

WHAT DO BUDGET CUTS MEAN TO OSU'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION?

Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences

OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences is faced with cutting more than \$10 million from its research and extension programs. This fact sheet helps stakeholders understand the complexity of these budget reductions by outlining the College's structure, budget, faculty assignments and partnerships.

What impact does the College of Agricultural Sciences have on the economy of Oregon?

Agriculture is one of the largest components of Oregon's economy, generating billions of dollars a year in production and processing. Oregon agriculture depends on new knowledge developed by OSU research and communicated by OSU extension, contributions valued at more than \$150 million annually. Investment in OSU agricultural research and extension benefits all Oregonians, putting money in the economy, growing food and protecting and improving environmental quality.

What connection does the College have with the Statewide Public Service Programs?

The Agricultural Experiment Station, the Extension Service and the Forest Research Laboratory make up the OSU Statewide Public Service Programs. Each is funded as a separate line item in the state's budget. The College manages the Experiment Station and the Agriculture Extension program.

What is the budget structure of the College?

OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences is structured around three main missions: **research, extension and teaching**. Each mission has its own budget; funds cannot be transferred from one to another.

• Research: Agricultural Experiment Station

OSU's Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) supports research on campus and at 12 branch stations throughout the

state. It is funded through federal and state funds and from federal and private grants. New information and technology transfer is advanced through partnerships among government, universities and private sectors.

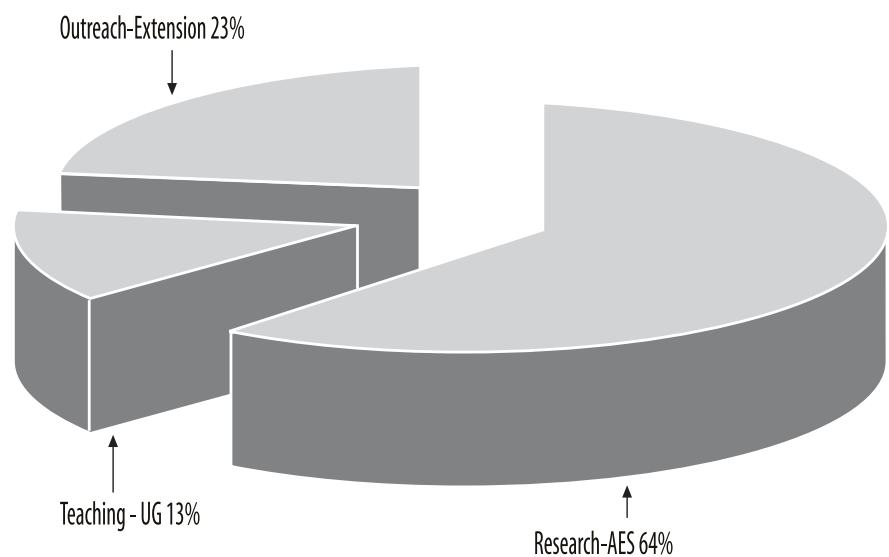
• **Extension: Agriculture Extension**
OSU's Extension Service provides outreach to the public through programs on campus and in counties. Extension programs range from agriculture and forestry to programs for youth, low-income families and small businesses.

The Extension Agriculture program is the largest of these programs, making up about half of the OSU Extension Service. Most of the budget for Extension Agriculture comes from the OSU Extension Service through federal, state and county partnerships, and is administered through the College.

• Teaching: University General Funds

On-campus teaching is funded through university general funds, which are calculated based on tuition, enrollments and other factors. Over 1,600 graduate and undergraduate students are currently enrolled in the College. OSU Extension and the Agriculture Experiment Station receive no university general funds, although faculty in both groups are actively engaged as student advisors and mentors, through joint appointments.

Relative General Funds Contributions to College of Agricultural Sciences Regular Session Budget 2002/03



This graph shows the relative contributions of the three missions of OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences. Note that the combined contributions of the two statewide programs—Extension agriculture and Agricultural Experiment Station—make up most of the budget. Shortfalls in these statewide programs cannot be made up from the university general fund.

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How flexible are the three units' sources of funding?

Funding sources are separate for research, extension and teaching. Funds from one budget cannot be shifted to another mission. When one funding source is reduced, the effect ripples through joint appointments and projects, and the system's capacity to solve problems is reduced.

What is a joint appointment?

Although funding for each mission comes from separate sources, people who work in more than one capacity draw parts of their salary from more than one source. Most of the College's on-campus faculty hold joint appointments, dividing their time among research, extension and teaching.

Drawing on multiple funding sources can increase the effectiveness of faculty. For example, consider an OSU faculty member with a three-way joint appointment. As Extension field faculty, she works directly with local growers and may quickly learn about an emerging problem in the field. As a professor in the classroom, she poses the problem to her students. As a researcher in the lab, she tests solutions and consults with peers. Back at Extension, she shares her results and new knowledge with local growers.

What are the faculty appointments in research and extension?

- **Extension Field Faculty** work in counties with local growers, industry, suppliers and members of the public. Field faculty specialize in particular sectors of agriculture, and are funded in partnership by OSU Extension and county governments.
- **Extension Specialists** have specific areas of expertise. Traditionally, they have helped field faculty with specific questions, but increasingly they are called on to work directly with the public sector who need their specialized knowledge.
- **Research Faculty** are leaders in their disciplines, solving current problems and developing new knowledge to move Oregon forward. They communicate their research results through Extension field faculty, or work directly with the public.

What are some of the College's partnerships?

Partnerships increase the capacity to support Oregon agriculture from the laboratory to the marketplace.

- OSU Extension and research faculty collaborate closely to develop new knowledge and share it with the public. Research and extension centers in Hermiston, Hood River, Medford, Aurora and Madras bring together Extension field faculty and AES researchers under one roof.
- OSU Extension Service and Oregon counties share responsibilities for local Extension offices. Generally, county governments provide office facilities, support staff, travel funds, etc. and OSU Extension funds faculty salaries and programs.
- OSU, state and federal agencies share facilities, including the Food Innovation Center in Portland and AES branch stations at Pendleton, Burns, Union and Newport. Adjunct and courtesy appointments bring additional expertise from federal agencies to the campus community.
- OSU and industry partnerships often yield research grants and contracts from commodity commissions, industry groups or grower associations.
- Regional university collaboration among the agricultural colleges in Washington, Idaho, California and OSU enrich the base of information for people throughout Oregon.
- International collaborations help develop and transfer new technology to Oregon from around the world, and help other countries become active trade partners with the U.S.

One example of integration among research, extension and teaching

Working with dairy farmers in Tillamook County, Troy Downing (OSU Extension field faculty) learned about a problem with phosphorus. Dairy cows require phosphorus to produce milk; spreading their manure on fields will produce lush pastures. But too much phosphorus can wash from fields, increasing algae growth that clogs

streams and rivers. Dairy farmers were faced with the expense of purchasing more pasture to treat the phosphorus-rich manure and keep it out of waterways.

Downing mentioned the situation to Pat French (animal science professor and AES researcher), who posed the problem to his students. A graduate student designed a study to analyze the flow of phosphorus from feed to pasture to stream. Her analysis suggested that dairy farmers were feeding more phosphorus than necessary to their herds. Downing will extend results of this work to the Tillamook farmers, providing a solution that could save them money and protect their local streams. It's a solution that grew from the integration of agriculture research, teaching and extension.

What do Extension Agriculture and the Agriculture Experiment Station provide to Oregon?

Unlike states that are defined by wheat or corn or dairy, Oregon agriculture embraces more than 240 crops and products. The diversity of OSU's agricultural research and extension supports this cornucopia with a broad range of expertise to help growers and entrepreneurs add value to products in an ever-changing marketplace.

The critical mass necessary to respond to Oregon's problems, to research solutions, and to implement change will be reduced with further budget cuts. Budgets cannot be made up across units. Cutting state funds cuts matching federal funds, and reduces the ability to attract outside grants.

For more information about the College of Agricultural Sciences agriculture extension and research programs, contact your local AES branch station, research center or county office of OSU Extension.

For more details about budget reductions affecting OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences, go to:
<http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/admin/budget/index.html>