

# **Oregon Sustainable Agriculture Resource Center (OSARC)**

## **What is OSARC?**

The Oregon Sustainable Agriculture Resource Center (OSARC) will provide one-stop shopping access to informational, financial, and technical resources related to sustainable agriculture.

Oregon's farmers and ranchers are increasingly turning to sustainable agriculture practices and certification programs, in response to rapidly changing market demands, and need ready access to the complex information and resources that are available.

## **OSARC and Market Demands**

Markets are evolving rapidly to reflect a growing focus on stewardship and sustainability. Wholesalers and retailers are requiring suppliers to meet sustainability standards. Retailers and producers want to tell the story behind their sustainably-produced products. Consumers want to shop their values, and are willing to pay more. Public agencies are providing incentives and rewards to producers who supply public services such as reduced soil erosion, increased water quality and quantity, fish and wildlife habitat, and greater energy efficiency. Producers and consumers are committed to sustaining Oregon's agricultural and natural resource legacy.

## **Resources for Oregon's Farmers and Ranchers**

- A one-stop-shopping website for farmers, ranchers, and resource professionals
- Access to all financial incentive programs in Oregon
- Access to technical assistance for planning, permits, and on-the-ground work
- Certification programs, standards, and self-assessment tools
- Soil, water, pest management, fish and wildlife habitat, and safe and fair working conditions
- Relevant regulations and assistance with achieving compliance
- Training and educational opportunities
- Staff to answer producer requests for information or other resources
- Evolving resources based on input from users

## **How is OSARC Different from Existing Resources?**

OSARC is the marginal investment that will greatly increase the use and effectiveness of the resources already available from public and private partners. It provides a coordinated one-stop shop where producers and those working with them have ready access to the information, agencies, and programs they need.

## **Who is Involved with OSARC?**

On February 16, 2006, 27 public and private partners signed a Declaration of Cooperation, with the assistance of Oregon Solutions, agreeing to develop OSARC. Partners include producer and commodity co-ops, federal and state agencies, certification programs, and nonprofit organizations, who are all committed to assisting producers with sustainable agriculture practices. All partners are eligible to serve on the Administrative Council that is guiding OSARC and Technical Groups that focus on providing relevant and well-organized content. OSARC is currently hosted by the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University.

## **For More Information:**

For more information about OSARC, including how to get involved, please contact the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University (541-737-9918) or Peter Bloome, Project Coordinator (541-752-0620 or [bloomep@comcast.net](mailto:bloomep@comcast.net)).