



# Oregon Small Farm News

Oregon State University Small Farms Program

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### Cover Photo:

Rock Field Farm near Central Point, OR.

Credit: Garry Stephenson, OSU Small Farms Program

Oregon Small Farm News Layout by: Chrissy Lucas

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# What Are We Learning From The Census of Agriculture?

By: Mallory Rahe, Shannon Caplan, Benjamin Antolin, and Lauren Gwin, OSU Extension Service

This spring, the U.S. Department of Agriculture rolled out the results from the latest Census of Agriculture, conducted in 2017. Here are some of the results for Oregon.

## Oregon's agricultural sector grew between 2012 and 2017 by adding more farms and recording higher total sales – unlike the nation

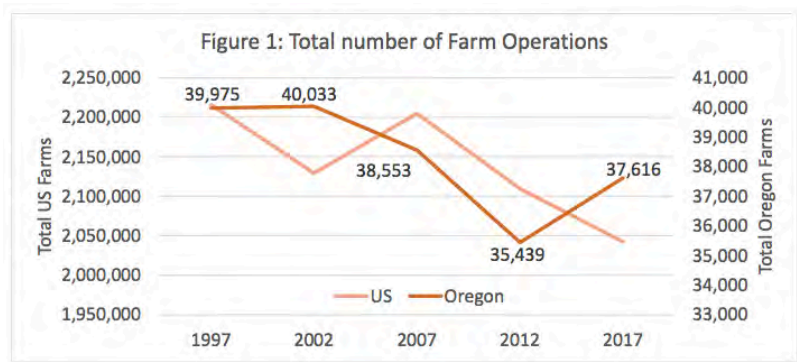
- The number of farms increased in Oregon by a net total of 2,177. This number decreased nationally.
- The value of farm production increased 2.5% to \$5 billion (1.3% of total US production), while nationally total production declined -1.6% to \$389 billion.

## Oregon is adding more small-acreage farms and more farms with low sales

- A higher percentage of all farms in Oregon are small-scale farms with less than 10 acres (33.3% of all Oregon farms and 13.4% of all US farms);
- These small-acreage farms are the fastest growing farm size in the state, increasing 7.6% from 2012 (this size category increased 2.8% nationally)
- Half of all farms in Oregon are less than 20 acres, compared to the national average of 75 acres. Oregon's average farm size decreased to 424 acres (441 acres nationally).
- The number of farms with sales less than \$2,500 increased 19% (decreased by -3% nationally)

## Farms with sales over \$1 million account for the majority of agricultural sales

- 2.5% of all farms in Oregon produced 70% of all agricultural



products sold (compared to 3.9% of all farms producing 69% of all sales nationally)

- Total sales by farms selling \$1 million or more increased 4.8% in Oregon, 1.8% nationally

### In the past 5 years, Oregon saw slower farm consolidation than the nation

- The number of mid-scale farms (sales \$50,000 to \$499,999) decreased -1.3% (decreased -6.3% nationally)
- Total sales by these mid-scale farms decreased by -2.2% (compared to -8.8% nationally)
- Mid-scale farms contributed 12.4% of total sales (compared to 17.1% nationally)

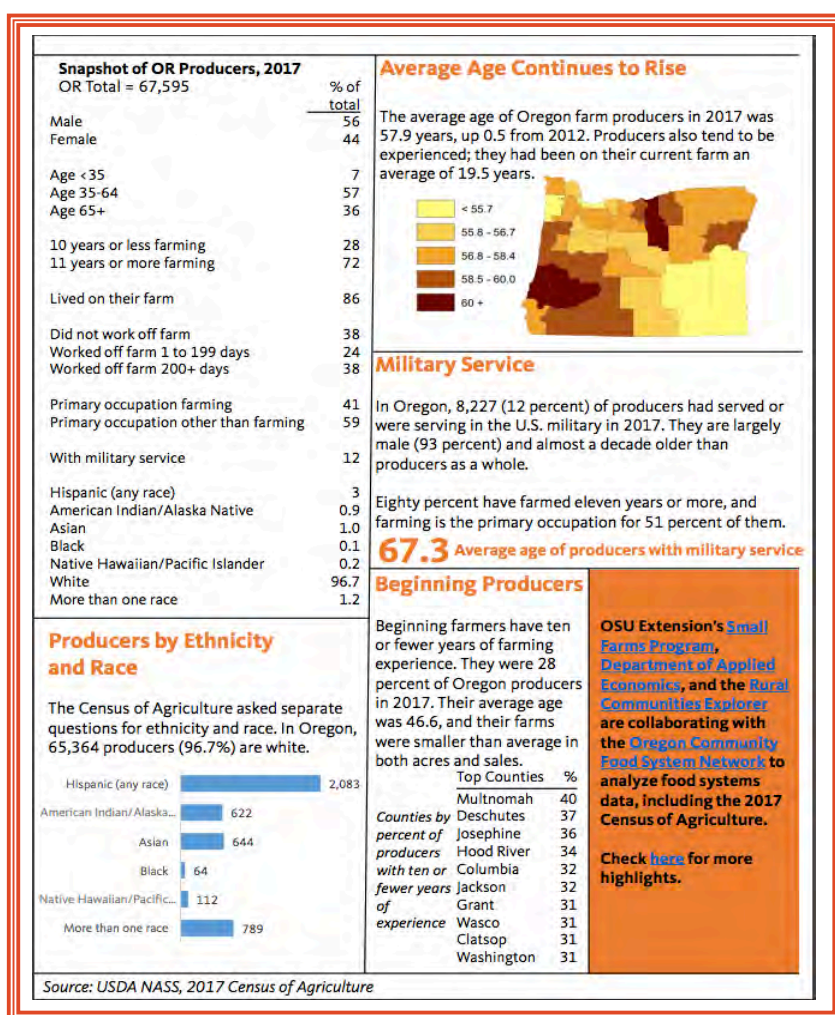
### Oregon's agricultural production has been and remains more concentrated than the nation

- 40% of all agricultural sales were generated by the 0.4 percent of Oregon farms with sales of \$5 million or more (compared to 35% nationally)
- Faster expansion of sales among large scale farmers is closing the gap between the US and Oregon. In 2002, 54.4% of all sales came from large scale farms (sales over \$1 million) in Oregon, compared to 47.9% nationally. (Compared to 70% and 69% percent of all sales in 2017)

### Land in farms declined in both Oregon and the US

- Oregon has 339,256 fewer acres in farms than it did 5 years ago (Statewide loss of -2.1%; National decline of -1.6%)

Learn more about Oregon agriculture by the numbers on the OSU Extension website: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/food/food-systems/oregon-agriculture-numbers-2017-census-agriculture-data>.



"From Farm Producers: Oregon, 2017 Census of Agriculture Highlights."

### Special reports include:

- Trends and Insights into Oregon Agricultural Business Succession Planning, by Christy Brekken, OSU Applied Economics
- Oregon's Farm Producer Demographics, by Shannon Caplan and Benjamin Antolin
- Updated Community Food Systems Indicators for Oregon, a partnership between OSU's Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems, OSU Rural Communities Explorer, and the Oregon Community Food Systems Network. 


# New Professional and Continuing Education Course: Ecological Strategies for Managing Insects on a Farm

By: Heather Stoven & Rachel Suits, Oregon State University Small Farms Program

The growing season is now well underway, and perhaps you are experiencing a pest problem or two on your farm. Figuring out how to manage pests can be a challenge for any farmer, as it often takes some knowledge of the pest and an integration of multiple management techniques to be effective. As part of a USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant awarded to the OSU Small Farms team, we created a new course entitled “Ecological Strategies for Managing Insects on a Farm” to assist fruit and vegetable growers with making pest management decisions. The course is a self-paced, online course that typically takes 2-4 hours to complete. Additional time may be needed to explore the resources and create a pest management plan. Topics covered include: insect life cycles, recognizing crop damage, key management strategies and enhancing beneficial insect habitat on your farm. Taking this online course will give you the skills to recognize a pest and develop a program to manage the pest via a prevention, avoidance, monitoring and suppression framework.

For those of you interested in a hands-on approach to learning about Ecological Pest Management, you may consider attending Small Farms School on July 18<sup>th</sup> at Clackamas Community College. The course “Ecological Strategies for Managing Insects on a Farm”, will be offered as a double session with the first session discussing pest management strategies in a classroom setting. The second session will be held outside on a student farm where we will identify beneficial insects and learn to create and enhance beneficial habitat.

For more information about the OSU online Professional and Continuing Education Course: <https://pace.oregonstate.edu/catalog/growing-farms-short-course-ecological-strategies-managing-insects-farm>

For more information about Small Farms School: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/smallfarmschool/> 

## When Do Cover Crops Pay?

*Cover Crop Economics*, a new report published by USDA-SARE looks at the economics of cover crops to help farmers answer that big question: “When do cover crops pay?”

Based primarily on yield and economic data gathered through five years of national cover crop surveys, *Cover Crop Economics: Opportunities to Improve Your Bottom Line in Row Crops* addresses the kinds of economic returns that can be expected from cover crops, both under various management scenarios and as cover crops improve soil health over time. The report is timely, as the latest Census of Agriculture revealed that national cover crop acreage increased by 50% from 2012 to 2017. It’s also timely due to the interest in cover crops for planting on fields that were flooded or otherwise unplanted (prevent plant situations) this spring, in order to suppress weeds while protecting and improving the soil.

Oriented toward commodity crops generally grown in the mid-west, the report is still informative for those interested in the effects of cover cropping in farming. Reported positive effects include yield increases, improvement in soil organic matter leading to improvement of soil water-holding capacity and improvement in the inherent fertility of the soil.

Download or order your free print copy of *Cover Crop Economics: Opportunities to Improve Your Bottom Line in Row Crops* at [www.sare.org/cover-crop-economics](http://www.sare.org/cover-crop-economics) or by calling (301) 779-1007. Print copies will be shipped in early July.





# Ichi Yamada and the ‘Beniaka’ Sweet Potato

By: Dr. Toshihiko Nishio

Translated and edited by: Shinji Kawai and Alice Formiga, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University

Improvements in agricultural technology and breeding helped struggling Japanese farming communities in the early 20th century. Since the 1990s, Dr. Toshihiko Nishio, a Japanese rice farming system researcher, published over 150 stories about these innovations. By showing how these discoveries derived from careful observation, patience, and in some cases, serendipity, we hope that farmers will realize how ordinary people can contribute to the advancement of their local agricultural communities and beyond.



Kakushin-ji Temple  
Illustration by Eiko Goto.

North of the Kita-Urawa train station in Saitama, Japan, stands the Kakushin-ji Buddhist temple. At the front gate, a modern sign reads “Birthplace of Beniaka: Queen of the Sweet Potato”. The ‘Beniaka’ bright red sweet potato, also known as ‘Kintoki’, was discovered nearby in 1898 by a 35-year-old farmer and mother of 8 children, Ichi Yamada.

Ichi had four sons and four daughters. Her husband owned a straw mattress business and was often away from home, so she managed their half-acre farm plot. It is said that she was a very meticulous person: when

she sowed rice, she insisted on selecting only the best and most uniform seeds. In the fall of 1898, when she was digging sweet potatoes, she noticed seven bright red tubers below the vines of an heirloom cultivar called ‘Hachifusa’ aka ‘Yatsufusa’. Its tubers are light pink, so it is no wonder that the bright red sweet potatoes attracted Ichi’s attention. She took one home and steamed it. The flesh was yellow and tasty, with a nice fluffy texture. In the following season, she grew more of the bright red sweet potatoes and took them to the market. At first, people were wary about their unfamiliar color, but they soon earned a high price.

After two years of observation, Ichi was confident that she could propagate her new



‘Beniaka’.  
Illustration by Eiko Goto



Propagation bed of sweet potato.  
Illustration by Eiko Goto

cultivar, so she started marketing it. She sold a 60 kg bag for 5 yen. At the time, the same quantity of rice cost 5 yen, but sweet potatoes cost 1/5yen (20 sen)-so her cultivar sold for 25 times the price of other sweet potatoes.

News of the bright red sweet potato spread rapidly, and many farmers requested the vines. Although Ichi readily sold them, the demand became overwhelming because she was also raising 8 children. Eventually, her nephew, Mikizo Yoshioka, took over the propagation business and named the new cultivar 'Beniaka', a reference to its bright red color.

Mikizo had to make sure that the tubers were of good quality so that they would produce vines in the following spring. At the time, it took a great deal of effort to store and propagate vines during the winter. Mikizo dug nursery beds filled with compost and fallen leaves which produced heat. To regulate the temperature, he had to cover and uncover the beds with straw mats.

'Beniaka' spread rapidly in the Kanto region around Tokyo. At its peak before WWII, 36,000 hectares of 'Beniaka' were grown. During and immediately after the war, their cultivation declined because they yielded less well than other varieties; however, production resumed once the economy recovered because of their fine flavor and texture. Not only was



Beniaka popular as baked potato.  
Illustration by Eiko Goto

'Beniaka' baked and steamed, but it was also used in the confection industry to make sweets. Recently 'Beniaka' has gained attention as a specialty regional variety.

Although the acreage of 'Beniaka' declined with the introduction of more productive and disease-resistant cultivars such as 'Beniazuma', it is still grown in Japan on a small scale. With more than a century in cultivation, 'Beniaka' is an extraordinarily long lasting cultivar. Sweet potato farming became widespread in Japan during the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, when a scholar named Konyo Aoki promoted it as a means to prevent famine. 'Beniaka' is considered to be the only cultivar that retains the legacy of that era. Konyo cultivated the variety 'Akaimo', from which 'Hachifusa' was a sport, and 'Beniaka' was a sport of 'Hachifusa'.

In 1931, Ichi received the prestigious Tomin Prize for distinguished farmers. It was one of the highest honors given to farmers at that time. Upon receiving the award, she denied that she had done anything special to deserve it: "I just found a cultivar", she said. In spite of her modesty, no superior cultivars—whether from traditional crossing or biotechnology—would exist without the excellent observational skills of plant breeders. Ichi's keen powers of observation that were nurtured through daily farming activities certainly merited the highest prize. Her achievement is also remarkable because there are



very few Japanese vegetable cultivars known to have been developed by women. Ichi lived for 75 years and died in 1938. Until the end of her life, she helped out in the field growing sweet potatoes. She is buried behind the Kakushin-ji temple.

Recently, the author visited the Yamada family home near Kakushin-ji to hear stories about 'Beniaka'. Ichi's portrait hangs in the living room. It was probably drawn at the time of the award ceremony. The field in which she found 'Beniaka' is now a residential development, but the storage room she used for seed potatoes is still in use. Ichi's great grandson Seiichi Yamada said that when he works there, he remembers Grandma Ichi sweating in the sweet potato field! ㊦

Portrait  
of Ichi  
Yamada  
Illustration  
by Eiko  
Goto



# SMALL FARM SCHOOL

JULY  
18

Clackamas Community College, Oregon City



**Hands-on and classroom learning for beginning small-scale farmers**

Visit website for updates: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/smallfarmschool/>

a collaboration between OSU EXTENSION, CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ROGUE FARM CORPS and FRIENDS OF FAMILY FARMERS

# Farmer-to-Farmer Organic Mentorship Program

## Accepting Applications

By: Drew Katz, Oregon Tilth, Inc.

The Farmer-to-Farmer Organic Mentorship Program, launched by Oregon Tilth in 2018, provides a peer education and training opportunity for farmers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. By connecting transitioning and newly certified organic growers (mentees) with experienced organic farmers (mentors), the program facilitates peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing, certification support, and networking opportunities.

### How the Program Works

Once an application is received by Oregon Tilth, mentors and mentees are matched based on several criteria, including expertise, farm size, production type, and location. After Oregon Tilth makes the initial introduction between applicants, an initial phone call is scheduled so that they can get to know each other and decide whether or not they are a good fit.

Participants that ultimately get matched and join the program do so for one year. During this time participants are expected to make at least two farm visits for on-site learning, one on each participant's farm. In addition, mentors are available by phone or email as needed by his or her mentee, with communication expectations and learning goals agreed upon during an initial planning meeting, facilitated by the program coordinator. The program coordinator will schedule periodic calls throughout the year with each mentor and mentee to help facilitate the mentorship relationship and address any questions or concerns that may arise.

### Who Should Apply?

Farmers who are interested in transitioning to organic, currently pursuing certification, or recently certified are encouraged to apply as a mentee. It is recommended that mentees have at least two years of commercial farming experience and have specific goals or needs that they'd like to work on with a mentor.

Mentor applicants are required to have a minimum of five years organic farming experience, be enthusiastic about providing peer-education, and able to dedicate at least 20 hours of their time over the course of a year to working with their mentee.

### Program Benefits

#### Mentees:


- One mentor visit to your farm for on-site learning and support
- One visit to your mentor's farm for on-site learning and observation
- Ongoing support from your mentor by email, phone and/or text throughout the year
- \$100 education stipend to attend an agriculture event, workshop or training.

#### Mentors:

- Mentor payment of \$500
- Structured and compensated opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with new and upcoming organic producers
- \$100 education stipend to attend an agriculture event, workshop or training

Oregon Tilth is accepting mentor and mentee applications for 2019.

Info and application forms at: <https://tilth.org/education/farmer-mentorship-program/>

Contact: Drew Katz -Transition Services Coordinator, Oregon Tilth: [drew@tilth.org](mailto:drew@tilth.org) 





# 2019 Dry Farming Field Days

## SAVE THE DATES!

**August 28th** - OSU Oak Creek Center for Urban Agriculture (Corvallis, OR)

**September 4th** - OSU Vegetable Research Farm (Corvallis, OR)

**September 6th** - Gathering Together Farm (Philomath, OR)

**September 11th** - Dry Farming Presentation and Field Day (Polk County, OR)

The OSU Dry Farming Project will be hosting three field days this summer! Come learn about dry farming, see crops (tomatoes, squash, melon, dry beans, potatoes, corn) grown with ***little or no*** supplemental irrigation in the field.

### Join the Dry Farming Collaborative Facebook Group!

More details and RSVP info will soon be available at:

<https://centerforsmallfarms.oregonstate.edu/dryfarm>

There will be limited space available so plan to RSVP early!

For questions, contact:

Teagan Moran  
teagan.moran@oregonstate.edu

541-713-5011



**Oregon State University**  
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# Zsámboki Biokert: A visit with sustainable agriculture leaders in Hungary

By: Amy Garrett, Oregon State University Small Farms Program

I had the amazing opportunity to present my work with the OSU Dry Farming Project at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Agriculture and Climate Change Conference in Budapest, Hungary in March 2019. While preparing for this trip I started spreading the word to friends and colleagues and inquiring about farm contacts. Patrick O'Connor (farm manager at the Herb Farm in Washington and member of the Dry Farming Collaborative) connected me with his friend, Renata Christen. Renata, currently a research analyst for the [Access to Seeds Index](#) in Amsterdam, knew Logan Strenchock through mutual friends in Budapest. She generously introduced me to Logan and shared with me a map of her favorite places in Budapest.

A couple of days before the conference I met with Logan at a café to learn more about his path and perspective on sustainable agriculture in Hungary and his involvement in the Degrowth movement. Degrowth was a new term for me, but I learned from Logan and reading about it afterwards that it is a political, cultural and socio-economic movement supporting societies living within their ecological means. An International Degrowth conference has been held every two years since 2008. Logan helped to organize the one in Budapest in 2016. The next one will be held in Manchester in 2020 (<https://www.degrowth.info/en/next-international-degrowth-conference-manchester-2020/>).

Logan, originally from Pennsylvania, has been in Hungary for more than 10 years. He is highly motivated and passionate about his work and wears many hats such as:

- The Environmental and Sustainability Officer at Central European University in Budapest.
- An active participant in sustainable agriculture and conscious food consumption movements in Hungary.
- Trainee, partner and business development consultant for an organic farm, Zsámboki Biokert

(<https://www.zsambokibiokert.hu>).

- Organizes the farm's community outreach and youth education programming.
- Founding member of Cargonomia (<http://cargonomia.hu/>), an open community workspace which works to promote sustainable bicycle-based logistics and increased access to healthy, locally produced foods in Budapest.
- More in-depth interview with Logan can be found here: <http://theartoforganisinghope.eu/interview-with-academic-logan-strenchock/>

The following day I took a bus one hour outside of Budapest to the small village of Zsámbok. Unsure which direction to head, two older women kindly walked me to the street the farm was on and pointed me in the right direction. When I arrived at the farm about a half mile down that road, they were just serving a farm lunch to farm helpers and visiting students. This was an open volunteer day and fruit tree pruning workshop event at the farm. They aim to have multiple open days and courses like this for participants throughout the year.

Logan introduced me to Matthew Hayes, the farm manager, while he continued to facilitate discussion



Logan Strenchock (red bandana) and Matthew Hayes (red shirt) facilitating discussion with environmental science students about organic farming. Photo by Amy Garrett



with the students. Matthew walked me around the farm and shared the history of this farm and his background and path into farming.

Zsámboki Biokert is about 3.5 hectare (8.6 acre) organic farm situated in the transition from gentle hills to plains on a very deep (>6 meters) silty soil, and surrounded by mostly large-scale conventional cropland. One hectare is in vegetable production, and a small orchard and prairie occupy the other 2.5 hectares. The farm grows diversified vegetables and some tree fruit for one of the first CSAs in Hungary (started in 1998) and the only organic farmers market in Budapest that he helped to start a few years ago. The rest of the markets, including large indoor market in central Pest, offer conventional produce and import from as far away as Peru in the month of March.

Matthew explained to me that the agricultural economy collapsed with the regime change in 1989. He arrived in Hungary in 1991 but had started apprenticing on farms in the U.K. in 1984. Some of his inspirations early on were Eliot Coleman and later on Jean Martin-Fortier. In describing the founding vision for the farm he mentioned that, “a reductionist scientific track goes against a more holistic approach.” For example, he uses horse drawn cultivation for soil preparation on the farm and use some of the horse bedding to make their own compost and heat their greenhouse benches. He also mentioned that he, “loves being a part of a process that encourages young people into farming.”

When discussing the changes he has noticed on the farm over the past 25 years, he has observed, “later, dryer, and longer autumns; windier early springs; and




Multiple high tunnels and low tunnels help extend their season for year-round vegetable production. Photo by Amy Garrett

shorter winters.” He said, “25 years ago there would be snow in November and it would be frozen until February. Now it doesn’t really stay frozen.”

This led to a discussion about water. He showed me the well with the water table about 2 meters below the surface

in March. Matthew mentioned that currently they do not have to pay for water, except for the infrastructure and electricity for the pump, but this is likely to change. He currently uses drip irrigation and works to increase soil water-holding capacity by improving soil quality through minimizing compaction (not using tractor or walking in the permanent beds) and adding organic matter via compost and cover crops.

Many of the issues Logan and Matthew described that small farmers face in Hungary are similar to the ones we face in Oregon and other parts of the U.S. but there is much less support from the local government. It is sheer passion, will power, and their own boot straps driving them forward in their mission. Logan said despite a “lack of institutional support for small organic farms, there are some benefits to working in a very small, but creative and dynamic sector in Hungary such as creativity, resilience and having many personal, face to face relationships with sustainable food advocates. “

Reflecting on this trip, I found it so inspiring after a long winter to be reminded that there are people all over the world, like Logan and Matthew, working to promote small farms and vibrant local food systems. It is so valuable to be able to step outside of our microcosm in whatever way we are able for the refreshing realization that we are all in this together. 

# Food Learning & Business Center proposed for The Dalles: Interested? Take their survey

By: Matt Buck, Food Systems Consultant

Interested in starting or expanding a food or beverage business?

The Port of The Dalles is conducting a feasibility study for a Food Learning and Business Center to support development of value-added agricultural products and help small food and beverage businesses grow.

The proposed Food LAB may include:

- A shared-use commercial kitchen.
- Spaces for lease to individual businesses.
- Co-packing services.

Farm and food/beverage entrepreneurs interested in starting a business in or relocating an existing business to The Dalles may be able to access equipment, space and/or services. Tell us what you need!



Commercial Kitchen at Fry Family Farm, Medford, OR.  
Photo by Amber Fry

Help the Port understand how Food LAB can best serve your business by completing this survey today:

[Port of The Dalles Food LAB Survey: https://forms.gle/JEWkZTYFpviyGXWX7](https://forms.gle/JEWkZTYFpviyGXWX7) 

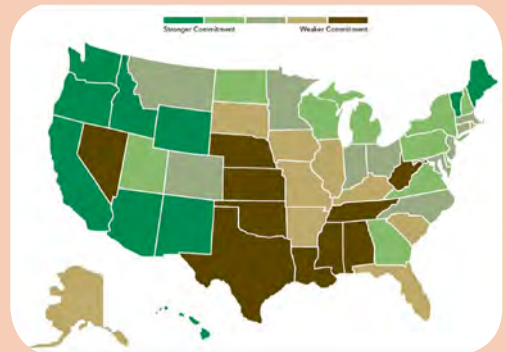
## 2019 Locavore Index Ranks Oregon at # 6

The Vermont-based non-profit Strolling of the Heifers has released its “Locavore Index” for 2019. The index ranks the 50 states based on their commitment to purchasing locally produced food. This year they were able to incorporate USDA census of Agriculture data to enhance the rankings.

Oregon, which Strolling Heifers had been ranked at number 4 in 2018, is ranked number 6 with incorporation of the census of agriculture data. Top 10 states in ranked order are: Vermont, California, Hawaii, Washington, Maine, Oregon, Idaho, New Mexico, Wyoming, Arizona. The bottom 10 states include: Tennessee, Texas, Nebraska, Louisiana, Mississippi, West Virginia, Nevada, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Alabama.

Looking at the U.S. as a whole, locavorism has clearly been growing rapidly. The value of food sold directly to consumers via farm stands, farmers markets, CSAs and online, was measured in both the 2012 and 2017 Censuses. It more than doubled during that period, from \$1.31 billion to \$2.81 billion — a strong indication that consumer demand for food fresh from farms is growing by leaps and bounds. The new Census metric of food sold to local retailers, institutions and food hubs was not measured in 2012 but came in at \$9.04 billion in 2017.

Strolling Heifers points out the benefits of buying local food include keeping local farms in business and creating local jobs at farms and in local food processing and distribution systems; food dollars spent at local farms and food producers stay in the local economy, creating more jobs at other local businesses; and local foods create more vibrant communities by connecting people with the farmers and food producers who bring them healthy local foods.



For a look at the full report and rankings, go to: <https://www.strollingoftheheifers.com/locavore/>



# OSU Launches Hemp Center

Oregon State University has launched the nation's largest research center devoted to the study of hemp, and OSU will begin certifying hemp seed for planting in Oregon.

The *Global Hemp Innovation Center* will be based in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences with research taking place across the state and world. Currently, there are more than 40 OSU faculty representing 19 academic disciplines engaged in hemp research, teaching and extension services. The center will serve as a research hub connecting faculty and researchers engaged in plant research, food innovation, pharmacy, public health, public policy, business and engineering.

Hemp has the potential to become a major agricultural commodity in the United States and abroad with hemp plant fiber being used in manufactured products, including clothing, construction materials and packaging. Meanwhile, hemp seed oil is being investigated for use in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, foods and nutraceuticals. For example, hemp has a long tradition of use in treating ailments by eastern medicine.

Oregon State's decision to launch the new hemp center follows Congress' adoption of the 2018 Farm Bill that removed hemp from the list of controlled drug substances and initiated the creation of a framework for hemp to become a fully legalized commodity in the future.

According to the Brightfield Group, an analytics firm that tracks the cannabis industry, the hemp-derived cannabidiol (CBD) market is expected to grow from \$618 million in 2018 to \$22 billion by 2022.

As it launches its seed certification services for hemp, the seeds will be for use by farmers that are registered by the state. Oregon State will be the only university in the nation presently to certify hemp seed.

By the end of June, OSU researchers will plant the university's third crop of hemp plants at 10 university experiment stations located in different climates and soil conditions throughout Oregon. Up to eight


plots of hemp totaling no more than five acres will be planted at each experiment station. Hemp material will be harvested as the plants are flowering and will be provided to OSU researchers for study. No pollen or seeds will be produced from this year's research crop.

Jay Noller, professor of crop and soil science at OSU, will serve as director and lead researcher for the new center.

Oregon State researchers are working with faculty at universities in Europe and China to explore the propagation and uses of hemp. Meanwhile, Oregon State will host in Corvallis a National Academies of Sciences symposium on hemp in the coming months.

Beginning in 1936, the federal government prohibited the propagation of hemp plants. Oregon authorized hemp cultivation in 2009, but the Oregon Department of Agriculture did not license its first hemp grower until 2015. Just three years later, Oregon ranked third in the United States in licensed hemp acres planted behind Montana and Colorado. The 2018 farm bill decriminalized propagation of hemp, and it is anticipated that over the next year the federal government will have a framework in place to commercially produce and utilize hemp grown in the U.S.

As of mid-May, Oregon has licensed 1,342 growers to plant 46,219 acres of hemp this year, according to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. That total is nearly six times greater than the 7,808 acres planted in 2018. Nationally, the number of licensed acres devoted to hemp cultivation increased by 204% from 2017 to 2018, according to Vote Hemp, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization.

Both Oregon and OSU have a long history of hemp cultivation and research. The university, then known as Oregon Agricultural College, partnered with scientists in the U.S. Department of Agriculture to host a national hemp research center from the 1880s until 1932. 

# Calendar

## July

### 18 - Small Farm School 2019

Small Farm School is a full day event with hands-on workshops and classroom sessions for beginning and small-scale commercial farmers. 8:00AM-4:30PM. Oregon City, OR. Contact Heidi Noordijk at heidi.noordijk@oregonstate.edu or 971-801-0392 **\$75**

### 23 - Crop Talk: Blueberry Production at Kiger Island Blues

Crop Talks are farmer-to-farmer educational opportunities that consist of a tour of a farm by the farmer and a discussion about their area of expertise or interest during the growing season. These are opportunities to get out into someone's field, see their practices in action, ask questions, and connect with other local farmers while doing it! For farmers by farmers. This farm tour is hosted by Mindi Thorton of Kiger Island Blues and will be focused on blueberry production. 5:30PM - 8:00PM. 2322 Southeast Kiger Island Drive, Corvallis, OR. Contact teagan.moran@oregonstate.edu or 541-766-3553.

**\$5**

### 29 - Farm Enterprise Analysis

Take a close look at your operation. In this class learn to identify which ideas are winners and which are losers. While diversification can increase overall financial health, keeping or adding unprofitable enterprises robs you of time and energy while decreasing overall financial sustainability. What is profitable? How do you analyze and compare enterprises? Learn how to conduct a Gross Profit Analysis and plan for profit as an expense, rather than taking what is left! Skills learned in this class are transferable to all types of enterprises. 5:30PM - 8:30PM. 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point, OR. Questions?? paula.burkhalter@oregonstate.edu or 541-776-7371 **\$20 one/\$30 two from same farm.**

***Check our online calendar at for the most up to date events <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms>***

Want to add your event to our calendar then please submit your information to SmallFarmsprogram@oregonstate.edu If you have questions please contact Chrissy Lucas at Chrissy.Lucas@oregonstate.edu or 541-766-3556

