Exploring Value-Added Agriculture

“Your uniqueness is the only source of profitability that cannot be competed away, and thus, is the only source of sustainable profits.”

—John Ikerd

Value-added agriculture entails changing a raw agricultural product into something new through packaging, processing, cooling, drying, extracting or any other type of process that differentiates the product from the original raw commodity. Examples of value added agricultural products include garlic braids, bagged salad mix, artisan bread, lavender soaps and sausages. Adding value to agricultural products is a worthwhile endeavor because of the higher returns that come with the investment, the opportunity to open new markets and extend the producer’s marketing season as well as the ability to create new recognition for the farm. Increasingly, value-added products are hitting the local market as producers take advantage of high-demand product niches. This is the key to success in value-added agriculture—niche markets are where smaller producers can be most successful in creating value and establishing a profitable business.

A study of fourteen farmers in the Southern US conducted by ATTRA and the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group identified ten keys to success when pursuing a value-added business. These include: starting small and growing naturally; making decisions based on good records; creating a high-quality product; following demand-driven production; getting the whole family or partners involved; keeping informed; planning for the future; continuing evaluation; persevering and having adequate capitalization.

Value added agriculture is not without its challenges to farmers. One of the largest hurdles to overcome is that of food business and safety regulations. For example, if you are interested in taking your organic blueberries and turning them into a high quality jam that you can sell at the farmers’ market, you must be a licensed commercial kitchen to produce and sell the jam to local consumers. You will also need to carry liability insurance if you are selling at the farmers’ market to cover any sort of illness or other food safety issues that may arise. The Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety department handles the licensing of food businesses in the state of Oregon. Find out more information on their website at www.oda.gov. These regulation challenges make it difficult to get started in the value-added business, but with a solid business plan in place, producers can be successful in overcoming obstacles to their food business dream.

Another example of a significant challenge for starting a value-added business is putting together your recipes or formulations for the product you are developing. For instance, making soap from your lavender flowers requires time in finding the right recipe for a high-quality soap. You will also want to research the market potential for your product in order to define your customer profile. The Food Innovation Center is an excellent resource for small business owners interested in starting a value-added business. Check out their website at http://fic.oregonstate.edu/.

Starting a value-added agricultural business is an exciting opportunity for the small farmer interested in diversifying and exploring new markets, but starting small and finding your niche is key to your long-term success. Evaluate the risks associated with the business and have a solid plan in place to keep you on the right track.

Smallholding (n) 1. A piece of land and its adjacent living quarters for the smallholder and stabling for farm animals, on a smaller scale, usually under 50 acres. 2. A means of achieving self-sufficiency with the ability to supplement income by selling excess produce and meat.
Winter Update from the Small Farms Program

Wow! What a busy fall full of classes, farm tours and other projects. The biggest news is that Maud Powell has been promoted to an Instructor in the Small Farms program. This means you now have two Small Farm Extension agents instead of one!

We had a great line-up of classes this fall including workshops on soil fertility, beekeeping, managing internships, horses & mud and organic vegetable production. Check out our website for class proceedings.

In October, we initiated the formation of a new group: the League of Women Farmers. The group provides opportunities for women farmers to meet, network, and talk about agricultural issues. So far, the group has taken a tour of Runnymede Farm in Rogue River and shared a potluck dinner and discussion at OSU Extension. We are looking forward to 2 more farm tours and other opportunities to meet this winter and spring. The group has an open membership, so if you are interested in getting on our email list and attending one of the sessions, then please give us a call.

We have worked this fall to form a closer relationship with the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District. This fall, we co-sponsored two great programs with the SWCD: Irrigation 101 in September and Horses and Mud in December. We are currently partnering with them on the Smart Horse Certification Program, which you can read more about below.

The Small Farms Program became more active in pesticide training and certification this fall. We coordinated the pesticide CORE training in November, and we are hosting a two-day Pesticide Recertification training this week. These classes educate applicators on the safest ways to apply pesticides, and provide information on how to minimize pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management approaches.

In December, we held two focus groups for established producers. The purpose of these meetings was to find out how OSU Extension can better meet the needs of more experienced regional growers. In response to these meetings, we have applied for grant funding in labor management education for 2009. We are also looking for funding to develop a project on our 3 acres at the research station.

We are looking forward to some great classes this winter and spring. Check out the calendar for more information.

Stay warm! ☼ -Maud & Melissa

Smart Horse Certification Program

Are you a horse lover that wants the best for you and your horse? Then please join us to learn more about responsible horse ownership, caring for your horse, and your role in protecting our water and soil. The Smart Horse Certification Program offers many benefits for horse owners, whether you are a first time horse owner or have owned horses all your life. This program provides horse-owners a support network of professionals and scientists from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District in partnership with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon State University Extension Service are sponsoring this program to provide the following benefits to horse owners: increased access to science-based knowledge; improved horse health and welfare; improved economics through improved pasture, land and natural resource management; reduced likelihood of complaints and fines; discounts and rebates on horse-related products; and farm-gate plaque and trailer stickers or stall signs.

Program Requirements:

- Complete a Natural Resource Stewardship Plan
- 2 site visits by SWCD staff to discuss farm management and natural resources concerns
- Attend Horses & Mud through OSU Extension
- Attend at least one of the following: Horses & Wilderness Areas or Horse Cents

- Complete at least one of the following: Irrigation Water Management Plan or 10-week JSWCD Forage Course
- Recertification is required once a year for the first three years, and then once every five years after that.

This great program is now accepting applications! Enrollment costs $45, and includes assistance with natural resource planning, site visits, and a farm gate and stall plaques. For more information, call Angie Boudro of the Jackson SWCD at 734-3143, or Randi-Omley Tatum at the Josephine SWCD at 474-6840. Don’t miss this great chance to improve your horses’ health, your facilities and your peace of mind. ☼

Angie Boudro is a Natural Resource Conservationist with the Jackson SWCD.
Farm Profile: Siskiyou Crest Dairy

Mookie Moss owns and operates Boone’s Farm and the Siskiyou Crest Goat Dairy in the Little Applegate Valley outside of Jacksonville. Mookie and his father, Roger, bought the property in 2000 with the intention of starting a small, organic farm. Mookie, who was born in southern California and raised in Colorado, left college after two years to pursue his passion for farming. After interning and working on a handful of farms in New York and California, Mookie decided to start an operation of his own.

After working with goats on a limited basis in California, Mookie tried his hand at goat farming in southern Oregon. The herd grew quickly as he discovered a new love for animal husbandry and cheesemaking. The 50-plus herd grows stronger and more productive with each passing season.

For the past two seasons, Mookie has worked closely with his friend and business manager Stu O’Neill. Stu spent many years in food-related businesses and is also passionate about supporting small-scale agriculture and enlivening local economies. Stu lived in the Little Applegate several years before teaming up with Mookie at Boones Farm.

Once Mookie decided to pursue goat husbandry, he considered the options for marketing and distributing his products. While he is most passionate about providing raw goat dairy products to the community, state and federal regulations require him to pasteurize any fresh cheese products that are sold to the public. In order for him to sell goat milk, he would have to obtain a bottle handlers license, which seemed financially unfeasible at his scale of operation. After carefully considering his situation, Mookie decided to pursue the construction of an Oregon Department of Agriculture inspected micro-creamery. The process of getting licensed by the state took several years and significant capital expenditure. Last July, the state inspector approved the Siskiyou Crest micro-creamery, and Mookie’s soft cheeses hit the Rogue Valley’s Grower Market.

Mookie and Roger purchased Boone’s Farm on Sterling Creek Road, a beautiful 60-acre parcel of pasture and woodlands with a limited supply of water. Mookie realized early on that the lack of abundant irrigation water would limit his ability to produce fresh vegetables for market. Having worked with goats on a limited basis in California, Mookie tried his hand at goat farming in southern Oregon. The herd grew quickly as he discovered a new love for animal husbandry and cheese making. The 50-plus herd grows stronger and more productive with each passing season.

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Mookie and Stu are committed to providing an excellent quality of life for their animals. The milking does roam freely through the pastures, woodlands, and grounds of Boone's Farm, browsing the land and getting plenty of exercise. Two guard dogs, Boone and Hayduke, provide adequate protection from predators, which include coyotes and cougars. The does are milked twice a day between kidding season (March to May depending on when they are bred) and November. Drying the does up each winter allows both the animals and farmers to take a break from the relentless schedule of milk production.

Most of their does at Boone’s Farm are purebred Nubian and Alpine goats, with a few Nubian-Alpine and Nubian-Oberhasli crosses. All of the goats are named and bottle-fed as kids. Mookie, Stu and the farm interns who care for the animals develop strong relationships with the goats, each of whom have distinct personalities. They receive high quality feeds purchased at the Grange Co-op, and herbal and nutritional supplements to keep them healthy. Mookie and Stu compost all their manure on-site and use it as a soil amendment in their gardens.

Siskiyou Crest cheeses are carefully crafted using vegetable rennet, enzymes, cultures, and sea salt. They produce raw aged cheeses and pasteurized fresh cheeses. While they would prefer that all of their cheeses were made with raw milk, the State of Oregon requires that all fresh soft cheeses be pasteurized. The raw cheddar is aged between 60 and 180 days and has a creamy, smooth texture. The cheese is offered in a variety of flavors, including salt & pepper, garlic & basil, jalapeño peppers and kalamata olive & roasted red peppers. Look for the Siskiyou Crest Dairy cheeses at the local growers’ market or the Ashland Food Cooperative next season. ☼
Reduced Tillage at Seven Seeds Farm

Tilling the soil eliminates the earth’s natural protective biological cover of vegetation to create a weed free environment in which farmers can grow crops. It releases abundant nutrients to those seasons’ crops by allowing organic matter in the form of humus to become mineralized by sunlight and water forces. Repeated tillage exhausts the soils’ natural fertility, thereby forcing the farmer to apply fertilizer, usually composted animal manures and green manures on an organic farm. Nonetheless, these practices do not have a long track record of sustainability. Before agriculture became mechanized, traditional farmers had to preserve much more land as pasture to feed draft animals for power. Usually this amounted to 2/3rds of a given mixed farm. Tractors changed this whole system approach by freeing up pastureland for the growing of crops, which could be sold, and eliminating animals from the fertility loop on many farms. One cow can produce enough manure to fertilize one acre of high production vegetables. However, it requires four acres of grass to pasture and produce hay for that one cow (now you can see where the 2/3rds pasture based whole system farm model came from). Assuming farmers are not yet willing to forfeit their tractors for draft horses (which actually carry a larger ecological footprint if the farmer has to buy in hay rather than using biodiesel in a tractor. Remember a horse is like a tractor “idling” all day), how can we develop a more sustainable model of vegetable farming?

I have experimented with no-till small-scale farming for a few years. I am actually doing a reduced tillage system as I learn what works for me. I have seven years of very active soil improvement (cover cropping, rock dusts and lots of biodynamic compost) into our clay loam soil. I doubt that the project I describe next would be successful on a rougher soil. We grow seeds for Seeds of Change in blocks that are about 1/8 an acre (30’ x 100’) and I am developing a no till rotation scheme with this plot size. A few years ago I had a block of tomatoes I had grown for seed. Normally, I pull the trellising and disc it all under in the fall and sow rye, peas and vetch over the winter, which is mowed or grazed down in May and then disced and tilled and compost spread (at 15 yds/acre) to make beds. My experiment began by doing my normal soil prep/cover crop regime as described above on one half of a block and on the other I simply left the tomato beds to sit over the winter (they had been mulched with straw when the tomatoes were planted) and then I pulled the vines in the spring (very easy to do by then) and I transplanted lettuce plants for seed (3 rows on a 4 foot wide bed) into both the tilled (cover cropped and compost applied) and un-tilled/mulched (no cover crop or compost) beds side by side, four beds of each. It was a little trickier transplanting into the untilled beds, but a right angle trowel made the job doable. Amazingly, the transplants in the untilled beds took off right away growing vigorously while the ones in my fluffy spaded beds sat there for about two weeks until they began growing again.

My hunch is that the undisturbed soil flora/fauna/fungal populations were intact in the untilled beds and took a while to re-colonize the tilled beds. What really surprised me was that ones produced larger heads and more seed even though they did not benefit from the compost and nitrogen rich cover crops that the other beds received.

What I want to try next is including a cereal grain in the rotation, so that my straw is grown in place. A conceivable 5-year rotation might look like:

1) Fall sown Rye/Oats/Wheat possibly with a legume like dry peas. This would be ready for harvest in June or July, graze chicken/ducks/turkeys to clean up left over grains.
2) Plant summer crop from transplants into straw.
3) Plant garlic in the fall.
4) Broadcast buckwheat before forking our garlic, so that it is planted when you pull garlic, grow buckwheat to seed, harvest some and clean up the rest with poultry.
5) Plant a winter crop of fava beans (seeded in early October) to be harvested in May/June then back to another summer crop.
6) Plant summer crop in June (tomatoes or vine crop).
7) Plant grains in the fall.

Over the course of five years you could get:

* 3-grain crops
* Poultry clean up opportunity in-between each
* Fava bean crop
* Garlic Crop

* 2 summer crops

A total of seven vegetable crops and also animal products within five years. Now, if I could only pull it off within a commercially viable farm. I have done aspects of this rotation, but never in a seamless cycle.

Don Tipping runs Seven Seeds Farm along with his wife Kimberly and their two sons Wally and Jasper.
News & Resources

- **Participate in the National Agricultural Census!** You should have received the survey in the mail just recently. Census data is used by communities, universities, local and state government to make decisions about the future of farming. Call 1-800-892-1660 to sign up to receive a data form or go to http://www.nass.usda.gov/counts. Make sure your farm gets counted in 2008!

- **Grange Co-op Twine Drive—Recycle Your Baling Twine this February 2008!** Save your plastic baling twine and drop it off at any Grange Co-op location throughout February for free. It will be recycled into new plastic products through Oregon-based recycler Agri-Plas, Inc. For amounts larger than a pick-up truck, contact Rogue River High School 541.582.3297 ext. 1182 or info@RogueSMART.org to make special arrangements.

Mercy Corps Northwest Business Development Services

Financing Change and Changing Finance
Carine Goldin knows a lot about French cuisine, having formerly owned a small French restaurant and bakery, and having extensively studied the art of fine cheese making. But when Carine decided to build a goat cheese production facility in Molalla, Oregon, she needed additional financing to cover the costs of starting a new farm-based enterprise. With the help of a Mercy Corps Northwest small business loan, Carine was able to purchase the necessary equipment, supplies and goats to open the doors of her new business. And now her delicious Goldin Artisan Goat Cheeses are available at restaurants, farmers’ markets and stores throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Business Development Services
Since 1998, MCNW has been providing business advisory and development services for small businesses, including small farm and food producers. Through several programs, MCNW helps small business owners build solid business skills, develop assets through a matched-saving program, and obtain the capital they need to start or grow their enterprise. The matched savings program, or “Individual Development Accounts” (IDAs) are funded by Oregon’s new tax credits. The program provides a three to one match of a business owners savings, dedicated to purchasing assets for the business. MCNW also provides small business loans to people who do not have access to other avenues of credit. The goal is to provide financing for those critical assets, like a greenhouse, tractor, or processing equipment, which can boost the potential and productivity of a small business. To date MCNW has made over 120 loans to small businesses, totaling more than $1.25 million. MCNW services are available in several languages including Spanish and Russian. MCNW is now working with partners, like the Oregon State Extension agents to extend our loan programs and small business support services statewide.

The First Rung on the Capital-Access Ladder
Our loan fund can serve as the first rung on the capital-access ladder for many new and expanding businesses that commercial banks, the SBA or USDA cannot help. MCNW staff work in collaboration with expert partners including Oregon State Extension agents, to provide clients with the specific one-on-one business mentoring that they need to move their business towards long-term financial stability and success. After a successful loan and some technical assistance, the business owner will have established their track record and credit history, and will then be ready to go back to that bank for traditional financial services.

For more information on MCNW’s small business loan program and our other educational and financial services for low-income clients, contact Melissa Mathewson, Oregon State Extension Agent, 541-776-7371 melissa.mathewson@oregonstate.edu, or Mercy Corps Northwest loan officers, Brian Fassett at bfassett@mercycorpsnw.org, 503-236-1580 extension 203 or Anthony Gromko at agromko@mercycorpsnw.org or 503-236-1580 extension 207. You can also visit the website, www.mercycorpsnw.org for more information.
Agricultural Water Quality Rules

Agricultural producers in Oregon, whatever the size and type of operation and whatever the impact on water quality, are stewards of our state’s water resources. And since 1993, there have been rules in place to assist and guide producers in protecting Oregon’s water quality using a variety of management practices.

Oregon’s Agricultural Water Quality Management Act (the AgWQM Act), was created in 1993 with the input and support of the agricultural industry and the State Board of Agriculture. The goal was to help the agricultural industry address water quality issues and meet the requirements of the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act.

Oregon Department of Agriculture takes the lead

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) implements the AgWQM Act through the Agricultural Water Quality Program. ODA’s Natural Resource Division administers this program. The Program focuses on ways to maintain and improve water quality and mitigate impacts to water quality resulting from agricultural activities, whether those activities are taking place on large ranches or small acreage farms.

How it started

Working in partnership with the 45 local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, ODA identified 39 watershed-based Agricultural Water Quality Management Areas across the state. A Local Advisory Committee (LAC) was created for each of the 39 planning areas. The LAC members were local farmers, ranchers and community leaders. Each LAC identified local water quality problems and opportunities for improvement, and developed a Management Plan and administrative rules for the management area. These rules provide an enforceable backstop to ensure all landowners do their part to avoid and resolve water quality problems.

Rules offer solutions, leave choices with landowner

Area rules were developed individually for the 39 management areas because Oregon’s agriculture community is very diverse and a ‘one size fits all’ approach would not work. What all the rules have in common is that they prohibit water pollution and activities that degrade or can lead to impaired water quality, but the rules do not specify how each agricultural landowner must do this. Instead, the area plans suggest several solutions and options that are available, crafted to meet each planning area’s unique water quality issues. Each landowner or operator can decide which solution best suits his or her operational needs.

Unintended and serious consequences on water quality

Many small acreage farm owners already use Best Management Practices (BMPs), which minimize their impact on water quality. But many agricultural practices can have serious and unintended consequences:

- Bacteria and nutrient runoff from animal waste degrades water used for drinking and recreation.
- Sediment form eroding pastures degrades water quality.
- Erosion and runoff from roads degrades water quality.
- Pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers from agricultural operations get into and harms waterways used for drinking water supplies, recreation and fish and wildlife habitat.
- Removal or reduction of streamside (riparian) vegetation increases bank erosion, destroys wildlife habitat, and contributes to increased water temperature that harms salmon, steelhead, trout and other cold-water fish, as well as the insects they eat.
- Uncontrolled livestock access to streams results in reduction of riparian vegetation, stream bank erosion, and degrade water quality from erosion and manure going into the stream.

Compliance and enforcement is geared to helpful resolution

It is up to each individual landowner to ensure that his or her operation does not pollute Oregon’s waters and is in compliance with the local management area rules. ODA investigates complaints associated with erosion and water quality problems. If violations are found, ODA first works with producers on a voluntary basis to solve problems through education and technical assistance. Those who are asked to solve a problem but who refuse to do so could be subject to enforcement actions, including the assessment of civil penalties.

Help with a variety of solutions is available from many sources. Technical assistance from local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Councils, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, OSU Extension and ODA is available at no charge to the landowner. In some cases, funds are available through special grants and programs that deal specifically with water quality issues. Plus, technical expertise can show farmers production alternatives that are not only helpful to the environment but can make operations more productive and profitable!

For more information concerning your specific management areas plan and rules contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District, visit the ODA water quality at http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water_quality_front.shtml or call the ODA office at 503-986-4700.52

Eric Nusbaum is a Water Quality Specialist with ODA.
Calendar of Events

- **Wednesday, January 30th, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., Friends of Family Farmers Listening Session, Free**
  Location: OSU Extension Auditorium, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point. Call Melissa/Maud for more information at 776-7371.
  This Listening Session (you talk, we listen) will be a group brainstorm to develop a list of issues and challenges that family farmers face while trying to run a socially responsible, economically viable and environmentally friendly business in the state of Oregon. The information will be used to set priorities for the upcoming year. Hosted by the Friends of Family Farmers.

- **Monday, February 11th, 5:00—8:00 p.m., League of Women Farmers Potluck, Free**
  Location: OSU Extension Library, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point. Call Melissa/Maud for more information at 776-7371.
  Join our group of women farmers for a potluck and discussion of marketing. For more information, please email melissa.matthewson@oregonstate.edu or call Maud/Melissa at 776-7371.

- **Wednesday, February 13th, 8:00 a.m.—6:30 p.m., Organic Seed Production Short Course, $110**
  Location: Salem Conference Center, 200 Commercial Street SE, Salem, Oregon 97301

- **Thurs, February 14th & Friday, February 15th, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Organic Seed Growers Conference, $185**
  The Organic Seed Growers Conference, hosted by OSA with partnership from Oregon State University and Washington State University, is the largest meeting of seed professionals engaged in organic seed production, research, and plant breeding in the United States. This event brings together producers, university Extension and researchers, seed industry professionals, and food industry participants from across the country.

- **Saturday, February 16th, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Small Farms Direct Marketing Conference, $30**
  Location: Oregon State University Alumni Center, Corvallis, OR. Registration and information at http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu.
  Keynote speaker includes Fred Kirschenmann, Farmer & Leopold Center. Workshop topics include farmers’ market sales, passive solar hoop houses for year-round production, whole farm business management, marketing extended season production and more.

- **Thursday, February 28th, 5:00—8:00 p.m., Small-Scale Orcharding, $10**
  Location: OSU Extension Auditorium, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point. Call Melissa/Maud for more information at 776-7371.
  This class will introduce participants to the nuts and bolts of designing, planting and maintaining small-scale fruit and nut orchards. Topics to be covered include choosing cultivars, pruning for improved yields and pest control methods.

- **Tuesday, March 4th, 9:30 a.m. — 2:00 p.m., Sustainable Integrated Pest Management, Free**
  Location: OSU Extension Auditorium, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point. Call Melissa/Maud for more information at 776-7371.
  Instructors: Paul Jepson, Integrated Plant Protection Center; Gwendolyn Ellen, Integrated Plant Protection Center; Sarina Jepsen, Xerces Society & Rick Hilton, OSU Research & Extension
  This workshop will cover reduced risk pest management strategies; preserving and enhancing predators, pollinators and parasites and bee farming. This class is suitable for crop farmers, wine grape growers, tree fruit producers and other diversified farmers. ODA Recertification Credits available for this class. Lunch is included.

- **Saturday, April 5th, 9:00—5:00 p.m., Small-Scale Goat Dairy Production, $25**
  Location: OSU Extension Auditorium, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point. Call Melissa/Maud for more information at 776-7371.
  Instructors: Michael Moss, Siskiyou Crest Dairy; ODA Representative TBA; OSU Extension Specialist TBA
  In this class, you will learn the fundamentals of raising dairy goats including nutrition and health; regulations for dairy production in the state of Oregon; breeding; marketing; and other production issues. Field visit to Siskiyou Crest Dairy included. Lunch is included in price.
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: Opportunities for Small-Acreage Farmers

- Stephanie Page

There are many reasons for Oregon’s small acreage farmers to consider energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Energy efficiency measures, such as replacing old lighting, regular irrigation system maintenance, and more efficient heating, cooling, or irrigation systems, can provide significant savings for livestock housing, agricultural processing, greenhouses, and other facilities. Renewable energy opportunities such as solar photovoltaic systems, wind turbines, small hydropower, renewable fuels, and geothermal heating systems, can offset energy use and mitigate the risks of rising energy and fuel prices. Incentives currently available from local, state, and federal sources make this a great time to consider an efficiency or renewable energy project for your operation.

Oregon’s Business Energy Tax credit provides a 35% credit for energy efficiency projects and a 50% credit for renewable energy projects (note: you must apply for this credit before beginning a project). Other credits are available for Oregon biomass converted to bioenergy or biofuel. In addition, the Energy Trust of Oregon provides incentives for efficiency and renewable projects within PGE, Pacific Power, and Northwest Natural service territories, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development agency has grant and loan funds available for efficiency and renewable projects.

For more information about these and other projects and programs, please contact me at (503) 986-4565 or at spage@oda.state.or.us.

Stephanie Page is the Renewable Energy Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Agriculture.