

The Resiliency of Oregon Dairy Farms

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University

Let's start with a definition of resiliency:

- per Merriam Webster

“an ability to recover from or adjust easily to adversity or change”

(= resilience)

forms of adversity and change

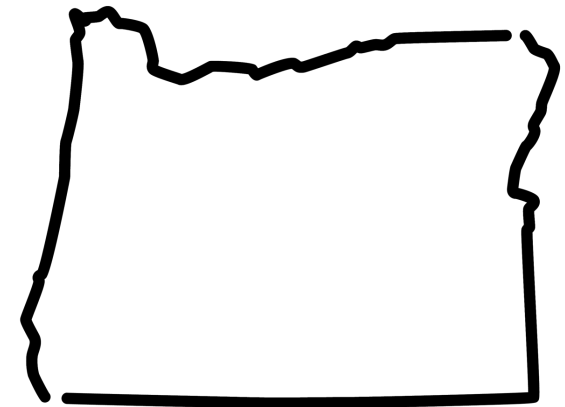
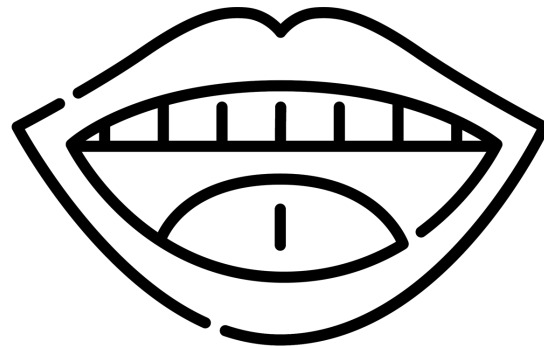
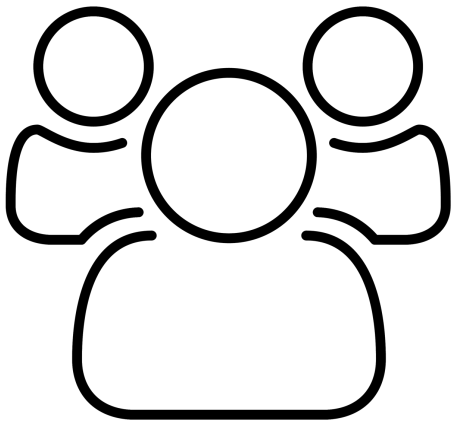


economic

- limited or no control of price received
- influence of market factors
 - domestic
 - international
- limited control over cost of inputs
- labor availability

social and/or political

- protecting the environment
- protecting the animals
- food safety
- labor availability



nature

- weather
- climate change
- disaster
- disease

‘Just Total Chaos’: Floods Bring Death and Devastation to Dairies

Near-record flooding in Washington State drowned cattle, demolished homes and damaged equipment. Broken supply chains are making it even harder to recover.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Detections in Livestock

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What do Oregon dairy farmers do?



turn scraps into snacks

- including byproducts in cow rations
 - cottonseed, soybean meal, canola meal # \$
 - seed screenings, brewer's/distiller's grain, bakery waste, cannery waste (fruit & veg), whey # \$ # local
 - spent hemp biomass? # \$ # local # OSUresearch



invest in new(er) technologies

- milking
 - robots; rotary parlors # \$ #labor #welfare
- feeding
 - push-up robots; feeding robots; silage-face shavers; better scales; automated calf feeders # \$ #labor #welfare
- cow monitoring systems
 - track body temperature, activity, rumination # \$ #labor #welfare

invest in people

- encouraging and enabling additional training
- building a team atmosphere
- making the dairy a good place to work

#welfare #retention



help cows be more resilient

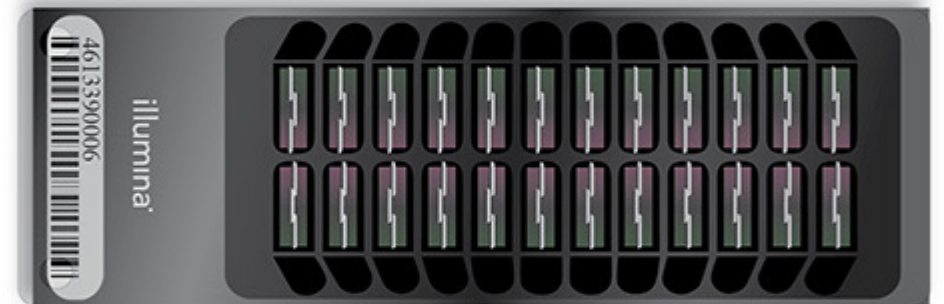
- prioritizing cow comfort
- testing mastitis pathogens
 - targeted treatment #foodsafety #environment
- ensuring good quality colostrum intake
- preweaned calves group housing
- managing heat, cold extremes
 - #OSUresearch
- **reducing stress**
 - #welfare #



make the cows more resilient: genetically

- crossbreeding
- providing data through the Dairy Herd Improvement programs
 - improves accuracy of genetic value estimation
 - enables incorporation of new traits (e.g., health, feed efficiency, reduced methane) into selection decisions
- getting animals genomically tested ↗

#environment #welfare #💰





diversify income stream

- beef x dairy calves
- agritourism
- growing different crops, maybe for cash
- manure export
- anaerobic digester (for manure)
 - electricity, renewable natural gas

#💰

try new things / change the system



- calves on nurse cows # \$ #welfare
- outsourcing heifer raising # \$ #labor
- refining the product to match the market # \$
 - A2 milk and/or organic
- on-farm processing # \$ #local
- partnering with a small cheesemaker # \$ #local

protect water, reduce emissions

- Oregon's CAFO program
 - all dairies
 - (soil) nutrient management plan
- manure technologies
 - separators, aerators, distribution
- compost manure for bedding #local
- reducing enteric methane
 - feed additives (still very new)

#environment #



dealing with nature

- planning
- monitoring
- insurance
- helping each other out
- supporting investigation
 - wildfire smoke, heat stress, manure utilization, enteric methane mitigation

#OSUresearch



engage in public relations



- sharing on social media
 - meeting with policy makers
 - hosting tours
- #education



Questions?

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