



THE CULTIVATOR

Working together to communicate the story of today's agriculture

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MEMBERS GATHER FOR 2026 CONVENTION

by Helle Ruddenklau, Convention Planning Chair

Oregon Women for Agriculture members gathered at the historic McMenamins Grand Lodge in Forest Grove March 5-7 for the annual convention, this year hosted by Yamhill County. Members who arrived early were seen enjoying the pool, while county treasurers and presidents each had their own meetings in the afternoon. That evening we enjoyed a meal together before Leanne Babcock of the Dauntless Veteran Foundation gave us an overview of their grant program. Finally, we enjoyed some lively discussion during Town Hall mainly concerning IP28.

Saturday, we met next door at the site of an old orphanage, now known as the Children's Cottage. After a short business meeting we dove into a series of short presentations. We heard from Taylor Foerster from Oregon State University giving us some general social media tips plus an update on their Ag Communication program. Then Jennifer Redmond-Noble told the story of their multigenerational



Convention attendees at Berger Seed International, one of the tour stops during the convention.

family farm, and the planning and tradeoffs required to keep the operation a viable size. Finally, our Nebraska guest speaker played a video outoftheshadowsdoc.com highlighting some of the mental health issues affecting farmers and ranchers. After a short break, Laura Schroeder of Schroeder Law Offices, PC gave us an overview of Oregon water law to wrap up the morning.

The afternoon saw us out on a bus tour. At our first stop, New York

Times columnist, Nicholas Kristof, and his wife, Sheryl Wudunn, welcomed us to Kristof Farms outside of Yamhill and talked about their efforts to find a profitable crop for their farm and creating a value-added product. We had lunch while tasting their award-winning wine and cider. Meanwhile our bus driver was executing a 20-point turn attempting to turn the large bus in a small space! He questioned how we had been

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CHAPTER UPDATES

Learn about what is going on around the state.

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AUCTION INFORMATION

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Learn about proposed and imminent ballot measures.

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MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT



DANA BOWERS-BROCK
STATE PRESIDENT
president@owaonline.org

When asked how I got involved in Oregon Women in Agriculture, the short answer is: it's in my blood. I grew up on a grass seed farm, playing Barbies in my dad's windrower, reading books during slow periods while driving bankout wagon, pulling lambs before softball practice, selling grass seed as a cover crop before I'd earned my high school diploma. I love Oregon Ag. I love surrounding myself with smart women from diverse backgrounds. I love advocacy and education. Being a leader in OWA is a natural and exciting next step for me.

We are strongest as an organization when we are respectful of our

differences and united in our mission. We are a diverse group of women, and are a part of an even more diverse agricultural landscape across our state. When OWA started, it was to create strength in numbers to lobby for policy that impacted farmers. We have since extended our mission to promoting, educating, and uniting, but let's not lose OWA's foundation: Together, our voices are louder.

In thinking about my plans and hopes for my presidency, I will bring compassionate and fair leadership, strengthen communication across our chapters, and plan to reinvigorate member engagement. My background as a clinical social worker brings knowledge on nonprofit procedures and experiences in leadership. I aim to be approachable, curious, and flexible enough to support all of our chapters and members. I will encourage and expect a culture of mutual respect and support for all members; individually, at events, or at board meetings. I have big plans to promote the story of Oregon Agriculture, and hope to share more information on that soon!

On a more personal note, I have lived a thousand lives and have

a million stories to share. I sing and play several instruments, including the accordion. I've lived in New York and been in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. I've held a job in Costa Rica. I make a fantastic red wine braised short rib. I love traveling abroad as much as I love sitting in the John Day with a book and my dogs. I also am a full time social worker at a small nonprofit in Eugene, supporting adults with disabilities. I breed multigenerational goldendoodles, many of whom become therapy and service dogs. Finally, and most importantly, I farm grass and other seeds alongside my supportive husband. I'm 5th generation on my family land, and love the stewardship and passion my ancestors managed it with, and hope to continue their legacy for years to come.

I am always happy to hear your story - in email, over wine, or on a walk. If you have ideas, concerns, or want to connect, reach out. Thank you for being a member. You are valued, you do important work, and you make OWA strong.

~ Dana

Save the Date American Agri-Women Fly-In, Washington, DC May 31- June 3, 2026

Women from across the country will come together to meet with legislators and federal agencies, advocate for key agricultural issues, and stand behind AAW Position Statements. Travel stipends are available to OWA members to attend this event. [Contact Dana to learn more!](#)

MEET THE 2026 STATE OFFICERS

At the Oregon Women for Agriculture Annual Meeting on March 7, 2026, members gathered to elect and install new leadership for the coming year.

Please join us in congratulating Dana Bowers-Brock as she steps into the role of President. We also welcome newly elected officers Jenifer Skiles, Second Vice President; Caitlin Brown, Corresponding Secretary; and Janet Redmond, Registrar.

Continuing their service to the organization are Jenny Hitner, Treasurer, and Debbie Burns, Recording Secretary.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Sarah Puls for her outstanding leadership over the past two years. We are grateful she will remain actively involved as Past President, continuing to support OWA and its mission.



From left to right: Jenny Hitner, Treasurer; Debbie Burns, Recording Secretary; Caitlin Brown, Corresponding Secretary; Jen Skiles, Second Vice President; Janet Redmond, Registrar; Dana Bowers-Brock, President; Sarah Puls, Past President

Mary Hood stepped off of the board after six years of dedicated service. Thank you both for the tremendous impact on our organization.

At this time, the position of First Vice President remains open. We encourage members to consider stepping into this leadership role or

to nominate someone who would be a great fit. Serving on the OWA board is a meaningful way to support the organization, build connections, and help shape its future.

Learn more about our newly-elected leaders on [page 9](#).

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Please contact your chapter president for the most up to date information on upcoming chapter meetings.

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All members welcome at state board meetings. [See page 14 for details!](#)

CHAPTER UPDATES FROM ACROSS THE STATE

CENTRAL OREGON

We are proud to announce that we have a total of 14 members in our chapter, and our meetings have been larger than they have been for a long time. We had a membership drive with a drawing at the end for a basket worth over \$250.00 in goodies. We added 3 new members through this event. Congratulations to Nancy our Gift Basket winner!!

This past month, members were busy at the State FFA convention in Redmond and the following week at the Central Oregon Ag show also in Redmond.

We've also started and developed a website centraloregonowa.com. Thank you to our member, Heather for helping us get this off the ground, we also have a Facebook page for our chapter and are gaining new followers every day!

Carole Richard
Central Oregon Chapter Secretary/
Treasurer



Central Oregon membership drive gift basket winner.

LANE

In February, we proudly announced new leadership: Callie Smith has stepped into the role of President. A member since she was very young and a fifth-generation member of her family farm, Callie remains deeply rooted in agriculture and now specializes in rural and farm real estate. Kayla Reber was elected Vice President. She serves as the Ag Teacher and FFA Advisor at Harrisburg High School and continues to be an active, dedicated member of our chapter.

We've welcomed several new members over the past couple of months. We are busy getting volunteers lined up for Ag in the Classroom and are looking forward to upcoming tours and outings as a chapter with this great spring weather.

Lane County is growing, and we're looking forward to a strong year ahead.

Callie Smith
Lane Chapter President

LINN-BENTON

The Linn-Benton Women for Agriculture chapter has had a busy and productive start to the year. In January and February, the chapter finalized its 2026–2027 leadership team and approved its annual budget. Kjer Kizer is now serving as our president, and Abby Johnson as vice president. Pam Toews continues in her role as corresponding secretary. Amorita Wirth, treasurer, and Debbie Burns, recording secretary, each have one

year remaining in their terms.

Members have also been actively planning key events, including the OWA Convention, State FFA Convention, and the annual OWA Auction. Preparations are in full swing for the auction, with members organizing donations, coordinating volunteer support, and assembling a chapter basket featuring a Pendleton blanket and themed items.

We are currently accepting scholarship applications through April 15, and members continue to support Ag in the Classroom initiatives, including a successful Literacy Project kickoff and upcoming classroom volunteer opportunities. Plans are also underway for a new collaboration at the Scio Lamb Fair in May, where members will host a hands-on activity for youth.

Our chapter is proud to continue its tradition of preparing care packages for members of Oregon State University's Sigma Alpha chapter which will be delivered at the end of the school year.

Linn-Benton is also looking forward to hosting the OWA State Board Meeting in May and is planning a spring social to connect members.

Jessica Jansen
Linn-Benton Chapter Member

MARION-CLACKAMAS

The Marion Clackamas chapter had their first reorganization meeting on January 8th. At that meeting, we were able to elect officers. President – Michelle Carmony, Vice President – Carol Bernhard and Treasurer – Tracy Duerst. Michelle will fill in as Secretary until one is elected. We designated Karen Withers and Carol Bernhard as directors and Tracy Duerst as alternate. We held a second meeting Feb 4th. Between those 2 meetings, we've funded two mini grants. One to Silverton FFA to help fund the items needed for a mobile classroom that they will use to take to local schools and educate about agriculture and ag careers. The other one was to Gervais FFA. It will help get them set up for a poultry breeding program that will be a benefit to helping their ag program foster a deeper connection to agriculture and help students understand the commitment, responsibility and science in modern animal husbandry. We are looking forward to hearing about their experiences as the projects take off.

We have formed a scholarship committee and will be offering three \$1,000 scholarships this year. Our Vice President has taken on the task of Auction Committee chair for our chapter and is gathering some great donation items for the upcoming auction. As a chapter, we are going to make it a goal to help support some of the lesser-known projects in our chapter counties that facilitate the mission of OWA, To Educate, To Promote and To Unite. Please do not hesitate to reach out with suggestions and ideas as we go forward in reviving our chapter.

Michelle Carmony
Marion-Clackamas President

POLK

Our chapter sponsored the Polk County 4-H Art & Sciences Discovery Day on January 10th at the Polk County Fairgrounds, which supported five horticulture classes that reached roughly 75 youth.

Classes included: dried flower arranging, succulent gardens and living seed necklaces/seed cups. Leftover supplies will go towards spring break classes that expect to reach 15-20 additional youth.

In February we elected new officers. They are Diann Washburn-President, Sarrah McMaster-Vice President, Carol Marx-Secretary, and Arlene Kovash-Treasurer.

We nominated Carol and Merle Marx for the Diamond Pioneer Award, recognizing their significant, lifetime contributions to agriculture. We learned last week that they have been accepted and will be honored at the April 14th awards ceremony at OSU. We are thrilled to see them both recognized!

In March four chapter members attended State Convention, and we placed an ad in our local Dallas Itemizer for National Ag Day, March 24th with a word search of Oregon's Top 20 Ag Commodities.

PCWA meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at Westside Pacific Family Restaurant in Rickreall, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. All are welcome to join us!

Diann Washburn
Polk Chapter President

YAMHILL

Thank you all for joining us for the Convention. We had a wonderful time enjoying the Grand Lodge with you all and exploring wine and cider, historic farms, and seed processing in Yamhill County. We also enjoyed learning with you all, discussing important agricultural issues, and socializing throughout the weekend. Additionally, we congratulate our wonderful chapter member, Janet Redmond, who was elected to serve as on the state board.

We renewed our 2025 slate of officers for 2026. I will remain as president, Susie Kreder as vice president, Helle Ruddenklau as treasurer, and Eunice Goodrich as secretary.

As spring marches on, we will turn our attention to assisting with Auction preparations and AgFest, as well as catching up on other chapter business. We will be circulating our scholarships soon, so please send eligible applicants our way.

The Community College scholarship is open to applicants majoring in an agriculturally related field. Applicants must be graduates or students about to graduate from a Yamhill County public or private high school, Western Christian School, Perrydale School, or students home schooled within Yamhill County.

The OSU scholarship is open to juniors and seniors, in, agriculture or natural resources, and graduated from high school in Yamhill County or have a connection to Yamhill County.

We wish everyone a productive Spring!

Tara Lomaz
Yamhill Chapter President

ANNUAL AUCTION AND DINNER- APRIL 18



OWA ANNUAL AUCTION & DINNER

TICKETS

ON SALE NOW

EARLY BIRD TICKET PRICING ENDS APRIL 1ST

APRIL 18, 2026
4:30 PM - Silent Auction
6:00 PM - Dinner
7:15 PM - Live Auction

Get your tickets now for \$75 per person.
Tickets purchased after April 1st will be \$100 per person.

Tickets are available to purchase online:
owaonline.org/auction



The OWA Annual Auction is Almost Here—Don't Miss It!

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is right around the corner! Join us on April 18th at the Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany for an unforgettable evening. We can't wait to gather with friends, enjoy a fabulous dinner, and raise crucial funds to support our mission: Working Together to Communicate the Story of Today's Agriculture.

Our volunteers have been working tirelessly, and we're excited to continue engaging the public about the importance of Oregon agriculture. Your support helps us fund key projects like: Crop identification signs, Ag Youth Mini-Grants to support the next generation, partner organizations such as Summer Ag Institute, Oregon AgLink's Adopt a Farmer, and Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom and educational booths at the Oregon State Fair, county fairs, and Oregon AgFest.

Visit www.owaonline.org/auction (or scan the QR code) for more event details or to purchase tickets.

Questions? Contact the Auction Committee at auction@owaonline.org.

We'll see you on April 18th!

CONVENTION REPORT CONTINUED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

approved to drive to that location? However, he was soon mollified as our next tour consisted of driving through the picturesque ranch of our members, Nancy Thornton. The creek running through their ranch is the source of drinking water for the city of McMinnville. We also admired the beautiful cattle in the pastures and the view of the 400,000 trees they have planted. Our last stop was at the seed plant for Berger Seed International, where Becky Berger gave us a tour. Becky has built up an impressive operation which now includes a seed company, which Becky travels internationally for to market seed. Becky spoke passionately about what it takes to keep a family business together.

It was then time to return to the Grand Lodge for our evening. During the social hour, we enjoyed a little farmer's market. Thank you to Jen Skiles, Diann Washburn and Central Oregon Women for Agriculture for bringing items for us to look at and buy. After dinner the LEAVEN award



Taylor Foerster from Oregon State University presents to the group.

was presented to Debbie Burns, followed by our keynote speaker, Leah Peterson from Nebraska who is known as "Clear Creek Ranch Mom". Leah spoke of her personal story including some strong women through the generations. She is currently living with her family on the ranch she grew up on. She encouraged us all to share our story. Leah's presentation summed up what seemed to be some themes that ran through the convention; what it means to be a woman in agriculture, the many roles we take on, and the strength needed to see our operations succeed.

Saturday morning, we moved to the Community Auditorium in Forest Grove. Before the official meeting started, Evelyn Tedrick of Oregon Agriculture In The Classroom gave an overview of this year's Ag Literacy project and the fun Candy Land themed activity that goes with it. We then moved into the annual meeting, where we conducted the required business and also elected new officers for this year.



The group at Kristof Farms.

As always it was a time to renew friendships and make new ones. Attending convention is an important reminder of the unique role we play within this industry and the common bonds we all share. On behalf of Yamhill County Women for Agriculture, I would like to thank everyone who attended.



Helle Ruddenklau with Friday's keynote speaker, Leah Peterson of Nebraska, "Clear Creek Ranch Mom".

DEBBIE BURNS HONORED WITH LEAVEN AWARD

The Oregon Women for Agriculture LEAVEN Award recognizes members who quietly but powerfully influence the organization much like leaven in bread, a small ingredient that helps everything rise.

This year, OWA received a significant number of nominations for the LEAVEN Award. That in itself is something to celebrate. While the organization has been working through restructuring and changes, one thing has remained constant: the dedication and hard work of OWA members. The nominations reflected the many ways members continue to support one another and strengthen the organization.

This year's recipient is Debbie Burns.

Debbie has faithfully served OWA as both State Secretary and

Linn-Benton Chapter Secretary. If you've ever received meeting minutes suspiciously fast after a meeting, there's a good chance Debbie was behind it.

Beyond her leadership roles, Debbie is always ready to volunteer. From setting up booths and decorating tables to helping run the silent auction, she consistently steps in wherever help is needed. She is also a strong supporter of youth programs, regularly contributing to 4-H and FFA activities.

Debbie's enthusiasm, kindness, and



Outgoing President Sarah Puls presents Debbie Burns with the LEAVEN Award during the Annual Convention held in Forest Grove.

willingness to serve truly reflect the spirit of the LEAVEN Award.

Please join us in congratulating Debbie Burns, the 2025 recipient of the OWA LEAVEN Award.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- OREGON AG FEST

Sign up now to volunteer at the Oregon Women for Agriculture booth at Oregon Ag Fest.

The event, held at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem, is scheduled for April 25 and 26. We need your help to staff the OWA booth and talk directly with thousands of event attendees.



[Sign up now](#)

[April 25 & 26](#)

[State](#)

[Fairgrounds](#)



MEET THE NEW STATE OFFICERS



Jenifer Skiles
Second Vice President

Jenifer Skiles is a native Oregonian, growing up on the McKenzie River in Leaburg. She graduated from Southern Oregon University with a BFA in Theatre Arts with an emphasis in Stage Management. Jenifer met her husband Ryan, they married and moved to San Antonio, Texas where Ryan was stationed in the Air Force. 17 years and several moves later, Ryan retired from the Air Force. Ryan, Jenifer, daughters Evelyn and Cassandra, moved back to Ryan's hometown of Junction City.

Jenifer went to work for the Skiles' family nursery where she learned more about plants and developed her love of tender succulents. Jenifer started propagating, growing and selling succulents, and in 2017 started Twisted Succulents, LLC. Most days you can find her in one of her greenhouses working with her succulents. She is a member of the Lane County Chapter of OWA, as well as the Oregon Association of Nurseries and the Scandinavian Cultural Foundation.



Janet Redmond
Registrar

Janet Redmond is a fourth-generation Oregonian who grew up on her family farm in McMinnville, where she continues to reside.

She retired in 2022 after a 37-year career with Pacific Gas and Electric Company in California. Throughout her career, Janet remained closely tied to Oregon, regularly returning home to stay engaged in agricultural activities and community events.

Janet holds a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Oregon State University, an M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Vermont, and a Master's Degree in Human Resources and Organizational Development from the University of San Francisco. In addition to her involvement with Oregon Women for Agriculture, Janet serves on the Yamhill County Fair Board and is active with the local 4-H Association.



Caitlin Brown
Corresponding Secretary

Caitlin Brown is an Animal Science student with a minor in Agricultural and Food Business Management at Oregon State University. Through her studies and hands-on work, she discovered a strong passion for agriculture and the people who make it possible. Caitlin currently works at the OSU dairy and is actively involved in agricultural organizations on campus, including Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority and the Dairy Club. She is also serving as the 2026–27 Linn-Benton Counties Dairy Princess Ambassador, where she helps promote dairy education and share the story of agriculture with her community. Caitlin is especially interested in connecting consumers with agriculture through education, outreach, and advocacy. As Corresponding Secretary for OWA, she is excited to help share the organization's message and highlight the experiences and people that make OWA such an important voice for agriculture in Oregon!

SPRINGTIME AT OREGON AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

By Jade Davidson, Oregon AITC & Linn-Benton

Happy Spring! As we enter this new season, the staff at Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom looks forward to the promise of longer days, less rain, and, of course, engaging students in our annual Literacy Project. This year, we are bringing strawberries and other Oregon berries to the table—what is your favorite Oregon berry? Read on to learn about our Literacy Project Kick-off Event as well as how to get involved in this year's berry-sweet project!



OWA Members and AITC staff in attendance at the first-ever Literacy Project Kick-off with author Shannon Anderson (middle).



About the 2026 Literacy Project

The 2026 Literacy Project features the book *I Love Strawberries!* by Shannon Anderson. Readers will join Jolie as she sets out to grow her own strawberries, learning firsthand the responsibility, patience, and care it takes to raise a crop. Along the way, she discovers that farming isn't just about enjoying the harvest—it's about problem-solving, persistence, and appreciating where our food comes from. Accompanying the book is an activity inspired by the beloved children's game, Candy Land. In this exciting game, students will become berry farmers in Oregon with the goal of growing their own berries from seed to harvest. Students will learn how to plan, plant, care, and enjoy their crops to finish the game.

Celebrating Oregon berries with a Literacy Project Kick-off

We hosted our first-ever Literacy Project Kick-off at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) at the end of February—and what a successful event it was! Oregon Ag in the Classroom welcomed the author, Shannon Anderson, for an exciting and engaging author talk. Shannon discussed her writing journey and the persistence needed to become a well-known children's book author, highlighting the message that the best things don't always happen overnight. We also heard from representatives at the Oregon Strawberry and Blueberry Commissions and NWREC, each of whom discussed the importance of berries to Oregon's agricultural economy. Later, guests enjoyed fresh pie and a berry-themed raffle and took home a variety of 2026 Literacy Project goodies. Thank you to all those who attended, most especially, the OWA members!

Volunteer for our Literacy Project!

Each year, we rely on hundreds of volunteers to help us reach 20,000 students with the Literacy Project. This year is no different! We will provide training for volunteers who wish to connect with local kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms to set up time to visit, read, and lead a short activity with students. Start to finish, the program takes 30-45 minutes. The Literacy Project will run through early June. Register today to bring agricultural literacy to students in your community by reaching out to your local schools. For more information about the program or to sign up to read to a classroom, [visit our website](#), contact Evelyn Tedrick, Evelyn.Tedrick@oregonstate.edu, or call 541-737-1318.

*Jade Davidson, PhD, Executive Director
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

A report from Oregon Women for Agriculture 501(c)5

By Tami Kerr, Chair, Linn-Benton

Lane County – Jenny Hitner and Marie Bowers
Marion-Clackamas – Tricia Chastain
Polk – Diann Washburn and Abby Fitts
Yamhill – Tara Lomacz and Helle Ruddenklau
OWA Exec Committee - Jenny Hitner

There is an open position on the Legislative Committee for the Central Oregon Chapter. Let [Tami Kerr](#) know if you are interested in serving in this capacity!

Decisions are often time sensitive. Committee members need to be responsive to emails and decisive. Different points of view are welcome however, decisions need to be based on OWA's Approved Policy Positions.

The OWA Legislative Committee was active during the 2026 Short Session that ended on March 6. We took positions to support and oppose legislation and policy at the state and federal level over the last few months.

There were not many significant agricultural bills this session, as compared to previous years. The OWA Legislative Committee weighed in to oppose SB 1507 several times. The bill disallows certain deductions allowed by federal law for Oregon tax purposes, particularly accelerated depreciation of equipment purchases. It passed and was used to fill a budget hole for the state.

We signed on in support of an Ag Coalition letter to provide support for the OSU Statewides, FFA, and the Japanese Beetle. On a positive note, no reductions were proposed for the Public University Support Fund, OSU Statewides or State Programs. No cuts were made to Oregon FFA and funding was secured for the Japanese Beetle.

At the federal level, the Legislative Committee supported a

coalition letter submitted to EPA Administrator Zeldin in February, regarding the importance of safe and effective pesticide products in feeding, fueling, and clothing the world.

Looking Forward Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights – May Primary

The initiative allows any person to file lawsuits on behalf of any body of water and connected ecosystems. The measure allows for lawsuits to be filed against any corporate, government, business or nonprofit entity that is alleged to have harmed water or the adjacent environment. Learn more about the growing opposition to this poorly written measure at Protect Our County - Vote No on Measure 20-373.

IP 28 is Expected to Make the November Ballot – OWA has been opposed to the measure and engaged over the last two years. Petitioners are working to gather and submit 117,173 valid signatures to the Secretary of State by early July. So far more than 100,000 signatures have been submitted.

IP 28 would criminalize routine

animal care practices. Processing animals for meat would be illegal. Pest control would be illegal – no ability to control pests and vermin even for public health standards. Hunting and fishing would be outlawed. IP 28 threatens food security, affordability and Oregon's economy.

An AG-PAC Candidate Tour is scheduled for June 18 in the Washington County area. AG-PAC will be engaged with candidate interviews this summer.

Over the next few months, take time to support you elected officials. Meet candidates running for office. Town Halls are a great opportunity to have conversations with elected officials. Hear updates from the legislative session, ask questions and discuss your concerns.

The OWA Legislative Committee thanks Kathy Ferge for her service on the committee over the last several years and representing the coordinated interests of Eastern Oregon.

MEMBERS REPRESENT AT FFA CONVENTION

Oregon Women for Agriculture hosted a booth at the Oregon FFA State Convention on March 19-20 in Redmond, an event that draws over 4,000 FFA members from across the state. OWA members engaged students with agriculture trivia and interactive bee-themed activities, offering prizes and snacks to encourage participation.

Beyond the booth, members attended the Sponsor Appreciation Dinner, where OWA was honored as a Star Sponsor of Oregon FFA.

A heartfelt thank you to the members who represented OWA at this important event: Carole Richard, Dawn Alexander, Michelle Carmony, Dana Bowers-Brock, Wendy Coates, Carol Bernhard, Debby Elam, Mellisa Case and Roberta Valladao. Your dedication helps strengthen our mission and outreach!



OWA Members attending the FFA Sponsor Appreciation Dinner

From left to right: Katie Glaser, Jessica Jansen, Debby Elam, Wendy Coates, Dawn Alexander, Carole Richard, Michelle Carmony, Kjer Kizer, Dana Bowers-Brock and Carol Bernhard (front).



Members at the booth in the Career & Education show. National FFA Officer Jael Cruikshank (left photo) stopped by to learn more about our organization.



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) seeks applicants to fill 58 commissioner seats on 22 of the state's agricultural and commercial fisheries commodity commissions.

Commodity commissioners are Oregon public officials who volunteer their time for the economic betterment of the commodity. Commodity commissioners carry out important decision-making.

The deadline to apply is **April 6, 2026.**

For instructions on how to apply or to learn more about commissions, please visit:

[Commodity Commissions Website](#)





JOIN US
SECURE OREGON'S FUTURE

Join our natural resource member-based coalition of agriculture, forestry, and professional applicators today!

ofsonline.org




Oregonians
 for Food & Shelter

MODERN TOOLS. HEALTHY LANDSCAPES.

Oregonians for Food & Shelter **advocates for the importance of pesticides, fertilizers, and biotechnology** in Oregon's natural resource sectors. By promoting science-based policy, innovation, and stewardship, we protect the rights of Oregon's producers and land managers to use these essential tools and efficiently produce quality food and fiber.

OREGON WOMEN IN TIMBER UPDATE

January started with OWIT's Clatsop chapter 'hitting the ground running' for their January 15th Natural Resources Annual Dinner & Auction that supports CTE programs for Clatsop County schools. The event sold out with over 600 people in attendance that brought in about \$190,000. Efforts quickly transitioned to plan for the Eugene Annual Auction that is the kick-off event for the Oregon Logging Conference. That auction had over 500 people attending and brought in \$161,000 for Talk About Trees, OWIT's forest education program. OWIT members also managed a booth throughout the three-day conference, school tours with local elementary students, and a booth at career day with statewide high school students that attend the conference and family day activities on the last day. It was a great week of fellowship and educational

opportunities for forestry.

Also in January, the Clatsop County chapter received a \$40K grant from Oregon Forest Resources Institute to help build an Outdoor Shelter on Oregon Department of Forestry property for outdoor school programs and other forest education opportunities. Construction is already underway and expects to be completed this summer, just in time for Outdoor school in September!

The OWIT Executive team received twelve applications by February 28th for our Talk About Trees Coordinator Position and have been conducting interviews throughout this month. We will share an update on the process soon and look forward to sharing who will take on this position! Our current Talk About Trees State Director, Joanie

Mason Ruud, is retiring on June 30th.

Watch for OWIT at AG-Fest April 25 & 26th and at the Future Natural Resource Leaders Skills Contest, April 18th at the Pacific Northwest Logging Museum in Brooks Oregon.

For more information about OWIT and TAT please visit OWIT's website at www.orwit.org, on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Diann Washburn
 OWIT Executive Director



OREGON WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE STATE OFFICERS

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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

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OREGON WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE • FOUNDED IN 1969

OWA seeks to help educate the public about issues critical to agriculture. We look to stay active in legislative issues important to ag and natural resources, promote OWA and agriculture through social media, involve our members in committees and events, and support ag education programs that promote awareness to both children and adults.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our organization, please see the form on the next page.

OUR PURPOSE

- To educate and inform our members and the public about the importance of agriculture to the economy and to the environment.
- To engage all facets of Oregon agriculture having mutual concerns.
- To do everything possible to see that agricultural interests are heard and dealt with fairly.
- To support and encourage research that will benefit agriculture.

WHO WE ARE

- Individuals from all walks of life who realize the importance of agriculture.
- Teachers, students, professionals, farmers, ranchers, business owners, and more.
- Caring farmers and farm families who manage our land wisely to contribute to America's bountiful food supply.
- Working tirelessly on the issues that concern agriculture.

2026 State Board Meetings

APRIL 10- POLK

MAY 15- LINN-BENTON

JUNE 19- CENTRAL OREGON

SEPTEMBER 18- EASTERN OREGON

OCTOBER 16- YAMHILL

DECEMBER 4- 2027 BUDGET MEETING, SALEM

All meetings begin at 9 am, except September.
Dates are subject to change.

Contact info@owaonline.org to request more info for each meeting or visit the members area of the website.

2026 Events

- April 18- Annual Auction
- April 25-26- Oregon Ag Fest
- May 31- June 3 - AAW DC Fly-In, Washington DC
- August 28- September 7- Oregon State Fair
- September 18- Pendleton Roundup Parade and Luncheon
- November 17-19- Willamette Valley Ag Expo
- November TBA- AAW National Convention

For a full calendar of upcoming events and meetings visit owaonline.org/events.

Interested in getting more involved in OWA?

Join a committee!

Contact Dana Bowers-Brock to learn more!

president@owaonline.org

Publication Information

The Cultivator is published four times per year as a service to our members. To guarantee your submission be included, please submit content by: the 15th of March, June, September, and December.

To submit information contact:

Jessica Jansen, Editor
newsletter@owaonline.org
971.832.2096

OWA Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

County: _____

New Member Renewal Student*

Check any areas of interest:

- Education
- Legislative
- Marketing/PR
- Membership
- Promotional Items
- Social Media/Website
- School/Farm Tours
- Ag Expo/Ag Fest Booth
- Auction
- Scholarships
- State Fair Booth
- Other _____



DUES ARE \$45 PER YEAR

***\$30 FOR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP**

Year runs from March 1st to February 28th
Includes American Agri-Women dues

*Make checks payable to:
Oregon Women for Agriculture*

Mail to: 630 Hickory Street, NW Suite 120; PMB 50
Albany, Oregon 97321



Oregon Women for Agriculture

630 Hickory Street NW, Suite 120: PMB
Albany, OR 97321
www.owaonline.com

OWA ANNUAL AUCTION & DINNER

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

EARLY BIRD TICKET PRICING ENDS APRIL 1ST

APRIL 18, 2026

4:30 PM - Silent Auction

6:00 PM - Dinner

7:15 PM - Live Auction

Get your tickets now for \$75 per person.
Tickets purchased after April 1st will be
\$100 per person.

Tickets are available to purchase online:
owaonline.org/auction

