

MALHEUR EXPERIMENT STATION (MES)

The Malheur Experiment Station conducts crop trials every year in the high desert of Eastern Oregon, near the Idaho border. These trials continue to lead to innovations in sustainable techniques that have greatly improved agriculture in Malheur County, particularly in the major crops of onions and potatoes.

Research Areas

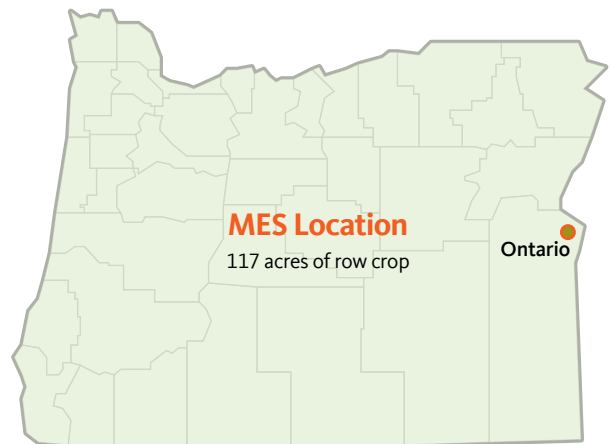
- Row crops
- Small grains
- Forage crops
- Native plants
- Irrigation + water management
- Integrated Pest Management
- Weed control

Other Programs / Services

- Weather stations and publicly available weather data
- Pest monitoring
- Entomology and weed science
- Variety development

Economic Impact

Malheur is the 5th leading county in Oregon in terms of farmgate value. Onions, sugar beets, wheat, corn, beans, potatoes, and seed crops are major crops in Malheur County, helping to generate hundreds of millions of dollars per year of farm gate income for producers and over \$1 billion of economic activity in the county. Alfalfa, corn, and hay are transformed into high value meat and milk products by cattle and dairy producers.



3 laboratories, 1 greenhouse
2 weather stations (NOAA + AgriMet)
7 staff and faculty +
~20 seasonal and student workers



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 Malheur Experiment Station (MES) was established in 1942 with local farmers asked Oregon State College (now Oregon State University) to establish a research station. Money was raised by a local tax initiative to buy the land which was deeded to OSU in the mid-1950s.

Serving the Local Agricultural Community

The Malheur Experiment Station is committed to making its research easily accessible to the public and applicable to their needs. Annual reports of research projects are published on the station's website. The station website also provides growers with up-to-date weather information, including evaporation rates to aid them in making irrigation decisions.

Corresponding Partnerships

MES partners with numerous other organizations including: BLM, US Forest Service, Malheur Watershed Council, the Owyhee Watershed Council, the Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Lower Willowcreek Working Group, and grower associations and commodity organizations.

Advisory Committee

The Malheur Experiment Station Advisory Committee meets annually to help establish research directions and priorities for the station, and to plan for the station's future development. The advisory committee is composed of members from different sectors of agriculture and community members.



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