

**From:** [Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board](#)  
**To:** [BETTINARDI Nicole \\* OWEB](#)  
**Subject:** Courtesy Copy: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Grant Offering – Working Land Conservation Covenants and Easements  
**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2024 7:53:11 AM

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**This is a courtesy copy of an email bulletin sent by Nicole Bettinardi.**

**This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:**

Subscribers of OWEB Board and Rulemaking Notices, OWEB Staff, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, Statewide Grant Program, or Watershed Council Capacity Grants (8285 recipients)

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The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is now accepting applications for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Working Land Conservation Covenant & Easements grant offering. The grant cycle **deadline is 5 p.m. on June 29, 2024.**

OAHP Staff will host a virtual informational webinar about the 2024 solicitation on May 16th from 3-4 p.m. Potential applicants are invited to attend through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming/Recording:** [www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWLt4Sp--i1KEa\\_OA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWLt4Sp--i1KEa_OA). There may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number: 839 5261 9086 and passcode: 769121
- **Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83952619086?pwd=NVMvU3FFbHh6b3JtVk5YWfo2akg5dz09>

[Visit the OAHP web page](#) for additional information and an overview of the grant program. These grants are supported by General Funds from the Oregon Legislature and available Statewide.

**Who can Apply?** Entities eligible to hold a conservation easement as defined in ORS 271.715, other than a state agency.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Proposed projects for both grant offerings must take place on lands that are actively used by an agricultural owner or operator for an agricultural operation that includes, but need not be limited to, active engagement in farming or ranching.

**Actions Eligible for Funding Working Land Conservation Covenants and Easements:**

1. The purchase price and the purchase option fees associated with the working land conservation covenant or easement;
2. The interest on bridge loans needed to secure closure on the property prior to when funding will be available for distribution through the program;
3. The staff costs incurred as part of the covenant or easement acquisition process related to the property;
4. The cost of due diligence activities, including appraisal, environmental site assessment, survey, title review, and other customary due diligence activities;
5. The cost of baseline inventory preparation;
6. The legal fees incurred;
7. The closing fees, including recording and title insurance costs;

8. The cost of securing and maintaining the agriculture and conservation values associated with the property in accordance with the application or a conservation management plan approved by the Director; and

9. Up to 50% match for the value of a stewardship fund, but program funds contributed to a stewardship fund may not exceed 5% of the total appraised value of the covenant or easement.

**Application Guidance:** Please review the [Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program web page](#) for detailed application guidance. The documents available outline important information about the grant programs' structure and provide guidance to potential applicants that will help determine if proposed projects are appropriate for the OAHP Grant Programs.

**Questions?** If you have questions about applying to OWEB's Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program grant offering contact OAHP Easement Specialist, Robin Meacher at 971.301.1578, [robin.m.meacher@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:robin.m.meacher@oweb.oregon.gov) or OAHP Coordinator, Taylor Larson at 971.701.3248, [taylor.larson@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:taylor.larson@oweb.oregon.gov).



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