



Board of Agriculture

Farm to School Update

Amy Gilroy, Farm to School Manager

January 20, 2021



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Update on Farm to School Program



House Bill 2579 (2019-2021)

- Expanded program from \$4.6 to \$15 million
- Added 3 new grant programs
- ***NEW*** Farm to School Producer Equipment & Infrastructure Grant Program (\$500,000)



Farm to School Producer Equipment & Infrastructure Grant

- Help producers and processors overcome barriers to scaling production and increasing sales to school food sites
- Start or expand processing and aggregating capacity to sell Oregon products to schools
- Increase the use and/or processing of Oregon agricultural products
- Purchase qualifying E&I or cover costs associated with infrastructure improvements to start, upgrade or modernize value-added businesses
- Produce Oregon grown or raised crops and/or livestock



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Farm to School Producer Equipment & Infrastructure Grant



- Received 35 qualified applications requesting more than \$2.1 million
- Able to fund 6 highly competitive projects
 - Aichele Farms, Stanfield OR
 - Ella Bella Farms, Talent OR
 - Mama Tee Farm Willamina OR
 - Mudbone Grown, LLC Corbett OR
 - Out on a Limb Farm, Parkdale OR
 - Tortilleria y Tienda De Leon Gresham OR



Impact of COVID 19 on Farm to School



- Farm to School Program cut by 1/3 of budget (\$5 million)
- Schools cancelled guaranteed orders
- Funds for E & I Grant reduced to \$250,000
- USDA activated emergency meals for grab and go meal service increasing demand for prepackaged, pre-portioned food



Aichele Farms

Farm to School Grantee



Jeff Aichele

Berry Grower
Stanfield, OR



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