



Living on a Few Acres Conference

2017 Speakers

Francisca Belart is a native of Chile where she grew up on a family dairy farm. She is a Forest Engineer and after obtaining a MS degree from OSU, returned to Chile to work for a large forest company as a planning engineer. After nearly four years, she started working on her PhD and graduated last July. Only a few days later she became part of the Forestry and Natural Resources team at OSU as an Assistant Professor and Timber Harvesting Specialist.

Rocky Bessette is co-owner of Rockton Ranch in Redmond and she is in charge of the daily farm activities. The Ranch produces about 20-30 tons of mixed grass and barley hay annually. They compost all of the barnyard horse manure that is generated on the property and use this compost on fields, in their vegetable garden and in the landscape.

Mylen Bohle, Extension Agronomist, has been an OSU Extension agent for 28 years. He has a Master's degree from the Crop and Soil Science Department at OSU and Bachelor's degrees from Montana State University. Mylen has worked for the Montana Farmer Stockman and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia after growing up on a farm/ranch in S.E. Montana. He focuses on dryland and irrigated forage and cereals, irrigation and soils education and research.

Tim Deboodt serves the Central Oregon area as the OSU Extension Faculty member responsible for developing and delivering programs on rangelands, their use and management. Current research activities include the evaluation of Western juniper control on watershed function and hydrology, the impact of juniper harvest systems on Oregon's watersheds, assessing water quality parameters as influenced by land management activities and restoration of rangeland health using prescribed fire and other management practices.

Scott Duggan is the OSU Livestock Extension Faculty for Central Oregon, assisting livestock owners with their animals. He holds a Master's of Science degree in Agriculture from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA. He has many years of experience in the field of agriculture, including over 18 years of experience teaching agriculture at the high school and community college level. Scott has also worked in other areas of the industry including ranches, feedlots, retail agriculture stores and farms.

Charles Estill, DVM has been a practicing veterinarian for over forty years and has served as the OSU Extension veterinarian for the past 9 years. He has a long-standing interest in food animals and has spent considerable effort educating him, other veterinarians and producers on parasite management.

Laurie Gordon has been with ODA for almost 18 yrs. starting out as a Pesticide Investigator and moving into Pesticide Certification & Licensing. Prior to working for ODA, she was a Field Representative for DuPont Agricultural Products, a Noxious Weed Specialist in Colorado, a Greenhouse Manager, propagator, and a Research Assistant for the Colorado State University Horticulture Dept. She currently "lives on a few acres", raising sheep and eggs from chickens, ducks, turkeys, and geese. She also putters in her greenhouse and in her garden producing vegetables. When not doing farm chores, she spends time with her dogs, makes jewelry and teaches pesticide classes for Chemeketa and Central Oregon Community College.



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Kyle Gorman is the Region Manager for the Oregon Water Resources Department, has worked for the Water Resources Department for nearly 27 years as a Watermaster for the Deschutes Basin and then Region Manager for the South Central Region which includes the Deschutes, Lake and Klamath Basins. Outside of work he enjoys cycling, skiing, fishing and hiking and camping with his two sons, ages 11 and 17.

Kelley Hamby has been working for the District as a beneficial use specialist for over a year. Prior to him working in the office Kelley was a ditch rider and he brings a wealth of knowledge from both a field perspective and the logistical side of irrigation management.

Tammy Harty is the Manager of the Deschutes Soil & Water Conservation District. Her background includes a variety of Natural Resources organizations including for profit and non-profit water and agriculture organizations and agencies, worked for and with irrigation districts, service on various agriculture & water committees and she served on the Deschutes County Planning commission. She has lived on agricultural land and involved in horses and agricultural pursuits her entire life.

Leticia Henderson is the Baker and Union County livestock and natural resources agent. Since arriving at OSU in 2015, Leticia has built an Extension program that focuses on range livestock production, agricultural economics and natural resource management.

James Hermes has been the OSU Extension Poultry Specialist for 24 years, and was the District Poultry Extension Agent for 5 years prior to this. He has worked with several species of poultry-type birds including; broiler and layer chickens, turkeys, Japanese quail, Chucker partridge, Ring Neck pheasants, emu and cockatiels. His current research focus is local non-traditional feedstuffs for small flock and organic poultry production.

Gen Hubert manages the Water Leasing Program, Instream Transfers, the DRC's Groundwater Mitigation Bank, and the Blue Water Fund Raising Program. Gen joined the DRC in 2005. She coordinates with 8 irrigation districts and up to 200 landowners to protect up to 90 cfs annually through the instream leasing program. A Central Oregon native, Gen has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Advertising from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Policy and Range Management from Oregon State University.

Glenda Hyde is the Home Economist and Associate Professor (Practice) for OSU Extension Service in Central Oregon. She trains and coordinates the Master Food Preserver Program in Central Oregon and coordinates the food preservation public workshops in the region. In her spare time she enjoys herb and vegetable gardening in Sisters.

Nicholle Kovach is the Deschutes Basin Engineer for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She designs and manages irrigation, stream restoration and stock water projects throughout the Deschutes Basin.



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Ron Lane's college education is in the biological and environmental sciences. He has lived in Central Oregon for forty years, and he and his wife have gardened organically for nearly 20 years. Keeping bees was a natural overgrowth of gardening and this is their ninth season of beekeeping. They keep 15-20 hives and teach beekeeping classes each spring.

Kurt & Jenni Moffitt are soil scientists for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. They have spent the last decade investigating soils and ecological sites in Central Oregon.

Greg Mohnen, Ranch Manager, The McGinnis Ranch, was born and raised in S. Dakota and served two years in the Army. He moved to Oregon in 1984 and became the ranch manager at the McGinnis Ranch L.L.C. in 2000. He is President of the Central Oregon Hay Growers Association, President of the Oregon Hay and Forage Association, does custom farming and raises registered Angus cattle.

Dave Shaw is a Forestry and Natural Resources Extension, Forest Health Specialist and Associate Professor in the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management at Oregon State University.

Nicole Strong is the OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Agent for Central Oregon. Nicole's research and work focuses on empowering family woodland owners by helping them develop relevant knowledge and skills, and thus be able to make informed decisions regarding the stewardship of their lands. Nicole really enjoys teaching wildlife habitat enhancement workshops, as applied silviculture and wildlife knowledge can create a lot of win-wins for trees and critters both. Nicole has an M.S. in Forest Resources from Pennsylvania State University, and a B.S. in Wildlife Sciences from Purdue University.

Clare Sullivan recently joined as the Small Farms/Community Food Systems Extension Agent in Central Oregon, serving Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties. She is originally from Canada, but moved to Central Oregon from an OSU Extension job in the Willamette Valley. Clare very much enjoys working with growers in small, medium and large sized operations, and is excited to find out local growers' needs to address and strengthen the local food system.

James Berntson of Radicle Roots Farm, Amanda Benkert of Domegrown Produce, and Benji Nagel & Carys Williams of Mahonia Gardens are all new, young farmers in Central Oregon. All have small acreage and grow food for local farmers markets, restaurants or CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture).