



SOUTHERN OREGON RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER (SOREC)

In southern Oregon, a new generation of small-scale farmers and start-up wineries work shoulder to shoulder with established orchards, vineyards, and ranches. The Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) provides research-based programs for this active and growing community as they constantly reinvent the agricultural possibilities of the fertile Rogue Valley. Its faculty and staff help thousands of Jackson and Josephine County residents find answers and solve problems every year, in addition to instructing on-going programs and a selection of season-appropriate classes.

Research Areas

- Agronomy
- Entomology
- Viticulture
- Plant Pathology

Crops

- Wine Grapes
- Hemp
- Pears
- Hay/Pasture
- Forestry/Timber

Economic Impact

Oregon's wine and wine grape industry contributes more than \$5.61 billion in economic activity each year, including more than 29,738 wine-related jobs and more than \$1 billion in wages, according to the Oregon Wine Board. The pear industry is valued at \$98 million and is ranked 14th of all agricultural commodities in the state. Since 2016, the Rogue Valley has been the dominant hemp region in the state, with 35%-40% of the total statewide acres in Jackson and Josephine counties.



82 acres, 4 miles west of Medford.



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 Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) was unofficially formed in 1911 when farmers and ranchers of the Rogue River valley welcomed the expertise of Oregon's land-grant college. The practical knowledge and applied scientific research of OSU experts helped establish the forerunner for what is now known as SOREC and placed Jackson County prominently on America's agricultural map. In 1994 SOREC was official formed when it was combined with the Jackson County Extension Service.



Faculty & Staff

12 faculty and three support staff members work in the Extension Unit. The Research Unit consists of four scientists, working in entomology, plant pathology, viticulture, and agronomy, along with two research farm operation staff and an office manager.

Corresponding Partnerships

An important partner, **Jackson County** is an important partner, providing the land, buildings, building maintenance, office supplies and clerical support for the county extension agents, scientists, and research assistants located at the facility, as well as partial support of some Extension faculty and research farm operations staff. The federal government, through the **U.S. Department of Agriculture**, supports state and local projects with grants and pays a portion of the statewide program and faculty costs. **Other grants and research contracts** also support the varied extension and research programs.

The OSU-Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) near Medford, OR is located within the traditional homelands of the Takelma people. Takelma means “Those along the river” and they lived along the Rogue River and its tributaries, including evidence of seasonal communities along Jackson Creek on present-day SOREC. The Takelma were displaced during rapid Euroamerican colonization and armed conflict during 1852-1856. Survivors were forcibly removed to the central Oregon coast and the Willamette Valley. Today, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians identify their members as living descendants of the Takelma.

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