

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) POPs 215 and 115:

\$10 million for grants & \$800,000 for program administration

What is the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)?

OAHP helps farmers and ranchers protect and maintain or enhance conservation on working land.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) administers the program. Federal matching funds come from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (NRCS ACEP). In 2022, \$5 million in state funds leveraged \$6.7 million in matching federal funds.

OAHP funds 4 grant programs: working land conservation easements and covenants, conservation management plans and activities, succession planning education, and technical assistance for support organizations.

Last session's commitment of \$5M to the OAHP leveraged an additional

\$6.7M

in federal matching funds for Oregon in NRCS's Agricultural Land Easements program.



In Oregon, we are losing valuable farm and ranch land at an alarming rate.

OAHP can help preserve family farms.

Why is OAHP Important?

Between 2012 and 2017, Oregon lost 340,000 acres (an area 4 x the size of Portland) from production. These farm and ranch lands face pressures from low-density development, fragmentation, and rural landowner succession challenges.

OAHP helps Oregon leverage federal funds that we've left on the table for years. From 1996-2019, Oregon received only \$7.2 million in federal dollars, while tiny Rhode Island got \$43 million because they put \$36.6 million on the table.

OAHP supports agriculture, by paying landowners to protect their land from development, keep it in production, and implement practices that conserve natural resources - these efforts improve long-term farm and ranch viability and conservation.

OAHP benefits rural communities with dollars that recirculate in local economies.

64% of our working lands (10.45 million acres) will change hands over the next 20 years.

80% or more of Oregon farmers and ranchers do not currently have succession plans.



COLT Funding Request

To ensure this program's success now and in the future, a coalition of agricultural and conservation organizations urges you to support OWEB's funding request:

- **\$10M (POP 215)** for grants
- **\$800,000 (POP 115)** for administration for OAHP in the 2023-2025 budget.

PLEASE SUPPORT OWEB POPS 115 & 215 IN 2023