

Oregon Department of Agriculture Program Reports
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Food and Animal Health & ID Program Area

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- **Food Safety Program:** The Food Safety Program's (FSP) overdue inspections continues to hover around 900 to 1000 firms. Overall the program has maintained this level of overdue inspections for the past 9 months. We continue to focus on the high-risk firms who are overdue as our top priority to address.
- The Food Safety Program has hired two new employees within the past six months and we are now fully staffed. One has just completed the six-month probation period while the second is half-way through the initial training program.
- There still continues to be issues with the proposed Grade "A"/Non-Grade "A" Dairy FSMA Pilot. The National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) Liaison Committee is working with the new Director of FDA Office of Food Safety on this issue. FDA has announced a new Director of Food Safety, Dr. Mark Moorman. Dr. Moorman took the opportunity during his first NCIMS Executive Board Meeting in October to make a complete course change for future antibiotic testing proposed for the dairy industry. There will no longer be any pilots with new antibiotic families. This removes a significant burden to the dairy industry and will push this research back onto FDA resources.
- **Oregon Administration Rule changes:** The Food Safety Program has written proposed rules for the implementation of the Straw Bill (SB-90) passed by the 2019 Legislature. A public hearing will be held December 3rd, 2019 with scheduled implementation of January 1, 2020. The FSP is also working to update OAR 603-025 to incorporate Olive Oil to the Farm Direct Program directed by SB-390. As this statute change was very prescriptive and only adds on commodity, no rule hearing is required. Additional FSP is working to make changes to the crab rules to streamline the process for opening and closing harvest areas due to elevated domoic acid levels. The current rules require FSP to use a temporary rule process every time we need to close or open an area. The changes will make it an automatic process, FSP will still notify industry the same as in the past.
- **Animal Health:** Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Last April USDA announced an implementation timeline for electronic identification (eID) for cattle to replace the obsolete metal ear tags. The timeline was made available in their April 2019 factsheet requiring by January 1, 2023. eID ear tags for beef and dairy cattle and bison moving interstate that meet the ADT requirements. Animals previously tagged with metal ear tags will have to be retagged with eID ear tags in order to move interstate.

The USDA has decided that a pause is needed to allow for public comment. The period of time they will pause is undetermined as this time. There has already been much public comment gathered on ADT so USDA is hoping to address public concerns quickly and keep the comment period as short as possible. The implementation of eID is still the goal.

- **Livestock Identification:** Brand Inspectors, have received a sizable salary increase. This increase, along with cost of living increases will result in a 20% increase in salary for the program over the next 3 years. The current financial status of the program will not be able to afford this increase. Staff will be working with industry to look at ways to keep the program viable. This could include some form of fee increases or significant reduction in services.
- Brand program is projected to look at fewer animals in the coming 2 years that the overall cattle industry moves through its cyclic up and down of cattle numbers.

- Fall is upon us, and Oregon's livestock industry is in full swing of shipping calves to feedlots and grass out of state. Also, commuter heads from other states are leaving to return to their winter pastures. November and December represent one third of the cattle inspected in the year.
- Brand registration is also in full swing. One fourth of the approximately 12,000 recorded brands are sent out for renewal on a revolving basis. Brand renewal costs \$100 for four years. A brand must be recorded with the Department, in order to be used in Oregon.

Internal Service & Consumer Protection Program Area

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- **Weights and Measures Program:** (* denotes 2nd Quarter 2019 for comparison) As of 9/30/19, the program had 62,399 (*61,909) licensed weighing and measuring devices operated by 13,802 (13,729) businesses in Oregon.
- Through the 3rd Quarter of 2019, inspectors have examined 40,063 (64% of total) weighing and measuring devices licensed across the state. Of those devices examined, 2,885 were rejected (7.2%) and 1,525 devices had on-site corrective actions performed (3.7%). A total of 315 devices were re-inspected during this quarter.
- For the 3rd quarter of 2019, 490 new licenses were issued bringing the year-to-date total to 806.
- Through 9/30/19, a total of 81 Just Checking In (JCI) Food Safety Audits have been conducted by W&M Inspectors.
- For the 3rd quarter of 2019, the program has received, investigated and closed 15 W&M complaints, bringing the annual total to 54.
- As of 10/31/19, the W&M delinquent caseload had been reduced down to 462 (*1,848) licenses worth \$84,839 (*\$390,754) of license fee revenue.
- W&M Program Manager, Steven Harrington recently participated in a workshop in Oklahoma with representatives from the National Weights and Measures Office and other state Weights and Measures reps., in order to finalize policies and procedures and data gathering regarding the testing of meters with new highly calibrated mass flow meter, rather than volumetric provers. Currently, Oregon's W&M Program is a leader in this new technology.
- **Metrology Lab:** During the 3rd quarter of 2019, the ODA Metrology Lab conducted 560 (*880) high precision calibrations for private industry and other state metrology labs. Through 9/30/19, the lab has conducted a total of 3,201 high precision calibrations that has generated \$62,828 worth of fee-for-service revenue.
- **Motor Fuel Quality Program:** For the 3rd quarter of 2019, Field Inspectors conducted the following motor fuel quality field screening tests: 393 (*407) motor fuel quality screenings with 3 (*13) failed screens; 839 (*892) fuel storage tanks screened with 5 (*4) screens showing excessive water in the tanks.
- **Lab Services Program:** Cyanotoxin Project Update - Chemist, Joe Harworth continues to work towards the goal of being able to develop, validate, and standardize a method for the determination of Cyanotoxins (CTS) in food products. The detection of total microcystins and cylindrospermopsin must meet the Oregon Health Authority requirements for drinking water. Tests are currently underway of the analysis of all toxins in food. This special project is scheduled to conclude on 01/01/20, and a final report will be issued.
- Wyatt Faulkner passes FDA Milk program on-site review to become a State Milk Laboratory Evaluation Officer (LEO). The lab sent 3 staff to 3 trainings/meetings to enhance and maintain technical skills and also sent 3 staff to the Diversity and Inclusion Conference.

- **Wolf Grant Program:** As a result of ODA receiving the 2019 Federal Prevention Wolf Grant later than in past years, the following federal prevention funds were awarded in October of 2019: Umatilla - \$17,700; Wallowa - \$15,000; Jackson - \$13,000; Klamath - \$3,900; Morrow - \$1,000; Wheeler - \$1,500; Grant - \$2,000; Baker - \$9,500; Union - \$2,500; Total = \$66,100

Market Access & Certification Program Area

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- **Agriculture Development and Marketing:** Governor Kate Brown will lead a trade mission to South Korea and Japan from November 5-16, 2019. Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Director Alexis Taylor will lead the agriculture delegation within the larger trade mission to Asia. Representatives from Oregon wine, fruit and beef industries make up the ag delegation. ODA's goal is to support and grow the state's food, beverage and agricultural product exports to these key international markets.
- **Plant Health:** All raw and minimally processed plant products exported to the European Union (EU) will require inspections and phytosanitary certificates as of December 14, 2019. This will affect seeds, fresh fruits and vegetables, hop cones, pellets, and bales, and nursery stock. Outreach efforts to the affected industries are underway - for more information <https://oda.direct/EURequirements>
- **Shipping Point Inspection:** Despite challenging weather conditions throughout the state, harvest is looking average to good for most commodities and is trending upward.

Natural Resource Program Area

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- The Pesticides Program is convening two new advisory committees starting in November and December. The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) advisory committee will provide input to ODA and several other partner agencies on continuous improvement opportunities in the program. A chlorpyrifos advisory committee will evaluate whether additional limitations are needed to protect pesticide users and workers while allowing critical uses in Oregon.
- The Confined Animal Feeding Operation program reviewed the application received from Easterday Dairy, LLC, for an individual permit at a location near Boardman, and requested supplemental information from the applicant. The applicant provided the requested information and the program is reviewing the information to ensure it is complete. The next step in the permitting process is to create a draft individual permit, conduct extensive outreach, and hold a public comment period on the draft.
- In September 2019, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality released its draft 2018/2020 Integrated Report, and is soliciting comments through Dec. 2, 2019. The federal Clean Water Act requires Oregon to report on the quality of its surface waters every two years. The Integrated Report is a reporting of the status of water quality in Oregon and a list of waters considered to be impaired.
- Agricultural water quality program staff are working closely with the Oregon Department of State Lands and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as key stakeholders, to implement House Bill 2437. The goal of this bill is to simplify the process to maintain certain agricultural channels.
- In November, we held interviews for both the Pesticides Program manager and Agricultural Water Quality Program manager. Interview panelists included ODA staff, other agency partners, and stakeholders. We are now in the process of scheduling second interviews for the top candidates.

Plant Protection & Conservation Program Area

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- Key issues are 1) securing continuous funding for the largest Japanese beetle eradication project in Oregon's history and 2) identifying additional state funding sources for an Aquatic Noxious Weed Specialist.
- **Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program (IPPM):** The 2018 treatment of the Japanese beetle infestation in NW Portland resulted in a significant reduction of the JB population in 2019. Less than 8,000 JB were caught in the treatment area, which is a 55% reduction to the 2018 JB catches. The treatment was successful and we are going the right way.
- We found three Gypsy moths in the small GM treatment area in Corvallis. We will implement a delimitation survey in 2020.
- **Noxious Weed Control Program:** The recently approved new biological control agents for gorse and Japanese knotweed are at ODA's Hawthorne greenhouse for reproduction and posterior release in the spring of 2020.
- **Nursery, Christmas Tree, and HEMP Program:** We are still dealing with the impact of the Phytophthora ramorum infected plant material from Canada. Trace-back information and testing is still ongoing.
- We are working on a mandatory Boxwood blight cleanliness program for all Boxwood exporting nurseries.
- We are working on adapting our Industrial Hemp plan to the recently published federal hemp plan. In 2019, almost 64,000 acres were registered. Harvesting has started last month.
- **Native Plant Conservation Program:** We are working on securing additional State funding to cover costs for the statutorily mandated consultations by local agencies and institutions with our Program.
- **Oregon Invasive Species Council:** We are finalizing the guidelines for the aOISC outreach and education grant program. The 2019 legislative session added \$100,000 for the OISC Council activities and Coordinator costs. In the Christmas bill, the OISC also received an additional \$300,000 for outreach grants and the invasive species control account.
- The Governor's Office nominated Helmuth Rogg as the Oregon representative for the Western Governors' Association Western Invasive Species Council (WISC). The WISC is a result of Hawaii Governor Ige's "Biosecurity and Invasive Species" initiative during his chair tenure in 2018.