

# THE AGRICULTURE QUARTERLY

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## Welcome to the Grants Issue!

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is pleased to share the Fall 2023 issue of the Agriculture Quarterly. This is a free newsletter that is emailed to more than 7,000 subscribers and mailed directly to 500+ subscribers. Thank you for your support! The goal is to provide useful information and stories to our diverse audience. ODA receives many phone calls, emails, and requests for information about federal grant opportunities.

This issue aims to share a few funding opportunities available to Oregon's farmers, ranchers, fishers, producers, and food processors.

Oregon is home to about 36,900 farms – 97 percent of which are family owned and operated. As part of ODA's mission, staff works hard to serve the state's agricultural industry, ensuring healthy natural resources, environment, and economy for Oregonians now and through the future. If you have questions or want to share something with ODA, please send us a message at [info@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:info@oda.oregon.gov).



ORGANIC PURPLE CAULIFLOWER

## Deadline extended for the Organic Certification Cost Share Reimbursement Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) an extension to the Organic Certification Cost Share Reimbursement program.

**Applications now must be submitted by December 15, 2023.**

USDA allocated more than \$7 million for the National Organic Certification Cost Share Reimbursement Program (OCCSRP) nationwide. The program provides organic producers and handlers with financial assistance to reduce the cost of organic certification. OCCSRP, administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), reimburses producers and handlers for a portion of their paid certification costs.

Oregon was awarded \$150,000 for the 2023 funding year. Eligible reimbursable costs include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments, and postage.

Completed applications and all necessary documents with proof of payment between October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023, must be submitted by December 15, 2023. ODA will provide reimbursements on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funds are disbursed to grantees. Please allow 3-4 weeks for completed applications to receive your refund.

ODA is now accepting OCCSRP applications. For more information, please visit the [ODA webpage](https://www.oda.oregon.gov) or contact the OCCSRP at [organiccostshare@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:organiccostshare@oda.oregon.gov) or 503-986-6473.

# RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

The Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI) aims to assist U.S. states and territories to build resilience in the middle of the supply chain and strengthen local and regional food systems by creating new revenue streams for their state's producers. An emphasis will be placed on funding projects that benefit small and emerging farms and food businesses from historically disadvantaged groups.

The program also aims to:

- Support the development of value-added products available to consumers;
- Support proposals that provide fair prices, fair wages, and new and safe job opportunities that keep profits in rural communities and
- Increase diversity in processing options regarding business model approaches, geography, and availability to underserved communities.

Funds will support expanded capacity and infrastructure for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry. ODA will provide two grant tracks - Infrastructure and Simplified Equipment Only. Both tracks will award funds for projects that meet the goals stated above.

## PROJECT TYPES

### Infrastructure Grants

**Application period: January 1 - February 29, 2024**

To be eligible for a grant, the project(s) must support expanded capacity and infrastructure for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced food products. ODA is required to prioritize Infrastructure Grants that:

- Offer family-supporting job quality and treatment/safety of workers;
- Focus on small and medium-sized enterprises that add options and choices for consumers and producers (emphasis on value-added);
- Demonstrate local support for the project;
- Support underserved communities and
- Are submitted by cooperatives, farmer- and worker-owned enterprises.

Award Amounts: \$100,000 - \$2,000,000

### Simplified Equipment-Only Grants

**Application period: February 1 - February 29, 2024**

In addition to the Infrastructure Grant, the ODA will administer a Simplified Equipment-Only Grant. The Simplified Equipment-Only option is a Fixed Price Grant, meaning it will fund only equipment

purchases (not associated facility upgrades, staffing, or other costs), and the amount awarded will equal the equipment cost up to \$100,000. No match is required for this grant type.

Equipment project activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Modernize processing and manufacturing equipment;
- Develop, customize, or install equipment that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases efficiency in water use, improves air and water quality, and meets one or more of USDA's climate action goals;
- Enhance worker safety through the adoption of new technologies or investment in equipment improvements and
- Improve the capacity of entities to comply with federal, state, and local food safety requirements.
- Award amounts: Grants from \$10,000 - \$100,000

Applications are coming soon. For more information, please visit the [ODA Resilient Food Systems webpage](#).



WORKERS SORT BLUEBERRIES



ODA MEAT INSPECTOR

## OREGON MEAT PROCESSING GRANT

The Oregon legislature has allocated \$8.2 million in grant funding to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to continue supporting the State Meat Inspection Program through the Meat Processing Capacity Building Grant. The goal of this grant is to bolster the capacity of Oregon's meat processing industry and further strengthen the state's agriculture sector through projects that specifically target increasing capacity, efficiency, and innovation.

The application period for the Meat Processing Capacity Building Grant is now open, and **all applications are due by 5:00 p.m. January 16th**, providing applicants ample time to prepare and submit their proposals. The grant is open to registered meat processors within Oregon who process Oregon animals or meat from Oregon animals who are currently under federal Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) inspection or plan to operate under the State of Oregon Meat Inspection Program.

### ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet all the following requirements to be eligible for the Oregon Meat Processing Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grant Program:

1. Must be an establishment, as that term is defined in ORS 619.010(8), located in Oregon, or planning to become such an establishment within the grant period.
2. Must be registered to do business in Oregon and in good standing with the Oregon Secretary of State, the Department, and the Oregon Department of Revenue, as applicable, or must fall under the jurisdiction of a tribal government; and
3. Must be one or more of the following:
  - Planning to expand processing capacity to include animals raised in Oregon and plan to operate under a program of state inspection.
  - Planning to build a new establishment to process animals raised in Oregon and plan to operate under a program of state inspection; or
  - Official federal establishment under continuous inspection by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service pursuant to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and plan to increase processing of meat from animals raised in Oregon.

To apply please visit [ODA's Oregon Meat Processing Grant webpage](#).

For assistance, or further details regarding the grant program, please contact Gary Neuschwander, Trade Development Manager, at [gary.neuschwander@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:gary.neuschwander@oda.oregon.gov) or call (503) 551-1706.

## OREGON STATE WEED BOARD GRANTS

The ODA Noxious Weed Grant Program is a Lottery funded grant program. There are \$3.25 million this biennium that will be awarded to complete noxious weed projects across Oregon and \$500,000 of those funds will be for ODA County Noxious Weed Grants. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Noxious Weed Program and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) work together to administer this program.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for 2024 Oregon Noxious Weed Grants, **applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm, on December 15th**. Applications are submitted using the [OWEB online application system](#).

It is a priority of ODA Noxious Weed Program and the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) to fund projects that restore, enhance or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed function, native salmonids and water quality. The implementation of a comprehensive watershed approach to integrated control of noxious weeds is the most effective strategy to minimize impacts and protect natural resources in Oregon from invasive noxious weeds.

### PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Must be for the management of state listed noxious weeds.
- Must demonstrate sound principles of integrated weed management to both protect and enhance watershed health.
- Proposed projects shall include control and can also include survey, monitoring, prevention, restoration, and outreach activities.
- A 25% match is required for projects to be eligible for funding. Match can be cash or in-kind.

### GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Any person, tribe, watershed council, soil and water conservation district, community college, state institution of higher education, independent not-for-profit institution of higher education, or political subdivision of this state that is not a state agency may submit a request for funding. A state agency or federal agency may apply for funding only as a co-applicant with one of the other eligible entities. An applicant must also have a Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN).

For more information contact Tristen Berg, ODA Noxious Weed Grant Coordinator at 541-604-6580 or [tristen.berg@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:tristen.berg@oda.oregon.gov).

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The Agriculture Quarterly (ISSN 0897-7143)  
is published quarterly & distributed free of charge.



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@ORDeptAg

## COMING SOON

### **OREGON COMMODITY COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

DECEMBER 13, 2023  
1PM - 3PM PT  
(503) 986-4554

### **OREGON STATE WEED BOARD WINTER MEETING FEBRUARY 2024**

Location: Salem, OR  
(971) 600-7447

## REMINDER

### **APPLY FOR THE AGRICULTURE EMPLOYER OVERTIME TAX CREDIT**

Taxpayers who want to apply for the tax credit need to have a Revenue Online account prior to filling out an application. Applications must be filed electronically and will be available by January 1, 2024. No paper applications will be accepted. The application window closes January 31, 2024.

Questions? [Ag.Overtime@dor.oregon.gov](mailto:Ag.Overtime@dor.oregon.gov)