

Safeguarding OREGON'S Farmland

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...



But in the next 20 years, 64% of these lands will change ownership.

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



[Click to see this farmer's plan!](#)

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.

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

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

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

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.

Selling Land for Cash



Farmland



Farm is divided over generations



Eventually, land is developed

Working Land Easement



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

<http://www.oregon.gov/oweb/grants/oahp/pages/oahp.aspx>

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