

Oregon State Board of Agriculture
November 2022

Written Public Comments

Item	Name	Topic	Date Received
Item 01	Linda Duman	Mega Poultry Farms	10/05/2022
Item 02	Megan Kemple Oregon Climate & Agriculture Network	Resolution 319	11/03/2022

Subject: Mega Poultry Farms

Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 6:25:45 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Linda Duman <lindaduman@gmail.com>

To: VALNESS Karla * ODA <Karla.VALNESS@oda.oregon.gov>

Could you please forward this to all ODA Board members? Thank you.

October 5, 2022

Dear Representative Jami Cape:

I had the opportunity to attend the Lebanon Forum Lunch in which you were the guest speaker. It was heartwarming to hear the importance you placed on your heritage and that you value fighting to preserve healthy, thriving communities in your district. As a fifth-generation farmer in Linn County, you understand that healthy, thriving communities don't express themselves in a 'one way for all' approach, even in a legislative district like yours.

I would like to describe my community in Linn County, just east of Scio, in an area known as Jordan. My relatives came to this community on the wagon train in 1845, secured a donation land claim, and my sons are living on this land today. There are many fourth and fifth generation farms in our community. Given the relatively low production capability of the area aquifers and the complexity and heterogeneous nature of the bedrock aquifer, the farms in our immediate community do not irrigate. The agriculture crops that our area can support are mainly grass seed, grains, and Christmas trees.

Jordan now faces the imminent arrival of a poultry mega farm in our community. Many have expressed their concern about this Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFOs). This mega poultry farm is projecting an annual output of 4.5 million chickens and is seeking permits to build sixteen 600'x 60' poultry barns, to make it the largest poultry farm in Oregon. This requires enormous amounts of water that we do not have. Many homes have drilled 2-3 wells just to supply their homes. A hydrological study by Evren NW has shown why there is a short supply of water. While we are a farming community, we cannot support all types of agriculture because of the hydrological and geographical limitations of the area. We are concerned that a poultry farm of this large scale will deprive the long, established farm community of water, particularly safe water. No one has addressed this concern to our community's satisfaction.

This farm is also proposing to build within one half mile of our public school, Church, and community center. OHA was presented a peer reviewed study from John Hopkins University on the health effects of poultry mega farms. OHA did further research, and all six studies they referenced state that additional research is needed to either confirm key results or more fully characterize the range of potential health effects to neighbors of high-density poultry farming. Nitrates and infectious bacteria could pollute area wells as we have already witnessed in Morrow County. Is permitting a poultry mega farm preserving the safety of our community?

DEQ, OHA, EPA were created to help maintain the health safety of our communities. The Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregonians for Food and Shelter need to realize their obligation to all farm communities. We ask that you support and direct these agencies in fulfilling their obligation to keep all Oregon agricultural communities safe. This is not asking that you curtail the rights of agriculture, but that you support responsible agriculture.

If you are serious about keeping our community a safe and healthy place to live, please investigate the outcomes of these poultry mega farms across our nation. As a Republican I believe in minimal government intervention, however, it is still the duty of government to protect the rights of property owners large or small. There have been more than one that has overwhelmed and destroyed communities much larger than ours. We do not want to become the Linn County statistic in this evolving story. You can make the difference.

We want to express our gratitude to you as our representative. If we can be of assistance, offer advice or other help, please contact us via Linda Duman at 503-559-9861. If you request, I will email a copy of the OHA and John Hopkins research documents.

Sincerely,

Linda Duman
Administrator Lourdes Public Charter School

CC:

Roger Nyquist

Sherrie Sprenger

Will Tucker

Oregon DEQ

Oregon EPA

ODA

Karla Valness

Oregon State Fire Marshal

Oregon Farm Bureau

Oregonians for Food and Shelter



Board of Agriculture
c/o Karla Valness

November 3, 2022

Chair Harper and Members of the Oregon Board of Agriculture:

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network in regards to the Board of Agriculture's Resolution 319: Climate Change Policy Considerations, currently under review. I recommend that the most recent version posted in the resolution packet for the November 2022 board meeting [linked here](#), be adopted by the Board of Agriculture at the next opportunity.

In April 2022 I provided public comment recommending that Resolution 319 be amended to be more relevant and useful because we believed it would better serve ODA, and the agricultural community, if it was updated to account for changes in the political landscape and climate-related challenges that have occurred in Oregon since it was adopted December 5, 2019. I provided written and verbal public comment which was considered by the Workgroup. The draft revisions address nearly all of my original concerns. The current draft version is more relevant to our current political landscape and the climate impacts farmers are facing.

I have one small remaining concern which is related to one of the whereas statements, which currently reads: "WHEREAS, policies to address greenhouse gas emissions will also affect agricultural production, even if agriculture is exempted from these policies." That does not seem universally true. Policies to provide home weatherization assistance for example, would probably not affect agricultural production. It would be more accurate to say "WHEREAS, policies to address greenhouse gas emissions *may* also affect agricultural production, even if agriculture is exempted from these policies."

However, this is a small concern and additional modification, review and public comment would delay adoption for at least several more months.

I recommend that the most recent version drafted by staff and posted in the resolution packet for the November 2022 board meeting [linked here](#), be adopted by the Board of Agriculture at the next opportunity.

Thank you so much for considering my public comments in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Kemple". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Kemple, Director of Policy Advocacy