

committed to reducing their farms' impact on the environment, they would reduce their herd and put the cows on pasture.

Having the cows living on pasture is not a requirement for organic labeling right now, but according to the Cornucopia Institute, new USDA organic rules will soon require that dairy cows be pastured for no less than 120 days and that 30 percent of their feed come from pasture. Cornucopia says that research indicates that 30 to 40 percent of the nation's organic milk supply comes from CAFOs, including the popular Horizon brand.

"Pacific Foods has good intentions; however, good intentions are not a substitute for following the law. The bottom line is that they have had several major discharges into the waters of Oregon, which have been cited and documented by the Oregon Department of Agriculture," Kimbirauskas says. — *Camilla Mortensen*

TWO-WHEEL CANNERY COMING

From bike-powered concerts to Critical Mass bike rides to pedicabs, Eugene's bicycling community has seen it all when it comes to diverse uses for bikes, or so it seems. Recently, Skinner City Farm (SCF), in collaboration with the Center for Appropriate Transport (CAT), has been developing a new use for cycling: the bike cannery.

Jan VanderTuin, garden manager of SCF, said that for the past two years, he's invited folks to join him and can at the SCF by bike and take away food. "It struck me that I had just created a mobile cannery," he said.

This realization led to the design of a bike, created by VanderTuin, director of CAT, and other CAT employees, that could carry a table, double burner propane stove, sink, pressure cooker, knives and cutting boards. VanderTuin said the trickiest part of building the bike, which is halfway in the making, is fitting in the storage for these extra supplies. Called the "Skinner City Farm Mobile Cannery," the bike will tour the city's six community gardens this fall offering on-site canning demonstrations to anyone interested.

Tracy Gagnon, site coordinator for the School Garden Project, has been contracted to lead the inaugural presentations.

"I couldn't be happier," said Gagnon, who has had experience canning at home. "This position with SCF is another great opportunity to work with the community on food education and security."

Along with local food security, the project hopes to provide inspiration for entrepreneurs and a sustainable solution for produce waste.

"It's such a humbling experience to work with summer's bounty and enjoy it throughout the year," Gagnon said. "Through connecting with community gardeners and local organizations, we can team together to sustain ourselves through the year."

Gagnon stressed that the canning process is relatively simple and brief, taking

only an afternoon to complete, making it accessible to gardeners of any age and with tight schedules.

After this year's six demonstrations, estimated to kick off in late June, the mobile cannery's path is undetermined.

"We are starting slow," VanderTuin said. "In the future we will send the mobile cannery to whoever can pay for the fixed costs and labor."

As for now, the garden demonstrations will request a small donation for the lessons that aim to produce dilly beans, tomato sauce, salsa and preserves, if not more. In addition, SCF has applied for a 2010 Neighborhood Matching Grant to assist in funding for the mobile cannery.

Gagnon sees the project not only as a way to strengthen community cooperation at the gardens, but as a way of spreading knowledge outside the garden's gates.

"I hope that the demos will empower and educate participants to can at home and with others," Gagnon said. — *Alex Zielinski*

This story first appeared at eugenecycles.com

EW TAKES SPJ AWARDS

Eugene Weekly staffers walked away with seven Northwest awards for excellence in journalism in 2009 at the Society of Professional Journalists annual banquet in Portland May 22. *EW* competed in this contest with *Seattle Weekly*, *Willamette Week*, *The Portland Mercury* and several other alternative papers in the Northwest, along with dozens of Oregon nondaily papers and magazines.

Performing and Visual Arts Editor Suzi Steffen took a second place in the Criticism category for "A Red Hot Mess," her critique of a Portland Art Museum exhibit. Reporter Camilla Mortensen took second in the Education Reporting category for her cover story on former UO professor Paula Rogers, "Retaliation? Did the UO fire a professor for alleging racism?" Music and Arts Editor Molly Templeton took third place in Criticism for her story "Defining Her Future," a review of the film *An Education*.

Templeton and Art Director Todd Cooper won second place honors in the Special Section category for the 2009 State of Suds supplement on beer and brewing. Cooper and Steffen took third place in the Special Section category for the Oregon Bach Festival 2009 Guide.

ACTIVIST ALERT

• The final LTD open house on the **West Eugene EmX Extension** Design Options will be from 4 to 6 pm Thursday, June 3, at the Eugene Public Library Singer Room (second floor). Based on input from an advisory group and a March open house, the focus of the design work is now primarily on pedestrian and bicycle crossings along West 13th Avenue, Chambers Street, and 6th Avenue at Blair Boulevard. See <http://wkly.ws/kh> for designs being considered.

• The federal government is supposedly concerned about the global warming, oil addiction, air pollution, obesity and huge freeway costs of urban sprawl, but this month it decided to spend **\$40 million to spur yet more urban sprawl** here. The Veterans Administration has reportedly chosen a site near the Gateway Mall over downtown Eugene for its new clinic. Instead of walking or biking, the 200 VA employees and hundreds of veterans seeking treatment will now clog the Beltline/I-5 interchange that the federal government has already spent hundreds of millions of dollars trying to unclog. We can only hope some of them will take the bus. It's time for the federal government to wake up and institute a policy that locates government buildings in city centers for the environment, health, livability and fiscal common sense.

• **Are you happy living in Eugene** and Lane County? What would make you more content? We don't hear much about the "happiness quotient" when policies are set and decisions are made by local government agencies. Maybe it's time to look at the latest national and international research and apply some of the insights. Derek Bok, past president of Harvard, has a new book out, *The Politics of Happiness: What Government Can Learn from the New Research on Well-Being*, that supports earlier research saying rising incomes and more material goods do not make people happier or more contented with their lives. A Eugene-based study by Tom Bowerman and his associates at PolicyInteractive concurs, and concluded "our country would be a better place if we all consumed less."

But the challenge facing even sophisticated policy makers is that most people *believe* they will be happier if their material lives improve. People *think* life will be better with bigger houses, nicer cars and boats, fewer potholes, faster Internet, more choices on store shelves, more job opportunities, better pay, etc. They might be right about the jobs. Bok says unemployment is an emotional disaster for people, and "as a downer it outranks divorce or separation. Even when workers find a new position at similar pay, they often fail to regain their earlier level of happiness," as he's paraphrased in the March 22 *New Yorker* magazine.

So how do we use this knowledge? For starters we can focus our government policies on improving quality of life, and generating meaningful long-term employment. The best way to create local sustainable jobs and self-employment is through education, along with support of local small business, industry and agriculture. We can all help through our individual daily choices. Let's buy local, grow local, bank local, take care of our neighbors and natural areas, volunteer for good causes and otherwise reinforce our communities. We will be happier, and so will Mother Nature.

• Most of us put our **trash and recycling** at the curb for pickup, but every once in a while, why not drop by one of the Lane County disposal sites and get a reminder of just how much waste we produce? Head over to Glenwood on a weekend morning with your junk. Before you get depressed by all the crap that gets dumped into the giant waste pit – which bears an uncanny resemblance to the one Luke, Leia, Han Solo and Chewbacca fall into in *Star Wars* (no garbage monster in sight) – you have to stop by the recycling center and sort your paper and plastic. The upside is that the staff is helpful and friendly and prone to plying with treats any dogs you might have along, and you strike up the most interesting conversations while you sort your green bottles from your clear ones. It's a conspicuous consumption wake up call, lightened up by all the nice folks.

• We have **disasters on the brain** lately, from unnatural ones like the BP oil spill to natural ones like the upcoming hurricanes that will make that spill worse. No one thinks of Oregon as being a disaster-prone kind of state, but enviro journalist Andrew Revkin, who spoke at the UO last month, has been trying to warn us for a while now about how unprepared Oregon is for an earthquake. Most recently, on his *New York Times* blog, Dot Earth, he points to a comprehensive new study on the journal *Nature's* news site that says the odds of 8.0-magnitude earthquake occurring by 2050 are nearly four in 10.

According to Revkin's blog, Yumei Wang, geohazards team leader for the state of Oregon, said a 2007 study of 3,300 public schools and emergency buildings indicated that "1,300 have high to very high probability of collapse." Go to <http://wkly.ws/kv> to see a seismic needs assessment for Lane County. Are we going to fix our buildings before the big one hits?

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugene-weekly.com

lighten up

I'll bet the words "Do Not Block Public Right of Way" painted on a sidewalk will be about as effective as the words "Dot Not Rob" painted in front of a bank.

— *Rafael Aldave of Eugene*