



**OrCAN**  
**Oregon Climate & Agriculture Network**

OACD Annual Meeting November 2022

# OrCAN

**Oregon Climate & Agriculture Network**

OrCAN's mission is to

empower a broad, producer-centered network to improve soil health across Oregon through collaboration, education, and policy advocacy.

Healthy Soils  
Bill

Climate  
Resilience  
Training



---

# Why a Healthy Soils Bill?

- Healthy soils are a foundation for climate resilience for farmers
  - Farmers and ranchers need support and resources
  - Farm service providers need more resources to provide that support
  - Legislation can provide significant resources
- 



---

# Our Approach and Process

- Focus on soil health
- Focus on soil health principles



---

# Our Approach and Process

- Focus on Soil Health (not climate)
  - Focus on principles (not specific practices)
  - Comprehensive policy
  - Interagency collaboration
  - Engaging across ag community
-

---

# What's in the bill?

- Creation of a Soil Health Initiative
  - Advisory Committee
  - Interagency Collaboration
  - Specific Roles
  - Roadmap
-

---

# Creation of a Soil Health Initiative

Purpose: to promote and support farming and ranching systems to improve soil health in Oregon

Goals: Agricultural viability and environmental function

---



---

# Creation of a Soil Health Initiative

Advance voluntary incentive-based strategies including:

- financial incentives
- outreach and education
- technical assistance
- resources
- research



---

# Collaboration between

- Oregon Department of Agriculture
  - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
  - Oregon Association of Conservation Districts/ Soil and Water Conservation Districts
  - Oregon State University (Extension and the College of Agricultural Sciences)
-

---

# Collaboration includes

- Consult/collaborate/coordinate with each other
  - Assess and fill programmatic gaps and needs
  - Use available data from existing soil health baseline assessments, inventories & tools
  - Agencies/entities build their own capacities as well as others'
-

---

# Oregon Department of Ag

Primary responsibility for coordinating *and*

- Partnerships
- Identifying funding
- Marketing resources for producers



---

# Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

- Grant making:
  - Fund soil health practices (OAHP grants)
  - Provide TA grants to SWCDs



---

# Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- Applying for OAHP grants for land managers to implement soil health practices
- Receive OWEB's technical assistance grants to provide TA & resources
- Technical assistance
- Outreach and education



---

# Oregon State University

- Research
- Soil testing
- Technical assistance (with SWCDs)
- Outreach and education (with SWCDs)



---

# Soil Health Roadmap

- Strategies and actions to advance soil health
- Completed in first year
- With input from Soil Health Advisory Committee





---

# What's next:

Keep informed through OACD

Legislative session  
January-June 2023





# Train the Trainer

*Photo Credit: Sakari Farm by Jaime Thrower/Studio XIII Photography*

October 2022 Climate Resilience Training for Oregon Ag Professionals

## Workshop Wednesdays: Expand Your Toolbox for Oregon Growers

*The 2022 workshop series has concluded.*

[See Recordings & Resources Here!](#)

### WHAT

1. An interactive training for Oregon agricultural professionals to advance their knowledge of farm-based solutions for climate resilience. These solutions reduce risks from extreme weather events, store more carbon in the soil, and work for a farmer's bottom-line.
2. Create a community of practice dedicated to supporting, improving, and better understanding farming and ranching for climate resilience in Oregon.

---

# Climate Resilience Training for Oregon Ag Professionals

- Just completed 2<sup>nd</sup> annual training
  - 156 registrants
  - agricultural technical service providers, farm advisors, and researchers
    - Soil and Water Conservation Districts,
    - OSU Extension,
    - Oregon Natural Resource Conservation Service,
    - Watershed Councils,
    - non-profits,
    - agricultural education providers.
-

---

# Climate Resilience Training for Oregon Ag Professionals

## Topics:

how changing climate will impact farmers on the ground

how farmers make decisions about changing practices

connected soil health and climate resilience

communications with producers starts with listening and understanding their needs

discussed policy and market drivers

regional conversations

Recordings and materials shared during the training can all be found via our [website](#).

---

---

# Climate Resilience Training for Oregon Ag Professionals

Trainings in 2023 for Oregon Ag Professionals

- Shorter events maybe quarterly
- You are welcome!
- Connect us to innovators in your community!





Thanks!

Photo credits: STUDIO XIII

---

# Whereas Statements: Why is this important?

- Oregon's agriculture is a key economic sector
  - Increase agriculture's economic resilience and profitability
  - Resilience to drought and extreme weather events
  - Benefits for plant and animal health
  - Environmental benefits
-

---

# Our Approach and Process: Listening

- Producer Discussion Sessions with Partners: Ecotrust, Friends of Family Farmers, OSU
  - Survey of 82 producers
  - Conversations with 72 technical service providers
  - Survey of technical service providers -- 105 responses
-



---

# Soil Health Advisory Committee

To provide input and guidance to the Soil Health Initiative's collaborating agencies and entities. Including reps from:

- Soil science
  - Plant science
  - Animal science
  - Rural sociology
  - Environmental economics
  - Technical assistance
  - Production agriculture by type
  - Agricultural workforce
  - Indigenous communities or Tribes
  - Non-profit representing the agriculture community and focused on advancing soil health.
-