

People & Places

Processor pioneers quinoa production

By DIANNA TROYER
For the Capital Press

Whenever he sprinkles quinoa on his baked potatoes, salad or substitutes it for rice, Jeremiah Clark is supporting his business.

The southeastern Idaho farmer and seed processor owns the largest non-organic quinoa cleaning and packaging plant in the U.S. A new 5,000-square-foot facility in Ammon near Idaho Falls, scheduled for completion later this fall, will have an annual production capacity of 20 million pounds.

One of Clark's largest customers provides quinoa to the U.S. military. He also sells to a quinoa flour manufacturer and to grocers. Idaho quinoa is shipped nationwide and worldwide.

Clark has developed a network of 17 Idaho quinoa farmers from Ashton south to Burley, making the dry, high altitude fields of the region the largest quinoa growing area in the nation.

Quinoa began to dominate Clark's life in 2013.

"We thought our son might be gluten intolerant, so we started researching grains besides wheat," Clark said. "We tried quinoa and liked it."

The gluten-free grain, grown for centuries in South America, is a nutrient dense, high-protein food and is becoming increasingly popular in the U.S.



Jeremiah Clark

Quinoa is a popular gluten-free, nutrient dense grain grown for centuries in South America.



Jeremiah Clark and his wife, Amanda. He is president of American Mills and pioneering the production and processing of quinoa in eastern Idaho.

There are more than 100 types with the most common kernels being red, black and white.

A third generation farmer and owner of Clark Seed, a

wheat and barley seed cleaning plant, he soon asked himself an obvious question.

Why not grow and process quinoa?

Of the many quinoa

types, he developed a variety with a white kernel and named it Kailey after his oldest daughter. In the American Mills greenhouse, he bred the seeds to have low levels of saponin, the outer protective covering of quinoa that gives it a bitter flavor if the grain isn't washed before cooking.

"My production right now is zero, though," he said. "I don't have time to grow it anymore and handle all the processing."

As he and other farmers began growing quinoa, in 2015 he built a 2,400-square-foot cleaning and packaging plant and was processing 2 million pounds annually.

Last year, when his farming network produced 7 million pounds of quinoa, he

**Western
Innovator**

JEREMIAH CLARK

Title: President of American Mills

Age: 40

Education: Finance degree from Idaho State University

Family: Wife, Amanda, and three children

Hobbies: Snowmobiling, hiking, summited the Grand Teton

realized a larger plant was needed.

In spring, Clark hired contractors to build a 5,000-square-foot plant in the Clark Industrial Park.

"Once it's up and running this fall, I'll start selling directly to consumers from there," he said.

He might use the original plant to process organic quinoa.

Once the new plant is running, "I'd like to devote more time to developing other quinoa varieties suited to Idaho's climate."

Washington pumpkin patch fundraiser honors late son

Family seeks donations to Ronald McDonald House

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — A Washington farm family every year raises money for a charity that helps rural families that are in need of a place to stay when their child is in the hospital.

For the last 12 years, farmer Jeff Schulke and his family have grown a pumpkin patch to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House in memory of their son, Cooper, who died in 2002. He was 7 1/2 years old.

"He was just a great little kid, he was very sociable, he went into every room and talked to everybody," Jeff Schulke said. "He was a really happy little guy."

In August 2000, at age 5, Cooper developed a brain tumor that affected his vision and balance. The family drove him to Seattle for surgery. They spent three weeks there, eventually finding housing through the local Ronald McDonald House.

After surgery, the family took Cooper home. He entered kindergarten, but in the spring of 2001, the tumor returned. He had two



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Walla Walla, Wash., farmer Jeff Schulke holds a photo of his late son, Cooper, in the field where his family raises pumpkins as a fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House in Cooper's memory.

more surgeries, and the family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House for a total of four months.

In 2002, the tumor returned again, and Cooper lost his battle.

In his memory, each year Schulke and his wife,

Kara; son Campbell, now 19; and daughter Emerson, 14, invite people to help harvest 3 to 4 acres of pumpkins and then sell the crop, donating the proceeds to Ronald McDonald Houses.

"Everyone loves picking

pumpkins," Schulke said. "It's the discovery in the patch. You find a big one or a little one or a whole bunch of weird-looking ones."

The patch boasts 27 varieties of pumpkins, including orange, blue, pink, white, tall and skinny.

Schulke and his family then set up a "pumpkin patch" at their house in Walla Walla. Members of the public show up, make a donation and take a home a pumpkin.

"We'll have up to 8,000 pounds of pumpkins leave our driveway in a day, or a weekend...," he said.

They also deliver pumpkins to various area locations, including a Walla Walla coffeeshop, a meat shop and garden center in Waitsburg and a feed store in the Tri-Cities.

All proceeds go to Ronald McDonald House.

After Cooper passed away, the family wanted to do something to benefit the organization.

"You just had to do something during that fall time of year when (Cooper) passed away," Schulke said. "It gives you focus and a way to channel all of that energy."

Schulke's mother and nephews originally grew miniature pumpkins. The family discovered a patch of "unintended" pump-

kins. Son Campbell got the idea to do a pumpkin patch as their fundraiser.

They aim to raise \$15,000 this year. The most they've raised is a little more than \$18,000.

Schulke asks people to make donations directly to their local Ronald McDonald House.

"We're not looking to make our donation go any bigger," he said.

The organization serves mostly rural residents who live outside major metropolitan areas, where specialized treatment is available, he said.

"You go there, your life is in a wreck ... and you're going to be there three months, what do you do? You live two and a half hours away, you can't commute, you've got to be right there," he said. "You have to live some place. It is definitely geared towards us who live in the rural areas."

The family plans to continue the pumpkin patch every year.

When Cooper first got sick, Schulke said, the family tried to handle it all on their own.

"We thought people were giving pity, but it's grace," he said. "They're being gracious. You definitely learn to receive charity. So now we're teaching people how to be charitable."

CALENDAR

Trey Willison and Applied Genetics founder Jason Zitzer. Contact: info@hempanndhopsevent.com

MONDAY, OCT. 14

Coos County Fall Noxious Weed Day: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Bandon Barn, 1200 11th St., Bandon, Ore. Presentations on weed identification and control, weed mapping, gorse best management practices, pesticide safety. Finish the day with a tour to some weed hot spots and talk about treatment options. Receive ODA herbicide applicator license credits. Contact: Cassie Bouska, 541-396-2541

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16

Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Course: 6 p.m. Cowlitz County Administration Building General Meeting Room (3rd Floor), 207 Fourth Ave. N., Kelso, Wash. Forest Stewardship Coached Planning is a comprehensive series of classes that are taught by recognized forestry experts from around the state of Washington. Participants receive one-on-one assistance in writing a forest stewardship plan, a forestry reference library, maps of their properties, a forest measurement tool and a personal site visit from a professional forester. It takes place Oct. 16-Nov. 20 (a field trip will be Nov.

16). The registration fee is \$125 before Oct. 5, and \$150 after. Cost is per household (limit 4 people). Contact: Patrick Shults, patrick.shults@wsu.edu, 360-740-1213. <http://forestry.wsu.edu/kelsocp/>

THURSDAY, OCT. 17

Oregon Farm Bureau Tax Symposium: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Oregon Farm Bureau Office, 1320 Capitol St. NE, Suite 200, Salem. Join Oregon Farm Bureau and leading tax professionals in a half-day workshop to discuss how to best prepare for the upcoming tax season. Event is free to voting and supporting members of Farm Bureau. RSVP by Oct. 11. tiffany@oregonfb.org 503-399-1701

FRIDAY, OCT. 18

Meaningful Incentives to Sustain Small Forest Lands: 7:30-11:30 a.m., Mason County Auditorium, 2621 Johns Prairie Road, Shelton, Wash. A unique partnership between conservation districts and state and federal agencies has been formed to bring financial and technical assistance to help retain working family forest lands in SW Washington. Join us for a free breakfast to learn about and help shape incentive programs and conservation efforts for small forest landowners. Contact: Patrick Shultz, 360-740-

1213, patrick.shults@wsu.edu
**FRIDAY-SATURDAY
OCT. 18-19**

Biochar Workshop: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, 7175 NE Evergreen Parkway, Suite No. 400, Hillsboro, Ore. Learn how charred biomass (biochar) can increase soil productivity, reduce wildfire risk and slow climate change. Biochar consultant Kelpie Wilson will provide a history and science of biochar followed by a full-day interactive demonstration of how to make biochar from your burn piles using a simple "flame cap kiln." She will also share methods for using biochar in compost and in animal barns to recover nutrients for use in soil. This is a free, two-day workshop that includes hands-on activities. You have the option to sign up for just one of the workshop days if that's what best suits your schedule. Contact: Charlotte Trowbridge, 503-277-3709, charlotte.trowbridge@tualatinswdc.org

SATURDAY, OCT. 19

Meaningful Incentives to Sustain Small Forest Lands: 7:30-11:30 a.m. Willapa Harbor Community Center, 916W First St., South Bend, Wash. A unique partnership

between conservation districts and state and federal agencies has been formed to bring financial and technical assistance to help retain working family forest lands in SW Washington. Join us for a free breakfast to learn about and help shape incentive programs and conservation efforts for small forest landowners. Contact: Patrick Shultz, patrick.shults@wsu.edu, 360-740-1213

Oregon Ag in the Classroom Fall Harvest Dinner: 5 p.m., CH2M Hill Alumni Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis. Make plans to join us for our 2019 Fall Harvest Dinner and Auction. All proceeds will directly support our mission: "To help students grow in their knowledge of agriculture, the environment and natural resources." Contact: AITC@oregonstate.edu, 541-737-8629

SUNDAY, OCT. 27

Young Farmer Tour, Mixer: 6-10 p.m. Washington Hall, 153 14th Ave., Seattle. Ninth annual Young Farmer Mixer hosted by Washington Young Farmers Coalition. Urban farm tours followed by mixer. Potluck and live music. Farm tours 2 to 5:30 p.m. Mixer 6 to 10 p.m. More details on coalition's Facebook page. Contact: <http://washingtoneyoungfarmers.org> or wayoungfarmers@gmail.com



Capital Press
EMPOWERING PRODUCERS OF FOOD & FIBER
Established 1928

Capital Press Managers

Joe Beach Editor & Publisher
Kevin Blodgett Advertising Director
Carl Sampson Managing Editor
Jessica Boone Production Manager
Samantha McLaren Circulation Manager

Entire contents copyright © 2019

EO Media Group
dba Capital Press

An independent newspaper
published every Friday.

Capital Press (ISSN 0740-3704) is
published weekly by EO Media Group,
2870 Broadway NE, Salem OR 97303.

Periodicals postage paid at Portland, OR,
and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to
Capital Press, P.O. Box 2048 Salem, OR
97308-2048.

To Reach Us

Circulation 800-781-3214
Email Circulation@capitalpress.com
Main line 503-364-4431

News Staff

Idaho

Carol Ryan Dumas 208-860-3898

Boise

Brad Carlson 208-914-8264

Central Washington

Dan Wheat 509-699-9099

Western Washington

Don Jenkins 360-722-6975

Eastern Washington

Matthew Weaver 509-688-9923

Oregon

George Plaven 406-560-1655

Mateusz Perkowski 800-882-6789

Graphic artist

Alan Kenaga 800-882-6789

Designer

Randy Wriighthouse 800-882-6789

To Place Classified Ads

Telephone (toll free) 800-882-6789
Online CapitalPress.com/classifieds

Subscriptions

Mail rates paid in advance
Easy Pay U.S. \$4 /month
(direct withdrawal from bank
or credit card account)

1 year U.S. \$55
2 years U.S. \$100
1 year Canada \$275
1 year other countries call for quote
1 year Internet only \$49.99
1 year 4-H, FFA students/teachers \$30
9 months 4-H, FFA students/teachers \$25

Visa and Mastercard accepted

To get information published

Mailing address:

Capital Press
P.O. Box 2048
Salem, OR 97308-2048

News: Contact the main office
or news staff member closest to you,
send the information to
newsroom@capitalpress.com
or mail it to "Newsroom," c/o Capital Press.
Include a contact telephone number.

Letters to the Editor: Send your
comments on agriculture-related public
issues to opinions@capitalpress.com, or
mail your letter to "Opinion," c/o Capital
Press. Letters should be limited to
300 words. Deadline: Noon Monday.

Capital Press ag media

CapitalPress.com
FarmSeller.com
MarketPlace.capitalpress.com
facebook.com/CapitalPress
facebook.com/FarmSeller
twitter.com/CapitalPress
youtube.com/CapitalPressvideo

Index

Dairy 10
Livestock 9
Markets 12
Opinion 6

Correction policy

Accuracy is important to Capital Press
staff and to our readers.

If you see a misstatement, omission or
factual error in a headline, story or photo
caption, please call the Capital Press news
department at 503-364-4431, or send
email to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

We want to publish corrections
to set the record straight.