

IT'S TIME TO MODERNIZE THE FARM DIRECT MARKETING LAW

Since 2011, countless farmers and producers across Oregon have been utilizing the farm direct regulatory framework to safely sell fresh produce and low-risk products directly to their consumers. Family farmers and small communities, particularly in rural Oregon, have benefited greatly from the increased economic capital generated by these farm-to-consumer sales — with opportunities to enhance business and increase revenue, the Farm Direct Marketing Law has been strengthening local and regional food systems across our state for over 10 years.

Its time to bring the Producer Processed Exemption into the modern era with SB 507-1:

- **New Products**

- Freeze dried fruits and veg
- Clarifying herbal teas and blends
- Steam canned acidic foods (same 4.6 pH requirement)
- Maple and Walnut syrup: liquid, solid, cream

- **New Sales Channels**

- Consignment
- Online Farmers Markets
- 3rd party Delivery

- **Raise Sales Limit to \$50k**



Allow for sales to be conducted online



Expand safe, value-added products



Protect third-party facilitation and delivery

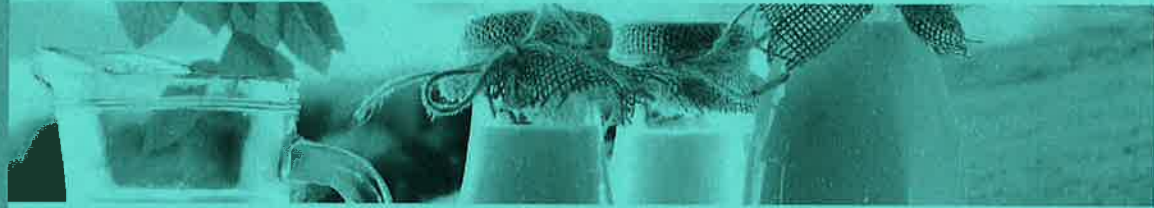
With the ability to sell products like freeze dried fruits, herbal tea blends, dried herbs, maple syrup and acidic steam-canned goods, Oregon's small producers will be better equipped to keep up with growing consumer demand for safe, local products and expand the small businesses that are vital to our communities. The clarifications and additions in SB 507-1 will help producers improve upon the local food system, better market and facilitate their sales, and give them a clearer regulatory framework about what foods can and cannot qualify.

Countless farmers and communities, particularly in rural Oregon, have benefited from the increased economic capital generated by farm-to-consumer sales and we support the continuation and modernization of this important process.

**JOIN US IN SUPPORTING
SB 507-1**



HB 2616



IT'S TIME TO MODERNIZE RAW MILK STANDARDS IN OREGON

Our dairy regulations are no longer serving the small dairies critical to our community food systems, or the consumers who rely on them for fresh, local products. Across Oregon, small dairies are conducting safe, clean and regularly-tested dairy operations under the small producer exemption. With increasing consumer demand for raw cow's milk across Oregon, producers are at a crossroads — unable to grow to meet the demand, and stuck navigating our state's inconsistent dairy laws.

Oregon's raw milk regulations are out of step with all other west coast states. Other states have adopted robust standards around raw milk production, but Oregon's policies are lagging behind. While Oregon allows the retail sale of raw milk from sheep and goats, raw cow's milk has been arbitrarily excluded from retail sales — no other state makes this distinction. It's time to modernize and clarify raw milk standards in Oregon.

FOFF'S 2023 POLICY PROPOSAL



Improving Distribution: Right now, the fluid milk from licensed-exempt dairies can only be sold to consumers at the production site. This is creating unnecessary traffic on our rural roads out to sensitive farm land, is burdensome for consumers, and is difficult for busy farmers. ***We propose allowing off-site transactions, and adding strict labeling requirements for unpasteurized milk, to reduce the burden on farm land and improve consumers ability to access local, healthy products.***



Improving Regulations: Right now, raw milk is only legal to sell if it came from goats or sheep. ***We propose allowing licensed dairies to sell raw milk from goats, sheep and cows, as long as they receive raw milk safety training, adopt standards for regular testing, and formulate a risk management plan.***

JOIN US in calling for the removal of Oregon's raw cow milk prohibition and improving dairy distribution standards for everyone. Your support will:

- Reduce unnecessary travel to small dairy farms that may interfere with agricultural operations
- Help implement statewide safety, testing and training standards for raw milk
- Give Oregon families greater access to natural, local products

Want to learn more? Please contact Heather Rockwell at heather@mahoniapublicaffairs.com or 541.852.1523 or Taylor Sarman at taylor@mahoniapublicaffairs.com or 541.910.5711





Support HB 2667 and Protect Oregon's Environment, Small Farmers, Animals, and Rural Communities

HB 2667

This important legislation would place a moratorium on permitting new and expanding factory farms,¹ providing Oregon with the time it needs to adequately protect its communities and special places.

Why is a factory farm moratorium necessary?

The ongoing expansion of factory farms in Oregon has resulted in dangerous air and water pollution, overconsumption of scarce water supplies, exploitation of workers, loss of family farms, and harms to animal welfare.

The Environment

Factory farms hold thousands of animals and their polluting waste. They are a significant contributor to the climate crisis, generating more greenhouse gas emissions than small and medium-size farms.² Manure from these facilities emits toxic pollutants, including respiratory irritants ammonia and hydrogen sulfide, that affect not only their surrounding communities but human health and ecosystems many miles away.³ Factory farms also threaten to drain and pollute Oregon's water resources. Factory dairy operations

can use as much water as a small city.⁴ Manure that leaches into groundwater degrades surrounding communities' water quality and causes harmful algal blooms that make the state's waters uninhabitable for fish and other aquatic animals.⁵ The decades-long problem with drinking water contamination in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area, driven in significant part by mega dairies and their waste, demonstrates that existing state laws and regulations have failed to prevent this pollution.⁶

Small Farms and Rural Communities

Oregon values family farms and vibrant regional agriculture, and we need to ensure that the state's small family farmers are not further endangered by the permitting of new factory farms. Oregon's agricultural production has been and remains more concentrated than the national average.⁷ Thirty years ago, Oregon was home to more than twice as many dairies as it is today, while the number of cows has remained fairly

¹ O.A.R. 603-074-0010(9)(d).

² Food & Water Watch, *Factory Farms and Climate Change* (Washington, DC: Food & Water Watch, 2018), 2, https://foodandwaterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/fs_1806_factory_farms_and_climate_change-web.pdf.

³ Carrie Hribar, *Understanding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Their Impact on Communities* (Bowling Green, OH: National Association of Local Boards of Health, 2010), 6, https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/docs/understanding_cafos_nalboh.pdf.

⁴ See testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon on SB 583, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment, March 31, 2021, <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/22284>.

⁵ Hribar, *Understanding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations*, 3–5; Irene Schwiager, "CAFOs and Contamination: Regulating Groundwater Pollution from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Under the Clean Water Act," *Vermont Law Review*, staff note, accessed November 30, 2022, [https://lawreview.vermontlaw.edu/staff-note-cafos-and-contamination-regulating-groundwater\[...\].ted-animal-feeding-operations-under-the-clean-water-act/](https://lawreview.vermontlaw.edu/staff-note-cafos-and-contamination-regulating-groundwater[...].ted-animal-feeding-operations-under-the-clean-water-act/).

⁶ Center for Food Safety, "Too Big to Fail? Not on Our Watch! Fighting Factory Dairies to Protect Northwest Communities," Center for Food Safety blog, August 30, 2019, [https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/issues/307/animal-factories/blog/5711/too-big-to-fail\[...\].factory-dairies-to-protect-pacific-northwest-communities](https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/issues/307/animal-factories/blog/5711/too-big-to-fail[...].factory-dairies-to-protect-pacific-northwest-communities).

⁷ Mallory Rahe, "Change in Oregon's Farms by Size and Scale," Oregon State University Extension Service, April 2019, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/business-economics/rural-development/change-oregons-farms-size-scale>.

stable.⁸ The reduction in farms is mainly among small, family-owned businesses. From 1992 to 2017, the number of farms with fewer than 200 cows fell by nearly two-thirds, while the number of farms with more than 500 cows doubled.⁹

We've seen what factory dairies have done to small-scale dairy farms in Oregon. Small family chicken farms could face similar effects. Out-of-state corporations are trying to build massive industrial chicken operations in the Willamette Valley, despite local opposition, further jeopardizing the health and well-being of Oregonians.¹⁰

Factory farming raises serious issues regarding environmental justice, as low-income people and communities of color disproportionately suffer the adverse effects of factory farms.¹¹ Some of Oregon's largest factory dairy farms are in rural Latinx and Hispanic communities, and these communities should not suffer for private profit.

On-Farm Conditions for Workers

Factory farm workers are often subjected to dangerous working conditions and exposed to hazardous chemicals, fumes, and particulate matter. Frequent exposure to these hazards often causes factory farm workers various health problems, such as asthma, headaches, and acute and chronic bronchitis.¹²

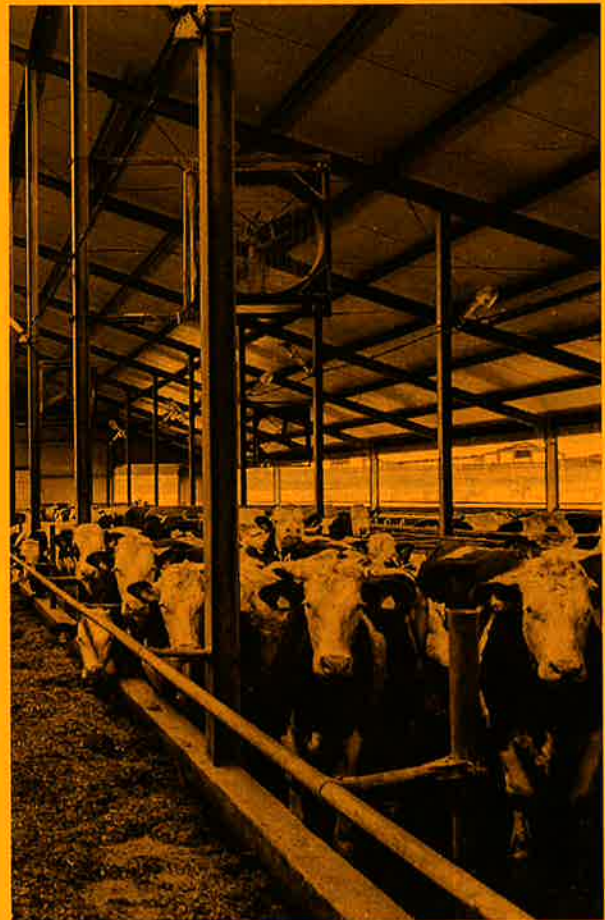
Animal Welfare

At factory farms, many animals are kept in crowded conditions or extreme confinement. Cows used for milk typically spend most of their lives indoors without access to pasture until they are eventually killed because they are "unproductive." Their bodies begin shutting down at just a quarter of a cow's natural life span as a result of the significant physical and emotional toll of constant pregnancy, lactation, and unnatural conditions. Chickens raised for meat are generally confined in ammonia-filled sheds on waste-soaked litter, which often leads to ulcerated

feet, feather loss, blisters, and more.¹³ Bred to grow to market weight unnaturally fast, they can also suffer from debilitating leg disorders and impaired locomotion.¹⁴ Extreme confinement and poor welfare conditions do not align with Oregon's humane values.

Who supports a factory farming moratorium?

The Stand Up to Factory Farms coalition is composed of more than 25 organizations concerned about the harmful impacts of factory farms on Oregon's family farms, communities, the environment, public health, and animal welfare. **HB 2667 is also an Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) priority bill.**



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Visit <https://standuptofactoryfarms.org> for more information.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, *1992 Census of Agriculture, Oregon: State and County Data* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 1992), 31; U.S. Census Bureau, *2017 Census of Agriculture, Oregon: State and County Data* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2017), 23.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, *1992 Census of Agriculture*, 31; U.S. Census Bureau, *2017 Census of Agriculture*, 23.

¹⁰ Alex Baumhardt, "More Industrial Chicken Farms Around Scio Raise Community Concerns, Backlash," *Oregon Capital Chronicle*, February 28, 2022, <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2022/02/28/more-industrial-chicken-farms-around-scio-raise-community-concerns-backlash/>.

¹¹ Kelley J. Donham et al., "Community Health and Socioeconomic Issues Surrounding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations," *Environmental Health Perspectives* 115, no. 2 (February 2007): 318.

¹² Hribar, *Understanding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations*, 6.

¹³ Elizabeth Overcash, *Detailed Discussion of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations: Concerns and Current Legislation Affecting Animal Welfare* (East Lansing: Michigan State University College of Law Animal Legal and Historical Center, 2011), animalaw.info/article/detailed-discussion-concentrated-animal-feeding-operations.

¹⁴ Toby G. Knowles et al., "Leg Disorders in Broiler Chickens: Prevalence, Risk Factors and Prevention," *PLoS One* 3, no. 32 (February 2008): e1545, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2212134/>.



THE STATE OF OREGON SMALL FARMS: OPPORTUNITIES AND KEY ISSUES FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

SEPTEMBER 2022

This report was made possible by the hundreds of producers and eaters who attended the Farmer and Rancher Listening Sessions and responded to our Family Farmers Survey, as well as through the support of our numerous organizational partners.

OUR VISION

Friends of Family Farmers envisions a local, diversified, and interconnected agricultural future built by small and mid-size farms where people, animals, communities and ecosystems thrive, and equitable policies improve lives and land for Oregonians.

OUR MISSION

Friends of Family Farmers advances policies and programs that protect, promote and sustain resilient and economically viable community agricultural systems in Oregon.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF) has hosted Farmer and Rancher Listening Sessions throughout Oregon since 2009 – using these conversations as a way to identify key issues facing socially and ecologically and ecologically responsible, small and mid-size farms. In 2010, following the first round of Listening Sessions, FoFF wrote and signed the Agricultural Reclamation Act (ARA) along with 70 Farmer and Rancher Delegates. The ARA was a groundbreaking document which identifies the top issues and challenges hindering producers as well as the policy actions that could overcome those challenges.

The Listening Sessions conducted every other year continue the process started by the ARA and provide an opportunity to review, refresh and renew it. Since its creation, FoFF has actively worked on behalf of Oregon farmers and ranchers by addressing the issues identified in the ARA and by our members. We value the voices of Oregon's family farmers and we continue to advocate for funding, policy changes and expanded programming specifically geared towards small and mid-size producers during every legislative session.

This report summarizes the central themes that emerged during our 2022 Listening Sessions, as well as the priorities identified in the 2022 Family Farmers Survey, which received over 520 responses from farmers, eaters and allies across the state.

LISTENING SESSIONS

During the spring of 2022, FoFF hosted 7 Listening Sessions (5 regional and 2 statewide) and partnered with culturally specific organizations to host 5 additional Listening Sessions within their communities. These sessions were invaluable because they not only let farmers express their needs and barriers, but also allowed for in-depth discussion of the nuance of their experience

that cannot be achieved through a survey response alone. We heard from dozens of farmers and ranchers, representing these key areas:

CENTRAL OREGON • SOUTHERN OREGON • OREGON COAST
EASTERN OREGON • WILLAMETTE VALLEY

The two additional sessions were for a statewide audience, one in English and one in Spanish.

Thank you so much to our Listening Session Partners: Black Food Sovereignty Coalition, Kasama Farm, Seven Waters Canoe Family, RAICES program of Next Door, and the Raceme Collective. Your input was essential in forming our policy priorities and solutions.

CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC LISTENING SESSIONS

In our culturally-specific and partner listening sessions, we saw a variety of common themes emerge. Among them was the need to address farmworker housing, barriers to generating equity and capital, and the constant challenge of working within temporary spaces.

In the indigenous-led listening session, the most common themes were filtered through a unique equity lens. The top concerns for indigenous farmers were, by far: land access, water access and meat production. These issues are more personal, systemic and complex for indigenous farmers, however. The farmers in this listening session shared that their focus is on the restoration of their home land, and the desire for native practices to be reintroduced and protected for indigenous Oregon farmers – things like rainwater collection, animal hunting and processing, and dry farming.

Other partner groups brought up the need to address regulatory and insurance issues, a lack of financial and educational resources for BIPOC farmers, and the historically prejudiced food marketing and food waste systems. For nearly all groups, though, inequitable access to land and land leasing concerns were raised as the biggest barrier – especially for underrepresented, BIPOC, women and Spanish-speaking farmers/ranchers.

COMMON THEMES

We're breaking down the **top three common themes** that emerged throughout all of the culturally-specific, regional and statewide sessions – the repeated barriers and challenges faced by Oregon's family-scale producers.

#1 LAND USE, CAPITAL AND EQUIPMENT

Land and equipment are difficult to access, as we well know – especially for underserved and rural farmers. Securing long-term access to land is complicated and we heard this throughout the Listening Sessions.

Some folks expressed trouble accessing commercial kitchens, others expressed interest in alternatives to accessing and sharing farm equipment, and nearly everyone addressed the largest financial barrier: affording and accessing farmland. This is especially true for groups of farmers who have historically experienced discrimination in land ownership in Oregon including BIPOC farmers. Special consideration of the needs of these farmers must be included in an equitable solution.

#2 FOOD SALE AND PRODUCTION

Improving the regulatory framework for small-scale farmers to be able to sell directly to consumers was a major theme during the Listening Sessions – we heard about logistical issues with state-funded food buying programs, challenges around consignment and food hub models of sale, and the difficulties of navigating food safety regulations around products like bread, raw milk, pickles, eggs, broth and meat processing, mobile kitchens, and more. There is also a need for clarification on some of the farm direct laws because there were instances reported in the Listening Sessions of unequal application/enforcement of these regulations and confusion over their application to culturally specific foods that logically fell within the laws.

#3 CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

Climate change and water issues were brought up time and again – not only in our listening sessions but throughout our survey as well. Farmers and ranchers in Central Oregon and Southern Oregon especially expressed difficulty with the lack of available irrigation water.

Members in the Willamette Valley brought up the lingering challenges brought on by recent heat waves, wildfires and ice storms, and the impacts of climate change on the cost of materials. On the Oregon Coast we heard concerns around lowering rainfall levels and the need for cheaper water, feed and the products needed to keep farms thriving, especially for organic practices.



SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who filled out our 2022 Family Farms Survey!

We surpassed the response goal for our 2022 Family Farms Survey and we are thrilled with the input, questions and suggestions we received during our surveying process. In total, we collected 521 responses from friends and allies across the state. Many of the concerns raised in our Listening Sessions were raised in our Family Farms Survey as well – below we have compiled a summary of our survey participants and their responses, including analysis on the top themes and issues raised by family farmers this year.

DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2021, a [report from the Oregon State Board of Agriculture](#) shared that Oregon has over 67,595 producers across the state.



97% of Oregon farmers are operating family-owned farms

44% of Oregon producers are women



The average age of an Oregon farmer is 57.9 years old

Less than 7% of producers are BIPOC



The producers, farmers, ranchers and eaters who responded to the Family Farms survey are more diverse in both age and ethnicity than the general population of Oregon producers.

AGE

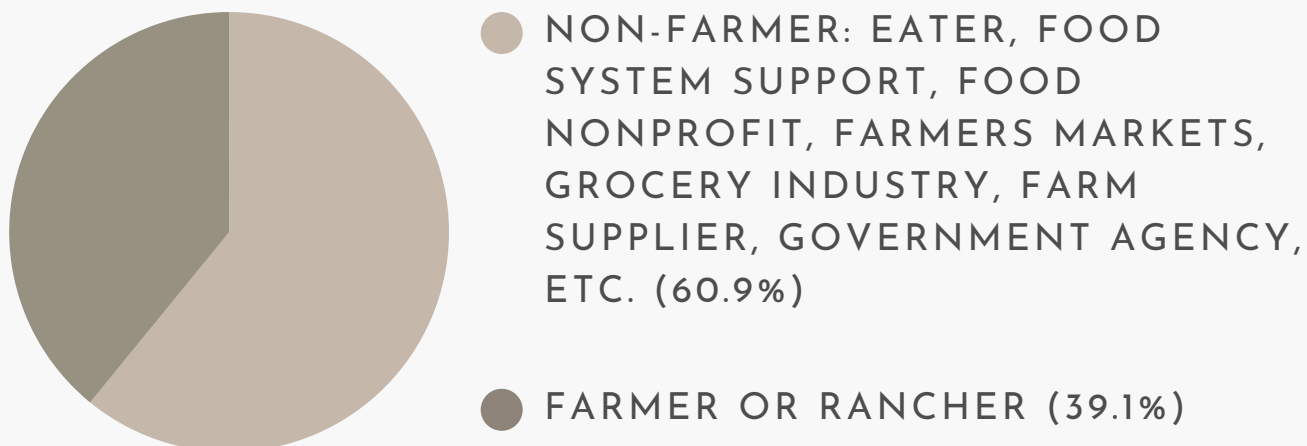
We had a nearly even age distribution among our survey respondents, ranging almost equally between ages 25-74. The largest block of survey respondents (24.9%) fell between 35-44 years old, followed shortly by respondents ages 25-34 (19.5%), 45-54 (17.7%), 55-64 (17.1%) and 65-74 (14.6%).

DIVERSITY

Nearly 70% of our survey respondents self-identified as female, with 21.6% identifying as male, 4% identifying as nonbinary, and the remainder as queer female, trans masculine, woman and unspecified.

We had more than twice as many BIPOC respondents than there are BIPOC producers on average – with 17.9% identifying as Black, Latinx, Asian, Middle Eastern, Native American and Multiracial and the rest identifying as white or unspecified.

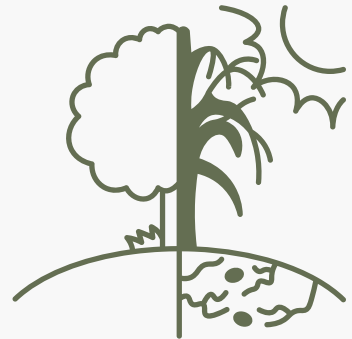
Our respondents were mixed between farmers, ranchers and non-farmers:



TOP ISSUES

Many top concerns raised in the survey revolved around water, land use, climate change, industrial agriculture and food safety and sales regulations. While dozens of concerns were raised on everything from agritourism to farm worker wages to technical assistance, our team has analyzed the top issues identified as well as the top three common themes, which will inform our policy priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session and beyond.

When asked about the top five concerns facing family farmers, one response floated to the top of the pile again and again. Over 57% of respondents agreed that the **Effects of Climate Change** is the number one issue facing family farmers today, followed closely by **Water Supply, Quality and Access**.



We know that the pace, intensity and evolving patterns of climate change have created countless obstacles for family farmers, as drought, fires and flooding impacts the viability of crops across the agricultural sector. In the survey, we heard from farmers and ranchers alike who have had to move their farms in order to find more reliable, clean water. We heard about the disastrous impacts of extreme weather events – from summer wildfire smoke to winter ice storms – displacing livestock and destroying crop yields. We heard about excessive rain and snowfall impacting harvest schedules, scale and success. But we also heard about smaller-scale, more surmountable concerns facing family farmers.

These were among the top concerns raised in our 2022 survey:

*Climate Change (57%) • Water Access (51%) • Limited Access to Capital (40%)
Access to Affordable, Appropriate Land (40%) • Impacts of Industrial Agriculture (38%)
Lack of Processing/Storage Infrastructure (36%) • Land Use Concerns (33%)
Issues with Farm Workers, Wages and Labor Shortages (31%)
Affordable Healthcare (23%) • Succession Planning (21%)
Food Safety Regulations (19%) • GMOs (19%) • Agritourism (19%)
Access to Food Distributions and Sales Channels (18%)*



COMMON THEMES

There were three common threads and themes that emerged among the top issues raised by family farmers in our 2022 survey: concerns with **Climate and Industrialization**, **Food Safety and Sales**, and **Land and Equipment**.

#1 CLIMATE AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

As noted earlier, climate change was the number one issue raised by family farmers on this year's survey. After witnessing unprecedented climate events in our state back-to-back over the past few years, it's not hard to see why this issue is top of mind. With increased heat waves, unusual ice storms and frost seasons, prolonged rain, unmanageable flooding, extreme drought, and an overall unpredictability in the weather, farmers across Oregon are struggling to farm, produce and work safely, successfully and effectively. In addition to the climate and water crises facing Oregon farmers, many also drew attention to related issues around industrial land use, agritourism, and the political actions by industrial agriculture which undermine small farmers. Through FoFF's membership in the Oregon Conservation Network (OCN), we are working with a strong coalition to address the challenges of Oregon's water crisis with small farmers as a key constituency.

#2 FOOD SAFETY AND SALES

Food safety regulations, distribution limitations and restricted access to sales outlets was also a big concern raised by producers. Many producers drew attention to regulatory struggles they face specifically around raw milk, pickled or processed foods, egg handling and home baking. With strict regulations in place, many producers are looking for alternative selling outlets such as Food Hubs, or for more lenient access to farmers markets. Others expressed a desire to sell under a broader farm-to-consumer setting, like with off-premises sales options or delivery.

#3 LAND AND EQUIPMENT

Accessing and affording land was brought up again and again throughout the survey – many identifying this as the number one barrier to farming. We

know that without farmland and farming equipment, there is no farming. In addition to accessing farmland, many struggle with accessing housing to accommodate themselves or their workers, especially in rural communities.

POLICY PROPOSALS

FARM DIRECT MARKETING LAW (FDML) ENHANCEMENTS:

Since the enactment of HB 2336 in 2011, countless farmers and producers across Oregon have been utilizing this regulatory framework to safely sell fresh produce and certain low risk value-added products directly to consumers. Countless farmers and communities, particularly in rural Oregon, have benefited from the increased economic capital generated by farm to consumer sales in addition to the strengthening of local and regional food systems. With over 10 years of success stories about farmers safely selling products to consumers and enhancing their own economic opportunities, the 2023 Legislative Session offers an opportunity to build on this work and enhance Oregon's Farm Direct Marketing Law by:

- Online Sales - Explicitly permit the online sale of products that fall under the Farm Direct Marketing Law
- Modernizing Distribution - Allow for the contracting of a third party entity for the facilitation of a sale, marketing and/or delivery of products from the farm to the consumer
- Additional Products - Expand products eligible for Farm Direct Exemption
- Clarify Ingredients - Define and clarify the non-farm-grown ingredients allowed for value-added products
- Consignment - Expand consignment eligibility to certain value-added products

RAW MILK AND SMALL DAIRY REGULATIONS:

Based on member feedback, survey suggestions, conversations and sessions, we have identified a few actionable steps to help raw milk producers grow their business, when desired, and access a broader consumer base. With the state's growing prioritization of creating an equitable, accessible and local food system – especially as we continue to navigate food access challenges exacerbated by the pandemic – we propose changes to Oregon's sales regulations for dairies that fall under the exemption status laid out in ORS 621.012. In 2023 and in future Legislative Sessions as needed, the Oregon Legislature should consider:

- Off-Premise Sales - Permitting off-premises sales (such as in farmers markets and food hubs) and including delivery options of raw milk for licensed-exempt dairies.
- Removing Cow Prohibition - Repealing the raw cow's milk prohibition in ORS 621.116 to help remove barriers to accessing insurance for small dairy farms.
- Training Access - Establishing a platform to report on raw milk safety training, risk analysis and testing standards for licensed dairies engaging in raw milk sales.

POLICY PARTNERSHIPS

While FoFF will be taking the lead on the above policy proposals for the 2023 Legislative Session, we are actively involved in legislative advocacy for a number of key policy proposals important to our membership, including:

MAINTAIN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY PROTECTED DISTRICT:

Oregon's Willamette Valley is home to a globally renowned specialty seed industry, which would be devastated if the production of Canola were permitted to occur unregulated and without consideration of the impacts to specialty seeds and other agricultural commodities. In 2019, the Oregon Legislature, recognizing the important need to protect the Willamette Valley from unfettered canola production, created the Willamette Valley Protected District and limited the amount of canola that can be produced in the designated area. The 2023 Oregon Legislature must:

- **Remove Sunset** - SB 885 (2019) included a sunset provision which will repeal the Willamette Valley Protected District and allow the increased production of canola in the Willamette Valley. Oregon must remove the sunset provision and make the WVPD permanent.

EXPAND MEAT PROCESSING GRANT FUNDING:

During the 2021 Legislative Session the Oregon Legislature allocated \$2 million to create the Oregon Meat Processing Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grant. The creation of this grant program recognized the tremendous shortage of meat processors across Oregon and the need to make our supply chain more resilient. The need is further demonstrated by the extensive funding requests that the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) received. With only \$2 million in funding available, the ODA was able to fund six projects, while receiving 44 funding requests totaling more than \$14 million. In 2023 the Oregon Legislature should:

- **Expand Meat Processing Grant** - Allocate at least an additional ten million dollars to the Meat Processing Infrastructure Grant program and allocate an additional \$800,000 for FTE in support of Oregon's State Meat Inspection Program.

ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS IMPACT OF FACTORY FARMS:

Climate change is the number one concern for the farmers we serve in this year's survey. This continues the trend from 2020 and 2018 as well. This year the impact of industrial agriculture has crept back up to the top five as well. Whether this is because of high profile industrial farm problems like the ones being faced in Scio and Boardman, or because the farmers we serve are growing increasingly worried for their own viability in an era of Oregon welcoming factory farms with open arms, FoFF is taking action. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, livestock production is the dominant source of methane in the United States, and manure management is the fastest growing major source of methane, with total emissions increasing by more than 62 percent between 1990 and 2020. Dairy operations specifically are a large part of these increases in manure methane emissions, with overall dairy emissions increasing 122 percent within that same timeframe. In Oregon, agriculture is the leading source of methane emissions, and animal agriculture (enteric fermentation and manure management) is responsible for over 3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide ("CO₂") equivalent each year.

We at FoFF know that this is true of confined animal agriculture. In our programs like the [Oregon Pasture Network](#) we provide resources, community, and education for pasture based animal agriculturalists, but sometimes we also need to stand up to the bad actors in our sector. Oregon has become a target of very large factory farms in recent years due to loose permitting standards. Our family farms, natural resources, and climate are suffering because of it.

- [Large Tier 2 CAFO Moratorium](#): FoFF joins with our partners at the Stand Up to Factory Farms Coalition to request a moratorium of new large tier 2 CAFO permits in Oregon until meaningful environmental regulations can be put in place.

PROGRAM UPDATES

ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR UNDERSERVED AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS:

Agriculture production is an extensively capital-intensive industry and for many Oregonians' access to critical capital to start, maintain, and grow their businesses is out of reach - particularly for young, beginning, and underserved BIPOC producers. With over 30% of farmers over the age of 65, it is critical that public policy incentivizes new and beginning farmers and removes capital barriers for those interested in pursuing agriculture production. FoFF continues to advocate for:

- **Direct Funding** - Build on other state loan programs, by providing direct funding in the form of forgivable loans and grants to underserved and BIPOC producers.
- **Oregon Ag Heritage Program** - Expand the program with additional funding to improve farmland availability and support producers with technical assistance.
- **Tax Incentives** - Create tax credit to incentivize the sale/transfer of farmland to owners who intend to utilize property for farming and agricultural production.

While political momentum on these policies continues to be unsteady, we have shifted much of our advocacy in this space towards programming. In order to fill the gap in land security technical assistance, FoFF has joined with our partners in the Oregon Community Food Systems Land and Capital Technical Assistance Workgroup to build complementary program to help land seekers and land holders at all stages meet their goals. We work diligently with all members of the coalition but have especially focused on building complementary programming with two of our partners.

Rogue Farm Corps maintains their farmer training programs (apprenticeship and internship) to help build skills and spark interest in farming as a career. They then offer business planning support for experienced farmworkers to develop a business plan and flesh out their vision for the farm they would like to run.

FoFF runs Oregon Farm Link to provide a platform for people like those coming out of Rogue Farm Corps programming to find the land that's suitable for their farm goal. This is also a platform for landholders to find the next owner/lessee/caretaker of their land with an emphasis on keeping farmland in production and continuity of stewardship practices. We also offer the Navigate Program for BIPOC landseekers which includes one on one technical assistance and subsidized access to experts like lawyers. We have plans to expand this program to other demographic groups and geographic areas soon, see our website for updates!

Oregon Agricultural Trust rounds out the core of this partnership through their work to find succession solutions for Oregon's farmers as they plan for the inevitable generational transfer of Oregon's farmland. With the average Oregon Farmer nearing the age of 60, these resources and supports are vital to ensure that farmland stays accessible to family farmers and stays in production.

This group of three organizations refers people to and from each program as appropriate, shares resources and has plans to expand our shared work in the coming years. Stay tuned for more announcements soon.

NEXT STEPS

We know there are countless barriers faced by family farmers and more work needs to be done every year to chip away at the financial and regulatory burdens carried by small producers. With dozens and dozens of issues identified, we are working hard to build out long-term strategies for some of the most pressing, yet politically challenging issues. Among these are water conservation, land use, climate change, and expanding financial resources for small and mid-size farmers.

FARMER POLICY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Are you interested in learning more about the process of creating and passing bills? Do you have time to help with FoFF's policy tracking and legislative advocacy for the 2023 Legislative Session? Are you ready to jump in and get to work for family farmers everywhere?

JOIN THE FARMER POLICY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Beginning this winter, we will be building a small coalition of FoFF members to assist with our policy advocacy and monitoring the agricultural issues that arise during the 2023 Legislative Session, which will run from January through June.

If you are interested in learning more about this committee, please contact our policy contractor:

Taylor Sarman
Mahonia Public Affairs
taylor@mahoniapublicaffairs.com
541.910.5711

SAVE THE DATE

If you are interested in learning more about legislative advocacy or the priorities that FoFF is putting forward for the 2023 Legislative Session beginning in January, we encourage you to attend our upcoming Advocacy Workshops and InFARMations. Mark your calendars!

2022-2023 ADVOCACY WORKSHOP SERIES

Location: Virtual

Time: 6-7:30pm

November 1, 2022: Building a Relationship Legislators

December 6, 2022: Giving Testimony

January 3, 2023: Engaging with the Media

2022-2023 INFARMATIONS

Location: Virtual

Time: 6-7:30pm

November 3, 2022: Expanding Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Farmers

December 8, 2022: New Opportunities for Micro-Dairy Farms

January 5, 2023: Coalition Priorities

JOIN THE FIGHT

If time is not at your disposal, consider pitching in a few bucks to help with legislative advocacy. Your hard-earned dollars will go right into addressing the issues and concerns raised throughout this survey, and FoFF's continued work to create an equitable, safe and sustainable food system



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