

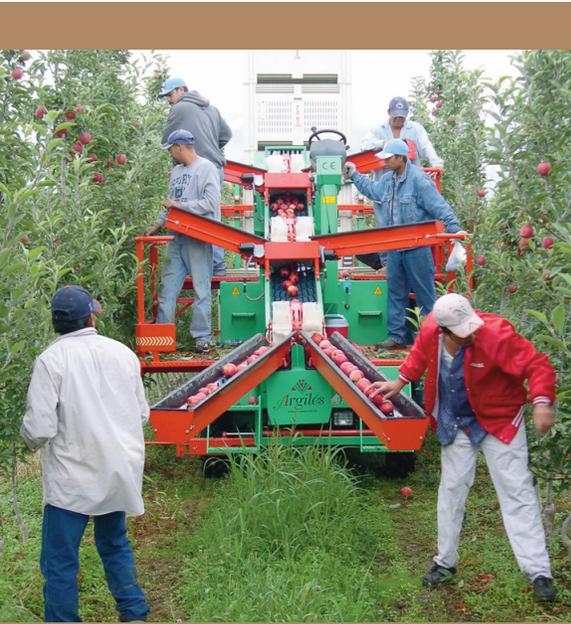
Washington State University Yakima County Extension

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

AGRICULTURE

YOUTH & FAMILIES



YAKIMA COUNTY QUICK FACTS

- *Named for the Yakama Indian Tribe*
- *County seat: Yakima*
- *Land area, in square miles:
4,296.23 (state rank: 2)*
- *Median household income (2006):
\$26,510 (state rank: 24)*
- *Population (2008): 234,200
(state rank: 8)*

CONTACT

WSU Yakima County Extension Office
104 North First St., Suite 204
MS-CH-12
Yakima, WA 98901
(509) 574-1600
<http://www.yakimacounty.us/wsuent/>

Washington State University Yakima County Extension is part of the world-class outreach and engagement enterprise of the university. We partner with businesses, the community, and volunteers to drive innovation, invention, and technology transfer. We specifically focus on expanding the problem-solving capacity of communities within the county, enhancing and sustaining the local economy, enhancing natural resources and the environment, enhancing economic opportunities for agriculture, and eliminating barriers to success of youth and families.

We leverage every dollar we receive from Yakima County with federal, state, grant, and private funding to maximize our reach and effectiveness. In fact, for every \$1 invested by Yakima County in 2008, WSU Extension provided over \$5.16 in state and federal resources. Additionally, faculty and staff in the county have raised an additional \$83,770 in extramural funding. Therefore, every dollar that Yakima County spends in support of WSU Yakima County Extension generates \$5.38 for the county, a 538 percent return on investment annually.

Impacts

Youth Development

The WSU Yakima County Extension 4-H program helps young people learn and develop life skills and form attitudes that enable them to become self-directed, productive members of society. In 2007, a total of 1,564 young people participated in traditional 4-H clubs and special-interest 4-H groups. Nearly 900 youths, directed by 170 trained, adult 4-H volunteers under the guidance of WSU Yakima County Extension faculty and staff, participated in “learning by doing” life skills projects in animal sciences, environmental stewardship, expressive arts, family living, mechanical sciences, or social sciences. The Yakima County 4-H



NUTRITION EDUCATION

"I am learning healthier ways to feed my family."

—EFNEP client

"I like knowing and understanding how to manage my weight."

—EFNEP client

"Less food is being thrown away during lunch and youth are eating more fruits and vegetables."

—SNAP-ED school teacher

"My students were very involved in the lessons and recognized the food groups in their lunches."

—SNAP-ED school teacher

program continues to serve youth from culturally diverse backgrounds. For 28 years, the 4-H Crystallettes Club has provided approximately 450 migrant youth with positive experiences in performing and expressive arts under the guidance of volunteer club leader Sonia Rodriguez.

Promoting Good Nutrition

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) in Yakima County is available free to low-income families with children. EFNEP clients learn how to make healthier choices in the foods they eat, make nutritious meals and snacks, stretch family food dollars, and prevent food-borne illness. Evaluations of participants in 2007 found that 91 percent more often followed the recommended practice of not thawing foods at room temperature; 84 percent more often planned meals in advance; 71 percent less often ran out of food before the end of the month; and 58 percent more often compared prices when shopping.

EFNEP planted an idea with one client and that idea has expanded into a business. Convinced of the value of fresh vegetables, this mother of seven grew a few tomatoes, jalapenos, and carrots in a tiny space to provide fresh produce for her family. She found space for a larger garden the next year. Since then, that garden has expanded to 10 acres of vegetables in the county. She offers organic vegetables for sale to the public as well as providing nutritious menu items for her family.

• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Each year the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-ED) reaches 2,500 elementary school pupils in 20 schools in the Yakima Valley. SNAP-ED is funded in part by a USDA Food Stamp Grant. Youth learn about healthy eating and increasing activity to combat obesity. In 2007, program evaluations found that 86 percent of participants increased their knowledge of nutrition, 83 percent now eat a variety of foods, and 78 percent increased their ability to select low-cost nutritious foods.

Agriculture

In the 2002 Census of Agriculture, Yakima County ranked second in the state and 14th in the nation for total value of agricultural products sold. WSU Extension faculty in Yakima County provide the latest research-based programs to help producers keep their competitive edge in the tree fruit industry that contributes nearly \$2 billion annually to the Washington economy. Yakima County ranks among the nation's leading areas in production of apples, hay, grapes, hops, cattle, and calves.

• Tree Fruit

Application of genetic solutions toward increasing tree fruit production efficiency has emerged as a major research and educational focus area.

WSU Yakima County Extension faculty have been at the forefront of communicating ongoing research, product developments, and the potential benefits of sweet cherry variety and rootstock breeding that has led to new plantings on more than 35,000 acres in Washington. This expansion is primarily due to both the adoption of new varieties that extend the harvest season and access to high-value domestic and export markets.

WSU Yakima County Extension faculty are currently involved in the development and evaluation of sweet cherry varieties that will be resistant to powdery mildew; that resistance has the potential to save over \$7 million per year in Washington. Additional projects that include evaluating the potential of new cherry rootstocks, describing flavor and aroma profiles in cherry and apple, and application of genetic technologies in crop improvement programs highlight efforts to expand the knowledge and product-base that producers can draw upon when deciding what to plant for a sustainable future.

- **Managing Invasive Insect Pests**

Since 1998, WSU Yakima County Extension has been actively involved in educating tree fruit growers and homeowners about the threat posed by the apple maggot, an invasive pest of apples and pears. Establishment of this pest in the major apple-producing areas of the state could cost the Eastern Washington economy an estimated \$75 million annually to manage, regulate, and inspect fruit to assure export markets that our Washington apples are maggot-free.

- **Controlling Disease**

Extension oversaw an educational program to enhance cherry grower awareness and recognition of lethal cherry tree viruses. The program also sought to contain the spread of these viruses, including a cherry leafroll virus, by aggressive removal of “sick” trees before the viruses spread to adjacent healthy trees. The short-term impact of the program was the detection and prompt removal of nearly 500 virus-infected cherry trees in grower blocks in the Yakima Valley over a 3-year period.

- **First Detector Station Speeds Pest Identification**

WSU First Detector Stations, including one at the WSU Yakima County Extension office, are portals to a state- and nationwide network of plant and arthropod diagnosticians who utilize digital images to facilitate and more rapidly identify organisms. These stations serve as the “eyes and ears” for the early identification of unique, invasive, and exotic pest species. Over the past two growing seasons, WSU Yakima County Extension has utilized this station to identify over 400 insects and spiders for homeowners, agricultural producers, and regulatory agencies. About 10 percent of these identifications were made from digital images by diagnosticians in other parts of the state or United States. The use of digital technology reduces the amount of time it takes to identify an insect from days to hours.



PROTECTING TREE FRUIT

Establishment of the apple maggot in major fruit producing areas of the state could cost the Eastern Washington economy an estimated \$75 million annually.

Beneficial insects like the praying mantis (below), can help eliminate invasive pests.





Livestock Grazing Program Increases Profitability

A livestock program on extending the grazing season using irrigated pasture management plans has resulted in winter feed savings for Yakima County livestock producers. These efforts to extend the grazing program resulted in an 80-day decreased winter feeding period, increasing profitability and enhancing water quality. The educational programs have established a shift in the mindset of ranchers. In addition to being livestock producers, they are becoming forage farmers. This new forage farming paradigm has resulted in an increase of \$227 in profitability per head of cattle.



Yakima County Extension serves a culturally rich and diverse population through programs fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.

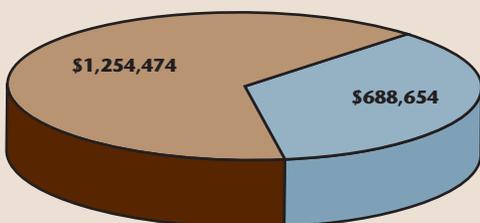
SUSTAINABLE FARMING

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Overview of Funding for WSU Yakima County Extension Programs

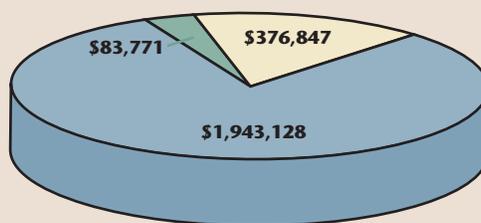
WSU Support for County Extension Programs

- WSU Support in County
- Other WSU Support



Direct Funding Sources for County Extension Programs

- Total WSU Support
- Grants and Contracts
- County Support



Total Funding Supporting County Extension Programs

- WSU Support in County
- Other WSU Support
- Grants and Contracts
- County Support

