

# Cannabis: Good Ag Practices

Jenny Dresler, Oregon Farm Bureau Federation  
Elizabeth Remley, Oregon Association of Nurseries  
June 8, 2016

# Water Conservation

- Increased emphasis on water conservation
- Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) funding to help with water conservation projects and development of additional storage capacity
  - SB 839 (2013) – grant program to fund water supply development, conservation and efficiency
  - 2015 – \$50 million investment
- Consult with OWRD before altering water systems

# Water Quality Practices

## Municipal (point source)

- Discharge of any material other than *uncontaminated* stormwater to a street, gutter, ditch, inlet storm drain is prohibited
- Discharge to domestic onsite septic systems is prohibited
- Contact local gov't for connecting or discharge requirements

## Agricultural (non-point source)

- ODA coordinates with DEQ and local stakeholders to develop ag water quality management plans and local area rules.
- Local area rules govern water quality requirements for ag
- Discharge of pesticides near waterways may require a permit and must not violate water quality standards
- [Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships](#)

# Waste Management

- Composting
  - DEQ [composting permit](#) required for over 100 tons per year vegetative material
  - Ag use exclusion when applied at an agronomic rate
- Anaerobic digestion ([Energy Trust](#) incentive)
  - Dairy
  - Food waste
  - Wastewater treatment
- Burning waste associated with an ag operation: raising, harvesting or selling of crops, livestock or poultry
- [NRCS Ag Waste Management Field Book](#)

Farmers rely on Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, Watershed Councils and other technical resources to provide guidance on how landowners can achieve and maintain compliance (ORS 468B.025)

# Pesticides



- The label is the law
  - Labeled for use under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)
  - Cannabis is illegal under federal law
- Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) released criteria for some pesticides that may be used on cannabis:
  - Exempt from tolerance
  - Determined by EPA to, “pose little to no risk to human health or the environment”

# Energy

Trade off between operating costs and production.

## Examples of efficiencies:

- Ventilation:
  - Insulation
  - Programmable thermostats
  - Efficient fans
- Nutrient/ pesticide application:
  - Application through drip irrigation
  - GPS-guided steering and application systems
- Irrigation:
  - Soil moisture monitoring
  - Lower-flow irrigation water application equipment
  - Reduced equipment horsepower
- Energy Trust of Oregon Incentives
  - Irrigation improvements
  - Greenhouse efficiencies
  - Equipment and lighting
  - Other incentives:
    - Solar
    - Wind
    - Biothermal
    - Biodiesel
    - Hydropower



# Coexistence



- HB 2509 (2015): Ag Mediation
  - Incentivize communication between farmers
  - Voluntary mediation available through ODA or USDA certified mediation
  - Mediation required before lawsuit
  - Cost cap

# Third party certification systems

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Voluntary, third-party certification programs administered by the Oregon  
Department of Agriculture



# Global G.A.P.

- Developed in 1997
- Criteria for food safety, production methods, worker and animal welfare, and responsible use of water, compound feed and plant propagation materials.
- Global G.A.P. examples:
  - Propagation
    - Site soil management
    - Substrates
    - Propagation
    - Prop facilities
    - Workers' health, safety and welfare
    - Trading conditions
  - Livestock
  - Aquaculture
  - Fruit/ Vegetables

# Sustainability Programs

- Specific to certain programs developed by industry
- Tend to focus on:
  - Erosion control
  - Efficiency of energy and water use
  - Wildlife habitat
  - Integrated pest management (IPM)
- LIVE (PNW wine grape growers)
  - Sustainability standard
  - Third-party certification and education
- Norpac's INSPIRE
  - Third party audit conducted by Food Alliance
  - Grower sustaining principles
    - IPM
    - Nutrients
    - Wildlife habitat
    - Soil
    - Water conservation

# Identity Preserve (I.P.)

- Third party certification/ ODA certification
- Verify supply chain with practices as defined by the consumer
  - Non-GMO
  - Pesticide residue free
  - Varietal identity
- Trucking, transportation and handling by processors must also meet IP standards

# QUESTIONS?