

## The 2005 Legislature & The Environment

### Half-Full or Half-Empty?

**N**ow that the second longest legislative session in Oregon's history is over, how you view its accomplishments on environmental issues, including OEC's legislative agenda, depends on whether you're an optimist or a pessimist.

An optimist will note that Oregon's pesticide use reporting program (adopted in 1999) will now become a reality after being held hostage for six years by pesticide lobbyists. A new law to ban certain toxic flame retardants will also take effect, as will a law to expedite siting of "biodiesel" facilities. OEC led the way in pushing those issues through the Legislature.

A more pessimistic view is that all three programs were seriously weakened in making their way through the legislative gauntlet. Given that pro-environment legislators controlled the Senate for the first time in a decade, some would say we should have made more progress.

"Politics is all about compromise," said OEC's Executive Director Jeff Allen. "On some issues we were able to make compromises that still move Oregon forward, but in other cases the only 'deal' possible would have been a bad deal for Oregon's environment."

To get the pesticide use reporting program up and running, and to avoid a budget showdown that could have

crippled the Oregon Department of Agriculture, OEC agreed that data in rural areas will be reported at the watershed level, not by square mile.

Senator Kurt Schrader (D-Canby) praised OEC. "OEC has worked tirelessly to get this important program implemented," noted Schrader, "yet they were willing to compromise ... because they care about building bridges with Oregon farmers. OEC's leadership has helped us avoid a political train wreck."

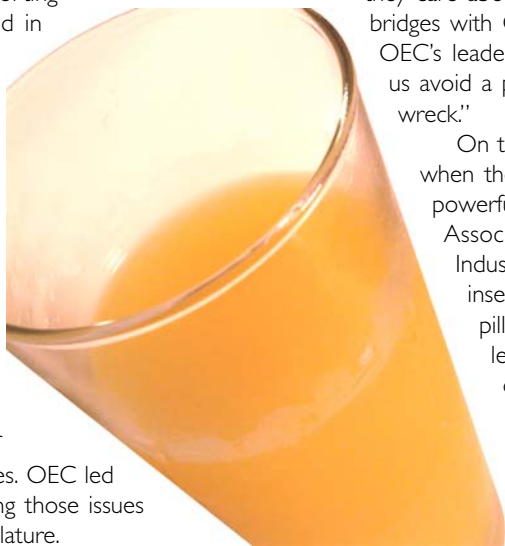
On the other hand, when the state's most powerful lobby group – Associated Oregon Industries (AOI) – inserted a "poison pill" into biofuels legislation that had drawn broad bipartisan support, OEC chose not to swallow it. AOI's

amendment

would have revived some massive tax credits for industry, simply for complying with existing environmental laws.

"It's a shame that AOI killed a bill that would have benefited Oregon's farmers and environment, as well as the economy," said OEC's lobbyist Matt Blevins. Only one provision of the biofuels package became law – an exemption for biodiesel refineries from Oregon's energy facility siting criteria.

Legislators also compromised on banning toxic flame retardants, taking a "first step" that bans two types of flame retardants, but not deca-PBDEs, the most commonly found type of flame retardants.



#### 2 HOME & GARDEN

##### Keep Warm With Biodiesel This Winter

Crisp evenings remind us that it's time to buy winter heating oil – make yours biodiesel! See pg. 2

#### 3 TRAVEL

##### Zero Miles to the Gallon

A simple, everyday thing you can do to help curb air pollution. See pg. 3

#### 4 HEALTH

##### Pesticides in Schools: A Troubling Combination

A majority of Oregon public schools might be using pesticides unnecessarily. See pg. 4

#### 5 BUSINESS

##### Oregon Biodiesel Refinery Opens in Salem

What do Willie Nelson, potato chips and cars have in common? See pg. 5

#### 6 PEOPLE

##### Oregon's First Eco-Healthy Childcare Facility

Iris Valley Learning Center in Keizer pioneers environmentally healthy childcare. See pg. 6

#### 7 EVENTS

##### Welcoming Newborns into a Healthier Home

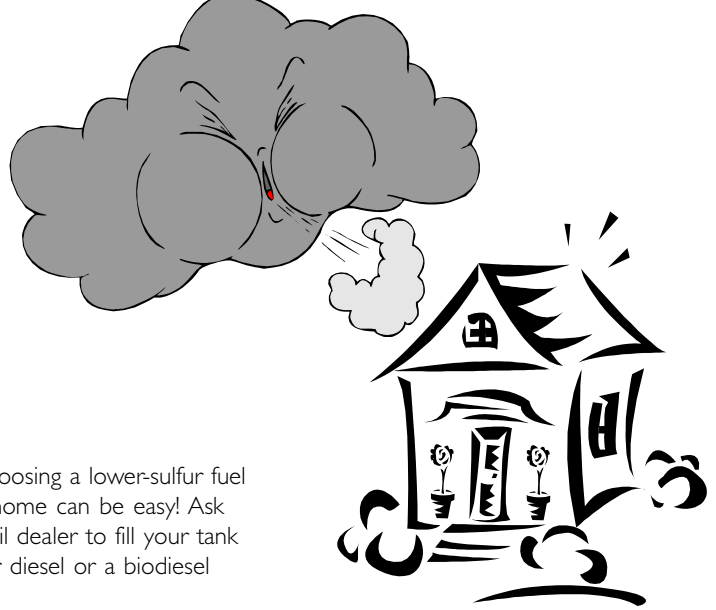
Want to create an environmentally healthy home for your newborn? OEC's Tiny Footprints™ program can help. See pg. 7

#### 8 THANKS!

##### Oregon's Fantastic Farmers

Find out which agriculturists promote a healthy farm economy and a healthier environment. See back page

# Keep Warm With Biodiesel This Winter



Although summer usually lingers long in Oregon, the chilly bite to evening air already reminds us that winter is on its way. If you heat your home with an oil-fired furnace or boiler, it's time to call and request a tune-up and tank fill from your heating oil provider. It's also an opportunity to ask for cleaner fuel.

"Oil #2" is the primary heating oil sold in the U.S. It is essentially the same as the diesel sold at gas stations, but contains much more of the pollutant sulfur. Sulfur contributes to the formation of nitrous oxides and particulate matter, both of which have serious air quality and human health impacts.

Luckily, choosing a lower-sulfur fuel to heat your home can be easy! Ask your heating oil dealer to fill your tank with low-sulfur diesel or a biodiesel blend.

Many heating oil companies recognize that low-sulfur fuel is better for your furnace and buy low-sulfur diesel when they can. But many don't. So ask.

Another great option is biodiesel. This renewable, 100% American fuel is produced from vegetable oils like soy and canola. You can blend up to 20% biodiesel with petroleum oil with no modifications to your heating system. For the greatest environmental benefit, the biodiesel should be blended with low-sulfur diesel.

Using a 20% biodiesel blend (B20) to heat your home provides considerable environmental benefits. It reduces the oily smell of the liquid fuel and makes the exhaust coming from your chimney smell better – a little like French fries! It also reduces emissions of cancer-causing compounds by up to 50%, and emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and hydrocarbons by approximately 20%.

Biodiesel is a solvent and will actually clean out your heating system. In the long run, that will help make it run more efficiently. In the short run, as it removes accumulated sludge from your system, you may experience some clogging of the fuel filter, but it's simple and cheap to replace.

Enthusiasts have even converted their furnaces to run on pure biodiesel.

The distributors listed below are offering B20 to their heating oil customers. If you don't see an oil company in your area on the list, call your distributor and ask for biodiesel or low-sulfur heating oil today. Also, be sure to get an annual tune-up for your oil furnace. A well-tuned furnace will be more efficient, saving you money and reducing pollution.



## Cleaner, Homegrown Fuel

In 2001, Warwick Public Schools in Rhode Island launched a pilot project to compare the effects of using different blends of biodiesel to heat their schools. Four different furnaces were used in the study – one each for a 10%, 15% and 20% biodiesel blend, and a control furnace. Prior to testing, each furnace was thoroughly cleaned and given a tune-up. The fuel and furnace emissions were then tested on a monthly basis.

After one year, data showed the B20 blend provided heat and efficiency comparable to the furnace using regular oil. In addition, emissions of nitrogen oxides and soot were significantly reduced, and the interior of the furnace was almost as clean as at the beginning of the study. Four years later, Warwick Public Schools continue to use a B20 blend in their furnaces. According to Bob Cerio, facilities manager for the district, they have not had to clean the heating elements in the furnaces since the study began, thanks to biodiesel's cleansing properties.

## Heating Oil Distributors Offering Biodiesel Heating Oil Blends

<b>Albina Fuels</b> .....	<b>Portland/Vancouver</b> .....	<b>503-281-1161</b>
<b>Automatic Heat Co.</b> .....	<b>Eugene</b> .....	<b>541-726-7654</b>
<b>Barnes Fuel Oil</b> .....	<b>Sutherlin</b> .....	<b>541.459.2255</b>
<b>R.D. Barker Petroleum Products</b> .....	<b>McMinnville</b> .....	<b>503.472.5000</b>
<b>Sheldon Oil Co.</b> .....	<b>Tillamook</b> .....	<b>503-842-2172</b>
<b>Star Oil Co.</b> .....	<b>Portland</b> .....	<b>503-283-1256</b>

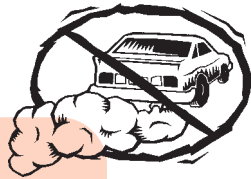
For more information, visit [www.biofuels4oregon.org/users/heatingoil](http://www.biofuels4oregon.org/users/heatingoil)

# Zero Miles to the Gallon

What's bad for your health, hurts your car, wastes your money and is completely avoidable? *Idling your car's engine.*

Idling for just *10 seconds* uses up more fuel than restarting the engine. And yet, millions of us do it every day, in our driveways, at school as we pick up our kids, or in the drive-thru line at the bank or fast food restaurant. Big deal, you say? Here are some reasons to reconsider next time you're behind the wheel, but going nowhere:

**Your Health:** We've all had the misfortune of being stuck in traffic behind a "smoker" – a car that belches exhaust like a carton-a-day cigarette addict. Clearly, that's not a good place to be for people with asthma, but the fact is our cars spew out a toxic brew of benzene, formaldehyde and other chemicals that are known carcinogens and a hazard to



## It's Not Cool to Idle at School!

OEC has developed a toolkit to help elementary and middle school students encourage parents and bus drivers to turn off their engines instead of idling them when near schools. The toolkit provides participating classes with the resources necessary to educate their principal, bus drivers, and parents about the health benefits of not idling school buses and cars. Kids have made posters, which declare their school as an "idle-free zone", and asked their parents to sign pledges to not idle. For more information about this program, or to obtain a toolkit for your school, contact OEC's Laura Weiss at 503-222-1963 x. 111 or [lauraw@oeconline.org](mailto:lauraw@oeconline.org).

all of us. When you're stuck in line, apply the golden rule, and turn off your engine.

**Your Car:** Contrary to popular belief, idling your engine is *not* good for your car. Incomplete combustion while idling leaves behind fuel residues, which can cause spark plug fouling and engine oil contamination. Idling can also corrode your exhaust system by generating water condensation in the car's exhaust. It isn't even necessary to idle your engine to warm it up before driving, even in the winter. The best way to warm up the engine is simply to drive.

**Your Money:** With gas prices pushing \$3 per gallon, think about the value of getting zero miles per gallon. Need we say more?

**Your Environment:** Multiplied millions of times over; the idling each of us does on a daily basis can end up being a significant contributor to air pollution, and needlessly so. Your car's engine runs at a lower than optimum temperature while idling, so fuel does not fully combust, which leads to increased emissions

of carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds from gasoline engines, as well as particulate matter and smoke from diesels. The extra fuel consumed (approximately .03 gal/min) by idling, rather than shutting off the engine, also increases emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide, which contributes to global warming.

So, next time you think about waiting in the drive-thru line at the bank or pharmacy, park your car and go inside instead. When it's time to pick your kids up at school, turn off your engine while you wait for them to say goodbye to their friends. If you're waiting at the railroad tracks as a seemingly infinitely long train holds up traffic, turn off your engine. Reducing idling will save you money, make your car run longer, and give everybody cleaner, healthier air to breathe – all it takes is the turn of a key.

– Makely Lyon, summer intern at OEC

## Idling Facts

- Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine.
- An average of 1-2.5 gallons of fuel is wasted per hour spent idling – at today's fuel prices, that really adds up.
- An idling car emits 7 times the hydrocarbons and 12 times the carbon monoxide of one traveling at 30 mph.
- Spark plug fouling, caused by excessive idling, can reduce the fuel efficiency of your car by 4-5%.
- Just one hour of idling causes engine wear and tear equivalent to 80 to 120 minutes of driving.
- Remember, idling gets *zero* miles to the gallon.



Breathing in exhaust from an idling car exposes us to a toxic brew of chemicals.

# Pesticides in Schools: A Troubling Combination

Amid the rolling hills of the Willamette Valley, the shouts and laughter of kids playing games on the fields after school is suddenly silenced. Herbicides sprayed by a grass seed farmer on an adjacent hillside have drifted down the hill, causing at least one child and two adults to become ill. The games are stopped; the schools closed.

A parent's nightmare? Well, it actually happened in 2001 in Yamhill County, resulting in one of the more than 100 cases of acute pesticide poisoning reported annually to the state Pesticide Analytical Response Center (PARC).

Fortunately, incidents involving acute poisoning of school children are rare, and most farmers are very responsible in their use of pesticides.

But the fact is that not only does pesticide use occur near schools, it also occurs *in* most schools.

Only 13% of Oregon school districts say they never use pesticides at their schools, according to a new survey by the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Environmental Council that was released in July. Another one-third of schools surveyed say they look for non-chemical methods to control pests and use pesticides only as a last resort, i.e., as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy.

A majority of Oregon schools, however, might be using pesticides unnecessarily. While most pesticide applications are done at times when children are not present, the persistence



of some pesticide residues, and new findings about their long-term, and not just acute, health effects raise some troubling questions. Some districts are using pesticides that are linked to cancer, reproductive problems, hormone system damage or nervous system damage (see chart).

Fortunately, the survey found that nearly 70% of the schools said they were interested in learning more about how IPM could help them control pests effectively.

"This report illustrates the fact that Oregon schools can control pests effectively *and* minimize the use of pesticides," said Oregon's Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo. "With the growing concerns about pesticides, many schools are developing safer, more effective pest management programs that reduce use of toxic chemicals."

The report includes a set of recommendations to reduce the risks associated with pesticide use in school settings, including providing training, technical assistance and incentives to schools to promote IPM practices.

The Oregon Legislature's recent decision to implement (after a six-year delay) the state's pesticide use reporting program will also result in all schools reporting their use of pesticides every year, laying a foundation for more informed policy decisions about whether and how to address pesticide use in schools.

For a copy of the report, please call 503-222-1963 x. 111 or visit the Kid's Health page of our website at [www.oeconline.org](http://www.oeconline.org).

**Most Commonly Used Pesticides in Oregon Schools**

Active Ingredient	Common Name	Number of Districts Reporting Use	Use	Health Concerns
Glyphosate	Round-up	53	herbicide	Associated with an increased risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (a type of cancer) in at least one study (De Roos, 2003).
2,4-D	Cross Bow or Weedmaster	37	herbicide	Associated with an increased risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (McDuffie, 2001).
Dicamba	Trimec	14	herbicide	In laboratory animals, exposure has caused decreases in body weight, liver damage and an increased frequency of fetal loss (California E.P.A., 1996).
MCPA and MCPP	Trimec	13	herbicide	MCPA & MCPP are chlorophenoxy herbicides which, as a group, have been classified as possibly carcinogenic to humans.
Dichlobenil	Casaron	12	herbicide	Considered a possible carcinogen by the U.S. EPA.
Fipronil	Termidor	6	insecticide	Highly toxic to fish and other aquatic life. It is a neurotoxin.
Cyfluthrin	Tempo	6	insecticide	Considered a neurotoxin.

# Oregon Biodiesel Refinery Opens in Salem

Potato chips, Willie Nelson and cars would seem to be an unlikely combination, but they've all come together to benefit the environment on a small piece of industrial land in Salem, thanks to the leadership of the biodiesel pioneers at Pacific Biodiesel and a new Oregon company, Sequential Biofuels.

Sequential-Pacific Biodiesel opened the first biodiesel refinery in Oregon earlier this year, with Nelson as an investor and Salem-based chipmaker Kettle Foods as a major supplier. The refinery will take used cooking oil from Kettle's plant and other sources and turn it into roughly one million gallons of biodiesel each year that can then be burned in diesel-fueled cars and other vehicles.

Companies like Kettle Foods, Terra-Clean, Argyle Winery, DeSantis Landscapes, Hoodoo Ski Resort, Rexus, and others are already using biodiesel or biodiesel blends in at least a portion of their fleets and equipment, as is the Port of Portland, the City of Eugene and Multnomah County.



Photo courtesy of Pacific Biodiesel, Inc.

Willie Nelson (at right), a partner in Sequential-Pacific Biodiesel, LLC, and Bob King, president of Pacific Biodiesel, stand next to Nelson's new biodiesel Mercedes.

The environmental benefits of biodiesel are significant, especially since it's much cleaner than petroleum diesel, which is far and away the leading source of toxic air pollutants found throughout Oregon at levels several times higher than EPA health benchmarks. Biodiesel can also result in substantial reductions in global warming emissions.

Increasing Oregon's supply of biodiesel is one of OEC's top priorities. It promises a win-win-win for the environment, farmers (since it can also be produced from farm crops) and our economy.

OEC introduced a package of incentives and standards to promote biodiesel in the 2005 session. While

most of that proposal was torpedoed by big business lobbyists (see cover story), lawmakers did endorse an exemption from state energy facility siting requirements that could help clear the way for additional biodiesel facilities.

Over the next few months, OEC will be exploring other non-legislative policy changes to promote biofuels, while launching a marketing campaign targeted at potential biodiesel customers, such as homeowners using oil heat (see Home and Garden page), farmers running diesel tractors and other equipment, school bus operators and construction companies.

OEC will also be holding workshops for farmers to encourage them to grow crops that can also be used to produce biodiesel.

For more information, contact OEC's Chris Hagerbaumer at 503-222-1963 x. 102 or [chris@oeconline.org](mailto:chris@oeconline.org).



Photo courtesy of Pacific Biodiesel, Inc.

# Iris Valley Learning Center: Oregon's First Eco-Healthy Childcare

Since providing a safe learning environment for children is so important to the Iris Valley Learning Center, becoming an Eco-Healthy Childcare Facility just made sense for them.

"We were so excited when we saw the Eco-Healthy Childcare flyer," says Center Director Penny Lane-Garver. "We knew immediately it was something we would like to be a part of."

The Iris Valley Learning Center, a certified childcare center in Keizer with 13 employees serving nearly 100 children, is the first childcare facility to qualify as "Eco-Healthy," but in the next few months, OEC expects many more to follow in their footsteps.

Helping childcare providers make their childcare environment as healthy as possible is the goal of OEC's new Eco-Healthy Childcare program. The program is free, simple and effective, and is available to all Oregon childcare providers. Childcare facilities can qualify as "Eco-Healthy" by completing a



Why are these children smiling? Their school, Iris Valley Learning Center, is Oregon's first Eco-Healthy Childcare!




**Interested in Becoming an  
Eco-Healthy Childcare?**

Contact Laura Weiss at OEC to get started (lauraw@oeconline.org or 503-222-1963 x.111).

Or visit us at [www.oeconline.org](http://www.oeconline.org) and order the information you need to be eco-healthy!

checklist that highlights 25 simple steps that ensure a safe place for children.

The folks at Iris Valley know that most of the steps on the checklist are simple yet effective. For example, they avoid microwaving food in plastic to prevent exposure to dangerous chemicals. They use non-toxic pest control techniques that avoid pesticides.

By qualifying as "Eco-Healthy," Iris Valley and the other childcare facilities receive a *colorful sticker* (see image at left) to place in a prominent location to let parents and others know of their commitment to being eco-healthy. Qualifying facilities will also receive a colorful poster to help everyone remember what it means to maintain an eco-healthy facility.

Last, but not least, OEC and its partners will publicize a list of all childcare facilities in Oregon that qualify as eco-healthy – so that parents can easily locate healthier options for their children.

## Thanks to these supporters of the Eco-Healthy Childcare Program

American Lung Association of Oregon  
Child Care Improvement Project  
Department of Human Services,  
Office of Family Health, Healthy  
Child Care Oregon Initiative  
Metro  
Mid-Columbia Children's Council,  
Inc.  
Multnomah County Health  
Department  
Oregon Association for the  
Education of Young Children  
Oregon Association of Child Care  
Directors  
Oregon Child Care Resource and  
Referral Network  
Oregon Child Development  
Coalition  
Oregon Employment Department,  
Child Care Division  
Peninsula Children's Center

# Welcoming Newborns into a Healthier Home

## OEC Set to Launch New “Tiny Footprints™” Healthy Baby Program

When Donna Spence and her husband Mike found out they were expecting their first child, they had the same reaction of elation and shock that most first-time parents feel.

But few people could be more familiar with kids – without actually having one – than Donna, a pediatrician who lives in Portland.

More than most expectant moms, Donna already had a good sense of the things she needed to do to help ensure that her baby was born healthy. And one of those things was to celebrate the newborns arrival by having a “Tiny Footprints™” Healthy Baby Shower.

“I was thrilled to be able to have a baby shower that helped me make my own home healthy for my baby, while also helping the environment. What parent wouldn’t do everything they could to make the world and their home a healthier place for their baby?”

Donna was one of the first moms-to-be in Oregon to help OEC test its new “Tiny Footprints™” program. The program is designed to enable new parents to stay true to their eco-healthy values, even while going through the major life change of welcoming a new member of the family.



A cake with tiny footprints celebrates the debut of OEC’s newest effort to protect kids’ health from environmental hazards.

A Tiny Footprints™ Baby Shower Kit, for example, provides new parents and their friends with information and tools to put together a great baby shower. From food and decorations to selecting baby toys, this kit is full of helpful and healthful recommendations that are easy to use. The kit can help make this event special and environmentally friendly.

**“I was thrilled to be able to have a baby shower that helped me make my own home healthy for my baby, while also helping the environment. What parent wouldn’t do everything they could to make the world and their home a healthier place for their baby?”**

*Expectant mom Donna Spence*

The Tiny Footprints™ website, [www.tinyfootprints.org](http://www.tinyfootprints.org), will provide eco-healthy resources for parents and their community. Want to know where you can buy the coolest new eco-friendly rocking chair? Want to find out which parks don’t use pesticides or how you can locate a family-friendly farm to u-pick organic blueberries? This new website will provide a great way to learn from the choices other parents have made.

The site will include pages on expecting, adventuring with baby, green products and services, nutrition, eco-healthy homes, and how to build an eco-healthy parenting community of your own. As a way to build support among family and friends, the Tiny Footprints™ website also hosts online



community conversations on each of the above topics.

OEC is scheduled to launch the Tiny Footprints™ website by September 28. You’ll be able to go to the website, [www.tinyfootprints.org](http://www.tinyfootprints.org), to order a Baby Shower Kit (\$10), as well as explore all the “eco-healthy” parenting information and resources loaded onto the site. You can also call us at 503-222-1963 x. 106 to order a Baby Shower Kit.

If you’re expecting – or know someone who is – we hope you’ll take advantage of this program, and help spread the word. Like Donna and Mike, you’ll be making the world a healthier place for babies, and for all of us.

Fall is the season for appreciating Oregon's blessing: a cornucopia of fruits, nuts, wine grapes, and other farm and ranch products that are locally grown by Oregon farmers and widely available to the rest of us at farmers' markets, food coops and many other locations.

The following Oregon farmers, ranchers, vintners, food processors and retailers have gone an extra mile by lending their financial support to OEC's recent efforts to promote a healthy farm economy and a healthier environment. We hope you'll, in turn, support them when you make your shopping choices!

Amity Vineyards  
 Annala Orchards  
 Aurora Farms  
 Bear Creek Orchards  
 (Harry & David)  
 Beaverton Foods  
 Cristom Vineyards  
 Duckwall-Pooley Fruit  
 Co.  
 Emerald Fruit and  
 Produce  
 Food Front Coop  
 Gathering Together Farm  
 Grants Pass Growers'  
 Market  
 Imperial Stock Ranch  
 Lifesource Natural Foods



Lochmead Dairy (Dari-Mart)  
 Monterey Gourmet Foods  
 OrchardView Farms  
 OrganicValley Family of Farms  
 Organically Grown Company  
 Pendleton Grain Growers  
 People's Food Coop  
 Sokol Blosser Winery  
 Springfield Creamery  
 Sundance Foods  
 Three-Mile Canyon Farms  
 Trillium Natural Foods  
 Unger Farms

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