

# SNOHOMISH COUNTY WSU EXTENSION AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



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# OVERVIEW

What does the Snohomish County WSU Extension Ag Program do?

Educational programming

Resource support for farmers and the public

Community Outreach

Consumer Food Safety

Impacts and Summary



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# WHAT DOES THE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM DO?

- Provides logistical, promotional and teaching support for WSU Extension educational programs, classes, workshops and events
- Delivers direct services to the public in areas of agriculture production, the business of farming, backyard food production, nursery and forestry issues and food safety and preservation
- Ensures that programming, materials and policies are consistent with federal and state laws on regulations on nondiscrimination.



# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

## Growing Groceries

- 15 online classes (October – April) on Zoom
- In partnership with Snohomish County Master Gardeners
- 100+ people/class



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# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

## Cultivating Success

### ***Explore Your Small Farm Dreams*** (new!)

This online workshop is designed to help folks explore the development of a small farm enterprise and create a plan of action for achieving their small farm dreams.

### ***Whole Farm Planning***

Learn what it takes to create, sustain and grow a viable small farm. Online on Zoom with field trips. 80+ students in 2023.

### ***Agriculture Entrepreneurship***

Business planning with a special emphasis on the financial and legal issues unique to farm-based businesses. This course helps develop the core elements of a business plan to guide a small business forward. Online on Zoom with an in-person weekend intensive workshop. 50+ students in 2024.



# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

## Preserve the Harvest

- 6 classes (May – August)
- in-class (16 spots) and also available on Zoom
- 29-40 people/class



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# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

## Workshops/Seminars/Classes

- Conference presentations
- Educational classes for local organizations
  - examples: Snohomish Tree Fruit Society, Seattle Tree Fruit Society



# SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Answers/finds resources/resolves questions via email/phone

- Farming queries (land acquisition to pathogen identification to permitting, etc)
- backyard fruit & vegetable growing
- food preservation questions & food safety

Also offers pressure canner gauge testing to ensure safe home canning





# SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

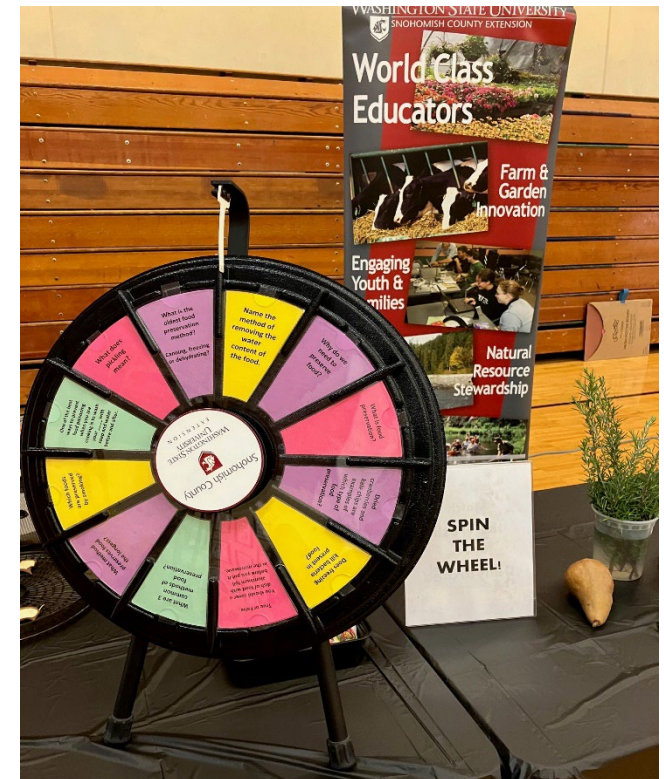
Develops new workshops/series based on feedback from community

- finds speakers, registration, advertising, facilitation, curriculum development, teaching



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach to advertise programs and educate the public on agriculture and consumer food safety



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# CONSUMER FOOD SAFETY



## Planning on Canning?

**Call us before you start.** Many food preservation techniques have changed and old recipes may not be safe. We can help review your procedures and recipes.

**WSU Snohomish County Extension  
Food Safety & Preservation  
Hotline**  
**425.357.6024**  
**FoodSafety.SnoCo@wsu.edu**

Pressure canner gauge testing now available.  
Call for dates & times.

[extension.wsu.edu/snohomish/](http://extension.wsu.edu/snohomish/)

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### CONSUMER food safety

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Washington State University Extension Consumer Food Safety Publications  
<http://pubs.extension.wsu.edu> • Search by publication number or title

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|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <br>PNW172<br>Canning Vegetables   | <br>PNW194<br>Canning Seafood                   | <br>PNW199<br>Canning Fruits                  | <br>PNW214<br>Freezing Fruits and Vegetables               |
| <br>PNW238<br>Freezing Fish at Home-Safety                                       | <br>PNW250<br>You Can Prevent Foodborne Illness | <br>PNW296<br>Freezing Convenience Foods      | <br>PNW300<br>Canning Tomatoes and Tomato Products         |
| <br>PNW305 (Spanish)<br>Español de conservación de tarros y producción de salsas | <br>PNW355<br>Pickling Vegetables               | <br>PNW361<br>Canning Meat, Poultry, and Game | <br>PNW355 (Spanish)<br>Salsas para los tarros de enlatado |



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# OTHER TASKS...

WSDA Local Food Infrastructure Grant reviewer

Assists in Snohomish County Focus on Farming Conference

- Finds speakers for Soil Health Track and Beginning/Small-Scale Farmers Track
- Supports marketing, set-up and day-of tasks

Collaborates with and/or attends monthly meetings of

- DCNR DEI Committee
- Snohomish Conservation District
- Snohomish County Agricultural Advisory Board
- Snohomish Farm Bureau
- King County Food System Advisory Council
- Produce Safety Advisory Committee (WSDA)



# IMPACT

| 2023                        | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Total persons served in 2023 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------------------|
| Served in education/classes | 0     | 25    | 86    | 1191  | 1302                         |
| Served outside classes      | 0     | 8     | 42    | 10    | 60                           |
|                             | 0     | 33    | 128   | 1201  | 1362                         |

\*I was hired June 2024 and didn't start educational programming until September 2024



# IMPACT

| 2024                        | Qtr 1 | Qtr 2 | Qtr 3 | Qtr 4 | Total persons served in 2024 so far |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Served in education/classes | 1720  | 112   | -     | -     | 1832                                |
| Served outside classes      | 473   | 25    | -     | -     | 498                                 |
|                             | 2193  | 137   | -     | -     | 2330                                |



# SUMMARY

## The Snohomish County WSU Extension Ag Program

- is actively engaged and supporting local farmers and the public
- Is bringing back consumer food safety support and food preservation educational opportunities
- Is still in recovery, post-pandemic
- has potential for growth in numerous areas
- Is strategically moving forward based on feedback and data



# QUESTIONS?



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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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