



TILTH/WORC CONFERENCE

Hayshaker Farm

2022 Farm Walks

EDUCATION FOR FARMERS, BY FARMERS



Food Systems
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY





History

WSU Food Systems Program and Tilth Alliance have been collaboratively presenting the Farm Walk Series for over 18 years! These farmer-to-farmer or processor-to-processor educational events are hosted by organic, sustainable, and innovative farm and food businesses throughout Washington State. This Farm Walk was organized with support from WSDA Specialty Crop Block Grant *Building Capacity and Support for PNW Radicchio Production*.



Viva Farms



Palouse Colony Farm



Bluebird Farms

2022 Schedule

JULY 18 - KIRSOP FARM - ROCHESTER, WA

12-4 PM | Scaling up: From simplified to diversified vegetables, grains and animals

AUGUST 29 - ALPENFIRE CIDER - PORT TOWNSEND, WA

12-4 PM | From apple to glass: Growing, making and marketing authentic ciders

OCTOBER 3 - LAZY R RANCH- CHENEY, WA

12-4 PM | Silvopasture: Rotational grazing on private owned managed forests

NOVEMBER 10 - HAYSHAKER FARM- COLLEGE PLACE, WA

12-4 PM | Radicchio, mixed-powered farm operation, and winter green tunnel production



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About Hayshaker Farm

An 8-acre vegetable, fruit, and herb producer, Hayshaker Farm is a unique operation powered by horses, mules, tractors and humans and located in the fertile Walla Walla valley.

Owner and operator Chandler Briggs made the conscious decision to power his farm with draft horses for a variety of reasons: ecological, financial, and cultural. Powered by grass and hay, three horses (two Belgian mares and one gray dapple Percheron) provide cultivation power for discing, plowing, and harrowing, and as an added bonus, they also provide fertility in the form of manure. While those are certainly notable benefits, horse-powered equipment is also cheaper, easier to maintain and, it alters the pace at which one can work allowing the operator to better understand the relationship between healthy soils, bodies, and ecosystems.

Hayshaker Farm is distinct because it's driven not only by horses, but by values too. They believe in paying workers living wages, that feeding people is activism, and that their approach is a journey, not a destination, and that feedback and improvement are part of the process.



Farm Operation

Sustainable Practices

Production at Hayshaker Farm is strictly organic, even though they choose not to be certified. Soil is amended with rich composts, compost teas and organic fertilizers, and cover crops are used to reduce erosion, capture nutrients and return organic matter to the soil. To bolster beneficial insect populations, they also grow flowers.



There is no limit to what these progressive farmers will grow, they have raised artichokes, basil, beans, beets, blackberries, leeks, lettuce, specialty melons, parsley, pea shoots, peppers, popcorn, potatoes, puntarelle, and last but not least, the star of the show, radicchio! In addition, Hayshaker Farm operates their own online market, the Walla Walla Food Hub.

After eight seasons of production, Chandler and his fellow farmers are still learning and striving to improve their operation. Come walk with us as we tour this fascinating farm operation.





Resources

Vegetable Production

- [Baby-Leaf Salad Green Production Guide for Western Washington](#)
- [Market Vegetable Gardens: Planning for Success](#)
- [Soil Fertility in Organic Systems: A Guide for Gardeners and Small Acreage Farmers](#)
- [Portable Field Hoophouse](#)
- [Oregon State University Vegetable Production Guides](#)

Radicchio

- [Culinary Breeding Network Chicory Week Project](#)
- [NY Times](#)
- [UC Master Gardener Program](#)
- [University of Minnesota Extension](#)
- [Radicchio, the winter gem](#)

Draft Horses

- [Modern Farmer](#)
- [ATTRA Sustainable Farming](#)
- [Purdue Extension](#)

Want to Search for More?

WSU Publications - <https://pubs.wsu.edu>

WSU Extension: <https://extension.wsu.edu>



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Washington State Organic & Sustainable Farming Fund 2023

Every year, Tilth Alliance provides grants to farmers seeking financial assistance to support projects that improve the economic viability, social impacts or environmental sustainability of their farm businesses.

See the Tilth Alliance website for 2023 funding cycle information!



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