



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

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Agriculture
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Environmental Justice Council

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

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December 14, 2022

EJ Council
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Sent via email: EJ.Council@oregon.gov

Re: Oregon Department of Agriculture Environmental Justice Council 2021 & 2022 Report

Dear Governor's Office and Council Members,

The Oregon Department of Agriculture appreciates the Environmental Justice Council (EJC) members expertise and guidance and looks forward to continued collaboration on environmental justice issues that intersect with the Department's activities. With the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters through 2021 and into 2022, ODA staff utilized adaptive skills to ensure communication and support to community partners, sister agencies, advocate groups and businesses continued to flow so that assistance could be provided where needed, and voices could be equitably heard and considered. In fulfillment of our annual reporting responsibilities under ORS 182.550, the Department respectfully submits our 2021 and 2022 activities report. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Christina Higby at 503.510.4907 or christina.higby@oda.oregon.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Henderson", written in a cursive style.

Lauren Henderson, Acting Director
Oregon Department of Agriculture



Oregon Department of Agriculture staff photo 2019

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, Agency or Department) is committed to addressing environmental justice issues and promoting public participation efforts related to the Department. ODA has policies and procedures in place to meet these efforts and supports progress on environmental justice. The following combined 2021 and 2022 activities represent the Department's effort:

ODA's five-year Strategic Plan (2018-2023) continues to guide the Department towards

fulfilling our role to serve the changing needs of Oregon's diverse agricultural and food sectors. The Department'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. Continued outreach efforts to increase representation of Oregon's diversity in agriculture has positively impacted participation on our Boards, Committees and Commissions. ODA continues to adapt how to deliver clear, accurate, and practical information to Oregon's diverse public and implement the agency's core values around diversity, equity, and inclusion. The methods and means people receive information continue to grow along with the variety of services provided by the department. In the 2023-2025 agency request budget, ODA has requested two (2) positions: an Agency Equity Officer and a communications position, plus resources to

accomplish ODA's inclusive communication key objective and update the agency's strategic plan. The strategic plan is available at <https://oda.direct/StrategicPlan>.

As a member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), ODA acknowledges the necessity of adapting to a changing climate to protect and enhance our nation's natural resources, while also building a resilient agricultural industry and food supply chain. ODA continues work to identify and support efforts on climate resiliency within the agricultural sector. In 2022, ODA submitted a proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities Grant which focused on soil health with an emphasis on EJ outreach. ODA also continues to participate in the Oregon Global Warming Commission's Natural and Working Lands Workgroup and the US Climate Alliance's Natural and Working Lands Policy Workgroup.

As a member of the State of Oregon's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan Committee, ODA's Director Taylor helped to create a roadmap for state agencies and employees to embrace diversity, identify inequities, and improve inclusiveness within state government. Additionally, ODA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee has been working towards creating accountability, provide direction and oversight on DEI efforts, and communicate agency-wide on their progress. The committee is working towards integrating DEI goals and strategies within the Department's strategic plan. The Department continues its work to focus on DEI in its programs. The Department's DEI Committee has provided support to programs in improving preferred language access in both written and verbal communications as well as the use of gender inclusive language. The committee has also conducted the first annual agency DEI survey in 2022 to help identify current knowledge and understanding of DEI. The survey will be used to identify committee focus areas and track trends over time. A dedicated internal web platform provides employees with resources on DEI and the staff directory now includes an in-house translation page to identify ODA staff who can help to remove language barriers to serve our diverse customer needs.

ODA's DEI Committee also works with the Cultivating Change Foundation to increase awareness of the needs of LGBTQ+ people in Oregon agriculture. The Cultivating Change Foundation is a national

organization with the mission of valuing and elevating LGBTQ+ agriculturists through advocacy, education and community. Work with Cultivating Change has included a member presenting to the Oregon Board of Agriculture as well as the collegiate chapter at Oregon State University (OSU) presenting to the Board of Agriculture about what they are doing for up-and-coming members of the agricultural community. ODA has also supported regional gatherings of the Cultivating Change Foundation since it was established in 2015. At the October 2022 Cultivating Change Summit, ODA was awarded an Agriculture Influencer Award. This award honors great agriculture companies and organizations who are committed to impacting the agriculture industry through intentional diversity and inclusion efforts and for their support of LGBTQ+ agriculturists.

ODA participates on the planning committee for Oregon's annual Diversity and Inclusion (DEI) Conference, which provides relative training and education to state employees. Because of ongoing concerns with COVID, the DEI Conference continued to be held virtually, allowing an increase in participants to attend. ODA continues to review and translate documents into Spanish and other languages, many examples of which are provided in program area updates. ODA is also looking at ways to reach out and promote the rich diversity of Oregon's agricultural producers.

ODA has a Citizen Advocate and Liaison position to serve as the agency representative to the EJC. ODA actively participated in Oregon's Environmental Justice meetings to report agency related environmental justice (EJ) activities and inform the Department of EJ issues. The Citizen Advocate regularly communicates with EJC members on the Department's activities to share with interested parties and seeks guidance from members on outreach work. ODA's website has a dedicated **Environmental Justice webpage** with resources and contact information for internal and external parties interested in ODA's EJ work. ODA provided a letter during the 2021 Legislative Session on Senate Bill 286 Environmental Justice Task Force to express ODA's appreciation for the work that the Task Force has done in elevating environmental justice issues within the state of Oregon and providing guidance and support to assist state agencies on this topic. The Citizen Advocate periodically participates in EJ related trainings when possible. Trainings participated in 2021 include Black Farmer Justice:

Past, Present, and Future through the Organic Trade Association; and the Mesoamerican Languages in Oregon (June 2021). Trainings in 2022 included EPA's EJ Mapping Tool discussion.

ODA's Citizen Advocate also serves as ODA's 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. The Citizen Advocate works with ODA staff to maintain 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 is continuing to identify ways to support Oregon's tribal nations that intersect with the Department's work. ODA provides a letter to each of the nine federally recognized tribes on an annual basis that is comprised of planned activities for the coming year to offer more meaningful engagement and consultation opportunities. ODA also created a path for Oregon's tribes to be informed of records ready for destruction prior to their permanent removal. ODA is part of the Tribal-State Water Task Force created in 2022 to identify and collaborate on ways state government and Oregon Tribes can work on water related issues in the state.

In 2021 ODA hosted USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and Governor Kate Brown for a grower's roundtable to hear about impacts from drought, heat, and other natural disasters. The table represented Oregon's agricultural community including tribal farmers, BIPOC farmers, Hispanic farmworkers, and generational farm families. The challenges of access to disaster programs lead to changes in federal programs and a first ever state-level Oregon Disaster Assistance Program (ODAP). ODAP was legislatively authorized in 2021 and distributed approximately \$20 million in assistance. Early data indicated nearly 30% of recipients are 'historically underserve' producers, who were eligible for an enhanced assistance payment.

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

The **Natural Resources Program Area** aims to conserve, protect, and develop natural resources



Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Program

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.

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 issue 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 MOU was finalized in 2021 and incorporated several practices that were adopted by policy, including a two-step permitting process for large facilities, more interagency coordination on issues like water supply, and more intensive monitoring requirements for facilities that land apply manure in groundwater management areas. The CAFO program continued to conduct EJ outreach activities on all of its noticing activities including the proposed update to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit in 2021 and Easterday Dairy (formally Lost Valley Farms) no animal CAFO clean-up permit. Additionally, the CAFO NPDES Permit, Water Pollution

Control Facilities (WPCF) Permit, and public notice documents have been made available in Spanish. After receiving increased inquiries about new proposed Poultry CAFO applications in 2021 and 2022, ODA created a **Poultry CAFO Information website** that includes a frequently asked questions (FAQs) section and provides up-to-date information on where the applications are at in the permitting process. A Poultry CAFO Workgroup was also formed in 2022 to discuss the matter and provide recommendations to Oregon's Senate on Natural Resources and Wildfire. The CAFO program has native Spanish speaking staff to assist permittees and the public. The CAFO public hearings and CAFO advisory meetings continued to be held virtually throughout 2021 and 2022 with a plan to maintain for increased accessibility to those who are unable to participate in person.

ODA assisted DEQ/EQC in responding to a CAFO Dairy Air Quality rule making petition. The petition asked the agency to review/permit CAFO air quality impacts that also affect EJ communities and tribes. Though the EQC ultimately denied the petition, the agencies continue to work on understanding CAFO air quality impacts and emerging scientific air quality data and literature.

The **Agricultural Water Quality Program** is responsible for developing plans and ensuring rule compliance to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities and soil erosion on rural lands. ODA is also responsible for ensuring that farmers and ranchers help achieve water quality standards. The Agricultural Water Quality Program initiated two key efforts in 2021: (1) reallocation of resources to the Sprague River watershed to address Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Klamath Basin and the Klamath Tribes water quality concerns and (2) working in partnership with the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) to explore ways to advance work and relationships under the theme of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) with the **45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)** around the state. Existing work on **Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA)** in the Sprague watershed is being enhanced by the development and implementation of a more thorough communication plan to build trust and understanding amongst landowners, tribes, and other partners, and achieve water quality protection and riparian restoration on the ground. ODA has joined the SWCC Chair in opening conversations with the Environmental Justice Task Force and Oregon State University Extension staff with expertise in JEDI; and presented at the Legislative



Agricultural Water Quality Program

Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) Cultural Resources Cluster, and Natural Resources Workgroup.

SWCDs promote and educate conservation practices that incorporate climate resiliency, adaptation, and mitigation measures. The Water Quality program filled positions held open due to COVID-related budget shortages and general turnover, added a dedicated staff member for the Klamath Lake area, and hired a new SIA Specialist. Water Quality staff continued monitoring adjacent to Klamath Lake to address water quality concerns from agricultural activities. The Klamath Tribes are a part of a technical team to evaluate water quality data around the lake and develop projects with local landowners.

Upper Klamath Lakes Phosphorus Reduction Project and Monitoring Collaborative efforts between ODA, landowners, the Klamath Tribes, conservation partners, and state and federal agencies led to an estimated 72 percent reduction in phosphorus loading from agricultural pumps around Upper Klamath Lake from 2018-2021. The reduction was even greater in 2022. ODA water quality and quantity monitoring has captured this change.

Water quality staff continued work to address how to improve water quality conditions in the Ten Mile Lakes area of Coos County. A series of meetings with multiple partners including the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, Ten Mile Lakes Watershed Council, Coos Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality, and others were part of the process to determine the best course of action. ODA plans to establish a SIA in the Ten Mile Lakes area within the next two to five years. Other partners in the group wanted to work on restoration, conservation easement, and acquisition projects prior to implementing a SIA. The Water Quality Program continues to seek tribal membership on Local Advisory Committees (LACs). LAC members provide a high level of citizen involvement and support in the development, implementation, and biennial review of the Area Plan and Area Rules.

The **Pesticide Program** regulates the sale, use and distribution of pesticide products in Oregon to protect people and the environment from adverse effects of pesticide use while maintaining the availability of pesticides for beneficial uses. ODA recognizes the importance of protecting pesticide applicators and workers from pesticide exposure. ODA continues to provide trainings and translate documents including advisories in Spanish and work with partner agencies to conduct outreach and education. Among those translated include disinfectants for COVID, pesticide advisories, and pesticide rulemaking notifications. Pesticides advisories are sent out periodically to inform licensed pesticide applicators and operators about regulations and changes to the program including reminders about pesticide use near schools and childcare facilities. In 2022, a School Intergraded Pest Management (IPM) Pest Emergency fact sheet was created to help school officials better understand regulations around the use of pesticides in schools. Also in 2022, ODA investigators attended and presented on the school IPM law at all OSU sponsored IPM Coordination trainings in Oregon. School IPM Coordinators are required to complete training every year. Lastly in 2022, a contract was developed with an external translating service to allow staff to be able to access a translator for many different languages either on demand or to set up a meeting at a later time.

The **Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (PSP)** works with a diverse group of stakeholders including watershed councils, local landowners, soil and water conservation districts, tribal governments and state agencies to identify potential concerns and improve water quality affected by pesticide use around Oregon. It leverages water quality sampling results to encourage voluntary changes in pesticide use and management and work towards measurable environmental improvements, making Oregon waters safer for aquatic life and humans. Every year,



Insect Pest Prevention & Management (IPPM) Program

pesticide collection events are hosted around the state to remove unused and unwanted pesticides, helping to prevent the risk of spills and leaks to ground and surface waters. In early 2021, the **2017-2019 PSP Biennial Report** showed a decrease in pesticide levels in most watersheds monitored across Oregon. The findings are based on more than 1,000 surface water samples collected and analyzed for 129 pesticide compounds.

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 through access to an interpreter service with more than 140 languages.

Pesticide Registration: ODA registers pesticide products for use in Oregon. In 2021 ODA received and responded to a petition by a non-profit group (Beyond Toxics) to restrict pesticide products containing 2,4-D and Triclopyr BEE in combinations totaling 33% or greater. ODA in-turn committed to conducting an internal review of enforcement case data, trends, and labeled uses and engage with stakeholders to discuss the information and possible paths forward.

The **Insect Pest Prevention & Management (IPPM) Program** works to protect Oregon's agriculture, horticulture, natural resources, and quality of life from invasive insect pests. 2022 marks the sixth year of

IPPM's multi-year eradication program to combat the destructive Japanese Beetle (JB) found in Washington County. From January to March, IPPM staff work 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. Overall, the treatment area has reduced from previous years, but new treatment areas have emerged, including downtown Lake Oswego. From April to August, ODA treated close to 8,700 properties in the approximate 3,500 acre planned treatment area. In the summer of 2022, the emerald ash borer (EAB), an exotic beetle that infests ash trees was discovered in Oregon. This is a destructive pest that has been detected in 35 other states and threatens to decimate the ash tree population in Oregon. The state is using the **Emerald Ash Borer Readiness and Response Plan for Oregon** as a guide to respond to EAB.

The **Native Plant Conservation Program** is tasked with leading the protection and regulation of threatened and endangered (T&E) plants in Oregon. The program is responsible for maintaining Oregon's Threatened and Endangered Plant List, regulating and avoiding impacts to T&E plants, and developing plans to help recover T&E plants. In 2021 and 2022, the program used a DEI lens to create a Stakeholder Group that encompasses a diverse representation and provides unique perspectives into its work.

ODA's **Noxious Weed Control Program** mission is to protect Oregon's natural resources and agricultural economy from invasive noxious weeds. The Noxious Weed Control Program staff coordinate noxious weed control efforts with stakeholders and land managers that include federal, state, county, Tribal, and private entities statewide.

In cooperation with OWEB, the ODA Noxious Weed Control Program and Oregon State Weed Board provide about \$3 million in funding to cooperators in Lottery Funded noxious weed control grants and \$450,000 of general fund grants that go to cooperator noxious weed control grants. These grants help to enhance and protect fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, water quantity and overall watershed health.

Program staff are also implementing integrated noxious weed control projects that includes active control using herbicides of A- rated weeds that are of limited distribution are under eradication. Many of the state listed B-rated weeds are biological control targets, where natural enemies are researched and approved for



Noxious Weed Control Program

release. ODA staff lead these efforts in coordination with cooperators introduce and collect and redistribute weed biocontrol agents. The Noxious Weed Control Program staff also actively provide technical assistance and education and outreach to stakeholders on integrated noxious weed management.

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. The Food Safety Program remains committed to support its clients' diversity. ODA continued conversations with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to address unlicensed food processors that sell processed fish along the Columbia River and find a path towards compliance. Additionally, ODA is requesting additional resources in the 2023-2025 budget process for the Food Safety Program (FSP) to conduct an analytical review of facility compliance history to determine if inequities are consistent with potential biases in the Oregon food safety regulations. This review will provide FSP with information necessary to move forward on eliminating cultural and/or systemic inequities while continuing to ensure all Oregonians have safe food. ODA will begin planning to engage with Tribal, BIPOC and immigrant-owned and operated business



Food Safety Program

to determine what additional tools are needed to support these communities.

ODA's Shellfish Program conducts monthly water quality monitoring testing on 7 estuaries between Tillamook Bay and Coos Bay. The marine biotoxin monitoring tests mussels, razor clams and crab throughout the year along Oregon's Coast for domoic acid and paralytic shellfish toxins. Each of these programs collect and test over 500 samples in a year. The Shellfish Program is moving to provide QR codes on all shellfish area closure signs that will provide this critical public health information in multiple languages including Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean. The QR codes will be able to be scanned by any smart phone so that they have instant translation of an area closure.

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. In 2022, the **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** was detected in several areas around Oregon. ODA detects and quarantine areas where positive detections occur and takes steps to prevent its spread. The Animal Health program has also been working on developing a program-specific implementation of the agency's strategic plan, with particular focus on inclusion of historically under-represented community partners in the program's activities. Additional related work includes a strategic communication plan with the goal of reaching and engaging all livestock producers in Oregon with disease prevention information, placing emphasis on historically under represented community partners.

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 **Market Access, Certification and Inspections Programs** address the development and marketing needs of Oregon's agricultural industries to promote and create demand for Oregon agricultural products in local, domestic, and international markets through trade and business development activities; provide third party inspection and certification services that add value to products by making them more marketable; and conduct field surveys and provide laboratory testing of seed and plant material to detect pests and diseases.

ODA continued to use an equity lens in the selection of **Specialty Crop Block Grants (SCBGP)** and Farm to School Infrastructure Grants applicants during their review process, making an emphasis on considering woman or Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-owned business, veterans and socially disadvantaged farmers as a priority. Grants approved through SCBGP included Oregon



Market Access Program

Master Beekeeper Training for Spanish-Speaking Beekeepers, Growing Oregon's Asian Herb and Vegetable Production Systems, and Grandma's Hands Future for Family Health in 2021 and expanding local farm-direct market for fresh produce from Latinx farmers to food-insecure families and Expanding and Developing BIPOC Specialty Crop Farm Businesses and Markets in 2022. The Farm to School Program works to connect Oregon farmers, ranchers, seafood harvesters, and food processors with school cafeterias, early childcare centers, and summer meal sites. This enables more Oregon agricultural products to be served in the lunch line. It also helps connect youth to food production through school gardens, field trips to farms and ranches, and grower visits to the classroom. Farm to School programs: serve locally grown, raised, harvested or processed foods in school cafeterias; improve student nutrition; provide agriculture, health, and nutrition education opportunities; and support Oregon's agricultural economy. ODA partners with the Oregon Department of Education to implement the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Program.

In 2021 ODA participated in the selection of 10 Oregon food beverage women entrepreneurs for the first National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Women's Farm2Food Accelerator program which "help support women

running small businesses to grow their operations, develop new business strategies and increase their competitiveness in new markets.” Additionally, Produce Safety has continued to offer Produce Safety free, online grower training classes for all growers since 2020 to the present day. Free, online classes increase the accessibility of meeting the Produce Safety Rule requirement that one person from every farm subject to the rule attend a recognized training class. ODA initiated the development of a virtual roadmap for small to midsize businesses associated with the production and sales of food and beverages, focusing outreach on minority and women owned businesses. The purpose of the roadmap is to provide resources that companies could use to help improve and expand their businesses.

The **Hemp Program** ensures that hemp growers, hemp handlers, and agricultural hemp seed producers are registered and that pre- and post-harvest testing of hemp and hemp products are conducted as required by Oregon hemp statutes and regulations. As hemp and marijuana production increased, so did its labor market. In September 2021, ODA promoted and participated in a “Labor Laws Forum for Oregon Hemp Industry Growers and Contractors” that focused on the rights of farm laborers working in the hemp industry. Concerns around illegal grow sites, poor working conditions, and illegal water diversions increased dramatically in the past few years, particularly in Southern Oregon. With the help of legislation, State agency partners worked with state and local law enforcement personnel to coordinate responses to illegal grow operations. In 2022, ODA hosted an Agricultural Housing webinar for the cannabis (hemp and marijuana) community. Additionally, ODA received eight (8) additional staff to help manage the Hemp Program during the 2021 legislative session.

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. In 2021, field burning occurred on 14 days, with only 5,294 of the allocated 14,890 acres burned. Impacts to municipalities were recorded on two days. Nephelometers, which measure particulates in the air, are located in Carus, Detroit, Eugene, Lyons, Mill City, Portland, Salem, Silverton, Springfield, and Sweet Home. The nephelometer in Detroit recorded one hour of light impact on one day of burning. On the second day in which impacts were recorded, the Lyons nephelometer recorded one hour of light impact. A



Weights and Measures Program

total of 59 complaints were received during the 2021 field burning season. In 2022, field burning occurred on 25 days, with 10,012 acres of the allocated 14,895 acres burned. Impact to municipalities were recorded on five days. A total of 57 complaints were received during the 2022 field burning season.

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 70,000 devices in approximately 15,000 business locations each year. WMP activities impact nearly all of the State’s economy through the testing of commercial weighing and measuring equipment and the maintenance and enforcement of standards for both packaged products sold at wholesale and retail and nearly all of the transportation fuels sold. 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.



Motor Fuel Quality Program

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 ODA REGULATORY LABORATORY PROGRAM

ODA’s Regulatory Laboratory Program provides laboratory chemistry and microbiology analysis for ODA in the areas of food, dairy, shellfish, foliage, soil, fertilizer, pesticides, water, and various food products destined for domestic and international markets. Throughout the year, many of the samples received by the Lab for testing purposes are directly related to potential human health issues.

THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING PROGRAM (COOL)

Designated retailers are federally mandated to

notify their customers of the country(ies) of origin and methods(s) of production (wild or farm raised-as applicable) of covered commodities. Covered commodities include muscle cuts of lamb, chicken, and goat; ground lamb, ground chicken, and ground goat; wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish; perishable agricultural commodities; macadamia nuts; pecans; ginseng; and peanuts. The USDA contracts with ODA to perform COOL audits of several food retailers each year for compliance.

THE WOLF DEPREDATION GRANT PROGRAM

ODA provides pass-through grants to 17 qualified county wolf advisory committees. These county committees can then distribute compensation to persons who suffer loss or injury to livestock or working dogs as a result of wolf depredation and provide financial assistance to persons who implement livestock management and/or nonlethal wolf deterrent techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock.

ODA will continue to make improvements to its processes by increasing knowledge and understanding about environmental justice issues that intersect with the Department. ODA greatly appreciates the EJ members expertise and welcomes any feedback that could help support these efforts.