



Oregon
Cattlemen's
Association



Oppose Duplicative and Harmful Legislation that Limits Local Food Production

SB 80 is an unnecessary and harmful policy that threatens the future of family farms and agricultural production in Oregon. It duplicates existing protections, undermines efforts to protect groundwater quality, and jeopardizes Oregon's local agriculture economy.

Background: In 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed SB 85, which extended and enhanced the state's water quality program for CAFOs. This legislation, implemented through rulemaking in 2024, expanded regulatory oversight on key issues, including water rights, construction sufficiency, animal safety for new permit applicants, and siting requirements along property boundaries. It also introduced tracking for nutrients applied off farms by non-permit holders. This extensive regulation is still in its early phases of implementation, and additional efforts from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) are underway.

Duplicative of Existing Protections:

SB 80 is unnecessary because it duplicates protections already established by SB 85 in 2023. These measures are still in the process of being implemented, addressing water quality and groundwater management concerns effectively.

Impact on Family Farms and Growth:

SB 80 would restrict family farms within Groundwater Management Areas from expanding to meet consumer demand. This could have detrimental effects on multi-generational family farms that rely on growth to stay competitive and sustainable.

Economic Consequences for Oregon Agriculture:

If passed, SB 80 will continue to drive more Oregon farms out of business, leading to a greater reliance on out-of-state agricultural production. This shift could increase consumer costs and the overall environmental footprint associated with bringing food to Oregonians.

Disregards Good Faith Efforts:

SB 80 ignores the comprehensive groundwater protections already in place and unfairly targets agricultural operations that are already making significant efforts to comply with the new regulations from 2023. This bill disregards the good faith efforts by dairies, feedlots, and other farms to comply with Oregon's evolving environmental standards.

Vote NO on SB 80