

**Food Safety Basics for Urban Farmers - Speakers**

Soil Born Farms, Rancho Cordova – May 4, 2018

**Christina Oatfield** – [Christina@theselc.org](mailto:Christina@theselc.org)

Christina Oatfield is the Policy Director for the Sustainable Economies Law Center. She is a California state advocate for laws that enable more sustainable, local, and just economies. She has played leadership roles in support of California legislation to advance homemade food, urban agriculture, seed sharing, worker cooperatives, affordable housing land trusts, housing cooperatives, and local investing. Christina contributes to the Law Center's publications and educational events related to food law and grassroots finance (i.e. securities law). Christina is pursuing an attorney license through the Law Office Study Program of the State Bar of California, which is an alternative to law school for aspiring attorneys seeking experiential learning.

**Jennifer Sowerwine** – [jsowerwi@berkeley.edu](mailto:jsowerwi@berkeley.edu), 510-664-7043

Jennifer Sowerwine is a UC Cooperative Extension Specialist in Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley. She aims to engage diverse stakeholders across the spectrum of the food system through participatory and collaborative research methodologies, exploring effective communication strategies and culturally appropriate methods, materials and places to ensure diverse representation, input, and participation. Her approach is to shift from “extending” knowledge and information toward participatory needs assessment and co-creation of research and educational materials that respond to public needs and foster peer learning networks.

**Shermain Hardesty** – [shermain@primal.ucdavis.edu](mailto:shermain@primal.ucdavis.edu), 530-752-0467

Shermain Hardesty is a recently retired Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California—Davis, and also served as Director of the University of California's Small Farm Program. Her research, education and outreach programs related to alternative food marketing systems, small farms and cooperatives. Her recent projects include the producers' costs of compliance with the Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement, assessment of the factors affecting the development of values-based supply chains and a comparative analysis of traditional and direct market supply chains for produce.

**Shawn Harrison** – [sharrison@soilborn.org](mailto:sharrison@soilborn.org)

Shawn is the founder and co-director of Soil Born Farms, a non-profit urban farming and education center located in Sacramento, CA. Through its urban farm, programs and partnerships, Soil Born Farms works to create a more sustainable and equitable food system for the Sacramento region. Shawn's work in organic agriculture and local food systems development began in 1993 as an organic farming apprentice. In 1997, he completed the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture and holds an M.S. degree in International Agriculture Development from U.C. Davis. Shawn founded Soil Born Farms in 2000 and has been recognized for his leadership in the local food system with several awards including the 2009 recipient of Valley Vision's Regional Environmental Legacy Award and the UC Davis Alumni Award of Distinction in 2011.

**Rex Dufour** – [rex@ncat.org](mailto:rex@ncat.org), 530-792-7338

Rex Dufour is the Manager of the California office for the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). His background is in entomology and integrated pest management. His work experience includes managing sustainable development projects in Thailand and Laos. Mr. Dufour has worked as both project manager and program specialist for NCAT and heads NCAT's California office. In addition to the ATTRA project, he is involved in several minority farmer outreach projects.

**Rob Bennaton** - [rbennaton@ucanr.edu](mailto:rbennaton@ucanr.edu), 510-670-5621

Rob Bennaton is the University of California Cooperative Extension Bay Area Urban Agriculture Advisor, supporting small scale food growers and extending knowledge on urban soil quality/resource management and urban ag policy. Rob teaches on urban soil management and heavy metals exposure prevention, is working with local groups on mapping urban food growing sites in the East San Francisco Bay Area, and also specializes in providing technical assistance on urban ag/community garden -site governance. He is the County Director in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, overseeing programming in all five ANR Strategic Initiatives <http://ucanr.edu/sites/StrategicInitiatives/> through applied research & educational programs conducted by local UCCE Advisors, Specialists and Program Managers/Coordinators.

**Alda Pires** – [apieres@ucdavis.edu](mailto:apieres@ucdavis.edu), 530-754-9855

Alda Pires is a UC Cooperative Extension Specialist of Veterinary Medicine. Her research focuses on quantitative methods to identify strategies that improve animal health and control infectious diseases in livestock on small-scale farms. The goals of her research and extension programs are to identify mitigation strategies to reduce the dissemination of foodborne pathogens during pre-harvest on small-scale farms. She is interested in developing and applying epidemiological tools, such as temporal-spatial analysis, molecular analysis and risk assessment in order to support risk-based surveillance, infectious diseases control strategies, and the improvement animal health and food safety.