

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

MEMBER NEWS



March 2009

March at Oregon Tilth

March is here, and at Oregon Tilth that means lots of activity as staff members attend trade shows and farms gear up for the growing season. Here's a snapshot of what we've been up to lately:

Education: OEC classes announced!

Oregon Tilth's Organic Education Center has announced it's spring [urban agriculture classes](#). Come learn new organic gardening skills to help build healthy soil and grow your own food at home! Beginning in April, in partnership with Seattle Tilth, Oregon Tilth is offering a [NEW! Comprehensive Organic Gardener Program](#), an intensive multi-session program teaching organic vegetable gardening methods and practice. Classes fill up quickly so register soon!

Research: WSARE Conference

Oregon Tilth was invited to participate in the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE) Stakeholder Conference in the Northwest sub-region. As Western SARE marks its 20th anniversary of offering research and education grants to advance sustainable farming systems, Oregon Tilth participated as a stakeholder in activities that will help reflect on the past and refocus efforts for the future. The conference outcomes included:

- Identifying and prioritizing emerging and unmet research and education needs in sustainable food, fiber, and energy systems.
- Developing a plan to achieve greater integration among WSARE's Research and Education, Professional Development, and Farmer/Rancher grant programs
- Implementing ways to close the gap between research results from Western SARE-funded grants and stakeholders who could benefit from them

Advocacy: Living Culture: Chickens in the Yard

Have you ever wanted to have chickens in your backyard? Many folks in Salem, Oregon would love to, but city ordinances prevent them from doing so. There are substantial benefits to having chickens in rural areas, from eggs to their coveted manure, that some other cities are currently benefiting from. As it stands now, the city of Salem does not allow any species of livestock, except for the pot-bellied pig, in rural areas. Watch a ten minute [clip](#) from *Living Culture* that focuses on this issue and see why Dana Matthews is gaining support from the people of Salem. With the economy being what it is, it makes sense.



Certification: Spotlight on Laurelwood Brewing Company



This Issue

- [OEC spring classes](#)
- [WSARE Conference](#)
- [Chickens in the Yard](#)
- [Spotlight on Laurelwood](#)

Things to Do This Spring:

[Urban Agriculture Classes](#)

- April 16th at Luscher Farm in Portland - [Intensive Vegetable Gardening](#)
- April 23rd to May 14th - [Comprehensive Organic Gardener Program](#)
- May 21st - [Straw Bale Gardening](#)
- June 18th - [Home Composting 101](#)

Don't forget, members of Oregon Tilth get discounts on all classes!



Invite a Friend

Do you know someone who is

Let's congratulate Laurelwood Brewing Company for their continued success and dedication to organic production of their award-winning ales! They are [spotlighted](#) this month where you can find a link to their website to find locations of their brew pubs & restaurants in the Portland area.

interested in food systems that are healthy for people as well as the environment? Invite them to [become a supporting member](#) of Oregon Tilth!

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.

[SEND TO A FRIEND!](#) | 503.378.0690

