

Washington State University Mason County Extension 2015 Outcomes/2016 Plan of Work

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MASON COUNTY RESIDENTS



**Mason
County**

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



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Mission Statement

Washington State University Mason County Extension helps people put research-based knowledge to work, improving their lives, communities, and the environment.

To realize this mission, faculty and staff plan, conduct and evaluate research and experience-based educational programs to improve the lives of Mason County residents.

WSU Mason County Extension also employs the assistance of hundreds of volunteers and community partners and provides access to the resources available at Washington State University and the National Land Grant University Extension System.

Local Programs Include:

- Community & Economic Development
- Food \$ense Nutrition Education
- 4-H Youth Development
- Water Resources Outreach & Education
- Noxious Weed Education and Control
- Small Farms Education
- Master Gardener Program
- Consumer Food Safety



2015 COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY THE NUMBERS

Linked 215 job seekers to WSU Degree and training programs.

Trained 58 youth and adults on using smartphones for digital storytelling.

Submitted 1.2 million dollars worth in grants to create a new industry.

Provided direct technical assistance to 7 businesses and 13 community agencies.

Community & Economic Development

Situation & Issue

Mason County continues to recover from the 2008 recession, and the county appears poised for community and economic revitalization. However, the county has been confronted with a number of challenges. In 2015, two of the largest employers in the county announced the imminent closure of their operations in Shelton, WA. At the same time, drought, fires and warming temperatures in Hood Canal and South Puget Sound also placed additional stress on local government, business, and residents.

Recognizing both opportunities and ongoing challenges, WSU CED faculty conducted an informal assessment among elected officials, public health professionals, port districts, business owners, and economic development councils to identify community needs, assets, and aspirations for economic development in Mason County. Community input and immediate realities revealed four critical areas of work:

- Coordinated Economic Stabilization
- Strengthen Sustainable Food Systems
- Build Capacity for Data Driven Decision-Making
- Strengthening Community Resilience

Response

We realize that long-term, resilient economies depend in part upon our collective ability to cooperate, increase community engagement, share information, and mobilize resources to innovate and adapt to changing social and ecological realities. WSU is working with EDCs, SBDCs, local business, colleges, tribes, and local government agencies to support communities through:

- Applied Research: to support sustainable local food systems, resilient communities, local business, and improve use of information technology for civic engagement, and decision-making.
- Training and Technical Assistance: to grow entrepreneurship, and increase technology literacy among youth and adults.
- Digital Innovation and Informatics: to support data-driven decision-making, collaboration and responsive governance.

Advancing economic well-being, and quality of life through collaboration, technology, and applied research.

Outcomes and Results for 2015

- The CED Program was officially launched in June 2015.
- Faculty designed programs to establish a seaweed industry to grow jobs, improve water quality, and create renewable energy.
- Worked with CSOs, farmers and residents to strengthen regional food systems and health coalitions.
- Provided technical assistance to farmers, and promote institutional procurement of local foods.
- Initiated a new Innovation and Informatics initiative designed to increase the capacity for community problem-solving, increase youth engagement, and support data driven decision making.
- Delivered technology training to businesses and CSOs, improving data collection and information sharing practices.

Staff

Justin G. Smith, PhD. Assistant Professor, Community & Economic Development & County Director, 1 FTE.

Funding

Mason County \$24,547
WSU \$63,293

Goals for 2016

- Access funding for seaweed hatchery training program.
- Update regulatory framework for seaweed harvest.
- Grow the Digital Innovation and Informatics initiative.
- Provide workforce training in information technology.
- Assist local businesses and CSOs in data mining, predictive analytics, & technology planning.
- Design and implement data sharing network for the South Sound Food Systems Council.
- Launch the “Hotspots” mobile app for community storytelling and data collection.
- Work with County and tribes to assess and communicate impacts of sea level rise on county infrastructure.

Quotes

Youth Digital Storytelling Participant, said:
"Sweet! Now I can make movies with my phone!
So easy!"

Non-Profit Executive, said:
"I can't believe how fast all this technology is changing. It is kind of scary, but I'm happy we have you to help us out."

Committee Chair—Thurston Food System Council, said:
"We are so grateful to have your help with our survey! Now we have a baseline, we know where we are and where we need to go."





2015 FOOD \$ENSE BY THE NUMBERS

1,841 Direct contacts
with adults & youth

1,460 Indirect contacts
with parents & adults
via newsletters

101 nutrition
education programs
delivered

Food \$ense Nutrition Education

Situation & Issue

Poor eating habits and a lack of physical activity contribute to Mason County adults having higher rates of obesity. Food insecure youth are more likely to be obese. In a national study, obesity rates increased by 10% for all children 10-17 years old between 2003 and 2007 but increased by 23% for low income children during that same time. In 2013, Mason County ranked 33rd of 39 counties in terms of health outcomes. 15% of Mason County's population received SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly Food Stamps) benefits which is a 117% increase since 2000. According to the Healthy Youth Survey in 2012 for students in grades six to twelve, an average of 31% were overweight or obese.

Response

A coordinated system-wide approach is needed to reverse impacts associated with a national environment promoting caloric overconsumption and discourages physical activity, along with individual choices within that environment that have contributed to dramatic increases in the rates of overweight and obesity. The Social-Ecological Model (SEM) illustrates how all sectors of society, including individuals and families, educators, communities and organizations, health professionals, small and large businesses, and policymakers combine to shape an individual's food and physical activity choices, and ultimately one's calorie balance and chronic disease risk.

WSU Extension SNAP Ed Program is part of a coordinated system-wide approach that delivers evidence based services using a combination of approaches described in the Food and Nutrition Act: individual and group-based activities, multi-level interventions and community and public health approaches.

A balance of these strategies will be used by WSU Extension in partnership from organizations to leverage SNAP-Ed financial resources with funding of other organizations with complementary missions to reach eligible individuals using multiple channels and varied approaches to increase effectiveness and efficiency. Goals and outcomes will be coordinated through and reported to Mason County Public Health as part of the collective impact data collection for the Moving Mason Forward initiative and strategy map.

Empowering low-income residents to make healthy food choices and choose active lifestyles through education and environmental supports.

Outcomes and Results for 2015

Food Sense collaborated with the Mason County Health Department in coordinating and assembling existing and new partners from multiple sectors for the Eating For Health workgroup. The group felt the action plans that were developed two years ago should be updated. A strategy session was held in December 2015 looking at those focus areas and redefining work to address emerging needs and current strategies being used by partners. The group voted to change the name to better reflect the work being done. Healthy Living was selected as the new name for the work group.

Collective impact strategy maps were developed by MC Public Health in collaboration with WSU Extension and Mason General Hospital. Collective Impact is the commitment of a group of people from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a specific social or health problem. This effort is part of the overall Moving Mason Forward campaign, a community wide effort aimed at capturing all the work happening in our area to improve health outcomes and quality of life for residents.

Staff

R. Jeanne Rehwaldt, Extension Coordinator Supervisor, .8 FTE
Pamela Lyons, *Instruction & Classroom Support Tech 2, 1 FTE
Josh Munro, * Instruction & Classroom Support Tech 2, 1 FTE
Karen King, *Technical Assistant 1, .5 FTE
Christine Ciancetti, *Professional Worker, .5 FTE
*Working title: Nutrition Educator

Funding

* USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP Ed) grant: \$278,103

Goals for 2016

To positively impact health outcomes using coordinated strategies to leverage all the work currently being done and report outcomes through the Collective Impact system at Mason County Public Health.

* Dollar amount projects 2015 budget cycle.

Team Nutrition

Pioneer, Mary M. Knight and Shelton School Districts participated in a Team Nutrition pilot to implement Smarter Lunchroom Design. At MMK “celebrity” servers joined students for lunch, a name was given to the cafeteria and increased physical activity at recess were highlights. All School Districts will submit applications for designation as a Healthier US School in 2016.





2015 4-H BY THE NUMBERS

- 2098 Youth reached
- 103 Adult Volunteers
- 13 Youth Volunteers

2015-2016 4-H Council Officers

President:

Michelle Ellis

Vice President:

Krag Unsoeld

Treasurer:

Michelle Goldsby

Secretary:

Katie Gunter



4-H Positive Youth Development

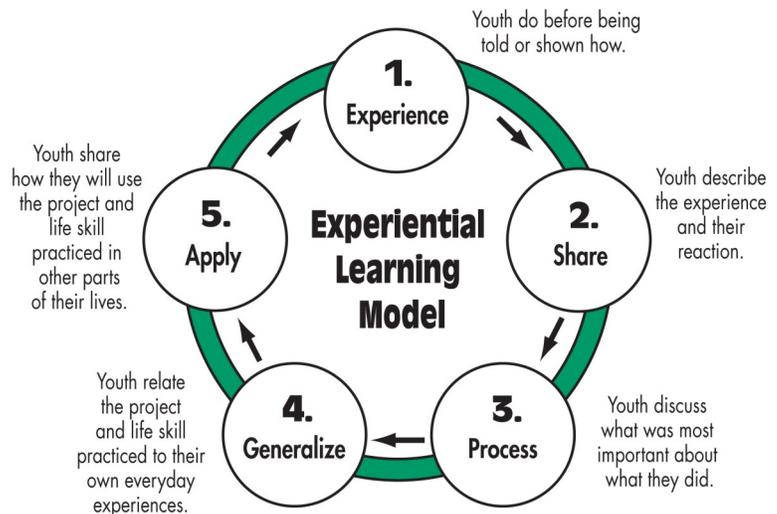
Situation & Issue

Youth have certain developmental needs--emotional, social, intellectual and physical--and will attempt to meet those needs throughout their day-to-day lives. Research through the Tufts University longitudinal study discovered that the structured out-of-school time learning, leadership experiences, and adult mentoring that young people receive through their participation in 4-H plays a vital role in helping them achieve success.

Response

The Mason County 4-H Youth Development program reaches out to youth and their families to build skills for life in a variety of ways including project clubs, after school programs, summer camps, special interest projects, internship programs and special events. Programs focus on three important areas with an emphasis on the experiential learning model:

- Positive and sustained relationships between youth and adult
- Activities that build important life skills
- Opportunities for youth to use these skills as participants and leaders in valued community activities



Providing programs that foster opportunities for experiential learning and life skill development to help youth become confident, contributing citizens.

Outcomes and Results for 2015

Forty four adults attended Volunteer Education sessions covering topics including communication, learning styles, youth protection, life skill development and youth/adult partnerships. Of the participants completing evaluations 69% reported they increased their knowledge of life skill development in youth. The Mason County 4-H Youth Development Program reached 2,098 youth. The contributions of 103 adult volunteer leaders provided youth with a wide variety of learning experiences including public presentations (public speaking), record books (record keeping, financial documentation, and narrative writing experience), judging, clinics, fairs (teaching poise and social competence in addition to project content skills), and community service projects (civic responsibility).

Staff

Dan Teuteberg, Assistant Professor, 4-H Regional Specialist, .5 FTE (split position with WSU Grays Harbor Extension)
Kathy Fuller, 4-H Program Coordinator (.75 FTE),

Funding

Mason County for 4-H Regional Specialist	\$10,568
<u>Mason County for Program Coordinator</u>	<u>\$28,922</u>
Total Mason County	\$39,490
Total WSU Salary & Benefits	\$93,219
* 4-H Council Fundraising	\$ 6,996
* Community Foundation Grant	\$ 5,000

Goals for 2016

- Increase the number of trained adult volunteers who deliver youth programs via clubs and community programs
- Increase number of community partners

* Dollar amount projects 2015 budget cycle.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS ABOUT 4-H

4-H'ers are about:

Four times more likely to make contributions to their communities

Two times more likely to be civically active

Two times more likely to make healthier choices

Two times more likely to participate in Science, Engineering and Computer Technology programs during out-of-school time

4-H girls are two times more likely (Grade 10) and nearly three times more likely (Grade 12) to take part in science programs compared to girls in other out-of-school time activities.

The Positive Development of Youth: Comprehensive Findings from the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development

“I have to say that this was in my top ten mom moments. Thank you so much for offering this great opportunity to our kids.”

Cindy Vernon
Teacher, 4-H Parent

Water Resources Education & Outreach



2015 WATER RESOURCES EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

32 people attended 5
free homeowner septic
system workshops

36 educational site
visits to private
properties along Hood
Canal

5 Shore Stewards
newsletters produced
and distributed to 475
households = 2,375
indirect contacts

Over 500 contacts at 6
community outreach
events

450 students engaged
on the water cycle at
Kids' Day at OysterFest

Situation & Issue

Marine and fresh water quality in some areas of Mason County has been degraded and needs improvement. Water quality issues are frequently a result of behaviors on personal property and pressures from continued growth. The marine shorelines of South Puget Sound and Hood Canal both suffer from water quality degradation related to nutrient loading and high fecal coliform bacteria concentrations, shoreline modifications like bulkheads and hard armoring, reduction of shoreline forests, and habitat and native plant removal on private properties. Water quality affects all residents of Mason County who rely on groundwater for drinking, recreate on or near the waters of Mason County, and harvest fish, shellfish, and other resources from our water.

Response

The goal of the program is to increase the number of residents using best management practices for water quality on personal property.

WSU Extension partners with Mason County Public Health, Washington State Department of Health, Mason Conservation District and other interest groups to educate local citizens. Efforts focus on the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda's top three priorities for improving the health of Puget Sound:

- Prevent pollution from urban storm water runoff
- Protect and restore habitat
- Recover shellfish beds

Staff

Erica Bates, Water Resources Program Coordinator, 1.0 FTE

Funding

Mason County	\$30,000
Grants	\$29,738
Total	\$59,738

Protecting public & environmental health through improved home water quality practices

Outcomes and Results for 2015

- Thirty-two people attended workshops on homeowner septic system maintenance. One hundred percent of attendees completing evaluations reported they feel able to identify a failing septic system as a result of the workshop.
- Thirty-six site visits were conducted on private properties in the Hoodport and Union areas of Hood Canal in Mason County. Approximately 73% of landowners say their knowledge has increased about water quality impacts due to homeowner activities, 66% of landowners on septic system maintenance recommendations, 45% of landowners on pet waste disposal methods, and 81% of landowners on how buffers affect water quality.
- Approximately 450 Mason County fourth graders attended Kids Day at OysterFest where we presented an interactive lesson on the water cycle.
- Approximately 200 people attended Oakland Bay Day, an educational celebration of the natural resources in Mason County.
- Eighteen new members joined the Mason Education, Communication, and Outreach Network; a community of professionals working collaboratively to enhance the health and vitality of the Puget Sound Region.

Goals for 2016

- Develop and provide aquaculture business training and technical assistance for shoreline owners in partnership with Small Farms Program and Community and Economic Development Program.
- Increase the number of people attending homeowner septic system workshops.
- Increase the number of shoreline residents enrolled as Shore Stewards.
- Collaborate with Community and Economic Development program on algae aquaculture program development.
- Cultivate long-term funding strategies to support water resources programming.



QUOTES

Local residents provided feedback in reference to educational site visits to their homes on Hood Canal:

“This was an awesome opportunity; I wish more people would take advantage of it to learn all the things they can do to keep the water clean.”

“They were very helpful and willing to stay as long as needed—very beneficial.”



Noxious Weed Program



2015 NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM

BY THE NUMBERS

Targeted mailing to 58 property owners with current or historic infestations of the class A noxious weed, giant hogweed with control assistance provided to 26

192 acres of National Forest land surveyed
153 acres treated

102 acres surveyed for knotweed
38 acres treated

3.7 miles of river/shoreline treated for knotweed

Over 900 contacts at 7 public events or presentations

338 "Noxious Weeds that Harm Washington State" booklets distributed.

Tansy ragwort was the topic at 1 KMAS interview

Situation & Issue

Noxious weeds take a significant toll on the environment and economy. A study completed in 2014 for the Oregon Department of Agriculture estimates that 25 of Oregon's most significant invasive noxious weeds cause an estimated annual loss of about \$83.5 million to the state's economy. The study shows that these plants have a significant impact on the local economy as well as the environment. This economic loss is attributed to decreased crop yields, livestock losses and a decrease in tourism due to the loss of fishing and hunting opportunities. In Washington state, a request for proposals was posted on November 17 by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to prepare a similar study of a select group of invasive species.

Response

The Mason County Noxious Weed Control Program's goal is to decrease the impact that invasive noxious weeds have on the county. The program aims to do this by assisting citizens with integrated vegetation management (IVM) and "early detection rapid response" (EDRR). In addition, public education through presentations and participation at public events is a cornerstone of the program.

The goal of the program is to increase the number of citizens who know about and utilize the resources of the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Program by:

- Providing information based on scientific research to people who contact us via phone, e-mail, office visit and public events
- Providing up to date information and research on the program's website
- Providing services to help landowners control difficult noxious weeds
- Coordinate with property owners to remove dangerous noxious weeds

Reducing economic and environmental impact of noxious weeds in Mason county.

Staff

Patricia Grover, Program Coordinator

Connor Cordray & Brayden Raber, Weed Control Technicians

Funding

* In 2015, the program received approximately \$55,250 from the county's general fund, \$25,598 from Title II and \$12,269 from other grants.

Outcomes and Results for 2015

Noxious weed survey work was accomplished on one hundred ninety-two acres of the Olympic National Forest utilizing funds from a Title II Participating Agreement. Additional grant funding supported the program's efforts to assist property owners with control of the Class A Noxious Weed giant hogweed and knotweed. The Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board currently has 116 agreements with Mason County property owners to survey for and, if found, treat noxious weeds on their property. Funding was received to develop an Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP) for Spencer Lake and the plan is in the early stages of development with the creation of a Facebook page and mailing list of interested citizens. Education and outreach efforts resulted in over nine hundred contacts.

Goals for 2016

- Initiate knotweed survey and control efforts in the Coulter Creek watershed.
- Initiate the public process for development of the Spencer lake IAVMP.
- Increase the impact the program has on the community by increasing contacts, grant funding, treatments and outreach.

* Dollar amount projects 2015 budget cycle.

QUOTES

NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM

A recent submission for grant funding was based on community members seeking assistance with a noxious weed issue. We recently received the following:

We have a majority of the landowners around the small end of the lake in agreement to do something."

We are hopeful that we can support their efforts.



AGRICULTURE IN MASON COUNTY

BY THE NUMBERS

377 Farms

23,743 acres

63 acres

\$40,809,000
Market Value of
Products Sold

Small Farms Program

Situation & Issue

Roughly 96% of the 471 farms in Mason County meet the USDA's definition of a "small farm" –farms with less than \$250,000 gross receipts annually on which day to day labor and management are provided by the farmer and/or farm family that owns, or leases the productive assets. That said, small farms play an important role in our county's economy, food system, natural resources, and way of life.

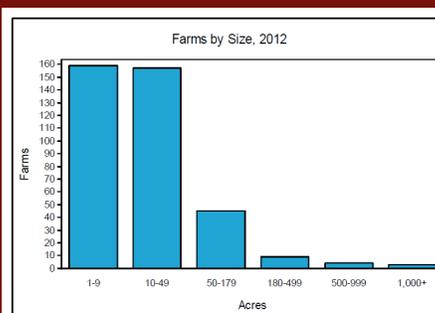
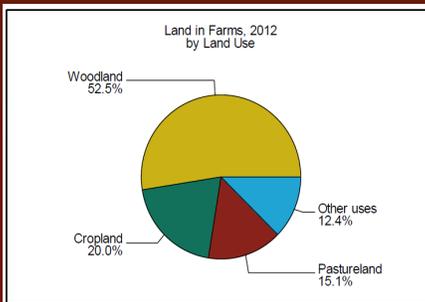
The primary audience of the Small Farms Program is agricultural landowners in Mason County. In addition, the program educates residents, visitors, decision makers, students and others in our community about the agricultural and natural resources of Mason County and builds support for sustainable agricultural operations.

Response

The overarching mission of the Small Farms program is to work with the Mason County community to foster profitable family farms, facilitate land and water stewardship, and provide access to healthy food.

We accomplish this by striving for the following goals:

- Help farmers adopt practices that are sustainable – economically, socially and environmentally.
- Build support for local agriculture.
- Unify farmers and consumers in developing local markets and community food access.
- Assist agricultural producers with direct marketing strategies to increase their farm profitability.
- Preserve Mason County farmland for food and fiber production.



2012 Census of Agriculture Mason County
Profile

[http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/
Publications/2012/Online_Resources/
County_Profiles/Washington/cp53045.pdf](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Washington/cp53045.pdf)

Fostering profitable family farms, land and water stewardship, and access to healthy food.

Staff

Mary DiMatteo, Small Farms Educator, .1 FTE.

Funding

Mason County Extension \$10,140
Course Fees \$ 1,750

Outcomes and Results for 2015

- Conducted Small Farm Business Planning Agricultural Entrepreneurship courses through the Cultivating Success curriculum—serving 7 participants.
- Supported farmers in developing business plans for expanding current operations in Mason County.
- Coordinated with Shelton Farmers Market, Mason General Hospital and Belfair Farmers Market to improve farmer access to direct markets.
- Developed Mason County Food Map.
- Provided direct service to farmers and farm training providers in Mason and Thurston Counties.

Goals for 2016

- Expand Small Farms Educator to full-time position.
- Deliver Farmers Market Readiness Training to farmers seeking to sell products at area farmers markets.
- Provide support to Water Resources staff to deliver Cultivating Success Program for shellfish growers.
- Obtain outside grants and/or funding sources to enhance programming efforts.



**Mason
Conservation
District**



2015 MASTER GARDENERS BY THE NUMBERS

4300 Volunteer
Hours =
\$114,896* =
2.07 FTE

4000 pounds of
produce donated to
local food banks

Over 2500 residents
reached

100 youth taught
nutrition and
gardening skills

*Value of volunteer time in
Washington \$26.72
[www.independentsector.org/
volunteer_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)

Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Situation & Issue

Research shows that learning to grow vegetables improves eating habits and health. The more involved people are with growing their own food, the more likely they are to eat it. This correlates to a diet consisting of more fruits and vegetables, and evidence shows that gardeners eat more fresh produce than non-gardeners. Diets high in fresh fruits and vegetables are known to prevent obesity, diabetes and other chronic illnesses. Seniors who garden eat more fruits and vegetables, are more physically active, and report a higher quality of life than non-gardeners.

Response

Master Gardeners support nutrition education and gardens in schools and by growing produce at Catalyst Park in the city of Shelton that is donated to Saints' Pantry food bank in Shelton. At Pioneer School the old, rotting raised beds were removed and fresh soil amendments were added to the four remaining beds. An AmeriCorps member planted, grew, and harvested produce with the Link Up Summer program youth. 200 young gardeners learned where food comes from and enjoyed watching their efforts grow over the month of July. The produce was donated to the Food Pantry in North Mason.

Staff

R. Jeanne Rehwaldt; Extension Coordinator Supervisor, .2 FTE

Funding

Mason County Master Gardener Foundation	\$8000
Mason County Extension; no specific line item; accruals from unfilled positions	\$8000
Equipment supplied by the MG Foundation	\$2000



David Shelton Pear Orchard collection of scions for grafting

Promoting responsible environmental stewardship with relevant information to meet the home horticulture needs of Mason County.

Outcomes and Results for 2015

Year round training
Sunset bluff park
TTGG workshops
Garden tour
Plant sale
United Way Grant for garden beds

Goals for 2016

- As an extension of the weekly diagnostic clinics, provide bi-weekly articles about timely garden topics to Shelton Mason County Journal newspaper.
- Post gardening tips and events on Mason County Master Gardeners' Facebook page.
- Integrate Pioneer greenhouse and garden with the after school program "Link Up" and recruit families to adopt beds in an effort to extend the learning in the garden and increase access to fresh produce. The vision is to replicate the success of Catalyst Park garden at Pioneer School.
- Provide community gardening educational workshops at Memorial Hall January – March on topics garnered from surveys conducted during OysterFest.
- Train 20 volunteers as Master Gardeners beginning in January 2016.
- Conduct free gardening workshops monthly at Catalyst Park to community gardeners and members of the public.
- Build a covered structure at Catalyst Park for a rain and shade shelter for conducting workshops on site.
- In partnership with a PNW Salmon Center, WSC Ameri-Corps members teach sustainability, nutrition and gardening at Pioneer School's garden and greenhouse to 400 students.
- In partnership with the City of Shelton, Mason County Historical Preservation Board, and South Sound Fruit Society collect scion wood from David Shelton pear orchard and graft onto dwarf root stock for sale to the public and for planting in city parks.

QUOTES

"I really appreciate the invitation to share stories from the audience. Learning from each other continuum."

"I look forward to doing some hands on with the information I heard today. I've heard a lot of this before and it helps to hear it and SEE it put into practice. I'm inspired!"

"I love the experiential presentation, loose, informative, friendly with lots of personality."



Soil in a jar activity



**2015
CONSUMER FOOD
SAFETY
BY THE NUMBERS**

1 workshop
provided

13 consumers
attended classes

6 pressure
gauges tested

5 of
which were
inaccurate

Consumer Food Safety

Situation & Issue

CDC estimates that each year roughly 1 in 6 Americans (or 48 million people) get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases. Many of these illnesses can be prevented if consumers follow safe food handling and preparation practices.

Improper home-canning of low-acid foods can result in foodborne botulism, a paralytic and potentially deadly illness caused when an individual ingests the neurotoxin produced by the spore-forming *Clostridium botulinum*. The USDA recommends that dial pressure gauges for canners be checked for accuracy every year to prevent inadequate processing of low-acid foods that allows for the survival of *C. botulinum* spores.

Response

- Providing USDA research and evidence-based home food preservation information to consumers that contact us via phone, office visits and email
- Providing up to date food preservation and food safety information and resources on the Mason County Extension website
- Coordinating dissemination of food preservation and consumer food safety information with Mason County Master Gardener activities when appropriate (flyers and displays for seasonal food information)
- Providing dial pressure gauge testing for home canners as well as the benefits and drawbacks of weighted-gauge (do not need to be tested) vs. dial gauges.
- Assist with registration and navigation of online course "Preserve the Taste of Summer".

Staff

Lisa DeWall, Office Manager (.005 FTE)

Jeanne Rehwaldt, Master Gardener Coordinator (.005 FTE)
(about 1 hour per week each)

Funding

No line item funding for this project area or faculty support.

Increasing the number of consumers that use safe food preservation and food handling practices.

Outcomes and Results for 2015

Thirteen people attended the class on home canning. Of the 13 completing evaluations, 13 reported they increased their knowledge of canning foods safely and they planned to use USDA food preservation recipes more often. Six gauges were brought to the Mason County Extension office for testing. Five of those tested did not read accurately.

Goals for 2016

Increase awareness of USDA food safety and preservation resources provided by WSU Extension using social media, local news and web page.

QUOTES

“I consulted WSU Extension specialists to learn how to can tuna and smoke and can salmon, and learned that even though tomatoes seem acidic, the ones on our climate need extra caution in processing because they may not be acidic enough.”

“I found out about the So Easy to Preserve guide through the WSU Extension class, it has many recipes and tips for freezing, canning and drying.”



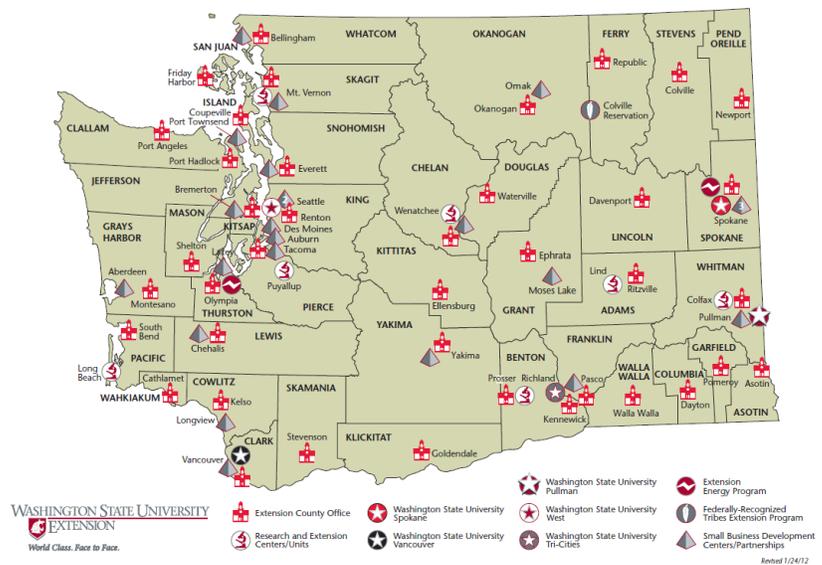


Celebrating 100 years!

In 2014, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the Cooperative Extension Service.

The result of a unique educational partnership between counties, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the nation's land-grant universities, Extension engages people, organizations and communities through programs to advance knowledge, economic well-being and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research

Washington State University



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