

MEMORANDUM

TO: Global Warming Commission Members
FROM: Andrea Durbin and Katy Coba, Co-Chairs, Agriculture Subcommittee
DATE: September 15, 2008
SUBJECT: Agriculture and Climate Change Recommendations

At its meeting on July 17, 2008, the Agriculture Subcommittee identified several strategies to help Oregon agriculture adapt to climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and sequester carbon. We have worked with subcommittee members to identify the following high priority strategies and funding needs for the 2009-11 biennium. More detailed recommendations, along with additional funding needs, are described in the document titled "Global Warming and Agriculture: 2009 Agenda Proposal."

1. **Support the following Program Option Packages for the 2009-11 biennium.** Oregon State University and Oregon Department of Agriculture have submitted several Program Option Packages that will help Oregon agriculture reduce greenhouse gas emissions, take advantage of emerging carbon markets, and adapt to climate change. We recommend fully funding the following Program Option Packages (POPs).
 - a. OSU POP for research to assess the most cost-effective methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration, establish a baseline for carbon sequestration rates based on cropping/land use systems, work with producers to determine the incentives needed to adopt carbon management practices, and quantify greenhouse gas emissions reductions from different practices. Funding request: \$800,000
 - b. ODA POP for a climate change specialist and research dollars to help the industry understand climate change issues, create linkages with carbon trading programs, and collaborate with OSU on climate research. Funding request: \$375,000
 - c. OSU/AES POPs for 2 plant protection FTEs for research into maintaining plant health in response to changing pest regimes. Funding request: \$600,000
 - d. ODA POPs for Invasive Pest and Plant Management Program and Invasive Species Council support. Funding request: \$1.25 million
 - e. OSU POP to conduct research into new crops, crop varieties, and crop rotations that will be more resilient in the face of changing climate conditions and limited water availability. Funding request: \$600,000
 - f. ODA POP for a water quantity position to address upcoming challenges related to water availability. Funding request: \$190,846
 - g. ODA POP for an air quality specialist and research on best management practices to reduce emissions, including greenhouse gas emissions. Funding request: \$1,375,000
2. **Provide funding for additional short-term research needs at Oregon State University.**
 - a. Provide additional funding for research on best practices for carbon management and mitigation tools. Short term needs include providing flexible resources to fund technical assistance and to buy time for existing researchers until the additional FTEs outlined in the original request can be hired. Funding request: \$150,000
 - b. Provide additional funding for research into agricultural adaptation strategies, including management and monitoring programs to address invasive species, plant protection systems to address pests and disease, water conservation and supply development strategies, and cost-effective water supply management strategies. Funding request: \$300,000
 - c. Provide funding to support technical assistance to producers on energy efficiency, renewable energy alternatives, and carbon management/markets. Funding request: \$100,000.