

Susan Baldwin-1117 SE 53rd St. Portland, OR 97215-susanbaldwin2017@gmail.com -9/17 resume

Peace Corps Volunteer Agriculture Extension Specialist in The Gambia departing October 10, 2017

Summary of Qualifications

50+ years homesteading, small scale farming, parent of three, yogini, community activist
40+ years livestock breeding, food processing, vegetable gardening, farmers market sales
30+ years habitat restoration, landscape maintenance, school garden programs, foster parent
20+ years office administration, wilderness hiker, tree farmer, 4H livestock leader with llamas
10+ years import/export wholesale berry business, inventory, accounting, customer service
Daily farm chores, landscape maintenance, good diet, yoga, weekly 10-mile hikes keep me fit

Experiences

1970s

Moved to rural northern California to homestead 40 acres of recently logged land. Salvaged logs to make lumber with a portable sawmill for our many building projects. Worked with our neighbors to improve the 5 miles of dirt roads which were originally impassable in the rainy season.

Developed water delivery systems from springs and creeks, generated electricity from solar and water, planted orchards & gardens, raised livestock, and preserved the harvest to feed my family.

I gave birth to two children, one at home with a midwife in our unfinished house by kerosene light during a raging winter storm. During my children's pre-school years worked on building our homestead, assisting neighbors with their building projects and sharing child care responsibilities.

I worked developing various community organizations to address our health care, educational and fire protection needs. My personal focus was growing food and volunteering in the schools.

1980s

Elected to the local school board for 12 years. Served as board president, teacher contract negotiator and building committee chair. Hosted five foreign exchange students through Rotary Inc., which introduced us all to cultures from Spain and Chile. Two of my children also studied abroad in Costa Rica and Chile during high school and continue to travel internationally as adults.

Adopted third child through open adoption and have remained in contact with her birthmother. This daughter has special needs which required working with mental health providers to get her the necessary services so she is now able to live independently.

Bred goats for milk production, cheese and meat. Grew produce and flowers and sold the surplus weekly at the local farmer's market. Raised livestock guardian dogs for predator control and family companions. I marketed them with a breed club and shipped them by air throughout the country.

Managed a native steelhead fish hatchery to augment dwindling populations in the local rivers. Participated in habitat restoration projects in partnership with local, state and federal programs to improve our forest and roads for better water quality in our creeks and streams.

1990s

Transitioned from breeding dairy goats to raising llamas. Supported the emerging west coast llama community attending shows, workshops and herd health seminars with my young daughter. We participated in many school and educational events, selling the llamas for pets and breeding.

School garden coordinator growing food for lunch programs & plants for fundraising activities. Worked with students teaching composting and recycling techniques. Grew shiitake mushrooms with native tanoak logs for a co-operative. I had a landscape maintenance and pruning business.

I was a foster parent with short term placements of newborns through high school age children in crisis. Worked with the local county and state agencies to promote continuing education and life skills for displaced teenagers.

Veterinary receptionist and office management trainee from 1994 - 99. This part time position give me the opportunity to learn office skills, so I wouldn't be relying solely on farm income. I was also able to strengthen my animal husbandry skills and promote my livestock sales.

2000 - 2005

Moved to Oregon seeking better employment opportunities for myself. Purchased a small hobby farm close Portland where my son lives. Continued to be active in the llama community while providing mental health services and educational opportunities for my pre-teen daughter.

Multiple employers while settling into my new community. Worked as a medical receptionist, veterinary technician, and office assistant. Supervised disabled adults as a case manager, collaborating with government agencies and group homes to promote independent living skills.

Volunteered as a livestock 4H leader for llama projects, local county fair llama superintendent, and state fair llama course supervisor.

2006 - 2016 Retirement

At the beginning of my employment, Hurst's Berry Farm was becoming a major supplier of fresh local blueberries, blackberries and gooseberries to Pacific Northwest groceries during the summer months. This "mom & pop" operation was growing rapidly and many challenges were being addressed daily.

In 2010 the company became HBF International by partnering with berry growers in Mexico, Central and South America. I was responsible for the import & export documentation, food safety monitoring and inventory controls at multiple locations. The expansion into the global market required developing new strategies to comply with the numerous government regulations that changed on a seasonal basis though out the year.

My working life was an interesting journey beginning with personally growing food for my rural community, and finishing at a company supplying fresh blueberries to international customers.

Currant Activities - Substitute Yoga Teacher

Preparing for departure to The Gambia