

Oregon Department of Agriculture Program Reports
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Food Safety and Animal Health & ID Programs

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• **Food Safety General Update**

- Food Safety program staff continue to reduce the inspection backlog from the COVID pandemic. Overdue is defined as those inspections that are more than 90 days beyond their due date. The backlog numbers have trended down from a peak of 4,943 in July of 2021, to the current 2,577. We are in the process of hiring 3 candidates for our open positions. We have conducted interviews, made our selections and are currently in the final phases of hiring.
- The close of the public comment period for our updates to the Farm Direct Exemption rules (SB 507) was November 3, 2023. We anticipate the rule filing to be completed before Thanksgiving.
- We will be shifting our focus to rulemaking related to exemptions for rabbit slaughter and processing (HB 2689), Meat Donation (SB 479), and home baking/confections exemption (SB 643).

• **Retail and Manufactured Foods**

- Food Safety staff and management had a successful educational staff conference in October. Our dairy team had a staff meeting on October 9th and the entire team met October 10-12th to learn from FDA, academia and industry and shared best practices working in the field. ODA had the opportunity to attend the WAFDO-FDA annual retail educational seminar in Portland in September.
- We have signed an “undefinitized” contract with the FDA to conduct a limited amount of contract work with the start date as of September 30, 2023. We are currently working with FDA to submit supplemental documentation to get the contract definitized.

• **Dairy Program**

- We continue to lose an average of one (1) licensed dairy farm per month due to high operating costs while milk prices continue to be low. Conversely, the number of dairy processors has remained relatively the same over the last few years, except for the addition of a couple of new producers/distributors, which produce and bottle their milk on the farm.
- Sampling of milk and or milk products is a major regulatory requirement in the dairy program. For years, ODA has been sampling milk monthly, which was above the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) sampling frequency requirement. The monthly sampling frequency was adopted to ensure that we never miss too many samples, which would jeopardize the ODA’s dairy program status when we get audited by the FDA triennially. For a few years now, we have had a robust dairy sampling schedule in place, which ensures that each inspector knows well in advance when and where they need to sample milk and or milk products. With said sampling schedule we feel that we can scale back our sampling to four (4) samples within every six (6) months, which would still meet the PMO requirements. The reduction in dairy sampling allows inspector to do other much-needed work such as their regular/routine inspections at other food establishments.

• **Shellfish and Crab Program**

- The FDA has completed field work for two audits of the ODA molluscan shellfish program in 2023. The shellfish patrol audit was performed in June in conjunction with Oregon State Police and was found to be in conformance. The growing area audit - was performed in August and remains under an action plan from a previous audit. Some components of this action plan have been corrected and the remainder are moving toward conformance. Audits by the FDA are required to maintain Oregon’s ability to engage in interstate commerce of molluscan bivalve shellfish.
- The presence of naturally occurring marine biotoxins, domoic acid and paralytic shellfish poison produced by certain types of marine algae, continue to be problematic along the Oregon Coast. Recreational razor clam harvesting is currently - closed in some areas of coast. Commercial harvesting of molluscan shellfish in Oregon has been largely unaffected by marine biotoxins except for commercial razor clamming on our north coast.

- We are planning and preparing with ODFW for the pre-season testing for the 23/24 crab fishery. Pre-season crab testing for domoic acid will begin the week of November 6th for all zones A through L. Persistent domoic acid in razor clams, and in crab viscera, requires crab to be tested along portions of the Oregon coast for the entire commercial season. This resulted tensions in the crab fishing, processing, and buying communities. Testing is important since it provides customer food safety assurances, as well as flexibility allowing industry to crab with restrictions rather than being completely closed. Eviscerated crab can have less value than whole crab in the marketplace.
- **State Meat Inspection**
 - The \$9 Million grant that was approved by the legislature this year will go through a similar process as the last grant session did in 2022. The ODA Market Access staff are working on the grant process and criteria, for firms wanting to apply for funding.
 - We now have three (3) firms operating under the State Meat Inspection (SMI) program with another one expected before the end of 2023. With the grant dollars available, many more firms are interested in joining the State Meat Inspection (SMI) Program and we are actively working with and consulting with those interested.
 - Each establishment operating under the SMI Program must have a written hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) plan, which covers the types of hazards that exist when meat processing operations are being conducted. To help firms meet this requirement, ODA has organized a USDA HACCP training model which was put together by the NW Meat Processors Association in collaboration with Blue Mountain Community College. The course was a success and will continue to be offered every year, to new and/or existing meat processors seeking knowledge on developing a HACCP plan.
- **Animal Health**
 - The program has been very busy monitoring, tracking, and preventing the spread of animal disease. The calls from the public related to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) decreased to a standstill over last Spring and Summer, but ODA confirmed a couple cases this fall in Union County.
 - The program has been investigating an atypical respiratory disease affecting Oregon dogs since last August. To date, the program has received over 200 case reports from veterinarians, with over 100 of those cases meeting the case criteria that ODA established for this atypical syndrome. ODA veterinarians have also received reports from several other states, including Washington, Idaho, California, Montana, Colorado, Illinois, and Indiana of similar cases occurring in those states. To date, the cause of these illnesses remains unknown, but ODA veterinarians have worked with several local veterinarians to begin collecting high-quality surveillance samples to conduct whole-genome sequencing at USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory in hopes of finding the cause.
 - The program has some rulemaking in the works. The Animal Rescue Entity (ARE) program is working on modifications to the fee structure of the ARE program to balance the revenue and licensing costs to match the level of activity occurring at the locations. The Animal Health program is also undertaking rulemaking to update the program's rules in response to the passage of SB 57, and cleanup the Animal Health administrative rules. While no new regulations are being proposed, the program is undertaking a significant rewrite and restructuring of their rules to improve the readability of the rules and remove outdated rules/requirements.
- **Lab Services**
 - The Lab successfully passed several audits: FDA Interstate Milk program triennial lab audit and USDA State Meat Inspection Program.
 - The regulatory lab continues to keep up with the testing workload provided by the various ODA programs. Filling vacant positions continues to be fluctuating due to difficulties filling Lab Tech 2 level positions and staff changes due to lab move.
 - The lab move dates have been solidified for November. The lab will move in 2 phases to keep testing going during the entire move process. Roughly 60% of instrumentation will move in phase 1 along with supporting supplies. Some staff will move at that time to NVC to verify instrumentation functioning and perform quality control tasks to document that all systems are as needed to meet the many lab approvals and accreditations to resume work in the new location. Phase 2 will occur about 3 weeks later. One might say phase 3 will cover the tasks needed to vacate current location at FIC. End of December is planned for complete Lab occupancy at NVC.
 - The lab continues to work with the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) to develop a scope of work and timetable to begin testing in support of the industry they regulate.

Market Access & Certification Programs

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- **Agricultural Development & Marketing (ADMP)**

- ODA, our seafood industry, and the Oregon federal delegation's efforts to expand the tariff-free quota in the European Union was successful. The new quota is doubled to 4,000 metric tons worth an estimated \$8 million to the state and our coastal communities.
- The Agricultural Development and Marketing Program (ADMP) led outbound missions to South Korea, Japan, Victoria, Toronto, and Vancouver.
- In mid-September, ODA hosted 29 agricultural officials from Embassies in Washington, DC for a week-long tour of Oregon agriculture. The tour included Hood River, Hermiston, Madras, Bend, and locations from Salem to Canby covering most of Oregon's top 20 products.
- The 2023-2025 Meat Grant opens in November. As a result of higher funding, ODA has increased the maximum award from \$500,000 to \$750,000. Applications are due Tuesday, January 16 by 12:00 PM.
- October was National Farm to School Month. The Farm to School Program held a Small Growers Workshop in Willamina. The workshop addressed production, distribution, food safety requirements, and school procurement processes.

- **Commodity Inspection**

- The Commodity Inspection Program, Oregon Department of Education, Oregon FFA, and Ontario High School have partnered with USDA to launch a program training high school students in two certification audit scopes: United States Department of Agriculture Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP). This program started this fall with 15 students. The goal is to train students in the basics of produce safety and assist students with working in the auditing field. Ontario FFA Advisor Sarah Huss and ODA's Susanna Pearlstein have been instrumental in the development of this program.
- Communication has begun with fisherman and processors to discuss this year's price negotiations for Dungeness Crab. Industry data meetings are being organized in preparation for the upcoming season.
- Labor continues to be a challenge for both the industry and the Shipping Point program. The limited labor pool as well as constraints put on hiring practices make it difficult for the program to hire in a competitive market.
- Product movement of 2023 crop harvested to date is fair although prices are lower than normal average. Harvest is winding down; yields and quality look to be average to above for all crops.
- The 2023 field burning season was from July 5th to September 11th. Of the 13,361 acres registered, 7,819 acres were burned. Growers also baled 5,556 acres. Many thanks to Jason Eck who has been the Registration and Permitting Coordinator for the last 8 years and will be transitioning to a full-time position in Water Quality after this season. Jason's in-depth knowledge of weather patterns, grower's fields, and quirks of the field burning database have been invaluable to the program's success and he will be missed!
- The Plant Health Field Inspection program successfully inspected 723 fields totaling 20,412 acres representing 35 crops. This undertaking would not be possible without Shipping Point staff throughout the state who provide additional labor and expertise in field inspection.
- The Certification program is at the height of organic and third-party food safety audits across the state. One new auditor has joined the program assisting with service to southwestern Oregon.
- The Produce Safety program successfully hosted the Western States Regional Meeting in October where federal and state agencies provided updates and new information on the Produce Safety Rule while also having a panel of farmers from the onion industry present on their experience with Produce Safety Rule inspections. The program continues to offer free and voluntary technical assistance to farms across the state and has just begun the fall/winter grower training class season.

- **Weights and Measures**

- The focus remains on recruiting and training new staff to fill vacancies largely created by retiring staff.
- Currently recruiting for a field supervisor to join the management team and a new inspector to fill a vacancy in Central Oregon. We plan to complete the hiring process pre-Thanksgiving with the hope of filling the positions early Dec.

- Metrology purchased 2 new mass comparators to replace aging equipment. The equipment replaced was 20 years old. This is our first equipment update since about 2018.
- Updating the MFQ standards to their current 2023 revisions. This is essentially a housekeeping exercise, you won't see any changes associated with the gas stations themselves, these standards apply mostly to fuels produced "upstream".
- **Cage-Free Eggs**
 - Rules to go into effect Jan 1, 2024, will require all eggs and egg products sold into Oregon to be cage-free (ref SB 1019, 2019 leg session). Suppliers will be required to certify their products as compliant either by product labeling or invoices.

Natural Resource Programs

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The following updates are organized by operating process in our management system and cover all NRPA programs. In addition to the updates below, we continue to have turnover across the programs and are in various stages of recruitment. This will continue to be a major focus for all programs for the remainder of the biennium and we are excited to be able to bring on new staff.

- **Fostering collaboration**
 - The Pesticides Program continues to work closely with Oregon State University (OSU) and Oregon Department of Education (ODE) on increasing awareness on the school Integrated Pest Management (IPM) law. During this past year ODA investigative/enforcement staff presented on the law at all ten 2023 OSU School IPM Coordinator Trainings around the state. In addition, one special project that the Pesticides Program continues to work on as time allows is to create "school IPM law modules" (basically short ~5-10 minutes, narrated PowerPoints focused on the law requirements) to post on YouTube for school IPM coordinators and other school staff. The goal is to provide short, recorded trainings so they will be able to access them all year round (e.g., refresher or say new staff start/onboarding). The first two were published on YouTube in June of 2023 before the summer training time. The Team is also currently working to have both videos available in Spanish. Summer investigation workload prevented developing additional videos to the playlist. As the Team moves into Winter they are looking to try and add more videos to the collection. The videos may be viewed at: In addition, ODA, OSU, and ODE plan to meet in the December to discuss the 2024 OSU trainings.
 - During late August, concerns relating to a proposed forestry aerial application came to the agency. More specifically concerns were related to water, and in particular drinking water. ODA partnered with DEQ, ODF, and OHA to develop a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document to help questions relating to pesticide use regulations and water protections in Forestry. The FAQ may be viewed at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/Pesticides/Documents/2023/PesticidesandWaterinForestry.pdf>
 - Now that the new ODA-DEQ Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is in place we have begun quarterly coordination meetings with ODA and DEQ staff. These meetings are to ensure that work aligns with the spirit of the MOA.
 - The Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Program continues to engage with Region10 EPA drinking water and enforcement sections in quarterly meeting on ODA and partner agencies program implementation in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. CAFO program staff have fulfilled extensive data requests to EPA and has had additional information and programmatic review meetings with EPA staff.
 - ODA and DEQ continue the efforts to collaborate to develop coordinated review and harmonization of point source NPDES and WPCF Permits jointly issued by agencies and point source NPDES and WPCF Permits issued solely by DEQ.
- **Permits, Registrations, and Notifications**
 - Starting January 1, 2023, counties eligible to submit notices to the Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance (ADCM) Program expanded beyond northwest Oregon to include Coos, Douglas, Curry, Josephine, and Jackson. AGWQP staff are meeting with local farming and ranching organizations, Soil and

Water Conservation Districts, and OSU Extension in southern Oregon to spread the news about the program.

- A major piece of CAFO legislation SB 85 was past in the 2023 legislative session and took effect upon signing. The bill makes significant changes to the CAFO permitting process some of which is; creating new definitions, requiring a preapplication consultation between applicants and relevant agencies, required water supply plan, construction approval and pre-populations inspections, creation of a nutrient application permit for producers receiving animal nutrient from a permitted CAFO and applying to land in a Ground Water Management Area, limiting exempt stock water use for new or expanding CAFOs to 12,000 gal/day. We have begun drafting rules and selecting the rules advisory committee to fully implement SB 85.
- Due to the broad impacts of the legislation on the permitting process and the new requirements the program is pausing processing applications that are impacted until rulemaking can be completed to fully implement the legislation.

- **Providing Compliance and Technical Assistance**

- The AGWQP is working with partner agencies to find opportunities to adapt and improve the monitoring portion of the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) initiative. The program has lined up four Strategic implementation Areas (SIAs) for the 2023 cycle and is looking at identifying five for the 2024 cycle. One of the new SIAs for 2024 will be in the Lower Umatilla Groundwater Management Area and will focus on ground water improvements. This is the first time that the SIA process will be adapted to look at ground water rather than surface waters. The full scope is still in development but is expected to focus on education, outreach and demonstration projects focused on irrigation practices and nutrient use efficiency.
- New Grants are available, SIA Restoration Grants are available to both Umatilla and Morrow SWCD; primarily for improving riparian areas, such as keeping manure/fertilizer out of streams, vegetation establishment, etc.

This is a pilot grant opportunity from OWEB for SWCDs who have already participated in the SIA process. Any SWCD that conducted an SIA between 2018-2022 can apply for up to \$15,000, and Districts may apply for multiple grants. Application deadline: January 17, 2024.

- ODA Applied for Federal USBR WaterSMART Grant – Targeting LUBGWMA activities. ODA is applying for \$283,000 from the WaterSmart Grant, with four major objectives:
 - Public ArcGIS Data Portal to show Agricultural Water Quality data and activities within the area; includes public outreach efforts regarding content.
 - Partner (SWCD/Agency) ArcGIS Data Portal to show Water Quality efforts, work done, work in progress; crop, crop rotation, and sprinkler type maps; management layer utilizing underlying data.
 - Crop, crop rotation and sprinkler type inventory and display within the LUBGWMA
 - Contractor/OSU-Extension funding to assist with developing nutrient utilization and leaching study within the LUBGWM.
- All Pesticide Program staff continue to answer technical questions from the public on licensing requirements, label interpretations, school IPM law, and other pesticide related questions. The Pesticides Program also distributed a survey in the summer to Commercial Pesticide Operators (CPOs) to seek interest in a new training. This training would be focused on staff or owners of these companies who submit for licensing renewals for themselves and/or their staff. The team is looking to provide this training in November to provide tips to help CPOs through the administrative requirements, so renewals go smoothly. Additionally during this next Winter, the program has already received multiple presentation requests for applicator certification training courses. Topics that are commonly presented on are Laws and Regulations plus “Lessons Learned” presentations from Pesticide Investigators.
- Fertilizer Research Grants. ODA provides up to \$75,000/yr for research projects that help growers manage fertilizer products for better environmental outcomes. Proposed projects in GWMA get extra points when competing for funding. The RFP for the 2023 grants is active and all submissions will be due by Nov 30, 2023. ODA has received at least 10 inquiries on the RFP.

- **Conducting Inspections, Investigations & Enforcement**

- The Pesticides Program has continued to follow-up on complaints through the year to investigate possible violations of the state’s Pesticide Control Act. In addition, the program continues to conduct routine compliance monitoring to include marketplace inspections, record inspections of pesticide applicators and pesticide dealers. As the team shifts into late Fall the number of routine compliance monitoring inspections

will increase. The Pesticides Enforcement Program also continues to keep a focus on its Enforcement case load to help prevent any backlogs into the future after making significant progress in reducing its enforcement case backlog (i.e., cases not in the investigation phase, but are in the review/enforcement phase). Currently cases being submitted by investigators (after an investigation was completed) are continuing to receive reviews within a short time frame (e.g., typical turnaround time for the case review step of the process is less than 60 days).

- Hiring and Onboarding continue in the Pesticides Program. On October 1, the program congratulated [Patrick Reinhart](#) as being the successful candidate for the permanent Enforcement Case Reviewer position. The program will also be recruiting for one vacant Salem based investigator position during late Fall that became vacant July 1.
- The AGWQP recently filled the Initiative Coordinator position. Victoria Binning joined the team in October, she comes with a wealth of experience in project management and ag background from her time with OSU extension. She is well on her way through her onboarding and training.
- **Providing Customer Support and Resolving Inquiries**
 - The Pesticides Enforcement Program Area continued to receive and fulfill a number of public records requests in a timely manner. ODA's Citizen Advocate also continued to work closely with citizens concerned about pesticide usage helping answer questions and find other resources to their questions.
 - The Pesticides Program continues to work on increasing the number of outreach materials available in Spanish. For example, most recently the Pesticide Enforcement Program updated its [record keeping requirements flyer](#).
 - Both the AGWQ and CAFO programs have continued to receive and respond to inquiries from the Environmental Protection Agency and the media regarding work completed in support of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUB GWMA). The AGWQP is working in collaboration with local the Umatilla and Morrow Soil and Water Conservation Districts to ensure consistent tracking and reporting of actions completed in support of the 2020 LUB GWMA Action Plan.

Plant Protection & Conservation Programs

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- **Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program (IPPM)**
 - Filed to make permanent the temporary Control Area against Emerald ash borer (EAB). Like the temporary quarantine that was previously in place, the Control Area is defined as Washington County and any other county where EAB is confirmed. Proposed change includes the addition of olive as a restricted plant. Movement of olive, ash and white fringe would be allowed from the Control Area if plant material is done so under a compliance agreement. ODA held a public hearing on the proposed rule on October 18th.
 - ODA hosted a multi-agency meeting on Mediterranean oak borer (MOB), in collaboration with Oregon Department of Forestry, CalFire, and US Forest Service. MOB has been detected at seven sites in Oregon, spanning Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, and Washington counties. It is a significant pest of oak species and threatens Oregon white oak, Oregon's only native oak species. MOB is not a federally regulated pest. The ODA received \$200k to conduct statewide survey to determine where else MOB may be in Oregon. Meeting outcomes involved information sharing, outlines for future collaboration, and lessons learned from California colleagues. The pest alert is available online: [ODA Pest Alert](#).
 - Our State Entomologist has been selected to participate in a National Plant Board-USDA working group to review the current ISPM 15 – the international phytosanitary standard for the treatment of wood products. With the continual detection and interception of invasive wood boring species in the west, this review request was proposed by the Western Plant Board. Specialists from across the region, and country, agree that the required measures are not sufficient.
 - North Valley Complex moving preparations have begun. IPPM is slated to begin the move next month.
- **Native Plant Conservation Program**
 - Staff Changes: The program is interviewing candidates to fill the Greenhouse Technician position; the selected candidate will start in early November.
 - 2023 field season activities: Staff worked with rare and endangered plant species all over the state, including but not limited to golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*) and Hitchcock's blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium hitchcockii*) in the Willamette Valley, Gentner's fritillary (*Fritillaria gentneri*) throughout southwest Oregon,

Laurent's milkvetch (*Astragalus collinus* var. *laurentii*) in north-central and northeast Oregon, Ochoco lomatium (*Lomatium ochocense*) in central Oregon, and Leslie Gulch monardella (*Monardella angustifolia*) in southeast Oregon.

- Review of candidate species that may merit state endangered or threatened status. Following in-depth data review and expert opinion, species that meet the requirements for listing under OAR 603-073-0030 will be evaluated by a Technical Advisory Committee in the coming months.
- The program hosted its semi-annual Native Plant Conservation stakeholder meeting in October, discussing program activities and hosting presentations from multiple partner agencies and organizations on plant conservation efforts around the state.
- Initiated monthly Oregon Native Seed Strategy working group meetings with multiple federal and state agencies, Tribes, non-profits, universities, and others to develop a state seed strategy guidance document that will address native seed challenges in Oregon and identify resources and decision tools required to create and sustain healthy native plant ecosystems.
- Staff are consulting with the Oregon Department of Energy Idaho Power on mitigation for the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) energy project, which will impact four state-listed species: *Astragalus collinus* var. *laurentii*, *Astragalus mulfordiae*, *Hackelia cronquistii*, and *Pyrrocoma radiata*.
- Several research projects continue in the greenhouse facility at Oregon State University, including research on soft blazingstar and Owyhee clover – two extremely rare plants endemic to the remote Owyhee Uplands of eastern Malheur and Owyhee Counties.
- **Noxious Weed Control Program**
 - The Oregon State Weed Board held their Fall meeting in September. The Board toured OSWB Grant Program-funded projects in Yamhill County. The Board approved a motion to de-list ten (10) species from Oregon's noxious weed list. Rulemaking will take place in Q2 of AY24.
 - Noxious Weed Program staff are wrapping up the 2023 field season and are busy working on last minute projects across the state including numerous A-rated species, and associated reporting. Aquatic weeds and invasive annual grasses continue to be a challenge due to lack of capacity at the state level.
 - The program continues to work with federal partners at the NRCS to develop and fund two positions that will focus on rangeland health and restoration with an emphasis on managing invasive annual grasses.
 - Staff is currently working on updating all our species-specific strategic management plans for T-listed species with regionally specific objectives and priorities.
 - With the new combined management structure, the Noxious Weed Program has been collaborating with the Native Plant Conservation Program on outreach and education, most recently during the Oregon State Fair, and on project proposals that incorporate priorities of both programs.
 - The program is currently working with ODOE on numerous mitigation consultations related to energy developments in the Columbia Gorge and across Eastern Oregon.
 - The program is working with federal partners to eliminate barriers for producers to participate in ODA's Weed Free Gravel and Forage programs.
- **Nursery and Christmas Tree Program**
 - Inspections for the 2023 Christmas tree shipping season have begun.
 - New Hires: In July, two nursery inspectors joined the team. One position covers the territory of Polk County and northern Lincoln County. The second covers the Portland Metro area. A new Program Manager has been selected and will begin in the role December 1st.
 - ODA and USDA-PPQ hosted the *Phytophthora ramorum* Safeguarding Working Group meeting in Portland. The working group reviews current policy of the national program and creates suggestions and guidelines for updates and new policy. Members include representatives from each of the four regions of the National Plant Board and several branches of USDA-AHPIS-PPQ (including policy, science & technology, and operations).
 - ODA hosted the Western Horticultural Inspection Society meeting in Portland. This was the first in-person meeting of the western chapter since 2019. Representatives from 11 states participated in the meeting. Topics included invasive snails, grasshopper program, Systems Approach to Nursery Certification, review of the federal protocols for trace inspections of *P.ramorum* infested nursery stock, and a field site visit to Forest Grove to learn about emerald ash borer.

- **Oregon Invasive Species Council**

- OISC held a summer meeting in Bend. In-person meeting included talks on a and field trips focused on local noxious weed control projects including yellow flag iris and ribbon grass, which are long-term projects involving ODA's noxious weed program. See here for [meeting minutes and agenda](#).
- Released announcements for the selection of new voting members to fill several council seats. There are five seats to be fill as of January 2024.
- The Executive Committee has met several times to review ongoing council business, including budget review to ensure existing funds are appropriated reasonably across the coordinator and other council activities over the biennium.

Administration/Special Projects

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- **Canola**

- HB 789 maintained the requirement for the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to permit up to 500 acres of canola in the Willamette Valley Protected District. In addition to this, the bill mandated that ODA had to submit a report to the Oregon Legislature by September 30th. This report included recommendations for potential legislation to establish a program to identify fields within the Willamette Valley Protected District that were involved in producing seed crops of the genus Brassica and find ways to mitigate conflicts associated with the production of these seed crops. It's noteworthy that ODA conducted three advisory committee meetings as part of this process and submitted the report to the Legislature shortly before the September Legislative days.