



**OREGON**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
NURSERIES™

# State Affairs

**Overarching approach:** We support efforts and agendas that promote the sustainability and success of the nursery and greenhouse industry in Oregon. We strive for bipartisan collaboration where possible, and we will work to educate decision-makers about how statutory and fiscal policies affect the industry. The OAN is committed to doing the hard work to achieve the best policy outcomes for our state and for our industry.



## Farm Equipment Tax Exemption Fix



Eliminate confusion for assessors and farmers by removing the distinction between real and personal tangible property for the farm equipment tax exemption.

## Groundwater



Support investment in sustainable groundwater management and encourage the adoption of groundwater policies that protect the resource while preserving the ability to access groundwater for beneficial uses.

## Housing and Land Use



Protect the current goals of land use regulations and the intent of the Urban-Rural Reserve, while supporting the state's need for more affordable housing.

## Climate Protection Program



Ensure fixes are made to the fundamentally unimplementable parts of the Climate Protection Program.

## Pesticide Bans



Protect the appropriate use of pest and disease management tools.



## Setting the stage for 2025

## Agricultural Overtime



Adjust agricultural overtime to support both the farmworker and agriculture operations

## Commercial Activity Tax Exemption



Exempt the sale of commercial and retail nursery products from the Corporate Activity Tax.

## Carbon Sequestration



Pursue climate policies that reflect the climate benefits of the nursery industry while protecting operations from adverse regulations and higher prices.

**By the numbers**

**#1 OR Ag commodity: \$1.37 billion** in sales

**#1 in US:** sales of conifers, shade trees, Christmas trees, and flowering trees

**\$443.2 million** in annual payroll

**\$44,108** average annual pay

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# Federal Affairs

2024

**Overarching approach:** The nursery and greenhouse industry is Oregon's largest agricultural sector with \$1.37 billion in annual sales. The association is solution oriented and is committed to finding common ground with Congress, federal agencies and the administration. Oregon nurseries are specialty crops and trade-dependent and need federal policy to support the industry. OAN builds coalitions and collaborates with the other nursery states as well as national associations to achieve our policy objectives.

## Industry Needs

- **Funding for USDA-APHIS** to support research, protect market access, and prevent pest and disease threats.
- **Increase research funds** for green industry sectors, including nursery, greenhouse and Christmas tree growers. Include greater collaboration between industry, state and federal funding sources.
- **Funding for NASS.** Obtain funding to restore detailed annual National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) statistics for Oregon's nursery and greenhouse industry.
- **Amend transportation driver hours restrictions.** Product to market has been hampered by the USDOT limitations on hours of service by logistics entities such as trucking companies.

## Labor Needs

- **The Five-Point Plan provides clear direction for getting the ball rolling on immigration:**
  1. **Adjustment of status for those in the U.S.**
  2. **Keep and update the current H-2A and H-2B visas.**
  3. **Create a new visa system.**
  4. **Create a sensible "touch back provision."**
  5. **Once 1-4 are enacted, then E-Verify.**
- **Limit the reach of the National Labor Relations Board** to prevent the deployment of card check and union organization on the farm.

## Farm Bill

- **Collaborate** with AmericanHort, nursery and greenhouse associations, and Oregon agriculture for a sensible approach to the five-year funding plan through the Farm Bill.
- **Areas of focus:**
  - **Horticulture Title:** Continued support for the specialty crop industry, including USDA Block Grants to the State of Oregon, and pest and disease prevention.
  - **Conservation Title:** Reimagine the conservation title to bring infrastructure funding for water storage and efficiency, and climate sequestration acknowledgment to the nursery and greenhouse industry.
  - **Research Title:** Greater emphasis on joint efforts between industry and land grant universities.
  - **Disaster eligibility:** The current farm bill does not work well with specialty crop growers and the disaster relief funds are substandard in reach and funding. Whole farm insurance has worked for monocrops but not the diverse multi-year crops such as the nursery and greenhouse industry. Fixing this problem is critical.

## Federal Policy Initiatives

- **Strengthen international trade relationships and lower tariffs on green goods.**
- **Continue robust funding and implementation of infrastructure for water, roads and broadband.**
- **Amend the Estate Tax provisions** to acknowledge continued farm ownership, exemption of farm equipment payments and mirror the approach passed by the OAN at the Oregon Legislature in 2007.
- **Carbon sequestration.** It is critical that the federal government put as much effort into recognizing the benefits of working lands within climate policy development. Creating a marketplace for growers to be recognized and compensated for continual sequestration of carbon through the production of green goods needs action over the next two years.