



State Board of Agriculture Meeting Agenda

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
June 4, 2025	State Board of Agriculture meeting (See below for details)	5:00 PM	6:30 PM
June 5, 2025	State Board of Agriculture meeting (See below for details)	8:30 AM	5:00 PM
June 6, 2025	State Board of Agriculture meeting (See below for details)	8:30 AM	12:00 PM

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL/Website	CONTACT PHONE
Board Coordinator	BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture	503.986.4552

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 4, 2025			
ITEM	TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER
1	5:00 PM	Welcome and Board of Agriculture meeting call to order <ul style="list-style-type: none">Roll call/Introductions	Elin Miller , Chair State Board of Agriculture
2	5:15 PM (75 min)	Local Industry Panels <u>County Commissioners</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Paul Anderes, Union County CommissionerChristina Whitham, Baker County Commissioner <u>Local Industry</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Matt McElligott, President, Oregon Cattlemen's AssociationAmber Hines, Intermountain Livestock (<i>invited</i>) <u>Meat Grants</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Justin Follet, Follet's Meat (<i>invited</i>)Jake Hines, Hines Meat (<i>invited</i>)Billy & Colleen Oldridge, Billy Bob's Butcher Shop (<i>invited</i>)	

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48 hours advance notice please (503.986.4552)
Agenda subject to change

	6:30 PM (90 min)	Informal Reception <i>The public is invited to join the Board of Agriculture members and ODA staff for a reception. Light appetizers will be served.</i> Location: Eastern Oregon University/Gilbert Event Center 1 University Blvd. La Grande, OR 97850	
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Thursday, June 5, 2025			
ITEM	TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER
3	8:30 AM (40 min)	Welcome and Board of Agriculture meeting call to order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll call/Introductions • Approval of minutes • Director's report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ODA Strategic Plan Progress Report ○ Governor Expectations – Quarter 1 Report ○ ODA Program Area Reports ○ LUBGWMA ○ Rulemaking 	Elin Miller , Chair State Board of Agriculture Lisa Charpillouz Hanson ODA Director
4	9:10 AM (30 min)	ODA's Budget and Legislative Update	Jonathan Sandau , ODA Deputy Director Lindsay Eng , ODA Deputy Director Adam Crawford , ODA Chief Operating Officer
5	9:40 AM (35 min)	Working Lands in Oregon – Project Overview	Sarah Reif , Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife Troy Abercrombie , Oregon Dept of Agriculture
	10:45 AM (15 min)	Break	
6	11:00 AM (20 min)	Public Comment (See below for instructions)	
	11:30 AM (60 min)	Lunch break <i>Lunch provided for Board of Ag members</i>	
7	12:30 PM	Site visits – Board members and staff only	

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Agenda subject to change

	5:30 PM	Board Dinner for <i>Board members and ODA staff will gather for dinner. No Board business scheduled during dinner.</i>	
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Friday, June 6, 2025			
ITEM	TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER
	8:30 AM (5 min)	Welcome and Board of Agriculture meeting call to order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call/Introductions 	Elin Miller , Chair State Board of Agriculture
8	8:35 AM (15 min)	OSU College of Agricultural Sciences – Dean’s update	Staci Simonich , Dean
9	8:50 AM (60 min)	OSU’s Ag and NR Program at Eastern Oregon University (a dual-enrolled program)	Penny Diebel , Director, Eastern Oregon Agriculture & Natural Resources Academic Program
	9:50 AM (10 min)	Break	
10	10:00 AM (15 min)	Public Comment (See below for instructions)	
11	10:15 AM (60 min)	Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – Natural Resources Program	Eric Quaempts , Natural Resources Director
12	11:15 AM (60 min)	Board Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OWEB report Action Items – March 2025 Meeting Resolutions Newsletter topics 	Elin Miller , Chair State Board of Agriculture

Next meeting: September 3-5 | Klamath Falls, OR

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Agenda subject to change

DRAFT – May 27, 2025
Page 3 of 4

Public Comment

Written comments

All written comments received by the deadline will be posted on the ODA website and will be provided to the Board in advance of the meeting. Submit your written comments online at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture> or by email to: BoardAgriculture@ODA.oregon.gov by **5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 27, 2025**.

Verbal comments – Remote

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period on Thursday, June 5, 2025, and on Friday, June 6, 2025. To provide verbal comment remotely, you must email: BoardAgriculture@ODA.oregon.gov by **5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 27, 2025**, and provide the following information:

- Date you plan to provide verbal comments (June 5 or June 6)
- Your first and last name
- The topic of your comment
- The telephone number you will be using when calling the meeting

Verbal comments – In-person

To provide verbal comments in-person you must sign-up, prior to the comment period on the agenda, at the meeting and provide your name and organization. If you have written material as part of your public comment, please provide the board assistant with 20 copies prior to your testimony. Comment time is limited to three minutes per person.

See below for meeting location and call-in details.

Meeting Details

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Quarterly Meeting

In-person	Remote
Eastern Oregon University Gilbert Event Center 1 University Blvd. La Grande, OR 97850 https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture	Microsoft Teams Need help? Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 215 044 380 90 Passcode: q5Nohg Dial in by phone +1 503-446-4951,,476439486# United States, Portland Find a local number Phone conference ID: 476 439 486#

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Agenda subject to change

DRAFT – May 27, 2025

Page 4 of 4

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 02 *Industry Panel – Legislative priorities and updates*

I. Introduction

Local leaders and industry partners are invited to share about issues impacting their communities. Invited to participate include county commissioners, meat grant recipients, and local producers.

Confirmed participants:

- Paul Anderes, Union County Commissioner
- Christina Whitham, Baker County Commissioner
- Matt McElligott, President, Oregon Cattlemen’s Association

Invited participants:

- Amber Hines, Intermountain Livestock
- Justin Follet, Follet’s Meat
- Jake Hines, Hines Meat
- Billy & Colleen Oldridge, Billy Bob’s Butcher Shop

II. Background

This is an opportunity to hear from organizations to learn about current issues, and concerns. These reports may identify future topics the Board would like to learn more about.



Oregon State Board of Agriculture Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
03/12-14/2025	Salem, OR and virtual	5:00 pm	12:00 PM
FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE	
Karla Valness	Karla.Valness@oda.oregon.gov	503.986.4554	

Meeting Recording:

March 12 - Meeting recording Part 1 – <https://youtu.be/k2uzal1TP5I>

March 13 – Meeting recording Part 2 – <https://youtu.be/DUrkIRurQUQ>

March 14 – Meeting recording Part 3 – <https://youtu.be/u9P7s5FXKD8>

March 14 – Meeting recording Part 4 – <https://youtu.be/tiaMDQJQBJU>

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Agenda Item 01 – Welcome and Introductions

Chair Elin Miller called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Introductions of board members followed.

- Board members present: Chair Elin Miller, Chad Allen, Ty Kliewer, Miguel Lopez, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem, ODA Director Lisa Charpillouz Hanson
- Board members absent: Barbara Boyer, Kirk Maag, Josh Zielinski, OSU Dean Staci Simonich
- Others present in-person/remote: Jonathan Sandau, Lindsay Eng, Isaak Stapleton, Casey Prentiss, Chris Benemann, Rusty Rock, Karla Valness, Courtney Crowell, Megan Kemple, Dave Dillion, Rachel Hankins, Katie Murray, Lesley Tamura, April Snell, Amanda Hoey, Tami Kerr, Senator Jeff Golden, Karen Withers, Tammy Dennee, Alice Morrison, Tess Milio, Sarah Reif, Representative Alek Skarlatos, Lauren Kuenzi, Ryann Gleason, Andrea Kreiner, Sherry Kudna, Three Rivers Audio Visual.

Guest speaker

Chair Elin Miller welcomed Courtney Crowell from Governor Kotek’s office to the meeting and invited Ms. Crowell forward to introduce herself and share remarks with the board.

Agenda Item 02 – Industry Panel – Legislative priorities and updates

Industry representatives from 16 organizations shared information, legislative priorities and updates with the board. Representatives from the Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers, Food Northwest, Friends of Family Farmers, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Oregon Association of Nurseries, Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network, Oregon Dairy Farmers Association, Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Organic Coalition, Oregon Seed Association, Oregon Seed Council, Oregon Water Resources Congress, Oregon Wheat Growers League, and Oregonians for Food and Shelter joined the recent meeting.

Themes from the industry representatives included, but were not limited to, concerns with market disruptions in export markets and support to continue domestic and international marketing programs, support for the state meat inspection program, concerns with the agriculture worker overtime rules, support for OSU statewide budgets, support for a competitiveness study to deepen the understanding of the challenges and opportunities that face Oregon agriculture and food processing, wildfire funding, brand inspection fees, wolf compensation, community food system resilience, protecting working lands statewide, support for funding ODA and natural resource agency budgets, and concerns related to establishing an ag workforce standards board.

Resource:

- League of Women Voters of Oregon handout
- Oregon Cattlemen's Association handout
- Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network handout
- Oregon Friends of Family Farmers handout

The meeting recessed at 6:30 pm until Thursday, March 13, 2025

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Agenda Item 03 – Welcome and Introductions

Chair Elin Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions of board members followed.

- Board members present: Chair Elin Miller, Chad Allen, Ty Kliewer, Miguel Lopez, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem, ODA Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson, OSU Dean Staci Simonich
- Board members absent: Barbara Boyer, Kirk Maag, Josh Zielinski
- Others present in-person/remote: Jonathan Sandau, Lindsay Eng, Isaak Stapleton, Casey Prentiss, Chris Benemann, Rusty Rock, Karla Valness, Troy Ambercrombie, Sunny Summers, Andrea Cantu-Schomus, Sherry Kudna, Catherine Macdonald, Sophie Els, Lauren Link, Tom Reitmann, Theresa Yoshioka, Mat Goddard, Three Rivers Audio Visual.

Approval of minutes

Draft minutes from the December 17-19, 2024, board meeting was presented for review and approval.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Ellie Norris to approve the December 2024 minutes as presented. Second by Ty Kliewer. Motion passed unanimously by: Chad Allen, Ty Kliewer, Miguel Lopez, Elin Miller, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem.

Draft minutes from the January 31, 2025, board meeting was presented for review and approval.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Eric Orem to approve the January 2025 minutes as presented. Second by Ty Kliewer. Motion passed unanimously by: Chad Allen, Ty Kliewer, Miguel Lopez, Elin Miller, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem.

Director's report

Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson reported on several items in her update to the Board.

- Director Charpiloz Hanson introduced Adam Crawford as the ODA Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Crawford joined the ODA about six weeks ago from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

Chief Financial Office. He has worked with the ODA in 2023 as the Agency budget analyst and became familiar with the agency. Prior to DAS he worked for about 5 years in the legislature.

- The NASDA Winter Policy meeting was held in February in Washington, DC. In addition to the NASDA meetings, the director attended meetings on the Hill as part of the NASDA board to discuss the relationship the states have as co-regulators with many of the federal programs and the concerns in terms of the cuts being announced including the FDA cuts and concerns about what food safety programs will look like and how those co-regulator relationships will look going forward. OSU and the Tri-State Potato Commissions were in Washington DC during this time, in separate meetings, however all advocating for the importance of research and statewide funding for programs.
- The Director discussed the proposed fees in the brand inspection program and animal identification. The program is running at a deficit each month and the agency did not request a fee increase to the cap in a timely manner. This has resulted in questions about how the program should look going forward. The industry and leadership in the organizations have been working together to identify a solution to move forward.
- The Director highlighted the work being done in the agency around safety. We are working to hire a safety officer to assist with this work including job hazards, equipment and working in remote locations.
- Director Charpillon Hanson asked ODA Natural Resources Division Director Isaak Stapleton to give an update on the actions to protect groundwater from nitrates in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA).
- Included in your meeting packets is follow-up from the seafood processing wastewater discussion at the December meeting for your reference. In addition, the Director included updates on the ODA strategic plan, a review of the agency progress on Governor Kotek's expectations for state government agency operations, the ODA 2025 planned rulemaking, 2024 Key Performance Measures report, and the ODA Ag Water Quality management Plan Biennial reviews between June 2024 and January 2025.

Resource:

- ODA Strategic Plan quarterly update
- ODA Division Area Reports
- Oregon Agency Expectations
- 2025 ODA Planned Rulemaking and Other Activities
- 2024 ODA KPM Report
- ODA Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan Biennial Reviews

Agenda Item 04 – ODA Budget and Legislative Update

Deputy Director Jonathan Sandau, Chief Operating Officer Adam Crawford, and Deputy Director Lindsay Eng provided updates on the legislative session, the Governor's Budget, and Federal funding. Deputy Director Sandau talked about the session and the preparation for the ODA budget presentation and noted that ODA continues to work on our three fee bills and three policy bills. We continue to follow about 350 bills that may have an impact on the agricultural industry. COO Adam Crawford discussed the ODA budget, the current service level funding, and the fee increases we anticipate moving through the legislature. He also talked about the One ODA IT project which will help to modernize the agency IT systems and processes. Deputy Director Eng talked about the agency federal funds and the numbers reflected in our agency budget represent our federal limitation and not actual funding. The agency is in a period of uncertainty and potential cuts in federal spending and those impacts to our staff and other funding.

Resource:

- 2025-27 ODA Agency Governor’s Budget Summary
- ODA Bill Summary by Priority as of February 28, 2025

Agenda Item 05 – Working Lands in Oregon

Cathy MacDonald, Oregon Climate Action Commission, Sarah Reif, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Troy Abercrombie, Oregon Department of Agriculture provided a joint presentation on Working Lands in Oregon and the collaborative efforts using the Climate Action Committee Working Lands funds.

Natural and Working lands are foundational to Oregon. They provide a variety of ecosystems services, contribute to food security, as well as, natural climate solutions and as a result the stakes are high and the list of threats to these lands is long. Each of the representatives discussed how working together to conserve and protect new lands is important to maintain the shared vision of an Oregon with resilient natural working lands that provide for our culture and economic needs.

In 2023 HB 3409 established the Natural and Workings Lands Fund with an initial appropriation of \$10M. The fund is administered by the Oregon Climate Action Commission and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The legislation directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Forestry, OWEB, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to use these funds to implement projects that support the adoption of Natural Climate Solutions across five different land sectors, with an emphasis on carbon sequestration and co-benefits. Each representative discussed the projects and investments made in using these funds.

Updates on these projects will be presented at future board meetings or as requested.

Resource:

- Working Lands in Oregon presentation

Agenda Item 06 – Conservation Management Planning and Grant Program

Taylor Larson, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program coordinator, provided an overview of the Conservation Management Planning (CMP) and Grant Program established under the Natural and Working Lands fund.

The CMP grant program provides funding to develop, implement, and monitor CMPs on working lands. These grant funds are designed to pay for long range conservation planning and then the implementation of those plans through a payment to agricultural producers. His presentation included eligible applicants, program components, implementation and monitoring, and financial incentives. Applications are due for this program April 1, 2025, and will be awarded by late July 2025.

Resource:

- OAHC Conservation Management Planning presentation

Break

The Board recessed for a 15-minute break and reconvened.

Agenda Item 07 – Public Comment

One written public comment received by Building Ag Futures and distributed to board members in the meeting packet and posted on-line on the Board of Agriculture webpage. The Board received no requests from the public to make verbal comments at the meeting.

Agenda Item 08 – Legislative visits at the State Capitol

During the afternoon, board Chair Elin Miller and Vice-chair Eric Orem, and ODA Director Lisa Chapilloz Hanson introduced the board members and the 2025 State Board of Agriculture industry report at the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. Following the public hearing, board members met with Legislative members and staff.

Friday, March 14, 2025

Agenda Item 00 – Welcome and Introductions

Chair Elin Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions of board members followed.

- Board members present: Chair Elin Miller, Ty Kliwer, Miguel Lopez, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem, ODA Director Lisa Chapilloz Hanson, OSU Dean Staci Simonich
- Board members remote: Chad Allen
- Board members absent: Barbara Boyer, Kirk Maag, Josh Zielinski
- Others present in-person/remote: Jonathan Sandau, Lindsay Eng, Isaak Stapleton, Casey Prentiss, Chris Benemann, Rusty Rock, Karla Valness, Gordon Howard, Sherry Kudna, Sunny Summers, Sandy Childress, Mat Goddard, Jon Jinings, Sophie Els, Three Rivers Audio Visual.

Agenda Item 09 – OSU Update

Dean Staci Simonich shared OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences, along with other universities across the nation, is facing significant uncertainty with respect to federal funding for agricultural research with the new Federal administration. Last year, the college brought in \$110M in grant funding and 60% of this was Federal funding. As part of the federal grant funds, indirect costs linked to this funding are used to pay the infrastructure and equipment costs associated with conducting agricultural research and without these funds, they would not be able to maintain the 14 Experiment Stations across Oregon. Dean Simonich talked about her recent travel to Washington DC as part of the Association of Public Land Grant Universities for meetings on Capitol Hill to talk about agricultural research in the U.S.

OSU has been working hard to track the status of the USDA, Ag Research Service staff across the state that were fired on February 14. In Oregon about 22 USDA, ARS staff were fired. As of today, about seven or eight of those have been re-hired in large part due to the support of Oregon's farmers and ranchers.

Lastly, the Dean shared a summary of House Bill 2408 to support Oregon statewide public service programs that includes agricultural research, OSU Extension and the Forest Research Lab within the College of Forestry. The handout walks through the 2023-25 legislatively approved budget and the 2025-27 total budget request.

Resource:

- OSU Statewide Public Service Programs handout

Agenda Item 10 – ODA Plant Protection & Conservation Division Overview

Chris Benemann, ODA's Division Director for the Plant Protection & Conservation programs provided an overview of the division programs including Hemp, Insect Pest Prevention & Management (IPPM), Native Plant, Noxious Weeds, and Nursery. The IPPM, Native Plant, and Noxious Weed programs lean heavily on partnerships with other entities, whether that is state, local or federal partners. The Hemp and Nursery programs are license fee supported.

Many of the state led programs require continuous enhancement and financial support. These programs are facing significant threats with the potential reduction in federal funding. The primary programs at ODA responsible for invasive species response work are greatly reliant on federal funds, which make up about 275% of their total operating funds. USDA APHIS PPQ, US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife are the largest sources of federal funds.

Resource:

- ODA Plant Protection & Conservation Division presentation

Break

The Board recessed for a 10-minute break and reconvened.

Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment

The Board received no requests from the public to make verbal comments at the meeting.

Agenda Item 12 – Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Crystal Grinnel Integrated Water Resource Strategy Specialist with the Oregon Water Resources Department provided an overview and update on Oregon’s Integrated Water Resource Strategy.

Oregon’s first Integrated Water Resources Strategy (Strategy) was published in 2012. The document provides a roadmap for better understanding and meeting Oregon’s instream and out-of-stream water needs. The Legislature charged the Oregon Water Resources Department with guiding the development of Strategy, with input from many state and federal agencies, tribes, interest groups, and the public.

Statute required the Strategy be updated every five years, with the second Strategy published in 2017. In 2023, statute was modified to require the Strategy to be updated no more than every eight years.

The Water Resources Department released Draft 1 of the revised Strategy in March 2024. Development and release of Draft 2 was delayed to conduct an action prioritization effort with the Governor's Office and leadership from several water agencies, including the Department of Agriculture. Several natural resource agencies received new directors in 2024, providing an opportunity for new leadership input on the next Strategy.

The Water Resources Department is currently finalizing the prioritization effort with the Governor's Office and expects to release Draft 2 for public review and comment in April 2025. The Water Resources Commission is expected to consider a final draft of the 2025 Strategy for adoption later this year.

Resource:

- OWRD Integrated Water Resources Strategy Update

Agenda Item 13 – Update on Solar Siting Rulemaking

Gordon Howard, Community Services Division Manager, Department of Land Conservation and Development provided an update on the proposed solar siting rules for eastern Oregon.

In 2023 the Oregon Legislature passed HB3409 which, in part, directs the Land Conservation and Development commission (LCDC) to consider and adopt administrative rules for the purpose of “Finding Opportunity and Reducing Conflict in Siting Photovoltaic Solar Power Generation Facilities.” The bill focuses attention on

Eastern Oregon, requires consideration of a variety of natural resource and community values, promotes coordination with Tribal, State, and Local governments.

Discussion followed related to the proposed one-time payments to counties intended to offset the loss of agricultural economic activity due to solar siting.

Agenda Item 14 – Board Business

OWEB Report

The board representative on the OWEB board, Barbara Boyer, was not in attendance. No report was presented.

Newsletter Topics

Chair Miller asked board members for suggested topics and board member volunteers to assist in drafting the updates for the Spring issue. The quarterly Board of Agriculture newsletter to provide a briefing on issues and board meeting highlights will be prepared and distributed to the Legislature and the email subscription list of interested parties.

Suggestions include:

- High Path Avian Influenza update and biosecurity measures – Ellie Norris/ODA Lindsay Eng
- OSU update on federal funds and indirect costs – OSU Dean Staci Simonich
- ODA Plant Programs and pests of concerns and reliance on federal funds for project work – Elin Miller/ODA Chris Benemann
- Upcoming Events section – ODA Board coordinator Karla Valness
- Highlights from the industry panel on Legislative Priorities and Updates – Eric Orem/ODA Lindsay Eng
- Board of Agriculture meetings with Legislators and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources – ODA Board Coordinator Karla Valness
- Follow-up on seafood processing wastewater concern with DEQ – ODA Lisa Charpilloz Hanson

Future newsletter topics include:

Quarter 2 (Summer)

- LUBGWMA updates
- Highlights from A Taste of the States domestic marketing activity

Quarter 3 (Fall)

- Legislative update on ODA bills and end of session re-cap
- Updates on Federal Farm Bill

Drafts updates to be completed by April 1 with newsletter distributed mid-April.

Resolutions

Chair Miller asked for a motion to act on resolutions under review in 2025.

Resolution No.	Resolution Title
107	Priority for Agriculture Use of Water
281	Conservation Plan for the Oregon Coast Coho
301	Minimizing conflicts of Coexistence in Agriculture
307	Farmworker Housing

309	Coordinated Streamside Management Approach to Water Quality
313	Water Quality Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) and SWCD Focus Areas
317	ODA's role in the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule Implementation
318	Siting of Energy Transmission and Generation Facilities on Agricultural Land
319	Climate Change Policy Considerations

MOTION:

A motion was made by Miguel Lopez to keep resolutions 281, 301, 313 as written. Second by Ellie Norris. The motion was approved by: Chad Allen, Miguel Lopez, Elin Miller, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem, Ty Kliewer.

Chair Miller asked board members to submit any recommended edits on the remaining resolutions under review in 2025 to Board Coordinator Karla Valness by April 1. ODA will post recommendations for public comment mid-April.

Action Item

Based on the comments and concerns shared by industry members and voting members of the board, board members discussed preparing a letter to Governor Kotek to express concerns and share impacts for the agriculture industry on the proposed HB2548 Ag Labor Standards Board.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Ty Kliewer to authorize Chair Elin Miller to draft a letter to Governor Kotek on behalf of the voting members of the board and work with ODA Deputy Director Jonathan Sandau to finalize the letter. Second by Ellie Norris. The motion was approved by: Chad Allen, Miguel Lopez, Elin Miller, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem, Ty Kliewer.

Action Item

Based on the updates from the DLCD on the proposed solar siting rules for eastern Oregon, the board members discussed submitting public comment from the board on the proposed rules.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Ty Kliewer to authorize Vice Chair Eric Orem to draft a letter to submit as public comment from the board on the proposed solar siting rules and work with ODA Deputy Director Lindsay Eng to finalize the letter. Second by Ellie Norris. The motion was approved by: Chad Allen, Miguel Lopez, Elin Miller, Ellie Norris, Eric Orem, Ty Kliewer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm

Next meeting: June 4-6, 2025
In-person – LaGrande, OR | Virtual option will be available.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 03 – ODA Director’s Report

I. Introduction

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson will give a quarterly update on issues, successes and activities from the ODA. Included with her report will be a quarterly update on the ODA’s Strategic Plan and ODA’s Division Area Updates.

II. Background

ODA Strategic Plan

A quarterly update through June 2025 is attached.

ODA Division Area Updates

See attached quarterly updates from each Division Area. This quarterly update is organized by Division areas.

Oregon Agency Expectations

In January 2023, Governor Kotek outlined 11 expectations for state government agency operations. See the attached progress report and letter from the Governor.

Oregon Pink Shrimp

Governor Kotek letter and press release regarding USDA Section 32 purchase of 10 million pounds of pacific pink shrimp.

ODA Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan Biennial Reviews

See attached report for reviews for February – April 2025.

LUBGWMA

Isaak Stapleton will provide a verbal update at the meeting.



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

2024-2027 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report
to the Board
June 2025



STRENGTHENING OUR FOUNDATION: ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Targeted Recruitment to Meet Mission-Critical Needs



This spring, ODA has focused on hiring for roles that are central to delivering high-quality services across Oregon. Key additions include roles in our communications team, information services, and programs, including the CAFO Manager position. Next round of recruitments are for a Records Coordinator, Board Coordinator, Agricultural Services staff, administrative support roles, and other positions that support the agency's core regulatory and market access work.

Manager Training and Leadership Development



We continue to deliver on our commitment to training our leaders. Since adopting the strategic plan, more than half of ODA's managers have either completed or are enrolled in Foundational Manager Training. Notably, all newly hired managers have participated in the training, ensuring consistent expectations and stronger leadership across the agency.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: MODERNIZATION

Laying the Groundwork for a Historic IT Transformation



ODA continues to advocate for an IT modernization funding package. In preparation, our IT team has completed several foundational actions, including provisioning cloud servers, securing new software licenses, and configuring enterprise-level systems. This critical work ensures that, once funded, the agency is ready to execute at scale. All efforts are aligned with the 2024–2027 IT Strategic Plan and Enterprise IT goals.

Position Cleanup and Budget Alignment



To support a modern organizational structure, ODA has undertaken the labor-intensive but necessary work of reconciling unstructured or outdated positions. Over time, numerous roles were created outside of normal budgeting processes, which inflated our vacancy metrics and added administrative complexity. Aligning position structures with agency budget and operational needs will improve transparency, workforce planning, and overall efficiency.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST: CUSTOMER-FOCUSED SERVICE

Adopting a Clear Customer Service Standard



ODA has adopted a formal customer service policy committing staff to acknowledge all external communications within one business day. This simple but important expectation promotes responsiveness and trust, particularly in areas where resolution may take longer. It's not about instant fixes, it's about being present, timely, and helpful in every interaction.

Policy Alignment and Statewide Consistency



As part of our commitment to accountability, ODA has initiated a full-scale policy review to align with statewide expectations. In some areas, legacy policies have not yet been updated to reflect changes in state law or administrative direction. While this will take time, the agency is approaching it with thoughtful change management to ensure clarity and shared understanding at every level.

Strategic Goals



Vision of
Resiliency



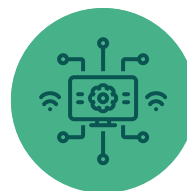
Customer-
Focused

































Diversity,
Equity,
Inclusion &
Belonging



Engaged
AGGIES



Modernization

							
Goal 1: Organizational Excellence	1.1	Mission-Driven Agency					
	1.2	Accountability					
	1.3	Business Continuity					
Goal 2: Modernization	2.1	Cloud-First Technology Strategy					
	2.2	Modernize Legacy Systems					
Goal 3: Customer-Focused Service	3.1	Evaluate Services					
	3.2	Focus on Interaction					
	3.3	Continuous Improvement of Service					

Oregon Department of Agriculture Division Reports
Prepared for: State Board of Agriculture
Meeting date: June 4-6, 2025

Food Safety and Animal Health & ID Division

Rusty Rock, Division Director, rusty.rock@oda.oregon.gov, 503-508-2262

- **Food Safety General Update**

- Food Safety program staff continue to reduce the inspection backlog. Inspections are considered overdue if they are more than 90 days past due. The backlog has dropped from a peak of 4,943 in July 2021 to 1,820.

- **Retail and Manufactured Foods**

- The ongoing uncertainty at the FDA is not expected to affect the safety of the food supply. The Food Safety program maintains a robust regulatory environment overseeing the manufacturing and distribution of food products. The work is not dependent on federal partners. ODA enjoys a cooperative relationship with local county health departments and federal partners at the FDA and USDA. For context, Food Safety staff conducted over 6,300 regulatory inspections in 2024. In comparison, FDA conducted an estimated 100 inspections in Oregon, with a vast majority being duplicated by ODA staff.
- For the 2024-25 contract year, ODA's FDA contract includes:
 - 110 Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) inspections,
 - 42 full-scope Preventative Controls (PC) inspections,
 - 9 acidified food inspections, and
 - 9 seafood HACCP inspections.

As of May 5th, 2025, about 60% of these federally contracted inspections are complete and the contract is on track to be finished on time.

- No definitive numbers have been provided for the 2025-26 contract year, and there are no plans to expand the program during that cycle. The delay in FDA negotiations is likely due to internal reviews of staffing levels and funding options.

- **Shellfish and Crab Program**

- The 2024/2025 crab season was conducted without any biotoxin restrictions. Surveillance testing of shellfish and crab continues in select zones as a precautionary measure. The collaborative process of using Ag Services staff to supplement Food Safety staff has been very successful and there are plans to expand this approach to other activities within the Food Safety program.

- **Dairy Program**

- Concerns were raised by the media and public after FDA's announced plans to suspend its proficiency testing (PT) program. However, this suspension will not compromise the safety or quality of milk products. A PT program is a quality assurance process that assesses the performance of a laboratory, not a test of the dairy products. State-run regulatory labs actively participate in these PT exercises twice a year. Oregon's lab consistently meets all standards for testing procedures, methods, and staff

competency. Other states with similar labs also participate in these PT exercises, with the results shared to ensure full compliance.

- Monitoring continues on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which has been detected in dairy cattle. The Food Safety program is coordinating with the State Veterinarian and tracking all new updates and guidance.
- Field staff practice comprehensive biosecurity practices during farm inspections and when collecting milk, potable water, or coolant samples. These measures help minimize the risk of disease transmission and protect livestock health.
- The dairy team is developing and testing the implementation of a training and official sign-off for Ag Services personnel to assume dairy sampling duties. This will ensure compliance with the regulatory requirements of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO).

- **State Meat Inspection (SMI)**

- The program continues to demonstrate significant success in providing education and outreach to local producers. The resource availability model offers two options: a direct path to inspection by state personnel or an indirect path through consultation to help producers qualify for a federal grant of inspection.
- A team of three individuals—an SMI Specialist, a field inspector, and a district veterinarian (excluding management)—are fulfilling program responsibilities. These include conducting inspections, consultations, HACCP evaluations, custom exempt reviews, complaint investigations, and animal dispositions.
- At current staffing levels, the addition of new facilities to the SMI program in 2025 may reduce the capacity to provide education and outreach to prospective local producers.

- **Animal Health**

- There are still no indications of High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) positive dairy cattle in Oregon. The nation's supply of pasteurized milk continues to be safe as the HPAI virus is deactivated through processing temperatures. Oregon's limited raw milk market further reduces the risk of transmission through unpasteurized milk.
- Bulk tank milk sampling program is ongoing and enables a rapid response to positive cases while minimizing exposure. This testing method can detect the virus at early onset within days, well before traditional signs of observational responses such as reduced milk production or widespread expression of symptoms over weeks appear. Federal funding for this program remains stable with no indications of it being eliminated.
- The Animal Rescue Entity program continues to function under a fee-supported budget model. In the Commercial Feed program, staff roles have been adjusted to improve efficiency by increasing virtual and record-based reviews, which helps reduce costs while maintaining regulatory oversight. Complaints are still investigated with a pathway that enables in-person work based on virtual record review preceding on-site visits.
- The state veterinarian's office supported ODFW and OSP in recent actions related to the West Coast Game Park Safari and a criminal investigation. ODA's role was limited to providing technical expertise on animal handling and transportation.

- **Lab Services**

- The regulatory lab continues to meet the testing demands from ODA programs. The relocation process has transitioned to process improvements, such as implementing modern LIMS – Titan. Implementation by program area started with Dairy, which is now complete. Full lab integration is targeted for by end of 2025.
- The Cannabis Reference Laboratory (CRL) continues to get up to speed. This new section of the regulatory lab is a cooperative effort with our partners at the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC). The staff are gaining familiarity with the instrumentation purchased and installed. Method development and verification are underway, with a focus on screening for an expanding list of suspected "synthetic" cannabinoids in products. ODA regulatory lab and OLCC personnel continue to meet regularly to discuss issues and set direction.

Agriculture Services Division

Casey Prentiss, Division Director, casey.prentiss@oda.oregon.gov, 541-212-3361

ODA established the Agriculture Services Division to bring ODA's field service programs together at the urging of the agriculture industry across the state. This structure supports greater collaboration among existing programs, improving efficiency and customer service, and creates positions that can work across program and division lines. As of October 1, 2024, the following programs are part of Agriculture Services Division: Certification, Livestock Identification, Plant Health, Produce Safety, Seed Regulatory, Shipping Point Inspection, Smoke Management, the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, and Weights and Measures.

- **Crop & Cattle Movement Update:** The majority of 2024 crop has shipped. The 2025 season appears to be on a normal timeline. Strawberry harvest is approaching, and cherry harvest is expected by mid-June. Cattle movement is varied across the state but is generally slower. Cattle prices are at an all-time high and herd numbers across the state may be declining as a result.
- **The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program** received a record 72 allowable applications for the 2025 funding year. Those applications are under review, pending USDA's formal announcement of state funding levels. The anticipated FY25 funding amount nationwide is **\$2,255,954**. All prior program years are progressing as expected.
- USDA announced in December of 2024 that the **Organic Certification Cost Share Reimbursement Program** would no longer be receiving funding. The 2024 program is fully closed with all reports being accepted by USDA.
- The **Oregon Agricultural Worker Housing Grant Program** received 110 applications requesting more than \$7 million. Applications have been reviewed and award notifications issued. All available funds will be awarded in the first round of funding; no future rounds are anticipated.
- In the first quarter of 2025, **Weights and Measures** tested 18,344 weighing and measuring devices, representing about 28% of the approximately 65,000 weighing and measuring devices licensed for commercial service in Oregon. Of those tested, 90% met state requirements. So far this year, the program has investigated 38 complaints, all related to either motor fuel quality or quantity. Fuel quality complaints typically come from consumers who believe fuel caused damage to their vehicle, while quantity complaints usually involve concerns about not receiving the full amount of fuel purchased—often based on a vehicle's gas gauge, trip computer, or markings on a gas can. Most of these complaints were found to be unsubstantiated.

- The **Motor Fuel Quality Program** has inspected 1,607 fuel storage tanks. Thirty-four (34) tanks had measurable water and 12 of those were issued pump out orders for exceeding the allowed limit which is either 1/4" or 1" depending on the type of fuel. Additionally, 1,752 fuel samples were visually inspected for water and sediment, 377 were field tested for octane. Eight samples were tested at a contract lab in response to fuel quality related complaints.
- The **Confined Egg Laying Hen Program** continues to require all egg producers selling shell eggs and most egg products into Oregon to meet cage-free standards, such as those set by the United Egg Producers. In Q1 2025, activity has primarily focused on answering questions about the requirements Oregon places on small (less than 3,000 bird) producers. These producers are exempt from the program but are still required to comply with Food Safety rules.
- Registration for the **2025 Field Burning Season** is complete. Twenty-six growers registered 12,423 acres. This is an increase from 2024 (11,800 acres) but less than the 15,000-acre cap. Allocation will be 100%. The season is scheduled to begin July 7, 2025.
- The **Livestock Identification Program** is in the process of recruiting a District 3 Supervisor Livestock Brand Inspector with the goal of having the position filled by the end of June. The program continues to work closely with the livestock industry to improve customer service and strengthen relationships.
- The **Seed Regulatory Program** is currently investigating multiple claims under the Slow Pay No Pay Law. Slow Pay No Pay refers to a set of statutes that were implemented to prevent "slow payment" or "non-payment" to grass seed growers by seed dealers. It sets minimum contract standards, deadlines for seed payments, and a formal process for ODA to investigate claims and make determinations about payment.
- The **Certification Program** is in the middle of organic inspections with the final 2025 renewal due for returning customers by May 31, 2025. There is growing interest in the Organic Program resulting in many new customers for the 2025 season. The GAP/Harmonized GAP Program is entering its busy season with audits occurring around the state.
- The **Produce Safety Program** will complete Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training classes for the season with a Spanish-language class on June 4th and 5th. To date, the program has trained 1,500 Oregonians in the Produce Safety Rule requirements. The program has applied for funding for the final year of the current Cooperative Agreement Program that ends on June 30, 2026.

Natural Resource Division

Isaak Stapleton, Division Director, isaak.stapleton@oda.oregon.gov, 503-931-5608

The following updates are organized by operating process, as outlined in the division process management system and cover all Natural Resource Division (NRD) programs. In addition to the updates below, recruitment efforts are ongoing for several positions across the division. A number of vacancies have been filled, and the process continues of onboarding newer staff. This will continue to be a major focus for the Division for the remainder of the biennium.

- **Fostering collaboration**

- *Pesticides Program:*

- In Spring 2025, the Pesticides Program expanded outreach efforts to raise awareness about the program by connecting with some additional partners. The Program partnered with Oregon Landscaper Contractors Board (LCB) and provided a guest article titled "Pesticide Use Reminders for Landscapers" in which LCB

published in their Spring 2025 newsletter: <https://www.oregon.gov/lcb/Documents/Newsletter.pdf>. The Program is also currently working with Oregon's Construction Contractors Board (CCB) to produce a similar article targeted to construction workers in a future CCB newsletter.

- In March of 2025, Oregon OSHA hosted the annual Pesticide Symposium, where ODA's Pesticides Program actively participated and presented. The symposium serves as an opportunity for multiple Oregon state agencies, federal partners, and universities to connect, collaborate, and discuss new and emerging pesticide-related issues in Oregon.
- Furthermore, at the end of April 2025 the program also presented and participated in the Western Region Pesticide Meeting in Vancouver, WA. This meeting brought together states, tribes, territories, and EPA representatives to discuss new and emerging pesticide-related topics affecting the Western Region.

Ag Water Quality Program:

- The Ag Water Quality Program is in the process of recruiting a Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area/Integrated Water Resources Strategy Lead. This position should be filled by early June.
- Strategic Plan – The Ag Water Quality Program Strategic Plan was finalized. The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to lay out the Agricultural Water Quality Program's five-year vision. The Strategic Plan (see attached) will guide the development of Annual Operating Plan's for the years 2025 to 2029. It defines priority work, staffing resources and needs, and milestones for 2025 (year one), 2027 (year three), and 2029 (year five) for the WQ Program's Ten Initiatives. Each of the WQ Program's Initiatives and milestones align with ODA's Strategic Goals of Organizational Excellence, Modernization, and Customer-Focused Service. The WQ Program strives to ensure that staff are fully supported to implement initiatives that are designed to protect and improve water quality. Initiatives will be clearly defined for constituents, including partners and landowners. In five years, compliance expectations for landowners under Area Rules will be clearly articulated. Additionally, modernized data reporting systems will be in place to allow clear communication and report progress for biennial reviews and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reporting.
- Digitized Reporting – The AgWQ HUB is being used for development of the 2025-2027 biennium for SWCD Scopes of Work. The AgWQ HUB will also be used for a future reporting of work completed by SWCDs and allow for automated reporting.
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans – Water Quality program staff are coordinating with DEQ for the Powder River, Willamette Basin, Coos/Coquille area, Umpqua, Rogue, and John Day basins for upcoming TMDL processes. Water Quality Program staff held three community meetings in the Powder Basin to get input on the AgWQ Program TMDL Implementation Plan for the area.
- Partner Coordination – The Water Quality Program Manager and SWCD Program Lead met with the Executive leadership team from the National Association of State Conservation Agencies and co-hosted a tour with the Lincoln SWCD of restoration projects on Ag lands in the area. The AgWQ Program Advisory Committee met on April 25, 2025 – staff presented on the new AgWQ Program Strategic Plan, TMDL issues, and the 2024 Compliance Report and compliance examples.
- Soil and Water Conservation District CONNECT event – AgWQ Program Staff attended CONNECT and provided updates on the program's Strategic Plan, along with a session on TMDL Implementation Plans and involvement of SWCDs and local communities. Awards were presented to SWCD staff at two SWCDs for

their work assisting ODA with program implementation, and to four SWCDs for their community wildfire response efforts.

- **Permits, Registrations, and Notifications**

Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO):

- The CAFO program is currently working on development of the renewal of the General NPDES permit. A new general NPDES permit is anticipated to be available for public comment later this summer.
- The General WPCF Permit is set to expire September 30th, 2025. A new permit will not be available prior to the expiration date and will therefore be administratively extended. Permittees will be required to submit renewal forms by the deadline of August 1st, 2025, in order to remain on the administratively extended permit until a new permit is issued. The program has sent out mailers that include the renewal paperwork for the WPCF permits to all permit holders.

Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance (ADCM):

- No new notices were submitted for the ADCM program. It has been five years since the ADCM program rules were adopted, and a five-year review of the rules is currently underway.

- **Providing Compliance and Technical Assistance**

Ag Water Quality Program:

- March 20, 2025, and April 23, 2025, a rules advisory committee was convened to start the process of rules development for irrigated ag in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. This committee will meet monthly until the rules have a final draft.
- In September 2024 DEQ, OWRD, OHA, and ODA worked to develop a nitrate reduction plan to address nitrate pollution in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA). This plan has specific short to long term actions that prioritize clean drinking water and mitigation of additional nitrate pollution to groundwater. A quarterly report of progress related to implementation of the Nitrate Reduction Plan was completed in March of 2025. A copy of the nitrate reduction plan can be found here: <https://oda.fyi/NitrateReductionPlan>.
- The Ag Water Quality Program works with the SWCDs to provide technical assistance to landowners. Each SWCD (45) has a Scope of Work that outlines work that they will do to help implement the Ag Water Quality Program as a Local Management Agency. Quarterly, Ag Water Quality Program staff review a quarterly report from the SWCDs showing the work that was completed as the Local Management Agency for the Ag Water Quality Program. AgWQ Program staff are actively working with the SWCDs to develop their Scopes of Work for the 2025-2027 biennium.
- Since 2014, the Ag Water Quality Program has initiated 52 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA). Through the SIA process, over 1,750,000 acres and over 8,000 stream miles have been evaluated. The Ag Water Quality Program has reached out to over 8,000 landowners to inform them of the Ag Water Quality Program, Water Quality Rules, and work with the landowners to address any water quality concerns that were observed during evaluations in the SIAs. As part of the Willamette Mercury TMDL the WQ Program has developed a different form of a SIA that is called focused ag solutions. For these areas, there will be four years of education and outreach with compliance work afterwards. There are focused ag solutions areas starting in 2024 (Polk), 2025 (Yamhill), and 2026 (Washington).

Pesticide Program:

- Children are more sensitive than adults to the potential toxic effects of pesticides. To protect children, Oregon law requires extra precautions and restrictions when pesticides are used on a school campus. In recent years, non-compliance rates have been high in school Integrated Pest Management (IPM) focused inspections compared to other types of inspections. To help address the non-compliance, the Pesticides Program has had an increased emphasis on compliance assistance and increasing partnerships.

So far in 2025, ODA investigative/enforcement staff presented on the school IPM law at the first 2025 OSU School IPM Coordinator Training in March. Additional participation is anticipated in upcoming trainings around the state in the summer and winter of 2025. The team continues to work, as time allows, on creating “school IPM law modules” (basically, short ~5-10 minute, narrated PowerPoint videos focused on the law requirements). While this project had to be temporarily paused during spring 2025 due to workload in other areas, the team is hoping to continue production of more modules soon. These modules are posted on YouTube to provide school IPM coordinators and other school staff with short, free year-around access to trainings for refresher or new staff start/onboarding. The team is also working to have the videos available in Spanish. To date, four modules have been published in both English and Spanish and may be viewed at:

<https://oda.fyi/IPMSchoolsPlaylist>

- Pesticides Program staff continue to answer technical assistance questions from the public on licensing requirements, label interpretations, school IPM law, and other pesticide related questions via phone and email. During the Winter and Spring, the program conducted a number of in-person presentations including but not limited to applicator certification training courses. Between January and March of 2025, staff conducted over 20 separate presentations to over 1,900 people. Topics commonly presented on are Laws and Regulation Updates plus “Lessons Learned” presentations from Pesticide Investigators. In March and April of 2025, the program also had a booth and provided information at several of OSHA’s Spring Spanish focused trainings.
- Pesticides Program staff continue to look for additional opportunities to provide compliance assistance and outreach in other forms. Most recently a pesticide bulletin focused on construction workers who utilize pesticides was both published and posted on the program’s website (in English and Spanish) and sent via email to subscribers of the pesticide GovDelivery email group. Another recent publication includes outreach on the licensing requirements when drones are utilized - <https://oda.direct/PesticideDroneLicensing> (currently also being translated into Spanish). For more information of recent newsletters, bulletins and advisories see: <https://oda.direct/Pesticides-Current-Issues>.

• **Conducting Inspections, Investigations & Enforcement**

Pesticides Program

- The Pesticides Enforcement Program continues to follow-up on misuse complaints to investigate possible violations of the state’s Pesticide Control Act. The number of complaints typically increase in the Spring and the program shifts to conducting more complaint investigations. The program’s compliance monitoring still continues, but the numbers decrease in the Spring and Summer due to the increased number of complaints. Compliance monitoring activities include marketplace inspections of retailers and distributors

(ensuring products are registered for sale or distribution in Oregon, labeled properly, and not being offered for sale in leaking or broken packages), record inspections of pesticide applicators and pesticide dealers (ensuring complete records, products used properly, and correct licensing for activity), and school IPM inspections to ensure compliance with Oregon's school IPM law. During this time of year, the program's Citizen Advocate work also increases. In addition to fulfilling public records request, ODA's Citizen Advocate helps citizens by answering questions about the investigation process and assists them in locating resources that may be outside of the scope of the Pesticide Enforcement Program.

Ag Water Quality Program:

- The Ag Water Quality Program conducts investigations based on complaints, agency notification, and observations of concerns to address potential violations of the Agricultural Water Quality Rules. In 2024, there were 61 compliance cases investigation; 30 of these were either ODA observation or ODA SIA, 18 were public written complaint, and 13 were referral from other agencies. In 2024, there were 134 site inspections (new and follow-up) with 115 compliance actions (47 In compliance, 4 Fix-it letter, 57 Water Quality Advisory, 12 Notices of Noncompliance, and one Settlement Agreement).

- **Providing Customer Support and Resolving Inquiries**

Pesticides Program:

- The Pesticides Program continues to work on increasing the number of outreach materials and application forms available in Spanish and is also undergoing an internal review of existing materials to help prioritize timely reviews and translations into the future since the team has increased in the number of bilingual staff within the program during the past year.
- The Oregon Addendum to the core pesticide manual is now available in Spanish on the pesticide licensing website.
- When sulfur dioxide is used to sanitize wine barrels and corks it is classified as a pesticide. In 2024, the registration for the only sulfur dioxide product available in Oregon, Airgas Sulfur Dioxide (EPA Registration Number 89867-2), was cancelled. Currently, there is no sulfur dioxide products registered in Oregon intended for sanitizing barrels or corks. ODA is aware of the issue and is exploring options. The ODA Pesticides team is working on putting together resources for industry and reaching out to registrants to look for alternative products.

Ag Water Quality and CAFO Program

- Both the AGWQ and CAFO programs continued to receive and respond to inquiries from the EPA and the media regarding work completed in support of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA). The multi-agency team that developed the LUBGWMA Nitrate Reduction Plan continues to provide quarterly reports to EPA and the LUBGMWA advisory committee on progress. The AGWQP is working in collaboration with the local Umatilla and Morrow Soil and Water Conservation Districts to ensure consistent tracking and reporting of actions completed in support of the 2020 LUBGWMA Action Plan.
- NRD is pleased to announce the appointment of Connie Landis as the new Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Program Manager. Ms. Landis will begin her role on June 2nd. Connie comes to us from the Washington State Department of Agriculture where she was their Produce Safety Program Manager for the past four years.

Connie is originally from Prineville, OR and earned both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Oregon State University. She holds a PhD from North Carolina State University and a graduate certificate in U.S. Food Law from Michigan State University. Connie has over eleven years of experience as a cooperative extension educator working directly with ag producers, primarily those growing fruits and vegetables, to support and grow regional and sustainable food systems and help producers understand how to comply with buyer requirements and government regulations. Her extension efforts have included working with diversified operations and beginning farmers and serving as a mentor to other extension personnel and nonprofit organizations. She also has experience teaching college-level courses in environmental science, biology, microbiology, food science, human nutrition, agroecology, and horticulture.

Plant Protection & Conservation Division

Chris Benemann, Division Director, chris.benemann@oda.oregon.gov, 503-986-4636

- **Hemp**

- Proactive **inspections** will begin in June for hemp grow sites. Hemp inspectors will continue providing in-person education on rules pertaining to common violations. Inspectors also use this time to compare grow site production area plots (designated grow areas) to plans outlined within license applications.
- From Fall 2024 through early 2025, the OLCC and ODA Reference Lab conducted a study called **“Operation Green Leaf.”** OLCC purchased 150 products containing hemp from vendors and hemp manufacturers in and outside of Oregon, from Oregon brick and mortar stores, and websites that sold to Oregon consumers. Manufacturers and vendors of those products included a mix of businesses that were and were not licensed by the ODA Hemp Program. The ODA Reference Lab then tested those products for THC potency and pesticides. The majority of products failed THC potency testing, meaning they either exceeded the legal 0.3% THC threshold for hemp or significantly deviated from the THC content claimed on their labels. In addition, many products failed pesticide screenings, which are required to meet Oregon’s regulatory standards. This is clearly a matter of public safety.
- In response to the findings of “Operation Green Leaf,” the Hemp Program inspections this year will include a heightened emphasis on post-harvest testing requirements. This includes increased oversight of products ranging from trimmed flower to concentrates, extracts, and edibles. Those efforts will involve continued review of ODA Hemp licensee websites to determine whether products available for sale comply with testing requirements. Website reviews include those for ODA licensed and unlicensed business websites which sell hemp items to Oregon consumers. Licensed and unlicensed businesses have received and will continue to receive letters regarding actions required to come into compliance. Where applicable, violations will be issued. Hemp handler and vendor licensees will be subject to inventory spot-checks. These inspections will verify the presence of valid certificates of analysis from accredited laboratories, confirming that products have passed required compliance testing.
- **Hemp Product Registry:** On April 2, 2025, OLCC held a Rules Advisory Committee meeting regarding proposed amendments to the hemp product registry permanent rules package. Beginning January 1, 2026, OLCC will review applications for the hemp product registry. Review will evaluate THC content, identification of any artificially derived cannabinoids, and labeling used on hemp products, for both general market sales and adult-use sales to Oregon consumers for human or animal use. The rules are expected to mirror rules pertaining to recreational marijuana products. OLCC will be allowed to refuse registry for

products deemed adulterated, particularly those considered poisonous or deleterious substances that may pose a risk to human health.

- **IPPM**

- IPPM **2024 Annual Report** is now available for viewing online [on the ODA website](#).
- Japanese **beetle**: ~950 acres in the greater Portland area are being treated with Acelepryn G (Chlorantraniliprole) insecticide March through July 2025. Most of the treated acreage falls within Washington County. This is the smallest treatment area on record since the beginning of the project in 2017. Trapping efforts are also well underway. For more information on the project and current treatment areas [visit the JB webpage](#).
- Statewide **insect surveys** are underway, which means program staff are busy placing thousands of traps across Oregon. Prominent surveys include Spongy Moth (SM), Flighted Spongy Moth Complex (FSMC), Exotic Woodboring beetles (EWBB), and Mediterranean oak borer. Agricultural pest surveys are targeting small berry crops and vineyards.

- **Native Plant**

- Work continues on the Natural and Working Lands (NWL)-funded Seed Strategy implementation project.
- Field work is underway to support several long-term projects:
 - B2H & Wheatridge (energy project mitigation)
 - State-list review species
 - Seed strategy
- An online permitting platform was launched to improve accessibility and service to customers. The w platform will also increase efficiency and accuracy for agency staff.
- Development of the “**Conservation and Mitigation Standards and Guidance**” document which clarifies responsibilities and required actions to avoid or mitigate impacts to state-listed threatened and endangered plants. This resource is intended to empower agencies and industry while helping to streamline the consultation and permitting processes. The document is currently under legal review.

- **Nursery & Christmas Tree Program**

- ***Phytophthora ramorum* Program**: Survey and mitigation activities continue at multiple nurseries. Six new nurseries have been added to the program since March 2025. Positive finds were a result of various program activities. Two were through program spring compliance inspections; one through a routine inspection, and three were through trace investigations. New positive nurseries are in Clackamas, Washington, and Lane Counties. All establishments are now under a federal compliance agreement.
- **New Mexico Japanese beetle Enforcement**: New Mexico has started to enforce its Japanese beetle quarantine against Oregon nurseries due to ongoing detections of Japanese beetle in Oregon. For nurseries shipping to NM, a compliance agreement must be signed to ensure adherence to the NM Japanese beetle quarantine, which includes onsite trapping requirements for the 2026 shipping season. Trapping will be done by a third party with ODA oversight.
- **Spring shipping season**: Export shipments have slowed significantly. While there were some slight delays, there were no major issues with international shipments. Tariffs did play a role with a strong start and early finish to the international shipping season. There were 1, 711 phytosanitary certificates issued from January through April; only a slight decrease from the 1, 890 certificates issued last year over the same period.

- **Noxious Weed Control**

- A webinar was hosted to engage with SWCD’s on Rangeland Health (Natural Working Lands).
- The program safety plan was updated, and the annual spring planning meeting was held.

- Field work has begun in all four regions.
- Conducting stakeholder engagement regarding proposed modifications to County Weeds Grant Program (OSWB/OWEB).
- Participated in the grant review process for OWEB Restoration grants (NWL).
- Recruitment of new Biocontrol Entomologist is underway.

Policy and Executive Team

Jonathan Sandau, Deputy Director, jonathan.sandau@oda.oregon.gov, 503-385-5027

- **Wolf Depredation and Prevention Grant** - <https://oda.direct/wolf>
 - Under this program, counties can:
 - pay for livestock or working dogs killed or injured by wolves,
 - pay those who use methods to prevent wolves from attacking livestock,
 - pay for livestock or working dogs missing due to wolves, and
 - receive money to cover eligible costs for running the program.
 - ODA was able to enter into agreements with 14 counties for a total of \$729,318.05 for depredation, prevention, and administrative costs. No missing claims were paid for this grant year.
- Contact: Sunny Summers, sunny.summers@oda.oregon.gov, 503-986-4565

Administrative Services

Adam Crawford, Chief Operating Officer, adam.crawford@oda.oregon.gov, 503-930-7658

- **IT Update**
 - Modernization efforts included a wireless update and move to the cloud servers in the State Data Center.
 - A new help desk position was hired.
- **Fleet, Facilities and Risk**
 - ODA settled an OR-OSHA complaint, including payment of a fine. The agency is currently working on Job Hazard Analyses with completion required by August 1.
 - ODA is developing a comprehensive safety and compliance plan for the Hawthorne Facility. The plan is currently focused on monitoring property access (entry/exit visibility), having a manager on site during designated hours, maintaining an inventory of equipment and chemicals on site, as well as implementing a facility walkthrough checklist to ensure continued upkeep.
 - First-round interviews were held in early May for a Safety Specialist position, with onboarding anticipated in June.
- **Human Resources**
 - Completed changes to Pkg 461 in the Governor's Recommended Budget to continue agency realignment. This involved abolishing, creating, or reclassifying positions with no additional costs to the agency. The net result is an estimated savings to the agency of approximately \$5,000.
 - For bargaining, HR Director sat at the Central Bargaining Table, and other HR staff served on the Coalition Table.

- Continued gathering feedback on recruitment documents as part of an initiative to standardize and improve hiring processes and align with the Governor's Expectations.

Agricultural Economic and Trade Development

Lindsay Eng, Deputy Director, lindsay.eng@oda.oregon.gov, 971-375-1800

• Farm to School Activities

- Twenty farms and food businesses attended the Farm to School Showcase in March at the Oregon School Nutrition Association annual food show and conference. The show helps Oregon businesses that have qualified products for the Farm to School program establish accounts with school buyers.
- ODA Farm to School and the Food Innovation Center provided technical assistance to three companies who formulated products for school markets in Spring 2025 in preparation for the Farm to School Showcase in March.
- ODA Farm to School, Produce Safety, and Food Safety Staff presented at a Farm to Institutional Sales Workshop in Southern Oregon in May. Ranchers, vegetable growers, meat processors, food hubs and institutions (schools, head start, and assisted living) were in attendance.

• Local, National and International Activities

- Supported a fresh Oregon cherry company and an Oregon strawberry company with market information and with meetings in Japan. Also met with a Japanese importer interested in Oregon hazelnuts and connected a buyer with hazelnut packers and Hazelnut Industry Office.
- Supported buyer seeking IQF berries from Oregon, who visited Oregon in May. This buyer was first introduced to Oregon and our berries when they sent buyer to Oregon in July 2024 as part of a Western US Agriculture Trade Association (WUSATA) inbound trade mission to Oregon.
- Represented ODA as a partner during Oregon Sea Grant's national review, highlighting the collaboration to increase Pacific Northwest consumer purchases of local seafood. Congratulations to Oregon State University Sea Grant on receiving both the "Accomplishment of Special Merit" and the exceptionally rare "Accomplishment of Highest Merit" recognitions in their review!
- Arranged an in-person seminar and workshop to help Oregon food and ag businesses learn about how to tap into funding and resources to begin or grow export sales. The seminar in Oregon on May 20th was the first in-person seminar that the WUSATA has done since 2019.
- Kicked off ingredient research and education projects in partnership with OSU Food Innovation Center (FIC). This initiative supports local companies by connecting them with FIC culinary experts to explore and enhance the use of their ingredient products. So far, blueberry, mint, hazelnuts, IQF berries, along with other products have registered for the project. In addition, educational seminars are planned to begin in late summer to provide ingredient buyers with information about how to use these ingredients.
- ODA recently returned from Seafood Expo Global, the world's largest seafood trade show, held in Barcelona, Spain. It was a great opportunity to show off Oregon's high-quality, sustainably caught seafood to buyers and industry leaders from around the world. ODA helped promote several Oregon seafood processors and hosted partners like commodity commissions and local fishermen. Together, they shared the story of Oregon's seafood – including favorites like Dungeness crab, pink shrimp, albacore tuna, and groundfish. The event was a big success, helping to spread the word about the

amazing seafood that comes from the Oregon coast and opening the door to new international markets. Anticipated sales from an international show like this can vary, however it is estimated that \$500,000-\$1,000,000 based on initial feedback.

- ODA is finishing up a survey to help tell the story of co-packing and food and beverage manufacturing in Oregon. This survey is being created with input from both ODA's Economic Development and Food Safety teams to make sure it covers all the key issues. The goal is to give state leaders a clearer picture of what's working well and where there are gaps or opportunities in Oregon's food processing community. By gathering information directly from processors and co-packers, the survey will help guide future support, investment, and planning to strengthen this important part of the state's food system.
- ODA hosted an Oregon state pavilion in the "A Taste of the States" (ATOTS) section at the National Restaurant Association Trade Show, sponsored by NASDA (National Association of State Departments of Agriculture) May 17-20 in Chicago. Director Charpillot Hanson had the opportunity to visit with the six incredible Oregon food and beverage companies - Barhyte Specialty Foods, Better Bean, Laurel Foods, Mama Lil's, Secrete Aardvark, Tan Tan Foods - as they showcased their products to U.S. food service sector buyers. On day two, she returned to ATOTS to walk the show floor alongside state partners during the NASDA Board of Directors Meeting (May 18-20), which coincided with the trade show. Part of ODA's broader economic development strategy, this event is just the beginning of continued efforts to boost Oregon brands in local and domestic markets.
- ODA worked closely with the Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC) to support Oregon businesses at BIOFACH, the world's largest organic trade fair. This event gave companies a chance to explore global opportunities for selling organic products and learn about important trends in the international market. By attending, businesses gained valuable insights they can bring back and apply to their work in the U.S. This partnership between ODA and OOC has also sparked new ideas and goals for how to better promote organic agriculture in Oregon. It is helping to shape a stronger future for the state's organic industry, both at home and abroad.
- With the support of Governor Kotek and Oregon's federal delegation, on May 16, USDA approved a \$16 million purchase of Oregon Pacific pink shrimp under the authority of Section 32. Section 32 is a federal program used to purchase agricultural commodities for distribution to various USDA food programs. This purchase will provide an investment in Oregon's fishing communities and will provide a high-quality, nutritious seafood product in food assistance programs here in Oregon and across the country.

- **Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Grant Program**

- Several equipment only projects are wrapping up over the next quarter.
- Seventeen of 18 equipment only projects have submitted their 2nd disbursements requests.
- Multiple site visits have been conducted for the equipment only projects.
- Seven infrastructure projects have been approved by USDA, and ODA is working to finalize the agreements now.
- ODA is working with USDA to revise the timeline for the infrastructure projects, which are now scheduled to conclude by **December 31, 2026**. An amendment to the approved State Plan will be submitted in the upcoming quarter.

- Supply chain coordination activities are starting.
- **Commodity Commission Oversight Program**
 - These ten commodity commissions are changing administrators this year: Sweet Cherry, Strawberry, Hop, Blueberry, Ryegrass, Fine Fescue, Tall Fescue, Clover, Mint and Hazelnut. The changes are mainly due to either administrators retiring or a desire to save money on administrative costs. Commissions are allowed to contract out administrative duties rather than hiring staff directly to do the work. Each commission, except Hazelnut, have posted “requests for proposals” (RFP) and are using a state procurement process to select the best contractor.

The oversight program will work closely with new administrators to ensure a good understanding of state government operations and compliance requirements.



**OREGON
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Agriculture Services Division
26755 SW 95th Ave, Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.986.4620 | Oregon.gov/ODA

April 17, 2025

Dear Members of the 2024 Bargaining Council,

In June of 2024, the Bargaining Council met to negotiate proposed prices for the 2024 tall fescue and perennial ryegrass seed crops, under the supervision of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (Department). The proposed prices were presented to the Director and subsequently approved as the established prices for these two seed kinds (see attached price orders) for the period from June 26, 2024, to July 14, 2025. The price orders are final agency orders that are binding on the named entities. The final order relating to tall fescue set a \$92.00 per cwt minimum price for certified seed, and a \$90.00 per cwt minimum price for uncertified seed. The final order relating to perennial ryegrass set a \$105.00 per cwt minimum price for certified seed, and a \$103.00 per cwt minimum price for uncertified seed.

As a reminder, under OAR 603-076-005(9), an “established price means the price approved by the Director in a price order as the minimum price at which production contracted seed meeting established standards shall be sold by members of a cooperative bargaining association to dealers. The established price applies only to seed from the crop year in which the price order is issued. The established price applies only to seed that is both produced by, and purchased by, the parties.”

Because members of the Bargaining Council (dealers and members of the Oregon Grass Seed Bargaining Association (OGSBA)) are bound by the price orders issued for 2024 crop tall fescue and perennial ryegrass seed, paying (on the dealer side) or accepting (on the grower side) a price less than the established price for either seed kind is a violation of the agency order. Consequences of these violations may include but are not limited to investigations under slow pay no pay statutes, suspension of seed dealer’s licenses, exclusion from participation in future price negotiations, and suspension of price negotiations going forward.

The agency considers partial payment when full payment is required by contract or by the price order a violation of the law and subject to enforcement under Slow Pay No Pay (ORS 576.700 to ORS 576.814). More information about how to file a Slow Pay No Pay complaint is available at www.oda.direct/SlowPayNoPay.

The Department will provide information on how to confirm eligibility for the 2025 Grass Seed Price Negotiations soon. The process will likely be the similar to that of the 2024 negotiations.



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Water Quality Program Strategic Plan Executive Summary

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to lay out the Agricultural Water Quality Program's 5 year vision.

The Strategic Plan will guide the development of Annual Operating Plan's for the years 2025 to 2029. It defines priority work, staffing resources and needs, and milestones for 2025 (year 1), 2027 (year 3), and 2029 (year 5) for the WQ Program's 10 Initiatives. Each of the WQ Program's Initiatives and milestones align with ODA's Strategic Goals of Organizational Excellence, Modernization, and Customer-Focused Service.

The WQ Program strives to ensure that staff are fully supported to implement initiatives that are designed to protect and improve water quality. We will ensure that our initiatives are clearly defined for our constituents, including partners and landowners. In 5 years, we will have clearly defined what it means for landowners to be in compliance with Area Rules. In addition, we will have modernized data reporting in place that will allow us to clearly communicate and report progress for biennial reviews and for TMDL reporting.

VISION

Agricultural practices across Oregon protect clean water.

MISSION

Our mission is to protect water quality by ensuring compliance with the rules and improve water quality by supporting agricultural landowners with outreach, technical assistance, and funds to implement water-smart land management practices.

PROGRAM GOAL

Prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities and soil erosion and achieve applicable water quality standards.

KEY INITIATIVES

- Area Plans, Rules, and Reviews
- Compliance and Enforcement
- Soil and Water Conservation District and Other Partnerships
- Strategic Implementation and Focus Areas
- Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation

SUPPORTING INITIATIVES

- GIS and Data Management
- Grant Management
- Monitoring
- Outreach and Education
- Staff Support and Development



Principles of Operation

The ODA Agricultural Water Quality Program operates on the following five principles. These principles guide our daily work and decision making.



A. Collaboration

- We strive for excellent collaboration with state and local partners and strong relationships with the agricultural community. We prioritize collaborative solutions prior to the use of compliance actions.



B. Compliance

- Compliance is focused on the protection of water quality through proactive measures with an enforcement backstop.



C. Technical Assistance

- Water Quality staff provide technical assistance directly and through our conservation partners



D. Outreach

- Our outreach is focused on farmer, rancher, and landowner awareness and understanding of water quality causes and consequences.



E. Data and Best Science

- Planning, decisions, and recommendations are informed by the latest science and data.

Resource Needs

As part of Strategic Planning, staff completed a workload analysis associated with the Initiatives and Strategies. The workload analysis shows where staff are currently spending their time and where there may be gaps associated with the initiatives. The workload analysis showed that there are gaps in the Outreach and Education and TMDL Implementation initiatives.

Competencies Needed

- TMDL Planner and Implementation Staff
- Riparian Specialist
- Compliance Staff
- Outreach and Education Staff
- Database (SQL) Manager



**OREGON
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Water Quality Program
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Salem, OR 97301
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Key Initiative Milestones

Initiative Milestone	Year 1	Year 3	Year 5
Area Plans, Rules, and Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 19 Biennial Reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 19 Biennial Reviews Review the rules related to Biennial Reviews to determine needed changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 19 Biennial Reviews Update rules related to Biennial Reviews to reflect needed changes.
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define conditions that meet compliance with riparian rules Define “compliance” for each type of waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define and develop sufficient riparian rules to meet WQ standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate rules and develop rule changes. Evaluate all rules for adequacy and enforcement.
SWCD and Other Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quality Specialists actively participating in OWEB Regional Review Teams Water Quality Specialists meet with SWCDs and Boards at least twice per year Water Quality Program Advisory Committee meets twice per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quality Program Staff regularly meeting with other state and federal partners such as OSU Extension and NRCS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quality Program actively seeking partnerships with non-traditional partners.
SIA and Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 10 HUCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 30 HUCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 50 HUCs
TMDL Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete X number of TMDL Implementation Plans. Complete X number of TMDL Annual Implementation Plan Reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete X number of TMDL Implementation Plans. Complete X number of TMDL Annual Implementation Plan Reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete X number of TMDL Implementation Plans. Complete X number of TMDL Annual Implementation Plan Reports.

Supporting Initiative Milestones

Initiative Milestone	Year 1	Year 3	Year 5
GIS and Data Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop POPs and apply for grants for technological improvements. All grant applications will use the AgWQ Hub. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIA remote evaluations are automated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data is automatically pulled from reports to produce Biennial Reviews and TMDL annual reports.
Grant Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent processes are implemented across all grants within AgWQ Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with partners to ensure adequate ongoing funding for grants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants are sufficiently tracked to ensure effective use of funds and results from use of funds.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODA Monitoring Plan to be updated. All SIAs have approved monitoring plans in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring plans are focused into TMDL areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODA actively seeks opportunities to work with agricultural partners and SWCDs to implement monitoring in TMDL areas.
Outreach and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared talking points are developed for AgWQ Program initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent outreach tools are shared by all districts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WQ Program information is available in multiple formats that are locally relevant.
Staff Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will have an individual development plan in place. Continuing education is built into every quarterly staff meeting. 100% participation in Employee Engagement Survey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will complete at least 16 hours of continuing education annually. 100% participation in Employee Engagement Survey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will complete at least 16 hours of continuing education annually. 100% participation in Employee Engagement Survey.



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

May 19, 2025

Department of Agriculture

Dear Director Charpilloz Hanson,

It has been over two years since I established eleven expectations for state agency operations, with the overall goals of improving customer service and optimizing performance for the people of Oregon. I want to thank you for the considerable attention and effort you have given to these expectations. I recognize that the collective work to meet these expectations has required upfront investments that do not always have benefits that are immediately perceptible. Just as any discipline may at first seem burdensome only to yield great benefits later, the work that employees are contributing to meet these expectations is building mutually reinforcing practices that will have a lasting impact on state operations.

Our work is already having a tangible, statewide impact:

- Hiring on average is over two weeks faster.
- Vacancy rates have fallen by a third.
- Agency planning of all forms is more complete and consistent.
- Employees more regularly complete key trainings and receive feedback from managers.
- Measures of employee engagement have increased.

These meaningful successes have only been possible through partnership with you and other agency leaders. I thank you for that continued partnership.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a report that summarizes the performance of your agency in meeting my stated expectations. I commend the hard work represented. I also want to bring to your attention a few areas where my expectations are not being met:

- Employee Orientation
- Benefits Orientation

I urge you to evaluate agency operations and identify ways to improve in these specific areas, and I expect you to send your policy advisor a plan of action by June 30, 2025.

Thank you for cultivating a culture of improvement in service to all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek

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WWW.GOVERNOR.OREGON.GOV

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpillouz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Expectation 1. Strategic Planning

Agencies will develop and follow a strategic plan that also aligns with priorities set forth by the Governor's Office. This practice is important because strategic planning defines the planned actions of an agency. It helps organizations to define priorities, identify opportunities, mitigate risks and align resources and activities efficiently.

06/01/23:

- Strategic plan not completed in last 36 months



09/30/24:

- Updated plan submitted

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Expectation 2. Audit Response

Agencies will implement recommendations from internal audits and from Secretary of State audits, reporting to DAS on status by May 31 and Nov. 30 of each year. This practice is important because agencies implement audit recommendations to manage identified risks. Recommendations not implemented represent risks not yet managed. Tracking the implementation of audit recommendations ensures that identified risks are managed while increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of operations.

No reported internal or Secretary of State audits

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Expectation 3. Continuity of Operations Planning

Agencies will maintain and annually update a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). This practice is important because COOPs help agencies prepare for disruptions such as disasters, accidents and technological threats.

06/01/23:

- COOP plan updated in last 12 mos.



12/31/23:

- COOP plan updated in last 12 mos.
- Plan Submitted On Time



12/31/24:

- COOP plan updated in last 12 mos.
- Plan Submitted On Time
- Complete plan submitted on time
- Plan complete

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Expectation 4. DEI Planning

Agencies will maintain a biennial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan (DEI plan) and will report Affirmative Action progress every even-numbered year. This practice is important because diversity, equity and inclusion plans help organizations by creating cultures that allow all employees to feel a sense of belonging. A culture of belonging fosters innovation, health, wellness and has many benefits that contribute to sustaining an inclusive workforce.

06/01/23:

- Plan



09/30/23:

- Plan for Plan



09/30/24:

- Plan Embedded in Strategic Plan

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Expectation 5. Technology Planning

Agencies will maintain a business-driven and enterprise-aligned information technology (IT) strategic plan that supports the organization's strategic priorities. This practice is important because IT strategic plans help Enterprise Information Services ensure accessible, reliable and secure state technology systems that equitably serve Oregonians.

12/31/23:

- Ongoing



03/31/24:

- **Complete**

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Expectation 6. Succession Planning

All agencies will develop and submit an annual succession plan. This practice is important because succession planning helps identify and develop future leaders, ensuring that an organization has a plan for leadership transitions, business continuity and talent retention.

03/31/24:

- Assessment component included ✓
- Development component included ✓
- Evaluation component included ✓
- Identification component included ✓



03/31/25:

- Assessment component included ✓
- Development component included ✓
- Evaluation component included ✓
- Identification component included ✓
- Review component included ✓

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Expectation 7. Leadership

Each agency director will receive a 360 review every two years. This practice is important because 360 reviews allows agency leaders to identify and develop strengths as well as improve upon gaps in their talents and skillsets.

06/01/23:

- Agency directors not reviewed in the last 24 months



12/31/24:

- Agency directors not reviewed in the last 24 months



03/31/25:

- Agency directors not reviewed in the last 24 months

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Expectation 8. Employee Feedback

Each agency will complete 90+% of its required manager and employee performance feedback check-ins each quarter. This practice is important because employees feel more supported and encouraged when they receive feedback from their managers. These meetings promote professional development and can help employees identify opportunities for growth and align their career paths with the organization's needs, increase employee engagement and strengthen relationships.

<i>Report Date</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Employee Check-Ins Complete</i>	<i>Applicable Total</i>
06/01/23	90%	236	261
09/30/23	97%	215	221
12/31/23	100%	230	231
03/31/24	97%	224	230
06/30/24	96%	211	219
09/30/24	98%	238	243
12/31/24	91%	235	257
03/31/25	100%	223	223

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Expectation 9. Recruitment

Each agency will maintain an average of 50 or fewer days to complete open competitive recruitments and will actively manage vacancies, reporting quarterly the reasons for each. This practice is important because a quick hiring process demonstrates professionalism and respect for candidates, increasing their interest in the organization and likelihood of accepting an offer. It can also enable Oregon state government to compete with other employers hiring top talent faster. Reducing vacancy rates supports workforce planning by providing insights into the availability and use of positions.

Days to fill vacant positions

<i>Report Date</i>	<i>Days to fill vacant positions</i>
09/30/23	67
12/31/23	46
03/31/24	75
06/30/24	91
09/30/24	60
12/31/24	51
03/31/25	38

Total Vacancies

<i>Report Date</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Total Vacancies</i>	<i>Total Positions</i>
09/30/23	28%	136	492
12/31/23	26%	127	491
03/31/24	12%	60	521
06/30/24	20%	81	402
09/30/24	19%	77	402
12/31/24	15%	70	465
03/31/25	23%	107	463

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Expectation 10. Employee Engagement

All agencies with more than four full-time equivalent employees will annually administer the Gallup Q12 survey to measure employee engagement and satisfaction. This practice is important because engaged employees tend to perform with higher productivity and report greater well-being, which can shape the quality of customer service. Increased engagement results in reduced turnover; according to Gallup, low engagement teams have turnover rates that are 18% to 43% higher than highly engaged teams.

<i>Report Date</i>	<i>Gallup Q12 Mean</i>
03/31/24	3.78
03/31/25	3.80

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Expectation 11. Workforce Development

All agencies will have all new employees complete an agency orientation and DAS Customer Service Fundamentals training within 60 days of hire and attend an Uplift Your Benefits session within two weeks of hire. All agencies will have all new managers complete the DAS Foundational Training Program within four months of hire and all modules of the DAS employee review training within 30 days of assignment. This practice is important because training helps employees understand their responsibilities, agency culture, policies and procedures, which gives employees information to be confident and prepared for their jobs. It also shows employees that they are valued, which can lead to higher job satisfaction and morale. Training can make employees more effective, improve customer service and increase productivity and retention.

All training expectations

<i>Report Date</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Met expectation and timeframe</i>	<i>Total required</i>
09/30/23	0%	0	1
12/31/23	90%	18	20
03/31/24	95%	21	22
06/30/24	100%	16	16
09/30/24	100%	28	28
12/31/24	87%	27	31
03/31/25	76%	13	17

Customer Service Training

<i>Report Date</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Completed - Within 60 Days of Assignment</i>	<i>Total # required not incomplete still within period</i>
12/31/23	100%	10	10
03/31/24	100%	10	10
06/30/24	100%	7	7
09/30/24	100%	12	12
12/31/24	100%	13	13
03/31/25	83%	5	6

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

Foundational Training Completion

<i>Report Date</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Completed within 4 months</i>	<i>Total # of new managers not incomplete still within period</i>
12/31/24	100%	2	2
03/31/25	100%	3	3

Foundational Training Enrollment

<i>Report Date</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Enrolled - Within 5 Days of Assignment</i>	<i>Total # of new managers not incomplete still within period</i>
12/31/23	0%	0	1
03/31/24	100%	1	1
06/30/24	100%	1	1
09/30/24	100%	2	2
12/31/24	100%	1	1
03/31/25	100%	1	1

Orientation

<i>Report Date</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Agencies with a required new employee orientation</i>	<i>Total agencies</i>
06/01/23	100%	1	1

Performance Accountability & Feedback Training

<i>Report Date</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Completed - Within 30 Days of Assignment</i>	<i>Total # of new managers not incomplete still within period</i>

**Agency 60300 – Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Agency Director: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson

Policy Advisor: Geoffrey Huntington

12/31/23	100%	1	1
03/31/24	100%	1	1
06/30/24	100%	1	1
09/30/24	100%	2	2
12/31/24	100%	1	1
03/31/25	100%	1	1

Uplift Your Benefits Training

<i>Report Date</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Completed - Within 30 Days of Assignment</i>	<i>Total # of New Workers not incomplete still within period</i>
09/30/23	0%	0	1
12/31/23	88%	7	8
03/31/24	90%	9	10
06/30/24	100%	7	7
09/30/24	100%	12	12
12/31/24	71%	10	14
03/31/25	50%	3	6



Press Release · May 22, 2025

Governor Kotek Applauds \$16 Million USDA Purchase of Oregon Pink Shrimp

USDA's letter recognizes value of high-quality Pacific pink shrimp to the economic health of the United States



Today, Governor Tina Kotek released the following statement in response to the USDA announcement of a \$16 million purchase of Oregon Pink Shrimp:

"As a coastal state with major ports, we move billions of dollars' worth of seafood across the globe. The Oregon shrimp fleet is made up of independent family fishermen who are oftentimes multi-generational members of their local coastal communities," Governor Kotek said. "USDA's investment in our state will help our local economies grow and families make ends meet."

"Our businesses need continued stability and predictability from the federal government. I want to thank our congressional delegation and the Oregon Trawl Commission for their advocacy in making this purchase a reality."

"I was glad to lead our delegation's work to secure federal support for our state's seafood industry and the jobs this long-established industry generates up and down the Oregon Coast," Senator Ron Wyden said. "This commitment will help essential small businesses along the Oregon Coast stay afloat and weather the damage from Donald Trump's destructive and needless tariffs."

"Oregon's fisheries have been the lifeblood of our coastal communities for generations, and when they thrive, the whole Oregon Coast thrives," Senator Jeff Merkley said. "This USDA purchasing announcement for Oregon pink shrimp that we pushed for will give Oregon's coastal fishermen and world-class seafood producers the support they need to keep ensuring high-quality, nutritious seafood is included in food assistance programs here in Oregon and across the country."

"I'm glad to see the USDA take action and commit up to \$16 million in purchases of Pacific pink shrimp—an important step that comes after I sent two letters urging the Department to support our coastal shrimp fishing communities," Congresswoman Val Hoyle said. "These Section 32 purchases are a lifeline for Oregon's seafood industry and a smart investment in getting high-quality, sustainable protein to families who need it. We'll keep pushing to ensure that federal programs work for Oregon's working families, from the docks to the dinner table."

"NW Oregon is home to a robust seafood industry that sustains the fisheries, workers, and the local economy," Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici said. "Chaotic tariff policy has caused economic uncertainty, putting these businesses and Oregonian's livelihoods at risk. I am grateful that USDA has heeded our call to support Oregon's seafood industry by purchasing millions of dollars of Oregon pink shrimp."

"We are incredibly grateful to Governor Kotek and Senators Wyden and Merkley for their strong support of our industry and their efforts, along with others in the Oregon delegation, to make this pink shrimp purchase happen," said West Coast Seafood Processors Association Executive Director Lori Steele. "This purchase will provide a critical lifeline to Oregon's fishing communities during this time of market uncertainty and will allow us to produce locally sourced, sustainably harvested, highly nutritious protein for American families in need. It's a win-win all the way around."

"This is a great day for Oregon Seafood communities," Nick Edwards, Secretary of Shrimp Producers Marketing Cooperative. "A heartfelt thank you to USDA Director Brooke Rollins and AMS Director Bruce Summers. USDA has continued to be a true Champion for our MSC certified Jordani Pink Shrimp. We could not have achieved this without the support of Governor Tina Kotek, Governor's staff, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon & Washington Federal Delegation, West Coast Seafood Processors Association and the Oregon Trawl Commission. It takes a village."

The USDA letter announcing the purchase can be found [here](#).

###

Press Office

Press Secretary
Governor's Office
503-378-5965

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 2055-S, STOP 0201
Washington, D.C. 20250-0201

May 16, 2025

YELENA NOWAK
Director
Oregon Trawl Commission
Sent via email: Yelena@oregontrawl.org

Dear Ms. Nowak,

Thank you for your letter of May 2, 2025, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding your interest in the use of Section 32 authority to purchase Pacific pink shrimp. I appreciate your concern for the Oregon seafood sector and fishermen.

USDA evaluated the request and has approved a \$16 million purchase of Pacific pink shrimp under the authority of Section 32. We recognize the importance of Pacific pink shrimp to the economic health of our Nation and of the demand for high-quality, nutritious products for nutrition assistance programs.

Again, thank you for your letter. We appreciate your support and partnership in bringing healthy and high-quality American produced foods to the USDA Foods program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Summers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping initial "B".

BRUCE SUMMERS
Administrator



Press Release · May 22, 2025

Governor Kotek Applauds \$16 Million USDA Purchase of Oregon Pink Shrimp

USDA's letter recognizes value of high-quality Pacific pink shrimp to the economic health of the United States



Today, Governor Tina Kotek released the following statement in response to the USDA announcement of a \$16 million purchase of Oregon Pink Shrimp:

"As a coastal state with major ports, we move billions of dollars' worth of seafood across the globe. The Oregon shrimp fleet is made up of independent family fishermen who are oftentimes multi-generational members of their local coastal communities," Governor Kotek said. "USDA's investment in our state will help our local economies grow and families make ends meet."

"Our businesses need continued stability and predictability from the federal government. I want to thank our congressional delegation and the Oregon Trawl Commission for their advocacy in making this purchase a reality."

"I was glad to lead our delegation's work to secure federal support for our state's seafood industry and the jobs this long-established industry generates up and down the Oregon Coast," Senator Ron Wyden said. "This commitment will help essential small businesses along the Oregon Coast stay afloat and weather the damage from Donald Trump's destructive and needless tariffs."

"Oregon's fisheries have been the lifeblood of our coastal communities for generations, and when they thrive, the whole Oregon Coast thrives," Senator Jeff Merkley said. "This USDA purchasing announcement for Oregon pink shrimp that we pushed for will give Oregon's coastal fishermen and world-class seafood producers the support they need to keep ensuring high-quality, nutritious seafood is included in food assistance programs here in Oregon and across the country."

"I'm glad to see the USDA take action and commit up to \$16 million in purchases of Pacific pink shrimp—an important step that comes after I sent two letters urging the Department to support our coastal shrimp fishing communities," Congresswoman Val Hoyle said. "These Section 32 purchases are a lifeline for Oregon's seafood industry and a smart investment in getting high-quality, sustainable protein to families who need it. We'll keep pushing to ensure that federal programs work for Oregon's working families, from the docks to the dinner table."

"NW Oregon is home to a robust seafood industry that sustains the fisheries, workers, and the local economy," Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici said. "Chaotic tariff policy has caused economic uncertainty, putting these businesses and Oregonian's livelihoods at risk. I am grateful that USDA has heeded our call to support Oregon's seafood industry by purchasing millions of dollars of Oregon pink shrimp."

"We are incredibly grateful to Governor Kotek and Senators Wyden and Merkley for their strong support of our industry and their efforts, along with others in the Oregon delegation, to make this pink shrimp purchase happen," said West Coast Seafood Processors Association Executive Director Lori Steele. "This purchase will provide a critical lifeline to Oregon's fishing communities during this time of market uncertainty and will allow us to produce locally sourced, sustainably harvested, highly nutritious protein for American families in need. It's a win-win all the way around."

"This is a great day for Oregon Seafood communities," Nick Edwards, Secretary of Shrimp Producers Marketing Cooperative. "A heartfelt thank you to USDA Director Brooke Rollins and AMS Director Bruce Summers. USDA has continued to be a true Champion for our MSC certified Jordani Pink Shrimp. We could not have achieved this without the support of Governor Tina Kotek, Governor's staff, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon & Washington Federal Delegation, West Coast Seafood Processors Association and the Oregon Trawl Commission. It takes a village."

The USDA letter announcing the purchase can be found [here](#).

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^ Back to top

Agriculture

Appointments

Arts & Culture

Business



Memo

Date:	May 23, 2025
To:	Director Lisa Charpillot Hanson Members of the State Board of Agriculture
From:	Isaak Stapleton, Division Director of Natural Resources Division
Subject:	Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan Biennial Reviews Completed from February through April 2025

The Agricultural Water Quality Program at the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) works with farmers, ranchers, and numerous partner agencies and organizations to protect water quality. ODA is responsible for implementing regional water quality plans and rules and for conducting on-the-ground compliance work. Soil and Water Conservation Districts work closely with ODA as local management agencies and assist landowners with voluntary activities to meet the goals of the plans and comply with the rules.

A key part of the regional plan and rule development and implementation includes periodic review meetings with local advisory committees (LACs) of farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders. LACs are responsible to submit biennial reports to the Board of Agriculture summarizing meetings held, landowner engagement and technical assistance, accomplishments, progress on conservation and water quality efforts, impediments to implementing the plan and rules, and recommendations to improve implementation.

Between February and April 2025, ODA Water Quality Specialists met with eight LACs throughout Oregon to review their regional plans and complete the attached reports. This memo introduces those biennial reports. Themes emerging from these LAC meetings include:

- Successes
 - o Good relationships between SWCDs and landowners lead to landowner willingness to address sources of water quality impairment
 - o ODA's Ag Drainage Channel Maintenance Program and Pesticide Stewardship Partnership are well received
- Challenges
 - o Lack of federal funding availability for conservation and reduced federal workforce for support and required consultations
 - Funding uncertainty eroding trust from landowners
 - o Insufficient water quality data from DEQ and lack of water quality data availability generally
 - o Viability of temperature TMDLs on ag lands
 - o Climate Impacts:
 - 100-year rain events happening each year, leading to heavy erosion, soil loss, and sedimentation in streams
 - Hotter, drier summers are reducing water availability and drought conditions are making irrigation upgrades cost-prohibitive
 - o Ag lands are under pressure from housing development and solar farms
- Recommendations for Adaptive Management
 - o Increased monitoring and funding for monitoring
 - o Reduce OWEB restrictions on irrigation funding
 - o Reassess ODA and DEQ regulatory approach for effectiveness and pinpoint high priority areas through targeted monitoring efforts
 - o Highlight and celebrate producers who use conservation practices
 - o Provide greater clarity for landowners in Area Plans

At the beginning of 2020, ODA made two changes to plan reviews to streamline the administrative process and provide additional focus on measurable objectives:

1. Biennial reviews of area plans now alternate between “light” and “full”, with the majority of Management Areas receiving a “full review” every six years. Both types of reviews include an LAC review of the state of plan implementation, progress in meeting Area Plan goals, the number of compliance activities, and recommendations for modifications necessary to improve water quality. The only difference is that no changes are made to Area Plan text during “light” reviews. The Area Plan template has been revised to update language, include a description of soil health and its applicability to water quality, and focus on setting and tracking measurable objectives.

Attached are the biennial review summaries completed during this period:

- Yamhill River Subbasin (2/26/2025)
- Umpqua Basin (3/5/2025)
- South Santiam (3/18/2025)
- Upper Willamette and Upper Siuslaw (3/20/2025)
- Curry County (3/27/2025)
- Middle Deschutes (4/1/2025)
- Tualatin River Watershed (4/2/2025)
- Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day River (4/8/2025)

YAMHILL RIVER SUBBASIN

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



Meeting Date: February 26, 2025

LAC Members Present: Allan Holstein, Tim Pfeiffer, Lucien Gunderman, Steve Jones, and Rich Blaha

Reporting Timeframe: Calendar years 2022–2024

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

Strategic Implementation Area (SIA): Deer Creek and South Yamhill River SIA (2020–2025)

Evaluation Results: As of June 30, 2021, 29 tax lots were identified as either a Potential Violation or a Compliance Opportunity. PV = 7, CO = 22, RO = 187, LC = 631

Measurable Objective: By June 30, 2025, all 29 tax lots identified as a Potential Violation or a Compliance Opportunity will be downgraded to Restoration Opportunity or Likely in Compliance.

Progress to Achieving Measurable Objective: With the exception of one Potential Violation, all other Potential Violations and Compliance Opportunities have been downgraded to Restoration Opportunity or Likely in Compliance.

Monitoring Trends: With high flows, total suspended solids (TSS) levels tend to be high; at low flows, TSS levels are generally low. Water temperature peaks above tolerable levels for salmonids during the summer.

Management Area-wide Activities

(Polk and Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs))

	#	Description
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	13	Booths at partner events, native plant sale, nut growers society, local work group meetings; two local events on water quality for Chehalem area and Grand Island area residents; February 2024 Polk SWCD with OSU Extension hosted an event with landowners to hear about water quality monitoring results, mercury TMDL, and agricultural practices and funding opportunities that reduce sediment.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	340	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	296	
Site Visits	215	
Conservation Plans Written	73	
Funding Applications Submitted	5	OWEB small grants that focused on riparian restoration.
Funding Applications Awarded	5	

* Number reported likely double counts some landowners due to tracking methods.

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

- Districts maintain good relationships with landowners.
- Cooperation between the county roads department and Yamhill SWCD is good and needed for roadside ditch problems.
- The Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance Program is good and needs to be better advertised and promoted.
- Roadside seeding is helping reduce erosion.
- Erosion is collectively recognized as a serious problem and landowners are open to finding solutions.
- The Area Plan contains good information and guidance on voluntary measures. It just needs to be made more accessible to landowners.

Impediments

- Roadside ditches are full. Ditch maintenance is not getting the attention it needs.
- Landowners are not using the Area Plan or they are too afraid to know whether their current practices are in compliance.

- Need a management-area wide measurable objective for reducing erosion. Focused Ag Solutions project could help build that.
- Need more/better data and information exchange between districts and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Conservation objectives can't keep changing; if they do, then reporting agencies don't capture the good work is happening for objectives that are no longer a priority.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- Need to make the Area Plan more accessible for landowners because they are not reading it as it is.
- Need to better pair solutions to area rules.
- More funding, attention, and equipment (i.e., brush mower) is needed for roadside ditch maintenance.
- Need to match objectives with available capacity, resources, and funding.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
				Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	14	8	37	1	6	18	5	0
Within SIA	7	5	12	0	3	8	2	0

UMPQUA BASIN

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



Meeting Date: March 5, 2025
LAC Members Present: Paul Heberling, Walt Gayner, Bill Hoyt, and Tom Black
Reporting Timeframe: Calendar years 2023–2024

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

This was a Light Review; progress toward Measurable Objectives will be reported at the next Full Review.

Activities	#	Discussion
Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Douglas SWCD		
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	36	<p>DOUGLAS SWCD: 22 UMPQUA SWCD: 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRCS Local Work Group Meeting: AgWQ presentation. OSU Mud and Manure Workshop with Umpqua SWCD, Douglas SWCD, OSU Small Farms, and OSU Animal and Rangeland Sciences. Mud and Manure Farm Tour with Umpqua SWCD, Douglas SWCD, OSU Small Farms, OSU Livestock Forages, and OSU Animal and Rangeland Sciences. OSU Best Fields First 2023: Presented information to livestock producers about agricultural water quality best management practices and available funding options to implement practices. Glover Estuary Enhancement Pre-Project Tour organized by Umpqua SWCD for the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers and local landowners, public. Presented agricultural water quality information and funding options at the Port of Umpqua Port Commissioners meeting. Soils 101 for Landowners at the Winchester Bay Community Center with Umpqua SWCD and OSU Small Farms Program. Douglas NRCS Local Work Group Meeting at the Port of Umpqua Annex with Umpqua SWCD hosting and presenting. City of Reedsport Parks and Beautification Committee: Presentation about the Leeds Island Project. Reedsport City Council Workshop Meeting: Presentation about the Leeds Island Project. City of Reedsport City Council Meeting: Presentation about the Leeds Island Project and information session with virtual project tour. Digging in: Taking Soil Samples in the Farm or Garden with Umpqua SWCD and OSU Small Farms held at the Elkton Community Education Center. OSU Best Fields First 2024: Presented information about agricultural water quality projects and funding options available. Agricultural water quality farm tour of two OWEB Small Grant projects. <p><i>Also, 4,171 newsletters were distributed to the Umpqua SWCD area.</i></p>
Landowners Participating in Active Events	571	DOUGLAS SWCD: 475 UMPQUA SWCD: 96
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	345	DOUGLAS SWCD: 238 UMPQUA SWCD: 107
Site Visits	111	DOUGLAS SWCD: 71 UMPQUA SWCD: 40
Conservation Plans Written	15	DOUGLAS SWCD: 10 UMPQUA SWCD: 5

Funding Applications Submitted	24	DOUGLAS SWCD: 10 UMPQUA SWCD: 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OWEB Small Grant (SG): Parent Ranch Heavy Use Protection Area • OWEB SG: Elk Creek Riparian Restoration Project • Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby Elk Creek Riparian Restoration Project • OWEB SG: Parent Ranch Heavy Use Protection Area • OWEB SG: Baumgartner Ranch Livestock Exclusion Area • OWEB SG: Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Phase I • Business Oregon Levy Program: Providence Creek Tidegates Replacement for technical assistance (TA) preapplication • OWEB SG: Elk Creek Riparian Enhancement (second submission) • Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby: Water Quality Monitoring Equipment • BLM RAC: Umpqua SWCD Noxious Weed Control and Elimination • USFWS: Umpqua SWCD Noxious Weed Control • Business Oregon Levy Program General Application for Tidegate Replacement for TA for design, engineering, surveying, permits, and public meetings. • OWEB TA: Umpqua Estuary Fish Passage and Water Quality Improvement for planning, design, engineering, permits for one tidegate, five bridges, heavy use areas, livestock exclusion fencing, off-stream livestock watering, riparian plantings for three projects. • OWEB SG: Costa Ranch Runoff Management and Heavy Use Protection
Funding Applications Awarded	17	DOUGLAS SWCD: 10 UMPQUA SWCD: 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OWEB SG: Providence Creek Ranch Runoff Management and Heavy Use Protection • OWEB SG: Parent Ranch Heavy Use Protection Area (cancelled due to land use issues) • OWEB SG: Baumgartner Ranch Livestock Exclusion Area • OWEB SG: Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Phase 1 • OWEB SG: Elk Creek Riparian Enhancement • OWEB SG: Costa Ranch Runoff Management and Heavy Use Protection • Business Oregon Providence Creek Tidegate TA

* Number reported likely double-counts some landowners due to tracking methods.

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

It is good to see the increase in SWCD projects and landowners implementing recommended practices in the Umpqua Basin. Ag Day, Livestock Association Spring Conference, and large outreach events are helpful.

Impediments

It is expected that there will be less federal funding available for conservation/agricultural water quality in the near future. There will be higher costs for everything as the result of tariffs; restoration becomes a lower priority for landowners when costs increase for simple things such as hay and fencing. High quality federal personnel are being fired and it is unknown how workloads are going to be handled, especially with the required consultations.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

Douglas SWCD is looking into fundraising options.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
				Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	11	8	20	2	0	9	0	0
Within SIA	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	0

SOUTH SANTIAM

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



Meeting Date: March 18, 2025

LAC Members Present: Clint Bentz (chair), Sudy Lamb, and David Neal

Reporting Timeframe: Calendar years 2023–2024

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

This was a Light Review; progress toward Measurable Objectives will be reported at the next Full Review.

Activities Linn Soil and Water CD	#	Description
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	3	Project tour, booths
Landowners Participating in Active Events	800	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	141	
Site Visits	38	
Conservation Plans Written	8	
Funding Applications Submitted	4	
Funding Applications Awarded	2	

* Number reported likely double counts some landowners due to tracking methods.

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

- Linn SWCD is working with the county road department to train road department staff to identify potential water quality compliance concerns and bring them to the attention of the SWCD. That way, the SWCD can attempt to provide technical assistance before they become compliance issues.
- Linn SWCD is 80 years old this year.
- More in-person meetings, less virtual, means more farm visits working with landowners.
- Oregon Department of Agriculture has additional monitoring funds and Linn SWCD applied for a grant to increase monitoring efforts in the Management Area. Other partners have monitoring for other parameters and the SWCD doesn't want to duplicate efforts but wants to get a clear picture.
- Crop types have changed (less mint, less row crops, less fertilizer used, more livestock, more feed stock crops, more small farms since 2021).
- There is less market demand in the grass seed industry because younger generations don't want lawns/yards as much.

Impediments

- Erosion remains a high concern in the Management Area. Filbert and Christmas trees still have a lack of cover cropping. Landowners are aware that erosion is an issue and are working harder than ever to preserve soils. Voles are a big issue in the area, affecting the livelihood of organic farmers, grape growers in particular.
- The Private Forest Accord is putting a huge burden on landowners to fix culverts and more. It also created a funding mechanism for landowners to pay for that work.
- Rain events are "100-year storms" every year, impacting soil heavily and increasing runoff and erosion. Summers are longer and hotter, with less groundwater/subsurface flow/springs.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- LAC suggests monitoring fire effects on water turbidity and effects on soil.
- Dam drawdowns are contributing to sediment fall out in watershed (Green Peter, etc.). How do agencies manage for sediment when it's being added in huge amounts?
- There are many probes in the water but where is that data, particularly for temperature and flow, and how do agencies access it? LAC wants to see better data prior to agencies making final decisions. The LAC worries that the Legislature sees water quality data numbers staying the same or getting worse with no way

to improve that narrative because agencies don't have the correct continued monitoring (Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area).

- Linn SWCD needs to focus on soil health, no-till/low-till, and inundation outreach/education in the area.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
				Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	1	2	6	0	2	2	0	0
Within SIA	N/A							

UPPER WILLAMETTE AND UPPER SIUSLAW

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



Meeting Date: March 20, 2025

LAC Members Present: Brian Parker, Jan Nelson, Robin Pfeiffer, and Al Hyrnyshyn

Reporting Timeframe: Calendar years 2023–2024

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

This was a Light Review; progress toward Measurable Objectives will be reported at the next Full Review.

Activities Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)	#	Description
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	3	Stroda Brothers Farm Tour, Living on the Lands Series, Rural Living Night.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	71	33 people attended the Stroda Brother Farm Tour, 10 attended the Rural Living Night, and 28 rural landowners from throughout Lane County attended the Living on the Land Series.
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	20	
Site Visits	16	Three of the 16 site visits were to properties identified through the ODA Strategic Implementation Area evaluation process.
Conservation Plans Written	2	Working Lands Program completed a plan, and the conservation technician completed one for a manure storage facility.
Funding Applications Submitted	3	Two applications were for manure storage facilities or manure management and sediment/mud control; one was for dam removal for fish passage.
Funding Applications Awarded	2	The two manure management projects were funded. The dam removal was not funded.

* Number reported likely double counts some landowners due to tracking methods.

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

- Row crop vegetable production has decreased in the Management Area. Crop production has moved toward hazelnuts.
- Fertilizer is extremely expensive, causing landowners to be prudent about how much they use each year.

Impediments

- Landowners are unmotivated to care about what they can do to help water quality.
- Water quality impacts after logging are occurring on land above agricultural fields (sediment fallout).
- Hazelnut orchards with bare ground are causing water quality concerns.
- The political climate is impacting funding and programs available. Funding is going away and causing uncertainty. It is a difficult conservation landscape.
- Loss of funding for conservation programs and activities has the potential to erode trust between landowners and conservation entities. It can make them unwilling to participate when the funding returns.
- SWCDs and NRCS are spending too much money on expensive projects (manure storage sheds) rather than educating them on how to change practices first. There is a need in the Management Area for workshops about best agricultural practices. Currently, information about ag practices that protect water quality are limited to brochures and other handouts/mailers.
- As the result of succession/tax laws, land is getting to the point at which the majority is in the hands of private residential and not used for agriculture.
 - Pressure to develop residential housing in the valley/state is causing pressure on agricultural lands.
 - Short-term issues associated with rented land is causing uncertainty.
 - Solar projects are going into farmland and causing more pressure on the ag community.
- Willamette Valley water is a complex system, and the LAC is unsure if agencies are ever going to be able to manage it all for pollution.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- Maintain grass border in fields, drainage channels, and creek beds to mitigate fertilizer runoff. Buffers/borders tend to show where/how much fertilizer has run off (more nitrogen will show in the grassed waterways). Filter strips can even be driveable with roads so long as they also act as a buffer.
- Apply fertilizer variably based on soil testing. (How can more soil testing be made available in the Management Area?)
- Succession planning efforts are needed. (The LAC suggests engaging with Oregon Agricultural Trust for workshops/presentations.)
- Leave mulch and detritus on properties after harvest to increase soil organic carbon and water retention.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
				Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	6	7	7	2	3	3	0	0
Within SIA	0	2	5	0	0	5	0	0

CURRY COUNTY

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



Meeting Date: March 27, 2025

LAC Members Present: In Person: Lynne Dewald, Jim Kamph, Steve Mazur, Lee Riddle. Online: Becky Crockett

Reporting Timeframe: Calendar years 2023–2024

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

This was a Light Review; progress toward Measurable Objectives will be reported at the next Full Review.

Activities	#	Description
Curry Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD); Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)		
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	3	NRCS: 2 local work group meetings; CREP: 1 local work group.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	32	NRCS: 20 landowners, and 20 partners; CREP: 12.
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	141	Curry SWCD: 72; NRCS: 35; CREP: 34 In-office and site discussions of resource concerns, assistance types, best management practices, etc.
Site Visits	180	Curry SWCD: 127; NRCS: 30; CREP: 23 on-site assessments of new and ongoing installations, discussion of water quality and quantity, pasture management, drainage, fish passage, riparian status, erosion concerns.
Conservation Plans Written	15	NRCS: 13 EQIP contracts with plans; CREP: 2 complete CREP planning packets.
Funding Applications Submitted	32	Curry SWCD: 8; NRCS: 17 Environmental Quality Incentives Program and 4 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications; CREP: 3 submitted for CREP funding.
Funding Applications Awarded	23	Curry SWCD: 9; NRCS: 13 EQIP contracts; CREP: 1, some applications are pending review and enrollment opening.

* Number reported likely double counts some landowners due to tracking methods.

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

- NRCS has projects and funding available for gorse control, cranberry irrigation improvements, and forestland improvements to reduce wildfire risk.
- At the previous Biennial Review, illegal cannabis operations were seen as a problem. That problem has seemed to diminish in Curry County during the past two years.
- It takes time, money, and effort to establish “free to grow” riparian buffers. The Curry Watershed Partnership does a lot of maintenance and “nobody really goes off the list” if they have a riparian buffer project. The CWP keep maintaining the buffers if there is funding.

Impediments

- The LAC views small “hobby” farms and how they might be brought into the fold regarding agricultural water quality rules and regulations as an impediment.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- Potential opportunity for workshops: 1) Mud and Manure, 2) Plants that are toxic to livestock, 3) OSU Small Farms, 4) Incorporate a large animal vet to give a presentation.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
				Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Within SIA	N/A							

PROJECTS AND PRACTICES

SWCD, Watershed Council Secured \$1.2 million in Grant Funds

Curry SWCD and the Curry Watersheds Partnership provided technical assistance, grant writing, and grant management to eight projects on agricultural lands, securing more than \$1.2 million in grant funds for conservation/restoration project design and implementation in calendar years 2023–2024. Project types included riparian fencing and vegetation enhancement, offstream water development, streambank restoration, and stream channel restoration. Funders included Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Bureau of Land Management, Bandon Dunes Charitable Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership, Drinking Water Providers Partnership, Bureau of Reclamation, and private landowners.

Curry SWCD: Ag Water Quality On-the-Ground-Practices Implemented

Quarter #	12-Digit HUC #	NRCS Practice Code	NRCS Practice Name	NRCS Unit (acres, feet, #)	R-Riparian; U-Upland	# Implemented	Notes	Funding Source(s): (e.g., OWEB, CREP, EQIP, etc.)
1	171003060302	614	Watering Facility	5 sites	U	1		Landowner/ OWEB
1	171003060302	382	Fence	5,640 ft.	U	1	Riparian fence	Landowner
4	171003060403	382	Fence	5,600 ft.	R	1	Riparian fence	OWEB/ Landowner
4	171003060403	614	Watering facility	1 site	U	1		OWEB/ Landowner
5	171003060102	612	Tree/shrub establishment/moisture conservation	14 acres	R	1	Maintain plantings	BLM (via OWEB)
5	171003060203	580	Streambank and shoreline protection	500 ft.	R	1		OWEB/ USFS

MIDDLE DESCHUTES

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

LAC Members Present: Ben Walen, Collin Cowsill, Josh Bailey, Lori Campbell, and Mickey Killingsworth

Reporting Timeframe: Calendar years 2023 – 2024

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

This was a Light Review; progress toward Measurable Objectives will be reported at the next Full Review.

Activities Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District	#	Description
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	6	Farm Fair; landowner meeting in Ashwood where 20 landowners came to learn about weeds and range management; June 11 Soil Health workshop; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local work group meeting.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	165	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	85	Technical assistance provided in Ashwood; North Unit Irrigation District (NUID); Upper Willow Creek; Campbell Creek; and Trout Creek.
Site Visits	108	Upper Willow Creek; Campbell Creek; and Trout Creek.
Conservation Plans Written	21	Vegetation management plan for Campbell Creek.
Funding Applications Submitted	36	Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) small grants • 1 Strategic Implementation Area restoration grant • Pesticide Stewardship Partnership grant • EPA Toxics grant • 1 OWEB technical assistance grant • 1 The Nature Conservancy/Portland General Electric restoration grant for Trout Creek
Funding Applications Awarded	16	See above

* Number reported likely double counts some landowners due to tracking methods.

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

- SIA monitoring is successfully showing with nitrate, phosphorus, and total suspended solids (TSS) data the importance of keeping soil on fields and out of the water.
- The Middle Deschutes Pesticides Stewardship Partnership is addressing issues effectively.
- The Jefferson County agricultural Drought resiliency plan, facilitated by Jefferson County SWCD, has incredible participation and momentum, especially in croplands and outreach.
- NUID is doing an amazing job making water available and accessible for patrons. The district is being proactive with automation and conservation efforts.
- It seems as if there is more and more openness from landowners to trying new things and adapting to new conditions.
- Jefferson County farmers are early adopters of new technologies and methods.

Impediments

- Drought conditions are changing management practices in the Management Area and making irrigation upgrades cost-prohibitive. These upgrades are often needed to protect water quality in the Management Area.
- It is challenging to find funding sources outside of NRCS to help with irrigation upgrades. Infrastructure installation is costly.

- A lack of funding for cleaning out irrigation ponds is a challenge. Ponds fill up with sediment and allow for less and less water capture. This makes less water available to the landowner.
- The high cost of living and low pay makes it challenging to keep staff on board.
- The LAC would like to see more funding for weed abatement. Such efforts are often a component of a larger program proposal and not often a primary target.
- It is challenging to convince landowners to change their ways in terms of pesticide applications, even when there is sound evidence that new ways could improve yields and water quality protection.
- The LAC is concerned about conversion of farmland into residential: Jefferson County's economy is based on agriculture; if agriculture leaves the county the economy suffers and makes it potentially harder for remaining landowners to implement water quality work.
- The likelihood of new farmers taking over Jefferson County's agricultural legacy is decreasing based on cost of establishing and running an agricultural operation. This limits new ideas and new management perspectives that could have benefits for water quality.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- Unify pesticide application recommendations (what pesticide companies recommend compared to what water quality protection requires) with the goal to make the information as easily accessible to the landowner as possible.
- Funding availability for irrigation infrastructure and modernization. Due to high cost, landowners who may be willing to make changes are financially unable in a lot of cases.
- Fewer restrictions on OWEB funding for irrigation upgrades.
- If possible, fill data gaps from partner data collection efforts.
- Get drought work into the Area Plan; a lot of grant funding sources ask if landowners are following a plan. It would be nice if the goals from the drought work group were aligned with and captured in the Area Plan.
- Plan a fall meeting with updates on key long-term LAC issues and a water quality tour.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
				Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Within SIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TUALATIN RIVER WATERSHED
Agricultural Water Quality Management Area
Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director
Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



Meeting Date: April 2, 2025

LAC Members Present: Dan Logan, George Marsh, and Rich Hunter

Reporting Timeframe: Calendar years 2023 – 2024

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

This was a Light Review; progress toward Measurable Objectives will be reported at the next Full Review.

Activities Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)	#	Description
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	26	Collaborated with Clackamas SWCD in Horsekeeping and Land Management Masterclass series; shared outreach letters and packets to landowners for stream enhancement program (ECREP); provided on-farm information sessions with farmers on agricultural water quality Rules and the Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance Program; promoted the Soil Testing Program; held a pesticide collection event; hosted Soil School, Hillsboro Hops Ag Night, and Land Steward Field Day; sent out soil testing postcards and shared soil health and erosion information packets at library; presented ag water quality information at Small Farms School, OSU workshops on reduced tillage, and at farmers markets; held a Sustainable Horsekeeping Workshop; provided local water quality information to rural residents at Gales Creek Nation Night Out, Clackamas SWCD Small Farms School, and Tuality Plains Outpost.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	1,528	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	185	
Site Visits	123	
Conservation Plans Written	7	Conservation cover; riparian tree and shrub establishment; heavy use area management; exclusion fencing; manure compost facilities; microirrigation; grazing plans; gutters.
Funding Applications Submitted	18	
Funding Applications Awarded	18	

* Number reported likely double counts some landowners due to tracking methods.

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

- Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) continues to grow its program and provide valuable service to the agricultural community
- Tualatin SWCD's Vegetated Buffer Areas for Conservation (VEGBAC) program continues to add stream miles with vegetation.
- Great connections are being made with small producers, less so with larger producers.
- Trends for dissolved oxygen, *E. coli* and total suspended solids are improving, although temperature continues to decline.

Impediments

- Miles of added streamside vegetation is not leading to improvements in water temperature.
- Getting large producers to the table continues to be challenging.
- Loss of federal partners and programs will hurt progress.
- Growers are not aware of all the programs and funding opportunities that are available.
- Water quality data needs to be made more available. The water quality improvements are not being made known.

- Old habits are hard to break, particularly for large growers who don't feel that conservation partners and programs don't offer them anything. They are not aware that the rules apply to everyone.
- Key question: Is regulation a motivator or a turnoff for engagement?

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- Lead engagement efforts by talking about benefits to producers and their bottom-line, not with agricultural water quality.
- Identify conservation-minded and well-spoken producers who can provide in-field demonstrations to other producers.
- Highlight and celebrate producers who embrace conservation in their practices. Provide them with public recognition for their work, perhaps at the Tualatin SWCD Board Annual Meeting.
- Present conservation programs at commodity group meetings.
- Develop a comprehensive guide of programs and funding opportunities provided by all partners that can be shared with landowners.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
				Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	7	4	16	2	1	9	0	0
Within SIA	N/A							

UPPER MAINSTEM AND SOUTH FORK JOHN DAY RIVER

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

LAC Members Present: Phil St. Clair, Didgette McCracken, Joanne Keerins, Mark Webb, Stephan Charette, and Stefan Kelly

Reporting Timeframe: October 2022–December 2024

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

This was a Full Review; progress toward Measurable Objectives

Activities	#	Description
Grant Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), South Fork John Day Watershed Council		
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	15	Grant County Natural Resource Fair, Yearly NRCS Local Work Group Meetings. Information days, natural resource fair, fire information, seed donations.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	110	Landowners participating in the Grant County Natural Resource Fair.
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	110	Technical assistance for culvert replacement, spring development, fencing, and riparian improvement projects. Various soils, seeding recommendation requests.
Site Visits	273	Site visits for culvert replacement, spring development, fencing, ditch-to-pipe conversion, irrigation diversion, and riparian improvement projects. Technical assistance, initial applications, cultural resource surveys, certifications.
Conservation Plans Written	48	Funded NRCS and Farm Service Agency projects.
Funding Applications Submitted	159	Funding applications for design of culvert replacements, installation of riparian fencing, and installation of off-site water developments. Through various NRCS programs. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), private foundations and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation.
Funding Applications Awarded	69	Through various NRCS programs and SWCD program.

* Number reported likely double counts some landowners due to tracking methods.

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ): Water quality monitoring

- Temperature: Out of 47 total sites, 10 are attaining the standard, 13 are not attaining (24 unassessed). Of the six sites with sufficient data for trend analysis, five are improving, and one has no trend.
- Bacteria: Out of 10 sites, two are attaining the standard, one is not attaining (seven unassessed). Two sites had sufficient data for trend analysis, with one degrading, and 1 one no trend.
- Dissolved oxygen: Out of 30 sites, five are attaining the standard (25 unassessed). Dissolved oxygen levels are looking good throughout the area.

Grant SWCD

- Fox Creek Focus Area is seeing good tree growth within the riparian enclosures, which are constructed of livestock hog panels that are effectively keeping elk and beaver out.
- Helicopter and utility terrain vehicle grass reseeding following wildfires is showing positive results as the landscape is beginning to green up.
- The SWCD plans to advertise the availability of the utility terrain vehicle starting in August.
- An Area Plan measurable objective has been established to track riparian vegetation growth.

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the SWCD are also collaborating on riparian habitat program fencing projects to support ongoing restoration efforts.

South Fork John Day Watershed Council

- One spring development, 2 miles of aquatic habitat work, 14.5 acres of riparian fence, 900 acres of seeding. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) work on livestock water, juniper removal, streambank stabilization, etc. Water quality monitoring across ownerships. Outreach and education. Developing a five-year work plan for RCPP continuation.
- Landowners are doing a lot on their own.
- The LAC is pleased with the measurable objective the SWCD added to the plan.

Impediments

- DEQ monitoring data in the area lacks sufficient temperature measurements. There's concern about data quality, particularly regarding the cold-water influences of the upper mainstem, which are not meeting standards. This should inform the TMDL about what temperature targets are realistically achievable.
- The agricultural community is being held responsible for rising stream temperatures, yet most of the monitoring occurs on federal land. There is concern that federal land managers may not be fully contributing to water quality goals. If water is already warm when it leaves federal land, it's assumed to continue warming as it passes through private agricultural lands. Shade doesn't cool water but slows down the rate of warming.
- There are ongoing questions about whether cattle are the primary source of bacteria contamination.
- Since 1995, LAC members Joanne Keerins and Phil St. Clair have planted more than 10,000 trees along the upper South Fork. However, most have not survived due to wildlife damage from beaver, elk, and deer activity combined with only 42 nonconsecutive frost-free days each year. There is uncertainty about whether the required shade targets can be met under these conditions and at what point efforts to meet shade goals can stop.
- Some landowners will not work with conservation agencies. Building trust with landowners will be difficult, especially as more is being asked of them. However, establishing tiered expectations could ease concerns. The last monitoring effort contributed to the 303(d) listing, which adds to the sensitivity.
- The Dry Pine flow station may no longer be collecting data and should be checked.
- Flooding and channelization/diking work by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960s caused significant damage. Only recently have streams and riparian systems begun to recover.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- ODA and DEQ need to collaborate more effectively to pinpoint specific problem areas through reasonable, targeted monitoring. Once issues are clearly identified, solutions can be developed.
- Stronger language is needed for baseline to define clear goals and expectations. A well-defined path forward should replace vague language and add specifics. This includes adding levels (more than just a standard), and setting tiered benchmarks ranging from minimum to maximum. Include measurable steps in between, so DEQ can evaluate and track progress effectively.
- Landowners want recognition for stewardship work they're already doing, as well as a clear status process.
- Increased funding is needed to support consistent, robust, and reasonable monitoring efforts.
- Annual meetings could help review and discuss measurable objectives.
- A fresh start in monitoring is recommended, including open conversations with landowners and partners to build trust and align on priorities.
- DEQ and ODA need to reassess their regulatory approach to ensure its effective in achieving water quality goals. Bringing OWEB into the conversation could help align focused funding.
- ODA must clearly define expectations and desired outcomes. Monitoring is foundational, and decisions shouldn't be made without knowing whether a problem exists or where it lies. More clearly defined and realistic standards could serve as a productive conversation starter with landowners.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
				Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Within SIA	N/A							

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Jonathan Sandau, Deputy Director
Subject: Agenda Item number 04 – ODA Budget and Legislative Update

As the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session approaches its constitutional sine die on June 29, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) remains actively engaged, with a primary focus on advancing the agency's 2025–27 biennial budget and core policy initiatives.

The June revenue forecast reported a \$500 million decrease from March projections, intensifying legislative focus on closing shortfalls in critical service areas. Against this backdrop, the Legislature is working to finalize budget and policy decisions that will shape Oregon's natural resource programs.

I. ODA Budget and Legislative Package Progress

On May 22, ODA's full budget package was approved by the Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources and is now under consideration by the full Joint Committee on Ways and Means (scheduled for May 30). The package includes:

- **SB 5502 – ODA Base Budget Bill**
Provides continued service level funding for all ODA programs.
- **SB 5503 – Fee Ratification Bill**
Ratifies any approved fee changes from the 2023–25 biennium as part of the new base budget.
- **HB 2805 – Food Safety Licensing**
Extends ODA's authority to issue temporary food establishment licenses.
- **HB 2806 – Weighing & Measuring Device Fees**
Reauthorizes ODA's ability to set and adjust fees for commercial weighing and measuring devices.
- **HB 2809 – Pesticide Registration Fees**
Increases the statutory cap on pesticide registration fees to ensure sustainable program funding.
- **SB 832 – Civil Penalty Revisions**
Updates enforcement provisions and penalty authorities to align with regulatory best practices.
- **SB 1019 – Livestock Identification Program Modernization**
Adjusts fees on a per-head basis and introduces self-certification and contract-for-service options to improve program flexibility and cost recovery.

II. ODA Policy Bills Signed into Law

Two of ODA's 2025 agency-requested policy bills not included in the budget package have successfully passed both chambers and were signed into law by Governor Kotek:

- **SB 809 – State Meat Inspection Program**
Clarifies that ODA's meat inspection authority includes poultry processing. *(Signed: May 7, 2025)*
- **SB 833 – Soil Amendment Labeling Alignment**
Aligns Oregon's labeling standards with the updated AAPFCO model guidelines. *(Signed: May 14, 2025)*

III. Capital Projects: Project OneODA Modernization

ODA's bonding request to fund Project OneODA, the agency's strategic IT modernization initiative, is under active consideration by the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Project OneODA Overview:

This initiative modernizes ODA's service delivery and internal operations by replacing outdated, siloed systems with an integrated, secure, cloud-first platform using Microsoft Dynamics 365. It will improve licensing, inspections, compliance, customer access, and data integrity—delivering long-term value to staff, stakeholders, and the public.

Key investments include:

1. Transitioning staff hardware and server infrastructure to modern Windows-based systems;
2. Deploying a centralized CRM/ERP system supporting licensing, inspections, compliance, and customer self-service portals;
3. Implementing data governance structures for improved scalability, security, and cross-agency accountability.

Project OneODA is foundational to the 2024 Strategic Action Plan and serves as a model for future shared platforms across Oregon's natural resource agencies.

IV. Broader Policy Landscape and Statewide Issues

Outside of agency-requested bills, ODA continues to monitor major policy issues being deliberated across the Capitol:

- **HB 2548 – Agricultural Workforce Labor Standards**
Establishes a labor board to determine minimum employment standards for agricultural workers. The bill remains in the House Committee on Rules with possible referral to Ways and Means. Parties continue to engage on potential impacts to farm employment and rural economies.
- **Revenue and Budget Pressures**
The June forecast's \$500 million shortfall has intensified pressure on budget writers across all sectors. Governor Kotek's focus remains on protecting key investments while ensuring agencies have core resources.
- **Policy Conversations Driving Session Dynamics**
Key topics shaping the 2025 session include transportation funding, land use flexibility,

and water infrastructure. While not all measures directly impact ODA, they intersect with issues facing rural Oregon and agriculture more broadly.

V. Next Steps

ODA will continue engaging with budget writers and legislative committees as decisions are finalized in the final weeks of the session. An End-of-Session Report, including final bill tracking and policy implementation timelines, will be presented at the September State Board of Agriculture meeting.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Troy Abercrombie, Program Manager, ODA
Subject: Agenda Item number 05 – Working Lands in Oregon

I. Introduction

Representatives from the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will give a joint presentation on Rangeland Resilience and Restoration work that is happening in Eastern Oregon.

Panel members:

- Troy Abercrombie, Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Mark Porter, Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Hilary Doulos, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Katie Salter, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

II. Background

In 2023, House Bill 3409 established the Natural and Working Lands (NWL) Fund with an initial appropriation of \$10M. The Fund is administered by the Oregon Climate Action Commission and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. HB3409 directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture and three other state agencies (ODF, OWEB, ODFW) to use these funds to implement projects that support the adoption of Natural Climate Solutions across five different land sectors, with an emphasis on carbon sequestration and co-benefits. The agencies have also prioritized leveraging of these funds to secure other state and federal investments.

The Oregon Climate Action Commission was established in 2007 and functions as an advisory committee to recommend ways to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions, and to help the state, local governments, businesses, and Oregonians prepare for the effects of climate change.

ODF is investing over \$3M of NWL funds to support the adoption of Climate-Smart Forestry practices. OWEB is investing over \$2M of NWL funds to make grants for Conservation Management Plan development and implementation and grants for restoration and technical assistance across all five land sectors. ODFW is investing over \$3M of NWL funds to support specialized staff and implement a portfolio of projects

across multiple land sectors. ODA is investing \$900K across two projects that implement a Rangeland Resilience Initiative and the Oregon Native Seed Strategy.

<https://climate.oregon.gov/climate-change-in-oregon>

Oregon State Board of Agriculture

Thursday, June 5, 2025 -- Public Comments – verbal testimony sign-up

Speaker	Name	Topic	Date Received	Virtual
1	Name P:			
2				
3				
4				
5				

As of 05/23/2025

Oregon State Board of Agriculture
June 2025

Written Public Comments

Item	Name	Topic	Date Received
Item 01	Barbara Boyer, Chair Soil and Water Conservation Commission	Resolution 315 – Working Lands Conservation Easements	03/20/2025
Item 02	Megan Kemple, Executive Director, Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network	Resolution 319 – Climate Change Policy Considerations	05/27/2025
Item 03			
Item 04			
Item 05			
Item 06			
Item 07			
Item 08			
Item 09			
Item 10			
Item 11			
Item 12			
Item 13			

Chairperson Elin Miller and Oregon Board of Agriculture (Board of Ag)
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-2532

Support for Resolution 315

Dear Chairperson Miller and Board Members,

The Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) is an advisory commission to the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Water Quality Management Program, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, and other conservation initiatives. We periodically review active resolutions that come up for review by the Board of Ag at our quarterly commission meetings for intersections with how they may affect Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. At the October 2024 and February 2025 commission meetings we reviewed resolutions up for review by Workgroup B.

We would like to convey our support and comment for Resolution 315 – Working Lands Conservation Easements.

The commission encourages continued efforts to find sources of long-term permanent funding from the legislature and other places, for the Oregon Ag Heritage Program (OAHP) and Commission. This program works to protect threats to conversion of ag and forest lands by providing technical assistance to farmers and ranchers, farm succession planning, creating individualized management plans, promotion of funding sources, and holding conservation easements.

The laws and rules that frame this work are crucial to continuing the success and longevity of Oregon's robust farming and forest products economy.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts, by statute, are authorized to hold and maintain working lands easements. Currently six conservation districts collectively manage several 1,000 acres of actively working farm and forestland.

Sincerely, *Barbara Boyer* Chair
Soil and Water Conservation Commission for
ODA's Ag Water Quality Program and
ODA's Soil and Water Conservation District Program

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 15:36:14 Pacific Daylight Time

Subject: Board of ag comments
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 2:29:13 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
To: BOARDAGRICULTURE Oda * ODA
Attachments: formsubmission.csv

You don't often get email from oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Topic you are commenting on	BoA Resolution Review 2025
First name	Sophie
Last name	Els
Email address	sophie@oregonclimateag.org
Comments	See attachment

Uploaded Files:

- [OrCAN Public Comment_June 2025 Board of Ag Resolutions.pdf](#)

Submission Date: 05/27/2025 04:29 PM CST

Submission ID: d573e2e5-5227-4e5a-9f86-cbf68294ce8d

Record ID:



Oregon Board of Agriculture

May 27, 2025

Chair Miller, Vice-Chair Orem, and Members of the Board of Agriculture:

Please accept the following public comments regarding the Board of Agriculture's [Resolution 319: Climate Change Policy Considerations](#) which is currently under review.

We appreciate and recommend making the suggested edits/updates to the resolution included in the June 2025 resolution packet. But we think Resolution 319 would better serve ODA, and the agricultural community, if it was updated further to account for changes in the political landscape that have occurred in Oregon since it was originally drafted or last amended, in 2022.

The most important of these changes to the political landscape include:

- Failure of HB2020 (2019 Session) and its successor SB 1530 (2020 Short Session)
- Adoption of Oregon DEQ's Climate Protection Program
- The Oregon Climate Action Commission's Natural and Working Lands work
- Passage of Natural Climate Solutions policy in [HB 3409](#) (2023 session)
- Establishment of Natural and Working Lands Fund in [HB 3409](#) (2023 session)
- Establishment of Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants [SB 5506](#) (2023)

We've done a comprehensive review of the draft resolution, and found opportunities to improve the current Background and Resolution sections which we have provided on the following pages.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Megan Kengle".

Executive Director, Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network

Opportunities to Improve Resolution 319: Climate Change Policy Considerations

The following text in blue is the current language of the resolution, and text in green represents the changes proposed in the June 2025 draft. Our comments are in *italics*.

BACKGROUND SECTION

WHEREAS, climate change is adversely impacting Oregon agriculture including the well-being of farmers, ranchers, seafood producers and resource reliant communities because of intensifying extreme weather, persistent drought, increasingly destructive wildfire seasons, and heightened water shortages, along with changing ocean conditions and other impacts. *We were pleased to see the updated opening statement, and we feel it better reflects the impacts of climate change on agriculture.*

WHEREAS, activities with the potential to be net carbon sinks provide opportunities for farmers and ranchers to contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation and promote climate resilience and can provide co-benefits such as soil health, water quality, improved water retention and filtration on farms, and reduced energy input costs.

We were also pleased to see the recognition of the mitigation and resilience benefits of these practices.

... improved water retention and **filtration** on farms...

Throughout the resolution, we recommend the word "filtration" should be changed to "infiltration". Filtration refers to filtering (which is covered by the water quality references), whereas infiltration refers to water soaking into soil rather than running off.

WHEREAS, improving soil health across Oregon lands improves soil security to sustain functionality for current and future generations, agricultural resilience, nutrient retention while reducing inputs, and provides ecosystem services including water quality and quantity, flood mitigation, air quality, and may be a net carbon sink.

We especially appreciate the inclusion of the above statement, as soil health is critical to climate mitigation and resilience for Oregon agriculture.

WHEREAS, activities with the potential to be net carbon sinks provide opportunities for farmers and ranchers to contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation and promote climate resilience and can provide co-benefits such as soil health, water quality, improved water retention and filtration on farms, and reduced **energy input costs**.

WHEREAS, Government and private sector programs, policies, and investments can help agriculture adapt and become more resilient to climate impacts and contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation and promote climate resilience and can provide co-benefits such as soil health, water quality, improved water retention and filtration on farms, and reduced **energy and input costs**.

*We recommend modifying "energy input costs" in the first statement to read "energy **and** input costs". These practices can reduce energy costs and reduce input costs. See the language in the second paragraph.*

WHEREAS, Oregon's agriculture sector is among the most diverse in the United States, producing over 250 unique commodities across varied landscapes, and this diversity is essential to climate resilience, economic vitality, and food security;

WHEREAS, Oregon's agriculture industry is diverse in numerous ways, producing over 250 different commodities in various landscapes and climatic conditions, operating diverse production systems using a variety of inputs, depending on diverse markets both domestically and internationally, and partnering with numerous agriculture and food businesses to produce and process products.

The suggested new "WHEREAS" statements (in green) above is very similar to the previously existing statement (in blue). We recommend consolidating these two statements.

WHEREAS, policies that regulate greenhouse gas emissions **will** affect the costs of agricultural inputs including fuels, electricity, and fertilizer, impacting the cost of production as well as the cost of moving agriculture and food products to market.

*We recommend the above statement be amended to say that "emissions **may** affect the costs of agricultural inputs". This statement indicates certainty about impacts of policy on agriculture, when the relationship between policy and impact or benefit to agriculture is not certain.*

RESOLUTION SECTION

- Evaluate and improve the effectiveness, equity, and accessibility of voluntary incentive programs for carbon sequestration and climate adaptation, ensuring participation by farms of all sizes and production systems. ~~Structure programs to incentivize carbon sequestration and resilience on Oregon's agricultural lands to be as workable and accessible as possible for farmers and ranchers with diverse farm sizes, crop types, and production systems.~~
- Consider the well-being of farmers, ranchers and rural communities and the need to sustain a resilient food supply, rural economy, and quality of life.
- Ensure both natural and working lands are included in climate policy and programs and position the state to leverage state and federal lands and investments to do so.
- Create sustained funding for voluntary incentive programs to assist Oregon agriculture in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The above statements or changes to statements are important and we are pleased to see their inclusion in the resolution.

- Balance the need to reduce emissions from intensive and trade exposed industries with the goal of retaining these industries in the state.
- Recognize that if processing or other facilities leave the state because of higher costs due to carbon policy, we have not achieved the goal of reducing carbon and have simply moved emissions to another location while harming our economy and industry.

- Provide compliance assistance, including longer compliance time frames, technical assistance, and low-cost compliance instruments, for energy intensive trade exposed industries that are at risk of loss to overseas or out of state competitors.
- Support exemptions or rebates for fuel used in on-farm activities.

As we commented previously, the statements above focus on specific components of policy which were proposed at the time the resolution was originally adopted, and are no longer relevant because of their specificity. If the BoA wants to be prepared for future policy proposals or future legislation, the resolution language should be more general and not specific to legislation that did not pass, or is no longer relevant.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 07 Site Visits

I. Introduction

The Board will follow-up on the morning working lands presentation with visit to a local research site. Later the Board will travel to Union to visit the Experiment Station and Eastern Oregon Livestock Show.

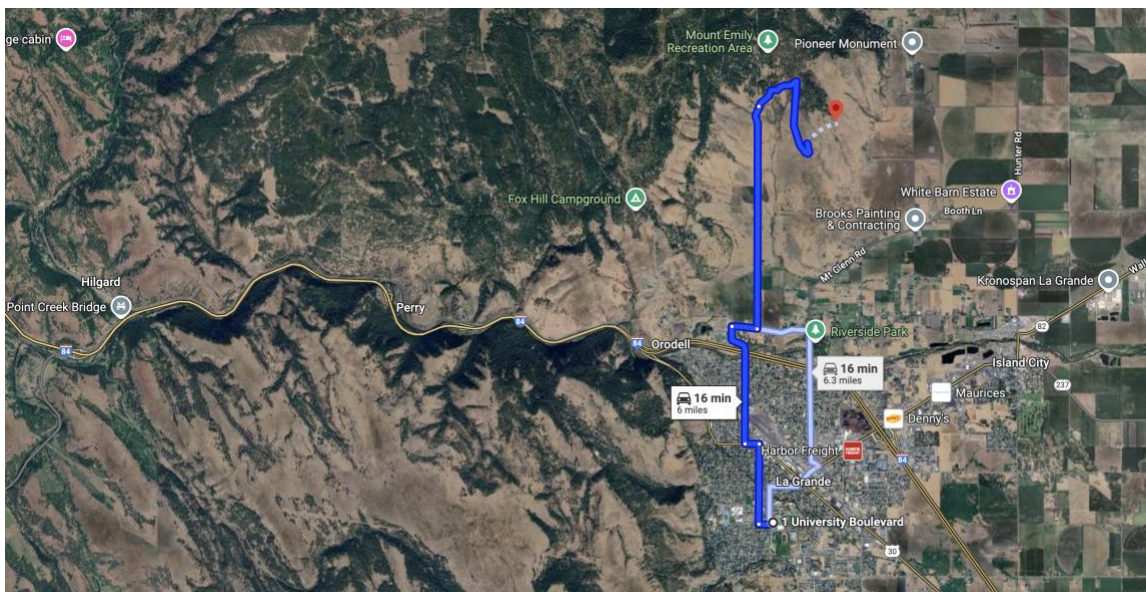
II. Tour Information

There will be two seven passenger vans available to transport board members and staff on the tour.

Tour Stop 1 – Arrow Leaf Farms

Note: There is not a physical address for this site. Please use map and directions below.

Visit working lands research site and learn more about rangeland resilience and restoration work that is happening in Eastern Oregon.



Directions

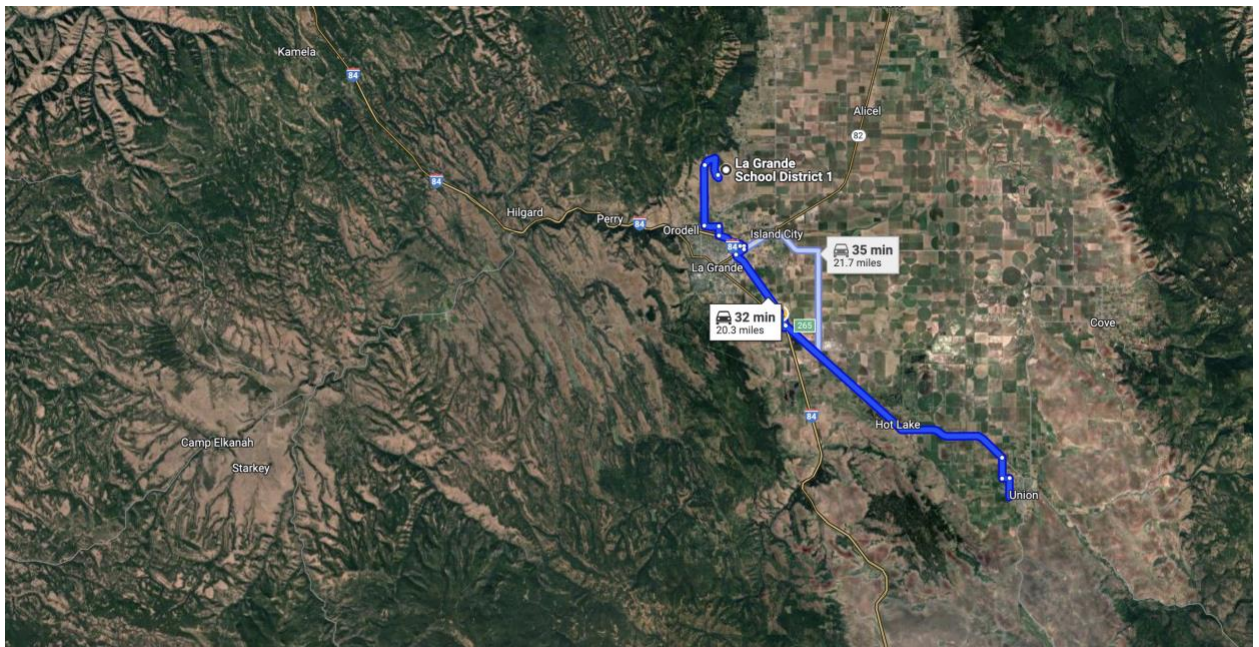
EOU/Gilbert Event Center - 1 University Blvd, La Grande to Arrow Leaf Farms Research Site

1. Head west on H Ave toward 6th Street – 0.1 mi
2. Turn right onto 4th Street – 0.8 mi
3. Turn left onto Adams Avenue – 0.1 mi
4. Turn right onto 2nd Street – 1.2 mi
5. Turn right onto Blackhawk Trail Lane – 0.2 mi
6. Turn left onto Owsley Canyon Road – 2.2 mi
7. Turn right – 1.3 mi

Tour Stop 2 – Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center

372 S 10th St – Union, OR 97883

Tour the oldest Oregon State University research center in Oregon and learn about important research work occurring onsite.



Directions:

Arrow Leaf Farms to Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center

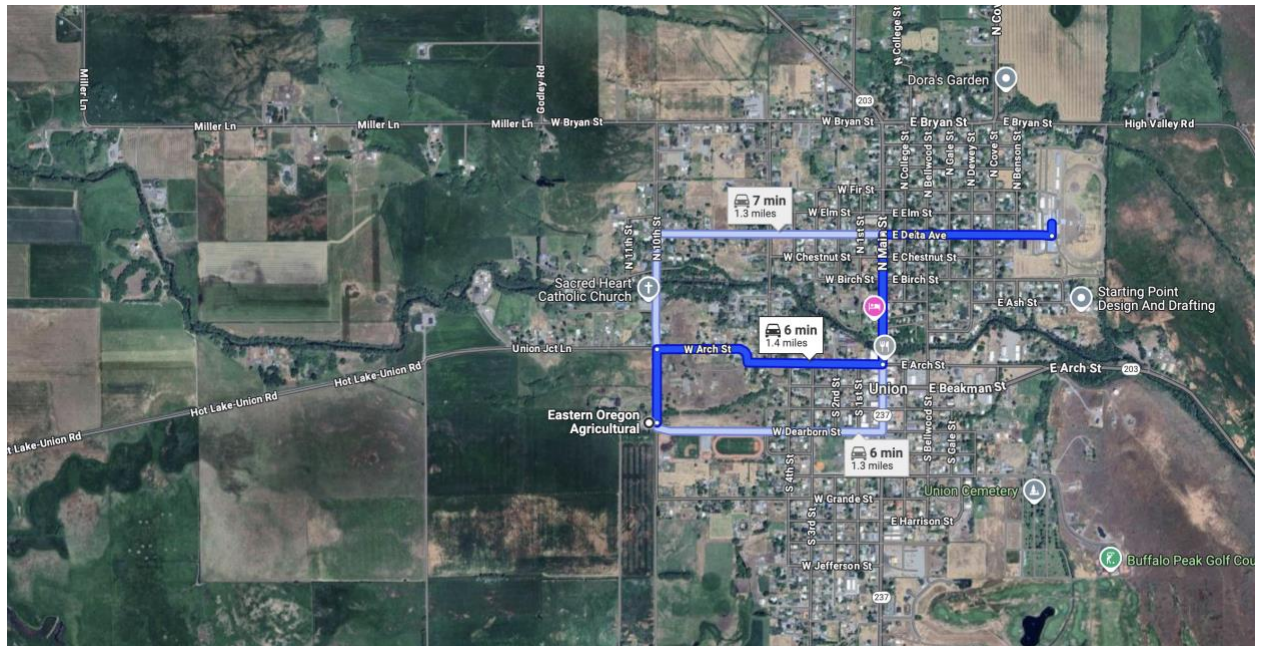
1. Take Owsley Canyon Rd to Blackhawk Trail Lane
 - a. Head southeast toward Owsley Canyon Road – 1.3 mi
 - b. Turn left onto Owsley Canyon Road – 2.2 mi
 - c. Turn left onto Blackhawk Trail Lane – 0.5 mi
2. Take May Lane to Island Avenue in La Grande
 - a. Turn right onto Mt. Glenn Road – 0.3 mi

- b. Turn left onto May Lane – 0.9 mi
 - c. Turn left to stay on May Lane – 0.1 mi
 - d. Turn right onto Riddle Road – 0.1 mi
3. Follow I-84 E and OR-203 S to Godley Road
 - a. Turn right onto Island Avenue – 0.3 mi
 - b. Turn left to merge onto I-84 E toward Baker City – 3.1 mi
 - c. Take exit 265 for OR-203 toward La Grande/Union – 02. mi
 - d. Turn right onto OR-203 S – 9.5 mi
4. Continue on Godley Road to 10th Street in Union
 - a. Turn right on Godley Road – 0.7 mi
 - b. Turn left onto W Bryan Street – 0.3 mi
 - c. Turn right onto N 10th Street – 0.7 mi *(destination will be on your right)*

Tour Stop 3 – Eastern Oregon Livestock Show

760 Delta Ave, Union, OR 97883

Visit the [Eastern Oregon Livestock Show](#). FFA students will be joining the Board to provide a tour of the show and share about the events.



Directions

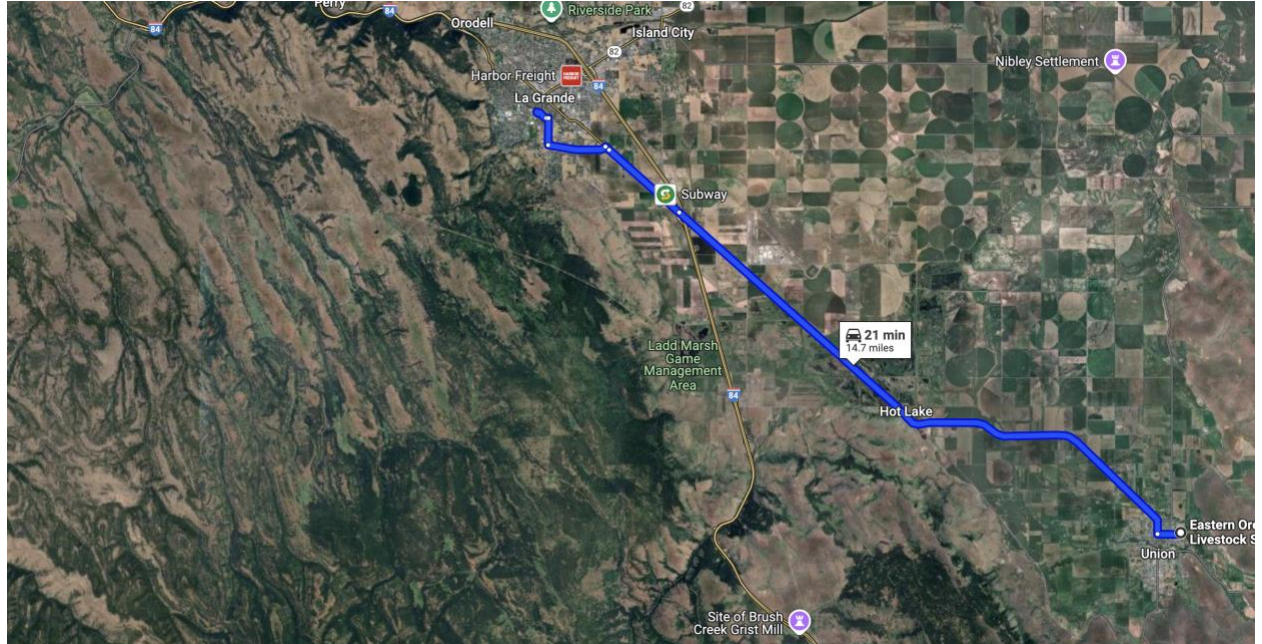
Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center to Eastern Oregon Livestock Show

1. Head north on S 10th Street toward W Arch Street – 0.2 mi
2. Turn right on W Arch Street – 0.5 mi
3. Turn left onto N Main Street – 0.3 mi
4. Turn right onto E Delta Avenue – 0.4 mi

5. Turn left – 144 ft (*destination will be on the right*)

Return to Eastern Oregon University – Gilbert Event Center

1 University Blvd, La Grande, OR 97850



Directions

1. Follow E Delta Avenue to OR-203 N/N Main Street
 - a. Head south toward E Delta Avenue – 144 feet
 - b. Turn right onto E Delta Avenue – 0.4 mi
2. Continue on OR-203 N to Gekeler Lane
 - a. Turn right onto OR-203 N/N Main Street – 10.8 mi (*continue to follow OR-203 N*)
 - b. Continue onto US-30 W – 1.6 mi
 - c. Continue onto US-30 W – 469 feet
3. Continue on Gekeler Lane take 12th Street to University Blvd.
 - a. Turn left onto Gekeler Lane – 1.0 mi
 - b. Turn right onto 12th Street – 0.5 mi
 - c. Turn left on to I Ave – 200 feet
 - d. Continue onto University Blvd. – 0.2 mi (*Destination will be on the right*)

*Agenda Item number 08 – OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and Experiment Stations –
Dean's update
State Board of Agriculture meeting, June 4-6, 2025*

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 08 – OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and Experiment
Stations – Dean's update

I. Introduction

Ex-officio board member Staci Simonich, Dean of OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences and Director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Stations will give an update.

II. Background

Quarterly the Dean/Director will provide an update to the board on topics of interest at OSU and for the agriculture food and fiber industries in Oregon.

*Agenda Item number 09 – OSU’s Ag and NR Program at Eastern Oregon University
State Board of Agriculture meeting, June 4-6, 2025*

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 09 – OSU’s Ag and NR Program at Eastern Oregon University

I. Introduction

Penny Diebel, Director, Eastern Oregon Agriculture & Natural Resources Academic Program will provide an overview of the OSU/EOU dual enrollment Ag and NR program.

II. Background

Eastern Oregon University (EOU) and Oregon State University (OSU) offer a dual enrollment program called the OSU Agriculture & Natural Resource Program at EOU. Students have an opportunity to concurrently pursue their education at both institutions. Students must be admitted to both EOU and OSU to participate.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture

Friday, June 6, 2025 -- Public Comments – verbal testimony sign-up

Speaker	Name	Topic	Date Received	Virtual
1	Name P:			
2				
3				
4				
5				

As of 05/23/2025

Agenda Item number 11 – Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – Natural Resources Program
State Board of Agriculture meeting, June 4-6, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 11 – Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
– Natural Resources Program

I. Introduction

Eric Quaempts, Natural Resources Director, Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will provide an overview of Ag and Natural Resource work.

II. Background

The Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation has a mission to restore and enhance First Foods through stewardship of range, agricultural and forested lands to provide cultural, ecological, economic and social benefits for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. In accomplishing this mission the Range, Agriculture, and Forestry program encourages stakeholders to conserve, develop and use natural resources for long term sustainability.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 12 – Board Business

I. Introduction

The purpose of this agenda item is to review Board business items for updates and action items.

II. Background

OWEB Report

Barbara Boyer will provide an update to the board on OWEB activities.

Action Items – March 2025 Meeting

- Letter to DLCD commenting on proposed solar siting rules.
- Letter to Governor with concerns on HB 2548 (establishes agricultural worker labor standards board).

Resolutions

Below is a summary of the resolutions under review in 2025. Resolutions and recommendations have been posted for public comment.

- Board resolutions with proposed updates were posted for public comment in April. The revised resolutions will be discussed during the meeting.

Resolution	Title	Recommendation	Action
107	Priority for Agricultural Use of Water	Review in 2025	
307	Farmworker Housing	Review in 2025	
309	Coordinated Streamside Management Approach to Water Quality	Review in 2025	
317	ODA's role in the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule Implementation	Review in 2025	

318	Siting of Energy Transmission and Generation Facilities on Agricultural Land	Review in 2025	
319	Climate Change Policy Considerations	Review in 2025	

Newsletter Topics

This will be an opportunity to suggest items for the Board's quarterly newsletter. The newsletter is distributed via email to Legislators and to members of the public interested in the Board of Agriculture.

Other Business

This is an opportunity to discuss any additional board business prior to adjourning the meeting.



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April 24, 2025

Rules Coordinator

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150

Salem, OR 97301

casaria.taylor@dlcd.oregon.gov

Re: Public Comment on Eastern Oregon Solar Siting Possibilities OAR 660 (4,6,23,33)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed rules related to solar siting in Eastern Oregon.

These comments are to express concern regarding the proposed approach to mitigation—specifically, the one-time payments to counties intended to offset the loss of agricultural economic activity due to solar siting. While mitigation is a critical component of balancing Oregon’s clean energy goals with our strong agricultural economy, the current methodology used to determine payment levels is inadequate and does not reflect on-the-ground realities.

The use of USDA Census of Agriculture data and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rent estimates to calculate the value of land does not align with actual land costs or income potential. For example, in Morrow County, the state USDA FSA Committee must annually adjust CRP payment estimates because land is not typically leased on a monthly basis. This discrepancy results in underestimating the real economic impact of removing land from productive agricultural use.

Moreover, the one-time payment model fails to account for long-term opportunity costs. These include the lost potential for new agricultural entrepreneurs to establish operations, as well as the broader impact on the community when farming families are pushed out. When these families leave, it reduces the county’s tax base and affects the viability of essential services, including schools and public safety. This erosion of rural community infrastructure cannot be offset with a single payment.

In addition to mitigation concerns, we urge DLCD to consider adopting a cap on the total amount of farmable (or ranchable) land that can be used for solar siting—similar to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which caps participation at 25% of a county’s farmable acreage. Without a similar threshold, we risk piecemeal conversion of high-quality agricultural lands over time, leading to cumulative and irreversible impacts on Oregon’s food systems and rural economies.

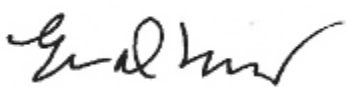
Finally, while proposed rules appear to prioritize protecting Class I and II soils, in practice, solar development often targets the next tier of valuable agricultural land—typically flat, deep-soil areas that are well-suited for livestock grazing or specialty crop production. These lands are an essential part of the agricultural mosaic landscape and should not be viewed as expendable simply because they do not fall into the highest soil classifications.

We strongly urge DLCD to revise the proposed rules to include:

- A more accurate and locally grounded formula for mitigation payments.
- Ongoing or tiered payment structures that reflect long-term losses.
- A maximum percentage cap on the amount of farmland allowed for solar development.
- Recognition and protection of valuable grazing and non-Class I/II agricultural lands.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns and for your ongoing commitment to balanced land use planning respectful of both Oregon’s environmental goals and its agricultural heritage.

Sincerely,



Elin Miller, Chair
State Board of Agriculture

cc: Lisa Charpillouz Hanson, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture





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March 20, 2025

The Honorable Tina Kotek
Governor of Oregon
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Kotek,

On behalf of the voting members of the State Board of Agriculture, we write today to share our deep concerns regarding House Bill 2548. Following public comments at our March meeting and direct input from our agricultural communities, we feel it is our obligation to provide our insights directly to your office. While the Board primarily advises the Oregon Department of Agriculture, certain policy matters of significant impact, like this, compel us to engage at this level.

Oregon's agricultural sector is a cornerstone of the state's economy, navigating a complex landscape of environmental variability, market fluctuations, and increasing regulatory requirements. Farmers and ranchers already contend with rising production costs, natural disasters, and global competition—all within a sector that operates under inherent uncertainty.

Oregon has long upheld strong labor protections for farmworkers, including some of the nation's most rigorous workplace health and safety standards, as enforced by Oregon OSHA. Existing laws ensure fair compensation, anti-discrimination protections, pay equity, and protected and provided leave; all developed through public processes and elected representation.

House Bill 2548 proposes the establishment of an independent Agricultural Workforce Labor Standards Board. This measure singles out agriculture by introducing a new regulatory body that duplicates existing labor standard authorities and complicates an already robust framework. The bill fails to acknowledge the current comprehensive protections and the careful balance required to sustain Oregon's family farms and ranches.

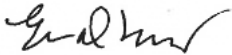
The agricultural sector requires operational flexibility due to its unique economic and environmental challenges. Introducing a state-level body with broad regulatory authority, particularly over employment conditions such as "for cause" termination, imposes additional burdens that place Oregon producers at a competitive disadvantage. While the bill allows layoffs in some cases, the burden of proof and the additional constraints

on standard employment termination creates unworkable challenges for farms that rely on seasonal and fluctuating labor demands. Many of our farms operate as price takers in volatile markets, where sudden regulatory shifts can have detrimental consequences for employers and workers.

Furthermore, while HB 2548 does not remove the Legislature's oversight entirely, it does shift key policy decisions away from elected representatives to an appointed board. The legislative process remains the most appropriate for evaluating and enacting policy changes of this magnitude. Through a deliberative and transparent structure, the Legislature ensures public accountability, thorough analysis, and the necessary resource alignment for effective implementation.

At a time when both farmers and farmworkers face mounting challenges, we urge a careful and measured approach to avoid unintended disruptions within the agriculture community. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of these concerns and welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elin Miller', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elin Miller, Chair
State Board of Agriculture

C: Lisa Charpiloz Hanson, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Geoff Huntington, Senior Natural Resources Advisor, Office of Governor Tina Kotek
Bob Livingston, Legislative Director, Office of Governor Tina Kotek

Overview of Board of Agriculture Resolutions under review in 2025.
June 2025 Resolution packet.

I. Introduction

During the December 2024 State Board of Agriculture meeting, the ODA staff provided an overview of the Board of Agriculture Resolutions scheduled for review in 2025. Staff have reviewed and provided recommendations to keep the background statement as written or recommend proposed edits to background statement for each Resolution.

II. Background

Based on the Board Policy and Procedures for Resolutions, the following resolutions are scheduled for review in 2025.

The State Board of Agriculture will be accepting public comment on these resolutions during public comment opportunities listed on the board agenda beginning at the 2025 Q1 meeting.

Proposed action beginning in 2025 Q1 meeting: Board members to review and determine what action needs to be taken on each resolution. Based on ODA review and public comments, board members will 1) accept/decline ODA review of background statement 2) determine if resolution statement should remain a) Active with no edits b) Active and review for possible edits c) No longer active and archive resolution.

For a list of State Board of Agriculture Resolutions go to:
<https://oda.direct/BOAResolutions>

III. Evaluation Process and Recommendations

Each of the following Resolutions, scheduled for review in 2025, have been reviewed by ODA staff members to determine if the Resolution background statements are complete or if the staff have any recommended edits for Board members to consider. Recommended edits are attached for public comment.

A. Resolution 107 – Priority for Agricultural Use of Water

Reviewed by: Isaak Stapleton, NRPA Division Director
This resolution was created in April 1984 and last reviewed in August 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Include references to recent drought conditions and their impact on Oregon's agriculture.
- Highlight the role of climate change in altering precipitation patterns and water availability, emphasizing its implications for agricultural sustainability.
- Incorporate specific examples of agricultural conservation initiatives, such as irrigation modernization projects, water banking efforts, or watershed restoration partnerships, to showcase proactive contributions by the agricultural sector.

Resolution Refinement:

- Advocate for increased state and federal investment in agricultural water infrastructure to support irrigation efficiency, water reuse, and storage capacity.
- Emphasize the importance of collaboration between agricultural, municipal, and environmental partners to balance water resource allocation and ensure equitable outcomes for all users.

B. Resolution 307 – Farmworker Housing

Reviewed by: Jonathan Sandau, Deputy Director

This resolution was created in September 2011 and last reviewed in November 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Include updates on OR-OSHA's proposed agricultural housing standards that address health and safety standards
- Highlight the Agriculture Workforce Housing Tax Credit (AWHTC) and the critical need for funding sources for improving farmworker housing.

Resolution Refinement:

- Reaffirm the Board's support for addressing the housing needs of Oregon's agricultural labor force, emphasizing access to safe, affordable, and adequate housing.
- Employee housing standards should protect the health and safety of agricultural employees.
- Support increased funding and incentives, such as tax credits and grants, to help farm housing providers mitigate the capital costs associated with meeting updated standards and regulations.

C. Resolution 309 – Coordinated Streamside Management Approach to Water Quality

Reviewed by: Isaak Stapleton, NRPA Division Director

This resolution was created in March 2012 and last reviewed in May 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Clarify that unlike Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs), Focus Areas do not receive dedicated funding.
- Note that Focus Areas are no longer a requirement for SWCDs to receive their scope of work funding.
- Update the number of active Focus Areas to reflect the current count of 12.
- Emphasize that SIAs are now the primary vehicle for outreach, technical assistance (TA), monitoring, and restoration efforts.
- Remove or revise the term "Coordinated Streamside Management Approach," as it is not commonly used, but maintain references to ongoing coordination with DEQ, OWEB, and ODFW for streamside management.
- Formatting consistency

Resolution Refinement:

- Support integration of SIAs as the cornerstone of the Coordinated Streamside Management Approach, ensuring adequate funding and support for outreach, TA, monitoring, and restoration projects.
- Highlight the importance of leveraging multi-agency collaboration to maximize resources and enhance streamside management outcomes.
- Advocate for additional state and federal funding to strengthen SWCD and watershed council efforts in streamside restoration.
- Emphasize the critical role of ODA in compliance enforcement to support the effectiveness of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.

D. Resolution 317 – Oregon Department of Agriculture's role in the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule Implementation

Reviewed by: Casey Prentiss, Ag Services Division Director

This resolution was created in June 2016 and last reviewed in November 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Include an update on ODA's initiatives in implementing the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, particularly efforts in outreach, education, and technical assistance to support compliance.
- Highlight the FDA's final rule on pre-harvest agricultural water provisions, issued in July 2024, and its implications for Oregon's produce industry.
- Describe ODA's collaborations with partners such as Oregon State University Extension to provide training and resources for producers.
- Provide an update on the voluntary farm inventory development and its progress under the cooperative agreement.

Resolution Refinement:

- Support ODA's continued focus on outreach, education, and technical assistance as critical components of FSMA Produce Safety Rule implementation.
- Advocate for sufficient federal funding to ensure ODA can sustain its role in produce safety while minimizing financial burdens on farmers.
- Encourage engagement through collaborative partnerships and input to address implementation challenges and ensure compliance.
- Recommend that ODA reevaluate the potential for conducting on-farm inspections, considering available resources and stakeholder preferences, to enhance food safety efforts.

E. Resolution 318 – Siting of Energy Transmission and Generation Facilities on Agricultural Land

Reviewed by: Jonathan Sandau, Deputy Director

This resolution was created in June 2018 and last reviewed in August 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Reference recent updates to LCDC's administrative rules (OAR 660-033-0130(37) and (38)) designed to guide solar siting on EFU lands.
- Review language for consistency

Resolution Refinement:

- Review resolution language that DLCD's solar siting updates since this policy was last updated.

F. Resolution 319 – Climate Change Policy Considerations

Reviewed by: Jonathan Sandau, Deputy Director

This resolution was created in December 2019 and last reviewed in November 2022.

Recommendation: Review in 2025

Background Update:

- Highlight Oregon’s leadership in producing over 250 diverse commodities and the importance of preserving this diversity amidst changing climate conditions.
- Reference USDA programs, such as the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Initiative, which promotes carbon sequestration and sustainable farming practices.
- Incorporate recent data on climate impacts in Oregon, including drought, wildfire, and water shortages, to underscore the urgency of addressing these issues.

Resolution Refinement:

- Review Oregon’s water management policies to address shifting water availability and prioritize irrigation modernization and water storage development.
- Evaluate the effectiveness and accessibility of current voluntary incentive programs for carbon sequestration and climate adaptation in agriculture.
- Ensure offset programs and climate incentives are inclusive and workable for farms of all sizes and production systems.
- Recommend sustained funding for climate resilience programs that support soil health, water conservation, and carbon-smart agricultural practices.

IV. Next Steps

The State Board of Agriculture will accept public comment on these resolutions during public comment opportunities listed on the board agenda beginning at the 2025 Q1 meeting.

Proposed action in 2025 meetings: Board members to review and determine what action needs to be taken on each resolution.

Based on ODA review and public comments, board members will:

- 1) accept/decline ODA review of background statement
- 2) determine if resolution statement should remain
 - a) Active with no edits
 - b) Active and review for possible edits
 - c) No longer active and archive resolution

V. Public Comment

Written comments – All written comments received will be posted on the ODA website and will be provided to the Board in advance of the meeting. Submit your written comments by online at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture> or email to: Board Coordinator at BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov by **5:00 PM on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.**

Verbal comments – Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period on Thursday, June 5, or Friday, June 6, 2025.

In-person	Remote
<p>To provide verbal comments in-person you must sign-up, prior to the comment period on the agenda, at the meeting and provide your name and organization.</p> <p>If you have written material as part of your public comment, please provide the board coordinator with 20 copies prior to your testimony. Comment time is limited to three minutes per person.</p>	<p>To provide verbal comment remotely, you must contact the Board Coordinator at BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 27, and provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date you plan to provide verbal comments (June 5 or June 6) • Your first and last name • The topic of your comment • The telephone number you will be using when calling the meeting.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Priority for Agricultural Use of Water

Number: 107

Effective Date: 08/18/2022

Workgroup A:

Harper, Allen, Miller, Orem, Santamaria

ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton

Next Review Date: 00/00/2025

Date of Last Review/Revision: 08/18/2022

Original Resolution Date: 04/12/1984

Board Chair: Bryan Harper

Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

- I. Agriculture is a major industry in Oregon, providing a vital and important economic base for citizens of the state.
- II. Agriculture is a recognized beneficial use of water and must be equitably considered as in the public interest~~water user in the state and must be recognized as being a beneficial use of water and in the public interest~~; and
- III. As Oregon faces increasingly frequent and severe drought conditions, driven in part by climate change, it is critical that communities come together to engage in comprehensive, basin-wide water supply planning and watershed investments that meet all needs.~~As our state faces unprecedented water supply challenges, it is critical that communities come together to engage in water supply planning and watershed investments that meet all needs in the basin.~~
- IV. III. Oregon agriculture has a long history of engaging in conservation projects which have provided positive environmental benefits in all basins around Oregon.- These include irrigation modernization initiatives, water banking efforts, and watershed restoration partnerships. Agricultural producers continue to engage in implementing voluntary conservation, water efficiency upgrades, and climate-resilient water strategies. This work is valuable and should be continued.

Resolution

The Board of Agriculture believes that agriculture, along with other beneficial uses and users of water, must be equitably included, formally represented, and actively engaged in~~considered equally and coordinated with~~ all water resource planning and management activities in the state; and

Current and future agricultural uses of water must be accounted for as the state develops new instream water rights. We support the continued use of agricultural water reservations under ORS 537.356, and recommend reviewing and updating existing reservations to ensure they align with present and future agricultural needs.~~reservations to ensure that agricultural needs are accounted for as the state develops new instream water right applications.~~

The Board supports public investments in agricultural water infrastructure, including support for irrigation efficiency, water reuse systems, and expanded water storage capacity.

The Board also emphasizes the importance of collaboration among agricultural, municipal, tribal, and public partners to ensure balanced water allocation and equitable outcomes across all sectors.

Resolution number: 107

Page 1 of 2

Resolution title: Priority for Agricultural Use of Water

Summary

Agricultural uses of water should be considered equally with all other beneficial uses in water resource planning and management activities within Oregon.

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Farmworker Housing	Number: 307 Effective Date: 11/17/2022
Workgroup B: Boyer, Johnson, Lopez, Svaty, Zielinski ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson, Rusty Rock, Jess Paulson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2025 Date of Last Review/Revision: 11/15/2022 Original Resolution Date: 09/07/2011
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

Whereas Oregon's agriculture, food and fiber industry is economically linked to 326,617 (13.8% percent) of full and part-time jobs in Oregon;

Whereas a large portion of the agricultural workforce related to production agriculture is seasonal (an estimated 87,000 compared to 32,000 year-round) and the housing needs for this population of workers are unique;

Whereas the number of on-farm housing and community-based housing opportunities do not meet the demand of the seasonal agricultural workforce;

Whereas farmers are concerned about the growing number of houses traditionally used for farmworker housing being converted to short-term rentals;

Whereas Oregon OSHA has enacted comprehensive updates to its Agricultural Labor Housing (ALH) rules, introducing requirements such as increased square footage per bed, mandatory kitchen facilities, enhanced sanitation standards, and stricter proximity limitations to livestock operations; and

Whereas the Agriculture Workforce Housing Tax Credit (AWHTC) remains a vital tool for supporting the development and improvement of farmworker housing, yet additional funding mechanisms are necessary to assist housing providers in meeting the new regulatory standards.

~~Whereas the refundable and carry-forward tax credits are an important tool to help address the availability and livability of housing for seasonal and year-round farm workers in Oregon.~~

Resolution

Be it therefore resolved that the State Board of Agriculture reaffirms its commitment to supporting the housing needs of Oregon's agricultural labor force, emphasizing the importance of safe, affordable, and adequate housing that complies with health and safety standards;

Be it further resolved that the Board urges Oregon OSHA to implement to the fullest extent flexible implementation timeline for the new or updated ALH rules, allowing sufficient time for permitting and construction;

Be it further resolved that the Board supports increased public funding, including enhancements to the AWHTC, grants, and low-interest loans, to assist farm housing providers in offsetting the capital costs associated with complying with new or updated ALH standards;

Be it finally resolved that the Board encourages continued collaboration among agricultural advocates, farmworker housing advocates, and regulatory agencies to develop practical solutions that ensure the well-being of farmworkers while sustaining the viability of Oregon's agricultural operations.~~Be it therefore resolved that the State Board of Agriculture supports the Carry Forward Tax Credit Program and continues to encourage farmers to help address the need for farmworker housing. Also, be it resolved that the State Board of Agriculture encourages the Oregon legislature to consider additional strategies that would provide further opportunities to address the need for farmworker housing.~~

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Coordinated Streamside Management Approach to Water Quality	Number: 309 Effective Date: 05/05/2022
Workgroup A: Harper, Allen, Miller, Orem, Santamaria ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton	Next Review Date: 00/00/2025 Date of Last Review/Revision: 05/05/2022 Original Resolution Date: 03/08/2012
Board Chair: Bryan Harper	Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

Since 2012, the Department of Agriculture (ODA), as directed by the Board of Agriculture (BOA), has developed and implemented a strategy to more efficiently and effectively prevent and control water pollution from activities on agricultural lands. That strategy has included systematic identification of Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) and Focus Areas in Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to assess land conditions related to water quality and assist landowners in protecting and improving water quality. The approach has included: assessment based on existing public domain data, prioritization of need based on existing conditions, focused outreach, and enforcement action by the Department of Agriculture when warranted.

In November 2017, representatives of ODA and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) presented a concept to the Board of Agriculture to incorporate ODA's SIA and Focus Area activities into a more coordinated approach to streamside management that includes federal, state and local partners and is designed to leverage more resources for incentive-based conservation and monitoring, while sustaining ODA's role in compliance and enforcement of statutes and rules pertaining to agricultural water quality management. ODA and OWEB will jointly lead the coordinated approach.

Streamside areas have a significant influence on water quality and provide a variety of functions, including streambank stability, moderation of solar heating, and filtration of pollutants from overland flows. They are also a very visible sign of agriculture's commitment to protect water quality and implement the Agricultural Water Quality Program. Streamside areas also provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

While landowners have invested time and money to improve and restore their streamside areas, there are still areas in Oregon in need of improvement. Outreach, education, and technical assistance is essential to continue streamside restoration efforts along agricultural lands. Monitoring streamside conditions is also important to be able to show change in streamside conditions over time and evaluate the effectiveness of the Agricultural Water Quality Program. A regulatory backstop is provided by ODA to ensure compliance.

In a Coordinated Streamside Management Approach, improvements to the current SIA and Focus Area process will include: more funding for SWCDs and watershed councils for landowner outreach, technical assistance, and on-the-ground projects in SIAs; a multi-year framework for conservation and restoration work; watershed-scale monitoring of water quality trends; more support from state and federal agencies; and ability for ODA to focus on compliance in SIAs.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon Board of Agriculture supports Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) as the cornerstone of coordinated streamside management in Oregon. The Board encourages enhanced investments in SIA-based outreach, technical assistance, monitoring, and restoration work, led in partnership with SWCDs and watershed councils.

Be it further resolved that the Board supports multi-agency collaboration, including ODA, OWEB, DEQ, and ODFW, to maximize the effectiveness and alignment of streamside programs that improve water quality, habitat, and agricultural sustainability.

Be it further resolved that the Board advocates for increased state and federal funding to support SWCDs, watershed councils, and other partners in implementing streamside restoration projects and technical assistance.

Be it finally resolved that the Board emphasizes the critical role of ODA in providing a consistent compliance framework to ensure the effectiveness and credibility of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.

~~Be it resolved that the Oregon Board of Agriculture supports integration of ODA's SIA and Focus Area activities into a Coordinated Streamside Management approach that expands multi-agency efforts focused on improvement of streamside areas through outreach and education, technical assistance and monitoring, and compliance enforcement to encourage streamside restoration and improve water quality in the agricultural community.~~

Summary

Recognizes the importance of streamside areas to water quality. Reaffirms SIAs as the primary implementation strategy for outreach, technical assistance, monitoring, and restoration on agricultural lands. Adopts a multi-agency coordinated approach to improving water quality and habitat for fish and streamside-dependent species.

Supports the leadership of ODA and OWEB in streamside efforts, while affirming ODA's sole responsibility for compliance enforcement under the Agricultural Water Quality Management program.

~~Recognizes the importance of streamside areas to water quality. Adopts a multi-agency coordinated approach to improving water quality and habitat for fish and streamside-dependent plants and animals in agriculturally-influenced areas. Directs resources towards outreach, education, technical assistance, monitoring, on-the-ground projects, and compliance enforcement to encourage streamside restoration in the agricultural community.~~

~~The Board of Agriculture supports ODA and OWEB jointly leading the coordinated approach, provided that ODA remain responsible for implementing the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.~~

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Oregon Department of Agriculture's role in the Food Safety Modernization Act ~~P~~produce ~~S~~safety ~~R~~rule implementation

Number: 317
Effective Date: 11/17/2022

Workgroup B:

Boyer, Johnson, Lopez, Svaty, Zielinski

ODA Staff Contact:

~~Jim Johnson, Rusty Rock, Jess Paulson~~ Casey Prentiss

Next Review Date: 00/00/2025

Date of Last Review/Revision: 11/15/2022

Original Resolution Date: 06/08/2016

Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria

Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

Whereas, the ~~new~~ Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) ~~P~~produce ~~S~~safety ~~R~~rule ~~will have tremendous impacts to Oregon agriculture~~ brings multitudes of farms under mandatory produce safety regulation-

~~Whereas, Oregon's produce industry has not been previously regulated with respect to food safety.~~

Whereas, these ~~new~~ rules ~~will~~ require, produce farms to have produce safety measures in place and may be inspected for compliance with the rule.

Whereas, ODA has ~~the opportunity to participate in~~ been assisting with the implementation of the FSMA ~~P~~produce ~~S~~safety ~~R~~rule ~~in several ways since 2017 through an FDA cooperative agreement grant supporting the following activities:-~~

~~Whereas, ODA has applied for cooperative agreement funding to support the following implementation activities:~~

- Capacity building
- Outreach
- Education
- Technical assistance
- Developing an inventory of ~~covered~~ farms subject to the rule ~~(this is a required part of the cooperative agreement)~~

Whereas, ODA has chosen to not participate in a regulatory program for the first two cooperative agreement cycles. The current cooperative agreement cycle will end on June 30, 2026. Currently, there is no official opening of a third cooperative agreement but it is being publicly discussed by FDA. The proposed, third request for proposals would not allow for any state to take on a non-regulatory program. This means, if ODA

Resolution number: 317

Page 1 of 2

Resolution title: Oregon Department of Agriculture's role in the Food Safety Modernization Act ~~P~~produce ~~S~~safety ~~R~~rule implementation

chooses to participate in [the third cooperative agreement program \(if it is published and funded\)](#), ODA would have to take on the ~~on-farm~~ produce safety inspections and develop a produce safety regulatory program. ~~To do this, in future years,~~ ODA would need either (1) statutory authority to conduct the inspections; or (2) to conduct inspections under FDA authority as commissioned officials.

[Whereas, funding for ODA's Produce Safety Program is solely reliant on FDA grant money, grant funding has been reduced. For the last year of the current cooperative agreement \(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026\) FDA will provide \\$219,075, which is a reduction from the previous years of \\$630,000. This amount of money is the anticipated money that will be available in the proposed third cooperative agreement. This money is not enough to develop a regulatory program.](#)

Whereas, ODA has received a variety of feedback from stakeholders about the department's role in inspections. Many stakeholders prefer for ODA to gain the authority to do produce safety inspections in Oregon, while others prefer to leave this responsibility to the FDA. Those in support of ODA-led inspections have indicated they believe ODA understands agriculture and has a good track record of successfully regulating Oregon farms in other areas.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Supports ODA's participation in produce safety rule implementation only if federal resources are available to support this work.
2. Recommends that ODA focus on capacity building, outreach, education, and technical assistance to help ~~prepare~~ Oregon's produce industry [implement](#) ~~for~~ FSMA.
3. Recommends that ODA develop the farm inventory required as part of the cooperative agreement using voluntary approaches.
4. Recommends that ODA consider applying for inspection funds if and when more information is available [but consider the drastically reduced federal dollars available for such work-](#)

Summary

Supports ODA's involvement in FSMA produce safety rule implementation as long as federal resources are available to fully cover the cost of the department's work. Recommends initial focus on outreach and education and recommends that ODA wait until more information is available. Recommends a voluntary approach to developing an inventory of covered farms.

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Siting of energy transmission and generation facilities on agricultural land	Number: 318 Effective Date: 08/18/2022
Workgroup B: Boyer, Johnson, Lopez, Svaty, Zielinski ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson, Rusty Rock, Jess Paulson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2025 Date of Last Review/Revision: 08/18/2022 Original Resolution Date: 06/07/2018
Board Chair: Bryan Harper	Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture has heard from the agricultural community about concerns related to the location and development of power transmission facilities through agricultural lands, including underground and above ground transmission lines and land intensive generation facilities on highly productive agricultural lands.

WHEREAS, energy produced from renewable sources is an important part of the future for our state and nation.

WHEREAS agriculture is both land and soil dependent, while the siting of energy related facilities does not require soils with a high capability for agricultural production.

WHEREAS, deliberations regarding designation and treatment of agricultural lands under the statewide land use planning program have included consideration of actions that designate or treat differently lands zoned exclusive farm use based solely on soil quality without accounting for other factors that are conducive to the production of high-value agricultural products, including livestock.

WHEREAS numerous applications to develop solar energy generation have been approved or are under review throughout the state on highly productive agricultural lands.

WHEREAS the existing state “exceptions process” provides for the consideration and location of land uses otherwise not permitted when reasons merit

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture has in the past been contacted by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission regarding concerns it has related to the increased development of agricultural lands by solar energy generation facilities. In response to the letter from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission the Board discussed issues related to the siting of solar energy generation facilities on productive farmland and expressed several concerns related to location on productive agricultural lands. The discussion by the Board resulted in a written request to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) asking that LCDC initiate an evaluation of the current administrative rules related the siting of solar facilities on lands zoned exclusive farm use.

WHEREAS the Department of Land Conservation and Development has since developed rules (see [OAR 660-033-0130\(37\) and \(38\)](#)) for solar energy siting on designated agricultural lands. These rules are intended to

Resolution number: 318

Page 1 of 3

Resolution title: Siting of energy transmission and generation facilities on agricultural land

direct energy development to lands that have limited value to wildlife and farming. For example, in the Willamette Valley solar panels are allowed up to 12 acres in areas with the best soil for farming. Up to 320 acres of land may be used for solar in areas with poor soils and no water rights. While these rules have had some impact in discouraging placement of large facilities in the Willamette Valley, they have not precluded the serial development of solar facilities. They have also not precluded the placement of solar facilities on productive irrigated cropland in Oregon outside the Willamette Valley.

WHEREAS the Oregon Legislature has directed LCDC to conduct rulemaking to identify suitable lands for utility-scale solar development in Eastern Oregon and adjusted the jurisdiction of the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), increasing the acreage threshold for solar development on high-value farmland from 160 to 240 acres, thereby shifting more decision-making authority to counties.

WHEREAS the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has issued new guidance on solar facility development, emphasizing the need for early consultation to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to wildlife habitat.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture is concerned about the conversion of high-value and productive farmland and the implications to ongoing and future agricultural operations by energy facility development on lands zoned exclusive farm use.

The Board:

1. Recognizes that energy produced from renewable sources is an important part of the future for our state and nation. We support developing renewable energy facilities in locations that avoid the conversion of highly productive farmland and minimize disruption to working farm operations. We support developing renewable energy facilities at appropriate locations.
2. Recommends the Land Conservation and Development Commission continue to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of existing administrative rules related to the siting of energy facilities on land zoned exclusive farm use.
3. Supports establishing review criteria to evaluate not only the individual impact of proposed energy development on agricultural lands, but also the cumulative impacts of existing and potential similar nonfarm land use on agricultural operations.
4. Supports the evaluation of the impacts of proposed linear energy transmission facilities on agricultural operations that focuses on individual segments of a linear facility that are comprised of similar agricultural characteristics.
5. Supports better definition of highly productive farmland (instead of “high-value farmland”) based on multiple factors such as soils, crop types, operational characteristics, and developed agricultural infrastructure.
6. Supports land use regulations that afford greater protection for highly productive farmland including, land use requirements that preclude the location of energy facilities on highly productive or less valuable farmland when otherwise reasonable alternatives exist.
7. Supports evaluation and reconsideration of existing land use regulation that promotes serial development of energy facilities to skirt other more stringent review standards.
- 7-8. Encourages early and ongoing coordination between counties, DLCD, ODA, ODFW, and agricultural partners to improve the siting process and protect both agricultural production and ecological resources.

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Climate Change Policy Considerations

Number: 319

Effective Date: 11/17/2022

Workgroup A:

Harper, Allen, Miller, Orem, Santamaria

ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton

Next Review Date: 00/00/2025

Date of Last Review/Revision: 11/15/2022

Original Resolution Date: 12/05/2019

Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria

Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

WHEREAS, climate change is adversely impacting Oregon agriculture including the well-being of farmers, ranchers, seafood producers and resource reliant communities because of intensifying extreme weather persistent drought, increasingly destructive wildfire seasons, and heightened water shortages, along with changing ocean conditions and other impacts;~~resulting in drought, wildfire events, water shortages, changing ocean conditions, and other impacts.~~

WHEREAS, activities with the potential to be net carbon sinks provide opportunities for farmers and ranchers to contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation and promote climate resilience and can provide co-benefits such as soil health, water quality, improved water retention and filtration on farms, and reduced energy input costs.

WHEREAS, improving soil health across Oregon lands improves soil security to sustain functionality for current and future generations, agricultural resilience, nutrient retention while reducing inputs, and provides ecosystem services including water quality and quantity, flood mitigation, air quality, and may be a net carbon sink.

WHEREAS, clean and abundant ground and surface water is critical for agriculture, and climate change is affecting annual rainfall and snowpack that provides water for agriculture.

WHEREAS, Oregon's agriculture sector is among the most diverse in the United States, producing over 250 unique commodities across varied landscapes, and this diversity is essential to climate resilience, economic vitality, and food security;

WHEREAS, the USDA's Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Initiative and other voluntary federal programs promote carbon sequestration, sustainable land management, and climate-adaptive practices in partnership with farmers and ranchers;

WHEREAS, Oregon's agriculture industry is diverse in numerous ways, producing over 250 different commodities in various landscapes and climatic conditions, operating diverse production systems using a

variety of inputs, depending on diverse markets both domestically and internationally, and partnering with numerous agriculture and food businesses to produce and process products.

WHEREAS, policies intended to help the state in adapting to changing climate conditions, such as policies to address water shortages and water quality issues, will affect agriculture and need to weigh the burden and benefits of such policies.

WHEREAS, strategic water management is critical to agricultural resilience, and irrigation modernization, expanded water storage, and watershed restoration are necessary to sustain production under shifting climate patterns;

WHEREAS, Government and private sector programs, policies, and investments can help agriculture adapt and become more resilient to climate impacts and contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation and promote climate resilience and can provide co-benefits such as soil health, water quality, improved water retention and filtration on farms, and reduced energy and input costs.

WHEREAS, policies to address greenhouse gas emissions may also affect agricultural production, even if agriculture is exempted from these policies.

WHEREAS, policies that regulate greenhouse gas emissions will affect the costs of agricultural inputs including fuels, electricity, and fertilizer, impacting the cost of production as well as the cost of moving agriculture and food products to market.

WHEREAS, competition and regulatory issues can cause emissions intensive trade exposed industries to explore out of state or overseas opportunities, potentially affecting industries that add value to Oregon agricultural products and contribute to Oregon's agricultural and food economies.

WHEREAS, climate change policy may also benefit agriculture by mitigating some of the most serious impacts of climate change, and by providing incentives and tools to help agriculture reduce its emissions and adapt to climate change.

WHEREAS, offsets are one type of incentive, but the costs to measure and verify the mitigation benefits of offset projects can be prohibitive for certain project types.

WHEREAS, Oregon's Land Use Planning program is a major contributor to the protection of agricultural land that preserves the viability of Oregon agriculture by protecting farm and rangeland from development and thus ensuring soils and vegetation can continue to sequester carbon.

WHEREAS, other jurisdictions have experienced good participation from the agricultural sector in flexible, accessible, voluntary programs that invest allowance revenue into activities that help agriculture reduce its carbon footprint and adapt to climate change.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon Board of Agriculture recommends any climate change related policies should:

- Maintain a healthy agricultural economy, including processing and infrastructure that adds value to Oregon agricultural production, and retain agriculture's ability to grow crops and livestock, harvest seafood, pack and process agricultural products economically in Oregon.
- Consider the well-being of farmers, ranchers and rural communities and the need to sustain a resilient food supply, rural economy, and quality of life.
- Support Oregon's land use planning program's protection of natural and working lands as foundational for Oregon's agricultural viability and their contribution to climate mitigation through soil carbon sequestration.
- Balance the need to reduce emissions from intensive and trade exposed industries with the goal of retaining these industries in the state.
- Recognize that if processing or other facilities leave the state because of higher costs due to carbon policy, we have not achieved the goal of reducing carbon and have simply moved emissions to another location while harming our economy and industry.
- Provide compliance assistance, including longer compliance time frames, technical assistance, and low-cost compliance instruments, for energy intensive trade exposed industries that are at risk of loss to overseas or out of state competitors.
- Support exemptions or rebates for fuel used in on-farm activities.
- Consider the costs of transportation to move agricultural and food products to market, both within the state, domestically, and internationally, and maintain affordable transportation methods to move agricultural products to market both within and beyond the state.
- Structure offset programs so they are as workable and accessible as possible for farmers and ranchers with diverse farm sizes, crop types, and production systems. An aggregation or cooperative effort of small and mid-size operations should be allowed under any offset program.
- Evaluate and improve the effectiveness, equity, and accessibility of voluntary incentive programs for carbon sequestration and climate adaptation, ensuring participation by farms of all sizes and production systems. Structure programs to incentivize carbon sequestration and resilience on Oregon's agricultural lands to be as workable and accessible as possible for farmers and ranchers with diverse farm sizes, crop types, and production systems.
- Create sustained funding for voluntary incentive programs to assist Oregon agriculture in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.
- Provide incentives to address the potential impacts of climate change to water supplies and water quality, and support agricultural practices that support soil health, conserve water, modernize irrigation techniques, and develop water storage capacity.
- Consider adapting the state's water management policies to recognize the changes in climate conditions and water availability.
- Create flexible funding programs, recognizing the diversity in Oregon's commodities, production methods, farm size, and changing and evolving technologies and strategies used.
- Ensure both natural and working lands are included in climate policy and programs and position the state to leverage state and federal lands and investments to do so.
- Design incentive programs to be as accessible as possible, including a straightforward and simple application process, delivery systems that use local partners such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and simple reporting requirements.
- Support research into strategies that help agriculture adapt to impacts from climate change.

- Recognize the net carbon sequestration opportunities in agriculture and the benefits that longstanding stewardship activities such as protecting the soil, set aside lands with native or non-invasive vegetation.

Summary

Recommends that any climate change policies provide voluntary incentives for agriculture to mitigate and adapt to climate change; recognize agriculture's positive environmental and economic impacts; provide exemptions and compliance time frames to minimize adverse impacts to input costs and companion industries; support research into additional strategies; align with water management reforms that support irrigation and resilience; and support equitable long-term planning, resource allocation and policy changes to help the state adapt to climate change.

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review