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Farmers connect

By Abigail Neet
News Editor

Although most people seem to be using Facebook to connect, some people still do it the old fashioned way, by talking and meeting in person.

And that is what people were doing at Monday's very busy Farmer-Chef Connection in Gregory Forum: making connections.

The Farmer-Chef Connection is an annual event held to create contacts between buyers and sellers, aka farmers and restaurant owners or store buyers.

However that is not the only old fashioned thing these people do, they also farm the old fashioned way, the non industrialized way.

I met several of these farmers who came from all over Oregon.

One I met was Pat Mallon, of Pat-n-Tam's Beef. This was his first year at Farmer-Chef Connection but he has been going to farmers markets. He made a connection much closer to home than expected and informed me he met his neighbor, Paul Klingeman of Pure Country Pork.

Mallon and Klingeman warned me against trusting just any label.

"The biggest thing is labeling," Klingeman said. "It needs to say it has never been fed antibiotics."

He explained that often times labels are very misleading because everyone has their own

definition of what sustainable is, for example.

"Seems like everyone is a lawyer," he added.

They both admitted that they themselves are still learning and are having fun doing what they love.

I also met a man who makes very delicious pesto. David Hickenbottom, of Pesto Outside the Box, got many compliments on his varieties of pesto.

The pesto ranged from garlic basil and chives to sun dried tomatoes, which he admitted he personally is not a fan of and only made because it was requested. It was, however, the only one he got right the first time and did not make any changes to.

He admitted that his favorite, the garlic and chive pesto, came from him having a lot of chives and not knowing what to do with them.

"It's amazing how many kids like pesto even though it's green," he joked.

There was plenty of variety at the event, from eggs to vegan tarts, which by the way were amazing.

Hot Lips Pizza provided beverages and ovens for lunch to be cooked in. Hot Lips' blackberry soda was a healthy and refreshing drink with a very natural flavor and natural sweetening.

After some good old fashioned networking, everyone gathered in the Forum to listen to the speaker, Nicolette Hahn Niman, rancher and author of "Righteous Porkchop."

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Large earthquake shakes nation, shifts axis

By Javierh Montero
The Clackamas Print

We found out around 11 p.m. about what had happened, and being from Chile, we then spent almost two days trying to get a hold of our mom, the rest of the family and friends. The earthquake in Chile occurred on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010 at around 3:34 a.m. Oregon is five hours behind, meaning it was 10:34 p.m. on Friday Feb. 26 when the earthquake hit.

My mom hadn't been in Chile in more than nine years. When the earthquake began, she was in Chile's capital, Santiago. She had wanted to visit Frutillar, a town which she had visited many years ago when she was just a little girl and that she had dreamt of going back to since the minute she left it. My mom didn't get to go because the town no longer exists.

Way before we could reach anyone over there, the Chilean news spoke of nothing else but fear and showed no other images than the ones of almost total destruction. A mother said she walked nearly 15 hours to get to her seven-year-old son. I've been watching the

Chilean news everyday since the earthquake occurred, and I can see the devastating effects that the 8.8 earthquake had, not only in the country, but in the world. This earthquake, which is supposed to be the seventh strongest in recorded history and had released about 600 times more energy than the Haiti earthquake, "may have shifted Earth's axis by about three inches ... each day should be about 1.26 microseconds shorter," according to CNN.

Once we found our mom, we were finally able to speak with her for about 15 seconds. "We're fine, we're fine ..." The phone died after that. Hours later, she told us how it happened. "I couldn't sleep; I heard the noise before it even began to tremble ... once it started, I couldn't go down the stairs, the shakes were so strong that it kept pushing me back up and tossing me and the little ones across the room ... we bumped our heads against the walls and the lights shut down. It was horrible, but we're OK."

Most people in my family just had bumps in the head, bruises everywhere, broken bones and their houses were damaged ... and they were lucky; unfortunately, many weren't.

"I don't care about my house, I don't care about my life's savings, I don't mind living in a tent ... I want my grandson back. I turned around to help his older brothers and when I came back, the waves had taken him. Where's my little one," said an old man before passing out for the second time. There are thousands of stories like that.

It took us one full week to finally realize that everyone we knew was alright; we could once more sleep well. But how can we? Most of central-southern Chile seems like it was hit by bombs after a war. A Ferris wheel was tossed two miles into the city, boats landed in parks, houses are no longer where they once were and cars ended up being on top of other cars after the tsunami. But the thing is, what truly keeps us from sleeping at night are the images of those who lost their families, the tears of the grandpa who wants his grandson back, the desperation of those who won't see their parents or spouses again, the impotence of knowing those they knew may never be found.

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