

**2022 GRI ISSUE BRIEF** 

# COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT





#### **GRI ISSUE BRIEF**

### **COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT**

#### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO US

Across our Oregon processing plants and offices in Tillamook, Boardman and Portland, we employ about 1,000 people, support farming families primarily based in Tillamook County, and educate 1.35 million visitors a year at the Tillamook Creamery Visitors Center. Through our Enriched Communities commitment, we endorse and support areas where our customers, employees and owners live and work. In 2020, we became a Certified B Corporation. This designation spotlights our dedication to using our business as a force for good. We do all these things to enrich the communities that have enthusiastically supported us for more than a century.

#### **MANAGEMENT APPROACH**

Community Enrichment Program: Our Community Enrichment Policy outlines our commitment to support community resilience and create value in all the communities where we operate — especially in the areas of food security, healthful children and agricultural advocacy. We are dedicated to leading and working collaboratively in our communities to solve complex social issues. Our contributions include cash and in-kind donations, sponsorships, scholarships, employee volunteerism and workplace giving.

In 2017, we established a cross-functional Community Enrichment Committee, comprising employees from each of our operating locations — Tillamook, Boardman and Portland — and farmer-owners from Tillamook. Within this group, we have designated Site Champions to represent the local voice for each location. Committee members meet regularly to evaluate donation requests and support entities that align with our mission, reviewing over 600 applications per year.

KPI: In 2022, we invested 4.8% of our net income into our communities.

This KPI represents total monetary and product donations in 2022 to non-profit organizations designated as a (501(c)3, 501(c)6, or 501(c)7) and our Excellence in Scholarship program.

#### **AGRICULTURAL ADVOCACY**

As a farmer-owned cooperative, we care deeply about agriculture, the dairy industry and the future of dairy in Oregon and the United States. We advocate at the state and federal levels for working lands, rural resilience and natural resources. We work with policy makers and local organizations to understand community needs, address barriers and adopt meaningful solutions. We also support the next generation of farmers and provide agricultural education for over 1.35 million visitors annually at The Creamery Visitors Center. Below are additional examples of our efforts in this area.

• In 2022 we continued our cause marketing campaign, All For Farmers with American Farmland Trust (AFT), to educate consumers about the challenges farmers face and give back to farmers across the



country. In celebration of National Farmer's Day, we also hosted an All For Farmers Auction which included a vintage Tillamook VW pickup truck, a fully stocked cheddar fridge and groceries for a full year. The auction raised over \$55,000 for American Farmland Trust to support farmers in need. TCCA will continue to underwrite AFT's Brighter Future Fund through 2023. The program has supported 300 farmers to date with grants that work to enhance viability, access to land and increase resilience for farmers in need.

- We support youth agriculture organizations such as Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H. In 2022
  this included donating \$8,423 to Riverside Jr Sr High School's FFA program. This donation will serve
  over 160 students and allow the organization to purchase new equipment and supplies for agriculture
  education.
- We sponsor agricultural events such as the Tillamook County June Dairy Parade, the Tillamook County Fair, the Morrow County Fair and the Umatilla County Fair Parade, Oregon Ag Fest and other agricultural celebrations.
- To support the next generation of farmers, we provide scholarship funds for external programs including \$5,000 for OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences, and donated to the Oregon Farm Bureau Memorial Scholarship, Oregon State and Tillamook County Dairy Women scholarships and the National Milk Producers Federation scholarship programs.
- We support the development of the only agricultural land trust in Oregon Oregon Agricultural Trust, a non-profit that will work with farmers and ranchers to preserve agricultural lands through easements.
- We participate in National Milk Producers Federation and International Dairy Foods Association to advocate for dairy at federal and international levels.

#### **FOOD SECURITY**

As a farmer-owned cooperative and food processor, we have an intrinsic desire to ensure people are well-fed. We are committed to ending hunger in Oregon because we believe everyone should have access to wholesome food. We are also working to address affordable housing, childcare and rural broadband access across the state, as these issues often impact the same low-income populations. Some examples of our efforts to fight hunger include:

- Oregon Food Bank (OFB): Since 2016, we've donated over 886,709 pounds of food to those in need through OFB. This year we also donated \$15,000 to support OFB Tillamook County Services.
- In 2022, we donated a total 141,130 pounds of product to OFB and 90,056 pounds to other organizations
  including Meals for Seniors, Tillamook School District, Urban Gleaners, Northern Illinois Food Bank and
  Lincoln City Backpack.
- **Boardman Food Pantry:** In 2022,we made a \$15,000 donation to Boardman Food Pantry to support food security in Morrow County. Employees at our Boardman office also hosted a food drive for the organization, helped deliver the food and spent a morning volunteering their time.
- Additional Food Security Support: We work to support food security across the state of Oregon with
  donations to a variety of organizations focused on food distribution, school nutrition, meal programs
  and shelters. In 2022, we supported organization such as Portland Fruit Tree Project, Meals on Wheels
  People, Food Roots, Portland Rescue Mission and Equitable Giving Circle.



Our housing, childcare and rural broadband efforts include the following:

- Habitat for Humanity: We provided Tillamook County Habitat for Humanity \$5,000 in 2022 to support
  the organization's work providing affordable homeownership opportunities for families and individuals
  in Tillamook County. This includes support of the "Ramps & Rails" projects which provides home safety
  modifications for seniors, people experiencing disabilities and veterans.
- American Connection Corps: Many of Oregon's rural communities have unreliable and slow internet
  connection, impacting how they access school, remote work and telehealth services. We partnered
  with a national coalition, American Connection Corps, to sponsor two fellows in Morrow and Tillamook
  Counties who updated county internet access maps, applied for successful grant funding for
  infrastructure projects and received statewide recognition from Business Oregon. They continue to work
  to increase broadband access and digital literacy for our rural hometown communities of Tillamook and
  Morrow Counties.
- Affordable Childcare: We made a \$15,000 donation to support Families First Childcare Center, which
  works to provide accessible and affordable childcare to the Boardman community. TCCA's donation
  will help offset the costs for parents and support the purchase of curriculum, assessments, materials
  and nutritious snacks. We also supported the Tillamook Community through a \$5,000 donation to the
  Tillamook Early Learning Center.

#### **HEALTHFUL CHILDREN**

Empowering youth is key to the resiliency of our future communities. Below are a few of the ways we are committed to providing children with opportunities they need to be healthful and active.

- Schools and Youth Sports: In Boardman, we donated funds to sponsor local little league and softball programs and the Columbia Youth Soccer Club. In 2022, we also provided \$50,000 in funding to support the replacement of Tillamook High School's track and field. This will benefit Tillamook High School students by allowing the school to host track meets, district competitions, gym classes, youth events; this will also create numerous fitness and exercise opportunities for the local community.
- Nutrition: We recognize that food is fuel for learning, activities and ultimately, the health of our future communities. Each year we support local programs dedicated to providing nutrition education to families, children and schools. This includes support to family nutrition programs, school gardens, and school nutrition education programs such as Grow Portland, Friends of the Children Portland and the Providence Teaching Kitchen & Food Pantry at Providence Milwaukie Hospital.
- Scholarships & Education: We want to ensure every student has equal access to learning opportunities.
   Each year, we donate approximately \$25,000 through TCCA's Excellence in Leadership scholarships for students throughout Oregon, and celebrated our 20th year of the program in 2022. We also support non-profits like College Possible and Elevate Oregon that focus on the support of low-income and BIPOC youths' success in the education system.



Tillamook County Wellness: Since 2017, we have partnered with Tillamook County Wellness, a
grassroots health improvement coalition, to provide support and in-kind contributions for their
programming. Our employees serve on the Advisory Committee, Access to Physical Activity Committee,
Health Promotions Committee and Workplace Wellness Committee.

#### **TILLAMOOK CARES VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

Our Community Enrichment is strengthened by a culture of volunteerism. All employees are encouraged to participate and volunteer in community events through our formal volunteer program, Tillamook Cares. We offer employees eight hours of paid time each year to support a cause of their choice.

KPI: In 2022, we volunteered 2,630 hours in the community.

#### **TILLAMOOK GIVING**

In 2020 we launched Tillamook Giving, our employee donation match platform hosted on the Benevity platform. TCCA matches employee donations to non-profit organizations, up to \$500 per employee annually.

KPI: In 2022, a total of \$52,576 was donated from employees and TCCA through our Tillamook Giving program.

TCCA is committed to large-scale sustainability initiatives at the regional, national and global levels. Our values and Stewardship Commitments are aligned with and inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, The Dairy Sustainability Framework Global Criteria, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy Stewardship Commitment and the National Milk Producers Federation FARM program.



## U.N. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**GOAL 1** 

## End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere

TCCA Community Enrichment program offers significant financial support to many causes that support people in poverty, including food bank donations, health initiatives, youth sports, and addressing affordable housing.



GOAL 4

## Ensure Inclusive and Quality Education for All and Promote Lifelong Learning Agriculture

As part of our commitment to healthful children, we provide approximately \$25,000 in scholarships to students throughout Oregon.



GOAL 2

## End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture

Our longstanding partnership with the Oregon Food Bank is a testament to our commitment to address and solve for food insecurity.



GOAL 8

## Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Employment, and Decent Work for All

As a cooperative, we invest TCCA earnings in three ways: into farmer-owners' pockets, into the business, and into our communities. In 2019, 4 percent or earnings were invested into our communities.