

Farm Bill ... Continued from A-1

*Money for research, technological upgrades and market reporting: Organic farmers face many challenges that can't be addressed through research geared towards conventional crops. Organic farming is a unique system that requires different solutions to pest and weed management, seeds, and production. Increased funding for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) will help meet the growing needs of the organic community. Additionally, the Organic Production Market and Data Initiative (ODI) collects information vital to maintaining

stable markets, creating risk management tools, and increasing exports.

The new Farm Bill also includes funding for new programs that incentivize local agriculture, including farmers markets.

"I first began work on an organic labeling standard in the early 1990s," said Caucus Co-chair Rep. Peter DeFazio. "It's amazing how far we have come, from a backyard enterprise championed by a few farmers in my district, all the way to today, where the President just signed a bill that finally puts organic agriculture on par with conventional agriculture.

This legislation reflects the recognition that organic farming, a multi-billion dollar industry, is an increasingly important part of our nation's food supply and the economy."

"The organic industry is growing exponentially each year, making it one of the most profitable in the country," said Caucus Co-chair Rep. Sam Farr. "The Farm Bill's investments in organics will support that growth, leading to continued job creation while providing increased access to the healthy foods that consumers want."

"Thanks to the bipartisan efforts

of the Organic Caucus, this Farm Bill includes funding for a number of important programs for the fast-growing organic farming sector," said Caucus Co-chair Rep. Ron Kind. "I'm pleased we were able to reach bipartisan agreement on the importance of investing in the promise of organic agriculture and helping to meet the specific needs of our organic farmers."

In addition, the National Organic Coalition praised the House Organic Caucus for its work.

"The House Organic Caucus has been an absolutely essential tool un-

der the leadership of Representatives Defazio, Kind, Farr, and Hanna in educating members of Congress about the importance of organic policies and programs," said Steve Etko, Legislative Director for the National Organic Coalition. "Without the caucus, these positive Farm Bill outcomes would not have been possible."

The House Organic Caucus was formed in 2003 to promote the fast-growing organic industry.

Candidates ... Continued from A-1

"The levy would relieve the burden on the general fund and free more budget up that could be used to focus on patrols," Gilbertson said. "The strongest behavioral modifier we have in our tool box is the jail."

Dave Daniel is the only candidate who's made his intention to run against Gilbertson publicly known so far. Not to be confused with former Sheriff Dave Daniel. Daniel is a native Oregonian who currently serves as a police officer with the City of Grants Pass.

"In my opinion, enough time has passed for positive change to take place in the sheriff's office," Daniel said. "I believe the office needs new vision. My intention is to file for the position of sheriff, however I have not yet formally announced my candidacy."

Hare, who is an Illinois Valley native, is seeking re-election to a second term for the Position One seat on the county's board of com-

missioners. All three seats on the board serve at large, representing the entire county.

"It is an honor to serve the citizens of Josephine County as Commissioner," Hare said. "Although there have been challenges during the past three years, I've worked diligently to build partnerships and consensus to move our community toward a brighter future. Fostering job creation and improving the economy will continue to be my primary focus in my second term in office. I also will continue to work for more stable funding for vital public services such as the Criminal Justice System and champion increased timber harvest on public lands — a crucial funding component for our county."

Two challengers have emerged for Hare's seat, and both men have run unsuccessfully for the board before.

"The reason I am running is because Cher-

ryl Walker scares the daylights out of me and someone needs to be in there to stand up to her," said Paul Walter, who has run for county commissioner several times.

"We're in the midst of a severe drought, and I believe the state is going to want to put meters on peoples' wells," Walter continued. "Walker will probably spearhead the effort to monitor peoples' water consumption. Overall, I believe that Walker is trying to implement Obama's agenda for Josephine County, and that agenda must be defeated."

Hare's other challenger, Mark Seligman, is a longtime Illinois Valley resident.

"It is my hope to put Josephine County on the road to sustainable economic success," Seligman said. "We must put an end to the depressed economy we live in. This economy provides little hope for young people. There are no jobs here."

Seligman believes national marijuana legalization is inevitable and that county lands could provide a consistent revenue stream if leased to growers and corporations.

"It's predicted to be a \$4 billion industry," Seligman said. "Marijuana tourism and the money this industry will attract here with new businesses and services can only help us. Please join with me in realizing we have a chance to be vibrant and prosperous without county government intrusion and increased property taxes. People like Rep. Wally Hicks and Grants Pass City Counselor Lily Morgan are but a few that support a feasibility study. This is our chance, let's seize it now."

Publishers note: At press time Grants Pass City Councilman Mark Gatlin announced his intentions to run against Hare, Seligman and Walters. More information will be in next week's edition.

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