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A program to enhance Oregon's ability to compete in the organic products market will receive \$140,000. Oregon is a long time leader in the organic products industry which has become an integral part of the state's economy. The demand for organic products has expanded over the last several years. For instance, in 2006 organic products generated \$76 million in Oregon. This funding will help Oregon farmers to transition their farms to organic production and improve the quality of organic production which will position Oregon well to continue as a leader in this rapidly growing industry.

A program to sustain Oregon's specialty crops, such as pears, will receive \$244,000. Oregon has a high percentage of specialty crops which have recently struggled to compete in the global market because other countries are producing these crops more cheaply. This project will make Oregon products more competitive in the global market through marketing strategies and improve the long term viability of Oregon's agricultural sector.

Oregon State University will receive \$475,000 for the Wood Utilization Research (WUR) project. Oregon is one of the world leaders in forestry and wood products manufacturing. In the past, the WUR program has saved Oregon's forest industry millions of dollars and created new business opportunities through innovation. The funding will be used to build on the past successes of the WUR program and enhance Oregon's competitiveness in the wood products market.

"All three of these programs invest in innovation here at home in Oregon. This funding will produce jobs for Oregonians and help us to compete in an increasingly competitive global market," DeFazio said. "I'm pleased I was able to get funding for these key segments of Oregon's economy and I look forward to the important work they will produce."

The funding was included in the Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2010, which passed out of Subcommittee today. The measure now must be considered by the full House Appropriations Committee.