

Oregon Department of Agriculture 2017 Environmental Justice Task Force Annual Report

Oregon Revised Statute 182.550 requires natural resource agencies to submit an annual report to the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) and to the Office of the Governor on the results of the agencies' efforts to: (1) Address environmental justice issues; (2) Increase public participation of individuals and communities affected by agencies' decisions; (3) Determine the effect of the agencies' decisions on traditionally underrepresented communities; and (4) Improve plans to further the progress of environmental justice in Oregon.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA or Agency) is committed to address environmental justice issues and promote public participation efforts related to the agency. ODA has policies and procedures in place to ensure it meets these efforts and support progress on environmental justice. The following activities represent the agency in that effort:

At ODA, all manager position descriptions identify cultural competency, diversity, and inclusion as position responsibility. These values are incorporated into all managers' performance evaluations. In 2017, ODA also updated its strategic plan to include diversity, equity and inclusion as part of the agency's core values. This has been solidified by outreach efforts made to encourage diversity among Oregon's Agricultural Commodity Commissions. The Board of Agriculture has added two new members that represent the diverse population of Oregon's agriculture community. ODA's Strategic Plan can be found at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/Administration/StrategicPlan.pdf>.

ODA has committed a Citizen Advocate and Liaison position to serve as the agency representative to the EJTF. ODA actively participates in the EJTF meetings to report agency related environmental justice (EJ) activities and inform the agency of EJ issues. This position also is on the planning committee for Oregon's annual Diversity and Inclusion Conference which provides relative training and education to state employees. Additionally, ODA regularly attends the Governor's Diversity & Inclusion/Affirmative Action bi-monthly meetings.

ODA has a designated Tribal Liaison. The role of this position is to inform and, when appropriate, consult with Oregon's nine (9) federally recognized tribes on ODA's activities. A report of ODA's government-to-government activities is prepared annually and can be found on the Legislative Commission on Indian Services website (<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/cis/Pages/Gov-to-Gov-Annual-Reports.aspx>).

ODA directly supports and administers programs that benefit EJ communities. Among these programs is the Farm to School Program, which leverages public and private resources to bring more Oregon grown and processed foods to school children. Improving access to locally produced foods is a proven pathway to improved school achievement and prosperity for communities. Additionally, ODA hosts FoodCorps, which is a national service program. There are ten (10) FoodCorps service members serving nine (9) communities in Oregon. Service members work in low income and under-resourced schools teaching kids where their food comes from, how to grow it, and how to make healthy choices every day through school garden, environmental and nutrition education. ODA also participates in the Oregon Hunger Task Force which was established to end hunger before it begins by addressing root causes.

The Farm Direct Nutrition Program (FDNP), is jointly administered by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and ODA to provide eligible, low-income seniors and WIC (Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Nutrition Program) families with assistance to purchase fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables and cut herbs from authorized farmers selling directly to consumers. This provides an additional source of nutritious food and education on selecting and preparing fresh produce to qualifying recipients while supporting local farm stands and farmers' markets.

Every year, ODA translates more publications into Spanish. In 2017 a few of the publications translated into Spanish include: How We Work for You brochure that provides information on the agency and its programs; Oregon Agricultural Facts and Figures; and Oregon's Top 20 Agricultural commodities poster.

ODA also has regulatory and consumer protection-related programs that may intersect with EJ communities:

The Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Program is operated in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) under a Memorandum of Understanding and overseen by EPA. The program issues permits to qualifying CAFOs and provides inspection oversight to protect Oregon's water quality by preventing animal wastes from entering surface and ground water. The CAFO program has incorporated EJ outreach activities to the CAFO Notice and Public Participation checklist for use in all its noticing activities. Additionally, the CAFO National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and public notice documents also have been translated into Spanish and are available online. The CAFO program also has native Spanish speaking staff to assist permittees and the public. In 2017, the Citizen Advocate and Liaison provided an overview of its EJ outreach process on CAFO Public Notice activities at a CAFO Advisory meeting.

The Insect Pest Prevention & Management (IPPM) Program works to protect Oregon's agriculture, horticulture, natural resources, and quality of life from invasive insect pests. In 2017, in conjunction with other state and local agencies, community partners, and stakeholders, IPPM initiated a proposed five (5) year eradication program to combat the destructive Japanese Beetle found in Northwest Portland. Outreach and education efforts were made to the approximately 2,500 properties located within the treatment area. Open houses and workshops providing information on the invasive pest and the eradication efforts were offered in several locations during evening hours and on weekends. Several types of media were used, including signs and electronic boards located in highly visible locations, mailings, and press releases in multiple languages.

The Food Safety Program ensures food is safe for consumption and works with food establishments to prevent foodborne illness, which can be a particular concern in low-income and other EJ communities. Several studies (<https://consumerfed.org/pdfs/Child-Poverty-Report.pdf>; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3774461/>) have documented higher rates of foodborne illness; higher bacterial numbers in several food products; and an increase in food safety violations in high-poverty areas in the United States, underscoring the importance of regular food safety inspections in EJ communities to protect the public.

Food Safety Program Activities that particularly benefit EJ communities include the following.

- ODA Food Safety Inspectors check expiration dates on certain products, including baby formula, during inspections to ensure they are not beyond the expiration date.
- The Food Safety program tracks the number of businesses whose preferred language is other than English. There are approximately 80 businesses where the operator prefers Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Burmese, Korean, or Russian. Many ODA food safety inspectors speak multiple languages, and inspectors provide educational assistance to all the firms they inspect to help them understand and meet food safety requirements.
- Some smaller, convenience stores and markets, including those who serve EJ communities, may need extra assistance in proper food handling and storage, including keeping foods out of the temperature danger zone, handling and preparing food safely, and purchasing food from approved (licensed) sources. ODA provides this extra assistance when needed, with a focus on educating store managers and employees on strategies to comply with Oregon's food regulations.
- ODA commonly provides food recall information in several languages and tries to provide the information in a way that reaches affected businesses and consumers.

The Animal Health Program tracks livestock movement in and out of the state, establishes disease testing and vaccination requirements for interstate movement, conducts outreach and education about livestock disease prevention, and investigates reports of certain livestock diseases. Outreach and education materials are available in multiple languages. The program has especially focused on poultry producers, ranging from backyard poultry to large-scale poultry operations, providing information on how to prevent avian influenza and other serious avian diseases.

The Livestock Identification Program works to deny a market in stolen livestock through registration of brands and brand inspections. The program's brand application has been translated into Spanish, and the program communicates with customers who are more comfortable receiving written correspondences in Spanish.

The Smoke Management Program administers the rules for field burning in the Willamette Valley to reduce smoke impacts to populated areas in an interest of public health and welfare. Based upon the "Summary of the 2017 Field-Burning Season" document, there were a total of 21 days when burning was conducted during the 2017 season; 7 of the 21 days resulted in either light or moderate impacts to municipalities. Nephelometers, which measure particulate in the air, are located in Carus, Detroit, Eugene, Lyons, Mill City, Portland, Salem, Silverton, Springfield, and Sweet Home. Detroit experienced 2 hours of moderate impact and 1 hour of light impact over one day. Lyons experienced 2 hours of moderate impact over one day and 4 hours of light impact over three days. Mill City experienced 3 hours of moderate impact over two days and 16 hours of light impact over seven days. A total of 103 complaints were received for the season. During the 2017 season, there were several wildfires burning in the Pacific Northwest that impacted air quality in many populated areas throughout the state. The full report can be accessed on [ODA's Smoke Management Program](#) webpage.

The Pesticide Program continues to increase efforts to reach and serve Spanish-speaking pesticide applicators and workers.

- ODA partnered with KUNP-TV in Portland to provide two Public Service Announcements (PSA) on pesticide safety outreach to Spanish speaking communities that work in landscape maintenance settings, and on agricultural establishments such as nurseries, greenhouses, forestry tract operations, and field crops. Each 60 second PSA aired for 3 months and aired multiple times per week between January and June 2017. The agricultural establishment PSA focused on Worker Protection Standards (WPS), of which that agricultural workers are entitled to (especially PPE, training, and anti-retaliation provisions), while the PSA directed toward landscape maintenance workers emphasized reading the pesticide label, protecting your family from "take home" pesticide exposure, drift

prevention, and prevention of pesticide contamination of water resources.

- Continued WPS trainings and presentations to diverse audiences.
- Ongoing participation in SolvePestproblems.org listening sessions which are designed to provide feedback from Spanish-speaking stakeholders: Provided applicator training on pollinator protection, Intergraded Pest Management (IPM), and label comprehension.
- Actively participate in events and workshops throughout the state that emphasize minority groups to provide outreach and education about pesticide safety and pollinator protection.
- Continued translation of ODA publications into Spanish. Some of the publications translated in 2017 include the Report of Loss (ROL) form; How to reduce pesticide exposure and risk to bees; and the Oregon Core Manual Addendum. Additionally, ODA staff assist partners and stakeholders with Spanish translations of their respective publications including the 2nd edition of the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual, and pollinator protection resources for the Oregon Bee Project.

The Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC) is mandated to collect pesticide-related incident information and coordinate in making appropriate referrals to PARC member agencies. PARC contracts with 211info to provide a 24-hour hotline to receive pesticide-related calls. The hotline provides assistance to customers with access to an interpreter service with more than 140 languages.