

Chapter 578

Oregon Wheat Commission; Wheat Commission Fund Tax

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OREGON WHEAT COMMISSION

578.010 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Commercial channels" means the sale of wheat for use as food, feed, seed, or any industrial or chemurgic use, when sold to any commercial buyer, dealer, processor, cooperative, or to any person, public or private, who resells any wheat or product produced from wheat.

(2) "Commission" means the Oregon Wheat Commission.

(3) "First purchaser" means any person, corporation, association or partnership that buys wheat from the grower in the first instance, or any lienholder, public or private, who may possess wheat from the grower under any lien.

(4) "Grower" means any landowner personally engaged in growing wheat; a tenant of the landowner personally engaged in growing wheat; and both the owner and the tenant jointly; and includes a person, partnership, association, corporation, cooperative, trust, sharecropper, and any and all other business units, devices and arrangements.

(5) "Sale" includes any pledge or mortgage of wheat, after harvest, to any person, public or private.

578.020 Purpose of chapter. It is to the interest of all the people that the abundant natural resources of Oregon be protected, fully developed and uniformly distributed. Among the agricultural industries of the state that contribute to the economic welfare of Oregon is the growing of wheat. Because a surplus of wheat is grown in this state and, during recurrent years, that surplus has been in excess of all available markets, it is necessary in order to provide profitable enterprises for wheat growers and to provide employment for labor and industry dependent upon wheat, that additional markets be found. It is the purpose of this chapter, in the exercise of the police power, to promote the public health and welfare by providing means for the protection and stabilization of the wheat industry in this state.

578.030 Wheat commission created; members. There hereby is created the Oregon Wheat Commission. The commission shall consist of five members who shall be appointed by the Governor and shall hold

office for a term of five years. The Director of the State Department of Agriculture, or his duly authorized representative, and the dean of the school of agriculture, state agricultural college, or his duly authorized representative, shall be ex officio members, without vote, of the commission.

578.040 Qualifications of members. (1) Members of the commission shall be selected and appointed because of their ability and disposition to serve the state's interest and their knowledge of the state's natural resources. Members shall be citizens over 25 years of age, residents of the state, who have been actually engaged in growing wheat in this state for at least five years, and who derive a substantial portion of their income from growing wheat.

(2) Three of the members shall be residents of and have farming operations in that part of the Columbia Basin comprising the following counties: Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, Wasco and Jefferson. One of the members shall be a resident of and have a farming operation in the territory comprised of the other counties lying east of the summit of the Cascade Mountains. One member shall be a resident of and have a farming operation in the territory lying west of the summit of the Cascade Mountains.

578.050 Term of members. Each year one member shall be appointed to the commission for a term ending on June 30, five years from the date of the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed, except that a member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term of a member separated from the commission for any cause, shall be appointed for the remainder of the term of the member whose position has been vacant. Each member shall hold office until his successor is appointed and qualified.

578.060 Removal of members; compensation of members. (1) A member is removable by the Governor for cause after being given a copy of written charges and an opportunity to be heard publicly. In addition to all other causes, ceasing to be a resident of this state or to be actually engaged in growing wheat therein is sufficient cause for removal.

(2) Members of the commission shall receive no salary but shall be paid a per diem of \$10 for each day they are actually

and necessarily engaged in the transaction of business of the commission, together with traveling expenses.

578.070 Chairman and secretary of commission. The commission shall elect a chairman and may employ a secretary who is not a member of the commission.

578.080 Meetings of commission. The commission shall meet at least once every three months regularly and at such other times as called by the chairman. The chairman shall call special meetings of the commission at any time.

578.090 Duties and powers of commission. (1) Consistent with the general purposes of this chapter, the commission shall establish the policies to be followed in the accomplishments of such purposes.

(2) In the administration of this chapter the commission shall have the following duties, authorities and powers:

(a) To conduct a campaign of research, education and publicity.

(b) To find new markets for wheat and wheat products.

(c) To give, publicize and promulgate reliable information showing the value of wheat and wheat products for any purpose for which it is found useful and profitable.

(d) To make public and encourage the widespread national and international use of the special kinds of wheat and wheat products produced from the special varieties of wheat grown in Oregon.

(e) To investigate and participate in studies of the problems peculiar to the producers of wheat in Oregon.

(f) To take such action as the commission deems necessary or advisable in order to stabilize and protect the wheat industry of the state and the health and welfare of the public.

(g) To sue and be sued.

(h) To enter into such contracts as may be necessary or advisable.

(i) To appoint and employ officers, agents and other personnel, including experts in agriculture and the publicizing of the products thereof, and to prescribe their duties and fix their compensation.

(j) To make use of such advertising means and methods as the commission deems advisable and to enter into contracts and agreements for research and advertising within and without the state.

(k) To cooperate with any local, state

or national organization or agency, whether voluntary or created by the law of any state or by national law, engaged in work or activities similar to the work and activities of the commission, and to enter into contracts and agreements with such organizations or agencies for carrying on a joint campaign of research, education and publicity.

(L) To lease, purchase or own the real or personal property deemed necessary in the administration of this chapter.

(m) To prosecute in the name of the State of Oregon, any suit or action for the collection of the tax or assessment provided for in ORS 578.210.

(n) To adopt, rescind, modify and amend all necessary and proper orders, resolutions and regulations for the procedure and exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties.

578.100 Commission accepting grants, donations and gifts. The commission may accept grants, donations and gifts of funds from any source for expenditure for any purposes consistent with this chapter which may be specified as a condition of any grant, donation or gift. All funds received by the commission under the authority of this section shall be delivered to the State Treasurer and shall be deposited in the Oregon Wheat Commission Fund and shall be subject to withdrawal therefrom in the same manner as provided in this chapter for the withdrawal of the other funds therein.

578.110 Bonds of agents and employees. The commission may require the administrator, or any agent or employee appointed by the commission, to give a bond payable to the State of Oregon in the amount and with the security and containing the terms and conditions the commission prescribes. The cost of the bonds is an administrative expense under this chapter.

578.120 Appointment of administrator; duties; salary. The commission shall appoint an administrator, who shall devote full time to the administration of this chapter. The administrator is an ex officio member, without vote, of the commission. He shall proceed immediately to prepare the plans and general program necessary and adequate to carry out the policies that are adopted by the commission. The administrator shall be paid the salary fixed by the commission, but his salary shall not exceed \$10,000 annually.

578.130 Establishment of administrator's office. For the convenience of the majority of those most likely to be affected in the administration of this chapter, the administrator, upon recommendation of the commission, may establish and maintain an office for the administrator, at any place the commission selects.

578.140 State not liable for acts of commission or its employees. The State of Oregon is not liable for the acts or omissions of the commission or any member thereof or any officer, agent or employee thereof.

578.150 to 578.200 [Reserved for expansion]

WHEAT COMMISSION FUND TAX

578.210 Imposition of tax. (1) All funds expended in the administration of this chapter and for the payment of all claims whatsoever, growing out of the performance of any duties or activities pursuant to this chapter, shall be paid by a tax of one-half cent per bushel upon all wheat grown in this state and sold through commercial channels, beginning with and including wheat harvested in the crop of 1947, and each and every crop thereafter.

(2) The tax shall be levied and assessed to the grower at the time of sale, and shall be deducted by the first purchaser from the price paid to the grower at the time of sale, or, in case of a lienholder who may possess such wheat under his lien, the tax shall be deducted by the lienholder from the proceeds of the claim secured by such lien at the time the wheat is pledged or mortgaged. The tax shall be deducted as provided in this section whether the wheat is stored in this or any other state.

(3) The tax constitutes a lien prior to all other liens and encumbrances upon such wheat, except liens created by operation of a statute of this state.

578.220 Delivery of invoices to grower.

(1) The purchaser at the time of settlement shall make and deliver separate invoices for each purchase to the grower.

(2) The invoices shall be on forms

approved by the commission, and shall show:

(a) The name and address of the grower and seller.

(b) The name and address of the purchaser.

(c) The number of bushels of wheat so sold.

(d) The date of the purchase.

(3) The invoices shall be legibly written and shall have no corrections or erasures on the face thereof.

(4) No person shall alter any part of an invoice.

578.230 Payment of tax; disposition of receipts; continuing appropriation. (1) The tax imposed in ORS 578.210 shall, on or before the twentieth day of the calendar month following the date of settlement, be paid by the first purchaser to the administrator who shall receipt the purchaser therefor and promptly turn the moneys over to the State Treasurer, who shall deposit them in the General Fund of the state to the credit of a special account to be known as Oregon Wheat Commission Fund.

(2) All moneys so deposited hereby are appropriated for expenditure in the administration of this chapter, and for the payment of claims based upon obligations incurred in the performance of the activities and functions set forth in this chapter.

(3) The Secretary of State shall audit all claims duly approved by the Oregon Wheat Commission lawfully incurred in pursuance of the appropriation and shall draw his warrants on the State Treasurer in payment thereof.

578.240 to 578.980 [Reserved for expansion]

PENALTIES

578.990 Penalties. Violation of any of the provisions of this chapter is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$500, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 30 nor more than 90 days, or by both. District and justice courts have concurrent jurisdiction with circuit courts in all prosecutions under this chapter.

