

McKenzie Healthy Farms Clean Water Grant Summary

EWEB received a \$45,500 grant from the Oregon Governor's Fund for the Environment to conduct this 2-year project designed to help McKenzie farmers increase their economic viability while simultaneously protecting water quality. Twelve project partners are joining EWEB to provide \$98,350 of matching funds and will be available to assist growers individually in a variety of project areas. The main components of the grant include:

- 1) **Reduce chemical storage** on farms through free agricultural chemical collection in partnership with Lane County Waste Management.



- 2) **Reduce chemical use** by transitioning to certified organic crops and/or or engaging in best management practices to reduce the amount of chemicals used on farms. Technical assistance is available from OSU Extension Service, Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and Oregon Tilth.



- 3) **Provide access to local markets** that tend to pay more for crops through the use of Ecotrust's online tool, FoodHub, and through technical assistance by Willamette Farm and Food Coalition staff.



- 4) **Connect farmers with programs designed to increase energy efficiency, incorporate renewable energy, and reduce water consumption.** Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development (CPRC&D) has an energy program which helps agricultural producers engage in energy efficiency measures and incorporate renewable energy onto

their farms. Lane Electric Cooperative, Emerald People’s Utility District, and EWEB also have incentives and can provide technical assistance for farmers interested in these projects. Upper Willamette SWCD can help farmers who would like to explore water conservation and efficient irrigation projects.



- 5) **Connect farmers with partners who can provide assistance in natural resource conservation** (riparian buffers, soil conservation, easements, ecosystem service markets, etc.) A number of project partners are available to provide farmers with technical assistance in the areas mentioned: McKenzie River Trust, McKenzie Watershed Council, OSU Extension Service, OSU Institute for Natural Resources, and the Upper Willamette SWCD.

