

Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

	1999-2001 Actuals	2001-03 Legislatively Adopted at Close of Session	2001-03 Legislatively Approved through Fifth Special Session	2003-05 Governor's Balanced
General Fund	\$23,839,684	\$22,205,425	\$17,882,719	\$20,623,902
Lottery Funds	3,754,646	6,858,105	7,522,512	7,060,152
Other Funds	36,024,863	42,540,763	46,613,808	51,776,944
Federal Funds	2,890,631	3,772,363	7,585,136	5,089,884
Other Funds (Nonlimited)	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds (Nonlimited)	0	0	0	0
Total Funds	\$66,509,824	\$75,376,656	\$79,604,175	\$84,550,882
Positions	803	744	705	713
Full-time Equivalent	423.20	432.88	423.00	432.41

Overview

The Department of Agriculture ensures food safety and protects consumers. It also protects natural resources and promotes agriculture. The Department's budget includes five program areas.

- The Administration and Support program manages finances, develops and maintains the Department's computer system, and manages personnel, purchasing, buildings, and automobiles.
- The Food Safety program protects the food supply, keeps livestock healthy, and ensures measurement device accuracy. It also maintains fertilizer and pesticide standards. This is done through laboratory testing of food, animal feeds, and other items. Employees inspect food processing plants, grocery stores, and in-store delis. Staff also record livestock brands to help identify and deter theft of animals.
- The Natural Resources program conserves, protects, and develops natural resources. The program includes efforts to control and exclude foreign pests and plant diseases. Employees inspect and certify nursery stock, Christmas trees, and seed crops. The program controls the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Under the Oregon Plan, the program helps to restore salmon/steelhead runs and watersheds.
- Agricultural Development and Marketing program staff work with Oregon producers to increase sales in the United States and abroad. Commodity inspectors grade seeds and produce for quality.
- Special Programs include the Wine Advisory Board, farm mediation, and other programs.

Balanced Budget

The balanced budget of \$84.6 total funds is a 62 percent increase from the 2001-03 Legislatively Approved Budget through the Fifth Special Session. The increase is primarily due to the agency's ability to maximize non-General Fund resources to support programs. The budget restores \$2.4 million General Fund for the Oregon Plan

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that was shifted to Other Funds and Lottery Funds. House Bill 5575 (2002 Third Special Session), made this one-time shift to free up General Fund for other statewide needs.

Increases in Other Funds and Federal Funds expenditures support additional food safety, nursery, seed, and Confined Animal Feeding Operation inspections. The budget adds positions for the Oregon Advantage Program. This program audits and certifies that agricultural products meet certain guidelines for production, handling, and genetic identification. Also included are increases for Sudden Oak Death Eradication and fertilizer research and development grants. The overall decrease in Federal Funds is primarily due to the phase-out of \$3.7 million Federal Funds for specialty crop grants.

The budget continues \$3.2 million Lottery Funds in support to county fairs. Lottery Funds for Oregon Plan expenditures decreased due to the restoration of General Fund for the program.

The balanced budget reduces General Fund support for laboratory, water conservation, marketing, and package product inspection activities. It eliminates agency support for the Pesticide Analytical Response Center. The Center is a multi-agency program that responds to pesticide poisoning incidents. Also discontinued is participation in the federal Predator Control program.

Revenue

General Fund, Lottery Funds, Other Funds, and Federal Funds support the Department. General Fund comprises 24 percent of the balanced budget. Lottery Funds, at 8 percent, support Oregon Plan activities and county fairs. Other Funds is the largest revenue component, supplying 62 percent of the agency's income. Sources include fees for licenses, registrations, inspections, certifications, and reimbursements under federal service contracts. The balanced budget includes fee increases for pesticide registration, livestock brand recording, nursery inspection, and product certification. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies provide the remaining 6 percent of agency revenue.