

OSU Extension Service Polk County District Board Meeting Notes

January 20, 2020, 1:30PM OSU Extension Polk County Office - Large Meeting Room

In attendance:

Kendall Schultz – WOU Intern; Emily Lampe – OSU Extension 4-H; Audrey Comerford – OSU Extension Agritourism, Tim Ray – Dallas SD, Alex Paraskevas – SEDCOR, Lyle Mordhorst – Polk County Commissioner, Tonya Johnson – OSU Extension Family & Community Health, Richard Riggs – OSU Extension Regional Director; Alisha Atha – OSU Extension Office Manager; Darrell Ward – Master Gardener & PECAN; Jim Clawson – PECAN; Anne Scheck – Trammart News, Inc.

Rich Riggs called meeting into session 1:30 PM

Comments for items not on this agenda:

Comments from Jim Clawson:

John Hansen, long-time supporter of OSU Extension and 4-H has passed away, just short of 102 years old. A memorial service for Mr. Hansen will be held on February 8, 2020, 2:00 PM at the Dallas Retirement Home chapel.

John has left his imprint in the county and beyond the county. Many consider him a model Extension agent – he started in 1948 and retired in 1972, before many of us were even involved in Extension.

- Very instrumental in getting 4-H Center in W. Salem established. Presented a radio advertisement that prompted farmer, Ivan Stewart, to donate the land.
- Supportive of Polk Co Fair and Fair Foundation
- Was one of the major supporters of the Polk County Extension Service District formation.

Jim would like to dedicate this meeting to his memory and his life.

Approval of agenda and minutes

Did not have quorum of board so did not approve agenda or minutes from prior meeting.

New Business:

Tonya Johnson – Update on Master Food Preserver (MFP) Program

The Master Food Preserver program trains volunteers in safe food preservation practices and they, in turn, provide programming and education to the community.

Summary of 2019 Accomplishments - See attached handout.

- 18 classes held in Polk County
- 32% of all outreach in 2019 (done in tri-county area) happened in Polk County
- Trained 16 volunteers – trained at location in Dallas. Had 24 returning volunteers.
- MFP Volunteers Contributed 2009 hours in 2019.

Moving Forward

- Hopeful to implement MFP training in as a new, hybrid model. Lecture and informational pieces will be delivered online (at learner's own pace). Will still include all of the same hands-on labs. When done well, research shows that a hybrid model is more effective.
- Goal is to have hybrid model ready in 2021. Online modules will be very interactive. Will have on-campus faculty develop the course as a for-credit student class, which will cover the majority of the costs of creating the online modules.
- Will have volunteers videoed as part of the training and instructional modules.
- The hope is that this will create an opportunity for more people to participate as it will drastically cut down the in-person, classroom time – from approximately 11 full days, to only 4.

Currently, participants are primarily retired or do not work, since current training is done on Fridays from 9am – 4pm. Currently, MFP training is only offered in a few counties in the western part of the state. This new model would allow more participants in eastern parts of the state to take the training as well.

New Agritourism Faculty – Audrey Comerford

- Currently taking an inventory of the farm operations who are letting people onto their property – farms, u-pick, etc.
- Will be doing a needs assessment in the three county area (Polk, Marion and Yamhill) to see what the needs of producers are.
- Will be offering trainings to business owners and tourism businesses
- First training would like to offer would be Agritourism 101 for businesses just getting started or would like to get started.

New 4-H Outreach Coordinator – Emily Lampe

- Came from Lane County as Education Program Assistant – for about 3 years.
- She has been meeting with people to see what programs are already happening in Polk County and surrounding area.
- Has been studying county needs assessment to determine what needs were already identified by that work.
- Wants to continue and grow some of our current program as well as start her own programs.
- Focus will including reaching underserved audiences and outlying areas. Reach youth in the area that might not be interested in traditional 4-H programs, but find other programs and services that we can provide to them.
- Seeking out non-traditional education organizations such as libraries, etc.

Mike Bondi – North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC)

- NWREC is the largest research station in the state and the Willamette Valley is most diverse part of the state in crop production.
- Oregon is one of the largest nursery production states in the US. Nursery production is the largest Ag production area in the Oregon. 15-20% of entire workforce in Oregon is in Ag.
- NWREC has the only Christmas tree research program in the state – serves needs in Polk County as we have a large tree industry in Polk County.
- Oregon is the leading berry producing state in the US. 25% of all berry fruit in US is grown in Oregon. Strawberries – in the process of developing a year-round fresh strawberry market. Currently growing strawberries from first part of April through Thanksgiving
- Hazelnuts – only hazelnut research for the University is at NWREC. Polk is one of the leaders in the state for hazelnut production. Of the 60,000 acres grown in the state, about 6-7 thousand acres is grown in Polk County. Oregon is only state in the nation that grows hazelnuts commercially – we grow 100% of the crop.
- Pesticide Research Program – makes sure that pesticides farmers are using are safe, also doing efficacy testing. Make sure that products that people are using will not use human health problem. Both for conventional and organic growers.
- Developing the world’s first blueberry tree – working on having it patented.
- The year of hemp – had first plantings of hemp at NWREC. Have had Oregon legislators visit the farm to learn about research that will be happening. This year was about 70k acres of hemp in Oregon (about the same as in hazelnuts). Leading production county is Jackson County.

- Intelligent sprayer – laser guided technology that targets plants in the field. Sensing when to spray, when to turn off and how much to spray. Has cut down 2/3 of pesticide and liquid with SAME level of control. OSU, University of Georgia and Ohio State University all involved.

Craig Pope also serves on advisory council for NWREC. He was recognized at Extension Annual Conference as a Friend of Extension for his many years of support of Extension programs.

Big change in Ag is that a lot of the growers in other countries are American growers who have moved out of country to diversify their Ag portfolio. They are growing here in the US as well as growing in another country with a different growing season. Employing their same Ag principles.

See attached presentation slides as well as Polk County impact handout for more details.

Admin Update - Richard Riggs

4-H reorganization at the program level.

- 4-H moved out of College of Public Health and Human Sciences and now is under Extension Administration. Will not change programming happening, only change will be the program leader will now report to the director of Extension.
- Aligns all youth programming under the director of extension – 4-H, outdoor school, open campus

Positions

- Approval to rehire
 - o Last week received approval to hire livestock/forage specialist in Polk county
 - o 4-h position in Lane
 - o Field crops in Linn
- We are currently in discussion with Polk SWCD about hiring a shared Ag Outreach position that will replace Victoria Binning, who was working out of Marion County. The proposed position will be funded and distributed 50% Marion County, 50% Polk County (split 25% Polk Extension, 25% Polk SWCD). For the past few years, Victoria had been providing a growing amount of programming in Polk County. Even before she left we were talking about how we could fund a portion of her time to justify her programming her and working with small farmers.
- Anita Azarenko – interim director of extension is leaving end of June. New director expected to start end of July.

Special Projects funding

STEAM Machine – LaCreole middle school

- Looking to partner mobile maker space and 4-H programming.

Envirothon – Polk SWCD

- A way for SWCD to reach youth audiences and provide natural resource education.
- Envirothon is an afterschool program that will be run similarly to a 4-H club. Learn about natural resources and conservation. Soils, water quality, forest ecology, sustainable forest management, aquatic ecology.

Adjourned 2:42 PM

2019 FOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4817
PHONE CALLS
INCLUDING HOTLINE



309
WORKSHOPS

5127
ATTENDEES

1568
PRESSURE CANNER
GAUGES TESTED



Farmers Market and
Community booths



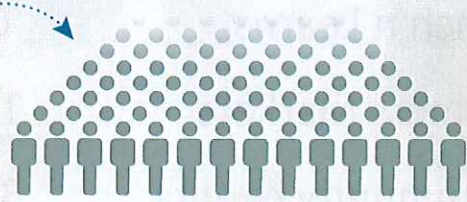
ask
an **EXPERT** **293**
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED



221
EVENTS

28,804
BOOTH VISITORS

44,448
TOTAL PROGRAM CONTACTS



Master Food Preservers



67
TRAINED IN
2019



257
RE-CERTIFIED
Total 324
active MFPS



17,279
HOURS
CONTRIBUTED

27 COUNTIES REPORTING
FOOD PRESERVATION
PROGRAM ACTIVITY



■ Volunteer Master Food Preserver programs
■ Food Preservation events

Learn more at: extension.oregonstate.edu/food/preservation

MPY 2019

Food Preservation Programming

Activities	Total #	Polk County #
Classes	32	18
Demonstrations	25	2
Presentations	10	6
Lunch n Learns	6	0
Farmers Markets	17	11
Community events	31	4



2019 Master Food Preservers

16 new volunteers trained

24 returning MFP volunteers

2009 volunteer hours contributed

2019 North Willamette Research and Extension Center Report

OSU-Polk County Extension Service District Meeting

January 29, 2020

Presented by: Mike Bondi, NWREC Director

NWREC Year in Review

- 15 **personnel actions**; 13 Extension and Research faculty, 12 research assistants and technicians, 4 farm staff, 3 office/administration.
- 3 issues of **Down on the Farm newsletter**; circulation about 1,000.
- Faculty received **67 grants** to conduct research and deliver education programs totaling more than \$1.7 million plus more than \$120,000 of gift monies to support work.
- More than **75 on-farm field research trials** at NWREC this past year, plus additional projects in greenhouses, hoop houses and laboratories.
- Estimating more than **120 educational programs reaching over 10,000 participants**—across all programs and throughout the Willamette Valley region of state, including attendees from agriculture and farming communities throughout the Willamette Valley.
- Received awards for **two major infrastructure projects** funded by OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences—well development and lab remodel; projects valued at \$525,000 with completion in 2020. Expecting well project completing date by May, 2020 and lab remodel in the fall, 2020.
- Large **Community Open House** for public in July. Over 300 attendees within three hour period.
- Large **Harvest Dinner** event in September. 300 attendees included Governor and other dignitaries to welcome new College of Agricultural Sciences Dean, Alan Sams.
- Employed **30 summer students** (college, university and high school) to support research and education programs and provide experiential education opportunity.

Program Highlights—NWREC faculty serving Polk County Agriculture

Chal Landgren—OSU Christmas Tree Extension Specialist

- Polk County ranks fourth among Oregon counties (and fifth in the U.S.) in Christmas tree production with approximately 950,000 trees sold in 2017 (the last NASS Survey). NWREC's Christmas Tree Specialist supports growers throughout state and in Polk County, including one of the largest growers in the state, Noble Mountain Tree Farm.
- Growers from Polk regularly attend Christmas tree-related classes at Tree School (in Clackamas County), and in workshops/events offered in Wilsonville, as well as, numerous other venues and field locations throughout the Willamette Valley each year.
- Christmas Tree field research in Polk County at this time, includes:
 - Noble Mountain Tree Farm, Bethel, (Bob Schaefer) where we have a noble fir progeny test established in 2012 which includes 19 half-sib families. This test is part of a series of 5 other sites. Important in this trial are new selections from the Edwards Butte area (Tillamook County and near Polk County line). Final test evaluations will occur in 2020, and cuttings will be taken from the best trees for grafting into permanent seed orchards for improved seed that will be available for Christmas tree growers. One seed orchard is located at NWREC.

- Westwind Farms, Dallas (Ken and Bryan Brown), a progeny test of Nordmann and Turkish fir tree parents will be established in Spring 2020. About half of the selections in the test will be from their own seed orchard, on site. Other selections are coming from the region and sources from overseas. The Browns are also establishing irrigation and have a new greenhouse to grow seedlings.

Javier Fernandez Salvador—Marion/Polk County Small Farms Extension Agent and NWREC Berry Initiative Leader

The Olea (olive) Project works with several grower collaborators in Polk, Yamhill and Marion Counties.

Projects with growers included propagation, growing techniques and cold hardiness cultivar evaluation for olive varieties. Field trials at NWREC include planting establishment projects under plastic-culture and traditional field preparation, as well as, extensive variety trials looking for more cold hardy varieties for Willamette Valley olive oil production. Hosted two field days for growers in 2019 plus several tours that included Polk County growers at NWREC. Finally, conduct field visits, on demand, to Polk County farmers based on grower requests and needs.

Fresh Market Strawberry production project at NWREC completed second year of data collection for harvest cycle from April through November. Developing guidelines for farmers looking at year-around production with this crop. Production now moving into greenhouses for the November through April time period.

Completed strawberry grower needs assessment in 2019 for the North Willamette Valley and now in the midst of a similar assessment for caneberry growers.

The work supported with short-term Legislative funding the past two years for the Berry Initiative has been incorporated into a Priority Staffing request to the Oregon State University Extension Service for permanent and full-time funding.

Nik Wiman—Tree Orchard Crops Extension Specialist

- Polk County is an important location in the state for hazelnut production. Approximately 10% of the state's hazelnut acres (6,000) are located in this county.
- Collaboration with the Rickreall branch of Nutrien Ag Solutions (formerly CPS). This company has been a financial contributor to the Tree Orchard Crops program to support research and education. Key interactions include:
 - Regular communication with field staff on weekly/biweekly schedule—Andrew Pokorny, Joe Cacka, Tawny Irwin, and Steve Gapp, others.
 - Presenter at Nutrien Ag Solutions hazelnut pest management workshop in 2019, again in 2020 (next week).
- Extensive field trial experimental work with AgriCare. This company has been a financial contributor to the Tree Orchard Crops program to support research and education.
 - Work closely with staff at their Independence hazelnut plantings including TJ Hafner, Kelsey Potter, Dennis Carlson, and Ryan Welty.

- Field research has focused on nonstructural carbohydrate sampling to predict orchard productivity and developing guidelines for hazelnut nutrient management.
- Work with growers in Monmouth area. Example is the Hamilton family on Airlie Road. Work there has looked at Pacific flat headed borer damage to young trees.
- Field trials using a GPS-enabled hazelnut harvest cart are being conducted at a farm just west of Monmouth on Highway 194.
 - We designed a system to log weight of hazelnuts harvested along with GPS coordinates to improve understanding of landscape and management factors affecting yield.
- Numerous educational programs, workshops and tours are held throughout the Willamette Valley each year. Polk County residents participate, too. Examples include:
 - Presented on pruning hazelnuts at one field day last year.
 - Hosted two tours of foreign delegations with field stops in Polk County to look at hazelnut production and processing.
 - Hosted Rutgers Extension tour of hazelnuts in Polk County.
 - Annual Nut Growers Winter Workshop is held every January in Corvallis. Between 1,000 and 1,200 growers attend. A summer field tour is held every August, too, with about 700-900 attending. Extension Specialist Wiman takes the lead role in designing the education elements of these programs. Polk County hazelnut growers regularly participate in these and other events.

Kristie Buckland—Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crops Extension Specialist

Educational program that had Polk county attendees:

- North Willamette Hort Society meetings—3 to 5 attendees
- Specialty Seed Growers of Western Oregon meetings—3 to 5 attendees

Thank you for the Support!

During 2019-2020, the ***Polk County Extension Service District is providing \$12,000*** to support the activities of NWREC's faculty and staff providing problem-solving research and education that meets the needs of county farmers and agribusiness professionals. These dollars, plus County Extension support from Clackamas, Marion, Yamhill, Washington and Columbia County¹, help provide front office clerical staff, production and distribution of the Down on the Farm newsletter, field travel for faculty working in our partnering counties, plus upkeep and maintenance for meeting and conference rooms, fields and farm facilities, greenhouses and hoop houses, storage, and vehicles at NWREC's 160-acre research center near Aurora.

Thanks, again. We couldn't do it without you.

¹County operations support in North Willamette Research and Extension Center region for FY19-20 includes: Clackamas (\$150,000), Marion (\$50,000), Yamhill (\$20,000), Washington (\$15,000), Polk (\$12,000), Columbia (\$8,000), and Multnomah (\$0).

North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, OR

- 160 acre research and teaching farm; only experiment station serving agriculture in the Willamette Valley
- Work focuses on needs in Clackamas, Washington, Multnomah, Columbia, Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties
- 35 faculty and staff + 20-30 summer students
- Key program areas:
 - Nursery & Greenhouse
 - Christmas Trees
 - Berries
 - Vegetables and Specialty Seed Crops
 - Tree Orchard Crops
 - Pesticide Research
 - Small Farm
 - Field Crops



Examples of Research and Education Meeting the Needs of Agriculture in the Region...

- Largest certified organic berry research project in the world
- Developing year-around fresh strawberry production guidelines
- Blueberry tree rootstock project and mechanical harvesting technology for fresh market
- Christmas tree seed orchards for next generation of yule trees
- Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crop including quinoa management
- Nursery & Greenhouse production research—disease, IPM, irrigation efficiency, technology development, bilingual education
- Pesticide Registration Research
- Small Farm Program focusing on organic production and small scale
- Orchard Crops research and outreach on hazelnut production and management
- Field Crops research & outreach



Berry Initiative
Year Around Fresh Market
Strawberry Production
Javier Fernandez Salvador
& Avery Phiel



Blueberry Rootstock “Tree” Project—hoping to patent in 2020
Dr. Wei Yang and FRA Sarah Doane





**Pesticide Registration
Research—Nursery Crops
*Dr. Luisa Santamaria and
FRA Maria Marlin***



**Culinary Vegetable Evaluation
Trials
*Nick Andrews and Heidi
Noordijk***



2019—the year of Hemp and dedication of OSU’s new Global Hemp Innovation Center



**Small Farms Western
Oregon Mechanical
Cultivation Field Day
*Nick Andrews, Heidi
Noordijk, Javier Fernandez
Salvador, Heather Stoven***

**Intelligent Sprayer Demo
for federal legislative field
Staff
*Dr. Lloyd Nackley and FRA
Brian Hill***



**Expanded office space for
growing program staff...
and remodeling for new
laboratory**





**A true Friend of Extension:
Craig honored at 2019 OSU
Extension Annual Conference
in Corvallis last December**