

Farm increases public involvement through classes, hosting dinners

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

Vogel Farms for years has attracted visitors who buy the fresh food grown there, or buy gifts at one of several on-site stores.

Now, owner Debi Engelhardt-Vogel aims to attract more people to the Kuna, Idaho, farm of 200 acres with an upcoming series of cooking classes and hosted dinners. Classes start in October.

Engelhardt-Vogel said the events are already generating interest from a growing segment of the population desiring more fresh local food.

The events also reflect a long-term plan she and her late husband, Ed Vogel — who died late last year following a long illness — had to increase public participation in the farm.

“Almost everything we are doing now, he was a part of,” Engelhardt-Vogel said. “This year has been a year of healing and trying to get back on track.”

As for the local-food theme of upcoming classes and hosted dinners, “I look at my grandkids. They are very aware of where their food comes from,” she said. She runs the farm with her son-in-law, daughters and grandsons.



Brad Carlson/Capital Press

Debi Engelhardt-Vogel prepares basil for a restaurant client Aug. 15 at Vogel Farms near Kuna, Idaho.

More members of the Baby Boom generation, including recent migrants to southwest Idaho, are gaining this awareness as they wind down busy careers, said Engelhardt-Vogel, 59.

“I have been able to get some of that back by being on the farm, so it wasn’t completely lost,” she said. The longtime business analyst and consultant spent years planning and self-funding what

would become Vogel Farms Country Market, begun in 2005. A large kitchen is one of its new features.

Classes, held year-round up to twice a week, will cover cooking techniques as well as special topics such as preserving and canning, how to prepare particular foods, and making the best use of home gardens, she said. Fresh foods free of chemicals and preservatives, like Vogel Farms-

grown meats, will be featured.

In separate dinner classes also targeted to start in October, Engelhardt-Vogel plans to lead small groups in cooking a three-course meal of fresh ingredients primarily from the farm. She expects to host one dinner a week plus additional sessions that groups can schedule.

In class and dinner settings, she said, themes will include “eating locally and seasonally — being aware of what you are putting in your mouth” as well as “the importance of farming, and the importance of the small farm.”

Costs are yet to be determined and will reflect what foods are used, Engelhardt-Vogel said.

Next summer, she plans to make the farm available for hosted farm-to-table events.

“My husband really wanted this to be a Century Farm,” Engelhardt-Vogel said. “We have 33 years left. From the looks of things, houses are going to be surrounding us. We need to find a way we can complement the houses and be able to survive.”

Vogel Farms raises beef, pork, chicken and eggs. With nearby Cabalo’s Orchard, it raises turkeys that are finished there, and cooperates in running a greenhouse and growing popcorn.



Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners

The Idaho land board announced Aug. 17 that it has selected Dustin Miller as director of the state Department of Lands.

Miller takes reins of Idaho Department of Lands

Capital Press

The State Board of Land Commissioners has selected Dustin Miller to be the new director of the Idaho Department of Lands.

Miller has been administrator of the Governor’s Office of Species Conservation and a member of the governor’s natural resources cabinet since 2012. He started his career as a wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service.

“Dustin is highly regarded as a leader in Idaho’s natural resources field, and we are confident in his ability to lay out a vision for the Department of Lands and help the Land Board meet its many duties, especially as trustees of the state’s endowment lands and funds that support our public schools,” Gov. Butch Otter said in a press release.

“His strength is building strong working relationships across state and federal agencies, user groups, the Idaho Legislature and others to solve complex natural resource issues,” he said.

Miller has participated in state and national committees related to wildlife and land-use planning and is experienced in building support for land-use initiatives.

He has also worked extensively across the state as a natural resources field coordinator for the U.S. Senate, the Land Board stated.

Throughout his career, he has helped establish collaborative relationships with state and federal agencies, private landowners and resource industry leaders.

Miller earned a bachelor’s degree in environmental science from the University of Idaho.

“I am honored to be selected by the Land Board. I value Idaho and its abundant natural resources, and I am excited to lead the hard-working and dedicated people at the Department of Lands in the important work they do for Idahoans,” Miller said in the press release.

He will lead more than 320 full-time and 250 seasonal employees at the department. He will be the secretary to the Land Board and a member of the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

He will also serve as chairman of the Idaho Board of Scaling Practices and as a member of the Idaho Geological Survey, Idaho Forest Products Commission, Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance and University of Idaho Policy Analysis Group.

Washington ag director talks trade uncertainty

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Small farmers will be hurt worst as U.S. trade disputes play out, the head of Washington’s agriculture department says.

“They’ve got a lot of costs sunk already into their crop of cherries or apples or whatever, because they’ve already made the decision to do the pruning, spraying, picking and packing costs,” Washington State Department of Agriculture director Derek Sandison told the Capital Press. “Now they’re at the mercy of the prices out there, what people will pay for it in an environment where some of our largest markets are essentially not available, or only available if we’re willing to accept most of the tariffs.”

In short-term retaliatory tariffs, agriculture tends to be disproportionately affected, Sandison said.

“As an industry, agriculture bears the brunt of these disputes and disruptions,” he said.

He and others from his department have traveled to Washington, D.C., to talk to members of Congress, the House and Senate agriculture committees, the departments of State and Commerce, USDA and the U.S. trade representative to emphasize the ramifications of current trade disputes and importance of a rapid resolution, Sandison said.

The USDA will provide reports around Sept. 4 on the financial impacts felt since the tariffs went into effect in July, Sandison said. A team of economists is working to segregate normal price fluctuations in the market from tariff-related impacts.

“There’s the immediate, short-term impacts associated with retaliatory tariffs, then you have longer-term impacts associated with Pacific Rim country agreements that we’re not part of,” Sandison said. “We’ll feel those over the next several years.”

Sandison is the chairman of marketing and international trade committee for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, which will meet Sept. 9-12 in Hartford, Conn.

Virtually every state is affected, Sandison said.

“This is a very fluid, dynamic situation,” Sandison said. “You could have changes in relationships with the individual countries we’re having the tariff issues with overnight. We just don’t know.”

Particularly with China, it’s hard to predict when a substantial breakthrough might occur, Sandison said.

“We have no idea,” he said. President Donald Trump



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press File

Derek Sandison, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture speaks during a meeting between Washington Grain Commission board members and members of the Japan Flour Millers Association May 2 in Pullman, Wash.

said this week his administration is still working on a rewrite of the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico but previously told the head of the House Agriculture Committee he is working on bilateral agreements with the two nations.

Trump recently met with the European Union president, who promised to negotiate an agreement, particularly bene-

fitting U.S. soybeans. Sandison said he’s heard that a deal with Mexico is “apparently very close,” but has not seen a lot of progress with Canada.

Sandison traveled to Japan in June with Ted McKinney, USDA under secretary of agriculture for trade and foreign agricultural affairs, meeting with the Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

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Thank You Washington State Legislature for your commitment to Agriculture Education!

Curriculum for Agriculture Science Education Technology and Equipment Grants were made available to over 120 agriculture teachers in Washington State and the Agriculture Education teacher preparation program at Washington State University! 1.25 million dollars was awarded in round 1 of the competitive CASE grant application process. Congratulations to the following agriculture science teachers and school districts who were awarded grants:

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	SCHOOL DISTRICT	AMOUNT
Dan	White	Kennewick	\$28,812.00
Carol	Travis	Pasco	\$20,000.00
Renee	Johnson	Pasco	\$26,500.00
Mike	Sheppard	South Kitsap	\$22,294.00
Holly	Cahow	Columbia	\$16,850.00
Josh	Golob	Granger	\$2,000.00
Brian	Long	Sultan	\$18,333.00
Jennifer	Mason	Grandview	\$48,000.00
Nathan	Moore	Colton	\$34,484.00
Tracy	Pearson	Dayton	\$20,000.00
La Rena	Draper	Washtucna	\$6,500.00
Jennifer	Yochum	Finley	\$6,512.00
Becky	Carollo	Kittitas	\$22,000.00
Jennie	Wagner	Medical Lake	\$24,056.00
Micah	Wilson	Kiona-Benton	\$19,000.00
HaLee	Walter	Odessa	\$15,000.00
Allen	Skoog	Cheney	\$27,000.00
Erica	Whitmore	Deer Park	\$17,000.00
Mitchell	Bell	Cle Elum	\$16,000.00
Ryan	Maiden	Touchet	\$42,900.00
Steve	Russell	Ellensburg	\$42,000.00
Samantha	Sims	Ellensburg	\$13,891.00
Kyle	Kimble	Pomeroy	\$18,938.00
Amy	Carpenter	Vancouver	\$12,000.00
Denise	Senor	Kennewick	\$10,000.00
Amy	Morrison	Mt. Vernon	\$20,000.00
Anna	Warner	WSU	\$20,000.00
Tyler	Renz	Elma	\$32,000.00
Emily	Wamsley	Elma	\$27,000.00
Pat	Hazen	Highland	\$32,438.00
Brad	Watkins	Selah	\$53,000.00
Peggy	Payne	Walla Walla	\$37,000.00
Lindsey	Butcher	Walla Walla	\$46,000.00
Nicole	Abel	Waitsburg	\$38,386.00
J.D.	Baser	Pullman	\$27,000.00
Robert	Matthews	Pullman	\$20,000.00
Jessica	Johnson	Walla Walla	\$18,000.00
Cami	Browne	Clarkston	\$3,300.00
Anna	Gildnes	Burlington-Edison	\$20,000.00
Tracy	Brown	Snohomish	\$18,324.00
Josh	Krieg	Gondal	\$15,411.00
Randi	Krieg	Goldendale	\$14,624.00
Hannah	Schneider	Wenatchee	\$23,000.00
Matt	Asplund	Wenatchee	\$27,000.00
Andy	Williams	Ritzville	\$13,500.00
Justin	Palmer	Lind	\$13,500.00
Mike	Heitstuman	Colfax	\$33,064.00
Olivia	Zurcher	Prosser	\$11,718.00
Austin	Miller	Sprague	\$11,131.00
Annette	Weeks	Battle Ground	\$22,827.00
Aubrey	Markel	Chewelah	\$48,500.00
Melissa	Jensen	East Valley	\$50,578.00
Jessica	Moore	Oakesdale	\$42,347.00

Special thanks to:

Washington AgForestry Leadership Class # 38 members:

Co Dinn,
 Emily Bautista-Herdtd,
 Sal Prohm and
 Ryan Holterhoff
 Senator Jim Honeyford
 and Representative
 Steve Tharinger
 Dan Coyne and
 Ben Buchholz

To the Washington State Legislature: You have our unwavering commitment that all agriculture education students will be “Career and College Ready”.