

# THE AGRICULTURE QUARTERLY

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## Director Taylor to USDA

As many of you know, on May 13, President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate me as the next U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) undersecretary for trade and foreign affairs. The formal nomination will begin a lengthy process, including a confirmation hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee and ultimately a vote by the full Senate.

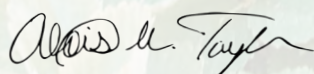
Until the Senate confirms me, Oregon Governor Brown is gracious enough to allow me to serve as ODA Director and help the agency make a smooth transition.

While I am honored to be called back to federal service, it is difficult for me to leave Oregon and ODA. While weighing my options, it was the diplomatic and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine that pushed me to know this was the right next move for me. I felt compelled to step into the global arena again and help the most vulnerable as the world deals with a growing global food security crisis.

I want to sincerely thank everyone at ODA for making my time in Oregon so special. I have been so fortunate to work with some of the most talented people in state government. I joined ODA in 2017 after working 12 years in Washington D.C. As I am heading back to USDA, I am reflecting on how grateful I am for everyone in this agency.

There is no other place like Oregon when it comes to agriculture. I am thankful to Oregon's agricultural community who welcomed me, educated me, and inspired me to think outside the box. The farmers, ranchers, fishers, and food processors I have met during my time as director and traveling to 36 counties showed me first-hand how unique Oregon agriculture really is. In Oregon we are lucky to have huge agricultural diversity. The agricultural community is incredibly creative in how they produce the products we all love while protecting our state's natural resources. I will take what I have learned into my next role and continue to work to move agriculture forward.

Sincerely,




## Jonathan Sandau named ODA Assistant Director

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) named Jonathan Sandau assistant director effective May 1, 2022.

Sandau joined ODA in early 2020 as a special assistant to the director focusing on the legislature, budget development, and strategic planning. Shortly after his hire, the COVID-19 pandemic began, and then Oregon was hit with several natural disasters, including wildfires, a deep freeze, and severe heat.

During his time with ODA, Jonathan led several large-scale efforts to help Oregon's farmers and ranchers through the many adversities they faced. Projects included a statewide distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), securing \$50 million in state and federal emergency funds, and most recently, guiding the creation of the Oregon Disaster Assistance Program (ODAP), providing nearly \$40 million in relief for those affected by Oregon's natural disasters in 2021.

As Assistant Director, Sandau will primarily lead the agency's legislative and external affairs work. He previously worked for the Oregon Farm Bureau, Congressman Kurt Schrader, and Governor John Kitzhaber. Throughout his career, agriculture has remained a focus of his career. Sandau's family has farmed in Marion County, Oregon, for generations.





# Updates from the Oregon Department of Agriculture

## OREGON DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

On Tuesday, June 21, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) opened a second round of Oregon Disaster Assistance Program (ODAP) applications. Oregon farmers and ranchers may apply for assistance from the remaining pool of about \$19.5 million. The participating lenders are familiar with agriculture and are now accepting applications through July 19. To apply contact one of the following lending institutions:

- Umpqua Bank
- Columbia Bank
- Bank of Eastern Oregon
- Old West Federal Credit Union

ODAP requirements and eligibility remains the same in the second round. Eligibility for ODAP is determined by percent loss in 2021 measured against an operation's 3-year average income with a maximum payment of \$125,000 or \$150,000. Size of operation in acres, sales, or other metrics are not a factor for eligibility.

ODA created ODAP using a \$40 million investment from the Oregon Legislature to assist farmers and ranchers who suffered financial losses during one or more of the natural disasters that hit the state in 2021. ODAP is designed to complement U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) disaster assistance. Federal programs are currently accepting applications and USDA's Disaster Tool can help navigate farmers and ranchers through the process.

For more information about the ODAP application process, a sample application, and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) please visit <https://oda.direct/ODAP>. All materials are also available in Spanish.

## HIGH PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) first confirmed the presence of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Oregon on May 6, 2022. Since then, NVSL has confirmed three additional cases in non-commercial backyard flocks. As a result, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) worked with each flock owner to ensure humane depopulation, stopping the further spread. Counties affected by HPAI to date include Lane, Linn, Malheur, and Polk. In addition, Malheur County was part of a regional quarantine due to detecting HPAI in nearby Idaho.

HPAI is a highly contagious virus that transmits efficiently among wild and domestic bird species. Symptoms include:

- diarrhea,
- incoordination,
- lethargy,
- coughing and sneezing,
- and sudden death.



Although birds infected with HPAI may not always display outward signs of infection. The virus may spread in various ways, including through contact with infected wild and domestic birds and by contaminated equipment, clothing, and shoes of caretakers.

If you have domesticated backyard birds, please increase your biosecurity, and keep your birds separated from wild birds, especially waterfowl. If you have birds that appear sick

or have died of respiratory or neurological disease, please call ODA at 503-986-4711 (Alt Phone: 1-800-347-7028). The risk of HPAI to human health is low, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

If you see sick or dead wild birds, do not collect or handle them but report the incident directly to ODFW at 866-968-2600 or [Wildlife.Health@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:Wildlife.Health@odfw.oregon.gov).

For more tips on protecting your backyard flock, please visit <https://oda.direct/AI> or en Español at <https://oda.direct/AIESP>.

## OREGON MEAT GRANT UPDATE

ODA chose six Oregon meat processing businesses to receive \$2 million in Meat Processing Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grants. The purpose of the grant is to expand meat processing capacity statewide for Oregon-raised livestock.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted a need for greater resilience in Oregon's food systems, especially meat products. The small number of existing meat processors in the state have long waitlists making it difficult for Oregon's producers to get their product to market.

The six grant awardees represent federal and state inspection programs and a mix of harvested livestock species from all over the state.

Grant awardees:

- Billy Bob's Butcher Shop (Elgin) \$ 435,210.93
- Central Oregon Butcher Boys (Prineville) \$105,598.19
- Crystal Creek Meats (Roseburg) \$382,707.09
- Mobile Ranch Butchering (Bandon) \$299,762.84
- Mountain Valley Meat Service (Parkdale) \$341,510.02
- The Meating Place (Hillsboro) \$435,210.93

The Oregon Legislature recognized the need and provided the \$2 million in grants and instructed ODA to distribute using a competitive process. The number of grant applications ODA received illustrates the demand for resources. ODA received 44 grant applications requesting a total of \$14 million in upgrades and expansions.

## Grant applications now available for Oregon's seafood industry



The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is now accepting applications for \$1.5 million in grants supporting Oregon's seafood industry. Earlier this year the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it would distribute approximately \$50 million to 24 states and one US territory to help defray the costs incurred by the seafood processing facilities and processing vessels preparing for, preventing exposure to, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications are available at ODA online at <https://oda.direct/SPG> and are due by July 29, 2022.

*"We appreciate actions taken by Congress and the USDA for the continued support of our seafood industry throughout the pandemic," said Alexis Taylor, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture. "Our seafood sector invested in protecting their workers and sustaining local economies by responding to market changes and consumer demands. These funds provide a level of relief and allow our seafood producers to continue to provide high-quality seafood that consumers around the world know and love."*

The grant program is funded through Pandemic Assistance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. States are encouraged to prioritize applications that benefit smaller processors and vessels, socially disadvantaged processors, veteran processors, and/or underserved communities. For grants intending to serve these entities, applicants should engage and involve those beneficiaries when developing projects and applications.

## Help Wanted!

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and its market disruptions, the demand for employees, especially for experienced or highly trained employees, far exceeds the supply. According to the latest data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics there are 11.4 million job openings across the country as of the last day of April 2022. State agencies including the Oregon Department of Agriculture are not exempt from the challenges finding staff.

ODA hiring managers are working hard to fill key roles throughout the agency. Retirements, promotions, new opportunities, and new positions created by the legislature are all contributing to vacant positions within ODA. Open jobs include everything from natural resource specialists, program managers, brand inspectors, shipping point inspectors, and various support staff.

In May 2022, Oregon added 6,200 jobs, following gains averaging 6,000 jobs in the prior six months. Oregon's unemployment rate also edged down to 3.6% in May, from

## Oregon Hemp Program Updates

Several changes have been implemented to the Oregon Hemp Program in 2022. ODA works hard to provide the hemp industry and interested parties with up-to-date information through contact with program staff, community and virtual presentations and direct emails. To receive hemp program email updates, subscribe online: <https://oda.fyi/SubscribeHemp>

To date, Oregon's Hemp Program has:

208 hemp growers, 217 grow sites, 283 hemp handlers (initial processor), and 174 licenses pending.

### HEMP APPLICATION DEADLINE HAS PASSED

Beginning 2022, a deadline for hemp applications was implemented for May 31. ODA cannot consider any applications to grow hemp that same year if received after that date. By federal and state law a person cannot legally grow hemp in Oregon without a license from ODA.

### BACKGROUND CHECKS

In January 2022, Oregon became a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved hemp state. As part of the federal program, all key participants in the hemp operation must pass a criminal background check before ODA can issue a license to grow hemp. Only those with no felony convictions related to a controlled substance in the last 10 years will be eligible to be licensed to grow hemp. For more information, please visit: <https://oda.direct/HempGrowers>

### HEMP MARKETPLACE

Oregon House Bill 3000 directs the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) to create rules around adult use of cannabinoids and the sales of adult use cannabinoids to minors. Rules restricting sales of adult use cannabinoids above 0.5 mg per container were effective July 2021.

Other rules restricting the sales of artificially derived cannabinoids in hemp items, industrial hemp-derived vapor items, and limiting THC in hemp items to both adults and minors were filed in December 2021. The rules are effective starting July 2022 (OAR Chapter 845 Division 26). For more information, visit: <https://oda.direct/HempLawsRules>

3.7% in April, reaching its lowest level in more than two years. The rate is close to Oregon's record low of 3.4%, from November 2019 through February 2020. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.6% in both April and May 2022.

The effects of the very tight labor market is being felt agencywide. ODA is invested in continuing to provide to critical programs and services all Oregonians rely on. Our staff continue to shift roles to cover service gaps caused by vacant positions. While service levels remain stable, hiring managers are getting creative in finding talent including further diversifying where jobs are posted and involving staff to help recruit people for positions statewide.

If you or anyone you know is interested in a career in agriculture, please visit the state of Oregon's online job hub (<https://oda.fyi/OregonGovJobs>) and enter Oregon Department of Agriculture in the search bar or click on the Company arrow and select Department of Agriculture.

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## ***ODA in CANADA and U.K.***

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The Oregon and Washington state departments of agriculture worked together to bring a showcase of Oregon and Washington wine and food products to two of the 2022 Northwest Wine & Food Expedition Trade Tasting events in Toronto and Montreal in early June.

The events brought ODA, WSDA, Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA) and the NW Wine Coalition together as well as 10 food and beverage companies and 17 wineries from Oregon. The purpose of the trade mission was to introduce Pacific Northwest food and wine to the eastern Canadian market to explore and expand distribution. ODA is proud to be a part of the continuing effort to promote Oregon agriculture worldwide. See a multimedia version of this story online at: <https://oda.fyi/Canada2022>

In late June, ODA was proud to be a part of a USDA agribusiness trade mission to the United Kingdom. The trade mission delegation of approximately 70 people representing 12 state departments of agriculture, industry groups from wine to soybeans, and many agribusinesses, were interested in exploring export opportunities in this important market.

Trade mission participants including Oregon wineries and Oregon's MSC certified sustainable seafood companies, Pacific Seafood and Bornstein Seafood, met directly with potential customers, received in-depth market briefings, and participated in several site visits during their time in the U.K.

## **COMING SOON**

### **CAFO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

JULY 14, 2022 • 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
ODA Salem Office, Basement, Conference Room D  
+ virtual via Microsoft Teams  
<https://oda.direct/Meetings>

### **PESTICIDE ANALYTICAL & RESPONSE CENTER (PARC) BOARD MEETING**

JULY 20, 2022 • 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Location TBD  
<https://oda.direct/PARC>

### **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

AUGUST 8, 2022 • TBD  
<https://oda.direct/meetings>

### **OREGON STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE MEETING**

AUGUST 16-18, 2022  
Ontario, OR • In-person & virtual meeting  
See website for meeting agenda and details  
<https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture>

### **PESTICIDE ANALYTICAL & RESPONSE CENTER (PARC) BOARD MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 • 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Location TBD  
<https://oda.direct/PARC>