

Washington State University Jefferson County Extension

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

NATURAL RESOURCES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



JEFFERSON COUNTY QUICK FACTS

- *Named for President Thomas Jefferson*
- *County seat: Port Townsend*
- *Land area, in square miles: 1,814 (state rank: 18)*
- *Median household income (2007): \$45,307*
- *Population (2007): 28,600 (state rank: 27)*

CONTACT

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Washington State University Jefferson 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, improving health and wellness—especially in the realm of nutrition and obesity prevention, and eliminating barriers to the success of youth and families.

We leverage every dollar we receive from Jefferson County with federal, state, grant, and private funding to maximize our reach and effectiveness. In fact, for every \$1 invested by Jefferson County, WSU Extension provides more than \$1.68 in state and federal resources. Additionally, faculty and staff in the county raised more than \$35,889 in extramural funding. Therefore, every dollar that Jefferson County spends in support of WSU Jefferson County Extension generates \$1.76 for the county—a 176 percent annual return on investment.

Impacts

4H Youth Leadership

The county's largest youth organization is WSU Jefferson County Extension 4-H. From 2003 to 2008, the program grew from 93 to more than 900 young people and 200 trained adult volunteers. According to a Tufts University Study, 4-H youth demonstrate significantly greater civic engagement, respect for cultural norms, confidence, integrity, connections with family and peers, and empathy than non 4-H'ers. They are also less likely to engage in high-risk behaviors and more likely to attend college.

With a focus on science, technology, engineering, and math, 4-H places Jefferson County Youth on a path toward successful careers in these fields.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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to 2008, the program grew from 93 to more than 900 young people and 200 trained adult volunteers.

Featured programs include the 4-H News Network (above) and Big Quill Enterprises (below).



Just 5% of U.S. college graduates earn degrees in science, engineering, and technology compared to more than 60 percent in Japan and China.

Jefferson County 4-H has a number of different clubs and programs. A few highlights include:

4-H News Network

This innovative program was started in 2005. Since then, more than 100 young people have produced stories and videos for the 4-H News Network. Jefferson County youth use professional equipment and software to produce news videos, while becoming skilled, self-confident communicators. They have interviewed Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire, WSU President Elson Floyd, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, and the lead singer of the musical group Alabama. One “how to” video produced by the News Network has had nearly 2 million views on YouTube.

South County Initiative and Big Quill Enterprises

In 2004, WSU Jefferson County Extension wrote and managed a three-year Gates Foundation grant, identified community mentors, and developed K-12 programs in technology, youth entrepreneurship, shellfish restoration, and community economic development. Called the South County Initiative, the effort was one of six programs in the nation recognized by the Northwest Area Foundation with an award of \$100,000 to “applaud the bold and innovative steps communities are taking to reduce poverty and make lasting change,” according to Northwest Area Foundation President Karl Stauber.

The initiative included an economic summit focusing on community assets managed by area young people. Out of this economic summit grew Big Quill Enterprises, a youth-operated shellfish business. In partnership with an international shellfish company, students plant, monitor, harvest, and sell shellfish. Big Quill provides young people the opportunity to develop and apply skills in ecology, business, and entrepreneurship in a real world setting.

Economic Development

In 2007 WSU Jefferson County Extension was designated the economic development agency for Jefferson County. WSU convened local business leaders to form Team Jefferson. The goal is to grow the local economy by creating a pro-business environment, focusing on local assets, encouraging collaborative leadership, energizing local entrepreneurship, attracting and keeping young entrepreneurs, and increasing access to capital through community reinvestment.

Among the successes resulting from this effort:

Rhody Revolution

The Rhody Revolution is an initiative to reach out to young, emerging entrepreneurs and business start-ups. Using social marketing, Green Drinks sessions, and entrepreneurial circles, more than 70 young business leaders have networked, found jobs, and started projects. One such project was the successful recruitment of sixteen MBA interns from the Bainbridge Graduate Institute to work on local projects with Team Jefferson including feasibility studies, asset mapping, and a proposal for a green manufacturing eco-industrial park.

Growing Our Local Food Economy

In 2004, with the cost of land soaring and development pressures increasing, agriculture in Jefferson County was considered dead. Today, Jefferson County is the center of a new food economy. Extension developed the business case for local food production and, in 2006, joined with eight other local organizations to create the Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative.

As a result of these efforts, the county now has one successful cheese producer—the first in thirty years—and four more starting up. And, working with the Organic Seed Alliance, WSU Jefferson County Extension piloted a new organic seed cooperative that encourages organic seed production in the fall when water supplies are limited. In addition, the county has a farmers market with sales approaching \$1 million in a community of just 8,000. The county has artisan cheese, wheat, wine, and cider industries. Local food consumption has doubled since 2004 to become an exciting, growing, \$450 million industry.

Red Dog Farm, owned by Karyn Williams, is a grower-level example of how Jefferson County Extension has worked to support and develop local agriculture. Williams completed NxLevel Entrepreneur and New Farm Cultivating Success classes through WSU. When she needed investment capital to realize her dream of a highly diversified 20-acre farm in the heart of Chimacum Valley, Team Jefferson connected her to a micro-finance loan program. The LandWorks Collaborative developed an innovative land purchase agreement, enabling her to buy Red Dog Farm which now supports 50 community supported agriculture (CSA) contracts.

Rural Access to Lifelong Learning through Technology

As a result of lobbying by community leaders in 1999, Jefferson County was chosen to pilot a lifelong learning project. More than 300 Jefferson County students have since earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from WSU, UW, and other universities through this online degree program. The success of the pilot led to the establishment of additional learning centers. In 2009, budget cuts led to closure of the centers.

To reach out to low income residents who might not otherwise consider college, WSU Jefferson County Extension joined with Bard College in 1999 to bring the Bard College Clemente Course in the Humanities to rural Jefferson County. The services and materials are offered free of charge to applicants who agree to try their best. More than 80% of those starting the program eventually enroll in college.

Water Quality and Natural Resource Stewardship

Master Gardeners

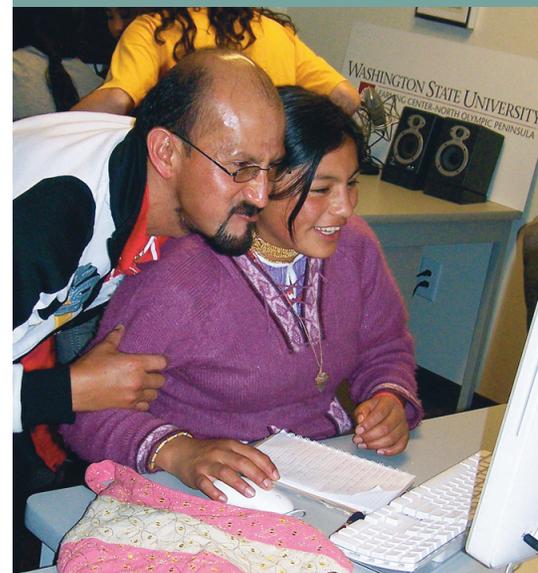
Each year Master Gardener volunteers field questions about water management, plant selection, and landscaping from Jefferson County residents. Plant clinics are held each week at five locations throughout the summer to answer questions. In June the WSU Master Gardener Secret Garden Tour highlights water conservation, native plants, and integrated pest management. More



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jefferson county boasts a farmers market with sales approaching \$1 million in a community of just 8,000 residents!

LIFELONG LEARNING





NATURAL RESOURCES

A new Master Gardener initiative awarded grants to local groups to provide funds for new community gardens. In 2008, three tons of fruit and vegetables were grown and donated to local food banks.

than 600 people attend this event each year. Each fall 30–40 local residents are trained as community horticultural educators. And in January and February, WSU Master Gardeners offer a seven-week Yard and Garden series to help gardeners select native plants, reduce water consumption, and grow food. Volunteers give more than 8000 hours, valued at more than \$100,000, each year to the community through the Master Gardener program.

Neighborhood Gardens/Growing our Groceries

A new Master Gardener initiative awarded eight grants to five local groups to provide funds for new community gardens. More than 100 neighbors worked together to grow local food with surpluses going to their local food bank. In 2008, three tons of fruit and vegetables, valued at more than \$12,000, were grown or gleaned and donated to local food banks.

Beach Watchers and Shore Stewards

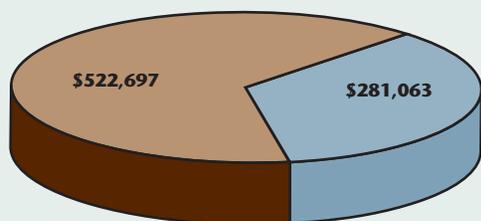
WSU Extension Beach Watchers and Shore Stewards reach out to property owners via workshops, public events, and newsletters to help them reduce pesticide and fertilizer use, choose less-toxic alternatives for cleaning and property maintenance, properly dispose of household waste, and reduce storm water runoff. Regional program evaluation completed in the nine counties in 2006–07 demonstrated measurable positive behavior changes among Shore Stewards in all counties. More than 120 local volunteers contributed more than 1,700 hours valued at more than \$30,000 in 2008 to this educational outreach.

A writer from the Seattle Times described these programs as “the perfect template for rallying and educating citizens to a monumental environmental challenge.”

Overview of Funding for WSU Jefferson County Extension Programs

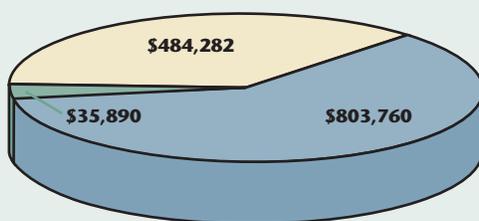
WSU Support for County Extension Programs

- 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

