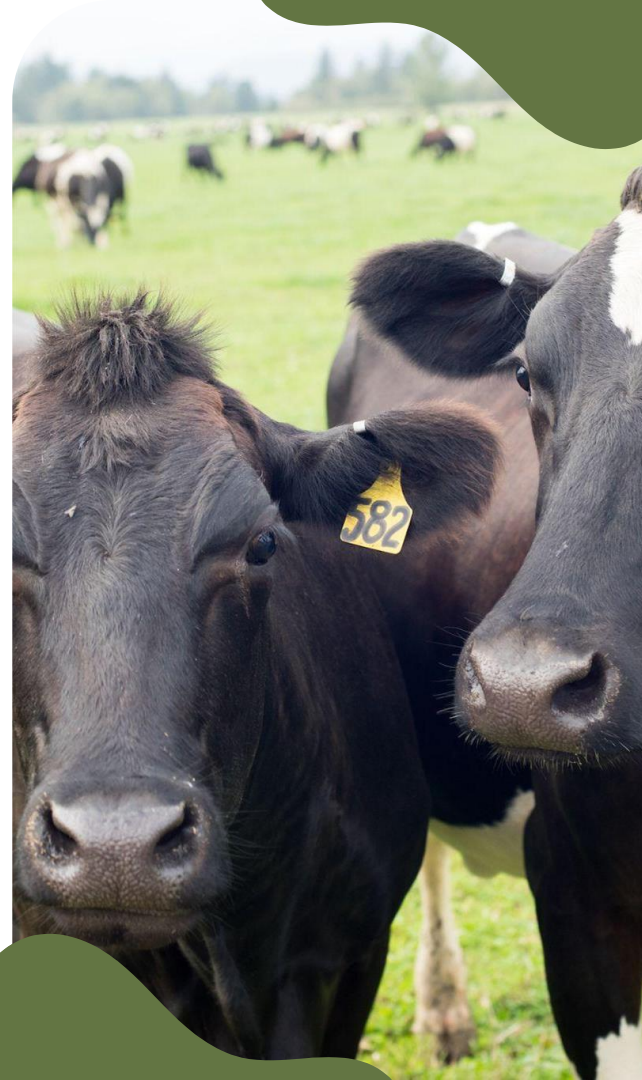


HB 2164

Crucial for the success of
livestock farmers



Friends of Family Farmers

Alice Morrison, Co-ED

Mike Guebert, OPN Director and owner of
Terra Farma (livestock farm in Corbett)



Brief History

Of the State Meat Inspection Program

Meat Processing in Oregon: Prior to State Meat Inspection Program



USDA Processing

Required for anyone looking to sell meat by the cut in any retail or to wholesale market. Only 9 facilities currently operate in the state and some of them are for in-house (contract) business only.

This severely limits options for small farms and new businesses in the state.



Custom Exempt

This is only acceptable for farms who choose to engage in “live animal share” sales, or when an animal is sold in bulk (whole, half, quarter) while alive and the customer becomes the owner prior to slaughter and processing. This is a great option for some but severely limits sales outlets and business models for livestock producers.

Legislative/Agency Action So Far



2020: Authorization

The Legislature authorized ODA to develop a State Meat Inspection Program in 2020. This program would be equivalent to USDA inspection for meat sold within state lines.



2022: USDA Cooperative Agreement

ODA presented its program and was certified by USDA as an acceptable state inspected alternative to USDA.



2021-2023: State investment

Oregon invested \$2M in the 2021 legislative session and \$9M in the 2023 legislative session in the Meat Processing Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grant Program at ODA.

Action Needed Now

Why HB 2164 is necessary



Our job is not done here

New Facilities are coming online

Facilities are opening their doors with the help of state investment

ODA needs more capacity

Inspectors must be present for certain parts of the slaughter process and ODA has identified this as a crucial need – ODA consulted to determine the appropriate FTE to request

New Positions not part of CSL

Because of constraints in the ability to ask for additional general funds, new positions were not possible in this program at ODA

Follow through for farmers

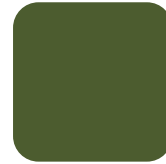
The State Meat Inspection Program has the potential to create so much opportunity for farmers – we must keep up the good work

Meat processing is different



**Meat Processing has
higher personnel
demands than other
food safety inspections**

Inspectors must be present for slaughter and most processing activities to occur. This is not a semi-annual inspection, this is constant oversight.



**Federal Match is
available**

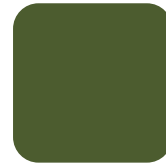
Positions at state meat inspection programs with cooperative agreements (like Oregon's) are eligible for a 50% match with federal funds, meaning that funding 2 FTE from the state will qualify ODA for an additional 1 FTE with USDA funds.

We need 2 FTE for inspectors at ODA



Phased in over the Biennium

HB 2164 requests 2 FTE-equivalent to be added across the biennium as more facilities come online.



Prioritizing areas without current coverage

HB 2164 will ensure producers all over the state have equal access to this infrastructure.



**Oregon's Farmers and Ranchers
need to bring their product to
market**

Farmers have known for decades



Driving 6-8 hours each way



Putting off business growth



Booking dates 12-18 months out



Squeezing new producers out



Seeking processing out of state (WA and ID)



Leaving community demand unmet



Perspectives from the Oregon Pasture Network

Thank you

Please support HB 2164

