Ohio Sunset Review Committee
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Agricultural Commodity Marketing Programs Operating Comm

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Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

Chapter 924 of the Ohio Revised Code allows for agricultural commodities to establish a "checkoff" program through a statewide referendum of producers. Currently, the state of Ohio has the following checkoffs established through this process:

1. Apple Marketing Board
2. Corn Marketing Board
3. Egg Marketing Board
4. Ohio Beef Council
5. Ohio Sheep and Wool Program
6. Vegetable and Small Fruit Research and Development Program

These programs work to expand marketing and promotion of their commodities, engage in educational programming for producers, and conduct research to improve production of and develop new uses for their commodities.

Agency’s past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff

These programs are member-led and work to provide value enhancing opportunities for Ohio's agricultural commodities. The members of these programs are not state employees however, the director of agriculture, or the director's designee, is an ex-officio voting member of the operating committee.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture workload is minimal when compared to the work of the programs. The Director's designee attends quarterly meetings and reviews required reports to ensure compliance with Ohio law.

ORC 924.12 requires that the Department hold a “continuation hearing” to solicit testimony from Ohio producers as to whether the program should continue. These hearings act in a similar manner to the Sunset Review Committee to determine whether the marketing program should continue or be suspended. If the Director recommends the termination of the program, a statewide referendum shall be held to determine the will of the commodity's producers.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

The programs and their work are not funded with state funds. They are solely funded through collection of the checkoff assessment.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

Members of the programs vary and may represent geographical areas in the state. The director, or the director's designee, is an ex officio member of each operating committee, with the right to vote.

Members of these operating committees are appointed by the Director through the nomination and recommendation of Ohio's agriculture stakeholders. The Corn Marketing Program is the exception to this rule where its members are determined through an election of eligible producers.

Members of the committees are entitled to travel reimbursement paid through the programs.

Additional notes

1. The Department recommends the re-authorization of the committees.

2. Nomination and any subsequent election are overseen by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

3. The Committee is required to submit monthly and annual financial statements which are audited by a certified accounting agency.