



Bringing Home the Harvest

Newsletter of Rural Roots:
The Inland Northwest Community Food Systems Association

Volume 2, Number 4

Summer 2000

The On-Farm Education Program

by Tara Pisani Gareau

Greetings to the Rural Roots family! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as Rural Root's new Coordinator for the On-Farm Education Program...a program in the making. Some of you have already met me at the farm tours, all of which I greatly enjoyed. For the greater part of you who haven't, let me tell you about the On-Farm Education Program and myself.

I am originally from Garden City, New York. I studied at Virginia Tech in Crop and Soil Environmental Science. My focus was in International Agriculture and it didn't take me long after graduation (1995) to start putting that international training to use and hop on a plane to Mexico. I spent a few months in Las Yervas ("The Weeds" – or what we would call the "the sticks" and it really was 'out there'), Guanajuato working under a Kellogg's Foundation project called *Fundación de Apoyo Infantil*, whose program focused on child development through sustainable agriculture.

After Mexico, I traveled through Central America to reach my second job destination in Costa Rica where I was an intern at the Center for Sustainable Development Studies in Atenas for two semesters. I also studied and did research there for 4 months during college (I just loved it so much I had to go back). Wanting to explore more of Latin America, I traveled down to South America and worked with Conservation International in Madidi National Park,

Bolivia (there is a good National Geographic article about this park in the March 2000 issue if you are interested). I worked with an indigenous group in a remote jungle village (8 hours up river from the nearest town) where the Andes meet the Amazon – a biological/ecological wonderland. The Quechua –Tacana group was involved in an ecotourism project in order to preserve their natural resources while providing an alternative form of income from clear-cutting the land for timber and migratory agriculture.

All of these projects were exciting and different, yet very similar in philosophy, which was 'to improve the community's quality of life while sustaining economic, environmental and social health or well-being'. I was hooked on sustainable development from the beginning. And after some time in the US to contemplate these experiences, I decided the best move for me was to join the United States Peace Corps. In June, 1997, I was sent to Honduras as a Crop Extensionist. I spent over two years living in a rural, hot, arid farming community, helping families make the transition to sustainable agricul-

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The On-Farm Education Program

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ture. It was the best experience of my life – probably because I was a community member as well as worker, which gave me the unique opportunity to understand the people and appreciate the community's way of life.

Peace Corps was good to me in another way too; it's where I met my husband, Brian, who turned out to be from Connecticut of all places. He is also a Master's student from none other than Washington State University. And here's where I get to Rural Roots. Brian and I moved out to Moscow, Idaho in the beginning of July and I was fortunate enough to stumble upon this great project, Rural Roots On-Farm Education Program. And now here I am!

So let me tell you about the program. The idea of the On-Farm Education Program is to expand sustainable agriculture educational opportunities for degree and non-degree agriculture students by offering hands-on farming experience at a working farm. Selected farmers would gain teacher certification through a Rural Roots training program enabling them to teach certain courses on their farm. The student would also gain certification or academic credits to put towards their respective degree. Thus, the student and farmer both benefit with a type of education certification as well as the shared experience of working together.

The On-Farm Education Program is funded through a grant by the Kellogg's Foundation Partnership 2020, Sustainable Food Systems Initiative.

I want to emphasize that the program is in its beginning stages, where the first year will be primarily spent on researching existing On-Farm Education Programs in other states. We hope to run a pilot program in the fall of 2001 with a few farmers and students. The fall term will be based on Vickie

Parker-Clark's current Small Acreage Farming/Market Gardening Course, offered through the University of Idaho, Kootenai County Cooperative Extension Service. (For information on the present course, starting this September, Vickie can be reached at (208) 667-6426.) The winter term will cover the development of a farm plan with the farmer, focusing on the business and marketing aspects of production. The On-Farm Education module, when the student puts in practice the farm plan they developed, takes place in the spring, summer, and fall. The goal is that by fall 2002, the On-Farm Education Program will be in full motion.



As I continue to work on this project, I will post my developments on egroups.com/group/rr as well as in the *Bringing Home the Harvest* newsletters. Keep your eyes open. If you have any questions or input, please feel free to call me at (208) 885-7499; or come up and introduce yourself at the next Rural Roots meeting. I look forward to meeting you all.

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Why Be a Member of Rural Roots?!

by Cathy Weston

As the world around us becomes more diversified and progress seeps into and attempts to overtake agriculture, thereby affecting products we use and consume, one cannot NOT be concerned about our future available product base.

As farmers, educators, economic developers, and consumers, it is our duty to care about our local food system.

We have seed companies creating seeds that won't reproduce, large companies buying farm land to grow houses, food coming from miles away picked green and artificially ripened, increased gas prices affecting the price of food, biological altered seeds, and people who don't know the first thing about growing food. In a short span of time we have moved from victory gardens, fresh vegetable stands, and meat and poultry markets to fast food and big grocery stores providing our nourishment.

Rural Roots supports small acreage farmers and provides education about the importance of buying local food and how community food systems invest in the overall well-being of the community. Rural Roots encourages small acreage farming on any scale; whether it be a garden to feed a family or a market garden/farm to provide extra income, one's production is important! Sustainable agriculture improves our soils, environment, and quality of food and has the potential to strengthen community ties. Rural Roots' job is to assist farmers and consumers build the link that brings healthy produce and meat from the farm to the local dinner table.

Margaret Meade once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; for indeed, it's the only thing that ever does."

We may be small —BUT— "Size doesn't matter!" Now don't you want to change your world?????

Reminder: It is time to renew your membership! The Rural Roots membership year runs from October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2001.

** All members that signed up from May 2000 to the present are already registered for next year.*

Killarney Farm: Coeur d'Alene's very own "Garden of Eden"

by Tara Pisani Gareau

Amidst the beautiful mountains of the Coeur d'Alene National Forest lies the peaceful 6-acre organic fruit and vegetable farm of Ellen Scriven and Paul Smith. Killarney Farm (named after the serene, clear blue, Killarney Lake, situated below the farm) started marketing their produce in 1986 from a 1/2 -acre garden plot and has grown since to 6 acres of vegetable and fruit production. Not only has Killarney Farm grown in size, but in name and reputation as well. Ellen and Paul have been selling their produce in the Coeur d'Alene farmers' market for many years now, satisfying as well as befriending their many loyal customers with healthy, fresh, organic produce. Many of those customers showed up on the farm tour "just to see how they 'do it' ". In fact, some participants said they "couldn't imagine how Ellen and Paul brought so much produce to the market from a 6-acre piece of land, so they had to come and see it for themselves". And that's exactly what we did.

The Rural Roots group met at the University of Idaho, Kootenai County Extension office in Coeur d'Alene, where we formed a caravan of trucks and cars to reach the backcountry farm in Rose Lake. It took us a good half- hour to travel the 6 miles from the Rose Lake Exit, off I-90, to reach the farm (if that tells you anything about the "road less traveled").



As we wound our way up Killarney Lake Road, I was taken by the spectacular vistas – one breathtaking view after the other. It was some of the most beautiful scenery I had traveled through in the west – well worth every particle of dust we swallowed driving behind 9 other vehicles. After being greeted by Ellen and Paul at Killarney Farm, we each gave a brief introduction of ourselves. One couple had visited the farm ten years prior and was back to see the changes that had been made (they were impressed even back then). After the introductions, we split up into two groups and began the tour.

Killarney Farm is a diverse mixing of vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers all neatly arranged in well-mulched garden beds. 1/8th - acre is solely planted in garlic, which they use for their natural insecticides. The first thing my group saw was the healthy potato plants. And by healthy, I mean that the plants were tall, lush, and full of green, uneaten leaves. You guessed it - there were no potato beetles! I wasn't the only one impressed. One participant asked how Ellen kept the plants looking so healthy. She said, "through rotational planting. Potato beetles don't like to move far from their place of origin. When you move the crop far enough away from the infested area to a new location, the beetles don't migrate." In that small example we see how not only a farmer must know their crops, but they must know the nature and life cycles of the insects that like to feed on their nutritious crops as much as we do. Ellen and Paul use many other different natural methods to control

insect and weed populations. When they see problem insects in the garden areas, they walk the rows and hand-pick off each one. When the problem exceeds hand picking capacity, they incorporate natural
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Two New Resources from the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN)

Building Soils for Better Crops, a new book that divulges the secrets of developing a healthy diverse soil ecosystem to support quality crops. "Ecological soil management can raise fertility, promote good soil tilth, improve nutrient levels, and boost yields, all while reducing adverse environmental impacts." Cost: \$19.95

A Whole-Farm Approach to managing Pests, SAN'S new bulletin, which outlines the use of ecological principles to control pests on one's farm and highlights successful strategies. This bulletin also includes a comprehensive list of other resources related to pest management. Cost: No Charge

To order, call Sustainable Agriculture Publications at (860) 656-0484 or visit the SARE web site at www.sare.org

Attention!!

Rural Roots has changed its address:
Rural Roots
PO Box 8925
Moscow, ID 83843

Killarney Farm: Coeur d'Alene's very own "Garden of Eden"

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insecticides with their foliar feed sprays (spraying is done in the early morning to maximize plant tissue absorption). And this year they are experimenting with a black ground cloth to curb weed development.

Rotational cropping and the use of green manure crops are probably the keys to Killarney Farm's impressive production records. While the land is well cultivated, there is always a section set aside, to build soil fertility. In the spring, that area is planted in peas and then followed by buckwheat, a drought resistant cover crop excellent for the dry summers. After the buckwheat is turned under in late summer, hairy vetch is planted to cover the soil throughout the winter. This system not only protects the soil from erosion and drying out, but it adds organic matter, nitrogen and other important nutrients to the soil and promotes a healthy soil ecosystem.

There are many noteworthy alternative features on the farm that demonstrate Killarney Farm's level of innovation and creativity. The drip irrigation system is fed from two ponds that Ellen and Paul built above their farm. Because the ponds dry up occasionally during the summer, the irrigation lines are laid under a layer of mulch or a black ground cloth to maximize water retention. They also use hoop houses that lengthen the growing season. And any visitor to Killarney Farm cannot help but be impressed with the farm's alternative energy systems. The house roof is lined with solar panels, which provides electricity to the home and on their porch is a solar oven that heats up to 300°F. Yes, there is a lot to see and to taste at Killarney Farm.

After the tour, we were ready to sample the farm's organic fruits and veggies. We *feasted* on the scrumptious culinary creations of Capers, served with thirst quenching, yummy lemonade and mint apple iced tea. It was a vegetarian's dream!

Overall, it was a great day. I think we all walked away a little wiser, more motivated to try something new in our own gardens or farms, and better nourished than when we arrived. Thanks Ellen and Paul for opening your wooden gate (or deer deFENCE) to us!

Holistic Management and the Lazy R Ranch

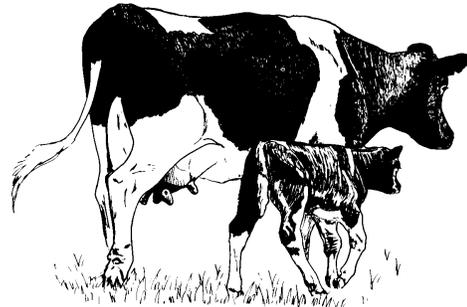
by Maurice Robinette

I first learned about holistic management during the summer of 1983. In those days it was called the Savory grazing method and was best described as a way to concentrate cows by building a lot of fence. The process was interesting but didn't seem right for me at the time. I lost interest in the Savory Method until I was contacted about joining the WSU/Kellogg holistic management project in 1995. After attending several workshops presented by very good facilitators, I decided to learn even more. I applied for and received a scholarship from the project, and qualified as a certified educator of Holistic Management in 1998.

Holistic Management is based on a holistic goal that is developed by the decision-makers of a ranch, farm, family, or organization. This holistic goal includes the values of these people, how they want their lives to be, what it will take to make that happen, and how the land must be for all of these things to be realized. Most, if not all, decisions are then tested towards this goal, and the results are better decisions.

The power of Holistic Management lies in the person's dedication to making this goal happen. Without a high degree of commitment, it is difficult or impossible to practice decision making that is very different from social and cultural norms. Difficult decisions are made easier when you know why you are doing something and where it will lead you. Although I have found some components of managing holistically to be very difficult, focusing on my goal helps get me through the tough times.

In June of 1996, I started to experiment with concentrating animals in high densities using portable electric fences. The results were mixed. The time moving fences and animals took away from my normal haying schedule, but I didn't have to hay the areas being grazed. I considered it about a toss-up



at first, but upon further analysis, it was a lot cheaper to wear out shoe leather than tractor tires. I also found a significant increase in grass production after grazing.

By the summer of 1997, I had received a grant from the WSU/Kellogg project to purchase a very powerful fence energizer and a couple miles of galvanized high-tensile wire. I developed an eighty acre dryland alfalfa field into a five-paddocked grazing area. The project started by creating a center with controlled access to five paddocks, separated by hot wires. Each of the paddocks was strip-grazed with daily moves of portable hot wire. This field usually yielded about a ton to the acre and the first year I grazed 100 pair for 23 days in June, and the same 100 cows (no calves) that fall for 45 days. This was my first experience with using a lot of hot wire, and I was amazed at how fast I could build fence.

I continue to graze this field in about the same manner today and last year I ran 100 pair for 22 days and then rested the pasture for sixty days. I put the cows without their calves in again toward the end of October and didn't feed hay for sixty-five days.

One of the unexpected benefits of grazing this field was not dealing with rained-on hay. I always started my haying season on this field and more often than not the hay got rained on. Now I don't

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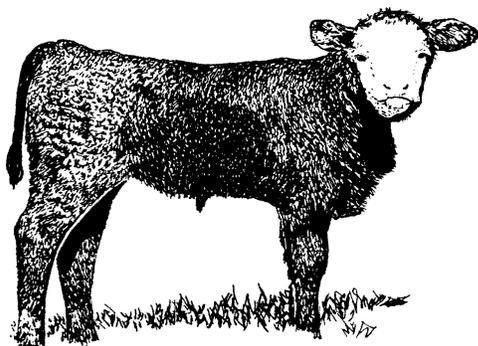
Holistic Management and the Lazy R Ranch

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worry about rain on my dryland hay. (I still get excited when my irrigated alfalfa takes some rain.) Less stress is better, no matter how much less.

Other changes in my ranch practices include combining three cow/calf herds into one herd, and, for the last two years, I have retained my calves as a yearling herd. These animals are managed using the planned grazing technique developed through holistic management. This technique puts the animals in the right place at the right time for the right reasons. This differs significantly from all other conventional grazing techniques in that the pastures selected for grazing are monitored for growth, weeds, bare ground, time, and several other factors.

By grazing my cows in high densities, I have put much greater pressure on my old fences and today nearly all of my perimeter fences include a hot wire. When the girls had a lot of room to move they weren't too interested in the neighbor's grass. Now that I make them eat some grasses that are less desirable, they like to check out that greener stuff on the other side. The extra hot wire encourages them to stay put. I have mixed feelings about hot wire. Chasing down shorts can be very frustrating and time consuming, but when it works, it is a very powerful tool.



After nearly four years of experimentation, I am managing 40% more cows and have a yearling herd that varies from 45 to 90 head, depending on the market. Retaining yearlings gives me great flexibility in marketing, and I am able to take advantage of high peaks or trends that I used to miss when I sold all of my calves in the fall.

Including rental ground, I have developed 32 paddocks ranging from five to 175 acres. Seven of these paddocks are strip grazed for an additional 53 plots. While this may seem like a lot of fence to build, it hasn't been all that bad. All new permanent fence has been electric single 12ga. galvanized wire, and strip grazing is done with temporary polywire. I have two large chargers (one for each herd) and the chargers move with the animals.

I put up as much hay as I used to, but I'm feeding a lot more animals. Planned grazing has allowed me to delay feeding hay at least thirty to sixty days longer than four years ago.

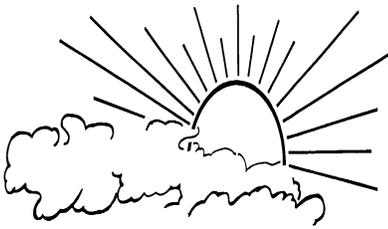
Aside from the environmental and economic benefits I have realized from Holistic Management, my most valuable improvement has been in my attitude. Low prices of a few years ago nearly put me out of business, and I was not optimistic. Today I learn something new everyday and look forward to where the ranch will take me next. I have a goal and a plan that is flexible but solid, and I am confident it will get me where I want to go.

Maurice is a certified educator of holistic management and a member of Solar \$, a non-profit educational group specializing in helping people and groups create the future they desire.

Phone 509-299-4942, e-mail mlr@ior.com

Lazy R Ranch Summer Farm Tours

by Maurice Robinette



Maurice Robinette, owner of Lazy R Ranch near Cheney, Washington, was fortunate to host two farm tours this summer. Since 1996, Maurice has been using Holistic Management to maximize beef production while promoting the natural development of the native grassland ecosystem on his ranch. The first tour was with a diverse group of four Russians from Kalmykia that came to the U.S. to learn more about Holistic Management. There was a land use planner, an environmental lawyer/intrepreter, a forestry professor and a state farm manager that oversaw the use of 300,000 acres for 1,400 cows, 300 horses, and 50 two-humped Bactrian camels. The second tour was with a Rural Roots group of farmers/ranchers from Washington and Idaho interested in improving their livestock production. The tours consisted of a daylong discussion and field tour of the principles and methodology of Holistic Management, with particular emphasis on herd density, moisture availability or "brittleness", growing season, and over-grazing/understocking.

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Sam Bingham and his wife, Janet, accompanied the Russians. Sam speaks Russian very well and Guiliana, an environmental lawyer, also speaks English very well as a result of four years training in environmental law in New York. Even with good interpreters it was difficult to communicate at times but after a few hours you develop a technique that works fairly well. I was struck by the problems of trying to communicate the concept of paradigm shift to people that have different paradigms to start with.

We spent a lot of time talking about Russia, the government, and the conditions of the land in Kalmykia, an old state by the Caspian Sea. The climate there is very dry and has extreme weather (110° F in summer and - 40° F in winter). They were enjoying our pleasant "cool" 95° weather. The fertility of the land has decreased in the last fifty years and one of the main reasons they are touring the U.S. is to learn about the ability of using holistic management to increase fertility and bio-diversity.

The problems with the government seem to focus on people who live far away making decisions that aren't appropriate to local conditions. This is also a common complaint among landowners throughout the U.S. It looks like the situation in Russia is only more extreme and with greater consequences.

They were very curious about my understanding of conditions in Russia as well as my understanding of the events following W.W.II. I had no idea of the extent of ethnic cleansing conducted by Stalin after the war. The entire population of Kamykia was deported to Siberia (300,000 people). It took two months of travel on a cattle car during the winter to get to Siberia and many people died during the trip. All of my visitors were either born in Siberia, in a camp, or born shortly after their return to Kalmykia in 1956.

The ranch tour with the Russians was very similar to the next day's tour with Rural Roots. We spent some time with an introduction to the concept of holistic management. I explained some of the concepts of holism, the importance of understanding the different impact of tools on a brittle and non-brittle environment, the impact of rest on a plant, and how high stocking densities affect all of the plants in a pasture.

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Lazy R Ranch Summer Farm Tours

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Once those concepts were covered, we walked around a pasture I have divided into five sections. The evident grazing patterns effectively demonstrated the shift in the pasture from the growing season to the dormant season. Much more grass was removed during the growing season as all of the plants are more desirable and this was evident from one pasture to another.

When comparing Lazy R Ranch to a conventional ranch on the other side of the fence, the conventional ranch was obviously over-grazed because it uses an understocking/overgrazing technique. In a small wet area the neighbor has grazed continuously for over fifty years and the plant community consists of bluegrass and clover about three inches tall. My side of the fence has been using planned grazing for the last four years and was cut for hay during the preceding thirty years. In one field, I have a completely different plant community of six feet tall canary grass adjacent to an overgrazed pasture under identical soil and water conditions. The difference lies in the management. This demonstration works well to explain the differences from overgrazing (little or no rest for the plant) to severely bitten with adequate rest.

Beginning Farmer Course Starts September 6th

Land use trends in northern Idaho and eastern Washington have resulted in an increasing number of small acreage landowners who want to “do something” with their land. They have the opportunity this fall to examine various options to make an income from their land through the Small Acreage Farming/Market Gardening course, which is sponsored by the Northeast Washington/Northern Idaho Extension Small Farms team.

The course will run from September 6th through November 15th from 6-9 p.m. General and horticulture classes will be held on Wednesday evenings in Sandpoint, Idaho, and livestock classes will be held on Thursday evenings in Newport, Washington. Farm tours will be held on some Saturdays during the fall. Those registering for the course will hear from farmers, ranchers, extension faculty, and others about production of herbs, small fruits, tree fruits, vegetables, pastured poultry, locker beef and pork, sheep, goats, and rabbits. Other classes will cover specialty foods processing, marketing, business planning, evaluating land, etc.

The course is being offered for 3 academic credits or 4.5 C.E.U.’s through University of Idaho. Participants may also take the course for a certificate of completion or for self-improvement.

The cost of the course is \$85/person or \$100/couple for the certificate of completion or self-improvement options. Cost for the C.E.U option is \$85/person. Those wishing academic credit will pay \$123. Cost for the C.E.U. option is \$85/person. Those wishing academic credit will pay \$123. Cost includes a course notebook.

Registration deadline is August 25th.

For more information about the course, contact Vickie Parker-Clark at 208/667-6426 or Carol Mack at 509/447-2401.



Bringing Home the Harvest is a quarterly newsletter of Rural Roots: The Inland Northwest Community Food Systems Association.

Bringing Home the Harvest shares the knowledge and experience of people working in community food systems and the opportunities and challenges facing small acreage farmers and market gardeners in the Inland Northwest. In addition to sharing information and resources, **Bringing Home the Harvest** helps make connections between producers and consumers in northern Idaho and eastern Washington. It encourages sustainably produced foods, and works to enhance the economic viability of small scale producers and the communities where they live.

Articles for publication and letters to the editors are welcome and must include the name and address of the author. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of Rural Roots.

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Visit our web site at:
www.uidaho.edu/inwcfcs

Spring Creek Organic Farm and Greentree Naturals Farm Tour

by Diane Green

The tour started at Karen Ososki and Karl Ottenstein's farm, where they raise sheep and goats for wool. They walked us through the entire process involved with livestock and wool production. I would call this portion of the tour 'everything you ever wanted to know about producing Romney wool'. Karen walked us through identifying the different types of wool and the process involved with fiber preparation for spinning and weaving. She demonstrated on a spinning wheel as well as a handloom for weaving. We walked through their pastures and had the wonderful opportunity to observe their border collie move the sheep herd on command. Karen has obviously spent some time working with the dog and the flock! It is clear that Karen and Karl have dedicated many hours to developing a positive working system on their farm. It was amazing to see the entire process from the raising of the animal to the processing of the wool fiber.



From Spring Creek Organic Farm, we drove to Greentree Naturals. Writing about my own farm tour may not be a clear reflection of the success of this portion of this sight seeing expedition! Be that as it may, my husband, Thom, and I both felt that it was a successful sharing experience. We arrived at our farm in the heat of the day, so we began with a glass of iced tea, in the shade, for an introduction into the life of this Certified Organic Farm. While strolling through our two-acre garden, we discussed the basics of organic gardening, flower and vegetable production, natural pest control, crop rotation and small farm marketing. The group attending the tour was a diverse group of folks interested in all aspects of organic production methods.



Brenda Evans, a local photographer and caterer specializing in fine dining, provided us with spinach lasagna, fresh baked bread and Greentree Naturals salad blend for dinner.

An important aspect of these annual farm tours is sharing information and ideas about the importance of supporting local agriculture. Small farms are the wave of present day food systems. We are happy to be a part of the Rural Roots educational opportunities provided through these annual farm tours.

Here Is a Great Opportunity!

by Tara Pisani Gareau and Cinda Williams

In the late 17th century, George Farquhar coined the phrase "Necessity is the mother of invention," but in the year 2000, innovation is often a costly endeavor. So costly, that we cast aside our "inventions" and continue to live with the problem. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the necessary resources to put into action one's great ideas to solve farm/ranch problems? Well, the opportunity is here.

Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is requesting grant applications from producers or groups of producers, who are interested in conducting sustainable agriculture research or community outreach/demonstrations on their farm or ranch. The goal is to share the project's results with other producers and researchers. S.A.R.E. considers sustainable agriculture to be "an integrated system of plant and animal production practices that will, over the long term:

- ◆ enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends;
- ◆ make the most efficient use of nonrenewable and on-farm resources and where appropriate, integrate natural biological cycles and controls;
- ◆ sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and
- ◆ enhance the quality of life for farmers/ranchers and society as a whole".

What types of projects qualify for grant funding?

Any project related to sustainable agriculture, which attempts to solve a problem that hinders sustainable agriculture adoption, qualifies for grant funding. In other words, a project should clearly identify a problem (for example, leafroller pest infestation in an organic apple orchard) and propose practices that have the potential of solving the problem (the use of a unique natural insecticide). The farmer/rancher

uses a portion of his or her farm/ranch to test the practices. This past year's producer grant recipients from Idaho were John Amonson who was awarded \$5,450 for a seminar on low stress livestock handling; and Nate Jones who received \$4,625 for his research in the promotion of local produce. A wide range of topics is available for investigation: crops, livestock, horticulture, turf, medicinal plants, Integrated Pest Management, agroforestry, agricultural waste management, food and fiber product development, processing, marketing, farm/ranch management, farm/ranch safety, and integrated mixed enterprise studies. "Special regard will be given to proposals dealing with farm/ranch retail sales & food safety issues."

What expenses will the Farmer/Rancher Grant cover?

"Projects may be funded for up to \$7,500 for one year for an individual and up to \$15,000 for one year for groups of producers." The grant will cover the costs of sampling and sampling analysis, additional labor costs associated with the project, and costs of materials and supplies necessary to the project (up to 25% of the costs of permanent improvements, such as fencing, equipment, or perennial stock will be reimbursable).

Note: Applicants are required to contribute to the project. Applicants are expected to match 25% of the grant funding through monetary or non-monetary contributions.

Other Requirements

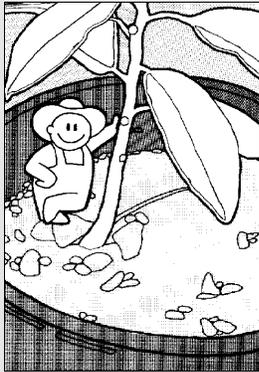
A technical advisor is required to assist with the project planning, evaluation, or outreach information. Technical advisors may be Extension agents, specialists, University researchers, or Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel.

How to get an application

Contact your county extension agent(s) or Cinda Williams at University of Idaho Sustainable Agriculture Program, (208) 885-7499 for a FRG application. **Application due date is October 31, 2000!**



Rural Roots



Inland Northwest Food and Farming Calendar

- Sept. 6 Small Acreage Farming/Market Gardening Course begins 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Sandpoint, Idaho
- Sept. 13-14 Creating a Sustainable Future for Fish, Water, and People, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Templin's, Post Falls, Idaho
- Sept. 28 Rural Roots Association Meeting, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. Moscow, Idaho
- Oct. 26 Rural Roots Association Meeting, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. Spokane, Washington
- Nov. 30 Rural Roots Association Meeting, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. Sandpoint, Idaho

NEXT ISSUE'S TOPIC - "After the Harvest"

The Rural Roots leadership team would like to encourage farmers to submit articles for publication in the Rural Roots newsletter. In the October issue, we would like to share farmers' perspectives on their successes and challenges of this harvest year. This is a wonderful opportunity for communication between farmers, one reason "Bringing Home the Harvest" was created.

Rural Roots
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