

Thistle Hill Farm  
3717 Lincoln Dr  
Ontario Oregon 97914

09/23/2025

To Malheur Planning and Zoning Board Members:  
To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to thank you for this process.

My family and I were blessed many years ago with the stewardship of this farm. We have diligently labored to improve it. It was originally our intention to have a strawberry farm with a hospitality venue of some sort, whether it be a Bed and Breakfast or a venue.

It has not been easy. We hand planted 3000 strawberries the first year, a former neighbor spraying the ditch in 80-degree weather and the drift of the spray killing hundreds of the plants. We moved the strawberries to raised beds for easier maintenance and harvesting and the voles devastated them last year. It would take more funds to invest in the strawberries to get them established again. We started focusing on the hospitality part of the farm about 4 years ago. This was no secret with our neighbors, we purchased 90% of the landscaping from them over the years. My wife and I have worked multiple jobs to make ends meet while the strawberries got established. But in the end, nothing worthwhile is ever easy.

It was a dream of our family to continue to build this farm into a beautiful show place and be able to share it. It was to be a place where happy memories can be made of special occasion. Currently, we have tried like so many others in the farming community to make money off our small farm. Its has become apparent by the opposition from our neighbors that this venue is no longer an option to pay the bills.

Therefore, we as a family through prayer and God's guidance we have decided to liquidate our tangible assets including the real estate. We are now in that process, to continue to pursue the conditional use permit is no longer viable; even if it was permitted, it is not transferrable to the new owners.

I Randall "Randy" Hiatt rescind our application for our conditional use permit.

Sincerely yours,

*Randall D. Hiatt*