



GROWING

Extending Knowledge and Changing Lives in Linn and Benton Counties

Extension Digs Deep into Cover Crops

By Mitch Lies,
Lead Writer

Growers are finding that cover crops lower soil temperature, reduce erosion, improve water retention and boost soil health. With hundreds of cover crops to choose from, however, determining which variety to plant can be daunting.

Enter Oregon State University Extension's Organic Agriculture Program. Last fall, the program launched a cover crop variety trial that could help inform growers which species best meet their goals.

The two-year trial is believed to be the most comprehensive look at cover crop variety characteristics ever conducted in Oregon.

"There have been a lot of different kinds of cover crop trials over the years, but I don't know that there were any variety trials characterizing plant characteristics within species," said Shannon Cappellazzi, soil health specialist in the program.

Cover crops are unique in agricultural production systems in that they are not grown to be eaten or sold but to increase soil's capacity to function as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains life, according to Cappellazzi.



Participants in a cover crop field day eye plants on a display table April 29 in Corvallis. The one-acre variety trial can be seen in the background.

"Cover crops can protect soil from erosion, improve soil tilth, supply nitrogen, reduce weeds, provide nectar and pollen for beneficial insects, increase the winter survival of mycorrhiza and provide other benefits," said Nick Andrews, OSU Extension organic vegetable specialist, who is involved in the variety trial.

Growers look for several traits when deciding which cover crops to plant, including how late in the

season a variety can be planted, a factor particularly important for those who have cash crops in the ground as late as October and typically have a short window to get a cover crop established. Plant biomass and nutrient content are important factors for growers who incorporate cover crops into soil for added soil nutrients. Ease of crop termination is an important factor, given that most growers terminate cover

crops in the spring before the cash crop comes on.

"There is a whole list of different goals that people can have for their cover crops and knowing those goals helps you choose which cover crop is going to be best for your system," Cappellazzi said. "Some people want to use cover crops as a fertility source. They want more plant-available nitrogen. Other people are using it to scavenge nitrogen. Let's say

you have a dairy operation and you're applying a lot of manure in the fall. You want to have a cover crop growing throughout that winter to prevent nitrogen from leaving your system.

"There are some people whose primary concern is erosion and having those plants covering the surface has a huge impact on erosion," she said. "There are others where their goal is carbon sequestration, and so in that situation, you might be choosing something that has a really big fibrous root system and puts on a ton of belowground or aboveground biomass with a high carbon to nitrogen ration."

Often, growers have more than one goal. "That is why we often talk about mixes, multiple plants that are going to fill different parts of your goals," Cappellazzi said.

In the one-acre trial at the OSU Vegetable Research Farm, researchers are analyzing multiple characteristics of 13 different species and 66 varieties, including how they influence nutrient availability for the subsequent cash crop, plant-growth characteristics and soil nutrient cycling capacities.

"This trial is not specifically focused on being able to say one species or one variety has

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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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Oregon State University
Extension Service

Extension Digs Deep into Cover Crops

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an overall effect on soil health,” Cappellazzi said, “but we are taking measurements of plant characteristics, like the percent carbon and nitrogen of a plant and the total amount of biomass that they produce, which has a huge influence on the nutrient availability for the next crop.

“And we took biomass and nutrient data at three different time points in the growing season, because producers often want to know when is that optimal time to terminate a specific cover crop,” she said.

The trial is also designed to help breeders select for different traits by providing a roadmap of varietal traits.

Notably, Oregon grass and clover seed growers produce millions of pounds of seed annually for use as cover crops in Midwest corn and soybean operations. The cover crops have been shown to improve moisture retention, break up soil compaction and provide other soil health benefits.

Still, here at home, only a small percentage of Oregon growers have taken to cover crops, Cappellazzi said. The last survey showed that only around 5 percent of Oregon farmers use cover crops on a regular basis.

One of the Organic Agriculture Program’s goals with the cover crop variety trial is to expand

usage of cover crops in Oregon. “We have goals of not only increasing usage, but increasing success when using cover crops,” Cappellazzi said.

The program hopes in the near future to establish variety trials in other parts of the state, including at the Central Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station in Madras and at the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Station in Moro.

“Understanding which varieties work well in those environmental conditions will be really important for us,” Cappellazzi said. “Ideally, I would like to see variety trials at every one of the OSU research stations.”

CONGRATULATIONS 2026

LCEA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Mya Clark

Mya graduated as valedictorian from Scio High School and plans to attend Oregon State University for Architectural Engineering. Mya was a dedicated 4-H member, has been part of OHSET (Oregon High School Equestrian Team) and is an active volunteer in her community.



Amelia Sullens

Amelia is transferring from Pacific University to Oregon State University where she will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Forestry with a minor in Agricultural Business Management. She was an active 4-H member, and plans to volunteer at the Linn County Fair and support future members



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Linn Soil and Water Conservation District

Conservation vs. Limited Snowpack

by Kevin Seifert,
Linn SWCD

The Willamette Valley, widely considered Oregon's agricultural heartland, is currently experiencing one of its most severe droughts in recent memory. The 2026 water year has been characterized by critically low snowpack levels in the Cascade Mountains, which serve as the principal water source for the valley. These conditions have prompted significant concern regarding the future of agriculture, municipal water supplies, and the ecological well-being of the region. Nonetheless, with the implementation of proactive conservation measures and strong community engagement, the valley may navigate these challenges and progress toward greater water security and resilience.

Snowpack: The Valley's Natural Reservoir

The Willamette Valley's water supply is heavily dependent on snowmelt from the Cascades, which replenishes rivers, reservoirs, and aquifers. Snowpack functions as a natural reservoir, storing water throughout the winter and releasing it gradually during the dry season. This year, however, measurements at critical sites such as Santiam Pass and the McKenzie River basin indicate that snow water equivalent (SWE) values are approximately 30-40 percent of normal levels—conditions not witnessed since the significant droughts of the early 2010s.

This shortfall will result in reduced flow into the Willamette River and its

tributaries during the summer, coinciding with peak demand for irrigation, municipal use, and environmental purposes. The limited snowpack is primarily attributable to warmer winter temperatures and below-average precipitation, both of which align with broader climate change trends observed across the Pacific Northwest.

Impacts on Agriculture and Communities

The agricultural sector, which produces a diverse range of crops—from grass seed and berries to wine grapes and hazelnuts—is particularly susceptible to the effects of drought. Many farmers rely on surface water diversions and irrigation districts that, under these circumstances, are now enforcing usage restrictions or shortening irrigation seasons. Livestock producers are also adversely affected, as diminished pasture growth increases the cost of supplemental feed. These challenges contribute to reduced yields, lower farm incomes, and potentially increased food prices for consumers.

Municipalities throughout the Willamette Valley are likewise experiencing the consequences of these conditions. Cities such as Eugene, Salem, and Albany depend on the river for drinking water, industrial activities, and recreation. As river levels decline, water utilities are urging residents to reduce outdoor watering, repair leaks, and install water-saving appliances. In some municipalities, voluntary conservation measures are



Grass Seed ripening 2 weeks ahead of schedule due to limited rainfall this spring.

being encouraged, while others are preparing for the possibility of mandatory restrictions should drought conditions persist into the summer months.

Conservation Measures: Maximizing Limited Resources

Although the current drought presents significant obstacles, it also offers an opportunity to reassess water usage and conservation in the Willamette Valley. Conservation measures are essential for extending limited water supplies and alleviating stress on both natural and human systems.

For agricultural producers, the adoption of more efficient irrigation technologies—such as drip or micro-sprinkler systems—can result in substantial water savings compared to conventional irrigation. Utilizing soil moisture sensors and weather-based irrigation scheduling can further enhance the efficiency of water applications, ensuring that crops receive only what is necessary. Some growers

are also transitioning to more drought-resilient crops or modifying planting dates to optimize available moisture.

In addition to efficient irrigation technologies, agricultural producers in the Willamette Valley are incorporating a variety of water conservation practices to maximize limited resources. The use of cover crops is one such method, as these plants reduce soil erosion, improve water retention, and enhance soil health, thereby minimizing irrigation needs. Other practices include mulching to decrease evaporation, implementing no-till or reduced-till farming to maintain soil moisture, and constructing buffer strips or windbreaks to protect fields from drying winds. By adopting these strategies, farmers can better conserve water and sustain productivity during drought conditions.

Collaborative Solutions for a Sustainable Future

Addressing the drought in the Willamette Valley necessitates coordinated efforts

among farmers, municipalities, water managers, and residents. State and local agencies are monitoring conditions, updating drought response plans, and assisting those most affected. The Oregon Water Resources Department, for example, supplies real-time data on stream flows and reservoir levels, enabling informed decision-making among water users.

Long-term solutions will require investments in water storage and delivery infrastructure, restoration of natural systems that buffer against drought, and exploration of innovative approaches including water banking and trading. As climate variability becomes increasingly prevalent, building resilience entails not only reacting to drought conditions but anticipating and preparing for them in advance.

Conclusion

The 2026 drought in the Willamette Valley starkly illustrates the region's vulnerability to changing weather patterns and finite water resources. Nevertheless, through the adoption of conservation measures and the fostering of collaboration, local communities can adapt to these circumstances and establish a foundation for a sustainable and secure water future. Each action counts; current efforts will help keep the Willamette Valley thriving for future generations.

For better ways to manage your water resources or more drought tolerant plants contact OSU Extension, USDA NRCS, and Linn Soil and Water Conservation District.



It's jam and jelly making season

The valley is in the midst of berry season, which translates to jams and jellies season. Here are a few tips for a successful fruit preserve season:

- Harvest berries in the cool early morning, avoiding the heat of day when berries start to lose their freshness.
- Store berries in the fridge unwashed until ready to use.
- Quantity of Berries Needed:
 - 2 lbs. of fresh berries will yield 1 quart frozen or canned berries.
 - Every quart of fresh berries will yield approximately 1 cup of juice for jelly or 2 cups of mashed berries for jam.
- Berries are ready for jams and jellies, but you aren't? Mash the berries before freezing and measure out the amount for your favorite recipe or freeze in one cup portions.
- Measure accurately and follow directions carefully.
- Know your pectin (regular vs. low or no sugar, cooked vs. freezer, powdered vs. liquefied).
- Process all jams and jellies in a boiling water canner or freeze for long-term storage.
- Sealing jams and jellies with paraffin is no longer recommended.
- Always follow a research approved recipe or the recipes included with the pectin you purchase.

Sometimes jam and jelly do not set up. The table below lists some common errors when making fruit spreads and helpful tips to avoid these errors.

Source: OSU Master Food Preserver Program

Common Errors in Making Soft Spreads	Helpful Tips
Overcooking fruit to extract juice.	Avoid overcooking as this lowers the jelling capacity of pectin.
Using too much water to extract juice.	Use only the amount of water suggested in the instructions.
Incorrect proportions of sugar and juice.	Follow recommended proportions.
Undercooking causing insufficient concentration of sugar.	Cook rapidly to jelling point.
Insufficient Acid.	Lemon juice is sometimes added if the fruit is acid deficient
Making too large a batch at one time.	Use only 4 to 6 cups of juice in each batch of jelly.
Moving product too soon.	Do not move jellied products for at least 12 hours after they are made.
Insufficient time before using.	Some fruit spreads take up to 2 weeks to set up completely; plum jelly and jellies or jams made from bottled juices may take a longer time to set up.

Food, Feelings, and Awareness: What's the Difference between Emotional Eating vs. Mindful Eating?

By Shannon Guerin Van Deusen, OSU Dietetic Intern

You may be experiencing emotional eating when you find yourself reaching for a snack when you weren't actually hungry. Maybe after a stressful day at work, or when you are feeling bored or lonely. Have you ever stopped to wonder, "Why am I eating this?" You are not alone. Research shows that nearly one in five U.S. adults reports eating in response to emotions often, and studies link this pattern to weight gain, depression, and anxiety over time.

Emotional eating means eating to manage feelings like stress, sadness, boredom, or loneliness, rather than physical hunger. It is a common human response to difficult emotions. Eating while not hungry is part of life, however you may want to set a health goal to become more aware of when and why it happens. Emotional eating can happen with any food, but we often reach for easy, familiar foods that feel comforting and quick to eat.

Physical Hunger vs. Emotional Hunger

Not all hunger feels the same. Learning to tell the difference is an important skill.

Physical hunger comes on gradually, and signs include:

- Stomach growling or feeling empty.
- A drop in your energy.
- Trouble concentrating.
- Easily irritated
- Headache

Emotional hunger tends to



come on suddenly and feel urgent. Other signs include:

- A quiet stomach
- Craving a specific food or flavor.
- Guilt after eating.

As children, we eat in response to physical hunger signals. In adolescence and young adulthood, as stress increases and eating habits become more tied to social situations and mood, we begin to start eating in response to our emotions. Building awareness of the difference between physical and emotional hunger early on can make a lasting difference.

Mindful eating is one tool that can help. Mindful eating means paying attention to the eating experience and your body. Noticing hunger, fullness, taste, texture, emotions, and the environment around eating, instead of simply reacting. Mindful eating is more about setting up a healthy eating plan. It does not mean avoiding favorite foods or eating "perfectly." It is about focusing less on what you eat and more on how and why you eat, without judging your choices.

Pause Before You Take a Bite

When reaching for food, take a moment to ask yourself:

- "Am I physically hungry?"
- "What emotion am I feeling

right now?"

- "Is there something else I could do to help me feel better?"
- "Can I slow down and really enjoy this food?"

Ways to Encourage Mindful Eating

Eating is an important and enjoyable part of life. Here are a few simple tips to practice eating more mindfully:

- Remove distractions like television, cell phones, or work when possible.
- Slow down. Try placing your fork or spoon down between bites.
- Pay attention to your food, notice the smell, flavors, and textures.

When Emotions Drive the Urge to Eat

If you notice that emotions, rather than hunger, are behind the urge to eat, here are some alternative ways to care for yourself in that moment:

- Wait 5 minutes and check in with yourself to determine if you really are hungry.
- Go for a ten-minute walk.
- Call a friend or loved one.
- Spend a few minutes with your pet.
- Read a book or magazine.

Building awareness around eating takes practice and patience. Remember, practice over perfection by simply learning to listen to your body and your feelings a little more closely, one meal at a time.

References upon request.

Nutrition During Breastfeeding and Lactation

By Kendall Wilmoth,
OSU dietetic intern

Linn-Benton Family and Community Health will be sharing an informational series on women's health looking at nutrition needs through a woman's lifespan. This four-part series will explore how hormones affect nutrition at different life stages. Nutrition during breastfeeding and lactation is part three of four.

After pregnancy, a woman's body continues to go through major hormones and nourishment needs. The postpartum stage, especially breastfeeding, is a challenging time in a woman's life. Nutrition remains just as important as during pregnancy because a mother's body is now in the process of making milk to feed her baby while still recovering from birth.

Once the baby is born, estrogen and progesterone levels drop sharply, and prolactin becomes the main hormone. Prolactin triggers milk production and supports breast tissue development. Another hormone, oxytocin, helps the milk flow and strengthens the bond between mother and



baby. These hormones control milk supply and affect energy balance and metabolism.

Breastfeeding requires more calories, protein, and fluids to keep making milk and keep the mother energized. During the first six months, when milk supply is being established, most women need about 500 extra calories and 1.3 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight. Nutrients like vitamin A, vitamin B12, and choline are important for both mothers and baby, supporting brain function, thyroid health, and immune development. It is recommended by health professionals to continue taking prenatal vitamins during breastfeeding to help

meet the needs of increased nutrients and help support postpartum recovery. Hydration plays a huge role too. Breast milk is mostly water, so staying well-hydrated is key. Try to drink water throughout the day and during feeding sessions.

From 6 to 12 months, as the baby starts eating solid foods, the need for milk decreases slightly. Calorie needs drop to around 400 extra calories per day, though protein needs stay the same. It's important to focus on vitamin D, calcium, and zinc to keep bones healthy and maintain a steady milk supply.

For women who are not breastfeeding, nutritional needs during postpartum recovery are still important

but a little different. While extra calories for milk production aren't needed, the body still requires increased nutrition to heal from childbirth, restore nutrient stores, and support energy levels. Focus on protein to help tissue repair, iron to rebuild blood stores, and calcium and vitamin D for bone health. Many healthcare professionals recommend continuing prenatal vitamins for several months postpartum to support recovery. Eating balanced meals with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins will help your body heal and adjust to the demands of caring for a newborn.

Every mother's experience is different. Appetite, milk supply, and energy needs can vary. Listening to your body, eating balanced meals, and including healthy snacks can help you feel strong and supported. Breastfeeding is both a physical and emotional journey and caring for yourself through good nutrition helps you care for your baby.

References upon request.

Master Food Preservers are out in the community

Come and see our Master Food Preservers when they are out at local Farmer's Markets in your area.

7-11
Albany Farmers Market

7-15
Corvallis Farmers Market

7-25
Scio Farmers Market

8-8
Albany Farmers Market

8-12
Corvallis Farmers Market

8-22
Scio Farmers Market

Master Food Preservers are also staffing the Food Preservation Helpline during the summer months. That number is 1-800-354-7319. Leave a message and a Master Food Preserver will call you back.



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Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series for 2026

By **LeAnne Locher**, Statewide Master Gardener Outreach Coordinator

The Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener webinar series is back for 2026, offering another season of free lunchtime classes designed to inspire gardeners, volunteers and plant lovers across Oregon and beyond. Beginning in June, this popular online series explores everything from pollinator-friendly landscapes and seed libraries to creative volunteer outreach ideas and thriving houseplants — all presented by engaging speakers from around the state.

Webinars take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 12 p.m., running from June through September 2026. Each session is free and open to the public, and OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers can earn one hour of Continuing Education credit for attending.

Participants can attend live on Zoom or watch the webinars streamed live on the program's Facebook page. Recordings will also be posted to the website approximately two weeks after each live presentation, making it easy to catch up later.

Whether you're interested in supporting pollinators, sharing seeds with your community, discovering new outreach ideas or improving your houseplant game, this series offers practical gardening inspiration and connection throughout the summer.

2026 Webinar Lineup

- **June 9:** Totally buggin': Creating beautiful landscapes that support beneficials
- **July 14:** Chard catalog: Sharing through seed libraries
- **August 11:** What's on the table? Ready-to-go activity kits for volunteers
- **September 8:** Epiphyte club: Houseplants for health and happiness

Visit the Level Up site for more information <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2026>.



Beneficial Role of Paper Wasps

By **Ranee Webb & Rich Little**, Linn County Master Gardeners

Paper wasps forage for nectar and soft-bodied insects.



Unlike yellowjackets, paper wasps build open “umbrella” nests without an envelope or covering and that consist of a single layer (comb) of egg cells. Nests are often found on the underside of eaves or overhangs that protect the nest from rain. Because nests are also built inside voids such as metal pipes used in fencing, or the underside of unused equipment, they are often overlooked until an active nest is disturbed. They build open gray, papery nests out of saliva mixed with chewed wood or paper litter. The fiber (cellulose) paste is used to construct walls and cells for raising brood. Nests are started by overwintering mated queens in early spring. Once the queen has raised a few workers, they take on the task of building and feeding while the queen focuses on egg-laying. Paper wasp queens are known to invade and take over nests of other

queens. Only female wasps have stingers because a stinger is a modified ovipositor (egg-layer). Male wasps are among the last raised in a nest, and only function to mate with the new queens.

How do I know it is a paper wasp?

Paper wasps can vary in appearance but are black or brown with yellow or brown striping. They are not fuzzy like bees and can be recognized by their obvious ‘waist,’ a narrow or extended petiole between thorax and abdomen and their long legs dangle when they fly. This makes them appear more delicate than bees and yellow jackets. European paper wasps have long legs, long tapered abdomens, and orange-tipped antennae.

Stinging

Paper wasps often warn intruders who get too close to the nest by flying into them without stinging. When disturbed they can deliver a painful sting. It is important to understand that wasps have a role in the environment and most stinging incidents occur during accidental or ill-advised interaction. You may want to remove nests near entrances but leave the nests up high in the eaves.

Many ‘bee sting’ incidents are caused by wasps. Wasps and many bees can sting repeatedly, while honey bees leave the stinger in the flesh. Reactions to venom vary,

so be prepared. Integrated pest management for wasps helps reduce the chance of interaction, protecting both this important insect, and you and those around you.

Paper wasp



Yellowjacket



Use this link to learn more about yellowjackets: *Awareness is key to avoiding yellowjackets* OSU Extension Service, EM 9609.

Vegetarians, Predators and Parasitoids: Lesser-Known Wasps of Oregon | OSU Extension Service

Paper Wasps | Cornell IPM <https://cals.cornell.edu/integrated-pest-management/outreach-education/whats-bugging-you/bees-and-wasps/identifying-bees-and-wasps/paper-wasps>

July-August Gardening Calendar for Western Oregon

JULY

Recommendations are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Oregon. For more information, contact your local Extension office <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/home-garden-landscape>.

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.

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 (Link downloads document) 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.
- Oregon Coast:** First planting of Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, and rutabagas.

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.
- 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 (Link is external).
- East of the Cascades:** If necessary, spray for corn earworm as silking begins. Protect bees from spray.
- 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 the to end of the month.
- High elevations, Central and Eastern Oregon:** Prune away excess vegetation and new blossoms on tomatoes after mid-August. Concentrate on ripening set fruit.

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.
- Oregon Coast:** Plant spinach.
- Western valleys, Portland, Roseburg, Medford: Plant cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, spinach, turnips and parsnips.
- Columbia and Snake River Valleys, Ontario:** Plant Chinese cabbage and endive.

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.
- East of Cascades:** Check for tomato hornworm. Remove them if found.
- 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.

Pollinator Needs Assessment Survey

The Linn County Pollinator Project is a helpful resource for information about pollinators in Linn County and beyond.

To best serve the community, OSU Extension Linn County Master Gardener Program and Linn County Master Gardener Association are conducting a short survey. The survey will help us understand your interest in pollinators and learning about them. It only takes about five minutes to complete. Your feedback will help us create educational programing and adapt existing programing that better meet the needs of everyone in the community.

Visit <https://beav.es/linnpollinator> to take the survey.

Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture Open House & Tour

Thursday, July 30, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture, 843 SW 35th St, Corvallis

No cost; public welcome, lunch provided.

Learn more about OSU Department of Horticulture projects including organic vegetables, landscape management, pollinator and honeybee research and demonstration, small farms program, and dry farming vegetables.

Contact: Alec.Kowalewski@oregonstate.edu

Master Gardeners are Here to Answer Plant Questions in Linn and Benton Counties

By Otilia Schreuder

Summer is the time when we want to get out into the yard and garden to plant, and prune, and putter. It is also the time of year when our Linn and Benton County Master Gardeners really show up to help inspire and answer your many gardening questions. Below is a calendar of events for the Linn and Benton County Master Gardeners. For more information on these events visit <https://www.facebook.com/LinnBentonOSUMG> or <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/program/mg/linnbenton/events>

Master Gardeners offer not just plant advice but also can help you to identify common garden and household pests.

To find out where the Master Gardeners will be in your community, please refer to the calendar below.

July

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 | Lebanon Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., 971 Park Street, Lebanon, OR |
| 2 | Brownsville Farmers Market, 3-6 pm, 185 Main St, Brownsville, OR |
| 4 | Albany Farmers |

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 7 | Market, 9 a.m - 1 p.m., Water Ave & Ferry St, Albany, OR |
| 9 | Sweet Home Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., 1141 12th Ave. Sweet Home, OR |
| 11 | Brownsville Farmers Market, 3-6 pm, 185 Main St, Brownsville, OR |
| 11 | Fall and Winter Gardening Workshop, 10-11:30 a.m., Willamette Park Community Garden, 1350 SE Goodnight Ave, Corvallis, OR |
| 12 | Philomath Farmers Market, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 1050 Applegate St, Philomath, OR |
| 16 | Brownsville Farmers Market, 3-6 pm, 185 Main St, Brownsville, OR |
| 16 | Lebanon Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., 971 Park Street, Lebanon, OR |
| 16-18 | Master Your Garden events at the Demonstration Garden during Linn County Fair, 3700 Knox Butte Rd, Albany, OR |
| 18 | Albany Farmers Market, 9 a.m - 1 p.m., Water Ave & Ferry St, Albany, OR |
| 18 | Lebanon Garden |

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 21 | Tour, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., more information and tickets at https://www.linnmastergardeners.com/ |
| 23 | Sweet Home Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., 1141 12th Ave. Sweet Home, OR |
| 23 | Brownsville Farmers Market, 3-6 pm, 185 Main St, Brownsville, OR |
| 29-8/1 | Benton County Fair |
| 30 | Brownsville Farmers Market, 3-6 pm, 185 Main St, Brownsville, OR |
| 30 | Lebanon Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., 971 Park Street, Lebanon, OR |

August

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Albany Farmers Market, 9 a.m - 1 p.m., Water Ave & Ferry St, Albany, OR |
| 4 | Sweet Home Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., 1141 12th Ave. Sweet Home, OR |
| 6 | Brownsville Farmers Market, 3-6 pm, 185 Main St, Brownsville, OR |
| 13 | Brownsville Farmers Market, 3-6 pm, 185 Main St, Brownsville, OR |
| 13 | Lebanon Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., |

- | | |
|----|---|
| 15 | 971 Park Street, Lebanon, OR |
| 15 | Albany Farmers Market, 9 a.m - 1 p.m., Water Ave & Ferry St, Albany, OR |
| 18 | Sweet Home Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., 1141 12th Ave. Sweet Home, OR |
| 20 | Brownsville Farmers Market, 3-6 pm, 185 Main St, Brownsville, OR |
| 22 | Corvallis Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 1st & Jackson, Corvallis, OR |
| 27 | Brownsville Farmers Market, 3-6 pm, 185 Main St, Brownsville, OR |
| 27 | Lebanon Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., 971 Park Street, Lebanon, OR |
| 29 | Pollinator Workshop, noon-5 p.m., Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St, Lebanon, OR |

September

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Sweet Home Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m., 1141 12th Ave. Sweet Home, OR |
|---|--|

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Groundwater Protection Education

Welcome to our Summer '26 Intern Team

Abby is in her second year at OSU studying Human Development and Family Sciences. After finishing her undergrad, she plans to attend grad school to pursue a career in counseling or therapy. Outside of school she loves spending time with her horses, hiking, backpacking, or any outdoor activity! Extension has always been a huge part of her life, starting when she joined 4-H at nine years old. Abby is super excited to be involved with and give back to the program that has had such an impact on her life personally.

Nakayda is excited to be interning with OSU Extension's Groundwater Education Program this summer! They are a third-year Natural Resources student with a focus on agricultural and science communication, and loves finding ways to make science more engaging and accessible. Being especially passionate about education, supporting families, and connecting people to the natural world around them. Outside of school and work, you can usually find Nakayda hula hooping, camping, or spending time with the people they care about.

Colleen is a third-year student studying Biology and Spanish at Oregon State. She is passionate about working in an interdisciplinary environment and making



PHOTO CREDIT: WELL WATER PROGRAM OSU

Come to one of our local water test clinics.



Abby



Nakayda



Colleen

science education accessible. Outside of classes, she hikes, rides horses, and works in a microbiology research lab. She loves connecting with people and looks forward

to making an impact with OSU Extension Service this summer.

If you see us out and about this summer at community events please

say hi. This team works across the Willamette Valley to host 35 to 40 nitrate screening clinics along with helping at our county fair booths.

No Cost Well Water Nitrate Screenings

If you are interested in getting a no-cost nitrate screening, bring 1/2 cup of untreated well water in any clean container to any of these scheduled community clinics. The screening takes about 10 minutes.

- July 1st – Millersburg Farmers Market, 3030 Alexander Lane NE, Albany from 4-7 p.m.
- July 9th – Brownsville Farmers Market, 185 Main Street, Brownsville from 3-6 p.m.
- July 16th – Summer Sounds, Riverfront Park in Harrisburg from 5-7:30 p.m.
- July 25th – Lacombe Grange Market, 34100 E Lacombe Rd in Lebanon from 1-6 p.m.
- August 17th – Sunset Building Foyer, 4077 SW Research Way, Corvallis from 3-7 p.m.

More events will be added throughout the summer so make sure to check out wellwater.oregonstate.edu if you don't see your local community listed here. Missed the clinic? The Linn and Benton County offices can provide these screenings during business hours.

Commerical Agriculture Small Farms

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OSU Dry Farming Program & the Dry Farming Collaborative

Oregon State University Extension - Center for Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems

Dry farming offers Oregon producers a practical, climate-resilient strategy by supporting agriculture in areas without reliable irrigation, conserving water in drought-prone regions, reducing input costs and labor, improving crop flavor and quality, and strengthening long-term agricultural adaptability. The OSU Dry Farming Program helps farmers grow crops with little to no irrigation, often by relying on residual soil moisture from Oregon's rainy season. Launched in 2014, the program has expanded from a handful of research trials into a statewide effort grounded in research, farmer-led experimentation, and education. This work is strengthened through collaboration across Oregon State University, with farmers, partner organizations, and the



broader Dry Farming Collaborative community, with additional support from the nationally focused Dry Farming Institute.

Key Program Areas

1. Participatory Research: On-farm trials testing crop varieties, soil management, and dry farming techniques.

2. Education & Technical Support: Workshops, field days, online curriculum, annual winter convening, and Extension publications.
3. Dry Farming Accelerator: Free online training, site-suitability mapping, and collaborative research opportunities.
4. Mapping & Suitability

Tools: Resources to help farmers assess whether their land is appropriate for dry farming.

Dry Farming Collaborative (DFC)

Formed in 2016, the Dry Farming Collaborative is a community of practice made up of farmers, Extension educators, plant breeders,

researchers, and agricultural professionals across the Pacific Northwest (and beyond) who advance dry farming through shared learning, experimentation, and peer support. Together, members lead on-farm trials and share results, gather each year at the Winter Convening for research updates and community learning, and participate in peer-to-peer education through field days, workshops, and online discussions. The Collaborative also maintains a growing library of videos, guides, and recorded sessions on its YouTube channel, creating an accessible hub of farmer-driven knowledge and resources.

Learn more and get connected: smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/projects/dry-farming

You're invited to the OSU Vegetable Research Farm - Dry Farm Field Day

- **When:** Wednesday, August 26th | 5-7 p.m.
- **Where:** OSU Vegetable Research Farm
- **Free to attend** - RSVP HERE: <https://beav.es/fuP> or email Teagan.moran@oregonstate.edu.

Presentations will feature this year's dryfarmed

research, including:

- Dryfarmed tomato variety trials exploring relationships between plant physiology, productivity, and fruit quality
- Tomato droughtstress trials evaluating how varieties respond to differing levels of water

- limitation
- Variety trials featuring sorghum, cowpeas, corn, cucumber, cut flowers, and vegetable seedproduction plots, providing a broader look at crop performance in non-irrigation systems
- A selection of varieties will be available for

tasting, including the dry farmed variety trials offering participants the chance to experience flavor and texture differences firsthand.

Speakers include Matt Davis, Lucas Nebert, and Jim Myers.

Presented by the Oregon

State University Center for Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems. Register at beav.es/fuP. Accommodation requests can be sent to Teagan Moran - Teagan.moran@oregonstate.edu or 541-713-5011.

Weed Profile - Scotch broom

(*Cytisus scoparius*)

List B Noxious Weed

Lifecycle

- Perennial. Plants lose their leaves and fruits at the end of the growing season but remain as green-black sticks during the winter months. Flowers appear in early spring into summer between March-June. Pea pods appear after the blooming period in late summer.

Habitat

Open disturbed sites, roadsides, pastures, grasslands, oak woodlands, riparian corridors and open forests.

Description

- Foliage: 3-10 feet tall with dense, slender upright stems that are 5-ridged, multi branched.
- Flowers: 1" long, yellow, irregular shape similar to other pea species.
- Seeds/fruits: Flat, hairy along the seam.
- Looks similar to gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) except it has NO spines.

Impacts

- Rampant spreader. It is important to prevent seed production. A mature plant produces about

- 15,000 seeds per year, which remain viable in the soil for ten+ years.
- Deep, woody taproots make removal of mature plants extremely difficult at large scales.
- Suppresses native plants and forest seedlings.
- Fire hazard. Increases wildfire risk.

How to control it

Prevention is key. Monitor new plants, prevent going to seed, maintain regrowth, and replant with desirable plants. Expect several years of monitoring and effort to get rid of broom.

Manual

- Pull or dig out seedlings and small plants with hand tools in spring. Remove as much of the root as possible.
- Cut larger stems in summer when soil is dry, soil disturbance in the fall can encourage seed germination. Dispose of plants in the trash when seeds are present.

Biological

Mode of action:

Scotch Broom Seed Beetle (*Bruchidius villosus*). Larvae feed on seeds within pods.

Adults feed on pollen.

Scotch Broom Seed Weevil (*Exapion fuscirostre*). Larvae consume seeds, which may slow the spread of the plant. Adults feed on the tips of small branches causing minor twig mortality.

Scotch Broom Twig Mining Moth (*Leucoptera spartifoliella*). Larvae mine the epidermis of small twigs, reducing photosynthesis. Large numbers of larvae can cause plant mortality, especially in dry areas.

Chemical

- Direct foliar application, basal bark application, and cut-stump application in the spring or early summer when it is actively growing, before or after it blooms. Treat broom before seed pods develop.

Always read and adhere to pesticide label instructions.

Scotch Broom Resources:

- PNW Weed Handbook: <https://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/problem-weeds/broom-scotch-cytisus-scoparius-french-genista-monspensulana-portuguese-cytisus-striatus-spanish>



Scotch Broom flowers look similar to Gorse except no spines.



Scotch Broom Seed Beetle ODA



Scotch Broom Seed Weevil



Scotch Broom Seed Pods



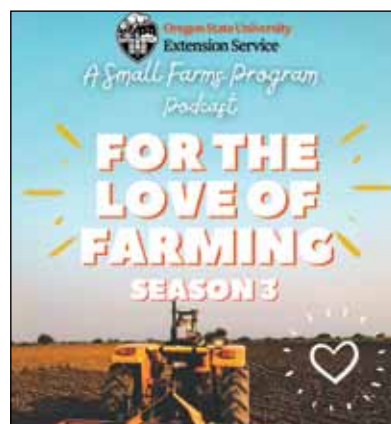
Scotch Broom Twig Mining Moth



Scotch Broom foliage

- ODA: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Documents/Publications/Weeds/ScotchBroomProfile.pdf>
- SOLVE: <https://solvepestproblems.oregonstate.edu/weeds/broom>

- Benton SWCD Invasive Plants: <https://www.bentonswcd.org/scotch-broom-cytisus-scoparius>
- Biological Control: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/weeds/pages/biological-control.aspx>



New Episode of For the Love of Farming!

Some lives reveal how extraordinary they are the moment you start listening. Mary Eichler of Green Gate Farm in Corvallis has lived one of those lives. Her story sounds like a legend or a movie script, not because it's embellished, but because it is rooted in courage and a rare clarity of purpose.

Mary turned eighty years old the day we recorded this. Mary's life shows how much one person can change the world around them, and far beyond. As she says, "there's always a better way... you just have to be willing." Like the time she and her husband, simply helping a neighbor and trusting what they saw,

unwittingly set in motion an international agricultural trade and industry - turning a waste product into a global export, improving environmental outcomes, and helping change Oregon law (more than once). Her story preserves a piece of Oregon history that isn't captured elsewhere.

This episode honors a

woman who has spent her life solving problems others accepted as inevitable, caring for animals others passed by, and spreading seeds of impact everywhere she stepped. I am grateful for everything about Mary.

This episode was recorded in March of 2026 - Listen at beav.es/fxs.



Summer Tasks for Fruit Tree Orchards

By Erica Chernoh,
Commercial and Community
Horticulture

While spring and fall are typically the busiest times in an orchard, there are still plenty of tasks that need attention during the summer months. Here are some summer tasks to focus on to keep your fruit tree orchard healthy and productive.

Fruit thinning

Most fruit trees naturally thin themselves by dropping excess fruit in early June, a process known as “June drop.” However, if trees remain overloaded with fruit, additional thinning is necessary. Thinning increases fruit size and prevents limb breakage from excessive weight. For apples, thinning also reduces the contact points between fruit, limiting the spread of codling moth. When thinning, always retain the largest fruit possible. Thin apples and pears to one fruit per cluster, peaches and nectarines to one fruit every five to seven inches, and for plums, leave about four to six inches between each fruit. Fruit should be thinned from trees within 40-60 days of full bloom.

Summer pruning

Summer pruning helps slow overly vigorous growth and opens the center of the canopy to improve air circulation and sunlight penetration. Focus on

removing water sprouts, suckers, inward-growing branches, and diseased or broken limbs. Always prune when no rain is expected in the immediate forecast to reduce the risk of spreading disease.

Irrigation

Insufficient water during the dry summer months can lead to premature fruit drop, poor fruit sizing, and drought stress. Irrigation is especially important for young trees, as it supports root development and reduces stress during hot weather. Water deeply during extended dry periods, applying water slowly at the tree’s dripline in the early morning. Soil type and temperature influence watering needs. Clay soils retain moisture for longer, while sandy soils drain quickly and require more frequent irrigation. Check soil moisture regularly during the summer to prevent overwatering and drought stress.

Integrated Pest Management

Pest pressure in orchards begins to build in the spring and early summer and continues throughout the season. Use traps to monitor for key pests like codling moth, apple maggot, and brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB).

In apple and pear orchards, sprays targeting the 1st generation of codling moth should have been



made in June, however, in warm years there is often a 2nd generation of moths. Continue monitoring with pheromone traps, and spray for the second generation if needed. For apple maggot, use yellow sticky traps or red sphere traps to monitor for adult flies.

Stink bugs, particularly the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), are a pest of most fruit crops. In apple orchards, stink bug feeding can cause cat-facing on the fruit or corky brown spots just beneath the skin of the fruit that resemble bitter pit. In peaches and

nectarines, BMSB causes cat-facing, surface scarring, and internal brown spots. Use pheromone-baited pyramid traps to monitor for BMSB. Place the traps outside the orchard edge to avoid drawing the stinkbugs into the orchard.

Fruit trees are also susceptible to aphids and spider mite damage. Look for webbing, twisted distorted leaves, and stippling on leaves. Several native predators and parasitoids help suppress aphids, mites, and the BMSB. Because some pesticides used to treat pests are broad spectrum,

excessive use can adversely affect the population of natural enemies, and lead to secondary pests. Insecticides should be used judiciously and only when monitoring indicates a need.

For more information on common pests, including monitoring and management, refer to the Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbook (<https://pnwhandbooks.org/>).

Weeding

Mow the areas between the tree rows regularly to control weeds when they reach about 6 inches in height and before they set seed. Keep the area around the base of each tree weed free by removing weeds and applying mulch. Suckers should be removed or sprayed before they are 6 to 9 inches tall.

Tissue testing and nutrient management

Summer is also the optimal time to take a plant tissue test to assess the nutrient status of your orchard. A plant tissue analysis can be used to diagnose nutrient deficiencies and monitor the effectiveness of fertilizer practices. Between mid-July and mid-August, collect fully expanded leaves and petioles from the middle of a non-bearing shoot or spur. Collect about 40 leaves and petioles from 10 trees and send them to a laboratory for testing.



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Commerical Agriculture Field Crops



Sunset over a harvested grass seed field with stacks of straw bales.

South Valley Field Crop Notes 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/xqH>

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 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.
- 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.

Save the dates for fall Extension events

Integrated weed management workshop

- Wednesday, September 2nd, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
Linn County Fair and Expo Center -
3700 Knox Butte Rd E, Albany

Fall OSU Extension Seed and Cereal Crop Production Meetings

- Wednesday, September 9th, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
Roth's Hospitality Center - 1130 Wallace Rd, West Salem
- Wednesday, September 9th, 1:30 - 5 p.m.
Linn County Expo Center - 3700 Knox Butte Rd E,
Albany
- Thursday September 10th, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
Forest Grove Elks Lodge - 2810 Pacific Ave, Forest Grove



OSU research advances wasp that attacks stink bug eggs

Oregon State University research has helped move a tiny wasp first found in Oregon a decade ago from a promising discovery to a biological control agent now being used against brown marmorated stink bug, an invasive pest that threatens hazelnuts, pears, apples, cherries, vegetables and other specialty crops.

"The samurai wasp is not just showing up briefly after release. It is surviving across seasons and establishing in Oregon, which is what we need from a biological control agent," said Nik Wiman, an associate professor and OSU Extension Service orchard specialist at OSU's North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora.

Read more about this beneficial wasp at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/pests-weeds-diseases/insects>.

Forestry and Natural Resources

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Step into the world of digital mapping

By Lorelle Sherman,
Extension Forester Linn, Benton,
Polk counties

Paper maps have long been essential for small forestland owners because they help us see how our properties fit into the greater landscape. They help us understand geographic scale, local terrain, alternative routes, and so much more. Paper maps require no batteries, no signal, and no charging. What paper maps lack, though, are real-time features like your exact GPS location at any given moment, changing visibility of features (ex. roads) at different scales, and the ability to update your map in real time. Digital mapping may feel overwhelming in a world of rapidly advancing technology, but OSU Extension's Forestry & Natural Resources Department is here to help.

Digital maps are useful for all forestland owners of all acreages, forest types, and technological abilities. Are you planning a timber harvest? Digital mapping can help you identify your property boundaries, create and label stand maps, assess slope and topography, and mark important features, such as streams and riparian buffers. Are you wanting to track habitat on your property? You can track your path while assessing understory vegetation and place pins with photos that label where you've seen native plants of interest (or invasive plants for removal). You can place pins at culverts, wildlife snags, bird nesting boxes, etc. Do you have a root rot pocket? If you turn tracking on and walk the perimeter of your suspected infection, you will create a polygon that can be included in your management plan for monitoring.

There are a number of digital mapping apps available for download to your smartphone,

tablet, or other device. It may be challenging to determine which app is best suited for your needs. While I hope to briefly elucidate app capabilities here, I encourage you to attend a digital mapping workshop, like the one I'm hosting in Benton County at Peavy Forest Science Center on Thursday, July 23rd (register at beav.es/f7L). These workshops walk you through tutorials so you can decide which functions you like in which apps. The workshops were designed by Alicia Christiansen (Extension Forester, Douglas County) and Norma Kline (Extension Forester, Coos and Curry Counties) and are being adapted for use statewide.

Here's a taste of digital mapping app offerings, but please know this is just scratching the surface:

Google Earth is a free and familiar starting point for anyone new to digital mapping. It offers satellite and aerial imagery, basic measurement tools, and the ability to drop pins and draw simple boundaries. While it lacks the specialized forestry layers found in other apps, its ease of use makes it a good way to get comfortable with digital maps before exploring more feature-rich tools.

CalTopo is a web-based and mobile mapping platform well-suited for forestland owners who want detailed topographic analysis. It offers slope shading, sun exposure modeling, and the ability to create custom maps by layering different data sources. Maps can be printed or downloaded for offline use. A free tier is available, with additional features through a paid subscription.

Avenza Maps is a mobile app that excels at offline use, which is a big advantage in areas with poor cell service. It works by downloading georeferenced PDF maps to your device, including official maps from the U.S. Forest

Service and BLM. Once a map is loaded, your GPS location appears on it without any data connection. *Important update: Avenza recently removed the ability to upload up to 3 maps in the free version. You now have to pay \$34.99/year for up to 20 custom maps. Alternatively, you can see if any of their free maps in the map store will work for your purposes.

Gaia GPS is a versatile mobile navigation app popular with land managers and outdoor users. It offers a wide range of map layers including topographic, satellite, forest service roads, etc, and allows you to record tracks, drop waypoints, and measure areas. Offline maps are available. A free version exists, with full features available by subscription.

onX Hunt was built around hunting, but its property boundary and land ownership overlays make it surprisingly useful for forestland owners trying to identify neighbors, easements, and parcel lines. It works on mobile and desktop. Subscription required.

QGIS is a free, open-source desktop GIS (Geographic Information System) application for those wanting more analytical horsepower. It can import many data types (LiDAR, aerial imagery, county parcel data) and perform complex spatial analysis. It has a steeper learning curve than mobile apps, but is a powerful option for owners who want to build detailed stand maps or management overlays on a computer.

Honorable mention: Ecotrust deserves an honorable mention for two free, web-based tools designed specifically for Oregon and Washington forest landowners. These are browser-based, not app-based. LandMapper (landmapper.

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GIS mapping class

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE | BENTON COUNTY FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Your Land in your hands

DIGITAL MAPPING WITH AVENZA AND CALTOPO

Learn how to use free digital tools to map features on your land

Get the most out of digital mapping apps on your smartphone or tablet. Using two commonly available digital mapping applications, Avenza and CalTopo, the instructors will lead you through detailed tutorials and demonstrate how to integrate these digital tools into daily forest and land management activities.

You will learn how to use your smartphone or tablet to calculate acres and distances of property features, monitor road problems, insect damage, invasive plants, and more! The outdoor practice sessions will be within walking distance of the classroom.

Participants are asked to bring their own smartphone or tablet. Computers will be available for use, but participants are welcome to bring their own laptop.

Contact Lorelle Sherman for questions
lorelle.sherman@oregonstate.edu | (541) 713-5016

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials. This publication will be made available in an accessible alternative format upon request. Accommodation requests related to disability should be made by 7/23/26. Please contact crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu or (541)730-3539.

Thursday,
July 23, 2026
9:00 am - Noon

Peavy Forest Science
Center, OSU Campus
Benton County

Registration required by 7/21/26
go to <https://beav.es/f7L>

Wildfire Ready Linn County Launches with a Community Workshop in Sweet Home

By Kayla Bordelon,
Extension Regional Fire
Specialist, Willamette Valley
& North Cascades

Wildfire Ready Linn County hosted an inaugural wildfire preparedness workshop last month at Sankey Park in Sweet Home. “Residents in eastern Linn County are increasingly aware of wildfire risk and looking for clear, practical guidance,” said Kayla Bordelon, Regional Fire Specialist with the OSU Extension Fire Program. “The workshop brought together local agencies and organizations to help community members take achievable steps toward wildfire readiness.”

The workshop featured presentations and resources on three key wildfire preparedness topics.

Benton County Emergency Management presented on evacuation planning and emergency preparedness. Recommended action steps included signing up for the Linn-Benton Emergency Alert System and creating a family emergency plan with a “go bag” ready for evacuation. Visit their website for emergency preparedness resources: www.linnsheriff.org/community-resources/emergency-preparedness/.



The logo for the new Wildfire Ready Linn County partnership symbolizes working together with residents to strengthen wildfire readiness.

Sweet Home and Lebanon Fire Districts presented on ways to make homes more resistant to wildfires. Recommended actions included scheduling a free home assessment to identify priority upgrades, and reducing the chance that windblown embers can enter a home by screening vents and sealing gaps and openings. To learn more about preparing your home for wildfire, see this guide from University of Nevada Extension: <https://naes.agnt.unr.edu/PMS/Pubs/2020-3810.pdf>

The Oregon Department of Forestry shared information on creating defensible space around homes. Key recommendations included maintaining a nonflammable

zone within the first five feet around structures and trimming vegetation to reduce fire pathways toward homes. For more guidance on defensible space, visit: www.oregon.gov/osfm/wildfire/pages/defensiblespace.aspx

The Division of Financial Regulation also shared wildfire insurance resources (see: <https://dfr.oregon.gov/insure/home/storm/pages/wildfires.aspx>), and the Oregon Livestock Council brought a large animal evacuation trailer to demonstrate safe livestock evacuation techniques.

The community workshop is part of a larger collaboration among Sweet Home Fire District, Lebanon Fire District, OSU Extension Fire Program, Oregon Department of Forestry, Linn County, South Santiam and Calapooia Watershed Councils, and the Oregon State Fire Marshal to improve wildfire readiness in fire-prone eastern Linn County. Through a five-year federal investment, the Wildfire Ready Linn County initiative will help eastern Linn County residents access free wildfire home assessments and opportunities for defensible space work, including limbing trees and removing hazardous vegetation. The grant also supports new wildfire



Partner organizations gathered at the Wildfire Ready Linn County community preparedness workshop in Sweet Home.



Christian Whitfield, Sweet Home Fire, presents on reducing wildfire risk to homes.

resilience positions across partner organizations to help coordinate with residents and carry out mitigation work. This investment gives Linn County a major opportunity to accelerate

wildfire preparedness efforts across the region. For more information or to schedule a free home assessment, visit the partnership’s new website: www.wildfirereadylinnco.org.

Emerald Ash Borer Alert

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a destructive, invasive beetle that kills ash trees (*Fraxinus* species). EAB has been detected in Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas, Marion, and Yamhill Counties. EAB is expected to spread throughout the Willamette Valley with an over 99 percent mortality rate of ash trees. Take action now by learning how to identify the signs and symptoms of EAB so you can

monitor ash on your property. Start thinking about how you will respond when EAB arrives in your area. Read more about your options here: <https://beav.es/EM9607>

Find additional resources on EAB here: <https://oregon-eab-geo.hub.arcgis.com/>. You can keep tabs on the latest EAB detections on this site – look for Oregon EAB Map tab across the top of the page.



Step into the world of digital mapping

Continued from Page 14

ecotrust.org) helps owners quickly generate a property report with ownership boundaries, soils, timber site class, and other useful information. Forest Planner (forestplanner.ecotrust.org) allows users to map stands, input inventory data, and model different management scenarios to see projected outcomes for timber volume, financial returns, carbon storage, and ecosystem benefits over time.

While this July’s digital mapping workshop focuses on CalTopo and Avenza Maps, future versions will dip into the more advanced program, QGIS.

Linn County 4-H Youth Development

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Schedule of Events - Linn County Fair 2026

Tuesday, July 14

2:00 PM Meat Goat: Market, Breeds (Sheep/Goat Ring)
5:00 PM Flower Arranging Contest (Willamette Bldg)
5:00 PM Swine: Breeds (Swine Ring)
5:00 PM Beef: Market (Beef Ring)

Wednesday, July 15

9:00 AM Poultry: Market, Showmanship, Breeds (Santiam Bldg)
9:00 AM Swine: Market (Swine Ring)
9:00 AM Dairy/Pygmy Goat: Showmanship (Sheep/Goat Ring)
1:00 PM Sheep: Market (Sheep/Goat Ring)
4:00 PM Meat Goat: Showmanship (Sheep/Goat Ring)
4:00 PM Beef: Showmanship (Beef Ring)

Thursday, July 16

****Fair open to the public****

9:00 AM Swine: Showmanship (Swine Ring)
9:00 AM Rabbit/Cavy: Market, Showmanship, Breeds (Santiam Bldg)
9:00 AM Dairy/Pygmy/Fiber Goat: Breeds (Sheep/Goat Ring)
11:00 AM Dairy Cattle: Showmanship, Breeds (Beef Ring) *Open show to follow*
1:00 PM Sheep: Showmanship, Breeds (Sheep/Goat Ring)
4:00 PM Beef: Breeds (Beef Ring)
****Adult Showmanship to follow****
5:00 PM Small Animal Costume Contest (Santiam Bldg)
6:00 PM Cloverbud Show and Tell (Santiam Bldg)

Friday, July 17

9:00 AM Open Class Sheep Show (Sheep/Goat Ring)
9:00 AM Open Class Beef Show (Beef Ring)
10:00 AM Small Animal Master Showmanship (Santiam Bldg)
2:00 PM Cats/Exotics (Santiam Bldg)
3:00 PM FFA Large Animal Master Showmanship (Swine Ring)
5:00 PM 4-H Large Animal Master Showmanship (Beef & Sheep/Goat Rings)

Saturday, July 18

12:00 PM Market Livestock Auction (Calapooia Arena)

Static Exhibits will be on display Wednesday through close of fair Saturday night.

Workshops and Field Days Prepare Youth for Fair

By Cassi Hyde

Linn County youth are hard at work preparing for one of the highlights of the year—the Linn County 4-H and FFA Fair. Throughout the year, members have participated in a variety of educational opportunities designed to help them develop their livestock and static (non-animal) projects.

Thanks to the dedication of our incredible volunteers and the support of the Linn County Youth Livestock Auction Committee (LCYLA), youth recently participated in the Linn County Youth Livestock Auction Educational Field Days. This year, the program was expanded into a multi-day series, allowing participants more hands-on learning time with their animals and instructors. Livestock members got to practice their handling skills in the show ring as well.

The LCYLA series began with a beef-focused workshop, followed by sessions dedicated to sheep and meat goats, and then swine. The educational series concluded with workshops for poultry, rabbits, and cavies. By dividing the species into separate sessions, youth were able to receive more individualized instruction and practical experience.

Guest instructors included members of the Linn-Benton Community College Livestock Judging



Education Field Days



Photography workshop

Team, along with many knowledgeable local 4-H volunteers. Workshops covered essential topics such as feeding and nutrition, fitting and grooming, animal handling, and showmanship.

Members showing static projects also had opportunities to improve their skills with contests and workshops throughout

the year. If you venture into the Willamette Building you will find projects ranging from art, natural science, STEM, consumer sciences, and horticulture that are the culmination of dedicated time to study their field of interest.

The success of these programs would not be possible without the commitment and support of our volunteers, guest speakers, members, and families. We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who invests their time, knowledge, and encouragement in our youth. Their belief in our members and their understanding of the importance of programs like 4-H help create opportunities for young people to learn responsibility, develop leadership skills, build confidence, and gain hands-on experience that will benefit them for years to come. Together, they help ensure that the next generation has the tools, support, and opportunities needed to succeed both in and out of the show ring.

We would like to invite you all to our annual Linn County Youth Livestock Auction on July 18th. The auction will start at noon with a buyers luncheon at 11 a.m.

The fair schedule is listed on this page. Come out and see the hard work and dedication these youth have put into their projects.

Meet Our LCYLA President and Treasurer

By Lydia Wright

If you've spent any time around the livestock barns or auction ring at the Linn County Fair, chances are you've seen Donald Fleckenstein and Stacey Lyle hard at work. As leaders of the Lacombe Livestock 4-H Club and active members of the Linn County Youth Livestock Auction (LCYLA) Committee, they play a key role in helping Linn County 4-H members succeed both in and out of the show ring.

So what volunteer work do you do for 4-H?

Donald is the president of the LCYLA Committee, and Stacey is the treasurer. This means that they help with all the behind-the-scenes work to make the auction, educational days, and other events possible. In addition to this, they are both leaders of the Lacombe Livestock 4-H club, where they help guide members throughout the year as they work toward their project goals.

How did you become involved in 4-H?

Their 4-H journey actually began when they were kids themselves. Donald participated in a wide variety of livestock projects, including llamas, beef and dairy cattle, swine, sheep, pygmy goats, and dairy goats. Stacey showed horses, swine, market poultry, rabbits, and chickens, while also completing sewing and other static projects.

The experiences they gained as youth members stayed with them long after they aged out of the program and inspired them to give back as volunteers.

What makes you passionate about 4-H?

For Donald and Stacey, the answer is simple.

"The opportunities and values that 4-H provides to kids are immeasurable."

They enjoy watching young people

develop confidence, responsibility, leadership skills, and friendships that often last a lifetime.

What do you do for the Auction Committee? Describe your duties and responsibilities.

Donald currently serves as president of the LCYLA Committee, while Stacey has served as the committee's treasurer for more than seven years. They are quick to point out that the committee's success is truly a team effort.

The committee now has more than 20 active members who regularly attend meetings and help organize events throughout the year. Together, they work to ensure the livestock auction runs smoothly and continues to support local youth exhibitors.

Why did you choose to volunteer for the auction committee?

Donald first became involved in 2017 after asking a question during a committee meeting about pen lotting. By the end of the meeting, he had been elected vice president.

"If you're going to ask a question, I feel you should jump in and be willing to help," Donald says.

That attitude has helped the committee recruit new volunteers over the years. Donald believes that many hands make lighter work and that new members bring valuable ideas to the table.

That same year, Stacey, and her husband Jason joined the committee as a way to meet people, make friends, and give back to a program that had meant so much to them growing up. When longtime treasurer Loyal Burns was ready to step down, he asked Stacey to take over the position.

Is there an anecdote from the county fair you would like to share?

One of Donald and Stacey's favorite memories came during the challenges of 2020.



Donald photo bombs Selah Wright, a Linn county 4-H member.



Stacey Lyle (on the left) is showing off her adult showmanship banner.

Other than the auction, what do you enjoy doing the most in 4-H?

Beyond the auction, Donald and Stacey enjoy watching young people grow. They love seeing members form new friendships, improve their project skills, and gain confidence as they work toward their goals. Watching youth discover what they are capable of is one of the most rewarding parts of volunteering.

Is there a moment that you can recall where you felt you had truly made an impact on a child through 4-H?

A few years ago, the auction committee began encouraging youth to personally thank their buyers after the livestock auction. The experience gives members an opportunity to practice communication skills and make face-to-face connections with the community members who support them.

They have also seen firsthand how moving the livestock auction to the Calapooia Arena transformed the event. The larger venue created a more exciting atmosphere and helped make the sale feel like a true community event.

Would you recommend becoming a volunteer to others? Why or why not?

Without hesitation, Donald and Stacey say yes.

"Lots of time is not required. New people bring new ideas."

They believe there is always room for improvement, and that improvement comes from volunteers who are willing to share their talents and perspectives.

For Donald Fleckenstein and Stacey Lyle, volunteering is about more than organizing events or attending meetings. It's about investing in young people and helping ensure that future generations have the same opportunities and experiences that made such a difference in their own lives.

Benton County 4-H Youth Development

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4-H Wildlife Stewards Summit 2026



Youth participants enthusiastically answer questions during an interactive bird activity.

On May 20th, Benton County Extension hosted 58 local students for our annual 4-H Wildlife Stewards Youth Summit at the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, and the energy (and weather!) could not have been more perfect. Students had the opportunity to explore the Refuge, learn from experts, and present their own hard work through posters and speeches to 4-H judges. We want to extend a massive thank you to the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex staff and all the incredible volunteers, educators, parents, and partners who helped put this day together. Your dedication to fostering a “learn by doing” spirit is what makes our community thrive!

A special thanks to the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District for providing funding support for this year’s Summit through their Conservation Education Grant program.

Students’ posters that qualified for the Benton County Fair will be on display at the 4-H Exhibit Building—make sure you check them out during Fair!

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.

Get Outdoors Day 2026

On May 30th the Oregon State University Research Forests, OSU Extension Service of Benton County, and the Benton County Health Department welcomed over 30 community partner organizations, 100+ volunteers, and over 600 participants to Peavy Arboretum for an amazing day of bilingual, hands-on outdoor exploration at Get Outdoors Day 2026!



Youth share a hands-on, memorable moment with a tortoise at the Get Outdoors Day event.

Families enjoyed free fishing for kids, archery, nature crafts, meeting live reptiles, bug hunts, spraying water from a fire house, learning about forest wildlife, meeting Benny Beaver, and so much more.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered or visited the Forest for Get Outdoors Day! We can’t wait to see you all next year to explore, learn, and connect with the outdoors!

2026 Benton County Fair & Rodeo | “Stars, Stripes, and Summer Nights”

Wednesday, July 19th - Saturday, August 1st

Benton County Fair Hours:

Wednesday – Saturday: 11 a.m. - midnight

Gate Admission:

- Adults (17-59) \$10 per day or \$30 Season Pass
- Seniors (60+) \$8 per day or \$24 Senior Season Pass
- Youth (7-16) \$8 per day or \$24 Youth Season Pass
- Kids 6 and under FREE all day, every day
- **Parking:** \$5 daily at the gate or \$15 Season Pass
- Carnival Unlimited Rides for one day only: \$45 at the Fair Carnival Ticket Booths (\$35 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:

- **Magician Jeff, Comedian Matt Baker, and Bright Heart Circus** Wednesday, July 29th, 6 p.m.
- **Battle of the Bands** Thursday, July 30th
- **Battle of the Bands Winner** Friday, July 31st, 7 p.m.
- **Queen Nation** Friday, July 31st, 8:30 p.m.
- **Jacquie Roar** Saturday, August 1st, 7 p.m.
- **Hunter Hayes** Saturday, August 1st, 8:30 p.m.

Rodeo:

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

4-H Animals: Cattle, swine, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, covies, and so much more! We all love the animals at the County Fair! Be sure to visit the livestock barns and Guerber Hall and ask the 4-H participants about their animals. 4-H dogs will also be showing in the Oak Grove.

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

Beard & Mustache Competition – Saturday, August 1st, 3 p.m. – Register online in advance or come see some impressive facial hair as part of this new contest.

These are just some of the highlights! For more information about the fun to be had at the 2026 Benton County Fair & Rodeo, visit fair and rodeo’s website at: <http://www.bentoncountyfair.net/>



2026 Benton County 4-H Horse Fair!

Come watch our Benton County 4-H horse members compete at the fair. It runs Thursday, July 16–Sunday, July 19 at the Benton County Fairgrounds beginning at 9 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!

Fashion Showcase over Mother's Day Weekend

The Saturday before Mother's Day, thirty-one 4-H members strutted and posed on a stage in outfits that they sewed and/or pieced together before interviewing with a judge. This is part of the annual 4-H Fashion Revue contest. Participants could enter four classes: Construction (making a garment), Ready to Wear (piecing together an outfit), Challenge (future fashion theme), and Upcycle (repurposing a garment to

make something new). After the judging portion, all the 4-H members returned for a packed evening public show where family and friends cheered them on and saw the top awards distributed.

Many of the Intermediates and Seniors from the participating 4-H members will be heading to State Fair this August since they qualified in the county contest to compete at the state level. We wish them the best of luck!



4-H leader demonstrates the modeling walk on stage to a young 4-H member.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY BENTON COUNTY 4-H

Applying Animal Biosecurity

During this time when threats to animal health have been regularly made headlines and risk factors like shows are taking place, it is critical to learn and practice good 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. Limiting the access wild waterfowl, in particular, have to your property can greatly reduce the odds of domestic birds contracting avian influenza (HPAI) as waterfowl can be carriers.
- 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.

Congratulations Benton County 4-H Graduating Seniors!

Twenty-seven 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!

Caleb Babcock, Lacey Bacho, Staton Barnes, McKenna Bradley, Haylee Denué, Elizabeth Dye, Atticus Grose, Madison Hull, Declan Krieger, Briahna Ledbetter, Makayla Lillie, Emma May, Jake McGaughy, Cameron McLennan, Jessica McLennan, Kamryn Miller, Kathryn Mullis, Lucie Oster, Abby Phelps, Lane Schell, Josey Schreiber, Sydney Shoemaker, Cadence Stevens, Audrey Stieglitz-Gibson, Kylie Thorson, Wyatt Wellette, and Braydon Williams.

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

Lee Allen Memorial Youth Livestock Auction

The Lee Allen Memorial Youth Livestock Auction will be held on Saturday, August 1st, 3 p.m., at the Benton County Fairgrounds! 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 of beef, pork, lamb, goat, poultry, and rabbits for your dining pleasure. Being responsible, engaging in financial obligations, and learning how to manage their own business operations only scratch the surface of the educational benefits. 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/>

Volunteers needed at Fair in the 4-H Exhibit Building

Want to earn 2 single-day admission passes and 1 parking pass to the Benton County Fair? Just volunteer 2 hours of your time during July 29–August 1, 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 people per shift beginning at noon till 10 p.m. Please contact the Extension office at 541-713-5000 to learn more.

Pacific Region Compost Facility

Compost That Performs



Oregon State University – Sustainability in Business Club

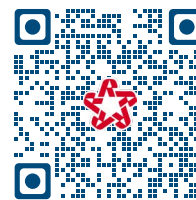
At the Pacific Region Compost Facility, just north of Corvallis, we believe leftover organics should never go to waste. Every day, we transform yard debris and food scraps into high-quality compost that supports healthier soil, stronger plants and more sustainable communities.

We're also proud to support the next generation of environmental leaders, by hosting the Oregon State University Sustainability in Business Club for hands-on education and outreach — connecting students directly with the role composting plays in a circular economy.

The Pacific Region Compost Facility produces high-quality compost, engineered for consistency, performance and environmental benefit.

Our products improve soil structure, enhance moisture retention, and support long-term soil health — making them ideal for landscapers, contractors, agricultural operations and municipal projects.

Backed by controlled processing and regional expertise, we deliver compost you can count on.



Bulk supply is available. Partner with us for your next project. Scan the QR code or visit our website at RepublicServices.com/municipalities/Oregon/prc to learn more.



Sustainability in Action