



**Please Support Funding for OSU Statewides, Oregon FFA and FNRL, and Japanese Beetle Eradication**

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair Ways & Means  
 Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair Ways & Means  
 Oregon State Legislature  
 February 26, 2026

On behalf of our broad and diverse coalition of agriculture and natural resource organizations, we write to express our strong support for continued and robust funding for Oregon State University Statewides, Oregon FFA and FNRL, and Japanese Beetle eradication and response efforts.

These investments are critical to protecting Oregon’s agricultural economy, supporting rural communities, developing the next generation of leaders, and safeguarding our natural resources. While we understand the ongoing budget constraints, we’re asking for the prioritization of these programs.

**Oregon State University Statewides**

The OSU Statewides including Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Forest Research Lab play a vital role in addressing some the Oregon’s most pressing natural resource issues and delivering research-based education and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, foresters, families, and communities across all 36 counties. OSU Statewides faculty and programs provide essential support in areas such as:

- Crop and livestock production
- Water quality and soil health
- Wildfire resilience and forest management
- Invasive species prevention
- Youth development through 4-

In an era of increasing regulatory complexity, climate variability, and market uncertainty, OSU Statewides serves as a trusted, science-based partner to Oregon's natural resource sectors. Stable and adequate funding ensures that producers have access to timely research, on-the-ground technical expertise, and community-based programming that strengthens both economic viability and environmental stewardship.

### **Oregon Future Farmers of America (FFA)**

Oregon FFA is a premier leadership development organization that prepares students for careers in agriculture, natural resources, forestry, and related industries. Through classroom instruction, supervised agricultural experiences, and leadership training, FFA equips students with:

- Practical workforce skills
- Technical agricultural knowledge
- Public speaking and leadership experience
- Career readiness in high-demand sectors

FFA is essential to maintaining a strong pipeline of skilled professionals in agriculture and natural resource industries, sectors that are foundational to Oregon's economy and rural vitality. Continued state investment ensures equitable access to agricultural education programs across urban and rural communities alike.

### **Future Natural Resources Leaders (FNRL)**

The Oregon Department of Education's Student Leadership Centers provide statewide infrastructure for the Future Natural Resources Leaders program. FNRL, a Career Technical Student Organization, is vital to training and supporting students through forestry and natural resource programs across the state. Without this program, students and teachers will lose essential support for the outside-the-classroom activities that are so important to keeping students engaged.

Forestry and natural resources careers are already suffering from a lack of workforce, making it increasingly difficult to fill jobs in these industries. Funding for FNRL will help grow natural resources leaders with hands-on experience and expertise across Oregon.

### **Japanese Beetle Eradication**

The ongoing threat of Japanese beetle infestation poses a serious risk to Oregon's specialty crops, nursery industry, turf, and overall agricultural landscape. If established, Japanese beetles could cause significant economic harm and trigger costly interstate and international trade restrictions.

Oregon's proactive eradication and containment efforts have proven effective, but sustained funding is necessary to:

- Continue treatment and monitoring programs
- Prevent spread to new regions
- Protect nursery exports and specialty crop markets
- Avoid far more expensive long-term management costs

Investing now in eradication protects billions of dollars in agricultural production and preserves Oregon's reputation in domestic and global markets.

**We urge your support for full funding of these critical programs**

Oregon agriculture and natural resource industries depend on strategic public investments that deliver measurable returns to communities, employers, and consumers statewide.

Funding for Statewides, FFA and FNRL, and Japanese beetle eradication represents a prudent and forward-looking commitment to economic resilience, workforce development, and environmental protection.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of Oregon's agricultural and natural resource communities.

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Associated Oregon Loggers  
Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers  
Oregon Association of Nurseries  
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association  
Oregon Farm Bureau  
Oregon Pork Producers  
Oregon Seed Association  
Oregon Seed Council  
Oregon Small Woodlands Association  
Oregon Wheat Growers League  
Oregon Winegrowers Association  
Oregon Women for Agriculture  
Oregonians for Food & Shelter  
Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association  
Tillamook  
Weyerhaeuser