



Action To Save Our Planet

Idaho Farming: Challenges in a Warming Climate

AN ACTIVE VIRTUAL FORUM VIA ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9828075151>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2020, 10AM – NOON MDT

The Boise Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) and the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (BUUF) invite you to a forum on the state of Idaho farming as we face challenges in a warming climate.

Keynote Speaker:

John O'Connor will share his extensive knowledge and experience gained in 45 years of farming in Idaho, including as a farm owner and manager, organic crop inspector, and project leader for a \$10,000 S.A.R.E.ⁱ grant.

Some considerations we will explore:

- How have weather patterns in Idaho changed over the last 30 years, and how has irrigation been affected?
- What economic consequences from changes in climate have already occurred, and what consequences do we anticipate?
- How does the current farm model compare with past models?
- How can new patterns of farming help adapt to climate change, especially concerning energy use, inputs, and tillage?
- Finally, a **call to ACTION**

You are welcome and encouraged to send questions in advance to boiseclimate@gmail.com.
All are welcome! Registration is not necessary.

ⁱ S.A.R.E. (Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education) grants fund research and education projects that advance sustainable agricultural practices in the United States. See <https://www.sare.org/grants/>

QUALIFICATIONS

John C. O'Connor

CURRENT

President and Farm Manager/Agronomic Consultant all within the company-FARM MANAGEMENT, INC.
President and Stockholder of O'CONNOR ENTERPRISES INC., which owns 720 acres of farmland in two Idaho locations; both irrigated and dryland.
Farm Owner involving both organic and conventional cropping systems.

EDUCATION

Boise High School graduate, 1974
B.S. Agricultural Economics, University of Idaho, May 1979

TRAINING

Candidate Member American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, Graduate of Leadership Idaho Agriculture (1998), Speaker and attendee of University of Idaho Potato School/conference, University of Idaho Bean School, University of Idaho Sugar Beet School, University of Idaho Grain Seminars, annual Idaho Fertilizer and Chemical Conferences, Simplot Sales Training, Fertilizer/Chemical Industry workshops, completed 3 training seminars for organic certification inspections (1992, 95, 2000), Real Estate training seminars and continuing education courses(1991-99), Ecological Farm Conference (1991).

EXPERIENCE

1990 to Present – President/Owner, Farm Manager/Consultant, FARM MANAGEMENT, INC., Buhl, Idaho
1998 to 2000 – Project Leader/Coordinator for a \$10,000 S.A.R.E. Grant for potato crop input choices
1991 to 2000 - Organic Crop Inspector, independently contracted by the Idaho Dept. of Agriculture and numerous independent private certification agencies (OCIA, QAI, OGBA, FVO)
1983 to 1990 - Fieldman/Salesman, Simplot Soilbuilders, Buhl, Idaho
1980 to 1983 - Manager, PureGro Company, Craigmont, Idaho
1979 to 1980 - Fieldman, Empire Farm Chemical, Moscow, Idaho
Summer 1975 - General Farm Hand, Caldwell, Idaho

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Bell Rapids Mutual Irrigation Company Board of Directors, 1993 to 1998
Idaho Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers-State Chapter Board of Directors (1992-2001) and President 1999 to 2000
Magic Valley Chapter, Idaho Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, chair 1992 to 1994
Buhl Economic Council,(committee of Buhl Chamber of Commerce) 2008 to present, President/chair 2013
NCAP (Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides) Board of Directors, 2003 to 2010
Dept. of Environmental Quality (Twin Falls Region)- Groundwater Advisory Committee, 2000 to present
Twin Falls Canal Co.- Return Flow Water Quality Committee, 2000 to present
Twin Falls Board of Realtors Member, 1992-1999, past affiliation with Idaho Homes and Property (formerly Three M Realty)
Past Member of IOIA (Independent Organic Inspectors Association)
Earned the Silver Moccasin Award by backpacking with Boy Scouts on 3- 50 mile wilderness hikes
Agricultural Research Liaison Committee Member for the Northwest Irrigation and Soils Research Laboratory in Kimberly, Idaho, 2004 to present
Idaho Rural Council steering committee for formation of the T. F. County Farm Urban Network, 1995-1996
Buhl Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors 1991- 1993; 2005- 2008, Board President 2006
Buhl City Council, 1988- 1990

VARIOUS LICENSES

Idaho Private Applicator License, 1996- 2002; Idaho State Pesticide Consultant License, 1979- 2001;
Idaho State Real Estate Sales Association License, 1991-1999