



Celebration & Conversation

Next Steps in a GE-free Seed Sanctuary

Come to hear presentations & updates about:

- 2017 Legislative issues
- The state of GE-free regions
- USDA grant
- Josephine County's law suit
- Local Food Hubs
- Our Family Farms' 2017 strategic plan



Questions & Answers
Door Prizes!

Tuesday, January 31

6:30 pm – Reception with light appetizers

7:30 pm – Presentations & Updates

Talent Community Center ♦ 104 East Main Street, Talent, OR

Protecting Pollinators Forum

During the 1990's, genetically-engineered (GE) crops became the way to 'feed the world' and Roundup was the 'so-safe-you-can-drink-it' herbicide-of-choice for combating weeds in both agricultural and landscape settings. Less than a decade later, these same international chemical companies brought us neonicotinoids to further insure 'pest protection' for our farms and gardens.

A class of systemic pesticides with seven different formulations, neonicotinoids (neonics) are now the most widely used insecticide in the world. Some of these formulations are 10,000 times more potent than DDT, and like DDT, are long-lived in the environment. Almost all (non-organic) corn and soybean seeds are coated with a neonic, and products containing neonics are easily available in garden centers. In fact, some nurseries are

growing and selling (unlabeled) plants that have been treated with neonics. Testing finds neonics in soils and rivers across the US, and in fruits and vegetables eaten by US consumers.

The most commonly used neonic in a landscape setting is imidacloprid. Go to a garden center to find a remedy for aphids and you will most likely will be handed a bottle that contains 2% imidacloprid and 98% inert ingredients. Application will either be spraying it on the plant or mixing it with water and pouring it in the soil around the plant; either way, the plant will take up the neonic and become toxic to any bug that ingests any part of the plant. Which sounds good if you are trying to get rid of aphids. However, the plant's pollen and nectar are also contaminated, so any insect visiting the plant's flowers will ingest the neonic and might even carry it back to the hive to feed its young. The evidence from numerous scientific studies indicates that neonics are a major contributor to the decline of honey bees, as well as our native bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects.

We need our pollinators - one out of every three bites of food, and 85% of the plants and trees around us are pollinated by insects and hummingbirds. No pollinators? No blueberries, apples, lavenders, sunflowers,

Many cities and states - even the U.S. Fish and Wildlife - have banned or restricted the use of neonics (note that GE crops are also banned on USF&W lands!) The European Union implemented a ban on three neonics in 2012, and Canada is considering implementing a country-wide ban on imidacloprid.

What can we do to protect our pollinators here in Oregon?

Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV) and Beyond Toxics are sponsoring a forum on February 11th at OSU Extension in Central Point: Protecting Pollinators: Benefits of Ecosystems and Food Security in Oregon. With speakers from The Xerces Society, Pesticide Research Institute, Center for Biological Diversity, Trout Unlimited, Beyond Toxics, and others, this will be an excellent opportunity to learn what we can do locally to protect our pollinators.



Event details can be found on [PPRV's website](#) and on the [Facebook event page](#).

March in Berlin to demand move away from Industrial Agriculture

On January 21, some 50,000 people demonstrated in Berlin for a turnaround in agricultural and nutritional policy. Under the motto "We are fed up!" (Wir haben es satt!), they demanded healthy food, a peasant-ecological agriculture and fair trade.

Farmers, environmentalists and animal rights activists have demonstrated in Berlin for a change in agricultural policy. The organizers spoke of about 50,000 participants. The protest march took place parallel to the International Green Week in Berlin.

The start of the demonstration was a convoy, in which 130 tractors participated according to the organizers. An alliance of around 100 organizations, including environmental, animal welfare and alternative agricultural associations, had called for the demonstration.

In a nine-point plan, the participants demanded an end to subsidies for industrial large-scale enterprises and a halt to "mega-mergers in the agricultural sector".

"Instead, we need incentives for farmers who respect animals in an environmentally friendly manner," explained Jochen Fritz, spokesman for the Aktionsbündle. He called on Federal Minister of Agriculture, Christian Schmidt, "to make agricultural policy for farmers instead of the agricultural industry".

According to the organizers, "over the past decade, more than 100,000 mainly small farms had been abandoned" due to misguided agricultural policy" in Germany. In addition, the German agricultural policy, particularly by excessive meat production, is polluting the environment and the climate and destroying small-scale structures throughout the world through dumping exports.

Welcome to Our Newest Business Members!

Thanks to RoxyAnn Winery and Safeworld, Intl. for becoming an Our Family Farms business supporter! Show your support and become a member today!

RoxyAnn Winery

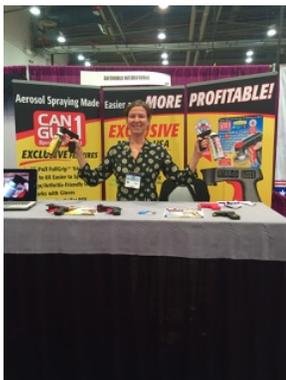


RoxyAnn Winery was originally the pear growing and packing operation known as Hillcrest Orchard. But Jack Day, grandson of the Seattle businessman who became owner and manager of Hillcrest in 1908, had other ideas. Day planted wine grapes on 20 acres of the south-facing slope of RoxyAnn Peak where shallow clay soils are perfect for Bordeaux varietals. With the first harvest in 2001, RoxyAnn Winery was born.

Today the RoxyAnn estate vineyard runs to 70 acres from which the winery produces 15,000 cases of award-winning Claret, Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Tempranillo, Viognier, Syrah, Pinot Noir, and Chardonnay. The 2012 Claret received a Gold Medal in Sunset magazine. Many of the original Hillcrest Orchard buildings, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, are still used by the winery. Visitors will enjoy the warm, old fashioned atmosphere of the tasting room featuring premium estate wines and gourmet items. The quaint setting notwithstanding, RoxyAnn adheres to enlightened sustainable farming practices and employs state-of-the-art methods in wine production, supporting preservation of the natural surroundings while ensuring the finest fruit and superior wines.

The tasting room is open seven days a week.

Safeworld International, Inc.



Hi, my name is Katie Becker, President of Safeworld International Inc. My late husband, Ken Becker, started Safeworld International Inc. in 1982 when he ran across the Original Can-Gun Aerosol Spray Can Handle while traveling through England. After 30 years of successfully marketing the Original CanGun, in 2009 he invented the Can-Gun, a new and improved patented design. Both products are made in the USA out of recycled propylene and low profile packaging. We use carbon neutral shipping and zero waste manufacturing for our products.

We are happy to support Our Family Farms and all the awesome work they do to protect our farms, families and future!

See all of our business members in our online directory!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Steps in a GE-free Seed Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 31 at 6:30 pm at the Talent Community Center

Join Our Family Farm's for a Celebration and Conversation! Hear Presentations & Updates about: 2017 Legislative issues, The state of GE-free regions, USDA grant, Josephine County's law suit, Local Food Hubs, and Our Family Farms' 2017 strategic plan. See the flyer above for more information. Hope to see you there!

Biotechnology Presentation

Wednesday, February 1 from 7-9 pm at the Bellview Grange in Ashland

"Risky Business: Biotechnology Crops: What's Here, What's Coming, and Why You Should Care" Dr. Ray Seidler, retired EPA Senior Research Scientist, will give a presentation to update the public on the dangerous frontiers of genetically engineered seeds and crops. There will be a question and answer time and general discussion following the presentation. Presented as part of the Bellview Grange 1st Wednesday Lecture Series.

Organicology

February 2-4, 2017 in Portland, Oregon

Our Family Farms will participate in the 5th biennial Organicology conference, considered to be the largest gathering for organic farmers, activists, policy experts, educators, retailers and sustainable organizations in the Pacific Northwest. Created by four organic trade organizations, Organicology offers a unique educational curriculum that unites the organic food community in advancing knowledge and addressing challenges and accomplishments in the organic food industry. Hope to see you there!

GMO Free Community Potluck

Friday, February 10, 2017 at 6 pm at the Fruitdale Grange in Grants Pass

Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families and GMO Free Josephine County invites farmers, gardeners, and GMO-free food lovers alike, to join fellow community members for a midwinter potluck gathering and seed swap! Share conversation, meet the newest board members, hear what they're doing to protect our valley, and find out how you can be part of the effort! For more information email info@gmofreejosephinecounty.org or call (541)761-4746.

Protecting Pollinators Forum

Saturday, February 11, 2017 at the OSU Extension Auditorium

Pollinator Project Rogue Valley and Beyond Toxics are offering this forum that combines science & policy for protecting pollinators to ensure their survival – and ours. Keynote presentations, panels, and workshops, will focus on solutions to the decline of native pollinators and the effects neonicotinoids are having on our landscapes and ecosystems. [More details and registration](#)

OSU Small Farms Conference

Saturday, February 18, 2017 in Corvallis, Oregon

A daylong event at the Oregon State University Campus in Corvallis geared toward farmers, agricultural professionals, food policy advocates, students and managers of farmers markets. Twenty-seven educational sessions are offered on a variety of topics relevant to the Oregon small farmers and include a track in Spanish. Speakers include farmers, OSU Extension faculty, agribusiness, and more. [More details and registration](#)



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.