



What is a commodity commission?

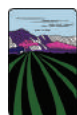
From Oregon's iconic Dungeness crab to picturesque wheat acreage, 23 of Oregon's agricultural and commercial fishery industries are so committed to improving their commodities and the state's economy that they tax themselves to support industry efforts.

These commodity groups are serious about succeeding. Oregon law makes the taxes, also called assessments, mandatory. They are paid primarily by producers, including growers and harvesters.

The groups that receive the assessments and determine how to use them are called commodity commissions.

Oregon's 23 Commodity Commissions

- Alfalfa Seed
- Albacore
- Beef
- Blueberry
- Clover Seed
- Dairy and Nutrition
- Dungeness Crab
- Fine Fescue grass seed
- Hazelnut
- Hop
- Mint
- Orchardgrass Seed
- Potato
- Processed Vegetable
- Raspberry
- Blackberry
- Ryegrass Seed
- Salmon
- Sheep
- Strawberry
- Sweet Cherry
- Tall Fescue grass seed
- Trawl
- Wheat



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Commodity Commission Oversight
www.oregon.gov/ODA
(503) 872-6600
Created 9/2017

Love Oregon's farms, ranches and commercial fishing?

Support Success & Serve as an Oregon Commodity Commissioner



For producers,
processors and
public members



Whether it's for beef or berries, cherries or clover seed, dairy products or Dungeness crab, hazelnuts or hops, grass seed or wheat, albacore tuna or salmon, pink shrimp or processed vegetables, sheep or mint, or trawl-caught ocean fish, nearly 200 volunteers serve as commissioners directing the programs of Oregon's commodity commissions.

Want to serve as a commissioner?

The director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) appoints about 65 commissioners each year. Commissioners are appointed to 3- or 4-year-terms, depending on the commission.

Annually, as they adopt a budget, commissioners review income projections and make choices about how to spend funds on:

- Research
- Non-branded/generic promotion
- Education

Commissioner Commitments

- Meet 4 to 10 times a year in person; sometimes on the phone
- Attend meetings that vary from a few hours to up to 2 days
- Travel to locations that may vary to make meetings accessible to more growers and harvesters (*mileage may be reimbursed*)

Meeting agendas include:

- Reviewing financial reports
- Approving meeting minutes
- Reports from commission staff, OSU researchers and ODA
- Discussing issues specific to a commodity
- Deciding on project proposals
- Reviewing projects to determine if they were effective



Commissioners represent three categories:

1. Producers are growers, ranchers, or boat skippers.
2. Handlers are the first purchasers of each commodity; usually a processor of food, seafood, grain or grass seed.
3. Public members are passionate about a particular Oregon commodity but aren't directly associated with producing or handling that commodity.

Commissioner Qualifications

General qualifications for all commissioners: Must live in Oregon, be a U.S. citizen, and be enthusiastic about developing and keeping Oregon's agriculture and commercial fishing industries economically competitive. In general, producers must have paid the assessment for the three preceding calendar years. For most, handlers must have collected the assessment each of the three preceding years. The beef and wheat commissions require five years involvement for both producers and handlers.

Several commodity commissions have more specific commissioner qualifications, including geographic representation.



When and how to apply:

In early spring each year, you can view a list of commissioner openings online. Fill out the appropriate application listed under resources on the webpage. Sign the application and submit it to ODA.

Find the openings and application online: go.usa.gov/xRf85

For more information:

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