



Oregon Small Farm News

Oregon State University Small Farms Program



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Cover Photo:

Heading to the freezer.
Blueberries from Goodfoot Farm, Philomath.
Photo by Garry Stephenson

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Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

Funding Incentivizes Climate Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is a far-reaching \$750 billion health care, tax, and climate bill, into law. The bill makes historic investments in federal programs to address the climate crisis and aims to reduce carbon emissions by roughly 40 percent by 2030.

The bill allocates \$40 billion for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to expand climate-focused programs, notably including roughly \$20 billion in additional conservation funding. This includes boosts to historically over-subscribed and underfunded programs, especially the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the program with the strongest suite of tools to support farmers as they mitigate and adapt to a changing climate. While these investments do not directly allocate funding for climate adaptation and instead focus on the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, they represent forward progress on climate at a critical time, especially looking forward to the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization.

The Inflation Reduction Act also includes more than \$3 billion in dedicated funding to provide debt relief to distressed farmers who hold Farm Service Agency direct or guaranteed loans as well as over \$2 billion to be paid to farmers who have experienced discrimination in USDA lending programs. While overdue, this funding still does not meet the needs and expectations of organizations serving farmers of color.

Adapted from information from the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (<https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/release-biden-signs-historic-inflation-reduction-act-of-2022/>)

For a more information on provisions of the act, go to *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022: A Deep Dive on an Historic Investment in Climate and Conservation Agriculture*. <https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/inflation-reduction-act-of-2022-a-deep-dive-on-an-historic-investment-in-climate-and-conservation-agriculture/>

Save the Date

February 18th, 2023

OSU Oregon Small Farms Conference

<https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/smallfarmsconference/>

We can't wait to see you there



College of Agriculture

Wildfire Preparedness in Agriculture

This course helps prepare farmers, ranchers and rural residents for wildfires. Over the course of seven modules, you will learn how to create an emergency farm plan for your land. This farm plan will provide prevention steps you can take with your equipment and vegetation in order to help mitigate wildfires.

The wildfire plans discussed in this course will allow you to meet new Oregon OSHA requirements for suppressing wildfires in crops and rangelands. These requirements stipulate that farmers and ranchers must have a documented emergency action plan for their farm, along with a firefighting action plan and fire prevention plan.

Find out more at
<https://beav.es/w92>
or scan this QR code:



ONLINE AND ON DEMAND.
ACCESS ANY TIME.

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National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



WESTERN
EXTENSION
RISK
MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION

Canine Detection & Vole Management On Organic Farms: New Project Update

By: Nick Andrews, Dana Sanchez, Jenifer Cruickshank, Vee Blackstone, and Nik Wiman, Oregon State University

In 2018 and 2019, vole populations irrupted in the Willamette Valley and remained very high through 2021. There are many different species of vole in the Pacific Northwest, but in the Willamette Valley the grey-tailed vole (*Microtus canicaudus*) stands out as especially important. They feed on roots, shoots, and bark, sometimes causing severe damage in vegetables, pastures, young orchards, vineyards, grass seed, and other crops. Conventional farmers often use rodenticides to manage voles, but those materials can have unintended impacts on non-target species and don't provide complete control. Synthetic rodenticides are not allowed on organic farms, so organic farmers mainly rely on snap traps or other management techniques like crop rotation and tillage.

The photos below show some of the extreme damage seen in the Willamette Valley during the recent vole irruption. Conner Voss and Sarah Brown's pasture was decimated by November 2020 (Figure 1), and their adjacent vegetable crops were also badly damaged. They reported near total loss of root crops and even saw rodents eating peppers off the plant. In 2021,



Figure 1a. Severe damage to the sheep pasture at Diggin' Roots Farm in Molalla, OR. Nov 30, 2020. Photo provided by Nick Andrews

their local vole population declined quickly. Their root crops are now free of damage and their unirrigated pasture is beginning to recover. Voles are still present on their farm but seem to be in far lower numbers.

In 2021, we received a Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant (WSARE Project # OW21-364) to explore canine detection as a potential new tool for vole management on Willamette Valley farms. Vole populations rise and fall over timespans of several years and the causes of these multi-year cycles aren't well understood or very predictable. Vole numbers more consistently fluctuate annually: increasing in the spring and summer, then decreasing over the fall and winter. Over the winter, voles significantly slow their reproduction. Based on this cycle, it makes sense that further reducing vole numbers in the winter before they breed should reduce the ability of a local population to increase enough to damage crops in the summer.

Vole holes lead to networks of interconnected tunnels. In our preliminary investigations, we used an



Figure 1b. Vole holes and well worn runways. They are easy to distinguish from gopher and mole holes because they don't create mounds. Photo provided by Nick Andrews



Figure 2a. Using an insecticide fogger to blow vegetable oil smoke through vole tunnels shows that the networks can be extensive. The burlap scraps mark entrance holes.
Photo provided by Nick Andrews



Figure 2b. This tunnel network at 47th Avenue Farm on Grand Island was the most extensive we have confirmed so far.
Photo provided by Nick Andrews

insecticide fogger to blow vegetable oil smoke down holes (Figure 2a) to get a sense of how extensive and interconnected the tunnels are. At one location we found a network that spanned 11 feet with at least 40 entrance holes (Figure 2b) at the edge of a pasture. These voles were inflicting severe damage in adjacent vegetable crops.

Scouting fields for voles can be time-consuming. Burrow entrances persist over months and even years, so there can be thousands of vole holes per acre, with large tunnel networks, but the holes and runs themselves cannot really indicate number of animals alive at a given time. However, by looking closely for signs of current activity, such as fresh scat at burrow entrances and in runways, and recent clipping from feeding, you can assess how extensive the colony is, and whether the population is very low or high. Looking for these fresh signs is vital to maximize effectiveness when setting traps. Because setting and clearing traps takes even more time than the scouting, it would be helpful to have more confidence that there is a vole in a particular tunnel before investing time in the effort.

Dogs inherited from their wild forbearers tremendous abilities to scent, process, and track odors. These abilities, typically called “canine detection” when put to work by humans, are being put to use for

many security, medical, social, natural resource, and sporting purposes. Agriculturists are beginning to explore this practice for different applications, but it is not yet utilized to full advantage. Our central hypothesis is that canine detection of live voles can make snap-trapping a feasible, non-toxic option to effectively manage vole populations on farms. To test this we are comparing canine-assisted trappers to unassisted human trappers. Our initial approach was to cross-train detection teams that have been successful in National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW) competitions, because those dogs have a proven ability to acquire a target odor and definitively “alert” or signal the handler at the location of that scent. Likewise, the dog handler has learned to recognize their dogs’ individual alert signs and identify the location of the scent.

Our first year taught us a lot! To allow the dogs to acquire scent-signature for live voles, we placed field-captured voles in perforated PVC tubes (design adapted from the Barn Hunt Association rulebook) and placed them in trenches and holes we prepared in a mowed grass field. Sharon Gakstatter (For the Love of Dog) coached our first-year cohort as we trained our dogs to alert on holes and tunnels containing the live voles.

We used Sherman traps to capture the live voles during November 2021 for this training. Although



Figure 3. David Leer and Daphne (CreekWalker Photography, Philomath, OR) in the foreground, and Donna Yanik with Sierra (QuarterWay Ranch, Lebanon, OR) in the background are Elite competitors in NACSW trials, and are collaborating in our research. Here they are training with their dogs to alert on active vole holes at the OSU Dairy Farm in February, 2022.
Photo by Vanessa Blackstone @ Oregon State University.

six animals were securely and comfortably housed in an OSU lab animal facility (OSU ACUP # 2021-0187), two animals died in the traps. Upon necropsy, our Attending Veterinarian (Dr. Jennifer Sargent) discovered those animals were infected with Leptospirosis. A pooled urine sample from the six surviving voles also tested positive, therefore we halted work and developed bio-hazard handling protocols for the voles and biohazard management procedures for each stage in a day's work, from transport to setting animal tubes in the training area. Leptospirosis can also infect any mammalian species, including dogs and humans. After consulting with Dr. Sargent and a Biosafety Officer (Dr. Matthew Philpott) we concluded that infection risk was too high to continue work with live animals. Therefore, we euthanized the captive voles and collected vole scent for training. We suspended cotton swabs in the vole cages for one week, and rubbed cotton swabs directly on the animals immediately after death. We also went to great lengths to develop a biohazard protocol and safely freeze dry the voles as a training tool. These alternatives (air swab, rubbed swab, freeze-dried vole) were placed in glass jelly jars with pierced metal lids, but subsequent dog-training work was unsatisfactory in a field setting.

Our next approach was to identify OSU- and privately-owned pastures that still had current vole activity. We moved our training and accuracy testing to the pasture where we had trapped live voles a few months earlier. However, a further complication in our first year of work was that after 2-3 years of extremely high population densities, the regional populations of grey-tailed voles had “crashed” – as is typical of irruptive, or “boom-and-bust” species. The vole population in that pasture had fallen dramatically so we moved to another pasture where we found a large enough vole population for training. We tested dog/handler accuracy (number of holes identified compared to number of individuals and species trapped) at a third pasture. Based on those results, we narrowed our teams to David/Daphne, Donna/Sierra, and Nick/Bijou for the on-farm trials.



Figure 4. Our first year cohort, from left to right: David Leer, Karen Timm, Nick Andrews, Sharon Gakstatter, Alice Mills Morrow, Donna Yanik, and Dana Sanchez. Thank you for your patience and perseverance during the first year of the project!
Photo by Vanessa Blackstone @ Oregon State University.

The 2022 trapping season started very late and was cut short due to all of the complications we encountered during training. We completed one round of trapping and data collection at five locations (one hazelnut orchard, two dairy pastures, and two vegetable farms). By March, we began trapping juvenile voles and recognized that our window of opportunity to specifically capture over-wintering breeding adults had passed.

Despite all the challenges, our preliminary results are promising. We calculated trap success rate as number of voles caught per traps set. In this respect canine-assisted (.41 voles/trap set) and human-only (.40 voles/traps set) teams performed similarly. However, when we calculated search rate or efficiency, specific to successful vole captures, as total voles captured divided by minutes spent searching and marking which holes to trap, we saw evidence of a difference. Across our 3 canine teams, search rate efficiency was .48 voles/search minute compared to .29 voles/search minute by an unassisted human. Variation among the 3 canine teams ranged from .29 voles/search min to .65/search min. When we totaled search time invested across farms and teams for our abbreviated season, it was evident that canine detection teams (97 minutes) were far faster in field scouting and identifying which holes to trap compared to an unassisted human (232 minutes).

In our abbreviated trapping season, we killed 114 voles and 19 non-target animals. Non-target captures were predominantly deer mice, but a few shrews were also killed. Deer mice eat and hoard nuts and other seeds, and are important seed predators in Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine stands. They have sometimes been observed feeding in orchards, fruiting vegetables, grains and other crops. Shrews are insectivores. Although our trapsets (in vole burrow-runs with fresh sign and capped by waxed cardboard “tunnels”) are specifically designed to minimize non-target kills such as other mammals and birds, it might be difficult to avoid killing some deer mice or shrews when they are co-inhabiting the voles’ burrow systems.

These preliminary results are promising. Winter snap-trapping assisted by canine detection teams may yet prove to be a viable, non-toxic tool in managing populations of voles on Willamette Valley farms. This year we are refining our canine detection training approach by collaborating with a professional



Figure 5. From left to right: Grey-tailed vole adult and juvenile, deer mouse, and shrew caught on March 25, 2022 at 47th Island Farm on Grand Island, OR. Photo provided by Nick Andrews

conservation detection trainer/handler in order to benefit from subtleties and practices used in that sector of canine scent work. We are also narrowing our research to focus on perennial crops (e.g., pastures, hay, and hazelnuts) because in the first year we realized that tillage and complex vegetable crop rotations precluded a fair comparison of canine and human vole detection on vegetable farms. However, we fully expect that our final results will be helpful to vegetable farmers and all others whose crops are perennially challenged by vole damage.

Please come to our workshop on December 1, 2022 (location TBD) to learn more about vole management and our project. You can also follow our vole blog and read the online progress report to learn more. Photos by Nick Andrews © Oregon State University except where noted. 🐾



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Oregon's Farm and Ranch Equity and Anti-Racism Program (O-FREAP)

Oregon's Farm and Ranch Equity and Anti-Racism Program (O-FREAP) is an opportunity to learn about, address, and dismantle racism within the food and farm systems and beyond.

Farming and ranching in Oregon and throughout the U.S. was established through oppressive systems including racial exclusion, land theft, and violence. Some of these systems still exist and cause harm. There are changes that can be made on the individual and systems level; this program lays a foundation for the skills, knowledge, and networks needed to take action. We invite you to join a self-paced online curriculum with the opportunity to connect with others through peer learning. Once registered you will be contacted by Teagan Moran and invited to optional discussion groups.

You can now register and access the free Equity and Anti-Racism Curriculum, link here: <https://beav.es/wio>. This program was curated by resolution lab (<https://www.resolutionlab.org/our-collective>), a Black, Indigenous, People of Color-owned firm, with sponsorship from a collaborative of farmer and rancher service providers including: OSU Extension Services Small Farms Program, Rogue Farm Corps,



EcoTrust, Friends of Family Farmers, and the Oregon Community

Food System Network's Farming for the Future Working Group. We believe that we are collectively responsible for fixing and redesigning harmful systems of oppression. Working together as a professional network helps ensure that the needs of farmers and ranchers are addressed across the state, that diverse perspectives are represented, and that resources are available to all. Questions? Contact Teagan Moran Teagan.moran@oregonstate.edu (541) 713-5011



THE WESTERN MEAT SCHOOL

Join us for the 2022 Western Meat School
 Online Short Course | October 11, 2022 – December 6, 2022

This 8-week course will help farmers, ranchers, butchers & others learn the essentials for direct marketing niche meat from experts in production, processing, marketing & pricing. Learn how to produce high-quality meat, access new markets, manage risk and improve your profitability.



<p>10/11</p> <p>Marketing: Start with the market in mind: learn how to identify & develop new markets for meat.</p>	<p>10/18</p> <p>Production: Finishing ruminants for optimal gains and quality meat: grass-finishing, pasture-finishing, and alternative feeds.</p>	<p>10/25</p> <p>Management: Adapting your operation to a changing environment: preparing to successfully weather short to longer term disruptions.</p>	<p>11/01</p> <p>Handling & Harvesting: Animal handling, meat quality, and evaluating a live animal. Hoof to rail demonstration part I.</p>
<p>11/08</p> <p>Processing: Hoof to rail demonstration part 2. Basics of meat processing, carcass quality, meat science, fabrication, regulations, & how to work with your processor.</p>	<p>11/15</p> <p>Processing & Packaging: Processing for specific markets, maximizing carcass value, packaging & labeling.</p>	<p>11/29</p> <p>Marketing: Building your brand and educating your customers, understanding different buyer preferences for meat.</p>	<p>12/06</p> <p>Costs of Production & Pricing: Learn how to determine your costs of production and develop pricing strategies for your meat products, for each market channel.</p>

Non-credit | Live 5:00-7:00 PT; 6:00-8:00pm MT
 All sessions will be recorded for future viewing.

Online discussion forums connecting participants & resources will be available.

PLANNING PARTNERS



REGISTER:



THE WESTERN MEAT SCHOOL

a project of the Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network (NMPAN)

<https://westernmeatschool.com>

Register: <https://westernmeatschool.com>

Oregon Farmers Receive Disaster Relief Funding for 2021 Disasters

With leadership from [Our Family Farms](#), [Oregon Climate & Agriculture Network](#), [Friends of Family Farmers](#), [High Desert Food & Farm Alliance](#) and many [others](#), the Oregon Community Food Systems Network (OCFSN) distributed nearly \$1.5 million of state funding in 2022 through the [Farmer & Rancher Disaster Relief Grant Program](#).

104 producers from all around Oregon received financial support for losses incurred from natural disasters in 2021. Losses were caused by a variety of challenges, including crop damage from heat waves, loss of sales due to farmers market closures because of extreme heat or wildfire smoke, early irrigation shut offs due to drought, ice storm damage, greenhouse damage from snow, and evacuating livestock to protect them from fires. Oregon producers are on the frontlines of climate change.

Testimonials from producers who received funding highlighted how crucial this type of direct, accessible support was for them to continue farming in an

unpredictable, rapidly changing climate. This is even worse for producers who are unable to access standard disaster relief programs, at the federal or state level.

One grantee shared the value of the program. “The last 2 years have seen us bounce from one seemingly insurmountable challenge to the next, constantly operating in damage control mode. It is such a relief to finally have a little help, and so encouraging to our small family farm to know that there are people out there working and advocating on our behalf. Thank You.”

OCFSN members and partners are committed to supporting Oregon producers to recover and become more resilient to climate change impacts. Through our [Farming for the Future Working Group](#) and Climate Resilience & Stewardship Subgroup, OCFSN brings people together to discuss these big challenges, work on climate and agriculture solutions projects, and advocate for change. ∞

Don't Forget To Sample Your Soil This Fall!

Fall is a great time to soil sample in pastures, vegetable gardens, and orchards. With your fall soil sample results in hand, you can apply nutrients and other soil amendments in the fall ahead of the rains or prepare for a spring application. Below are several resources that you may find helpful for taking and interpreting your soil test.

- [A Guide to Collecting Soil Samples for Farms and Gardens](#)
- [Analytical Laboratories Serving Oregon](#)
- [Soil test interpretation guide](#)
- [Nutrient management for pastures: Western Oregon and Western Washington](#)
- [OSU's crop-specific nutrient management guides](#)

Your local OSU Extension Office- Some OSU Extension offices loan out soil probes, and your local small farm advisor would be happy to help you interpret your soil test results. Call ahead as not all office may have a probe available without a reservation.

College of Agriculture

Agricultural Wildfire Behavior and Suppression

This course prepares farmers, ranchers and seasonal employees to respond to wildfires burning in crops and rangelands. Rural residents also benefit from this class if they live in areas where they may be the first to respond to a wildfire. By understanding how different fuels and crops burn on your farm, you can make more informed and safer decisions on where and how to suppress wildfires.

This class will also help rural residents and producers decide what types of equipment they should consider using to protect themselves and their property from wildfires. Even if you do not plan on suppressing a wildfire, the 8 modules in this course will provide you with the basic fire knowledge to keep you safe during an evacuation and help you know what to expect.

Find out more at
<https://beav.es/ibX> or scan here:



ONLINE AND ON DEMAND.
ACCESS ANY TIME.

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/
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National Institute of Food and Agriculture
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A Summer of Interning with the Small Farms Program

By: Crystal Kelso, Summer 2022 Intern, OSU Small Farms Program

I am a horticulture therapy student at Oregon State University, entering my last year of the program. When I originally contacted Teagan Moran in the Small Farms Program, I was looking for a way to connect with farms run by Veterans that may be interested



Crystal Kelso
Photo by Teagan Moran

in having an intern on their farm. After discussing options and my goals in more detail, she invited me to apply for an internship with her helping to organize the first ever Military Veteran Farm Tour Series! This summer has been full of farm tours, county fairs, sitting in collaborative meetings to get new programs running, and countless connections into the small farm and Veteran farmer communities in the Willamette Valley (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/southern-willamette-valley/willamette-womens-farmer-network>).

In addition to helping to coordinate the Veteran Farm Tour Series, I've had the pleasure of attending a Medicinal Herb Farm Tour and a Dry Farm Tour, both through the Willamette Women's Farm Network that Teagan coordinates. I met amazing women who love and care for the land, was inspired to keep growing myself, made new friends, and sampled some delicious goat cheeses and rose jam made by the farmers! I experienced working the Extension booth at both the Linn and Lane County Fairs, helping community members with pest and disease questions, directed them to some of the other Extension programs, and had a good time getting to know folks through shared stories and interests.

By far my favorite project has been helping to organize the Veteran Farm Tour Series (<https://beav.es/izv>). A summer farm tour series in the Willamette Valley for Veterans who are currently farming or hoping to. Farm hosts are all Veterans who are currently farming. An opportunity to learn, share, and network. The connections I've made within the Veteran farming community have planted seeds of opportunities. These opportunities are aligned with my long-term goal of having a therapeutic herb farm for Veterans and their families to come together, tend to their emotional and physical wounds, and connect with others.

For as long as I can remember I've wanted to work with plants and people, to study the relationship between them, and find ways for them to interact in healing ways. There is something healing within the act of turning the soil, weeding, planting seeds, and caring for them while they grow into plants that nurture and sustain us. People are much like plants, sometimes we need to be planted in the dark, and fall apart before we can experience growth. From there, we continue to grow and produce new seeds that will hopefully one day further that cycle of growth and healing.

On these farm tours and through conversations



Farm tour friend.
Photo by Crystal Kelso

with farmers in the community, I've seen the power of planting seeds of hope and inspiration through the way they farm and share their ideas. Farm tours offer an opportunity for farmers to share that hope and inspiration with others. Some of the farmers I talked with believed they were "too small to have much to offer"; and yet they wanted to share anyway. I've seen that ALL farmers have something to offer, and in the act of sharing, they are reaching out and planting their own seeds with those they connect with. I've seen how when farmers share with one another, it helps them and everyone around them grow as well.

By helping to bring Veterans together through the love of farming, tending to the land, and caring for the animals that live on it, connections were made that they may not have happened otherwise. The Small Farms Program recognizes that successful farms have a network of support, and that having that network of other farmers plays an important role in the health of their farm and the farmer. During my internship I took a Military Cultural Awareness & Veteran Suicide Awareness Training that enabled me to practice scenarios and understand the importance of being aware of different thought patterns and communication that may occur when working with

Veterans. Both farmers and Veterans have a higher predisposition for depression and suicide. This is part of the reason we create dedicated spaces within the Small Farms Program for affinity groups, such as Veteran specific, or the women farmer networks. Not everyone is comfortable in the general small farm community, and by having these smaller subgroups, we hope that it will make a place for individuality and community as people need. I look forward to staying on with the Extension Service as a Student Employee while I finish my BS in Horticulture/Horticulture Therapy at OSU. This internship has helped me to refine my skills while learning new ones, and I'm excited to see where it takes me next!

For those needing support for themselves or a loved one, help is available from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-888-273-TALK (8255) with an option to "press 1" to access the Military and Veterans Crisis Line. There is also The Farmer Resource Hotline 1800-FARM-AID (1-800-327-6243). For additional resources, visit linesforlife.org, the American Farm Bureau Federation or the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program. ∞

Scholarships are available, Teagan.moran@oregonstate.edu 541-713-5011

As a beginning farmer or new land owner, you need to determine what CAN be grown or raised on your property and what you WANT to produce. This session will cover how to assess natural resources on a property, such as soil and water, to know what your options are. We will introduce the basic physical property and personal considerations for livestock, fruit, flower, and diverse vegetable operations. Due to the brief time we get together, we will not be covering production methods, costs of production, or marketing strategy, however, you will leave knowing what questions to ask in order to take the first step into farming and with a resource packet to help you along the way. There will be a facilitated question and answer session as well as opportunities to connect with other participants.



 **Oregon State University**
Extension Service

Small Farms Program Presents

**JUST GETTING STARTED?
EXPLORING WHAT TO FARM
A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

Tuesday October 25th, 2022
6:30 - 8:00pm

Cost: \$5.00 - Scholarships Available

Register online at:
<https://beav.es/iEp>

Rogue Farm Corps seeks 2023 Mentor Host Farms

By: Matt Gordon, Rogue Farm Corps

Are you interested in mentoring aspiring farmers at your farm or ranch? Are you employing effective, sustainable, and ecological production strategies? Do you want to be a part of creating a more equitable and just food system? Do you have at least 3-5 years of production experience? Can you employ an apprentice for at least 500 hours at your operation? If you answer yes to these questions, partnering with Rogue Farm Corps as a mentor Host Farm may be a good fit!

[Please click here](#) to receive more information and our Host Farm application materials. The deadline to apply is 10/31/2022.

If you have questions or need help with any of the materials, please contact us at 541-588-3552 or training@roguefarmcorps.org

[Note: If you've been accepted by RFC as a host farm in the past you do not have to re-apply with the full application. Please let us know you'd like to host in 2023 and we'll let you know what we need from you!]

More Information:

Rogue Farm Corps' Apprenticeship program is designed to help train and equip the next generation of farmers and ranchers through a structured framework that includes on-farm training, classes, farm tours, discussion groups, and networking. Host farmers serve as primary mentors and supervisors for apprentices at their farm/ranch. Host farmers align with Rogue Farm Corps' Values and agree to uphold the Host Farm Standards & Guidelines.

We ask Host Farmers to uphold these core program values:

- Mentorship & Education
- Equity
- Safety
- Ecological Integrity
- Open Communication
- Responsibility
- Farm/Ranch Viability

BENEFITS OF BEING A HOST FARM:

- Access to an applicant pool of motivated candidates with and without previous agricultural experience
- Potential to train people into management positions at your operation through a structured program
- Opportunity to increase skills and knowledge of existing employee(s)
- Apprentices help complete farm tasks
- Training for Host Farmers in human resources, farm crew management, mentorship, communication, equity & inclusion
- Logistical and administrative support from RFC
- A supportive network of farmer mentors to share experiences, compare notes, and seek input with
- Ongoing check-ins and resources from RFC during the training season to support a positive mentorship environment
- Access to educational and social events that are part of programming for apprentices

TO SUPPORT HOST FARMS, RFC WILL:

- Provide consultation as needed on employment issues
- Create RFC web page for each Host Farm and apprenticeship positions offered
- Promote and recruit for open apprenticeship positions, including advertising online, in print, and in communities local to each position.
- Provide a standardized and centralized application system for applicants seeking apprenticeship which includes their background, goals, contact information, references, types of production they are interested in, and previous experience
- Send appropriate applicants to Host Farms and provide guidance on how to use the application system to filter and sort applicants
- Provide initial rating of program applicants' written applications and guidance on reviewing and selecting applicants
- Offer guidance on the interview process
- Provide templates for apprenticeship agreement and employee handbook documents
- Provide a template for an on-farm skills list that communicates what apprentices will experience
- Facilitate opportunities for the RFC network of mentor farmers across the state to connect throughout the year
- Organize pre- and post-season meetings for mentor

farmers

- Provide check-in calls and email/text support during the program season to Host Farmers
- Provide a series of winter trainings and resources for Host Farmers and other farmers in human resources, farm crew management, mentorship, communication, equity & inclusion, climate smart / regenerative practices, etc

SUMMARY OF HOST FARM RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Create a written position agreement (RFC provides templates)
- Host Farms providing apprentice housing create a separate written residential agreement (RFC has a template)
- Attend winter Host Farmer trainings, pre-season Host Farmer Kickoff, and post-season debrief meeting
- Employ apprentices for a minimum of 500 hours
- Develop a list of skills that apprentices will receive training and experience with (RFC provides template)
- Facilitate an orientation/pre-assessment of skills when apprentice starts

- Train, supervise, and mentor apprentices on a diversity of tasks at the Host Farm that correspond with the list of skills developed
- Provide hands-on demonstration and explanation of tasks on a regular basis
- Work alongside apprentice(s) and provide feedback on a regular basis
- Provide opportunities for more independence and responsibility as the apprenticeship progresses
- Make time for apprentices to attend educational events
- Provide opportunities for one-on-one check-ins with apprentice(s)
- Facilitate 2 evaluation sessions with each apprentice (mid-season and end of season) to assess progress on the skills list
- Facilitate regular crew meetings
- Follow all employment and safety laws and regulation
- Create and maintain a positive, safe, legal, and equitable work and training environment, with RFC support



North Willamette Research and Extension Center.

Cost is \$25 and includes morning refreshments, boxed lunch, and an olive oil tasting.

Program:

- 9:00 AM - Welcome
- 9:20 AM - Emerald Ash Borer & Risk to Olives
- 10:20 AM - ODA Emerald Ash Borer Update
- BREAK-----
- 11:10 AM - Olea Research Update
- 11:30 AM - Olive Field Tour
- 12:10 PM - Lunch
- 1:00 PM - General Olive Management
- 2:30 PM - Social & Olive Oil Tasting

For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/mid-willamette/events/olive-field-day>

Online Courses offered by the OSU Small Farms Program

Available anytime online and self-paced. Register at: <https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/catalog-page#all-courses>



**GROWING FARMS ONLINE:
SUCCESSFUL WHOLE FARM
MANAGEMENT**

FREE
Whole Farm Management
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On Demand. Access Anytime

3-6 hours per online module

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INTRODUCTION TO PASTURE
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