**Action Team – Interview and Data Collection Form**

**Action Team Member:** Chuck Azzopardi

**How Might We:** Agriculture and Development in Towns

**Data Source:**

 Name: Oregon Tilth www.tilth.org

 Contact: Ali (541)228-9362

 Add Contact to Envision Contacts? Y

**Insights:**

* Oregon Tilth does not offer distribution of crops or livestock.
* Oregon Tilth is a certifying organization. They certify crops & livestock to be “organic”.
* Over the last few years “organic” certification las been increasing dramatically (from very low starting points). Ali indicates that it is continuing to increase by 20%, year over year.
* Other recognized certifications include “natural” and “grass fed”.
* Certification allows the farmer/rancher to include “organic” in their marketing.
* Organic certification provides some specific funding sources from USDA NRCS.

**reports or maps or web links the team should read/review:**

[www.tilth.org](http://www.tilth.org)

there is an abundance of info on the site, with the important details, for our Action Team, summarized in the Insights Bullet Points above.

Note that some of the important details (above) were learned through discussions with Ali at Tilth Oregon. Ali is a good source if we have additional questions…

additional details:

* crops that Oregon Tilth will certify include hay, alfalfa, grains
* to achieve organic certification the following needs to be performed
	+ no preservative substances can be used on the land for 36months
	+ livestock must be fed organic feed from last 1/3 of gestation till slaughter
	+ poultry must be fed organic feed from 2days after hatch
	+ slaughter must occur at processing plant certified to be organic
		- Scanga Meat is not currently
		- <https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity/Search.aspx> - is a website that allows for searches of processing plants that are certified organic
	+ initial inspection of ranch/farm - costing approximately $600 for initial fee, and $500-1,000 for ranch/farm onsite inspection
	+ yearly inspection of ranch/farm, cost is dependent on volume of sales, however, expect cost to be similar to cost detailed in initial inspection
	+ USDA NRCS (National Resource Conservation Services)
		- - [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/](http://www.apple.com)
		- some funding from USDA NRCS is specifically for organic farms/ranches
		- one program is the Organic Cost Share Program