

Appendix Three: Other Letters of Intent

Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of functional agricultural biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems.

FAB WSARE PDP Oct 2014 Ellen



Farmer leaders and participants at the 2012 Biodiversity Working for Farmers Tour at Ernies Organics in Shoshone, ID

Western SARE Administrative Council
Western SARE
2753 State Highway 157
Lingle, WY 82223

October 22, 2014

Dear Western SARE Administrative Council,

As a Research Associate at WSU-TFREC with an interest in agricultural conservation practices I would like to express my intent to be a collaborator in the 2014 WSARE Professional Development Program proposal entitled *Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of Functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems*, submitted by G. Ellen of Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center. My particular interest is in the planning, development and recruitment of participants in the projects activities which include an annual meeting, a field course on habitat establishment in a chosen pilot state, a FAB Summit in Portland, Oregon and a network analysis of the FAB Work Group and its associated projects. I have a special interest in attending the events, as I believe they are an excellent opportunity to network and build relationships with other individuals involved with the integration of on-farm conservation practices.

I have been given the opportunity to collaborate with the FAB Work Group through this proposal and think it is a valuable way to integrate some of our recent work on enhancing biological control in western orchards. The Work Group will allow me to participate in the expansion of the FAB agenda across the west and will provide additional opportunities for hands-on learning about conservation biological control.

This is a very important proposal that will increase learning about functional agricultural biodiversity and the ecosystems services it can provide to farmers, conservationists and researchers in California, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. At the same time the proposed activities would help expand an established regional structure under which networking of resources, research-based information and specifics on farmer adoption of practices can be readily exchanged and collaborative projects and local networks of interested practitioners can be developed. I look forward the opportunity to work on this project.

Sincerely,
Angela Gadino

Research Associate, PhD.
Department of Entomology
Washington State University
Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center
1100 N. Western Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 663-8181 Ext. 286



Alison Kutz
3515 18th St Bellingham WA 98226
Alison@SoundHorticulture.com

Western SARE Administrative Council
Western SARE
2753 State Highway 157
Lingle, WY 82223

October 22, 2014

Dear Western SARE Administrative Council,

As an active Western Region Functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) Work Group member and an independent biological control professional. I would like to express my intent to be a participant in the 2014 WSARE Professional Development Program proposal entitled *Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of Functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems*, submitted by G. Ellen of Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center. I will participate in the planning, development and recruitment of participants in the projects activities which include an annual meeting, a field course on habitat establishment in a chosen pilot state, a FAB Summit in Portland, Oregon and a network analysis of the FAB Work Group and its associated projects. I believe deeply in this work and wish to support growers in the area, so I am happy to help with various aspects of putting events together.

I have participated in/of the FAB Work Group since it's inception, and have found this to be extremely helpful in getting to know what positive work some larger growers have initiated in the region. Their positive contributions set wonderful examples for other growers, and to be able to support their efforts is really important. Knowing who and where the best work is unfolding allows the networking and conversation between these more progressive growers to be shared freely between them, and others who attend these workshops and field visits. At the workshops we are able to layer perspectives from various interest groups together. This weaving together of professionals is crucial at this time, as the best solutions for habitat building for various crop systems is very specific to particular areas. It is through the contacts and outreach that the FAB group has worked so hard to generate in the last few years that we have seen a major shift in awareness at the local grower level in OR, WA and ID. Each season we see more farmers and stakeholders step forward and join us, resulting in an enriched the palette of information that serves all participants. Expanding this work into challenging crop systems and showcasing these

examples is what takes these techniques into the norm and mainstream of improved agricultural practices.

I look forward the opportunity to work on this project.

Sincerely,
Alison Kutz
Sound Horticulture

Western SARE Administrative Council
Western SARE
2753 State Highway 157
Lingle, WY 82223

October 22, 2014

Dear Western SARE Administrative Council,

As two individuals; an industry consultant and an organic farmer with an interest in agricultural conservation practices we would like to express our intent to be collaborators in the 2014 WSARE Professional Development Program proposal entitled *Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of Functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems*, submitted by G. Ellen of Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center. Our particular interests are in the planning, development and recruitment of participants in the projects activities which include an annual meeting, a field course on habitat establishment in a chosen pilot state, a FAB Summit in Portland, Oregon and a network analysis of the FAB Work Group and its associated projects.

We have a special interest in lobbying for the pilot state project and helping to develop the field habitat establishment course. We are specifically interested in hosting other farmers for the purposes of learning more about conservation practices. We also have an interest in attending, hosting or presenting at one of the events.

I have, as an industry consultant participated in OSU sponsored farm tours, Brad Bailie has hosted tours as a farmer of the FAB Work Group and have found this to be the most essential vehicle available to convey information, garner interest and promote collaborative discussion between farmers, University students and the general public. FAB workshops both in the classroom and field setting have provided us with the opportunities to learn conservation biological strategies as well as demonstrate their effectiveness in collaborative projects.

This is an extremely significant proposal from our perspective - one that would allow greater networking and exchange of much needed information through the FAB program with the fundamental understanding that collaboration is the key. Given the host of pressures bearing down on Western Farmers the timing of this proposal and subsequent adoption is critical.

Sincerely,
Sheila Grace consultant, WA
Brad Bailie Owner / Manager Lenwood Farms
Connell, WA

Western SARE Administrative Council
Western SARE
2753 State Highway 157
Lingle, WY 82223

October 22, 2014

Dear Western SARE Administrative Council,

As an Entomologist and Program Coordinator of the Agriculture and Natural Resource Coordinator at Wenatchee Valley College with an interest in agricultural conservation practices I would like to express my intent to be a collaborator in the 2014 WSARE Professional Development Program proposal entitled *Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of Functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems*, submitted by G. Ellen of Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center. My particular interest is in helping in the planning, development and recruitment of participants in the projects activities. Specifically, I am willing to be a presenter at workshops designed to help farmers and orchardists learn more about the identification of beneficial insects and pollinators at FAB events.

I have participated in farm tours and found them to be a very important hands-on way to learn how to enhance biodiversity around farms and orchards. These workshops have also helped farmers and orchardists discuss ways they could incorporate conservation practices in their farming programs to reduce other ecological issues facing agriculture.

This is a very important proposal that will increase learning about functional agricultural biodiversity and the ecosystems services it can provide to farmers, conservationists and researchers in Washington. I look forward to the opportunity to work on this project.

Sincerely,
Bob Gillespie
Bob Gillespie PhD
Program Coordinator
Agriculture and Natural Resource Program



Underwood Conservation District
170 NW Lincoln • Park Center Building
PO Box 96 • White Salmon, WA 98672 • 509.493.1936

Western SARE Administrative Council
Western SARE
2753 State Highway 157
Lingle, WY 82223

October 22, 2014

Dear Western SARE Administrative Council,

We at Underwood Conservation District – a locally-organized, non-regulatory service district for the past 75 years in the Columbia Gorge area of Washington state – strongly support conservation practices in agriculture and other natural resource fields. So it's with keen interest that we intend to collaborate in the 2014 Western SARE Professional Development Program proposal entitled *Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of Functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems*, submitted by G. Ellen of Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center.

Technicians at Underwood Conservation District (UCD) are specifically interested in helping local farmers learn more about conservation practices on farms, vineyards and orchards; developing FAB pilot projects on same; and in assisting and recruiting participants from this area to attend on-farm biodiversity education efforts, including an annual meeting, field courses and a regional FAB Summit in Portland, Oregon. (Portland is within an hour's drive of most of our district's farmers and residents.)

Our staff have participated in FAB courses coordinated by Ellen, and found the combination of class time and on-farm field tours to be an excellent introduction to promoting agricultural biodiversity. UCD has encouraged this in its own modest efforts (e.g., hosting workshops on native pollinators and native-plant educational presentations), and we hope to expand our participation in the FAB Work Group. We believe it holds useful insights in natural resource conservation for our district's producers and landowners.

We believe this is an important proposal that will promote learning about functional agricultural biodiversity and the ecosystems services it can provide to farmers and landowners in Washington State and throughout the West. We heartily support additional FAB research, collaboration and outreach by extension services and other conservation partners. This proposal's strengthening of a regional network of best-management practices and collaborative project holds great promise. We look forward to being involved and supporting local and regional FAB outreach and on-the-ground projects.

Sincerely,

Tova B. Tillinghast
District Manager

"The mission of Underwood Conservation District is to enhance natural resources and stewardship in Skamania County and western Klickitat County."

Western SARE Administrative Council
WESTERN SARE
2753 State Highway 157
Lingle, 82223

October 25, 2014

Dear Western SARE Administrative Council,

As a vineyard grower and researcher from Idaho with an interest in agricultural conservation practices I would like to express my intent to be a collaborator in the 2014 WSARE Professional Development Program proposal entitled Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems, submitted by G. Ellen of Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center. My particular interest is field course work on habitat establishment on a chosen pilot state. As a former extension specialist with a PhD in entomology and currently on the National Pollination Protection Task Force for Bee Friendly Farming, I am fully committed to bringing the information to a wider audience.

I have participated in several FAB events as a consulting entomologist with an emphasis on native bees and their establishment. This is an important proposal that will increase learning about functional agricultural biodiversity and the ecosystem services it can provide to farmers, conservationists and researchers in California, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. At the same time the proposed activities would help expand an established regional structure under which networking of resources, technical information and specifics on farmer adoption of practices can be readily exchanged and collaborative projects and local networks of interested practitioners can be developed. I look forward to the opportunity to work on this project as it aligns very nicely with my life long interests with native bees and also with my LIVE certified vineyards.

Sincerely,

Ron M. Bitner, PhD

Bitner Vineyards

www.bitnervineyards.com

16645 Plum Road

Caldwell, ID 83607



NORTHWEST CENTER FOR
ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

October 27, 2014

Western SARE Administrative Council
2753 State Highway 157
Lingle, WY 82223

Dear Western SARE Administrative Council,

I am writing to demonstrate my intent to be a collaborator in the 2014 WSARE Professional Development Program proposal entitled *Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of Functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems*, submitted by G. Ellen of Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center. I am currently working with farmers in Idaho, in my role as a non-profit program director, to implement habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects.

I am particularly interested in collaborating on this project to assist with the field course on habitat establishment in the chosen pilot state. The Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides is a regional organization and welcomes the opportunity to participate in pilot projects conducted as part of this project.

I have participated in planning sessions with farmers, summer farm tours, and a winter workshop, all in Idaho, of the FAB Work Group. The planning sessions brought together farmers, extension specialist, non-profits, and agency partners, which then led to trainings conducted directly through the FAB Work Group as well as by partner organizations. The educational events brought needed attention and provided valuable trainings in an area of sustainable agriculture lacking support in Idaho.

This important proposal will increase learning about functional agricultural biodiversity and the ecosystems services it can provide to farmers, conservationists and researchers in California, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. The proposed activities would also help foster and further expand collaboration and sharing of resources, technical information and specifics on farmer adoption of practices. I look forward to the opportunity to work on this project.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Miller, Ph.D.
Healthy Food and Farms Program Director

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United States Department of Agriculture

October 27, 2014

Western SARE Administrative Council
Western SARE
2753 State Highway 157
Lingle, WY 82223

Dear Western SARE Administrative Council,

The NRCS Aberdeen Plant Materials Center has an interest in agricultural conservation practices in the Intermountain West. I would like to express my intent to support the 2014 WSARE Professional Development Program proposal entitled *Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of Functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems*, submitted by G. Ellen of Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center. I can offer my assistance with presenting at field courses and in attending the FAB Summit in Portland, Oregon as time and budget allow.

I have participated previously as a presenter at the FAB Work Group and have found this to a very effective hands-on way to learn about conservation practices and pollinator habitat management in the western region. This is a good program that will increase learning about functional agricultural biodiversity and the ecosystems services it can provide to farmers, conservationists and researchers in California, Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Sincerely,

Derek J. Tilley
PMC Manager
Aberdeen Plant Materials Center
PO Box 296
Aberdeen, ID 83210
Office: 208-397-4133
Cell: 208-844-0087

Natural Resources Conservation Service

9173 W. Barnes Dr., Suite C, Boise, ID 83709
Voice: (208) 378-5700 Fax: (208) 378-5735

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Western SARE Administrative Council
Western SARE
2753 State Highway 157
Lingle, WY 82223

October 22, 2014

Dear Western SARE Administrative Council,

As a conservationist with an interest in agricultural conservation practices I would like to express my intent to be a collaborator in the 2014 WSARE Professional Development Program proposal entitled *Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of Functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems*, submitted by G. Ellen of Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center. My particular interest is in pest management, soil health, small farms as well as the planning, development and recruitment of participants in the projects activities which include an annual meeting, a field course on habitat establishment in a chosen pilot state, a FAB Summit in Portland, Oregon and a network analysis of the FAB Work Group and its associated projects.

I have participated as an event planner and have been a participant of the FAB Work Group and have found this to be a very important hands-on way to learn about conservation practices/conservation biological control etc. in the western region, provided me an opportunity to work on interesting collaborative projects/events and increased my understanding/ knowledge of FAB and FAB practices.

Sincerely,

Joe Williams
District Conservationist
USDA NRCS
Visalia Field Office
3530 W. Orchard Court
Visalia, CA 93277
559-734-8732 Ext. 135
559-732-2805 Fax



Department of Horticulture

Oregon State University, 4017 Ag. and Life Sciences Bldg., Corvallis, Oregon 97331-7304

T 541-737-3695 | F 541-737-3479 | <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/hort/>

Western SARE Administrative Council
Western SARE
2753 State Highway 157
Lingle, WY 82223

October 22, 2014

Dear Western SARE Administrative Council,

As a faculty member in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University I would like to express my intent to be a collaborator in the 2014 WSARE Professional Development Program proposal entitled *Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of Functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems*, submitted by G. Ellen of Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center. My particular interest is in the development and planning of a field course on habitat establishment.

I have participated as an instructor and organizer during previous FAB Work Group events, and I have found this to be a remarkable way to share information in a participatory way. I have learned as much from the other participants including farmers as I have provided. It has been extremely valuable to learn about experiences and challenges facing practitioners through the diverse western region. Improving the ecosystem services provided by agriculture as well as minimizing the impacts of agriculture on biodiversity requires a regional approach.

The project will help expand and enhance an established regional network for sharing science based information and farmer experience and practical knowledge. I look forward to the opportunity to work on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Lambrinos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Lambrinos".

John Lambrinos
Associate Professor



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Corvallis Plant
Materials Center

3415 NE Granger Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97330
Voice 541.757.4812
Fax 855.651.9082

October 22, 2014

Western SARE Administrative Council
Western SARE
2753 State Highway 157
Lingle, WY 82223

Dear Western SARE Administrative Council,

As a Conservation Agronomist with an interest in agricultural conservation practices I would like to express my intent to be a collaborator in the 2014 WSARE Professional Development Program proposal entitled *Collaborative approaches to increase the integration of Functional Agricultural Biodiversity (FAB) in western farming systems*, submitted by G. Ellen of Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center. My particular interest is in helping develop and participating in an annual meeting, a field course on habitat establishment, and a FAB Summit in Portland, OR.

Over the last five years, the Corvallis Plant Materials Center (PMC) has hosted five annual Field Days on Farmscaping with Native Plants, as well as two workshops on Woody Plant Use and Propagation for Beneficial Habitat, in collaboration with FAB Work Group members. Corvallis PMC staff (former Manager Joe Williams or I) have participated in the past four Biodiversity Working for Farmers tours as organizers and exercise leaders, as well as being core members of the FAB Work Group. I value the activities of this group because they've provided me with the opportunity to work on interesting collaborative projects and events throughout our service area in the Pacific Northwest, and FAB Work Group events have expanded the customer base for Corvallis PMC outreach activities. I continue to learn from the experience and expertise of fellow FAB Work Group members, and this knowledge helps inform new studies at the PMC and recommendations we make to NRCS and SWCD conservationists who work with private landowners to promote agricultural conservation practices.

This is a very important proposal that will increase understanding of functional agricultural biodiversity and the ecosystems services it can provide in California, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. The proposed activities align well with the Corvallis PMC's mission to provide technical assistance to conservationists, landowners, and agricultural professionals on planning, installation, and management of agricultural conservation practices such as hedgerows, windbreaks, buffer strips, riparian plantings, cover crops, and pollinator/insectary plantings. I look forward the opportunity to work on this project.

Sincerely,

Annie Young-Mathews
Conservation Agronomist and PMC Manager