

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

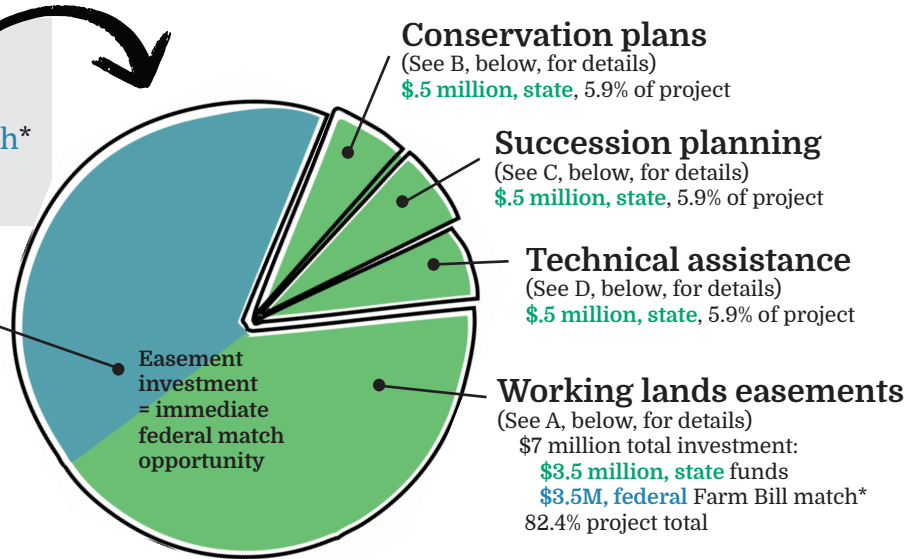
Grants to keep working lands working, program signed into law in 2017, administered by OWEB
Federal match available, program needs immediate funding (not eligible for existing OWEB funds)

Budget example:

■ \$5 million Oregon
■ + \$3.5m federal Farm Bill match*

 ~\$8.5 million project total

Funding opportunity:
 1:1 federal Farm Bill match for easements
\$3.5 M state
+ \$3.5 M federal match* =
A \$7m easement investment could protect ~10,000 acres of working lands in Oregon.



Threat: Oregon has **lost 10%**

of farmland since 1997.
 (That's more than Oregon's 10 largest cities, combined.)

Solution—OAHP:
 Project goals, to protect our

- Food base & open space
- Clean air & water
- Rural way of life
- Agricultural economies

WHAT DOES OAHP FUND?	WHAT'S THE STATUS?	WHO HELPS IMPLEMENT?	WHO BENEFITS?
A — Working lands easements	✓ Ready + federal Farm Bill \$ opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation nonprofits • Land trusts • Soil and water conservation districts • Watershed councils 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oregon farming & ranching families 2. Local business 3. Natural lands, fish and wildlife 4. Rural communities 5. All Oregonians
B — Conservation plans	Needs planning		
C — Succession planning	✓ Ready + augment OSU forestry program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher learning • Nonprofits • Agricultural cooperatives • Tribal governments 	
D — Technical assistance	✓ Ready + augment existing OWEB program	<i>Above entities</i>	

* AECP, a federal program administered by NRCS, provides 1:1 match funding for agricultural easements. AECP was allocated \$450 million in the 2018 Farm Bill. Since the program started in 1996, 29 other states have created matching grant programs. These funds are due to sunset in 3 years and Oregon currently only receives less than 1%. Oregon could receive more federal funds through OAHP.



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

Q/A: Keeping working lands working

What does OAHP fund?

Working lands easements, conservation plans, succession planning and technical assistance for Oregon's farming and ranching community.

What part qualifies for federal match?

Working lands easements.

How long are federal funds available?

Only three more years. (Through NRCS/AECP/Farm Bill)

Why can't OWEB pay?

Agricultural easements are not an option through the existing OWEB funding. OWEB cannot fund the types of projects envisioned by OAHP due to a constitutional restriction.

How many easement projects are ready to go if OAHP is funded?

Letters of interest indicate 28 projects around the state, totaling a \$38 million request for OAHP funds.

What's a working lands easement?

An agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government to restrict development and allow agricultural production. Often, easements essentially codify how people already manage their property, thereby protecting their legacy for years to come.

- **Does the landowner lose net assets?**
No. And they can continue to farm.
- **Is the land taken off tax rolls?**
No. The farm and forest tax deferral is still used for the land.
- **Does the government get property rights?**
No.
- **Do easements affect qualifying for financing?**
No. Lending is based on an appraisal.

Easement projects could include:



Aspen Valley cattle ranch

- Central Oregon
- With Deschutes Land Trust
- ~\$1.5 million



Berry farm

- Willamette Valley
- With East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
- ~\$0.5 million



Goat ranch

- Willamette Valley
- With McKenzie River Trust
- ~\$1 Million



Wheat farm

- Eastern Oregon
- With Blue Mountain Land Trust
- ~\$0.5 million