



RARE and Oregon Food Bank

What is the RARE program?

The mission of the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) Program is to increase the capacity of rural communities to improve their economic, social, and environmental conditions through the assistance of trained graduate-level participants who live and work in communities for 11 months. RARE is administered through the University of Oregon's Community Service Center and has been in operation since 1994.



"The dedicated work of the two RARE Participants has had a direct impact on the way we view our region, the way we serve our allied programs, the way we build collaborative relationships with other community partners, and the way we think about the impact of our rural farm economy."

Peter RC Lawson, Branch Coordinator

OFB and RARE

Since 2008, Oregon Food Bank has partnered with RARE to place participants in eight communities serving 18 counties in Oregon & Washington. RARE participants placed in collaboration with OFB have focused on local food system assessments and planning including the following elements:

- Two-part community food assessments of the target area
- Coordination and facilitation of community food system organizing events including FEAST
- Rural grocery store surveys
- Local food resource guides



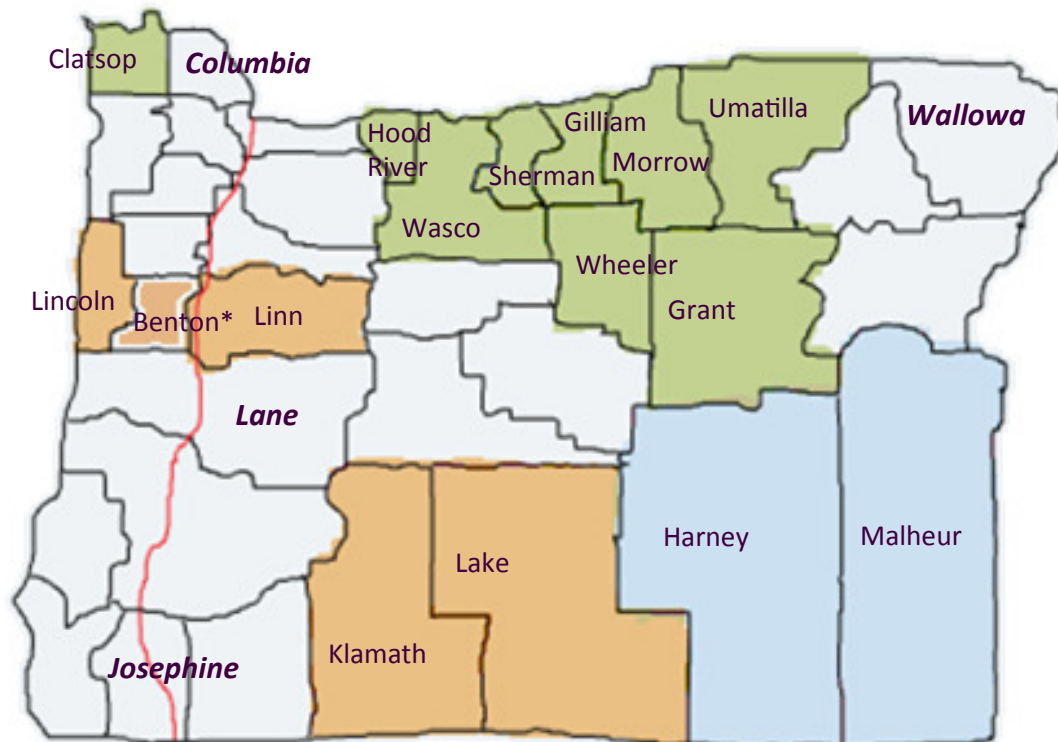
RARE-OFB Sites and Host Organizations

2008-09: *OFB-SE Oregon Services* (Harney, Malheur)- Ontario, OR

2009-10: *OFB-SE Oregon Services* (Harney, Malheur)- Ontario, OR , *OSU Extension* (Grant)- John Day, OR, *CAPECO* (Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler)- Pendleton, OR, *Gorge Grown Food Network* (Hood River, Sherman, Wasco)- Hood River, OR, *CCA Regional Food Bank* (Clatsop)- Astoria, OR

2010-11: *Grant County Economic Development Office* (Grant)- John Day, OR, *Ten Rivers Food Web* (Linn, Benton, Lincoln; 2 RAREs, 1 VISTA)- Corvallis, OR, *Klamath & Lake County Community Action Services*, (Klamath, Lake)- Klamath Falls, OR

2011-12: *Columbia Pacific Food Bank* (Columbia)- St. Helens, OR, *NE Oregon Economic Development District* (Wallowa)- Enterprise, OR, *Food For Lane County* (Lane)- Eugene, OR, *Josephine County Food Bank* (Josephine)- Grants Pass, OR



**The Benton County assessment was updated by a VISTA volunteer placed at the same organization & time as the Linn & Lincoln RARE participants*

IMPACT

- 7 Community Food Assessments completed covering 16 counties
- More than 300 producers, processors and farmers identified and engaged in discussion to change current sales or donation models that will support local food systems
- 6 local food resource guides published, linking producers to buyers
- 3 new Farmers' Markets and increased WIC/SNAP accessibility at 3 additional markets
- FEAST food systems organizing events held in 11 communities
- Intentional, regular donations to food pantries
- Increased community engagement to develop or bolster community gardens, community kitchens and nutrition education