



The Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame was formed in Year 2000 to recognize and honor distinguished individuals that have made significant contributions to the agricultural community in the Greater Franklin County region and its immediate surrounding areas; although nominees from neighboring counties of Franklin County within a 150-mile radius are often also considered for this prestigious award.

The Pasco Chamber Board has proudly created a Selection Committee comprised of quality individuals representative of our agriculture industry and has chartered them with the honorable task of reviewing all nomination submittals. Induction candidates are selected based on their outstanding performance in the agriculture industry and their bountiful support of the local and rural communities. Candidates are recognized by their peers for not only their dedication, generosity, and selflessness, but also their demonstrated achievements, noteworthy expertise, and creative innovations that often provide a legacy of impactful results and lasting benefit to the overall enhancement of the local agricultural industry and community at large. Farmers, growers, ranchers, and owners/employees of agribusiness firms are all eligible for nomination as either individuals and/or families.

The Ag Hall of Fame inductions will be presented at a special gala January 18, 2023 at the Pasco Red Lion. ***Deadline for Application is November 1, 2022.***

### Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame Intent to Nominate

Nominee's Name Denise Senior

Mailing Address 4304 Winner's Circle, West Richland, WA 99301

Nominee's Phone (509) 521-3903 (h); (509) 521-3903 (c) Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail aggiepuffin@icloud.com

Date of Birth 5/19/1963 Birthplace Waukegan, IL

Nominator's Name Kerrin Bleazard

Phone (509) 366-6659 E-Mail kbleazard@columbiabasin.edu

Relationship to Nominee Former student, Colleague

Date Submitted November 1st, 2022

### Brief Bio of the Nominee

My first experience with Denise Senior occurred when I was a sophomore at Kamiakin High School. She had been hired to be a second agriculture instructor and FFA Advisor in a growing, mostly urban, agriculture program, of which I was a part. As a member of the FFA Officer team, and someone who was competing in FFA leadership Career Development Events, I had first hand knowledge of how dedicated she was to her students. Mostly, I remember lunch after lunch where I was practicing my speech for public speaking, or learning how to effectively present oral reasons, where she would be right there, coaching, giving up her lunch also, so that I could be successful. Now, while this is not unusual for an FFA Advisor, it does demonstrate the depth of commitment that Denise showed to her students, year after year. Multiply her impact on me by her 28 years as an Agriculture Educator and FFA advisor, with at least 200 students per year, and you can see the impact she has had on the youth in the Mid-Columbia.

Denise came to be an agriculture educator and FFA Advisor as a second career. Born in Waukegan, IL, and moving to Texas, Denise completed her Bachelor's of Science Degree at Texas A&M University in 1985 and her Master's Degree in Agriculture in 1988. She was a Technician for the Texas A&M University Equine Department in the early 1990s, and came to Kennewick in 1992. She worked as a Veterinary Technician for Vista Veterinary Clinic in 1993-1994 while working on obtaining her Teaching Certificate from Heritage University. She began working at Kamiakin High School in 1994 and stayed until 1996. When Kamiakin decided to return to a one teacher program, she went to teach Agriculture at Riverview High School from 1996-1998. She returned to Kamiakin High School as an Agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor in 1998, where she remained for the rest of her career, retiring in June of 2022.

Kamiakin High School, being in the middle of Kennewick, has a history of not including agriculture and horticulture courses as lab science credits. Dennis Munden paved a trail for the agriculture program at Kamiakin, and then Denise carried it on. She worked tirelessly to update the curriculum to meet the state science requirements, met with administrators, and pushed for agriculture classes to count as lab science courses at the high school level. She continued to fight for the program at Kamiakin even as Southridge was built without an Agriculture Program, and the educational momentum was shifting toward strongly encouraging high achieving students to only take AP and College Prep classes rather than Agriculture. Her dedication to agriculture as a science finally convinced the administration at Kamiakin that agriculture courses are indeed lab sciences, and that students learn best through the application of science principles to hands on activities found in the agriculture program. She continued

to demonstrate her commitment to updating the curriculum by becoming CASE Certified in Animal Science and Plant Science. Through her leadership, and that of Dan White at Kennewick HS, the Kennewick School District (KSD) agreed to begin an agriculture program at Southridge High School, so that all students in the KSD could experience the benefits of Agriculture Education and FFA.

There have been other local FFA advisors who have been in the classroom longer, who have won more State and National FFA Awards, and have received more recognition. However, Denise had a unique opportunity to take the students who didn't grow up on a farm, or really have any idea what was involved in agriculture, and get them hooked on a hands-on science. She has impacted hundreds of students, passed on a love of agriculture, and given them the confidence to believe in themselves. Just from my years at Kamiakin there are four of us currently teaching Agriculture in the Columbia Basin. Three of us came from non-farming backgrounds. Denise Senor was one of the most influential forces in my high school life, and it was because of her, and my other advisor, Dennis Munden, that I became an agriculture educator. During mine, and others teaching education courses, she allowed us to come into the classroom to observe, freely shared knowledge and curriculum, and encouraged us in our journeys as new teachers. That kind of impact resonates through the youth of the Mid-Columbia and spreads the love of agriculture. Denise's commitment to promoting agriculture and FFA for the last 28 years as an Agriculture Educator makes her truly deserving of being inducted in the Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame.



### Years of Community and Agriculture Service

With 28 years as an agricultural educator, Denise firmly believes in the motto of the FFA, “Learning to do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve,” and she has encouraged and coached her students in FFA in a variety of Supervised Agricultural Experiences and FFA Career Development Events. She also provided space, animals, and opportunities for urban students who didn’t have a place to raise an animal to gain those experiences. As an FFA Advisor, she volunteered at countless County Fairs and Livestock shows, assisted with her students’ livestock and small animal projects, travelled with her students to competitions and events, and participated in community service. You could always find her students participating at Farm Fair for Kids, or assembling a booth for the Benton Franklin County Fair, or volunteering at other community events. Kamiakin FFA has been very active in the community under her leadership.

Denise’s resume is attached with more details, but here are some highlights:

- Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor at Kamiakin High School (1994-1996; 1998-2022)
- Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor at Riverview High School (1996-1998)
- Established Aquaculture Program at KaHS and established a cooperative with Washington State Fisheries to raise 1000 Rainbow Trout each year as a community service project. (1998-2022)
- Established a rabbit breeding program to assist FFA members with projects. Also created rabbit housing on campus to give students a place to house their projects. (2008-2022)
- Established a layer hen program on campus to raise and sell eggs and show birds. Provided space for students to keep their birds on campus. (2015-2022)
- Established the Metal Art Competition for FFA Members held at CBC.
- Kennewick School District High School Teacher of the Year (2004)
- NAAE Ideas Unlimited Award for Washington State (2003)
- FFA Awards as the Advisor of the Kamiakin FFA
  - National FFA Chapter Award 2 and 3 Stars (2004-2021) National Finalists 2005-2007, 2010, 2014
  - National FFA Proficiency Award 2014 providing Washington State with their first Gold and National Silver award in small animals
  - 2022 Washington FFA State Winner in Prepared Public Speaking, competed as a Semi-Finalist at the 2022 National FFA Competitions
  - Coached multiple State FFA Finalists in Creed, Parli-Pro, Ag. Issues, FARM, Prepared and Extemporaneous Speaking over her time as an FFA Advisor
  - Advised 23 State FFA Degree Recipients, and had multiple State Proficiency Award Silver Winners
- Washington Association of Agriculture Educators (WAAE) Awards
  - 2012 District 4 Program of the Year
  - 2012 District 4 Teacher of the Year
  - 2011 District 4 Mentor of the Year
  - 1995 District 4 Rookie of the Year

Attachments Illustrating a Sample of Achievements and Activities



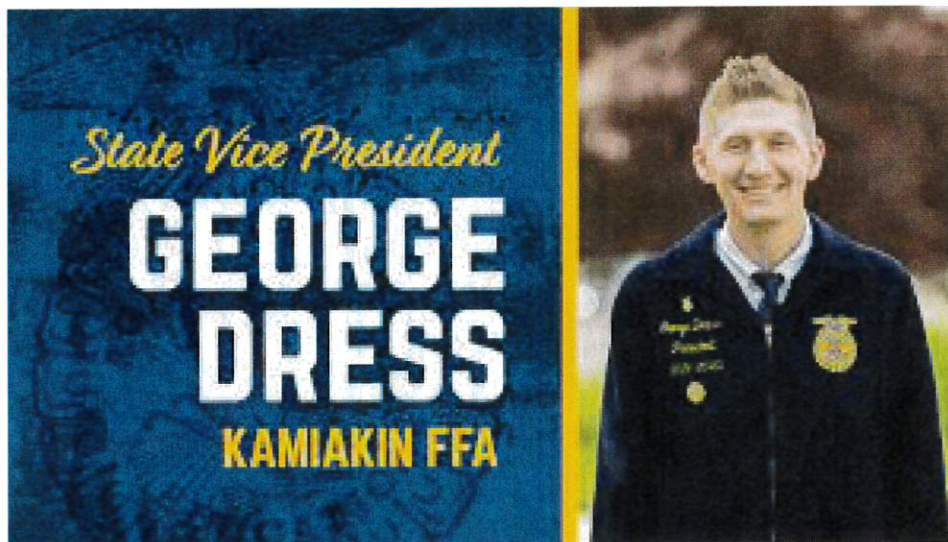
Currently retired, and still attending the 2022 National FFA Convention to support her student competing in Prepared Public Speaking.



Kamiakin HS Students Celebrating all that Denise Senior does as an FFA Advisor



Denise Senor selling plants at Ranch & Home to raise funds for FFA Activities



WA State FFA Vice President from Kamiakin HS



Pictured here is the Kamiakin FFA Fair Booth, which took top honors this year. The students researched career opportunities in Agriculture.

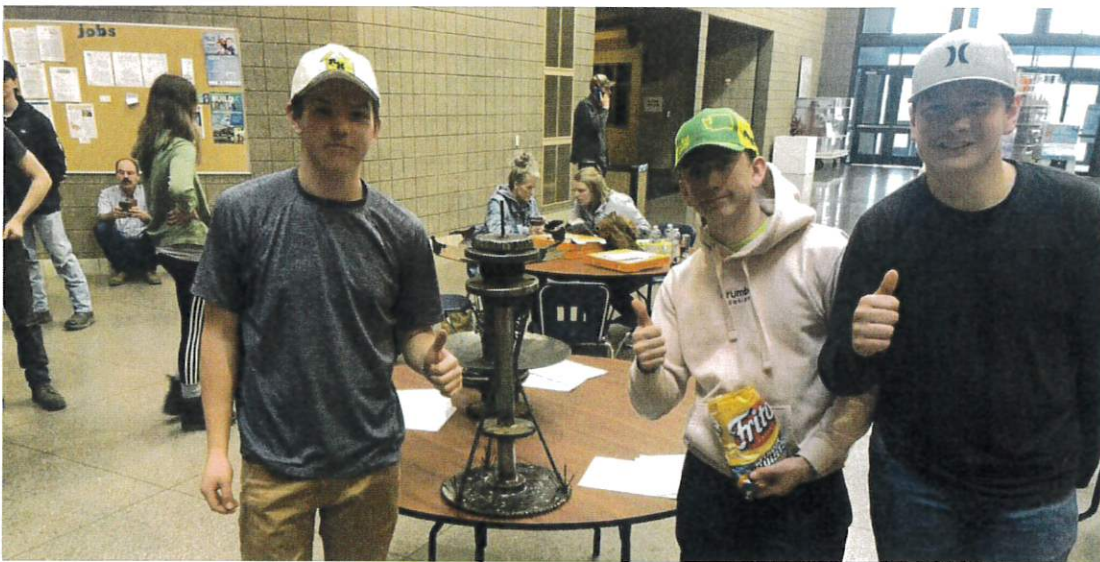


Kamiakin FFA Chapter is at Columbia Basin College.

March 23 · Pasco · 🌐



Well, better late than never! Kamiakin FFA hosted, in partnership with Columbia Basin College, the annual Junkyard Metal Art Contest last Friday! We also had two teams compete in the contest. Students had 6 hours to create a piece of metal art using the scrap metal provided. They demonstrated a number of skills, from time management to various welding techniques. Kamiakin Red placed 5th with the Space Needle, and Kamiakin Gold placed 7th with the tractor! Congratulations to both teams! Thank you to CBC for allowing us to use their facilities, and thank you to our judges and sponsors as well!



Metal Art Competition Hosted by Kamiakin

## [Recent News Articles](#)

### 1. Kamiakin FFA Students Shine at State Convention

May 19 2022 <https://www.ksd.org/news-alerts/details/~board/school-district-news/post/kamiakin-ffa-students-shine-at-state-convention>



Shout-out to Kamiakin High School's FFA chapter for an amazing performance at the recent state FFA convention!

George Dress won first place in the prepared public speaking event, and he also was elected state vice president of Washington FFA Association for 2022-23.

Morgan Madder won the Wilco Gift Card Art contest and will have her artwork displayed on Wilco's FFA support gift card in stores.

And the National Chapter team placed fourth in their category. The team includes Pichlee Thammavong, Jonah Barnhart, Julian Barnhart and Patton Salcedo.

Denise Senor is the FFA advisor.



## 2. Kamiakin FFA Students Working to Help Local Pets

[Glenn Vaagen](https://pnwag.net/kamaikin-ffa-students-working-to-help-local-pets/) Published: October 18, 2015 <https://pnwag.net/kamaikin-ffa-students-working-to-help-local-pets/>

Kamiakin High School's FFA chapter will give back to the Tri-Cities community this weekend. Students will hold a pet food drive Friday and Saturday, benefiting the local Humane Society to help the shelter prepare for the colder months ahead.

Kamiakin FFA Advisor Denise Senor said they'll do more than take donations this weekend.

"We're going to be doing some photo shoots, of animal dressed up. So, they can bring their pets down, dress them up in costume, and then we'll take pictures of them. All of the pictures will be digital. We're going to mail the copies of the pictures out, or if they just want them on their cell phone we can do that as well."

Senor added this is not only a great, and unique way to give back to the community, it also helps the chapter as they look for National Chapter Award designation again.

"Our students are being recognized as a three-star chapter this particular year, at the end of October, so, this community event is in preparation for our National Chapter application for the next year. So, this is one of our big community service events."

Students will collect food from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Ranch & Home on Columbia Center Blvd in Kennewick.

## 3. WAKE UP YOUR PET: Kamiakin FFA Shows Off Animals for Upcoming Rabbit and Chicken Clinic Nov 17, 2015

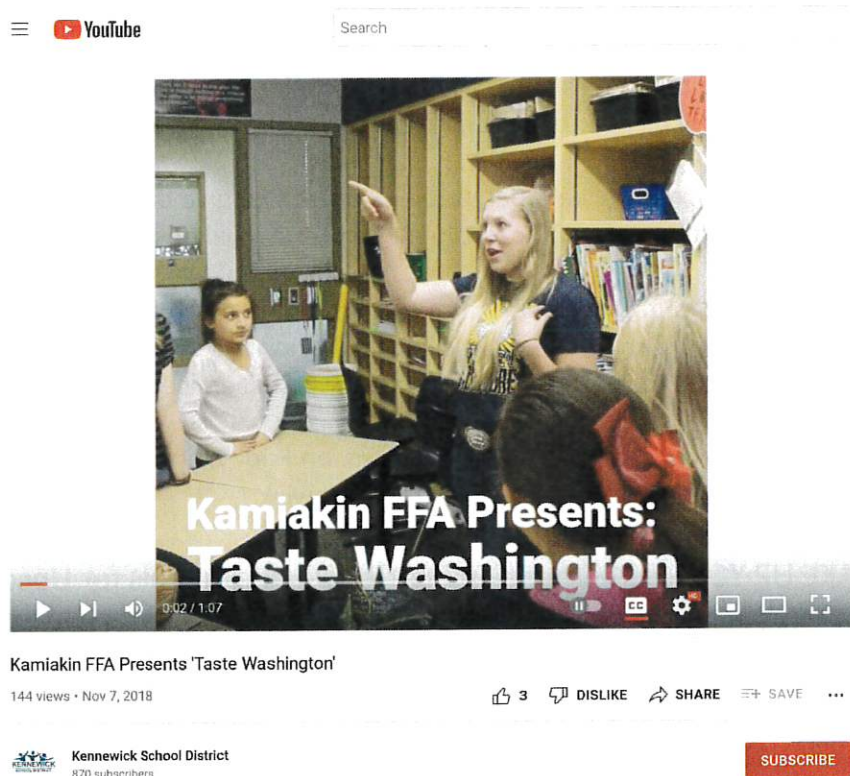


WAKE UP YOUR PET: The Kamiakin High School FFA is hosting a chicken and rabbit clinic Wednesday evening from 5 to 7 p.m. on the school campus.

Students are inviting community members to learn more about how to care for these kinds of animals. They will also give the public a look at what it takes to raise the chickens and rabbits.

The clinic is happening in room 414. To learn more, watch our segment featured on Wake-Up Northwest.

4. [Taste of Washington Event](#) to promote agriculture to elementary students.



5. Write up in the KSD Newsletter

 **Kennewick School District**  
July 5, 2018 · 🌐

Agriculture science programs at [Kennewick High School](#) and [Kamiakin High School](#) are getting a boost thanks to \$48,500 in state grants. Kennewick High teacher Dan White and Kamiakin High teacher Denise Senior will use the grants to purchase equipment and technology for their classrooms, helping students explore their interest in agriculture.



  You, Alyssa Harris, Lloyd Eakin and 56 others

2 Comments 3 Shares

## 6. Student-made metal art is up for silent auction at local store

[Sigmund Seroka NBC Right Now](https://www.nbcrightnow.com/regional/student-made-metal-art-is-up-for-silent-auction-at-local-store/article_98f48914-b5e0-11ec-adf1-874113df4924.html?fbclid=IwAR2Obw1_Hqk0VKdzUQ2dk1ifS93peb1VEvwgBmlpYDkLSKbLtfF0vH_49p8), Apr 6, 2022 Updated Apr 7, 2022

[https://www.nbcrightnow.com/regional/student-made-metal-art-is-up-for-silent-auction-at-local-store/article\\_98f48914-b5e0-11ec-adf1-874113df4924.html?fbclid=IwAR2Obw1\\_Hqk0VKdzUQ2dk1ifS93peb1VEvwgBmlpYDkLSKbLtfF0vH\\_49p8](https://www.nbcrightnow.com/regional/student-made-metal-art-is-up-for-silent-auction-at-local-store/article_98f48914-b5e0-11ec-adf1-874113df4924.html?fbclid=IwAR2Obw1_Hqk0VKdzUQ2dk1ifS93peb1VEvwgBmlpYDkLSKbLtfF0vH_49p8)



KENNEWICK, Wash. -

A silent auction featuring metal art pieces created by Future Farmers of America students is available at Ranch & Home.

FFA students from across Washington state competed at Columbia Basin College in Pasco on March 18, working in teams to create metal art pieces from scratch within a six-hour-period.

The money from these art pieces will go to the Washington FFA Foundation for youth competitions, leadership trainings and student award programs.

The artwork up for auction includes yard art, house decorations and functional pieces like wine bottle and boot holders.

## Agriculture Hall of Fame Selection Committee

It is my distinct pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Denise Senor to be inducted into the Agriculture Hall of Fame. She has not only been a colleague of mine for 18 years (as an agriculture teacher), she was also my instructor/mentor and FFA Advisor when I was in high school. She is one of the major reasons that I joined the FFA, which led me to where I am today.

Her background with Agriculture Education dates back 1994, having recently retired in the spring of 2022. She served 28 years in this field with distinction. She has put on numerous professional development workshops for other ag teachers to help them develop various skills. She has always been willing to help fellow colleagues expecting nothing in return. Even before that, her work was steeped in agriculture. Working with equine in research at Texas A&M, assistant manager at a pet store and then a veterinary technician in a veterinary clinic.

She was a pioneer as a women agriculture educator in the early 90s. Having to work twice as hard to show that she belonged in a field that was dominated by men. During her tenure as an educator she took part in many programs and opportunities allowing them to thrive. Students and her volunteered many hours with the Mammoth Digs, created metal art for the REACH Museum that still stands today and is the innovator behind the metal art competitions that takes place annually at CBC. Unfortunately, her resume does not highlight all she has accomplished in the field of agriculture due to space limitations.

As a proud FFA advisor she has led her students to 17 years of National Chapter Awards; including National Finalist. Under her, students have won National Proficiency Award in Small Animal and Horticulture. Many students have thrived in Leadership and Career Development Skills, including multiple top 8 finalists in 6 different events. This spring one student received first place in Prepared Public Speaking, currently she is attending FFA Nationals with him. This student has also honorably served as FFA State Vice President. If she had not seen the potential in this student (and so many others) encouraging them to pursue a future in FFA, where would they be?

Denise has fully embraced the true agricultural education model. From teaching in the classroom to encouraging success in the FFA and assisting students in establishing outstanding Supervised Agricultural Programs. Often in a large city, such as Kennewick, it would be easy to neglect quality SAEs. Citing that being from a large school and city doesn't provide the students the opportunity to have animals. Denise challenged this idea and established an aquaculture program, rabbit breeding program and a layer hen program all on campus. Some of these students and parents have gone on to breeding their own animals because of her help and directions.

Denise Senor is an obvious choice for the Agricultural Hall of Fame in my eyes and I hope you feel the same. I am thankful and humbled to be able to write her this letter in support. Many students would have been lost in high school and in their lives without her help and encouragement. I am one of the many.

Sincerely

Holly Kirkendall  
Agriculture Educator and FFA Advisor  
Columbia (Burbank) High School

# Denise Senior

4304 Winner's Circle, West Richland, WA 99353  
509-627-49911 (H), 509-521-3903 (cell)  
aggiepuffin@icloud.com

## PROFILE

I am interested in obtaining a job that will provide interesting opportunities in working with youth during my retirement.

## EXPERIENCE

**Agriculture Educator, Kamiakin High School, KSD; Kennewick, Washington - 1998-2022**

Created lessons, managed students, advisor for the FFA leadership organization, coached leadership teams, managed SAE projects, maintained grades in the current grade book, served as department head.

**Agriculture Educator, Riverview High School, KSD; Kennewick, Washington - 1996-1998**

Created lessons, managed students, advisor for the FFA leadership organization, coached leadership teams, managed SAE projects, maintained grades in the current grade book, managed orchard.

**Agriculture Educator, Kamiakin High School, KSD; Kennewick, Washington - 1994-1996**

Created lessons, managed students, advisor for the FFA leadership organization, coached leadership teams, managed SAE projects, maintained grades in the current grade book.

**Vet Technician, Vineyard Veterinary Clinic; Kennewick, WA, 1993 - 1994**

Acted as a receptionist (answered phones, managed client records, scheduled appointments, checked in patients), helped with animal restraint, cleaned rooms and kennels, assisted with surgeries.

**Assistant Manager - Noah's Arc Pet Store, Kennewick, WA 1992 - 1993**

Responsible for opening and closing store, inventories, ordering, customer service, maintaining animals facilities.

**Technician - Texas A&M University Equine Department, College Station, TX, 1990-1992**

Responsible for collecting and managing research samples, maintaining research equipment, assisting grad students with projects, providing instruction on computer applications, Managing large scale USDA research projects.

## EDUCATION

Texas A&M University — BS, 1985

Texas A&M University - M Agr, 1988  
Heritage University - Teaching Certification, 1995

### **AWARDS**

1995 - Washington Association of Agriculture Educators (WAAE) District 4 Rookie of the Year  
2003 - National Association of Ag. Educators Ideas Unlimited Award for Washington State  
2004 - Kennewick School District High School Teacher of the Year  
2011 - WAAE District 4 Mentor of the Year  
2012 - WAAE District 4 Teacher of the Year  
2012 - WAAE District 4 Program of the Year

### **FFA SUCCESS**

2004 - 2021 - National Chapter Award, 2 and 3 star awards  
2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2014, National Finalist, National Chapter Award  
2010 - National Proficiency Award, State first Gold and National Silver - Horticulture  
2014 - National Proficiency Award - State first Gold and National Silver - Small Animal  
2022 - State Winner Prepared Public Speaking  
Multiple state finalists (top 8) in Creed, Parli Pro, Ag. Issues, FARM, Prepared Public Speaking, and Extemporaneous Public Speaking,  
Multiple state silvers in Proficiency awards  
23 State Degree recipients

### **SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS**

1998 - Established an aquaculture program resulting in 3 -300 gal tank systems and 1- 800 gal tank system on the Kamiakin Campus. Established a cooperative with Washing State Fisheries to raise 1000 rainbow trout as a community service project.  
2008 - Established a rabbit breeding program on campus to raise market rabbits for sale and show. Created housing for students to keep their rabbit projects on campus  
2015 - Established a layer hen program on campus to raise and sell eggs and show birds. Provided space for students to keep their chickens on campus.

### **CERTIFICATIONS**

Substitute Teacher Certification  
Continuing Teacher Certification expires 6/30/28  
Career & Technical Ed Continuing Teacher Certification expires 6/30/24

### **REFERENCES**

References available upon request.

