Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
## Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

### Work Group Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency / Representing</th>
<th>Primary Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of Governor Kate Brown</td>
<td>Lauri Aunan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts</td>
<td>Mike Running</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon Assoc. of Conservation Districts</td>
<td>Jay Udelhoven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon Cattlemen's Association</td>
<td>Jerome Rosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon Farm Bureau</td>
<td>Mary Anne Nash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board</td>
<td>Meta Loftsgaarden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Northwest</td>
<td>Dylan Kruse</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Nature Conservancy</td>
<td>Amanda Rich</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Doug Krahmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rancher</td>
<td>John O'Keeffe</td>
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Timeline

- **Nov. 2015**
  - Work Group formed

- **Dec. 2015-July 2016**
  - Met ~bi-weekly
  - Goal and early concept development
  - Facilitator hired

- **Aug.-Oct. 2016**
  - Informational Sessions
  - Listening Sessions
  - Concept refinement
  - Identification of Legislative Proposals

- **Oct.-Nov. 2016**
  - Concepts finalized

- **February 2017**
  - Legislative Session

- **July 2017**
  - Program Initiation
Work Group Focus

Develop voluntary tools to keep lands in farming and ranching to support:

- Oregon’s economy;
- healthy rural communities; and
- healthy fish and wildlife and other natural resources.
Why Focus on Working Lands?

- State’s second-largest economic driver - $5.4 billion
- Agricultural lands support valuable fish and wildlife habitat and enhance other natural resources
- Cornerstone of state’s rural communities
- State’s land use laws are not enough to protect farms and ranches from fragmentation
Goals

- Incentives to *keep farms and ranches in production*.
- Incentives to *support fish, wildlife or other natural resource values*.
- Flexible approaches that are *tailored to individual landowners*.
- *Balance* landowner and conservation needs.
- *Leverage federal money*, mostly untapped in Oregon.
Issues to be Addressed

1. Loss of working farms and ranches
   - Development
   - Conversion to other uses
   - Transfer of ownership outside local communities

2. Lack of succession planning for family-owned farms and ranches
   - Expensive to undertake
   - Need for outside expertise
   - Lack of access to resources
Why do these issues matter?

1. **Loss of local food sources**

2. **Loss of lands** that support the state’s second-largest economic driver

3. **Loss of important fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource values**

4. **Health of rural communities**
Early Solution Concepts

*Keep land permanently in agriculture and maintain or improve fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource values*

1. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for a variety of grant programs
2. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to oversee investments
3. Voluntary Tools:
   - Grants for working lands conservation easements and agreements
   - Grants for technical assistance for those holding easements and agreements
   - Grants for succession planning
4. Opportunities for regulatory protections
5. Study tax-related and other financial barriers to farm and ranch land transfer
Next Steps

1. Continued Conversations

2. Information and Listening Sessions
   - August 8 - Oregon Coast Economic Summit
   - Fall Listening Sessions across Oregon

3. Development of Legislative Concepts
Facilitated Feedback
Additional Feedback

Email akilberg@kearnswest.com by close of business Friday, August 5