Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences

As one of the founding colleges of Oregon State University, for more than 150 years, the College of Agricultural Sciences has played a central role to sustaining and enhancing Oregon’s high standard of quality for food, habitat, health, and home. Our four key strategic advantages include:

**COASTAL FOOD SYSTEMS + CONSERVATION**

The College of Agricultural Sciences is a global leader in research, education and outreach in a wide range of transdisciplinary sciences related to coastal food systems, sustainable seafood harvest and production, and conservation of marine natural resources. Faculty and staff have broad expertise related to the marine and coastal environments ranging from aquaculture, biology, ecology, economics and policy, ecosystem services, fisheries, genomics, and seafood production and processing. Scientists in the College have active projects in all five of the Earth’s ocean basins and engage with policymakers at national and international levels. The importance of this work will continue to grow as global human populations increase and our coastal and marine ecosystems are subjected to multiple anthropogenic impacts and natural disasters.

**FOOD INNOVATION FOR HEALTH, MARKETS AND ACCESS**

Dedicated to rethinking food — how it is grown, processed, distributed and put into the hands of consumers, the College of Agricultural Sciences applies a systems-based approach to agriculture and food that supports the long-term viability of our diverse food-based economy and the communities that rely on it. We support resilient food systems that overcome and adapt to rapid population growth, urbanization, growing wealth inequity, changing consumption patterns, technology innovation, regulatory intervention, and globalization. We strive to address and mitigate the effects of climate change, pandemics, and depletion of natural resources. The challenges are vast and the need to provide sufficient, healthy and accessible food, with minimal environmental impact, is urgent.

**AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS + RESILIENCE**

The College of Agricultural Sciences research, teaching and outreach programs are designed for the future, with careful consideration of the tremendous diversity of Oregon’s 225 agricultural commodities. Over the next 80 years, the world population is expected to increase to 11 billion. Numerous circumstances are impacting the ability to sustainably feed and support this growing population, including the impacts of climate change. To meet this challenge, agriculture in Oregon, the U.S. and globally, must become more sustainable. Sustainability means delivering adequate food, fiber and feed while also preserving the environment and improving human well-being across economic, environmental and social dimensions. Sustainable agricultural systems also must be resilient to environmental and economic challenges, while embracing emerging technologies and economic opportunities.

**WORKING AND NATURAL LANDSCAPES**

Oregon’s diversity of landscapes, cropping and grazing systems, and ocean environments create a diversity of opinions on how best to allocate and manage these resources. The College of Agricultural Sciences is equipped for this challenge, having a large collaborative network of researchers and teachers (academic, extension and others) with broad and deep expertise in almost all areas of agricultural and natural resources research and outreach across the state and beyond. Well-connected to practitioners (growers, users, land managers, and state, federal and local agencies and NGOs) and with strong ties to stakeholders, communities and agencies, we are able to identify problems and provide scientifically informed answers to some of our most pressing challenges.