

EASTERN OREGON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER (EOARC)

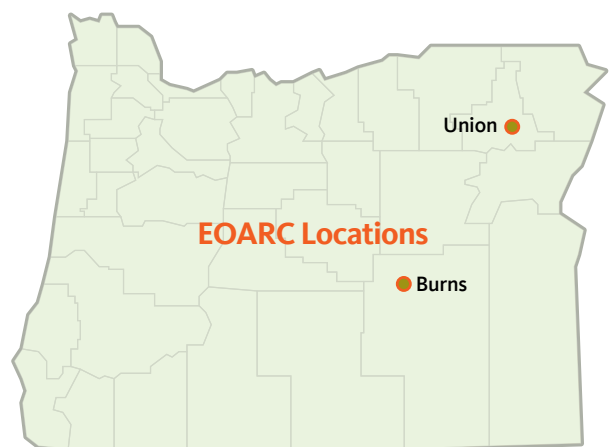
Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC) is a cooperative research effort between Oregon State University and USDA-ARS (Agricultural Research Service) focusing on rangeland ecology and restoration of wildlands, environmentally compatible livestock systems, forage crops, and alternative livestock systems in the sagebrush-steppe of the Great Basin and inland coniferous forests of the Pacific Northwest. The Center's research program is unique in the integration of research about beef cattle, rangeland, wildlife, watershed, irrigated forest systems, and forest management.

Research

EOARC research focuses on beef cattle production and management. Cattle have been raised in Oregon since John Quincy Adams was elected president in 1824. In 2020, cattle and calves ranked as the state's second-leading agricultural commodity.

The scientists at EOARC are working to develop agricultural and natural resource strategies to maintain or enhance intermountain forest and shrub steppe ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations. Another important role of the station is maintaining outreach programs throughout the Northwest. This role allows the scientists to spread the news about their research and to generate interest in new management practices. Additionally, active multidisciplinary partnerships are maintained which increase the diversity and impact of station research, which includes projects associated with:

1. Beef cattle health and nutrition
2. Forage crops and alternative livestock systems
3. Environmentally compatible livestock systems
4. Restoration of wildland systems



One Station. Two Locations:

Burns

The Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center at Burns is composed of both state and federal lands. The station's main offices and research and laboratory facilities are located on 640 acres of state land south of Burns. The state land is referred to as Section Five. The Northern Great Basin Experimental Range (NGBER) is our rangeland property. It is federally administered and encompasses over 16,000 acres. It is located about 35 miles west of Burns.

Union

Base property, including office buildings and research and laboratory facilities, consists of 600 acres in Union, Oregon.

The Hall Ranch is approximately 2,000 acres of forested land located 12 miles southeast of Union on State Highway 203.



Ag Experiment Station History

Oregon is unmatched in the diversity of its agricultural and environmental landscape—from rugged coastlines through lush valleys across high deserts—and the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University is OUT THERE, connecting scientific discovery to communities and industries that rely on those insights. In addition to dozens of research labs and institutes on campus, the College has 14 agricultural experiment station locations across the state.

This statewide system of research stations has a rich history. It began in 1887, when President Grover Cleveland signed the Hatch Act, which provided annual funds for agricultural research stations at land-grant colleges in each state and territory. The first Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station was built in Union, Oregon in 1888. Since then, the system has grown with strategic locations around the state that support industry and communities while addressing environmental issues specific to each region. Together, a network of over 400 scientists in 28 academic disciplines strive to improve quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic development in rural and urban communities across Oregon and beyond. These stations are the engine of science working every day to make tomorrow better.

The Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC) originated with the Union Experiment Station—the first Agricultural Experiment Station in Oregon. Its mission was to “carry on such lines of investigation as will be helpful to the agricultural interests of Eastern Oregon.” The livestock industry in eastern Oregon was undergoing considerable change as the 20th century began and the Union station was the first to help livestock producers transition into the era. In 1911, the Harney Branch Experiment Station was established near Burns to assist homesteaders and its focus turned to providing the science and outreach for rangeland-based beef production. The Northern Great Basin Experimental Range west of Burns was purchased in the late 1930s, along with 196 head of Hereford cows (today, all cattle at the Burns station trace back to those original 196 cows; researchers have improved genetics through bull selection and artificial insemination, but no females have been purchased since the original 196 cows). In 1974, the Burns and Union stations were combined to form the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, allowing for increased coordination of programming and resources to better address the challenges facing stakeholders throughout Oregon and the Intermountain West.

Economic Impact

In 2020, cattle and calves ranked as the state’s second-leading agricultural commodity, with a value estimated at \$588 million.

Other Programs and Services

EOARC has several outreach programs to inform and educate the public about natural resources, wildlife, and livestock issues in Eastern Oregon. These include youth education programs from elementary through college that teach participants about science, calving school, and clubs and field days to engage with the public.

Corresponding Partnerships

USDA-ARS

The Nature Conservancy

USDA-USFS



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OSU College of Agricultural Sciences prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials.



Oregon State University
College of Agricultural
Sciences