

Cost Share Availability - Irrigation Efficiencies Virtual Field Day Transcript

Tianna DuPont, WSU Extension

Tianna DuPont: Welcome to our virtual field day. Sandy thank you so much for coming out. Tell us a little about your organization.

Sandy Letzing: I work for Cascadia Conservation District. We are a primarily grant funded organization, we are non-regulatory. Our mission is encouraging the wise stewardship of all-natural resources throughout Chelan County. That includes water, soil, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, forest health. We do that through technical assistance and financial assistance.

Tianna DuPont: It was great that you got some funding for this project, where was it from and how did that work?

Sandy Letzing: So, we apply for and receive funding from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Their funding allowed us to provide cost share for irrigation upgrades for this program. And then we partnered with WSU for you guys to do the fruit quality par of the study.

Tianna DuPont: Are there others funds available for folks do conversions of their irrigation on their farms and do some upgrades?

Sandy Letzing: Yeah, we have several cost share programs that address irrigation upgrades and that comes from several different sources of funding. It's all rolling in at different times so we can address hardware issues, or filter issues, or mulching issues, soil moisture management issues. Your best bet is to contact us and have a conversation about what you're looking to do we can find the best program that might fit you.

Tianna DuPont: Are there any other programs you wanted to mention?

Sandy Letzing: Yeah, Cascadia has a new Salmon Safe program. We work with producers to certify them in the salmon safe program and that basically is making sure that they are following best management practices on the farm. At the end of the certification process, they'll get an "eco" label that they can use for product placement and marketing.

Tianna DuPont: Thanks so much for joining us. I'm sure you'll have lots of folks wanting to talk with you. It's really important that we improve our irrigation, both for efficiency and fruit quality.