Oregonians value our farmland. It’s essential for our economy, rural communities, food systems, and the environment.

Agricultural land makes up 25% of our state...

Yet 80% of farmers may not have a succession plan.

Poor succession planning leads to:
- Family strife
- More estate taxes and attorney fees
- Pressure to sell land to pay fees
- Development and fragmentation

Oregon’s land use system slows the permanent loss of farmland but doesn’t stop it.

As land is fragmented, it becomes more vulnerable to development.

Oregon’s farmlands and their benefits are at risk of being lost forever.

Once farmland is developed, it never returns to farming or open space.

Farmers will often sell some or all of their land to pay succession debts.

Working Lands Easements Can Help

Instead of selling off pieces of land over generations, farmers can sell development rights that they wouldn’t use anyway.

Farmland

Farm is divided over generations

Eventually, land is developed

Farmer chooses easement

Easement protects land, offers financial benefits

Undeveloped land is protected for farming

What Can You Do?

Farmers

Start succession planning early

Find your successor and share your knowledge

Learn how working lands easements can help with succession

Public

Support land use to conserve our resources for the future

Support land trusts and groups that preserve farmland

Buy from local farmers and support them with public policy

Learn about the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program: