UPCOMING EVENTS

Provender Alliance Conference

The Provender Alliance is holding their 40th Annual Conference in Hood River, Oregon from October 4-8. Workshops and keynote panelists, including Rosalinda Guillen and David Bronner, will discuss current issues in our shifting landscape and how working together we can create significant and meaningful change. Our Family Farm’s Executive Director, Elise Higley, will be also be presenting.

Stop by and visit Our Family Farms Tuesday, October 6 from 4-6 at the "Meet Your Makers" event

Gaining Ground in Ashland
Tuesday, October 25 at 7pm at Ashland’s Varsity Theater

Gaining Ground, a new film about Growing Food, Empowering Communities, and Changing Lives, will energize and inspire you, and remind us all why we do what we do. The film interweaves the journeys of rural farmers and inner city food activists making extraordinary changes to feed their local communities healthy, sustainably grown food.

The screening will be followed by a Q and A with the filmmakers and some of the people featured in the film. We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the filmmakers Elaine Velazquez and Barbara Bernstein, who have been creating award-winning film and radio documentaries for over thirty-five years, for donating a portion of the proceeds from the Ashland showing to Our Family Farms!

This event is co-sponsored by Our Family Farms, Thrive, Rogue Valley Food System Network, Rogue Valley Farm to School and Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families.

Advanced tickets are available here for $9 or $10 at the door

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**SEED: The Untold Story Ashland Premiere**

Premiering for One Week November 4th-10th at Ashland’s Varsity Theater

From the creators of the award winning *Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?* and *The Real Dirt on Farmer John* comes **SEED: The Untold Story**.

Few things on Earth are as miraculous and vital as seeds, worshiped and treasured since the dawn of humankind. Award winning documentary, **SEED: The Untold Story**, follows passionate seed keepers protecting our 12,000 year-old food legacy. In the last century, 94% of our seed varieties have disappeared. As biotech chemical companies control the majority of our seeds, farmers, scientists, lawyers, and indigenous seed keepers fight a David and Goliath battle to defend the future of our food. In a harrowing and heartening story, these reluctant heroes rekindle a lost connection to our most treasured resource and revive a culture connected to seeds.

Purchase your tickets [here](#) for **SEED: The Untold Story** featuring Vandana Shiva, Dr. Jane Goodall, Andrew Kimbrell, Winona Laduke and Raj Patel from Executive Producers Marisa Tomei, Marc Turtletaub (Little Miss Sunshine), and Phil Fairclough (Grizzly Man, Cave of Forgotten Dreams).

**Women in Sustainable Agriculture**

The 5th National Conference for **Women in Sustainable Agriculture** will be held November 30 - December 2 in Portland, Oregon. Our Family Farm's will participate in the event, which brings together farmers, educators, technical assistance providers and activists engaged in healthy food and farming to share educational and organization strategies, build technical and business skills, and address policy issues aimed at expanding the success of women farmers and ranchers. Early [registration](#) ends October 1st.

**Welcome to Our Newest Business Members!**

Thanks to Wild Wines and Peggy Smith for becoming an Our Family Farms business supporter. Show your support and [become a member](#) today!

**Wild Wines**

Wild Wines is a deliciously unique winery in Oregon’s Applegate Valley that offers eleven varieties of organic and wild-harvested fruit, berry and flower wines, with no added sulfites, including raspberry, Oregon grape, dandelion, and ginger wine.

With the general rise in consciousness about where food comes from and how it is grown, Wild Wines seems to have found a perfect niche for those seeking a local, ethically harvested and handmade product. At the same time, by focusing on wines made without grapes, Wild Wines’ unique varieties offer a novelty array of unusual flavors sought by wine lovers all over the world.

Their unique tasting room made of straw bale construction, featuring a hand-carved wood bar and natural accents, is open Friday to Sunday from 12 – 5 pm, and offers local food products and non-alcoholic beverages, as well. Wild Wines is located at 4550 Little Applegate Road, right outside of Ruch, and 20 minutes from downtown Jacksonville.
Peggy Ann Smith, LMT
During my 21 years of practice, I have integrated a wide range of techniques to help you relieve pain, restore your balance and vitality, recover from injury and trauma, and handle life's stresses. I enjoy being in partnership with you, discovering what your body needs to be in balance and pain-free. Reasonable pricing.

Office hours are Monday in Ashland (inside Madrona Health Services) and Tuesday through Friday in Medford (inside Southern Oregon Physical Therapy) from 10am – 6:30pm.

Action To Take

Make a Call to Stop the TPP

Last week, Center for Food Safety and many other organizations organized a national call-in day against the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). If you missed it, you can still call your members of Congress!

Calling your legislators is quick and easy and it REALLY makes a difference. The offices keep a log of calls and track the overall numbers. Call 888-894-1033, and then enter your zip code to be connected to the appropriate Senator or Representative.

If passed, the TPP could grant a long list of powers to national and international corporations. For instance, private corporations could set food standards across the country, and could even sue national governments over rules that companies believe inhibit their profit-making ability. Already, several members of the U.S. congress on both sides of the aisle have expressed concerns over seafood safety hazards from TPP member nations.

Even worse - any U.S. food safety rules on GMOs, labeling, pesticides, animal drugs, and seafood or food additives that are higher than international standards could be subject to challenge as "illegal trade barriers." Local crop bans on genetically-engineered crops could be at risk.

Please call 888-894-1033 to be connected to your Senator and Representative, and urge your friends and family to do the same. Here is a short script to follow:

“I urge you to publicly oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The TPP will offshore millions of American jobs, expose the U.S. to imports of unsafe food, and empower corporations to attack hard-fought U.S. environmental and health safeguards. I urge you to VOTE NO on the TPP and encourage other Senators to do the same.”

By working together, we will make sure the TPP does not pass during the lame duck session of Congress!

Click here for more information on how the TPP could affect food safety and public health for all Americans.
VOTE!

Our Family Farms will be the first to tell you that your vote matters. In 2014, Jackson County created a GE-free seed sanctuary because the majority of voters in the county said yes!

This year there are many races on all levels which have the potential to affect the 2014 ban, as well as other issues that will impact our economic and agricultural future. Our Family Farms encourages you to become familiar with the candidates in your district to understand their position on the issues that are important to you.

Be sure you are registered to vote! Oregon voters can register to vote or change their voter registration online here. The deadline to register is October 18.

NEWS

Our Family Farms Feast

We had a great time at Our Family Farm's Farm to Table Dinner on August 27, and were thrilled to see so many of our supporters come out to enjoy our annual fundraiser! Thank you to everyone who attended!

Hosted by Dunbar Farms in Medford, the evening began with live music by Blades of Grass and appetizers by the pond. The not-to-be-missed four course meal by Chef Christopher was prepared with fresh, non-gmo ingredients from Rogue Vally farms and paired with wines from Dunbar Farms, Roxy Ann Winery, and Wild Wines.

Awards were presented to Our Family Farm's Champions for 2016. Join us in thanking our Legislative Champions of the year, Representative Peter Buckley and the late Senator Alan Bates. Chad Giffin Gates was named Farmer Champion, and Catie Faryl was honored as the Volunteer Champion of 2016.

This annual fundraiser provides funding for the work we do in Washington, DC and around the country. Not only do we want to insure Jackson County remains a seed sanctuary, we are helping other areas of the country become GE-free. We are already looking forward to next year's Farm to Table Dinner - Hope to see you there in 2017!

(Photo credit: Chris Hardy)
MOTION DENIED!
By Mary Middleton, Director, Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families

The best news for Josephine County!

MOTION DENIED! A judge in Josephine County denied a major Big Ag political lobbyist his motion seeking to recover more than $29k in attorney’s fees from local non-profit Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families (OSFF) and area farmer Siskiyou Seeds. In the outrageous motion, Plaintiffs’ attorney sought to recover fees for his efforts to overturn a democratic voter-enacted law that created the 9th GMO FREE ZONE in the USA. Thank you, Judge Wolke for this sound ruling, which reinforces the will of the people of Josephine County and gives further merit to the defense on behalf of the interveners. This attorney’s goal was to create a chilling affect on citizens of other counties who may want to create GMO FREE ZONES where they live.

With all of the bad news of late, it is important to celebrate the victories when we get them. This motion was ridiculous and without merit. Thankfully, the judge was able to see that and rule against it.

The Monsanto–Bayer tie-up is just one of seven Mega-Mergers and Big Data Domination Threaten Seeds, Food Security

Policymakers could still block the agribiz mergers; peasants and farmers will continue the fight for seeds and rights.

Wednesday’s confirmation that Monsanto and Bayer have agreed to a $66 billion merger is just the latest of four M&A announcements, but at least three more game-changing mergers are in play (and flying under the radar). The acquisition activity is no longer just about seeds and pesticides but about global control of agricultural inputs and world food security. Anti-competition regulators should block these mergers everywhere, and particularly in the emerging markets of the Global South, as the new mega companies will greatly expand their power and outcompete national enterprises. Four of the world’s top 10 agrochemical purchasing countries are in the global South and account for 28% of the world market. If some of these throw up barriers, shareholders will rebel against the deals regardless of decisions in Washington or Brussels.

“These deals are not just about seeds and pesticides, but also about who will control Big Data in agriculture,” says Pat Mooney of ETC Group, an International Civil Society Organization headquartered in Canada that monitors agribusiness and agricultural technologies. “The company that can dominate seed, soil and weather data and crunch new genomics information will inevitably gain control of global agricultural inputs – seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and farm machinery.” Continue reading here. (Thank you to the ETC group for permission to reprint this article)

We hope you will support Our Family Farms as we work to create thriving communities by promoting and protecting family farms and traditional seeds from the threats of genetically engineered (GE) crops.