

Overview of Board of Agriculture Resolutions under review in 2025.
September 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2) determine if resolution statement should remain a) Active with no edits b) Active and review for possible edits c) No longer active and archive resolution.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 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.

Note: At the June 2025 Board of Agriculture meeting, written comments were received regarding Resolution 319. In response, the Board directed board member Kirk Maag and ODA staff to review the feedback and recommend further revisions.

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, August 26, 2025.**

Verbal comments – Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period on Thursday, September 4, 2025, or Friday, September 5, 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, August 26, and provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date you plan to provide verbal comments (Sept 4 or Sept 5 at 9:35 am or 11:15 am)• 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: 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, [infiltration, and](#) filtration on farms, and reduced energy [and](#) 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. This diversity is essential to climate resilience, economic vitality, and food security;

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, infiltration, 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 energy-energy 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.
- Evaluate potential impacts to fuel costs and consider option to mitigate impacts for essential production activities. 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 allowing 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