

# OREGON'S AGRICULTURAL LANDS

## Challenges for Succession, Access and Land Use



### DATA FROM GRANT COUNTY

- **Farmers are older on average:** 63% are over the age of 55 with the average being 58 years old, very close to the state average.
- **Total farms:** 398, only 4 more farms than 2002.
- **Acres in agriculture:** 656,410 in 2012 down 26% from 892,400 in 2002.
- **Average appraised value:** \$805 per acre, up 106% from \$391 in 2002.
- **Irrigated land:** 60% of total farms, but only 4.81% of total land. Irrigated farmland has stayed relatively static since 2002.
- **Farm size:** The smallest farms (1-9 acres in size) decreased 6.08% in number since 2002, while the largest farms (1,000+ acres) decreased by 4813.%. Farms in the middle categories (50-999 acres) saw about a 30% increase combined.
- **Net cash income per farm:** Grant County's average in 2012 was \$4,232, down 54% from \$9,203 in 2002 yet still lower than the state average of \$22,954. But only 36% of Grant County farms had a net gain (the same as the state average of 36.6%). Of these farms with net gains, the average was \$59,172 down 32% from 2002 and lower than the state average of \$102,000.

### RESOURCES FOR SUCCESSION PLANNING

- **Northwest Farm Credit Services** offers farm succession counseling to its customers for a fee. Contact [michael.Stolp@northwestfcs.com](mailto:michael.Stolp@northwestfcs.com) or go to [www.northwestfcs.com](http://www.northwestfcs.com).
- **Oregon State Bar** has a referral service to connect you with an attorney in your area. Call 503-684-3763 or go to [www.osbar.org/public/ris/](http://www.osbar.org/public/ris/).
- **Small Business Development Centers:** There are 19 throughout the state that offer business counseling and can help with succession planning. Head to [www.bizcenter.org/](http://www.bizcenter.org/) to learn more.
- **Ties to the Land** is curriculum for family farm and forest succession that is taught periodically. Order the workbook and find tips at [tiestotheLand.org/](http://tiestotheLand.org/).
- **Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts:** Find out about Oregon's community of land trusts (nonprofits that buy or accept donations of land or conservation easements) at [oregonlandtrusts.org/](http://oregonlandtrusts.org/).
- **Oregon Farm Link** connects beginning farmers and ranchers with land holders to help Oregon grow the next generation of family farmers. Read more at [oregonfarmlink.org/](http://oregonfarmlink.org/).

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To learn more about these trends and the tools available to help offset their impacts check out the recent study: <http://centerforsmallfarms.oregonstate.edu/publications>

