Director Taylor: 365 days, 36 counties

By Bruce Pokarney

Taylor achieved her goal of stepping foot in each Oregon county within her first year—talking, listening, observing, and learning as well as appreciating the people and places that are woven into the fabric of Oregon agriculture.

"President Eisenhower has a quote that is framed in my office," says Taylor. "It reads, 'Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you are a thousand miles away from a corn field.' This was my opportunity to not be a thousand miles from a corn field, or a cattle ranch, or a pear orchard, or any number of the diverse types of farm and ranch operations we have in Oregon." Even before taking the job as ODA Director, Taylor was aware of Oregon's diversity. But she wanted to see it first hand and make connections with the people who are farming and ranching in communities spread across the state. She wanted to learn about the challenges and opportunities they face. She wanted to see how a state government agency can help. There was great value in leaving Salem from time to time and meet folks on their own turf.

"Being new to the department and to the role of director, I knew not everyone was going to travel to Salem to meet me, nor should they," says Taylor. "This was my opportunity to learn from farmers and ranchers and build a resource that I can call upon as issues arise—have those real-life connections I can rely on when there are questions. I want them to know I will be that advocate for them here in Salem."

And so, within days of her official arrival to Oregon, Director Taylor set out to take a year-long tour of the state's agriculture—one county at a time.

From east to west, north to south

Touring Willamette Valley counties did not create a time or logistics challenge. Taylor was easily able to periodically visit people and places within an hour's drive of the State Capitol. Those planned meetings more distant would come later in the year when Oregon warmed up along with farming activity. But mother nature and crisis prompted the first official county visit—to Malheur in February 2017, where winter storms produced incredible damage. More than 100 agricultural buildings collapsed due to more than 40 inches of heavy snow, including onion storages and packing sheds. Damage was estimated at more than $100 million and about 80 million pounds of onions lost.

Director Taylor joined Governor Brown on a tour of the damage. Onion grower Paul Skeen of Nyssa was among those grateful for the visit. "The Director had just started on the job, and came over and showed she cared," says Skeen. "We took her and the Governor around by..."
There is also diversity in who is growing our food and fiber. Nearly 40 percent of Oregon’s farmers and ranchers are women—one of the highest percentages in the country. We also have a lot of regional diversity of what grows where in Oregon, which is significant because it represents a diversity of successful operations. That helps keep the industry resilient. Big or small, organic or conventional or biotech, growing for local, domestic, or export markets, Oregon is hope to all types of agriculture.

Oregon agriculture is thriving. Agriculture is the second largest industry in the state and a real backbone to Oregon’s economy. It is farming, ranching, and fishing, but it’s also a lot of food manufacturing as well. The largest food manufacturing county in the state is Multnomah, which goes to show that agriculture thrives even in the most urban of our counties. People living in the metro areas are also linked to agriculture even its jobs. Production and sale of Oregon agriculture is more than $5 billion. Value-added processing contributes another $2 billion in additional revenue to the state’s economy. It’s estimated that about 15 percent of Oregon’s gross state product—nearly $29 billion in economic activity—is connected to agriculture. The industry also supports more than 260,000 jobs. At least one of every eight Oregonians is employed in an occupation related to agriculture.

Oregon agriculture is authentic. One of the attributes we are known for in Oregon, in other states, and around the world is that our farmers and ranchers produce high-quality, safe food and agricultural products that consumers demand. Sometimes we take that for granted because all this bounty is in our backyard. But I can tell you, as I travel people are excited about Oregon products. They know Oregon products are consistently high quality. That authenticity is on display locally at farmer’s markets, CSAs, grocery stores, and restaurants. Consumers can many times meet the people who grow the food. Oregon quality products head to other states as well and make their way to international markets that often pay a high premium for Oregon products.

Oregon agriculture is universal. The one great thing about agriculture is that everyone eats. Nothing is more personal than food and nothing is more universal than food. It’s what we provide to ourselves and our families. Since we all, we all make the most of our day with the ability to support local agriculture. All Oregonians want safe, abundant, and affordable food. Oregon agriculture is able to provide those products. It’s all about the farmers, ranchers, and fishers share the values of all Oregonians in sustaining natural resources by taking care of the land, air, and water. Oregon agriculture is both urban and rural—making it universal throughout the state.

Oregon agriculture is innovative. The use of new technologies and the interest in trying new things is really exciting. We see it on dairy farms using robots to milk. We see it with precision agriculture or the use of drones in farming. Oregon is on the cutting edge of some of these new technologies. There is also innovation in the food sector in developing craft beers and cider, and the willingness to try planting crops that may be new to Oregon.

Oregon agriculture is celebratory. One year a week, we like to amplify and highlight agriculture by really push the message about all the contributions it brings to the state. But really, Oregonians can push that message all throughout the year with their pocketbook. I like to say, if you like to eat, thank a farmer. Share the Oregon agricultural experience. Go to a U-pick farm this summer. Plant your own garden. Prepare a great tasting meal featuring Oregon products. There are so many options to celebrate Oregon agriculture this coming week and for the rest of 2018. •

Bryan Harper, a hazelnut grower from Junction City, is just in his second year as a board member, and recalls what it was like a year ago when the experience of meeting with legislators was new to him. “I thought they were all positive visits,” says Harper. “I was more comfortable this year and knew ahead of time what to talk about. I think it’s helpful for us to be communicating with legislators about what’s important to us, what we’ve been seeing in the industry the past 12 months since we last visited. It’s also good to look ahead. We didn’t bring up any current crises, but wanted to lead the conversation about what’s ahead and helping to plant that seed.”

Having a chance to visit with legislators face-to-face is always one of the most important agenda items for the Board of Agriculture meeting held in Salem. •
Director Taylor visits a seed cleaning plant and school district officials, included an unexpected stop in Oregon’s highest unemployment county, but have also provided jobs on partners and funds for projects. Now is ranked near the top, bringing Watershed Council. Over a decade forage and cover crop tour and a District annual dinner. But in Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation for the riparian zone restoration project, and purpose of our weed control work, " says Porter. Although Alexis was not familiar into understanding the basics. The questions she asked were absolutely relevant. It was very apparent she was intent on gaining a better understanding. I sincerely appreciated that important interest in the dry climate of eastern Oregon." While in the Columbia Basin, Director Taylor went from land to water. A boat trip into the Columbia River with the US Army Corps of Engineers and Mark Porter of ODA’s Noxious Weed Control Program focused on a potentially serious invasive aquatic weed—flowering rush. "Having Alexis out here was great so she could get an idea of the scope, scale, and purpose of our weed control work," says Porter. Late June took ODA’s director to Wasco County to look at local conservation projects, weed management, and irrigation technology. In July, Taylor traveled to the Oregon coast to learn more about the seafood industry in Clatsop County. In August, amid fields of golden wheat the tour centered on north central and northeast Oregon counties. In Sherman County, Taylor saw the interface between dryland wheat production and wind farms. During that week in mid-August, Taylor saw six counties in six days—Shelton, Gilliam, Board of Agriculture member Sharon Livingston gave Director Taylor a tour of her ranch. The director actually came to Long Creek, says Livingston. "Too much time is spent in offices and meetings, and not enough actually on the land. Alexis changed that. I am very appreciative that Director Taylor made the personal acquaintance of several people in our county and especially in my hometown. A week later in August, Taylor returned to eastern Oregon for a tour of Harney County, talking with ranchers about wildlife and water issues, and speaking at an event organized by the county farm bureau and cattlewomen. In September, stops included Hood River County, where the director walked through pear orchards and learned about onsite housing for laborers. She also saw innovation at Diamond Fruit Growers as optical scanners sized and sorted fruit for packing. Also, the Board of Agriculture convened in Klamath Falls—a meeting that included tours and the director. In October, as grapes were harvested, Director Taylor met with Pat Dudley of Bethel Heights Vineyard in Polk County. "We assumed Alexis was mainly coming out to get acquainted with the wine industry in our area," says Dudley. "It turned out she was also interested in hearing about what we considered important issues for agriculture, which we appreciated." Among those issues was the Willamette Valley Oak Accord and the importance of engaging private landowners in oak habitat preservation for landscape stability in the face of climate change. Also, in October, Taylor spent time on the south coast in Coos and Curry counties—the perfect time to visit cranberry farms. "I found the most valuable part of Director Taylor’s visit was the opportunity to gain a real sense of what agriculture is in this area while demonstrating to those of us in ag that she has an interest in all regions of the state," says cranberry grower Scott McKenzie. "At times, a visit from a state official at the director level is about photos and press releases. There was none of that with her. She came to the south coast to listen and learn."
Raising a toast to Oregon-Japan collabo brews

The latest thing brewing between Oregon and its largest agricultural trade partner, Japan, is a collaboration that centers around craft brewing. Oregon has the expertise and reputation, Japan has the interest and some exciting, new ingredients. This mixture of cultures and flavors will culminate this spring with a special "collabo" beer and cider festival in Portland that craft beverage lovers can enjoy.

"Portland is very popular in Japan and our Japan Craft Beer Festival is one of the biggest out there," says Theresa Yoshioka, one of the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s trade development managers.

Oregon is known worldwide as the leader in craft beer and it’s also getting a reputation as a leader in our craft ciders. With that recognition, Japanese brewers are coming to our state to learn. They want to be inspired. They are connecting with our brewers and enjoying our beer.

Craft beer is becoming very popular and trendy in Japan. There are some domestic brands, but the Japanese also enjoy several Oregon craft beers that do well overseas.

Many beer aficionados know that Oregon, with more than 230 companies, leads all states in the number of craft breweries. Oregon also is number one in consumption of craft beer per capita. So, a visit by Japanese brewers to the mecca of craft brewing is something everyone looks forward to.

"I'm not an expert in the history of Japanese culture, but it seems to me that Japan has always been somewhat of a dichotomy of rigid social structure with an underlying love for art, music, food, and expressing oneself," says Tomas Sluiter, owner of Culmination Brewing of Portland, who has been at the forefront of cross-cultural collaboration. "Recently, the younger generations of Japan are feeling more able to embrace the free and cultural side of that dichotomy and admire Portland for the wildly independent creative hub it has evolved into."

Presently, there may be a travel imbalance with more Japanese breweries coming to Oregon than the other way around, but Sluiter is one of those who has frequently trekked to Japan to capture some of the unique ingredients that characterize a "shoaru" beer.

"We created a beer with Ise Kadoya Microbrewery. They shipped us a very specific yeast that is proprietary to them. It was isolated from a tree in the Shinto shrine garden in Ise. We propped it up in a local yeast lab here and brewed a type of witbier with fresh, California-grown yuzu fruit. We call it Amaterasu after the goddess worshipped in the Shinto religion. That beer turned out fantastic, and we had it released both in Oregon and Japan."

Another Culmination collaboration was "Kara Sakura," a unique beer for the Japanese consumer. Rose hips and Oregon cherries were added to a kettle sour base. Other collabo brews have been developed in collaboration with other local microbreweries—some of those beers have been one-and-done, others have gone into wider production.

On Saturday, April 21 at Culmination Brewing in Portland, craft beer lovers will have a chance to enjoy the Fuji to Hood Collabo Beer and Cider Festival. This one-of-a-kind event brings together 11 teams of brewers from both Japan and Oregon. Each team will make a beer or cider that must contain at least one Japanese-type ingredient. Examples include red shiso leaf, shiitake mushroom powder, Japanese citrus fruits, wild Japanese yeast, and Japanese flowers. Two of the Japanese brewers are female, which is extremely rare in Japan. Sushi and ramen will be paired with the unique collabo beers. The purchase of a ticket allows festival attendees to get a taste of all 11 special blends with an opportunity to try back and even more of their favorite. It’s not a competition, but a celebration of collaboration.

"It’s our hope to continue hosting the Fuji to Hood in future years with the possibility of having a similar festival in Japan," says event coordinator Red Gillen, a Portlander with strong ties to Japan and a passion for bringing people together. He believes Oregonians should be excited about these types of activities.

"First of all, the beer is going to be awesome and unique. None of the beers have ever been made before and may only be made this one time by the teams of expert brewers. Secondly, collaboration creates deeper bonds between Oregon and Japan."

A strong contingent of Japanese brewers, writers, and beer drinkers are expected to come to Oregon. They have in the past. Some tour different breweries. If they come at the right time of the year, they can visit one of Oregon’s hop fields that produces a growing number or aroma hops desired by local craft brewers. ODA is often involved in showcasing not only Oregon’s hops, but other high quality and flavorful food and beverage ingredients that interest Japan.

"This collabo brew effort could be a vehicle for other Oregon products," says ODA’s Yoshioka. "We have excellent fruit—adding a fruit flavor to beer continues to be a trend. We also have some craft malters. The melting takes place right on the farm where the barley is grown."

For those involved in the April event, the exciting question is, where does it go next? The collabo brew gathering could lead to beers and ciders Oregonians can purchase in stores. The future is wide open. Whatever happens, craft brewers like Sluiter are enthralled by the possibilities.

"The chance to become friends with people from other cultures and to appreciate their language, food, drink, and art is one of the most enriching experiences one can have. It’s through these efforts that other countries and cultures become less abstract and more human. Regardless of which language you say ‘cheers,’ it still means you are sharing a drink with friends."

For more information on the Fuji to Hood Collabo Beer and Cider Festival, go to fujitohood.com.

More buzz about the Oregon Bee Project

From the Oregon Bee Project

Growers across Oregon are recognized for their bee-friendly practices. With over 200 specialty crops grown in a state already characterized by its rich diversity of natural areas, Oregon boasts a pollinator population with approximately 500 species of bees.

In 2016, the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Insect Pest Prevention and Management program (IPPM) began developing a pilot program to support Oregon farmers protecting pollinator populations. During the early stages of the project IPPM staff set to work connecting with others in the state. In reaching out to program managers and scientists at ODA’s Pesticides Program, the Oregon State University Extension Service, and the Oregon Department of Forestry, the agencies realized that they shared many of the same pollinator health objectives. Together, along with other leaders in industry, education, and research, the agencies launched the cooperative effort, the Oregon Bee Project. In 2017 to coordinate the development of multiple statewide initiatives for pollinator health.

One such initiative is the Oregon Bee Project Flagship Farm Program (largely funded by a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant), which is in its second year of working with individual farmers and nursery owners on a voluntary basis to enhance pollinator habitat in Oregon.

The Flagship Farm Program

When the Oregon Bee Project Flagship Farm Program was introduced at the Small Farms Conference in Corvallis in 2017, 35 farmers immediately expressed interest in joining. It was clear through early discussions with stakeholders that there was a strong desire for programming in the state that would recognize land managers’ efforts to add pollinator habitat, and to provide resources to promote their work and enhance habitat using proven management practices.

After running the first year of the program with six Oregon farms, the Oregon Bee Project is growing the Flagship Farm Program and looking to add 29 more farms and nurseries to the list. These farms and nurseries are recognized for promoting pollinator diversity through a combination of practices. Among the practices emphasized are maintaining habitat, using Integrated Pest Management strategies, judicious use of pesticides, demonstrating good communication or collaboration.
Citizens’ liaison gives Oregonians a personal point of contact

By Andy Zimmerman

If you have questions about a pesticide or want to make a complaint, do you know whom to call? Would you know where to start?

With the passage of House Bill 3549 during the 2015 Legislative session, you or Oregon Department of Agriculture: Christina Higby.

A high-profile pesticide incident in Curry County prompted the legislature to add new pesticide licenses and allow the Pesticide Program to increase fees to add investigators and a case reviewer. An emphasis on improving and increasing communication led to the creation of a citizen advocate liaison position, Higby’s job.

“My main job is to assist individuals and citizens that have concerns and questions about pesticides, whether it just be a question they have about a certain pesticide or they have a complaint where they feel they have been adversely affected,” Higby says.

“I work closely with the Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC) to assist in determining how to appropriately respond to the individual’s concern or complaint. For example, if someone has a complaint about a pesticide application made to a forest, it would likely be referred to Oregon Department of Forestry for follow-up. If they’re reporting adverse health effects believed to be associated with a pesticide application, it could be referred to the Oregon Health Authority. It really just depends on the concern or complaint that they have to determine how best to respond.”

Because pesticide investigations can take months, Higby provides updates to concerned citizens so they can get a better understanding of where a complaint or concern is in the pipeline. The communication also provides a window into how the state responds to complaints or concerns. It especially is helpful when an incident involves multiple agencies, where getting information might not be as easy.

“It provides more of a one-stop shop for information and resources,” says Dale Mitchell, pesticide program manager. “When a citizen is dealing with an issue, the citizen liaison can gather information from different agencies and be that person’s one-point of contact to assist in answering their questions.”

Higby works with PARC to coordinate responses when a person reports adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment they associate with pesticide applications. A result of HB 3549 was the implementation of 211, a 24-hour live phone service that takes information about pesticide incidents. PARC responds to callers within one business day.

“We have received positive feedback that (the citizen advocate liaison) has provided not only the resource information but the one-on-one contact that the individual or person seeking, “Higby says. “It is rewarding to see whether there has been water drainage. “We have pruned broken branches so that trees and shrubs don’t get insects and disease.”

When it comes to your home, Higby encourages residents to see whether there has been water drainage. “We have pruned broken branches so that trees and shrubs don’t get insects and disease.”

To avoid potentially having to use pesticide products later in the year, prune broken branches so that trees and shrubs don’t get insects and disease.

A honey bee and bumble bee visit a late-blooming sunflower in the Willamette Valley. Picture by Olivia Guethling.

A spring reminder about homeowners using pesticides

By Andy Zimmerman

As winter releases its grip on Oregon, homeowners are venturing outdoors to work in their yards. Before you apply pesticides, take precautions and be prepared.

The biggest issues are homeowners not reading the label and understanding how much product they should be using, says Rob Kachadoorian, ODA’s pesticide registration and certification leader.

Frustrations with pests can lead people to use more product than they need or that’s safe to use, so making sure you don’t exceed that label rate is important, she says. Keep in mind if there are restrictions in using a product. Is your intended use allowed? Also important is having the required personal protection equipment, such as gloves.

“One of the typical things we see people do is mixing too much product,” Kachadoorian says. “They have a small lawn, and they’re just going to do some spot applications, yet they mix a two-and-a-half gallon sprayer, and have all of this product left. And then we hear how they poured it down a toilet or a storm drain, or poured it down the sink because they don’t know what to do with it. This is harmful to water quality. Think about how much you need, what you’re going to wear, how you’re going to clean up. Be prepared.”

This time of year, Western Oregon homeowners are battling moss, which can crowd out their turfgrass. To combat the problem, people often apply products with iron. Make sure to keep it off sidewalks as it can stain concrete and potentially enter storm drains.

To avoid potentially having to use pesticide products later in the year, prune broken branches so that trees and shrubs don’t get insects and disease.

When it comes to your home, Kachadoorian encourages residents to see whether there has been water damage. Fix issues now to avoid having to deal with pests such as carpenter ants later.

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Bee Project continued on page 6
When I made the final decision about a year ago to retire in March 2018 from the Oregon Department of Agriculture after a long ODA career, it was certain that time would fly. For several months, I thought about writing my last article for the Agriculture Quarterly. Ending my ODA career after nearly 27 years as Director of Communications, I find it a challenge to “communicate” how I feel. The term bittersweet comes to mind. It’s not easy to leave the best job I’ve ever had. There is some sadness in saying goodbye to the ODA family and the wondrous experiences I’ve been privileged to have since reporting to work in October 1991. You’ll notice I used the word “wondrous” rather than wonderful. I felt the urge to write that word, for some reason. Then I stumbled upon a great, descriptive comparison of the two words courtesy of a google search—something that would not have been possible when I started my job so many years ago. “Wondrous” can be used to describe something that is extremely good. That term fits just fine in this case. But “wondrous” is something that invites awe and taps into the emotional. That’s really how I’ve felt while having access to a broad range of events, issues, and people who are connected to agriculture. To be a spokesperson for a state agency is a worthy endeavor. To sometimes be able to consider oneself a spokesperson for an industry is something only a few communications officials get to do. I’m the lucky one. To recount all of the highlights over 27 years is impossible. Pokarne ponderings: continued on page 7

Pokarne ponderings: 27 wondrous years

When it comes to funding projects to fight invasive noxious weeds in Oregon, two pots of money are better than one. The State Weed Board this month awarded $1,84 million to fund 63 projects that will assist programs and organizations around the state in the constant battle against some of the nastiest noxious weeds to invade Oregon. In addition to the usual annual funding source available to the board, a new, targeted grant program aimed at counties restores some capability for weed control that may have been lost in recent years. These new dollars also augment the efforts of the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Noxious Weed Control Program. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) provides all funding, through lottery dollars, for noxious weed control grants, ODA and OWEB work together to administer those funds. “This last biennium, we made our case to the OWE Board and they allocated $500,000 for a two-year period that specifically targets county weed control programs,” says Tim Butler, manager of ODA’s Noxious Weed Control Program. “This is the first cycle of administering those funds.” Breaking down all funding awarded by the State Weed Board, 49 projects were funded at a total of more than $1.4 million as part of the regular grant program. In addition, the board funded 14 separate projects at $401,000 from the newly available county weed grant program. The grants generally represent all areas of the state, although some locations have more projects than others. The grants also boost existing weed control efforts and even start new ones. “For this first county award, we had 17 applications representing projects for 19 counties with a request totaling more than $554,000,” says Tristen Berg, ODA’s Noxious Weed Grant Program Coordinator. “That’s more than what was available and will help make the case when we go before the legislature or OWEB to show there is a need for additional county funding.” ODA and the State Weed Board strongly felt there was no reason to wait on getting good projects up and running. “These grants are designed to meet the needs for county weed programs for new outreach and coordination, cost share projects, or new control projects,” says Berg. “Many county noxious weed control budgets have been cut or reduced and need funding to get noxious weed control work done.”

Projects are restricted to those that restore, enhance, or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed functions, native salmonid populations, or water quality. They must also target state listed noxious weeds. ODA and the State Weed Board looked for grant applications that involve on-the-ground weed control projects, but those that funded research, survey work, outreach, or project design were accepted if those components are necessary to complete the control portion of the project. The new county weed control grants, to go along with the funds the State Weed Board awards each year, are a recognition by OWEB and others that invasive weeds pose a serious threat to Oregon. The negative economic and environmental impacts posed by the presence and spread of invasive weeds is clearly documented. Studies indicate that the economic impact of just 25 of Oregon’s worst noxious weeds has been estimated to reduce Oregonians’ personal income by $83.5 million per year, which is equivalent to 1,900 jobs lost to Oregon’s economy. As grant dollars had increased over the years, so has the quality of applications. “Since the beginning of the original grant program, the applications and projects have gotten better and better,” says Butler. “It is more difficult for our internal review committee to make recommendations to the State Weed Board on funding—there are a lot of really good proposals out there. I think ODA’s efforts to educate people on what constitutes a good grant proposal and what we are looking for has improved the quality.” Projects funded in this cycle, from both grant programs, run the gamut. Some focus on early detection and rapid response to noxious weeds new to Oregon or in limited distribution. Others may be cost share projects that provide funding to land managers, farmers, and ranchers to work on weeds that are more abundant but in need of control. In some cases, funding allows for biological control of noxious weeds as part of integrated weed management. Many of them are aimed at restoring watershed health. All of them rely on partnerships. “Not one grantee is doing all the work themselves,” says Berg. “Many are in concert with federal, state, and local partners like ODA, watershed councils, and soil and water conservation districts. In many cases, they are working across county lines and pulling together with neighboring counties.”

Grants are often used to leverage other funds to boost the effectiveness of weed control efforts. In 2015, grantees provided a 52 percent match on State Weed Board grants which led to the treatment of more than 7,500 acres of weed-infested lands. The new round of funding will also have a large cost-share component. A number of previously funded projects that are making progress will continue to receive grant dollars in this latest round. Examples include the Upper Burnt River Weed Control District in Baker County, where money is helping landowners fight the spread of whitetop in very remote areas. In Walla Walla County, funds focused on early detection allowed for the discovery of a new thistle never before found in Oregon and are now going after other thistle species in targeted areas. Portland State University’s aquatic weed survey work, funded by grants, has uncovered flowering rush. A new PSU grant will allow for more aquatic survey work and early detection. Butler says the grant programs, including the new one specific to counties, provide a lifeline to those fighting the battle against invasive noxious weeds. “We want to make the best use of the limited funding available to make the biggest impact on protecting Oregon’s natural resources and agricultural economy.”

For a list of all projects funded by the Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program for 2018, go to https://oda.direct/OSWB2018Grants •

Noxious weed control grants awarded to worthy projects

Along for the ride with the Noxious Weed Control Program and the aerial release of biocontrol agents fighting Scotch broom.

Grant monitoring in Baker County with Tricounty CNWMA, BLM, ODA, and Baker County Weed Control working to protect core sage grouse habitat.
Bon voyage, Ray Jaindl

Since 1993, ODA employees and leaders in the agriculture industry have been working alongside Ray Jaindl, Director of Natural Resource programs. Jaindl retired in March 2018 after taking on a series of positions at ODA that began with watershed health and expanded to include the agency’s programs for Agricultural Water Quality, Confined Animal Feeding Operations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Pesticides. The Agriculture Quarterly visited with Jaindl shortly before he retired:

Over the course of your 25 years at ODA, what has changed the most within Oregon’s agriculture industry and ODA itself?

I’ve seen tremendous growth in the industry’s knowledge and understanding of both state and federal law in managing natural resources, water quality and endangered species. People in the industry may not like all the laws, but they are engaged with the issues, understand what they have to deal with and are heavily involved in trying to find solutions. When I say industry, I mean production agriculture. There are several leisure farmers who may not be as actively involved and those are the groups that are more challenging for the agency.

For ODA, I’ve seen growth in the coordination between all programs in the agency. We are all interrelated. I’ve spent quite a bit of time and effort in trying to understand what the other programs are dealing with and how natural resource programs may interact, either because of common issues or policy or strategic plans we develop for the agency. We now keep ourselves informed of others’ trials and tribulations so that we can help wherever we can.

What will you miss the most about the job?

The opportunities I’ve had to interact with some phenomenal people in the industry and in state government. These are people who have tremendous qualities. I will miss those opportunities to continue learning about the land and being exposed to things in agriculture that I would not have been aware of had I not had this job. I remember a Board of Agriculture tour of the Port of Morrow and a potato processing plant. It was amazing to see all the truckloads of potatoes arriving and think about all the other processing plants around the Northwest that require truckloads of potatoes, the products made from those potatoes, and where they go around the world.

As a natural resource specialist, I would have never been exposed to that. But as an ODA program area director, I had that opportunity to learn more about Oregon agriculture. I wouldn’t get that education at a university. It’s being on the ground, working with good people who have a lot of drive and determination to do what they do. I’ll miss that.

Bon voyage, Ray Jaindl

Part of a Governor’s trade mission to China and a visit to Tian安门 Square.
New directors for natural resources and communications

ODA has named Stephanie Page as Director of Natural Resource Programs and has hired Andrea Cantu-Schomus as Director of Communications to fill two key positions within the agency's executive team. Page is moving over to her new position after serving as ODA’s Director of Food Safety and Animal Health since 2014. She joined ODA in 1999 as a water quality specialist and also served as a special assistant to the director. In her new role, Page will oversee ODA’s Agricultural Water Quality, Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), Pesticides, and Soil and Water Conservation programs.

Cantu-Schomus comes to ODA after working at the Oregon Department of Human Services handling communications for its Child Welfare Program. Previously, Cantu-Schomus worked as Communications Director for then Secretary of State Kate Brown. She also has a background in television news as a reporter at KGW-TV in Portland. Among other duties, Cantu-Schomus will work with news media and serve as ODA spokesperson.

State Board of Agriculture

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- Barbara Boyer, chair
- Pete Brentano
- Stephanie Hallock
- Bryan Harper
- Tracey Liskey
- Sharon Livingston
- Laura Masterson
- Marty Myers
- Tyson Raymond, vice chair
- Luisa Santamaria
- Dan Arp (ex-officio) Dean of Agriculture Oregon State University
- Alexis Taylor (ex-officio) Director Oregon Department of Agriculture

Board members may be contacted through the Oregon Department of Agriculture Director’s Office at: 503-986-4558

The Agriculture Quarterly

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Director of Communications
Bruce Pokarney, retired March 30, 2018 Andrea Cantu-Schomus 503-881-9049

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Announcements

Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Advisory Committee Meeting

Date April 12, 2018
Time 1:30 pm–3:30 pm
Location Oregon Department of Agriculture
Third floor conference room
635 Capitol St NE, Salem OR 97301
Contact Wym Matthews, (503) 986-4792
Website https://oda.direct/CAFO

Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) meeting

Date April 16, 2018
Time 12:00 pm–4:00 pm
Location Seaside Civic and Convention Center
415 First Ave, Seaside, OR
Contact Manette Simpson, (503) 986-4715
Website https://oda.direct/SWCC

Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC) Board meeting

Date May 16, 2018
Time 9:00 am–12:00 pm
Location Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal
Charles P. Pray Conference Room
3565 Trelstad Ave SE, Salem, OR
Contact Ted Bunch Jr., (503) 986-4562
Website https://oda.direct/PARC

State Board of Agriculture

Date June 5-7, 2018
Location Hood River, OR
Contact Karla Valness, (503) 986-4554
Website https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture

Oregon State Weed Board Meeting

Date June 19-20, 2018
Time 8:00 am–5:00 pm
Location Bandon, OR
Contact Ashley Wagner, (503) 986-4621
Website https://oda.direct/WeedBoard

The Agriculture Quarterly Spring 2018, Issue 409

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