Welcome to the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) newly designed biennial report. Our goal at the department is to create visually engaging reports, brochures, and publications filled with information and stories that give you a sense of who we are, what we do, and how we succeed. When done well, we are clearly communicating ODA’s values, goals, key metrics, and achievements in an easy to read format.

When reflecting on the 2017-2019 biennium, one constant stands out for me; trust in ODA staff. Even in some of the most challenging situations it was always reassuring to know that I could count on staff at all levels for their professionalism, expertise, problem solving, and honesty regardless of the issue. The department’s first aim is to serve and help agricultural producers, consumers, and our natural resources. When needed, ODA also uses our enforcement authority to protect people, property, and the environment.

In one way or another, ODA reaches every person in the state. From gas stations, grocery stores, airports, greenhouse nurseries, and dairy farms, to your neighborhood convenience store deli, ODA is there to prepare, protect, and serve Oregonians. Did you know ODA staff run more than 900 tests per month to ensure growers can export virus-free seeds all over the world? ODA’s Water Quality Program staff works with farmers and ranchers to prevent water pollution, and our noxious weed experts are finding ways to stop invasives from destroying natural habitat. Plus, the agriculture industry is growing. ODA’s Hemp Program saw a 700 percent increase in registrations in 2019.

It can be difficult to describe and quantify all the ways ODA serves Oregonians, but our hope is that this report gives you a sense of ODA successes and challenges from 2017-2019. Please let us know what you think, we are always looking for ways to improve. We are proud to partner with Oregonians to help grow the economy and ensure healthy natural resources and a healthy environment.

-Alexis

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

BUDGET: $114,643,558 (2017-2019)
- $25,777,408 General Fund
- $7,072,247 Lottery Funds
- $65,835,111 Other Funds
- $15,958,792 Federal Funds

EMPLOYEES (2019)
- 466 (approx.) including seasonal & temp
- 384 permanent
- 150 eligible for retirement in next 5 years

LOCATIONS
- 18 offices statewide

Permanent employees:
- 46% work in Salem office
- 35% work directly on-site, from vehicle or home
- 11% work in satellite offices
- 8% work in Portland

PROGRAMS
- Administrative Services
- Food Safety & Animal Health Programs
- Internal Service & Consumer Protection Programs
- Market Access & Certification Programs
- Natural Resource Programs
- Plant Protection & Conservation Programs

Learn more about ODA programs online: https://oda.direct/Programs

DIGITAL

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WHY WE SERVE

67,595 Oregon agricultural producers

37,200 Oregon farms

220 agricultural commodities

ON 16 MILLION ACRES OF LAND

2.8 million head of livestock

$98.3 billion in output

$1.87 billion in exports

$172.8 million in seafood landings

4.2 million Oregonians

WHO NEED SAFE FOOD, FIBER, FUEL, NATURAL RESOURCES AND MORE

29% of Oregon jobs

686,518 DIRECT & INDIRECT JOBS DEPEND ON AGRICULTURE

TO PROTECT FROM THEFT AND DISEASE

Sources: USDA Census of Agriculture (2017); USDA NASS Oregon Agricultural Statistics Bulletin (2018); U.S. Food and Agriculture Industries Economic Impact Study (2019)
Education, collaboration, and prevention make up the primary focus for many of the programs at ODA.

The world of Oregon agriculture is vast and varied and our responsibilities as a department include programs and jobs that people often would not expect, such as testing scales or veterinary relief work. In many cases, this means collaborating to help prevent problems such as illness, disease, or harm while also preparing customers to be successful. By listening to our fellow Oregonians and working together toward ongoing improvement, we make the state a better place to live and work.

AG WATER QUALITY COLLABORATES TO PREVENT ALGAL BLOOMS

The Agricultural Water Quality Program is working closely with farmers and ranchers around Klamath Lake, as well as partnering with agencies and organizations, to monitor water quality concerns and develop plans with landowners. Outstanding cooperators, the landowners were more than willing to implement activities to help prevent algal blooms, which can be harmful to both animals and humans. The program received funding in the 2019-2021 budget to continue its water quality monitoring, and the program continues to work with landowners and partners to implement plans.

PLANT HEALTH PREVENTS THE SPREAD OF DISEASE

Pathology experts work to enhance the marketability of Oregon products by preventing the spread of plant pathogens and diseases. Walking through fields to visually inspect plants, certifying fruit trees as virus-free, and running over 900 tests per month on seed helps producers meet import requirements from other states and countries. Implementing eradication projects prevents invasive plant pathogens before they have a chance to cause significant environmental and economic damage.
FERTILIZER PROGRAM PREPS FOR GROWTH

Oregon has over 12,000 fertilizer products registered in the state, and over 13,000 pesticide products registered. Pesticide product registration numbers have grown slightly in the last five years, but fertilizer product registrations have increased by 50% from five years ago. As a result, the Oregon Legislature approved a new registration position to be hired in 2020 in the Fertilizer Program going forward to keep pace with registrations.

PRODUCE SAFETY PROGRAM REACHES OUT

The Produce Safety Rule, part of the new federal Food Safety Modernization Act regulation, focuses on practices to prevent illness from produce typically eaten raw. ODA's new Produce Safety Program, in partnership with Oregon State University, reached over 700 growers, harvesters, handlers and packers during 2017-2019 via classes and technical assistance, such as one-on-one farm visits, to assess practices and to help producers align with the new rule.

INVASIVE SPECIES IMPACT ALL OF US

Invasive pests and diseases, such as Gypsy moth, scotch broom, and Armenian blackberry are threatening Oregon's natural resources and agriculture economy. Invasive pests can also directly affect market access and jobs, watersheds, water quality, pesticide use, and human health. It is much less expensive to invest in prevention rather than reacting to an established invasive pest.

Increased trade and population movement serve as pathways for invasive pests to enter Oregon. In fact, our entomologists detect a new exotic insect species about every month in Oregon, some of which could become the next bad invasive pest. Since 2007, 120 new exotic insect species were recorded in Oregon, several of which were new to North America.

Changing weather patterns have also affected the increase in invasive species. For example, Ludwigia (or water primrose), an aquatic plant native to sub-tropical South America, is threatening to choke backwaters, oxbow lakes, and warmer river channels in Oregon. This plant has been present in Oregon since 1945, but has exploded over the past 10 years with changing temperatures.

We can’t solve this in isolation, we need partners, we need the public, we need everyone. ODA has increased its focus and effort on outreach, working with the Oregon Invasive Species Council, and promoting campaigns including “Don’t Pack a Pest” and “Don’t Move a Pest.”

METROLOGY LAB IS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY

Caretakers of the state’s official weight and volume standards, the lab performs metrologically traceable measurements designed to assure that key measurement units used in commerce including the pound, the kilogram, the gallon, and the liter agree with international standards. Their work touches nearly every product or commodity bought and sold in the state.

In 2018, the lab received another outstanding third-party assessment from the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, reaffirming the lab as one of the best in the country.
**SHIPPING POINT INSPECTORS KEEP PRODUCE MOVING**

With a team of 52 inspectors and 7 managers throughout the state, approximately **5 billion pounds of produce are inspected** by the Shipping Point Program every year. To keep produce moving through Oregon, inspectors sample products to ensure it meets the standards of contracts set up between buyers and sellers (3rd party grading).

The average inspector gets a sample every 6 minutes and must sample a minimum of 1% of a product lot. A majority of the product inspected (70%) is potatoes, about 20% is onions, and the remaining 10% is garlic, apples, cherries, and pears.

Inspectors write export certificates and keep produce moving through Oregon via export nationally and internationally. **The program is 100% other funded by the industry** with a budget of $10 million during the 2017-2019 biennium.

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**ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM PREPARES FOR, AND RESPONDS TO, EMERGENCIES**

About **25% of the total income** from all Oregon agricultural commodities comes from livestock. The Animal Health Program’s ability to prevent animal disease or respond quickly to an outbreak is critical to not only the livestock industry, but to Oregon’s overall economic health.

The program processed 161,175 regulatory documents including import and export Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, equine passports, and vaccination and testing reports representing **over 3 million animals** in 2017, 2018, and 2019. This information is extremely important for disease traceability purposes. Electronic-based records greatly enhance ODA’s ability to locate infected animals, and animals at risk, as quickly as possible.

In early December 2018, veterinary assistance was needed at the animal shelters established in Butte County following the devastating Camp Fire that occurred last November. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management received a request from the California Office of Emergency Services for veterinary assistance.

ODA was able to successfully organize **a 22-member team with volunteer veterinarians and veterinary technicians**, which deployed to Butte County December 14-22 to assist in the operations of the animal shelter facilities located near Chico, CA. The team worked with National Guard troops and volunteers to care for more than 500 animals that were displaced from their homes.
ADMINISTRATIVE & INTERNAL SERVICES HELP RUN 39 BUSINESSES

Under the umbrella of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, teams from Financial Services, Information Systems, Licensing, Human Resources, and Procurement support the many programs of the department that in many ways, run like 39 different businesses.

Processing approximately $34 million in annual revenue and approximately $22 million in annual payments, the Financial Services Program continually focuses on improving efficiencies. The State Controller’s Gold Star Certificate is presented to state agencies that help Oregon meet its statewide fiscal performance goals and **ODA has received the award 23 years in a row!**

DURING THE JUNE LICENSING PERIOD

**95% OF RENEWALS WERE COMPLETED ONLINE, MASSIVELY REDUCING PAPER USAGE**

The focus of the Licensing Program is on efficiency to make the process easier for everyone through ongoing evaluation and improvement. To accommodate customers who need additional assistance, they take special steps such as sending out licensing forms ahead of time with a voucher system to pay via postal mail for customers who are not comfortable renewing online. During the 2019 June renewal period, the licensing team of 3 people received **2,600 calls**—they picked up 80% of those calls and returned any missed calls the same day.

HEMP PROGRAM SEES INCREASE IN REGISTRATIONS

As hemp continues to gain ground across Oregon, there was an explosion in the number of registrations as a result of the 2018 Farm Bill being put into place.

- **677% growth in HEMP REGISTRATIONS 2017 to 2019**
- **2,023% growth in HEMP ACRES REGISTERED 2017 to 2019**

**INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

These plants contain less than 0.3% THC
LIVESTOCK INSPECTORS SEE MORE THAN ONE MILLION ANIMALS

Brand inspectors play an important role in helping to prevent livestock theft by verifying the ownership of cattle prior to sale or out of state shipment. Inspectors also assist in getting lost and estray animals back to their rightful owners, and aid law enforcement in livestock theft investigations. In 2019, Oregon brand inspectors assisted in 111 estray livestock cases involving 264 head of cattle and 34 horses. They spent a collective 179 hours assisting with estray animals and drove 2,235 miles.

The brand inspection staff is comprised of 4 supervisors, 1 full-time and 58 part-time inspectors, and 5 sale yard clerks located across the state. Most of these inspectors raise cattle of their own or come from ranching families and share a stake in the industry that they serve. More than 1 million cattle are inspected every year.

In 2017-2019, a process to digitize inspection records was developed. The availability of electronic records for both inspections and auction market transactions has drastically reduced the amount of time spent filing and researching. An electronic inspection program, that would make inspection data from around the state available in real time, is in the early development stage.

The Livestock Identification Program is entirely funded by inspection fees and brand registrations.

SURROGATE FISH SAVES INDUSTRY THOUSANDS

The Weights and Measures Program examined 86.7% of the 61,537 total weighing and measuring devices licensed in Oregon for 2018. In 2017, they partnered with Oregon's commercial fish processing industry to design, develop, and purchase 2,000 lbs of plastic surrogate fish for the purpose of batch testing the industries automatic weighing systems.

Prior to this, it was necessary to use fish thawed from storage at a cost of approximately $2,000 per lot of fish used. The cost would easily multiply if repairs and subsequent retests were required.

Four fish plants agreed to pay a quarter of the cost each—the total price was $18,000. The commercial fish processing industry is now realizing savings in time and costs for their annual recertifications as a direct result of this project.

IN OREGON THERE ARE 11,447 BRANDS FOR IDENTIFYING CATTLE, HORSES, AND SHEEP IN THE STATE

The Livestock Identification Program is entirely funded by inspection fees and brand registrations.
Oregon agriculture offers endless reasons to celebrate, whether it is the quality of our products, the ingenuity and dedication of our farmers, fishers, ranchers, and processors or the amazing ways that the industry feeds our state, both literally and economically.

Supporting Oregon's agribusinesses takes many forms. But fundamentally it is about introducing producers and processors to people and resources that help grow their business. ODA provides research, marketing resources, technical assistance, and buyer meetings. From local, institutional, national, or international markets, ODA is here to help agribusinesses reach their goals.

**FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM REACHES MORE THAN HALF OF OREGON K-12 STUDENTS**

The Oregon Farm to School Program helps increase the amount of Oregon grown and processed products available in school meal programs in Oregon, by reimbursing school districts when they make qualifying purchases of Oregon products. It also provides resources, in the form of grants, to provide food, garden, and agricultural education to students. The Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education coordinate the program.

More than 300 producers, processors, seafood harvesters, ranchers, and distributors benefit from the Farm to School Program and there are currently more than 130 school districts participating.

In 2016, with the State's investment of $1.6 million, schools boosted the agricultural economy by purchasing $15 million in Oregon products.

The program reaches more than half of students (240,000) in grades K-12 and 89% of school lunches served in Oregon include Oregon products.

For the 2019-2021 biennium, the Oregon legislature tripled the farm to school budget from $4.6 million to $15 million. ODA will be distributing nearly half a million dollars to grantees for equipment and infrastructure to make it easier for producers to sell to schools.
GRANT DOLLARS SUPPORT INCREASED COMPETITIVENESS OF OREGON’S SPECIALTY CROPS

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) in Oregon funds approximately $2 million from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for projects that “enhance the competitiveness” of the specialty crop industry. USDA defines specialty crops as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture)”. Oregon is one of the top ten producers of specialty crops nationwide.

The program selects around 15 projects from an average of 40 applications in Oregon each year. Projects are awarded anywhere from $25,000 to $175,000 for two and a half years. Over the past ten years, the SCBGP has awarded nearly $16 million to fund 180 projects that benefit Oregon’s specialty crop industries.

Projects are diverse and in 2017-19 included things such as: developing and testing a broccoli mechanical harvester, researching foodborne pathogens, expanding the Adopt a Farmer science program for Oregon middle-schoolers, and funding an accelerator program for female specialty crop producers to enter new markets.

THE ROAD TO NEW MARKET ACCESS

Back in 2014, the blueberry industry set into motion years of work with the hope of selling blueberries in Vietnam. It began with a request to USDA to ask Vietnam under what conditions they would allow the import of fresh blueberries because at that time, it was prohibited.

In 2015, a Governor’s trade mission with ODA to Vietnam helped to affirm our interest and desire to establish an agreement. The pests of concern were identified and mitigation steps were developed to make sure pests didn’t hitchhike from the U.S. on the berries.

In the following years, negotiations about inspections and treatment, site visits to Oregon, and an ODA trade mission with the Oregon and Washington blueberry commissions was made to stress our willingness to work with Vietnam. During that time, the import requirements were developed to tell shippers exactly what they needed to do.

At last, in 2019, a bilateral trade agreement between the U.S. and Vietnam was finalized and ODA provided input and outreach as a key shipping state. Oregon blueberries traveled to Vietnam beginning in June of 2019.
A strong component of protection is the role of regulation. It’s the responsibility of many of our programs to inspect and investigate in order to protect both Oregonians and our state’s natural resources.

Many of the laws we enforce as a state department are centered around protection for people, property, and the environment. Our programs couple education and outreach with inspection and data gathering to help customers not only understand the rules, but also find solutions to help support success. This often means collaborating with other departments, groups, and organizations.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS TAKE ON NEW WORK**

The Food Safety Program works to prevent foodborne illnesses and to ensure the food Oregonians consume is safe. The program has 38 inspectors spread out across the state inspecting 12,000 licensed firms. Retail food stores represent about 40% of the workload.

The marijuana industry has added 630 Food Safety licenses to the workload and the hemp industry is growing at a rapid pace.

The new national Food Safety Modernization Act is the most sweeping change in food laws in several decades. ODA has adopted the new rules and is focusing a lot of resources on specialized courses, outreach, and education.

There are also national improvements happening in the food manufacturing and dairy industries which requires an increase in education and outreach.

**PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM MARINE BIOTOXINS**

The commercial crab fishery has been heavily impacted by the increased presence of the marine biotoxin domoic acid over the past several years with delays to opening the commercial season. Marine biotoxins have also caused serious restrictions for recreational mussel and clam harvesters. These toxins can cause severe illness and death in humans.

Staff have worked diligently with the crab industry, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and regulatory agencies in Washington and California to develop new monitoring, response, and notification plans. Crab fishermen can now receive text messages about closures directly on their vessel.
FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TO 11 COUNTY WOLF PROGRAMS

The ODA Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance County Block Grant Program was successful in being awarded a 2019 federal Wolf-Livestock Demonstration Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of $76,000.

In the fall of 2019, $65,000 was awarded to counties for prevention activities. $11,000 of this federal grant will be awarded to counties for direct compensation in the spring of 2020. These funds, combined with state general funds, allowed ODA to award a total of $178,319 to 11 different county wolf programs in Oregon to assist with direct loss reimbursement, missing livestock reimbursement, prevention assistance and minor administrative costs for county wolf programs.

PROTECTION FROM FUTURE DAMAGE

Recent high-profile pesticide cases involving dead and dying Ponderosa pine trees along Highway 20 near Sisters and in other areas, resulted in ODA rulemaking. Trees were impacted after the herbicide aminocyclopyrachlor (ACP) was applied to roadsides between 2011 and 2015. Herbicides are used because weeds may prevent rainwater from draining off roads, and can also be fuel for fire.

After conducting a thorough investigation, ODA pulled together a stakeholder group to discuss possible limitations on the use of ACP in Oregon. In 2019, after extensive discussion and consideration, ODA adopted rules restricting the use of ACP along roadsides, canals, near sage-grouse habitats, and in other areas. These measures were taken in an abundance of caution to protect Oregon’s natural resources.

PESTICIDES PROGRAM PROTECTS PEOPLE, PROPERTY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Pesticides Program examined over 1,400 cases in 2017-2019. This includes investigations for routine compliance monitoring as well as complaint investigations.

At the national level, program leadership is involved in policy discussions on how to address contaminated pesticides, which include ingredients not included on the label that could compromise the safety or effectiveness of the product. ODA’s involvement supports consumer safety and protection while maintaining pest management tools for our diverse agricultural industries and other users. Oregon has achieved and maintained high standards in regulating the sales, use, and distribution of pesticides while at the same time experiencing minimal impacts to people, property, and the environment.

PROTECTING THE STATE FROM PLANT PESTS & PATHOGENS

The greenhouse and nursery, and Christmas tree industries (ranked #1 and #11, respectively for value of production for Oregon agricultural commodities) had a combined value of production of over $1.1 billion in 2018.

Inspectors from the Nursery & Christmas Tree Program work to facilitate business and trade without jeopardizing quality. In 2017-18, 5,954 inspections were completed and 6,985 in 2018-19.

The program protects the state and our customers by looking for pests and pathogens coming into and out of Oregon.
ENTOMOLOGISTS PERSEVERE IN THE JAPANESE BEETLE BATTLE

We now know that the Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program’s (IPPM) multi-year effort to eradicate Japanese beetle is moving in the right direction. An infestation was first detected in the Cedar Mill area near Portland in 2016. An economic analysis by ODA found that farmers could spend an estimated $43 million annually to combat Japanese beetle if established, not to mention the damage it would cause to our environment.

Treatment began in 2017 and the agency trapped more than 23,000 beetles. In 2018, more than 17,000 beetles were trapped.

From April to June in 2019, IPPM applied granular larvicide treatment to approximately 8,500 residences, 6 schools, 8 parks, 3 shopping centers, the Portland International Airport, and 1 golf course—an area of approximately 3,000 acres. For the first time, the granular treatment was supplemented with a foliar spray in areas with higher Japanese beetle populations. This application was both free and voluntary for the residents in these areas.

Within the boundaries of the foliar treatment area, beetles trapped decreased by approximately 75% from 2018 to 2019. The program expects to use the foliar treatment again in 2020 in high density areas.

IN 2019, 7,749 JAPANESE BEETLES WERE TRAPPED IN THE CEDAR MILL AREA, WHICH IS A 56% REDUCTION FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

LAB EFFORTS REDUCE EXPOSURE TO TOXINS

ODA maintains several laboratories, including one in Portland with 22 employees. In 2017-2019, this lab analyzed 12,602 samples representing 32,482 tests. The number of samples and tests are driven by program needs as this lab provides analysis and technical support to ODA’s enforcement and regulatory programs.

Pesticide Program residue test numbers increased by 4.5% and Food Safety Program tests increased by 50% due to significant increase in domoic acid testing of crab viscera (internal organs).

New to the lab was the implementation of microbial source tracking to identify fecal contamination sources in surface waters. Two employees trained with EPA to use their method for identifying the source (e.g. type of animal or human) from E. coli found in water samples. This test will support the CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) Program.
As new bills are enacted into law, the needs of industries change and grow, and technology advances, staff at the Oregon Department of Agriculture are guided by its vision; to serve the changing needs of Oregon’s diverse agricultural and food sectors to maintain and enhance a healthy natural resource base and strong economy statewide. Below are some examples already underway.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**
- Researching new customer service options such as online chat.
- Developing more opportunities for online public maps.
- Improving tracking systems to reduce data entry.

**FOOD SAFETY & ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**
- Exploring more efficient and effective ways of using staff and budget continues to be a priority for the program as it protects Oregon’s food supply. Growth in both the food and cannabis industries has the number of food safety licenses growing steadily, while staffing levels stay the same.
- Begin licensing animal rescue organizations per Oregon Senate Bill 883 (2019).

**INTERNAL SERVICE & CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAMS**
- Consolidate our lab tracking system. The goal is to give customers the ability to enter sample information and requested tests online. The system will then provide the lab with methods and process for the tests requested. Eventually, results too will be available to customers online.
- Developing a method for certifying certain types of fuel metering equipment that will both improve worker safety and shorten the test time allowing it to reach more customers at a lower cost. Staff is testing compressed natural gas and liquified natural gas meters.

**MARKET ACCESS & CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**
- Expand virus certification to include additional fruits such as blueberries and cane berries.
- Improve resources to meet the needs of and requests from the seed industry providing producers with the tools they need to be competitive.

**NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS**
- Establish a notice-based process to allow for agricultural maintenance in dry traditionally maintained channels to a limited geographic area by fall 2020, per Oregon House Bill 2437 (2019).
- Discuss by appointed committee whether limitations should be adopted for the pesticide chlorpyrifos in order to protect human health while keeping critical uses available to producers.
- Continue expanding Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) work with partners, farmers and ranchers to improve water quality.

**PLANT PROTECTION & CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**
- Increased outreach and funding to alert people to how invasive pests and diseases are traveling into Oregon.
- Establish a federally recognized hemp production program. ODA will be submitting a state plan to the USDA for approval by spring 2020. Oregon’s hemp program will also include more employees.