

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	8 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Esquivel, Krieger, McKeown, Reardon, Thompson, Unger, Whitsett, Witt
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Clem
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/14, 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in partnership with Oregon Department of Agriculture, to operate Farm Direct Nutrition Program to provide supplemental assistance to participants in Women, Infants and Children Program to purchase fresh, unprocessed, locally grown fruit, vegetables and herbs from farmers' markets and roadside stands. Directs OHA to adopt by rule procedures and eligibility criteria to permit state to receive grants from United States Department of Agriculture. Authorizes OHA, in partnership with Oregon Department of Agriculture, to operate Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program to provide supplemental assistance to individuals 60 years of age or older and who receive medical assistance under ORS chapter 414 or supplemental nutrition assistance to purchase fresh, unprocessed, locally grown fruit, vegetables and herbs from farmers' markets and roadside stands. Directs OHA to adopt by rule procedures and eligibility criteria for both programs to receive grants from USDA.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- How people find out about these programs
- Direct marketing opportunity for local growers
- Use of programs at farmers' markets

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Authorizes OHA, in partnership with ODA, to operate Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program. Directs OHA to adopt by rule procedures and eligibility criteria for both programs to receive grants from USDA.

BACKGROUND: Oregon currently offers two state-administered federal nutrition programs providing sales opportunities for farmers selling directly to consumers. The Farm Direct Nutrition Program distributes funds to seniors (identified by Seniors & People with Disabilities Division as of April 1 each year) and families enrolled in the Women Infants & Children program. Eligible participants will receive these funds as checks specifically to purchase locally produced fresh fruit and vegetables directly from authorized farmers at farm stands and farmers markets from June 1 to October 31.