

Submitter: Rebecca Jay  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

The Extension Service offers so many services to residents of Polk County, and to the rest of the state of Oregon.

I am involved with the Master Gardeners, but also see the outreach of the 4-H groups that reach so many young people helping them to learn in so MANY areas, the Master Food Preservers, the small farms group that helps farmers in this county with changes and improvements for their acreage.

The Polk County Master Gardeners have a demonstration garden (Inspiration Garden) located in Independence that has visitors from Independence and from many other towns in Oregon, and visitors to our state. The produce from the Vegetable Garden and the Orchard goes to the Ella Curran Food Bank, and visitors can see new methods for growing their own food or attend pruning classes in the Garden. The Garden is a long, narrow seven acre plot and many people walk through the gardens every day for exercise and/or for information. There are also seed swaps at the Garden and public classes for adults and a cooperative summer program with the Independence Library.