

The Statewide Need:

Food is complicated—culturally, politically, and economically. A food systems approach is a key strategy for enhancing rural and urban community sustainability. It also integrates and amplifies the foundational strengths of OSU Extension and its delivery model in communities and across the state. Food, essential to all Oregonians, is a handshake between rural and urban communities. The knowledge base of OSU Extension and OSU research in agricultural sciences and public health can help communities increase food security, diversify food choices and sources, and enhance economic development related to food and farming.

OSU has significant expertise, strength and presence in the 36 counties across the state as a statewide public service agency. The OSU Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems and the College of Public Health and Human Sciences can integrate OSU's agricultural and public health expertise to enhance food systems statewide. By providing leadership and coordination between the myriad of organizations within the food system, reconnecting farmers and consumers in order to benefit farmers, strengthen rural and urban communities, promote healthy eating and food security, and protect natural resources, OSU Extension will contribute significantly as a leader in the food systems framework.

Desired Investment Levels:**Minimum**

Fund a minimum of four positions (4 FTE) with statewide responsibilities housed both on campus and in identified regions across the state. The positions will collaborate with partners and stakeholders across the state, bringing technical expertise to the growing number of local and regional food system councils. Positions will include a Food Systems Specialist, a Public Health and Food Security Specialist, a Communications Specialist to develop multimedia, food-themed learning materials for community use, and an at-large Specialist working at the nexus of food production and community nutrition. This request includes in addition to salary support \$5,000 in S&S for each of the 4 educator positions with long-term support coming from local partners and program fees. **\$428,000 annual/\$856,000 biennial.**

Modest

Fund eight regional field and campus based positions (8 FTE) as educational conduits in the food system from production, processing and marketing to family nutrition and creating better access to food. The Extension educators will be located at OSU Extension offices. Educators in these positions will operate across programs and regional boundaries to integrate Extension expertise and resources statewide and work more closely with community-based non-profit organizations focused on farming and community food systems. Positions will be integrated within core Extension programs focused on agricultural production, processing, and marketing; community health and nutrition; and food system policy. This request includes in addition to salary support \$5,000 in S&S for each of the 8 educator positions with long-term support coming from local partners and program fees. **\$856,000 annual/\$1,712,000 biennial.**

Desired

Fund twelve regional field and campus based positions (12 FTE) as educational conduits in the food system from production, processing and marketing to family nutrition and creating better access to food. Educators in these positions will operate across programs and regional boundaries to integrate Extension expertise and resources statewide and work more closely with community-based non-profit organizations focused on farming and community food systems. Positions will be integrated within core Extension programs focused on agricultural production, processing, and marketing; community health and nutrition; and food system policy. This request includes in addition to salary support \$5,000 in S&S for each of the 12 educator positions with long-term support coming from local partners and program fees. **\$1,284,000 annual/\$2,568,000 biennial.**