Last Chance to Speak Up for Good Food and Farm Priorities at the Oregon Legislature!

The 2017 Oregon Legislative Session is quickly nearing its July 10 end date. But State Legislators have still not figured out how to address a massive budget shortfall. As a result, many good food and farm bills and funding priorities are stuck in limbo, or face significant cuts. With impending deadlines for the Legislature to act, now is the time to RAISE YOUR VOICE in support of the following food and farm priorities by calling or emailing your State Legislators:

**HB 2038** - Full funding ($5.6 million) for Oregon’s Farm to School Program. Farm to School is in jeopardy this year because of the state’s budget problems – Governor Kate Brown proposed no funding for it, and Legislators are also considering substantial cuts or no funding at all. **Now is a critical time to call and email your State Legislators to say 'I support full funding for Oregon's Farm to School Program. Please pass HB 2038!'**

**HB 2085** - Establishes a **beginning farmer tax credit in Oregon** to encourage landowners to lease or rent land to beginning farmers and
ranchers. Access to land is a major obstacle for younger farmers, but as the state grapples with potential budget cuts, this bill is at risk. Similar tax credit programs have been successful in Iowa and Nebraska, and late last month Minnesota created one too. It's not too late for the Oregon Legislature to act on HB 2085. Call or email your State Legislators to say 'I support a beginning farmer tax credit for Oregon. Please pass HB 2085!'

**HB 2739** - A bill to protect farmers who have experienced financial losses due to contamination from genetically engineered (GE) crops. Oregon has no rules or regulations to protect farmers from unwanted GE contamination and this bill would put the power back into farmers' hands. With time running out on the session, now is a critical time to tell your State Legislators that 'Oregon needs to hold GE patent-holders accountable when they cause farmers financial harm. Please pass HB 2739!'

Every call and email can make a difference! In your calls and emails, be sure to list your name and where you live, tell them which bill(s) you are contacting them about, and tell them the position you'd like them to take. You can read a more detailed article about these bills and others in our latest Muckboots in the Capitol legislative blog post.

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### Oregon Pasture Network Update - June 16

**Square Dance!**

This spring and summer, we've got some exciting things happening with our Oregon Pasture Network (OPN)! On Friday, June 16th, we'll be having a square dance benefiting OPN at the ZCBJ Hall in Scio, Oregon. The dance will feature live music from the Slippery Slope String Band with dances called by acclaimed caller Woody Lane. All experience levels are welcome. **Click here for more details and to purchase tickets in advance** - tickets are only $10 per person and kids under 12 are free!

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### Calendar of Events!

- **June 8-9** - Produce Grower Food Safety Training - Aurora
- **June 9** - Farm Practices to Support Beneficial Insects - Central Point
- **June 13** - Organic Strawberry Plug Workshop - Salem
- **June 16** - Square Dance Benefit for FoFF’s Oregon Pasture Network - Scio
- **June 20** - Bee Better Certification Webinar
- **June 26** - Beginning Adult Tractor Safety Class - Aurora
- **June 21-23** - Youth Tractor Safety Classes - Aurora
- **June 22** - Garlic Seed Growing Farm Tour - Grants Pass
- **June 28-29** - Forage Management Series: Irrigation - Corvallis
- **June 30** - Deadline to sign up for the USDA Census of Agriculture - Make Sure You Are Counted!
- **July 12** - Women’s Adult Tractor Safety Class - Aurora
- **July 18** - Risk Assessment on Current and Potential Organic Operations - Webinar
- **August 15** - Dry Farming Field Day - Applegate

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**Meet Our Board:**
OPN supports pasture-based livestock producers in Oregon through education, outreach and promotion. We are distributing new signs to our Oregon Pasture Network partner producers - keep an eye out for the OPN signs (left) at farmers’ markets and farm stands this summer and purchase pasture raised whenever you can.

Hank Keogh

FoFF Board Member Hank Keogh started Avoca Seed Farm in 2010, growing organic open-pollinated specialty vegetable seed crops. He met his wife, Jo Erikson, in 2012 at the Organic Seed Alliance conference. They now manage 7 acres at Avoca together to grow certified organic seed crops for Wild Garden Seed and Adaptive Seed. Born and raised in Corvallis, Hank holds a B.S. in horticulture from Oregon State University. Hank is the breeder of Dazzling Blue Lacinato Kale.

You’re Invited! Friday, June 16th

Community Square Dance
Slippery Slope String Band with caller Woody Lane
7PM-10PM ZCBJ Hall in Scio
A Benefit for the Oregon Pasture Network

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