

OAN Member JB Meeting #2

12-12-25 via Zoom (AI notes)

Presenters: Chris Benemann (ODA), Jeff Stone (OAN); Bill Perry (Balance Point Strategies)

The meeting primarily focused on addressing the Japanese Beetle issue and planning for the 2026 shipping season, including discussions about funding challenges, trapping programs, and compliance requirements across different states. The group explored the status and future of plant certification programs, with emphasis on securing necessary funding and meeting Category 1 state requirements by January 2027.

## **Summary**

### **Japanese Beetle Funding Crisis**

The meeting focused on addressing the Japanese Beetle issue and planning for 2026 shipping season. Jeff Stone, the Executive Director, explained the current situation, noting that the program's funding was not included in the governor's recommended budget, and efforts are underway to secure \$1.5 million in funding. Chris Benemann discussed the state of play, emphasizing the need to resolve the issue by January 1, 2027, and highlighted the ODA's efforts to find cost-effective alternatives. Bill Perry, the lobbyist, will address funding details in the next segment. The meeting aims to provide clarity on the process for 2026 and address member questions.

### **Japanese Beetle Program Update**

Chris explained that Director Lisa Hansen and Deputy Director Sandau were unable to attend due to a Zoom issue but sent their regrets and thanks for cooperation. Chris emphasized the importance of the trapping component in Oregon's Japanese Beetle program, which complements treatment efforts and provides statewide surveillance for early detection. Currently, Oregon is in the information sleuthing phase regarding Japanese Beetle regulations, as there is no federal framework. Chris outlined the status of conversations with Western states about the Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan, noting that California, Washington, Idaho, Utah, and Texas have acknowledged Oregon's work and are generally aligned with a May 1 start date for certifications from Oregon growers.

### **Japanese Beetle Certification Program Updates**

The meeting focused on the Japanese Beetle trapping program and certification requirements for different states. Jeff emphasized the importance of completing the trapping cycle by 2025 and discussed ongoing negotiations with New Mexico and Colorado regarding certification start dates. Chris explained that ODA used emergency funds (OAN and the Oregon Invasive Species funds) to complete the 2025 work, which has set a better position for 2026. The group also discussed challenges with Nevada's quarantine requirements and the pending status of British Columbia's certification, with no update yet from the National Plan Board.

### **Plant Certification Funding Strategy Discussion**

The meeting focused on the status and future of a plant certification program, with Jeff and Bill discussing funding challenges and strategic planning. They explained that while the program currently faces budget constraints, they are working to secure general fund dollars and legislative

authority for positions in 2026, with the goal of achieving a fully funded program by 2027. Jeff emphasized that other commodities will need to contribute to long-term funding, as the current industry cannot bear the full cost, and noted that he is already engaging with other affected industries like wine and hazelnuts to build support for a sustainable program.

### **Japanese Beetle Management Strategies**

The group discussed Japanese beetle management and Category 1 status in Washington state, where two counties have active quarantines from May 15 to October 15. Chris explained that Washington can maintain its Category 1 status through active monitoring, trapping, and treatment programs, which are publicly operated rather than privately managed. Jeff and Chris discussed the economics of trapping programs, with Jeff planning to consult with contractors about cost-effective approaches, while Patrick raised questions about county-wide versus individual nursery trapping methods.

### **Category 1 Plant Regulation Transition**

The group discussed the transition to Category 1 status for plant regulation, which requires state quarantine, managing known populations, and statewide surveillance. Chris explained that while the program is publicly operated, they are also working with private entities for treatments and trapping. Jeff mentioned that the fee increase of 18.7% would raise about \$700,000 over a biennium, and they are working on building the capacity of trapping companies. Growers asked about the trapping density for nurseries, and Chris indicated it was in the harmonization plan but did not have the exact number. The group also discussed pre-notification requirements and the need for compliance agreements in 2026.

### **Japanese Beetle Trapping Program Revival**

The group discussed the Japanese beetle trapping program, which has been used for 8 years in Oregon. Chris explained that if funding were reinstated, the program could be reconstituted without requiring significant changes for nurseries and counties. However, she noted that the loss of key staff has created a challenge in quickly ramping up the program. Jeff emphasized the need to regroove the program to meet Category 1 state requirements by January 1, 2027, while minimizing changes on the farm. OAN members encouraged industry members to educate others about the pest and its potential impact on various commodities, as well as to engage with Salem officials to raise awareness.

### **Japanese Beetle Compliance Funding Plan**

The group discussed funding and classification for Japanese Beetle compliance, with Jeff and Chris explaining that they are working with legislative leadership to secure general fund money in 2026 and that Category 2 status is their expected outcome. They clarified that May 1 is the target date for starting shipping with certificates of quarantine compliance, though trapping won't begin until June 1, and that the certificates would be issued by ODA inspectors to confirm compliance with Japanese Beetle standards. Jeff also mentioned pursuing additional federal funding through USDA and working on trapping math calculations, while expressing optimism about securing resources for the program's development.

## **Japanese Beetle Compliance and Shipping**

The group discussed the status of Japanese Beetle (JB) infestations and compliance requirements. Jeff explained that while Oregon maintains high standards, they could potentially self-declare as Category 1 like New Mexico did, though this would be unorthodox. Chris clarified that nurseries can ship during the fly season, contradicting misinformation. The discussion covered compliance agreements, trapping protocols, and treatment processes, with Chris outlining that nurseries need both trapping and treatment agreements with ODA, and that shipping restrictions would apply only if JB is found on a nursery property in 2026.

## **Utah Nursery Stock Shipping Compliance**

The group discussed compliance requirements for shipping nursery stock to Utah in 2026, including the need for pre-notification and certificates of quarantine compliance (CQCs). Jeff explained that they are working with ODA to create a visual timeline with hotlinks to provide up-to-date information about shipping requirements. The discussion also covered funding for trapping programs, with Jeff clarifying that they are aiming to raise around \$1.5 million to split between the state and nursery industry, rather than the originally proposed \$2 million (which is the funding level for the prior program). The group addressed questions about the approval process for third-party trappers and the need for treatment only when trapping shows evidence of beetles.

## **JB Program Treatment and Funding**

The group discussed treatment timing for JB program, with Chris explaining that treatments historically involved both granular (spring) and foliar (summer) applications, and noted that while funding might come too late for full treatment in 2026, they could still implement a reduced program. Concerns were raised about the impact of shipping requirements on bare root operations, particularly regarding soil particle size regulations for Category 1 and 2 states. Jeff confirmed that no negative financial impact analysis has been conducted regarding the proposed 18.7% increase, and explained that nursery license fees would increase in April 2026 to help fund the program's recovery to Category 1 status.

## **Can you ship during Flight Season?**

Chris Benemann clarified that nurseries can ship to Category 1 and 2 states during the fly season with proper certification and trapping data. The group agreed to meet again in mid-January, and Chris promised to provide additional FAQs to address ongoing questions.