

4-H Update

Enrollment:

- 2024-2025 year
 - Served over 500 youth
 - Enrolled over 90 volunteers
 - 43 clubs
- 2025-2026 year
 - Youth enrollment looks strong
 - Retained 95% of volunteers
 - Trained 22 new volunteers
 - Added Cloverbud and Sewing project areas/clubs



Bringing Contest/Workshops

- Animal Knowledge Contests
- Junior Days
- 3 part series on Showmanship

Youth High Light:

Colby Townsend qualified to represent Oregon at the National Shooting Sports Championship held in Grand Island, Nebraska. He competed as part of Oregon's 4-H Archery Team.

The competition spanned three days of intense shooting events. Colby earned an outstanding 3rd place finish in the nation, and Team Oregon placed 9th out of 33 teams—an impressive showing at a national level.

We will be sending a second youth to the National Shooting Sports Championship this next year.

Finn Haven has qualified and will be a part of the Shotgun team in 2026!



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Crook County





2025 Crook County Engagement by the Numbers:

- 18 partnerships maintained with local and regional organizations
 - 49 total partnerships
- 3 coalitions driving collaborative efforts (CCGB, CCSFS, CCOTM)
- 177 individuals reached through direct education programs in 2025
- 15,270 individuals reached through indirect education in 2025
 - 62,953 individual interactions since 2022

Crook County Green Bags

Since CCGB was established 1 ½ years ago. Neighbors have donated 20,635 pounds of food, which provided about 17,012 meals in Crook County. Currently we have 25 Neighborhood Coordinators.

If you know someone who would like to be a Neighborhood Coordinator, have them contact ccgreenbags@gmail.com. The way we will grow is by adding Neighborhood Coordinators.



2025 FCH Changes:

- Federal funding of the SNAP-Ed program ended on September 30th resulting in a restructuring of FCH.
- I will be serving the state regionally with Lauren Kraemer and Olivia Davis. Together, with the assistance of our content experts, we will serve **Crook**, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler, and The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. We are going through a planning process currently to determine how best to serve the communities in our region.
 - I expect to have 0.7 FTE approved to support my position with the remaining SNAP-Ed fund carryover through Sept 30.

Crook County Sustainable Food Solutions

In 2025, CCSFS coalition work has also grown to include over 45 community organizations, strengthening collaboration and expanding the reach of its efforts to serve Crook County.

CCSFS partnered with Pioneer High School to establish a food pantry in 2025, organized food relief for the Paulina area during wildfires, assisted with the Point in Time Count for Crook County, and is preparing to engage in the upcoming Nutrition Oregon Campaign.

CCSFS meets monthly and welcomes all board members to attend in person or via zoom. Reach out to Shawna to be added to monthly meeting minutes. Shawna.holland@oregonstate.edu



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Fire Program

Ariel Cowan

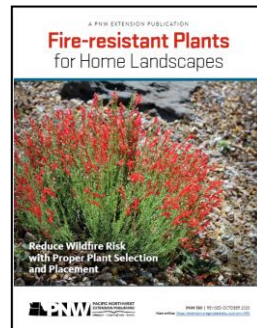
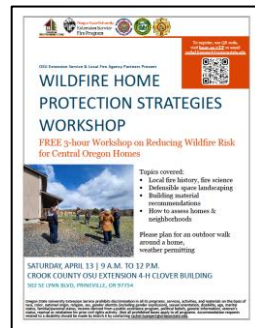
Extension Regional Fire Specialist –
Central Region
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Crook County 2025:

- Participated in Crook County Community Wildfire Protection Plan update published January
- Wildfire Home Protection Strategies workshops
- Wildfire Preparedness Fair in April

What's planned for Spring 2026:

- Workshop 2.0 in Juniper Canyon
- Fire Resistant Plant guide Nursery promotion & master gardener training
- 2026 Wildfire Preparedness Fairs *Looking for suggestions of other Spring event to join with





2025 Crook County



Overview

Juntos strengthens family engagement, builds post-secondary readiness, and creates safe spaces for Crook County youth and families. Through student support, community-based learning, and hands-on volunteer experiences, students develop leadership skills, confidence, and stronger connections with local opportunities.

At A Glance

15



Partnerships

28



Graduating seniors supported

4+



Co-hosted events

598



Engaged community members

Crook County hosted several Juntos-supported events this year, including student volunteer service with Sustainable Food Solutions, bilingual outreach with Crook County On The Move, and Spanish-language support at the Community Garden Party, which engaged more than 500 community members. Juntos also partnered with Crook County Middle School for a Family Night, strengthening connections between families, schools, and local resources.

**OPEN CAMPUS &
JUNTOS COORDINATOR**

David Gutierrez
541-320-1012





**Over 70 college,
scholarship, FAFSA,
and Oregon Promise
applications submitted**

A standout story this year comes from a Crook County High School student who earned the Ford scholarship. This student drove nearly an hour to attend an in-person interview preparation session demonstrating the deep trust, commitment, and investment that students and families place in the Juntos program.

Whats Next

- CCHS Juntos Workshops:
Dec 2nd, 9th, 16th
- CCMS Juntos Workshops:
Spring 2026
- Beaver VIP On-Site Admissions
Event: Dec 11th
- OSU-Cascades Family Day April
25th
- Juntos Club: Jan - May 2026
(College visit to OSU)
- Juntos Academy: Summer 2026



Oct. 24, 2025

Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs

OSU Extension Service – Agricultural Experiment Station – Forest Research Laboratory

2025-27 Biennial Budget Reduction Impacts

In response to the recent economic forecast, state agencies — including the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) — were asked to provide potential budget reductions to the Governor and Legislature. HECC's proposed reductions include the OSU Statewides (OSU Extension, Ag Experiment Station, Forest Research Lab), Outdoor School, state programs and general funding for public universities. This information will be used to inform the Governor and Legislature in preparation for budget reduction discussions during the 2026 Legislative Session.

Potential reduction and impacts

HECC has proposed a 5.85% reduction (approximately \$11.5 million biennially) for the OSU Statewides. This amount is not final. These programs are essential to Oregon's rural communities and natural resource industries. Budget cuts would disproportionately affect these areas, limit economic growth and reduce support for farms, forests, fisheries, youth and families.

Cuts of this magnitude could lead to closure of a research facility, loss of approximately 40 positions and reductions in services and programming. Hiring freezes are already in effect for some state-funded positions, and further decisions will follow the 2026 legislative session.

Challenges

- State funding remains a significant and vital part of our budgets. Reductions will put pressure on our longstanding cooperative state-federal-local/county funding partnerships.
- The original 2025–27 state budget allocation for the OSU Statewides did not fully fund continued service levels, which has already impacted OSU's ability to fill critical positions.
- Federal research funding is declining, adding pressure to already strained budgets.
- Counties, which contribute 20% of Extension funding, rely on stable state support to maintain services.

Preserve Oregon's investment

We recognize that the state's current financial situation will require budget adjustments. However, **the OSU Statewides should not and cannot take a disproportional cut.**

The OSU Statewides are deeply rooted in every Oregon county, providing integrated research, education and outreach that support:

- Thriving agricultural and food systems
- Sustainable natural resource management
- Healthy communities and families
- Youth development through programs like 4-H

Now more than ever, it is important for elected officials to hear from residents about the impact and value of the OSU Statewides in their community.

For more information

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Professor:

Amy Jo Detweiler

Outreach Program Coordinator:

Lisa Cowan

Administrative Program Assistant:

Rachel Humpert

WE CULTIVATE HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

38 new volunteers were trained
with 20 getting fully certified
108 total local Master Gardeners
3 demonstration gardens
2 community gardens
45 community events
814 lbs of produce donated
3143 people reached by
volunteers
6796 volunteer hours valued at
\$224,879 and 3.2 FTE

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Community Gardens

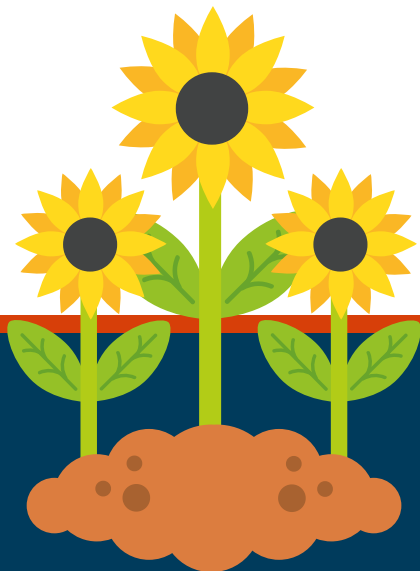
Demonstration Gardens

Community Events

**Extension Office Walk-Ins,
Phone, Email**

Master Gardener Training

Local Gardening Publications



OSU EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER IMPACTS 2024

CENTRAL OREGON

Crook, Deschutes & Jefferson Counties



Attendees and
volunteers at the High
Desert Garden Tour in
Crook County.

Our Local Need: Central Oregon is consistently the fastest growing region in the state with many newcomers from other areas of the country and different growing environments. All three counties are experiencing significant growth with an increased demand for gardening information specific to the high desert and related to growing local food.

Program Highlights: We successfully operated two community gardens ensuring **food security** in our community and donated 814 lbs. of food to Neighbor Impact. We **taught 21 classes** in the region via in person and on zoom specific to growing local food. We hosted 4 mobile plant clinics at community events. This year at Alpenglow Demonstration Garden we installed a **Native American** food and flower crop area in the cultural garden, including a currant and wild strawberries. We participated in a **Crook County on the Move** event, a local partner that inspires healthy living for underserved populations. We provided technical gardening support for the **Steins Pillar Elementary school garden** in Prineville. This year the **29th Annual High Desert Garden Tour** featured five sites in Crook County and had **305 attendees plus staff and volunteers**. Sites featured a wide array of gardening styles from firewise landscapes to large scale vegetable production. Master Gardener volunteers answered **496 questions to date** in our two plant clinics, at events and through AskExtension an online portal. We have 1140 clients receiving **Project Happy Apples** information to reduce codling moth populations and 1106 subscribers receiving the **High Desert Gardening newsletter**. All of these efforts have led to an increase in knowledge in all areas of food production and integrated pest management.



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Extension Service
Master Gardener™



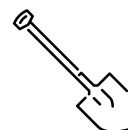
Extension responsibilities:



Forages & Small Grains



Water Use Efficiency



Soil Fertility



Pest Management

Selected Recent Activities

Programs & Presentations

- Fall Pasture Walk - Redmond | Nov. 14
- Resilient Pasture Symposium - Salem | Oct. 2 - 3
- Soils & Soil Management - Bend | Sep. 11
- Revegetation After Wildfire - Juniper Canyon | Sep. 12
- Hemp Field Day - Klamath Falls | Sep. 9
- Cover Crops & Crop Rotation - Virtual | Aug. 6

Grants

- Assessing the Extent of Pyrethroid Resistance in Alfalfa Weevil Larvae Across Oregon (\$15K)
- Interseeding Forage Radishes into Cool-Season Pastures for Improved Productivity (\$10K)

Award

- OSU College of Agricultural Sciences: Excellence in Extension Education - 2025

Projects in the Works

Trial: Orchardgrass Variety Trial for Premium Hay

50 varieties of orchardgrass were planted at COAREC to be evaluated 2026 - 2028.

Survey: Alfalfa Weevil Insecticide Resistance

Larvae from 8 fields were evaluated for insecticide resistance in spring 2025 and will be retested in spring 2026.

Trial: Deficit Irrigation of Grass Hay Crops

Three types of grass hay, planted at COAREC this Sep., will receive one of 8 deficit irrigation treatments in 2026 & 2027 to assess cumulative affects of water stress.

Save the Date: Central Oregon Forage Seminar in Partnership with the Central Oregon Hay Growers Association: *Tuesday, February 24, 2026*



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OSU/Crook County Extension Livestock Program



To meet the educational needs of ranchers

- Beef Quality Assurance training ~ 26 ranchers certified
- Twenty-five workshops in 2025 engaging ~ 464 clients
- Central Oregon Ranching Academy ~ 7 clients

Outreach & Engagement

- 139 contacts via email and phone
- 12 farm visits
- Boots & Roots ~ 400 fourth graders from Crook County

Workshops

- Small Farms School– 47 clients
- Calving School ~ 81 participants
- A.I. in Extension~ 98 participants
- Virtual Fencing in Cattle ~ 173 participants

Publications

- Central Oregon Ag Newsletter ~ Monthly contributions
- Introduction to Pasture Management ~ Rough draft completed
- Oregon Cattlemen's Magazine ~ Regenerative Ag Pays Dividends
- OSU Extension Fact Sheet~ Management of Grasshoppers & Mormon Crickets on Rangeland



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Forestry & Natural Resources Program

Oregon State University's **Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Program** strives to be the state's leading provider of research-based knowledge and problem-solving educational programs designed to foster new ways to manage and use Oregon's forest resources wisely.

Upcoming Events & Endeavors

Native Plant Wreath-Making Workshop

Join us on *Wednesday, December 3*, at the Deschutes County Extension Office for a hands-on workshop creating beautiful wreaths using native plants. This event combines creativity with education about local flora, offering a festive and sustainable way to celebrate the season.

On The Ground: A Crook County Land Management Speaker Series

This speaker series will bring together experts and community members to discuss practical strategies for private and public land management in Crook County. Topics will be timely and give the community tools to support local ecosystems and working lands.

First Tentative Topic - Woody Debris Management (January)

Western Juniper Land Management Guide

This publication will provide landowners and managers with science-based strategies for managing juniper-dominated landscapes. Key topics will include juniper ecology, drivers of recent population growth, identifying old-growth stands, water-related impacts, and tools for achieving common management goals.

Wreath Workshop Registration:



<https://beav.es/oPa>



QUESTIONS ABOUT CENTRAL OREGON FORESTRY AND
NATURAL RESOURCE TOPICS?

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**Oregon State
University**