Oregon State University
Extension Service

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Oregon Small Farm News

Oregon State University Small Farms Program

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OSU Extension Service Small Farms Program

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Cover Photo:
Purple Cabbage, Riverland Family Farm
Photo by Garry Stephenson

Racism Has Again Led to Murder

Racism has again led to murder. Today, we find ourselves grieving and voicing our support for our Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The United States has a long history of anti-Asian hate and violence that has intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. The OSU Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems embraces the message to the community from Oregon State University leadership:

"We stand in solidarity and grief with the Asian and Asian American community within our university and beyond following the slaying of eight people in the Atlanta area, mostly women and members of the Asian community.

Our commitment to ending anti-Asian, anti-Black, anti-Latinx and anti-Indigenous racism in our culture has to be relentless and intentional. We know that many in our community are tired of yet another message of sadness and grief. We must continue our resolve and actions to move this university in an anti-racist direction, and to educate our university leaders and all members of our community about the systemic oppression experienced by communities of color at OSU and within our surrounding communities. Anything less would perpetuate racism and the horror and continued murders experienced by people of color.

Violence, racism and xenophobia have no place in our country or world. The efforts to place blame for the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated a pattern of verbal and physical abuse against Asians and Asian Americans that must not be tolerated."

ARE YOU PREPARED TO MANAGE PESTS ON YOUR FARM THIS SEASON?

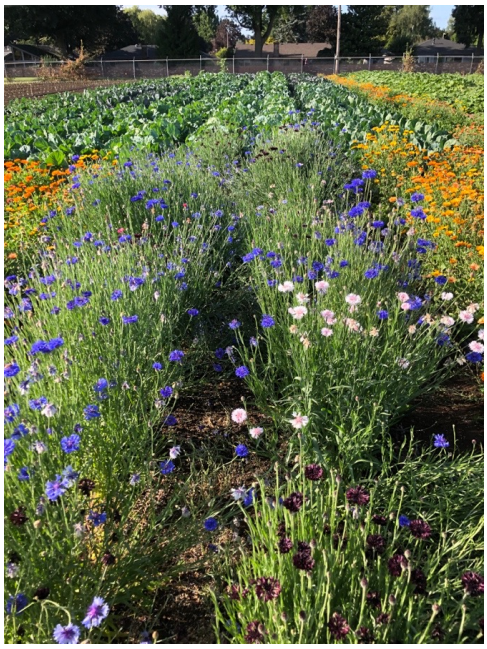
GROWING FARMS ONLINE: ECOLOGICAL STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING INSECTS ON A FARM

SELF-PACED 100% ONLINE COURSE **REGISTRATION $10**

Designed for fruit and vegetable farmers, this course will help you develop an ecologically-based integrated pest management plan for your farm.

Using the PAMS framework—prevention, avoidance, monitoring and suppression—you will learn how to make pest management decisions from the perspective of a farm ecosystem manager. With this foundational knowledge, and with experience, you will be able to utilize the PAMS strategies to address specific pest problems in your farming system.

For registration and more information: https://beav.es/JrY



Insectary planting at OSU NWREC Learning Farm. Photo credit: Heidi Noordijk

Codling moth delta trap for monitoring flight. Image credit OSU photo archive

Codling moth larvae damage to apple. Ken Gray image archive

In this 100% online course, you work through the course module at your own pace, on your own schedule. There is no 'instructor', but you may contact the course coordinator if you have questions.

You can estimate 2-4 hours to complete the module, with additional time to complete your pest management plan and explore all supplemental resources. You can also continue to access the module for up to 2 months from the date you register.

Oregon Food Hub Network: New map & list of hubs around the state

By: Lauren Gwin, Oregon State University Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems

Does Oregon have food hubs? Where are they, and what services do they offer?


Oregon State University Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems

OCFSN

March 2021

Oregon Food Hubs

A **Food Hub** is a "business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution and marketing of source-identified food products primarily from local and regional producers to strengthen their ability to satisfy wholesale, retail, and institutional demand."[1]

This is a list of most of the established and emerging Food Hub ventures in Oregon. Those included range in size, scope, and structure, but all work to support producers, streamline operations, and play a crucial role in developing our state's local food system to a scale that is competitive in mainstream markets.

1. Agricultural Connections

Year-round retail and wholesale sales of local and regionally-sourced foods.

agricultural connections

Location & Service Area: Located in Bend. Sells throughout Central Oregon; sources foods locally from Central Oregon and regionally from greater Oregon, mainly from Eugene-Junction City Willamette Valley area. Also works with four Oregon-wide distributors.

Year Established: 2010

Structure: For-profit business

Resources Offered: Regional distribution, cross-docking services, and cold storage rental to producers; facilitates pre-season crop planning and standing orders between farms and clients. Offers other services for Central Oregon farm partners including identification and ordering of packaging supplies, post-harvest crop guidelines and industry standards of commercial food distribution.

Website: www.agriculturalconnections.com

The Oregon Food Hub Network is part of the Oregon Community Food Systems Network and is a partnership with the Oregon State University Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems.

Yes, Oregon has at least 12 active food hubs around the state, and a few more are in the works. We've created a list of most of the established and emerging Food Hub ventures in Oregon, with brief descriptions and contact info. https://extension.oregonstate.edu/food/food-systems

Hubs included vary in their size, scope, and structure. All of them work to support producers, streamline operations, and play a crucial role in developing our state's local food system to a scale that is competitive in mainstream markets.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines a food hub as a business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution and marketing of source-identified food products primarily from local and regional producers to strengthen their ability to satisfy wholesale, retail, and institutional demand.

Most of these hubs are part of the Oregon Food Hub Network, a peer learning community for local food hubs, both active and in development, around the state. Partners include nonprofit organizations, farmers, ranchers, and fishermen, small food businesses, rural economic development agencies, and others.

The Oregon Food Hub Network is a working group of the Oregon Community Food Systems Network, a collaboration of 56 nonprofit organizations and allies dedicated to the shared vision that all Oregonians thrive with healthy, affordable foods from an equitable, environmentally and economically resilient, regional food system. Learn more: http://ocfsn.net/

Work Wear for Women Farmers

Over the course of the past five years or so, women farmers have embraced and celebrated new lines of work wear designed especially for us. Gone are the days of ill-fitting Carhartt pants and steel-toed boots. Instead, women can now choose from a range of high-quality clothes and shoes that fit our bodies and feet better, and are more comfortable no less.

Last month, members of the League of Women Farmers (based in Southern Oregon) responded to a new farmer's request for work clothes and shoe recommendations. Following is our curated list of recommendations. Many of these businesses are also women-owned and managed.

Footwear:

Red Back Boots - https://www.redbackboots.com/women

Waterproof boots - https://www.xtratuf.com/collections/women-type-deck-boots?gclid=Cj0KCQiAhP2BBhDdARIsAJEzXlERqXxZax551Wt412duhfOvc-uXNDMQEnsZmwvSEodWmgh5G8K_yngaAv07EALw_wcB

Pants:

Overalls - https://dovetailworkwear.com/products/freshley-overall-grey?variant=7413043232802&currency=USD&utm_medium=product_sync&utm_source=google&utm_content=sag_organic&utm_campaign=sag_organic&gclid=CjwKCAiAm-2BBhANEiwAe7eyFLPtIWBxhA9h38HiElQIpxtRhWarU2CixaY0_-KzLz1czwXuGSUg2xoCu0AQAvD_BwE

Carhartt knit leggings - https://www.carhartt.com/products/womens/Force-Utility-Knit-Pant-102482

Overalls and coveralls - https://handymaamgoods.com/

Bib overalls - https://www.patagonia.com/product/womens-all-seasons-hemp-canvas-work-bib-overalls-regular/56425-FTGN.html?dwvar_56425-FTGN_color=FTGN&cgid=root

Jeans - https://www.ariat.com/women-clothing-denim-bootcut

Pants - https://redantspants.com/ https://www.gramicci.com/products/gramicci-pants

Undergarments

https://www.icebreaker.com/en-us/womens?gclid=Cj0KCQiAhP2BBhDdARIsAJEzXlFjOiycaBXakoGRZ3-4S8U-IgTxsRuppodZ-40lOLHU_5H28ZPp3T0aAv9TEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds

General

https://www.patagonia.com/shop/womens-workwear

Kameji Abe and the Historic Rice Cultivar Kameno-o (Tortoise Tail)

By: Dr. Toshihiko Nishio

Translated and edited by: Shinji Kawai and Abigail Huster, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University

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

Portraits on the wall of the Amarume Town
Illustration by Eiko Goto

Aamarume Town, Home of Farmer-Breeders

Many years ago the author traveled to northern Japan to visit the town Amarume, which is now called the town of Shonai. Shonai is the birthplace of the cold tolerant rice cultivar Kameno-o, which literally translates to Tortoise Tail.

The first stop was at the Amarume Town Museum. The building was full of historical farming equipment such as horse drawn plows. What caught the author's eyes, however, were the portraits of farmer breeders hanging on the wall. From the 19th century to the early 20th century many farmer breeders came from the larger Shonai district, including seven from the small town of Amarume. These farmer breeders developed several important rice cultivars including widely planted 'Toyokuni.' Another important cultivar from the area is 'Morita Wase,' which served as a parent to two elite cultivars currently planted today. The passion that this tiny village had for developing new rice cultivars was impressive. This drive, combined with the cool summers of the region, created the perfect environment for the development of cold tolerant rice.

A New Cold Tolerant Cultivar

The man behind the Kameno-o rice cultivar was named Kameji. He found the first ears of rice that would later lead to Kameno-o in 1893, when he was twenty five years old.

As the story goes, it all began when Kameji made a visit to a shrine in a nearby village. While he was traveling, cool summer temperatures hit the area and devastated the rice fields. On his way home, Kameji noticed a few ears of rice still standing. It was customary at the time to plant relatively cold tolerant cultivars near the entryway of irrigation channels. This year, the cold snap was so severe that only three plants of this cold hardy rice were left. Kameji collected the surviving plants and from there on out he continued to select for cold tolerant.

Although the well-known tale makes it sound like the discovery was simply a stroke of luck, there

was more to it than merely being in the right place at the right time. Kameji's notes about the origins of Kameno-o rice indicate that his discovery of the cold hardy plants was quite intentional. He might have visited the shrine, but the real purpose of his travels was to search for cold hardy rice germplasm with the intention to breed a cold tolerant cultivar.

Rice field where Kameno-o was found in front of the shrine
Illustration by Eiko Goto

drive to innovate. Not long after Kameji's breeding project, a severe rice crop failure took place throughout northern Japan due to another summer cold snap. While other rice varieties failed to produce ears, Kameno-o still produced a decent yield. The news spread quickly, and Kameno-o rice was soon grown widely throughout the region.

Adaptation To New Farming Systems

While legend has it that Kameji simply stumbled upon Kameno-o rice, his work didn't end there. After finding the parent plants, he conducted many trials to evaluate different planting densities and fertilizer rates, all the while selecting for adaptation to the currently evolving agricultural practices. At the time when Kameno-o rice was developed major changes in rice cultivation systems were underway. Farmers were shifting their production systems from water-saturated paddies to dry fields, increasing cultivation depth, and learning to apply more fish and soy meal fertilizer to achieve higher yields. They were, of course, also looking for fresh cultivars adapted to these new cultural practices. Kameno-o was the first cultivar with these new adaptations that was available to growers in the cool summer region.

Kameji owned 1/5 acre of farmland on which he grew rice and vegetables. He was always eager to try new methods and was an early adapter of the new dry rice field cultivation method. His pursuit of a new rice cultivar was a natural extension of his innate curiosity and

The King Became A Tortoise

The process of naming a new cultivar can be interesting. Kameji originally asked his friend to name his new rice variety. The friend came up with the name 'Kameno-ou,' which means "the king of rice that was created by Kameji." However, Kameji wasn't comfortable with such a self-aggrandizing name and shifted it slightly to 'Kameno-o,' which changes the meaning completely to "tortoise tail".

Monument of Kameji Abe at Kumagai Shrine
Photo by Toshihiko Nishio

Right: Vertical plow drawn by horse for deep cultivation (Color) **Left:** Vertical plow drawn by horse for deep cultivation (B&W)
Illustrations by Eiko Goto

Nonetheless, Kameno-o was the king of rice. It was planted widely in Tohoku and Hokuriku regions from the end of 19th century until the early 20th century. By 1925 the planting acreage, including on the Korean peninsula, reached 200, 000 ha. Its popularity stemmed not only from its cold tolerance, but also for its early maturity, high yields, and exceptional flavor.

In terms of leaving a legacy, Kameno-o also deserves to be called a king. Its immediate offspring 'Rikuu No.132' is one of the so-called Big Three varieties that became the foundation of modern rice breeding work and is the parent of many modern premium cultivars. After peak production around 1925 Kameno-o was eventually replaced by its own descendant, 'Rikuu No. 132'.

In his later years of life Kameji formed a land reform cooperative dedicated to agricultural development in his hometown.

His legacy also includes the following haiku with his poet name, *'Drunkard by Blossom'*:

Thoughts ahead
Slow travel
Gazing rice plants

This gem of a poem reflects the essence of Kameji, a man who loved rice farming and could be found roaming the fields on a daily basis. After great contributions to the well-being of cool region rice farmers, Kameji left the world in 1928 at the age of sixty-one.

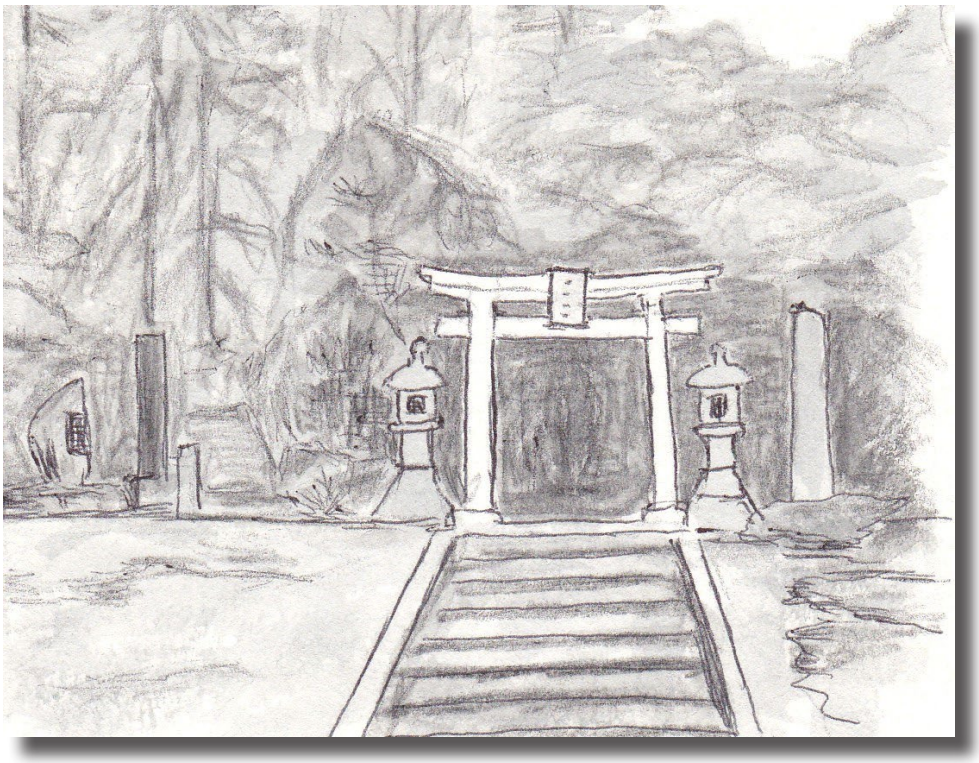
At the end of the author's tour of Amarume, he visited a shrine near the site where Kameji found the few surviving ears of rice that eventually became Kameno-o. While the main shrine is for a historical

Kumagai Shrine
Illustration by Eiko Goto

political figure, there is also a monument to commemorate the birthplace of Kameno-o rice. When the author put his hands in the spring flowing out there, the water was icy cold. How fitting that the gift of cold tolerant rice would come from this very place!

Continued Fame As A Rice Wine Ingredient

Surprisingly, Kameno-o is a popular rice variety to this day. It is no longer used for direct consumption but rather as an ingredient in rice wine. There are more than 30 breweries across the nation that use it to make aged rice wine. There is a Japanese cartoon called 'The Rice Wine of Natsuko' which portrays a female brewer trying to create a legendary sake from Kameno-o rice. Although the variety was not bred specifically for rice wine production, for some reason it fascinated many brewers. Nostalgia could be a contributing factor. Since Kameno-o lodges more easily than modern cultivars, it does requires some special management to produce today.



Monument of Kameji Abe at Kumagai
Illustration by Eiko Goto

Nonetheless, the Kameno-o Summit was held every year from 1997 through 2006, bringing together rice farmers and rice wine breweries. The event drew more than 500 people from across Japan to toast each other with sake born of Kameno-o.

Save the Date

February 19th, 2022

OSU Oregon Small Farms Conference

https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/smallfarmsconference/

We can't wait to see you there

Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance (ADCM) Program

By: Hayley White, Oregon State University, Small Farms Program

A new house bill designated Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to partner with Department of State Lands (DSL) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) create a drainage channel maintenance program. The goal of this new program is to create an effective statewide regulatory process to allow effective maintenance while also protecting the ecological function of the channel.

Drainage of agricultural lands is vital to Oregon, however, that drainage requires maintenance. In the past, that maintenance has required a DSL permit. This new process through the Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance (ADCM) program has been simplified to encourage landowner assistance and increase responsible maintenance of agricultural drainage channels.

What channels qualify?
The channels that qualify for the program include "traditionally maintained" channels, which include ditches and some streams. These channels must have provided drainage in the past 5 years, not be designated an essential salmonid habitat (ESH), and must be dry during the maintenance event.

Instead of needing a permit, the ADCM program has changed the process to an ODA notification with a 45 day process. This means that if ODA has not responded to the official submission within 45 days, the applicant is allowed to carry through with the maintenance as it is stated in the application.

This program also allows for the temporary storage of spoils along the channel. If approved, the landowner can remove spoils from the channel using equipment and hold it next to the channel for up to one year. Some regulations apply, and it is not allowed in natural, undisturbed wetland areas.

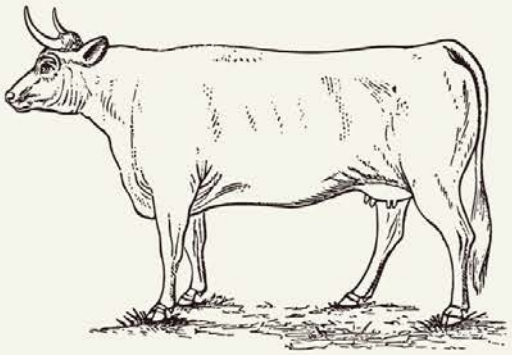
In the past, any maintenance on deposits over 100 cubic yards required a DSL permit. The new ADCM program allows up to 3,000 cubic yards per linear mile of channel. If you would like to dig a new channel or plan to widen or deepen the drainage, a DSL permit is required.

What is required?
The notification itself only requires basic information and has been designed to be user friendly. Some of the requirements to be approved include the timing of the work, streamside vegetation, habitat protection, and equipment type. There is a variance request for landowners who might be unable to meet all requirements that can be discussed with ODA and ODFW. Additionally, landowners should take into account other state and federal regulations, tribal cultural resources, fish passage, or rain during the maintenance activity.

ODA hopes that the new ADCM program will simplify the regulatory process, improve awareness and compliance, and encourage landowner assistance.

For more information please visit oda.direct/agchannelmaintenance

Visit polkswcd.com and the "Past Meetings" tab to view the recording of the class by Tyler Manitsas.



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Online Courses offered by the OSU Small Farms Program

Available anytime online and self-paced. Register at: https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/catalog-page#all-courses

To Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Management
https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/course/growing-farms-online-successful-whole-farm-management

To Pasture Management:
https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/course/pasture-and-grazing-management

To Ecological Strategies
https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/course/growing-farms-short-course-ecological-strategies-for-managing-insects-on-a-farm