

Contact : **Beyond Toxics: Ephraim Payne**,
Development Director: 541-465-8860
Email: epayne@beyondtoxics.org
www.BeyondToxics.org/events



News Release – Nov 13, 2018

An Innovative Evening of Wine and Film

Reception features wine tasting and guest appearance from John Paul, owner of Cameron Wines

EUGENE, ORE. – What does it take to break from the conventions of corporate agriculture and the addiction to toxic petrochemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers? Courage, fortitude and grit, according to a new documentary, ***Break from the Herd***. The film charts the course of three agronomic mavericks, research entomologist Dr. Jonathan Lundgren, third generation farmer Gail Fuller and influential Oregon winemaker John Paul.

Beyond Toxics and Sundance Wine Cellars are bringing the documentary, ***Break from the Herd***, to Eugene on Tuesday, November 27 for a free screening. The evening starts at Sundance Wine Cellars at 5 pm with a pre-screening reception and wine tasting with John Paul, a pioneer of sustainable winemaking and dry-farmed vineyards. Sundance will offer a selection of wines from his Cameron Winery for a \$10 tasting fee, with all proceeds going to Beyond Toxics.

The free film screening begins at 6:30 pm at Roosevelt Middle School with a conversation about food security, pollinator protection and sustainable agriculture. The film's first protagonist, Dr. Lundgren, filed a whistleblower complaint against the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2015 for blocking his research into the dangerous effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on bees and other pollinators. Lundgren spent 11 years as a USDA Agricultural Research Service researcher before leaving to found the Ecdysis Foundation.

Beyond Toxics is working to protect Oregon's pollinators from neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides that decimate bee populations and threaten our state's food supply and those who already struggle to put healthy food on their tables. According to the USDA, one in seven Oregonians faced food insecurity last year, including a highly disproportionate share of minority households. Rising food prices and dwindling supplies of nutritious, culturally appropriate foods will place the burden of pollinator decline excessively onto communities already unfairly impacted by environmental degradation and hunger.

The documentary, produced by Oregon filmmakers Monica Murray and Chris Holmes, turns its lens on three views of our food system: science, soil and water. The film explores the risks its subjects have taken to blaze new trails towards a fruitful, sustainable future for agriculture. Their stories explore standing up for the integrity of scientific research, persisting against all odds to grow healthy soil, and persevering to conserve natural resources.

WHAT: A wine tasting reception, followed by a free screening of the film ***Break from the Herd***

WHERE: Sundance Wine Cellars: 2441 Hilyard St., Eugene, OR 97405 and

Film Screening @ Roosevelt Middle School: 500 E 24th Ave, Eugene, OR 97405

WHEN: Tuesday, November 27, 2018

TIMES: Wine Tasting from 5-6 pm, Film Showing from 6:30-8:30 pm

MORE about [Break from the Herd](#)

Beyond Toxics promotes environmental justice engagement and community-based environmental grassroots organizing to ensure environmental protection and health for all communities.