X. COMMODITIES

General Commodities Statement 10.005

1. The state commodity laws and rules must be built on a sound basis that recognizes the general benefit to agriculture and encourages individual enterprise. (07)

Fair Market Competition 10.006

1. We oppose any legislation and or regulations that impose any burden, financial or otherwise, on agriculture producers that is not required of all competitors, foreign or domestic, unless the cost of that burden is reimbursed.

2. In addition, we seek repeal of, or reimbursement for, all existing regulations that burdens agriculture producers, financial or otherwise, for costs not required of all competitors, foreign or domestic. (07)

Agricultural Research 10.010

1. Agricultural research is essential for reducing costs, improving the quality of products, expanding markets and for more efficient processing and marketing methods, which benefits both producers and consumers. It is high priority for an expanded program of research projects to accomplish these purposes.

2. We oppose closure or major change of any research station branch until people in the affected area have a chance to evaluate the performance of the station and express their opinion. Funds for research stations and their related work should have first priority.

3. We support the agricultural education and research program carried out by Oregon State University and support expansion and funding of those programs.

4. We request vigorous research to define and solve the problems of agriculture. Each county Farm Bureau should be prepared to present facts and figures to substantiate this need before the legislature, administrators and the general public.

Definition of Livestock 10.015

1. We support a definition of livestock that means ratites, horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, llamas, alpacas, sheep, goats, swine, domesticated fowl and any fur-bearing animal bred and maintained commercially or otherwise, within pens, cages and hutches. (19)

Animal Health and Plant Disease 10.020

1. We continue our support for accelerated livestock and plant disease research. Emphasis should be placed on related human disease problems and on methods to prevent the spread of livestock, poultry, and orchard
and crop diseases from farm to farm. Livestock, poultry, orchards and
crops which are destroyed because of disease should receive full
indemnification.

**Brucellosis Programs**

We support the findings of the National Brucellosis Technical
Association in regard to strengthening a National Brucellosis Program.

**Use of Antibiotics**

We support protection of the ability to judiciously use approved
antibiotics on meat animals. We support allowing producers to work
cooperatively with their local veterinarian to ensure appropriate and
responsible use of antibiotics and to determine which antibiotics can be
used and their recommended doses. (16)

We support an exemption for beekeepers from Veterinarian Feed
Directive requirements. (16)

**By Products from Food Production**

We support the use of by-products from food production and food
services for animal consumption or soil amendments. Transportation,
storage, and use of these by-products should be exempt from waste
hauling laws. (20)

**Veterinary Services**

We support excluding the following practices from regulation as the
practice of veterinary medicine and establishing certification programs for
these practices: embryo transfers, pregnancy, sterility or fertility
evaluations, equine dentistry, livestock chiropractic and massage, and
other practices determined by ODA. (19)

**Animal Welfare**

Proper care and welfare of livestock and poultry are essential to the
efficient and profitable production of food and fiber. No segment of society
has more concern for the wellbeing of poultry and livestock than the
producer. This is best exemplified by the high levels of production and low
mortality rates being achieved in modern livestock and poultry operations.
We oppose any legislation or regulatory actions which would tend to
prohibit good poultry and livestock husbandry practices and increase the
cost of food to consumers.

We support legislation that would make it illegal to secretly record and
distribute videos of farms and punish those who take jobs on farms only
to gain access to record how the animals are handled. (11)

It is the livestock owner’s discretion if they want to have a vet treat
damaged livestock. If the authorities cannot reach the owner of the
livestock, then they may require a vet. (15)
We support defining “good animal husbandry” as normal accepted practices for the management, training, and use within the state, region, or community for the species, breed, physical condition and type of animal. In determining whether a practice is “good animal husbandry,” law enforcement is required to consult with veterinarians experienced with the type of animal that is subject of the action and any local or state industry groups that work with that industry sector. (17)

Service Animals at Farm Stands 10.055

Farm stands or any other entities selling food items to the public should not be required to accommodate service animals other than seeing-eye dogs. (14)

Theft of Farm Property 10.060

Prevention of crime, including theft, is a public responsibility. Law enforcement agencies must give more recognition and increased surveillance to increasing losses of farm property from theft. We urge that complaints be more vigorously investigated.

The taking of any agricultural item of less than a $500 value from privately held farm lands without permission should be prosecuted under the shoplifting law, in addition to any possible criminal penalties. We support legislation encouraging scrap dealers to keep transaction records which include the identification of sellers, in order to facilitate law enforcement efforts.

Illegal Killing of Domestic Livestock 10.070

The penalty for illegal killing of domestic livestock should be equal to or greater than the penalty for illegal killing of wildlife. We urge stronger measures to insure the enforcement of federal, state and local laws concerning the theft, molestation, or illegal killing of any type of domestic livestock and poultry. We further recommend that not less than the minimum penalties be given in cases of conviction. We urge that statutes providing penalties for livestock larceny be amended to include a higher minimum as well as maximum fines and sentences. We urge stiffer penalties for illegal killing of livestock.

Environmental Terrorism 10.075

We support full prosecution of persons involved in acts of terrorism against the natural resource industry on public or private land.

Pest Control Districts 10.080

We urge the establishment of pest control districts (e.g., fruit fly, apple maggot) in agricultural production areas, particularly when noncommercial producers are near commercial operations.
Truth in Menu 10.090
1 We support adoption of a truth in menu law.

Irradiation 10.095
1 The use of irradiation should be allowed in the food processing industry.

USDA Forecasting 10.100
1 We oppose the forecasting of all agricultural prices by the USDA.

Export Ban 10.110
1 We oppose any legislation that restricts the export of raw agricultural and forest commodities from private lands.

Market Negotiations 10.120
1 Strong marketing programs should be implemented to strengthen farmers' bargaining positions. Statute changes should be made to protect growers' associations from unfair business practices.

Third Party Grading 10.130
1 We support "third party" grading for agricultural commodities when it is requested by a majority of the producers delivering the commodity to a buyer or processing facility. The option for producers to reject state grading should be maintained. 5 We favor inspection of all potatoes and onions for human consumption in interstate and intrastate commerce. We request that potatoes and onions for fresh market be inspected at delivery for calculating payments to growers.

Marketing Orders 10.150
1 We support enabling legislation to formulate guidelines to allow commodity groups to establish state marketing orders. 3 For an agricultural commodity referendum to be valid, at least 50 percent of the registered producers should have voted with more than 50 percent casting an affirmative vote. 6 We support deletion of the acreage control part of marketing orders. 7 We do not support a federal tart cherry marketing order.

Agricultural Commodity Quotas 10.155
1 We oppose federal agricultural production commodity quotas. (01)

Marketing Development 10.160
1 We support market development programs to expand export sales of Oregon farm products.
Trade with the ASEAN Countries 10.170
1 We favor the State of Oregon maintaining a Trade Counselor in
2 Northern Asia and a Trade Counselor in the Association of Southeast
3 Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries to promote Oregon products and
4 services.

Product Labeling 10.180
1 We aggressively support country-of-origin labeling for both domestic
2 and imported agricultural commodities and an education program that
3 helps consumers understand the difference in the quality and safety of
4 foreign and domestic commodities.
5 Labeling must state in large, bold letters whether this exporting
6 country does or does not have a safety and health inspection system
7 comparable to the United States' inspection system for its own agricultural
8 commodities. (00)

Imported Agriculture Products 10.190
1 Any commodity imported into this country, when the same commodity
2 is under a price support by the exporting country, should not be sold for
3 less than the market price in this country.
4 We support the legal action taken by the ranchers’ and cattlemen’s
5 legal foundation related to fair trade violations by Canada.

Federal Farm Programs 10.200
1 The federal regulations governing the review and establishment of
2 actively engaged Federal Farm Program determinations and personal
3 determinations for those producers applying for Federal Farm Program
4 benefits should be revised to require that such determinations be made
5 only when a producer's projected benefits exceed $25,000.
6 We support requiring cross compliance in all government farm
7 programs.
8 When the US Secretary of Agriculture, the USDA, or supporting
9 agencies declare that an emergency or shortage exists in a program
10 commodity (as defined in the 1985 Farm Act), farms with established
11 bases for the short commodity should be allowed to increase their
12 production acreage for that commodity and retain cross compliance on
13 other program crops.

Establishing Wheat Yields for Government Wheat Programs 10.210
1 Wheat and/or feed grain yields for each farm should be updated each
2 year. Support programs should be calculated on the actual production
3 records from the past three to five years, or the county production average.
Catastrophic Crop Insurance 10.220
1  The purchase of Catastrophic Crop Insurance should be voluntary and not a requirement to receive crop deficiency payments.

Department of Agriculture 10.300
1  We recommend maintaining the Department of Agriculture as a principal agency of state government.
2  We support retaining the Agricultural Development and Marketing Division within the Department of Agriculture. As exports are vital to the economic wellbeing of agriculture in the state, we believe it is essential that this activity be maintained and identified with the Department of Agriculture.
3  We support any action that would limit the legislature from overriding a crop production decision made by the Oregon Department of Agriculture or crop production decision made by the Oregon State University Extension Service. (13)

Grass Seed Use 10.305
1  Federal & State agencies should continue to allow the use of non-native grass seed varieties. (06), (09)

Product Liability 10.310
1  Consumers should be held responsible for their actions and decisions, as well as the producers and sellers of legal agricultural products. (02)

Policy No. 10.320, Product Promotion was added to Policy No. 10.325 in 2011

Farmers Markets 10.325
1  We support the concept of Farmers Markets and other opportunities for farmers to increase the marketability and profitability of their crops.
2  To protect commercial food producers from the spread of undesirable disease and pests, a grower outside a special district desiring to market produce inside a special district, should follow state ordinance recommendation spray guide for that area. (02), (11)

Internet Commodity Marketing 10.330
1  We support efforts of all agricultural commodity producers to market their goods over the internet.

Commodity Commissions 10.340
1  We favor product promotion by commodity commissions and other organized commodity groups. We approve the use of grower assessments by commodity commissions for only the promotion, production and marketing research and protection of the commodity being assessed.
Commodity Commission money belongs to the growers and should only be used for the purposes for which it is collected.

We support the State of Oregon and the state universities recognizing that commodity commissions, cooperatives, and agricultural associations have legal rights to the intellectual properties that result from research funded largely by commodity commissions, cooperatives, or agricultural associations.

Commodity commission budgets and assessment rates should be developed and adopted prior to the growing season so a maximum number of producers would have opportunity to participate.

If assessment rates do not generate sufficient funds to meet the budget, the commission should adjust the budget accordingly.

We believe a commodity commission should be able to take action to raise the assessment cap for that commodity only after notification has been given to all of the producers currently being assessed.

A vote of the producers should determine increases in commodity assessments. The commission should send a ballot to all eligible producers and a majority vote, as defined by the commodity commission’s bylaws, should prevail.

We oppose the use of Commodity Commission funds for political candidate contributions.

We oppose Commodity Commission legislation that increases the authority of any government agency with regard to the way commodity commissions operate or function. We support a provision that would allow individual producers, under specified provisions in the commission’s bylaws, to receive a refund of all assessments paid in the current calendar year. (02), (08), (10), (11)

**Oregon Agricultural Income** 10.350

We request that Oregon State University and the Department of Agriculture research and determine the total added value derived from all manufactured or processed agricultural commodities produced and sold in this state. This total should be publicized as the agricultural contribution to the Oregon economy.

**Milk Usage Audit Law** 10.400

Although the Milk Audit and Stabilization Law has been terminated, we favor keeping the law in case the need arises to administer it again.

We support the transfer of milk stabilization funds to the Nutritional Educational Services/Oregon Dairy Council for educational purposes throughout Oregon.

**Raw Milk Sales** 10.410

Raw milk production for sale should be regulated for food safety registration and inspection requirements. We oppose proposals that would
require the pasteurization of all milk to be used in fluid or processed form.

**Dairy Products Minimum Standard** 10.420
1. We support an increase in the minimum level of nonfat solids in fluid milk from 8.25 to 8.75 percent.

**FDA Standards** 10.430
1. We support regulations that do not allow nondairy substitutes to be labeled as dairy products.
2. We oppose any law and/or legislation that allow processors to add thickeners or any other nondairy products to low fat and nonfat fluid milk.

**Beef Check-off** 10.500
1. We support the National Beef Check-off as it is presently (2014) administered. Any increase must be through the present program. We do not support increases to the Beef Check-off that would be administered separately under another program with its own administration cost. We continue to support beef Check-off charge exemption for calves selling for $25.00 or less. (Referred to AFBF, 2014) (11)

**Meat Inspection** 10.510
1. It is desirable to retain small commercial meat packing facilities in rural communities.
2. We urge a return to a state meat inspection program under contract with the federal government. We recommend the use of lay inspectors under the supervision of licensed veterinarians, and that these lay inspectors also act as brand inspectors.
3. All foreign agricultural imported products should be produced and transported according to US inspection standards.
4. Countervailing duty laws should be strictly enforced. (08)
5. We support actions that would encourage Indian Nations, located in Oregon, to construct and operate meat processing facilities for the benefit of both Oregon livestock producers and the Indian Nations. (13)

**Protection of the Term “Meat”** 10.513
1. We support prohibiting the use of commonly known and industry recognized “meat” terms in the labeling and advertising of all cell cultured tissue and plant-based alternatives. (18)

**Horse Import Permit** 10.514
1. We support horses to be classified as livestock or tools of husbandry and oppose being classified as pets or companion animals. (11)
Slaughter Houses 10.515
The application of federal and state meat and poultry inspection programs to custom slaughtering plants, locker plants and producer slaughters can have a serious and adverse effect on farmers. State law should provide for small-scale and portable slaughter houses for custom livestock processing and retail sales. We urge that the regulations governing these operations be reasonable so as not to limit the processing of meat for home use.

We favor investigating the possibility of dual federal meat inspection standards which would tend to alleviate problems encountered by the smaller packing facilities.

We recommend there be state and federal regulations requiring the use of humane stunning methods before bleeding in all livestock and poultry slaughtering facilities. (08)

Livestock Auction Markets 10.520
Livestock auction markets are an essential part of our marketing system and must remain a part of our competitive free enterprise system. Standards and regulations, other than for safety, sanitation and animal health, should be reasonable so they do not create a hardship on small yards that perform a needed service to local communities. We oppose proposals to "franchise" auction markets that would limit or restrict the opportunity for an individual, organization or corporation to establish and operate livestock auction markets.

Identification of Livestock 10.530
We support the continuance of the existing hot iron branding, bangs and scrapie ID systems registered to the owner of the livestock. There should be flexibility in how animals are identified. Conventional ear tags, RFID ear tags and ownership brands should all be allowed.

We support the establishment and implementation of an animal identification system provided:
1. It is voluntary and market driven and enables participants in marketing organizations to take advantage of international markets without requiring the whole industry to individually identify their livestock;
2. It includes financial and technical support for animal disease control and eradication;
3. It can respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies such as foreign animal disease outbreaks or emerging domestic diseases;
4. It protects producers from liability for acts of others after the livestock leaves the producer’s ownership;
5. The program is economically feasible having an adequate cost-share among government, industry, and producers. Total cost of...
an individual animal’s identification and recording should not exceed $5;

6. The premise ID number is only registered to the owner of the livestock, and is the same for all of the species that the owner must ID; and

7. It has a well-run, well managed database that will benefit the industry and is controlled by the industry, not government. In addition, it is important that this database is not considered part of the public domain. A Premise ID database should not be subject to Freedom of Information Act. (04), (05), (06)

Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) 10.531

If Animal ID becomes mandatory it should be incorporated into a COOL meat labeling program. (06)

If a producer is in favor of promoting their product as locally grown, they should be able to do so, but it should not be mandatory. (16)

We oppose labeling of meat not born, grown and processed in the United States with labels that lead consumers to believe the subject meat was born, raised and processed in the United States. (19)

Brand Inspection 10.540

We support continuation of the brand and ownership inspection programs to be administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The Brand Inspection Department should develop a concise coherent plan designed to establish fiscal stability of the program.

We support a reciprocal agreement between states honoring the state of origin's brand inspection on cattle destined for a sale yard in a neighboring state for the period of time that the inspection papers are valid.

Loose Livestock 10.545

Livestock owners should not be cited under criminal law for animals that are loose through no fault of the owner. This should not relieve the livestock owner from paying for property damage done by the livestock. (11)

Payments to Growers 10.600

We support the licensing of dealers, priority liens, and bonding the act of merchandising to guarantee payments to growers for raw product deliveries. Legislation should take into consideration the uniqueness of participation contracts between growers and purchasers.

Oregon law should give agricultural producers immediate protection for the amount they are owed for their products. That protection should extend until they are paid in full. Protection should be simple and inexpensive to maintain.

It should be clear that a commodity covered by the grain producer’s lien continues to be covered by that lien regardless of whether the
commodity is a proprietary variety grown under contract or not and as an agricultural services lien. Growers should be paid no later than 30-days from the time of shipment or in case of non-shipment within 10-months following the harvest year. (02) This protection should apply to producers of all varieties and species of-seed. (16)

Disaster Payments 10.620
1 We support changing the natural disaster provisions to provide that the amount received by the producer reflects the loss of income due to lower crop quality and/or volume.

Bonding of Produce Wholesalers 10.630
1 We support the establishment of a prorated scale for the bonding of produce wholesalers.

Central Filing of Commodity Liens 10.650
1 If central filing is implemented, information released must only pertain to whether a lien is filed on a particular commodity and the name of the lien holder. Information released should only be available to a lender or a purchaser of the commodity.

Cannabis 10.660
1 More restrictive cannabis laws should not be expanded to adversely impact other agriculture. (15)
2 Cannabis, including both Marijuana and Industrial Hemp, is considered to be a legal agricultural crop under Oregon laws and as such should be afforded equal protections under state and county Right to Farm provisions. (16) The Oregon Farm Bureau advocates for the reclassification of Marijuana as a Schedule II controlled substance. (19) We support changing the definition of industrial hemp from .3% delta-9 to a more standardized, 1% total THC. (19)
3 Hemp extracts, concentrates, and byproducts derived from legal hemp should be afforded the same legal status and protections as the hemp they originated from, and growers, handlers, processors, and those associated with bringing hemp to the marketplace should be held to the same transportation standards as other agricultural commodities. (19, 20) (Refer to AFBF) We support regulation of the hemp industry that is in line with other agricultural commodities and standards. We support the creation of industry standards by the hemp industry to ensure product quality. (20) (Refer to AFBF)
Certification of Field Crops 10.700

20 We are opposed to the use of any other criteria than varietal purity, mechanical purity, varietal integrity, or germination in the granting of certification to alfalfa and clover seeds grown in Oregon.
23 Any seed company offering seed for sale should have to include the year the seed was produced, along with the other seed specification information on the container.
26 OSU seed certification should strengthen its standards for the modified land history program for perennial crops to require an additional field inspection in the second year following establishment to maintain varietal purity standards.” (09)

Oil Seed Crops 10.705

30 We support the ability of the Oregon Department of Agriculture to regulate the production of oilseed crops to protect other seed production from cross-pollination, disease, and insects. We are opposed to an outright ban on oilseed production. (05)

Cross Pollination 10.706

1 Rules and guidelines in the Certified Seed Production Handbook developed by Oregon State University that are used to prevent the cross pollination of crops should be considered in any legislation adopted by the Oregon Legislature that would govern the planting of crops.

Seed Trade Rules 10.710

1 We support legislation that recognizes the NORAMSEED Rules as the regulatory standard for the trade of seed for planting in Oregon.
2 Failure of a seed dealer to comply with these rules should result in the loss of their Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Oregon Seed Dealer’s License. (00)

Weed Control 10.712

1 All owners of land in resource production areas (exclusive farm use, farm forest, etc) should be required to maintain a minimum standard of weed control, including lands owned and managed by public agencies.
4 Enforcement of non-compliance should be enforced using regulatory structure including existing nuisance laws. (17)

Technology in Agriculture 10.716

6 We support the development and utilization of new and existing practices and technologies to benefit agriculture. These should include but not be limited to biological, chemical, mechanical, genetic and organic.
9 We recognize the need for coexistence of diverse production practices and methods and that all are important.
11 Biotechnology has been widely used for decades and is an important component of production agriculture. New research for drought tolerance,
yield, disease control, insect tolerance and edible oil quality are but a few examples of traits for a wide range of commodities including fruits and vegetables and will be even more important in a world looking for more food.

Biotechnology products should be approved for agricultural use only after thorough research and deregulation. USDA should retain the authority over this process.

We encourage all agriculture industries to distribute to all media sources more understandable and visible information about the safety of all approved agricultural products produced in Oregon and the United States. (14)

**Plant Breeding Programs 10.720**

1. We favor a continued and expanded program of public plant breeding at both the state and national level with the release of foundation seed of the best new plant varieties to the general agricultural industry.
2. The USDA Research Service should reinstate their plant breeding program and release their varieties on a schedule to prevent monopolization of plant varieties.

**Release of Public Seed Varieties 10.730**

1. We seek a change in USDA policy to ensure releases of public seed varieties and that allow for the development of a check off system at the foundation project level for seed advertising and promotion.

**Agricultural Burning 10.750**

1. We support the continuation of necessary burning at the highest acreage level possible. We are opposed to any legislation or the adoption of any state agency administrative rule that would further restrict the accepted farm practice of “agricultural burning.” However, if any agency attempts to restrict any form of agricultural burning, an approved effective alternative practice must be in place. (14)
2. We support stack burning for grass seed and cereal grain straw disposal. Stack burning should be considered ag burning when done during the approved agriculture burning times as determined by the local fire marshal. All propane flaming should be considered an agricultural burn. (14)
3. We also support allowing farmer’s permission to clean and clear land for agricultural production without government interference. Because weather conditions are extremely local, agricultural burning must be managed at the local fire district level. A briefing should be held between growers and the county or fire district prior to setting the dates so that agriculture producers can share their expertise and concerns, rather than setting arbitrary dates. Local fire chiefs should not be allowed to prohibit agricultural burning unless extreme fire safety conditions exist in the agricultural area. We support using the state criteria of humidity,
temperature and wind to determine when agricultural burning should be allowed.

We oppose any additional regulation of agricultural burning that might affect wilderness areas, when temporarily affected by smoke intrusions caused by agricultural burning which is already regulated under the direction of the DEQ and the industry's own smoke management programs or local smoke management districts.

**Field Burning** 10.755
1 We are opposed to extending the provisions of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) ag and field burning regulations to any community which already has successful programs of its own.
4 We support legislation that would identify limited field burning as a tool to manage weed, pest & disease issues (including invasive species) on all agricultural land. Such legislation should give sole authority to the Oregon Department of Agriculture to allocate the location and quantity of the acreage.
9 We support the continuation of a reasonable grower fee for support of the Smoke Management Program.
11 When any government agency’s actions include controlled burning, they should be under the same regulations applicable to private industry in that location. (13), (14)

**Field Burning Hotline** 10.760
1 Oregon Department of Agriculture’s burning hotline should separate calls that are made on non-field burning days from those made on approved burning days. It should be noted that the cause is not from field burning. Calls made from the same phone number should also be identified. (08)

**Field Burning Liability** 10.775
1 We support legislation declaring that field burning is not an ultra-hazardous activity and that negligence must be proven before "liability" can be imposed.

**Farming by Corporations** 10.800
1 We support the implementation of policies to:
2 1. Continue to study the effects of the entry of huge nonagricultural firms into farming.
4 2. Avoid creating tax advantages which encourage such entry.
5 3. Strengthen the ability of farmers to bargain with an integrator and other handlers.
7 4. Strengthen the economic position of farmers by encouraging more effective group action in buying and selling.
We support presentation of proposals for bargaining association legislation to the Legislative Committee on Trade and Economic Development.

We support legislation requiring corporations to report their involvement in farming.

**Sustainability 10.900**

1. Any definition of sustainability must balance economic, ecological and social benefits of agriculture and recognize agriculture’s ability to sustain for generations. (Referred to AFBF, 2008) (08)