



Annual News
Volume 7
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We hope this letter finds you and your family well this holiday season. We here at Ioka highly value the relationships with our customers, business partners, landlords, and neighbors. Our continuing vision for this annual newsletter is to keep you in tune with what's going on at Ioka, provide history of our family, background and operations, industry related news and ultimately, to help you get to know us better. We appreciate your business and support throughout the years and look forward to continuing successful collaboration in the future.

Our Mission Statement

As stewards of this farm, our mission is to produce, process, and distribute high quality products and services to our customers in a manner that will assure:

- A fair rate of return on invested resources to our owners, landlords, and employees.
- A safe fulfilling environment to work and live in.
- A farm capable of producing sustainable income for future generations.



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PRODUCTION



PROCESSING



SEED SALES & DISTRIBUTION



Honoring the past, Ioka is named from a Chinook Indian word meaning "a thing of loveliness" or "a cherished piece of land noted for its beauty, health, and fertility".



Check out our redesigned website at www.iokafarms.com. The new design boasts a more visually pleasing experience along with a more user friendly interface. While you're there, click on the "About" drop down to view past editions of our annual newsletter.

Marketing Report

By Rob Duerst

Despite the disruptions and uncertainty of 2020, our continued goal to supply quality products and provide first-class customer service, to customers big and small, was unwavering. As many businesses were closing, we adjusted to keep our essential business running, because everything starts with seed. On your next visit to the marketing office to pick up seed, you'll start at our "walk up window" as we continue to operate within the emergency guidelines required by OSHA and the Governor.

I reflect back on myself prior to 2020 saying that I'm tired of traveling. However, after being sequestered for almost a year by the time of this newsletter, I'm ready for any kind of event or association meeting to visit with old friends and polish up my social skills. Video meetings have been incredibly helpful but it's difficult to meet new people when you are not in the same room.

Through all of this, the grass seed markets have shown to be remarkably resilient and I don't foresee any interruption in domestic sales. We are working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to supply seed to Oregon's wildfire damaged areas on federal, state, and private lands, which may cause some seed types to be in short supply. Depending on destination, some export markets have been delayed due to logistics of ocean freight.

We continue to garner new customers both domestically and internationally as we honor our reputation in the industry for having the highest quality products and service.

As we move into 2021, we do so in hopes for a better new year and a return to some sense of normalcy.

I wish you all the best in the coming year and if you need any seed, call or stop by!



Mindy Duerst was presented the Person of the Year award from the Pacific Seed Association for her work while serving on the board and her tireless efforts supporting Oregon agriculture.

A strong advocate for the Oregon seed industry, she currently leads a working group for a unique seed import agreement between USDA and Customs and Border Protection that is at risk of being discontinued. The impacts of this agreement would cost the Oregon seed industry and Oregon's family farms greatly. Congratulations Mindy and thank you for your continued advocacy of the seed industry!



▲Do you need to pick up your seed order? Knock on the window and we'll have your paperwork ready for you!



Wondering which seed product might be best for your application? Need some Ioka swag? Contact Cher to get your hands on some informative literature and cool promotional items! 503-873-6498 or email cher@iokamarketing.com

Production Report

By Don Doerfler

2020... what a year so far, certainly one we will all remember for a long time. The first three months of the year seemed fairly normal. Winter maintenance, early fertilizing, oat plantings, and hazelnut pruning were all going along fine.

Then the pandemic hit and it seemed all consuming for a while. What are the new changes? What protocols do we need follow? What supplies do we need to order? While all these things were going on, farming didn't stop. Fields needed to be tended to, equipment needed fixing, and bills had to be paid. Our team stepped up to the plate and made it happen.

We accomplished the spring work and looked forward to the summer months. June presented us with some welcome rains, but it ended up being a little too much. There were some issues with poor pollination and crop lodging. What looked like a "bumper" crop turned into an average one. With face coverings on, harvest went as smooth as it could. We were blessed with a great harvest crew again.

The first of September hit, and as usual we still had field work to do and a lot of field burning to complete. Usually September brings us the weather that would allow good conditions to get burning done, but then the epic 100-year storm hit, the "Fire Storm". Another two weeks of our lives on hold, wondering when it will slow down and when we can get back to work. The fires became more crippling to us than COVID. It was decided amongst fellow growers and the Oregon Department of Agriculture that the field burning program was over for the year, leaving around 6,000 acres of fine fescue unburned



throughout the valley. We were proactive on baling some fields early, but had a lot to go and with short days and rain in the forecast, a lot of poor quality straw was made. Now it is the hope that the straw is used for erosion control in burned out areas of the Santiam Canyon to preserve the land and water quality.

In early November we completed our sixth year of hazelnut harvests. We have yet to see our final clean out reports as of press time, but the nut crop looked good and yields seemed to be respectable. As we look toward the end of the year we can only hope that 2020 is a year the history book doesn't repeat. Some things were lost, some things were gained, with every negative you have to find two positives. You must keep looking forward, not back, remembering what you learned in the past and pushing for the future.

▲ *Harvesting Chewings Fescue on the old Krenz Farm.*



◀ *Ready to plant! Getting the drills out of the shed for fall planting.*

The Doerfler Home

A Preservation of History

The Doerfler Home Restoration 2020

By Bruce Duerst

If you frequent Doerfler road you may have noticed some work being done on the old house near the entrance to Ioka Farms. The original Doerfler home is once again receiving a face-lift. Similar to many older homes, the Doerfler home has been added onto and remodeled several times. Many of these construction events occurred before modern building techniques were adopted, causing many of the problems that are being resolved at this time. In April, my father John decided to move to a retirement community in Mt. Angel, and we started to work on the house. My wife Karen and I will eventually move in when renovation is completed. My son Trevor and his family will be moving into our house.

Our initial inspection for repairs needed were as follows:

1. The entire south side of the house had severe rot in the walls and foundation area.
2. The house had sunk about 3 inches on the south west side.
3. The supporting structures were down in the dirt.
4. The second story was collapsing down into the first story.

The Doerfler home and Ioka Farms production division is situated on the original Donation Land Claim of Samuel Center. Shortly after settlers staked their claims they would generally split up and sell off portions of their land. Samuel Center sold this portion of his property to Elijah Smith in 1859. In 1877 Elijah Smith sold 232 acres to my great, great grandfather Martin Doerfler Sr. for 6,000 dollars. Martin immigrated from Austria in 1867 to Wisconsin with his wife Theresia and sons Wenzel, Joseph, and Martin Jr. While in Wisconsin they had a daughter, Maria. After being in Wisconsin for 10 years, they made their way west and planted their roots here. In 1883 Martin Sr. sold a portion of the farm where the Doerfler home is



Ca. 1892-Mary with children Frank, Anna, and Jake

located to his son Joseph and wife Mary. Another portion was sold to his son Martin Jr. The property sold to Martin Jr. also has a home on it that shares a similar floor plan to the original Doerfler home. This home is currently occupied by Martin seniors great, great granddaughter Teresa Stackpole and her family. Joseph and Mary had seven children, one of them being my grandfather Alexander Doerfler. My great grandmother Mary and aunt lived in the home together for many years after Joseph passed away. Grandmother Mary went to a nursing home in 1955 and the home sat vacant for seven years falling into disrepair. In 1962 my parents moved into the home.

The original portion of the home was built by a local man by the name of Joseph Fettig. It is unclear exactly when the home



Looking at the south porch in about 1912. The man on the right is Joseph Doerfler, and his wife on the left is Mary Kloetsch Doerfler. The Kloetsch family lived in the Fern Ridge area near Sublimity.



The same porch after adding footings and a foundation. The porch was sagging and also needed to be rebuilt.

The Doerfler Home

was built. Our research has lead us to believe the original part was constructed sometime between 1880 and 1883.

There have been several additions to the house. The original structure was a two story rectangle oriented north to south. The house is a bungalow style, with an upstairs sloped ceiling that follows the roof-line. There was a kitchen and bedrooms on the first floor, with two more bedrooms upstairs. On the west side was a front door with a small porch, and a back door out to the east. One of the bedrooms has a small stairway leading to a basement lined with dry stacked rocks. The ground is very rocky around the whole property, so maybe that is why the ceiling is only 5 feet tall. At some time later a thin cement veneer was added over the rocks to simulate a poured foundation.

The next addition was to the east. They expanded the kitchen, and added a dining room and two more bedrooms upstairs. This was a little more modern construction. However, this part still had a foundation of boulders and pinned mortise and tenon joints in the big fir 8x8 sills on top of the boulders.

The next addition only added an additional 12 feet to the east, but made the kitchen and upstairs bigger and added a second stairway to the upstairs. A small indoor bathroom was also added off the kitchen at that time.

In 1962 when my family moved in, my grandfather Alexander paid 500 dollars to do a few repairs. The old wood cook stove was moved out and there remained a small wood trash burner in the kitchen. The main heat source was a Spark oil burning stove in the dining room. Shortly after we moved, the Columbus Day storm hit. The chimney on the west was damaged and a large maple tree just south of the original part fell gently



Original House
(Note two small windows in basement)



Floor joists in old original bedroom. All logs are hand hewn, notched, and set with no nails.



Jacking up second story

onto the roof. At that time Kaufmans fixed the chimney and poured a concrete floor in the basement. After much work, a forced oil furnace was installed in the basement. There was only one duct running upstairs, so it was always cold up there.

The house was built near a good water source. There was a spring that had a concrete cistern with a pump at the bottom. This supplied the house with water until 1968, at which time a well was drilled east of the house by Paul Stadel.

There were several outbuildings at that time. One was a summer kitchen just east of the house, a smoke house to the south, and a small garage further west. An outhouse with its own cement sidewalk led to the south porch. Electricity was added in about 1937.

The final addition to the house was in 1976. My parents had John Pfeifer construction add a family room, office, laundry room, second bathroom, and garage to the east and south. This part of the house was in fairly good condition and had a modern foundation. There was no insulation in the original structure, so my father had some blown in from the outside in the mid 80's.

Of course this home restoration has been a much larger undertaking than any of us anticipated. The original plan was to address a few problems and move in. When dealing with old homes problems arise as you get deeper into the structure of the home. We want to make this 150-year-old home solid for generations to come. We are proud that this home has been in the family so long and we hope that its history can remain a staple of the Victor Point community.



Ioka employee Efrain Hernandez holding a rotten sill board.



Stairs to basement



Ca.1929, after 2 additions

Hay vs Straw

Is it a Hay Ride or a Straw Ride?

By Liz Schaecher

In the land of Pinterest and Etsy, “hay” and “straw” are a synonymous crafting and decor medium. In the land of agriculture, “hay” and “straw” are actually very different.

At first glance, they do seem quite similar. Both begin the same way as a field crop and look dry towards the end; they have about 15% moisture or below at this point. Then they are compressed into various sized bales for the end user. Overall, to the untrained eye they look like a bale of dried plant material.

However, look a little closer and you’ll find two very different products. Straw is the by-product of seed or grain production, and is the stalk of the plant that is left after the seed has been harvested. As the plant matures, the fiber content increases and the protein content decreases. What is left has very little nutritional value, as the plant has spent all of those stores producing the seed, leaving behind essentially a hollow stem.



Alfalfa "Hay" Bale



The bale loader picks up two bales of straw at a time and loads them onto the trailer. Each bale weighs between 1100 and 1300 pounds depending on the crop.



Stacking Perennial Ryegrass straw in the shed.

Primarily, straw is used for animal bedding, but can also be used for feed because of the high fiber content it provides. Much of the straw collected in Oregon is exported to Japan and Korea for dairy and beef cattle feed. Some unique uses of straw include mulch for your garden or when seeding your lawn, stuffing for a mattress, making baskets and hats, fuel source for bio-energy, building material for houses, and decoration for front porches.

Hay on the other hand is grown for the very specific purpose of producing animal feed. Hay is generally grass or legume, or a combination of both. It is cut before the plant switches to seed production in order to maintain maximum protein content and nutritional value. Hay is made of the entire plant, including the leaves, stems, flowers, and sometimes immature seeds. Common types of grass hay include ryegrass, tall fescue, timothy, orchardgrass and bromes, while legume hay typically consists of alfalfa and clover.

So just remember that the biggest difference between hay and straw is that hay is typically harvested before plants produce seed and are just growing leaves, and straw is the low quality stems left behind with little nutritional value.

Part of the intention of this annual publication is to help you get to know the Ioka family better. This segment features two members of "Generation Three" each year.

Madison Stackpole

Madison is the youngest child of Teresa and Mike Stackpole. Madison always finds ways to help her family on the farm in her free time. She has spent many summers helping out around the farm strapping straw trucks, cleaning out barns, running the weed eater, and assisting with various tasks in the office. She has spent countless hours riding along with her grandfather, David Doerfler, going on parts runs, looking at the crops, and learning more about the farm each day. Madison has recently discovered that she shares his love of welding and is working on perfecting her skills! Madison has also proved to be a worthy helper to her father who recently started his own construction business.

Currently a sophomore at Silverton High School, Madison is involved in many activities such as soccer, FFA, and throwing the shot put and discus in track and field. Like many other students, she is hoping to get back to the classroom soon.

Madison just added a new member to her family, a chocolate lab puppy named Cooper.

To follow her passion for designing and solving problems, Madison is considering going into the engineering field. Madison's devotion, dedication, and commitment will take her far in life.



Blake Doerfler

Blake Doerfler is the youngest child of Don and Debbie Doerfler. Blake is currently a freshman at Chemeketa Community College where he is exploring his options for a career in engineering. His goal is to transfer to Oregon State University and either pursue a degree in mechanical or electrical engineering.

Blake graduated from Silverton High School this past year and unfortunately, like all other 2020 High School Seniors his year was cut short due to Covid-19.

Throughout high school Blake excelled at both academics and athletics. He was a member of the National Honors Society, Concert Choir and competed in swimming and track. Javelin was his expertise, and he placed first in districts his sophomore and junior years, fifth and third place respectively at the State event. In swimming, Blake was able to compete all four years as it took place before the COVID shut down. He was the only male member of the Silverton High School swim team in history to go to the State competition for all four years and finish on the podium each time.

In his free time, Blake enjoys snowboarding, hiking, and jet skiing. During the past several summers he drove combine at Ioka and helped out around the farm.





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