

Oregon Department of Agriculture Program Reports
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Food Safety and Animal Health & ID Programs

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• **Food Safety General Update**

- Food Safety program staff are continuing to work to reduce the inspection backlog from the COVID pandemic. Overdue is defined as those inspections that are more than 90 days beyond their due date. The backlog numbers have trended down from a peak of 4,943 in July of 2021, to the current 3,800. We have a new Program Manager joining our food safety team on August 24th. Additionally, we have hired 2 food safety inspectors: one in Klamath Falls and the other in South Portland. We are in the process of hiring two additional inspectors to fill gaps in the mid-Willamette Valley and North Portland. We will be posting an additional manager position late in the fall that will return our program to full staffing levels.

• **Retail and Manufactured Foods**

- Reusable food containers in retail food stores are an issue that is going through a rule making process. We are working with our industry and community partners. After evaluating rule making efforts in other states, we selected the recently implemented rules from the state of Washington as a starting point. In addition, we are using draft guidance from a national committee working on the next version of the FDA model food code.
- Negotiations around the next round of FDA contract work was completed with slight reduction of contract inspections.

• **Dairy Program**

- Milk volumes are increasing, but on average we have been losing 1 dairy farm every month. We are seeing stability on the production side with some small producer/distributors that are focusing on local customers. Dairy farms have been investing in equipment such as Automatic Milking Installations (AMIs) and Rotary Milking Parlors due to limited labor. Dairy processing plants are also investing in new equipment such as more efficient pasteurizers and additional milk storage silos. Oregon State University is building a new, state of the art dairy processing plant to serve as a teaching facility that will educate the next generation of the dairy industry.

We've been approached by the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association (ODFA) to reduce Somatic Cell Counts (SSC) in cows to 400,000/ml. Most of our producers already meet this number and putting it into our rules will help get Oregon's milk and or milk products into export markets and align Oregon with neighboring states of Idaho and Washington. Oregon's current limit for SSC is 500,000/ml. We are planning the change in the fall of this year. In this process, we will increase the SSC for sheep to 750,000/ml. The current SSC for sheep milk in Oregon is 500,000/ml.

Advocates for the legal consumption of raw milk and or milk products continue to present a challenge to the consumption of safe dairy products.

1. There was a Raw Butter Bill that did not make through the legislative process due to industry partners who opposed the bill.
2. We were approached by a herdshare wanting to hand out free 2 oz. samples of raw milk to the public attending farmers markets. Our assessment of rule and statute determined that this was not a legally permissible activity. We have shared our assessment with both the industry, the farmer's market association, and our county environmental health partners.

• **Shellfish Program**

- This year's shellfish and commercial crab season has enjoyed a relatively uninterrupted harvest. The crab season closed 8/15. We continue to work on a new shellfish plat lease proposed in the Tillamook Bay. We are working with our State Agency and Federal partners to determine the viability of using the proposed area for commercial harvesting in the context of environmental health, biological diversity, and public access.

• **State Meat Inspection**

- The State Meat Inspection program (SMI) has received authorization from USDA FSIS and begun the process of engaging firms to come under active inspection. We are anticipating that we will have our first firm come under inspection by the end of August. We have 5 firms that are in various stages of the

application process. We are closely watching the number and type of firms to ensure that our staffing is sufficient to support licensee activity.

With the recent launch of the SMI there was some confusion related to the intent of the program. Primarily, the SMI is complimentary and collaborative with the long-standing USDA meat inspection program that is run by the federal government. Our program is intended to provide an alternative that is focused on smaller-sized firms. Also, the budget for the SMI is separate from the food safety program. Both programs are housed within the same program management area but have separate and distinct funding sources. The SMI does not use any revenue from the food safety licensing fees.

- **Animal Health**

- The program has been very busy monitoring, tracking, and preventing the spread of animal disease this year. The bulk of the work has been around sick bird calls from the public related to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Nationwide the USDA has confirmed detections in 38 states and reports that over 40 million birds have been affected. Oregon has not seen any impact on our commercial industry, which we have attributed to successful biosecurity protocol implementations. We have seen 11 backyard flocks that have been impacted for a total of 1,160 birds affected. We have concerns that the numbers we have seen are just a preview of a much more active fall as that is the traditional time that HPAI becomes more widespread. The spike is anticipated due to the return of migratory birds that have been in close contact in their Northern feeding grounds in Canada.

- **Lab Services**

- The regulatory lab continues to keep up with the testing workload provided by the various ODA programs despite going through some staff turnover. The lab has hiring processes actively looking to bring in a Chemist and Microbiologist, plus two general lab technicians. The lab is also working with the State Meat inspection program and the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) to develop testing protocols to support the industries they regulate.

Market Access & Certification Programs

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- **Agricultural Development & Marketing**

- ADMP accompanied Deputy Director Lauren Henderson to a USDA Agricultural Trade Mission (ATM) in London to explore new opportunities since Brexit. With ODA were members of Oregon's wine and seafood industries.
- ADMP hosted its first inbound mission from Asia since 2019, bringing in five Japanese buyers to meet with 12 Oregon companies.
- ADMP linked parallel missions for Oregon food and Oregon wine at events in Montreal and Toronto to expand exports to Canada. See <https://oda.fyi/Canada2022> for details of the mission.
- ADMP ran a television spot <https://oda.fyi/FMW2022> the week of August 7 to recognize Oregon Farmers Market Week. The spot directs viewers to <https://oregontaste.com>, which is the call to action for a local agriculture promotion that will run through 2022 and into 2023.
- ODA participated in the activities marking the 30th Anniversary of the Oregon-Toyama Sister State relationship.
- USDA awarded ODA a \$104,260 Farm to School Grant to develop a statewide strategy.
- The Commodity Commission Oversight Program (CCOP) and the temporary Hemp Commission have finished rules for the operations of an Oregon Hemp Commission. ODA is recruiting for the first full-term commissioners through August 22.
- ADMP presented on the history of the Oregon dairy industry at the American Cheese Society Annual Conference held in Portland July 20-22.

- **Certification Programs**

- The Certification Program has started audits across the state. Weather has delayed harvest on outdoor growing operations which has delayed audits. The program is training two new lead auditors to assist with auditor evaluations. Auditors are maintained in all Shipping Point Districts across the state. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has increased their auditing fees which mandates the program to increase its hourly rate to \$132 / hour from \$115 / hour.

- **Produce Safety**

- Produce Safety has held multiple listening sessions for growers across the state to gauge perspectives on taking on a regulatory program. The program has partnered with Oregon State University (OSU) to provide multiple commodity-specific outreach events on cleaning and sanitation, wildlife, and common harvest

issues. In addition to this work, the team has completed the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training classes for the season. The team will resume teaching classes with OSU in the fall. Produce Safety is also out on farms across the state offering free technical assistance visits to growers.

- **Plant Health Program**
 - Field inspections are currently ongoing. The Plant Health program will inspect nearly 18,000 acres for over 30 different seed crops destined for export. These crops are grown all over the state and the Plant Health program works collaboratively with the Shipping Point inspection program to ensure that all fields are inspected prior to harvest.
- **Seed Regulatory Program**
 - Rulemaking to update the rules for grass seed price negotiations ([OAR 603-076-0005 to 0016](#)) is nearly complete. A rules advisory committee made up of members chosen to represent the interests of the grass seed industry met five times to discuss the rule change. The goal of the rulemaking is to update and clarify the existing rules to ensure the supervisory process established by the rules is sufficient to prevent antitrust violations and facilitate the negotiation process.
- **Shipping Point Inspection**
 - Labor continues to be a challenge for both the industry and the shipping point program. The limited labor pool as well as constraints put on hiring practices make it difficult for the program to hire in a competitive market.
 - Transportation is also an issue for many commodities, including produce, grass seed, and hay/straw.
 - Crops generally are 10 days to 2 weeks behind normal harvest times. Yields are predicted to be average for most crops.
- **Smoke Management Program:**
 - The program registered 15,503 on-time acres resulting in a 96% allocation (14,885 acres) for the 2022 season.
 - The season began on July 5, 2022. The cool, wet spring has delayed harvest and as of July 18th, no open field burn permits have been issued. We anticipate that all allocated acres will be burned this year.
- **Weights and Measures Program**
 - The program is experiencing relatively high turnover, recently hiring 1 new inspector in Portland with 2 active recruitments for positions in eastern Oregon and opening a new recruitment in Gresham soon. Each new inspector needs to be trained both on rules and regulations, and device testing procedures.
 - The program is pursuing fee increases for the next biennium. We are planning to do a series of 3% license fee increases from 2023 through 2026. In 2025, we are planning to introduce a Legislative Concept (LC) which will increase our statutory fee caps.
 - The program is looking replace 2 heavy capacity trucks and a laboratory mass comparator in the next biennium to replace some aging test equipment.

Natural Resource Programs

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The following updates are organized by operating process in our management system and cover all NRPA programs. In addition to the updates below, one more important activity involves filling a variety of vacant positions in the program area with limited duration and/or permanent staff. This will continue to be a major focus for all programs for the remainder of the biennium and we are excited to be able to bring on these staff.

- **Fostering collaboration**
 - Change and recruitments continue to be a theme for the Agricultural Water Quality Program (AGWQP). We are happy to announce the addition of two new Regional Water Quality Specialists. Olivia Jasper is filling an existing position in the South Willamette Valley and Coast. Nina Andrews will be providing much needed new capacity focused on agricultural water quality issues in the Klamath and Lost River basins. Recruitments and interviews are in various stages of completion for another 6 positions in the AGWQP.
 - The ODA-DEQ Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is currently being reviewed by the Department of Justice and agency directors. This agreement establishes roles and responsibilities for how the two agencies collaborate in meeting state water quality standards and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations and implementation. The MOA will be available for public comment this fall, with the goal of having a new MOA in place by the end of the calendar year.
 - Karin Stutzman (Soil and Water Conservation District Program Lead) is incorporating feedback from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Districts into draft grant documents to make \$650,000 in technical assistance funds available to expand capacity with local partners for work in small watersheds in support of

the Strategic Implementation Area Initiative. The goal is to utilize as much of the funds as feasible before the end of the biennium and adaptively improve this new grant program over time. District program staff also met with the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde to learn more about their native plant nursery and build that relationship.

- The Pesticide Enforcement Program Area continues to work closely with Oregon State University to increase awareness on the school Integrated Pest Management law. In June through August 2022, ODA investigative staff have been presenting at OSU's School IPM Coordinator Training throughout Oregon (Eagle Point, Tualatin, Halfway, Ontario, Turner, Winston, Elmira, Helix and Gresham). Pesticide investigators will also provide another presentation late November at the remaining OSU trainings this year. School IPM Plan Coordinators are required to take six hours of IPM training each year.
- **Permits, Registrations, and Notifications**
 - The Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance (ADCM) Program has now received and posted 3 notices for channel maintenance work and referred a fourth that did not qualify to the Department of State Lands. Staff are currently focused on education and outreach across western Oregon as well as a goal of developing and delivering a technical assistance provider training session this fall with the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District. The goal of the training session is to ensure districts and other local partners have the knowledge and skills to coach landowners through the Notice submission process. Staff are also coordinating a field day with the Tualatin SWCD in September to introduce landowners to the ADCM program.
 - The Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) approved the Poultry CAFO permit for J-S Ranch, a 580,000 bird one time capacity poultry broiler facility in Scio, OR. Additionally, ODA has an incomplete CAFO Permit application from Evergreen Ranch for a 740,000 bird one-time capacity poultry broiler facility. ODA has not Noticed this application or held a public hearing yet as the application is incomplete. Program staff have also been participating as subject matter experts on the Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Recover Committee Poultry CAFO Workgroup. So far there have been two of the five scheduled meetings help and have cover the topics of CAFO permitting authorities and process, Land Use Laws, and Right to Farm.
- **Providing Compliance and Technical Assistance**
 - Cheryl Hummon's (AGWQP staff) work in support of the Willamette Basin Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load process has further advanced drafts of the ODA Implementation Plan and associated 2020 and 2021 reports. The reports will summarize work completed in support of reducing mercury loading, much of it by Districts and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The Department of Environmental Quality is revising multiple TMDLs for other water quality parameters around the state (see "[In Progress TMDL Projects](#)"). The approach being taken by ODA in the Willamette Mercury TMDL provides a template that is proposed to be adapted and rolled out with these new TMDL efforts as part the interagency ODA-DEQ MOA mentioned previously. The AGWQP paused kicking off new Strategic Implementation Areas for the 2022 funding cycle but will restart that process in 2023 when new staff have had more time for onboarding.
 - In the final steps of updating a Pesticide Investigation and Enforcement brochure about the program and its processes to help the public understand the investigation process, timeline, and other related information. Upon completion the brochure will be available in English and Spanish.
 - All Pesticide Program staff are continuing to answer technical questions from the public on licensing requirements, label interpretations, and other pesticide related questions. During Spring and Summer of 2022, Pesticide Program staff developed and worked with ODA's communication team to promote safety around pesticide usage in social media (e.g. Facebook).
- **Conducting Inspections, Investigations & Enforcement**
 - The AGWQP closed the comment period on proposed rulemaking in Water Quality Rule Divisions 90 and 95 on Friday, July 22. Staff will consider and respond to received comments and determine next steps depending on the substance of submissions. Further details about AGWQP compliance and enforcement can be found in the [2021 Compliance Program Report](#) .
 - The Pesticides Program has continued to follow-up on complaints through the summer regarding possible violations of the state's Pesticide Control Act. In addition, the program continues to conduct routine marketplace inspections, record inspections of pesticide applicators and pesticide dealers.
 - The Pesticides Enforcement Program Area continued to make significant progress in reducing its enforcement case backlog (i.e., cases not in the investigation phase, but are in the review/enforcement phase). During the past couple of years program staff prioritized issuing final enforcement actions for violative cases that were initiated in previous fiscal years. For example, during the fiscal years of 2020 and 2021, the program area closed over 250 more cases than it initiated in that time period, demonstrating a large reduction in the backlog.

- The Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) continues to perform inspections of permitted facilities. The program welcomes a new member, Alli Studnick, the positions duties will be split between inspection permit development.
- **Providing Customer Support and Resolving Inquiries**
 - The AGWQP has received a new set of complaints from the Klamath Tribe and is moving them through the compliance process. Also, both the AGWQ and CAFO programs have received and responded to multiple inquiries from the Environmental Protection Agency and the media regarding work completed in support of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area.
 - The Pesticides Enforcement Program Area continued to receive and fulfill several public records requests in a very timely manner. In addition, ODA's Citizen Advocate continued to work closely with citizens concerned about pesticide usage helping answer questions and find other resources to their questions.

Plant Protection & Conservation Programs

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- **Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program (IPPM)**
 - Change in management: Cody Holthouse was hired as the new manager of the IPPM program and will begin on August 15th. Cody holds a Phd in Entomology from the Utah State University. He joined the program in 2020 as the Coordinator of the Portland Field Office. The previous manager, Jake Bodart, left ODA in early May to become the State Plant Health Director with USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Portland office.
 - Emerald ash borer (EAB) was detected by ODA and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) on June 30th in Forest Grove. EAB is an invasive beetle which has decimated ash trees throughout North America and Europe. This is the first known detection of the pest on the West Coast. EAB attacks ash, but also white fringe tree and olives. The immediate response actions have been focused on outreach and education. ODA, along with partners on the state, federal, and local levels - have created a Task Force, from which subcommittees have been created to address the layered issues which need to be addressed. ODA will be implementing a emergency quarantine to prevent movement of ash and other host material from outside the quarantined area. in 2022, ODA received federal funds to begin biocontrol work against EAB in Oregon as a preventative measure. Now that the pest is present in Oregon, ODA is well positioned to begin those efforts as soon as this fall.
 - Program submitted 12 proposals for the FY2023 PPA7721 (Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program). Projects range from biocontrol of emerald ash borer, continuation of funds for the identification lab, and surveys for an array of exotic pests. In particular, the Rail Inspection Program will focus on a under scrutinized pathway of pest introduction focusing on Spotted Lantern Fly.
 - Staff will focus on outreach on EAB, Northern giant Horney, Spotted lantern fly, and other pests of concern.
 - Treatments for the 2022 Japanese beetle survey/eradication season were completed in July. 4,142 acres were treated this year (25.6% fewer acreage than in 2021). Main treatment areas are in Cedar Mills, Oak Hills, Beaverton, Bethany and Hillsboro. There are satellite treatment areas in Central Northeast Portland, PDX, Lake Oswego and Tigard.
 - Mediterranean oak borer has been detected in 5 locations in Oregon since the last report.
- **Noxious Weed Control Program**
 - Tim Butler, long time program manager of the Noxious Weed program will retire from his 40+year tenure at the ODA come end of 2022. ODA will be working on the recruitment for his successor in the following months.
 - The program filled the Integrated Weed Management Specialist position for the southern Willamette Valley on June 1st. Troy Ambercrombie came to the ODA from the Western Invasive Network where he was the Executive Director. He has extensive experience in integrated noxious weed management, working for the U.S. Forest Service, Soil Water Conservation District, and in the private sector as a commercial applicator.
 - Program staff coordinated with grantees and to complete project monitoring in northeast and southeast Oregon. Project monitoring has been behind schedule due to COVID and budget restrictions over the last couple of years. Monitoring is valuable for verifying the completion and efficacy of noxious weed projects. It also allows for increased communication and planning for future projects between ODA staff and our stakeholders.
 - 2022 has been a bad year for tansy ragwort in western Oregon in part due to the wet spring and early summer. During the late 1970's through the mid-80's tansy ragwort was a dominate weed throughout western Oregon. During this time cattle and horse deaths were at \$4.2 million annually. We are observing continued efficacy of the biological controls that ODA established and distributed during that time. The Cinnabar moth and the tansy flea beetle are keeping tansy at lower levels. The tansy sites that do come

back will be under control when the populations of flea beetles build back up in a year or two. An economic analysis that ODA did a few years ago revealed that the success of the tansy biological control program is saving Oregonians an average of \$5 million annually.

- **Nursery and Christmas Tree Program**

- The *Phytophthora ramorum* Program completed spring compliance inspections. An intrastate retail nursery was confirmed positive for *P. ramorum* in June during a routine nursery inspection. An initial Confirmed Nursery Protocol (CNP)/delimitation survey resulted in 10 more positive foliar samples. No additional positives were found during a second delimitation inspection. Nursery A completed plant and soil mitigation. Trace investigation from a confirmed nursery in Linn County have been ongoing. This nursery shipped host material to 40-45 states.
- The boxwood blight cleanliness program has undergone a complete revision. Updates were made to the programs procedures and inspection policies in efforts to harmonize with similar programs across the U.S, streamline program implementation across program participants and bolster education on scouting techniques. ODA presented the program format in a hybrid meeting to boxwood growers at the OAN office in Wilsonville on June 29th. A Boxwood Blight stakeholder meeting is being scheduled in October 2022 and ODA will present the new program.
- In mid-June, ODA nursery staff participated in a boxwood blight field day for training. OSU and USDA pathologists joined staff to review old methods and share new findings on best scouting practices based on findings from working in Oregon boxwood growing operations. Staff will use learned skills to conduct audit inspections.
- One nursery was found to be in violation of their USDA Post Entry Quarantine permit, which requires them to hold plant material for 2 years prior to sale. This allows inspectors time to observe and report any invasive insects or pathogens. The nursery sold over 200 maple nursery stock imported from New Zealand to 14 states without approval. USDA and ODA are working to communicate with receiving states about the violation and review the permit status of the Oregon nursery.
- European Pine Shoot Moth (EPSM) trapping for 2022 is complete. This trapping is performed at nurseries looking to ship pine nursery stock to states with EPSM quarantines (i.e. California).

- **Hemp Program**

- Change in management: Alan Hanson was hired as the new manager of the Hemp program and started July 1st. Alan joined ODA in January 2022, as the Oregon Disaster Assistance Program (ODAP) manager. Previously an attorney, he worked as legal counsel for MAPS Credit Union. Additionally, he was an independent consultant specializing in the needs of hemp growers in banking and lending. Mike Odenthal stepped down from the manager position, retiring after 15 years with ODA. Mike spent the majority of his ODA career working in pesticide enforcement, transferring to Hemp in 2021.
- The program has hired several new staff, including case reviewers and inspectors.
- Starting in July, the program began conducting inspections for pre-harvest testing of growers to meet requirements of HB3000. Work began in the northern Willamette Valley and is working downward to southern Oregon and then heading eastward. The goal is to inspect 150-200 operations.
- To date 920 licenses have been approved: 270 growers, 8 research grower, 287 grow sites (growers and research sites combined), 299 handler and 29 seed licenses. 142 licenses are pending review and approval.

- **Oregon Invasive Species Council**

- Rick Boatner has been named again as Chair since the recent chair stepped down from their position in late June.
- ODA and OISC completed their drafting of the MOU, which will clearly define ODA's role as the fiscal agency for OISC. All key components of the MOU have been approved by both parties and DOJ is working to create the finalized document for signatures.
- The council continues to develop an online information hub: a searchable tool to compile available information for aggressive non-native species that pose a threat to Oregon's environment, economy, or public health. The project is still under development, and they have opened it up as a beta version to gain user feedback.
- The OISC held their first in-person meeting since before the pandemic, in mid-June in Coos Bay. The draft MOU was presented to council members.

- **Native Plant Conservation Program**

- In the upcoming quarter, staff will begin reviewing and updating the state's list of threatened and endangered plant species. They have already begun gathering data and resources over the past six months and will now begin working to update the list in earnest starting August 2022. List changes are expected to begin in the fall.
- From late spring to summer 2022, staff have been all over the state to monitor the status of various projects:

- Gentner's fritillary (*Fritillaria gentneri*) in Josephine and Jackson counties. This iconic native plant is beloved by locals and is under threat due to development and climate change. Our monitoring and expansion of this native plant is integral to our goal to delist this imperiled species. Time: 4 weeks
- Macfarlane's four-o'clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*) on the Imnaha and Snake rivers in northeast Oregon with our partners the US Forest Service. Data collected on this trip will inform a series of habitat management plans whose goal is to stabilize existing populations and ultimately delist the species. Time: 2 weeks.
- Ongoing research exploring best practices for the propagation of smooth blazingstar (*Mentzelia mollis*) and Owyhee clover (*Trifolium owyheense*), two endangered plant species native to Malheur County in far eastern Oregon. Results from this research will help stakeholders and managers augment existing populations, which will assist in our goal to delist these two species.
- Applegate's milkvetch (*Astragalus applegatei*) in Klamath Falls, OR. Applegate's milkvetch is possibly the rarest plant in the state of Oregon, with most of the remaining plants existing at the Klamath Falls-Crater Lake Airport. In future years, we plan to work with local and regional partners on population expansion and developing best management practices. Time: 3 weeks
- Sporadic collection of additional threatened and endangered plant seeds throughout the state. The seeds we collect are used to augment existing populations, perform herbicide application research for the benefit of agency land managers, or go to regional and national seed banks as a backstop protection from extinction.

Administration/Special Projects

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- **Willamette Valley Protected District for Canola**

- ODA received six (6) applications for 12 fields. ODA permitted all 500 acres in the district. The statute establishing the Willamette Valley Protected District and limitation on 500 acres of canola in the district sunsets on July 1, 2023. Contact: Sunny Summers

- **Volunteer Cannabis Rules**

- Rules are out for public comment. They address volunteer cannabis plants from previous legal grows (either hemp or marijuana) either in fields or field edges through ODA's plant pest and disease control authority. Illegal plants are not part of these rules and are still subject to law enforcement. Contact: Sunny Summers

- **Oregon Disaster Assistance Program (ODAP)**

- The ODAP program has completed two rounds of applications and is now closed. The initial round of applications closed on June 3, 2022, and the participating lending institutions reported 244 loans were issued during the first-round totaling \$16,286,420. A second round of applications closed on July 19, 2022. The second round added an additional 31 loans and distribution of approximately \$3.2 million. A final report for the ODAP program will be prepared to provide overall results of the disaster assistance funding. Contact: Jonathan Sandau

(ODAP Background)

On December 13, 2021, the Oregon Legislature approved SB 892, which established the framework for a unique disaster assistance program for Oregon's farmers and ranchers recovering from natural disasters in 2021. The program is structured as a forgivable loan to provide state level assistance to fill gaps in federal disaster programs or act as bridge loan until Oregon's producers can receive certain USDA FSA disaster assistance.

Oregon's farmers and ranchers experienced impacts from compounding natural disasters in 2021 that brought historical levels drought, record setting heat, wildfires and smoke, ice and winter storms, and other residual effects of the disasters. Oregon Governor Kate Brown and USDA Sec. Tom Vilsack toured Marionberry farm and hosted a roundtable with producers around the state to discuss the impacts across Oregon's agricultural communities.

The Oregon Disaster Assistance Program (ODAP) calculates assistance for eligible farmers and ranchers in Oregon on loss Gross Farm Income. ODAP is based on tax filing from 2017, 2018, and 2019 to establish a three-year baseline of what a producer could have reasonably expected in farm income without disaster impacts. Using producers 2021 Gross Farm Income, the difference between 2021 income and the three-year baseline is considered loss due to natural disasters.