

Submitter: Kit Johnston  
On Behalf Of: Yamhill County  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: 2026 Agency Reduction Options

Dear Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing to urge the Committee to recognize the value and critical importance of FFA, 4-H, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs within Oregon's education system. The skills, work ethic, and leadership qualities these programs instill in our youth cannot be replicated by any other programs available in our schools.

I am a proud alumnus of my hometown FFA program in Dayton. As a lifetime farmer in Yamhill County and the current Chair of the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners, FFA was where I found my place in high school. It is also where my daughter—and many other students across Yamhill County and the state of Oregon—find a place to learn, grow, and excel in far more than just agriculture-related pursuits. Through these programs, students gain experience in sales, marketing, public speaking, and service to their communities.

There is also a significant trickle-down effect from these programs. They support the Yamhill County Youth Livestock Auction, which takes place each year during the Yamhill County Fair and Rodeo (Oregon's oldest fair). This auction benefits students from multiple FFA and 4-H programs across our county and generates more than one million dollars annually to help young people pay for college and invest in their futures. It allows community members to purchase locally grown food while directly supporting some of the hardest-working students in our schools.

Just last fall, several FFA chapters from Yamhill County represented the State of Oregon at the National FFA Convention. Yamhill-Carlton High School is now ranked first in the nation in agricultural sales. We need to continue fully supporting these programs that allow the youth in Oregon to shine on a national level!

Thank you for your consideration as you work to keep FFA, 4-H, and CTE programs at the top of your priorities this legislative session. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I would also be happy to arrange tours of some of our outstanding CTE and FFA programs in rural Yamhill County high schools.

Sincerely,  
Kit Johnston  
Farmer

Dayton High School FFA Alumnus  
Chair, Yamhill County Board of Commissioners

“Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.” — FFA Motto