



Seed Council Presents Farm Bill Wish List to Ag Committee Members

The Oregon Seed Council presented its wish list for the 2023 Farm Bill to members of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee in a listening session at Linn Benton Community College on June 2.

In testimony and in a letter the Council presented four bullet points to Agriculture Committee Chair G.T. Thompson, R-Pennsylvania; Reps. Lori Chavez DeRemer, R-Oregon, and Andrea Salinas, D-Oregon; and other Agriculture Committee members. House Agriculture Committee member Doug LaMalfa, R-California, and Rep. David Valadao, R-California, who is on the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee, were also present at the listening session, as well as staff members of the delegation.

“Currently, annual ryegrass is not included in cover crops for feed and forage in times of disaster. This addition will benefit not only midwestern agriculture in promoting healthy, sustainable land, but will help Oregon utilize one of our bountiful crops and support an industry that contributes significantly to our economy and sustainable agricultural practices.”

Oregon Seed Council

In the letter, the Council also asked the committee to consider annual ryegrass for use as feed and forage in times of disaster.

“Currently, annual ryegrass is not included in cover crops for feed and forage in times of disaster,” the Council wrote. “This addition will benefit not only midwestern agriculture in promoting healthy, sustainable land, but will help Oregon utilize one of

First up, the Seed Council said it would like to see more incentives for cover crop use in corn and soybean systems.

“Annual ryegrass, a productive crop in the state of Oregon, is a great resource used to slow erosion, improve soil health, support water availability and improve water quality by absorbing excess nitrogen from runoff and helping mitigate weeds, pest and disease,” the Council wrote in a letter signed by OSC First Vice President Kate Hartnell. “Inclusion of annual ryegrass in the list of cover crops eligible for the incentive offers a benefit to overall environmental, soil and water health.”



Members of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee hear testimony from Oregon ag groups at a listening session on the 2023 Farm Bill at Linn Benton Community College June 2.

our bountiful crops and support an industry that contributes significantly to our economy and sustainable agricultural practices.”

The Council also asked committee members to include better crop insurance accessibility for Oregon growers in the next Farm Bill.

“Current rules on crop insurance favor grass seed growers in Minnesota, providing a competitive advantage over Oregon

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producers,” the Council wrote. “The Oregon Seed Council requests your support in making this vital resource available to Oregon growers, especially those with multiple crops, creating an equitable opportunity for growers.”

The Council went on to note that under the last Farm Bill, specialty crops did not include ryegrass, tall fescue, fine fescue or clover. Expansion to include the seed crops would make the program more equitable to Oregon agriculture.

The Council also asked Agriculture Committee members to consider making specialty crop grants more accessible to producers by streamlining the application process. And it urged support for tri-state grants for grass seed production research.

“These grants (for Oregon, Washington and Idaho) were removed from the Farm Bill several years back, and renewal of this program would help boost our state and nation in delivering exceptional products,” the Council wrote.

After the hearing, the congressional delegation and staff toured Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis’s straw processing facility and were provided information on the Oregon hazelnut and mint industries.

“The event at Oregon Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis’s business offered an opportunity to learn more about the straw industry, including what the process looks like for transportation, straw pressing and export,” said Oregon Seed Council Executive Director Megan Chuinard. “It was a great opportunity to get a clear idea of what policy impacts could have on the ground, build relationships and have open conversations with Ag Committee members and their staff.”

Total spending for the 2023 Farm Bill is projected at \$1.5 trillion, potentially making it the first trillion dollar Farm Bill in U.S. history. The bill is expected to be drafted for markup by mid-September and could be considered by the House before some provisions of the current Farm Bill expire on September 30.

Agenda Set for Seed and Cereal Crop Production Meetings

OSU Extension’s Fall Seed and Cereal Crop Production Meetings will include presentations on vole control, on new and old insects, on wheat disease management and on pre-emergent herbicides.

“What Do We Know about Vole Control,” is the title of a presentation from OSU Extension agronomist Christy Tanner. Tanner has been using a drone to measure vole damage, a first step in comparing the efficacy of different treatments. And she has been testing different baits in bait boxes. She will talk about the findings from her research.

OSU Extension Entomologist Navneet Kaur will provide a presentation titled, “New Pests and Old, Insects to Watch for This Year,” and OSU Extension Cereal Scientist Ryan Graebner will provide a presentation on “Winter Wheat Varieties and Management in the Willamette Valley.”

Also on hand will be USDA soil scientist Jennifer Moore. Moore will provide a presentation on “Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Tile Drained Fields.” OSU Plant Pathologist Chris Mundt will provide a presentation on “Wheat Disease Management.” And OSU Weed Scientist Pete Berry will provide a presentation on “Challenges with Pre-emergent Herbicides.”

The meetings will be held September 13 and 14, with meetings in Salem and Tangent on September 13 and a meeting at the Forest



Grove Elks Lodge in Forest Grove on September 14. The Forest Grove meeting will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

The first meeting on September 13 will be held at Roth’s Hospitality Center in West Salem from 8:30 to noon. The second meeting on the 13th will be held at the Central Electrical Training Center at 33309 OR-99E in Tangent from 1:30 to 5 p.m.

The Extension Service asks people to register for the meetings at <https://beav.es/TmK>.

People needing help registering are asked to call Laurie Gibson at 541-248-1088. If you have questions about the meetings, call Tanner at 541-570-5642.

Seed Council, Others Strategize on Opposition to Proposed Rodenticide Label Changes

The Oregon Seed Council was among several Oregon agricultural groups that met September 1 with Katie Swift, chairperson of the Rodenticide Task Force, for a strategy session on countering EPA's proposed label changes for rodenticides.

The proposed changes include requirements for carcass searches beginning four days after a zinc phosphide application and continuing every other day for at least two weeks, and requirements that zinc phosphide applicators wear a respirator and chemical-resistant gloves during an application.

Oregon Seed Council Executive Director Megan Chuinard and OSC Research and Regulatory Coordinator Steve Salisbury were among participants in the meeting at the Oregon Farm Bureau conference room.

To date, Swift said, since the close of the public-comment period on February 13, the Rodenticide Task Force, which represents thirteen rodenticide registrants, has not seen any indication that the EPA is considering any changes to the proposals for chlorophacinone, diphacinone, zinc phosphide and other rodenticides.

The Task Force has presented pictures and testimonials from growers of the damage voles inflict on commercial crops, including showing an overhead shot of an Oregon grass seed field devastated by voles in 2020, and has presented information from scientists supporting the Task Force claims that EPA's proposals are not warranted by scientific evidence and are over-burdensome on farmers and others.

EPA's proposed label changes are being driven in part by the so-called Mega Litigation brought by the Center for Biological Diversity and other plaintiffs in a 2011 lawsuit that claimed the agency was in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for not consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service prior to registering pesticides.

In some respects, EPA's hands are tied in that they must comply with the ESA, according to a comment at the meeting. But, Swift



Katie Swift, chairperson of the Rodenticide Task Force, a group representing thirteen rodenticide registrants, came to Oregon on September 1 to lead a strategy session on countering EPA's proposed label changes for rodenticides.

said, "The agency has a lot of discretion in how they conduct the ESA consultations, and the mitigation measures they propose."

At the September 1 meeting, attendees agreed to form a group to approach EPA in Washington, D.C., as well as develop talking points that growers and others can use in letters addressed to EPA Administrator Michael Regan opposing the label changes. Also, the group is looking into securing a signed letter from a bipartisan group of U.S. senators addressed to EPA denouncing the proposal as unnecessary and over-burdensome on farmers. The letter would be in addition to a letter signed by thirty Republican representatives already delivered to Regan denouncing the proposal.

The group also agreed to approach the Oregon congressional delegation with its concerns.

In addition to the Seed Council, other groups represented at the meeting included Oregonians for Food and Shelter, the Oregon Farm Bureau, hazelnut growers and golf course superintendents.

ZP Above-Ground Use Period Extended

According to an August 23 advisory from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the 2023 use season for above-ground applications of zinc phosphide on grass grown for seed and clover grown for seed has been extended to September 30.

The above-ground application period previously was scheduled to end September 15. It started on May 2 under the Special Local Needs (SLN) labels approved by the ODA.

One caveat to the extension is the above-ground applications will need to be discontinued prior to September 30 if migratory Canada geese or cackling geese return to fields intended for treatment, according to the advisory.

“Above-ground applications of zinc phosphide may not be made if Canada geese or cackling geese have been observed in the field within the last fourteen days regardless of date,” the advisory stated.

Six zinc phosphide products are available for above-ground use on grass seed fields under SLN labels, including Prozap Zinc Phosphide Oat Bait; ZP Rodent Bait AG; ZP AG Pellets; Prozap Zinc Phosphide Pellets; ZP Rodent Oat Bait AG; and ZP AG Oats.

Only one zinc phosphide product is available for above-ground use on clover seed fields under an SLN label, that being Prozap Zinc Phosphide Pellets.

Several zinc phosphide products are currently registered under SLN labels for below-ground use in grass seed and clover seed fields, according to the advisory. “Those products may be used below ground throughout the year in a manner consistent with the currently approved label,” the advisory stated.



Vole damage in grass.

Calendar

September 11	Oregon Ryegrass Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Cascade Grill, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany
September 26	Oregon Seed Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cascade Grill, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany
October 5	Oregon Tall Fescue Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Roth's 1130, Wallace Rd NW, Salem
October 9	Oregon Fine Fescue Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Roth's, 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem
October 24	Oregon Seed Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cascade Grill, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany
October 25	Oregon Clover Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Roth's 1130, Wallace Rd NW, Salem

THE E-NEWSLETTER The goal of this e-newsletter is to provide timely updates to Oregon seed producers and field reps. 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 at mitchlies@comcast.net.

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