

# Oregon Seed eUpdate

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A Newsletter from the  
**OREGON SEED  
COUNCIL**

## Vole Summit Scheduled August 29

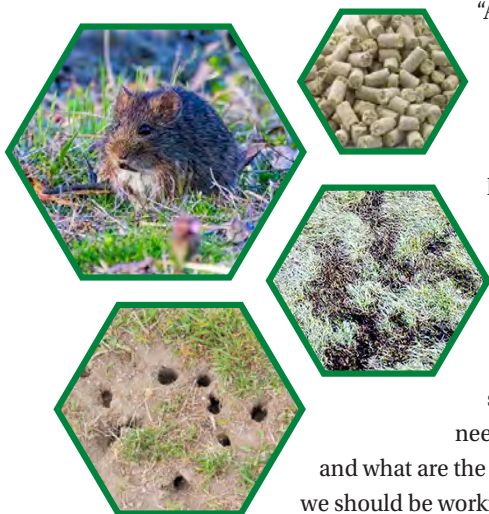
The Oregon grass seed commissions in partnership with the Willamette Vole Management group, USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Oregon State University (OSU) Extension are hosting a Vole Summit in Salem on August 29.

The summit is being held from 8:30 a.m. until noon at Roth's Conference Center in West Salem, 1130 Wallace Road NW. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

The summit will bring together growers, crop consultants and others involved in managing voles, as well as state regulators, academics and state and federal researchers.

"This is going to set an agenda for the Willamette Vole Management group and associated researchers for prioritizing what key issues we should be trying to address," said Josh Twining, an assistant professor in wildlife ecology at OSU.

Twining said the summit will include brief presentations from different researchers on work being done for vole management and extensive discussions with stakeholders.



"After the presentations, we will be throwing it over to the attendees, having roundtable discussions. The goal here is to co-develop and prioritize research objectives related to vole management," he said. "We want to hear from growers and other stakeholders on what their needs are, what we are missing and what are the most sought-after tools that we should be working on."

"It is critical that we have participation from growers, industry professionals, commodity groups, registrants, scientists, regulatory agencies and state leaders," Twining said in



Josh Twining at the Nut Growers Society's Summer Tour on August 6. Twining is putting out the call for growers of all crops affected by voles to attend the OSU Extension Vole Summit on August 29.

a release announcing the summit. "Please make plans to attend, have your voice heard and be part of developing solutions to this significant issue affecting agricultural production and livelihoods in Oregon."

**Register at:** <https://beav.es/xip>

*Registration is appreciated but not required.*



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## RMA Expands Crop Insurance Program for Perennial Ryegrass

Oregon grass seed growers are now eligible for federal crop insurance for perennial ryegrass through written agreement under an expanded Grass Seed crop insurance program the U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (RMA) instituted this summer.

Under the expanded program, grass seed coverage is now available in select counties of Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and can be accessed by written agreement.

“The changes were requested by stakeholders and made with producers in mind,” said Ben Thiel, Director of the RMA Regional Office in Spokane, Washington. “Regionally, producers insured \$4 million in covered liabilities on 8,000 acres in 2024. Extending the industry period and simplifying the record requirements will make the program even more accessible to producers.”

Beginning in 2026, RMA will make coverage more broadly available to producers by enabling them to better adapt crop insurance coverage to their specific production and marketing practices, according to a press release announcing the changes.

Among the changes instituted this summer, RMA is allowing cleaned seed production documents from grass seed cleaners to be considered verifiable records; RMA is accepting records from producers who clean their own seed; RMA is insuring perennial ryegrass for more than one year at a time; and RMA is allowing production agreements for producers who have contracts without an established price.



Growers wishing to apply for the RMA Grass Seed crop insurance program must request coverage through written agreement using yield and premium rate data reflecting production conditions in the Pacific Northwest. And RMA will need past clean-seed production records for at least three of the last ten crop years to verify production history.

Producers interested in requesting a written agreement for crop insurance coverage for their 2026 perennial ryegrass seed production need to apply by September 30, 2025. Producers are advised to seek help from farm insurance specialists to apply for coverage.

## Calendar

<b>August 26</b>	<b>Oregon Seed Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cascade Grill, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany</b>
<b>September 8</b>	<b>Oregon Ryegrass Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Cascade Grill, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany</b>
<b>September 23</b>	<b>Oregon Seed Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cascade Grill, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany</b>
<b>October 2</b>	<b>Oregon Tall Fescue Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Roth's 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem</b>
<b>October 15</b>	<b>Oregon Fine Fescue Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Roth's 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem</b>
<b>October 22</b>	<b>Oregon Clover Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Roth's 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem</b>
<b>November 25</b>	<b>Oregon Seed Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Virtual Only</b>
<b>December 8-9</b>	<b>Oregon Seed League Annual Convention, Salem Convention Center, Salem, Oregon.</b> <b>Visit <a href="https://seedleague.org">seedleague.org</a> for more information</b>

**THE E-NEWSLETTER** The goal of this e-newsletter is to provide timely updates to Oregon seed producers, field reps, and others involved in the seed industry. It includes a snapshot of what's happening currently with respect to weather, pest and disease outbreaks, harvest, label updates, and other management activities. Growers or field reps can provide input anytime by reaching out to Mitch Lies, the Oregon Seed Council writer at [mitchlies@comcast.net](mailto:mitchlies@comcast.net).

**CONNECT WITH US** To sign-up for this e-newsletter or for archived issues, please visit: <https://oregonseedcouncil.org/news/#e-updates>

## Seed and Cereal Crop Meetings Set in September

Oregon State University Extension Soil Fertility Specialist Amber Moore will unveil New OSU Recommendations for Optimizing Soil pH Ahead of Fall Planting as part of presentations at the Fall 2025 OSU Extension Seed and Cereal Crop Production Meetings.

Other agenda items include:

- A session on voles from Extension field crops agronomist Christy Tanner titled Winter Grazing vs. Spring Tiller Logging – When do Voles Cause the Most Yield Loss in Grass Seed Crops;
- OSU Extension Entomology Specialist Navneet Kaur will provide a session on a New Pest Incidence in the Willamette Valley, the Lesser Clover Leaf Weevil, and a New Management Approach for an Older Pest, the Sod Webworm;
- OSU Extension Weed Specialist Victor Ribeiro will update growers on Fall Weed Management Reminders; and

- OSU Extension Agronomist Hana You will present a session on Farmer Priorities and Weather Realities From the 2025 Growing Season.

The meetings will be held at three sites: Roth's Hospitality Center in West Salem will host a meeting on September 10 from 8:30 a.m. to noon; the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Albany will host a meeting that same day from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and the Forest Grove Elks Lodge in Forest Grove will host a meeting September 11 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

**Meetings are free but OSU Extension asks people to please register at <https://beav.es/xTh>.**

For registration assistance, please call Laurie Gibson at 541-248-1088. For general questions about the meetings, call Christy Tanner at 541-570-5642.

Two ODA pesticide recertification credits are available for attendees.

## Local ARS Scientist Involved in Cover Crop Breeding Network

Research Unit Leader at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit in Corvallis Ryan Hayes announced at Hyslop Farm Field Day this past May that he is part of a national Cover Crop Breeding Network that is involved in developing new cover crop varieties. His part in the work includes growing out advanced cover crop lines at the Hyslop Field Lab in Corvallis to analyze whether they are adaptable to local conditions.

Hayes is one of dozens of breeders and support staff from 10 universities and 15 USDA research centers involved in the Cover Crop Breeding Network (CCBN). In addition to government researchers, the team includes a half dozen farmer breeders.

The project's goal is to "develop new cover crop varieties to boost the profitability of farms and protect the environment," according to the breeding network's website.

The CCBN team is analyzing lines at multiple sites to determine their viability in different conditions. The team is selecting for winter hardiness, early vigor, high biomass, disease resistance, flowering time, seed yield, pod retention and soft seed in determining which lines to advance, according to the project's website.

At the Hyslop Field Lab, Hayes is looking at advanced lines of crimson clover and hairy vetch. One of the hairy vetch lines, 19NCE, a line selected in North Carolina and evaluated across forty-one site years, has strong seed yields in the Oregon trial. Hairy vetch 22OR also performed well in the Pacific Northwest. "This entry is notable because of its strong performance in soft seed, biomass and seed yield," according to a handout Hayes shared at Hyslop Field Day. It was selected in the PNW, but shows wide adaptation across multiple sites, according to the handout.



Ryan Hayes

These, as well as other hairy vetch populations, winter pea populations and other cover crop varieties, are available from the network as breeder seed for trialing or commercial release.

Growers interested in licensing any of the network's varieties, can contact Solveig Hanson, the CCB Network Coordinator, at [ccbn@cornell.edu](mailto:ccbn@cornell.edu) with questions.

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE  
NEWS AND INFORMATION  
FROM THE OREGON SEED COUNCIL**





## Oregon Seed Council Update

### STATE

The Oregon Seed Council has released its [2025 Legislative Report](#).

The 2025 Legislative Session totaled 158 days and saw 3,466 bills introduced. The long Legislative Session, held in odd numbered years, is authorized for 160 days by the Oregon Constitution and focuses on biennial budgets and larger policy issues. And this one came down to the wire.



A record number of bills and precession filed bills [prompted introduction of legislation](#) that proposed limiting the number of bills that could be introduced during a Session.

While budgets are a mandatory action of the long session, the general policy goals remained generally unclear until the end.

### The State's Top Issues

A smattering of topics piqued the interest of legislators and the public at various points of the session. Those topics included housing, transportation, water, labor and employment.

### Oregon Seed Council

Importantly to the Oregon Seed Council (OSC) members and industry partners, we monitored over 400 bills. Issues ranged from employment to land use, to climate, to water, to taxes, to transportation – and many more.

This year, OSC set its first policy priorities, and quickly put those policies to use allowing our organization to react, engage and adapt to policy conversations quickly with broad input from our member organizations.

We were able to see some positive policy and conversations advance, and importantly to our members, we were able to help kill – or water down significantly detrimental policy proposals – including the Agricultural Workforce Standards Board proposal – more on this in the policy section.

### First Lobby Day

The Oregon Seed Council partnered with the sugar beet industry, supporting its first lobby day at the Oregon State Capitol. The event included meetings with Oregon legislators who cover agricultural issues in their committees; viewing House and Senate Floor Sessions; and a reception with legislators and industry members in the evening. Our members were able to build relationships and help decision-makers understand the importance and interconnection of each part of the industry.

### Presentation of Oregon Seed Council's Global Trailblazer Award from the Oregon Consular Corp

This year, the Oregon Seed Council was honored with the prestigious Global Trailblazer award presented by the Oregon Consular Corps. This exceptional award recognizes Oregon individuals, companies and organizations for their contributions to international trade, the Northwest's economy and way of life. This year's theme was Oregon "punches above its weight" in sports, outdoor and recreation sectors. The Oregon Seed Council, whose members supply turfgrass seed to sports organizations, golf courses, stadiums and municipalities around the world, was honored to receive the award on behalf of the industry.

We were also delighted that Representative Shelly Boshart Davis (R-Albany) and Senator Fred Girod (R-Stayton) presented the Oregon Seed Council's achievement on the House and Senate Floors. We are grateful to these two legislators for helping elevate the industry and support Oregon's world-renowned grass seed.

### Legislative Relationships

OSC met with numerous legislators and staff to build relationships, elevate the partnership of the seed industry overall and begin the conversations of how OSC can be a resource for the Legislature. We are excited to get our legislative partners out to farms to learn more about the seed industry and how every section of the industry plays an important part in bolstering our economy, supporting a healthy environment and supporting healthy communities.

### Thank You

Finally, I want to thank each of you for thoughtful conversations, your input and your support as we navigated the 2025 Session.

A special thank you to the OSC Board of Directors, Government Affairs Committee and Executive Committee for quick action and in-depth discussion on policies and how OSC can best support industry in the legislative process and policy discussions.

Our industry members were quick to react to Action Alerts and engage legislators, and for that, we want to offer a big thank you! Your engagement truly makes a difference, and this we hope will be clearly evidenced in our report.

[Click here to view OSC's 2025 Legislative Report](#)

### OREGON SEED COUNCIL HEADS TO CHINA FOR LEGISLATIVE TRADE MISSION

The Oregon Seed Council is headed to China October 28 - November 12 to join a trade mission with the Oregon China Council, state legislators and business leaders in Oregon - **AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

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## Oregon Seed Council Update *continued*

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**This trade mission means a lot for the seed industry.** China is a major trade partner for Oregon's grass seed industry. This trade mission will help promote Oregon grass seed and other seeds, with our Chinese partners.

Trade missions provide a unique opportunity for our industry to elevate our products, build relationships, and learn more about market opportunities.

Importantly, this trade mission provides a unique opportunity to build not only international relationships, but also relationships with legislators on both sides of the aisle. It will also help us educate partner organizations about our industry.

The cost for our participant registration fees, flights, and other travel expenses stack up - but **this is too important not to go.**

**We estimate the cost of this trip will be between \$15,000 and \$17,000 for us to go.**

Today, we're asking for your help making this trip possible by making a contribution. **EVERY DOLLAR MATTERS.**

To make a donation for this important trade mission, please send a check to:

**Oregon Seed Council**  
28415 SW Villebois Dr. N  
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Please add "OSC Trade Mission" to the memo line.

**Thank you in advance for your support for this important trade mission.**

### OREGON SEED COUNCIL AWARDS REPRESENTATIVE SHELLY BOSHART DAVIS WITH EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Oregon Seed Council had the great privilege of recognizing Representative Shelly Boshart Davis for her exemplary leadership and unwavering support of the Oregon seed industry.

The 2025 Legislative Session was complex and riddled with policy issues that have had the potential to significantly impact the Oregon seed industry and agriculture broadly. By and large, the industry has been able to defeat those policies - but it takes partnerships in and outside of the Capitol to build understanding and to identify true impacts of policy.

It also takes legislators who are willing to stand beside our industry members and act as a champion. The Oregon Seed Council is proud to recognize Representative Boshart Davis as a champion for the Oregon seed industry.



*OSC Executive Director Megan Chuiard and Representative Shelly Boshart Davis with Exemplary Leadership Award.*

She has uplifted the agricultural industry in countless policy discussions, including conversations on agricultural workforce standards, impacts on transportation and trade.

Our members want to express sincere gratitude to Representative Boshart Davis for how she navigates complex policy with direction, consideration, poise and the desire to ensure stakeholders are brought to the table.

The seed industry is proud to have Representative Boshart Davis as an advocate in Salem.

### THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ACCESSING GRASS SEED CROP INSURANCE IN OREGON

OSC's insurance workgroup began meeting in 2023 to address a gap in risk management for the grass seed industry. Following significant engagement with the United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency, **we are pleased to announce the existing policy that was originally tailored to the Midwest is now available in Oregon for perennial ryegrass.** A few modifications have been made to make the policy more accessible for Oregon growers. And, importantly, additional work is being done to add more varieties in the future.

Here are a few key updates you should know if you are interested in a policy:

The perennial ryegrass type has been expanded to Jefferson County, Oregon. This will allow growers residing in the region, but outside of the county, to **request coverage through a written agreement** using yield and premium rate data reflecting production conditions in the Pacific Northwest.

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## Oregon Seed Council Update *continued*

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Producers interested in requesting a written agreement for crop insurance coverage of their 2026 perennial ryegrass seed production should **talk to a local crop insurance agent before the September 30, 2025 sales closing date** to prepare their request documentation timely.

For the written agreement process, **RMA will need past clean seed production records for at least three of the last 10 crop years** to verify production history.

[The USDA RMA press release announcing the expansion can be found here.](#)

### NEW MEMBERSHIPS

The Oregon Seed Council is proud to offer two new membership types: a contributing membership and an individual membership.

#### CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIPS

Industry partners often seek areas of engagement for their potential clients or business partners. There are limited forums to reach these target audiences, and limited forums to showcase support for industry. This membership structure provides a unique opportunity for businesses serving the industry to meet these two goals.

In OSC's three-tier contributing member membership structure, partners will be able to select the best plan for their membership and membership needs.

#### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

The OSC individual membership will offer industry members access to exclusive content and networking opportunities.

Membership pricing and details are available on the OSC website here: <https://oregonseedcouncil.org/membership>

If you would like to learn more about our memberships, please contact Megan Chuinard at [Megan@MAC-Consulting-LLC.com](mailto:Megan@MAC-Consulting-LLC.com).

#### **Megan Chuinard**

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## CONTRIBUTING MEMBER LEVELS AND BENEFITS

LEVEL	BENEFITS
<b>GOLD</b> <b>\$5,000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large Logo on OSC website (prominent placement)</li> <li>2 Articles on the OSC Website (per guidelines)</li> <li>1 Prominent placement of logo in OSC Newsletter</li> <li>2 Recognitions of membership with logo in OSC Newsletters</li> <li>1 Social media post on OSC platforms with logo placement</li> <li>3 Social media "sponsored by" posts on OSC platforms</li> <li>1 Meeting with OSC President and Executive Director</li> <li>Communications from OSC including OSC newsletters, E-Updates, and special information for Gold Level Contributing Members</li> </ul>
<b>SILVER</b> <b>\$2,500</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large Logo on OSC website</li> <li>1 Articles on the OSC Website (per guidelines)</li> <li>1 Prominent placement of logo in OSC Newsletter</li> <li>2 Recognitions of membership with logo in OSC Newsletters</li> <li>2 Social media "sponsored by" posts on OSC platforms</li> <li>Communications from OSC including OSC newsletter and E-Updates</li> </ul>
<b>BRONZE</b> <b>\$1,000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logo on OSC website</li> <li>2 Recognitions of membership with logo in OSC Newsletters</li> <li>1 Social media "sponsored by" posts on OSC platforms</li> <li>Communications from OSC including OSC newsletters and E-Updates</li> </ul>

TO BECOME A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER, CONTACT OSC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MEGAN CHUINARD: [MEGAN@MAC-CONSULTING-LLC.COM](mailto:MEGAN@MAC-CONSULTING-LLC.COM) OR 503-267-8578

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## INDIVIDUAL MEMBER PRICING AND BENEFITS

Join the Oregon Seed Council as an individual member to gain access to exclusive content, network, and engage with members of the seed industry.

**\$250 Annual Dues**

### CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

**ACCESS TO EXCLUSIVE CONTENT:**

- MONTHLY Newsletters
- OSC Updates on key activities impacting the seed industry
- Action Alerts
- Oregon Seed Magazine
- Information on Legislative and Regulatory Matters

**NETWORKING**

- Networking Opportunities
- Access to OSC Committees

TO BECOME AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER, CONTACT OSC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MEGAN CHUINARD: [MEGAN@MAC-CONSULTING-LLC.COM](mailto:MEGAN@MAC-CONSULTING-LLC.COM) OR 503-267-8578