

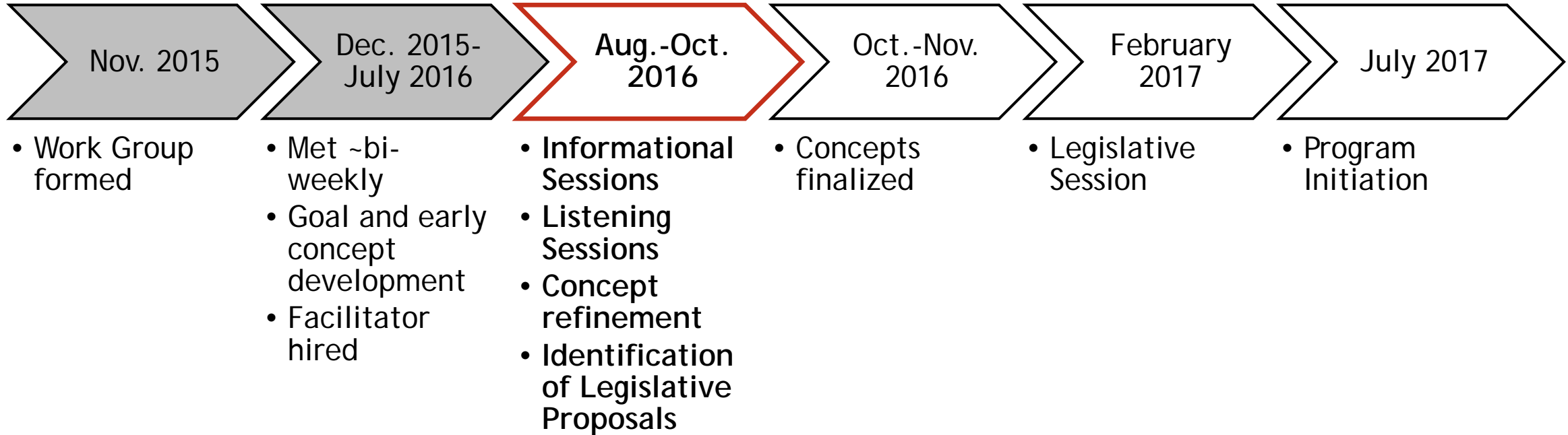
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# Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

# Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Work Group Members

<b>Agency / Representing</b>	<b>Primary Contact</b>
Office of Governor Kate Brown	Lauri Aunan
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts	Mike Running
Oregon Assoc. of Conservation Districts	Jay Udelhoven
Oregon Cattlemen's Association	Jerome Rosa
Oregon Farm Bureau	Mary Anne Nash
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Meta Loftsgaarden
Sustainable Northwest	Dylan Kruse
The Nature Conservancy	Amanda Rich
Farmer	Doug Krahmer
Rancher	John O'Keefe

# Timeline



# Work Group Focus

Develop voluntary tools to keep lands in farming and ranching to support:

- ▶ Oregon's economy;
- ▶ healthy rural communities; and
- ▶ healthy fish and wildlife and other natural resources.

# Why Focus on Working Lands?

- ▶ State's second-largest *economic* driver - \$5.4 billion
- ▶ Agricultural lands support valuable *fish and wildlife habitat* and enhance other *natural resources*
- ▶ Cornerstone of state's *rural communities*
- ▶ State's land use *laws are not enough* to protect farms and ranches from fragmentation

# Goals

- ▶ Incentives to keep farms and ranches in production.
- ▶ Incentives to support fish, wildlife or other natural resource values.
- ▶ Flexible approaches that are tailored to individual landowners.
- ▶ Balance landowner and conservation needs.
- ▶ Leverage federal money, mostly untapped in Oregon.

# Issues to be Addressed

## 1. Loss of working farms and ranches

- ▶ Development
- ▶ Conversion to other uses
- ▶ Transfer of ownership outside local communities

## 2. Lack of succession planning for family-owned farms and ranches

- ▶ Expensive to undertake
- ▶ Need for outside expertise
- ▶ Lack of access to resources

# Why do these issues matter?

1. *Loss of local food sources*
2. *Loss of lands* that support the state's second-largest economic driver
3. *Loss of important fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource values*
4. *Health of rural communities*



# Early Solution Concepts

*Keep land permanently in agriculture and maintain or improve fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource values*

1. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for a variety of grant programs
2. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to oversee investments
3. Voluntary Tools:
  - ▶ Grants for working lands conservation easements and agreements
  - ▶ Grants for technical assistance for those holding easements and agreements
  - ▶ Grants for succession planning
4. Opportunities for regulatory protections
5. Study tax-related and other financial barriers to farm and ranch land transfer

# Next Steps

1. Continued Conversations
2. Information and Listening Sessions
  - ▶ August 8 - Oregon Coast Economic Summit
  - ▶ Fall Listening Sessions across Oregon
3. Development of Legislative Concepts

# Facilitated Feedback

# Additional Feedback

Email [akilberg@kearnswest.com](mailto:akilberg@kearnswest.com) by close of business Friday, August 5