



The Smallholding

Smallholding (n) 1. A piece of land and its adjacent living quarters for the smallholder and stabling for farm animals, on a smaller scale, usually under 50 acres. 2. A means of achieving self-sufficiency with the ability to supplement income by selling excess produce and meat.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL—JUNE 2007

.....
Inside this issue:

Update from the Small Farms Program	2
Guest Opinion: Pollinator Conservation	3
Expanding the Organic Seed Movement in SW Oregon	4
News & Resources	5
Selling Direct at the Rogue Valley Growers & Crafters Market	6
Calendar of Events	7
Ten Habits of Highly Profitable Farmers	7
Salmon-Safe Certification	8

Controlling Weeds on Your Small Farm

We welcome spring for many reasons—increasing day length, warmer weather and the spring bloom of trees, shrubs and flowers, but what we do not welcome is the emergence of weeds on our farms. Weeds can have various impacts on our farms including decreased grazing potential, decreased crop yields, increased erosion, toxicity to our animals and family, and decreased property values. They can also be costly to control. So, what can we do as small farmers and landowners to control weeds on our farms?

The first step in controlling weeds is to identify exactly what weeds you do have on your property. If you do not have any identification books on hand, you can use the internet or you can bring in a sample to the Extension office and we can help you identify it. Once identified, it is important to know the life cycle of the plant as well. Knowing whether it is an annual, perennial or biennial will affect your management decisions and control options.

An annual weed completes its life cycle in a single year. Preventing annual weeds from going to seed is the best con-

trol option, although it is important to remember that you may have a build-up of weed seed in your soil from past plant life cycles. Summer annuals live from spring to fall and winter annuals germinate in the fall and winter. Examples of common annual weeds in this area are pigweed, lamb's quarters, and yellow star thistle (winter annual).

A biennial weed requires two seasons to complete its life cycle. In the first year, it develops roots and low-growing foliage. In the second year, it will send up a flower stalk, set seed and mature. They are easiest to control in the first year by removing the rosettes. Common biennial weeds include teasel, bull thistle and poison hemlock.

A perennial weed lives more than two seasons. Year after year, perennial weeds will produce foliage, seed and mature. Most invasive weeds that we encounter are perennials. Some perennial seed can remain viable in the soil for years, sometimes germinating ten years later. Common perennials include dandelion, curly dock and field bindweed.

Prevention is crucial in managing the spread of weeds.



Yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)

Plant clean, weed-free seed in your pastures, minimize bare ground and overgrazing, plant and maintain desirable plant species and sanitize your equipment. Beyond prevention, there are mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical controls for each type of weed. Choose the method of control based on the plant's life cycle and your future objectives for the site.

Mechanical control of weeds physically disrupts weed growth. This is the oldest method of control and usually, the most effective for annual weeds as long as you apply the mechanical method before seed sets. Various methods of mechanical control include mowing, cultivation, hand-pulling, burning, mulching or solarizing.

Cultural control of weeds includes practices that

Continued on page 5

Spring Update from the Small Farms Program



It has been quite a busy winter in the Small Farms program. We accomplished a variety of exciting things that I'd like to share with you. First, as some of you may know, in November of last year, we added Maud Powell to the program as a quarter-time assistant. Maud comes to the program as an organic farmer and project manager for the Siskiyou Coop, who has a lot of passion for small farm viability in this region. We make a great team! She has been a valuable asset and addition to the efficacy of our work. Her position is grant-funded, so we are working to keep her on for another year with future grant funds.

We started off 2007 with a successful workshop on raising goats for meat and weed control. Although the weather was a bit snowy, we had 40 participants attend to learn new techniques about raising goats on small acreages. Suzanne Willow of Willow-Witt Ranch slaughtered a goat for the occasion and provided a fully catered dinner for the group. It was quite a meal with goat curry and stew abounding. Manda Doffing from Tri-R-Ranch was also there to tell us how she raises meat goats on her ranch in Glendale. Angie Bodreau presented on goat browsing and Shelby Filley from OSU Extension in Douglas County talked about goat nutrition. I filled in with information on meat goat marketing. The proceedings from this workshop are available on the Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center website. We also have a notebook of information available if you are interested in receiving a copy of that.

OSU Extension worked with THRIVE and ACCESS, INC. to hold a day-long workshop in February to examine our community food needs. Fifty representatives from various food and community organizations came together for a day of discussion to identify shortcomings in our Jackson County food system. I assisted in facilitating the agriculture breakout group, which was made up of local farmers, community members and farmers' market reps. We identified two important needs in regards to agriculture in our region: one, the need for more farmers to grow meat and produce to meet increasing food needs (and to match those farmers with affordable farmland) and the need for a USDA-certified slaughter and processing plant to make local meat products readily available to the community. We continue to work on these projects, so if you are interested in participating or finding out more information, please give a call.

Another major accomplishment for the winter was the im-

plementation of OSU Extension Small Farm's first-ever business planning course. It was a six-week course in which specialty crop growers came together once a week to learn risk management tools for their small farm including direct marketing and production techniques, financial and business planning as well as setting goals and values. Twenty-eight farmers participated in the class, all a mix of different farms and farm products. This project was funded by the USDA-Risk Management Agency and if all goes well with funding, we will hold the class again next year and open it up to both livestock and crop producers. Agricultural professionals as well as 13 local farmers taught the classes. We also ate dinner together with fabulous meals provided by Forage Catering. The course ended at the beginning of March, but we are following up with a field day to two organic, specialty crop farms in April. Overall, the course was quite successful in providing basic information on business planning to small farmers and in creating a new community and network of farmers able to call upon each other in the future.

If that isn't enough, I facilitated a session at the annual February Small Farms Conference in Corvallis in which we took a look at the possibility of beginning an Oregon Women & Small Farms Network. The attendance at the session was very good, in which we heard women farmers communicate they were very interested in networking and mentoring opportunities with other women working on small farms. We hope to launch this sort of network in Jackson, Josephine & Douglas counties in the fall—most likely taking the form of a “women in sustainable agriculture” mentoring and discussion group. Please give us a call at the office if you are interested in getting involved.

With all of this behind us, I can begin thinking about summer and fall programming. It will be a bit quiet in the program this summer as I will be going on leave to take care of my new baby due in May. However, Maud Powell will remain on staff while I am away, so if you have questions or inquiries, please do not hesitate to call upon her. I will be back in August with many exciting classes and workshops on the horizon. Topics in the works are soil fertility management for small farms, horses and mud, pasture management, organic vegetable production and planning, irrigation management and systems, and the butchering of small animals on the farm. And hopefully, we will be planning another business planning course to take place next January. So, that's it for now. Enjoy the new growing season and please call on us for your questions and inquiries. ☼ -M

Guest Opinion: Pollinator Conservation

-Kelton Shockey

Many types of insects and animals can be pollinators; however, species of the genus *Apis* are the main pollinators of North American crops. Despite their small size, bees are important to pollinating American crops and natural plants alike through their ability to increase crop yields. This discussion will refer to only one species of pollinator, *Apis mellifera*, the common honey bee found in the American market.

Throughout history, the honey bee has pollinated crops naturally. The earliest record of bees appear as fossil deposits from about thirty five million years ago at the time of the Oligocene period. For centuries, bees and humans have maintained a balanced relationship, although the development of the movable Langstroth hives in the mid-19th century has changed beekeeping from a small endeavor to a large scale operation where hives can be moved long distances for increased crop and honey yields.

In the world of contemporary beekeeping, the honey bee plays an important role in crop productivity and the income of beekeepers. For example, imported colonies of honey bees pollinate large monoculture orchards. Sometimes, these bees move many times during a season to perform this task. Only recently has there been a significant loss of natural pollinators in North America. In the last twenty years the number of colonies in the United States has gone from about seven million to little more than two million. Some of this loss could be due to increasing U.S honey imports from other countries, mainly China and Argentina. Among other reasons for this decline could be the cultivation of large monocultures, the use of herbicides and pesticides, loss of plant diversity and the increase of diseases and parasites. Worthy of exploration are two other factors and these have to do with contemporary beekeeping practices: the attempt to destroy dis-

ease and threats instead of strengthening against them and mass colony transportation for widespread crop pollination.

In nature, honey bees are a home-based society. Usually, a hive is set in one location for years. The colony lives on year after year like a well functioning village. Every day the worker bee returns home thousands of times. They swarm and re-queen when their "village" finds it necessary. They are involved in keeping their colony strong. This "village" idea does not exist in contemporary practice. Contemporary practices introduce bees from other colonies, discourage swarming and incorporate queens from elsewhere. The colony sometimes moves hundreds of miles. Does turning a very home-based agricultural species into a nomadic species contribute to spreading disease? Can the stress factor of movement from the original location as well as mixing the populations of colonies cause the weakening of the hive?

Instead of attempting to destroy mites through medication we should focus on strengthening hives. A strengthened hive will be more resistant to disease. It is possible that the movement and transport of colonies is partly responsible for the recent decline in the general strength of the bee, making it no longer resistant to opportunistic diseases and parasites like the varroa and tracheal mite.

We should also consider the practice of supplementing the hive with sugar. During the pollination season bees come to agricultural fields where they build honey stores for the winter. After the season is over, beekeepers truck the bees home where they glean local nectar and feed on a sugar and water mixture to make up for the honey that was harvested. Honey, which is the bee's natural diet, has a very different molecular structure than sugar, a much cheaper alternative. Could feeding bees a supplement that

is molecularly different have, over generations, a negative effect in weakening the bees' immunity against the havoc created by the mites, nosema, American foulbrood, etc? Is feeding the bees sugar the equivalent of feeding them "junk food?" Corn syrup does not have any minerals in it, where as honey, which the bees would naturally eat, is very high in minerals. It may not be economical to supplement with honey. However, could a supplement that is molecularly similar to honey be developed? Or, do we have to forgo some honey for the sake of our hives?

The problem of declining bee populations is very real. Honey bees do not just provide honey, they are vital to the production of many foods. It would be a great folly to lose this species. The large monoculture model, though, may no longer be sustainable. Perhaps, a system that develops local pollination and builds strong local farmer and beekeeper relations could prevent the loss of *Apis mellifera*. Would returning to more traditional beekeeping methods, while maintaining some modern methods, help preserve the honey bee?

Apis mellifera, the common honeybee, is not the only pollinator in North America; in fact, many other insects pollinate our crops and natural vegetation alike. However, if the honeybee goes extinct through our own lack of understanding, the natural pollinators such as bumble bees, mason bees, butterflies, moths, etc. may not be sufficient to provide the amount of pollination needed to support America's agriculture alone. As Albert Einstein said, "If the honeybee goes, we have four more years to live on Earth."

Kelton Shockey is thirteen years old and has been participating in Jackson County 4 - H. He lives on a small farm in the mountains where he raises Dexter cows which he milks. He also has been taking care of the smallest livestock on the farm as the resident beekeeper.

Expanding the Organic Seed Movement in SW Oregon —Maud Powell

Southwestern Oregon is an excellent seed growing region. The hot, dry summers give seeds ample time to fully mature and dry down before the autumn rains begin. The mountainous terrain creates diverse micro-climates in which many different seed varieties will thrive. The Siskiyou Sustainable Cooperative (SSC), formally established in 2003, has worked for the past four years to expand the capacity of organic seed growers in the region. While SSC is a relatively new organization, there is a long history of seed growing in the area. Some of the pioneers of the organic seed movement started growing in the Williams Valley in the early 1970s, including the founders of the first exclusively organic seed company, Seeds of Change.

SSC's interest in this work has been in response to two recent national developments that resulted in greater opportunities for seed growers. First, the National Organic Program—which standardizes the federal requirements for organic certification—requires all organic producers to use organic seed, giving a huge boost to the organic seed industry. Even though growers can bypass the requirements through several loopholes, seed companies offering organic lines have reported a spike in demand for organic seed since 2003. Secondly, the consolidation of many of the world's largest seed companies has resulted in a streamlining of varieties and the loss of many heirloom strains. Some of the smaller companies are taking up the charge of maintaining these varieties and are seeking out small farmers willing to grow them out, presenting farmers with new enterprise opportunities.

In 2004 and 2005, SSC received two USDA Value Added Producer grants to further the development of a viable, regional seed-growing movement. The first grant provided funding to study the feasibility of developing a seed cooperative business. The second grant enabled SSC to launch a coop-

erative marketing and quality assurance program. In 2006, SSC hired Liz Baum to act as the marketing coordinator for the eight SSC seed growers and Don Tipping as the SSC field technician to provide consulting and oversight for the growers. Through the program, SSC growers were able to secure more seed contracts and had access to support throughout the growing season.

In addition, SSC teamed up with Thrive (The Rogue Initiative for a Vital Economy) to help tool up area seed growers. Local seed growers have always cleaned their seed by hand, with screens, fans and buckets. While these systems work well, they are quite labor intensive and can be a limiting factor in how much seed growers are willing to grow. During the research phase of the feasibility study, SSC identified five pieces of equipment that would be most useful to growers and the most appropriate scale for the amount of seed being grown in the region.

Last winter, SSC and Thrive applied for two state economic development grants from SOREDI to purchase four pieces of seed cleaning equipment. The equipment purchased includes two Allis Chalmers All-Crops (large, stationary threshing machines used during the initial cleaning phase), one Vac-Away cleaner, and one Clipper Eclipse (both used for finer cleaning).

Thrive and SSC drew up a formal agreement detailing the roles and responsibilities of each organization. As a legal cooperative and not a non-profit organization, SSC could not apply for the funds directly. Thrive's board of directors believed that its mission justified applying for the grant on behalf of all organic seed growers in the region.

SSC's responsibilities are to insure, house and maintain the equipment, keep accurate records, and make the

equipment available to all organic seed growers, not just SSC members. The SSC seed group, which oversees the equipment, has designated an equipment steward for each of the four pieces of equipment. The steward is responsible for safely housing and maintaining the equipment, and for training any new grower how to use it. Two pieces of equipment are located in Williams; the other two are in the Little Applegate Valley. Any grower interested in using the equipment must pay a one-time fee of \$100, and then a \$20 per day fee for each piece of equipment used. The money generated from user fees go to costs associated with repair and maintenance and eventually to replace the equipment. Fees also compensate the equipment stewards for training new growers. Growers interested in using the equipment must have certified organic farms in order to maintain standards required by seed companies.

So far, access to the cleaning equipment has given some small farmers the confidence to grow more seed. Ryan Dolan, of L&R Family Farm in Williams explained, "The All-Crops are excellent for cleaning radish seed, so seed companies have been willing to award us more radish contracts and we can take on those contracts without feeling overwhelmed by the labor of cleaning them all by hand." The equipment also improves the germination rate of the seed lots by removing more of the inert seed, thus giving seed companies an incentive to work with local growers.

Small farms looking to diversify their businesses may want to consider pursuing organic seed, with market demands increasing and a local cooperative of seed growers working to mobilize resources. If you are interested in using the equipment or working with the Siskiyou Cooperative seed group, please contact Maud Powell, at 899-9668.☼

News & Resources

- **Participate in the National Agricultural Census!** Census data is used by communities, universities, local and state government to make decisions about the future of farming. Call 1-800-892-1660 to sign up to receive a data form or go to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/counts>. Make sure your farm gets counted in 2008!
- **Organic Price Index on NewFarm.org**—The OPX is an online tool that helps you price competitively. The tool tracks selected prices from the fruit, vegetable, herbs and grain sectors, comparing organic prices to conventional prices in markets across the country.
- **Cow-Calf Management Guide now online!**—Go to <http://www.csubeef.com/> and register free to access the complete guide, which includes information on nutrition, breeding, health, marketing and more.
- **Interested in marketing your products directly to consumers?** Get listed in the 2007 *Rogue Flavor* guide. Farmers, ranchers, wineries, CSAs, farm stands, u-picks are invited to participate in the region's premier food and farming publication. Over 10,000 copies distributed in Jackson and Josephine counties educating consumers on why and where to buy local. For more information, call Lori at 772-4614.
- **Small Farm Enterprise Opportunity!** Are you interested in growing hops? Standing Stone Brewing Company is looking for a locally grown source of organically grown hops. Will work toward long-term relationship. Contact Alex at 494-8333.

Controlling Weeds continued from page 1

encourage desirable plant growth.

Fertilization, irrigation, and planting appropriate species at optimum densities are practices that help desirable plants out-compete weeds. Common cultural methods of control include shading, water and nutrient management, proper seedbed preparation, planting of native species, and destruction of weed competition before planting.

Biological control is the intentional use of living organisms to reduce the population of a pest. Biological control can reduce pesticide use and can efficiently suppress weed populations, but it is not a total eradication option. Biological control in the state of Oregon has been used on many weeds including yellow star thistle, leafy spurge and bull thistle, just to name a few.

Chemical control is the use of existing herbicides to control weeds. Effective use of herbicides is determined by knowing the life cycle of your plant, understanding pesticide safety, and

reading the label for proper application and protections. Think about what you would like to do with the area when the weeds are eradicated. If you are going to use herbicides, make

Online Resources

OSU Extension Service

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>

ODA Noxious Weed Control

<http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/>

PNW Weed Management Handbook

<http://weeds.ippc.orst.edu/pnw/weeds>

OSU Crop & Soil Science Weed ID

<http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/weeds/id.html>

Weed Science Society of America

<http://www.wssa.net/>

sure the residues will not affect the future use of that site. It is also important to know if the herbicide is selective or non-selective, so you do not

accidentally kill plants that you had not meant to kill. The Pacific Northwest Weed Handbook is a great resource and lists various weeds and their chemical control with proper application rates and times. See sidebar for information.

In general, inventory the weeds on your property and identify them properly. Ask yourself what land management changes you can make on the farm in order to minimize your weed problems. Decide on the best method of control based on the plant's biology and then monitor your success over time. Weed management is a long-term process and there are usually no short-term solutions for large infestations, but successful weed control is possible with accurate information and management techniques. For more in-depth information on weed control, please go to the OSU Extension website or attend one of OSU Extension's weed identification and control classes. The next one is coming up at the end of April!☀

Selling Direct at the Rogue Valley Growers & Crafters Market –Mary Ellen DeLuca

Farmers' markets offer a secure, reliable and flexible marketing outlet for farmers to sell a wide range of products. It is a terrific place for new farmers to start selling direct as the costs for vending are low and the return from customers is high. Selling at the farmers' market can also lead to other sales including ethnic markets and subscription sales. The amount of operating farmers' markets in the US has seen a steady increase in the last ten years, with an 18.6% increase in farmers' markets since 2004. More communities across the country are seeing the value of farmers' markets as consumer demand increases for locally-grown products and the number of small, diversified farms grows.

The Rogue Valley Growers and Crafters Market (RVGCM) is a not-for-profit mutual benefit corporation. It welcomes residents of Josephine, Jackson, and Siskiyou Counties to join as members of a thriving local marketplace. RVGCM has articles, bylaws, guidelines, and a code of ethics, which sets the foundation of the market. A nine-member Board of Directors runs the market putting their hearts into providing a safe, compliant and lasting market.

The market established in 1987 to provide growers a venue to sell fresh produce. Today, the market focuses on foods in many forms, including prepared foods, jams, honey, eggs and meat. The market also includes vendors selling agriculturally related hand-made crafts. The market takes place on Tuesdays in Ashland at the Ashland Armory and Thursdays in Medford at the Medford Armory. The market welcomes new businesses of any type including growers, crafters and other food entrepreneurs.

Members pay an annual fee of \$50.00 to become a part of the RVGCM. Members who pay before March 31st receive a discount of \$25.00. If you

want to sell direct at the market, you must pay a booth space fee of \$15.00 per market. This fee only applies when a vendor attends the market. It is up to the vendor which market they would like to sell at.

Growers have the easiest avenue for acceptance as members. Growers fill out an application and pay the necessary fees in order to sell at the market. A grower or farmer must provide certification documents from an accredited USDA certifying agency if they claim their product is organic. A nursery license is also necessary when a grower sells bedding plants.

Any new food processors and crafters that would like to sell at the market must attend a jury committee meeting and present their products to the Board. This takes place twice a year in February and May. This year the meeting will take place on May 10th. Food processors also need to acquire various licenses and insurance including handling, certified kitchen and restaurant licensing as well as product liability insurance.



Fry Family Farm at the Rogue Valley Growers & Crafters Market.

The season begins in mid-March and continues through mid-November. The market features fresh in-season produce; organically grown vegetables, fruits and herbs; trees, bedding plants, and perennials; fresh cut and dried flowers; baked goods and specialty foods; and locally hand-crafted items



Angelika Curtis sells honey at the Rogue Valley Growers & Crafters Market.

The market also holds several special events throughout the market season to promote the market and encourage consumer participation. This is a great way for the market to attract more customers for local businesses selling at the RVGCM. Upcoming events this year include a spring planting show, a kids' day at the market and a tomato taste-off (held in conjunction with THRIVE's Eat Local Week).

For more information about selling at the market, please visit the website at www.rvgrowersmarket.com or call 261-5045.☼

Mary Ellen DeLuca is the Market Manager for the RVGCM.

Direct Marketing Resources

- **Rogue Valley Growers and Crafters Market**
www.rvgrowersmarket.com
- **Agriculture Market Resource Center—AgMRC**
www.agmrc.org/homepage.html
- **ATTRA** www.attra.org
- **OSU Small Farms**
<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu>
- **North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association**
www.nafdma.com
- **Alternative Farming Systems Information Center**
<http://afsic.nal.usda.gov>

Calendar of Events

- **Tuesday, April 24th, 5:30—7:30 p.m., Weed Control & Identification, \$5**

This class is for the small acreage landowner who is interested in effective ways to control common weeds on their property. Topics will include how to identify common weeds growing in this area, various ways to prevent weed invasion as well as the most effective control methods for different weeds. OSU Extension resource materials will be available for small landowners. Participants are encouraged to bring samples of weeds they would like identified. Location: OSU Extension Auditorium, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point. To register, call Sheila at 776-7371.

- **Saturday, May 5, 2007, 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Pond School 2007: Creating and Maintaining a Healthy Pond**

This workshop is intended for anyone interested in ponds, ornamental and pond fishes, or the distribution of information about pond management and fish health. Location: La Sells Stewart Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. For registration or more information, go to www.oregonaquaculture.org.

- **Wednesday, August 15th, 5:30—8:00 p.m., Pasture Management 101**

Pasture Management 101 is for the small acreage landowner who has pasture or who is thinking about putting in pasture. Topics will include how to establish a new pasture and how to renovate a damaged one as well as how to identify which forage grasses are growing in your pasture. Topics also include grass growth cycles and proper grazing management. OSU Extension resource materials will be available for small landowners. Location: OSU Extension Auditorium, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point.

**Want to add your event or meeting to this list? Submit your information via email to
melissa.matthewson@oregonstate.edu**

Ten Habits of Highly Profitable Farmers

The Editors of Pro Farmer studied the habits of profitable farmers to see if there was any consistent management practices among these farmers. Here are some of the practices they identified. Perhaps you are doing many of them, but they might be a good list to review to improve your farm management skills and profitability.

1. The number one habit identified was the ability of the operators to look at their farming operation with a total systems approach. Operating their farms as a system means these highly profitable farmers organize all of their life's activities to achieve the goals they have defined for a profitable and successful life. They focus their attention to vision of the business, the mission of the business, their values and their goals. These four elements give purpose, continuity and control to all aspects of the farming business and to their lives.

2. The second common habit was to manage the risk of the business. Risk Management involves looking at farm

insurance needs to protect property and growing crops. It also involves the use of marketing tools to strive to cover the cost of production. This may involve forward pricing as well as use of the futures market.

3. The third habit is to look at what you can learn from "what-if" scenarios. This process encourages you to look at the results of changing management and inputs into your farm, before the actual change is made.

4. The fourth habit is to establish a peer group and bounce around ideas that you have about changes. This might be part of a farm organization or it may be a small group of trusted neighbors, family or friends.

5. The fifth habit is to develop alliances that can be mutually beneficial. This might include the trading of management ideas, labor, or machinery.

6. The sixth habit is to actively manage the resources available to your business. After you have determined

your resources you need to decide how you can best put them to use.

7. The seventh habit is continuously assessing your personal performance. This would include your use of time as well as how your farm financial analysis compares to industry standards.

8. The eighth habit is to move quickly in implementing new ideas and change so you can capture opportunities. But do this with some planning and calculation.

9. The ninth habit is to capitalize on market opportunities that will assure you a profit. This may mean foregoing receiving the highest prices, if you decide to sell when you can lock in a profit.

10. The tenth habit is to work toward continually improving your person and business performance.

If your goal is to be a profitable full time farmer, you have to review your management practices continually. ☼

From Ag Opportunities, March 2007, Volume 18, Number 3

Newsletter of the SW Oregon Small Farms Program.

Oregon State University Extension
Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center
569 Hanley Road
Central Point, OR 97502

Phone: 541-776-7371 x208

Fax: 541-776-7373

E-mail: melissa.matthewson@oregonstate.edu

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEDFORD, OR
PERMIT NO. 204



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://EXTENSION.OREGONSTATE.EDU/SOREC/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/)

Salmon-Safe: Southwest Oregon Growers Practice Watershed-Friendly Farming *-Tim Franklin*



In southwest Oregon, most streams running through farmland have poorer water quality and habitat conditions, and far fewer native salmon than they had historically. The majority of salmon spawning habitat—high quality or poor—occurs in agricultural areas. Contrary to public opinion, farmers care a great deal about the streams running through their lands and often go to great lengths to care for those systems. A growing number of such farmers in southern Oregon are committing to practicing a more watershed-friendly agriculture through the Salmon-Safe certification program.

The Salmon-Safe label represents efforts to restore watershed ecosystems, reconnect farmers with local communities, build local support for watershed friendly agriculture, and develop a local market that provides farmers in

the area with viable livelihoods. About 30 farms have certified Salmon-Safe in the Applegate and Rogue valleys, implementing practices ranging from riparian restoration to eliminating the use of herbicides and pesticides. Participants range from market farms and livestock operations to seed and medicinal herb growers.

Not all Salmon-Safe farms have streams on or adjacent to their properties, but growers recognize that what happens in the uplands often is expressed down slope in the streams and rivers that drain their watershed. These farmers also work to restore native woodlands and other upland wildlife habitats as well, helping to realize Salmon-Safe's "ridge top to ridge top" approach to watershed restoration.

Watching salmon or steelhead spawn in a stream you've worked hard to

restore sure feels good. It doesn't hurt business to get a little recognition for your efforts, either.

In addition to these benefits, Salmon-Safe helps provide technical and financial assistance to accomplish on-farm improvements – projects that improve fish and wildlife habitat as well as the bottom line. Over half the Salmon-Safe farms in southern Oregon have joined in such projects, ranging from stream channel and riparian restoration to water-conserving irrigation improvements.

Certification usually costs around \$200 every 3 years. That costs drops to \$99 if the grower seeks a joint organic – Salmon-Safe certification through Oregon Tilth.

For further information on the program, or to join, contact Tim Franklin at 541-899-9982, ext 3#. ☼