OREGON AG BRIEFING

A QUARTERLY REPORT FROM THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

WINTER

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

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For information about the State Board of Agriculture and its members, click here.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, BARBARA BOYER

The State Board of Agriculture decided at our November meeting to change how frequently you hear from us. As you may know, the State Board of Agriculture is mandated to report to the legislature at least once a biennium. Starting with this publication, the Board will provide a quarterly briefing on the issues we are working on/discussing, and thoughts we are hearing from folks.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and it keeps you informed on ag issues in Oregon. If you have any questions, please know that the Board is available for conversations.

NOVEMBER 2017 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board received a briefing on canola research from Dr. Carol Mallory-Smith of Oregon State University. The research assessed the potential for co-existence between canola and other brassica seed crops in the Willamette Valley, as requested by the Oregon legislature in 2013 (HB 2427). **The Board will continue to discuss this topic in 2018 as the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) prepares recommendations for ensuring coexistence of the production of canola and other agricultural crops as required by HB 3382 (2015).** Both bills are codified in ORS 570.450.

Kristen Sheeran, Carbon Policy Advisor for Governor Kate Brown, briefed the Board about the state's carbon policy and additional policy elements to be considered during the 2018 legislative session. The California Department of Agriculture joined via phone to describe California's cap and trade program. **Initial thoughts about this policy from the agriculture, food, and beverage sectors are mixed, and the Board looks forward to continued discussion on this topic.**

To receive updates about the State Board of Agriculture, click here.

ORS 561.372(1): In order that there may be the closest correspondence between State Department of Agriculture policies and programs, the public interests and the resolution of practical agricultural problems of the state, there is created the State Board of Agriculture.

The Board toured a cannabis growing and processing facility and learned that growers of agriculture's newest regulated commodity experience many of the same challenges as growers of more traditional commodities, including **availability of skilled labor, co-existence with non-farming neighbors, access to financing, and maintaining compliance with multiple state regulations.**

The Board also toured Terminal 6 at the Port of Portland, which will again be providing container service. Reestablishing this service gives Oregon's farmers, ranchers, and fishermen another option to ship goods overseas. **Because Oregon agriculture competes in a global market, increasing access to lower cost marine transportation helps high volume, low margin agricultural commodities remain competitive in overseas markets.**

The board met a local entrepreneur who grows much of the produce for his restaurant at his farm only a few miles away. **The farm to table concept and Portland's proximity to world class agriculture in the Willamette Valley has helped to make it one of the most famous food cities in the country.**

BOARD ACTIONS

- Working with the Board, ODA is in the final stages of completing an agency strategic plan. The Board gave a final review of the plan which will be finalized and implemented in January 2018.
- The Board makes policy statements by adopting Resolutions and is in the process of reviewing and updating past Resolutions. At the November meeting, the Board approved an updated resolution related to the co-existence of livestock and wolves. Additional language was added to the May 2009 original Resolution to support the Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Grant Program and to stress the importance of science-based wolf management decisions.
- Finally, from a tremendous pool of candidates, the Board recommended individuals for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (HB 3249) and the Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification (SB 1039). Each of these important initiatives were established during the 2017 legislative session. The Board would like to thank everyone who applied.

2018 MEETING CALENDAR

February 20 - 22
ODA
635 Capitol St NE
Salem

June 5 - 7
Wasco or
Sherman County

September 25 - 27
South Coast

November 27 - 29
McMinnville

FEATURED OREGON AG COMMODITY: CHRISTMAS TREES

December is the peak of the holiday season, but Oregon's Christmas tree growers are hard at work much earlier. Beginning as early as Halloween, Oregon Christmas trees are harvested and shipped to Hawaii, Mexico, Japan, China, Hong Kong, The Philippines, Puerto Rico, and the United Arab Emirates.

Oregon is number one in the country for Christmas tree production.