



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

2019 -2021 biennial report



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

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 ORAgriculture  @ORAgriculture  celebrateoregonagriculture

Protect.
Promote.
Prosper.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Lauren Henderson, my deputy director, and I have the honor of managing the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Our positions carry the responsibility to report to Oregonians through a biennial report. We enjoy communicating directly with Oregonians through this report and welcome you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

ODA serves a varied array of industries as a diverse state agency with programs including food safety, animal health, natural resources, market access and certification, and plant protection and conservation. Supported by more than 400 full-time and part-time knowledgeable and dedicated staff, I am proud of what our agency achieves, collectively and individually.

Looking back on the last two years, continual investment in innovation and the ongoing development of our people are what have enabled us to persevere and continue to serve the agriculture industry through the COVID-19 pandemic. We quickly shifted, practically overnight, from working with colleagues and technology in the workplace to mainly working remotely. Utilizing our industry partnerships, ODA organized PPE (personal protective equipment) giveaways to industry, created playbooks that enabled farms and food processors to continue to operate safely, and navigated federal and state disaster relief programs to keep Oregon agricultural businesses up and running.

In March 2020, the agency successfully adopted a new brand that was designed using employee and industry stakeholder feedback. Over the years, ODA staff created and used dozens of logos and marks, making it difficult to recognize the department and our people's work. The goal was to create one brand that would represent every program. There was no better time to launch the new brand and the concept of "one ODA" than during the pandemic. Because we reassigned many ODA staff to support other programs to meet the changing needs of the industry, some of our program lines were blurred and reinforced the need for unity as we supported each other. Also part of the new brand is a tagline, "Protect. Promote. Prosper." We believe these three words represent the diversity of the services our staff provide to Oregonians. Thank you to our staff and our partners for helping ensure a successful implementation.

The basis for our success over the last two years is simple – our people. Managing through the pandemic has required an extraordinary effort on their part. Our employees serve our customers and communities, make tough decisions, manage risks, and push innovation. We acknowledge the many sacrifices and extraordinary efforts of all our people, whether in the office, working remotely, or in the field. We at ODA are grateful to our customers for their business and trust.




Alexis M. Taylor, Director

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2019-2021 BIENNIAL REPORT

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VISION

The Oregon Department of Agriculture remains able to serve the changing needs of Oregon's diverse agricultural and food sectors to maintain and enhance a healthy natural resource base and strong economy in rural and urban communities across the state.

“

During the pandemic, our staff quickly pivoted to ensure we continued to provide the services and programs that Oregonians rely on. The new skills and new behaviors we developed will continue to improve the way we operate. Our many successes during this challenging time are due to the dedication and resilience of our people.

I look forward to taking what we learned and continuing to improve the experience for our stakeholders, customers and all Oregonians when working with the ODA. With a focus on employee well-being, we are excited to use what we've learned through the pandemic to provide creative solutions that are responsive to the people and environment we serve.

”

Alexis Taylor

DIRECTOR

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE IS IMPORTANT TO OREGON

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the food and agriculture industries in Oregon continue to add jobs, provide safe food, and feed our economy.

It begins in the rich soil of Oregon's farms and ranches —more than 37,000 of them— spread across the state and stretching from the coast over mountain ranges and through plateaus and basins.

Agriculture is a \$40 billion dollar industry in Oregon that has a significant impact on the everyday lives of every person in our state. Oregon's commercial fisheries alone generated an estimated \$558 million income to the statewide economy in 2019 which is equivalent to about 9,200 jobs.

Over 300,000 jobs in Oregon are tied to the industry including farmers, fishers, ranchers, and food processors and a host of others who help bring Oregon's bounty to market. It is nearly 16% of the state's GDP.



15.8 million acres in farms

44% of Oregon producers are women

\$2.63 billion in exports

Data sources: Feed the Economy Study (2022), <https://feedingtheeconomy.com/>; Federal Bureau of Economic Analysis (2021), <https://www.bea.gov/>; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (2021), https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/economic_impact.asp; USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (2021), <https://oda.direct/agstats>


OREGON'S TOP 20 AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IN 2020

1. **Greenhouse & nursery**¹
\$1,188,911,000
2. **Cattle & calves**
\$587,848,000
3. **Hay** \$569,160,000
4. **Milk** \$557,348,000
5. **Grass seed**²
\$458,367,000
6. **Wheat** \$273,760,000
7. **Potatoes** \$216,810,000
8. **Grapes for wine**³
\$157,900,000
9. **Cherries** \$133,826,000
10. **Hazelnuts** \$132,300,000
11. **Blueberries** \$119,648,000
12. **Onions** \$118,665,000
13. **Christmas trees**
\$106,912,000
14. **Pears** \$97,552,000
15. **Corn, grain** \$77,542,000
16. **Hops** \$74,812,000
17. **Eggs** \$72,999,000
18. **Dungeness crab**⁴
\$72,643,709
19. **Sweet corn** \$41,034,000
20. **Apples** \$39,208,000



Totals are value of production.

¹ Oregon Department of Agriculture estimate ² Oregon State University estimate ³ Oregon Wine Board estimate ⁴ Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife estimate
All others are estimates from NASS.

A coastal landscape featuring a large field of wooden pilings in the water, likely remnants of a former aquaculture or fishing operation. The pilings are arranged in a grid-like pattern and extend into the distance. In the background, there are rolling hills and a clear blue sky with a few birds flying. The water is calm and reflects the sky and the pilings.

“ If we stay true to our roots, ODA can bring a unique blend of statewide resources and information, and boots-on-the-ground assistance, that has synergistic power to accomplish what much larger or smaller groups cannot do without us.

Joel Price

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

FINANCIALS

Despite the economic uncertainty of 2020 and projected historic shortfalls in Measure 76 Lottery Funds, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) was able to retain core services and avoid staff layoffs. Early on in the pandemic, ODA recognized the need to act quickly to stabilize the agency’s budget by swiftly making difficult decisions that prevented a compounding effect that could have resulted in even harder budget choices.

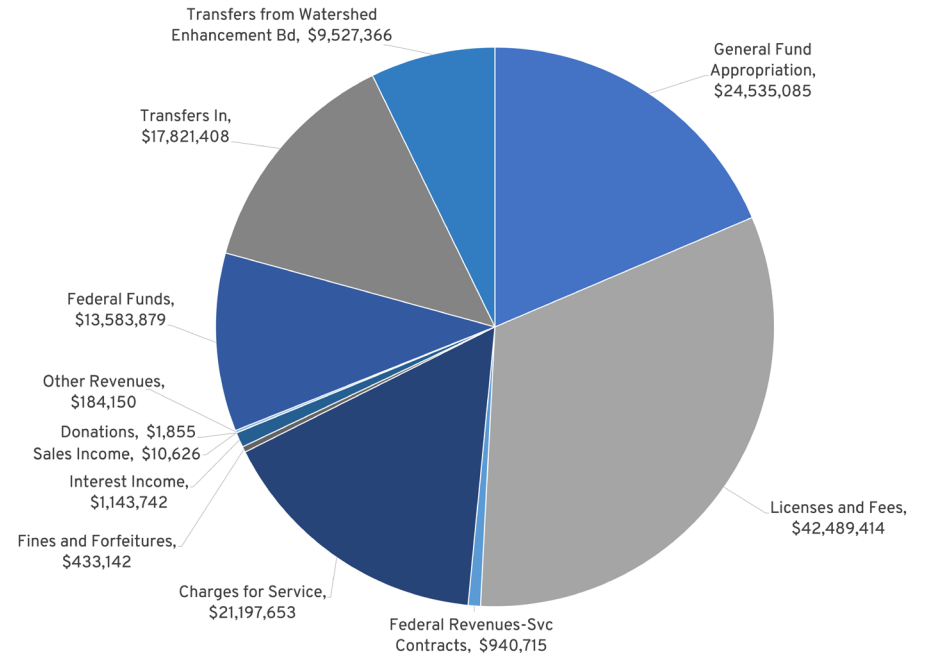
Throughout the agency’s proactive response and legislative special sessions, the focus remained on retaining staff and providing core services. The agency looked across programs seeking to identify areas for cross-program help. Some examples include various staff pulling together to hang insect traps and pivoting noxious weed staff to work in the Hemp Program as Measure 76 Lottery Funds were projected to be at historic lows. ODA also examined agency structure with a focus on holding vacant positions open and looking at upcoming retirements to restructure the operational and organizational structure of the agency to retain staff and maximize core program efficiencies.



Andrea Boyer
FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER

www.oregon.gov/oda/AboutUs/Pages/Budget

REVENUE 2019-2021



EXPENDITURES 2019-2021

Salaries & Wages	\$53,068,398	Agency Program & Other Services & Supplies	\$8,034,843
Other Payroll Expenses	28,104,312	Expendable Prop 250-5000	104,977
Travel	3,495,330	IT Expendable Property	291,830
Employee Training	195,773	Capital Outlay	381,272
Office Expenses	946,814	Dist to Counties	433,904
Telecommunications	880,087	Dist to Other Gov Unit	604,024
State Gov Service Charges	3,370,756	Dist to Non-Gov Units	968,994
Data Processing	1,160,149	Dist to Individuals	251,624
Publicity & Publications	100,398	Spc Pmt to Public Universities	2,574,731
Professional Services	1,213,819	Dist to Non-Profit Organizations	685,956
Attorney General	1,206,762	Spc Pmt to Environmental Quality	1,160,794
Employee Recruitment & Development	21,896	Spc Pmt to Oregon Health Authority	248,590
Dues and Subscriptions	83,963	TOTAL	\$113,198,067
Facilities Rental & Taxes	3,520,235		
Fuels & Utilities	50,979		
Facilities Maintenance	36,857		

THE FOOD SAFETY, ANIMAL HEALTH AND LAB SERVICES PROGRAM AREA (FSAH) consists of nine distinct areas with 150 employees across the state.

The **Food Safety Program** regulates food processing and retail distribution, commercial and recreational shellfish, seafood, dairy farms/processors, and will soon include state meat product inspections. Food safety staff inspect approximately 11,000 licensed establishments located in all areas of the state.

“Our employees were incredibly resourceful during the past biennium, going above and beyond to meet industry and agency needs.”



Rusty Rock
FOOD SAFETY AND ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM AREA DIRECTOR

The **Animal Health Program** includes the state veterinarian’s office, livestock identification, feed safety, predator depredation grants and permits, and the animal health laboratory. The state veterinarian’s office conducts activities related to animal disease monitoring, traceability, and permitting activities, permitting for interstate movement of animals, animal rescue entity licensing, and veterinarian accreditation.

The **Lab Services Program** includes the State of Oregon’s regulatory laboratory. The regulatory lab conducts testing in support of the ODA’s agency-wide needs for microbiological, chemical, and physical testing, including pesticides, fertilizers, food, water, biotoxins, and chemical constituents. Lab staff processed over 12,000 samples resulting in over 30,000 test results during the biennium while continuing to maintain their ISO (International Organization for Standardization) accreditation. The lab was also able to eliminate a backlog of pesticide tests and continues to maintain service levels needed to maintain our agency needs.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

During the biennium, the FSAH program area experienced some significant personnel changes, including:

- State Veterinarian, Dr. Brad LeaMaster, retired in June of 2020. His position was filled by an internal candidate, Dr. Ryan Scholz, DVM, MPH.
- Dairy and Shellfish Program Manager, Frank Barcellos, retired at the end of the biennium. His position was filled by Karel Smit, previously the field operations manager for dairy and shellfish.

REGULATORY CHANGES

The Food Safety Program continues to work on the process of training our staff to conduct inspections under Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulatory structure. The FSMA regulations “preventative controls” continue to be a core aspect of food safety practices throughout the food manufacturing industry.

COVID-19 IMPACT

The past biennium challenged the food industry in ways that we had never imagined. In addition to protecting employees from the

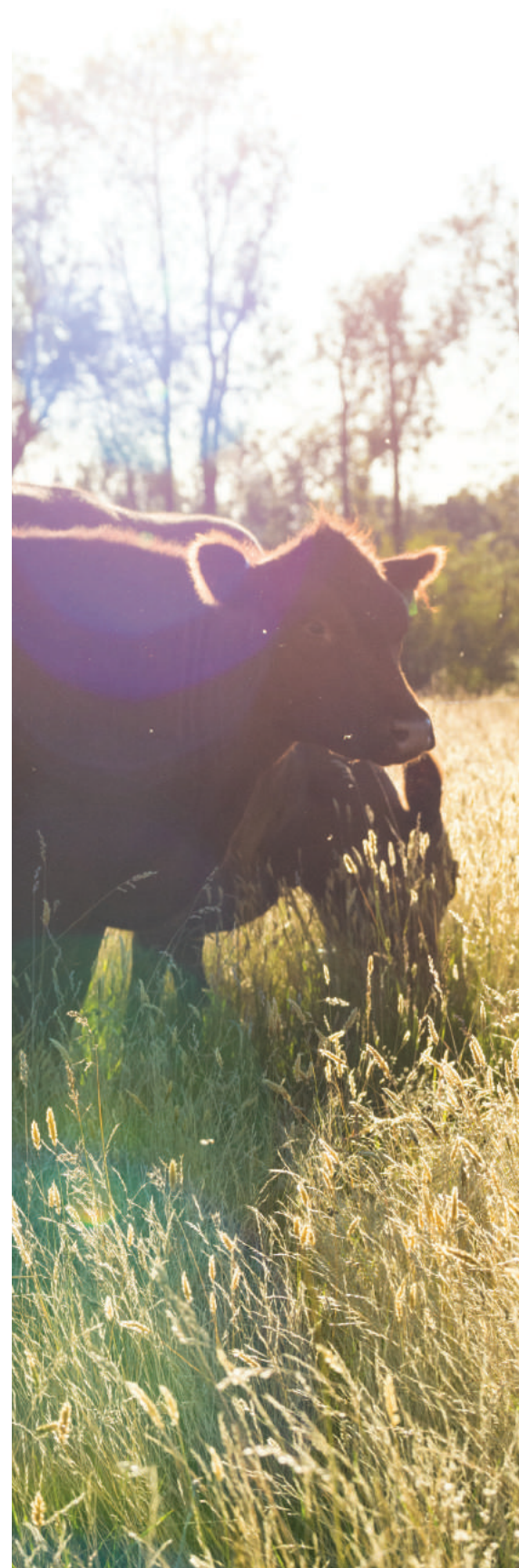


coronavirus, the food supply chain was severely tested. Maintaining safe food and efficient production pushed food manufacturing and distribution to the brink of functionality.

To support Oregon's food and agriculture industries, the Food Safety program worked with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division's consultative division, and local county health programs to develop a guide for intergovernmental relations. The intent and focus was to streamline the process of getting critical health, safety, and protective practices into workplaces to secure the food supply chain. Food safety staff were directly involved with COVID-19 outreach and served in an essential role to ensure a strong supply chain of food products and public health. ODA used our relationships with food manufacturers, distribution warehouses, and others to speed communications of messages and practices from OHA and Oregon OSHA. Food safety staff conducted both virtual and in-person outreach in partnership with sister agencies, to help suggest methods of implementing control measures to help prevent spread of COVID-19.

At the same time, core regulatory practices were maintained to ensure COVID-19 impacts did not overshadow other conditions. The regulatory lab modified work schedule and working conditions to enable continuous operations. No COVID-19 cases were attributed to the laboratory environment. Food safety staff developed virtual tools to minimize potential for spread due to inspection activities. Emphasis was placed on dairy industry and food distribution points such as warehouses and distributors to ensure the stability of the food supply chain.

The Food Safety Program developed guidance for field staff to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure to replace our usual food safety risk-based inspection planning tools. By following strict COVID-19 safety precautions and the field activity matrix, which was based on COVID-19 risk levels in Oregon's counties, staff were able to do many field activities to maintain a safe food supply.



DISASTER RESPONSE EFFORTS

The past biennium also included historic levels of wildfire activities. Both the Animal Health and Food Safety programs got involved. Personnel responded to local requests for assistance during wildfires and assisted 33 animal shelters in over 20 counties.

A team of ODA and USDA personnel coordinated resource needs and technical assistance for 6 weeks. In some cases, ODA also served to connect transportation resources to farms in need, both for animal movement and milk transportation. Overall, 14 dairies were at some level of threat from the 2020 wildfire crisis.

ODA animal health staff responded and controlled two outbreaks of rabbit hemorrhagic disease (a foreign animal disease) in domestic and feral rabbits in Oregon. The program received and responded to several hundred calls from rabbit owners and conducted 75+ investigations into sick/

deceased rabbits. Additionally, the program developed outreach materials which saw wide distribution and utilization.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE CURRENT BIENNIUM

The Animal Health Program distributed 250,000+ free RFID ear tags and free RFID readers to Oregon veterinarians and livestock producers in the last biennium. This was accomplished using federal grant money. The program plans to continue to significantly expand reader distribution in the current biennium.

Use of RFID ear tags increased to over 50% of all official identification reported to ODA. The program has also worked to increase the use of ODA's free online regulatory document program, OVIS. At this time, over 75% of all regulatory documents received from Oregon veterinarians are electronic. This is creating significant improvements in communications and program efficiency.

The Animal Health Program is also continuing to build on our experiences related to disease responses by applying for, and receiving, grants associated with the USDA's National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Project (NADPRP). The project includes coordination of technical work by ODA and Oregon State University personnel as well as the development of non-technical educational and project materials. The intent of NADPRP is to enhance ODA's preparedness to respond to disease events and provide continuity of business for livestock producers during a disease response event.

The Food Safety Program is working to catch up with routine inspection work that was disrupted during COVID-19 pandemic. The expectation is that it will take 12-18 months to get back on track. The program is also working to develop and implement an Oregon Meat Inspection Program (OMIP) that is equal to that of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service. The program is being developed in response to House Bill 4206 (2020 special session) to address concerns related to supply chain concerns highlighted during the pandemic. The existence of the OMIP is also intended to provide access of Oregon meat products to Oregonians and provide opportunity for the Oregon livestock industry to serve their

community.

The upcoming biennium will also see the Food Safety Program budget include a request to conduct an analytical review of facility compliance history to determine if inequities are consistent with potential biases in the Oregon food safety regulations.

In addition, the Food Safety Program will work to increase engagement with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) and immigrant-owned or operated businesses to determine what additional tools are needed to support their success. We will look to expand our analytical review capacity in the program to determine if there are inequities in the program, including how we enforce the regulations, how we conduct education, and how materials are presented. At the same time we will work to provide an additional focused effort on engagement with our BIPOC and immigrant-owned/operated businesses to determine if the tools we are currently providing are working for those communities.

www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/AnimalHealthFeedsLivestockID
www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/FoodSafety



THE NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM AREA worked hard throughout the uniquely challenging 19-21 biennium to serve and support all people of Oregon as we navigated unprecedented challenges. The program area’s mission is to conserve, protect, and develop natural resources on public and private lands to ensure that agriculture will continue to be productive and economically viable in Oregon.

“This past biennium forced us all to reimagine how we get work done. We found new ways to collaborate, connect, and adapt.”



Isaak Stapleton
NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM AREA DIRECTOR

Each of the natural resource programs have their own examples that exhibit those characteristics.

COLLABORATION

As staff shortages occurred with retirements and budget uncertainties, programs across the agency supported each other to ensure the continuation of vital services that the people of Oregon count on. For example, the **Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Program** had staff conduct brand inspections for the Livestock Identification Program when they experienced a staff shortage, ensuring that commerce continued to flow for Oregon’s ranching community.

In other programs, the need for collaboration was not borne out of a lack of resources but because of challenges facing Oregon communities. The **Agriculture Water Quality Program** along with the Hemp Program, many other state agencies, and local law enforcement, engaged in Operation Table Rock in southern Oregon to address the impacts of cannabis operations who were operating outside of the ODA and Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) regulated hemp and marijuana framework. Many of these operations had major impacts on Oregon’s natural resources. ODA was also able to help fund a watermaster position for the Oregon

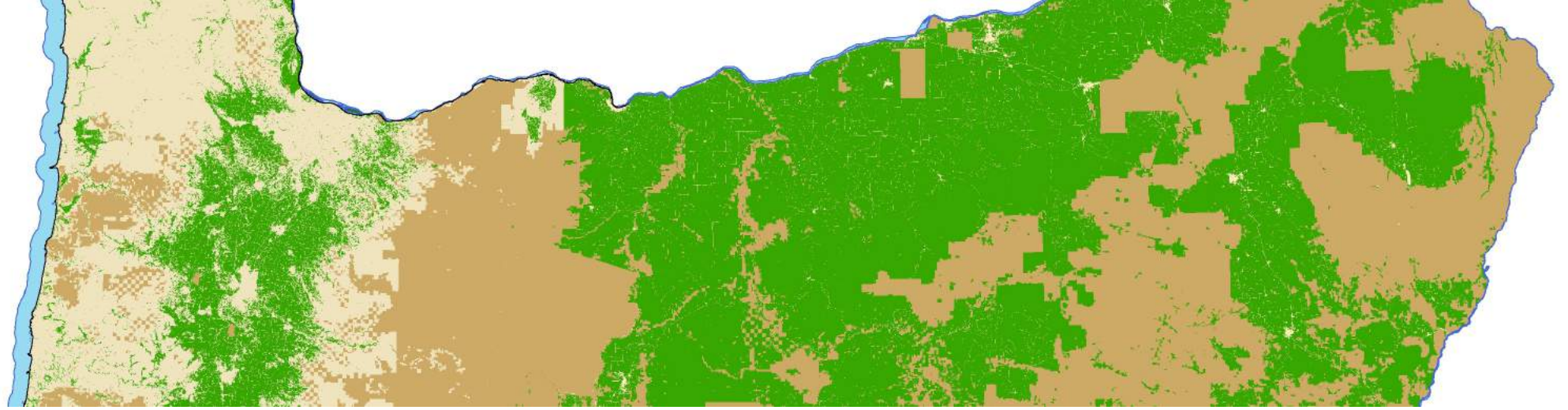


Water Resources Department to focus specifically on this work.

CONNECTION

With staff primarily working from home and the need to focus on protecting public health, we had to rethink how we provided services to the people of Oregon. That meant shifting in-person inspections or meetings to a digital platform. Like anything new, there were growing pains and video meetings were not exempted from technical difficulties. Despite the initial challenges, the use of video and online connection for meetings has increased access to public meetings that would have previously been difficult and costly for some to attend. We also recognize the need now more than ever to provide resources in the preferred languages of the people we serve.

Across all programs, we have provided more resources in Spanish, such as the bilingual web resource for how to select and use disinfectants, as well as increasing the presence of interpreters at public hearings. For example, the **Pesticides Program** held a bilingual public comment hearing on proposed



The **Geographic Information System (GIS) Program** at ODA uses a computer system for capturing, storing, checking, and displaying data related to positions on the earth's surface. GIS can show many kinds of data on one map, such as streets, buildings, and vegetation. This enables people to see, analyze, and understand patterns and relationships more easily. This improves communication and efficiency as well as better management and decision making.

This map is the result of an agricultural land analysis. The green areas are "ag lands" defined as non-federal and non-Tribal Trust lands in Oregon that are used or likely to be used to grow agricultural crops or livestock. This includes all lands, including those < 1 acre and within urban growth boundaries. Livestock are defined as including horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, domesticated fowl, domesticated furbearers, and any other vertebrates in captivity other than fish (OAR 603-011-025).



rules phasing out the use of chlorpyrifos. The Fertilizer Program translated several grant requests for proposals and applications into Spanish and we are continuing to evaluate all of our resource materials to make updates and offer them in multiple languages.

Pesticide enforcement moved to conducting routine records inspections virtually with operators and did more phone interviews with complainants and respondents. Not all services were able to translate into a digital platform, however. The pesticide licensing and certification team, which licenses pesticide applicators that requires a knowledge exam, went from 20 available licensing testing centers across the state to just two. Testing centers are typically located in community colleges and unfortunately, they all closed due to the pandemic. To address this issue, we worked with the testing centers that were closed to open at least on a part-time schedule and found additional private contracted testing centers to administer tests. Additionally, we worked with neighboring states who had open testing locations to accept their licensing exams. Now we have reestablished those testing centers as the state has begun to reopen.

ADAPTABILITY

Like all state agencies, ODA had to be adaptable during the last biennium. Programs were asked to step up and find creative solutions to the rapidly changing work. For example, the pesticide registration team typically registers around 14,000 pesticide products. In 2021, they saw an increase of approximately 700 products, mostly due to an increase in the number of disinfectants used for the virus that causes COVID-19.

Areas that are inspection- and compliance-based such as pesticide investigations, **the Fertilizer, CAFO, and Agriculture Water Quality programs**, moved away from primarily in-person inspections. Instead, they either limited inspections to locations with the ability to maintain safe physical distance or completed them virtually or through letters. The pesticide enforcement team saw a reduction in compliance cases, conducting 975 compliance cases including routine compliance monitoring, which was approximately 425 fewer

than the previous biennium. The primary reason for this change was a reduction in routine compliance work, such as records inspections, in order to limit person-to-person interaction. However, this also allowed us to tackle a backlog in case review. By the end of the 2021 fiscal year, the Pesticides Program closed over 250 more cases than it initiated.

The Agricultural Water Quality

Program (AWQ) shifted its methods to oversee Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) which rely on a coordinated streamside management approach in agricultural areas to address water quality concerns. They moved from in-person partner meetings to virtual, sent out letters to landowners instead of in-person community meetings, and provided short videos explaining the process for landowners. They also slowed the pace and scale of the implementation.

The SIA process includes evaluating conditions on agricultural lands, engaging landowners to address water quality concerns on their land, and monitoring to effectively evaluate outcomes. Since the start of the SIA initiative, the program has;

- Initiated 43 SIAs in 27 counties
- Evaluated approximately 1.3 million agricultural acres
- Evaluated approximately 5,886 agricultural stream miles
- Contacted approximately 6,300 landowners
- Achieved a 97 percent compliance rate post-SIA



North Yamhill River SIA, before

The AWQ team conducted 240 site inspections that resulted in 197 compliance actions, only 12 of which involved enforcement action. In most cases, landowners worked with ODA to resolve the issue on their property over time or a water quality concern did not exist on the property.

Lastly, as a result of House Bill 2437 in the 2019 legislative session, ODA established the new **Agriculture Channel Drainage**

Maintenance Program. Maintenance of channels used for agricultural drainage is critical to the viability of Oregon's farms and ranches. Operators achieve this work through the new program. In cooperation with the Oregon Department of State Lands and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, ODA has worked over the past two years on development. Roll out has involved outreach and education to Soil and Water Conservation Districts, landowners, and irrigation districts. So far, one notice has been submitted and approved. A second notice was submitted and then withdrawn. Both notices helped ODA learn what works best to ensure a good applicant experience while also achieving program outcomes.

www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/NaturalResources
www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/Pesticides



North Yamhill River SIA, after

“ “
The staff at ODA work well together to provide the best customer service that we can to our customers!

Going forward, I think people can expect the same great service and the same positive attitude that we have always had.

Renita McNaughtan

AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

“ “
Teamwork is where ODA employees excel. I think our customers can expect increased transparency and communication from us in the future.

Brittney Jones

PESTICIDES PROGRAM

EQUITY AT ODA

Created in late 2019, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is a critical driver of organizational and culture change.

It helps create strategic accountability for results, provides direction and oversight on DEI efforts, and communicates agency-wide on their progress.

The committee commits to successfully integrating DEI goals and strategies with the agency’s strategic plan. The committee provides a platform for establishing a dedicated agency focus on diversity, equity and inclusion priorities by overseeing and assessing the agency’s DEI effectiveness and making recommendations for agency culture enhancement.



Items of Focus

- Agency-wide DEI survey
- Benefits of DEI in the workplace information sheet
- Monthly DEI message in internal newsletter
- Guidance for inclusivity in written correspondence
- Support and contribute to annual statewide Diversity Equity Inclusion workshops

Members

- Annie Blietz
- Andrea Cantu-Schomus
- Isaak Stapleton, *Co-Chair*
- Jake Bodart
- Lee Whiting
- Beth Myers-Shenai
- Sunny Summers
- Timindra Pratico
- Toby Primbs
- Virginia Tarango, *Co-Chair*
- *One vacant position*

THE MARKET ACCESS AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AREA

The pandemic changed the ways we consume food. Restaurant closures forced producers to shift to retail, and consumers found more of their food through farmers markets, farm stands, and consumer support agriculture (CSAs). In addition to the challenges of a new market channel, producers also contended with supply shortages in food containers, ingredients, or shipping containers. The Market Access and Certification (MAC) programs strive to improve the marketability of Oregon agriculture, food, and beverages. The programs successfully adjusted services where possible to maintain services or create activities to meet the challenges of the pandemic.

“We saw unprecedented disruptions over the last biennium due to the pandemic and we all learned how to adapt.”



Jess Paulson
MARKET ACCESS &
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
AREA DIRECTOR

COMMODITY INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Commodity Inspection Program worked with handlers and packers to respond to changes in product demand, such as from restaurant to home consumption. Program managers navigated tight labor constraints to keep product moving throughout the biennium. Through flexibility and steadfast determination,



the program managed to meet additional workloads, including an increase of 33 percent in seed and 5.7 percent in hay exports over the previous biennium.

SEED REGULATORY PROGRAM

The objective of the Seed Regulatory Program is to maintain the integrity of Oregon as the preeminent supplier of seeds. During the 2019-2021 biennium, the program concluded a three-year investigation into a seed company that misrepresented tall fescue seed as the variety Kentucky 31. The investigation concluded with a settlement of \$300,000, the largest civil penalty in ODA history. The program continued by updating the grass seed civil penalty rule for the first time in 30 years.

PLANT HEALTH PROGRAM

Despite the pandemic, the lab completed 10 percent more tests than in the 2019-21 biennium. The lab also continued long-term efforts to improve access for Oregon products in foreign markets. The Plant Health Program worked with federal partners to establish two improved testing protocols for exports to South Korea, reducing the risk to shipments worth \$18 million in 2020. The program also concluded a five-year project to harmonize grapevine quarantine rules with Washington and Idaho. This industry-supported project was funded through a federal grant and will facilitate the movement of grape planting stock among the three states while protecting against the introduction of harmful plant pathogens.



CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Certification Program provides affordable services for Oregon producers who require one or more certifications to comply with the requirements of their customers, making Oregon agriculture more competitive in the marketplace. The program increased issuance of good agricultural practice (GAP) and HGAP (a federal certification issued under license by states) by 9 percent compared to the previous biennium. The program also certified 164 organic producer or handler operations.

PRODUCE SAFETY PROGRAM

The Produce Safety Program at ODA is non-regulatory, meaning it focuses on outreach and education, technical assistance and compiling a farm inventory of farms subject to the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule in Oregon. This program completed the first five-year funding agreement with the Food and Drug Administration in June 2021 and has been successfully awarded another round of 5-year grant funding. The produce safety team taught 56 accredited Produce Safety Grower Training Classes in English and Spanish serving over 1,280 people which meets one of the requirements of FSMA. The program has also conducted technical assistance visits across the state to increase the understanding of the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule implementation.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES PROGRAM

Both the Weights and Measure Program and the State Metrology Laboratory continued operations throughout the pandemic. Program staff prioritized the inspection work which generally reduced the potential of exposure to the general public by curtailing work at grocery stores; opting to schedule more inspection work in lieu of making unannounced visits; and generally prioritizing outdoor open-air inspections. These changes, in addition to other safety protocols, enabled field work to continue though at a reduced rate relative to previous years. The program also experienced a 20 percent turnover in field staff during the biennium which further reduced operating efficiency.

In 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic weights and measures annual device inspections were down on average 11,500 per year in comparison to pre-pandemic years, representing a 22 percent reduction in a field inspector's ability to conduct their work. Staff will be working toward catching up on the backlog created by the pandemic.

Weights and measures inspectors assisted the agency's emergency pandemic response by staffing statewide PPE distribution sites and distributing additional PPE in the form of masks and hand sanitizer directly to farms, local businesses, and workers while conducting their inspection work.

The State Metrology Laboratory remained open and busy throughout the pandemic. The program noted a general increase in the calibration work performed during this time which is attributed to curtailed business operations statewide.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING PROGRAM

The Agricultural Development and Marketing Program (ADMP) explored new tools to compensate for travel restrictions and closures of trade shows. Nearly all of the foreign promotional activities planned for the biennium were canceled or revised to a virtual format.

An example of a revised program includes contracting a Japanese culinary institute to develop and distribute information on products made from several Oregon ingredients. This material reached food service providers in parts of the country that are unlikely to participate in our traditional in-person promotions and are new tools in our toolkit when outbound promotions resume.



The program focused attention on the needs of Oregon producers to respond to changes in the market because of pandemic closures. Examples of these efforts include the #EatOregonSeafood social media campaign, which generated 32,000 likes highlighting 28 recipes for consumers to prepare Oregon-caught seafood at home. ADMP also partnered with the Oregon Farmers Market Association and Oregon Coastal Visitors Association to launch an online portal for farmers markets transaction that resulted in more than \$400,000 in online sales in summer 2020.

The program launched new resources for Oregon producers, including the Food & Beverage Roadmap and Oregon Harvest for Schools (OH4S) website and a new grant providing funding for equipment and infrastructure improvements to improve the sourcing of local food for Oregon school lunch programs. ADMP also partnered with the Washington Department of Agriculture and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) to develop new content to train new food and beverage producers. Training was offered twice, with Oregon participation growing from 10 in the first session to 24 in the second. ADMP continues to work with partners to bring these resources to producers to achieve what they define as success.

In 2020, ODA launched the Oregon meat initiative to evaluate the need for and constraints to processing services for animal protein in the state. Holding regular stakeholder virtual meetings, the program brought together government and non-government experts to create a consensus on where resources would provide the greatest benefit. In 2021, the Oregon Legislature directed ODA to establish a the Oregon Meat Inspection Program and provided funding to enhance the local capacity to produce animal proteins. ADMP is in the process of awarding that funding as grants and continues to work with the stakeholders to determine next steps to improve the local market for meat produced in the state.

www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/MarketAccess

THE PLANT PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

PROGRAMS AREA consists of five programs: Noxious Weed Control, Insect Pest and Prevention Management (IPPM), Nursery and Christmas Tree, Native Plant Conservation, and Hemp.

“Prevention, enforcement, and education are the key tools the plant programs use to protect Oregon’s agricultural industries and natural environment.”



Chris Benemann
**INTERIM PLANT PROTECTION & CONSERVATION
 PROGRAM AREA DIRECTOR**

- Early detection and rapid response to harmful and/or invasive plant pests and noxious weeds.
- Inspection and certification of nursery stock to maintain marketability and prevent introduction of unwanted plant pests.
- Surveys and research to further the conservation of Oregon’s threatened and endangered plant species.
- Enforcement of Oregon’s hemp and nursery stock laws to protect and support legal hemp and nursery growing operations.
- Outreach through presentations, printed materials, workshops, and public interaction to increase awareness and garner support for the programs’ mission.

The Japanese Beetle Eradication Program saw a steady decline in detections over the past biennium. 2021 marked the fifth year of treatment for the ongoing Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) eradication. The first trapping season for Japanese beetle (JB) was in 2017 and 23,000 beetles were detected. Continued funding through the legislature has allowed for the IPPM Program to execute a successful trapping and eradication program.

Over the course of the biennium, we saw a 26% decrease in the number of beetles detected. To inform residents about the program, letters were mailed, notices were posted on doors, posts were placed on NextDoor, blog posts were shared on our project website, and articles were included in local newspapers. Due to the

pandemic, we were unable to hold open house events. Instead, IPPM staff worked to create informational videos for residents. Overall, residents were very supportive, with over 95% of residents who responded consenting to treatment. Through consistent survey and treatment, Oregon will be able to stay ahead of future JB infestations.

	2019	2020	2021
# JB trapped	7,782	4,490	3,656
# acres treated	3,000	4,300	4,000
# traps	10,920	8,647	11,765

The *Phytophthora ramorum* Nursery Program graduated seven nurseries. Since the inception of the existing version program in 2014, the number of confirmed positive nurseries has decreased. At its peak, the program consisted of fourteen nurseries. Due to the dedication of program staff and cooperation from enlisted nurseries, significant progress was seen over the biennium as nurseries completed their sixth consecutive inspection with no additional detections. The eventual release of nurseries shows that the program does result in change through the implementation of targeted best management practices.

ODA serves as a cooperator of the USDA *P. ramorum* Program which exists to provide detailed inspection, diagnostic testing, and sanitation guidance to nurseries that are found to have plants infested with *P. ramorum*. This is a federally regulated plant pathogen that causes the disease sudden oak death and results in blight on a wide variety of high-value ornamental plants commonly sold in the nursery trade. This program serves to control the spread of the pathogen through infested nursery stock across state lines and within Oregon.

The Noxious Weed Program released and confirmed establishment of biocontrol agent on gorse at release sites. Gorse is a noxious weed in Oregon and is ubiquitous in coastal areas. With its spiny thorn it is difficult to remove, outcompetes native plants, and acts as a ready fuel source. The introduction of gorse thrips (*Sericothrips staphylinus*) as a biocontrol agent is an effective tool to combat gorse stands. The program was able to maintain its

biocontrol projects despite state budget cuts experienced during the pandemic, which allowed for our biocontrol entomologist to continue his work full-time.

Eradication of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 infested geraniums that were imported into Oregon nurseries from Michigan. ODA nursery staff worked quickly to collect and destroy infested plants from nine nurseries across seven counties. Rapid response prevented the spread of this bacterial pathogen, which kills potato, tomato, and other related plant species. In 2002, this plant pathogen was listed as a 'select agent' by the USDA Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002.

Transplant efforts of over 20,000 Gentner's fritillary (*Frillaria genteri*) plants yielded established populations in southern Oregon, painting a promising future of this endangered native species. Transplanting was done by ODA staff in collaboration with Medford Bureau of Land Management, Rogue-River Siskiyou National Forest and US Fish & Wildlife.

The IPPM laboratory became a National Identification Center for invertebrates. The IPPM Program is recognized both nationally and internationally for its expertise in the identification of wood boring insects and the lab has acted as a regional identification for woodborers since 2008. As a national resource, the lab provides identification services to other government agencies from across the country. These services are critical as the national infrastructure for identification cannot support the needs of many exotic insect surveys, which



require identification of trapped specimens. Having this level of expertise at the ODA not only brings prestige, but also bolsters our ability to promptly detect and respond to introductions of exotic wood boring insects which could have severe consequences to our natural landscapes.

The Noxious Weed Program was creative with outreach. Taking advantage of their existing greenhouse which contains a multitude of noxious weed and invasive plant specimens, staff created a series of weed identification videos, posting them on YouTube and social media. This extended their arm of outreach which proved useful during the COVID-19 pandemic, where the typical platforms for public interaction were canceled. The Noxious Weed Program routinely participates in the Oregon State Fair, Oregon Vegetation Management Association's annual meeting, and a multitude of other events statewide to share knowledge of noxious weed identification and management.

The Hemp Program began inspections of hemp grow sites. Program staff conducted 210 site visits and issued six civil penalty actions and inspections during the summer of 2020. This



was the first time that the Hemp Program had capacity to perform inspections and was pivotal to identifying the wider issues facing hemp growing operations, especially in southern Oregon.

The Hemp Program adopted new rules covering when a license is required, when those licenses are effective, and defined lab training requirements and how labs can report results. These rules were adopted to comply with requirements outlined by the USDA Hemp Program, created by the Federal 2018 Farm Bill.

New phytosanitary measures provide additional protection for Oregon agricultural products:

- Harmonization of Oregon's grapevine quarantine, along with Washington State and Idaho, creates more protection for Oregon's grape industry.
- Restrictions on imports of *Allium* species (onion, garlic, and ornamentals) safeguards the onion and garlic production fields from Allium leaf miner.
- Pre-notification requirement for imported Christmas tree material protects Oregon's Christmas tree industry, and natural forests, from unwanted destructive pests. Pest-free status is critical for the continued exportation of Oregon grown trees to key export markets such as Hawaii and Mexico.

The pandemic pushed collaboration within the plant programs in new ways:

- Weed program staff were re-assigned to the Hemp Program due to loss of lottery funds. This shift in resources prevented lay-offs and gave extra field assistance to the Hemp Program.
- Despite the diversion of weed staff time, federal projects were maintained and targets on high priority A-listed weed projects were still achieved.
- The IPPM Program experienced budget shortfalls, which made staffing field offices and on-boarding seasonal staff prohibitive. The program turned to other ODA program area staff, cooperators from other state agencies, and volunteers to help with deploying and collecting traps for the various pest surveys the program conducts annually. The program reported deploying over 20,000 traps during 2020 and 2021.

GOALS

- Look for new ways to work collaboratively to proactively reduce risk pathways of introduction of invasive pests into Oregon.
- Continue to improve outreach and communication with stakeholders.
- Support professional development for new and existing staff.

www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/Hemp

www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/IPPM

www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/NurseryChristmasTree

www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/PlantConservation

www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/Weeds

“

ODA, in cooperation with the public, industry, and universities, has worked to prevent 11 exotic species from establishing in Oregon. Many of these are important agricultural, forest, or ecological pests.

By responding quickly to customers and including valuable information, we want to help folks feel like they could be part of the solution.

Josh Vlach

**INSECT PEST PREVENTION &
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AUGUST 2019 – EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- **Seed Field Inspection Team**

Steve Finch, Barry Finley, Mandi Fraley, Robert Fredlund, Jeff Grant, Michael Grover, Erin Harding, Alex Herrera, Shannon Lane, Robin Ludy, Maria Marquez, Shawn Meng, Nathan Miller, Dipak Poudyal, Connie Williams, Mike Yoakum

- **Strategic Plan Implementation Team**

JANUARY 2020 – EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- **ODA Tribal Cultural Items Workgroup**

Jason Barber, Frank Barcellos, Liz Beeles, Amy Bingham, Colton Bond, Christina Higby, Joseph Harworth, Kim Hug, Joanna Kemper, Sabrina Martinez, Susanna Pearlstein, Steve Poland, Casey Prentiss, Helmuth Rogg, Gilbert Uribe, Andy Zimmerman

- **Hemp Program Team**

Randy Black, Gary McAninch, Josh Olson, Helmuth Rogg, Sunny Summers

AUGUST 2020 – EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Outstanding Work During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Jason Barber, Liz Beeles, Ted Bunch, Lisa Charpilloz-Hanson, Hillary Collinsworth, Lisa Hinman, Josh Nelson, Melissa Ney, Stephanie Page, Rusty Rock, Jonathan Sandau, Ryan Scholz, Namaan Smith, Isaak Stapleton, Sunny Summers

- **Commodity Inspection Group**

- **Weights & Measures Team**

Kurt Burns, Roy Cedillo, Brian Derrickson, Steve Eugenio, Brandon Parker, Allan Richardson, Emile Rivera, Gene Scott, Jese Terrusa, John Wagner

DECEMBER 2020 – EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- Sarah Beachy, Heather Hawes, Lauren Henderson, Kim Hug, Rose Kachadoorian, Ashley Kuenzi, Shannon Lane, Adrian Mendez, Rhonda Murray, Betsy Miller, John Wagner, Darcie Wentzel

- **Field Burning Team**

Jason Eck, Susanna Pearlstein, Elizabeth Savory, Casey Prentiss

- **Licensing Unit**

Michelle Bemis, Christina Helige, Kathy Pepler, Aronael Treva

- **Noxious Weed Program**

- **NRPA Process Management Team**

Marganne Allen, Heidi Dozier, Kevin Fenn, Christina Higby, Jeff Isler, Rose Kachadoorian, Ben Krahn, Wym Matthews, Mike Odenthal, Brittney Owen, Timindra Pratico, Toby Primbs, Andy Zimmerman

REAL OREGON GRADUATES

Nathan Miller, Certification Specialist (2019-20)
 Andrea Sonnen, Pesticides Enforcement/Case Reviewer (2019-20)
 Jake Bodart, IPPM Program Manager (2021-22)
 Theresa Deardeleben, Water Quality Specialist (2021-22)
 Theresa Yoshioka, International Trade Manager (2021-22)

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rose Kachadoorian, Pesticides Program Manager
President of the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), March 2019-March 2020. She served as president-elect for almost two years prior to her presidency.

Isaak Stapleton, Program Area Director
Leadership Oregon, 2019.

Kathryn Nelson, Fiscal Analyst for Administration
Leadership Oregon, 2020.

Alex Thomas, Office Manager for Market Access & Certification Programs and ODA Rules Coordinator
Portland State University, Executive Seminar Program Certificate, 2020.

Ryan Beyer, Compliance Specialist for Ag Water Quality Program
River Restoration Certificate from Portland State University, 2021.

MAY 2021 – PUBLIC SERVICE AMBASSADORS

Andrea Boyer, Fiscal Services Manager
 Christina Higby, Citizen Advocate and Tribal Liaison
 Rusty Rock, Food Safety Manager

PUBLICATIONS

Westcott, R. L., W. Williams, and A. Grotta. 2019. *The exotic Agrilus cyanescens (Ratzeburg) (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) is found in Oregon.* *Insecta Mundi* 0724: 1-5.

Mc Donnell, R.J., **J. J. Vlach**, I. Reich, and A. J. Colton. 2020. *Boettgerilla pallens* Simroth, 1912 (Boettgerillidae): A New Invasive Slug Species in Oregon, U.S.A. *American Malacological Bulletin.* 38(1):63-65

Kearns, Diana N. and Patrick C Tobin, 2020. *Oregon vs. the Gypsy Moth: Forty Years of Battling an Invasive Species*, *American Entomologist* (Fall 2020), Volume 66(3): 50-58.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ae/tmaa036>

Pinto, J. D., **R. L. Westcott**, R. Stouthamer and P. F. Rugman-Jones. 2020. *Phoretic relationships of the blister beetle Meloe (Meloe) strigulosus* Mannerheim (Coleoptera: Meloidae) from a coastal dune habitat in Oregon. *Transactions of the American Entomological Society* 146: 549–576.

LaBonte, J. R. 2021. *Identification of Siricidae of North America (north of Mexico).* Oregon Department of Agriculture.
<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/IPPM/KeyToSiricidaeOfNAmerica.pdf>

Ragozzino, M., Duan, J. & Salom, S. 2021. *Responses of two introduced larval parasitoids to the invasive emerald ash borer (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) infesting a novel host plant, white fringe tree: Implication for biological control.* Published in *Biological Control.*
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocontrol.2021.104672>.

Ragozzino, M., Duan, J. & Salom, S. 2021. *Interspecific Competition Between Idiobiont Larval Parasitoids of Emerald Ash Borer.* Published in the *Journal of Insect Behavior.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10905-021-09781-1>

ODA employees have been bolded.

KEY ISSUES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Led Oregon agriculture through numerous emergencies, natural disasters, and crises.**
- **Agriculture Channel Drainage Maintenance Program**
Learn more: <https://oda.direct/AgChannelMaintenance>
- **Eat Oregon Seafood promotion**
Learn more: EatOregonSeafood.com
- **Food Security and Farmworker Safety (FSFS) Project**
Built by ODA, administered through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. 228 producers, and 305 projects. Over \$1.85 million in direct payments to producers during the 2020 harvest season. Producers estimated 21,000+ farmworkers benefited from the enhanced safety measures.
- **Japanese Beetle Eradication**
Learn more: <https://www.japanesebeetlepx.info>
- **Microsoft 365 migration**
- **ODA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the CAFO Program**
The MOU delegates specific authorities from DEQ's Environmental Quality Commission to ODA to conduct the Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permitting and inspection operations necessary to maintain the state's Clean Water Act Response Program. The MOU also describes activities each agency will complete to ensure CAFO operations protect the environment for all Oregonians.
- **One ODA brand launch**
Learn more: <https://oda.direct/BrandGuide>
- **Pandemic response**
 - > Food Safety Playbooks for intergovernmental relations to secure the food supply chain.
 - > PPE distribution.
 - > Maintained services.

GOALS FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

- **Diversity, equity and inclusion**
 - > *Expand our outreach efforts and translation of materials to reach customers who speak languages other than English. Develop guidance for inclusive language use in ODA materials.*
 - > *Work to ensure that we have an inclusive workplace, including a focus on recruitment and retention.*
 - > *Implement the racial justice pilot project in the Food Safety Program.*
- **Implement critical agricultural initiatives**
 - > *Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Cost Share Program*
Learn more: <https://oda.direct/GMC>
 - > *Oregon Disaster Assistance Program*
Learn more: <https://oda.direct/ODAP>
 - > *Oregon Meat Initiative*
Learn more: <https://oda.direct/OregonMeatInitiative>
 - > *Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety (SPRS) Block Grant Program*
Learn more: <https://oda.direct/SPRS>
- **Improve customer experience**
 - > *Facilitate a hybrid business environment that allows customers to participate in-person or virtually.*
 - > *Be responsive to customers. Improve agency response time to customer requests via phone or email.*
 - > *Provide quality work products and services.*
 - > *Be adaptive as an agency.*
 - > *Initiate cross-program training for continuity of service delivery.*
- **Increase breadth and depth of outreach**
 - > *Create social media cards with translated options and alternative text for improved accessibility.*
 - > *Enhance community engagement resources through a budget package.*
 - > *Make staff available as content experts for outreach events.*
- **Invest in ODA staff**
 - > *Provide training resources (customer service, DEI, and more).*
 - > *Improve accessibility to internal job opportunities.*
 - > *Recognize exceptional performance.*