



Working Farmland Protection Program Update

The Challenge:

Farmland acreage in Multnomah County has declined by 63% - 50,000 acres - since 1948. Farmland values have increased 75% from 2012 to 2017.

How we're helping:

We're working on a voluntary, incentive-driven basis to ensure farmland remains available for current and future generations of farmers. Learn more about our recent partnerships in this newsletter.

Mainstem Farm

When longtime nursery grower Hank Mishima was ready to retire, it was important to him that the property remain in farm use for future generations. EMSWCD purchased the property in 2018. In January 2019, EMSWCD leased the property to Full Cellar Farms - a recent graduate of EMSWCD's Headwaters Incubator Program.

"I was excited to have an opportunity to ensure farming would continue on the property, and that the transaction could help grow the next generation of farmers."

- Hank Mishima

Oxbow Farm

EMSWCD sold a 58-acre farm property to Sester Farms in April 2019. The farm was sold subject to a working farmland easement, which will ensure the property remains in farm use in perpetuity. The easement helped reduce the purchase price.

Working farmland easements are a great option for landowners who don't want to sell their property, but want to get some cash value from it. Contact Matt if you are interested in learning more about the option of selling a working farmland easement.



Sturm Farm: A transaction with EMSWCD helped Don and Rosie Sturm finance farm upgrades and their retirement.





Upcoming Farm Succession Planning Workshop Series

The challenge:

60% of farmland in Oregon will change ownership in the next 20 years. Not having a farm succession plan may mean that your wishes for the future of your farm aren't realized.

How we're helping:

We recently partnered with experts to offer a free farm succession workshop and one-on-one counseling for farm families. This workshop will likely be offered again in the winter of 2020.

Reach out to Matt if you are interested in participating.



East Multnomah

Soil and Water Conservation District

5211 N Williams Avenue, Portland, OR 97217

Working Farmland Protection Program

"The Working Farmland Protection Program has helped us plan for our retirement, provided capital for new farm operations, and ensured our properties remain in farming."

Don & Rosie Sturm

Want to learn more?

Contact Matt Shipkey,
our Land Legacy Program
Manager, at:

(503) 935-5374

matt@emswcd.org

Or visit our website at:

emswcd.org/farmland



EMSWCD worked creatively and responsively with us to create access to an important farm property and to ensure its future as a "forever farm."

*-program participants
Ted & Karen Sester*