

HOOD RIVER NEWS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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Farmers are needed

For several years now, I've heard people saying, "farming is going out." Whenever I hear that, I like to think of a quote by Marc David that says, "with every morsel of food swallowed a voice says, I choose life. I choose to eat, for I yearn for something more." Isn't this true? As long as we feed ourselves, it means we want to hang on, to breathe, to see a new day and to see people we care about. I think it would be wise to support agriculture.

What is more sustaining, more elemental than earth, water, sun and growing crops for humans? And, we can't possibly think about importing our food from other countries. Talk about an issue of national security! I'm co-owner of an orchard in upper Parkdale. A lot of growers are feeling the pinch of low returns for their fruit. Our business is no exception. In time, possibly not that far into the future, we may have to support our families with other kinds of employment. This is frustrating because we are ready willing and able to produce fruit. Not twinkies and cheese whiz, but fruit. Something decent for one's body. It would also be frustrating to pursue other means of income because to do something else would be a disservice to our world. The world needs agricultural lands, it needs crops and it needs farmers. If we do decide to quit, I hope we can cut the trees down, afford the property taxes, and just let the land sit, rest and wait. We would like to use the land right now, to support the Hood River economy and feed a hungry world. But if that is not to be at this time, I want to save this agricultural land for people and governments who will see its value and support it, so it may start to produce food again.

With regard to the current goal 8 mapping process, please protect all agricultural farmland in Hood River County. We need it now and we are going to need it in the future.

Randal Gray
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