

Educational Program Targets Ag Producers

The goal of the series is to help participants create a farm enterprise plan and assess the viability of possible enterprises

The Washington State University (WSU) and Oregon State University (OSU) extension services are offering an educational program, "Mid-Columbia Farm Enterprise Investigation Series."

It is for experienced agricultural producers interested in changing, adding or expanding their enterprise(s), as well as new landowners interested in investigating agricultural production options for their property.

At the end of the series, participants will have produced a farm enterprise plan and be able to make a decision about the viability of the enterprise(s) they are considering.

"This series is designed for anyone who wants help investigating a farm product they are considering producing or developing," said Susan Kerr, WSU-Klickitat County Extension Director. "We've tailored the program to meet the diverse needs of current and future producers in the Mid-Columbia area."

The series will be conducted at the Mountain View Grange, 1085 Main St. in White Salmon, Washington, on November 14, November 21, December 5, December 12, January 9 and January 23.

Topics to be addressed include:

- Developing a Farm Plan
- Sustainability Concepts
- Farm Resource Evaluation and Financing
- Enterprise Assessment
- Equipment and Facilities
- Sustainable Crop Production
- Soil Properties and Management
- Pest and Weed Management
- Sustainable Animal Production
- Sustainable Grazing Management
- Direct Marketing
- E-Commerce
- Developing a Marketing Plan
- Enterprise Budgets and Financial Viability
- Tools for Success.

Local and regional presenters will feature experienced farmers, agency representatives, Extension educators and other experts. Each session will offer time for questions and answers, networking and discussion.

The cost of the series is \$25 per family. Need-based scholarships are available.

Preregistration is required to ensure sufficient classroom materials. Please pre-register by contacting Tim Shatraw at (509) 773-5817 or tshatraw@wsu.edu.

Payment is not required until the first class. Use the same contact information for questions about the program.

This program is sponsored in part by the Western Center for Risk Management Education, WSU Extension-Skamania and Klickitat Counties, and the OSU-Wasco County Extension Service. ■



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