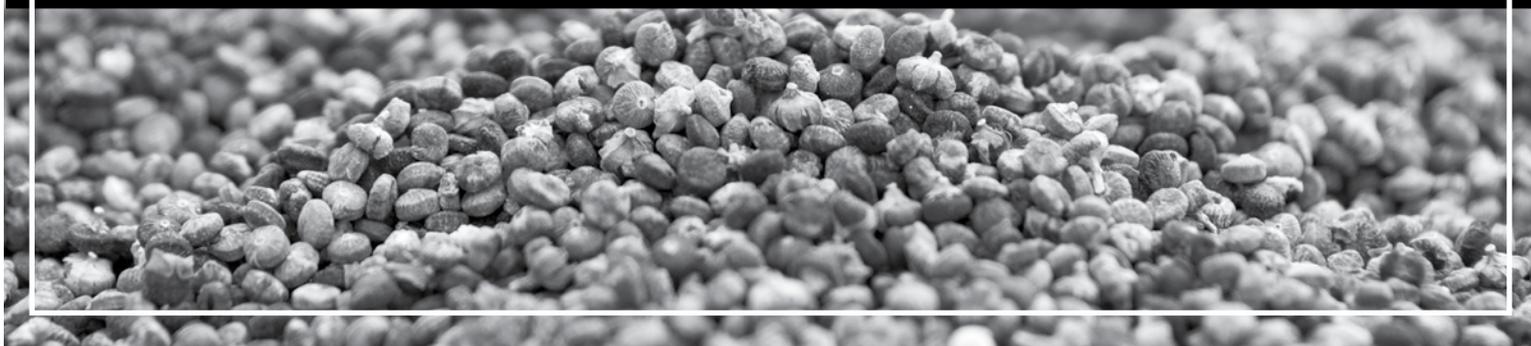


# Conference Program

## 9<sup>th</sup> Organic Seed Growers Conference

*Synergy that Sustains*

February 14-17, 2018  
Corvallis, Oregon



# Welcome to the Conference

Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> Organic Seed Growers Conference! We're honored that you've joined us here in Corvallis for this biennial event.

This year's conference theme – *Synergy that Sustains* – recognizes that the organic seed community is diverse and growing, and that differences in approaches, regions, and stakeholders are our strength if we focus and act on what connects us – on synergism.

By definition, “synergy” represents the interaction of elements (including organizations and individuals) that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of individual contributions. We believe that strengthening synergies within the good seed movement is essential to the sustainability of our agricultural system and food supply.

We also believe that to foster synergies, actions must focus on generating more diversity in genetics, and in expanding partners involved in breeding, seed production, and policy advocacy. Both competition and coordination are healthy factors in any seed system, but the benefits must be shared. In the words of author Barb Rententbach, “A designed beauty of synergy is that it serves only to add, never subtract.”

It is in this spirit that our conference committees have put together a stellar lineup of speakers and workshops to support the success of seed growers, seed businesses, plant breeders, policy advocates, and others who are committed to healthy seed systems that are responsive to the needs of organic farmers and the people they feed.

Our community is confronting a time of many changes: more consolidation in the seed industry, the patenting of plant genetics, insufficient public research dollars, and a dysfunctional Congress that seems to convene and act in fits and starts.

That's why we're thrilled to have Congressman Peter DeFazio join us here in his district as our conference keynote. He has long been a champion for organic farmers in Congress and will be addressing participants on Saturday about the Farm Bill and how we can support policies that advance organic agriculture and public plant breeding.

There are a number of events on the agenda that are new this year. Don't miss the Culinary Breeding Network's variety tasting with Chef Tim Wetzel on Friday night; our bigger and better trade show and raffle throughout the conference; and music and a poetry slam on Saturday night. We're also happy to provide the Grassroots Bookshop, where you can build your personal library with new and old book titles on all things seed. And don't miss our Synergy Space, where participants are encouraged to share inspirations, develop project ideas, strategize policy needs, and connect with other seedheads.

Many thanks to our 30 sponsors and conference co-hosts: Oregon State University, eOrganic, and Washington State University. Thanks to eOrganic, select workshops will once again be delivered online to expand our conference reach. And thanks to our hard-working planning committee: Micaela Colley, Cara Loriz, and Cathleen McCluskey of Organic Seed Alliance; Ken Greene of Hudson Valley Seed Library; Emily Haga of Johnny's Selected Seeds; Claire Luby of the Open Source Seed Initiative; Rowen White of Indigenous Seed Keepers Network; and Sapphyre Miria of Twin Oaks Community. We also extend our thanks to overwhelming public input and over 30 proposal reviewers who provided feedback in shaping this year's agenda.

Lastly, we want to thank YOU, our participants, for bringing your expertise to this gathering. Your knowledge, experience, and vision are guiding us into the future. You are our community's greatest asset. Organic seed is at the cutting edge because of your leadership. We'll continue to bring inspired people together through events like this to ensure that synergies emerge in ways that sustain our seed, food, people, and planet.

In solidarity,



Cara Loriz  
Executive Director  
Organic Seed Alliance



Cathleen McCluskey  
Conference Chair  
Organic Seed Alliance

## Your Conference Hosts



# Keynote Address from Congressman Peter DeFazio

Saturday, 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.  
LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium



Congressman Peter DeFazio has long been a champion of policies that support organic farmers and we're thrilled to welcome him as our keynote speaker. He'll be joining us in his district to address current Farm Bill discussions and how the organic seed community can help shape a more sustainable food and farming agenda in Washington, DC.

The Congressman was first elected to the U.S. Congress in 1986 and is now the longest serving House member in Oregon's history. As the dean of the Oregon House delegation, he has developed a reputation as an independent, passionate and effective lawmaker.

DeFazio and his wife, Myrnie Daut, live in Springfield, Oregon. He has logged roughly five million miles traveling between Oregon and Washington, DC. DeFazio has voted against and refused to accept congressional pay raises while the government is deficit spending. Instead, he has used his pay raises to fund scholarships at five southwestern Oregon community colleges. By the end of 2017, DeFazio will have contributed \$352,078 of after-tax salary toward 265 scholarships. He counts these scholarships among his proudest accomplishments.

## Organic Seed Alliance Staff

Cara Loriz, Executive Director  
Leyla Cabugos, Assistant Regional Outreach Coordinator  
Micaela Colley, Program Director  
Kitt Healy, Research & Education Associate, Midwest  
Kiki Hubbard, Advocacy & Communications Director  
Amber Keeney, Southern California Hub Coordinator  
Cathleen McCluskey, Communications & Outreach Associate  
Laurie McKenzie, Research & Education Associate, Northwest  
Steve Peters, California Research & Outreach Associate  
Tessa Peters, Research & Education Associate, Intermountain West  
Jennifer Turney, Financial Manager  
Jared Zystro, Research & Education Assistant Director

## Synergy Space

Throughout Friday and Saturday  
LaSells Stewart Center/Agriculture Production Room



Want to connect with other seed people from your region? Have an innovative idea and want feedback or to connect with others working on similar projects? Attend a talk that generated a lot of conversation and want to continue to process it with others afterward?

Sign up to host a gathering in the participant-driven *Synergy Space* when the formal conference meetings are not in session. The room will have resources, such as large paper, markers, a projector and a space for shared resources. Announcements about upcoming meetings in the space will be made to the conference as a whole.

## (Epic) Seed Swap

Saturday, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
LaSells Stewart Center Gallery



After two full days of conference workshops, we'll be ready for this year's seed swap! Roll up your sleeves, grab your seeds, and get your swap on. Don't have any to share? Well, then you should definitely get some at this year's swap to grow out for the 2020 conference! What will you discover this year?

## Organic Seed Alliance Board of Directors

Sebastian Aguilar, Board President, Chickadee Farm  
Adam Wagner, Vice President, Oregon Blueberry Farms & Nursery  
Adrienne Shelton, Board Secretary, Vitalis Organic Seeds  
Zea Sonnabend, California Certified Organic Farmers  
Ken Greene, Hudson Valley Seed Company  
Amy Grondin, Sustainable Seafood Consultant  
Ira Wallace, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange

# Trade Show

## Will you be our big winner?

Throughout Friday and Saturday  
Trade Show Tent between Alumni and LaSells Stewart



Meet some of the leading organic seed companies, organizations, and government groups at this year's conference Trade Show. Swing by the new 2400 square-foot heated tent between the Alumni and LaSells Stewart Centers and learn about the latest and greatest services and products in organic seed.

Visit the Trade Show to enter a fabulous seed growers raffle! Our sponsors and exhibitors have stepped up to offer a collection of prizes as diverse as our seed community. Visit each booth to complete the raffle ticket you received at registration and drop it in our ticket hopper at the Trade Show tent. The winner must be present when we pull the lucky ticket on Saturday night.

Thank you to our early raffle donors: **High Mowing Organic Seeds, KAMUT, Oregon Tilth, Harris Seeds Organic, Biodynamic Association, and Hudson Valley Seed Company.** See the growing list of donors at the raffle table in the Trade Show tent!

## The Art of Seed: Celebrating organic seed breeders

Throughout Friday and Saturday  
LaSells Stewart Center Gallery



To celebrate the creative art of seed stewardship, The Hudson Valley Seed Company commissions artists to interpret the fascinating stories that seeds carry. Come see a portrait of Frank Morton as a Tarot card, an artist's interpretation of breeding Silver Slicer Cucumber, and more original works of flower, vegetable, and herb varieties in watercolor, oil, collage, and herb varieties in watercolor, oil, collage, ceramics, and fiber arts. Fine art prints, posters, and seed packs for sale in the Trade Show.

## OSGATA Meet & Greet

Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
McMenamins-on-Monroe, Corvallis



Join us for the Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association's (OSGATA) pre-conference gathering on Thursday night after the Willamette Valley Seed Tour and Organic Plant Breeding Intensive! The event is open to all conference participants. Bring your friends, make new acquaintances, and enjoy OSGATA's platters of hor d'oeuvres. The restaurant is located at 2001 NW Monroe Ave, and is walking distance from conference.

## Connect with OSSSI

Sunday, 8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Alumni Center/Willamette



Following the conference, the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSSI) will be hosting a casual roundtable conversation event. Join us for coffee and conversation with the plant breeders, seed companies and thinkers who make up the OSSSI community as well as representatives from international sister organizations in India, Zimbabwe, and Thailand. All are welcome!

## We Love Books

Throughout Friday and Saturday  
LaSells Stewart Center Gallery



Stop by the LaSells Stewart Center, grab a complimentary latte from our generous sponsor Café Mam, and do some book shopping! We're excited to have Grass Roots Books offering a wide selection of books for organic seedheads, including timely topics, how-to guides, and books authored by several of this year's conference speakers (think autograph opportunity). Find a new treasure or pick up an old favorite for a friend. Either way, be sure to support this locally-owned Corvallis bookstore throughout the days and evenings on Friday and Saturday.

# Culinary Breeding Network's Variety Showcase

Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.  
Alumni Center, LaSells Stewart, & Trade Show Tent



Come taste and explore flavor with the Culinary Breeding Network (CBN) during the Friday evening no-host happy hour! Ponder the intricacies of winter squash flavor using the new CBN Winter Squash Flavor Wheel; sample commercial seed oils; grab a dish of CBN chef Tim Wastell's hull-less pumpkin seed oil ice cream, caramelized pumpkin juice and crushed seeds; try new varieties of hull-less barley prepared in various ways and meet the breeders; and enjoy samplings from local and regional food artisans, including single-source honeys, handmade tortillas, and hot sauces.

## Get Your Conference Swag

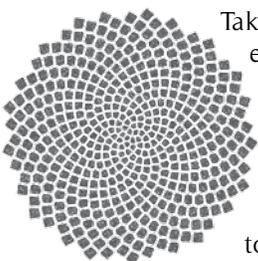
Online orders available through February 20<sup>th</sup>  
[bonfire.com/celebrate-seed-synergy](http://bonfire.com/celebrate-seed-synergy)



Order your very own Organic Seed Growers Conference gear and show the world that together we advance seed synergy that sustains. These organic tees and pullover hoodies feature the conference logo, date, and theme, and are available in a variety of colors. Proceeds from the sales will support OSA's research, education, and advocacy efforts that expand organic seed. These are only available online through February 20<sup>th</sup>. Visit [bonfire.com/celebrate-seed-synergy/](http://bonfire.com/celebrate-seed-synergy/) to place your order.

## Morning Meditations

Friday and Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m.  
Meet in Alumni Center Foyer



Taking a moment to be mindfully present can be quite a challenge, especially during the busy and fast pace of conferences, so be sure to keep up with your self-care by joining conference planning committee member Sapphyre for silent meditation each morning from 6:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. Please bring along something to sit on if you need.

# Music and Poetry Slam with Alice DiMichele & Don Tipping

Saturday, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
LaSells Stewart Center Gallery



Celebrate synergy with your fellow seedheads and close down the conference week with a poetry slam and live music hosted by Don Tipping of Seven Seeds Farm and singer/songwriter Alice DiMichele! Alice is an acoustic guitar player that seamlessly works jazz/blues phrasing and R&B and rock & roll rhythms into a broadened Folk/Roots/Americana sound she calls "Organic Acoustic Groove." For over 30 years she has been a grassroots trailblazer in independent music. She bucked the advances of record labels early in her career, and has self-released 14 albums on her Alice Otter Music label, including 2018's *One With the Tide*. DiMichele has stayed true to herself and her mission: to create music that connects people and inspires them to take a stand for the earth and for justice in the world. Born and raised in New Jersey, and firmly transplanted since 1986 in the fertile Southern Oregon soil, DiMichele's music encompasses both city savvy and country innocence.

## Broadcasting Live Around the World with eOrganic

Various Workshops  
LaSells Stewart Center/Construction & Engineering



Our co-hosts eOrganic will be broadcasting a selection of workshops live from the conference. Seedheads from around the world will join us in realtime, and participate in question and answer portions of workshops when possible. You'll notice this symbol on the left, which denotes a session is being broadcast, in the workshop description section of the program. Now if we could only find a way to include them in the seed swap – imagine the biodiversity!

## Hey, you social butterflies!

Updating your followers from the conference?  
Use hashtag #OSGC2018

# Quick Reference Agenda

## Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

7:00a - 9:00a	AC/Foyer	Registration check-in for Seed Economics Intensive
8:00a - 8:45a	AC/Ballroom	Breakfast for Seed Economics Intensive participants
9:00a - 5:00p	AC/Ballroom	Seed Economics Intensive

## Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

6:30a - 7:30a	AC/Foyer	Registration check-in for Willamette Valley Seed Tour
7:30a - 8:45a	AC/Foyer	Registration check-in for Organic Plant Breeding Intensive
7:00a - 8:30a	AC/Foyer	Breakfast for tour and intensive participants
7:45a - 8:00a	AC/Foyer	Gather and depart for Willamette Valley Seed Tour
8:00a. - 6:00p	Off-site	Willamette Valley Seed Tour sponsored by Oregon Tilth
9:00a - 5:00p	AC/Ballroom	Organic Plant Breeding Intensive
9:00a - 5:00p	AC/Foyer	Registration check-in for main conference
10:00a - 5:00p	Show tent	Trade Show set-up
6:30p - 8:00p	Off-site	OSGATA Mixer at McMenamins on Monroe (open to all)

## Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

6:30a - 7:15a	AC/Foyer	Morning meditation with Sapphyre
7:00a - 8:45a	AC/Foyer	Registration check-in for main conference
7:30a - 8:45a	AC/Foyer	Scientific poster session set-up
7:30a - 8:45a	AC/Ballroom	Breakfast
9:00a - 10:30a	LS/Austin	Efficient Methods to Develop New Organic Cultivars: Case Studies of Breeding Strategies That Leverage Farmer Participation and On-farm Testing
	LS/Construction	Crop Planning for Organic Seed Growers
	AC/111	Private Sector Solutions to Increasing Organic Seed Usage
	AC/Willamette	Seed Sovereignty Experiences from the Agricultural Biodiversity Community
10:45a - 12:15p	LS/Austin	Welcome from OSA and keynote address from Edith Lammerts van Bueren
12:30p - 1:45p	AC/Ballroom	Lunch
2:00p - 3:30p	LS/Austin	Systems-based Plant Breeding: Adding New Dimensions to Resilience
	LS/Construction	Growing Strong Seed the Biodynamic Way
	AC/111	Intellectual Property Rights and Public Plant Breeding: Opportunity or Oxymoron?
	AC/Willamette	Community Seed Systems: New Networks to Build Synergies Among Seed Stewards
3:30p - 3:55p	AC & LS	Coffee and snack break

# Quick Reference Agenda (continued)

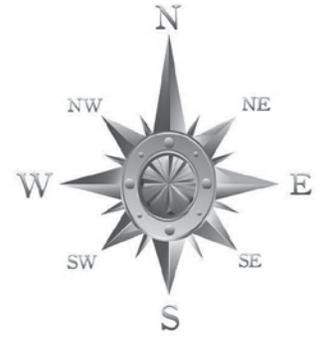
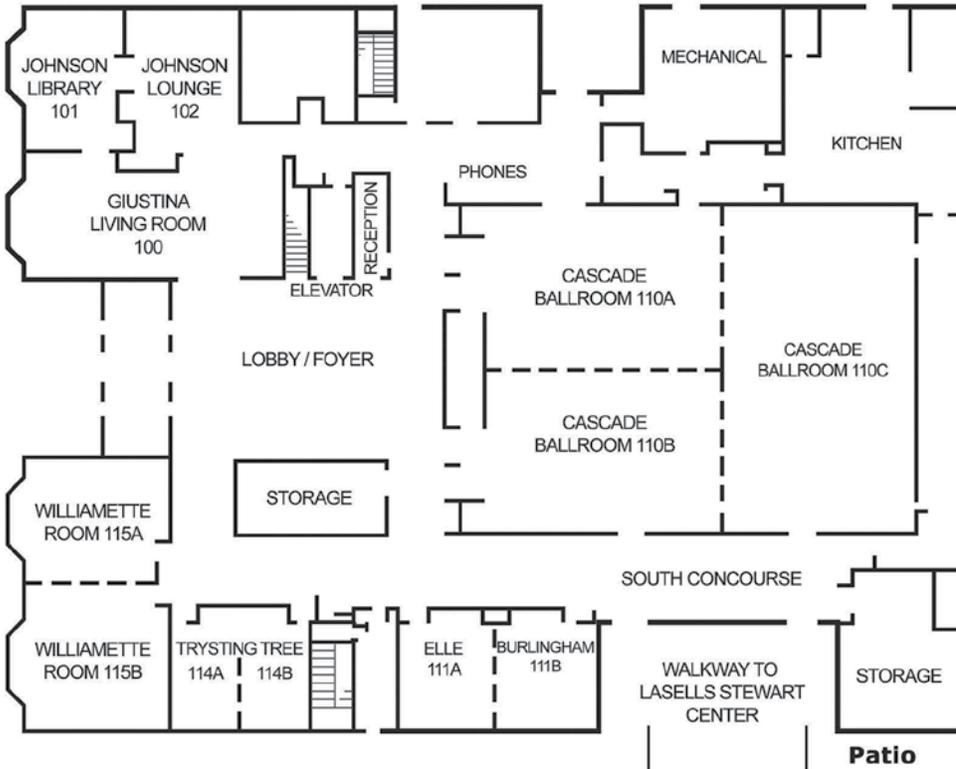
## Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> (continued)

4:00p - 5:30p	LS/Austin LS/Construction AC/Willamette AC/111	The Grain Revolution: From Seed to Plate (or Pint) Seed Production in Cages – Challenging, Fun, and Rewarding Emerging Technologies in the Development of New Plant Varieties Building Robust Seed Systems Across Canada: A Model for Bolstering National Seed Security
5:30p - 10:00p	Show tent	Trade Show
5:45p - 7:15p	AC, LS, & Show tent	Organic variety tasting sponsored by Culinary Breeding Network
5:45p - 6:45p	AC/Foyer	Scientific research poster session
7:30p - 9:00p	AC/Ballroom	Dinner

## Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

6:30a - 7:15a	AC/Foyer	Morning meditation with Sapphyre
7:30a - 8:45a	AC/Ballroom	Breakfast
9:00a - 10:30a	LS/Construction AC/111 AC/Willamette LS/Austin	Leveraging Variety Trials to Advance Organic Seed Systems Funding and Commercialization Options for Participatory Organic Plant Breeding Addressing Intellectual Property Rights in Organic Seed Systems Building Relationships from Seed to Fork
10:45a - 11:45a	LS/Austin	Keynote address from Congressman Peter DeFazio
12:00p - 1:15p	AC/Ballroom	Lunch with a Regional Spotlight
1:30p - 3:00p	AC/Austin AC/Construction AC/111 AC/Willamette	Behind the Scenes: Why Seed Companies Drop Beloved Varieties Microbial Hitchhikers on Seed: Friend or Foe? Protecting the Genetic Integrity of Organic Seed How to Succeed with Regional Seed
3:00p - 3:25p	AC & LS	Coffee and snack break
3:30p - 5:00p	AC/Willamette LS/Construction AC/111 LS/Austin	Taking Tomatoes Totally Organic Organic Hybrid Seed Production in the U.S. – Methods and Case Studies The Intersection of Plant Breeding and Federal Policy Cultivating Diversity in the Organic Seed Movement: Resilient Seeds and Diverse Communities
5:15p - 6:15p	AC/Johnson	OSGATA 2018 Annual Meeting (open to all)
5:30p - 8:00p	LS/Gallery	Seed Swap
5:00p - 9:00p	Show tent	Trade Show
6:30p - 7:45p	AC/Ballroom	Banquet dinner and Trade Show raffle winner announcement
8:00p - 10:00p	LS/Gallery	Live music and poetry slam featuring Alice DiMichele and Don Tipping

To OSU Campus and Parking Garage



# CH2M HILL Alumni Center

26th Street and Reser Stadium Parking Lot

Lawn

Covered Walkway

Trade Show Tent

# LaSells Stewart Center



To Hilton Garden Inn and Highway 34

# Seed Economics Intensive Agenda

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Alumni Center/Ballroom



Navigating the finances of growing seed commercially can be challenging and managing the risks are essential to success. You'll gain the tools needed for managing financial risk in commercial seed production, including using budgeting tools to evaluate capital investments, expanding enterprises, and assessing market opportunities. We'll examine real-world examples from seed growers with different marketing strategies to build knowledge of wholesale, retail, and contract growing, as well as breeding and variety maintenance. You'll have the opportunity to provide your own production examples and work with an agricultural economist to develop enterprise budgets. We'll also hear from organic seed industry representatives about gaps in the seed supply, best practices for quality control, and projections for the future of the organic seed market.

**SPEAKERS:** Sebastian Aguilar, Chickadee Farm; Travis Greenwalt, Highland Economics; Sam McCullough, Nash's Organic Produce; Tanya Murray, Oregon Tilth; Sarah Kleeger, Adaptive Seeds; Tom Stearns, High Mowing Organic Seeds; Ira Wallace, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange; Pete Zuck, Johnny's Selected Seeds

9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.     **Welcome, introductions**

9:20 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.     **Inventory management**

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.     **Break**

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.     **Marketing at your scale: Wholesale and retail concepts**

Wholesale: Contracting, quality, shared risk, cashflow

Retail: stock seed, variety protections, royalties

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.     **Working with companies: Contracting, quality, and scale**

Gaps in supply, projections for scale needed, quality issues, seed brokers

12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.     **Lunch**

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.     **Enterprise budgets: Crop by crop risk management**

How to use, risk management, crop by crop (based on participant interest)

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.     **Tracking labor on your farm**

Developing on-farm labor cost estimates

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.     **Break**

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.     **Using enterprise budgets on real farms: Farmer case studies**

Scaling up, equipment investment

4:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.     **Discussion and questions**

# Organic Plant Breeding Intensive

## On-farm Plant Breeding for Organic Systems

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Alumni Center/Ballroom, Oregon State University Greenhouse and Laboratory Sites



You'll gain the basic skills to initiate or advance your organic breeding projects in this intensive. We'll learn strategies for breeding vegetable and grain crops of self- and cross-pollinated species. Organic public plant breeders will share advice on how to source germplasm, build breeding populations, manage crosses, and apply more advanced techniques to select for key traits under environmental challenges. Classroom and hands-on activities will demonstrate breeding tools and techniques. Presenters will also touch on the basics of lab-based breeding techniques that comply with organic methods, including marker-assisted selection. In the second half of the day, we'll take a field trip to OSU's greenhouse and labs to learn about their vegetable and grain breeding programs.

**SPEAKERS:** Patrick Hayes, Brigid Meints, and Jim Myers, Oregon State University; Julie Dawson, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Jared Zystro, Organic Seed Alliance and University of Wisconsin-Madison

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.      **Welcome, introductions**
- 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.      **Breeding goals, germplasm selection, and evaluation methods** (Julie Dawson)
- 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.    **Breeding strategies for self-pollinated crops** (Jim Myers)
- 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.   **Breeding strategies for cross-pollinated crops** (Jared Zystro)
- 11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.   **Break**
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.   **Participants select one of two tracks to dive deeper into crop-specific breeding considerations, including breeding for organic systems and culinary qualities:**
- 1) **Small grains:** Breeding small grains (Brigid Meints and Pat Hayes)
  - 2) **Vegetables:** Breeding vegetable crops (Julie Dawson, Jim Myers, Jared Zystro)
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.    **Walk to OSU greenhouse and lab sites near the Ag Life Science (ALS) building, approximately 4 blocks away** (*The rest of the day the class will tour OSU breeding programs, including tours of greenhouses, demonstrations of hand pollination techniques, use of winter greenhouse in breeding schemes, and various lab testing techniques*)
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.    **OSU greenhouse tours: Grain or vegetable options** (*follow your grain or vegetable track from the morning*)
- 3:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.    **Tour of Sensory Science Malting Lab** (*all participants*)
- 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **Basics of marker assisted selection (MAS) as a breeding tool to complement organic on-farm breeding** (*all participants*)
- 4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.    **Final question and answer and walk back to Alumni Center**

# Willamette Valley Seed Tour

Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Departs from and returns to the Alumni Center



Load the bus and get ready for a tour of mid-Willamette Valley seed production sponsored by Oregon Tilth! This year's day-long tour features seed production and cleaning locations on a variety of scales. We'll learn from organic and non-organic farms about what it takes to start a seed production and breeding farm, and hear from the old timers and companies who've been at it for ages. We'll get to check out a diversity of farms managing inventories and production lots both small and large.

**LOCATIONS:** Avoca Farm, Corvallis, OR; Kenagy Family Farm, Albany, OR; Universal Seed Company, Independence, OR; Heritage Seedlings and Liners, Salem, OR

## **Bus A**

7:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.    **Gather in Alumni Center foyer**  
8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.    **Avoca Farm**  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.    **Heritage Seedlings**  
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.    **Lunch at Riverfront Park in Salem**  
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.    **Universal Seed Company**  
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.    **Kenagy Family Farm**  
6:00 p.m.    **Return to Alumni Center**

## **Bus B**

7:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.    **Gather in Alumni Center foyer**  
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.    **Kenagy Family Farm**  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.    **Universal Seed Company**  
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.    **Lunch at Riverfront Park in Salem**  
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.    **Heritage Seedlings**  
4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.    **Avoca Farm**  
6:00 p.m.    **Return to Alumni Center**

**Avoca Farm, Corvallis, OR** | Avoca Seed Farm is managed by Hank Keogh and Jo Erikson. Located four miles east of Corvallis, Avoca is tucked away in the middle of the Willamette Valley, a great place for growing seed crops. Hank and Jo manage seven acres for certified organic seed crops grown largely for Wild Garden Seed and some for Adaptive Seed. As part of the Keogh family farm, Avoca also includes a peach orchard, several acres of NRCS riparian area restoration, and three elderly goats. This stop will showcase the creation of Avoca as a seed production farm; seed cultivation management techniques, including crop rotation, cover cropping, and addressing disease, weed seed, and chaff; and a field visit and discussion of Hank's 'Dazzling Blue' kale breeding work.

**Kenagy Family Farm, Albany, OR** | Kenagy Family Farm produces a diverse mix of crops on 325 acres while maintaining and caring for an additional 100+ acres of wildlife habitat in the form of forest, wetlands, waterways, and riparian zones. Crops are predominantly vegetables for processing and seed crops (native grasses and forbs, and vegetables and cover crops). The farm also houses the Pacific Northwest Natives seed cleaning facility, produces direct market asparagus and gooseberries for restaurants, and manages a goat herd to help control brush and graze cover crops. Pacific Northwest Natives is a contract producer and marketer of native grass, herbaceous forbs, legumes, and wildflowers adapted to Western Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Northern California, and British Columbia. This stop will showcase seed cleaning equipment and native and cover crop seed production.

**Universal Seed Company, Independence, OR** | Universal Seed Company is a knowledgeable and reliable supplier of high-quality vegetable seeds. It's located in the heart of the Willamette Valley which is renowned for its productive soils and temperate climate, making it the ideal location for producing crops like spinach, radish, and brassicas. Universal Seed Company increases seed for both national and international breeding companies that then go out for commercial sale. This stop will highlight the development of the business, and include a tour of the processing, cleaning, and brand-new seed testing lab facilities.

**Heritage Seedlings and Liners, Salem, OR** | Heritage Seedlings and Liners currently produces source-identified seed of over 100 species of native Willamette Valley, Oregon prairie wildflowers (forbs), grasses, sedges, and rushes. Their key strategy has been to increase the number of forb species commercially available each year, as wildflowers are a critical component of restoration projects. Forbs provide food for native pollinators and other insects that, in turn, foster a diversity of other creatures. Heritage produces 4,000 pounds of native seed per year on 35 acres in small plots ranging from 1/20th to 1/5th of an acre. Harvest methods include hand, ground cloth capture, shop vac, and cutting with a traditional swather. Crops are threshed using small plot combines from the 1950s. This stop will highlight innovative cleaning equipment and processes, seed inventory management, and the story of how Lynda Boyer began the native seed business at Heritage Seedlings and Liners.

# Main Conference Sessions

Friday and Saturday  
Various locations in both the Alumni Center and LaSells Stewart Center

## Crop Planning for Organic Seed Growers

LaSells Stewart Center/Construction Hall

Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.



Success and profitability in seed production starts with a solid plan. Hear from two experienced producers on how to work backwards from your goals to determine what, where, when, and how much to plant. This workshop will introduce methods to project yields and estimate production levels for both retail sales and wholesale sales, as well as how to balance labor demands across the harvest season.

**SPEAKERS:** Daniel Brisebois, Tourne-Sol Co-operative Farm; Sebastian Aguilar, Chickadee Farm

## Efficient Methods to Develop New Organic Cultivars: Case Studies of Breeding Strategies That Leverage Farmer Participation and On-farm Testing

LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium

Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Public plant breeding programs often result in the development of exciting new cultivars. How can the organic community leverage these programs to find and develop new populations that serve the needs of organic agriculture? This workshop will explore examples of how using new methods of participatory plant breeding, multi-location organic trials, advanced mating designs, and genomic information can rapidly identify and develop new varieties that excel in organic systems.

**SPEAKERS:** Jared Zystro, Organic Seed Alliance and University of Wisconsin-Madison; Julie Dawson, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Michael Mazourek, Cornell University

## Seed Sovereignty Experiences from the Agricultural Biodiversity Community

Alumni Center/Willamette

Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The Agricultural Biodiversity Community (ABC) is an international group of advocates who passionately believe that promoting agricultural biodiversity is essential to addressing the world's most pressing challenges. The small-scale farmers in

their networks — the custodians of diverse seed selected and adapted by generations — are finding their genetic heritage rapidly eroding in the face of urban migration, centralized marketing and distribution, and the power of giant seed conglomerates. Panel members from Asia and Africa will discuss efforts to develop local organic seed production and distribution, to fight for seed policies that protect farmers' rights, to explore IP alternatives that incentivize farmer adaptation and breeding work, and to link heritage varieties with markets and consumers.

**SPEAKERS:** Zacharia Makanya, Participatory Ecologic Land Use Management (PELUM); Krishna Prasad Govindaiah, Sahaja Samrudha; Ramanjaneyulu GV, Center for Sustainable Agriculture - India

## Private Sector Solutions to Increasing Organic Seed Usage

Alumni Center/111

Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Despite tremendous strides in increasing the availability of organic seed, further incentivizing its use is critical for the organic seed sector's continued expansion. Ongoing efforts to increase the sourcing of organic seed include: improving the regulatory requirement; providing training and education; investing in organic plant breeding and seed research; and developing organic seed databases. This interactive session will cover current seed policy discussions within the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) and broader organic community, including a 2017 NOSB proposal to update the organic seed regulation and strengthen guidance for certifiers. The session will emphasize private sector solutions for increasing organic seed sourcing by further developing the relationship between processors, organic growers, and seed providers. Audience members will be encouraged to share perspectives, experiences, and solutions to inform ongoing policy discussions and decisions focused on strengthening organic seed systems.

**SPEAKERS:** Andrew Black, Oregon Tilth; Heron Breen, Fedco Seeds; Adam Wagner, Oregon Blueberry Farms and Nursery; Gwendolyn Wyard, Organic Trade Association

## Growing Strong Seed the Biodynamic Way

LaSells Stewart Center/Construction Hall

Friday, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Organic and biodynamic production are both rooted in ecological agriculture and a whole systems approach. Biodynamic agriculture incorporates additional practices and principles to enhance the health and vitality of both the farm and seed crops. Biodynamic practices help plants to develop in a healthy and balanced way, to access the full spectrum of nutrients they need, and to become more resilient to pests, diseases, and extreme climate conditions. Demand for Demeter-certified biodynamic seed is growing among both seed companies and farmers who want the unique quality and vitality of these seeds. Learn how to incorporate biodynamics into your farm operations, specific biodynamic practices that can nurture and enhance the seeds that you grow, what is needed to become certified biodynamic, and where market opportunities are emerging.

**SPEAKERS:** Thea Maria Carlson, Biodynamic Farmer and Co-Director of the Biodynamic Association; Nathan Corymb Clark, Meadowlark Hearth; Jim Fullmer, Biodynamic Farmer and Co-Director of Demeter USA; Marjory House, Biodynamic Farmer and Consultant with Sero Biodynamic Seed

## Community Seed Systems: New Networks to Build Synergies Among Seed Stewards

Alumni Center/Willamette

Friday, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A movement of Community Seed Banks (CSBs), seed networks, and seed exchanges is growing in response to restricted access to genetic resources and to the expansion of on-farm seed saving and participatory breeding. Most initiatives aim to address the loss of agricultural genetic diversity and to enhance access to seeds adapted to local conditions that the market does not provide for adequately. Leaders of two projects will share experiences assessing and establishing seed conservation and exchange programs — the European DIVERSIFOOD project and the Community Seed Network (CSN). Presenters will share visions for the future of seed exchanges along with results of a recent survey of European CSBs. Learn about a new unique web platform designed by CSN to help make community seed work visible at an international scale. Presenters will engage in discussions about how vibrant models of community seed systems bolster seed security and enhance biodiversity in the West and globally.

**SPEAKERS:** Lee Buttala, Community Seed Network and Seed Savers Exchange; Veronique Chable, Le Courrier de l'environnement de l'INRA (INRA) and DIVERSIFOOD; Stephanie Hughes, Community Seed Network and USC Canada

## Systems-based Plant Breeding: Adding New Dimensions to Resilience

LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium

Friday, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Current agriculture is contested and under pressure to comply with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, aiming not only at ecological but also at societal resilience. To what extent is the plant breeding sector engaged? What can or should plant breeding contribute to issues such as ecosystem services, food sovereignty, and social justice? These goals are complex and require an integrated approach and a co-learning process to navigate through a diversity of future directions for the plant breeding sector. Additionally, the organic sector is challenged to make further progress to become societally more relevant while focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals.

**SPEAKERS:** Edith T. Lammerts van Bueren, Wageningen University and Louis Bolk Institute

## Intellectual Property Rights and Public Plant Breeding: Opportunity or Oxymoron?

Alumni Center/111

Friday, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Public plant breeding programs are meant to develop seeds that are kept in the public domain and available for interested farmers and researchers. However, years of declining federal investment in cultivar development have nearly brought the industry to a standstill, and public researchers today must have financial sustainability in the forefront of their minds. How can these two equal needs – to collect royalties and research investments while simultaneously keeping cultivars in the public domain – be balanced? This session will discuss working models and other action-oriented findings coming out of the Intellectual Property Rights for Public Plant Breeding Summit, hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Participants will learn how they can improve the sustainability of public plant breeding programs both on the ground at their own institutions as well as through policy advocacy.

**SPEAKERS:** Julie Dawson, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Michael Sligh, Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA; Bill Tracy, University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Seed Production in Cages – Challenging, Fun, and Rewarding

LaSells Stewart Center/Construction Hall  
Friday, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Caged seed production can be both challenging and rewarding. Although disease, pest control, and pollinator management can be difficult, the isolation they provide allows for diverse seed production and eliminates the threat of cross pollination with neighboring crops and weedy relatives. This session will illuminate challenges and successes of caged seed production highlighting several crops, and discuss some of the options for cage construction and pollinator management covering a range from small cages for breeding work to larger scale production. Speakers will share their experiences in using cages and managing and raising flies as pollinators for isolation and quality seed production.

**SPEAKERS:** Shaina Bronstein, Vitalis Organic Seeds; Jen Cody, Growing Opportunities Farm Community Coop; Laurie McKenzie, Organic Seed Alliance; Chris Thoreau, FarmFolk CityFolk

## Building Robust Seed Systems Across Canada: A Model for Bolstering National Seed Security

Alumni Center/111  
Friday, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, a program of USC Canada, has been supporting a national movement to build resilient seed systems in Canada since 2013. Through developing a series of strong regional, national, and international networks with farmers, seed producers, researchers, and partners from civil society, government, and the private sector, The Initiative focuses on conserving, enhancing, and creating new seed biodiversity in Canada. This session will provide an overview on how these networks have been built to support: on-farm research, including a national participatory plant breeding program and research to improve domestic vegetable seed production; biodiversity conservation, including support for community seed collections and in-situ seed conservation efforts; and capacity building, including institutional training and farmer-to-farmer knowledge transfer, financial support for scaling up and diversification of regional seed systems, and efforts to integrate seed into national agricultural and climate policy frameworks. The success of these programs is a direct result of taking a collaborative, farmer-led, solutions-based approach that has bridged sectors and geographies in an attempt to build a national seed system that is resilient to climate change and food security challenges.

**SPEAKERS:** Abir Dey, The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security; Iris Vaisman, Prairie Organic Grain Initiative

## The Grain Revolution: From Seed to Plate (or Pint)

LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium  
Friday, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

A growing demand for regional, organic grains with superior culinary qualities is inspiring a movement of participatory breeding projects that engage stakeholders along the food chain. Hear the inspiring stories and creative breeding strategies of collaborative grain development projects in France and the US. An action-research project in the Northwest of France aims for a “renaissance of minor cereals” (spelt, einkorn, rivet wheat, buckwheat, and rye) fostered by networks of diversified actors and local food chains. In the Pacific Northwest region of the US, two programs are engaging farmers, millers, bakers, and brewers to develop culinary and agronomic qualities and markets for regionally produced oats, barley, wheat, and spelt.

**SPEAKERS:** Veronique Chablis, Le Courrier de l'environnement de l'INRA (INRA) and DIVERSIFOOD; Stephen Jones, Washington State University; Brigid Meints, Oregon State University

## Emerging Technologies in the Development of New Plant Varieties

Alumni Center/Willamette  
Friday, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

With a growing understanding of genetics and biochemistry, new technologies are changing our ability to develop new plant varieties. These techniques present the organic community with the challenge of determining which technologies are in line with organic principles and which should be excluded. Claims that newer techniques, such as gene editing, should be allowed in organic agriculture have been met with skepticism. This panel discussion will explain techniques being discussed here in the US and internationally in the context of organic regulations. Participants are invited to weigh in with their own questions and perspectives.

**SPEAKERS:** Brian Baker, IFOAM North America; Edith T. Lammerts van Bueren, Wageningen University and Louis Bolk Institute; Jim Myers, Oregon State University

## Leveraging Variety Trials to Advance Organic Seed Systems

LaSells Stewart Center/Construction Hall  
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.



Variety trials are a critical tool for fostering organic seed systems. Effective trials aid adoption of organic seed sources, help identify priority traits for plant breeders, and inform regional performance of newly released varieties. Managing trial networks, however, requires investments in time and resources as well as the informed input of organic farmers

and other specialists. This workshop will share insights from experienced on-farm trial coordinators who have developed strategies for conducting effective organic variety trials and leveraging relationships and trial results in the development of regional and organic seed systems. Panelists will share insights into how to coordinate, analyze, and share results from trial networks as well as new tools and examples from programs throughout North America.

**SPEAKERS:** Julie Dawson, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Alex Lyon, University of British Columbia; Jared Zystro, Organic Seed Alliance and University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Funding and Commercialization Options for Participatory Organic Plant Breeding

Alumni Center/111  
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Growth in on-farm and participatory breeding projects is manifesting a diversity of new and improved varieties for organic farmers and seed companies. Yet most farmer-participatory projects are either supported by grants or conducted by farmers through personal investment. A growing number of independent farmer-breeders and participatory projects aspire to commercially release new varieties and seek revenues to support ongoing breeding and variety stewardship activities. This workshop will explore case examples and lessons learned from such efforts striving to support the economic and logistical aspects of on-farm plant breeding and varietal release.

**SPEAKERS:** Micaela Colley, Organic Seed Alliance; Walter Goldstein, Mandaamin Institute; Claire Luby, Open Source Seed Initiative; Theresa Podoll, Farmer Breeder Club and Prairie Road Organic Seed; Tom Stearns, High Mowing Organic Seeds; Pete Zuck, Johnny's Selected Seeds

## Building Relationships from Seed to Fork

LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium  
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

A movement of community engagement in seed is building as we dig deeper into the origins of our food and strive to invite broad participation in envisioning an ecologically healthy and flavorful food system for the future. Exciting collaborations are connecting people not only to farmers but also to the breeders and growers of the seed at the root of our food system. Discussions will focus on relationship-building seed initiatives led by seed companies, universities, and non-profits that are engaging farmers, breeders, eaters, chefs and others in the supply chain. Presenters will share stories from the field and kitchens. Join us at the nexus of flavor and organic adaptation.

**SPEAKERS:** Ken Greene, Hudson Valley Seed Company and Seedshed; Terry Hodge, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Brigid Meints, Washington State University; Lane Selman, Oregon State University; Lindsay Wyatt, Johnny's Selected Seeds

## Addressing Intellectual Property Rights in Organic Seed Systems

Alumni Center/Willamette  
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The proliferation of restrictive intellectual property rights (IPR) that inhibit farmers' and breeders' ability to save, exchange, and improve seed is a challenge to the development of organic varieties. Patents are now regularly being issued on many varieties. Although organic seed of certain patented varieties is now being offered by a number of companies, the IPR status of these varieties is not always known and indicated in catalogs, and farmers and gardeners may not know they are buying use-restricted seed. This session provides an update on how IPRs are affecting the organic seed community and what farmers, seed producers, and freelance breeders need to know about these practices.

**SPEAKERS:** Jack Kloppenburg, University of Wisconsin-Madison; CR Lawn, Fedco Seeds; Frank Morton, Wild Garden Seeds; Jim Myers, Oregon State University

## Microbial Hitchhikers on Seed: Friend or Foe?

LaSells Stewart Center/Construction Hall  
Saturday, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



During their lifetime, plants are colonized by a diverse assortment of microorganisms. Some of these microorganisms can be transferred to a plant's progeny via vertical transmission as seed is produced. Microbes that are vertically transmitted during reproduction could be beneficial, helping seedlings establish, acquire nutrients, and withstand biotic and abiotic stress. Others could be plant pathogens, negatively affecting the yield and productivity of crops. Even worse, some could be enteric pathogens, capable of causing gastrointestinal illness and even death in humans. This workshop will provide an overview of how microorganisms are vertically transmitted via seed, what research is being conducted to better understand how and which types of microbes are transmitted to a plant's offspring via seed, and practical approaches to prevent transmission of harmful plant and human pathogens on seed.

**SPEAKERS:** Dan Egel, Purdue University; Jim Myers, Oregon State University

## Behind the Scenes: Why Seed Companies Drop Beloved Varieties

LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium  
Saturday, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Frustrated growers who have come to rely on a beloved variety for dependability and market demand often wonder why a seed company would drop a popular and successful variety. The reasons are diverse and can include challenges with seed production (low seed yields, disease, or pollination issues); sales volumes; and inventory management. Breeding companies are continually developing new varieties with better flavor profiles, improved yield potential, disease resistances, as well as more reliable seed vigor and production. Grower participation in the variety development process is critical to ensure that the grower's preferences are heard, as well as to keep growers at the cutting-edge of the most appropriate varieties for their systems. Learn about the decisions seed companies face when managing varieties, and the role that growers can play to be involved.

**SPEAKERS:** Heron Breen, Fedco Seeds; Jan van der Heide, Bejo Seeds; Adrienne Shelton, Vitalis Organic Seeds; Pete Zuck, Johnny's Selected Seeds

## How to Succeed with Regional Seed

LaSells Stewart Center/Construction Hall  
Saturday, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Regionally adapted seed is vital to a more sustainable seed system. Long-time leaders of the seed movement will advise on how to conserve and promote regionally adapted seed, and will explore strategies to foster regional varieties and bioregional diversity into the future.

**SPEAKERS:** Ken Bezilla, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange; Daniela Dutra-Elliot, Hawaii Seed Growers Network and Leeward Community College; Ken Greene, Hudson Valley Seed Company and Seedshed; Bill McDorman, Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance; Don Tipping, Siskiyou Seeds; Jared Zystro, Organic Seed Alliance and University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Protecting the Genetic Integrity of Organic Seed

Alumni Center/111  
Saturday, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) continues to grapple with how to best protect the genetic integrity of seed used in organic systems. Keeping genetically engineered (GE) material out of organic and other non-GE seed remains a challenge to seed producers and farmers. The NOSB is gathering input to inform a proposal on the topic for their upcoming spring 2018 meeting. Some questions that remain unanswered include:

What are the best sampling procedures and testing methods? Who bears the brunt of testing costs and the consequences of rejected seed? What, if any, threshold is appropriate and feasible for unwanted GE material in organic and other non-GE forms of seed? NOSB member Harriet Behar will be facilitating this workshop as a listening session to hear first-hand from the organic seed community on how best to address this problem.

**SPEAKERS:** Harriet Behar, National Organic Standards Board

## Taking Tomatoes Totally Organic

Alumni Center/Willamette  
Saturday, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tomatoes are an interesting crop. They are the poster child for what is wrong with our current system of mass production, long distance shipping, and ever-increasing shelf life. On the other hand, they are one of the easiest crops for amateur breeders and seed savers to experiment with, leading to a wide diversity of backyard breeders, farmer breeders, small seed company, and public-sector actors. Several collaborative efforts bring together diverse stakeholders to improve disease resistance, productivity, and flavor of tomatoes in organic systems, including the Tomato Organic Management and Improvement (TOMI) project, the Northern Organic Vegetable Improvement Collaborative (NOVIC), and a north-central SARE-funded project. Presenters will cover basic techniques for tomato breeding, highlight promising varieties evaluated in field and high tunnel environments, and share strategies for selecting for flavor by engaging farmers, consumers, and chefs.

**SPEAKERS:** Terry Hodge, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Jim Myers, Oregon State University; Jared Zystro, Organic Seed Alliance and University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Organic Hybrid Seed Production in the U.S. – Methods and Case Studies

LaSells Stewart Center/Construction Hall  
Saturday, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



New and alternative models of organic hybrid seed production in the US are being explored by both seed growers and seed companies. This workshop will discuss some of the unique opportunities and challenges in specific crop categories. Case studies in hybrid tomato, cucumber, and corn seed production will be presented and explored to highlight the basic principles of managing hybrid crops, specific techniques used, and economic considerations.

**SPEAKERS:** Jeffrey Block, Gro Alliance; Jason Cavatorta, Earth-Work Seeds; Tom Stearns, High Mowing Organic Seeds; Bill Waycott, Nipomo Native Seeds

## Cultivating Diversity in the Organic Seed Movement: Resilient Seeds and Diverse Communities

LaSells Stewart Center/Austin Auditorium  
Saturday, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Diversity in the seed movement is important for plant genetic resources, but also applies to the communities of stewardship as well. Panelists working with diverse cultural communities will explore collaborative efforts to protect seed and how cultural values can guide the seed and food justice movements. Presenters will share current work being done to preserve culture and build diversity in seed stewardship, including efforts from the Indigenous Seed Keepers Network; the Second Generation Seeds project, working with Asian American farmers in the Bay Area of California; Truelove Seeds, a collaboration with urban and rural farmers committed to community food sovereignty and preservation of ancestral foodways through seed keeping; and Seedshed, an initiative focused on seed justice and cross-cultural seed work. The panel will engage in discussions exploring the following questions: Can we envision the Seed Commons and coordinate collaborative efforts to care for and protect our seeds that is in right relationship with a diverse array of voices from unique cultural communities? How does the food justice movement fit within the organic seed movement? How can this seed work help us embark upon regenerative forms of economic development and production techniques that are in alignment with cultural values of the communities we are working with?

**SPEAKERS:** Ken Greene, Hudson Valley Seed Company and Seedshed; Kristyn Leach, Namu Farm and Second Generation Seeds Project; Owen Taylor, Philadelphia Seed Exchange and Truelove Seeds; Rowen White, Indigenous Seed Keepers

## Will you be our big winner?

### Visit the Trade Show to enter a fabulous seed growers raffle!

Our sponsors and exhibitors have stepped up to offer a **conglomeration of prizes** as diverse as our seed community. Visit each booth to complete the raffle ticket you received at registration and drop it in our ticket hopper at the Trade Show tent. The winner must be present when we pull the lucky ticket on Saturday night.

Thank you to our early raffle donors: **High Mowing Seeds, KAMUT, Oregon Tilth, Harris Seeds Organic, Biodynamic Association and Hudson Valley Seed Company.**

Please see the growing list of donors at the raffle table in the Trade Show tent!

## The Intersection of Plant Breeding and Federal Policy

Alumni Center/111  
Saturday, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

With Farm Bill debates heating up, this session will help people in all parts of the movement better understand how their needs with regard to seed are translated into policies at a federal level. This will be an informal discussion on how the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) and other policy groups advocate for legislative change. Participants are encouraged to ask questions regarding the Farm Bill process and its content – there are no dumb questions! We aim to build a bridge between the needs of stakeholders and policy makers on Capitol Hill. This session will include a short presentation on Farm Bill priorities that impact seed and breeders and how stakeholders can support these policy proposals. The balance of the time will be facilitated as a roundtable discussion and Q&A.

**SPEAKERS:** Kanika Gandhi, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition; Michael Sligh, Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA

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# Speaker Biographies



## **Sebastian Aguilar, Chickadee Farm**

Sebastian Aguilar owns and operates Chickadee Farm in Talent, Oregon, and grows a variety of certified organic seed and fresh vegetable crops for wholesale. On his farm he strives to optimize soil health, develop excellent varieties, and create efficient farm systems, all while training aspiring farmers and living a healthy life with his family. Aguilar is also a farm educator and is the assistant director of the Organic Farm School as well as board president of Organic Seed Alliance.



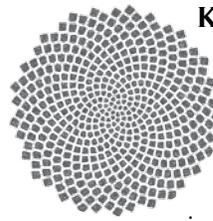
## **Brian Baker, IFOAM North America**

Dr. Brian Baker is a researcher, consultant and educator who has worked in organic agriculture since 1983. Brian grew up on a small family farm in Western New York, and received his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University. After a post-doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, he worked on certification at California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) and went from there to be a founder of the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). He also worked for the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in Frick, Switzerland. Dr. Baker has a wide range of consulting clients in the private, public, and nonprofit sector in and out of the US, and continues to publish research. One of his current projects is as a team member for the hull-less barley breeding project at Oregon State University. Dr. Baker is the President of IFOAM North America. He currently resides in Eugene, OR.



## **Harriet Behar, National Organic Standards Board**

Harriet Behar has led trainings and on-farm tours introducing organic agriculture and organic certification requirements to farmers, feed mill operators, bankers, pest control technicians, extension agents, NRCS personnel, and other agriculture education professionals. As a former employee of the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES), and as an organic inspector for over 30 years, she has visited and worked with thousands of organic farmers in the Upper Midwest. As a current member of the USDA's National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), she aids in improving the organic standards and is kept current on all details of implementation and interpretation of the organic law. She and her husband have managed a certified organic farm since 1989, growing bedding plants, vegetables, herbs and small grains, as well as selling eggs and honey as a small-scale commercial operation.



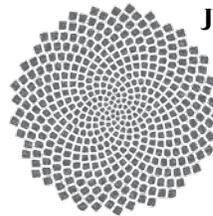
## **Ken Bezilla, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange**

Ken Bezilla has been farming in Oregon, Missouri, and Virginia for 25 years. The last half of that has been at Southern Exposure Seed Exchange in central Virginia. There, his indoor hats include grower liaison, seed inventory, seed germination testing, and catalog writing. When it's warm, his outdoor hats include growing variety trials and seed crops. He enjoys regaling Virginia folks with stories about his Oregon days, telling them all about slugs the size of Volkswagen buses, and tomato plants that might attain the majestic heights of four feet tall in a hot summer.



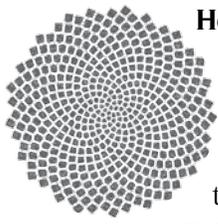
## **Andrew Black, Oregon Tilth**

Andrew Black is currently a Senior Certification Officer at Oregon Tilth, where he has been inspecting and evaluating organic farms, dairies, and food processors since 2005. Andrew has worn many hats at Oregon Tilth, including inspector, reviewer, farm program manager, and Latin American specialist. He has a backyard farm called The Amazing Acre from which he has grown veggies for a CSA and done lettuce variety trials.



## **Jeffrey Block, Gro Alliance**

Jeffrey Block is the organic seed division manager for Gro Alliance, an independent family-run contract corn and soybean production company based out of Cuba City, Wisconsin. They are establishing partnerships with certified organic growers to produce high-quality certified organic corn seed and working on establishing an organic corn seed growers network. Their initiatives include experimenting with organic production techniques, inbred parent trials, collaborating on public university partnerships, as well as sharing organic production knowledge and experiences within the organic community. Previously, Jeff spent ten years in plant breeding research as part of a sweet corn breeding team for HM Clause. He also has more than a decade of experience in organic vegetable production on several CSA farms in Wisconsin and permaculture work in Guatemala. He has worked independently on various seed saving, bioregional plant breeding and heirloom preservation projects since the early '90s.



**Heron Breen, Fedco Seeds** | Heron Breen has worked at Fedco Seeds for 18 years and counting. His current focus is implementing trial programming and engaging in daily operations. Heron also finds time to farm, working 4 to 6 acres of mostly seed productions and plant breeding. Plant breeding and seed production in a historical context, as well as plant physiology and pathology, are all personal interests.



**Daniel Brisebois, Tourne-Sol Co-operative Farm** | Daniel Brisebois, co-author of *Crop Planning for Organic Vegetable Growers*, is past president of Canadian Organic Growers, a USC Canada Board member, and on the Eastern Canadian Organic Seed Growers Network's steering committee. Dan is also one of the founding members of Tourne-Sol co-operative farm ([www.fermetournesol.qc.ca](http://www.fermetournesol.qc.ca)) in Les Cedres, Quebec. Tourne-Sol produces certified organic vegetables and seeds that are distributed through a 400-member CSA, farmers market, and on-line seed catalogue. You can reach Dan at [daniel@fermetournesol.qc.ca](mailto:daniel@fermetournesol.qc.ca) and follow his blog at [www.goingtoseed.wordpress.com](http://www.goingtoseed.wordpress.com)



**Shaina Bronstein, Vitalis Organic Seeds** | Shaina Bronstein is the Pacific Northwest representative for Vitalis Organic Seeds. Her work entails screening genetic material under organic conditions and identifying regionally unique traits to inform breeding strategies. Shaina earned her BS in Plant and Soil Science and Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and has worked in the seed industry since 2004. Prior to Vitalis, Shaina worked for Harris Moran Seed Company as basic seed manager, which entailed managing extensive caged and open field seed increases for a variety of small seeded crops.



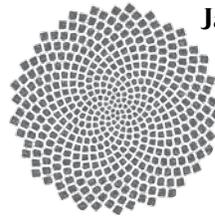
**Lee Buttala, Community Seed Network and Seed Savers Exchange** | Lee Buttala is the Executive Director of Seed Savers Exchange and was the co-editor of *The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving*. He is an Emmy Award winning producer of Martha Stewart Living and was the creator, producer, and director of *Cultivating Life*, a PBS series on outdoor living and gardening. He was also an editor for Alfred A. Knopf and *Garden Design* and has contributed to the *New York Times*, *New York* magazine and the *Heirloom Gardener*. He served as the Preservation Program Manager for the Garden Conservancy, studied garden design at Kyoto University of Art and Design, The English Gardening School at the Chelsea Physic Garden

and at the New York Botanical Garden. He currently sits on the board of Hollister House Garden and is Vice-Chair of the Historic Landscape section of the American Public Garden Association.



**Thea Carlson, Biodynamic Association**

Thea Maria Carlson is executive director of the Biodynamic Association and a farmer, facilitator, and educator dedicated to building a regenerative food system. The Biodynamic Association awakens and enlivens co-creative relationships between humans and the earth, transforming the practice and culture of agriculture to renew the vitality of the earth, the integrity of our food, and the health and wholeness of our communities. Thea's experience includes diversified organic and biodynamic production farming; teaching gardening, nutrition, and beekeeping; designing, building, and managing urban community and educational gardens; and organizing strategic communications trainings for nonprofit leaders. Thea holds a BS in Earth Systems from Stanford University and a permaculture design certificate from Occidental Arts and Ecology Center. She is also a graduate of The Coaching Fellowship and the Center for Courage and Renewal's Academy for Leaders.



**Jason Cavatorta, EarthWork Seeds**

Jason Cavatorta, PhD, is a commercial plant breeder with experience working in the seed industry. In 2015 he founded EarthWork Seeds, a vegetable germplasm development company based in Oviedo, Florida. Jason uses traditional plant breeding methods to develop and produce new vegetable cultivars with improved quality (taste, appearance, texture) and agronomic performance (yield, disease resistance, stress tolerance).



**Véronique Chable, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) and DIVERSIFOOD**

Véronique Chable is a senior scientist at INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique) in Rennes, France. She has coordinated EU projects since 2007. She is coordinator of DIVERSIFOOD, a H2020 project (2015-2019). Through multi-actors and trans-disciplinary approaches, these programs evaluate and enrich the diversity of cultivated plants within diverse agroecosystems to increase their performance, resilience and quality, re-discovering genetic resources of species and developing adapted diversity management/plant breeding for organic agriculture or marginal/specific conditions



**Jen Cody, Growing Opportunities Farm Community Coop**

Jen comes to farming and seed saving through her background in community development and nutrition. She is an active coordinator/worker and founder of Growing Opportunities

Farm. In it's 11<sup>th</sup> year, the farm is working with people of all levels of ability, and has supported people with mental health disabilities to participate. As a part of her farm involvement, Jen is the farm-lead for the Carrot Seed Research Project. This project, now completing it's 5<sup>th</sup> year, is investigating growing carrots for seed in enclosed high tunnels. Jen coordinates the Centre Island Seed Savers Network and is active in teaching seed saving skills in the community. She is also a founding member of BC EcoSeeds Coop and continues to support creating a local seed system through her work at the farm, beekeeping, and in the community teaching and organizing community projects with Nanaimo Foodshare.



**Micaela Colley, Organic Seed Alliance**

Micaela Colley leads Organic Seed Alliance's research and education programs focused on organic seed production and organic plant breeding. She is the author of several publications. Micaela frequently teaches and speaks on organic

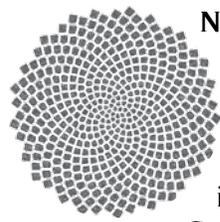
seed topics and collaborates on research projects nationally. Micaela is also pursuing a PhD focused on organic and participatory plant breeding under Dr. Edith Lammerts van Bueren at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.



**Michael B. Commons, Agricultural Biodiversity Community**

Michael B. Commons lives with his family in Chachoengsao, Thailand, where they practice Wanakaset (forest gardening and self-reliance) and are active in the Wanaksaet

Network. For over 12 years he has worked with Earth Net Foundation to support small-scale farmer groups and associated supporting organizations from South and Southeast Asia to develop organic and fair trade supply chains, regenerate ecological and community health, and build their resilience capacity. He is a member of the Steering Council of the Agricultural Biodiversity Community working to promote agricultural biodiversity in many ways, including through initiatives for seed sovereignty. He also works with Terra Genesis International to help link and assist concerned and innovative companies, their consumer networks and farmers' groups to collaborate in developing regenerative pathways together.



**Nathan Corymb Clark, Meadowlark**

**Hearth** | Nathan Corymb Clark trained in biodynamic agriculture at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills and trained in biodynamic seed growing at Sativa Seed in Switzerland and Bingenheim Seed in

Germany. He and his wife Beth founded

Turtle Tree Biodynamic Seed Initiative and developed it as a sheltered workshop for people with special needs, where it continues at Camphill Village in Copake, New York. In 2010 they moved to Nebraska and began Meadowlark Hearth Farm where they developed wholesale biodynamic seed production along with a CSA, dairy, beef, poultry, and market vegetable production. At Meadowlark Hearth they integrate farming and seed work into education and therapeutic work under the auspices of the Living Environment Foundation, a nonprofit with a two-fold focus on biodiversity and serving vulnerable populations. They sell seed at [www.meadowlarkhearth.org](http://www.meadowlarkhearth.org) and also grow certified organic and biodynamic seed under contract for a number of US seed companies.



**Julie Dawson, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Julie Dawson is an assistant professor in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her background is in organic plant breeding and participatory research.

Research includes organic and on-farm variety trials and variety selection for local food systems, and she has experience in vegetable crops and small grains. She leads a project called the Seed to Kitchen Collaborative with other plant breeders to test varieties with local farmers and chefs, focused on flavor for local food systems.



**Aabir Dey, The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security**

Aabir developed his passion for seeds while at Everdale Organic Farm and supporting research trials for Seeds of Diversity Canada's collection. After completing a Master's of

Environmental Studies at York University,

researching organic seed systems in Ontario, Aabir joined the The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security as the regional program coordinator for Ontario. Aabir has co-authored publications on Canada's seed system, including the Canadian Organic Seed Sector Environmental Scan and the Discussion Paper on Seed Policy in Canada. He has been instrumental in shaping and leading the training, research, and policy programs developed for The Bauta Family Seed Initiative, and created their flagship vegetable varietal improvement program that involves over 100 farmers across the country. Aabir loves working in the field with seed producers and farmers all over Canada, and is thrilled to continue to steward The Bauta Family Seed Initiative at a national level into the future.



**Daniela Dutra Elliot, Hawaii Seed Growers Network and Leeward Community College** | Daniela has been working with the Hawaii Seed Growers Network for the past few years trialing and selecting locally adapted cultivars while working on tropical seed production quality. She is also a faculty member at University of Hawaii-Leeward CC where she conducts varietal trials with undergraduate participation. She has a background in seed physiology, propagation protocols and pollination biology.



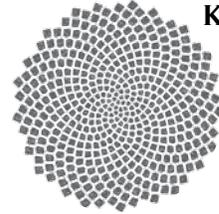
**Daniel Egel, Purdue University** | Daniel S. Egel conducts statewide vegetable disease research and extension programs at Purdue University. Current efforts include management of Fusarium wilt of watermelon with fungicides and host resistance, the use of biological control for management of bacterial spot of tomato and the production of healthy tomato plants in greenhouses. Extension publications include the Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers, an annual eight-state publication of varietal, fertility and pest management information, for which Dr. Egel is lead author. Dr. Egel received his BS degree in Botany from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, his MS degree in Forestry from Purdue University and his PhD degree in plant pathology from the University of Florida. Dan is in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, but is based out of the Southwest Purdue Agricultural Center in Vincennes, Indiana.



**Kanika Gandhi, The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition** | Kanika Gandhi holds an MPA concentrating on Food Systems & Agricultural Policy, as well as a B.A. in Public Policy and Italian Studies from Brown University. Kanika manages the Research, Education, and Extension Committee and co-manages the Conservation, Energy, and Environment Committee of The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC). In addition, she helps to advance NSAC's Diversity efforts. Before joining NSAC, Kanika worked as a policy specialist at the Federal Trade Commission. Prior to that, she spent time farming in Southern Vermont and worked as a research associate focusing on agricultural policy at Brown University in Rhode Island, both at the Urban Environmental Lab and the Taubman Center for Public Policy.



**Walter Goldstein, Mandaamin Institute** | Walter Goldstein is executive director of the nonprofit, Mandaamin Institute, and owns a corn breeding company called Nokomis Gold Seed Company. His work is built on decades of developing corn varieties with high nutritional value, nitrogen efficiency, and cross incompatibility to GMO pollen under organic conditions. Research and marketing is facilitated through developing a quality crop research association with participating farmers, seed, and feed related companies.



**Krishna Prasad Govindaiah, Sahaja Samrudha** | Rural Karnataka's "native seed man," Krishna Prasad has been leading a movement to conserve indigenous seeds for the past 25 years. The establishment of Sahaja Samrudha was a step in this direction and the organization has worked with organic farmers to preserve and improve indigenous crop varieties and exchange of seeds. He founded Sahaja Seeds, a farmer-owned seed company that links organic seed producers to the market and promotes farmer-based seed supply systems. He is also the founder of Sahaja Organics, which connects producers and consumers, and markets a wide range of traditional crops and value-added products. Presently, he is the Convener of The Bharat Beej Swaraj Manch (India Seed Sovereignty Alliance), a nationwide network of more than 300 seed savers that safeguards the rights of seed savers and India's rich diversity. He is an Ashoka Fellow and author of many publications and articles.



**Ken Greene, Hudson Valley Seed Company and Seedshed** | Ken Greene is founder of the first seed library in the country, a project he germinated in a small town library. Today, the Hudson Valley Seed Library has grown into the Hudson Valley Seed Co., a national seed company and seed farm devoted to ethically producing seed for home gardeners and farmers and celebrating seeds through art. In 2016, twelve years after starting the seed library, Greene founded Seedshed, a new nonprofit focused on seed literacy and seed justice. Greene is also on the board of directors for Organic Seed Alliance. He has given presentations for diverse groups, including the Northeast Organic Farming Association, Culinary Institute of America, Seed Savers Exchange, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Omega Institute, National Heirloom Expo, and Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute.

**Travis Greenwalt, Highland Economics**

Travis has an academic background in business finance and a personal background and interest in sustainable agriculture. He has led many types of economic analyses for regional level

and business level planning efforts, often involving the development of crop enterprise budgets to gauge profit potential at the farm level. In addition to consulting on agricultural development projects, Travis is also a part owner of an oilseed pressing company (Ole World Oils), part owner of a small vegetable and berry farm (Hilltop Haven Farm), Treasurer for the Missoula Conservation District, and member of both the Western Montana Growers Cooperative and Montana Sustainable Growers Union (Homegrown).

**Ramanjaneyulu GV, Center for Sustainable Agriculture - India**

Dr. G. V. Ramanjaneyulu has a PhD in Agriculture from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, and a BSc (Ag) and MSc (Ag) from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University. He is the executive director of the

Center for Sustainable Agriculture. He works with farmers to establish ecologically and economically sustainable agriculture models, build a community marketing system, build community enterprises, and serve as a resource organization to support the programs of state and central governments. He is currently working with the government of Andhra Pradesh to promote natural farming with Maharashtra State Livelihoods Mission, North East Rural Livelihoods Project and Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation in building the capacities of the staff and organization involved in the program.

**Patrick Hayes, Oregon State University**

Dr. Patrick Hayes is a professor at Oregon State University. His research team focuses on barley – in its many forms and uses. Current research areas include: development of facultative habit barley varieties for malting and human nutrition;

the many facets of winter hardiness; dissection of quantitative disease resistance; characterization and utilization of genetic diversity; stimulating local barley production; research malting; and barley quality assessment.

**Terry Hodge, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Terry Hodge is a graduate student pursuing a Master's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is conducting research with Dr. Julie Dawson. Specifically, his research involves tomato variety trials for organic sys-

tems, and in partnering with seed companies, nonprofits, and independent breeders, he aims to determine stand-out varieties for the North Central region of the US. A major goal of the research is to provide relevant information to organic market and CSA farmers. Season extension is also a major component of the project.

**Marjory House, Biodynamic farmer and Sero Biodynamic Seed**

Marjory House has been gardening and farming in the Willamette Valley of Oregon for over 20 years. She currently owns and operates a seven-acre farm with over 450 apple trees and over an acre of vegetables grown for

restaurants, farmers markets and Sero biodynamic seed company. She has maintained a fruit tree pruning business for 15 years and a biodynamic consulting business for the last seven years. She can be reached through her website: [www.gobiodynamic.com](http://www.gobiodynamic.com).

**Stephanie Hughes, The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security**

Steph Hughes works in Atlantic Canada as the regional coordinator for The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, a program led nationally by USC Canada and Seeds of Diversity. Steph has an

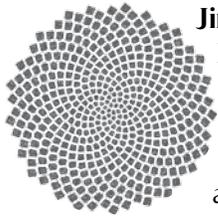
academic background in international development studies with a focus on food issues, and has worked for 15 years in diverse social and environmental justice movements in the nonprofit sector. As program coordinator she supports organic seed growers through delivery of training, research, and networking opportunities, as well as supporting conservationists, activists, and volunteers involved in community seed collections. Steph joined the Community Seed Network Working Group in 2016. With a particular background in community development, permaculture, and communications, Steph strives to bring a systems approach to this work, engaging communities in a way that is collaborative and empowering. Steph lives with her husband and three cats in beautiful Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**Rebecca Ivanoff, Whole Circle Farm**

Rebecca Ivanoff has worked for five seasons at Whole Circle Farm, a 200-acre mixed operation near Acton, Ontario, where she started as an intern in 2013.

For the past two years she has co-managed the 10-acre market garden, as well as the vegetable seed production. One of the projects she is particularly excited about is a participatory pepper breeding project with three other southern Ontario farmers (Annie Richard, Greta Kryger, and Kathy Rothermel) and plant breeders at Cornell University (Michael Mazourek and Rachel Hultengren). Rebecca has an undergraduate

and Master's degree from the University of Guelph, where she studied botany, anthropology, and international development. Part of this time was spent learning from farmer-researchers in rural Honduras. In farming, plant breeding, and seed saving she has continued to work with plants and culture, and has found a way of honoring the past, present and future.



**Jim Fullmer, Biodynamic farmer and**

**Demeter USA** | Jim has been executive director of Demeter since 2004. Graduating with a BS in Horticulture from Oregon State University, Jim has been a hands-on Biodynamic® farmer for 25 years and currently resides with his family

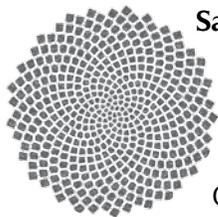
on their Demeter Certified Biodynamic farm, the Hoskins Berry Farm, in Kings Valley Oregon. Jim brings a wealth of experience as a previous consultant for both biodynamic and organic farming and processing operations, along with multiple years engaged as an independent organic inspector and consultant. This has placed Jim at the forefront of the industry, working with the original organic certifiers in the US, as well as numerous well-established certifiers throughout the world. Jim's global immersion into organic and biodynamic agriculture has taken him on travels beyond the US and Europe, including Indonesia, China, Russia, Mexico, and Central America.



**Stephen Jones, Washington State University**

| Stephen Jones is a wheat breeder and the director of the Washington State University Bread Lab in Mount Vernon, Washington. Together with his graduate students and lab members he breeds non-commodity wheat and other grains for

local uses to be grown on small farms in the coastal West and other non-wheat belt regions of the country.



**Sarah Kleeger, Adaptive Seeds**

Sarah Kleeger began working on organic farms in 2003. In 2009, she and her husband Andrew Still established Adaptive Seeds, located near Sweet Home, Oregon, two hours south of Portland.

Adaptive Seeds offers organic, open-pollinated, diverse and resilient seed varieties for ecologically-minded farmers, gardeners, and seed savers. Over 85% of the varieties in the catalog are grown right on the farm. Sarah's roles at Adaptive Seeds include management of both the fields and the finances.



**Jack Kloppenburg, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

| Jack Kloppenburg is professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research has focused on the social impacts of biotechnology and he is the author of the influential *First the Seed: The Political Economy of Plant Biotechnology, 1492-2000*. An organizer as well as an academic, he is a founder of several advocacy organizations working for a just and sustainable food system. He is a founder and board member of the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI), an organization committed to facilitating vigorous innovation in plant breeding by preserving the right to unencumbered use of shared seeds and their progeny in breeding programs.



**Edith Lammerts van Bueren, Wageningen University and Louis Bolk Institute**

Edith Lammerts van Bueren was a pioneer in Europe to get organic plant breeding on the research agenda, developing concepts and strategies for this scientific field. She worked at Louis Bolk Institute for more than 30 years as program leader for organic plant breeding and was involved in many crops, including wheat, lupine, potato and various vegetables. In 2005 she was appointed at Wageningen University where she had several PhD students working on breeding concepts for nitrogen use efficiency in spinach, lettuce, potato and cabbage. Since 2008 she has coordinated an ongoing organic potato breeding program, Bioimpuls, engaging several farmer breeders and commercial breeders. Together with colleagues she recently developed the concept of systems-based breeding. Although she retired this winter, she will remain active in this field through a number of PhD students at Wageningen University.



**CR Lawn, Fedco Seeds**

| CR Lawn founded Fedco Seeds in 1978 and has served as its CFO and on its management team since. CR wrote the seed part of the winter catalog until 2017. From 1993 to 2009 he served on the board of directors for the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA). CR currently serves on the board of the Open Source Seed Initiative. He has authored numerous articles on seed policy issues, including labeling genetically engineered products, open source and transparency, and economic issues. (Photo credit: Jo Josephson)



**Kristyn Leach, Namu Farm and Second Generation Seeds Project**

Kristyn Leach is the farmer at Namu Farm in California's Central Valley. She grows predominantly Korean and East Asian herbs and vegetables using natural farming methods. In collaboration with Kitazawa

Seed Company, she coordinates the Second Generation Seeds line, focusing on identifying, preserving and improving open-pollinated cultivars of crops significant to the Asian diaspora.



**Marie-Eve Levert, The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security and Whole Circle Farm**

Marie-Eve joined USC Canada in 2017 and has been involved in the early stage of The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security as the author of their report on

The Market for Organic and Ecological Seed in Canada. Marie-Eve is active in the organic community. She currently serves as a member of the Organic Value Chain Roundtable (OVCRT). The OVCRT is a forum that brings together the organic industry and the federal government to discuss sectoral issues. She also co-authored the 2014, 2015, and 2016 chapter on Canada in IFOAM's annual publication The World of Organic Agriculture. Before joining USC Canada, Marie-Eve worked as the director of international and regulatory affairs at the Canada Organic Trade Association where she oversaw trade missions in the US, Europe and Asia, and worked on the development of policy strategies in the interest of the organic sector.



**Claire Luby, Open Source Seed Initiative**

Claire is currently the executive director of the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI) as well as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research focuses on assessing access to and sharing of plant genetic diversity as well

as on other aspects of seed sovereignty and crop genetic diversity. During her PhD as a Seed Matters Fellow in Organic Plant Breeding at UW-Madison, she co-founded both OSSI and the inaugural Student Organic Seed Symposium (SOSS) held in Vermont. (Photo credit: Matthew Dillon)



**Alexandra Lyon, University of British Columbia**

Dr. Lyon's work addresses the concept of seed sovereignty in developed agricultural economies from a theoretical and practical standpoint, asking how and why farmers participate in local or alternative seed systems and

the role of such seed systems in supporting socially and environmentally sustainable agri-food systems. She was

first introduced to the world of organic seed and variety evaluation during her PhD at UW-Madison, working with the Northern Organic Vegetable Improvement Collaborative (NOVIC). She continues to study community seed systems development at the UBC Centre for Sustainable Food Systems through participatory variety trials aimed at supporting the emerging vegetable seed sector in BC. Through this work, Dr. Lyon and her research group are developing a case study of seed production and exchange systems in BC and their relevance to community mobilization for food sovereignty, while also exploring more effective methods for incorporating farmers' observations in trial results.



**Sam McCullough, Nash's Organic Produce**

Sam McCullough has been active in agriculture his whole life. He started farming with Nash in the spring of 2000 before graduating from high school, where he excelled in agricultural science and auto technology. His understanding of

plant and soil relationships and mechanics is vital to farming practices at Nash's Organic Produce. He supervises the farm's tillage, crop rotations, irrigation crew, soil health and compost operations, grain planting, combine harvesting and flour milling, seed production, and cover cropping. McCullough's responsibilities include the farm's shop and the maintenance of the varied farm machinery, as well as fabricating, welding, and machining the many custom-built implements. Being part of the next generation of farmers is very important to him, and he fully realizes the benefits of keeping local agriculture strong for future generations. Sam enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, gardening, and collecting and restoring antique tractor/equipment.



**Bill McDorman, Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance**

Bill McDorman is executive director and co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance (RMSA), a seed conservation nonprofit created to assure a diverse supply of local seeds for the

Rocky Mountain region through community-based seed stewardship. Bill holds a BA in Philosophy from the University of Montana. In 1981 he co-founded Garden City Seeds in Missoula, Montana. In 1984 he started Seeds Trust/High Altitude Gardens, a bioregional, mail-order seed company he ran successfully for 28 years. He authored the book, Basic Seed Saving, in 1994. From 2011 until 2014, Bill and his wife Belle served as executive directors of Native Seeds/SEARCH in Tucson, Arizona. In 2010 they founded Seed School, an internationally recognized education program now with more than 1,000 graduates from around the world. Bill remains a passionate and knowledgeable presenter who inspires his audiences to learn to save their own seeds.



**Laurie McKenzie, Organic Seed Alliance**  
Laurie McKenzie is Research and Education Associate for the Pacific Northwest region and one of Organic Seed Alliance's vegetable breeders. She manages OSA's research farm in Chimacum, WA, where she conducts breeding projects, vegetable variety trials, and seed production on a variety of crops. Laurie has authored and co-authored several publications and taught dozens of classes and workshops on seed production and plant breeding. She received her M.S. in Horticulture and Plant Breeding from Oregon State University in 2012 and has over a decade of farming and seed production experience. Laurie focuses on breeding for organic production systems using participatory strategies. She is currently working on several collaborative breeding projects focused on cabbage, kale, carrots, Swiss Chard, and purple sprouting broccoli. In her spare time Laurie enjoys creating her budding homestead, playing with her farm animals, and growing flowers in the garden.



**Brigid Meints, Oregon State University**  
Brigid Meints grew up in Corvallis, Oregon, and developed a love for plants at a young age. She earned a BA from Scripps College in Anthropology and Gender & Women's Studies, but found her way back to plants after graduation when she began working for the barley breeding program at Oregon State University. She earned her MS from OSU in Crop Science with a focus in Plant Breeding & Genetics. Starting in the fall of 2014, she began working toward a PhD under the direction of Dr. Stephen Jones at Washington State University. Her project focused on breeding and trialing barley and dry beans for production in northwestern Washington. She currently works as a postdoc researcher at OSU, working on breeding multi-use naked barley for organic systems.



**Frank Morton, Wild Garden Seed** | Frank and Karen Morton have operated Wild Garden Seed since 1994 in Philomath, Oregon, breeding, growing, and selling seed for organic growers and the seed companies that supply them. Wild Garden Seed is known for its original varieties bred in the context of organic production, with salad greens, leafy vegetables, and peppers being of particular interest. Frank has been involved in legal cases that sought to protect Oregon's Willamette Valley from incursion by GMO seed production of sugar beet and canola. Seed patenting has been an enduring concern and the subject of many essays and interviews for the past decade, and led to his involvement with the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI).



**Jim Myers, Oregon State University** | Jim Myers holds the Baggett-Frazier Endowed Chair of Vegetable Breeding and Genetics in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University. He works on a number of crops including dry and snap bean, edible podded pea, broccoli, tomato, winter and summer squash, and sweet corn. Prior to employment at OSU, he worked as a dry bean breeder at University of Idaho. His main interest has been to improve vegetable varieties for disease resistance and human nutrition while maintaining quality and productivity in improved varieties. Dr. Myers is also breeding tomatoes, broccoli, and summer squash for organic systems. His latest variety release is the high anthocyanin tomato 'Indigo Rose'.



**Theresa Podoll, Prairie Road Organic Farm** | Theresa Podoll farms with her extended family as part of Prairie Road Organic Farm near Fullerton, North Dakota. They began producing certified organic vegetable seed in 1997, now marketed under their own label, Prairie Road Organic Seed. Theresa has been an active member of the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society's Farm Breeding Club, working to develop partnerships between organic farmers, plant breeders, agronomists, seed companies, and end-users to address the plant breeding and plant variety improvement needs of organic agriculture. The Podolls were honored as the 2014 MOSES Organic Farmers of the Year.



**Lane Selman, Oregon State University**  
Lane Selman grew up on a citrus farm on Florida's space coast where her Sicilian great-grandparents settled in the 1920s. She has a Bachelor's degree in Agronomy and a Master's in Entomology, both from the University of Florida. She moved to Oregon in 2001 and since 2005 has been an agricultural researcher at Oregon State University working with dozens of diversified, organic farmers in the Pacific Northwest on collaborative research projects. In 2012, Lane created the Culinary Breeding Network to increase communication and collaboration between plant breeders, seed growers, farmers, produce buyers, chefs and other stakeholders to improve quality in vegetables and grains. She lives in Portland, Oregon.



**Adrienne Shelton, Vitalis Organic Seeds**

Adrienne is the Northeast Organic Product Specialist for Vitalis Organic Seeds. She earned a Master’s degree in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics and a doctorate in Environment and Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research included plant breeding for organic farming systems and intellectual property rights for public cultivars. Adrienne is proud to have participated in the breeding and release of ‘Who Gets Kissed?’, an open-pollinated sweet corn bred for and with organic farmers. She helped to organize the first Student Organic Seed Symposium in Vermont in 2012, and has been actively involved with the group ever since. Adrienne serves on the board of directors for Organic Seed Alliance, and has been engaged with the organic farming movement as a farmer, organizer, seed saver, and researcher for 15 years.



**Owen Taylor, Philadelphia Seed Exchange and Truelove Seeds**

Owen Taylor recently launched Truelove Seeds, a seed company that offers rare, open-pollinated, and culturally important vegetable, herb, and flower seeds grown by urban and rural farmers committed to community food sovereignty, cultural preservation, and sustainable agriculture. Aside from coordinating and mentoring this group of farmers, he also grows open-pollinated seeds, herbs, and flowers at Mill Hollow Farm in Edgemont, Pennsylvania, west of his home in Southwest Philadelphia. On the farm, growers from Philly, New York City, and beyond practice keeping seeds and building sovereignty. He runs the Philadelphia Seed Exchange, facilitating seed swaps and workshops in partnership with the Free Library of Philadelphia and other groups. Before all of this, and following a decade of working with food justice organizations in San Francisco, New York City, and Philadelphia, Owen Taylor managed William Woys Weaver’s historic Roughwood Seed Collection in Devon, Pennsylvania, for four years.



**Michael Sligh, Rural Advancement Foundation International**

Michael Sligh is a program director for Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI). He manages policy, research and education on a range of agricultural issues, including agro-biodiversity, organic farming, food justice, fair trade, and other value-added labeling and marketing issues. Sligh manages RAFI’s Breeding for Organic Production Systems (BOPS), a project focused on participatory field crop variety trials and breeding to meet the needs of Southeast organic corn, soy and cotton farmers. He is also the co-convenor of the Seeds & Breeds for 21st Century Agriculture coalition. Sligh has more than 30 years experience in agriculture and policy work. He is also a part-time farmer and writer with a degree in cultural anthropology.



**Chris Thoreau, FarmFolk CityFolk**

Chris has been engaged in small-scale and urban food production since 2001 as a farmer, educator, community organizer, and advocate. His career started in Victoria, BC, where he operated a certified organic farm for six years that served farmers markets, restaurants, and CSA customers. Seed has always been a part of Chris’s farming activities and today he uses that experience to support other seed growers in his role as the British Columbia Regional Coordinator for the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security. He has particular interests in participatory research, movement building, and cooperatives.



**Tom Stearns, High Mowing Organic Seeds**

Tom Stearns founded High Mowing Organic Seeds in 1996 and is now part of the 50+ people that work in the company. High Mowing carries out research, seed production and distribution of over 700 certified organic and non-GMO verified varieties of vegetables, flowers, herbs and cover crops from their headquarters in Northern Vermont. Tom and his wife Heather have two teenage daughters and all enjoy being active in their thriving food, arts and small business community.



**Don Tipping, Seven Seeds Farm**

Don Tipping farms at Seven Seeds Farm, a small, biodynamic family farm in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwest Oregon. Don’s farm produces certified organic fruits, vegetables, seeds, herbs, wool, eggs, and lamb. Seven Seeds helps to mentor new farmers through internships and workshops, including the biennial Seed Academy training. Seven Seeds has also been active in USDA Western SARE, Organic Seed Alliance and other seed initiatives to advance the development of open-pollinated organic seeds. In 2009, Siskiyou Seeds was established as a bioregional organic seed company operated from the home farm. Don helped to found the Siskiyou Sustainable Cooperative, a 300 share CSA that also grows seed and shares equipment among cooperating farms. As an amateur plant breeder, Don

has released a number of farm original varieties through Siskiyou Seeds and has pledged them through the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI). He also co-founded the Family Farmers Seed Cooperative, a seed grower, marketing and distribution cooperative comprised of 10 western organic farms.



**Bill Tracy, University of Wisconsin-Madison** | Bill Tracy is a professor and sweet corn breeder at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the Cliff Bar Family Foundation - Organic Valley Professor of Organic Plant Breeding and chair of the Department of Agronomy.

He received BS and MS degrees in plant and soil science from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and a PhD in plant breeding from Cornell University. Bill's group, Team Sweet, does research on sweet corn improvement. Team Sweet has developed sweet corn varieties that are grown commercially on every arable continent. Bill and collaborators have developed sweet corn hybrids and open-pollinated varieties for organic growers. Bill has mentored more than 40 graduate students, a number of whom work in breeding for organic systems. In 2014, the National Association of Commercial Plant Breeders named Bill public plant breeder of the year. Bill has been an advocate for public plant breeding and active in the Seeds and Breeds for 21st Century Agriculture coalition. He is also chair of the Maize Crop Germplasm Committee and the International Maize Germplasm Resources Advisory Committee and currently serves on the board of directors of Oregon Tilth.



**Iris Vaisman, Prairie Organic Grain Initiative** | Iris Vaisman is the prairie regional coordinator for the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security and the optimization manager for the Prairie Organic Grain Initiative. In these roles, Iris has the joy of partnering with farmers, researchers, industry, government, and various stakeholders to work on diverse projects that span across the beautiful Canadian Prairies. The projects aim to contribute to the resiliency of seed systems and organic grain production systems. Before taking on these roles, Iris worked at the University of Manitoba as a research technician, working on research that included participatory plant breeding, cover crops, organic no-till, and soil fertility. Iris has lived throughout Canada and is currently living in Edmonton, where she gets to enjoy the prairies, but also gets to escape to the mountains every once in a while.

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**Jan van der Heide, Bejo Seeds** | Jan van der Heide is the representative for Bejo Seeds in the Northeast and Canada. Jan works closely with Bejo's plant breeders and cooperating growers to evaluate the field performance of commercial and new vegetable varieties, in both conventional and organic settings, in North America, and to a lesser degree in other parts of the world. Jan supports the sales activities of Bejo's many dealers and distributors in the Northeast, and stays in frequent contact with his colleagues in seed production. The information from breeding trials, commercial trials, and sales, together with data from seed production, are used to make decisions about advancing new varieties, maintaining successful commercial varieties, and discontinuing older varieties.



**Ira Wallace, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange** | Ira Wallace is a worker/owner of the cooperatively managed Southern Exposure Seed Exchange where she coordinates variety selection, trials, and seed grower contracts. Southern Exposure offers over 700 varieties of heirloom and organic seeds selected for flavor and regional adaptability. Ira serves on the boards of Organic Seed Alliance, OSGATA, OSSI, and the Virginia Association for Biological Farming (VABF). She is a co-organizer of the Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello. She is the author of The Timber Press Guide to Vegetable Gardening in the Southeast.



**Bill Waycott, Nipomo Native Seeds** | Bill Waycott served in the American Peace Corps as an agricultural advisor before going on to receive a PhD in plant genetics. He has worked for the USDA and private seed companies in the past and now owns a small company in Central California growing seeds of vegetables, several species of California native plants, and beneficial mites as a biocontrol for the strawberry industry.

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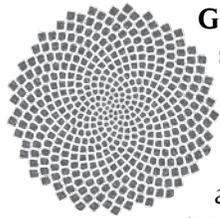




**Rowen White, Indigenous Seed Keepers Network**

Rowen White is a Seed Keeper and farmer from the Mohawk community of Akwesasne and a passionate activist for indigenous seed and food sovereignty. She is the director and founder of Sierra Seeds, an innovative

organic seed stewardship organization focusing on local seed and education, based in CA. Rowen is the current national project coordinator and advisor for the Indigenous Seed Keepers Network, which is an initiative of the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance. The mission of the Indigenous Seed Keepers Network is to nourish and assist the growing seed sovereignty movement across Turtle Island. She teaches and facilitates creative seed stewardship immersions around the country within tribal and small farming communities. She weaves stories of seeds, food, culture and sacred Earth stewardship on her blog, Seed Songs. Follow her seed journeys at [www.sierraseeds.org](http://www.sierraseeds.org)



**Gwendolyn Wyard, Organic Trade Association**

Gwendolyn Wyard has been actively working in the organic industry for 20 years. She serves as the vice president of regulatory and technical affairs for the Organic Trade Association (OTA), where she works on the development

of policy strategy through regulatory engagement in the interest of OTA's mission and its members. Prior to OTA Gwendolyn worked for Oregon Tilth where she served as the technical specialist specializing in policy and technical review of materials for use in organic products. She holds a degree in Fermentation Science with a minor in Chemistry. Gwendolyn completed her certificate as an independent organic inspector through the International Organic Inspector's Association (IOIA) in 1997 and has subcontracted for multiple certifiers inspecting a diverse range of operations. She also serves on the board for the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) and is the North American Technical Representative for the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS).



**Lindsay Wyatt, Johnny's Selected Seeds**

Lindsay Wyatt is a squash and pumpkin breeder at Johnny's Selected Seeds. Her interest in vegetable breeding stems from her work at her family's retail greenhouse and garden center in Ohio.

After receiving a BS in Biology from Duke University, Lindsay went on to pursue a PhD in Plant Breeding & Genetics from Cornell University. While at Cornell, Lindsay studied vegetable breeding and genetics with Michael Mazourek, focusing on winter squash fruit quality and *Phytophthora capsici* resistance in bell pepper. At Johnny's, Lindsay focuses on breeding winter squash,

summer squash, and pumpkins that taste great, are adapted to organic conditions, and are easy to grow. She has also co-founded the Northeast Seed-to-Table Initiative, which is a network of farmers, chefs, breeders, and other stakeholders working to strengthen the local Maine food system. Lindsay is a founding board member of the Society of Organic Seed Professionals.



**Pete Zuck, Johnny's Selected Seeds**

Pete is a vegetable product manager at Johnny's Selected Seeds. Prior to Johnny's, he was a soil conservationist with NRCS, developing conservation plans for vegetable, small dairy, and timber operations in Waldo County, Maine. Pete was

raised in the Genesee Valley of Western New York, and at 19 moved to Montana, where he earned a Bachelor's in Horticulture in 2000 and a Master's in Plant Pathology in 2010, both from Montana State University. He moonlighted as a professional DJ for nine years to pay for school and support his skiing problem. He looks forward to connecting with real seedsmen and women at the conference (as he says he would hardly claim to be one himself). Pete believes the day is coming when all organic growers will be able to confidently sow their entire farm with nothing but organic seed. He hopes to contribute some seed industry perspective to help us get there.



**Jared Zystro, Organic Seed Alliance and University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Jared is Organic Seed Alliance's research and education assistant director. He has a master's degree in plant breeding and plant genetics from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Jared has worked in

the organic seed industry for over 15 years, managing seed production at two farms and conducting research and education projects with OSA. He currently manages OSA's regional development in California, conducts participatory breeding projects and variety trials, and teaches farmers about seed production and plant breeding at workshops, conferences, and field days. Jared is also a PhD candidate in the University of Wisconsin – Madison's Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics program, where he is studying efficient methods of developing new organic sweet corn varieties. He lives in the coastal town of Arcata, CA, with his wife and son.



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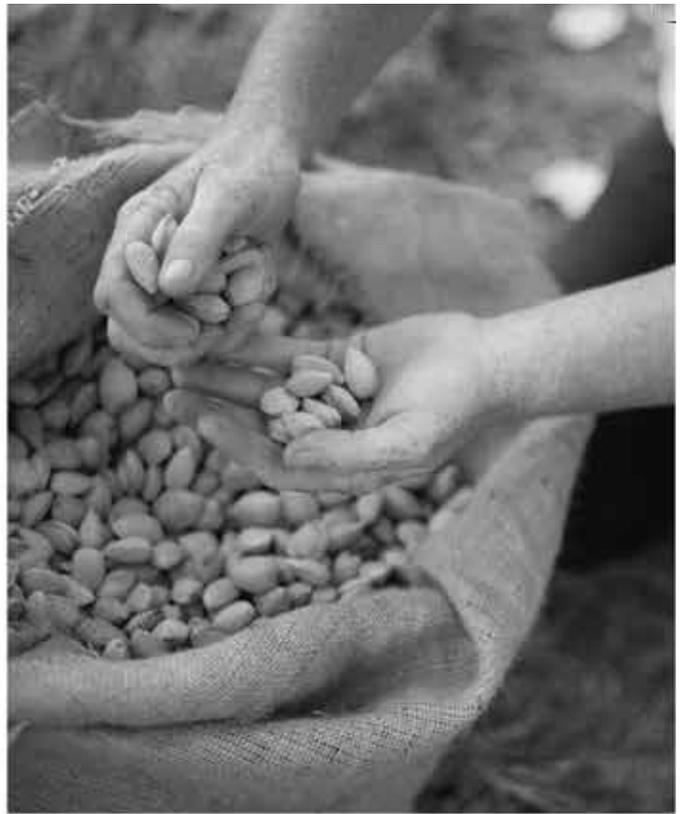
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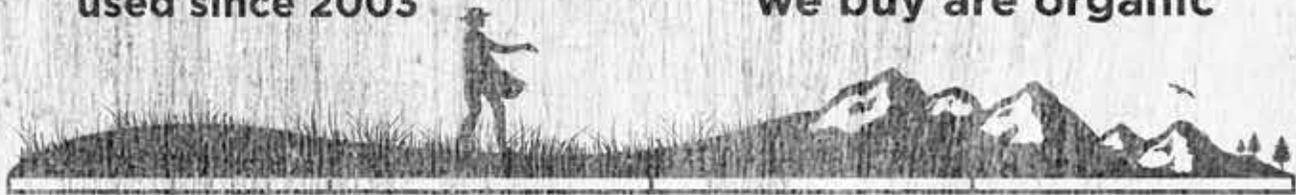
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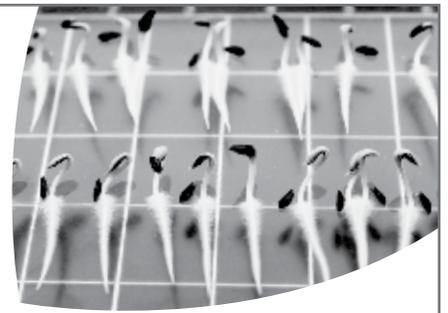
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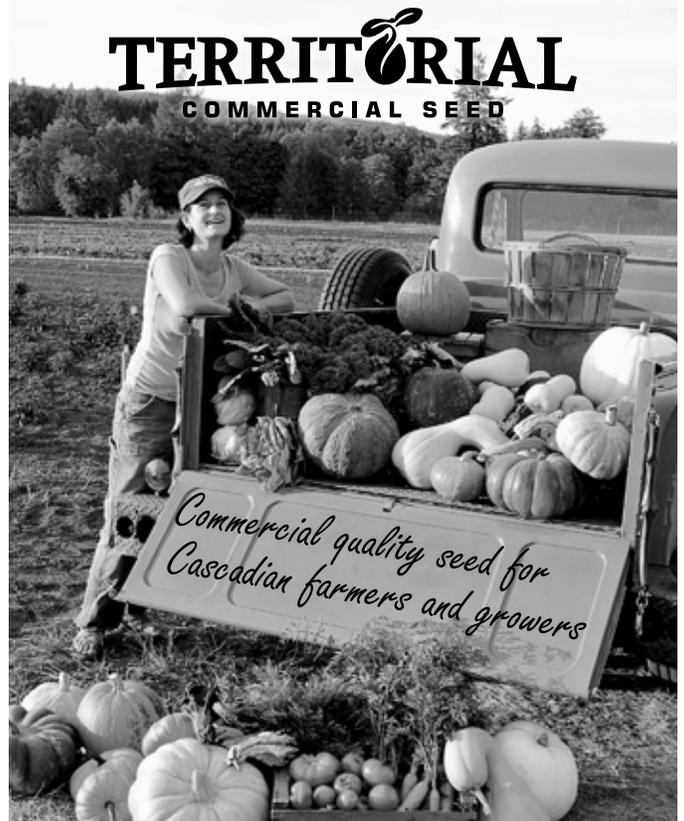
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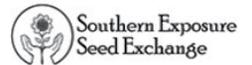
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