

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

House Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Communities

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued****Action:** Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference**Vote:** 8 - 0 - 0**Yeas:** Beyer, Gilliam, Krieger, Roblan, Schaufler, VanOrman, Wingard, Clem**Nays:** 0**Exc.:** 0**Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross and Beth Patrino, Administrators**Meeting Dates:** 4/2, 4/9, 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allocates funds to the Department of Human Services for use in voucher programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) recipients and low-income seniors to purchase fresh, Oregon-grown agricultural products from farmers' markets and roadside stands.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Purposes of the program
- Program benefits to both low-income seniors and farmers selling at farmers' markets and roadside stands

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon operates a farm-direct nutrition program to benefit low-income, nutritionally at-risk seniors (those receiving Medicaid and/or food stamps) and families with young children enrolled in the WIC program. Participants receive voucher "checks" good only for the purchase of locally-grown fresh fruits, vegetables and cut herbs at Oregon's farmers' markets and farm stands. Participating farms deposit or cash the checks at their own banks. The program runs from June 1st through October 31st each year.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.