Cannabis:
Good Ag Practices

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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
  o DEQ composting permit required for over 100 tons per year vegetative material
  o Ag use exclusion when applied at an agronomic rate

• Anaerobic digestion (Energy Trust incentive)
  o Dairy
  o Food waste
  o 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
  o Labeled for use under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)
  o Cannabis is illegal under federal law

• Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) released criteria for some pesticides that may be used on cannabis:
  o Exempt from tolerance
  o Determined by EPA to, “pose little to no risk to human health or the environment”
Energy

Energy Trust of Oregon Incentives

- Irrigation improvements
- Greenhouse efficiencies
- Equipment and lighting
- Other incentives:
  - Solar
  - Wind
  - Biothermal
  - Biodiesel
  - Hydropower

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

Trade off between operating costs and production.
Coexistence

• HB 2509 (2015): Ag Mediation
  o Incentivize communication between farmers
  o Voluntary mediation available through ODA or USDA certified mediation
  o Mediation required before lawsuit
  o Cost cap
Third party certification systems

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:
  o Propagation
    • Site soil management
    • Substrates
    • Propagation
    • Prop facilities
    • Workers’ health, safety and welfare
    • Trading conditions
  o Livestock
  o Aquaculture
  o Fruit/ Vegetables
Sustainability Programs

• Specific to certain programs developed by industry

• Tend to focus on:
  o Erosion control
  o Efficiency of energy and water use
  o Wildlife habitat
  o Integrated pest management (IPM)

• **LIVE** (PNW wine grape growers)
  o Sustainability standard
  o Third-party certification and education

• Norpac’s **INSPIRE**
  o Third party audit conducted by Food Alliance
  o 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?