

Oregon Statute Description of High-Value Farmland

215.710 High-value farmland description for ORS 215.705. (1) For purposes of ORS 215.705, high-value farmland is land in a tract composed predominantly of soils that, at the time the siting of a dwelling is approved for the tract, are:

- (a) Irrigated and classified prime, unique, Class I or Class II; or
- (b) Not irrigated and classified prime, unique, Class I or Class II.

(2) In addition to that land described in subsection (1) of this section, for purposes of ORS 215.705, high-value farmland, if outside the Willamette Valley, includes tracts growing specified perennials as demonstrated by the most recent aerial photography of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture taken prior to November 4, 1993. For purposes of this subsection, “specified perennials” means perennials grown for market or research purposes including, but not limited to, nursery stock, berries, fruits, nuts, Christmas trees or vineyards but not including seed crops, hay, pasture or alfalfa.

(3) In addition to that land described in subsection (1) of this section, for purposes of ORS 215.705, high-value farmland, if in the Willamette Valley, includes tracts composed predominantly of the following soils in Class III or IV or composed predominantly of a combination of soils described in subsection (1) of this section and the following soils:

(a) Subclassification IIIe, specifically, Bellpine, Bornstedt, Burlington, Briedwell, Carlton, Cascade, Chehalem, Cornelius, Cornelius Variant, Cornelius and Kinton, Helvetia, Hillsboro, Hullt, Jory, Kinton, Latourell, Laurelwood, Melbourne, Multnomah, Nekia, Powell, Price, Quatama, Salkum, Santiam, Saum, Sawtell, Silverton, Veneta, Willakenzie, Woodburn and Yamhill;

(b) Subclassification IIIw, specifically, Concord, Conser, Cornelius Variant, Dayton (thick surface) and Sifton (occasionally flooded);

(c) Subclassification IVe, specifically, Bellpine Silty Clay Loam, Carlton, Cornelius, Jory, Kinton, Latourell, Laurelwood, Powell, Quatama, Springwater, Willakenzie and Yamhill; and

(d) Subclassification IVw, specifically, Awbrig, Bashaw, Courtney, Dayton, Natroy, Noti and Whiteson.

(4) In addition to that land described in subsection (1) of this section, for purposes of ORS 215.705, high-value farmland, if west of the summit of the Coast Range and used in conjunction with a dairy operation on January 1, 1993, includes tracts composed predominantly of the following soils in Class III or IV or composed predominantly of a combination of soils described in subsection (1) of this section and the following soils:

(a) Subclassification IIIe, specifically, Astoria, Hembre, Knappa, Meda, Quillayutte and Winema;

(b) Subclassification IIIw, specifically, Brenner and Chitwood;

(c) Subclassification IVe, specifically, Astoria, Hembre, Meda, Nehalan, Neskowin and Winema; and

(d) Subclassification IVw, specifically, Coquille.

(5) For purposes of approving a land use application under ORS 215.705, the soil class, soil rating or other soil designation of a specific lot or parcel may be changed if the property owner:

- (a) Submits a statement of agreement from the Natural Resources Conservation

Service of the United States Department of Agriculture that the soil class, soil rating or other soil designation should be adjusted based on new information; or

(b)(A) Submits a report from a soils scientist whose credentials are acceptable to the State Department of Agriculture that the soil class, soil rating or other soil designation should be changed; and

(B) Submits a statement from the State Department of Agriculture that the Director of Agriculture or the director's designee has reviewed the report described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and finds the analysis in the report to be soundly and scientifically based.

(6) Soil classes, soil ratings or other soil designations used in or made pursuant to this section are those of the Soil Conservation Service in its most recent publication for that class, rating or designation before November 4, 1993. [1993 c.792 §3; 1995 c.79 §78; 1995 c.812 §8]

**The Oregon Administrative Rules contain OARs filed through January 15,
2008**

LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

DIVISION 33

AGRICULTURAL LAND

660-033-0010

Purpose

The purpose of this division is to implement the requirements for agricultural land as defined by Goal 3.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 183, ORS 197.040, ORS 197.230 & ORS 197.245

Stats. Implemented: ORS 197.015, ORS 197.040, ORS 197.230, ORS 197.245, ORS 215.203, ORS 215.243 & ORS 215.700

Hist.: LCDC 6-1992, f. 12-10-92, cert. ef. 8-7-93; LCDC 3-1994, f. & cert. ef. 3-1-94

660-033-0020

Definitions

For purposes of this division, the definitions in ORS 197.015, the Statewide Planning Goals and OAR chapter 660 shall apply. In addition, the following definitions shall apply:

(1)(a) "Agricultural Land" as defined in Goal 3 includes:

(A) Lands classified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as predominantly Class I-IV soils in Western Oregon and I-VI soils in Eastern Oregon;

(B) Land in other soil classes that is suitable for farm use as defined in ORS 215.203(2)(a), taking into consideration soil fertility; suitability for grazing; climatic conditions; existing and future availability of water for farm irrigation purposes; existing land use patterns; technological and energy inputs required; and accepted farming practices; and

(C) Land that is necessary to permit farm practices to be undertaken on adjacent or nearby agricultural lands.

(b) Land in capability classes other than I-IV/I-VI that is adjacent to or intermingled with lands in capability classes I-IV/I-VI within a farm unit, shall be inventoried as agricultural lands even though this land may not be cropped or grazed;

(c) "Agricultural Land" does not include land within acknowledged urban growth boundaries or land within acknowledged exception areas for Goal 3 or 4.

(2)(a) "Commercial Agricultural Enterprise" consists of farm operations that will:

(A) Contribute in a substantial way to the area's existing agricultural economy; and

(B) Help maintain agricultural processors and established farm markets.

(b) When determining whether a farm is part of the commercial agricultural enterprise, not only what is produced, but how much and how it is marketed shall be considered. These are important factors because of the intent of Goal 3 to maintain the agricultural economy of the state.

(3) "Contiguous" means connected in such a manner as to form a single block of land.

(4) "Date of Creation and Existence". When a lot, parcel or tract is reconfigured pursuant to applicable law after November 4, 1993, the effect of which is to qualify a lot, parcel or tract for the siting of a dwelling, the date of the reconfiguration is the date of creation or existence. Reconfigured means any change in the boundary of the lot, parcel or tract.

(5) "Eastern Oregon" means that portion of the state lying east of a line beginning at the intersection of the northern boundary of the State of Oregon and the western boundary of Wasco County, then south along the western boundaries of the Counties of Wasco, Jefferson, Deschutes and Klamath to the southern boundary of the State of Oregon.

(6) "Exception Area" means an area no longer subject to the requirements of Goal 3 or 4 because the area is the subject of a site specific exception acknowledged pursuant to ORS 197.732 and OAR chapter 660, division 4.

(7)(a) "Farm Use" as that term is used in ORS Chapter 215 and this division means "farm use" as defined in ORS 215.203.

(b) As used in the definition of "farm use" in ORS 215.203 and in this division:

(A) "Preparation" of products or by-products includes but is not limited to the cleaning, treatment, sorting, composting or packaging of the products or by-products; and

(B) "Products or by-products raised on such land" means that those products or by-products are raised on the farm operation where the preparation occurs or on other farm land provided the preparation is occurring only on land being used for the primary purpose of obtaining a profit in money from the farm use of the land.

(8)(a) "High-Value Farmland" means land in a tract composed predominantly of soils that are:

(A) Irrigated and classified prime, unique, Class I or II; or

(B) Not irrigated and classified prime, unique, Class I or II.

(b) In addition to that land described in subsection (a) of this section, high-value farmland, if outside the Willamette Valley, includes tracts growing specified perennials as demonstrated by the most recent aerial photography of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture taken prior to November 4, 1993. "Specified perennials" means perennials grown for market or research purposes including, but not limited to, nursery stock, berries, fruits, nuts, Christmas trees, or vineyards, but not including seed crops, hay, pasture or alfalfa;

(c) In addition to that land described in subsection (a) of this section, high-value farmland, if in the Willamette Valley, includes tracts composed predominantly of the following soils in Class III or IV or composed predominantly of a combination of the soils described in subsection (a) of this section and the following soils:

(A) Subclassification IIIe, specifically, Bellpine, Bornstedt, Burlington, Briedwell, Carlton, Cascade, Chehalem, Cornelius Variant, Cornelius and Kinton, Helvetia, Hillsboro, Hult, Jory, Kinton, Latourell, Laurelwood, Melbourne, Multnomah, Nekia, Powell, Price, Quatama, Salkum, Santiam, Saum, Sawtell, Silverton, Veneta, Willakenzie, Woodburn and Yamhill;

(B) Subclassification IIIw, specifically, Concord, Conser, Cornelius, Variant, Dayton (thick surface) and Sifton (occasionally flooded);

(C) Subclassification IVe, specifically, Bellpine Silty Clay Loam, Carlton, Cornelius, Jory, Kinton, Latourell, Laurelwood, Powell, Quatama, Springwater, Willakenzie and Yamhill; and

(D) Subclassification IVw, specifically, Awbrig, Bashaw, Courtney, Dayton, Natroy, Noti and Whiteson.

(d) In addition to that land described in subsection (a) of this section, high-value farmland, if west of the summit of the Coast Range and used in conjunction with a dairy operation on January 1, 1993, includes tracts composed predominantly of the following soils in Class III or IV or composed predominantly of a combination of the soils described in subsection (a) of this section and the following soils:

(A) Subclassification IIIe, specifically, Astoria, Hembre, Knappa, Meda, Quillayutte and Winema;

(B) Subclassification IIIw, specifically, Brennar and Chitwood;

(C) Subclassification IVe, specifically, Astoria, Hembre, Meda, Nehalem, Neskowin and Winema; and

(D) Subclassification IVw, specifically, Coquille.

(e) In addition to that land described in subsection (a) of this section, high-value farmland includes tracts located west of U.S. Highway 101 composed predominantly of the following soils in Class III or IV or composed predominantly of a combination of the soils described in subsection (a) of this section and the following soils:

(A) Subclassification IIIw, specifically, Ettersburg Silt Loam and Croftland Silty Clay Loam;

(B) Subclassification IIIe, specifically, Klooqueth Silty Clay Loam and Winchuck Silt Loam; and

(C) Subclassification IVw, specifically, Huffling Silty Clay Loam.

(f) For the purposes of approving a land use application under ORS 215.705, the soil class, soil rating or other soil designation of a specific lot or parcel may be changed if:

(A) The property owner submits a statement of agreement from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that the soil class, soil rating or other soil designation should be adjusted based on new information; or

(B) Submits a report from a soils scientist whose credentials are acceptable to the State Department of Agriculture that the soil class, soil rating or other soil designation should be changed; and

(C) Submits a statement from the State Department of Agriculture that the Director of Agriculture or the director's designee has reviewed the report described in paragraph (5)(f)(B) of this rule and finds the analysis in the report to be soundly and scientifically based.

(g) For the purposes of approving a land use application under ORS 215.705, soil classes, soil ratings or other soil designations used in or made pursuant to this definition are those of the NRCS in its most recent publication for that class, rating or designation before November 4, 1993 except for changes made pursuant to subsection (f) of this rule. Within six months of the effective date of this rule, the department shall provide to all counties and other interested persons a list of soils that qualify land as high-value farmland under this subsection.

(h) For the purposes of approving a land use application under OAR 660-033-0090, 660-033-0120, 660-033-0130 and 660-033-0135, soil classes, soil ratings or other soil designations used in or made pursuant to this definition are those of the NRCS in its most recent publication for that class, rating or designation.

(i) Lands designated as "marginal lands" according to the marginal lands provisions adopted before January 1, 1993, and according to the criteria in ORS 215.247 (1991), are excepted from this definition of "high-value farmlands";

(j) Any county that adopted marginal lands provisions before January 1, 1993, may continue to designate lands as "marginal lands" according to those provisions and criteria in ORS 215.247 (1991), as long as the county has not applied the provisions of ORS 215.705 to 215.750 to lands zoned for exclusive farm use.

(9) "Irrigated" means watered by an artificial or controlled means, such as sprinklers, furrows, ditches, or spreader dikes. An area or tract is "irrigated" if it is currently watered, or has established rights to use water for irrigation, including such tracts that receive water for irrigation from a water or irrigation district or other provider. For the purposes of this division, an area or tract within a water or irrigation district that was once irrigated shall continue to be considered "irrigated" even if the irrigation water was removed or transferred to another tract.

(10) "Tract" means one or more contiguous lots or parcels in the same ownership.

(11) "Western Oregon" means that portion of the state lying west of a line beginning at the intersection of the northern boundary of the State of Oregon and the western boundary of Wasco County, then south along the western boundaries of the Counties of Wasco, Jefferson, Deschutes and Klamath to the southern boundary of the State of Oregon.

(12) "Willamette Valley" is Clackamas, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill Counties and that portion of Benton and Lane Counties lying east of the summit of the Coast Range.

(13) "Lot" shall have the meaning set forth in ORS 92.010 and "parcel" shall have the meaning set forth in ORS 215.010.

(14) "Manufactured dwelling" and "manufactured home" shall have the meaning set forth in ORS 446.003(26).

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Stat. Auth.: ORS 183, 197 & 215

Stats. Implemented: ORS 197.015, 197.040, 197.230, 197.245, 215.203, 215.243, 215.283 & 215.700 - 215.710

Hist.: LCDC 6-1992, f. 12-10-92, cert. ef. 8-7-93; LCDC 3-1994, f. & cert. ef. 3-1-94;

LCDC 6-1994, f. & cert. ef. 6-3-94; LCDC 5-1996, f. & cert. ef. 12-23-96; LCDD 2-1998, f. & cert. ef. 6-1-98; LCDD 5-2000, f. & cert. ef. 4-24-00; LCDD 1-2002, f. & cert. ef. 5-22-02; LCDD 1-2004, f. & cert. ef. 4-30-04

660-033-0030

Identifying Agricultural Land

(1) All land defined as "agricultural land" in OAR 660-033-0020(1) shall be inventoried as agricultural land.

(2) When a jurisdiction determines the predominant soil capability classification of a lot or parcel it need only look to the land within the lot or parcel being inventoried. However, whether land is "suitable for farm use" requires an inquiry into factors beyond the mere identification of scientific soil classifications. The factors are listed in the definition of agricultural land set forth at OAR 660-033-0020(1)(a)(B). This inquiry requires the consideration of conditions existing outside the lot or parcel being inventoried. Even if a lot or parcel is not predominantly Class I-IV soils or suitable for farm use, Goal 3 nonetheless defines as agricultural "lands in other classes which are necessary to permit farm practices to be undertaken on adjacent or nearby lands." A determination that a lot or parcel is not agricultural land requires findings supported by substantial evidence that addresses each of the factors set forth in OAR 660-033-0020(1).

(3) Goal 3 attaches no significance to the ownership of a lot or parcel when determining whether it is agricultural land. Nearby or adjacent land, regardless of ownership, shall be examined to the extent that a lot or parcel is either "suitable for farm use" or "necessary to permit farm practices to be undertaken on adjacent or nearby lands" outside the lot or parcel.

(4) When inventoried land satisfies the definition requirements of both agricultural land and forest land, an exception is not required to show why one resource designation is chosen over another. The plan need only document the factors that were used to select an agricultural, forest, agricultural/forest, or other appropriate designation.

(5) Notwithstanding the definition of "farm use" in ORS 215.203(2)(a), profitability or gross farm income shall not be considered in determining whether land is agricultural land or whether Goal 3, "Agricultural Land," is applicable.

(6) More detailed data on soil capability than is contained in the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil maps and soil surveys may be used to define agricultural land. However, the more detailed soils data shall be related to the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) land capability classification system.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 183, ORS 197 & ORS 215

Stats. Implemented: ORS 197.015, ORS 197.040, ORS 197.230, ORS 197.245, ORS

215.203, ORS 215.243 & ORS 215.700 - 215.710

Hist.: LCDC 6-1992, f. 12-10-92, cert. ef. 8-7-93; LCDD 5-2000, f. & cert. ef. 4-24-00

660-033-0080

Designation of High-Value Farmland

(1) The Commission may review comprehensive plan and land use regulations related to the identification and designation of high-value farmland under procedures set forth in ORS 197.251 or 197.628 through 197.644.

(2) Counties shall submit maps of high-value farmland described in OAR 660-033-0020(8) and such amendments of their plans and land use regulations as are necessary to implement the requirements of this division to the Commission for review. Counties shall submit high-value farmland maps no later than the time of the first periodic review after December 31, 1994. The submittal shall include the notice required by OAR chapter 660, division 18 or 25, whichever applies.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 183, ORS 197.040, ORS 197.230 & ORS 197.245

Stats. Implemented: ORS 197.015, ORS 197.040, ORS 197.230, ORS 197.245, ORS 215.203, ORS 215.243 & ORS 215.700 - ORS 215.710

Hist.: LCDC 6-1992, f. 12-10-92, cert. ef. 8-7-93; LCDC 3-1994, f. & cert. ef. 3-1-94