**17.698 FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION.**

All decisions of mediation and arbitration which result from section 17.697 must consider the following factors:

(1) prices or projected prices for the agricultural commodity paid by the competing handlers in the market area or competing market areas worldwide;

(2) amount of the commodity produced or projections of production in the production area or competing marketing areas worldwide;

(3) relationship between the quantity produced and the quantity handled by the handler;

(4) the producers cost of production including the cost which would be involved in paying farm labor a fair wage rate and providing them with adequate housing;

(5) the efficiency of farm operations of similar size and the projected prices of alternative agricultural commodities grown in the market area;

(6) the cost of production of similar sized handlers;

(7) the average consumer prices for goods and services, commonly known as the cost of living;

(8) the component of the agricultural commodity that makes up the producer's income;

(9) the impact of the award on the competitive position of the handler in the marketing area or competing areas worldwide;

(10) the impact of the award on the competitive position of the agricultural commodity in relationship to competing commodities;

(11) a fair return on investment;

(12) kind, quality, or grade of the commodity involved;

(13) stipulation of the parties; and

(14) other factors which are normally or traditionally taken into consideration in determining prices, quality, quantity, and the costs of other services involved.

**History:** *1973 c 736 s 8; 1998 c 373 s 13*