Watchdogging Corporate Ag in Oregon

Friends of Family Farmers provides a unique voice that challenges the influence and power of large corporate agribusiness interests in Oregon. We represent truly independent small and mid-sized family farmers and ranchers, not out-of-state or multi-national companies. That's why we've launched a new blog series on our website called Corporate Ag Watch, to connect the dots between money and politics in our state and to expose how much influence corporate and often out-of-state agribusiness interests actually have here.

While Oregon agriculture is predominantly made up of small and mid-sized family farms, this future is at risk. Of the state’s approximately 35,500 farms, 84% are individually or family owned and 81% are under 180 acres in size. But between 2002 and 2012, the state lost over 10% of its farms, with the biggest growing bigger even as many smaller farms struggled.

There are a number of reasons for these trends, but not lost on us is the fact that Oregon is one of a just handful of states that allows unlimited corporate campaign contributions to candidates for public office. From our perspective, there is no doubt that unlimited corporate campaign money and lobbying efforts funded by big companies are having an effect on the types of food and farm policies we see here in Oregon.
This includes the 2017 Oregon Legislative Session which ended on July 7. We've posted our analysis on the wins, losses and mixed results from the session in our final Muckboots in the Capitol blog of the year. In the meantime, stay tuned to our Corporate Ag Watch blog for regular updates on what's going on behind the scenes.

The Oregon Pasture Network Product Guide is Here!

Do you want to support Oregon farmers that raise animals as nature intended on pasture? Well, check out our brand new Oregon Pasture Network Product Guide! Follow this link to navigate an online directory of pasture raised products raised by our Oregon Pasture Network (OPN) Partners. This Guide will help you find products from eggs to meat and dairy in locations across the state, raised on pasture by socially and environmentally responsible small and mid-sized producers. Be sure to check the guide frequently as we add new Pasture Partners to our network and update the Guide with new information. Our Oregon Pasture Network Program Coordinator Lindsay Trant has done a great job assembling this Guide, the only statewide pasture-raised product guide of its kind. Let her know if you have any questions.

If you are a pasture based livestock or poultry producer in Oregon and are interested in joining the OPN, we encourage you to apply today! Our application can be found here. Questions can be sent to opn@friendsoffamilyfarmers.org or you can call us at (503) 581-7124.

Meet Our Board:
Susan Richman

August 15 - Dry Farming Field Day - Applegate
August 16-17 - OSU Forage Management Series, Fertility - Corvallis
August 22 - Dry Farming Field Day - Elmira/Veneta
August 29 - Dry Farming Field Day - Philomath/Covallis
September 10 - 16 - Organically Grown in Oregon Week - Statewide
September 19 - Fall Pasture Grazing and Nutrient Management Field Workshop - Dallas, OR
September 20-21 - OSU Forage Management Series, Pasture Renovation Techniques - Corvallis
September 21 - Small Farm School - Oregon City
September 23 - Goat Education Day - Central Point
December 3 - Portland Fill Your Pantry - Save the Date!
Oregon Farm Link promotes the next generation of agriculture in Oregon by facilitating connections between landowners and beginning farmers, providing online resources, and keeping an up-to-date farm job listings page.

In pursuit of this mission, we continue to adapt Oregon Farm Link to better suit the needs of farmers in all stages of their operations. To that end, we recently added a new resource page that provides information and tips for leasing farmland.

We have also created a simple 'How to Create a Land Listing on Oregon Farm Link' step-by-step guide. To check it out, click the image on the left.

Susan Richman is one of our newest board members, but is no stranger to sustainable agriculture in Oregon. She farms with draft horses at Belle Mare Farm in Willamina, growing heritage grains and hay, raising grass-fed beef and lamb, and pasture-raising pigs and poultry for farm-direct sales. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of California with an emphasis in Equine Studies.

Over the past several years, she has been active with the Willamina Farmers Market and has hosted horse farming workshops aimed at teaching these important skills to a new generation of horse-powered farm enthusiasts. As an experienced farmer, rural Oregonian active in her community, and a member of our Oregon Pasture Network, Susan is a great addition to the Friends of Family Farmers' Board!
We bring together farmers and citizens to shape and support socially and environmentally responsible family-scale agriculture in Oregon.