



Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

Extension Service

A Quarterly Newsletter for Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center

SPRING 2012

2012 Already a Busy Year

Greetings! We have several exciting items to mention. First, the really good financial news for us has been the generous contributions by our **Friends of NWREC**. As a result of



gifts made during the past 16 months, we have about \$18,000 of funds that will be invested in several projects to upgrade our facilities at NWREC and support key programs and activities. Come and see our new entry steps and handrails for the Main Office building. Look for a new overflow/big rig parking area along our exit drive, the renovation of the landscape areas in front of the Main Office building and Parker House, cleaning out and renovation of the Winter Garden, gravel for our permanent roads on the farm, wood deck repairs around the Main Office, purchasing a tunnel varmint control system, and exterior painting for at least one building. These projects will represent a huge improvement in our facilities, our looks, and farm management. In addition, we plan to support several important community outreach events in the coming months. A special thanks to those who have contributed to our **Friends of NWREC** campaign during this past year! A current list of our **Friends** can be found on page 5.

More important news includes four NWREC research and education projects that have received funding for completion in 2012.

This first time funding source, called the **Innovation Fund**, is provided by the Clackamas County Extension and 4-H Service District to encourage new and creative work. The successful NWREC projects and their leaders will be:

- Christmas Seed Orchard and Seed Bank Reserve Area; Chal Landgren (\$4,500)
- Developing High School Scholars in Science; Luisa Santamaria (\$12,200)
- Novel Pruning Methods and Trainings; Wei Yang (\$18,000)
- Summer Willamette Valley Agriculture Institute; Bob McReynolds (\$35,000)

Finally, during the winter we have been working out the details for creating a pilot effort to bring commercial agriculture to NWREC through a new land lease program. We plan to test this approach that will provide acreage to local farmers interested in working with us on the farm. We will provide land at NWREC to help farmers try new ideas and/or expand their operations—while working with our faculty and staff to learn together side-by-side. We'll keep you posted on this new concept.

2012 has already been busy—and, there is a lot more to come!

Michael C. Bondi
Director of the North Willamette Research and Extension Center

Is Flax Back?



This past year we grew a two acre patch of flax in our organic area at NWREC to get experience with this former, once common Willamette Valley crop—and, one that seems to have a renewed interest. During 2012 we are expanding this project to include 15 acres that will be planted in three five acre blocks. Here's the short story on why we are continuing to look at this crop.

Flax has a long and rich history in our region. Flax fiber is used to make linen. It is well suited to Oregon's soils and climate and may require fewer inputs to grow successfully. Flax was grown as early as 1844 in the Willamette Valley. A flax oil mill was established at Salem in 1867 and the first flax-spinning mill was operating at Albany by the 1870s. An exhibit of Oregon flax won the bronze medal and certificate of merit at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876. By the 1890s, the U.S. Department of Agriculture was touting Oregon and

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Don't let this be your last issue, sign up to continue receiving Down on the Farm. See the back page for details.

Farewell, Diane!

Following a 23 year career, Extension Berry Agent, Diane Kaufman, retired on December 31. Diane's Extension program has focused on strawberry and cane berry crops. She provided education and outreach to growers throughout the North Willamette Valley while looking at the practical aspects of growing these crops. A generalist in nature, Diane loved to work with growers to identi-

fy what problems they were facing and find cost-effective solutions. Her work centered on weed management, nutrition, and pest management. In more recent years, Diane studied the Mangold Flea Beetle on strawberries, examined the possible pathogens responsible for Dry Cell on cane berries, and she worked on the emerging pest, Spotted Wing Drosophila.

According to Tom Peerbolt, consultant to berry growers in the Northwest, "When I started working with berries in 1993, Diane was one of the first people I got a hold of. From that first day when she shared her archives of past research and newsletters right up until this past season, she has been there for me and for the industry. She loves being in a berry field visiting with a grower one on one or speaking before larger grower groups. Diane's emphasis on on-farm research work and personal grower interactions will be sorely missed."

Matt Unger, berry grower in Washington County, said, "Diane's research on pesticides helped get new registrations and helped growers know how to use them. She also helped organize meetings to get information to the growers. The strawberry and cane berry industries will miss this position and Diane's work." Unger is a current member of NWREC's Advisory Council and is the Budget Chair of the Oregon Strawberry Commission.

Mike Bondi, Director of the North Willamette Research and Extension Center, said "Diane's retirement leaves another big hole in our programs and support to the growers. Unfortunately, there are no plans to re-fill this position at this time. We have been downsizing as an organization by attrition for some years—through retirements and resignations—due to limited budgets."

Bondi and other administrators in Extension and at OSU believe their best option at this time is to broaden the responsibility for the



Paul Borgen, Chair of the North Willamette Horticultural Society, presents Diane Kaufman with a Lifetime membership in recognition of her career of service and support to the berry industry at the Society's annual meeting this past January in Canby.

strawberry and cane berry crops to the remaining Extension Berry Agent at NWREC, Wei Yang. Wei's focus has been primarily on blueberries for the past ten years.

"We've had the luxury of two Extension Agents positions for berry crops," said Anita Azarenko, Head in the Horticulture Department at OSU. "But, we can't do that now. We want to still provide what support we can to these important sectors of agriculture—although our service will be less than we could provide when Diane was here."

Yang will be the lead contact for strawberry and cane berry questions at NWREC. Extension Small Farms Agent, Nick Andrews will assist, too, handling organic, certification questions, and small acreage requests. Joe DeFrancesco will continue his work on berry crops through his specialty crop registration program. The OSU Plant Clinic is still available for diagnostic assistance. And, of course, Berry Crop Research Leader, Bernadine Strik, will continue to provide overall leadership for the berry research and Extension programs at NWREC and lead the grower field days for strawberries, cane berries and blueberries.

Welcome, Adrienne!

Adrienne Basey joined our NWREC staff in January as a 1/2 time research technician for Extension Berry Agent, Wei Yang. Adrienne's work is



funded through Wei's Spotted Wing Drosophila research project. She will be responsible for the field sampling, monitoring, data collection and processing.

Adrienne grew up in the Portland area, but headed north to the Evergreen State College where she received her Bachelor's degree in biology. Following graduation she remained in the Puget Sound area working for a nursery near Olympia that specializes in native and restoration plant propagation and environmental consulting.

"I really enjoyed my time in the nursery business and, especially, working in a small private business. I was exposed to all facets of nursery management from the basic biology of propagating plants to personnel and HR work and budgets. All in all, it was a wonderful experience."

So, why Oregon and a shift to research? "Oregon is home. I wanted to be closer to family. And, I'm at the point in life when I want to consider where I am going with my career. I'm considering graduate school. Being able to work in a research center and be engaged with scientists is a great way for me to explore this next step. Being connected to a major research university is a perfect fit right now."

Welcome, Adrienne. We look forward to having you on our team at NWREC.

Reaching Out to the Community

Summer is always a great time to open the gates of the Center to the local community—showcasing the work done here and how it relates to all of our lives.

This year we have a special opportunity to host the Wilsonville Chamber of Commerce for a 'Business After Hours' event on Tuesday, June 26.

Also, we invite the public to see what we do and why its important at our annual Community Open House on Wednesday, July 18.

Be watching for our next **Down on the Farm** for a report and photos.

OSU Organic Fertilizer & Cover Crop Calculator Widely Used

By Nick Andrews,
Metro Small Farms
Extension Agent

Organic fertilizers are more expensive than conventional fertilizers and science-based ways of estimating the availability of nitrogen were not readily available to farmers and gardeners.

Cover crops protect soil from erosion and legume cover crops fix atmospheric nitrogen which can then become available to the following crops. This nitrogen is produced without fossil fuels and is cheaper than most other organic nitrogen fertilizers, but farmers did not have a reliable method for estimating how much nitrogen their cover crops provide.

In collaboration with vegetable farmers in the north Willamette Valley, Nick Andrews and Dan Sullivan (OSU Soil Scientist) conducted lab and field research to predict nitrogen mineralization rates from organic fertilizers and cover crops. Data from this research was used to develop and validate models that predict the availability of nitrogen from organic fertilizers and cover crops. We incorporated these models into the OSU Organic Fertilizer and Cover Crop Calculator which is available online at <http://small-farms.oregonstate.edu/calculator>. Jim Julian, an agricultural economist, worked with Nick to develop an economic spreadsheet for the calculator that compares the cost of fertilizers and cover crops.

Organic and conventional farmers and agricultural advisors in Oregon and around the country now use this calculator to estimate the nitrogen contributions of cover crops and identify the most cost-effective and balanced organic fertilizer plans. The original Organic Fertilizer Calculator was launched in 2008. It did not estimate cover crop nitrogen contributions. By 2010 when it was enhanced to include cover crops it had been downloaded more than 4,800 times



Scott Latham from Sauvie Island Organics and Kristin Pool (OSU Extension) get ready to sample a very vigorous cover crop stand.

and had over 1,300 registered users from 64 countries representing every continent. There were 1040 registered users in the US from all 50 states, with 344 registered users in Oregon. More than 45,000 acres were managed by registered users. Since 2010 more than 620 people have registered to use the revised calculator with 120 from Oregon. Over 52,000 acres are managed using the new calculator. If 25% of the registered users save \$50/acre/year on reduced fertilizer costs or increased yields, the estimated annual economic impact of the new calculator is more than \$650,000.

Sauvie Island Organics produce organic vegetables on 20 acres. They feed 400 members in their Community Supported Agriculture program and supply 25 restaurants. Scott Latham explains, "We didn't give our cover crops enough N-credit. The calculator showed us we were getting twice the N we thought. Now, no N is applied to our head lettuce and we get the same yield and save \$275/ac on fertilizer. We invest our savings in additional N to our broccoli field and get higher broccoli yields."

David and Nancy Brown grow 80 acres of organic fresh vegetables near St. Paul. David was one of the original collaborators in this work. "This year I reduced my fertilizer bill about 60% by working with Nick and Dan and still got great yields. This project helps me evaluate my cover cropping program."

Andrews' Work Gaining Recognition

Nick's work with the fertilizer calculator is gaining more and more recognition. Extension faculty in Hawaii have requested Nick's assistance and counsel as they build a tropical version of calculator. Nick will be in Hawaii in late April and May working with faculty there.

Calendar of Events

The events listed below are education programs that OSU faculty at NWREC have designed or provide leadership to organize. Check the NWREC website for additional events, details, and registration information.

May 14 NWREC Advisory Council Meeting. 5:00-8:00pm; Facilitator: Mike Bondi.

June 7 Christmas Tree Integrated Pest Management Workshop. 10:00am-2:30pm. Instructor: Chal Landgren.

June 13 Strawberry Open House. 1:00-5:00pm. Instructor: Bernadine Strik.

June 25-26 Discover Willamette Valley Agriculture, Part 1. 8:00am-4:00pm. Facilitator: Bob McReynolds.

June 26 Wilsonville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. 5:00-7:00pm.

June 25-27 Youth Tractor Safety and Certification Course. 8:00am-4:00pm daily.

July 9-10 Bugs in the System—implementing biological control in nurseries and greenhouses. (times to be determined). Instructor: Robin Rosetta.

July 9, 10, 11 Discover Willamette Valley Agriculture, Part 2. 8:00am-4:00pm. Facilitator: Bob McReynolds.

July 11 Caneberry Open House. 1:00-5:00pm. Instructor: Bernadine Strik.

July 12 Blueberry Field Day. 1:00-5:00pm. Instructor: Bernadine Strik.

July 18 NWREC Community Open House. 4:00-7:00pm.

503-678-1264
oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC

College Dean Resigns— heading to D.C.

Sonny Ramaswamy, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station at Oregon State University, has been named by President Obama to lead the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) in Washington D.C.



NIFA is the lead agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture that supports research, education and Extension programs in the nation's Land-Grant University System and partner organizations. NIFA impacts local communities through a national network of researchers and Extension educators who respond to public inquiries and conduct informal, non-credit education programs. NIFA helps states respond to areas of public concern that affect agricultural producers, small business owners, youth, families, and communities by providing grants to land-grant universities and researchers.

Sonny relocates to D.C. in late April. Dan Arp, Dean of the OSU Honors College, has been named the new Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Director of the Oregon Agriculture Experiment Station.

NWREC Advisory Council

An Advisory Council was formed last fall with the purpose of providing oversight and guidance to the education programs, research and operation of the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. The Council met in November and in January. Their next meeting is in May. We are proud of our Council members, their affiliation and program connections to NWREC. Feel free to provide any input you might have to these individuals.

Mike Anderson, Carlton Plants; Dayton—nursery
Mike Beard, Community Member; Lake Oswego—community
Greg Bennett, NW Onion Company; Salem—vegetables
Bob Boyle, NW Farm Credit Services; Salem—business and finance
Mike Iverson, Aurora Farms; Aurora—vegetables
Jim Johnson, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Salem—state agency
Charlotte Lehan, Clackamas County Commissioner; Oregon City—elected official
Greg Leo, The Leo Company; Aurora—community
Neal Lucht, NW Transplants; Molalla—nursery
Lance Lyon, Community Member and Nursery Consultant; Aurora—nursery and community
Ron Oberg, Clackamas Extension Advisory Council; Oregon City—small farms and community
Eric Pond, AgriCare; Jefferson—berries
Craig Pope, Polk County Commissioner; Dallas—elected official
Mark Schmidlin, Schmidlin Farms; Banks—Christmas trees
Manual Silveira, NorPac; Stayton—vegetables
Matt Unger; Unger Farms; Cornelius—berries
Tom Winterrowd, Pitkin Winterrowd Farms; Canby—small farms

Vegetable Endowment—first year report

2011 was the first year for the new Extension Vegetable and Specialty Seed Endowment fund—the first such effort to endow a county Extension Agent position in Oregon. The purpose of this endowment is to provide permanent and sustainable funding support for the Extension Vegetable and Specialty Seed Agent position at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center.

Long-time Extension Vegetable Agent Bob McReynolds retired in June, 2010. Since that time, McReynolds has been working 1/2 time to keep his program going and to work with growers interested in assuring that his position is replaced. Bob is set to retire—for good—by the end of this year. With funding challenges facing Extension statewide, including the recent state hiring freeze, there are no current plans to refill Bob's position soon.

The Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crop Endowment has an immediate goal of raising \$500,000 to provide leverage and a more favorable position in the priority order of filling vacancies—once rehiring is allowed. Currently, Extension has 33 vacancies statewide in its agriculture programs in Oregon going back over the past 9 years during a time of budgetary decline.

During the first 16 months of the Endowment effort, vegetable and specialty seed growers, organizations, business partners, and private individuals have raised over \$230,000 of contributions and commitments. "This is an amazing effort," said Jack Holpuch, Director of Development with the Oregon State University Foundation and staff person working directly with those interested in supporting the endowment project.

"We're almost 1/2-way to our immediate goal. If we can get there in the next twelve months, we will have demonstrated the very strong support for this position and be in a great position for refilling when Extension is able to make commitments to programs. If all goes well, the hiring restrictions now in place could be lifted at the beginning of the next biennium—mid 2013."

Those wanting to learn more about the endowment project or get involved can contact Holpuch at 541-737-4218.

A Sincere Thank You to Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crop Endowment Contributors

Michelle Armstrong
Aurora Farms
Joe Casale and Sons
C & S Farms
Clackamas County Farm Bureau
Cowlitz-Clark Farm Bureau
Kevin and Carrie Duyck
Craig and Sharon Hoffman
Logan Zenner Seeds
Marion Ag Service
Scott Miller
Montecucco Farms
Northwest Transplants
Specialty Seed Growers of Western Oregon
West Coast Beet Seed
Western Oregon Onion Seed Growers
Association
Willamette Rhubarb Association
Willamette Valley Specialty Seed
Association
Bill and Peggy Zimmerman

The Friends of North Willamette Research & Extension Center

Become a Friend TODAY!

We are very excited to see the strong support from those you have become *Friends of NWREC*. We certainly appreciate the financial help and look forward to using your dollars to make a real difference in our facilities and programs here at the Center—accomplishing what we can't do with our normal budgets.

If you'd like to join our team of supporters, please do. We are planning a special recognition event for our *Friends* in the fall—a harvest dinner to thank those who care and share the vision for our programs going forward.

Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center Membership—2012

Dean's Club (\$1,000 and up):

Clark-Cowlitz Chapter of the Farm Bureau, WA
Joan Parker, Aurora, OR (deceased)
George Rossman, Aurora, OR

Director's Club (\$500):

Mike & Connie Bondi, Lake Oswego, OR
Craig Hoffman, Aurora, OR
Montecucco Farms, Canby, OR
Manfred Schoosing, Oregon City, OR
Bill & Doug Zimmerman, Brush Prairie, WA

Bumper Crop (\$250):

Heidi Affentranger, Oregon City, OR
Morris & Donna Arthur, Medford, OR
Dow Agro Sciences, Salem, OR
Mike Iverson, Aurora, OR
Marion Ag Service, St. Paul, OR
Organically Grown Company, Eugene, OR

Bumper Crop (\$250):

Ron Pearmine, Gervais, OR
Pratum Coop, Salem, OR
Wilbur Ellis Company, Woodburn, OR

Second Crop (\$100):

Chemtura Agro Solutions, McMinnville, OR
Evergreen Growers Supply, Oregon City, OR
Dick Hertel, Hillsboro, OR
Peter McDonald, Wilsonville, OR
Northwoods Nursery, Molalla, OR
Delma Sprauer, Mt. Angel, OR

First Crop (\$50):

Ken & Doreen Brown, Dallas, OR
Gail & Robert Burton, Dallas, OR
Wayne & Joann Chambers, Albany, OR
Roland & Virginia Giesbrecht, Dallas, OR
John Martinson & Bev Koch, Oregon City, OR

Member (\$25):

James Bernards, St. Paul, OR
Walt & Dona Bubelis, Seattle, WA
Shirley & Bob Carl, Wilsonville, OR
Mike Darcy, Lake Oswego, OR
John & Linda English, Dallas, OR
Lois & Dell Farleigh, West Linn, OR
Jamie & Dave Johnk, Molalla, OR
Steve Koch, Canby, OR
Charlotte Lehan, Wilsonville, OR
Greg Leo, Wilsonville, OR
Jeff Malzahn, Portland, OR
Ron & Anne Oberg, Oregon City
Michael Olds, Portland, OR
Jim Siri, Oregon City, OR

Membership—Friends of North Willamette Research and Extension Center

YES, I WANT TO BECOME A FRIEND OF THE NORTH WILLAMETTE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER!

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone(s): _____ Email(s): _____

I prefer to remain anonymous. Please do not publish my name in future publications.

Membership Category (circle one):

\$25 Member

\$100 Second Crop

\$500 Director's Club

\$2,500 President's Club

\$50 First Crop

\$250 Bumper Crop

\$1,000 Dean's Club

\$5,000 Sustainable Agriculture Club

Make checks payable to: **OSU Foundation-NWREC**

Mail to: North Willamette Research and Extension Center, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002

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 <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC>.

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

Phone: 503-678-1264 • Fax: 503-678-5986 • E-mail: michael.bondi@oregonstate.edu • Cell: 503-705-2434

Community Open House Coming!

We will open our gates, again, to the public for an up close look at NWREC, what we do, and why it's important. Here are the details. Come join us and learn more about our programs and activities. Invite your friends and neighbors, too.

**Wednesday, July 18
4:00-7:00pm**

See-the-farm hayrides at 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00pm

Walking tour available, too, to see work on wasabi, blueberry trees, slugs and snails, Christmas trees, composting and nursery production...plus much more.

Don't miss berry tasting—find out how we determine the next great berry for the market.

Fresh vegetables available again this year.

2011 Open House Snapshots



Bernadine Strik, NWREC Berry Research Leader, showing off blackberry and raspberry varieties being evaluated at the farm.



Here's a sample of the fresh vegetables that will be available again, this year.

Discover Willamette Valley Agriculture

This is a special new effort that provides a unique view of agriculture in our region and what it really takes to be a farmer in today's world. Farming is hard work, requires long hours, many skills and the ability to handle risk.

Discover Willamette Valley Agriculture is a workshop designed for school teachers, elected officials, decision and policy makers—anyone wanting to know more about agriculture, where our food comes from and how we can all take responsibility for

its future supply.

This workshop will be taught by a variety of OSU Extension faculty, local farmers and other agricultural professionals. Dates for Discover Willamette Valley Agriculture will be June 25 and 26 plus July 9, 10 and 11. Each day begins at 8:00am and ends by 4:00pm. Enrollment is limited to 30 attendees.

For more information, contact NWREC at 503-678-1264 or check our website.

Summer Internships Target Young Scientists from Wilsonville and West Linn

The North Willamette Research and Extension Center, in cooperation with the Wilsonville-West Linn School District's Center for Research in Environmental Sciences & Technologies (CREST), will offer up to six summer internships for high school students during June through August at NWREC. The students will work in the nursery pathology program with Extension faculty Luisa Santamaria.

The purpose of this pilot project is to expose motivated students to agricultural and environmental research. The target audience for this project generally has little awareness about agriculture and the prac-

tical nature of the work we do and how science is a critical element of our education. Students will be given the tools and understanding to conduct independent research projects—including working in a laboratory, controlled experiments, and accurate data collection. Field trips to area facilities and sites where research is being conducted will be included, too. This program hopes to ignite a passion in talented students to pursue careers in agriculture and environmental sciences.

For more information, see <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC> and click on 'Education & Volunteers'.

World's First Blueberry Tree

Extension Berry Agent, Wei Yang, describing the development of the world's first blueberry tree—a project he is working on in the Propagation House at NWREC. Wei's visitor is Tyler Frisbee, a Legislative Aide for Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer.



Flax from page 1

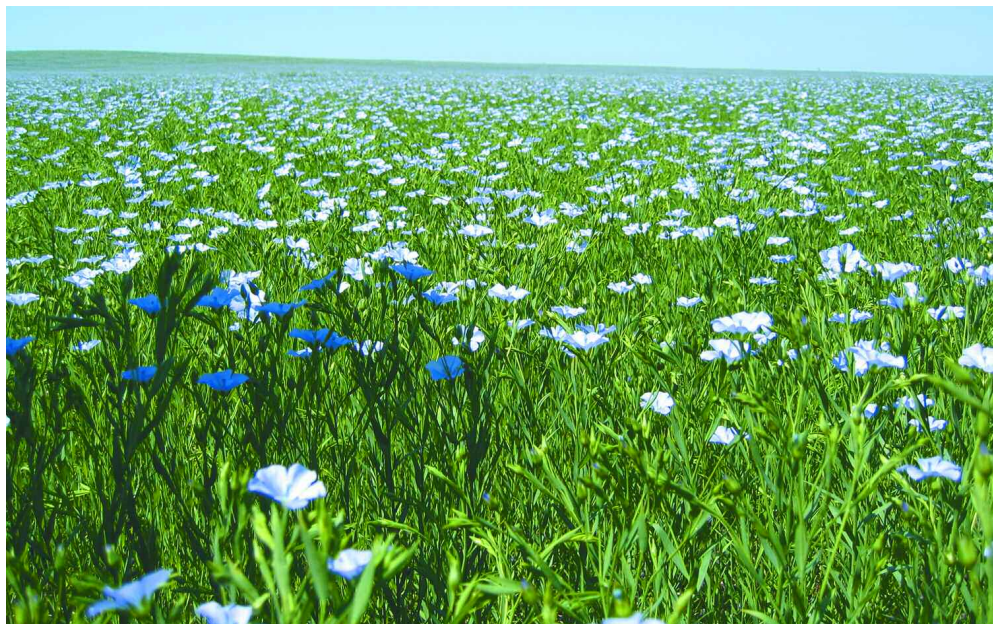
Washington as good flax growing areas. However, costly hand labor required to harvest and process it and competition with European producers limited flax production.

In 1915, the state of Oregon built a flax processing plant at the state penitentiary in Salem, and this plant became known as the State Flax Industry. The state joined the Works Progress Administration to construct three cooperative flax processing plants at Springfield, Canby, and Mount Angel in 1936. Six processing plants and two spinning mills were operating in Oregon by 1941, and production reached its peak during World War II, with increased demand and reduced access to European flax. At that time, it is reported that the Valley included about 20,000 acres of flax. More processing plants were built to meet the demand, but the industry declined following the war.

Interest in growing flax has been growing, again, in recent years. Flax seed is considered by some as the new wonder food. Preliminary studies show that flaxseed may help fight everything from heart disease and diabetes to breast cancer—known to contain high levels of omega-3 oils, anti-oxidants, and a good source of fiber. Flax oil is used for human consumption and as an industrial oil. Flax fiber and linen products are natural fiber products that could be easier to grow with fewer nutrient and pesticide inputs than crops like cotton. Finally, flax has potential as a biomass crop, too.

Natural Advanced Technologies (NAT) is a 15-year old company that is interested in developing new flax-based fiber products and has been working extensively in the mid-Atlantic region. Beginning in September 2011 they opened an Oregon office with the intent to build a flax industry here to provide supply for their products. NAT is now working with companies like Hanes, Levi's, Carhartt and Target to explore the use of flax fiber in socks, undershirts, denim, towels, curtains, and many more items. As any farmer knows, markets are your key to success. We might have an opportunity coming in the Willamette Valley that will create demand for this crop.

There is a lot to like about the potential of flax for the Willamette Valley. Flax is robust and grows quickly. It's resistant to cold, rain, and heat. Its shallow root system grows well in our wet soil and, overall, flax requires very



little in terms of upkeep or inputs. Being a broad leaf crop, flax rotates easily with all of our established grass crops, and the fact that there are 90 or 120 day strains could work well with growers of vegetables and fruit crops. Flax planting can take place in fall to overwinter or planting can be done in the early spring, late spring, and even summer—to be harvested whenever it is ready.

According to Jay Nalbach, Chief Marketing Officer at NAT, "One thing that I am very excited to report is that OSU already has its own strain of flax, named "Lin-Ore," which is tall enough to be a good fiber or seed crop." And, according to the team at Naturally Advanced Technologies, the flax byproduct can be used for animal bedding, shipping materials, mulches, fuel pellets, kitty litter, or simply turned back into the soil.

Flax fields are beautiful, too. We saw this last year in our small planting at NWREC. When the flax flowers bloom, the fields are full of white, purple, or blue-tinted flowers for several hours per day. This blooming takes place over a three-week period, which makes for a gorgeous landscape.

Could flax be a new crop—reborn for the Willamette Valley—and able to provide a new industry and market for our farmers? Plan to come by this summer and see what you think of our crop. We expect to have a field day to share our work. We will be trying a two different seeding methods (row and broadcast) and seedling rates. This should be interesting to see how we do.

NWREC Loses a Special Friend

We are saddened to report the passing of Joan Parker, a very special friend of the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. Joan was featured in our first issue of *Down on the Farm* telling the story of Joan and her husband's house donation to NWREC—now known as the Parker House.

Joan led a fascinating life and was a true inspiration to many. She loved to travel, garden, was involved in numerous social and community activities, and managed a small nursery earlier in her life. Joan was 79.

Joan asked that remembrances be made to NWREC.

Composting Workshop



Nick Andrews, Extension Small Farms Extension Agent, describing how to properly construct a compost pile during his annual two-day agricultural composting workshop in April.

North Willamette Research
and Extension Center
Faculty & Staff

Administration & Support Staff

Mike Bondi

Director

Shelley Hughes

Administrative Assistant

Jan Egli

Office Specialist

Ben Exstrom

Information Technology

Marc Anderson

Farm and Facilities Manager

Geoff Lewis

Building Trades and Maintenance

Derek Wells

Farm Management (half time)

Extension & Research Faculty

Bernadine Strik

Berry Research Leader

Wei Yang

Blueberry Extension Agent

Rich Regan

District Nursery Extension Agent

Robin Rosetta

Nursery IPM Extension Agent

Luisa Santamaria

*Nursery Pathologist/Bilingual
Extension Agent*

Chal Landgren

Christmas Tree Extension Specialist

Nick Andrews

Metro Small Farms Extension Agent

Bob McReynolds

Vegetable Extension Agent

Joe DeFrancesco

*Specialty Crops Registration
Research*

Research and Program Staff

Gil Buller

Berry Research

Adrienne Basey

Berry Research

Peter Sturman

*Blueberries and Specialty Crops
Registration Research*

Gina Koskela

*Specialty Crops Registration
Research*

Heather Stoven

Nursery Research

Judy Kowalski

Nursery and Christmas Tree Research

Derek Wells

Nursery Research (half time)

Heidi Noordijk

Small Farms Program Assistant



**Oregon State University
North Willamette Research & Extension Center**

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Sign up NOW for more *Down on the Farm*

It's time to purge our 3,800 piece mailing list we have distributed *Down on the Farm* to these past two issues. We are happy to provide you with our news from NWREC. So, sign up today to continue receiving future issues. **Our sign up deadline is May 31...otherwise, this will be your last issue.**

We are offering two options for *Down on the Farm*—electronic copy emailed to you through a list serve or as a hard copy mailed through the postal service. Either way, *Down on the Farm* is a free of charge newsletter. Be sure to recommend our information to business associates, friends, neighbors and others you know who are interested—or should be. We are encouraging as many as possible to sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter to minimize our printing and postage costs, but we are happy to provide hard copy, too.

Here's how to sign up:

- 1) **Send us an email** to jan.egli@oregonstate.edu and request to be on our *Down on the Farm* mailing list—either electronic or hard copy version. Provide appropriate information for your distribution preference.
- 2) **Phone in** your *Down on the Farm* sign up information to NWREC at 503-678-1264 and leave your information with the attendant or on our voice mail.
- 3) **Mail your sign up information** to NWREC, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, OR 97002.

Thanks, we hope to have you on our list for our next *Down on the Farm* in July.