

1                           BEFORE THE LAND USE BOARD OF APPEALS  
2                           OF THE STATE OF OREGON

3  
4 DONALD STILL,                           )  
5    )  
6                    Petitioner,                            )  
7    )  
8            vs.    )  
9    )                    LUBA No. 95-224  
10 MARION COUNTY,                            )  
11    )                    FINAL OPINION  
12                    Respondent,                            )                    AND ORDER  
13    )  
14            and    )  
15    )  
16 VICTOR C. COBOS,                            )  
17    )  
18                    Intervenor-Respondent.                            )

19  
20  
21            Appeal from Marion County.

22  
23            F. Blair Batson, Portland, filed the petition for  
24 review and argued on behalf of petitioner.

25  
26            Jane Ellen Stonecipher, Assistant County Counsel,  
27 Salem, filed a response brief and argued on behalf of  
28 respondent. With her on the brief was Michael J. Hansen,  
29 County Counsel.

30  
31            Michael J. Babbitt, Portland, filed a response brief  
32 and argued on behalf of intervenor-respondent.

33  
34            HANNA, Chief Referee; GUSTAFSON, Referee, LIVINGSTON,  
35 Referee, participated in the decision.

36  
37                    REMANDED                                    09/23/96

38  
39            You are entitled to judicial review of this Order.  
40 Judicial review is governed by the provisions of ORS  
41 197.850.

1 Opinion by Hanna.

2 **NATURE OF THE DECISION**

3 Petitioner appeals the county's approval of a request  
4 to partition a 95.21 acre parcel and construct a dwelling on  
5 one of the resulting parcels.

6 **MOTION TO INTERVENE**

7 Victor Cobos (intervenor), the applicant below, moves  
8 to intervene on the side of respondent in this proceeding.  
9 There is no opposition to the motion, and it is allowed.

10 **FACTS**

11 On November 30, 1990, Beatrice Drury applied for a  
12 partition of her 95.21-acre parcel to create three parcels,  
13 and for approval to build a farm-related dwelling on one of  
14 the resulting parcels. A county hearings officer approved a  
15 modification of the request, approving a partition to create  
16 two parcels and to build one farm-related dwelling. The  
17 approved uses of the two resulting parcels were for a  
18 vineyard and a woodlot. On June 5, 1991, the county  
19 commission affirmed the hearings officer's decision.  
20 Petitioner appealed the county's approval, and on November  
21 15, 1991, LUBA remanded the county's decision in Still v.  
22 Marion County, 22 Or LUBA 331 (1991) (Still I).

23 On March 2, 1992, Beatrice Drury died. On February 13,  
24 1994, the Drury estate requested the county grant a hearing  
25 on the remanded application. On May 12, 1995, the estate  
26 submitted an amendment to the 1990 application, continuing

1 the request for a farm-related dwelling and a division into  
2 two parcels, but replacing the request for a vineyard use to  
3 a request for another farm use, that of growing Christmas  
4 trees.

5 The county hearings officer approved the amended  
6 application on September 6, 1995. In her decision, the  
7 hearings officer described the surrounding property:

8 "Properties to the southwest, south and east are  
9 zoned SA [special agriculture] and contain a  
10 mixture of small farms, woodlots and acreage  
11 homesites. Land to the north and northwest is  
12 part of the Chinook subdivision and is zoned AR  
13 (Acreage Residential). The land to the northwest  
14 contains several acreage homesites. The land to  
15 the north has yet to be divided." Record 12.

16 Petitioner appealed the hearings officer's decision to  
17 the board of county commissioners, which affirmed the  
18 decision. This appeal followed.

#### 19 **PRELIMINARY ISSUES**

##### 20 **A. Petitioner's Motion to File Reply Brief**

21 On March 20, 1996, petitioner filed a Motion to File  
22 Reply Brief, accompanied by a reply brief. The county and  
23 intervenor each object to the reply brief on the ground  
24 that, in contravention of OAR 661-10-039, the reply brief  
25 does not address a new issue raised in the county's brief.  
26 The county and intervenor argue that what petitioner  
27 describes as a response to a new issue is petitioner's  
28 recharacterization of the county's argument responding to  
29 petitioner's second assignment of error.

1           The county and intervenor are correct. The county did  
2 not raise a new issue in its response brief. Petitioner's  
3 motion to file a reply brief is denied.

4           **B. Petitioner's Motion to File Memorandum of**  
5           **Additional Authorities**

6           On May 3, 1996, petitioner filed a Motion to File a  
7 Memorandum of Additional Authorities (memorandum). In his  
8 motion, petitioner notes that after his petition for review  
9 was filed, the Court of Appeals issued its decision in East  
10 Lancaster Neighborhood Association v. City of Salem, 139 Or  
11 App 333, \_\_\_ P2d \_\_\_ (1996) (East Lancaster), addressing the  
12 application of ORS 197.646, the linchpin of petitioner's  
13 first assignment of error. The county and intervenor filed  
14 responses, objecting to our acceptance of petitioner's  
15 memorandum because it raises a new issue not raised in his  
16 petition for review.

17           Because East Lancaster was decided after his petition  
18 for review was filed, we accept petitioner's memorandum and  
19 consider petitioner's argument to the extent that petitioner  
20 argues its interpretation and effect on this case. However,  
21 we do not consider petitioner's argument, made for the first  
22 time in his memorandum, that the amended application was not  
23 subject to the regulations in effect on the date of the  
24 original application because the original application was  
25 amended. Petitioner did not raise in his petition for  
26 review the issue that the application was not complete in  
27 1990 because it was amended in 1995, and we will not

1 consider that issue now. See Shaffer v. City of Salem, 29  
2 Or LUBA 592, 594 (1995) (holding that a petitioner may not  
3 use a reply brief to effectively add an assignment of error  
4 to the petition for review). The rationale that limits the  
5 filing of a reply brief applies equally to limit our  
6 consideration of a memorandum of additional authorities.

7 Petitioner's motion to file a memorandum of additional  
8 authorities is allowed, but our consideration is limited as  
9 stated above.

10 **FIRST ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR**

11 In his petition for review, petitioner argues that  
12 because the county applied statutes and rules in effect at  
13 the time of the application instead of statutes and rules in  
14 effect at the time it made the decision, the county failed  
15 to make adequate findings and made a decision not supported  
16 by substantial evidence in the record as a whole.  
17 Petitioner specifically contends that OAR chapter 660,  
18 division 33 (effective on March 1, 1994) and Oregon Laws  
19 1993, chapter 792 (effective November 4, 1993) apply to the  
20 challenged decision because they were applicable when the  
21 county made its decision on October 12, 1995. However, in  
22 petitioner's memorandum of additional authorities he states:

23 "In East Lancaster, the Court of Appeals rejected  
24 the argument that ORS 197.646 made new state land  
25 use regulations directly applicable to land use  
26 decisions made after the effective date of the new  
27 regulations -- at least in the situation where a

1 completed application had been submitted prior to  
2 the effective date of the new rules."<sup>1</sup> Memorandum  
3 of Additional Authorities 2.

4 The county responds to the petition for review that  
5 under ORS 215.428(3), the statutes, rules and ordinances in  
6 effect at the time of the application are the applicable  
7 criteria, and to allow otherwise would grant revisions to  
8 the land use law retroactive effect without such legislative  
9 direction.

10 In effect, petitioner's memorandum concedes the first  
11 assignment of error, unless we consider the new issue  
12 petitioner advances in his memorandum that the application  
13 was not complete in 1990 because it was amended in 1995. As  
14 discussed above, we will not consider issues raised for the  
15 first time in a memorandum of additional authorities.

16 The application upon which the challenged decision is  
17 based is subject to the state and local standards and  
18 criteria in effect on November 30, 1990.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>For purposes of this opinion, we accept petitioner's characterization of East Lancaster.

<sup>2</sup>In Seitz v. City of Ashland, 24 Or LUBA 311, 315 (1992) we construed ORS 227.178(3), the analog of ORS 215.428(3) for cities, as follows:

"While ORS 227.178(3) does not require that the city allow petitioners to modify their original application, and thereafter review that application based on the standards in effect when the original application was submitted, neither does ORS 227.178(3) or any other statutory provision or authority we are aware of, preclude the city from doing so." See also Kirpal Light Satsang v. Douglas County, 96 Or App 207, 212, 772 P2d 944, modified 97 Or App 614, rev den 308 Or 382 (1979).

1 The first assignment of error is denied.

2 **SECOND ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR**

3 Petitioner argues that under OAR 660-05-005 to 660-05-  
4 020 and the test set forth in Still I, the county has failed  
5 to determine if the parcel size is "appropriate to maintain  
6 the existing commercial agricultural enterprise within the  
7 area." In Still I we distilled former OAR 660-05-005, 660-  
8 05-015 and 660-05-020 into a three-step test to determine if  
9 the proposed parcel size is appropriate to maintain the  
10 existing commercial agricultural enterprise within the area,  
11 as follows:<sup>3</sup>

12 "1. The relevant 'area' for analyzing the  
13 propriety of a proposed farm parcel partition  
14 must be identified. That 'area' must be  
15 large enough to accurately represent the  
16 existing commercial agricultural enterprise.  
17 OAR 660-05-015(6)(c).

18 "2. The existing commercial agricultural  
19 operations in the area must be identified. A  
20 county must distinguish between commercial  
21 and noncommercial agricultural operations.  
22 OAR 660-05-015(6). Determining whether  
23 existing agricultural operations are  
24 commercial requires an analysis of 'products  
25 produced, value of products sold, yields,  
26 farming practices, and marketing practices.'<sup>5</sup>  
27 OAR 660-05-015(6)(b).

28 "3. Once a county has identified the relevant  
29 area and the existing commercial agricultural  
30 operations, the county must determine whether

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<sup>3</sup>All references in this opinion to OAR 660-05-005 to 660-05-020 are to former OAR 660-05-005 to 660-05-020, which were repealed effective August 7, 1993.

1 the proposed partition will result in parcels  
2 of sufficient size to 'maintain' or  
3 'continue' the existing commercial enterprise  
4 in the area. In making this determination  
5 the county may not assume the partition is  
6 appropriate, simply because the resulting  
7 parcels are of the same size as the smaller  
8 commercial agricultural operations in the  
9 area. OAR 660-05-020(6)." (Emphasis in  
10 original.) Still I, 22 Or LUBA 337-38. See  
11 also DLCD v. Yamhill County, 23 Or LUBA 351  
12 (1992) (identical test applied).<sup>[4]</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>OAR 660-05-005(2) defined "commercial agricultural enterprise" as follows:

"'Commercial agricultural enterprise' consists of farm operations which will:

- "(a) Contribute in a substantial way to the area's existing agricultural economy; and
- "(b) Help maintain agricultural processors and established farm markets;
- "(c) When determining whether a farm is part of the commercial agricultural enterprise, not only what is produced, but how much and how it is marketed shall be considered. These are important factors because of the intent of Goal 3 to maintain the agricultural economy of the state."

OAR 660-05-015(6) provided:

- "(a) The minimum lot size(s) needed to maintain the existing commercial agricultural enterprise shall be determined by identifying the types and sizes of commercial farms in the area. When identifying commercial farms, entire commercial farms shall be included, not portions devoted to a particular type of agriculture. The identification of commercial farms may be conducted on a countywide or subcounty basis.
- "(b) Commercial agricultural operations to be identified should be determined based on type of products produced, value of products sold, yields, farming practices, and marketing practices.



1

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2       <sup>5</sup>"Commercial farms may include diversified  
3 agricultural operations producing more than [one]  
4 crop. Therefore, the correct focus is on entire  
5 agricultural enterprises rather than individual  
6 parcels or crops. OAR 660-05-015(6)(a)."

7

**A. The Relevant Area**

8

Petitioner contends that the county did not meet the

9

first step, and argues:

10

"[T]he county erred in limiting the inventory of  
11 commercial farms to a 1/2 mile radius because the  
12 county failed to either: 1) show how the 1/2 mile  
13 radius was representative of the commercial  
14 agricultural enterprise in the SA zone or county  
15 as a whole; or 2) show how the 1/2 mile radius was  
16 a distinct geographic area characterized by a  
17 particular type of agriculture -- different from  
18 the SA or EFU as a whole." Petition for Review  
19 15-16.

20

The county contends that it identified the relevant

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"(c) Local governments which apply Goal 3's minimum lot size  
standard on a case-by-case basis may satisfy the  
commercial identification requirement in subsection  
(6)(a) of this rule by identifying the sizes and other  
characteristics of existing commercial farms in an area  
which is large enough to represent accurately the  
existing commercial agricultural enterprise within the  
area containing the applicant's parcel."

OAR 660-05-020(6) provided:

"As used in this rule, 'maintain' or 'continue' do not mean  
that the new and remaining parcel sizes must have no adverse  
effects whatsoever on an area's commercial agricultural  
enterprise. Such an interpretation would probably halt most  
land divisions. 'Maintain' and 'continue' imply a balance.  
Land divisions often have both positive and negative effects on  
an area's commercial enterprise. Goal 3 requires that the new  
and remaining parcel sizes on balance, considering positive and  
negative effects, will keep the area's commercial agricultural  
enterprises successful, and not contribute to their decline."

1 area by selecting the SA zone, a zone different from the  
2 majority of the county's agricultural lands.<sup>5</sup>

3 "The county considered the size and type of farm  
4 operations in the SA zone and correctly determined  
5 that the one-half mile area accurately represented  
6 the commercial farming operations 'within the area  
7 containing the applicant's parcel.'" Respondent's  
8 Brief 7.

9 It also excluded consideration of land in the AR zone, even  
10 when the land in that zone is used for a large-scale farming  
11 operation.

12 In identifying the relevant area, the county's decision  
13 focuses on the SA zone.<sup>6</sup> Although Marion County Zoning  
14 Ordinance (MCZO) 137.070(a)(1) allows the area of  
15 consideration to be limited to the zone in which the subject  
16 parcel is located, neither OAR 660-05-015 nor the first step  
17 of the Still I test provide for such a limitation.<sup>7</sup> The

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<sup>5</sup>MCZO 137.010 describes the purpose of the SA zone and states:

"The SA zone is applied in areas characterized by small farm operations as areas with a mixture of good and poor farm soils where the existing land use pattern is a mixture of large and small farm units and some acreage homesites. The farm operations range widely in size and include grazing of livestock, grains and grasses, Christmas trees and specialty crops."

<sup>6</sup>The challenged decision does not identify OAR 660-05-015(6) as a relevant criterion. After setting forth the Still I test, the challenged decision states: "Under MCZO, all zoned land within one half mile of the subject property is a proper study area for judging whether a land division is proper." Record 15. The decision includes additional justification. However, the additional justification is devoted to satisfying the MCZO.

<sup>7</sup>MCZO 137.070(a) states:

1 challenged decision does not provide a rationale for the  
2 selection of the relevant area, other than stating that such  
3 a selection is allowed by MCZO 137.070(a)(1). For purposes  
4 of MCZO 137.070(a)(1), the county properly determined the  
5 relevant area to be studied. However, that determination is  
6 inadequate for purposes of the first step of the Still I  
7 test and OAR 660-05-015(6)(c). The challenged decision does  
8 not explain why the area selected is large enough to

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"Requirements for farm parcels. All new farm parcels shall satisfy the following requirements:

- "(1) Any proposed parcel intended for farm use must be appropriate to the continuation of the existing commercial enterprise of the particular area based on the evaluation prescribed in 137.040(g). The evaluation shall include the subject property and commercial agricultural enterprises located in the same zone within one-half mile of the subject property.
- "(2) The parcel shall meet the requirements of ORS 215.243.
- "(3) Parcel size guideline: New parcels intended for farm use shall generally be 20 acres or more in area. Proposed farm parcels smaller than this 20 acre guideline must be shown to be appropriate for intensive commercial agricultural enterprises such as vineyards, nursery stock, berry farming or specialty orchard crops. In addition, a site development and management program for the proposed commercial farm use shall be provided. The County may request an evaluation of the evidence and the management program by an agricultural specialist to determine if the proposed farm parcel meets the criteria in (1) and (2) above. Reasonable commitments may also be required to ensure that a good faith effort is made to implement the management program.
- "(4) If the proposed parcel does not include a dwelling it should include enough Class V through VIII agricultural soils or otherwise unfarmable land, if any, to accommodate the homesite and any nonfarm related improvements."

1 accurately represent the existing commercial agricultural  
2 enterprise, as required by OAR 660-05-015(6)(c).

3 This subassignment of error is sustained.

4 **B. Identification of Commercial Agricultural**  
5 **Operations**

6 Petitioner argues that when the county identified the  
7 types and sizes of commercial agricultural operations, it  
8 did not distinguish between the existing commercial and  
9 noncommercial agricultural enterprises in the area.  
10 Petitioner contends that, based on the definition of  
11 "commercial operations" in OAR 660-05-005(2), there are  
12 three additional components of the second step of the Still  
13 I test that were not addressed by the challenged decision.  
14 The additional components are: 1) a definition of the area's  
15 existing agricultural economy; 2) a determination of what  
16 would constitute a substantial contribution to that economy;  
17 and 3) an application of the first two components to each of  
18 the identified agricultural operations. Petitioner contends  
19 that because the county did not set forth such analysis, it  
20 could not conclude that the operations it determined are  
21 commercial do, in fact, contribute substantially to the  
22 area's existing agricultural economy. Petitioner argues  
23 also that the county impermissibly relied on estimated data  
24 rather than actual income, sales and yield data, which he  
25 alleges is required by OAR 660-05-015(6)(b) when it states  
26 "commercial agricultural operations to be identified should  
27 be determined based on type of products produced, value of

1 products sold, yields, farming practices, and marketing  
2 practices."

3 The county does not respond directly to petitioner's  
4 first argument. Instead, it describes generally the  
5 detailed evaluation set forth in the challenged decision in  
6 which intervenor studied farming operations in the  
7 identified relevant area. From this study, the county  
8 contends the requisite evidence was developed and is  
9 reflected in the challenged decision. To petitioner's  
10 second argument, the county responds that:

11 "OAR 660-05-015(6)(b) provides the identification  
12 of commercial farms 'should' be based on these  
13 factors, but does not require that only actual  
14 data be used. \* \* \* Reliable estimates provide  
15 sufficient basis for analysis of commercial farm  
16 enterprises." Respondent's Brief 8.

17 In DLCD v. Yamhill County, 23 Or LUBA 351, 358 (1992)  
18 we discussed the difficulties in applying OAR 660-05-  
19 015(6)(b), and stated:

20  
21 "We \* \* \* note that while OAR 660-05-015(6)(b)  
22 identifies several factors to be considered in  
23 determining whether agricultural operations are  
24 commercial, the rule provides absolutely no  
25 guidance in how those factors are to be applied to  
26 make the required distinction between commercial  
27 and noncommercial farms.<sup>3</sup> Presumably how those  
28 factors are to be applied is left to the county,  
29 subject to review by LCDC or this Board to  
30 determine whether the particular application of  
31 the factors is consistent with the overall  
32 requirement to distinguish between commercial and  
33 noncommercial agricultural operations.\_\_(Emphasis  
34 in original.)

35  
36 <sup>3</sup>"For example, the rule does not explain how the

1 "types of products produced" factor is to be used  
2 to distinguish between commercial and  
3 noncommercial farms, and we have some difficulty  
4 seeing how the type of product produced will have  
5 much bearing on whether a particular farm is  
6 commercial or noncommercial. The "value of  
7 products produced," "yields," "farming practices,"  
8 and "marketing practices," factors also present  
9 problems. One perhaps could develop assumptions  
10 for applying each factor to distinguish between  
11 commercial and noncommercial farms, but the rule  
12 itself provides no guidance in what those  
13 assumptions might be."

14 The county's and intervenor's responses exemplify the  
15 practical difficulties in implementing OAR 660-05-015(6)(b)  
16 as petitioner proposes. They describe the difficulty of  
17 obtaining confidential income and production information  
18 from potential competitors who may have no desire or  
19 motivation to reveal such information. By requiring an  
20 applicant to obtain such information before a dwelling can  
21 be approved, we would be granting a neighboring future  
22 competitor the power to veto an application. We find no  
23 such intent in the rule. OAR 660-05-015(6)(b) does not  
24 require the use of actual data in determining when an  
25 agricultural enterprise is commercial. Where actual data is  
26 not available, the county may rely on reasonable estimates  
27 to satisfy this standard.

28 While we agree with the county and intervenor that OAR  
29 660-05-015(6)(b) does not require actual data, we cannot  
30 determine, at this time, whether the county has satisfied  
31 the second step of the Still I test. In the prior

1 subassignment of error, we agreed that the challenged  
2 decision does not adequately justify the selection of the  
3 size of the relevant area. Because the identification of  
4 the commercial farms in the area is predicated on the first  
5 step of the Still I test, and that first step has not been  
6 justified, we are unable to determine whether the decision  
7 complies with the second step.

8 This subassignment of error is sustained.

9 **C. Parcel Size**

10 Petitioner argues the challenged decision does not  
11 meet the third step of the Still I test because the county  
12 failed to find that the challenged land divisions would  
13 maintain the larger as well as the smaller holdings in the  
14 area.

15 Our review of whether the proposed division will result  
16 in parcels of sufficient size to maintain or continue the  
17 existing commercial enterprise in the area is predicated on  
18 the first step of the Still I test. Because that first step  
19 has not been justified, we are unable to review the decision  
20 for compliance with the third step.

21 This subassignment of error is sustained.

22 The second assignment of error is sustained.

23 **THIRD ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR**

24  
25 "The county misconstrued the applicable law,  
26 failed to make adequate findings and made a  
27 decision not supported by substantial evidence in  
28 the record as a whole, by not requiring compliance  
29 with former OAR 660-05-030(4) and former MCZO

1 137.070(a)(3) or ORS 215.283(1)(f)." Petition for  
2 Review 23-24.

3 Petitioner describes two respects in which he alleges  
4 the county erred:

5 **A. Purpose of Obtaining a Profit in Money**

6 Petitioner contends:

7  
8 "The county did not make findings that the parcel  
9 on which the dwelling will be located is currently  
10 employed for the primary purpose of obtaining a  
11 profit in money; there is not evidence in the  
12 record to support such a finding." Petition for  
13 Review 24.

14 In Fleck v. Marion County, 25 Or LUBA 745 (1993)  
15 (Fleck) we discussed the requirement that a farm dwelling be  
16 allowed only if the parcel on which the dwelling will be  
17 located is currently employed for the primary purpose of  
18 obtaining a profit in money. We addressed the question  
19 before us now, of whether a dwelling could be authorized if  
20 the farm use had not yet been established, stating:

21  
22 "[T]he county may either (1) require the farm use  
23 that the proposed dwelling would customarily be  
24 provided in conjunction with to actually exist on  
25 the subject property; or (2) determine what  
26 constitutes the amount of farm use that the  
27 proposed dwelling would customarily be provided in  
28 conjunction with and condition its decision by  
29 requiring that amount to be established prior to  
30 issuance of a building permit." Id. at 751.

31 If a county chooses the second option:

32  
33 "[U]nder OAR 660-05-030(4), a dwelling customarily  
34 provided in conjunction with farm use may not be  
35 approved until the farm use that justifies such a  
36 dwelling exists on the subject property. Forster  
37 v. Polk County, 24 Or LUBA 476, 481 (1993)



1 (Forster II). \* \* \* The county [can] comply with  
2 OAR 660-05-030(4) by determining the amount of  
3 farm use required by OAR 660-05-030(4),  
4 conditioning issuance of a building permit for the  
5 farm dwelling on the establishment of that amount  
6 of farm use on the property, and requiring that  
7 notice and an opportunity for a hearing be  
8 provided to all parties with regard to determining  
9 compliance with such condition. Forster II,  
10 supra, 24 Or LUBA at 482 n 9; see McKay Creek  
11 Valley Assoc. v. Washington County, 24 Or LUBA  
12 187, 198 (1992), aff'd 118 Or App 543, rev den 317  
13 Or 272 (1993)."<sup>8</sup> Fleck, 25 Or LUBA at 749.

14 Thus, as interpreted in Fleck, OAR 660-05-030(4)  
15 contemplated a three-step process, as follows:

16 (1) Determine the amount of farm use necessary to  
17 comply with OAR 660-05-030(4).

18 (2) Condition issuance of a building permit for  
19 the farm dwelling on the establishment of the  
20 determined amount of farm use on the  
21 property.

22 (3) Specify what procedures will be used to  
23 determine compliance with the conditions.  
24 Require that notice and an opportunity for a  
25 hearing be provided to all parties with  
26 regard to determining compliance with the  
27 conditions. The conditions must preclude

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<sup>8</sup>OAR 660-05-030(4) states:

"ORS 215.213(1)(g) and 215.283(1)(f) authorize a farm dwelling in an EFU zone only where it is shown that the dwelling will be situated on a parcel currently employed for farm use as defined in ORS 215.203. Land is not in farm use unless the day-to-day activities on the subject land are principally directed to the farm use of the land. Where land would be principally used for residential purposes rather than for farm use, a proposed dwelling would not be "customarily provide in conjunction with farm use" and could only be approved according to ORS 215.213(3) or 215.283(3). At a minimum, farm dwellings cannot be authorized before establishment of farm uses on the land. (citations omitted).

1 issuance of a building permit for the  
2 proposed farm dwelling prior to the hearing.

3 The challenged decision states:

4  
5 "The general guideline for parcels in the SA zone  
6 is 20 acres. The proposed parcel will be  
7 approximately 45.5 acres, with 25 acres used for  
8 Christmas tree production. As noted above, four  
9 Christmas tree operations of eight, 12, 18, and 80  
10 acres were identified within the study area. All  
11 were identified as commercial. The proposed 45.5  
12 acre parcel with a 25 acre tree operation is of  
13 sufficient size to constitute a commercial  
14 agricultural enterprise in this SA zone area."<sup>9</sup>  
15 Record 22.

16 The challenged decision also discusses the analysis  
17 under Fleck:

18  
19 "According to Fleck v. Marion County, LUBA No. 93-  
20 064 (1993), to be considered a dwelling in  
21 conjunction with farm use, the use a dwelling will  
22 be associated with must be present on the parcel  
23 to justify the presence of the dwelling. That use  
24 has not yet been established. According to Fleck,  
25 the county could approve the request and condition  
26 issuance of building permits on the establishment  
27 of the proper amount of farm use. The County  
28 would then be required to provide notice and an  
29 opportunity for a public hearing to determine  
30 compliance with the condition.

31  
32 "Based on the factors evaluated above, the  
33 requested dwelling would be in conjunction with  
34 the farm use, provided the appropriate level of  
35 farm use is put in place and sustained through at  
36 least one year growth cycle. With a condition of  
37 approval requiring establishment of a 25 acre  
38 Christmas tree farm, MCZO 136.040(b) [referencing

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<sup>9</sup>The challenged decision focuses on MCZO 137.040(a), the local provision that implements OAR 660-05-030. That code provision requires that the property be "in farm use" and be a "commercial farm enterprise."

1 farm dwelling standard] can be satisfied." Record  
2 27.

3 Condition 6(d) states:

4  
5 "Prior to receiving a building permit for a farm  
6 related dwelling, applicant shall plant 25 acres  
7 of Christmas trees on the 44.5 acre parcel. The  
8 trees must have matured at least one year prior to  
9 the issuance of permits." Record 29.

10 Findings must (1) identify the relevant approval  
11 standards, (2) set out the facts which are believed and  
12 relied upon, and (3) explain how those facts lead to the  
13 decision on compliance with the approval standards. Heiler  
14 v. Josephine County, 23 Or LUBA 551, 556 (1992); see also,  
15 Sunnyside Neighborhood v. Clackamas Co. Comm., 280 Or 3, 20-  
16 21, 569 P2d 1063 (1977); Vizina v. Douglas County, 17 Or  
17 LUBA 829, 835 (1989). However, in the absence of adequate  
18 findings, under ORS 197.835(11)(b) we are required to affirm  
19 the challenged decision if a party identifies evidence in  
20 the record that "clearly supports" the decision. Kunze v.  
21 Clackamas County, 27 Or LUBA 130 (1994). "Where the  
22 relevant evidence in the record is conflicting, or provides  
23 a reasonable basis for different conclusions, such evidence  
24 does not 'clearly support' the challenged decision." Waugh  
25 v. Coos County, 26 Or LUBA 300, 307, (1993). Moreover,  
26 where the standards at issue require the exercise of  
27 considerable judgment by the local government, it is less  
28 likely that evidence will 'clearly support' a decision that  
29 the standards are met under ORS 197.835(11)(b). Id. at 308.

1           The county's findings are inadequate to establish  
2 compliance with OAR 660-05-030(4) because they do not show  
3 that when the proposed level of farm activity is established  
4 on the subject property, it will be currently employed for  
5 farm use as defined in ORS 215.203. In addition, while  
6 intervenor points to numerous places in the record in which  
7 he states there is a description of the proposed farm use,  
8 the evidence does not clearly support a conclusion that the  
9 proposed farm use will be for the "primary purpose of  
10 obtaining a profit in money" as required by ORS 215.203.

11           Much of the evidence in the record relied on by  
12 intervenor is descriptive of the activities necessary to  
13 meet the test of determining whether an operation is a  
14 commercial farm enterprise under MCZO 137.040(a). While  
15 this evidence can be a foundation for determining that the  
16 subject property is in farm use, it does not clearly  
17 establish that the extent of the proposed farm use is  
18 sufficient to comply with OAR 660-05-030(4). Without this  
19 threshold determination, the other steps of the Fleck test  
20 cannot be satisfied.

21           Neither the challenged decision nor the evidence  
22 clearly establish a connection between commercial farming  
23 operations and the amount of farm activity required to  
24 comply with OAR 660-05-030(4). Consequently, the challenged  
25 decision does not clearly support the conclusion that, by  
26 planting 25 acres of the proposed parcel in Christmas trees,

1 the proposed parcel will be currently employed for the  
2 primary purpose of obtaining a profit in money.  
3 Additionally, the challenged decision does not specify what  
4 procedures will be used to determine compliance with the  
5 condition imposed to assure that the property is in farm use  
6 at the time the building permit is issued.

7 This subassignment of error is sustained.

8 **B. Day-to-Day Activities of the Farm Operator**

9 Petitioner argues:

10 "The county did not make findings that the day-to-  
11 day activities of the farm operator were [sic]  
12 principally directed to the farm use of the land;  
13 there is also not evidence in the record to  
14 support such a finding." Petition for Review  
15 26.[<sup>10</sup>]

16 OAR 660-05-030(4) states in relevant part:

17  
18 "ORS 215.213(1)(g) or 215.283(1)(f) authorize a  
19 farm dwelling in an EFU zone only where it is  
20 shown that the dwelling will be situated on a  
21 parcel currently employed for farm use as defined  
22 in ORS 215.203. Land is not in farm use unless  
23 the day-to-day activities on the subject land are  
24 principally directed to the farm use of the land."

25 The challenged decision states:

26  
27 "The tree operation requires planting, spraying  
28 shearing harvesting, management, marketing and

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<sup>10</sup>Petitioner states further: "[a]n estate of a deceased person knows nothing about farming; nor can it have aspiration to farm and make a profit from farming." Petition for Review 27. Petitioner appears to argue that only a natural person can qualify as a farm operator. Petitioner provides no support for this argument. An estate is not precluded from meeting the qualifications of OAR 660-05-030(4) solely on the basis that an estate is not a natural person.

1 sales. No other dwelling would be on the 45.5  
2 acre parcel, but it is anticipated that equipment  
3 and some labor will be shared with the owners of  
4 the adjacent tree operation. There would be one  
5 owner of the 45 acre parcel. Some seasonal help  
6 will be required. The proposed owner plans to  
7 manage the tree operation, perform at least part  
8 of the spraying, shearing and harvesting, as well  
9 as overseeing harvest crews and marketing trees."  
10 Record 27.

11 We do not fully understand petitioner's argument.  
12 However, we cannot reach the question of whether the day-to-  
13 day activities on the land will be principally directed to  
14 the farm use of the land, because such an inquiry is  
15 dependent on a determination that the planned use of the  
16 land is for the primary purpose of obtaining a profit in  
17 money. As discussed above in this assignment of error, that  
18 determination has not yet been made.

19 This subassignment of error is sustained.

20 The third assignment of error is sustained.

21 The county's decision is remanded.