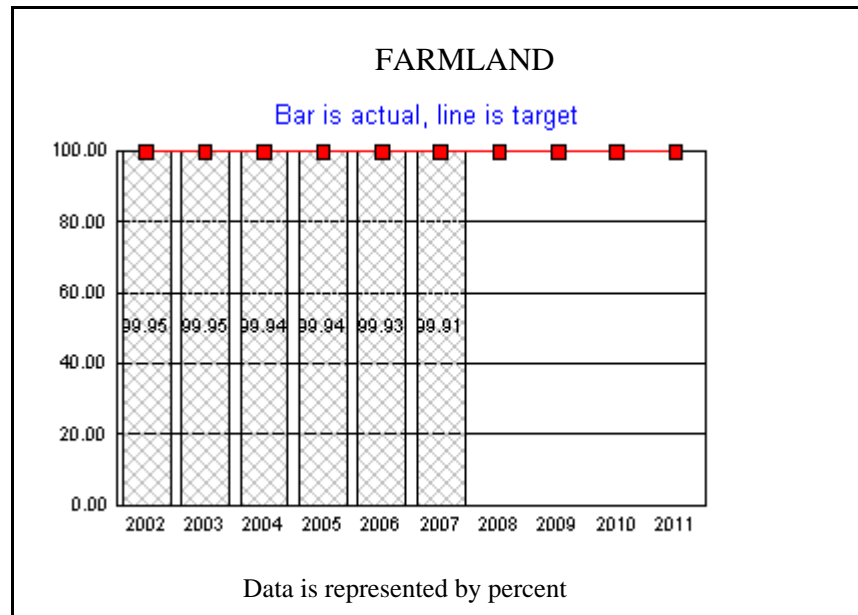


<b>KPM #10</b>	FARM LAND – Percent of farm land outside urban growth boundaries zoned for exclusive farm use in 1987 that retains that zoning.	2002
<b>Goal</b>	Secure Oregon’s Legacy.	
<b>Oregon Context</b>	OBM 4: Job Growth, OBM 81: Agricultural Lands	
<b>Data Source</b>	DLCD’s rural lands GIS database, plan amendment, and farm/forest databases.	
<b>Owner</b>	Rob Hallyburton, 503-373-0050 ext 239	



**1. OUR STRATEGY**

Statewide Planning Goal 3 is intended to preserve agricultural land for commercial farm use, consistent with legislative policies in ORS 215.243 and 215.700. DLCD seeks to achieve this goal through acknowledgment of local comprehensive land use plans and exclusive farm use zoning.

This Key Performance Measure tracks the percentage of agricultural land outside UGBs that remains zoned exclusive farm use (EFU) over time as compared to the acreage zoned EFU in 1987. The less farmland rezoned for rural development relative to the total amount zoned EFU in 1987, the greater the indication that local plans and ordinances are working to protect farmland for commercial agriculture.

## 2. ABOUT THE TARGETS

The targets developed here acknowledge that while the land use program is intended to protect agricultural land from conversion to other uses, there nevertheless will be a small amount of land rezoned for urban and rural development as cities grow and where rural exceptions to farm protections can be justified under certain circumstances. This factor is built into the target, which provides for a small amount of yearly rezoning of agricultural land.

## 3. HOW WE ARE DOING

The results for 2007 show that the State's land use program continues to work well to maintain agricultural lands for commercial farm use, although the level of rezonings from EFU to other rural uses is somewhat higher and slightly off-target for 2007. From a base of 16.1 million acres of EFU-zoned land in 1987, a total of 14,859 acres have been rezoned to other urban and rural uses in the 20-year period through 2007. About 22% of this rezoning activity, or 3,253 acres, occurred in 2007. About one-third of this acreage was rezoned to forest or farm-forest use, and thus continues to be used for resource industry.

## 4. HOW WE COMPARE

To our knowledge, there are no public or private standards for farmland zoning to compare with Oregon's land use program. However, there is indirect evidence of the effectiveness of Oregon's extensive EFU zoning. The most recent US Census of Agriculture figures show that Oregon is holding onto its large and mid-sized farms at a higher rate than the rest of the nation. Between 1978 and 2002, the rate of loss of large (500+ acres) farms in Oregon was less than half the rate for the nation, while the rate of loss of mid-sized farms (50-499 acres) was almost four times lower than for the nation as a whole.

## 5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS

Rezoning of farmland occurs through local government decisions in response to applications to change EFU zoning or expansion of urban growth boundaries. The approval of such applications is generally not influenced by the Department, but is restrained by LCDC goals, rules and State land

use statutes. While this performance measure provides a good overall assessment of the longevity of EFU zoning over time, the modest amount of land rezoned out of EFU compared to the very large base of current EFU zoning is so small as to be insignificant on the Farmland graphic. This measure offers only a partial assessment of Goal 3 as it does not track the cumulative impact of EFU rezonings over time, nor does it distinguish between high- and non-high value farmlands rezoned, nor does it measure the type or level of development and land division activity that occurs within EFU zones, including that projected to occur through Measure 49 claims (development of farm land under measures 37 and 49 does not require a rezoning of land, and therefore is not tracked by this measure). Finally, the data do not reflect downgrading within EFU zoning categories, such as EFU-80 to EFU-40.

#### **6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE**

Continue current efforts toward meeting the target, but consider refining the performance measure or adding new measures to allow more detailed evaluation of Goal 3 farmland protections and for the effects of Measure 49.

#### **7. ABOUT THE DATA**

The data come from information submitted by local governments to the Department for each calendar year, as required by ORS 197.065 and 197.610. Local governments have the opportunity to review and respond to draft compiled data in the annual Farm Report before it is finalized.