

Farming in the valley

By Christine Gardiner

The Illinois Valley is blessed with a variety of climates and soils, from O'Brien to Takilma, from Waldo to Kerby and Selma. Lots of folks move here to farm with various goals, to experience the great variability of local weather along with the challenges and independence of small-scale farming.

Dale DeVorss and his wife, Barbara, moved to Selma in 1986 from Fort Bragg, Calif., where he worked in the woods and in the mills. They had found their dream property on Eight Dollar Mountain Road. After a few years there, a piece of raw land with an unfinished house in Kerby, came on the market. The land market was depressed back then, so they bought the land cheap in 1989, moved in and finished the house.

Dale started small, growing a few acres of corn and "a few tomatoes." He called it "gardening" in the early years, while working either in timber or drywalling to make ends meet. The farm really began to sustain them financially around 1997. Kerbyville Farm is now 30 acres in size, blessed with an abundance of good water and

fertile, floodplain soils.

The main crops at Kerbyville Farm have been corn, melons, tomatoes and strawberries. Dale also grows onions, sugar snap peas, beans, peppers, potatoes, summer and winter squashes and pumpkins. This year he'll grow raspberries and strawberries on the farm. Each year he brings in blueberries from Willamette Valley in refrigerated trucks, and sweet peaches from Maryhill, Wash.

Corn is the number one crop because folks can buy it and eat it all summer long, so a farm can supply lots of it for a few months. Kerbyville Farm grows some of the best corn in the valley, with competition from his neighbor Nelson's "Sweet Cron" farm. Dale says some of the great challenges of corn include problems like weeding, planting it correctly, watering and keeping the soil fertility as high as corn likes it. Dale grows high sugar varieties of hybrid corn, and that's why his corn tastes so good. Hybrid corn seed is very expensive, and the farmer can't save hybrid seed to grow the same crop next year. So, Dale buys his corn seed every year, and that adds to the cost of

producing that delicious corn.

Corn used to be priced at 10-12 ears/\$1, but over the years, the price has gone up, along with the costs of farming. Now the price is around to 2-3 ears/\$1. But Dale says you can still buy corn at 12/\$1, if you pay with a pre-1964 silver dollar. Isn't that a telling statement about the value of the dollar today?

In recent years, Kerbyville Farm has grown to seven employees at the peak of harvest season which runs August to September. Grandson Brandon Hart added a bakery in 2008. Brandon is the oldest of Dale's eight grandkids, all of whom live here in the valley. This year Brandon gave the bakery a new name, "Hart's Bakery." In 2011 he'll offer pies and turnovers made with local fruit and a new line of cinnamon rolls. Kerbyville Farm also sells the fabulous breads by Marcy Sowa, baked in the Selma Community Center kitchen. Look for the Grand Opening of Hart's Bakery coming in June.

Dale's new bride, Renee, is a bright addition to Kerbyville Farm, as the family diversifies the farm's offerings to the community. Kerbyville Farm is the only outlet for local,

organic eggs in our valley. Local organic eggs not only look and taste better; they are lower in cholesterol and higher in anti-oxidants and beta-carotene. These high-quality eggs are just as much medicine as they are food. Dale would like to carry more eggs, so local egg producers can contact him to see about selling eggs there. He can be reached by email at dale@cavenet.com or calling 541-592-2638.

Remember that local farms provide real Homeland Security. It's important for everyone to support your local farmer, because only a local farm has the ability to grow that food again next year. Dale says America needs more young farmers and more opportunities for young farmers. America may have to feed itself as a nation sooner than many people think. Every time you buy food from a local farm, you are part of the solution to America's economic crisis. Every dollar is a vote.

Valley resident Christine Gardiner will make occasional volunteer column contributions to the Illinois Valley News that deal with local, sustainable agriculture.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The day of Pentecost can have up to three meanings. For the Jewish people over time it has been a harvest-festival day, since the small-grain crop was being harvested. It was also a time to mark the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses at Mount Sinai. Those are two good reasons to celebrate. For the people of the Church it has still another meaning, as Christians recognize the coming of the Holy Spirit to empower the church for ministry in their time and place. That is not just a fact to celebrate but an important factor to rely on, even on a daily basis. The Spirit helps -- even enables the believer -- to share their faith. The Spirit also causes the hearer to believe in the Lord and receive his grace and mercy through Christ. Facts to celebrate in this day and age. Faith factors to rely upon on a daily basis.

Good Shepherd Church Council meeting -- Wednesday @ 7pm [6/15]

Good Shepherd Singers rehearsal -- Thursday @ 4pm

All-Comers Bible Class -- Sundays @ 9:15am

Worship & Communion -- Sundays @ 10am

Memorial Service

LLOYD WHITE - A celebration of life for Lloyd White that was originally scheduled for June 16 has been changed. The new date is Saturday, July 9 at 2pm at the White Ranch.



The 2011 Illinois Valley Children's Fair and Pet Parade Committee would like to thank the following sponsors for their participation in this year's event:

Siskiyou Community Health Center, Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries, Josephine County Commission on Children and Families, Head Start, Early Head Start, IV Boys and Girls Club, IV Fire Department, IV Lions Club, JOCO Health Department, IV Family Coalition, Friends of Jubilee Park, Dome School, Jefferson State Insurance, IV Safe House Alliance, College Dreams, Grants Pass Masonic Lodge, Kerby Belt Masonic Lodge, Cave Junction Kiwanis Club, Pharmacy Express, U S Forest Service, National Parks Service, and Sandy Glamac.

Find Us at
The Guild Gallery
IV Visitor's Center
Forest Edge Farm

More weather to come
Time to buy your new
HAND-FELTED LLAMA WOOL HAT

CHURCH OF CHRIST
ILLINOIS VALLEY
1916

presents
Concerts in the Park
Summer 2011

June 23rd	Dale Hopper
June 30th	Altered States
July 7th	Hansen Brothers
July 14th	EastFork
July 21st	Valley Singers
July 28th	Tim & Michelle
August 4th	Oregon Little Big Band

Thursday Evenings 6:30 - 8:30
Jubilee Park, Cave Junction, OR

Free admission
Bring your lawn chairs or blanket
Please no pets
Refreshments for sale by IV Little League

Sponsored by:

**26th Annual
Antique Tractor & Engine Show**
at Pottsville

Saturday, June 18, 9 to 5
Sunday, June 19, 9 to 4:30

Food Booths - Flea Market - Miniature Railroad - Pony Rides - Tractor Pull - Spinning, Weaving, Quilting, Broom Making, Blacksmithing

Raffle - Fairbanks Morse 3 hp
1921 Engine Style Z
1947 Case VAO Tractor

For information, phone (541) 479-2981

When is the right time for hospice?

"Early" help from hospice offers patients and their families the best opportunity to avoid struggling with symptoms and challenges of a life-limiting illness.

When a physician has said that there is no fix for a serious illness or decline in health, it is time to think about the caring help of hospice. Questions? Ask your physician or contact us.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Beyond Loss Support Group

Mondays 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Mutual support ~ open to adults (over 18)

Heart of Summer Benefit Gala

Saturday, July 9 - Countryside Village
Wine & chocolate tasting, dinner, silent auction
Celebrating 30 years of Lovejoy Hospice serving southern Oregon. Watch for further details!

Lovejoy Hospice, founded in 1981 as an independent, not-for-profit community service organization, provides compassionate hospice care and bereavement services for adults and children in Josephine, Jackson and parts of Douglas counties. For information, or to make a gift, call (541) 474-1193 or visit www.lovejoyhospice.org.

School's Out ... Let's Eat!

All children can come to this location and have a nutritious summer meal at no cost!

When: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
June 21 through August 21

Time: Breakfast at 9:00am
Lunch at 12:00pm

Where: 9367 Takilma Road

Local Sponsor: Dome School
Summer Rangers Program

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Senior Lunch Menu
Sponsored by **True Value** 541-592-3562

THURSDAY, June 16 Baked Ham w/ mustard sauce, colcannon potatoes, seasoned carrots, rye bread, birthday cake	potatoes, green peas, whole wheat bread, pineapple crisp
FRIDAY, June 17 Meatloaf w/ gravy, parslied potatoes, mixed vegetables, squash bread, Grace's chocolate chip cookie	TUESDAY, June 21 Vegetable cheese strata, escalloped tomatoes, spinach romaine salad, garlic roll, fresh cantaloupe
MONDAY, June 20 Chicken a la King, whipped	WEDNESDAY, June 22 Roast turkey w/ gravy, lyonnaise potatoes, broccoli cuts, herb bread, birthday cake

Meals are served in the Cave Junction County Building.
541-592-2126, 541-955-8839

Places of Worship

BRIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
5181 Holland Loop, CJ
541-592-3923
"We celebrate God's Presence in our lives!"
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. ***
7th DAY ADVENTIST
265 S. Old Stage Rd., CJ
Sabbath School - 9:30 a.m.
Saturday Worship 11 a.m.
Prayer/Praise 7 p.m. Tuesday
Pastor Marvin Clark
Church (541) 955-4943
Madrone Adventist School
541-592-3330 ***
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SELMA
18285 Redwood Hwy., Selma
541-597-4169
Pastor Monty Pope
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship - 11 a.m. ***
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
Pastor Dave Gordon
113 S. Caves Ave., CJ
Office: 541-592-3896
Email: cbcca@cavenet.com
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Christian Academy
Pre-K to 12th grade
Awana - Wednesdays - 6 p.m.

IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Watkins St., CJ
Phone 541-592-3876
Pastor Charles Chase
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 9:15 a.m.
Child-care for small children ***
ST. PATRICK OF THE FOREST CATHOLIC CHURCH
407 W. River St., CJ
541-592-3658
Fr. William Holtzinger, Pastor
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m..
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
Holy Days TBA ***
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
East River Street & Lewis Court, CJ
Pastor Don Torala
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.
Tuesday Youth group - 6 p.m.
Church Phone: 541-592-2290
www.goodshepherdlutheraniv.net ***
ILLINOIS VALLEY PENTECOSTALS
987 Caves Hwy., CJ
541-592-4716 or 541-218-2792
Sunday - 2:30 p.m.

TAKILMA BIBLE CHURCH
10300 Takilma Road, Takilma
Pastor Dan Robinson
Bible Study / Prayer Time 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. ***
VALLEY EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
498 Laurel Road, CJ
P.O. Box 1248
Pastor Marvin Porter
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11 a.m.
evfree@frontiernet.net
541-592-6160 ***
FOUNTAIN OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
451 S. Junction Ave., CJ
541-592-3956
Pastor Mark McLean
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wednesday - 7 p.m.
Adult Bible Study ***
ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
25904 Redwood Hwy., CJ
541-592-2006
Rev. James Boston
Worship Service - 5 p.m.
1st Sunday of each month

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
209 S. Junction Ave., CJ
Sacrament Meet - 10 a.m.
Sunday School - 11:20 a.m.
Priesthood, Relief Soc. - 12:10 p.m.
Bishop G. Frank Sybrant
541-245-3394 ***

