



2023 Legislative Priorities

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Wildlife Management

Oregon is home to 13,000 ranches. Ranchers and their families reside in every county across Oregon. They interact with wildlife every day as they tend to their livestock and manage their land. Many times these interactions result in crop and livestock loss. The Legislature, by funding programs that can both protect livestock and feed wildlife, provides financial support to producers and habitat for native animals. Compensation to producers for crop losses when deer and elk eat harvested or field crops and cougars and wolves harass and kill cattle is a necessary investment. Financial support to livestock producers helps to ensure the production of a reliable human food source.

Water Quality & Quantity

Many of Oregon's communities are facing a depleted water supply due to severe weather conditions, specifically drought. Ranchers manage their water supply in a judicious manner as their livestock depends upon a clean and available water supply. Ranchers are also the stewards who assist with wildfire response in the most rural areas of this State. As this Legislative Session progresses and water conversations move to the forefront, OCA encourages policymakers to ensure water remains available to livestock producers and engage us in these critical discussions.

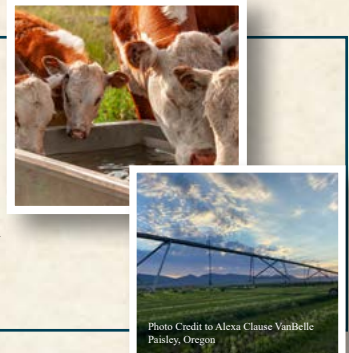


Photo Credit to Alexa Clause VanBelle Paisley, Oregon

Cattle Ranchers & Carbon Sequestration

Living close to the land, Oregon cattlemen are committed to environmental stewardship. Climate cycles and precipitation play a critical role in forage production and the sustainability of our operations. In that regard, cattle are an integral part of the carbon cycle, harvesting the overstory from rangelands and converting it into high quality protein for human consumption. Cattle leave regenerative deep root system carbon remaining sequestered in the soil, mitigating climate change. OCA encourages legislators to involve our industry in proposed regulatory discussions on climate change and the potential impact it could have on the viability of our operations.

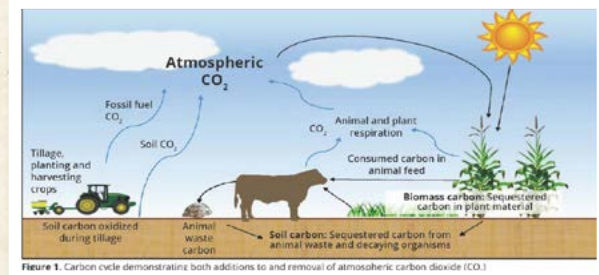


Figure 1. Carbon cycle demonstrating both additions to and removal of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Investment in Meat Processing

The rancher's response to the pandemic was to continue to manage their livestock and bring cattle to their local facilities for harvest. It's clear that availability of in-state processing facilities is too limited and diminishing. Cattle are often shipped further from home, costing our ranchers and consumers. This is an animal welfare issue. Investment in the meat processing grant fund will expand facilities in rural Oregon and increase the living wage jobs we've been losing for decades.

Taxation

OCA encourages policymakers to consider the impacts of new or increased taxes to the livestock industry. Ranchers do not set the price for their cattle but receive the market price regardless of rapidly increasing costs. When market price fails to cover cost for feeding and caring for the livestock and processing, ranch families are forced to absorb these costs. Burdensome taxation and excessive regulatory mandates affect the ability of ranching families to remain sustainable resulting in a shrinking cattle industry in Oregon.

For a map of cattle in Oregon [CLICK HERE](#) or scan the QR code



OCA's Mission

OCA advocates on behalf of ranchers and their families to ensure continued success of their operations and contributions to Oregon communities. OCA Members are committed to sustaining the economic and cultural tradition of caring for Oregon's working lands while producing one of the state's top agricultural commodities. OCA works to educate legislators on the challenges facing citizens in the rural and frontier areas of Oregon.

Learn more about the work we do at www.orcattle.com and Follow us on Facebook