

Filed March 28, 1996
Barbara Bloodworth
By Shirley M. Carl, Chief Deputy

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR MORROW COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF ISSUING AN INTER-)
PRETATION OF THE MORROW COUNTY)
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING OR-)
DINANCE.....))

R E S O L U T I O N
No. R-8-96

This matter coming before the Morrow County Court, sitting as the county governing body of Morrow County, at its regularly scheduled meeting on the 27th day of March, 1996; and

Whereas, having been notified that the Morrow County Planning Commission has requested an interpretation from the Court regarding the definition of "farm", "farming" and "farm use" as those terms are used in the Morrow County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance; and

Whereas, being further notified that the Planning Commission recommends that the court direct that those terms be interpreted in a manner which is consistent with ORS 215.203, a copy of which is attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morrow County Court, by and on behalf of the people of Morrow County, does hereby direct that the terms "farm", "farming", and/or "farm use" as used in the Morrow County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance be interpreted and applied in a manner which is consistent with ORS 215.203.

DATED this 27th day of March, 1996.

MORROW COUNTY COURT

Louis A. Carlson
Louis A. Carlson, Judge

R.J. French
R.J. French, Commissioner

Donald C. B. McElligott
Donald C. B. McElligott, Commissioner

ATTEST



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Valerie S. Schertz
County Counsel

215.170 Authority of cities in unincorporated area. The powers of an incorporated city to control subdivision and other partitioning of land and to rename thoroughfares in adjacent unincorporated areas shall continue unimpaired by ORS 215.010 to 215.190 and 215.402 to 215.438 until the county governing body that has jurisdiction over the area adopts regulations for controlling subdivision there. Any part of the area subject to the county regulations shall cease to be subject to the two powers of the city, unless otherwise provided in an urban growth area management agreement jointly adopted by a city and county to establish procedures for regulating land use outside the city limits and within an urban growth boundary acknowledged under ORS 197.251. [Amended by 1963 c.619 §10; 1983 c.570 §4]

215.180 [1955 c.439 §6; 1963 c.619 §11; repealed by 1977 c.766 §16]

215.185 Remedies for unlawful structures or land use. (1) In case a building or other structure is, or is proposed to be, located, constructed, maintained, repaired, altered, or used, or any land is, or is proposed to be, used, in violation of an ordinance or regulation designed to implement a comprehensive plan, the governing body of the county or a person whose interest in real property in the county is or may be affected by the violation, may, in addition to other remedies provided by law, institute injunction, mandamus, abatement, or other appropriate proceedings to prevent, temporarily or permanently enjoin, abate, or remove the unlawful location, construction, maintenance, repair, alteration, or use. When a temporary restraining order is granted in a suit instituted by a person who is not exempt from furnishing bonds or undertakings under ORS 22.010, the person shall furnish undertaking as provided in ORCP 82 A(1).

(2) The court may allow the prevailing party reasonable attorney fees and expenses in a judicial proceeding authorized by this section that involves a dwelling approved to relieve a temporary hardship. However, if the court allows the plaintiff reasonable attorney fees or expenses, such fees or expenses shall not be charged to the county if the county did not actively defend itself or the landowner in the proceeding. [1955 c.439 §7; 1963 c.619 §12; 1977 c.766 §6; 1981 c.898 §48; 1983 c.826 §5]

215.190 Violation of ordinances or regulations. No person shall locate, construct, maintain, repair, alter, or use a building or other structure or use or transfer land in violation of an ordinance or regulation authorized by ORS 215.010 to 215.190 and 215.402 to 215.438. [1955 c.439 §9; 1963 c.619 §13]

215.200 [1957 s.s. c.11 §1; renumbered 215.285]

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE (Exclusive Farm Use Zones)

215.203 Zoning ordinances establishing exclusive farm use zones; definitions. (1) Zoning ordinances may be adopted to zone designated areas of land within the county as exclusive farm use zones. Land within such zones shall be used exclusively for farm use except as otherwise provided in ORS 215.213, 215.283 or 215.284. Farm use zones shall be established only when such zoning is consistent with the comprehensive plan.

(2)(a) As used in this section, "farm use" means the current employment of land for the primary purpose of obtaining a profit in money by raising, harvesting and selling crops or the feeding, breeding, management and sale of, or the produce of, livestock, poultry, fur-bearing animals or honeybees or for dairying and the sale of dairy products or any other agricultural or horticultural use or animal husbandry or any combination thereof. "Farm use" includes the preparation and storage of the products raised on such land for human use and animal use and disposal by marketing or otherwise. "Farm use" also includes the current employment of land for the primary purpose of obtaining a profit in money by stabling or training equines including but not limited to providing riding lessons, training clinics and schooling shows. "Farm use" also includes the propagation, cultivation, maintenance and harvesting of aquatic species. It does not include the use of land subject to the provisions of ORS chapter 321, except land used exclusively for growing cultured Christmas trees as defined in subsection (3) of this section or land described in ORS 321.267 (1)(e) or 321.415 (5).

(b) "Current employment" of land for farm use includes:

(A) Farmland, the operation or use of which is subject to any farm-related government program;

(B) Land lying fallow for one year as a normal and regular requirement of good agricultural husbandry;

(C) Land planted in orchards or other perennials, other than land specified in subparagraph (D) of this paragraph, prior to maturity;

(D) Land not in an exclusive farm use zone which has not been eligible for assessment at special farm use value in the year prior to planting the current crop and has been planted in orchards, cultured Christmas trees or vineyards for at least three years;

(E) Wasteland, in an exclusive farm use zone, dry or covered with water, neither

economically tillable nor grazeable, lying in or adjacent to and in common ownership with a farm use land and which is not currently being used for any economic farm use;

(F) Land under buildings supporting accepted farm practices;

(G) Water impoundments lying in or adjacent to and in common ownership with farm use land;

(H) Any land constituting a woodlot, not to exceed 20 acres, contiguous to and owned by the owner of land specially valued for farm use even if the land constituting the woodlot is not utilized in conjunction with farm use;

(I) Land lying idle for no more than one year where the absence of farming activity is due to the illness of the farmer or member of the farmer's immediate family. For purposes of this paragraph, illness includes injury or infirmity whether or not such illness results in death;

(J) Any land described under ORS 321.267 (1)(e) or 321.415 (5); and

(K) Any land in an exclusive farm use zone used for the storage of agricultural products that would otherwise be disposed of through open field burning or propane flaming.

(c) As used in this subsection, "accepted farming practice" means a mode of operation that is common to farms of a similar nature, necessary for the operation of such farms to obtain a profit in money, and customarily utilized in conjunction with farm use.

(3) "Cultured Christmas trees" means trees:

(a) Grown on lands used exclusively for that purpose, capable of preparation by intensive cultivation methods such as plowing or turning over the soil;

(b) Of a marketable species;

(c) Managed to produce trees meeting U.S. No. 2 or better standards for Christmas trees as specified by the Agriculture Marketing Services of the United States Department of Agriculture; and

(d) Evidencing periodic maintenance practices of shearing for Douglas fir and pine species, weed and brush control and one or more of the following practices: Basal pruning, fertilizing, insect and disease control, stump culture, soil cultivation, irrigation. [1963 c.577 §2; 1963 c.619 §1(2), (3); 1967 c.386 §1; 1973 c.503 §3; 1975 c.210 §1; 1977 c.766 §7; 1977 c.893 §17a; 1979 c.480 §1; 1981 c.804 §73; 1983 c.826 §18; 1985 c.604 §2; 1987 c.305 §4; 1989 c.653 §1; 1989 c.887 §7; 1991 c.459 §344; 1991 c.714 §4; 1993 c.704 §1; 1995 c.79 §75; 1995 c.211 §1]

215.205 [1957 s.s. c.11 §2; renumbered 215.295]

215.207 Absence of farming activity due to illness; rules of Department of

Revenue. The Department of Revenue shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section and ORS 215.203 (2)(b)(I). [1989 c.653 §2]

Note: 215.207 was enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but was not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 215 or any series therein by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

215.210 [Amended by 1955 c.652 §6; renumbered 215.305]

215.213 Uses permitted in exclusive farm use zones in counties that adopted marginal lands system prior to 1993. (1)

In counties that have adopted marginal lands provisions under ORS 197.247 (1991 Edition), the following uses may be established in any area zoned for exclusive farm use:

(a) Public or private schools, including all buildings essential to the operation of a school.

(b) Churches and cemeteries in conjunction with churches.

(c) The propagation or harvesting of a forest product.

(d) Utility facilities necessary for public service, except commercial facilities for the purpose of generating power for public use by sale and transmission towers over 200 feet in height.

(e) A dwelling on real property used for farm use if the dwelling is:

(A) Located on the same lot or parcel as the dwelling of the farm operator; and

(B) Occupied by a relative, which means grandparent, grandchild, parent, child, brother or sister of the farm operator or the farm operator's spouse, whose assistance in the management of the farm use is or will be required by the farm operator.

(f) Nonresidential buildings customarily provided in conjunction with farm use.

(g) A dwelling customarily provided in conjunction with farm use if the dwelling is on a lot or parcel that is managed as part of a farm operation not smaller than the minimum lot size in a farm zone with a minimum lot size acknowledged under ORS 197.251.

(h) Operations for the exploration for and production of geothermal resources as defined by ORS 522.005 and oil and gas as defined by ORS 520.005, including the placement and operation of compressors, separators and other customary production equipment for an individual well adjacent to the wellhead. Any activities or construction relating to such operations shall not be a basis for an exception under ORS 197.732 (1)(a) or (b).

(i) Operations for the exploration for minerals as defined by ORS 517.750. Any ac-