



Department of
Agriculture

John R. Kasich | Governor

David T. Daniels | Director

Sunset Review Committee
Testimony on Agricultural Commodity Marketing Program Operating Committee
Deputy Director Janelle Mead
March 8, 2016

Good afternoon, Chairman Jordan and members of the Sunset Review Committee. My name is Janelle Mead and I am a Deputy Director at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on behalf of the Agricultural Commodity Marketing Program. The Department of Agriculture is respectfully asking for re-authorization of the Agricultural Commodity Marketing Program Operating Committee.

Organized under ORC Chapter 924, the law allows for agricultural commodities to establish a “checkoff” program. The state of Ohio currently has the following checkoff programs established: Ohio Beef Council, Apple Marketing Board, Corn Marketing Board, Egg Marketing Board, Small Fruits and Vegetables Board, and the Ohio Sheep and Wool Program. These boards work to expand marketing and promotions programs on behalf of the producers who pay into the checkoff program. The boards also work on research programs for the producers they represent. The board’s membership is appointed by the director of agriculture through the nomination and recommendation of Ohio’s agricultural membership groups. All the commodity boards operate this way with the exception of the Corn Marketing Board which is elected by their membership according to their program guidelines. The boards are required to submit audited yearly reports to the department.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Agricultural Commodity Marketing Program Operating Committee.