

# Oregon OSHA

## Ag Labor Housing Advisory Committee

Monday January 31, 2022

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### Call to order/introductions:

|                        |                         |                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Sarah Rew</b>       | <b>Jenny Dressler</b>   | <b>Jeff Stone</b>     |
| <b>Gary Robertson</b>  | <b>Varon Blackburn</b>  | <b>Jennifer Flood</b> |
| <b>Julie Love</b>      | <b>Carlos Fernandez</b> | <b>Stacy Cooper</b>   |
| <b>Renee Stapleton</b> | <b>Dora Herrera</b>     | <b>Matt Borman</b>    |
| <b>Dave McLaughlin</b> | <b>Erin Roby</b>        | <b>Mike Doke</b>      |
| <b>Alta Schaefer</b>   | <b>Mike Omeg</b>        | <b>Molly McCargar</b> |
| <b>Tim Nelson</b>      | <b>Nicole Mann</b>      | <b>Taylor</b>         |
| <b>Tomas Schwabe</b>   | <b>Adam McCarthy</b>    |                       |

- ✓ Current rulemaking updates –
- ✓ Review of current draft rule language and suggestions -
  - Exhaust fans should be run motion control or humidity b/c of fire hazard if running constantly (but will cost slightly more ~\$400-\$450; also, insurance will likely require they be motion activated)
  - Heat in bathrooms? There is currently a temperature rule requirement for the building to have heat and maintain “bathing, handwashing, laundry, and toilet” facilities at 68 degrees. It is unclear why a specific rule is needed when covered under another requirement. Some questions were raised:
    - What about internal bathrooms that are already sufficiently insulated and temp controlled?
    - Does current rule allow more flexibility?
  - A/C: Electrical considerations are huge
    - Target temperatures are very difficult to guarantee, what if we target a temperature drop relative to ambient outside temperature? For example, a 20-degree temperature drop from the outside?

- Many reported during the heat dome weekend (115+ degrees) that even with A/C the thermostat did not read under 90 – so, approx. a 25 degree drop)
  - During the temp rules, one grower explained that they installed ac units and it without shade trees – it was very difficult to manage. It cost approximately \$1500 to install ac units and \$1000 to insulate. The electrical infrastructure are issues that would have to be resolved.
- Reduce exposure to traffic/flies/noise or hazards
  - Current rule address flies/mosquitos/rodents
  - Reducing traffic noise is often outside of the grower's control
- Remove fields/crops within 1000 ft of housing
  - From many grower's perspective, this is a feasibility issue. In many areas with housing, to achieve 1000 ft you'd be off property
  - Community housing is not feasible in many areas (ex. The Dalles, Hood River). Zoning and limited property availability continues to be an issue.
  - Short term workers – would be impossible or very difficult to get access tot the limited housing that would be available. This is expected to impact those works who are working with the grower for less than 1 month
  - One grower reported evaluating the The Dalles and Hood River communities, and estimates 1735 acres would be removed to accommodate the 1000 ft distancing.
- Remove fields/crops within 300 ft of housing
  - Would also remove many acres out of production
  - One grower reported evaluating the The Dalles and Hood River communities, and estimates 600 acres would be removed to accommodate the 3000 ft distancing.
- Move grass/plants to 100 ft' of housing (current rule has weeds removed to 30')
 

Interested in more information on the specific concerns that are trying to be mitigated.
- Outlets in each room
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It was suggested that additional outlets could be used for the purposes of air conditioner unites, air purifiers, or charging of cell

phones that are often the only method to access emergency services if needed

- Increase PSI of water at fixture (DOL and OR OSHA require 15);
  - CA requires “to provide the capacity required at the time the system was installed.” And “capable of supplying the normal operating pressure to all fixtures.”
  - Wells have limited water supply – if you enforce higher standards you might dry up well. This is especially true during the summer. – OHA requirements – 50 gallons per person per day (many farmers pump continually and store water)
  - Sometimes the increase is undetectable
  - Consider the pressure when all sinks are in use ... or the pressure of furthest sink from the source
  - What about water conservation initiatives? 2021 was very hard year for wells
- Outdoor kitchens – enclose them? This was a larger discussion point that will be a focal point for a future meeting. It was suggested that we think of this more creatively. Some thoughts from were:
  - Encouraging Kitchens inside
  - Screen or wall in outdoor kitchens
  - Provide typical amenities in a kitchen outside such as counters, cabinets, or sinks
- Reduce ratio of shower heads? Current rule: 1:10
  - Feds: 1:10
  - CA: before '73: 1:15, after 1:10
  - Lowering ratio requires new construction to keep same # workers, or losing workers
- Enclose showers so they can be a private changing area or provide a private changing area (so worker doesn't have to walk back to room to change)
  - Growers agree that this should be a requirement and many growers offer this already.
- Should there be a difference in rules between seasonal/year-round workers?
- Lockers
  - Not needed in family living situation but perhaps dorm style living

**Next meeting:** ~February 23

