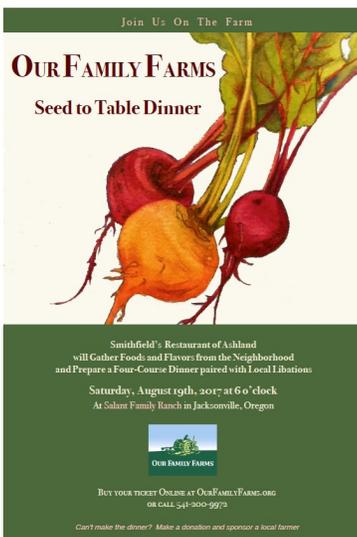




Our Family Farms 2017 Seed to Table Dinner



Join us at our Annual Seed to Table Dinner **Saturday, August 19th at 6 pm** at Salant Family Ranch. *Smithfield's Restaurant* of Ashland will gather foods and flavors from the Rogue Valley to prepare a four-course dinner paired with local libations.

Tickets can be purchased online at our website.

Our Family Farms Members receive \$10 off! Farmer discount also available. Please contact us for more information.

Welcome to all our Newest Business Members!

Thank you *LifeSource Natural Foods* and *Wandering Roots Farm* for becoming an Our Family Farms Business Supporter! Show your support and become a member today!

LifeSource Natural Foods



LifeSource Natural Foods is Salem, Oregon's only independent, locally owned all natural and organic full service grocery store. We strive to carry as much locally sourced produce and other foods and products as possible. It's part of our mission and our vision to support

small scale family farmers, especially those who work toward reducing toxic herbicides, pesticides and who strive to consider the entire eco-system in their production methods. The store opened in 1994 with 8 staff, which included the owner, Alex Beamer. Alex still works here, although no longer in the bulk department. LifeSource now supports nearly 100 employees, providing fully paid medical, dental & vision coverage, profit sharing, paid community service days and we even get our birthday as a paid holiday. It's a great place to work.

Wandering Roots Farm

Wandering Roots Farm is a 50-acre farm located in the heart of the Rogue Valley in Southern Oregon. Started by Jeff and Anna Boesch in 2012, what was once a giant hay field has slowly been transforming into a diverse, sustainable fruit and vegetable farm with 8 acres of vegetables, 1 acre of mixed berries, and over 2 acres of mixed fruit and nut trees.



Wandering Roots Farm is now Certified Organic through Oregon Tilth. All methods of seeding, growing and harvesting are practiced in a sustainable and restorative manner. We do not use any chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides.

See all of our businesses supporters in our [Business Member Directory!](#)

Legislative Update

Make Monsanto and Scotts Pay

Don't let Scotts walk away scott free again like they are in Malheur county after their Genetically Engineered (GE) bent grass escaped and harmed both farmers and the county. Why should farmers and the county taxpayers have to pay for patent holder's negligence and faulty products when they escape and contaminate farmers' fields and public waterways?

HB 2739-1 (dash-1) is a bill to protect from the financial losses due to contamination from GE crops by holding the patent holders financially

responsible for the damages they cause to others. Oregon has no rules or regulations to protect us from unwanted GE contamination.

Take action now and tell our elected officials to support HB 2739-1 (dash-1) before the session comes to a close.

Write your Oregon state representative and state senator today letting them know you want them to support HB 2739-1 (dash-1).

Josephine County Legislative Update

Sadly we are at an impasse in Salem regarding the unjust situation of not upholding the Josephine county GE plant ordinance that was passed in 2014. Southern Oregon senators need to show support for correcting this social injustice that was done to the voters of Josephine county.

Please contact your Southern Oregon senator listed below and let him know that his constituents want a GMO free Rogue Valley. Voters in both Jackson and Josephine counties overwhelmingly passed ballot measures on the same day to protect their farmers from GE contamination. Jackson county's ordinance is now in effect. Josephine county's ordinance is pending a legislative fix because of language in SB 863. The will of the voters should stand.

Senator Herman E. Baertschiger Jr.
sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us
503-986-1702

Senator Alan DeBoer
sen.AlanDeBoer@oregonlegislature.gov
503-986-1703

Stay up to date on all the latest news on our Website and Facebook page!

NEWS

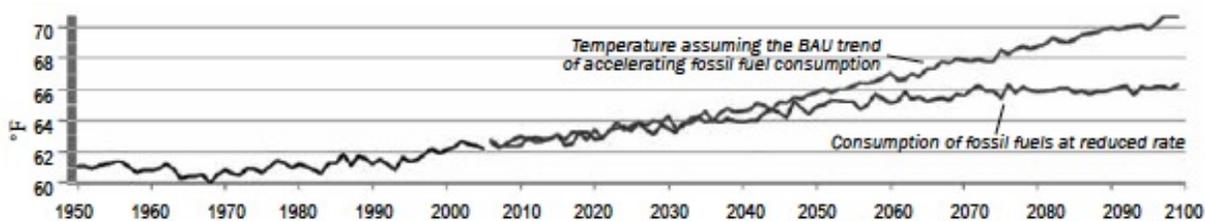
Global Warming and Sustainable Agriculture

By Dr. Ramon Seidler

Climate change is the “long-term” trends in the Earth’s climate (changes in temperature, wind, precipitation, strength and frequency of extreme weather events); global warming refers to the increase in Earth’s average surface temperature due to increased concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG). Sustainable agricultural practices are farming techniques that protect the environment, protect soil health and productivity, and protect public health, human communities, and animal welfare. How does all this come together?

A lot of Applegate Valley agriculture is known to involve sustainable and “near sustainable” agricultural practices. These practices protect neighbors, use few if any toxic synthetic pesticides and attract more consumers who seek foods, plants, and wine imbibe with enhanced health and nutritional properties.

Climate models suggest that global warming from the release of greenhouse gasses (GHG like carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide) will change everything about our future agriculture industry. Figure 1 shows temperature trends anticipated for Jackson County including the Applegate area based on mathematical modeling conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey scientists.



Temperature trends for the Rogue Valley from 1950 to 2100 using data from the US Geological Survey (2.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/clu_rd/nccv/viewer.asp). Graph provided by Alan Jourmet, PhD, of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now.

This graphic shows we have already experienced a 1.5°F mean increase in annual temperature during the 1950-2005 period. It shows another 4°F expected to be phased in over the next 40 years with another 4.1°F increase (9.6 total) by the end of the 21st century if we follow BAU.

These models predict less snow pack for summer irrigation, earlier spring snowmelt providing less irrigation water during the late growing season, and a reduction in soil moisture. Anticipated are changes in the current natural fauna and flora, a necessity to change crops using cultivars more adapted to a warmer environment (such as different wine varietals), possible losses of beneficial biological control and pollinator populations, warming river temperatures as riparian vegetation zones change (disappear?) and a significantly increased area involved in wildfires and therefore increased potential for soil erosion.

Scientists have estimated that the global food system and conventional agriculture contribute one-third of the GHG emissions and account for some 30% of the world's energy consumption.

Fossil fuel combustion for the production of ammonia fertilizer, mining and shipping of other mineral fertilizers, soil preparation, synthesis and application of pesticides, manufacturing farm equipment, and the harvesting and shipping of food thousands of miles from where it was produced all contribute to energy demands. In the Rogue Valley we are now receiving fruits including table grapes from Chile, located some 6,000 miles away.

Adding to the problem is the loss of soil organic matter as carbon dioxide, largely since WW II, due to farming practices that physically disturbed the soil and used non-specific toxic chemicals to control pests. This destroyed the soil's health and sustainability.

If some atmospheric carbon dioxide gas is sequestered back into the soils again forming soil organic carbon, scientists believe that further global warming can be at least partially slowed. It is possible that 5-15% of annual global carbon dioxide emissions can be offset by increased global soil carbon sequestration.

Financial incentives to sequester carbon by using sustainable agricultural practices include improved fertility and soil water holding capacity, and increased crop yields.

Soil carbon sequestration is only a minor part of the total repair of global warming. Reduction in fossil fuel emissions coupled with soil carbon

sequestration are vital combinations for buying time to find more significant ways to slow climate change.

Practices that facilitate soil carbon sequestration:

- Decreasing the level of soil disturbance (i.e. tillage).
- Increasing the mass of organic inputs to soils (organic fertilizers free of toxic chemicals, plants with numerous deep roots, cover crops).
- Improving soil microbial diversity and abundance (healthy soils by increased soil organic matter and avoiding pesticides).
- Adopting year-round cover crops, crop rotation.

Dr. Ray Seidler is a retired senior research scientist and Team Leader of the Genetically Engineered Organism biosafety program within the US EPA and former Professor of Microbiology at Oregon State University. Thanks to Dr. Alan Journet of SOCAN for Figure 1. Article Originally published in the Applegator, summer 2017 edition.

Are you a farmer?

Check out this [series of videos](#) created by the Integrated Crop Pollination Project about pollinators and habitat! From Pollinator Habitat 101 to explaining how to increase fruit production with bees, there will be something for every grower to incorporate into their farmscape.

Buy **SEED: The Untold Story** on DVD

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

Use code **OFFSEED** at seedthemovie.com and 30% 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.

Got Seed? Want Seed?

Input needed from Rogue Valley Farmers Who Buy Seed

Jackson County farmers who buy or sell seed 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 identify the seed needs of area farmers and connect area seed 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](#).

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Soil, Ecology and Climate

June 13-16 in Portland, Oregon

As part of the Soil, Ecology and Climate Series, the Soil Not Oil Coalition is hosting a panel presentation featuring James Cassidy, Senior Instructor of Soil Physics & Organic Agriculture at Oregon State University.

Garlic Seed Growing Farm Tour

June 22 from 6 to 8pm in Grants Pass, Oregon

A free SOSGA event. Take a tour of Whistling Duck Farm. Mary Alionis will discuss managing an online garlic seed company, explain garlic production and storage, and demonstrate her paper pot transplanter.

City of Talent celebrates National Pollinator Week

June 24 from 1 to 3 pm at the Talent Commons in Talent, Oregon

Bee City USA Subcommittee and the City of Talent will celebrate National Pollinator Week with children's activities, music, and refreshments and present information about local pollinators. Everyone is invited to this free event.

SOCAN Monthly Meeting

June 27 from 6 to 7:30 pm at The Farm at SOU in Ashland, Oregon

Brandon Schilling will led a field trip to tour the The Farm at SOU. The student-led organic Farm is a center for sustainability that produces healthy, sustainably harvested food for the SOU community. It is a hub for education, student and faculty research and community outreach to the Rogue Valley. Projects on The Farm inspire a generation of ecologically-committed leaders who promote a vision of living and working sustainably in community and on the land.

Deadline to sign up for the USDA Census of Agriculture

Make Sure Your Farm is Counted by June 30th!

The National Agricultural Statistics Service is conducting a census of all types of agricultural operations of all sizes. The census takes place every five years along with other agricultural surveys. All agricultural operations, large or small, are invited to participate.

Dry Farm Field Day

August 15 from 1 to 6 pm in Applegate, Oregon

The Field Day will begin at the OSU Extension Teaching Farm at 1 pm and continue to *Ridgeline Meadows Farm* in the Applegate. See crops grown without any supplemental irrigation and taste the results! A free event sponsored by SOSGA.

Our Family Farms Seed to Table Dinner

Saturday, August 19 at 6 pm at the Salant Family Ranch

Reserve your seat at our Annual Seed to Table Dinner! Join us at the Salant Family Ranch in the Applegate Valley (Jacksonville) for a four-course dinner prepared with local foods and flavors gathered from the Rogue Valley by Smithfield's Restaurant of Ashland. Tickets can be purchased online on our website.



Please 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.
