



The Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC) is a trade support organization, working to advance the development and growth of the organic industry and community in Oregon. The OOC represents volunteer stakeholders--farmers, wholesalers, processors, organic certifiers, scientists, consumers and retailers. We lead promotional activities and advocate for state policy to support and grow Oregon's organic trade.

**In support of 4 FTE dedicated to assisting organic operations
SB 257: OSU Extension Offices**

There is need to provide additional resources to Oregonians while expanding organic agricultural research, outreach, and education. We are seeing a number of conventional farmers who are interested in transitioning to organic methods, but who need more specific information about how to do so. Others are just looking for assistance with how to solve a particular pest problem without the use of toxic pesticides, or perhaps with the use of smaller amounts of toxic pesticides. Existing certified organic operations have the need for the expertise offered by OSU Extension offices as well. The OSU Extensions offices are perfectly suited to provide this assistance, and their current level of customer service is greatly appreciated by communities throughout the state. Currently, however, only one/half of one FTE is dedicated to focusing on assisting certified and transitioning organic operations.

Specifically, we request four full-time equivalents that focus on assisting certified and transitioning organic operations to address production challenges and supply chain constraints. These 4 FTE would fit perfectly within OSU Extension Services request found within SB 257.

Thank you,

Jonathan Manton, Advocate
Oregon Organic Coalition