puts that idea in your head. There are a few things to consider when you are preparing to start your home preservation projects.

Get those pressure canner gauges tested! This is something that should be done yearly, or any time your canner lid has been dropped or banged around. If you use a three-piece weighted gauge or have an All-American canner, you do not need to test the gauge. These canners use the weight and steam from the pressure to let you know they are at the correct pressure. For more information about this, Presto has information online and so does All-American. Presto does sell the three-piece weighted gauge for about \$16 on their website. We recommend you do not buy canner replacement pieces or weights on Amazon as many have been advertised as brand name, but they are not and do not fit the canners.

I have sung the praises of the domed lid steam canner in previous columns, but I can't say it enough. The time you will save by not water bathing,



Foods naturally high in acid – most fruits, pickles and salsas – can be processed in a steam canner. Steam canners require less water, but processing time is limited.



All American canners use weights to measure pressure. There is a gauge on the lid, but it acts as a guide to know when pressure is at zero after the canning process is done. This gauge does not require testing.



Presto canner with a dial gauge. You can buy a 3-piece weighted gauge set from Presto.com and convert your dial gauge canner to a weighted gauge canner. Weighted gauge canners do not need to be tested.



and the quality of the product you are making is so outstanding. Salsa stays crunchy, pickles aren't over cooked and mushy. No need for pickle crisp!

There is the traditional aluminum domed lid steam canner, which I've used on both coil top and glass top stoves, and now there's an induction domed lid

steam canner which is stainless steel and works on all surfaces. The domed lid canner can be used for any items that can be water bathed under 45 mins. The

steam canner only holds enough water for 45 mins or less of steam and you cannot stop to refill it.

Always use a safe lab-tested recipe. So many times, we get calls asking about Grandma's salsa or Aunt Ida's beans, and many times these recipes are unsafe because of one thing or another. It's very likely we can find a similar recipe that is safe to replace these. So be careful before you use an old family recipe and check resources to find a safe similar recipe that won't be dangerous to those who eat it. Safe resources include Ball books 2015 or after, So easy to Preserve, USDA Guide to Home Canning, any recipes from Extension service or university .edu websites. There are many publications available through OSU Extension's website - visit catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu. Search by topic under Home food preservation.

Our canning resource hotline will be open full time starting July 8th through October 11th, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. each weekday, but you can call any time. The line is currently monitored several times per week. 800-354-7319.

Make sure to check out the list of upcoming food preservation classes in Linn and Benton counties on these pages.

Happy Preserving!

Food Hero for Older Adults: SNACKS

It's never too late or early for eating healthy to make a difference. A healthy eating routine is important at every age and stage of life. Make every bite count with foods that are full of nutrients.

Explore www.foodhero.org and www.myplate.gov for targeted information for older adults.

Snacking can help you meet your nutritional needs and feel energetic throughout the day. When deciding on a snack, choose foods that are full

of nutrients and without too much salt, sugar, or saturated fat. Try a snack from one food group or combine food groups to build more satisfying snacks. Enjoy a serving that is filling but that doesn't interfere with your mealtime appetite. Take a look at the ideas below and be creative!

Tips for Snacking

Build your own: Make your own snack mix with unsalted nuts and add-ins such as unsweetened whole-grain cereal, raisins or other dried fruit and plain popcorn.

Prep ahead: Rinse and

cut up fresh vegetables and portion them into containers so they are ready when you are. Try freezing your favorite smoothie into single portion cups to thaw when you're ready.

Keep healthy options handy: Try planning for snacks when you plan your meals. Post a list of snacks in your kitchen and keep nutritious snacks easy to see.

Bring your own: Keep up with your snack schedule even when away from home. Try packing a few snacks in a bag or small cooler before you leave.



Include physical activity breaks each day by moving in ways that you enjoy and that fit into your daily routine. Where it begins Physical Activity breaks are one or two minutes of moving that make you breathe harder and get your heart pumping. They can include all sorts of activities such as routine chores, tasks, hobbies, and exercises. You can think of these short breaks as physical activity snacks!

<p>Protein Snacks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bean dips, hummus Cheese Cottage cheese Eggs, egg salad Milk (dairy or soy) Nut butters Pudding Sardines Unsalted nuts Yogurt 	<p>Whole Grain Snacks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cereal Corn chips Crackers English muffins Flat bread, tortillas Granola Muffins Oats Toast
<p>Fruit and Vegetable Snacks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apple, pear Applesauce Avocado Banana, peach Bell Pepper Berries, grapes Canned fruit Carrots Celery Cucumber Zucchini 	<p>Mix and Match Snacks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banana peanut butter toast Cereal and milk Cheese and whole-grain crackers Cottage cheese and fruit Egg salad sandwich Fruit, vegetable and yogurt smoothie Hummus and vegetables Nuts and dried fruit Yogurt and berries

OSU Extension Service Linn County Summer Food Preservation Classes

TO REGISTER:

SCAN QR CODE



June 26 - Jam class - Benton Ext. Office \$15

July 11 - Salsas - Halsey City Hall \$15

July 18 - Salsas - Linn Ext. Office \$15

July 31 - Salsas - Benton Ext. Office \$15

August 8 - Quick Pickles & Flavored Vinegars
Halsey City Hall \$15

August 15 - Quick Pickles & Flavored Vinegars
Linn Ext. Office \$15

Sept. 12 - Apple Workshop - Halsey City Hall \$15

Sept. 19 - Apple Workshop - Linn Ext. Office \$15

Oct 10 - Gourmet Sauces - Halsey City Hall \$20

Oct 17 - Gourmet Sauces - Linn Ext. Office \$20

Linn & Halsey classes 6-8 pm
Benton classes 5:30-7:30 pm

OR VISIT:

beav.es/crD



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Debunking Gardening Myths

By **Donald Lyons**, Linn County Master Gardener Volunteer

You've heard of urban legends. This essay is more about rural legends, common gardening practices that are just plain wrong. Here goes:

- **Coffee grounds are acidic and can be used to lower the pH of your soil. *False:*** After brewing, coffee grounds are close to neutral, between 6.5 and 6.8. Coffee grounds can be added to your compost pile but should not be more than 20 percent of any compost added to plants. More than that and you run the risk of killing your plants. Caffeine residues can suppress germination and slow the growth of some plants.
- **Watering on hot sunny days will burn the plants because water droplets magnify the sun's rays. *False:*** Wet foliage is not susceptible to sunburn; it often rains in the summer and plants love it. Water plants any time they are showing signs of stress. However, it is best to water early in the day so that soil can dry out before nightfall. Dry soil deters snails and slugs.
- **When you plant a tree or shrub, add amendments to the soil. *False:*** When you add amendments to a planting hole, the roots may stay within the amended soil and not grow into the native soil. If amendments are needed due to very poor soil



conditions, add them in a wide area and not just in the planting hole.

- **Add a layer of gravel in the bottom of a pot to improve drainage. *False:*** The opposite happens. The container should be filled with well-draining potting soil. Water does not move easily from finer texture materials to layers of coarser materials. All containers need drainage holes.
- **Epsom salts will prevent blossom end rot in tomatoes. *False:*** Blossom end rot is caused by a calcium deficiency. Epsom salts contain magnesium but no calcium. Most soils contain sufficient calcium. Plants only take up calcium through water. Inconsistent watering is the main cause of blossom end rot.

- **If a pesticide is labeled organic or natural it must be less toxic. *False:*** Organic and Synthetic pesticides toxicity is determined using the same standards. Pesticides are labeled DANGER, WARNING, or CAUTION. Danger is the most toxic, Caution is least. Before using any pesticide, consider other options first. When using a chemical, always start with the least toxic.
- **Covering a tree's pruning cut with pruning paint helps to protect the wound. *False:*** Painting over wounds invites rot. Trees have their own built-in repair system that allows wounds to seal over.
- **Your garden always wants more organic matter added**

to the soil. *False:* Adding organic matter to the soil can help improve soil structure and promote long-term plant health, but the ideal amount of organic matter is 5-8 percent. Too much organic material probably means your plants are getting too much phosphorus which may stunt growth. Having your soil analyzed will answer this question for you. Master Gardeners can furnish you with a list of Analytical labs serving Oregon.

- **Tree roots extend only as far as the drip line. *False:*** Most trees extend their roots farther than the drip line. Red maples, for example, extend three times farther than the drip line. If planting under or around a tree be aware of the root area.

- **Use Dawn dish detergent to make your own insecticidal soap. *False:*** Dish "soap" is a detergent and while it does repel aphids, et al, it can easily destroy the plant's cuticle or protective outermost layer. Even commercial insecticidal soap can injure plants – follow the directions.
- **Green potatoes are deathly poisonous. *False:*** It would take at least five pounds of green potatoes to make you sick. Potatoes are in the nightshade family which includes some toxic members. The toxin is solanine which is found in the green parts of nightshade plants and in tubers exposed to light.
- **Don't use pressure treated wood in raised beds. *False:*** In decades past, arsenic was used in wood preservatives, but currently copper azole is used which does not leach into soil. However, do not use railroad ties to make raised beds for food crops. These rural myths about gardening were taken from OSU Extension's 10 Minute University, available online. There are many more myths that I'll share at another time. All of the myths mentioned here have been carefully studied and debunked. Got a gardening question? Ask a Master Gardener!

July-August Gardening Calendar for Western Oregon

Recommendations are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Oregon. For more information, contact your local Extension office.

The Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices.

We emphasize preventive pest management over reactive pest control. Identify and monitor problems before acting and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem. Favor biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) over chemical controls.

JULY

Maintenance and cleanup

- If you want a green lawn, water frequently during periods of heat and drought stress. Irrigate a quarter inch four to six times per week from June through August. Measure your water use by placing an empty tuna can where your irrigation water lands.
- Mound soil up around the base of your potato plants. Gather and eat a few “new” potatoes from each hill when plants begin to flower.
- To reduce evaporation, water vegetable and flower gardens in the early morning. Water the soil rather than leaves to reduce disease. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage root growth.
- Pay careful attention to watering and feeding hanging baskets of flowers or vegetable plantings during extended periods of hot weather.
- Weed and fertilize rhubarb and asparagus beds. A mulch of compost or rotted cow manure works well as fertilizer. Water deeply to develop crowns for next year.
- Mulch with paper, plastic, sawdust, etc. to conserve soil moisture.
- Stake tall-growing flowering plants such as delphinium, hollyhocks, and lupine. Stake tomatoes as necessary.
- Make compost of lawn clippings and garden plants that are ready to be recycled. Do not use clippings if lawn has been treated with herbicide, including “weed-and-feed” products. Do not compost diseased plants unless you are using the “hot compost” method (120 degrees to 150 degrees F).

Planting and propagation

- Beets, bush beans, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, kale and peas planted in midsummer provide fall and winter crops. Get more tips on what to plant now in Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening in the Pacific Northwest.
- Dig spring bulbs when tops have died down; divide and store or replant.

Pest monitoring and management

Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. Consider cultural controls first, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options (insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides), and use them judiciously.

- Control hollyhock rust by sanitation, picking affected leaves, or spraying with a registered fungicide. Read and follow label directions.
- Watch for cutworm damage in garden. In July, climbing cutworms become a problem and large portions of foliage will begin to disappear on established plants. Use barriers, remove by hand, use beneficial nematodes when soil temperature is above 55 degrees F, or spray with Bt-k according to label directions.
- Late July: Begin to monitor for early and late blight on

tomatoes. Correct by pruning for air circulation, picking off affected leaves, and/or treat with approved fungicide. See this article for more information on common tomato problems.

- Place traps to catch adult apple maggot flies. You can use pheromone traps to monitor presence of pests.
- July 10: Spray filbert trees for filbertworm, as necessary.
- July 10-15: Spray peach and prune trees for peach tree borer and peach twig borer, as necessary.
- July 17-23: Third spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees, as necessary.
- Cover blueberry bushes with netting to keep birds from eating the entire crop.
- Monitor camellias, holly and maple trees for scale insects. Treat if necessary.
- Monitor rhododendrons for adult root weevils. Look for fresh evidence of feeding (notching). Try sticky trap products on plant trunks to trap adult weevils. Manage root weevils with beneficial nematodes (if soil temperature is above 55 degrees F). If root weevils are a consistent problem, consider removing plants and choosing resistant varieties.
- Spider mites can become a problem on ornamental plants, vegetables and fruit plants during hot, dry weather. Watch for dusty-looking foliage, loss of color and the presence of tiny mites. Wash infested areas with water or spray with appropriate pesticides. For more information visit the PNW Insect Management Handbook Landscape Pests - Spider Mites.
- Continue monitoring raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, cherry and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for spotted wing drosophila. If the flies are present, use an integrated and least-toxic approach to manage the pests. Learn how to monitor for drosophila flies and larval infestations in fruit.
- Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Remove caterpillars as they appear. Use Bt-k, if necessary.
- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose and bacterial canker of stone fruit. Sterilize tools before each new cut.

AUGUST

Planning

- The optimal time for establishing a new lawn is August through mid-September.
- Dampwood termites begin flying late this month. Make sure your home is free of wet wood or places where wood and soil are in contact.

Maintenance and clean up

- Make compost out of lawn clippings and garden plants that are ready to be recycled. Don't use clippings if the lawn has been treated with herbicide, including “weed-and-feed” products. Don't compost diseased plants unless you are using the “hot compost” method (120 degrees to 150 degrees Fahrenheit).
- Fertilize cucumbers, summer squash and broccoli to maintain production while you continue harvesting.
- Clean and fertilize strawberry beds.
- Use mulch to protect ornamentals and garden plants from hot weather damage. If needed, provide temporary shade, especially for recent plantings.
- Camellias need deep watering to develop flower buds for next spring.
- Prune raspberries, boysenberries and other caneberries after harvest. Check raspberries for holes made by crown

borers, near the soil line, at the base of the plant. Remove infested wood before adults emerge (approximately mid-August).

- Monitor garden irrigation closely so crops and ornamentals don't dry out.
- If you want your lawn to stay green, you'll have to water frequently during periods of heat and drought stress. Irrigate 0.25 inches four to six times per week from June through August. Measure your water use by placing an empty tuna can where your irrigation water lands.
- Prune cherry trees before fall rains begin to allow callusing in dry weather. This will minimize the spread of bacterial canker.
- Western Oregon: Prune out dead fruiting canes in trailing blackberries and train new primocanes prior to the end of the month.

Planting and Propagation

- Plant winter cover crops in vacant space in the vegetable garden
- Plant winter kale, Brussels sprouts, turnips, parsnips, parsley and Chinese cabbage.
- Western Oregon: Mid-summer planting of peas; use enation-virus-resistant varieties. Plant fall crops of cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli.
- Western valleys, Portland, Roseburg, Medford: Plant cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, spinach, turnips and parsnips.

Pest monitoring and management

- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose and bacterial canker of stone fruit. Sterilize tools before each new cut.
- Check apple maggot traps; spray tree if needed.
- Control yellowjackets and wasps with traps and lures as necessary. Keep in mind they are beneficial insects and help control pest insects in the home garden.
- First week: If necessary, spray for walnut husk fly.
- First week: If necessary, second spray for peach tree borer and/or peach twig borer.
- First week: If necessary, second spray of filbert trees for filbertworm.
- Check for root weevils in ornamental shrubs and flowers; codling moth and spider mite in apple trees; scale insects in camellias, holly and maples. Treat as necessary.
- Watch for corn earworm on early corn. Treat as needed.
- For mite control on ornamentals and most vegetables, hose off foliage, spray with approved miticide if necessary.
- Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Pick off caterpillars as they appear. Use Bt-k, if necessary.
- Continue monitoring peaches, plums, prunes, figs, fall-bearing raspberries and strawberries, and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for Spotted Wing Drosophila. If SWD are present, use an integrated and least toxic approach to manage the pests.
- Willamette Valley: Corn may need protection from earworm. Spray new silks with appropriate pesticides if necessary.
- Coastal and western valleys: Spray potatoes and tomatoes for early and late blight.

Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the Oregon State University Extension Service endorses these products and services or intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned.

Master Gardeners are here to help

The Master Gardeners of Linn and Benton Counties are out in the communities this summer to educate and answer your gardening questions. Following is a fairly complete list of all of the Master Gardener clinic table events. For more information about any of the events listed, contact your local Extension office.

July

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|--------|---|----|---|----|--|----|--|
| 3 | Millersburg Farmers Market - 3030 Alexander Ln NE, Millersburg, 4-7 p.m. | 20 | Albany Farmers Market - Corner of SW Ellsworth and 4th Ave, 9 a.m. -1 p.m. | 3 | Junction City Plant Clinic at B&I Hardware and Rental, 120 W 6th Avenue, 10 a.m. -1 p.m. Free event presented by Linn County Master Gardeners in partnership with Lane County Master Gardeners. | 17 | Monthly Gardening Q&As at the Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent Street, Lebanon, 10-11:30 a.m. Free event presented by Linn County Master Gardeners. | 28 | Corvallis Farmers Market 9 a.m. -1 p.m. |
| 4 | Brownsville Farmers Market - corner of Park & N Main streets, 3-7 p.m. | 23 | Sweet Home Farmers Market - 1141 12th Ave, 2-6 p.m. | 6 | Sweet Home Farmers Market - 1141 12th Ave, 2-6 p.m. | 20 | Sweet Home Farmers Market - 1141 12th Ave, 2-6 p.m. | 29 | Brownsville Farmers Market - corner of Park & N Main streets, 3-7 p.m. |
| 9 | Sweet Home Farmers Market - 1141 12th Ave, 2-6 p.m. | 23 | Insect Education Summer Program - Albany Public Library, 5-7 p.m. Free event. Presented by Linn County Master Gardeners. | 7 | Millersburg Farmers Market - 3030 Alexander Ln NE, Millersburg, 4-7 p.m. | 22 | Lebanon Farmers Market - Corner of Main & Grant Streets, 2-6 p.m. | | |
| 11 | Lebanon Farmers Market - Corner of Main & Grant Streets, 2-6 p.m. | 25 | Lebanon Farmers Market - Corner of Main & Grant Streets, 2-6 p.m. | 8 | Lebanon Farmers Market - Corner of Main & Grant Streets, 2-6 p.m. | 23 | Insect Education Summer Program - Albany Public Library, 5-7 p.m. Free event. Presented by Linn County Master Gardeners. | | |
| 15 | Oak Creek Open House - Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture, 11 a.m. -1 p.m. Free event presented by Benton County Master Gardeners. | 27 | Corvallis Farmers Market 9 a.m. -1 p.m. | 15 | Brownsville Farmers Market - corner of Park & N Main streets, 3-7 p.m. | 27 | Insect Education Summer Kids | | |
| 17 | Insect Education Summer Program - Albany Public Library, 5-7 p.m. Free event. Presented by Linn County Master Gardeners. | 27 | Fall & Winter Gardening - Willamette Park Community Garden, 10-11:30 a.m. Free event presented by Benton County Master Gardeners. | 17 | Albany Farmers Market - Corner of Park & N Main streets, 3-7 p.m. | | | | |
| 18 | Brownsville Farmers Market - corner of Park & N Main streets, 3-7 p.m. | 27 | Monthly Gardening Q&As at the Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent Street, Lebanon, 10-11:30 a.m. Free event presented by Linn County Master Gardeners | | | | | | |
| 18-20 | Demonstration Garden at the Linn County Fair, noon-6 p.m. Presented by Linn County Master Gardeners | 31-8/3 | Demonstration Garden at the Benton County Fair, 4-8 p.m. (July 31-Aug 2) & noon-8 p.m. on Aug 3. Presented by Benton County Master Gardeners. | | | | | | |
| 20 | 2024 Grand Kinetic Challenge - Benton | | | | | | | | |

August

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Brownsville Farmers Market - corner of Park & N Main streets, 3-7 p.m. |
|---|--|





Kevin Seifert
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Linn Soil and Water Conservation District

Weeds Show Us Soil Health

By Kevin Seifert,
Linn Soil and Water
Conservation District

Weeds can tell you a lot about the condition of your soil. Not only that, weeds, when composted, help improve the soil by releasing into it the very minerals and elements it needs.

Weeds are pioneers. They are opportunistic plants that take root on disturbed or bare ground where the soil is too poor to support other kinds of growth. They thrive in these areas because they are adapted, with deep taproots or root nodules, to bring up or fix from the air the exact minerals and nutrients in which the soil is deficient.

In addition to concentrating elements and minerals into their structures, many weeds have extensive root systems which, as they decay, leave channels for drainage, and help build rich organic matter. Some weeds can also absorb excess salt from the soil.

Mainly weeds can show us health conditions or issues in soils. Thistles can be a bane to our pastures in Western Oregon. They are a good indicator of soil compaction though. Areas of over grazing or grazing when it's too wet can lead to patches of thistles. Some of these can be beneficial to wildlife in the form of seeds or pollen, but mainly they reduce profitability in our



Canada thistle on a compacted field border in Linn County

pastures and lead to financial pain as well as the physical pain of removing them.

Take for example Canada thistle. Canada thistle generally spreads from field to field in contaminated crop seed or forage. Within a Canada thistle population, some seed remains in the flower head or falls at the base of the plant, but once established, seed is the least of your worries. Roots are the most important means of propagation. Canada thistle has an extensive underground root system that may penetrate the soil to a depth of 10 feet or more

and grow laterally 12 to 15 feet per year. Root buds occur randomly along the roots and initiate new shoots whenever environmental conditions are favorable. Root segments as small as 0.6 inch can initiate shoot growth and become established.

Thistles propagate well in compacted soils where other plants can't grow. Managing our pastures to limit compaction can help us manage our thistle. Use of herbicides, frost tillage, and controlling seed production by mowing before seed heads become

viable are all ways to manage and eliminate thistle. Thistle eradication should be considered a 3-5 year process. The following measures have proven effective to prevent thistle establishment in pastures and temporary grassland:

- Avoid excessive grazing as it favors compaction and insufficient soil cover and as a result, thistle establishment.
- If the infestation is only in its early stages with a few isolated plants, the thistles can be removed manually, if the

procedure is repeated several times during the season.

- Frequent grazing by sheep, goats, or donkeys, followed by mowing of the remaining plant material, can contain - if not deplete - the roots reserves. Donkeys, ponies, sheep and goats eat the flower buds and thus help reduce the thistle population.
- Adequate fertilization optimizes grass growth and increases its ability to outgrow thistles.

Bare patches in out pastures can become an issue for soil erosion, but remember that the best way to control weeds is with a healthy stand of desirable plants. Use weeds as indicators of ways we should manage our pastures and fields. Sour Dock is an indicator of low soil PH. Horsetail thrush is an indicator of water-logged soils. Mulleins is an indicator of low fertility. Keeping soil tests and records of fields and pastures can help us improve profitability and soil health. Working to limit unwanted weeds is part of increasing your land value and bolstering your farm enterprise.

Commercial Agriculture Small Farms

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Summer Dry Farm Program Field Days 2024

You're invited to join us at our Dry Farm Program field sites to engage with this year's research. This is your chance to see, taste, feel and discuss dry farming in Oregon. Field days are free to attend and RSVP is required as space is limited. To learn more and sign up go to <https://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/dry-farming>

August 5, 4-7p.m. Dry Farmed Forages at Lewis Brown Farm, Corvallis Oregon. Featured Projects: Warm season grasses and legumes for forage and cover crops. Combined with winter cereal cover crops and pulses field day.

August 14, 5-7p.m. Dry Farming Field Day at Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture, Corvallis, Oregon. Featured projects: Melon and cucumber-melon dry farmed variety trial and tasting; perennial sunflower, legume and oilseed crops; dry farmed flowers; till vs. no till in dry farming context; intercropping



diverse legumes with sorghum and corn.

August 21, 5-7p.m. Dry Farming Field Day at OSU Vegetable Research Farm, Corvallis, Oregon. Featured projects: Managing blossom end rot in dry farmed tomatoes, tomato tasting; Melon variety trial and tasting, dry farmed and deficit irrigation management; Breeding grain corn for microbial symbiosis; Dry farmed variety trial of cowpea, sorghum, sesame, and upland rice.

August 28, 5-7p.m. Dry Farming Field Day at North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, Oregon. Touring the melon research plot at the NWREC Learning Farm, observing five melon varieties that have been irrigated in four different ways: dry farmed, strong deficit, slight deficit, and grower standard. There will also be a hands-on activity with soil moisture sensors.

2024 Mid-Willamette Valley Summer Farm Tours

You are invited! Please come join us for a summer of regional small farm tours with a variety of local farmers graciously opening their farms to the public, and a variety of workshops providing plenty of learning opportunities. It's a great opportunity to connect with like-minded folks who are also interested in farming and learning, while connecting with OSU Extension. There's something for everyone!

Please contact crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu or call 541-730-3539 with any questions or accommodation requests.

Tomato Creations: Sauces & Salsas Workshop

Wednesday, July 10, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. - Junction City. Cost: \$35. For Farmers selling value-added products. Register Here: beav.es/cDF

4 Wands Farm Tour

Friday, July 26, 5-7 p.m. - Philomath. Cost: \$5 Scholarships available. Diversity & Sustainability - Meat Rabbits, Herbs, Veggies, Eggs. Register Here: <https://beav.es/cnV>

Continued on Page 20



LCB 5718

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Commerical Agriculture Livestock and Forages

What To Do with All That Hay



PHOTOS BY SHELBY FILLEY

Grass seed industry tour participants appreciate the value of straw. Adding supplemental protein makes this a valuable feed stock for cattle and sheep.



Assessing hay during an OSU Extension program included visual (leaves, seeds, stems, color) and olfactory (sweet, musky, sour) evaluations.



Sampling hay using a forage probe borrowed from the local OSU Extension Service. An electric drill can be attached to make it easier.

Most everyone is done with their first or only hay harvest of the year. But there is more to hay production, storage, and use than the initial cut. Here is my collection of hay publications. I hope you find them helpful. Free access to these can be found on the OSU Extension website at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/forages-hay-pasture-collection>.

If you are planning to harvest a second cut or want information on harvesting next year's crop, there is an excellent publication called *Haymaking on the Westside*. Here is the way it starts out. "Myths and misconceptions surround hay production west of the Cascade Mountains. Among them are: "Hay cannot be made on the westside," "First-cutting hay is likely not fit for man nor beast," "Good hay cannot be made in May

or June," and "The only sure time to make hay is after July 4." Unfortunately, these and other myths continue to plague successful hay production in the region. However, reality indicates good quality hay can be produced on the westside with proper knowledge, skills, equipment, storage, and perhaps, a bit of luck. Aside from luck, this publication provides insights on the other issues of westside hay production.

Hay Fires: Prevention and Control is another important article, it's from the National Ag Safety Database and has information on hay moisture testing, dangers of walking on top of haystacks, plus good tips to share with your local fire department as well.

Of course, if you are looking at feeding value you will want to see articles on Testing Hay at a Lab for nutritive value and then

learn about *Understanding Your Forage Test Results* and see how your hay compares to average hay by looking at *Western Oregon Hay or the Oregon Forage Library* that explains how that affects price and how you feed out the forage.

The economic value of hay can be found in the *USDA Market Report*. Be sure to compare your hay to hay you want to purchase using the USDA Hay Quality Designations (Supreme, Premium, Good, Fair, Utility/Low).

Lastly, you may want information on feeding hay. Check out the article on *Matching Hay Quality with Animal Nutrient Requirements*.

If you need help accessing these resources, call your local Extension office and they can e-mail direct links or print and mail copies to you.



Oregon State University
Extension Service

Tim Delbridge, an OSU Extension Economist, is conducting a study of **the economic impact that wolves have had on livestock producers** in Oregon. A key component of this study is an anonymous survey to gather information on rancher experiences with wolves in different grazing locations across the state. The survey involves marking a pasture location on a map and providing information on wolf pressure and management costs at that location. The survey should take only 5 to 10 minutes to complete and can be accessed here:

OSU Wolf Impact Study: <https://arcg.is/vmj0C>

It's important that we hear from ranchers that have had different experiences with wolves. This includes those that operate in areas with little or no wolf pressure, those that operate in wolf areas but haven't experienced depredation, and those that have experienced direct wolf attacks on their livestock. The information gathered through this survey will only be seen by researchers at Oregon State University. Individual responses will NOT be singled out or published. Individual or potentially identifying information will NEVER be shared with any outside party or government agency. Responses will only be reported as averages to maintain privacy of individual responses.

If you have questions, or have trouble with the online version of the survey, contact:

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Report on Strawberry Season Extension Research at NWREC

By Erica Chernoh, OSU Extension Commercial & Community Horticulture

A two-year trial on season extension of strawberries was concluded in November of 2023. This study evaluated the growth and production of day-neutral strawberries grown under low and high tunnels to extend the production season and improve the viability of day-neutral strawberries grown for the fresh market in Oregon. The experiment was established at Oregon State University's North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) in the fall of 2021. Treatments included tunnel type (low tunnel, high tunnel, low tunnel under high tunnel (double tunnel), and open field (control)), cultivar ('Albion' and 'Seascape'), and planting season (fall and spring). Bare-root strawberries were planted into raised beds with drip irrigation in October 2021 and March 2022 using standard day-neutral plant spacing. Plants were managed using organic practices, industry recommendations, and IPM methods for pest management. From May through November, fruit was harvested weekly at 75 percent or greater ripeness and sorted into marketable fruit and cull.

Results from the two-year trial demonstrated that tunnel systems can extend the harvest season by 9 weeks for double tunnel, 8 weeks for high tunnel, and 7 weeks for low tunnel, compared to plants grown in an open field. Low tunnels produced the highest yields in 2022, producing 1,013 grams of marketable fruit per plant compared to high tunnel, double tunnel, and open bed (783, 794, and 732 g/plant, respectively). In the combined two-year analysis, low tunnel production produced the highest marketable yield, producing on average 810 grams of marketable fruit per plant per season, compared to 702 g/plant in high tunnel, 670 g/plant in open bed, and 667 g/plant in double tunnel. Furthermore, over the two-year trial, open beds produced significantly more culled fruit compared to low tunnel, high tunnel, and double tunnel (319, 295, 225, 223 g/plant, respectively). 'Albion' performed better in the summer and fall, producing higher yields, larger berries, and higher sugar content than 'Seascape,' indicating it would be a better cultivar to extend the harvest into the fall months.

Cost is a major factor for many growers. Our 2019-2020 low tunnel season extension trial showed that



Strawberry season extension trial at NWREC. From left to right strawberries grown in a high tunnel, low tunnel, Day-neutral strawberries grown in season extension trial. Photo credit Cora Bobo-Shisler, OSU Extension

low tunnels can be built for a cost of \$42 to \$156/100-foot row, depending on the selection of materials. For more on building low tunnels, refer to OSU Extension publication EM 9333, *Low Tunnels for Season Extension in Oregon: Design, Construction and Costs* (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/em-9333-low-tunnels-season-extension-oregon-design-construction-costs>). High tunnels cost significantly more than low tunnels, with our 100' x 40' tunnel costing \$6,872 total. This included the high tunnel frame, construction materials, 6-mil plastic, roll-up sides, and shade cloth. The cost for this system is \$1,718/100-foot row, though the tunnel could easily accommodate an additional two rows or more in a commercial setting, bringing down the cost per 100-foot row to \$1,145 or less.

While low tunnels

produced higher yields and more marketable fruit compared to high tunnel and open bed, low tunnels need to be manually ventilated during the fall and spring seasons to manage temperature and humidity inside the tunnels. Low tunnels may be better suited for small scale growers who are able to manage the tunnels daily. While high tunnels have a higher cost, they can cover multiple rows and are easier to ventilate which reduces the labor needed to manage the temperature inside the tunnels. The sides of high tunnels can be rolled up or opened during the summer months to increase ventilation, and a shade cloth should be used when temperatures inside the tunnel are above 85°F. High tunnel production would benefit small, medium, and large-scale growers.

The strawberry industry in Oregon has traditionally

produced June-bearing cultivars for the processed market, however market dynamics have changed in recent years, and with ever-increasing consumer demand and grower interest in fresh strawberries, there is a need to explore alternative production practices for day-neutral strawberries that can be adapted to Oregon's climate and growing conditions. This trial explored season extension techniques that can be easily adopted by small, medium, and large-scale farms. The results of this trial showed that tunnel treatments averaged 10-15 percent more marketable fruit compared to plants grown in an open field, and extended the harvest season by 7-9 weeks, providing growers an opportunity to harvest and sell a crop outside the traditional season.



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Commerical Agriculture Field Crops

Watch Out for Palmer Amaranth This Summer

Palmer amaranth is an extremely difficult-to-control weed that is a serious challenge for farmers in many areas of the United States. This weed is not yet established in Oregon. Last summer, a single palmer amaranth plant was found on a roadside in Marion County, Oregon, and several plants were found in Malheur County in eastern Oregon.

Palmer amaranth has developed resistance to nine different herbicide modes of action, making it very hard to kill. If palmer amaranth becomes established in Oregon it is likely to become a major problem for farmers of many different crops. Waterhemp is another problem weed that is closely related to palmer amaranth, and it is also very good

at developing resistance to herbicides. Water hemp has not been found in Oregon yet.

I encourage everyone to keep watch for these weeds. See the fact sheet on this page for photos and descriptions. Here are the steps you should take if you find a plant that you think might be palmer amaranth or waterhemp:

- Do not let the plant go to

seed!

- Hand pull the plant and search the surrounding area for other plants.
- Contact your County Extension office or report the finding to the Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weeds Program.
- Monitor the location for new plants through at least the following growing season.



Invasive Weed Identification Guide - Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp

Palmer amaranth

Amaranthus palmeri S. Watson

Key Descriptors:

- Elongated seed head - up to 24" long
- Non-wavy, diamond-shaped leaves
- Petioles longer than leaf blades
- Smooth stem - thinner than Redroot pigweed
- Poinsettia-like leaf whorl
- Single plants can be more branched whereas monocultures tend to be single shoots
- Documented resistance to HRAC Groups 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 27



Please report sightings to:
ID: Dr. Albert Adjiesiwor, University of Idaho; 208.490.3623; aadjesiwor@uidaho.edu
OR: Dr. Joel Felix, Oregon State University; 208.739.2675; joel.felix@oregonstate.edu
ID/OR: Clarke Alder, Amalgamated Sugar; 208.989.7400; calder@amalsugar.com

South Valley Field Crop Notes for July-August

General Management

- Use harvest season to scout for vole activity and take advantage of baiting opportunities over the summer.
- Make sure seed moisture is acceptable for storage: below 12 percent for grass seed, and below 14 percent for grain.
- Continue to scout spring wheat and spring-planted grasses for cereal leaf beetle.
- Test your soil after harvest to begin your plans for fall nutrient/lime applications. Use a lime requirement test to determine how much lime is needed. Lime rate recommendations are now available for the Sikora Buffer test and SMP buffer test at: <https://beav.es/3rB>

Grass

- Scout for moths (sod webworm, cutworm, armyworm) during and after harvest and determine if you should plan for control of eggs and small caterpillars on fall regrowth or new seedlings.
- Decide your best option for post-harvest residue management. Both full straw load and baling have pros and cons, and can result in successful grass seed yields. Take into account nutrient removal, fuel cost, and price for bales. See recent OSU grass seed production residue management guide: <https://beav.es/ZYn>
- Be sure to submit modified land history applications before working any ground.

Wheat

- Avoid sprout damage in wheat by not delaying harvest. Art Deco and Biancor are the earliest maturing, followed by Goetze.
- Reduce problems with temperature, airflow, and moisture by storing grain levelled rather than in peaked piles.

Mint

- Nitrogen applications should taper off in early July to reduce potential leaching losses.
- Scout fields for caterpillars and flea beetles.
- A new web app (<https://beav.es/qbu>) is available to optimize timing of Vantacor applications for control of mint root borer, loopers and variegated cutworms. Spray at mint root borer peak flight for the best control of these pests with one application.



A Look Back at Successes as Fire Season Approaches

By Kayla Bordelon

When we reflect on past wildfires, we're often talking about the ones that go wrong, such as the devastating Labor Day Fires of 2020. Out of the headlines and much more common, however, are the ones that go right. When they go right, we might not hear about them at all. For example, last August 24th (2023), a barrage of 1,500 lightning strikes lit up the coast range and ignited over 50 fires, a dozen of which were in western Benton County. Oregon Department of Forestry, the Siuslaw National Forest, and local partners extinguished those ignitions within hours or a few days, and it's likely you never heard a word about it.

What is the value in telling stories about the fires that go right? First, we can learn from our successes at least as much as we learn when things don't

go as we planned. We can ask: what communication, coordination, and combination of resources helped firefighters succeed? The answers to those questions help us prepare for the next time. Telling stories about effective fire response can also shed light on the inner workings of the fire response structure, which may seem opaque to residents who are watching the smoke plumes from their homes and wondering what is happening on the front lines.

On June 3rd, I had the privilege to help organize an opportunity to reflect on another fire that went right: the 2023 Wiley Creek Fire. More than 35 community members and 20 fire responders and managers gathered at the Sweet Home High School auditorium to tell the story of the fire and reflect on what was learned, facilitated by Shannon

Richardson of the South Santiam Watershed Council. Twelve representatives from the Willamette National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry, Sweet Home Fire District, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Cascade Timber Company, and Giustina Resources shared their perspectives on the fire response and how they all worked together to control a fire that had significant potential to burn private lands, timber, and even move towards the town of Sweet Home. What they shared sheds light on how long-term collaboration, public-private partnerships, and personal trust for each other helped each organization bring their strengths to the table and collectively succeed at keeping the fire small and minimizing negative outcomes.

Following is the story in words and images:



Mediterranean Oak Borer (MOB)

Oregon forestry and agriculture officials are asking Oregonians to familiarize themselves with another invasive pest, this time one that poses a threat to our native oak trees. The Mediterranean oak borer (MOB) tunnels beneath a tree's bark, carrying a fungus that grows within the tree and which the beetles feed on. Our native oaks are already under stress due to drought which makes them especially susceptible to this oak wilt causing fungal pathogen. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has initiated a trapping effort to monitor MOB populations by placing traps with lures on private and public landowners property who have native oak trees. These traps are checked every 2 weeks and the data reported to ODA. You can help prevent the spread of MOB by not moving oak wood unless it has been heat treated, inspecting oak trees for round exit holes, and burning, burying, or heat treating any infested wood. Report all suspected MOB infestations to insectid@oda.oregon.gov or 503-986-4636.

For more information [https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/IPPM/Pest.Alert.Mediterranean.oak.borer%20\(2023\).pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/IPPM/Pest.Alert.Mediterranean.oak.borer%20(2023).pdf)



On August 7, 2023, the Wiley Creek Fire was first spotted less than ten miles from Sweet Home. With very dry fuels and hot, windy weather conditions, the stage was set for a potentially serious blaze. Fire managers were also aware that the thick forest conditions and steep, rugged terrain would make access to the fire especially challenging. Nikki Swanson, the Sweet Home District Ranger for the Willamette National Forest, reflected on the gravity of the situation when she first got the call: "I knew immediately that a fire in this area had high potential for negative outcomes. We were going to have to use all tools at our disposal to get the fire under control as quickly as possible." Swanson promptly ordered federal air resources and soon residents could see helicopters and planes dropping retardant and water on the burgeoning fire.

Meanwhile, ground access was very difficult. Both Cascade Timber Company (CTC) and Giustina Resources had high-value timber neighboring the wildfire, which was burning on a small block of old growth forest in the Willamette National Forest. When Joe Schaefer from CTC drove out there, he realized that access to the western side of the fire was impeded by an old bridge that wouldn't be able to hold the weight of heavy equipment. Within 48 hours, CTC was able to contract with a local company to install a pre-fabricated bridge—something that typically takes months to complete. By the time the cement had dried, a line of firefighting equipment had formed on the other side, waiting to cross.



PHOTO BY KEVIN VANCE/CTC

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PHOTO BY KEVIN VANCE/CTC

4

About two days into the fire, a less gripping but equally heroic feat took place in the administration of the fire. The same east wind event that ignited the Wiley Creek Fire had ignited many other fires on Forest Service land across the region, and federal air resources were becoming increasingly challenging to acquire. Nikki Swanson, USFS, and Chad Calderwood, of Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), made the decision to transfer "ownership" of the fire from the USFS to ODF. What this meant was that ODF was taking on the financial responsibility for a significant fire, and they'd be able to order local resources to quickly take the place of the federal ones that were tied up in other parts of the state. This action allowed fire responders to sustain their aggressive attack on the fire.

The Wiley Creek Fire was fully contained by the end of August and the impacts of the 245-acre fire were mostly confined to the block of federal land where the fire started. Thanks to the swift and coordinated response from collaborators, we were able to avert a disaster last year. Those that helped tell the story at the June 3rd event say that it was the trusted personal relationships that they have with each other, the ways that land managers and timber companies were willing to share responsibility, and everyone's commitment to protecting local communities and values that made this fire a success. As we look toward to the upcoming wildfire season, it's encouraging to know that this collaborative network of local fire responders is ready to respond, together.



PHOTO PROVIDED

5



PHOTO BY KENNY ROSE, GIUSTINA RESOURCES

3

At the same time, Giustina Resources was on the top of the ridge building dozer line to hold the fire and reduce potential impact to private timber land. The ground was so steep that they improvised a system sending a dozer down the face of the ridge on a chain, as shown in the picture. Can you imagine being that dozer operator?

Save the Date!
Coming this Fall

Basic Forestry
Shortcourse

October 10th, 17th, 24th,
31st

10am-Noon

Stayton, Oregon

Cost: \$40 (\$50 per family)



Oregon State University
Extension Service



Benton County 4-H Youth Development

Elli Korthuis
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PHOTO: BENTON COUNTY 4-H

4-H Member practicing with her horse in a timed event.

2024 Benton County Fair & Rodeo - "Country Vibes and Carnival Rides"

**Wednesday, July 31st -
Saturday, August 3**

Benton County Fair Hours:

Wednesday & Thursday
11am - 11p.m.
Friday & Saturday
11am - 11p.m.

Gate Admission:

- Adults (17-59) \$10 per day or \$30 Season Pass
- Seniors (60+) \$8 per day or \$24 Senior Season Pass
- Youth (6-16) \$8 per day or \$24 Youth Season Pass
- Kids 5 and under FREE all day, every day
- Parking: \$5 daily at the gate or \$15 Season Pass
- Carnival Unlimited Rides for one day only: \$40 at the Fair Carnival Ticket Booths (\$30 Advance).
- For advance discounts go to: <https://www.bentoncountyfair.net/>

Discount Days and Special Events:

Wednesday: Family Fun Day! Gate Admission is FREE to kids 16 and under all day

Thursday: Senior Day! Gate admission is FREE to 60+ all day

Military Appreciation Every Day at the Fair! Gate admission is FREE to all active, reserve and retired military and National Guard when you show valid military ID at the gate during ticket purchase.

All concerts and rodeos



are FREE with your fair admission

Entertainment:

- Vicki the ventriloquist
Wednesday, July 31, 6 p.m.
- Jeff the magician
Wednesday, July 31 7 p.m.
- Matt the comedian
Wednesday, July 31, 8 p.m
- Kurt Van Meter,
Thursday, August 1, 7 P.M.
- Jessta James, Thursday, August 1, 8:30 P.M.
- Remedy, Friday, August 2, 7 P.M.
- Shot of Poison, Friday, August 2, 8:30 P.M.
- Boomtown Saints, Saturday, August 3, 7 P.M.
- Sawyer Brown, Saturday, August 3, 8:30 P.M.

Rodeo:

- All Girls Rodeo, Wednesday, 7p.m.
- NPRA Rodeo, Thursday & Friday, 7p.m.

Livestock:

Cattle, swine, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, cavies, and so much more! We all love the animals at the County Fair! Be sure to visit the livestock sheds and ask the 4-H participants about their animals.

4-H Exhibits:

During fair the 4-H building houses all of the non-livestock related 4-H exhibits including family and consumer sciences, arts and science. Be sure not to miss it!

Willamette Valley Fiddle Contest - Friday, August 2 - come see Local, State and National fiddlers compete on the Oak Grove Stage.

These are just some of the highlights! For more information about the fun to be had at the 2024 Benton County Fair & Rodeo, visit fair and rodeo's website at: <http://www.bentoncountyfair.net/>

2024 Benton County 4-H Horse Fair

Come watch our Benton County 4-H horse members compete at the fair. It runs Thursday, July 18-Sunday, July 21 at the Benton County Fairgrounds beginning at 9:30 a.m. daily. This is a great place to see 4-H members participate in cow roping, trail, western and English equitation, dressage, horse psychology, gymkhana, marketing, and other classes. There will also be an Equine Art exhibit, where you can see photography, art, poetry, and educational posters created by the 4-H members. There's no admission charge for this event. These members have worked hard all year and love to have spectators attend!

Lee Allen Memorial Youth Livestock Auction

The Lee Allen Memorial Youth Livestock Auction will be held on Saturday, August 3rd, 3 p.m. at the Benton County Fairgrounds with a buyer's lunch from noon-2:30 p.m.

The 4-H Lee Allen Memorial Youth Livestock Auction, sponsored by Corvallis Lions Club, is the culmination of a year of hard work by 4-H youth with their market project animals. When you purchase an animal at the Lee Allen Memorial Youth Auction, you are buying prize-winning livestock raised by a 4-H member. Your purchase helps support individual 4-H members, it also brings you the highest quality beef, pork, lamb, poultry, and rabbits for your dining pleasure. The young people in Benton County 4-H are learning to produce the highest quality food for your table. Being responsible, engaging in financial obligations, and learning how to manage their own business operations only scratch the surface of the educational benefits. On a small scale, however, their costs are higher than commercial producers. Whether you are an individual/family, business, or local buyer your support is needed to assist Benton County 4-H youth. For more information please visit: <https://www.bentoncountylivestockauction.com/>

4-H Members Learning Service Through Photography

Twenty Benton County 4-H members of all ages and skill levels participated in a photography workshop series held over the course of five months. Each of the five workshops had a specific topic focus and was followed

by at least one service project within the community related to that topic. A couple of these service projects included taking portrait photos of the residents of a local assisted living facility and creating a flyer with donation products

needed by the local humane society for them to use and share. Several of the youth also have photos from their landscape-focused service project on display at the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge Store and Headquarters as part of a gallery for the summer.

Participating youth grew tremendously in their skill, understanding of the range of photography, interest in creative projects, and commitment to serving the community.

The last project that the 4-H members completed was to photograph silhouettes of their hands and the 4-H clover, forming the word "LOVE". These images were used in the creation of stickers and bumper stickers. These stickers and bumper stickers are being sold as part of a fundraiser to cover the cost of the workshop series. If you would like to support the 4-H photography members and want more information about these stickers, including how to purchase them, please see the online form here: <https://beav.es/pqV>



Members learn to capture landscape images

PHOTO AND IMAGE BY BENTON COUNTY 4-H



Bumper stickers created by 4-H members that are available for purchase as a fundraiser for the 4-H program.

Animal Science Clinics

The Benton County 4-H program hosted a Beef Project Clinic on Saturday, June 1, and a Sheep Clinic on Sunday June 23rd where members and their families learned about nutrition & feed, fitting, bio-security, and then were able to learn about and practice their showmanship skills.



Members received hands-on education with their project animals.

Benton County and Linn County Extension programs may offer opportunities that are only open to the residents of their respective counties. Please check with your county Extension Office if you have any questions about participation eligibility for specific programs.

Volunteers needed at Fair in the 4-H Exhibit Building

Want to earn a one-day admission pass to the Benton County Fair? Just volunteer 2 hours of your time during July 31–August 3, in the 4-H Exhibit building, helping to monitor the 4-H Family and Consumer Sciences, Arts, and Science exhibits, and answer questions from the public. We are looking for 2–3 people per shift beginning at noon until 10 p.m. Please contact the Extension office at 541-713-5000 to learn more.

Congratulations Benton County 4-H Graduating Seniors!

Thirty-six 4-H members are graduating high school seniors this year! These youth have worked extremely hard in both their academic and 4-H careers, and we are proud of them!

Brandon Baisted, Jenica Baker, Grant Barnes, Jezreal Beaver, Riven Benson, Benjamin Black, Zeldia Cardon, Hallie Dapp, Tanner Dowless, Taylor De Jong, Hannah DeVries, Lukas Dunn, Alexa Eckhold, Della Gratsinger, Madison Gray, Gwen Hamilton, Aiden Hanamoto, Chloe Hendrickson, Marissa Hogan, Ginevra Lauzzana, Rebecca Lorain, Aleaha Miller, Miranda Moyer, Emma Oliver, Jacob Peters, Kathryn Rowley, Mikayla Smith, Hayden Spaulding, Sylvia Stokes, Lorelei Schell, Ava Theurer, Marshall Morrison, Matilyn Richardson, Clark Riddle, Madison Shipley, and Lillian Wheeler.

Congratulations, graduates! We wish you all the best as you move forward into the next chapter of your lives.

Applying Animal Biosecurity

During this time when several animal diseases and viruses have made headlines, it is critical to learn and practice biosecurity measures. Some practices are specific to a species, but the following are general for all species.

- Quarantine animals (new or returning) from any travel and events. As some diseases and viruses have longer incubation periods, two weeks to a month are standard quarantine times.
- If animals show signs of sickness, move them to a restricted zone away from other animals. Care for them last during chores and change clothes and boots between healthy and sick animals.
- Keep facilities clean. This doesn't just apply to cages and pens, but also to equipment and vehicles. Tires on vehicles should be cleaned and disinfected if you have traveled to other farms, shows, or places where animals are kept.
- Reduce and control migratory birds and rodents entering domestic animal zones as they can carry and spread diseases.
- Be vigilant with your animals. Understand what signs of disease look like for your species and watch for any changes in behavior, looks, and any sudden deaths. Contact your local veterinarian, Extension office, or USDA veterinarian hotline (1-866-536-7593). For any reports with wild birds, contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (1-866-968-2600).

Not only do these practices protect the animals we care for, but they can also prevent the spread of a wide range of illnesses to other animals and humans. As some diseases and viruses are transferable to humans, it isn't just your animals that will benefit from high biosecurity standards.

Linn County 4-H Youth Development

Andrea Leao
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Linn County Youth Livestock Auction, July 20th at Noon

Dear Buyers, Exhibitors, Leaders and Advisors, Parents, and Volunteers:

It has come to our attention that we have more market animals than ever before for the 2024 Linn County Youth Livestock Auction. While this is a good problem to have as we see more and more youth wanting to learn about animal science projects, this also means there are more lots to sell at the annual livestock auction. To try to keep the auction length manageable, it has been voted on by the auction committee to sell approximately 300 lots of animals. To achieve this goal there will be a portion of the bottom placing animals in each class that will be in pen lots. We will not be pen lotting any cattle. The goal of these changes is to make the event as successful as possible for the buyers and exhibitors. We feel that pen lotting is the best way to make that happen. The sale order for 2024 will be Goats, Rabbits, Beef, Chickens, Lambs, Turkeys, and Swine.

What does this mean?

Simply put, the lower portion of each market class will be placed with like animals in their species to be sold in a lot of 2 animals. This means that a buyer is purchasing the entire lot at one time. Of course, we are more than happy to split this between two or more buyers. The goal here is to reduce the



Youth working with their animals and preparing for fair.

total auction time, not force a buyer to purchase more than they intended.

Here is an example:

Lot 123a is a hog weighing 240lbs. Lot 123b is a hog weighing 265 lbs. A bid of \$8.00 per pound for a

total of 505 pounds equals a total of \$4,040.00. This is the amount the buyer is responsible for minus the floor price if the animals are sold back. Lot 123a will receive \$1,920 and Lot 123b will receive \$2,120. This is just as it relates to the

auction sale price. Add-ons are always applied to the youth specified.

Please understand our Auction Committee did not make this decision lightly. There was great consideration and lots of discussion and we feel this

is the best solution to keep the auction time reasonable and still sell all eligible animals. We also realize this change will come with lots of questions and concerns as we navigate this together. We are here to support everyone

Continued on Page 20

Stacey Lyle Interview

By Jody Hill,
Linn County 4-H

It's time for the auction at the Linn County 4H/FFA fair. The bids are coming in fast and furious. But after the excitement and the noise, it is up to one superstar to organize all those bids, collect the money, and disperse the funds to the kids. Stacey Lyle, has been that person for the last five years. Her dedication to 4-H doesn't end at the auction though. She is also the Swine leader for Lacombe Livestock and teaches more than 25 kids the how's and whys of raising pigs. Ag Boosters and Educational committees also fill her time.

Stacey credits her involvement with the auction to Loyal Burns, the previous treasurer. She tells the story of how he "invited" her to send in her application for the position. Her philosophy is that time spent helping kids learn lessons that will last a lifetime make them great adults. She says "I truly feel that if you aren't willing to put in the time and effort to help make things grow and be better, you shouldn't offer 'advice.' I'm not good at keeping my mouth shut, so I find myself on a lot of committees."

Stacey has been a part of 4-H since she was six years old and continued participating until she started FFA in high school. During her 4-H journey she did many projects, including: sewing, rabbits, poultry, horses, table setting, and of course, swine. She knew she wanted to get back involved in 4-H when her own children got old enough. The auction



Stacey offers support to a youth during the Linn County 4-H/FFA Auction.

committee job opportunity allowed her to do that a little earlier than expected.

When asked what makes her passionate about 4-H, she says that she loves the fact that there is something for everyone. "The kids learn all kinds of skills from all kinds of projects. Market projects teach not only animal husbandry, but financial responsibility, sales, and marketing. Breeding animal projects are long term. It helps them learn to plan and set goals, but maybe not see the results for years to come. Static exhibits allow kids to show off their hard work for the public to see their talent."

Leadership skills are important to Stacey. She says she tries hard to imprint on all the kids that they are

ambassadors to their way of life. "It is their responsibility to teach people that have never been close to an animal what we do and why it is important. I think it is pretty impressive when a ten-year-old kid can talk to a group of adults and other kids to tell them about their project and the steps that they have taken to raise that animal."

Stacey encourages others to "put up or shut up." She loves people with new ideas that want to support these children and their pursuits. "... I think if we work together, we can help create some pretty great young adults. There are a lot of decisions and events that have to come together in order to make this wheel go round. I'm just happy to be a spoke in the wheel."

2024 County fair Schedule

Tuesday, July 16

- 9 a.m. Poultry; Market, Showmanship, Breeds (Santiam Bldg)
- 2 p.m. Meat Goat; Market, Breeds (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 5 p.m. Swine; Breeds (Swine Ring)
- 5 p.m. Beef; Market (Beef Ring)

Wednesday, July 17

- 9 a.m. Rabbit/Cavy; Market, Showmanship, Breeds (Santiam Bldg)
- 9 a.m. Swine; Market (Swine Ring)
- 9 a.m. Dairy/Pygmy/Fiber Goat Showmanship (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 1 p.m. Meat Goat; Showmanship (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 4 p.m. Sheep; Market (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 4 p.m. Beef Showmanship (Beef Ring)

Thursday, July 18

- 9 a.m. Swine; Showmanship (Swine Ring)
- 9 a.m. Dairy/Pygmy/Fiber Goat Breeds (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 2 p.m. Sheep; Showmanship, Breeds (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 3 p.m. Small Animal Costume Contest (Santiam Bldg)
- 4 p.m. Flower Arranging Contest (Willamette Bldg)
- 4 p.m. Dairy Cattle; Showmanship, Breeds (Swine Ring)
- 4 p.m. Beef; Breeds (Beef Ring)
- 5 p.m. Cloverbud Show and Tell (Santiam Bldg)

Friday, July 19

- 9 a.m. Open Class Beef Show (Beef Ring)
- 9 a.m. Open Class Sheep Show (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 10 a.m. Small Animal Master Showmanship (Santiam Bldg)
- 10 a.m. Cupcake Wars (Willamette Bldg)
- 3 p.m. FFA Large Animal Master Showmanship (Swine Ring)
- 5 p.m. 4-H Large Animal Master Showmanship (Beef&Sheep/Goat Rings)
- 6:30 p.m. FFA Awards Ceremony (Swine Ring)

Saturday, July 20

- 8:30 a.m. 4-H Award Ceremony (Calapooia)
- 12 p.m. Market Livestock Auction (Calapooia)

Benton County and Linn County Extension programs may offer opportunities that are only open to the residents of their respective counties. Please check with your county Extension Office if you have any questions about participation eligibility for specific programs.

Linn County Youth Livestock Auction, July 20th at Noon

Continued from Page 18

involved and are happy to educate and answer questions as they come.

Although this is short notice, we hope you will continue your support of the youth of Linn County and their projects. These kids are our future leaders in our communities and will need to grow and prosper throughout this conception year as we do as supporters, leaders, advisors and buyers.

Respectfully,
Linn County Livestock Auction Committee

2024 Mid-Willamette Valley Summer Farm Tours

Continued from Page 10

The weird and wonderful: Sweet Potato

Wednesday, August 14, 5:30-7 p.m. - Corvallis; Cost: \$5 Scholarships available. Cultivation, value added products, pests/disease, & small farm potential. Register Here: <https://beav.es/pSR>

Small Farm Summer Pruning

Saturday, August 24, 9-11 a.m. - Corvallis; Cost: \$5 Scholarships available. Follow up on the basics of summer pruning for small farms. Register Here: <https://beav.es/pSD>

Blueberry Meadows Farm Tour

Thursday, September 12, 10 a.m.-Noon - Corvallis. Cost: \$5 Scholarships available. U- Pick Blueberries, 1st year in transition of ownership. Register Here: <https://beav.es/cn9>

The Farm Up Lost Creek Farm Tour

Thursday, October 3, 10 a.m.-Noon - Eugene. Cost: \$5 Scholarships available. Small scale diversified farm Tour. Register Here: TBA

Rising Star Farm Tour

Friday, October 11, 4:30-6:30 p.m. - Lebanon. Cost: \$5 Scholarships available. Sable Dairy Goats, Cochin Bantam Chickens, AirBnB Cottage, and an opportunity to see the milking process. Register Here: <https://beav.es/pSa>

National 4-H Conference

By Andrea Leao

National 4-H Conference, bringing hundreds of 4-H'ers to the nation's capital each spring - is the flagship youth development opportunity of USDA, hosted by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). This past April, a delegation of Oregon 4-H members traveled to Washington DC to attend the National 4-H Conference. One of those hardworking members was Rayanna Morris representing Linn County 4-H. These youth not only got the opportunity to tour some of our nation's most popular and well-known monuments and landmarks, but they also had the opportunity to present to numerous national agencies that wanted to hear a youth's perspective.

Being a delegate at the National 4-H Conference is an award trip for the highest achieving members across the state. As one of the chaperones for this trip, it was an amazing experience as an adult, too. Watching 300 youth from across the US and 5 most populated nations come together and work in round table groups to answer questions from national agencies was impressive. These youth spent two full days in conference rooms researching and developing a presentation to give to their respective agency. They developed a 45-minute presentation and then



PHOTOS BY ANDREA LEAO

Visit to Senator Ron Wyden's Office. Left to right: Amy, Leanna, Mako, Jill, Lindsay, Finley, Rayanna, Emersyn, Andrea



Headed out on our first day of touring. Seated, left to right Rayanna, Lindsay. Standing, left to right Emersyn, Finley, Jill, Leanna, Mako



Night tour at National Monuments.

answered questions from the agency afterwards. Some of the agencies included the Juvenile Justice Department, Department of Labor, Department of Energy, and the Library Department.

Our Oregon delegates toured the Capital and had the opportunity to visit with staff from our Oregon Senators and Representatives.

One of the highlights was learning about the internship program that is possible for high school graduates and college students with representatives and senators. This was a great learning experience for both the youth and adults. I am so proud to have been a chaperone of such an amazing group of young women.

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