

Conservation at Heavenly Harvest




Heavenly harvest is a nine year old vegetable farm that is transitioning to certified organic production. Jim and Linda Caulkin's 56 acres wrap around three ponds and a long slough. They are less than a half a mile from the Willamette River. **Mature riparian zones with native shrubs and trees surround each field providing pollen and nectar sources for native pollinators and beneficial insects, as well as shelter and perches for predacious and insectivorous birds and bats.**



The ponds and slough are vital habitat for native frogs and turtles. Jim is starting to restore this diverse habitat. He would like to remove the invasive blackberries and reed canary grass that surround the ponds, and the water hemlock growing within the slough. He plans to plant native grasses, forbs and shrubs to enhance and to stabilize the banks,



Jim is participating in a long-term research project with Oregon State University that has **documented a variety of parasitic wasps parasitizing pestiferous leafroller moths in his cane berries. Each year, populations of these parasitoids are high, as are the number of parasitized leafroller larvae.** Jim is helping researchers develop insectary plantings in cane berry fields that support on-farm populations of parasitoids.

 **Jim and Linda are committed to sustainable practices, reducing their pesticide use, and maintaining the structure and integrity of the diverse habitats on their farm. They are interested in participating in conservation programs that will help them accomplish these goals.**