

# CTE PATHWAYS AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES

Community Colleges WORK for Oregon

## Cultivating Oregon's Workforce

This career area prepares students for work in agriculture, food systems, and natural resources, with a focus on sustainability, environmental stewardship, and long-term resource management.



### Program Enrollment

**1,874** Community college students enrolled in agriculture, food & natural resources programs statewide (2023-2024)

**80%** of these students are enrolled part-time <sup>1</sup>



### Award Earners

**284** Number of **credentials awarded** by CCs statewide in agriculture, food & natural resources professions (2023-2024) <sup>6</sup>



### Oregon's Forests at Work

**62K+** Oregonians with forest-related jobs. Oregon's **forest sector** spans careers from forestry & logging to engineering & business management.

Forest sector employment accounts for **6% of all rural employment** in Oregon <sup>5</sup>



### Agriculture at Work

**618,341** Oregon jobs related to food & agriculture (2025)

**13%** of Oregon's gross product is food & agriculture <sup>3</sup>  
Agriculture is the longest-standing industry to exist in Oregon <sup>4</sup>



### Farm Learning: From Field to Future

**4** Oregon community colleges have real, **working farms** for hands-on student learning.

These farms serve as **living classrooms**, where students gain **hands-on experience** with animals and agriculture while preparing for careers in animal science, veterinary technology, farming, and related fields.



**Animal Science**



# ROOTED IN OREGON READY TO WORK

## Forestry



## Growing Careers For a Sustainable Oregon

From farms to forests, community colleges prepare the workforce that keeps Oregon thriving.



## Viticulture



## Horticulture



## Culinary

## CC Economic Impact



### Economic Impact

**\$9.6B** In added income to the economy from Oregon's community colleges

This impact supported **177,970 jobs** (that's **1 out of 22 jobs!**) in Oregon in FY2021-22 <sup>2</sup>



### Strong ROI

**\$7** Rate of return for every dollar Oregonians invest in CCs for as long as students remain active in state's workforce

For every dollar of public money invested in CCs, taxpayers receive **\$1.30 in return** over students' working lives <sup>2</sup>



[www.occa17.com](http://www.occa17.com)

#### Sources:

- 1 HECC Community College Dashboard, 12/29/2025
- 2 "The Economic Value of Oregon's Community Colleges," Lightcast, July 2023
- 3 Oregon State Board of Agriculture 2025 Report
- 4 Oregon Employment Department, 2025
- 5 Oregon Forest Facts 2025-2026 Edition, Oregon Forest Resources Institute
- 6 HECC Office of Research & Data, 1/13/2026