



MID-COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER (MCAREC)

The Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center (MCAREC) conducts research and outreach supporting the tree fruit industry in the Mid-Columbia region, for long term economic, environmental, and social sustainability. Continuous discovery and outreach are keys to its on-going success.

Research and extension faculty, research support staff, and operations and administrative staff work at the Center. In addition, visiting professors, scientists, graduate and undergraduate students and interns participate in research and Extension activities at the MCAREC.



Research Areas

Horticulture - production systems and physiology

Postharvest physiology - fruit storage and handling

Entomology - integrated management of insect and mite pests

Crops

Sweet cherry

Pear

Economic Impact

Oregon ranks third in the nation for sweet cherry production and second in the nation for pear production. The Mid-Columbia region is the largest production area in the state for both crops, with around 13,000 acres of cherry orchards and about 12,000 acres of pears.



Ag Experiment Station History

Oregon is unmatched in the diversity of its agricultural and environmental landscape—from rugged coastlines through lush valleys across high deserts—and the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University is OUT THERE, connecting scientific discovery to communities and industries that rely on those insights. In addition to dozens of research labs and institutes on campus, the College has 14 agricultural experiment station locations across the state.

This statewide system of research stations has a rich history. It began in 1887, when President Grover Cleveland signed the Hatch Act, which provided annual funds for agricultural research stations at land-grant colleges in each state and territory. The first Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station was built in Union, Oregon in 1888. Since then, the system has grown with strategic locations around the state that support industry and communities while addressing environmental issues specific to each region. Together, a network of over 400 scientists in 28 academic disciplines strive to improve quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic development in rural and urban communities across Oregon and beyond. These stations are the engine of science working every day to make tomorrow better.

The Mid-Columbia Experiment Station was established by legislative action in 1913. In later years, the name was changed to the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center to reflect both research and Extension activities. Until 1925, research scientists shared offices in downtown Hood River with agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture. In 1925, offices were moved near the present location, where they have been since 1952. From 1947 until 1972, the Experiment Station also operated a 20-acre research orchard in The Dalles.



Other Programs and Services

The Hood River County office of OSU Extension Service is located at MCAREC. Extension programs have been serving the residents of Hood River County and the Mid-Columbia area for over 80 years.



Corresponding Partnerships

- Hood River County
- Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers
- Fresh and Processed Pear Committee
- Oregon Sweet Chery Commission
- United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
- Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission

Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center
3005 Experiment Station Dr
Hood River, OR 97031

OSU College of Agricultural Sciences prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials.



Oregon State University
College of Agricultural
Sciences