

**OREGON DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT 2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

Agency: The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Executive Committee Member:

Katy Coba, Director
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532
Phone 503-986-4552
Fax 503-986-4750

Tribal Liaison:

John Byers, Operations and Program Manager
Natural Resources Division
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532
Phone 503-986-4718
Fax 503-986-4730

Major Areas of Work with Oregon Tribes FY 2008-2009

John Byers, Natural Resources Division Operations and Program Manager, represents the agency in the Natural Resources Cluster of the Government-to-Government organization, a committee that includes representatives of natural resource agencies and Oregon's tribes.

Oregon Department of Agriculture divisions serving the needs of and providing assistance to Oregon tribes during FY 2009 are broken down by division below.

Agricultural Development and Marketing Division

The Agricultural Development and Marketing Division offers assistance through the development and retention of production and processing capacity, and is available to help with the promotion and marketing of the tribes' agricultural and food products industries. From 2009 through 2012, the Agricultural Development and Marketing Division, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is offering Specialty Crop Block Grants. With the help of the ODA, tribes are being encouraged to apply for these grants. Proposals that enhance the competitiveness of Oregon's specialty crops are eligible for funding. Eligible activities include product research, development and promotion, market research, plant health programs, and a variety of others.

Oregon produces an estimated 790 tons per week of animal by-products from slaughtering, processing, meat cutting, and on-farm animal mortalities. This material must be processed. Most Oregon producers have traditionally relied on rendering firms to provide disposal services for on-farm animal mortalities, and there is a shortage of experienced firms. Recognizing the scope of this problem, Governor Kulongoski designated the Oregon Solutions Animal By-Products project, which will help alleviate the shortage.

The ODA assisted in organizing a meeting with the Confederated Tribe of Warm Springs to discuss the possibility of starting a rendering facility on their reservation. The ODA supported the Tribe's request to obtain a \$25,000 grant from the USDA to conduct a feasibility study to look into the possibility. The Tribe received the grant in November 2009.

Food Safety Division

The Food Safety Division's (FSD) mission is to prevent the spread of food borne illness. Diseases caused by food in the United States are responsible for an estimated 76 million cases of gastrointestinal illnesses; 325,000 illnesses resulting in hospitalizations; and 5,000 deaths each year according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 2009, the FSD invited tribes to participate in a Food and Drug Administration grant proposal entitled, "Food Protection Rapid Response Team Program Infrastructure Improvement Prototype Project." Two tribes participated in the grant proposal process. Unfortunately, ODA was not a grant recipient.

In July, representatives from the FSD and the Natural Resources Division assisted tribal members in assessing the suitability of growing oysters on tribal land. ODA employees toured the perspective cultivation sites with tribal members, and offered advice and expertise regarding shellfish cultivation.

In early December, the FSD conducted a workshop on Oregon's Food Safety Emergency Response Plan. Emergency management coordinators from a number of tribes were invited to attend.

Measurement Standards Division

The Measurement Standards Division (MSD) assures consumers that the weight or measure of food and nonfood products, services, or commodities purchased in Oregon is accurate. MSD checks the quantity labeling on packaged products, investigates complaints, and annually inspects 54,000 scales, gas pumps, and meters statewide.

Although tribes are not inspected by MSD, Oregon tribes have requested that MSD license and test their gas pumps at specific locations.

ODA personnel have kept tribes informed about gasoline octane issues affecting Oregon Motorists. Although not subject to Oregon Administrative Rule regarding the selling of fuel containing ethanol, some tribal areas could have difficulty in obtaining "non-ethanol" gasoline due to fuel distributorship issues. Consequently, tribes need to take the proper steps in reviewing their bulk fuel storage systems, as fuel containing ethanol must be stored differently than "non-ethanol" fuel.

Natural Resources Division

The Natural Resources Division (NRD) is responsible for regulating agricultural practices for the protection of water quality. NRD coordinates its planning process at the basin and sub-basin levels with tribes and with federal land management agencies. Participation from local tribes has been sought in the advisory groups to ensure that tribal concerns about water quality and endangered species protection are provided a forum among agricultural producers.

ODA Water Quality Specialist, Tom Straughan, interacts with tribal members from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) on the following projects or programs:

Mr. Straughan continues to participate in the monthly meetings of the Tiicham Conservation District and interacts with CTUIR staff regarding natural resource issues affecting the Umatilla Basin. These include the OWEB Small Grant Team, the Umatilla Technical Team that coordinates the basin-wide water quality-monitoring project, Watershed Field Days, Umatilla Agricultural Water Quality Management Local Advisory Committee, and the Critical Groundwater Task Force.

Through the Grant and Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Mr. Straughan interacts with staff from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) on natural resource issues in the John Day Basin including restoration project development.

Plant Division

The Plant Division includes four programs. These programs are Insect Pest Prevention and Management, Native Plant Conservation, Weed Control, and Nursery and Christmas Tree. The division's programs protect Oregon's agricultural industries and natural environment from harmful plant pests, diseases, and noxious weeds. The division also enhances the value and marketability of exported nursery stock, Christmas trees, seeds, and other agricultural products and furthers the conservation of threatened and endangered plants.

As part of the Plant Division's cooperative grasshopper survey and suppression program, the ODA was pleased to be able check for grasshopper outbreaks on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservations in the spring and fall 2009.

The Oregon State Weed Board has grant funding available for noxious weed control. Four tribes have received funding and/or assistance in conducting weed control activities. These included the CTUIR, CTWS, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe, and the Burns Paiute Tribe.

The 2009 Oregon Legislative Assembly revised Oregon's noxious weed and plant quarantine laws. Included is this language: "In recognition of the imminent and continuous threat to natural resources, watershed health, livestock, wildlife, land and agricultural products of this state, and in recognition of the widespread infestations and potential infestation of noxious weeds throughout the state, noxious weeds are declared to be a public nuisance and shall be detected, controlled and, where feasible, eradicated on all lands of this state. It is declared to be the policy of this state that priority shall be given first to the prevention of new infestations of noxious weeds in infested areas." This law will take effect on January 1, 2010. Although weed control legislation has no direct impact on tribes, tribal leadership has made noxious weed control a priority in many areas. Consequently, the control of noxious weeds near or adjacent to tribal lands is important to prevent future spreading.