



Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

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March 2026

Let me know if you want to be ADDED or TAKEN OFF this email list! Ellen Hammond, ellen.hammond@jeffswcd.org.

March 5, 10am-noon

Ranchlands Working Group

Central Oregon Ag Research and Extension Center

This diverse group was established 2 years ago to implement the Ranchlands Priority Tools identified in the Jefferson County Agricultural Drought Resiliency Plan. The purpose of the plan is to help Jefferson County agriculture thrive despite water shortages. Those tools are:

- Bundling juniper control with reseeding, weed control, periodic burning, and grazing management
- Targeting grazing to improve forage and rangeland health
- Vegetating streamsides
- Reconnecting streams to floodplains
- Annual weed control



Let me know if you want to join the discussion on how it's going and how to move forward.

March 24, noon

Jefferson SWCD Board Meeting (new location)

Jefferson County Public Health/Mosaic Community Room, 500 NE A Street, Madras

Learn what the SWCD is doing for you. Contact [Kate Haarberg](#) for an agenda and to RSVP for lunch! Agendas and approved minutes are posted on our [website](#) as soon as available.

April 13-17

Veterans' Sustainable Agriculture Training

Redmond, OR

Armed to Farm gives military veterans an opportunity to see sustainable, profitable farming and ranching enterprises and learn about farming as a career. Armed to Farm includes classroom sessions, farm tours, and hands-on activities.

Armed to Farm participants will learn about whole-farm planning, farm financial planning, crop production, soil and water resource management and mapping, marketing, and more.

Available to military veterans who are interested in starting a farm or who are beginning farmers (less than 10 years). Application deadline is March 18, 2026. See [FREE Sustainable Agriculture Training for Military Veterans](#).

June 18, morning plus lunch 😊

COAREC Field Day

Central Oregon Ag Research and Extension Center

COAREC staff are excited to show you what they have been up to. Stay tuned!



More on next page!

June 18, lunch ☺ plus 1-3pm

Croplands Working Group

Central Oregon Ag Research and Extension Center

This diverse group was established 2 years ago to implement the Croplands Priority Tools in the Jefferson County Agricultural Drought Resiliency Plan. Those tools are:

- Optimize crop water use efficiency
- Identify additional cash crops
- Improve soil health
- Control annual weeds on unirrigated land

Our current emphasis is on finding funding for irrigation modernization and on research related to crops and water use. Let me know if you want to join the discussion on how it's going and how to move forward. In addition, the group is partnering with Jefferson County Weed control. We will meet at COAREC after their Field Day.

June 25

Kernza Conference

Central Oregon Ag Research and Extension Center



Interested in potential perennial grain grasses as a rotational crop? Kernza (a patented variety of intermediate wheat grass) is getting a lot of attention now. COAREC is hosting a multi-day national conference for Kernza researchers and other interested parties June 23-25, with a field tour at COAREC the morning of June 25th. More info to come!

Do you farm along Highway 26 or 97? Would you host a crop sign on the edge of your field to let the public know what food and fiber you are growing for them? Spread the word about our agriculture! Contact Oregon Women for Agriculture at centraloregon@owaonline.org!



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Oregon Cattleman's Association Wildfire Assistance Grants

The OCA has announced a wildfire assistance grant for ranchers who experienced loss due to fire in 2024 and/or 2025. The deadline for submissions is March 31. [2024-2025-Wildfire-Assistance-Application-Fillable.pdf](#)

ODFW Riparian Lands Tax Incentive (RLTIP)

RLTIP offers a property tax incentive to landowners for improving or maintaining qualifying riparian lands that can include up to 100 feet from a waterway. Property owners file a Riparian Management Plan with ODFW and County to receive a complete property tax exemption for the qualifying riparian lands on their property, provided measures are implemented to protect, conserve, and restore the riparian land. SWCD staff are unfamiliar with this program but are happy to assist you if you are interested. More info at: dfw.state.or.us/lands/tax_overview.asp

Zero Footprint Restore Grants – Open March 3

Payment for practices! Farmers and ranchers can receive up to \$25,000 to implement climate-smart practices that sequester carbon. A Terrebonne grower recently received funding to apply compost to their fields with little paperwork. The JCSWCD can be your Technical Service Provider. Applicants must be growing food for humans or to feed livestock for human consumption. [Restore Grants — Zero Footprint](#)

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – closes March 20

If you are interested in protecting your riparian areas through the USDA CREP program, email [Amber Hermann](mailto:Amber.Hermann) or call her at (541) 699-6125 by March 11 so she can get your information together in time for submittal. We have no idea when this opportunity will arrive again.