

Friday, January 23, 2026



Weekly Update

Cultivate Northwest, our associated 501(c)3

Did you know that OFS contracts our expertise to a non-profit, Cultivate Northwest? [Cultivate Northwest](#) is dedicated to bridging innovation and stewardship for land managers across the Pacific Northwest through practical, science based projects and education on land management tools. Over the past year, Cultivate Northwest has reached more than 1,200 applicators through core pesticide continuing education, delivered hands-on *Bulletins Live! Two* trainings, and convened producers with state and federal partners to support local implementation of EPA's new Endangered Species Act pesticide requirements.

In 2025, with financial support from agricultural stakeholders, Cultivate Northwest contracted with a consulting firm, Compliance Services International, to refine the species range of the endangered Streaked Horned Lark. Using documented sightings and suitable habitat information, the project narrows the range map to where the species is most likely to occur. The resulting draft map reduces the proposed range from nearly 4 million acres in the Willamette Valley and southwestern Washington to under 300,000 acres—substantially narrowing where rodenticide restrictions might be applied on agricultural and other working lands. Over the coming months, we will finalize the refined range map and submit it to EPA for formal review and approval.

Want to get involved? [Sign up for our quarterly newsletter](#) for more detailed project updates. You

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[OFS Website](#)

[Oregon State
Legislature](#)

[Oregon Department
of Agriculture](#)

[Bulletins Live! Two](#)

[Cultivate Northwest](#)

Upcoming Events

[Dunn Carney Ag
Summit](#)

February 6, 2026
Salem, OR

[SSGWO Annual
Meeting](#)

February 10, 2026
Albany, OR

can also follow us on social media ([Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)), or make a tax-deductible donation to support our work. Together, we can equip farmers, foresters, and other land stewards to protect natural resources while sustaining productive working lands.



Oregon Vegetation
Management
Association
[2026 Conference](#)
February 17-19
Seaside, OR

**Send us
details about
your event!**

JOIN US
SECURE OREGON'S FUTURE

Join our natural resource member-based coalition of agriculture, forestry, and professional applicators today!
ofsonline.org

PAC

MODERN TOOLS. HEALTHY LANDSCAPES.

Oregonians for Food & Shelter **advocates for the importance of pesticides, fertilizers, and biotechnology** in Oregon's natural resource sectors.

Contribute to the OFS PAC (Political Action Committee) to help us elect candidates who understand the need for modern tools and technologies that ensure food and fiber security.

**Would you like
us to speak at
an event?**

Send us an email!
info@ofsonline.org

Cheers, and have a great weekend,

Katie, Dani, Diann & Delani





Dunn Carney 2026

Ag Summit February 6th

Register now for the 2026 Dunn Carney Ag Summit

Dunn Carney's Ag Summit returns to the Salem Convention Center in February. Join us for a half-day conference featuring ag industry leaders from around the region and members of Dunn Carney's Ag Team. Enjoy a morning of lively panel discussions and presentations covering recent regulatory developments, legal issues, and best practices in the agriculture industry. Complimentary breakfast and lunch are provided. Plan to stay and reconnect with friends and colleagues.

There is no cost to attend.

Check-in is from 7:30-8 am, with the program and lunch following.

Secure your spot now at:
DunnCarney.com/agsummit2026



Oregon Women in Timber seeks Talk About Trees Program Coordinator

Who We Are

Oregon Women in Timber (OWIT) is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to forest resource education. Founded in 1978, the organization has grown to over 200 members throughout the state.

Talk About Trees (TAT) is OWIT's award winning forestry education program. Since 1991, the TAT program has been offered to Oregon schools at no cost. Facilitators visit schools, providing hands-on education. TAT topics include Tree Identification, Forest Health, Forest Products, Paper Making, and Forest Careers.

Position Summary

The TAT Program Coordinator is responsible for maintaining the integrity of TAT curriculum and teaching materials, as well as managing the facilitators who present the program. The TAT Program Coordinator represents TAT at professional events and serves as the statewide contact and reports to OWIT's Executive Director.

[For more information and to apply...](#)



Oregon Business & Industry is hiring!

Oregon Business & Industry (OBI), Oregon's statewide chamber of commerce, is hiring for three positions. Please see positions and links below.

OBI works to strengthen Oregon's economy to achieve a healthy, prosperous and competitive Oregon for the benefit of present and future generations. OBI realizes this mission through advocacy, education, research and political action.

In addition to serving as Oregon's statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is Oregon's affiliate for both the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation.

[Administrative Assistant and Board Liaison](#)

[Policy Director](#)

[Project Manager](#)



ODA Now Accepting 2026 International Year of the Women Farmer Nominations

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is pleased to join partners at all levels in celebrating the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF) 2026.

Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2024, the IYWF highlights a global commitment to empowering and recognizing women in agriculture.

“Help us celebrate Oregon women in agriculture,” said ODA Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson. “Share stories about their inspiration, the challenges they face, and the benefits of supporting female farmers and their contributions to our resilient agriculture and food systems. Send us your stories, and we will help raise awareness of the achievements of women in Oregon agriculture.”

[Read more here...](#)



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

In the News

Gov. Tina Kotek taps Oregon's next forest boss

(OPB)

January 22, 2026

Kacey KC would lead an agency that manages 745,000 acres of Oregon forestland.

Gov. Tina Kotek has chosen Oregon's next top forestry executive. If approved by the Senate, Kacey KC would be the first woman to permanently lead the Oregon Department of Forestry.

KC has worked in forestry for more than two decades, most recently as the boss of the Nevada Division of Forestry. She was tapped as the President of the National Association of State Foresters in 2023.

“While I am not from Oregon, my experience at both the national and state level equips me to deepen key relationships while leading and supporting the strong work and mission of the Department,” KC said in a statement Thursday.

Kotek tapped KC for the job after state forester Cal Mukumoto resigned in January 2025 amid rising wildfire costs and controversy over multiple workplace conduct investigations into state employees. Kate Skinner, a longtime Tillamook district forester, served as the interim forester after Mukumoto’s resignation.

KC would lead an agency that manages 745,000 acres of Oregon forestland, including by helping fight wildfires. The agency is also responsible for implementing rules that seek to balance the state’s logging interests with the protection of vulnerable species.

[Read more here...](#)

Wheat 'stuck' in low price range until spring, WSU economist says

(Capital Press)

January 22, 2026

Exports ‘excellent,’ but won’t help.

Wheat prices will remain in their current range until the spring crop picture becomes clearer, Washington State University’s small grains economist says.

“We’re stuck in a pretty low price range,” Randy Fortenbery, Thomas Mick Endowed Chair in Small Grain Economics, told Capital Press. “We get some movement, but

every time we go up, we end up giving it back. I think we're going to continue to see that until we get into early March."

Soft white wheat is \$5.90 per bushel on the Portland market. Washington Association of Wheat Growers puts the break-even price at \$7.43 per bushel.

[Read more here...](#)

AFBF Reminding Farmers to Talk with Lawmakers

(Pacific Northwest Ag Network)

January 23, 2026

The farm economy in 2026 is picking up where 2025 left off, and as farm country continues to struggle, Ag groups are calling on Congress to act. Brian Glenn, director of government affairs for the American Farm Bureau Federation, said many farmers are underwater financially.

"Farmers are facing extreme economic pressure right now," Glenn said. "They're dealing with low commodity prices, elevated input costs, and ongoing market uncertainty, and this sustained pressure has led to losses approaching \$100 billion nationwide, across the farm economy."

Glenn said farmers and ranchers are grateful for the economic assistance in the Farmer Bridge Assistance program, but it's only a first step. The Farm Bureau led a coalition in sending a letter to Congressional leaders outlining the need.

"We called on Congress to act immediately to provide economic support to fill in the gap of remaining losses," Glenn said. "And, in addition to short-term assistance, Congress must pass year-round E15, which will support the farm economy and long-term farm viability."

[Read more here...](#)



Oregon Democratic leaders push to move transportation referendum to May

(Oregon Capital Chronicle)

January 22, 2026

Legislature may set date for election, legislative counsel finds.

Democratic leaders in the Oregon Legislature want to move a statewide vote on transportation taxes from November to May.

After submitting enough signatures to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, petitioners with the Republican-led No Tax Oregon campaign blocked hikes to the gas tax, vehicle registration and title fees and payroll tax included in a 2025 transportation law from taking effect pending a statewide vote in the November general election — thus delaying \$791.2 million in revenue for the Oregon Department of Transportation in the 2025-27 budget cycle.

However, House Speaker Julie Fahey, D-Eugene and Senate President Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego announced late Wednesday that they will introduce legislation to set the date of the referendum for the statewide primary election on May 19.

[Read more here...](#)

Specialty crop leaders sound alarm on \$100B farm losses, seek \$5B in support

(Vegetable Growers News)

January 22, 2026

A large contingent of specialty crop organizations — including the U.S. Apple Association, International Fresh Produce Association, Georgia and Florida Fruit and Vegetable Associations, Organic Trade Association and the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance — is sounding the alarm about the economic crisis in rural America in a letter sent to lawmakers in Congress.

The letter warns that U.S. farmers face an existential economic threat, citing rising bankruptcies, limited access to financing and years of record-high input costs alongside historically low commodity and specialty crop prices, resulting in negative margins and losses nearing \$100 billion nationwide.

The letter was posted by the American Farm Bureau and is available below as a pdf.

In total, 56 U.S. farm advocacy groups signed the letter, hoping to send a strong message to Congress. POLITICO recently reported that Congress is considering up to “\$15 billion in relief payments” to growers.

[Read more here...](#)

USDA Announces Grant Funding for Dairy Support

(Pacific Northwest Ag Network)

January 23, 2026

The USDA is awarding more than \$11 million in grant funding to support dairy businesses and producers through the Dairy Business Innovation Grant Program.

The initiatives support small and mid-sized dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing, and distribution of dairy products.

“This funding through the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives makes important investments in the domestic dairy industry, furthering USDA's efforts to ensure Americans have access to affordable, wholesome U.S. dairy products,” said Dudley Hoskins, USDA Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

This year's funds will go to four current DBI Initiatives at Fresno State, the University of Tennessee, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, and the University of Wisconsin.

USDA said the initiatives will use the funding to provide valuable technical assistance and sub-award funds to dairy farmers and businesses across their regions, supporting them with business plan development, marketing, and branding.

[Read more here...](#)



Processors stress need for new markets for Oregon hazelnuts

(Capital Press)

January 10, 2026

Processors say Oregon's hazelnut industry must develop new markets for the crop and increase "pull" among consumers to ease price fluctuations if acreage keeps expanding.

Over the past 15 years, the state's hazelnut acreage is estimated to have roughly tripled, to nearly 100,000 acres.

If that trajectory continues, building demand specifically for Oregon hazelnuts will help preserve the premium price that's historically associated with the state's crop, processors recently told farmers at an annual industry meeting.

"That is the keys to the kingdom, to get the consumer to ask for us," said Michael Severeid, CEO of Willamette Hazelnut near Newberg, Ore., during the Nut Growers Society Jan. 7 winter meeting in Albany, Ore.

[Read more here...](#)

Oregon bill aims to emphasize timely payments for seed crops

(Capital Press)

January 21, 2026

Bill would separate payment from slow pay/no pay punishment.

Rep. Anna Scharf, R-Amity, plans to introduce legislation clarifying that seed dealers must pay farmers within 30 days of receiving a demand order from Oregon farm regulators under the state's slow pay/no pay law.

The bill is meant to underscore that seed dealers are bound to comply with payment demands from the Oregon Department of Agriculture within 30 days, rather than at the conclusion of an administrative process to suspend their licenses, she said.

“We’re going to separate the license suspension out from the payment,” Scharf said. “The agency will move forward with the license suspension portion, but the grass seed companies will still be able to sell seed, as long as they get the growers paid.”

[Read more here...](#)

Oregon's elk show genetic fortitude against a fast-moving and deadly disease

(OPB)

January 22, 2026

Oregon is one of the last remaining safe zones from chronic wasting disease, a fatal illness that has killed tens of thousands of deer, elk and moose across North America. Of the western states, only Oregon, Nevada and Arizona have yet to register a case.

And now research suggests that at least some animals in Oregon may have a natural genetic resistance to the disease.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) affects members of the deer family, spreading through close contact between animals. There isn't a cure, and those infected experience extreme weight loss, also known as wasting, loss of coordination, and drooling. It's always fatal.

[Read more here...](#)



Welcome to the next chapter:



Educate. Steward. Cultivate Northwest.

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Oregonians for Food & Shelter <http://www.ofsonline.org>



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