

Spring 2026

Oregon Small Farm News

Oregon State University Small Farms Program



In This Issue:

Agritourism Webinar Marketing Series Starts April 1st - 2

Building Community in Drylands: The Western Arid Grower Network - 4

Ideas from the Field: Affordable Elk Fencing with Caravan Farm - 5

Introducing Season 3 of For the Love of Farming Podcast - 8

Growing Resilience Together: Highlights from the Dry Farming Collaborative Winter Convening - 10

Hands On Equipment Workshops at Bee Charmed Farm Offered This Spring - 12

Building Climate Resilience for Farmers and Ranchers Online

Class Now Available - 14



Oregon State University
Extension Service

OSU Extension Service Small Farms Program

Nathan Stacey
Statewide Specialist
Corvallis, OR 97331

Lauren Gwin
Community Food Systems Specialist
Corvallis, OR 97331

Melissa Fery
Benton, Linn, & Lane Counties, 541-
730-3538

Janhvi Pandey, Columbia County,
503-397-3462

Maud Powell
Jackson & Josephine Counties, 541-
776-7371

Nicole Sanchez
Klamath, Lake, & Harney Counties,
541-883-7131

Evie Smith
Lincoln County, 541-574-6534

Heather Stoven
Yamhill County, 503-678-1264

Outreach Program Coordinators

Logan Bennett
Douglas County, 541-236-3015

Sami Budhathoki
Tillamook County, 503-842-3433

Audrey Comerford
Agritourism, 503-588-5301

Kelci Free
Marion County, 503-588-5301

Chrissy Lucas
Statewide, 541-713-5009

Teagan Moran
Benton, Linn & Lane Counties, 541-
713-5011

Heidi Noordijk
Clackamas & Washington Counties,
503-678-1264

Shannon Rauter
Clatsop County, 503-325-8573

Cover Photo:

A new crop of lambs enjoying the
pasture with their mamas.

Photo by: Audrey Comerford, owner
of these Wee Woollies sheep

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Agritourism Webinar Marketing Series Starts April 1st

By: Audrey Comerford, OSU Extension Service
Agritourism Program

This series will give you practical information and tips to boost your digital marketing efforts. Customers of agritourism operations in Oregon specifically stated they want to hear from farms and ranches through these channels. Each session will dive into a different marketing topic, so sign up for one or all of them!

Besides agritourism operations, this webinar is for any farm or ranch who sells direct to consumers and is interested in boosting their digital marketing and online presence.

Webinars take place on Wednesdays from 5:30-7 pm, recordings will be sent to registrants. Cost is \$5 each session, scholarships available. All sessions are listed at <https://beav.es/pdL>. Please contact Audrey Comerford at audrey.comerford@oregonstate.edu with questions.

April 1 - Agritourism Marketing Series: Google Business Profiles Registration: <https://beav.es/pQc>

Does your farm business show up when a customer says, "I'll Google it?" Instead of hoping it does, take action to make sure it does. This webinar will give an overview of why Google Business Profile is an important tool, how to claim your profile if you haven't already, how to update it, and methods for improving your visibility. We will also take a look at a few individual business profiles as examples. There will be a Q&A section. Audrey Comerford, OSU Extension

April 15 - Agritourism Marketing Series: Digital Newsletters Registration: <https://beav.es/pQU>

Digital newsletters are an important part of your agritourism marketing strategy. They are a great way to engage your customers, announce events, and give updates on crops. This webinar will cover platforms options, frequency and timing for sending, and content strategies. Learn how creating engaging content can build and maintain your customer base. There will be a Q&A section. Karen Olson, Willamette Valley Visitors Association

April 29 - Agritourism Marketing Series: Websites & SEOs Registration: <https://beav.es/pQp>

How to Optimize Your Website to Increase Sales: In this workshop we'll cover the fundamentals of Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and website essentials so you can be found more easily by potential customers, and seen as the trusted agritourism destination you are. A

better website experience makes it more likely people will visit and spend money with your farm. Plus, we'll cover which platforms and tools we recommend for small businesses. Kelly Riegler, Local Difference

May 13 - Agritourism Marketing Series: Social Media

Registration: <https://beav.es/pQG>

Social media is a great way to engage customers, but

it can be hard to know where to start and where to put your energy and resources. Join the discussion and learn about platforms, engaging content strategies, and going beyond likes to generate visits and sales. This webinar will give you practical strategies to implement in your own farm business social media channels going forward. There will be a Q&A section. Cydney Stables, OSU Extension & CJD Gardens

OSU Extension Agricultural Tourism Program

Agritourism Marketing Webinar Series

April 1

Google Business Profile

April 15

Newsletters

April 29

Websites/SEOs

May 13

Social Media

Registration:
beav.es/pdL

Building Community in Drylands: The Western Arid Grower Network

By: Maud Powell, OSU Extension Service Small Farms Program

Across Eastern and Southern Oregon and the Klamath Basin, small-scale vegetable growers are working in some of the most challenging agricultural conditions in the West. With annual precipitation often below 20 inches and extreme temperature swings shaping every growing season, these farmers have long lacked resources tailored to their realities. To fill that gap, a new farmer-led initiative—the Western Arid Grower Network (WAGN)—has emerged as a vital hub for connection, knowledge-sharing, and support.

WAGN was created by vegetable growers in Eastern Oregon and the Klamath Basin, in partnership with OSU Small Farms Extension. The founders recognized that while many books and resources exist for small farms, most are written for temperate regions like the Willamette Valley. For growers in Oregon’s high desert, those materials often miss the mark. As co-founder Nella Mae Parks has emphasized, small-scale farmers in arid regions “weren’t getting the resources we need,” and a space for region-specific learning was long overdue.

The Network’s mission is simple but powerful: connect growers farming in arid climates with less than 20 inches of annual precipitation and create a space where they can learn from one another. This peer-to-peer model is at the heart of WAGN’s approach. Many growers in these regions work in isolation, often far from other vegetable farms. As Klamath Falls farmer Katie Swanson has shared, growers in these landscapes “are dealing with difficult conditions, we are often isolated and we need to talk to each other to help each other out.”

To foster that connection, WAGN received a Farmer/Rancher grant from Westers Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education to host free online gatherings in the winter months. These sessions feature presentations and discussions focused on the realities

of growing in dry, extreme climates. Topics include water-efficient vegetable production, coping with heat and cold variability, and adapting crop choices to arid conditions. The virtual format ensures that even the most geographically isolated growers can participate.

In addition to community building, the Network plays an important role in collecting and sharing research relevant to arid-region vegetable farming. This includes information on dry farming, soil moisture management, and climate-adapted production strategies. By bringing together growers and OSU Extension educators, WAGN helps ensure that research is grounded in real-world needs—and that practical insights from farmers inform future studies.

As climate variability intensifies and water scarcity becomes an even greater challenge, the Western Arid Grower Network offers something essential: a community of growers who understand the realities of farming in drylands and are committed to helping one another succeed. Through shared knowledge, collaborative problem-solving, and a growing sense of regional identity, WAGN is helping small-scale farmers in Oregon’s arid regions build resilience—together.

Ways to Get Involved

Join the aridgrowers listserv

This listserv is two-way communication—unlike this newsletter. If you have questions, ideas, advice, resources, successes, or failures to share, the listserv is the place to do it.

[Click here to sign up](#)

Join the WAGN Book Club

This year, Jacob Hurst (our February presenter) is starting the book club on March 30th.

To join, sign up [here](#) 

Ideas from the Field: Affordable Elk Fencing with Caravan Farm

By: Evie Smith, OSU Extension Service Small Farms Program & Daniel Gaudenti, Caravan Farms

Elk can be a major challenge for many farmers in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Elk can cause significant damage to fencing, predate crops and pastures, harm young trees, and sometimes introduce diseases to livestock. Options for managing or deterring elk are limited and can be costly. Some of these options include:

- **Hunting.** With appropriate licenses, limited elk hunting is allowed. Farmers experiencing significant problems with elk can apply for special tags. [To learn more about these options, contact your local Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife \(ODFW\) office or visit their website.](#)
- **Hazing.** Hazing elk using scarecrows, motion sensor lights, or loud noises can scare a herd off temporarily. Some hazing activities require a permit, so [check with your local ODFW office for more information on this topic.](#)
- **Fencing.** Elk exclusion fencing needs to be tall and sturdy. [Many farmers who install New Zealand fencing report that it is effective for keeping elk out of their crops.](#) Constructing fencing that meets the necessary specifications to exclude elk can be time-intensive and/or cost-prohibitive.

As with so many on-farm challenges, farmers often need to get creative in coming up with ways to address issues related to elk on their farms. Kate Fifer & Daniel Gaudenti of Caravan Farm in Newport, OR built a low-cost, high-quality electric fence to keep elk and deer out of their half acre of vegetables. We hope that this case study will help and inspire other farmers dealing with elk-related challenges on their farms.

Designing

Before sourcing materials for their fence, Daniel spent about a week researching and planning the design of their fence. They ended up designing an 8' tall fence that encompasses roughly half of an acre. Their fence includes a 15' gate access and lots of space around

their vegetable beds so that they can drive a truck into and around the field, and was built in such a way that it can be easily expanded as they grow their area under cultivation. You can see the design for their fence [here](#).

Sourcing

With the design in place, they began sourcing their materials. All told, it took about a week to gather their materials. Here's a list of what they sourced from where and the cost of each item.

- **10' poles (4).** Already on the property when they moved in. *Cost: \$0.*
- **12' 6x6 corner posts (4).** North Fork Roofing Materials in Florence. *Cost: \$0.* Note: This is a family business (Kate's grandpa Joe Forsman) and the posts had been taken down from an older part of the shake mill that was dismantled. As a bonus, using these materials means that they got to keep the posts that Joe made in his sawmill in the family! *Cost: \$0.*
- **5" round x 6' posts (h posts) (2).** Supply store in Corvallis (Wilco or Coastal Country). *Cost: \$40.*
- **12' T-posts (21).** Supply store in Corvallis. *Cost: \$252.*
- **Other fencing supplies (connectors, underground (coated) 12 G wire, grounding rods, strainers, gate handles, gate hardware).** Supply store in Corvallis. *Cost: \$500.*
- **Gravel for post holes.** Better Bark & More in Newport. *Cost: \$11.*
- **12G stranded wire.** Facebook Marketplace purchase on Kings Highway near Salem. *Cost: \$120.* Note: This was about \$300-\$400 worth of wire. The wire was not all in one spool which made using the smaller lengths very tedious and time consuming. This ended up costing them each about half a day of work.



- **Fence Energizer.** Premier1. Cost: \$198.
- **Solar Panel.** Amazon. Cost: \$30.
- **Auger & spinning Jenny.** Borrowed from Farm for Our Lives. Cost: \$0. Note: Purchasing these materials would have cost about \$300.

Building

Daniel and Kate built their fence themselves rather than hiring a contractor. It took them a full day to dig the holes, stand up the posts and apply tension to the H-posts. It took another full day for both of them to string the rest of the fence, tension the lines and secure the entry gate. A third day was needed to install the fence energizer and build the housing structure to keep it in.

Adjusting

Kate and Daniel are happy with their fence so far. They haven't seen any evidence of elk or deer entering their fenced-in area since electrifying their fence. If they were to build it again, they'd source all new 4x4 posts for their H-post supports to increase the longevity of the fence.

In the face of flooding from the atmospheric river we

experienced this past December, Daniel and Kate have made a few changes to their fence:

- They elevated the housing for the fence energizer to keep it dry by putting it on 2 stacked pallets
- They're adding quick disconnects to the bottom two wires so that they can turn them off and keep the rest of the fence energized in the event of flooding in their field.

Fencing Tips


Daniel shared a few pro-tips for sourcing cheap materials: "You can save a lot of money by being patient sourcing materials. Facebook Marketplace and Craigslist are my favorite sources. Especially on the coast you often find people that would rather see materials be used than make a profit so you tend to get better deals. Bring in Springfield and The Rebuilding Center in Portland are both great also if you're in the area. [However,] you can lose your savings buying gas pretty easy going that far."

As you've probably experienced, there are often tradeoffs between time spent and cost-savings when sourcing secondhand materials. Daniel and Kate

had some sourcing frustrations mixed in with their sourcing successes in this project, including a dead-end road trip to Eugene with a truck and trailer. As you source materials, consider what balance of cost and time works best for you.

If you're planning on building an exclusion fence on your farm, consider checking out these resources that Daniel found helpful in his planning process:

- How to Build High Tensile Fence (Youtube Video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DE8PgF6WQ60>
- Elk Exclusion Using Electric Fencing (Factsheet): https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/structures-and-mechanization/300-series/307252-2_elk_exclusion_using_electric_fencing.pdf
- He also recommends looking into videos showing the use of uncommon fence building tools like fence pliers and strainers.

Chances are that you won't have access to exactly the same materials at the same price point as Kate and Daniel. However, our hope is that this case study has given you some inspiration for how and where to source low-cost materials for building an elk fence that will work for your farming operation! 

Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the Oregon State University Extension Service either endorses these products and services or intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned.

COVER CROP VARIETY TRIAL FIELD DAY

April 29th 2026
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

OSU Veg Farm
34306 NE Electric Rd, Corvallis, OR 97333

REGISTER HERE



Free and open to the public, please register by April 21st

- Learn why variety-specific information and breeding matters in cover crop research
- Research highlights and feedback on next year's trials
- Walk through the trial and access data collected on each variety
- Hands-on cover crop biomass collection for nutrient estimations
- Cover crop termination demonstration
- A lovely local lunch



Introducing Season 3 of *For the Love of Farming* Podcast

By: Teagan Moran OSU Extension Service Small Farms Program & Podcast Host

Oregon's farmers are navigating profound isolation, economic uncertainty, climate pressures, and ongoing mental health challenges. Many producers, especially first-generation farmers, have limited access to peers or to researchbased information in formats that fit the realities of farm life. Not all farmers can attend inperson Extension programming, and much of the most valuable agricultural knowledge is traditionally shared through conversations, kitchentable problem solving, and trusted relationships. These spaces can be difficult to access for newer or geographically isolated producers.

For the Love of Farming was created to help bridge these gaps. The podcast offers farmers a way to hear directly from one another, reduce isolation, and access practical, experiencebased insights in a format they can take with them into the field, barn, or truck. Each episode features farmercentered storytelling, elevating local expertise and honoring the nuance and diversity of Oregon agriculture.

Episodes explore decisionmaking, stress management, production and marketing strategies, land stewardship, and mental health. The series intentionally spotlights underrepresented voices and features placebased stories that illuminate regionspecific challenges and innovations. Season 3 continues the work of lifting up the voices of Oregon's farmers, honoring their lived experience, and strengthening the networks of care, knowledge, and community that help agriculture thrive.

Season 3, Episode 1: Stepping Into the Shearing Shed

We open Season 3 by stepping into a world most people never get to see up close—the fast, physical, deeply skilled realm of professional sheep shearing. In this first episode, we sit down with Phoebe Smith,

the only woman in Oregon shearing fulltime at a commercial scale. I arrived to our conversation curious and left humbled, grateful to be invited into the depth and discipline of her craft.

Shearing is essential to Oregon agriculture, yet the work often happens out of sight. Phoebe opens that world with clarity and generosity, sharing what it takes to shear for both fiber and meat producers, what she's learned from traveling the shearing circuit across the U.S. and abroad, and how she discovered not just a trade, but a calling. She traces her path into the work, the passion that keeps her on the road each season, and the realities of a profession that demands athletic strength, technical precision, and grit. Her humility and fierce dedication make her story even more extraordinary. You can listen here: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/podcast/love-farming> 🎧



Dig For Your Soil: Soil Biology and Visual Soil Health Assessments for Farmers

Taught by Shannon
Cappellazzi,
OSU's Soil Health
Extension Specialist

Friday, April 3rd
9 am - 2 pm

Meet at the Netel Grange:
90525 Logan Rd.
Astoria, OR 97103



Register at
beav.es/GaQ
FREE
Lunch provided!

Agenda

- 8:30 - 9:** Coffee & snacks
- 9 - 10:30:** Soil health presentation
- 10:30 - 12:** Visual soil assessment and sampling protocols at LaNa's Conscious Farm
- 12 - 12:30:** Lunch break
- 12:30 - 2:** Diagnosing soil challenges at Laughing Rabbit Farm



Oregon State University
Extension Service

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by March 31, 2026 to Shannon Rauter, 503-468-3981, shannon.rauter@oregonstate.edu.

Growing Resilience Together: Highlights from the 11th Annual Dry Farming Collaborative Winter Convening

By: Teagan Moran OSU Extension Service Small Farms Program

Held online on February 11, 2026, the 11th Annual Dry Farming Collaborative Winter Convening brought together a vibrant mix of growers, researchers, educators, and technical assistance providers from across the West and beyond. What unites this group is a shared curiosity about growing food with less water and a commitment to learning from one another. Co-hosted by the OSU Extension Services Dry Farm Program and the Dry Farming Institute, the convening has become a yearly touchstone for this expanding network. It's a place where updates are shared, failures are examined with honesty, and new ideas take root.

From the opening welcome, the sense of community can be felt. Lucas Nebert reminded participants that the Dry Farming Collaborative isn't a program or an institution; it's the people who show up. Gardeners, farmers, researchers, and curious newcomers all bring their lived experience, their questions, and their willingness to build something bigger than any one project.

This year's presentations reflected the breadth of that shared work.

Dr. Clara Nicholls (UC Berkeley) opened with a sweeping look at agroecological approaches to drought adaptation, grounding the day in the global movement toward climate-resilient agriculture. Her emphasis on diversity, soil health, and

farmer-led innovation echoed throughout the convening.

From Sicily, Fabrizia Lanza and farmer Vincenzo Pisa offered a glimpse into a place where dry farming is not an adaptation strategy but a cultural legacy. Their stories of dry-farmed tomatoes reminded us that traditional knowledge has much to teach modern growers.

Closer to home, Anthony Reyes (Oxbow Farm) shared insights from growing dry-farmed tomatoes and squash in Washington's maritime climate. His work underscored the importance of timing, soil moisture conservation, and the willingness to experiment, all qualities many in the Collaborative share.

OSU researchers Matt Davis and Lucas Nebert followed with updates from ongoing trials in Corvallis, including work on tomatoes, cowpeas, and sorghum. New OSU Extension publications on melons, tomatoes, and site factors influencing dry-farm vegetable production are already helping growers make informed decisions.



2025 Dry Farmed field days "A look back at the research shared at the convening"
Photos both by Teagan Moran

Amy Garrett shared updates from the Dry Farming Institute, highlighting new staff capacity, expanded partnerships, and the forthcoming Water Resilience Toolkit. She also celebrated the growing library of case studies, videos, and resources that make dry farming knowledge more accessible than ever.

While the presentations offered inspiration and technical depth, the heart of the convening emerged in the breakout discussions where growers compared notes, asked questions, and imagined new possibilities together.

- **Cut flowers:** exploring which varieties might thrive with reduced irrigation and what research is needed to support this emerging area.
- **Seed saving & adaptation:** buzzing with seed swaps and stories of sorghum, sesame, amaranth, perennial brassicas, and more, all with an eye toward low-water adaptation.
- **Melons & tomatoes:** growers traded notes on varieties, blossom-end rot, voles, and the nuances only lived experience can surface.
- **Farmer-led research hubs:** naming the research farmers already do, the barriers they face, and creative ideas for building stronger partnerships, from “farmer-researcher speed dating” to community-supported research.
- **Perennials:** discussing what it takes to dry farm fruit trees and long-lived crops, and the need for more shared knowledge in this area.
- **Western Arid Growers Network:** translating dry farming concepts to truly arid regions and identifying shared challenges around cover crops, soil moisture conservation, and heat-driven disorders.

Across all groups, a few themes rose again and again: the importance of place-based experimentation, the value of peer-to-peer learning, and the need for more accessible research partnerships. Dry farming is not a one-size-fits-all solution, it’s a set of principles growers adapt to their own soils, climates, and communities. The Winter Convening is where those adaptations are shared, refined, and celebrated.

As we look ahead to the 2026 growing season, the sense of momentum is unmistakable. The work is

challenging and hopeful, and it grows stronger every time this community comes together. We host these convenings in February each year. See below for ways to stay connected and to join next year.

Stay connected:

- The Dry Farm Convening Event Page with slides and presentations: <https://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/2026-dry-farming-collaborative-winter-convening>
- OSU Dry Farming Program: <https://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/dry-farmin>
- Dry Farming Institute Resources: <https://dryfarming.org/resources/>
- Dry Farming Collaborative YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@dryfarmingcollaborative> (where you can find recordings of the whole convening and selected presentations). ∞



Hands On Equipment Workshops at Bee Charmed Farm Offered This Spring

The OSU Small Farms Program is partnering with farmer and lifelong mechanic Larry Hagemeister to offer two practical, hands on equipment workshops this spring at Bee Charmed Farm in Albany. These sessions are designed for small acreage farmers, homesteaders, and anyone wanting to build confidence in maintaining and safely operating compact equipment.

Larry brings more than four decades of experience to every class he teaches. As the owner of Hagemeister Enterprises Inc. since 1984, he is known nationally for his deep expertise in auto electrical systems and his work across farm, marine, logging, and emergency rescue equipment. A former president and long time board member of the Electrical Rebuilders Association, Larry has earned a reputation as a trusted problem solver and generous teacher. His

philosophy — “*It didn’t get old because it didn’t work. Fix it!*” — reflects his passion for keeping equipment running and sharing what he knows.

Mower Maintenance Workshop (Under 25 HP, gasoline only) - April 23rd, 4:00–6:00 pm

Location: Bee Charmed Farm, Albany

Cost: \$15 (scholarships available)

Registration: <https://beav.es/Nkw>

Small acreage mowers under 25 horsepower are some of the hardest working tools on a farm and some of the most overlooked when it comes to routine maintenance. This workshop gives participants hands on practice with essential upkeep and troubleshooting to keep equipment running safely and efficiently.

Topics include:

- Key components, safety checks, and understanding your manual
- Checking and changing engine oil, coolant, and fuel filters
- Lubrication and grease points
- Belt systems and mower deck operation
- Battery care: charging, diagnosing, cleaning, and when to replace
- Troubleshooting hard starts, loss of power, electrical issues, overheating, and vibration
- Seasonal maintenance and must have tools



Oregon State University
Extension Service



Riding Mower Maintenance Workshop

Under 25 HP gasoline only

April 23rd 4-6pm, Bee Charmed Farm, Albany OR



This practical, hands-on workshop gives participants the confidence to keep their equipment running safely, efficiently, and for many years to come.

Utility Tractor & Implement Workshop (Under 30 HP, diesel only) - May 14th, 4:00–6:00 pm

Location: Bee Charmed Farm

Cost: \$15 (scholarships available)

Registration: <https://beav.es/Gtu>

This workshop builds on the foundational maintenance class and focuses on safely selecting, attaching, adjusting, and using implements on compact utility tractors. Participants will gain practical experience with the most common implements used on small farms and rural properties.

Topics include:

- Implement categories, hitch types, PTO requirements, and weight considerations
- Three point hitch systems: attaching, detaching,

- leveling, stabilizers, and top link adjustments
- PTO safety and operation
- Setup and adjustment for rotary cutters, finish mowers, box blades, tillers, and more
- Tire considerations: sizing, ballast, air pressure, and counterweights
- Fluid checks, lubrication, battery care, and seasonal maintenance
- Troubleshooting common field issues

Both workshops offer a rare opportunity to learn directly from a seasoned mechanic who has spent decades teaching others how to keep their equipment reliable and safe. Scholarships are available for both sessions — email Teagan.moran@oregonstate.edu for more information. ☎



Veteran Farmer Coffee + Chat - In the Garden

Friday, May 8th

10am - Noon

Linn County Demo Garden

Albany, Or



***Are you a Veteran?
Connect with other local
Veterans, learn about terminating
cover crops and share resources!***

RSVP:
<https://beav.es/NEd>



Questions or accommodation requests? crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu

Building Climate Resilience for Farmers and Ranchers Online Class Now Available

Prepare Your Farm or Ranch for a Changing Climate
Climate change is already reshaping agriculture across the U.S. — from unpredictable rainfall and droughts to shifting growing seasons and more frequent extreme weather.

This self-paced, online course from Oregon State University gives farmers and ranchers the tools, knowledge, and action steps they need to strengthen their operation's ability to adapt, recover, and thrive in a changing climate.

You'll move from uncertainty to action with a clear plan to build long-term climate resilience on your farm or ranch.

What You'll Learn

By the end of the course, you will:

- Understand the key concepts of climate resilience and assess your exposure to climate risks.
- Evaluate your farm or ranch across seven essential areas: landscape, water, soil, crops, livestock, human health, and financial health.
- Identify vulnerabilities and develop a personalized Climate Resilience Action Plan.
- Explore proven strategies and tools to prepare for and recover from climate-related disasters.
- Build a proactive mindset to help your operation stay sustainable, adaptable, and profitable for generations to come.

Course Modules

This on-demand course includes four interactive modules that guide you through assessment, planning, and action:

- Assessing Your Farm or Ranch for Climate Resilience
- Building Resilience, Part I
- Building Resilience, Part II
- Climate Change: Preparing for Natural Disasters

Each module includes learning materials, assessment worksheets, resilience goals, and supplemental Climate Resilience Fact Sheets. You'll also hear



The screenshot shows a registration page for the course "GROWING FARMS: BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS". The page features a header with the course title, a central image of a farm landscape, and a sidebar with course details. The details include: "This course is 100% online and on-demand.", "Online", and a price of "\$60". There are two buttons: "REGISTER NOW" and "REQUEST MORE INFORMATION". Below the image, the text reads: "Prepare Your Farm or Ranch for a Changing Climate. Climate change is already reshaping agriculture across the U.S. — from unpredictable rainfall and droughts to shifting growing seasons and more frequent extreme weather. This self-paced, online course from Oregon State University gives farmers and ranchers the tools, knowledge, and action steps they need to strengthen their operation's ability to adapt, recover, and thrive in a changing climate. You'll move from uncertainty to action with a clear plan to build long-term climate resilience on your farm or ranch."

directly from Oregon farmers in short videos sharing how they're adapting to climate challenges in real time.

What to Expect

This course was developed by the Oregon State University Center for Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems and the OSU Small Farms Program, supported by the USDA's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.

- Fully Online & Self-Paced: Learn anywhere, anytime.
- No Instructor, but you can contact the course coordinator with questions.
- Hands-On Planning Tools: Access templates, checklists, and planning guides.
- Long-Term Access: Revisit materials for 24 months to refine your resilience strategy.

Who Should Enroll

Whether you grow crops, raise livestock, or manage mixed operations, you'll walk away with a clearer path toward resilience and stability.

This course is ideal for:

- Small- to medium-scale farmers and ranchers

seeking to safeguard their operations against climate impacts.

- Large-scale producers who want to enhance sustainability and disaster preparedness.
- Extension educators, consultants, and agricultural organizations supporting climate adaptation in their regions.

Why Climate Resilience Matters

With the right planning and mindset, your operation can not only withstand change — it can lead the way in sustainable agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers are on the front lines of climate change. Building resilience helps you:

- Protect your soil, water, and animals from increasing climate stress.
- Strengthen your farm's financial health against unpredictable weather.
- Reduce long-term risks and recovery costs from disasters.
- Support your community's food security and environmental sustainability.

Ready to Strengthen Your Farm's Future?

Start today. [Access the course](https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/certificate/building-climate-resilience-for-farmers-and-ranchers) immediately after registration and begin building your farm or ranch's climate resilience action plan. <https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/certificate/building-climate-resilience-for-farmers-and-ranchers>

New Publications in the OSU Extension Service Catalog

EM9192 Oregon's Cottage Food Exemption

The Cottage Food Exemption is distinct from the Farm Direct Marketing Law, which allows for similar license exemptions for growers processing their produce in specific, low-risk ways. See Oregon's Farm Direct Marketing Law, EM 9205, for more information on that exemption.

The Cottage Food Exemption sets specific standards for:

- Allowable products.
- Facility requirements.
- Labeling.
- Sales and marketing.
- Record-keeping

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/em-9192-oregons-cottage-food-exemption>

EM 9156 Endophyte Toxins in grass and other feed sources: Risks to livestock

Both grass seed growers and livestock producers benefit when animals graze on grass seed fields. But many varieties of tall fescue and perennial ryegrass contain fungal toxins harmful to livestock. Learn how to detect potentially poisonous plant material and protect your flock or herd.

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/em-9156-endophyte-toxins-grass-other-feed-sources-risks-livestock>

