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To: kvalness@oda.state.or.us



To Chairman Hallock, the Board of Agriculture and the Oregon Dept of Agriculture

Thank you for considering Resolution 310. Limitations must be placed on agritourism in the farm zone.

Agritourism events and venues negatively impact the Ag zone in 4 ways from my experience from 40 years raising pears, apples, peaches, cherries, hay, cattle and timber. :

1. Interference and incompatibility with ongoing commercial agriculture.

Tourist activities in the zone increase costs to farmers due to traffic, wrecks, trespass, theft of produce and time spent dealing with these issues.

2. Good farm land, often Class 1 and 2, Prime farmland is taken out of production permanently for venue buildings, gardens, pathways, parking, roads, etc. resulting in not achieving Goal 3 of the land use system to preserve farm land.

3. Tourism venues on farm land permanently increase farm land prices because of these commercial ventures in a non commercial zone. Beginning farmers and farmers wishing to expand their operations to try to maintain an "economic unit" can not afford these prices of commercial venues on farmland.

4. Because of the "Complaint Driven" nature of county land use enforcement and because of the enforcement and compliance process in counties, conditions of approval will not be enforced and the burden will fall on neighboring farmers. This significantly increases the cost of farming for farmers in the area. .

Commercial Agritourism venues belong on commercially zoned lands inside the boundaries of rural communities. This will provide economic stimulus to these communities and maintain the productivity of the farm zone.

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