

**COMMUNITY**

**Alternative farmers have high hopes**

By June Williams  
Emerald Contributor

Two small greenhouses tucked away in South Eugene may have a large impact on the local food supply — once the community finds them, that is.

The greenhouses were started as an alternative to large agribusiness produce. Douglass Moser, who began the Community Supported Agriculture project last October, said he hopes the program will become popular in Eugene. This would eliminate buying through a retail food chain, he said.

"Ultimately we'd like to work directly with the consumer," said Vince Devoto, one of Moser's helpers on the project. "That would eliminate the middle man. It would still be more expensive than Safeway, but less than Sundance."

Devoto said the only option the fledgling program has now is to sell its produce, a mixture of salad greens, to local food stores, until they can publicize the business.

"We deliver about 60 pounds of salad a week to Sundance, The Kiva, Friendly's Foods and New Frontier Market," Devoto said. "That's only a small portion of the greenhouse. For awhile, we could have picked 70 pounds a day, but there just wasn't a market for it."

Although the produce is still connected to agribusiness, "it's local and you don't have to use a whole lot of gas to ship it around," Devoto said.

Eventually they hope to deal only with consumers, either delivering directly to their homes



Photo by Sean Poeton

Vince Devoto (kneeling) and Douglass Moser hope small greenhouses like this one can replace large agribusiness.

of organizing a central drop-off spot for the produce.

"Our aim is to work with the people who are going to eat it," Moser said. "That's why we're not certified organic. That would allow the food to be shipped anywhere. We want to know where the food is going."

"Everytime I hear about a new organic farm in places like the Salinas Valley, I laugh. What about all the pesticides in the ground water? What about all the air pollution?"

Moser said he believes in small interaction, such as using five acres instead of 500. "One of the reasons I started this thing was because I don't like large scale," Moser said. That includes America's large scale eating habits, especially sugar consumption, he said.

"People have to change their eating habits. The sugar intake per capita is a half a pound per day," he said.

Moser believes this typical diet is killing people, and that society is seeing the effects of it in heart attacks and hyperactive children.

"Time is growing short," he said. "This could be the last generation."

Moser sees humans as a giant heard of buffalo stampeding toward a cliff. Only the ones outside the heard won't be swept over the edge.

"For awhile I wanted to save humanity. Now I'm content to work with the ones on the edge," he said.

Neither Moser or Devoto know how their project will turn out. Moser said there is still a lot of work to be done in order to make community-supported agriculture a reality.

"One of the reasons why I started this greenhouse was so I could learn," he said.

"There's so much potential here."

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