



OREGON  
AGRICULTURAL  
HERITAGE  
PROGRAM



# Presenters

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Oregon Agricultural *Trust*

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Oregon Farm Bureau

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Rancher with easement, and Baker County Commissioner  
*Unity, Oregon*

## THE CHALLENGE



**25%**

Oregon land in  
farms & ranches



**64%**

will change hands  
in 20 years



**60**

average age of  
farmers & ranchers



**81%**

of farmers & ranchers  
have no succession plan



# OAHP Purpose

**OAHP provides voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain or enhance both:**

- **agriculture and**
- **natural resources such as fish and wildlife & water**

**on agricultural lands**



# OAHP Elements

## Four Grant Programs

- 1) Permanent easements & termed covenants
- 2) Conservation management plans
- 3) Succession planning education
- 4) Capacity building for grantee orgs

*Operated by OWEB, overseen by  
Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission*



# Easements & Covenants

**A conservation easement is a**

- **voluntary legal agreement**
- **between a landowner and land trust or government agency that**
- **limits use of the land permanently**
- **to protect its conservation values (including ag for OAHP easements)**

# OAHP Would Bring Federal Dollars

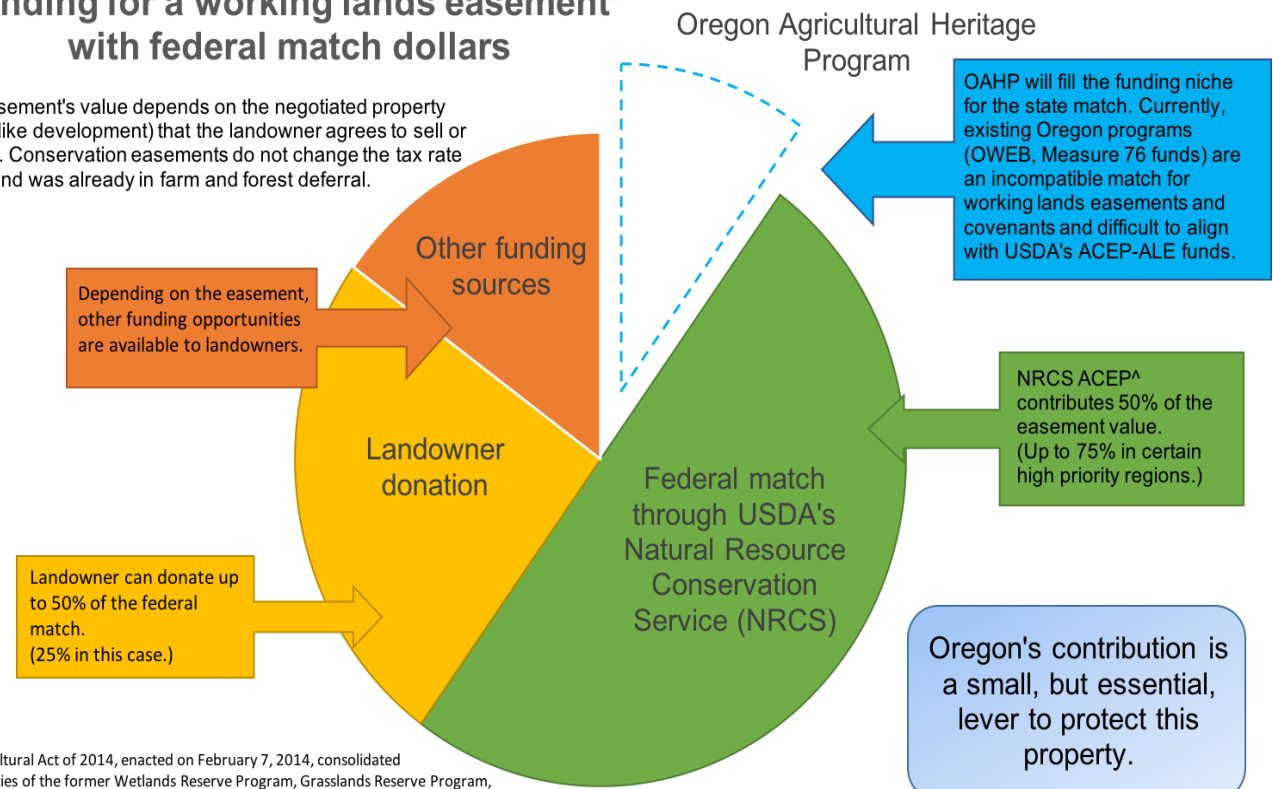
NRCS ACEP-ALE matches ag easements 50-75%

States with *funded* match programs bring in 3.7 x as much funds

Oregon has only received 0.4% of ACEP-ALE funds.

## Funding for a working lands easement\* with federal match dollars

\*An easement's value depends on the negotiated property rights (like development) that the landowner agrees to sell or donate. Conservation easements do not change the tax rate if the land was already in farm and forest deferral.



^The Agricultural Act of 2014, enacted on February 7, 2014, consolidated the authorities of the former Wetlands Reserve Program, Grasslands Reserve Program, and Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program into the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.



# Easement Opportunities

**2019 - 28 projects around Oregon would have protected 76,000 acres**

**2018 Farm Bill allocates \$450M/year  
2022 Spending package allocates \$1.7B  
2023 Farm Bill – advocating for more**

**NRCS will be more likely to allocate to Oregon if we have a funded match**





# Conservation Management Plans

**Payment to create *and implement* plans**

**Separate from, but complementary to easements and covenants**

**Soil health, Invasive removal, Associated habitat and riparian areas**

# 2022 Budgetary Ask

## **\$5 Million for:**

- OWEB program administration – 10%
- Working lands easements and covenants
- Conservation management plan implementation



# OAHP Design Process

Work Group convened by  
Governor's office

Six diverse nonprofits, OWEB,  
one farmer, one rancher

Passed in 2017

Rules and Commission in place

