



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Strawberry Commission

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DATE: May 3, 2021
TO: Oregon Organic Strawberry Growers
FROM: Oregon Strawberry Commission
RE: 2021 Organic Assessment Responsibility

This letter is to provide you with a brief overview of the Oregon Strawberry Commission and your opportunities and responsibilities as an organic strawberry grower in Oregon.

The Oregon Strawberry Commission (OSC) was established in 1967 and was the first Oregon berry commission to be created by the state. The OSC's mission is to benefit the growers through promotion, research and education. The OSC has seven commissioners: five growers, one packer, and one public member.

Oregon State law requires that assessment fees be paid by Oregon fresh market strawberry growers for strawberries grown and sold in Oregon at the rate of 1% of the gross sales sold during the crop year. For fresh market growers and grower packers the OSC provides an average price each year. This is based on the annual average packer price which is less than the fresh market price. The average price is used by the grower to determine their gross sales and for calculating assessments due. This is the minimum rate that can be used to calculate grower assessments.

An organic producer will be exempt from assessment if the producer presents the following information to the commission by September 15th of each year:

- (a) Either: (i) A current certificate from a certifying agent under the Organic Foods Production Act, 7 U.S.C. § 6501-6522 and its implementing regulations;**
 - or (ii) A statement of exemption from certification under the Organic Foods Production Act, 7 U.S.C. § 6501-6522 and its implementing regulations;**
- and (b) A production report signed by the producer containing the producer's name, mailing address, species of berries, and pounds and price for each species.**

Assessment fees fund our overall goals as a commission. In addition to the Oregon Strawberry Growers Annual Meeting held in February, we also hold regular public commission meetings throughout the year.

We promote and support Oregon strawberries through many venues including food service shows, conferences and food safety programs. We also support scientific research in the development of strawberry varieties and pest management. As a commission, we connect with the strawberry industry nationwide and actively support our members through communicating our concerns and issues specific to Oregon with our congressional representatives in Washington DC, and legislators in Oregon.

As an Oregon strawberry grower, we will keep you informed with communications in regards to meetings, events or any issues that may arise for our industry. We represent you as a grower and we welcome your participation with our commission activities or to serve on the commission as a commissioner. We hope you will join us to share ideas that benefit the industry and we look forward to your involvement.

Thank you.

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