

Funding for workforce development develops tomorrow's leaders

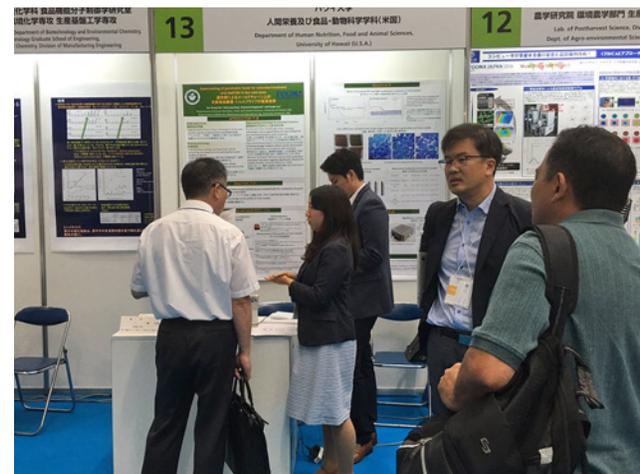
...ensuring a sustainable future for U.S. food and agriculture



To sustain the nation's food security, preserve American's health and wellness and tackle the emerging issues of our time, we will need scientists, land managers, educators and other professionals capable of taking on these challenges. Today, more than 50% of university professors are over 55 years of age. Recent reports suggest we will need at least 50,000 new workers in agriculture and food systems to maintain a vibrant and productive U.S. agricultural economy.

Increased funding to the Western Land-Grant Universities will attract highly qualified students into the food, agricultural and natural resource sciences.

The tenets of sustainability must be incorporated into appropriate segments of the K-20 curriculum such that future citizens understand the food sources, the food system and its relationship to the environment.



With adequate funding, the Western Land-Grant Universities are uniquely positioned to:

- Develop young scholars programs for high school students, including women and minorities
- Create and implement a research and Extension apprentice program for university students
- Provide additional fellowship programs for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral students



The Western Perspective
of the Land-Grant Universities

WAAESD
Western Association of Agricultural
Experiment Station Directors
<http://www.waesd.org>

WEDA
Western Extension
Directors Association
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/weda>

The Western Perspective & The Western Agenda

What is the Western Perspective & Agenda?

The Western U.S. is facing unprecedented challenges maintaining sustainable urban communities and agricultural and natural resource economies. The Western Perspective & Western Agenda serves to inform policy responses and actions and demonstrates how Land-grant Universities, Agricultural Experiment Stations, and Cooperative Extension support all Western Region communities sustained by agricultural and natural resources economies.

What are the unique challenges and characteristics of the West?

Every state in the Western Region has densely populated urban areas juxtaposed with large expanses of sparsely populated rural areas. This creates pressure on natural resource and agriculture industries while increasing population brings new demands on local and regional economies—largely dependent on watersheds, ecosystems, infrastructure and federal lands.

The public owns 47% of the land in the West. The majority of Western Region agriculture depends on public lands for livestock and forestry production, and on strong partnerships with federal organizations to sustain the health of ecosystems, agriculture and communities.

Fire, water, climate change, population growth, and invasive pests and diseases are the primary threats to agriculture and communities in the Western Region.

Synergy Between Units

Land-grant Universities, the Cooperative Extension Service, and Agricultural Experiment Stations have a federal and state obligation to conduct research and outreach, and lead educational programs that address the greatest agricultural and natural challenges of their home state and region.

The collaborative nature between these entities in the Western Region ensure the programs, people and places of the Western Region are able to sustain and thrive with respect to their individual state needs and united regional challenges.

This collaboration is unique and powerful! No other institutions have the scope, resources or capacity to anticipate and respond to the current and future challenges facing the Western Region. The interaction between each entity produces timely information and research from experts at each institution. The depth and breadth of these programs reaches everyone, from the most vulnerable to the most prosperous.

Agenda Priorities

- Sustainable Production Systems: Food Production, Food Safety, Food Security, Forestry and Horticulture
- Natural Resources: Water, Wildlife, Wildfire, Invasive Species, Ecosystem Services and Economic Opportunities
- Energy
- Community and Economic Development
- Youth Development: Agriculture, Nutrition and Natural Resources Science Literacy
- Nutrition and Health: Innovation in Foods for Health

Sponsored by:

American Samoa
Community College

University of Alaska
Fairbanks

University of Arizona

University of California

Colorado State
University

University of Guam

University of Hawaii

University of Idaho

College of Micronesia

Montana State
University

University of Nevada
Reno

New Mexico State
University

Northern Marianas
College

Oregon State
University

Utah State University

Washington State
University

University of
Wyoming