



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Government-To-Government

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

AGRICULTURE BUILDING

635

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INTRODUCTION

VISION

A resilient tomorrow for generations to come.


MISSION

Protect. Promote. Prosper.

We safeguard Oregon’s agriculture, natural resources, working lands, economies, and communities through assistance, compliance, and market support.

VALUES

We are proud to be AGGIES, embodying our mission and values to achieve our vision.

-  **Approachable**
Accessible and friendly, fostering a welcoming environment
-  **Genuine**
Sincere in interactions, emphasizing honesty and integrity
-  **Growth-Oriented**
Committed to continuous improvement and development
-  **Inclusive**
A culture that ensures the dignity of every individual is honored, heard, valued, and respected.
-  **Experts**
Driven by professional and scientific competency
-  **Sustainable**
Building strong relationships and continuity for resilient tomorrow

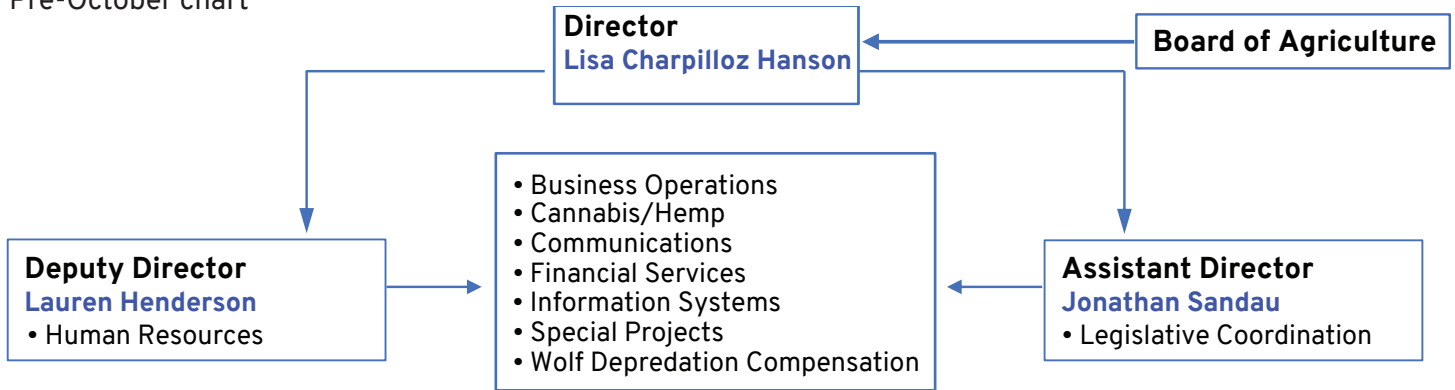
The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) recognizes and values the significant contributions of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon to agriculture and the rich heritage they bring. It is important that tribal interests are meaningfully engaged with, respected, and fully considered in the ODA policy development process. By collaborating with tribes in Oregon, we aim to foster agricultural resiliency - the ability to adapt to and recover from various challenges—such as climate change, market volatility, and resource limitations, while maintaining productivity, environmental stewardship, and economic viability. – in communities across the state.

To ensure meaningful tribal input and communication, ODA commits to:

- **Designating a Tribal Liaison:** Establish and maintain a dedicated agency liaison to foster strong working relationships between ODA and tribes in Oregon.
- **Engaging in Tribal Workgroups:** Actively participate in the Natural Resources Workgroup and Cultural Resources Cluster meetings, where the Tribal Liaison will provide relevant agency updates.
- **Facilitating Issue Resolution:** Notify the ODA Executive Team of issues or concerns raised by tribes and facilitate processes to address them effectively.
- **Enhancing Communication:** Collaborate with tribes to identify their interests, ensuring opportunities for tribal input into the planning, development, and implementation of agency programs and activities. This includes seeking tribal representation on ODA advisory committees and boards where interests align.
- **Access to Records:** Maintain a notification process to inform Oregon tribes before destroying records listed on ODA’s special record retention schedule.
- **Encouraging Tribal Engagement:** Send an annual letter to Oregon tribes outlining upcoming policy and rule development initiatives and inviting their engagement in areas of interest.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Pre-October chart



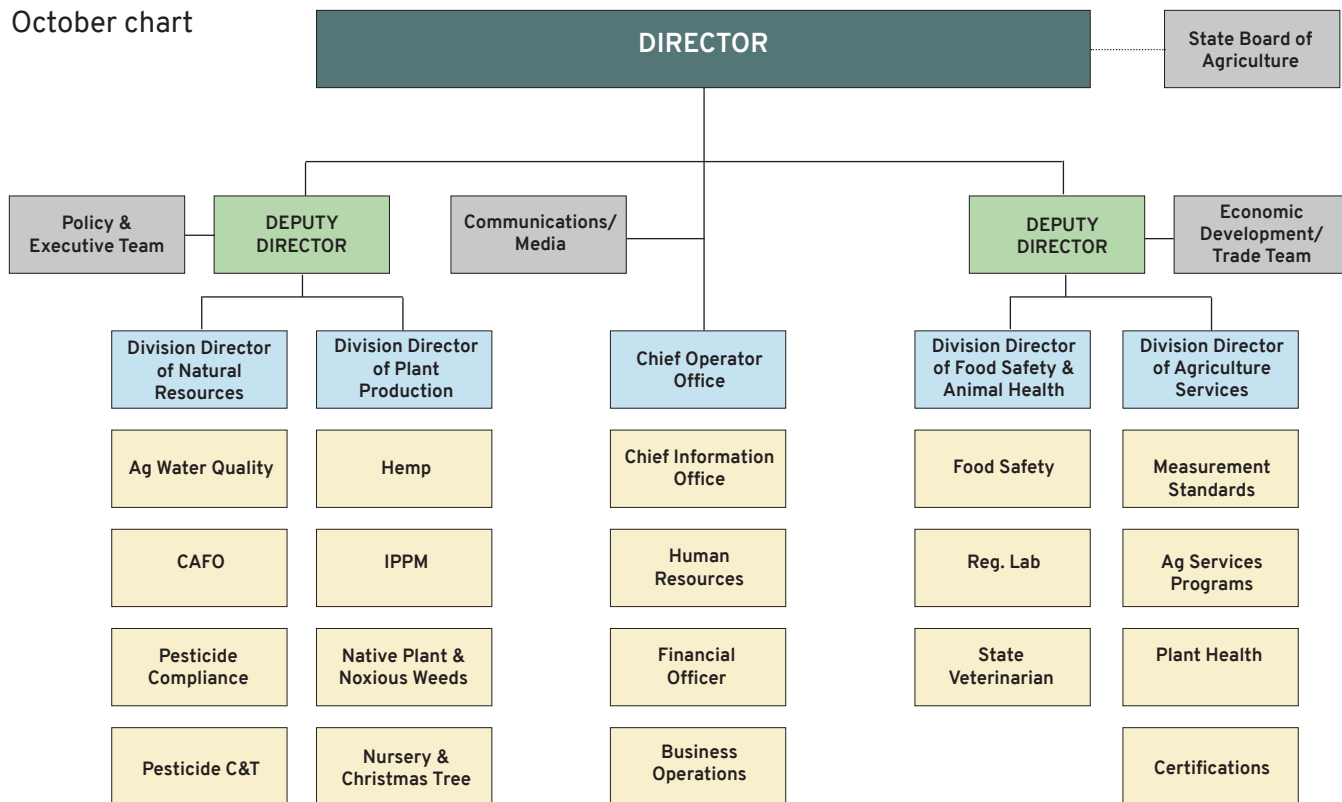
Market Access & Certification Programs Jess Paulson Casey Prentiss	Food Safety & Animal Health Programs Rusty Rock	Natural Resources Programs Isaak Stapleton	Plant Protection & Conservation Programs Chris Benemann
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag. Dev. & Marketing • Commodity Commissions • Farm to School • Farm Direct Nutrition • Mach. & Equip. Certification <p>Casey Prentiss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commodity Inspection • Grain Warehouse • Hops/Hay/Grain Insp. • Specialty Crop Grants • Weed-free forage <p>Susanna Pearlstein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification Services • Produce Safety • Smoke Management <p>Elizabeth Savory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Health & Lab • Seed Regulatory • Smoke Management <p>Steven Harrington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrology Lab • Motor Fuel Quality • Weights & Measures • Egg Laying Hens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Identification • Predator Control <p>Jingyun Duan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Processing • FDA Contracts • HACCP • Shellfish Biotoxin Testing • Shellfish Plat Leasing <p>Karel Smit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy • State Meat Inspection <p>Erin Lockett</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannabis • Retail Food <p>Ryan Scholz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health • Animal Rescue • Commercial Animal Feeds • Nat. Poultry Improvement Program. • Feeds <p>Kathleen Wickman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory Services • Animal Health Lab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use <p>Kevin Fenn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag Channel Maintenance • Agricultural Water Quality • Soil & Water Conservation Districts • GIS Mapping <p>Gilberto Uribe Valdez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticides Certification, Training & Registration • Pesticide Analytical & Response Center • Pesticide Stewardship <p>Toby Primbs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide Enforcement <p>Wym Matthews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confined Animal Feeding Operations • Fertilizers • Soil Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon Invasive Species Council • State Plant Regulatory Official <p>Kevin Bailey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery & Christmas Tree <p>Cody Holthouse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insect Pest Prevention & Management • Apiary <p>Troy Abercrombie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noxious Weed Control • Native Plant Conservation • Weed Grants <p>Vacant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hemp

In October 2024, ODA updated its Organizational Chart to better meet customer needs and improve services. ODA’s Director appointed two Deputy Directors to manage four Division areas. A new Chief Operations Officer was created and will be responsible for the day-to-day business operations to support the Division areas. ODA’s Tribal Liaison works with ODA’s

Directors and program managers to communicate and coordinate with tribal nations in Oregon on issues that align with the Agency’s responsibilities.

Please note the Summary of 2024 ODA Division Area Government-To-Government Tribal Interactions below reflect the January – September 2024 organizational structure.

October chart



SUMMARY OF 2024 ODA PROGRAM AREA GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TRIBAL INTERACTIONS

Per ORS 182.166(3), below is a summary of the 2024 government-to-government interactions with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon by program area.

Administration

Administration includes the Directors’ Office, Communications, Administrative Services, Business Operations, Information Technology, and Special Projects, which are all integral to the successful operation of the ODA. The Directors’ Office provides direction and management to all ODA programs and associated activities. This office also works with the State Board of Agriculture and many other entities and individuals to support the mission and goals of the ODA.

In January 2024, ODA provided a consultation letter to tribal leaders and staff on ODA’s rulemaking and other key activities planned for 2024. The purpose of the letter was to assist in advance communication and allow for more engagement opportunities in areas of tribal interest.

ODA’s Tribal Liaison represented ODA at both the Cultural Resource Cluster (CRC) and the Natural Resource Workgroup (NRWG) meetings. ODA’s tribal liaison continued her role as the co-chair for the NRWG

Cluster throughout 2024. The position works with the tribal co-chair to set the agenda, lead meetings, and assist agency members on state-tribal relations. At the meetings, the tribal liaison shared relevant agency information with tribal governments and arranged presentations on agency programs. The tribal liaison then shared relevant information about the meetings with ODA’s Executive Team and program staff as needed.

Additionally, as ODA became aware of funding opportunities, they were shared with the tribes. This includes the USDA Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure and Equipment Only Grant Program, ODA’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, Farm to School Producer Equipment & Infrastructure Grant Program, and Oregon Meat Processing Grant opportunities. Invitations to participate on ODA-related boards, commissions, councils, and workgroups were also shared with tribal representatives to ensure diverse perspectives and interests have an opportunity to be represented and heard. Examples of such efforts are listed under each program area section.

In 2024, ODA maintained its record destruction notification process to ensure tribes could identify and receive documents of potential interest before they are permanently destroyed.

This process also informs tribes about the types of records ODA maintains. Additionally, ODA's tribal liaison continued to guide other state agencies going through their inventory and record destruction process for items held at the State Archives.

ODA hosts an [Oregon Tribes webpage](#) that provides information and resources for ODA employees and the public. The tribal liaison regularly engages with ODA staff across the agency to develop effective and respectful outreach and communication strategies to tribal nations. Serving as the agency's primary point of contact, the tribal liaison coordinates consultation matters between ODA and tribal nations as needed. Tribal relations training is offered within the agency on an individual basis, with regular communication with ODA staff seeking guidance on program-specific initiatives.



Natural Resources Programs

Natural Resource programs include Agricultural Water Quality Program, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO), Land Use, Fertilizer, Pesticide Compliance and Enforcement Program, Pesticide Licensing and Certification, Pesticide Product Registration, Pesticide Stewardship Partnership, and the Pesticide Analytical and Response Center.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Program staff have been engaged in conversation with the Tiicham SWCD, a non-profit 501(c)(3) associated with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. ODA staff assisted with on-boarding training and strategic planning to develop their Seven Generations Plan (Long Range Business Plan).

In 2024, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians Natural Resources staff were involved in the South Umpqua Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) Planning Meeting, SIA Partner Meeting, and

the beginning stages of the SIA Monitoring Plan development. The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians have one property in the SIA.

In July 2024, ODA sent out consultation letters to several tribes, inviting their participation in the Klamath Headwaters Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Rulemaking. The proposed rulemaking aimed to align the Klamath Headwaters Management Area rules with those in other management areas throughout the state.

Agricultural Water Quality (AgWQ) Program. In September 2024, ODA extended invitations to key tribal representatives from the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon to participate in the AgWQ [Program Advisory Committee](#).

The AgWQ Program also focused on recruiting Local Advisory Committee members, emphasizing the importance of tribal input during the biennial reviews of Area Plans and Rules.

Pesticides Program. ODA continued its work on pesticide applicator licensing associated with individuals and corporations doing business for, or on behalf of, a federally recognized tribe on Oregon's non-tribal lands. This was in response to inquiries from the previous year that identified barriers to ODA's licensing authority on tribal sovereign nations. Concurrently, during the 2023 legislation session, [HB 2687](#) was introduced, and subsequently signed into law in May.

In accordance with ORS 634.116(18), before issuing or renewing any pesticide license or certificate for pesticide applications made to land within Oregon's jurisdiction, ODA and the tribal government must enter into a mutually acceptable agreement. The Pesticides Program has been working to make the process more efficient and streamlined. To comply with HB2687, ODA added a tribal-related question to the online license renewal system and license application forms.

In addition to the outreach conducted on this topic in 2023, ODA Pesticide Licensing staff continued engagement efforts in 2024 with tribal representatives and applicators from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Coquille Indian Tribe to discuss how this may impact their pesticide application practices. ODA has successfully entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Burns Paiute Tribe. ODA's Pesticide Licensing staff continue to work with tribal representatives to identify a pathway to gain lawfully issued applicator license for tribal employees when needed.

ODA's Pesticide Stewardship Specialist gave a presentation at both CRC and NRWG meetings in 2024 on the Environmental Protection Agency's new strategies to protect endangered and threatened species from pesticide use, which will impact pesticide users. ODA's Citizen Advocate also shared webinar opportunities with tribal representatives who may be interested in learning more about this topic. Additionally, ODA continued to collaborate with other state agencies, commodity groups, and growers to implement the strategies in Oregon.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). ODA sent a consultation letter to Oregon's federally recognized tribes in late December 2023 to discuss [Senate Bill 85 \(2023\)](#) related to Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). A follow-up email was sent in June 2024 to NRWG and CRC tribal contacts and key tribal staff on the public notice and hearing information. The bill makes significant changes to the CAFO permitting process including:

- Creating new definitions,
- Requiring a preapplication consultation between applicants and relevant agencies,
- Requiring water supply plan, construction approval and pre-populations inspections,
- Creation of a nutrient application permit for producers receiving animal nutrient from a permitted CAFO and applying to land in a Ground Water Management Area, and
- Limiting exempt stock water use for new or expanding CAFOs to 12,000 gal/day.

Additionally, ODA reached out to tribes in September 2024 on proposed pre-application letters that are required to be sent to all nine federally recognized tribes when an applicant in planning to submit a CAFO application. ODA appreciated public comments received by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Due to the broad impacts of the legislation on the permitting process and the new requirements, the CAFO program paused processing of new applications until the rulemaking was completed in September 2024.

In June 2024, ODA invited the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation to participate in discussions on the Proposed Remedial Action plan for Canyon Farms located in Boardman Oregon. This proposal addresses groundwater cleanup actions related to decommissioning and permit cancelation

of a former confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) at 73956 Homestead Lane, Boardman, Oregon, in Morrow County. These cleanup actions will continue until the water quality in impacted monitoring wells reaches background limits established in the permits.



Plant Protection and Conservation Programs

ODA Plant Protection Division includes Insect Pest Prevention and Management (IPPM), Native Plant Conservation, Noxious Weed Control, Hemp, and Nursery & Christmas Tree. These programs protect Oregon's agricultural industries and the natural environment from harmful plant pests, diseases, and noxious weeds; enhance the value and marketability of exported nursery stock; assist industry to produce hemp plants and products within regulatory guidelines; and conserve threatened and endangered plants.

Native Plant Conservation Program. Created by ODA in 2022, the Native Plant Conservation Workgroup is comprised of members from state, local, federal, nonprofit and tribal partners including representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. The purpose of the workgroup is to provide a forum to keep interested parties updated on program activities such as the status of the state list review and to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing. The workgroup met twice in 2024.

Oregon Administrative Rules 603-073-0060 directs ODA to conduct a periodic review of the State List of Threatened & Endangered plants. Recognizing that tribes have a vested interest in the conservation of native and culturally important plants, ODA invited tribes to engage in this review process in 2024. ODA completed its rulemaking in May 2024 and added six additional plants to the state's list of threatened and endangered plants. An additional consultation letter will be sent out at the start of the 2025 review process.

ODA, in partnership with several other state, federal, non-profit organizations, and tribes continued work on development and implementation of the Oregon Native Seed Strategy guidance document in 2024. Culturally significant plants and tribal nursery needs are addressed throughout the Strategy. ODA included \$100,000 of financial assistance to tribal nurseries and native plant programs in a 2024-2025 project supported by the Natural & Working Lands Fund. ODA presented on this opportunity at the State-Tribal Cultural Resource Cluster and Natural Resource Work Group meetings in 2024. ODA also held a tribal listening session in October of 2024 to get tribal guidance on the efficient and equitable delivery of these funds. ODA will accept formal proposals for funding through December 27, 2024.

Noxious Weed Program. ODA's Noxious Weed Program completed rulemaking to update the state's noxious weed list and quarantine. This rulemaking was initiated by the Oregon State Weed Board's vote (2023) to remove and de-regulate ten species. Prior to beginning the rulemaking process, ODA requested feedback from land managers and stakeholders, including tribal partners. The rules were formally adopted on October 1, 2024.

In 2024, the Noxious Weed Program began implementing a large-scale rangeland resilience project supported by the Natural & Working Lands Fund and federal funds. This project will create two new Rangeland Health Specialists (RHS). These staff will prioritize working with tribal partners and tribally affiliated organizations wherever possible. The first RHS started at the agency in December 2024.

In recent years, the program has prioritized our work with tribal partners and the environmental justice community. The program will host a special tribal luncheon in December 2024 as part of the biannual Interagency Noxious Weeds Symposium. The luncheon will feature a facilitated conversation about the importance of storytelling in natural resource conservation and protection work.

Each year, the program administers the Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program. The program distributes millions of dollars each biennium to support noxious weed work across the state and is open to tribes. The program is currently performing an analysis of funding distribution and project support with respect to environmental justice communities, including tribes.

Insect Pest Prevention and Management (IPPM). In collaboration with the Oregon Department of

Forestry (ODF), ODA has been implementing effective management strategies for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) through the SLAM Strategy (Slowing Ash Mortality) fieldwork approach. ODA partnered with land managers to identify and mark wild Oregon Ash Trees for use as trap trees or treatment trees for future assessment and management.

Following a [permanent quarantine for EAB](#) established in December 2023, EAB was confirmed in three new counties in 2024. The following counties are currently under quarantine: Clackamas, Yamhill, Marion, and Washington. The quarantine restricts the movement of ash, olive, and white fringe tree materials, including but not limited to logs, green lumber, nursery stock, scion wood, root stock, chips, mulch, stumps, roots, branches, and hardwood firewood. Moving nursery stock and wood materials from restricted species out of the quarantine area requires a compliance agreement with the ODA. EAB is now recognized as the most destructive forest pest in North America, having killed hundreds of millions of ash trees. Partner agencies, including ODA, are aware of the cultural significance that Oregon native ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) holds for many tribal nations and seeks to preserve this plant species for as long as possible. ODA provided outreach, collaboration and training opportunities to Oregon tribal representatives on EAB throughout 2024.



Food Safety & Animal Health Programs

The Food Safety Program works to help prevent the spread of foodborne illness. This is accomplished through monitoring Oregon's food industry, enforcing state sanitation laws, inspecting food establishments in Oregon, and working to ensure the consumer gets food that is not contaminated, mislabeled, misrepresented, or changed in any way that would impair safety, wholesomeness, or purity.

The Animal Health Program is responsible for protecting the health of Oregon livestock. This responsibility is carried out through four primary statutory responsibilities – Livestock Disease Control and Response, Animal Disease Traceability (ADT), Animal Emergency Planning and Response, and providing veterinary oversight to the State Meat Inspection Program. Three additional programs with similar missions – Animal Health Laboratory, Commercial Feed Licensing, and Animal Rescue Entity Licensing – also exist within the Animal Health Program.

ODA’s Food Safety Program assisted the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Head Start Preschool staff with inspection and licensing information for custom meat processing firms to incorporate traditional meats into the Tribe’s school menu program.

In July 2024, ODA’s staff from the Food Safety Program participated in the Columbia River Indian Fisher Expo hosted by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) in the Dalles to discuss and share information about their program.

A staff member from the CRITFC continues to sit on ODA’s Food Safety Program Advisory Committee and provide insight on how certain rule changes may impact tribal activities. ODA appreciates the tribal participation that provides valuable insight and feedback to the Food Safety Program on relevant outreach, education, and funding opportunities available to tribal communities.



Market Access and Certification Programs

The Market Access and Certification Program includes a group of closely intertwined programs that operate statewide to assist Oregon’s agricultural producers and businesses to successfully sell and ship products to local, national, and international markets. Programs also provide regulatory oversight and technical assistance. Market Access and Certification programs include Livestock

Identification, Certification, Plant Health, Produce Safety, Seed Regulatory, Shipping Point Inspection, Smoke Management, and Weights and Measures.

Agricultural Development and Marketing Program. This program assists producers, ranchers, fishers, and food processors reach their market goals, whether at local farm stands or through international trade agreements. Through strategic partnerships, grant opportunities, and market development initiatives, the program ensures that Oregon’s products remain competitive and are recognized worldwide for their quality.

Meat Processing Grant Program. A member of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe served as a member of the grant review committee. ODA received a grant application for a new USDA-inspected meat processing facility to be built on the Umatilla Reservation. The application included a strong letter of support from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and aimed to support the processing of indigenous animal processing. Ultimately, the project was not selected for funding.

USDA Resilient Food System Infrastructure (RFSI) Grant Program. ODA, in partnership with USDA-AMS, is administering \$5.9 million in RFSI funds to develop middle-of-the-supply-chain activities for Oregon food systems. In addition to working with tribal producers and processors to develop an estimated \$1.7 million in projects on tribal lands, this program conducted a thorough environmental resource review to ensure there are no significant impact to environmental or cultural resources in Oregon from these developments. ODA is collaborating on consultations with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation for two prospective infrastructure projects, which would bring a combined \$1.14 million in federal funds and private investment into those communities. In accordance with USDA policy, specific details will only be announced once the projects successfully complete the environmental reviews and pending acceptance by USDA.

Farm to School Program (F2S). The Farm to School Program works to connect Oregon farmers, ranchers, seafood harvesters, and food processors with school cafeterias, early childcare centers, summer meal sites, and tribal meal programs. This enables more Oregon agricultural products to be served in the lunch line and helps connect youth to food production through school gardens, farm field trips, and grower visits to the classroom.

More than 800 school gardens across the state are supported by F2S, providing an educational setting to teach students about conservation, environmental stewardship, ecosystem habitats, and how to grow their own crops. The Farm to School Producer Equipment and Infrastructure Grant program provides funds for eligible equipment and infrastructure expenses to producers intending to sell food produced or processed in Oregon to schools, early childcare centers, summer food program sponsors, and tribal meal programs. In 2024, ODA modified the Farm to School Producer Equipment and Infrastructure Grant to allow tribal entities to receive funding for projects that provide native and first foods in tribally managed meal programs outside of USDA National School Meals Program.

2024 Activities included:

- Participation in a Seafood/Fish to School working group with schools, private industry, non-profit organizations, and tribal representatives from Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission to explore markets for tribal caught fish, seafood and aquaculture products.
- Participation in the Columbia River Indian Fishers Expo in July 2024. The one-day event provides support and resources for Columbia River treaty fishers including Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce tribal members. Nine tribal fishers registered for a fish to school consultation.
- Attending the annual NW Intertribal Agriculture Council in Pendleton, OR in September 2024.
- Coordination of a RFSI Roundtable with USDA AMS Undersecretary Jennifer Lester Moffit and ODA Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson. Two representatives from the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission were in attendance.

ODA's Agricultural Development and Marketing program continued outreach to the Intertribal Agricultural Council

(IAC), which includes participation from multiple tribes and affiliated members. Through this collaboration, the program aims to connect and share information on funding opportunities and programs available to tribal nations and affiliated tribal members. The efforts included USDA Agricultural Trade Mission opportunities, 2024 Good Food Mercantile booth discounts in Portland, and ODA grant funding programs.

Weights & Measures Program. Although measurement devices on tribal lands are not subject to state weights and measures laws, Oregon tribes, and some tribal members have requested that the Weights and Measures program license and test their equipment. In 2024, ODA licensed and inspected devices at the following locations:

- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – fish market, Cascade Locks.
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians-multiple devices at multiple locations.

CONCLUSION

ODA deeply values the wealth of knowledge tribes in Oregon bring to the stewardship of our state's natural resources. We are grateful for the collaborative relationships we have built and look forward to strengthening these partnerships in the year ahead. As we work together, ODA is committed to learning more from all nine federally recognized tribes and identifying ways to enhance the services and support we provide. By sharing knowledge and perspectives, we can continue to improve how we serve tribal communities.

A resilient future for Oregon agriculture depends on our collective ability to adapt to challenges. Together, we can build systems that uphold environmental stewardship, foster economic growth, and support the well-being of our rural communities. ODA looks forward to continuing this important work with tribes, ensuring that our shared efforts contribute to a thriving and resilient agricultural future for all.