Rural Roots Members Receive On-Farm Grants

Grey Duck Garlic, LLC

Grey Duck Garlic, LLC is happy to have received a $10,362 grant for the project: "Effectiveness and economic impact of weed control systems in organic garlic production." The grant was generously awarded by Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) http://ofrf.org/index.html. OFRF distributes grants that help generate knowledge that supports modern organic farming methods.

Weeding is one of the most time consuming jobs in producing organic hardneck garlic. The grant is to study the effectiveness and cost of four different weed control methods: soil solarization, sterile seedbed technique, flame weeding and hand weeding on garlic. After the trial is completed, this information will be made available to other farmers.

Jane Fluegel, Edna Hastain and Susan Fluegel started Grey Duck Garlic, LLC at Janes's Farm near Colfax, WA in order to grow high quality gourmet organic hardneck garlic. Chris Bailey, their farm manager, has mechanized and expanded their operation. They are interested in helping to promote organic farming through education and research.

Morning Owl Farm

Rural Roots member, Mary Rohlfing, received a $15,000, three-year WSARE Farmer-Rancher Grant for her study, "What Good Are Pasture-Raised Ducks to Whole Farm Planning?" In the research, Rohlfing will record the effectiveness of a flock of 250-300 ducks on soil fertility and in weed and pest management.
For more information visit the Morning Owl Farm website at www.morningowlfarm.com or the WSARE website at http://wsare.usu.edu.

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Serving all of Idaho & the Easternmost Counties of Washington and Oregon

BRINGING HOME THE HARVEST

Rural Roots Member Newsletter Volume 10 Number 1 October 2008

Mildew Got You Down?

By Ariel Agenbroad, UI Canyon County Extension, Nampa, ID

Organic table grapes are a lucrative new alternative crop for small to mid-range producers in southwest Idaho. Powdery mildew, Uncinula necator, is the single most economically important disease threatening growers' ability to achieve high quality, marketable fruit. Management of this disease is critical to the success of producers and the sustainability of the industry.

A central obstacle is that most of the available information on powdery mildew management has been developed for growers in California, Washington and Oregon.

In this project, our University of Idaho research and extension team (Ariel Agenbroad, Tony McCammon, Essie Fallahi, Krishna Mohan), in collaboration with producer Mike Medes, will assemble a set of sustainable grower management strategies, or "protocols" we deem appropriate for southwest Idaho organic table grape production. We will focus on preventative measures such as grapevine trellis systems, early detection and climate-based disease forecasting, and use approved organic fungicide treatments when necessary.

Our protocols will be trialed at Rocky Fence Vineyards, a nine acre, certified organic table grape operation in Emmett, Idaho. The protocols we develop will establish University of Idaho Extension recommendations for powdery mildew management specific to organic table grape production in our region. Information will be distributed to producers and professionals through diverse, hands-on, interactive outreach activities, reports and publications. For more information contact Ariel Agenbroad at ariel@uidaho.edu.

Sustainable Livestock Production Workshop

This fall Cultivating Success™ will be hosting a short, one-day course in sustainable livestock production. Keynote speaker Joel Huesby, co-owner of Thundering Hooves, from Walla Walla, WA, along with other knowledgeable regional producers, will discuss the sustainable practices they implement on their farms and ranches. Topics covered include pasture management, grazing techniques, animal husbandry, grass farming, appropriately scaled farming, local food systems, and processing, distribution, and marketing your products. The course includes producer-led panel discussions that will discuss sustainable techniques for raising a variety of species including cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, chickens and turkeys. The course will be held Saturday, October 25 from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at the 1912 Center in Moscow, Idaho. Workshop costs $25 for a full day, including lunch or $15 for a half day with no lunch. To register please contact Mari Rice at 208-885-2049 or ricem@uidaho.edu. This short course is funded by USDA Risk Management Agency and sponsored by the University of Idaho Latah County Extension.

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Workshop Wrap-Up

By Erin Dwyer, RR Program Assistant

This spring Rural Roots hosted 13 different workshops throughout Idaho and Eastern Washington with a total of 213 attendees. There were three separate focuses for the workshops including direct marketing, food safety and legal liability.

After looking through the evaluations, each of the workshops seemed to have one topic that stood out for participants. For direct marketing, people were most enthusiastic about developing their retail markets and creating websites for their businesses. After the workshop 80% of participants felt that they had the knowledge necessary to develop a clear, compelling message and could successfully market their product or service.

As for food safety, hand washing stations were by far the biggest hit. The majority of the evaluations mentioned implementing a hand washing station in the field or at the farmers' market. The workshop also heightened awareness of cross contamination and attendees were dedicated to eliminating its causes.

Unsurprisingly, the overriding theme of the legal liability workshops was liability insurance. Nearly all of the participants commented that they would meet with an insurance agent to get better coverage for their farm or business. In addition, the legal liability evaluations showed a growing interest towards incorporating agritourism into their business.

Overall, the workshops were a success and many of the participants expressed their appreciation and commented that they were extremely useful.

RMA

Rural Roots Board Members Host On-Farm Fundraisers

A Midsummer Evening at Affinity Farm

Kelly Kingsland and Russell Poe opened their farm for a Rural Roots fundraiser on Sunday, July 27. It was a perfect summer evening on the Palouse and Affinity Farm provided a magical backdrop for the gourmet meal made of fresh, local ingredients. As guests arrived they were greeted by the melodic tunes of Tara Howe's acoustic folk music. Tara continued to play throughout the evening creating a pleasant, relaxing atmosphere for the evening's festivities. Informational signs were posted throughout the farm allowing guests to tour at their leisure and learn more about what crops were planted and how they are maintained. The main course was slow roasted baron of beef provided by Eaton Natural Beef, and the vegetables that made up the appetizers and sides came from Affinity Farm and the WSU Organic Farm. Cindylou Ament organized the silent auction and collected an incredible array of local art, products and services. The auction was a smash hit bringing in nearly $1200 for Rural Roots. It turned out to be a fantastic evening filled with good food, great music and excellent company. We are so grateful for all the people who donated their talent, time, and services to make this event a success.

Twilight Dinner on the Ranch

On May 10, Joe and Nikki Eaton, of Eaton Natural Beef, hosted a fundraiser for Rural Roots. Guests feasted on a delicious dinner featuring an array of local ingredients. Wawawai Canyon Winery offered wine to round out the meal while the bluegrass band provided the ambiance.

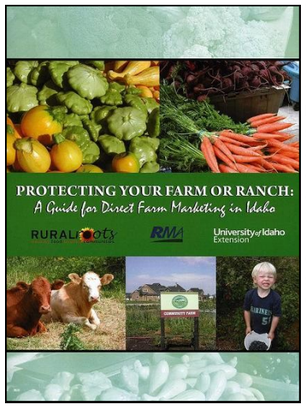
The event was a family affair and children enjoyed a petting zoo and horseback rides. Parents participated in the silent auction, which made for some lively bidding. There were a variety of speakers who discussed Rural Roots, sustainable agriculture and cooking with local ingredients. Jerry and Joe Eaton spoke about the history of the ranch and the day-to-day operations. All enjoyed this delightful evening in support of local, sustainable agriculture. Thanks to everyone who helped make this evening a hit.

Pasture Walk at Eaton Ranch

Joe and Nikki Eaton, of Eaton Natural Beef, hosted a Pasture Walk on their Whitman County ranch, on May 29 in partnership with University of Idaho Extension, Washington State University Extension, and Rural Roots. The focus of the Pasture Walk was grasses, weed control, multi-species grazing, operational and environmental sustainability.

Unlike a normal farm tour, the Pasture Walk focused directly on solving the challenges the Eaton's face in managing their pastures in and above Wawawai Canyon, 15 miles southwest of Pullman, Washington. Pasture Walk participants had the opportunity to voice their issues and concerns and to participate in on-site, real time discussions of ways these issues could be addressed. Participants learned about pasture management practices that are effective in dryland areas of the Inland Northwest.

Direct Marketing Handbook Now Available



Order a copy of our new publication *Protecting Your Farm or Ranch: A Guide for Direct Farm Marketing in Idaho*, which has been made possible by a commodity partnership with the USDA Risk Management Agency. Handbooks are provided at no charge and shipping will be free until September 30, 2008. If you would like to order a copy, please visit our website at www.ruralroots.org or call the office at 208-883.3462.

Be sure and attend one of our free overview sessions to help you get familiarized

Caldwell, ID
September 27
6 - 8 p.m.
Canyon County Ext. Office
501 Main St.

Moscow, ID
September 29
6 - 8 p.m.
1912 Center
412 E. 3rd St.

RSVP Today!
By Phone: 208.883.3462
or erin@ruralroots.org

On-Farm Food Safety Workshops

This fall and winter, Rural Roots will partner with the Western Center for Risk Management Education to present *On-Farm Food Safety Education: A Hands-On Approach to Risk Management Education*. A total of ten workshops will be held in Idaho, eastern Washington and northeastern Oregon.

This programming is a follow-up to our spring 2008 Food Safety workshops. This friendly farmer-to-farmer workshop series will be offered on farms allowing participants to see firsthand how producers identify and mitigate food safety risks.

Workshops currently scheduled:

October 11: Chicken Processing
Zakarison Partnership — Farm tour starts at 1:00 p.m.
Pullman, Washington — Workshop from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

October 15: Harvest and Post-Harvest Handling
WSU Organic Farm — Registration starts at 1:30 p.m.
Pullman, Washington — Workshop from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Workshops are $10 each for members and $15 for non-members. Register online at www.ruralroots.org or call (208) 883-8462.

Stay Tuned For More Workshops Coming Soon!

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/ CSREES under Award Number 2007-49200 -03892 .

Inland Northwest Food and Farming Calendar

Intro & Overview of Direct Marketing Handbook
Caldwell, ID — Sept. 27, 6 -8 pm
Canyon County Extension Office
501 Main Street
Facilitated by Janie Burns
Please RSVP: 208.883.3462
erin@ruralroots.org

Bioneers Conference
Spokane, WA — Oct 17 - 19
Spokane Falls Community College
www.sustainspokane.org/index.php

Poultry Processing Seminar
Potlatch, ID — Oct 19 , 2 - 5 pm
Potlatch Train Depot
Scenic Park 6
Contact: Skeeter Lynch
Stratpath@moscow.com

Sustainable Livestock Production Workshop
Moscow, ID — Oct 25, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
1912 Center
412 E. Third St
Contact: Mari Rice
ricem@uidaho.edu

Tilth Producers of Washington Annual Conference
Bellingham, WA — Nov 7 - 9
Best Western Lakeway Inn
714 Lakeway Drive
http://www.tilthproducers.org/conference.htm

Sustainability Conference
Richland, WA — Feb 10 - 12
Shilo Inn
50 Comstock St
Contact: Don Nelson
nelsond@wsu.edu

Dinner and Discussion featuring Michael Abelman, author of *From the Good Earth* and *Fields of Plenty*.
Spokane, WA — Feb 18, 6pm
Red Lion at the Park
Contact: Jeff Schahczenski
Jeffs@ncat.org

Organicology Conference
Portland, OR — Feb 26-28
Double Tree, Lloyd Center
Keynote speaker: Dr. Vandana Shiva
http://www.organicology.org/

Regional Farmer Networking Meetings

Moscow, ID* — **September 29, 6 - 8 p.m.**
1912 Center
412 E. 3rd Street
Contact: Brad Jaeckel
jaeckel@wsu.edu

Joseph, OR — **Oct. 26, 3 - 6 p.m.**
Hosted by Backyard Gardens
705 S. East Street
Contact: Beth Gibans
Bgibans@eoni.com

Cocolalla, ID — **Nov. 2, 1 - 4 p.m.**
Hosted by Heritage Farms
580 VanderSloot Lane
Contact: Luana Hiebert
heritagefarms@iglide.net

Moscow session will also include a brief overview of *Protecting Your Farm or Ranch: A Guide for Direct Marketing in Idaho

Upcoming Cultivating Success Courses

Sustainable Small Farming & Ranching:

Spokane, WA WSU Spokane Co. Extension 222 N. Havana Instructor: Pat Munts (509) 477-2173 pmunts@spokanecounty.org	**September 29 - December 15, 2008** 6-9 pm $200 per family
Kamiah, ID **UI Lewis County Extension** Instructor: Ken Hart (208) 937-2311 khart@uidaho.edu	**Starting October 2008** Details and schedule TBA
Sandpoint, ID Bonner County Extension Office 4205 N. Boyer Avenue Instructor: Diane Green (208) 263-8957 greentree@coldreams.com	**October 21, 2008 - January 27, 2009** Registration fee - $165, and includes a large resource handbook.

For more information please check the Cultivating Success website at: www.cultivatingsuccess.org

BRINGING HOME THE HARVEST

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For more information, visit us at...
www.ruralroots.org

A Message from the Executive Director

It is with great enthusiasm for Rural Roots that I am writing my final director column for *Bringing Home the Harvest*. Over the past 11 years, through the dedication, hard work, and creativity of members, board and staff, Rural Roots has grown from a task force to a highly respected sustainable agriculture organization. During this time, Rural Roots has hosted over 50 conferences, workshops and on-farm events, and helped hundreds of producers improve the sustainability and profitability of their farms and ranches. We also have built strong relationships with the University of Idaho and Washington State University, our funding partners within USDA, and with local and state agencies across the Inland Northwest region.

It has been exciting to see Rural Roots' programming double over the past three years as we began serving producers in southern Idaho, while maintaining our commitment to offering timely and high quality programs to farmers and ranchers in the north. It has also been exciting to see Rural Roots Board of Directors work with members and staff to set organizational priorities, develop policies and plan for the future.

In the coming year, members across the region can look forward to participating in regional networking meetings, one (or more) of our upcoming on-farm food safety workshops and Cultivating Success courses, sharing resources and asking questions via the Rural Roots listserv, and accessing new resources on the Rural Roots website.

I am very appreciative of having had the pleasure and honor to serve as Rural Roots first executive director and for having the opportunity to work with so many extraordinary farmers, ranchers, university faculty, staff and other sustainable agriculture advocates. My time at Rural Roots has been inspirational and fulfilling. Thank you all so much.

My best to you,