



## Order an Our Family Farm's Farm Gift Box!



Just in time for the holidays! We are excited to launch the sales of our new Farm Gift Boxes!

Boxes are filled with organically grown goods direct from Oregon farms and packed in eco-friendly wood crates made from salvaged wood by an Oregon farmer.

There are 3 baskets to choose from and they can be shipped directly to your recipient.

**Send a gift that supports your values, family farmers and Our Family Farms!**

Sales support family farmers and the good work of Our Family Farms.

[\*\*Place your order here\*\*](#)

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## Our Family Farms Educating Students About Seed Sanctuaries



We are working with Rogue Valley Farm to School (RVF2S) to teach the importance of living in a GE Seed Sanctuary through seed saving workshops in Jackson County (Oregon) elementary schools participating in the RVF2S Digging Deeper program.

## Our Family Farms Awarded \$55,000 Grant from USDA

Jackson County seed farmers will get a boost with the award of a \$55,356 Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) from the United States Department of Agriculture. Our Family Farms will use the grant to research the potential to increase the production and sales of non-genetically engineered (GE) vegetable seeds grown in Jackson County (Oregon), assess market opportunities with national and international seed companies, and develop a marketing and production plan for area seed farmers to use.



"This grant is an affirmation of the significant economic development potential of Jackson County's ban on genetically engineered crops," said Our Family Farms Director, Elise Higley. "Jackson County is a Seed Sanctuary. This helps ensure the purity of the food grown by farmers here and enables us to grow seeds for farmers across the U.S. and the world." Our Family Farms, an advocate for family farms and traditional seed crops, led the campaign to ban genetically engineered crops in 2014.

"Many farmers throughout the U.S. are not able to grow corn to seed because of GE cross pollination. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity!" said seed farmer, Maud Powell of Wolf Gulch Farm.

The USDA has awarded 1,441 VAPG awards since 2009, totaling \$183 million, in 325 projects across the U.S. to help farmers, ranchers, small businesses and entrepreneurs nationwide develop new product lines. The grants are a key element of the USDA's [Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food](#) initiative, which coordinates the department's work on local and regional food systems. VAPG grants can be used to develop new product lines from raw agricultural products or promote additional uses for established products.

## Welcome to Our Newest Business Members!

Thanks to Lupine Knoll Farm for becoming an Our Family Farms business supporter! Show your support and [become a member today!](#)

### Lupine Knoll Farm



Lupine Knoll Farm, certified organic since 2001, specializes in the selection and development of new varieties of sweet corn. Top Hat, and Tuxana, Ana Lee and Festivity, which share an Anasazi corn parent, are improved and grown for sale at Lupine Knoll. Stretching along Williams Creek, the farm offers numerous isolations for vegetable breeding. Other seed crops grown at LKF include broccoli and kale, C. rudralis, tomatoes lettuce and more.

All new introductions from Lupine Knoll Farm are pledged under the Open Source Seed Initiative. Open Source seeds are in the ownership of the grower and cannot be limited by future intellectual property restrictions.

**See all of our business members in our [online directory!](#)**

## BREAKING NEWS!

### **U.S. Court of Appeals Says Local Governments Can Prohibit GE Crops**

On Friday, November 18th, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (Honolulu) issued its decisions on whether federal and Hawaii state laws preempt Hawaii counties' authority to regulate genetically engineered (GE) crops and pesticide use. Of significance to state and local communities throughout the United States, the Ninth Circuit ruled that federal law—specifically, the Plant Protection Act—does not prohibit states and counties from passing local laws to regulate and ban commercially-grown GE crops.

"Today's decision to allow states and counties to ban or regulate GE crops is an important victory for GE-free seed sanctuaries and small communities and farmers around the country," said George Kimbrell, senior attorney for the Center for Food Safety.

In granting its decision the Court recognized potential harm to farmers and environment from the widespread planting of GE crops, asserting, "the cultivation and testing of GE plants raise several well-documented concerns." Notably, the Court affirmed, "transgenic contamination has previously caused significant economic impacts on farmers of conventional, non-GE crops." The Court acknowledged as well that "the cultivation of GE crops also may raise environmental concerns, such as harm to beneficial plants and animals caused by the increased use of pesticides sometimes associated with testing and growing GE crops, the proliferation of 'superweeds' and other pests resistant to pesticides, and the reduction of biodiversity." The Court went on to declare: "The regulation of commercialized crops, both of GE and traditional varieties, remains within the authority of state and local governments."

At the same time, however, the Court ruled that under Hawaii law, counties and municipalities do not have the authority to regulate GE crops (as some in other states do), and that Hawaii state law places such authority in the hands of the State alone. [Read More](#)

### **Keeping GMO's Out of Organic**

This week the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) met in St. Louis, Mo. to consider what may or may not be excluded as "organic farming methodologies". Below we list one aspect of their meetings as it related to whether the new generation of recombinant organisms (genetically engineered organisms) can or would be included within foods labeled "Organic". The results are very good news as indicated below in the latest information released by Dr. Michael Hansen of Consumer's Union.

*Big victory at the National Organic Standards Board! NOSB passed the Excluded Methods Terminology document, including the Terminology Chart (which was where most of the controversy was), with one small change and virtually unanimously with 14 yes' and one absent. No one voted against the proposal, which makes it clear that all the new technologies of GE, e.g. gene silencing (RNAi) and gene-editing, will be excluded from organic.*



*Zea Sonnabend, a NOSB member who developed the document with input from an ad hoc group that included numerous NGO representatives, did a tremendous job of introducing the document and very effectively rebutting all 5 arguments brought up by DuPont, GMA, and the American Seed Trade Association, who all opposed the document.*

The NOSB is a citizen advisory group responsible for considering and making recommendations to USDA on issues involving the production, handling and processing of organic products. Among other duties, the board reviews each substance on the National List every five years to make sure it confirms to specific criteria and also consider petitions or add or delete a particular substance. The final review and decision will be made by the United States Department of Agriculture, which is scheduled to publish its final rule in November 2018.

## NEWS

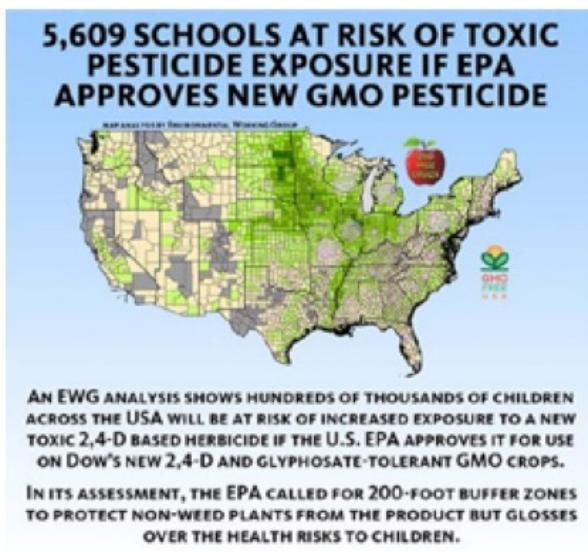
### **U.S. EPA may expand use of Enlist Duo (glyphosate +2,4-D) combined pesticides** By Dr. Ramon Seidler

In 2009, the International Endocrine Society issued the first warning about the dangers associated with chemicals that interact with, take the place of, or inhibit or stimulate the action of natural human hormones. These chemicals are called endocrine disruptors (EDs). Both active ingredients in the weed killer Enlist Duo (2,4-D and glyphosate) are documented endocrine disruptors. But now, the U.S. EPA is about to greatly expand the allowable use of Enlist Duo on genetically engineered crops (corn, soy, cotton) in an additional 19 states. Farmer's fields in these numerous states are overrun by glyphosate resistant weeds due to the over use of a single herbicide, RoundUp (active ingredient glyphosate). Resistance to glyphosate reflects the failure of the RoundUp Ready technology.

EDs like the chemicals in Enlist Duo are biologically active at concentrations in the ppb and even down to the parts per trillion range. According to the *International Endocrine Society*,

there is strong mechanistic, experimental cell culture, animal, and human epidemiological evidence for endocrine disruption associated with: obesity and diabetes, female and male reproduction abnormalities (abnormal sperm, reduced fertility, etc), hormone-sensitive cancers in females, prostate cancer, thyroid, and neurodevelopment diseases (I.Q. loss, hyperactive behavior). Scientists have calculated that in the U.S. alone, just calculated that in the U.S. alone, just pesticide EDs cause some 7,500 annual serious disability cases and generate annual medical and lost work costs of about \$45 billion. Studies have already shown that more than 90% of Americans carry glyphosate in their bodies.

**Thousands of More Schools will be in the Path of the Proposed Expanded Use of ENLIST DUO in 19 More States**



Major international and national health and science institutions have documented their concerns about EDs within the last 3-4 years, which include: improved testing, education, research, updated detection protocols, and reduced exposures to EDs are needed; there is a need to protect children's health from exposures to environmental hazards; asked the European Union for registration, evaluation and restrictions of EDs; and called on the European Commission to improve its regulatory regime governing EDs, etc. These concerns and more have been expressed by the American Medical Association, American Public Health Association, the American Chemical Society, The International Endocrine Society, and the World Health Organization among others.

**Consider writing the EPA to discourage the expansion of the use of Enlist Duo pesticide from 223,000 lbs to estimates of 25 million lbs annually until the requests of the AMA, the APHA, and others can be satisfied. Register comments at this [link](#) - see the second item under "primary documents" ("Public Participation for Evaluation of 2,4-D...") and click on "Comment Now".**

**Dr. Ramon Seidler is a former professor of microbiology and retired senior research scientist with the US EPA GMO Biosafety program.**

For Further reading see [EPA tosses aside safety data, says Dow pesticide for GMOs won't harm people](#) and [Putting a human cost on endocrine disruptors](#).

**Sonoma County Passes GMO Ban!**

The passage of Measure M in Sonoma County will connect 4 other GMO-free counties in California, creating the largest GMO-free zone in the U.S.!

The ban expands the GMO-free seed growing zone of S. Oregon and N. California by connecting Marin county with neighboring GMO-free counties to create a 13,734-square-mile zone where genetically engineered plants cannot be grown, the largest such area in the United States.

Karen Hudson of [GMO Free Sonoma County](#) announced the win with this statement:

After five years of educating the residents of Sonoma County and three years working to pass this ban, the majority of voters have come forth in support of preserving Sonoma County's agricultural heritage for future generations. Our county is now the sixth county in California to prohibit the growing and raising of genetically engineered organisms. We are thankful to the funding of numerous citizens, and food, seed and environmentally-conscious organizations and businesses who helped us run a strong advertising campaign and the devotion of our grassroots volunteers and steering committee who worked long hours bringing this to fruition in spite of our strong opposition from agro-chemical corporations.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Women in Sustainable Agriculture

November 30 - December 2 in Portland, Oregon

Our Family Farm's will participate in the 5th National Conference for [Women in Sustainable Agriculture](#), 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. Hope to see you there!

### SAVE THE DATE! OSU Small Farms Conference

Saturday, February 18, 2017 in Corvallis, Oregon

[Registration](#) will open by January 1st, 2017. This year's line up includes sessions on: The Lean Farm with Ben Hartman, Cut Flower Production, Livestock Health for Grazing, Farm Managerial Accounting, Economic Impact of Local Food, Dry Farming, Organic Certification, Sessions in Spanish, and much more!

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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.