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# MEMBER NEWS



CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH COMMUNITY

February 2009

## Education: Urban Agriculture Class at Luscher Farm

Join us at [Luscher Farm](#), for the Organic Education Center's first Urban Agriculture class of the season!

### Let's Get Growing!

Thursday, March 19, 6:00-8:00pm

Healthy, living soil is the foundation of a productive garden. Learn how to build your soil and get your garden growing this spring. This class covers tips for enhancing soil life using bed preparation techniques and amending your soil organically for optimum fertility. To help maximize your bounty, garden planning and season extension methods are also presented. [Register now!](#)

## Research: Cropping Systems Research at OSU

In 2008, Oregon State University received grant funding to support organic cropping systems research at OSU. These projects are now in full swing, and are spotlighted in the upcoming March/April issue of *In Good Tilth*. Oregon Tilth was involved in the external review process for research proposals, positioning our organization to advocate for research needs that support our stakeholders.

## Advocacy: Oregon Tilth Comments on Proposed Pasture Regulation

As reported in the December newsletter, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) met to discuss and vote on recommendations that they will make to the USDA. One of the hot issues on deck was the [proposed pasture regulation](#) rule change. We were flooded with comment and concern by our certified livestock producers. And after listening long and hard, we compiled our [response](#) and voiced those comments and concerns at the meeting. We'll keep you posted on the outcome!

## Certification: The 2007 Census of Agriculture is in!

The Organic Trade Association has released the preliminary results of the [2007 Census of Agriculture](#). With over 20,000 farms certified organic nationwide, the organic farming sector continues to experience growth. Oregon Tilth proudly certifies over 680 of them. For more on those farms, please go to [our website](#) to learn more.

## In This Issue

- [OEC March Class](#)
- [Cropping Research](#)
- [Proposed Pasture Rule](#)
- [2007 Census of Ag](#)

## Upcoming Events!

Have you checked out our [events calendar](#) lately?

Find information on upcoming events that are sure to be as fun as informative, starting with the [Men's Gardening & Food Sustainability](#) team this Saturday, February 21st in Portland, OR. This is for all men of any skill level and will continue through summer. Also happening this weekend is a course in [Permaculture Design](#) in Belfair, WA. The focus is to increase food production, security & sustainability and graduates will receive a permaculture design certificate!

Organicology, The study of a Sustainable Food Future is set for next weekend, February 26th - 28th. [Join us!](#)



Oregon Tilth is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports and promotes biologically sound and socially equitable agriculture through education, research, advocacy and product certification.

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