



## **Your Voice Needs to be Heard in Salem Today!**

The Farm Bureau is up to their old tricks; raising opposition to two important bills that would protect family farmers from genetically engineered crops. Let the legislative committee members know you support these bills now!

Please send separate emails in support of each bill to the individual committee members listed [here](#). If you prefer to make phone calls, we have also provided that information.

To express support for [HB 2469](#) to restore farmers' rights, include "HB 2469" and "Support" in the subject line. Include a date on your document, your name and where in Oregon you reside or where your farm or business is located (city is adequate, though full address is fine too). Or you can send your comments to the [House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources](#) to [HAGNR.Exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:HAGNR.Exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov) for distribution to each committee member.

To express support for [HB 2739](#) to protect Oregon's agriculture, include "HB 2739" and "Support" in the subject line. Please include a date on your document, your name and where in Oregon you reside or where your farm or business is located (city is adequate, though full address is fine too). Or you can send your comments to the [House Committee On Judiciary](#) to [hjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov) for distribution to each committee member.

Legislative hearings are being held this Thursday, March 16th! If you are able to come to the hearing personally or want your testimony submitted for the public record please let us know by [emailing us](#).

## Buy SEED: the Untold Story on DVD starting March 15th

Celebrate seeds with 10% off the award-winning *SEED: The Untold Story*!

Use code **OFFSEED** at [seedthemovie.com](http://seedthemovie.com) and 20% of proceeds will be donated to Our Family Farms!

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.



SEED comes from the filmmakers behind *Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?* It features Dr. Jane Goodall, Vandana Shiva, Winona LaDuke, and Andrew Kimbrell.

## Input Needed From Rogue Valley Farmers

Jackson County farmers are invited to participate in a seed purchasing and production survey conducted by Our Family Farms and the Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association. The 5-minute survey is part of a larger USDA grant-funded market research project evaluating the potential to increase the production and sales of seeds grown in Jackson County.

Farmer input is crucial for this project in order to support the financial and production needs of the region's farm businesses. The implementation of this project will connect area growers to new wholesale and retail buyers.

### Take the survey online

For more information about this project, or if you would prefer to fill out a paper version, please email [Wendy Siporen](mailto:Wendy.Siporen).

Southern Oregon boasts an excellent climate for growing vegetable and flower seeds. The hot summers and relatively low precipitation during the fall allow seed crops enough time and heat to fully ripen and dry down. During the past decade, the number of small-scale, specialty crop seed growers in the region has greatly expanded. The passage of a ban on genetically engineered crops in 2014 means that seed farmers and their customers can have more assurance that their crops remain genetically true. The research will evaluate the potential to expand production and sales, share seed processing equipment, educate consumers, and train new seed farmers.

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## Welcome to All Our Newest Business Members!

Thanks to the Medford Food Co-op and Self & Soul Center for becoming an Our Family Farms business supporter!

### Medford Food Co-op



With over 3,100 owner households in our community, Medford Food Co-op is your local cooperatively-owned grocery store. The co-op features organic produce from local farmers whenever possible, as well as a variety of local and regional groceries. Find affordable organic and natural items in the Co-op Basics program and look for weekly Fresh Deals specials and bimonthly Co-op Deals for even greater savings. The Café at Medford Food Co-op will be opening later this year and will offer fresh, delicious, wholesome meals so you can nourish your family with real food even when you're on the go. Friendly, knowledgeable staff are available daily from 8am to 8pm. Medford Food Co-op is located at 945 South Riverside Avenue, just north of Barnett Road. Everyone is welcome, ownership is optional.

### Self & Soul Center



The Self & Soul Center is a sanctuary to deepen relationship to your inner selves, others and the earth. This healing center serves as the home base for the creative interplay between psychotherapy, meditation, movement and farming for Rod Birney & Suzanna Yahya Nadler. Our farm grows most of the food that we eat via a biodynamic approach and we host Embodied Ecology Internships to develop a relationship to the inner and

outer elements (earth, water, fire, air, ether) and their connection to farming. Dried fruit and delicious fruit shrubs are some of the products we sell at our events.

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hearings for HB2469 and HB2739

Thursday, March 16 in Salem, Oregon

Our Family Farms is asking for your support for two important bills in the Oregon Legislature that would help protect traditional seed supply and family farmers. Hearings on both bills are this Thursday, March 16th! Please come join us!

If you haven't already, please take a minute now and [email](#) the legislative committee members and let them know you support these bills.

### Eat at Chipotle and help raise funds for Our Family Farms

Thursday, April 6 in Medford, Oregon

Say you're with Our Family Farms and 50% of the proceeds will be donated to us! Thursday, April 6th from 10:45 am to 10 pm at Chipotle Mexican Grill at the Northgate Marketplace.

### SAVE THE DATE! Our Family Farm's 2nd Annual Seed Sanctuary Celebration

Saturday, May 20, 2017

May 20 has been a significant date in our history. May 20, 2014, was election day when we learned that voters had passed ballot measures that would protect family farmers from the threat of contamination from genetically engineered crops. May 20, 2015 was the day we defended Jackson County's new ordinance in Federal court - and won! More details will be coming soon...



*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.*