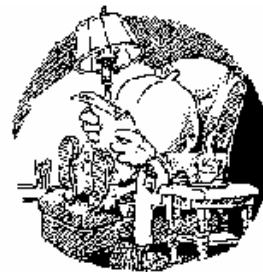




The Garbanzo Gazette

October 20, 2005



Growers Market's Weekly Newsletter

GROWERS BUSINESS

Rodney Tisdale has resigned as Growers board president, due to his needing to devote time to his education. He hopes to be more involved again when his last year of school is completed in June of 2006. Nathan Greene is the new board president. Growers continues to face challenges. All are invited to participate in Growers meetings (board meetings). My opinion is that if people come to meetings, they might be able to offer input based on their knowledge and experience. In future years, they might be able to pass on to other Growers folks what they have heard in a meeting. The next two meetings are on Wednesday, October 26th, at 6:30 pm, and Monday, November 7th, at 6:30 pm. If the meeting is not at the round table upstairs in the Growers Market Building, look downstairs in the co-op, or elsewhere in the building.--Milton Takei

PESTICIDE FREE PARKS!!

You're invited to help the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) promote pesticide-free parks in Eugene and other Lane County communities. Join us on October 22 to learn why pesticide-free parks are important and how you can take action to establish them in your community. You'll also have the opportunity to connect with other activists and join NCAP's staff and board for conversation and refreshments. We'll be meeting at the Eugene Public Library from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM on the October 22nd. See you there! For more information, call us at 344-5044 or e-mail us at info@pesticide.org. Megan Kemple, NCAP

WOW HALL WITCHES BALL

The Witches Ball this year will be at the Wow Hall on Monday, October 31st. This year's music will feature the wild witchy rhymes of Edgewalking Blind. There will be a kids parade, costume contest, music, spiral dance and ritual. Proceeds from this Ball will go to Katrina relief and the Eugene Spiral Scouts. The Spiral Scouts are a minority faith scout group focused on earth based philosophies. This will be a special Witches Ball as it falls when the veil is thin. You can call me for details (302-1518). -- Steve Brown

VEGANS, MANURE, AND ANIMALS...

Vegetable farmers tend to spend a lot of time wrangling and making deals to get tremendous loads of manure delivered to their farms. And since small-scale meat and dairy production has collapsed in most areas, even the most conscientious organic farmers end up using manure from industrial farms. Vegans and anyone else interested in organic local vegetables thus have an incentive to support humane, pasture-based animal farming in their areas. From: <http://gristmill.grist.org/story/2005/10/5/212340/785?source=daily>:
- Doug

TINY TOTS OPEN HOUSE

Tiny Tots, the indoor, non-profit playground co-op for children ages 0-5ish, is holding another free open house on Friday, October 21st from 9am to Noon. Location: 2200 Coburg Road, located just south of beltline in Our Savior's Lutheran Church (no affiliation). For more info: www.TinyTotsCo-op.org or Alysia Pell at 344-4718

CISCAP EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- "Close the SOA" fundraisers (concert on the 22nd, bakesale on the 26th);
- world-renowned speakers, including Bishop Ruiz of Chiapas on the 19th; and
- an early start for CALC's always-popular Cornucopia on the 22nd, to allow folks to attend both that and CISCAP's "Close the SOA" concert.

- Lucilene Lira, a Brazilian-born activist, will present the film "Land for Rose", lead a discussion focusing on the leadership role women play in Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (MST). UO, 111 Lillis, 11/ 1 at 6:30pm
So mark your calendars now, and make plans to attend these outstanding upcoming events! For more information, 485-8633, or: <http://www.calclane.org/calendar.php>. - Scott

ORGANIC CONSUMERS/FARMERS RALLY TO SHUT DOWN FACTORY FARMS

Farming and consumer groups and member-owned grocery cooperatives are rallying their members and appealing to the USDA Secretary to help crack down on corporate-owned factory farms producing suspect "organic" milk. Program staff at the agency have delayed enforcement against alleged violations on the industrial farms, some of which confine in excess of 5000 cows.

The latest controversy at the USDA's National Organic Program swirls around its decision to prevent their expert advisory panel, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), from taking final action to close regulatory loopholes at their upcoming November meeting in Washington.

"After five years of foot dragging by USDA bureaucrats, the NOSB has finally succeeded and is ready to put through a rule change that will prevent a handful of industrial farms from confining their animals to pens or buildings and claiming their milk is organic," said Mark Kastel, of the Wisconsin-based Cornucopia Institute. "Almost all 'legitimate' organic dairy farmers respect the federal regulations and provide pasture for their dairy cows. We cannot allow these livestock factories to cheapen the ethics that organic farming is based on."

Confining livestock is a huge cost-saving management tool that critics contend provides an unfair economic advantage for the operators and owners of the factory farms. The mega-farm operators suggest that the arid western climate in which they are located makes pasturing difficult and expensive for their thousands of milking cows.

Thousands of consumers and organic farmers have submitted comments and direct testimony in support of cracking down on the alleged abused by the few factory farms. Many food co-ops have participated in this process. But instead of respecting these concerns and those expressed by their expert advisory Board, the USDA has instead scheduled two hours of additional public comments at the November meeting without an opportunity for action by the Board.

"The NOSB passed a guidance document in 2001 which would have reined in these outlaw farms, but the USDA sat on their recommendation and has done nothing," said George Wright, an organic dairy farmer from Hermon, New York, who milks 55 cows. "How many times are they going to call us back to Washington to talk about the same issue? I can't afford the transportation, lodging, or time off the farm to play footsie with these professional bureaucrats and lobbyists.

Some have accused the USDA of "acting in concert" with the corporations operating these mammoth farms and marketing the milk. "Agency bureaucrats know very well that the November meeting will be the last for five key NOSB members whose terms are expiring," added Kastel of The Cornucopia Institute, one of the country's most prominent organic industry watchdogs. NOSB chairman Jim Riddle, an organic certification expert from Winona, Minnesota, along with four of his colleagues will be leaving the board at the end of the year after having worked hard to complete the new rule making that would force the USDA to take a more aggressive regulatory approach to organic farms that keep their animals in confinement.

Members of the NOSB itself have appealed to the USDA to place the simmering issue back on their agenda. "If scheduled, we will be prepared to take final action on the rule change at the November meeting," stated Chairman Riddle.

Many organizations and individuals have contacted USDA Secretary Mike Johanns (1400 Independence Ave SW, Whitten Building - Suite 200A, Washington, DC 20250, agsec@usda.gov) to ask that he personally intervene and order the issue placed on the November meeting agenda.

"We are asking the Secretary to step in and demand that the *will of the people*, as evidenced by thousands of comments, letters, and petitions in support of pasture enforcement, not be subordinated to the few corporate interests," added Kastel.

For more information on this issue, a copy of their action alert, and a sample letter to the USDA Secretary, please visit www.cornucopia.org, Mark A. Kastel, The Cornucopia Institute, kastel@cornucopia.org, 608-625-2042 Voice, 866-861-2214 Fax

Send comments or article submissions to garbanzo@lists.opn.org. If you don't have computer access, you can put articles in the garbanzo box at growers. Newsletter copy deadline is 5:00 pm Tuesday. Market hours are Tuesdays 5-7pm; Thursdays 2:30 to 7:30 pm and Fridays 3:00 to 6:30 pm. An orientation to Growers is held each Thursday at 1:30. The Growers email list includes an electronic banzo, events notices, and other misc. info. growers@lists.opn.org Growers Market: 687-1145