



*2011 Annual Report to the Governor
and the Environmental Justice Task Force*

Society's perspective of environmental justice and the important role of government in how programs are administered has evolved with time. ODA's programs are likewise evolving. Traditionally, the primary intersection with environmental justice issues related to ODA programs were focused primarily on farmworker pesticide exposure and rural citizens' exposure to smoke from field burning activities. However, as the understanding of environmental justice increases, other ODA services and regulatory programs are expanding opportunities to reach the diversity of our citizens.

ODA serves both urban and rural communities in its vast array of program activities. Rural and remote communities as well as communities with a primary language other than English have been identified as potentially needing additional attention in programs and regulatory processes. ODA provides outreach and education through a variety of media to the general public, and especially to individuals subject to pesticide regulation and laws. The following are some highlights of the diverse activities ODA accomplished in 2011 to further the agency's goal of providing fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people.

- ODA continues to collaborate with Oregon OSHA and the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service to provide education and training in languages other than English, and offers courses at various times of the day conducive to participation by working adult populations.
- The Pesticide Analytical Response Center, administered by ODA, provides technical expertise in the evaluation of pesticide-related health concerns to all citizens of Oregon. PARC has multiple mechanisms to enter a complaint and maintain communication with oversight agencies during an investigation.
- Through the pesticide management program and agriculture water quality program, ODA and other agencies work with local citizen groups such as watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and community organizations to address issues related to pesticide control and water quality to ensure community involvement in discussions and solutions.
- ODA offers a portion of its accredited pesticide certification exams in Spanish, and other continuing education courses are offered in languages other than English.
- ODA works with OSHA and other agencies to ensure an understanding of worker safety requirements by translating educational materials into Spanish, Russian and Southeast Asian languages, among others.
- ODA has designated a Program Manager as its Citizen Advocate.
- The Field Burning program established a 24/7 phone number for smoke-related field burning complaints. Citizens may leave a message in any language and ODA will translate and respond accordingly.

- The Confined Animal Feeding Operations program addresses concerns of animal waste runoff into Oregon waterways and compliance with CAFO permit regulations. In doing so, consideration is given to each complaint regardless of the type of complaint or source of complaint. This provides equal access to available resources for anyone who feels they have been adversely impacted by this type of agricultural activity.
- In a cooperative effort funded by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, ODA and OSU Cooperative Extension Service partnered in the development of a bilingual (English-Spanish) course for nursery workers on *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death).
- Nursery and Christmas tree license application are translated into Spanish.
- Sudden Oak Death quarantine administrative rule hearing and other public information/workgroup and advisory group meetings were held in a public locations during evening hours or other hours to be most convenient for the intended audience.
- Workshops developed for the Grower Assisted Inspection Program were held in both English and Spanish to educate growers and farmworkers.
- As the result of a E-coli outbreak in strawberries, ODA and the Oregon Berry Commissions developed an educational program to teach food safety principals to farmers and farmworkers. The information was offered in person on farms, to farm owners, farm families, and farm workers at times that were most convenient for them. Six (6) courses were offered in both English and Spanish. In some of the trainings, the Spanish speaking class attendance was larger than the English classes.
- Proper hand washing procedures are provided to food handling establishments in 10 different languages.
- ODA considers the diversity of customers when hiring new employees. ODA's Food Safety program has employees from Thailand, China, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, and the Bahamas with language skills other than English including Thai, Japanese, Mandarin, Spanish, Dutch, and Russian.
- When possible, the ODA utilizes the cultural diversity of its staff to address specific language and cultural barriers to ensure customers are provided clear and accurate information.
- Administrative rule hearings are conducted at different locations throughout the state at different times of day to ensure adequate access to the public.
- Bilingual (English and Spanish) education materials regarding the biosecurity of poultry were developed and distributed.

ODA is working to integrate environmental justice into agency programs, policies and activities to provide all citizens with equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.