

Michael J. Paine
503-662-5251
Director Zone #4

Occupation: Farmer, small business owner

Occupational Background: 10 years farming experience - 3 years international experience, 2 years as assistant farm manager and five years full-time farming in Yamhill County. As farm owner responsible for all aspects of farm systems design and implementation as well as day-to-day business. Our farm serves approximately 120 families directly through our community supported agriculture program; additionally we sell our produce at the largest regional farmers' market and several restaurants.

Educational Background: Masters of Science, International Agriculture Development, University of California at Davis

Bachelor of Arts, Fordham University

Prior Governmental Experience: Currently finishing maximum term (4 years) as the only farmer on the City of Portland/ Multnomah County Food Policy Council. Food Policy Council is charged with advising city and county elected officials as to best practice and policy initiatives that relate to regional food and farming. United States Peace Corps Lesotho, worked with a diverse group of governmental and non-governmental organizations on both country wide and small scale agriculture initiatives.

As stewards of the land, our family has been dedicated from the outset of our farming operation to maintaining the highest level of conservation and innovation. As our farmed acreage has grown, so has our focus on water conservation, both how we store and use water and the quality of the water that leaves our land. We continue to look for ways to offset our energy footprint, including the production of biodiesel to power farm equipment and solar power as an energy source for our greenhouses. We are constantly looking for new solutions to enable the small-scale family farm to thrive, both learning from other farms and sharing our successes for the betterment and increased sustainability of other farms. This is an exciting and critical time for the county both for maintaining best practice strategies already in place and planning and acting towards a better future. It would be a privilege to be a contributor to both.

More information on our farm can be found at www.gaininggroundfarm.com.