

OSU Extension-Josephine County Key Messages

This document is intended for use by employees, volunteers and advisory council members to answer and refer questions.

Key messages

- **This is a bridge year designed to prepare for a successful, sustainable return.**
 - Support for the Master Gardener, Master Food Preserver and 4-H programs in Josephine County, enabling volunteers to serve locally again.
 - Access to expertise from regional Extension faculty to support agricultural production, food systems, and health.
 - Programming and services are operating at a reduced scale compared to previous years, based on available funding, staff, volunteer capacity, and community readiness.
 - Many agricultural production, food systems, and food safety and preservation classes are scheduled for this fall. For more information, sign up for our newsletter and view our upcoming events online (details below).
- **Community-guided approach:** Programming will be scaled based on guidance from the OSU Extension Josephine County Advisory Council, County Commissioners, volunteer involvement, and overall community readiness.
- **Long-term goal:** Reinstating service district tax collection in FY26 (beginning July 1, 2026) will allow for a full return of services, including hiring additional faculty and staff in late 2026.
- **To stay informed:**
 - Sign up for the newsletter: beav.es/Josephine-news
 - See upcoming events on the webpage: beav.es/josephine
- **Questions** (that volunteer or staff are unable to answer): email josephine.extension@oregonstate.edu

Master Food Preserver Certification

- **Training timeline:**
Master Food Preserver Certification is planned to resume in 2026.
- **Interest list:**
We are maintaining an **interest list** for community members who want to participate in the next certification. To add your name, email: josephine.extension@oregonstate.edu
- **Opportunities in the meantime:**
Community members can engage in food preservation and safety workshops, for more information:
 - Sign up for the newsletter: beav.es/Josephine-news
 - See upcoming events on the webpage: beav.es/josephine



Master Gardener Program

- **Training timeline:**
Master Gardener training is planned to resume in early 2027, once OSU Extension programs and Service District funding have stabilized and a dedicated Horticulture/Master Gardener Program employee is in place.
- **Interest list:**
We are maintaining an **interest list** for community members who want to participate in the next Master Gardener training. To add your name, email: josephine.extension@oregonstate.edu
- **Opportunities in the meantime:**
While we build capacity, community members can engage in horticulture education through the **Spring Seeds to Supper** program and the **Speaker Series**.

4-H Youth Development Program

- **Timeline:**
The new 4-H Year begins in October, and we will start recruiting volunteers and members in October.
- **To stay informed:**
 - Sign up for the newsletter: beav.es/Josephine-news
 - See upcoming events on the webpage: beav.es/josephine

If asked

OSU Extension Office Location

- **Exploring options:**
We are researching potential office locations to meet both short-term and long-term needs as programs scale back up in Josephine County.
- **Collaborative decision-making:**
The Josephine County Extension Advisory Council and the County Commissioners will help guide the selection of an appropriate office space.
- **Support in the meantime:**
The Service District budget includes funding to cover venue rental fees, ensuring faculty and volunteers have places to host educational programming until a permanent office is secured.