



# SUPPORT HB 4153A

## TO SUPPORT AGRITOURISM & LOCAL FARMS!



### THE PROBLEM

Oregon's family farms are struggling to stay afloat.

Since the last Census of Agriculture, Oregon has seen a significant decline in the number of family farms.

The lack of economic viability for family farms, fluctuating market conditions, and new pressures have made it increasingly difficult for family farmers to sustain their operations.



**2,069**  
farms lost  
since 2017



### USDA calls for policies to support family farms.

"Today's Census of Agriculture Report underscores it's imperative that we continue to deliver agriculture policies that create **multiple streams of income** and new, **more competitive models for small- and mid-sized farms**. [...] America, and especially our rural communities, cannot afford this trajectory toward larger, but fewer, farms."

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack following release of the 2022 Census of Agriculture



FLIP!



OREGON PROPERTY OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION



# A HOMEGROWN SOLUTION

## Harvesting Opportunity: The Farm Store Permit

Oregon originally created the "farm stand" permit to help family farms survive by selling their crops directly to the community. Over time, the law was expanded to allow for events — like flower festivals, corn mazes, and pickling classes — because the state recognized that getting people out to the farm was the best way to get them to buy local products.

However, those rules haven't kept pace with reality. Many of today's "farm stands" have evolved into **thriving community hubs**, but they are being strangled by outdated income caps and restrictive building limits that no longer make sense.

**HB 4153A fixes this by creating a new dedicated "Farm Store" permit.** This permit provides a legal path for the farm stands that have outgrown existing law to stay in business and keep hosting the public on their land. This permit also creates streamlined opportunity for farmers to engage with the public without the need for expensive, lawsuit-prone "conditional use permits"— a hurdle that many Oregon counties don't even offer.

Farm Store Permit Benefits	Farm Store Permit Sideboards
Allows farmer to sell farm crops, local goods, and host agritourism activities to promote visitors to the farm store.	Allows counties to adopt siting standards related to hours of operation, noise, traffic, parking, sanitation, and solid waste.
No income caps on retail sales or events, allowing farmers to diversify without a "ceiling" on success.	Requires a minimum amount of acres to be farmed to ensure property remains a working farm-first; tourism destination-second.
Allows farmers to utilize buildings and tents to host the public comfortably, regardless of the season.	Limits the size of farm store structures and display area of non-farm retail items.
Allows the public to enjoy beer, wine, apple cider donuts or other grab-and-go foods when visiting the farm store for events.	Prohibits farm store from operating as a dwelling, hotel, cafe or drive-thru restaurant.
Does not force farmer through an expensive and litigious conditional use permitting process.	Defines agritourism activities and requires them to be conducted by the farm operation, preventing farm stores from becoming standalone commercial event venues.