

HB 5002

Department of Agriculture

HB 5002 is the budget bill for the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture ensures food safety, protects agricultural natural resources, and promotes economic development in the agricultural industry. The budget for the Department totals \$103.4 million. The budget includes \$23.1 million General Fund, \$6.3 million Lottery Funds, \$58.4 million Other Funds, \$15.6 million Federal Funds, and 372 full time equivalent positions.

The total funds budget is 6.8% higher than the 2013-15 legislatively approved budget level. The General Fund budget is 19% higher than 2013-15 levels due to investments in the laboratory, state support for administrative activities, and increased staffing for the agricultural water quality program. There is a budget note directing the Department to work with OWEB to make additional grant funding available for water quality improvement projects associated with agricultural lands. The budget also fully supports the State Veterinarian with General Fund and provides increased General Fund support for the Threatened and Endangered Plant program and the Invasive Species Council.

Other Funds expenditures from fee increases in the motor fuel quality, fertilizer, and nursery programs were approved.

Your Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 5002 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.