



A Newsletter for Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center

FALL 2019/WINTER 2020

Hundreds Gather to Celebrate Local Farming and Our Food

NWREC’s annual Harvest Dinner this past September brought together 300 local farmers, agricultural industry and business leaders, university faculty, and elected officials—including Governor Kate Brown. The event has become one of the premier events for those in the region to celebrate one of Oregon’s key industries. Agriculture and associated businesses make up about 20% of Oregon’s economy and workforce.

The Harvest Dinner is an annual showcase of research and education work done at NWREC—Oregon State University’s only experimental farm in the Willamette Valley—during the past year and shared through a farm-to-plate dinner. Many of the fruits and vegetables making up the dinner meal came from the Research Center’s experimental trials during the past summer.

Other menu items included innovative food products developed by faculty and students at OSU’s Corvallis campus and other research locations around the state. Besides the popular OSU cheeses created by OSU students, surimi noodles—a product looking like a pasta noodle, but made entirely from fish—and a



Alan Sams, Dean of OSU College of Agricultural Sciences, shares thoughts about Oregon agriculture and future challenges and opportunities in research and education.

seaweed product, called Dulse, were featured this year. Both surimi noodles and dulse were developed by OSU at their Food Innovation Center in north Portland.

Mike Bondi, NWREC’s Director and creator of the Harvest Dinner event in 2012, says the Harvest Dinner gets bigger each year. “We started out like a small garden party. But, each of the past four years we’ve grown by 20%. Now, we are big enough to attract a large number of agriculture’s key businesses and leaders. Their attendance is a good attraction for other key leaders in the state like the Governor, OSU President and the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Director.”

This year’s Harvest Dinner welcomed Alan Sams, the new Dean of OSU’s College of Agricultural Sciences. Sams came to Oregon State University last November to take the leadership of one of the nation’s top agricultural research and education institutions. Sams was the Executive Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture at Texas A&M University prior to arrival in Corvallis. Sams spoke to the crowd sharing his impressions about Oregon agriculture gathered this past year and thoughts about future priorities.

“The diversity of Oregon agriculture has been an incredible thing to see as I’ve traveled the state this past year,” Sams said. “OSU’s challenge and opportunity will be to meet the needs of farmers and business leaders around the state with relevant research and education in a rapidly changing state, country and world—and,
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Oregon Governor Kate Brown visiting with OSU President Ed Ray at recent Harvest Dinner.

NWREC's Harvest Dinner
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all while preparing the next generation of agriculturists and leaders. But, we are up to the challenge, have an outstanding faculty, and great history of the success in this state."



The Harvest Dinner buffet included a wide variety of vegetables and fruits from field research trials during the summer at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. The menu was prepared and served by Bon Appetite Catering at George Fox University.



Oregon Representative Rick Lewis, Silverton (center back), enjoying conversation with berry growers in the Willamette Valley. Lewis has taken the lead on providing funding to NWREC the past two legislative sessions for strawberry and caneberry research and education.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIMBERLY JACOBSEN NELSON

Governor Brown summed up the Harvest Dinner, saying, "This is a really wonderful opportunity to bridge the rural-urban divide over the dinner table...what I love about the work happening here [at OSU and NWREC] is the innovation and creativity around food products."

A photo album of the Harvest Dinner is available at the NWREC Facebook page or by clicking on the Facebook icon at: extension.oregonstate.edu/NWREC.

Interested in Attending Next Year?

We had a number of requests to attend this year's Harvest Dinner. The event has been an invitation-only event and over the past several years, funded entirely by our generous table sponsors and in-kind contributors. Of the 300 attendees this year, slightly more than 1/2 were guests of our sponsors. The remainder of the Harvest Dinner guests included the faculty and staff at NWREC; OSU campus faculty, staff, and administrators; elected officials in state and local government; and our **Friends of NWREC**.

We are always happy to have local community members join us for the Harvest Dinner and do try to accommodate, each year, a limited number of special guests depending on seating availability. Seating has become more limited as we have grown each year.

But, to ensure a seat at the NWREC Harvest Dinner table, please do become a **Friend of NWREC**. Each Friend donating at least \$100 receives an invitation for two.

We'd love to have you join us! See the back page of this newsletter for information about the **Friends of NWREC**.

Calendar of Events

Winter Vegetable Sagra: Sunday, December 8 (11:00am-3:00pm); The Redd at 831 Southeast Salmon St., Portland. Contact: Heidi Noordijk.

Blueberry Nutrition Workshop: Monday, December 9 (9:00am-12:00pm); NWREC. Contact: Sarah Doane.

Blueberry Pruning Workshop: Monday, December 16 (9:00am-4:00pm); NWREC. Contact: Sarah Doane.

Specialty Seed Growers of Western Oregon Annual meeting: Tuesday, January 22, 2020 (8:00am-2:00pm); Linn County Expo Center, Albany. Contact: Kristie Buckland.

Northwest Vegetable and Berry Farmer's Conference—formerly the North Willamette Hort Society Meeting: January 29-30 (8:00am-4:30pm); Monarch Hotel & Conference Center, Clackamas. Note: Vegetable Section on January 29 and Berry Section on January 30. Contact: Nick Andrews, Kristie Buckland, Wei Yang.

Winter Vegetable Variety Trial Field Day: Thursday, February 13 (2:00-6:00pm); NWREC. Contact: Heidi Noordijk.

Vegetable Variety Showcase: Sunday, February 16 (3:00-7:00pm); The Redd at 831 Southeast Salmon St., Portland. Contact: Heidi Noordijk.

PNWCTA Christmas Tree Short Course: Friday, February 21 (8:00 am-4:30 pm) Wilsonville Holiday Inn. Contact: Chal Landren.

OSU Small Farms Conference: Saturday, February 22 (8:30am-5:30 pm); OSU, LaSells Stewart Center. Contact: Nick Andrews and Heidi Noordijk.

Please contact the NWREC office at 503-678-1264 for more information or visit the website at: extension.oregonstate.edu/NWREC

Yes, We Can Grow Olives!

By Javier Fernandez Salvador, Marion/Polk Small Farms Extension Faculty

OSU Extension's Olea Project Team hosted a field tour at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in October that attracted a crowd of over 50 attendees. The group included current and future growers, nursery, field and other industry representatives, as well as, consumers and press.

Growing olives in Oregon is not a new idea—but, has faced challenges with cold hardiness of planting stock plus field establishment and production practices. None-the-less, a small and dedicated group of a dozen or so landowners have been working to develop an olive oil industry in this state. OSU Extension faculty have been cooperating in this process the past three years.

The recent NWREC tour started with an introduction to the project and research objectives followed by a preliminary results update. "The growers interviewed for our *Industry Survey and Needs Assessment* stated that plant injury and dieback, fruit set and productivity are some of their most important priorities," Tessa Barker mentioned. A Q&A section followed where an interesting discussion on the challenges and issues for state production of olives ensued. "Olive production in Oregon faces cold winter freeze that can damage tissue and delay plant development and production, as well, destroy large sections of an orchard," Neil Bell commented.

The attendees were split in two groups to tour NWREC. One stop visited the propagation facilities. Heather Stoven shared about experiments involving plant production from cuttings and propagation techniques for nurseries and small farms. Another stop focused on basic care and management for potted plants. The next tour stops were led by Javier Fernandez Salvador to review the research examining field establishment practices.

One common question from growers and those considering olive crop production has been about which olive varieties to plant and when to expect production? There is no simple answer to this question. Some cultivars are definitely more tolerant of cold and freezing temperatures, but

there are other factors to consider, too, such as, the age of the planting stock and plant size going in the field, the site microclimate, and resources such as irrigation availability.



"You need a little luck, too, to be successful—like any farming," said Fernandez Salvador. "The winter at time of planting could be mild or harsh. This may be the most important factor for establishment and production. The last two years have been mild, but this year may be very different."

The final tour stop visited Neil Bell's Pacific Northwest Olive Collection. More than 60 varieties from around the world have been planted at NWREC to see how they produce—side-by-side on the same site over a several year period. The data collected from the evaluation will be critical to answering the hardiness questions.

For additional reading about olive production in Oregon, see these articles: <https://www.epicurious.com/ingredients/oregon-olive-oil-farms-climate-change-new-olio-novo-article>; <https://www.oliveoiltimes.com/olive-oil-basics/oregon-project-aims-to-promote-olive-oil-sector/67991>.

OSU's Olea Project Team includes Javier Fernandez-Salvador, Marion and Polk County Small Farms Extension Agent; Heather Stoven, Yamhill County Small Farms and Community Horticulture Extension Agent; Neil Bell, Marion and Polk County Horticulture Extension Agent; Victoria Binning, Marion County Extension Outreach Coordinator; and Tessa Barker, OSU Graduate Research Assistant.

Javier coordinates field establishment research and grower site winter damage evaluation. Heather coordinates olive propagating techniques. Neil directs the cultivar evaluation for winter cold hardiness. Victoria Binning manages the outreach coordination for events and publications. Tessa provides research assistance for various components of the project.

New Modular to Provide Added Office Space

In anticipation of a remodeling to construct new lab space (see *Two Major Infrastructure Projects Funded!* on page 7), a modular office building arrived at NWREC in early November. The 24' x 60' building was claimed on federal surplus in Washington state. The modular includes four office rooms and a large common meeting space in the middle of the building.

The modular will become shared office space with at least two staff per room. The building is located south of the Propagation Greenhouse. Electrical power has been brought to the site for lighting, general electrical needs, heating and cooling.

Once staff can be relocated and the Parker House offices vacated to make room for the new lab space, this latter project will be ready to begin.

More Staffing Changes at NWREC

This has a busy year for comings and goings at NWREC. As the year comes to a close, we have two long-time faculty retiring—Robin Rosetta and Gina Koskela. And, we are welcoming four new additions to our family over the past few months. Before the end of the year, we expect to add two more positions, too. All tolled for the year, we have transitioned two NWREC employees into new positions plus added another 9 new positions. I guess the only thing for sure, is change!

Let's recognize those leaving service and welcome our new team members.

Farewell to Robin

Robin Rosetta, NWREC's Nursery IPM Extension Agent will retire on November 30 after twenty-five years of service at OSU. Robin is best known for bringing the concept of integrated pest management (IPM)—a more holistic approach to controlling pests—to the nursery industry in Oregon. Other notable accomplishments include: starting the OktoberPest series of educational weekly 1/2 day educational seminars at NWREC each October for nursery and greenhouse managers and workers—a program that has been ongoing for the past 18 years; developing and managing a comprehensive website for nursery and greenhouse pest management and a pest alert system that reached thousands of growers and professionals each year; and pioneering work to create and adapt intelligent spray technology for nursery growers and other agriculture sectors in the Willamette Valley.



Robin was raised in California. Her academic degrees include an Associate Degree in Horticulture from Cabrillo College, and a Bachelor's degree in Entomology and Masters in Plant Protection/Pest Management—both from the University of California at Davis. "I was really fortunate," Robin says, "to come through the premier integrated pest management program in the country. When I came to Oregon to work with Extension, we were barely talking about IPM. I had the opportunity to introduce biocontrol principles and cultural practices and other

ideas in the nursery and greenhouse industries."

Reflecting on her career with OSU, Robin said, "I'm elated at the success of many of my initiatives to enhance the use of IPM in Oregon. Biological control, now a staple in many nurseries, was in its infancy here, and I was told—not infrequently—it wouldn't work. I did have, however, excellent collaboration from top experts at Oregon State University, insectaries, and many early adopters in this progressive industry, who supported my efforts and teamed up with me to make augmentation work for a variety of pests. That same level of support has been there for so many programs, including OktoberPest workshops, the Pacific Northwest Nursery IPM website, and more recently, our work with intelligent spray systems, which reduce the volume of pesticides needed to manage pests by more than 50%. I'm really happy to see this technology expand to other commodities in Oregon and elsewhere. Thank you to the many growers, consultants, colleagues, and staff I've worked with through the years here to help protect Oregon's farms, landscapes, and natural resources.

Farewell to Gina

Gina Koskela is retiring, too, by the end of this calendar year. She is a Senior Faculty Research Assistant and has been working at NWREC for the past 33 years. Gina has held a variety of positions, and done a variety of work, at NWREC but, for the past 15 years or so, her main responsibilities have been in support of the Pesticide Research and Registration Program, also known as the IR-4 Project, mostly under the supervision of Joe DeFrancesco.



Over the years, Gina has been a dedicated faculty member providing the leadership and oversight, and taking responsibility, for the conduct of about 12-15 pesticide residue field research trials each year, which provide data required by the US-EPA to register a pesticide product for use in for a wide variety of western Oregon agricultural crops—from cranberries on

the Coast, to hops, vegetables, clover seed and grass seed crops, plums, cherries and pears, and the full range of berry crops grown in the Valley. She has even worked with unconventional crops such as chia, quinoa, and wasabi.

Gina's work in the Pesticide Research and Registration Program has included the review and implementation of the research study protocols as outlined in the USDA's IR-4 study plans, plot establishment, application of pesticide treatments, collection of plant samples, and writing reports. "Gina is dedicated, well-organized, and detail-oriented, which are all qualities necessary to ensure a successful outcome to these experiments," said DeFrancesco. He continued to add, "The residue field studies are intensely reviewed and audited by EPA, USDA, IR-4, and private quality control/quality assurance auditors; Gina's work over the years has been exemplary and without negative findings."

Given Gina's wide range of knowledge and experience, in addition to the residue field studies, she has also taken the lead in many efficacy and crop safety field trials for a variety of Oregon crops, which ensures that these new pest management tools and strategies are safe and effective.

"Gina is a hard worker, putting in long hours to help us meet the requirements of the research studies, and traveling all over the region to meet our deadlines," said DeFrancesco. "She has been a valued employee who will be sorely missed. We wish her well in her new endeavors."

Trevor Moving On

Trevor Wood has worked at NWREC for the past five years—originally as a summer student in high school, then stepping in as a contract employee in the summer of 2018, and most recently a permanent BioScience Technician since this past spring. We are happy for Trevor as he takes a position with Columbia Helicopters, just down the road from the Research Center.



Trevor's summer work was mostly in the Berry Research program and worked for Bernadine Strik over four summers. Always

a hard working student and good team player, Trevor moved on to construction work following high school. When we were short-handed in the summer of 2018, Trevor quit his position in construction to come back to NWREC as a contract labor employee and helped with general farm work, including irrigation, over the summer and, then into the fall and winter until we could create a permanent position.

Since this past spring, Trevor has provided a variety of farm assistance at NWREC including field work, irrigation management, rodent trapping, mowing, and servicing vehicles—plus a wide array of other maintenance and upkeep tasks, as needed.

According to Farm Manager, Marc Anderson, “Trevor’s been a dedicated worker for us over his years here. We especially appreciate him coming in during the summer of 2018 to fill a sudden need when we were short-handed and help us get through the summer with all of the projects on the farm.”

We thank Trevor for his service at NWREC over the years and wish him well with his new opportunity.

Welcome Sarah!

This past August, Sarah Doane joined NWREC’s team as a Faculty Research Assistant working with Blueberry Extension Agent, Wei Yang. But, Sarah is no stranger to NWREC—having worked here in the nursery production program nearly 20 years earlier. “I am very excited to be back at NWREC. This is a special place with great people doing really important work.”



Sarah was raised in the Chicago area, graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Plant and Soil Science from Southern Illinois University and worked in pomology research prior to coming to Oregon. “The work I did with fruit tree research in Illinois is what turned my interest to research and created contacts to faculty at OSU.”

Sarah did end up moving to Oregon, in part, because of her interest in outdoors, camping, hiking, plus the diversity of agri-

culture—and our ability “to grow just about anything!”

After coming west, Sarah first worked for Chad Finn’s berry breeding program in Corvallis. Then, she moved to a position in nursery production with J Frank Schmidt and Son Nursery in Boring—one of the largest shade tree growers in the nation. After six years of experience there, Sarah joined our nursery production research and outreach team here at NWREC working with Rich Regan, Robin Rosetta and Sven Svenson. Eventually, Sarah took on the management responsibility for the Landscape Plant Development Center at Donald where she worked for 19 years.

Sarah’s return to NWREC this past summer is focused on blueberry research and development. “It’s good to be back with fruit production. I think my strong background and experience in nursery production science will be an asset to Wei’s program. I am enjoying the creative work we are doing with mechanical harvesting research and equipment modification and looking forward to getting involved in the rootstock project. Seeing research that can potentially make a huge difference for our growers is what makes the work we are doing very special.”

Welcome Rebecca!

Earlier this summer, Rebecca Sheridan completed her PhD in forestry at OSU working in Douglas-fir seedling physiology and how limited water access influences growth and development. She joined Lloyd Nackley’s nursery production team at NWREC as a Post Doc Researcher broadly focusing on irrigation management.



“I’m working fast to shift my thinking from forestry nursery and production systems to horticulture. It’s incredible to deal with so many different species and production systems in ornamental nurseries. It’s nothing like forestry! But, my background should be a good fit. Water is a huge issue for everyone.”

Rebecca grew up in the Eugene area. She went off to Carleton College in Minnesota where she received a Bachelor’s degree in Biology. After doing trail work in Washington State through Americorp,

Rebecca moved on to work as a lab manager at the University of Washington studying penguins. Rebecca said, “The penguin work was really interesting. And, I had the chance to travel some internationally to be in their habitat. But, I found myself more interested in the plants and the vegetation where the penguins were living than with the animal, itself. That’s when I decided it was time to return to my interests in plant science.” Rebecca went on to complete a Master’s degree at the University of Idaho, where she first started working with forestry and native plant nurseries, before coming to Oregon State University.

Rebecca’s work at NWREC will be that link between plant physiology and production science. “I think we have a really good team with nice, complementary skills and interests in soils, water, and physiology. And, that’s what you need when trying to figure out how systems work and develop new practices for the industry. The Extension and outreach part of the work is something that interests me, too. Farm visits and interacting with people on the ground is really fascinating. It pushes me, as a scientist, to have to explain the science at the grower level. And, that’s good for all of us.”

Welcome Clint!

Clint Taylor arrived from Texas in July to become our Metro Small Farms Education Program Assistant working with Nick Andrews and Heidi Noordijk. Clint comes to OSU after five years of teaching high school biology and environmental sciences. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Horticulture from Texas A&M University and a Master’s degree in Agriculture from Oklahoma State University. Clint and his wife, Allison, met in college and both have the same degrees.



Following graduate school, Clint served in the Peace Corps in Panama and, then, as an Extension Project Coordinator for a Texas A&M project looking at irrigation trials in the high desert of Arizona.

Clint is an agriculturalist and educator at heart with significant classroom teaching experience, as well as, informal education

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NWREC Hosts 2019 Mechanical Cultivation Workshop

By Heidi Noordijk, Metro Small Farms Outreach Coordinator, and Claire Sullivan, Central Oregon Small Farms Faculty

On August 29th, 2019 the second OSU Mechanical Cultivation Field Day was held at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora. The day-long event was attended by over 100 people, many of the participants were farmers. The goal of the event was to increase the holistic weed management knowledge base of vegetable farmers, and provide a platform for farmer and equipment supplier exchange of ideas and opportunities. Valuable feedback gained from 2018 field day evaluations added new elements to the 2019 field day, including a focus on walk-behind cultivation equipment, non-mechanical methods of weed control, and an experienced farmer discussion panel.

Walk-Behind Cultivation Tools



The morning demonstrations showcased walk-behind equipment in radish, cabbage, and radicchio plots. Equipment dealers traveled from near and far for the event. Equipment included electric hoes from Carts & Tools (Oregon), various non-powered hand tools from Johnny's Selected Seed (Maine), the Ox—a walk-behind cultivating tractor—from Tilmor (Ohio), and a walk-behind tractor for bed shaping from BCS (Oregon).

Tractor Mounted Cultivation Tools

The afternoon demonstrated tractor-mounted cultivation tools, and equipment dealers traveled from Ohio (Tilmor), Pennsylvania (KULT-Kress) and California (Sutton Ag) to demonstrate tools in radish, radicchio, and cabbage crops. The cultivation equipment included finger weeders, knives and sweeps; toolbars were setup on both belly-mounted and



rear-mounted tractors. Participants were able to try the new Tilmor cultivating tractor, and test out hand-steering rear-mounted toolbar setups.

Farmer Panel



The farmer panel held right after lunch was a highlight for many field day attendees, and offered the chance to hear from three experienced vegetable growers of different production scales. Josh Volk (Slow Hand Farm, <1 acre), Frank Battilega (Big B Farm, ~50 acres), and Joe Siri (Siri

and Son Farms, >500 acres) spoke of their weed management successes and lessons learned, and answered questions from the audience.

Overwhelmingly, participants had a very positive experience: 88% said the demonstrations were very useful or extremely useful; 96% said they gained new information to improve weed management in their crops; and 80% said they planned to use new cultivation equipment on their farm. Comments included, "Tractor tool demos were very useful for me. Talking to the company reps was a quick way to get questions answered," and "What was most useful was seeing the tools demonstrated, and having an opportunity to operate them."

In 2018, faculty within the Small Farms Program organized the OSU's first Mechanical Cultivation Field Day and held in Corvallis. That event was a huge success and attracted farmers from Oregon and Washington. In 2019 the OSU team organized this second field day, and this year were able to collaborate with Washington State University (WSU) to host two field days in the PNW on the same week. This winter we will be launching a website with videos of cultivation tools in use, and other mechanical cultivation websites.

The field days were made possible through a two-year mini-grant from the USDA Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (WSARE) to conduct educational outreach on mechanical cultivation.

Two Major Infrastructure Projects Funded

All of Oregon's 13 Branch Experiment Stations around the state are in need of significant capital infrastructure improvements to address years of neglect and lack of monies to make important repairs and upgrade facilities to better serve today's faculty and staff—plus meet stakeholder and community needs. The Oregon Legislature heard this message and responded with funding earmarked only for the off campus agricultural facilities in the 2017-2019 Legislative Session. Those dollars (approximately \$1.7 million) weren't available until the end of the Session—this past June. In addition, the College of Agricultural Sciences provided an additional \$320,000 from their Ag Experiment Station budget to support more capital improvement projects.

Each Branch Station was allowed to make up to two funding requests—a larger one up to \$425,000 and a smaller proposal. Proposals were due in August. Twenty-one proposals were submitted; 12 were funded. NWREC submitted two proposals—and both were funded!

Our first priority project will be remodeling offices into an upgraded Parker House laboratory space. This project has an estimated cost of \$420,000. A second project funded is the final build out of an irrigation well drilled last year, but not brought on-line. Power will be brought to the site, a well house constructed, infrastructure piping, and variable speed drive pumps to connect NWREC's two irrigation pumps to serve the entire needs of the farm. The

well project is valued at approximately \$110,000.

The \$530,000 for the NWREC projects represent approximately 25% of the funding allocated this year. It is anticipated that a similar level of Legislative funding (the \$1.7 million) will be available each biennium for the next 5 Sessions. This funding will make a huge difference in the capabilities of the Branch Stations throughout the state.

Needless to say, NWREC priorities were recognized by the College and we sincerely appreciate this support. Our plan moving forward is to schedule work to bring the irrigation well on-line prior to the next growing season—hopefully by April. We will be working with the College to finalize plans for the lab space project in the coming months and hope to begin construction later in the year.

NWREC Staffing Changes continued from page 5

and community development experience with his time in the Peace Corps and Extension in Arizona. We think he's a perfect fit for the Small Farms Extension program and the work we do at NWREC!

Clint and Allison decided it was time to relocate when they left Texas. "The weather was getting hot and drier there. It seemed like it was getting harder and harder to grow crops," Clint said. "We looked at Oregon as a neat place with a moderate Mediterranean climate and the Willamette Valley as a horticultural paradise. With my interest in vegetable production, this is a perfect place to be."

"The move has been great. We are very happy. I've never had more fun working. I am doing something different every day—maybe planting or harvesting on some days. On other days, I'm doing science with measurements or data analysis. Another day, we could be doing education and teaching. Working with Nick and Heidi is a lot of fun, too."

Clint reports that one of the things he is most proud of is building his own house—just he and Allison—without any help. They did everything including the site work and foundation, framing, electrical, plumbing, drywall, roofing, everything... from the ground up...and teaching themselves along the way.

Clint has a lot to offer and the Small Farms program is fortunate to have him on their team!

Belated Welcome to Kody, too!

Kody Transue returned to NWREC to join Nik Wiman's Orchard Crops team last March. Somehow, he was missed in the last issue of *Down on the Farm* in August—just too many new hires this past year.



Kody is another addition to our family who is no stranger to NWREC—having worked here for two summers while a student at Clackamas Community College where he received his Associate's degree in horticulture. Previously, Kody had summer seasonal positions in 2015 in the Blueberry Extension program and 2016 with the Orchard Crops program.

Kody was born and raised in the Oregon City area. Although more of a city or town kid, his real interests developed in agriculture and growing plants—hence his Community College degree. "I just really like learning about plants and production systems and figuring out how to grow things better." Kody has developed strong interests in fruit trees—having been a volunteer and intern with the Home Orchard Society since 2014. In addition, Kody has worked as a market vendor of Kiyokawa Family Orchards in Parkdale selling fruit at the Oregon City Farmers Market.

After completing his Associate's degree, Kody worked for a local small farm operation and with Concentrates, Inc., a Portland-based agricultural product distributor specializing in natural fertilizers and feeds. "The work and experience I received in those years following college was great for me. But, my goal was always to get back to NWREC someday. I like the place and the people and the work we are doing is important to the growers and community."

Kody is involved in a wide array of Orchard Crops projects at NWREC with Nik Wiman and Heather Andrews. He provides field support for the research trials studying irrigation practices, nutrition management, and pest control in hazelnuts. In addition, he supports the cider apple research project and the work being done with peaches, nectarines, and almonds.

Finally, Kody shared that his fruit tree interests include being a devote enthusiast of Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*). "It's sort of an obscure and forgotten fruit native to North America that is my favorite and I'm very passionate about growing and telling folks about them."

North Willamette Research
and Extension Center
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Marc Anderson, *Farm & Facilities Mgr.*
Derek Wells, *Building/Trades Maint.*
Joe Battilega, *Farm Technician*
Trevor Wood, *Farm Technician*

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Wei Yang, *Berry Crops Extension Agent*
Javier Fernandez Salvador, *Special Berry Initiative*
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Membership forms for the *Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center* are also available by contacting the NWREC office at 503-678-1264 or downloading from the website at extension.oregonstate.edu/NWREC.

Contact Director, Mike Bondi, for more information or to discuss life or deferred gifts options.

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