

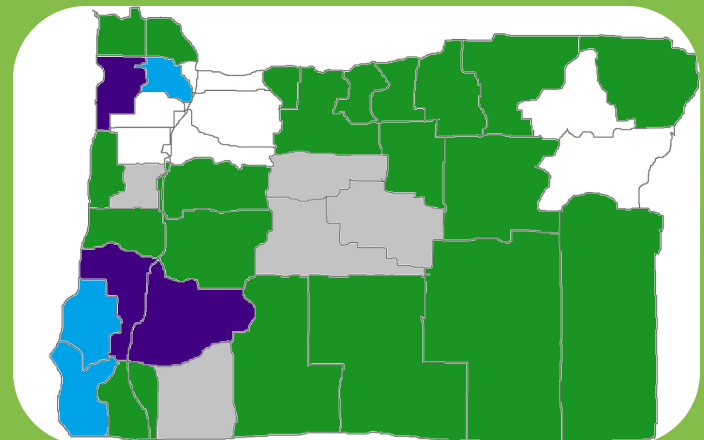
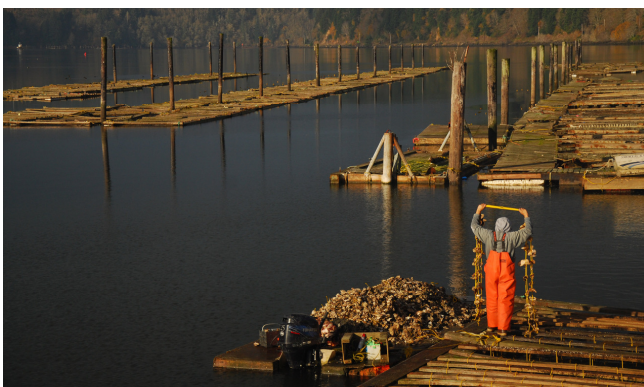
2013 Legislative
Session

The State of Our Community Food System

Community Food Assessments in Rural Oregon

In 2008 Oregon Food Bank (OFB) embarked on what has become a comprehensive statewide community food assessment project in partnership with the RARE AmeriCorps program at the University of Oregon. OFB is uniquely positioned to do this work- as an organization with a statewide focus and an interest in taking a holistic approach to solving the problems of food insecurity and access equitably across the state. Through this effort we've discovered the struggles of rural grocery stores and small food producers, as well as innovative interventions that model for other small and remote communities how to improve rural economic development and healthy food access.

To date, 13 Rural Community Food Assessments have been completed for counties throughout Oregon, with two more reports to be completed by July 2013. In each report, community members were encouraged to identify local community needs, existing resources and opportunities for improvement. The information generated has increased awareness of the state of community food systems across the state and represents a huge effort towards creating and sustaining healthy, resilient community food systems in Oregon's rural communities.



Complete • **Current** • **Planned 13-14**

OFB Food Assessment Project Facts

- 5 years
- 13 RARE AmeriCorps members;
18 placements
- 15 assessments completed by 2013
- 21 Oregon counties
- 21 FEAST events
- More than 1000 community members
engaged

Opportunities



The following are critical opportunities to support healthy, resilient food systems throughout Oregon, as identified by communities through the Community Food Assessment process:

Increase Healthy Food Access

- 🎯 Support the full funding of federal nutrition programs (SNAP, WIC, CACFP, School Meals and CSFP)
- 🎯 Support rural grocery stores for economic development and rural food security.

Support Small & Medium Sized Food Producers

- 🎯 Increase capacity for USDA livestock processing.
- 🎯 Provide funding and training opportunities for young and beginning farmers.
- 🎯 Promote local food as economic development.

Promote Food Literacy

- 🎯 Expand Farm to School programs to increase healthy food options in schools and provide gardening education to youth.
- 🎯 Increase awareness of community food systems through public education events film series, panel discussions, informational fairs, and summits.

Community Foods Organizing

- 🎯 Promote community foods organizing events, such as FEAST, state and nationwide.
- 🎯 Support completion of community food assessments for each county in Oregon.
- 🎯 Provide adequate follow-up support for CFAs and FEASTs.
- 🎯 Create a statewide network of food system organizations.

This information provides a framework for action to support community food systems in Oregon. As these efforts take hold, they will ensure that more people have access to healthy food, our farmers and fishers are adequately supported and that our food supply is resilient into the future, the knowledge of nutrition, cooking, and growing food is shared by all, and that communities are organized to create effective and successful community food systems.

