

Notes from



THE BARNYARD

News for Farmers, Ranchers, and Eaters

Family Farms Mean Business Event Brings Farmers, Local Food Advocates to the State Capitol

Earlier this week, Friends of Family Farmers held our fourth biennial **'Family Farms Mean Business' Rally** and day of action at the State Capitol in Salem.

The **day of events drew over 100 farmers, ranchers, students and local food supporters to the Capitol building** to talk with legislators and rally in support of efforts important to Oregon's small and mid-sized farmers and ranchers and family-scale sustainable agriculture.

Inside the Capitol throughout the day, local producers gave out free samples and talked with legislators and their staff about the importance of farm-direct agriculture and strong local food systems. In the morning, in-depth policy presentations drew dozens of local farmers and farm



Local chefs and farmers celebrating local, sustainable agriculture at the 2017 Family Farms Mean Business Day at the Capitol in Salem.

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supporters from across Oregon, with welcome remarks delivered by Oregon Department of Agriculture Director Alexis Taylor.

For information on legislation Friends of Family Farmers is working on in Salem this year, check out our [Legislative Priorities fact sheet](#).

Even if you couldn't make it to Salem for the Family Farms Mean Business Day at the Capitol this year, we hope you will **write and call your State Legislators** in support of these legislative priorities. **Every call and email makes a difference!**



Whether you are contacting your Legislators to support **SB 197** to provide needed air quality rules for Oregon's growing number of extremely large mega-dairies, **HB 2739** to hold patent-holders of genetically engineered crops responsible when their products cause problems, **SB 1037** to restore the rights of local communities to establish rules to address problems with genetically engineered crops, **HB 2085** to create a beginning farmer tax credit, **HB 2038** to fund Oregon's Farm-to-School program, or all of these and other bills we are supporting, **your voice can make a difference and is needed now.**

We'd like to thank everyone who came to Salem and participated in this great event!

Spring Brings Changes at Friends of Family Farmers

Spring is a time of renewal and change, and this month brings both endings and exciting beginnings at FoFF. It is with sadness that we are announcing that **Sarah Peters**, our Executive Director, will have her last day at FoFF on April 13. She is leaving us to pursue her career in Eugene, where she has a home and family. Sarah has been with us for two years, and has seen us through many transitions. Our Board of Directors will be working to determine what steps are needed to fill Sarah's shoes, so please stay tuned.

Calendar of Events

April 8 - Soil School - Portland

April 8 - Welding and Basic Metal Work for Small Farms - Medford

April 8 - Mid Valley Community Food System Gathering - Salem

April 8 - Compost Workshop - Eugene

April 13 - USDA Whole Farm Revenue Protection Workshop - Central Point

April 19-20 - Forage Management Series: Farm and Forage Assessment - Corvallis

April 20 - Feeding and Marketing Pigs - Tangent

April 20 - Stories from the Soil - Bend

April 21-22 - Pacific Overland Expo - Horsedrawn Vehicle and Equipment Auction - McMinnville

April 22 - Living on Your Land/Tree School Rogue - Grants Pass

April 25 - InFARMation - Portland

April 25 - Crop Talks - Hood River

April 26 - Domestic Well Safety: Well and Groundwater Basics - Woodburn

April 27 - Marketing Your Farm/Food Business Workshop - Hood River

This month, we also welcome a new Organizer to our team, **Lindsay Trant**, who will work part-time until she finishes a Masters degree at Oregon State University. Lindsay comes to us with several years of Oregon farming experience, in addition to a strong background in policy, research, and event planning. In the near term, Lindsay will focus on management of **Oregon Farm Link** and engaging producers in our **Oregon Pasture Network** program, as well as organizing events and outreaching to farmers and ranchers throughout Oregon.

And, because the Oregon Legislature is in full swing until at least the end of June, our Policy Director **Ivan Maluski**, will be continuing his work advocating in support of FoFF's legislative priorities and watchdogging decisions that impact Oregon's family farms. You can track his latest dispatches from the Oregon Legislature on our '**Muckboots in the Capitol**' blog.

During this time of new beginnings and ongoing work, we remain committed to supporting Oregon's socially responsible family-scale farmers and ranchers, and we welcome your continued support in that effort. Please be sure to **visit our website** for the latest news and updates on how you can be involved.

May 9 - New Organic Animal Welfare Standards - Webinar



FoFF's New Organizer Lindsay Trant

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We bring together farmers and citizens to shape and support socially and environmentally responsible family-scale agriculture in Oregon.

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