

COLUMBIA COUNTY

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July 25, 2025

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
635 Capitol St NE, Suite 150
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Department of Land Conservation and Development,

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes the proposed agritourism rule changes under consideration. If adopted as written, these rules will undermine the viability of small farms across Oregon and limit the very community connections our agricultural economy depends on.

Columbia County is home to many working farms that rely on agritourism to stay in business—through harvest festivals, on-farm meals, educational programs, and direct-to-consumer sales. These operations not only help farmers make ends meet; they offer vital public experiences that build respect for the land and those who work it.

We believe these proposed rules are a step in the wrong direction. Rather than supporting family farms, they would impose burdens that favor larger operations and discourage the creativity and community spirit agritourism brings to rural Oregon.

We urge DLCD to halt this rulemaking process and work directly with small farm operators to craft regulations that truly reflect their realities and uphold the original legislative intent.

Oregon's farms—and the communities they serve—deserve better.

Respectfully,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

Casey Garrett, Commissioner

Margaret Magruder, Commissioner