

Oregon State Board of Agriculture: Resolution Detail

Title

Siting of agri-tourism, entertainment activities and associated activities on agricultural lands.

Background

Whereas there is increasing interest in the development of rural tourism and entertainment activities, many times in relation to agriculture;

Whereas increasingly there are many cases of such activities presenting compatibility issues with farming practices and presenting implications to rural infrastructure and services

Whereas issues have been raised relating to the uneven application of the laws dealing with the siting of agri-tourism, rural entertainment and commercial facilities related to farm use which may provide unfair competitive advantages to like operations;

Whereas the appropriate siting of commercial activities associated with farm use can be beneficial to operators and help to educate the public about Oregon agriculture;

Whereas the 2011 Legislature established land use laws dealing with some of these issues including SB 960, HB 1055 and HB 3280, issues remain relating to uneven application, definition and context of specific land uses and the continued use of laws that are set to sunset:

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Does not support the use of agricultural lands for activities related to entertainment and tourism and other events except under strictly defined circumstances.
2. When defining circumstances the Board supports the following considerations:
 - a. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be directly related to commercial farm use or processing activities occurring on the subject farm or ranch operation;
 - b. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be subordinate to the farm use of the subject operation. An activity should be considered to be subordinate if found to be accessory to, supplement or be adjunct to the farm use (as defined in state statute) of the subject farm operation and if it supports farm use. Such a determination should be made on the basis of standards established that are similar to those enacted by the Legislature in SB 960 (2012) and codified in ORS 215.213(4) and 215.283(4);
 - c. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be compatible or can be made compatible with other area farming and ranch operations. Compatibility evaluation should include all activities and events, including those that are not considered a "land use" under Oregon law. Such an evaluation needs to recognize the diversity of Oregon agriculture and the associated agricultural practices that are or may become common to area farms and ranches. Compatibility should also be based on an analysis of the cumulative impacts that existing and proposed activities could have on area farm and ranch operations.
3. Supports better definition of what comprises certain land uses established by law in the exclusive farm use zone that are currently being used to authorized agri-tourism related activities. Examples include "winery," "commercial use in conjunction with farm use," "private parks" and "mass gatherings."
4. Supports land use standards that assure that any food service related to bonafide, regular and ongoing agri-tourism events compliment and are accessory to the agri-tourism activity and associated farm use.

Resolution Number

310

Subject

Land Use

Resolution Date

9/19/12

Date of Last Review

2/17/17

Committee

Land Use

Moved by

Laura Masterson

Seconded by

Tracey Liskey

Action

Motion Carried

Status

- Active
- Inactive
- Revise

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5. Urges the department to work with stakeholder groups to better define the circumstances when commercial activities are appropriate on agricultural lands. The board recognizes that the development of criteria that best protects agriculture and the general public involves many complicated issues. The board advises a comprehensive evaluation and analysis, including an analysis of the cumulative impacts to agricultural operation.

Summary

Siting of agri-tourism, entertainment activities and associated activities on agricultural lands.

Notes

Resolution was reviewed, updated, and re-adopted on 2/17/2017.