



Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development

Community Profile

County Lane

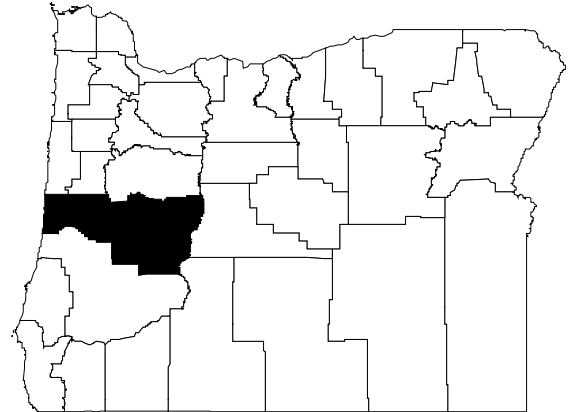
City Eugene

Population 156,185

Description

Sponsor Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development
<http://www.cascadepacific.org>

Supervisor Jared Pruch, Demo Farm Coordinator



Assignment Cascade Pacific is part of a nationwide network of not-for-profit Resource Conservation and Development Areas (RC&Ds). This national program was established within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) over 40 years ago to empower rural people and communities. Cascade Pacific RC&D serves six counties in Oregon: Benton, Lane, Linn, Lincoln, Marion and Polk Counties. Cascade Pacific RC&D strives to enhance the quality of life in many rural communities through social, economic, and environmental improvements.

The RARE participant placed with Cascade Pacific RC&D will support the organization in their endeavors to build a stronger local food system. Specifically, the participant will coordinate a survey of area farmers, assessing the need for produce processing facilities (e.g. a blanching and freezing facility) that support farmers in enhancing market viability for their crops; help coordinate and organize the 2013 Local Food Connection Conference; and, help establish an 'Incubator Farm' program at the Berggren Demonstration Farm, wherein beginning farmers lease a small parcel of land for a fixed period of time, share tools with other farmers, and have access to on-site mentorship opportunities.

Meet Katy Giombolini



Katy received her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental and Earth Sciences from Willamette University. After attaining her Bachelors Degree, Katy moved to Corvallis, Oregon to work with Ten Rivers Food Web as an outreach coordinator for the That's My Farmers SNAP Incentive Program, an initiative aimed at increasing access for low income families to fresh fruits and vegetables while also supporting Oregon's small farmers. Through this work Katy developed a strong understanding of the local food system, making her a perfect fit as Cascade Pacific RC&D. Following her year with the RARE Program, Katy hopes to continue participating in local food systems planning and development on a personal as well as professional level.