



7TH ANNUAL

DRY FARMING COLLABORATIVE WINTER CONVENING

FEBRUARY 8TH, 2022 9:00AM - 1:00PM



AGENDA



Oregon State University
Extension Service

9:00AM | Welcome and Introduction to the Dry Farming Collaborative
Amy Garrett

9:15AM | Place-based Breakout Session
Reflection on 2021 Growing Season and Extreme Heat

9:45AM | Break (15 min)

10:00AM | OSU Dry Farming Project Research Updates

11:15AM | Break (15 min)

11:30AM | Dry Farming Institute Highlights

11:40AM | Crop Specific Breakout Session

12:10PM | Reflection & opportunities to connect

12:30PM | Closing

1:00PM | Adjourn





PLACE-BASED BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

REFLECTION ON THE 2021 GROWING SEASON
(25 MIN BREAKOUT, 5 MIN GROUP SHARE)

This is an opportunity to connect with other growers that are currently using, or interested in engaging in dry farming practices in your region. We hope that these breakout sessions give you space to delve into deeper conversations, reflect on the 2021 growing season, and discuss next steps moving forward.

Guiding Questions:

- What is your experience with dry farming?
- Which techniques and strategies are you implementing?
- What is one thing that surprised you about the 2021 growing season?

RESEARCH UPDATES

OSU DRY FARMING PROJECT

- Potato Variety Trial - Amy Garrett & Chris Homanics
- Winter Tomato Variety Trial - Asher Whitney
- Corn Breeding Project - Lucas Nebert

HARDY SEED (WITH ROCKY MOUNTAIN SEED ALLIANCE)

- Heritage/rare/pre-industrial grain - Chris Hardy

"One good conversation can shift the direction of change forever."

LINDA LAM



DRY FARMING INSTITUTE

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

- Marketing Campaign - DFI & WA Water Trust
- Seed Resiliency

CROP SPECIFIC BREAKOUT SESSIONS - CHOOSE ONE

(30 MIN BREAKOUT SESSION)

PASTURE - FACILITATED BY MELISSA FERRY & SHAYAN GHAJAR

Much of the pasture ground in western Oregon is non-irrigated. The summer slump in July-September often requires feeding hay to prevent overgrazing our pastures during these months. Let's discuss how the summer slump is impacting your farm. What strategies have you used to mitigate our hot, dry summers? What worked, and what didn't? Are there things you want to try but haven't? Let's put our heads together to share our experiences and ideas for dry farming pastures.

Guiding questions:

- How have our hotter summers impacted your:
 - Pasture productivity and species composition
 - Money spent on supplemental feed
 - Herd health/performance
 - What strategies have you used to mitigate the impact of the summer slump on your farm?
 - What are some strategies you would like to try, but haven't? What obstacles have kept you from trying them out?
 - Has anyone tried planting warm-season forages or forages which can tolerate the heat and lack of rain better?
 - If so, what did you try? How did it go?

(SESSION DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUED ON PG. 4)

CROP SPECIFIC BREAKOUT SESSIONS (continued)

STAPLE CROPS - FACILITATED BY LUCAS NEBERT

This session is focused on dry farming with staple crops, such as culinary corn, dry beans, potatoes, and warm season grains such as sorghum, millet and quinoa. We will discuss identifying and sourcing drought hardy varieties, as well as potential collaborative dry farming breeding projects for corn, dry beans, and other staples.

- What bean, grain or potato crop varieties have you found to perform well in dry farmed or minimally irrigated conditions?
- What cropping systems or strategies to use for dry farming staple crops?
- What marketing avenues are available for dry farmed staple crops?
- Would you like to be involved in collaborative research for trialing and adapting dry farmed staple crops?

VEGETABLES - FACILITATED BY MATT DAVIS

The climate and soils of the Willamette Valley are amenable to dry farming a wide range of vegetable crops. This session will focus on site suitability, soil management, and crop and variety selection for dry farming vegetable crops.

Guiding Questions:

- What site factors do you have that may be beneficial or challenging to dry farming?
- What management activities have you utilized, or plan to utilize, to improve dry farm productivity?
- What crops and varieties dry farmed or plan to? Successes/challenges

FLOWERS & HERBS - FACILITATED BY CASSANDRA WATERMAN

Join us in a peer-to-peer discussion where we will discuss how hotter, drier summers have impacted flower and herb production in the Willamette Valley, and share experiences growing flowers and herbs without irrigation.

Guiding Questions:

- Which flower and herb varieties have performed well or poorly without irrigation for you?
- How have you adapted your growing practices to mitigate drought and heat?
- Has this discussion inspired you to try something new or different moving forward?

REFLECTION & SHARE

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Invitation to stay connected
- Plans for 2022 ??

CLOSING

REMINDERS

- Small Farms Conference sessions
- Dry Farming Institute Seed directory & marketing
- Opportunities to engage
- Provide resources:
 - Dry Farming Collaborative is on Youtube
 - OSU Dry Farming Project Website
- Evaluation



DRY FARMING COLLABORATIVE

THE DRY FARMING COLLABORATIVE WINTER CONVENING IS
PRESENTED BY OSU EXTENSION SMALL FARMS PROGRAM.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ORGANIZING TEAM:

AMY GARRETT
MATT DAVIS
TEAGAN MORAN
LUCAS NEBERT
ASHER WHITNEY
CASSANDRA WATERMAN

PHOTO CREDITS: KELLY ANDRUS & LUCAS NEBERT



Oregon State University
Extension Service