



Oregon Department of Agriculture

Environmental Justice Task Force

2018 Annual Report

March 1, 2019

Amira Streeter
Environmental Justice Task Force
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Re: Oregon Department of Agriculture 2018 EJTF Annual Report

Dear Governor's Office and Task Force Members,

On behalf of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, I want to thank the Environmental Justice Task Force and the Governor's Natural Resources Office for fostering a place to identify, address, and connect with others on environmental justice issues that intersect with the Department's activities.

In fulfillment of our annual reporting responsibilities under ORS 182.550, the Department respectfully submits our 2018 activities report. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Christina Higby at 503-986-5105 or chigby@oda.state.or.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexis M. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alexis" being the most prominent.

Alexis M. Taylor, Director
Oregon Department of Agriculture

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Oregon Revised Statute 182.550 requires natural resource agencies to submit an annual report to the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) and to the Office of the Governor on the results of the agencies' efforts to: (1) Address environmental justice issues; (2) Increase public participation of individuals and communities affected by agencies' decisions; (3) Determine the effect of the agencies' decisions on traditionally underrepresented communities; and (4) Improve plans to further the progress of environmental justice in Oregon.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA or Agency) is committed to addressing environmental justice issues and promoting public participation efforts related to the agency. ODA has policies and procedures in place to ensure it meets these efforts and supports progress on environmental justice. The following 2018 activities represent the agency's commitment to that effort:

ODA rolled out the first edition of its five-year Strategic Plan (2018-2023) in July 2018. The Strategic Plan lays out the objectives and tools needed to serve the changing needs of Oregon's diverse agricultural and food sectors. The agency's core values described in the Strategic Plan include a commitment to diversity and inclusion. Oregon, and Oregon agriculture in particular, is highly diverse, ranging from large to small, rural to urban, experienced to new producers, located in a wide range of geography and operated by people of many backgrounds, histories, cultures, and interests. Outreach efforts in 2018 to increase representation of Oregon's diversity in agriculture has positively impacted participation in our Boards and Commissions. Over the past few months, ODA programs have identified short-term, measurable strategies to implement the strategic plan, and will continue to do so over the next year. The strategic plan is available at <https://oda.direct/StrategicPlan>.

ODA has committed a Citizen Advocate and Liaison position to serve as the agency representative to the EJTF. ODA actively participates in the EJTF meetings to report agency related environmental justice (EJ) activities and inform the agency of EJ issues. In 2018, ODA created an EJ webpage that serves as a resource for interested parties and can be found at <https://oda.direct/EnvironmentalJustice>. The Citizen Advocate serves on the planning committee for Oregon's annual Diversity and Inclusion Conference which provides relative training and education to state employees. Additionally, the Citizen Advocate regularly attends the Governor's Diversity & Inclusion/Affirmative Action bi-monthly meetings and was an integral part in updating the agency's Affirmative Action Plan.

ODA has a designated Tribal Liaison. The role of this position is to inform and, when appropriate, consult with Oregon's nine (9) federally recognized tribes on ODA's activities. In September 2018, ODA's Citizen Advocate was assigned the Tribal Liaison duties. ODA staff are regularly provided with trainings and information to assist in improving good working relationships with tribal nations in Oregon. ODA's website has a dedicated Oregon Tribes webpage that provides resources and contact information for interested parties. Multiple ODA staff from all program areas work with tribal nations on a wide-range of

topics throughout the year. Some of these activities are captured in this report, however to see a full report of ODA's annual government-to-government activities please visit ODA's Oregon Tribes webpage at <https://oda.direct/Tribes>.

ODA directly supports and administers programs that benefit EJ communities. Among these programs is the Farm to School Program, which leverages public and private resources to bring more Oregon grown and processed foods to school children. ODA partners with the Department of Education's Farm to School Education Grants to deliver food, agriculture and nutrition to Oregon schoolchildren. In 2018, twenty-two (22) organizations were awarded education funds including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, environmental service organizations, school districts, and agriculture groups.

Although the FoodCorps, which is a national service program, is no longer hosted by ODA, the Agency continues to serve as a state advisor to FoodCorps Oregon. There are ten (10) FoodCorps service members serving nine (9) communities in Oregon. Service members work in low income and under-resourced schools teaching kids where their food comes from, how to grow it, and how to make healthy choices every day through school garden, environmental and nutrition education. ODA also participates in the Oregon Hunger Task Force which was established to end hunger before it begins by addressing root causes.

The Farm Direct Nutrition Program (FDNP), is jointly administered by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and ODA to provide eligible, low-income seniors and WIC (Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Nutrition Program) families with assistance to purchase fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables and cut herbs from authorized farmers selling directly to consumers. This provides an additional source of nutritious food and education on selecting and preparing fresh produce to qualifying recipients while supporting local farm stands and farmers' markets.

ODA staff volunteer their personal time to assist in repackaging food at a local foodbank. In 2018, a total of 167 volunteers spent 336 hours to repackage 27,152 pounds of food to feed those in need at the Marion Polk Food Share location. Additionally, ODA participates in the Governor's State Employee Food Drive, an annual event that collects non-perishable food items and monetary support that goes to help those in need in our state. In 2018, ODA employees donated 358 pounds of food and contributed \$5,536 to help support those in need.

ODA also has regulatory and consumer protection-related programs that may intersect with EJ communities:

The Weights and Measures Program (WMP) provides consumer protection, fair competition among businesses, and facilitates interstate commerce and international trade by assuring the accuracy of all licensed commercial weighing and measuring devices in Oregon. The WMP inspects approximately 60,000 devices in approximately 12,800 businesses each year which are used to weigh or measure an estimated \$107 billion of goods and products in

Oregon. This program also maintains custody of Oregon's mass and volumetric standards for measurement, which are used to provide precision calibration and traceability for Oregon's commercial weighing system. Calibration services are provided to over 141 private businesses annually in order to help strengthen Oregon industry's competitiveness.

The Motor Fuel Quality Program (MFQP) provides consumer protection by ensuring that the estimated 2.1 billion gallons of motor vehicle gasoline and diesel fuel sold in Oregon each year meet national standards for quality and comply with Oregon's Renewable Fuel Standard (10% ethanol in gasoline and 5% biodiesel in diesel fuel). Annually, inspectors screen approximately 3,600 samples of gasoline for octane levels, inspect 5,500 fuel storage tanks for excessive water and other contaminants, and pull approximately 120 official fuel samples that are tested at a private lab for state and national specification compliance.

The Insect Pest Prevention & Management (IPPM) Program works to protect Oregon's agriculture, horticulture, natural resources, and quality of life from invasive insect pests. In 2018, IPPM continued its' second year of the multi-year eradication program to combat the destructive Japanese Beetle (JB) found in Washington County. When the expansion of the treatment area was identified, outreach and education efforts were made to notify all households affected. From January to March, IPPM staff worked hard to inform residents and businesses in the treatment area about the importance of protecting Oregon from JB, as well as gather consent from residents to allow IPPM to treat the properties. To inform residents about the project, letters were mailed, notices were posted on doors, and articles were included in homeowner's association and industry newsletters. In addition, three open house events were held in collaboration with partner agencies and stakeholders in the area to provide residents and opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and have conversations about their concerns. Approximately 5,800 properties, 5 schools, 4 large parks, 2 shopping centers, and 1 golf course were treated, totaling 2,000 acres. Additional information about 2018 activities can be found in ODA's Plant Program's annual report can be found at <https://oda.direct/PlantAnnualReport>.

The Food Safety Program ensures food is safe for consumption and works with food establishments to prevent foodborne illness, which can be a particular concern in low-income and other EJ communities. Several studies (<https://consumerfed.org/pdfs/Child-Poverty-Report.pdf>; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3774461/>) have documented higher rates of foodborne illness; higher bacterial numbers in several food products; and an increase in food safety violations in high-poverty areas in the United States, underscoring the importance of regular food safety inspections in EJ communities to protect the public. The Food Safety Program remains committed to support its clients' diversity. In 2018, the Dairy Program translated the milk pasteurizer exam into Spanish and plans to translate other exams and study materials in the future. Additionally, a member from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission joined the Food Safety Advisory Committee.

On December 15, 2018 ODA deployed a team of 22 personnel to California following a request from California Office of Emergency Services to assist in the disaster recovery effort for the Camp Fire in Butte County California. ODA partnered with Washington, Josephine, and Jackson Counties as well as Oregon Humane Society, Rouge Valley Humane Society, Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the Oregon Veterinary Emergency Response Team to put together a veterinary and shelter management team for the care of the animals impacted by the fire. The team was deployed to the primary animal shelter that housed around 500 animals. They led the shelter's transition from and emergency operations to a long-term animal care focus. The Oregon team brought back a wealth of experience to share within Oregon at both the state and local levels to improve our state's readiness for animal related disasters.

Additionally, ongoing Food Safety Program activities that particularly benefit EJ communities include the following.

- ODA Food Safety Inspectors check expiration dates on certain products, including baby formula, during inspections to ensure they are not beyond the expiration date.
- The Food Safety program tracks the number of businesses whose preferred language is other than English. There are approximately 80 businesses where the operator prefers Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Burmese, Korean, or Russian. Many ODA food safety inspectors speak multiple languages, and inspectors provide educational assistance to all the firms they inspect to help them understand and meet food safety requirements.
- Some smaller convenience stores and markets, including those who serve EJ communities, may need extra assistance in proper food handling and storage, including keeping foods out of the temperature danger zone, handling and preparing food safely, and purchasing food from approved (licensed) sources. ODA provides this extra assistance when needed, with a focus on educating store managers and employees on strategies to comply with Oregon's food regulations.
- ODA commonly provides food recall information in several languages and tries to provide the information in a way that reaches affected businesses and consumers.

The Animal Health Program tracks livestock movement in and out of the state, establishes disease testing and vaccination requirements for interstate movement, conducts outreach and education about livestock disease prevention, and investigates reports of certain livestock diseases. Outreach and education materials are available in multiple languages. The program has especially focused on poultry producers, ranging from backyard poultry to large-scale poultry operations, providing information on how to prevent avian influenza and other serious avian diseases.

The Livestock Identification Program works to deny a market for stolen livestock through registration of brands and brand inspections. The program's brand application has been translated into Spanish, and the program communicates with customers who are more comfortable receiving written correspondences in Spanish.

The Natural Resource Program Areas aim to conserve, protect, and develop natural resources on public and private lands in order to ensure that agriculture will continue to be productive and economically viable in Oregon. Natural Resources Programs work to do the following: address water quality and natural resource conservation on agricultural lands; protect Oregon's environment and public health by ensuring the proper and legal sale, use, and distribution of pesticide products; and assist local soil and water conservation districts as they help landowners properly manage Oregon's natural resources. During a Natural Resources all staff meeting held in January, Michael Karnosh, Ceded Lands Program Manager with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde gave a presentation, "Consultation on Tribal Lands: History, Perspectives and Practices."

The Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Program is operated in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) under a Memorandum of Understanding and overseen by EPA. The program issues permits to qualifying CAFOs and provides inspection oversight to protect Oregon's water quality by preventing animal wastes from entering surface and ground water. The CAFO program has incorporated EJ outreach activities to the CAFO Notice and Public Participation checklist for use in all of its noticing activities. Additionally, the CAFO National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and public notice documents also have been translated into Spanish and are available online. The CAFO program also has native Spanish speaking staff to assist permittees and the public. In 2018, the CAFO Program Manager, Tribal Liaison, and Citizen Advocate provided regular updates to one of Oregon's federally recognized Tribes regarding a permitted CAFO with significant compliance concerns in their region of interest, and the Citizen Advocate and Liaison also provided regular updates to the EJTF regarding this operation.

The Smoke Management Program administers the rules for field burning in the Willamette Valley to reduce smoke impacts to populated areas in the interest of public health and welfare. Based upon the "Summary of the 2018 Field-Burning Season" document, there were a total of 15 days when burning was conducted during the 2018 season; four of the 15 days resulted in light impacts to municipalities. Nephelometers, which measure particulate in the air, are located in Carus, Detroit, Eugene, Lyons, Mill City, Portland, Salem, Silverton, Springfield, and Sweet Home. Lyons experienced four hours of light impact over three days. Mill City experienced four hours of light impact over three days. A total of 89 complaints were received for the season. During the 2018 season, there were several wildfires burning in the Pacific Northwest and California that impacted air quality in many populated areas throughout the state. The full report can be accessed at <https://oda.direct/FieldBurningSummary2017>.

Agricultural Water Quality Program staff have been working with multiple partners, including the Klamath Tribe, to address water quality concerns from agricultural activities adjacent to Klamath Lake. The Klamath Tribe has been participating as part of a technical team to evaluate water quality data around the lake to develop projects with local landowners. ODA staff met with the Klamath Tribe to discuss concerns regarding agriculture

in the Klamath Basin and water quality issues, including the agricultural water quality plan for the area. Water Quality staff participated in the Sucker Recovery Summit held in November with the Klamath Tribe. Additionally, Water Quality staff participated in the Within Our Reach Conference held in Salem in December that brings partners together to “explore the ecological, social, and cultural dimensions of river health, from restoring the habitat and connecting people to the river to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion within the Willamette River restoration movement.”

The Pesticide Program continues to increase efforts to reach and serve Spanish-speaking pesticide applicators and workers. The following are highlights of these efforts:

- Collaborated with OSU’s Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) to deliver Spanish-language handler training during a series of events targeting the nursery industry, and other events open to anyone wishing to attend.
- Continued WPS handler trainings and presentations to diverse audiences.
- Participated in discussions with Oregon Law Center and Oregon Employment Department to develop methods for providing pesticide safety outreach to Spanish speaking agricultural workers.
- An ODA staff member is on the general advisory committee and the bilingual subcommittee for the development of OSU’s Solve Pest Problems resource, which aims to reduce the impacts of pests and pest management practices on people and the environment in non-agricultural settings. The resource will be rolled out in both English & Spanish.
- Actively participated in events and workshops throughout the state that emphasize minority groups to provide outreach and education about pesticide safety and pollinator protection.
- Provided an ODA Laws & Safety update via an OSU webinar designed to reach 27 cities, including many in rural areas.
- Continued participation on the Oregon Bee Project steering committee conducting pesticide and pollinator outreach in English and Spanish, and development and translation of printed resources addressing pesticide and pollinator topics.

The Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC) is mandated to collect pesticide-related incident information and coordinate in making appropriate referrals to PARC member agencies. PARC contracts with 211info to provide a 24-hour hotline to receive pesticide-related calls. The hotline provides assistance to customers with access to an interpreter service with more than 140 languages.

ODA will continue to make improvements to its processes by increasing knowledge and understanding about environmental justice issues that intersect with our agency. ODA welcomes any feedback that could help support these efforts.