

Title

Minimizing conflicts of coexistence in agriculture

Background

Whereas a broad spectrum of production systems and technologies exist in agriculture;

Whereas farmers should, of their choosing, be able to pursue and utilize all available legal technologies and agriculture production systems to grow crops and raise livestock;

Whereas those engaged in production of agricultural crops or livestock are entrepreneurs, venturing their own knowledge, capital, resources, and ideals to bring products to market with the intent to make a profit;

Whereas all growers have the responsibility for good stewardship of natural resources, and farmers and ranchers must make management decisions that support such stewardship regardless of production system;

Whereas deliberate communication between neighboring producers about practices and cropping choices is essential to maintain crop integrity, resolve potential conflicts between neighboring operations, and help maintain successful farm operations;

Whereas Oregon farms vary in scale, organizational structure, and length of time in operation – some new, some over a century in the same family farm business – all contributing to the mosaic of agriculture in our state;

Whereas farmers have opportunities and responsibilities to many markets, including those nearby (local), regionally, and internationally, any of which may involve selling direct to consumers or wholesale, via contract or open market pricing;

Whereas those engaged in agricultural pursuits recognize that improvements in production processes require research, technological advances, and infrastructure to support adoption of new methods;

Whereas providing a sustained global food supply will require every available production methodology and technology, adapted to local conditions, that improves output while enhancing natural resources;

Resolution

Therefore, the State Board of Agriculture supports:

- a) Stewardship of all production systems on farmlands and agriculture applications, striving for economic viability, sound natural resource management, good neighbor and employee relations, and community connections;
- b) Ongoing, constructive communication between growers about farm

- management plans and practices to minimize coexistence conflicts;
- c) Growers retaining the legal and economic opportunity to choose production technologies and resources, size of operation, and business structures necessary to produce products that meet the markets they choose to serve.
 - d) Growers using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize conflict between production systems as necessary, such as communication and coordination, use of conflict resolution tools including the Farm Mediation Program; agronomic practices, and buffers and isolation in space/time;
 - e) State and Federal programs that encourage a variety of agriculture production systems with appropriate research, data gathering, infrastructure, tax policies and marketing support; facilitate commerce; support efficiencies in inputs, production and yields; sustain natural resources; conduct regulatory work; and provide financial and technical assistance when available and appropriate.
 - f) Participation by ODA in efforts to proactively prevent and resolve coexistence conflicts, including participation in broad and inclusive efforts to discuss and identify solutions, and promotion of the Farm Mediation Program as a tool to resolve conflict.

Summary

Supports stewardship of natural resources; ongoing communication; choice of production technologies, practices and business structures; BMPs to minimize conflict, and state and federal programs that support a variety of production systems.

Notes

On February 17, 2017, the board motioned to move Resolution 301 from the Government Relations subcommittee to the Marketing and Food Safety subcommittee.

DRAFT - for full board discussion