

Hello Mr.Buckley

My name is Steve Fry. I am a certified Organic vegetable, flower and seed grower in the Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon. Our Family has farming here the last 24 years and this year we will have 110 acres in production.

Expanding our business means more seed for our own production and commercial sales. For the past 3 years however we have not been able to grow any beta vulgaris (chard or beets seeds). Two years ago my wholesale seed buyer and I found out that there was a GMO sugar beet seed grower just down the street from our farm. Since sugar beets will cross with chards and beets up to a 4 mile distance this made my crops of seed unsellable. Not only have I lost \$10,000 in seed income, I have not been able to save any seed for myself. Organic Chard seed cost me \$42.00 per Lb. and I will use 10 lbs a year. Organic Beet seeds cost me \$43.00 a Lb and I will use 50 Lbs a year.

This is a value of \$2,150.00 a year that I could save if I was able to use my own seed . Add that to the \$10,000.00 that we lose annually from not being able to sell Beta seed crops to my wholesaler and you get the picture.

We have three farms in the Rogue Valley where we could grow three different Beta varieties and I have been approached to do so but I can not expand my seed growing business at this time with the GMO sugar beets grower here in the Rogue Valley. Organic seed production has zero tolerance to GMO contamination.

Please allow the Jackson County Community make up it's own mind in this manner. If we do not want GMO's growing in our county it should be our right. Let the people of Jackson County decide.

Steve Fry

Talent Oregon