CLAIMS:

1. An ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet comprising:

an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer;

a boron compound; and

at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

(A) 0.0001 to 0.05 wt.% of a cinnamic acid component based on a weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet;

(B) not greater than 500 ppm of an alkali metal based on the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet;

(C) not greater than 0.06 wt.% of a conjugated polyene based on the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet;

(D) 0.001 to 0.15 wt.% of a lubricant based on the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet; and

(E) not greater than 100 ppm of an alkali earth metal based on the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet,

wherein pellet surface portions of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet have a boron compound

content of not higher than 1.7 ppm on a boron basis based on the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet.

2. The ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet according to claim 1, wherein the boron compound content of the pellet surface portions of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet is determined by immersing 4 g of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet in 20 mL of methanol at 30 °C in a stationary state for 6 hours, and dividing the boron compound content dissolved in a solution of the methanol by the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet.

3. The ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet according to claim 1 or 2, which have an overall boron compound content of 10 to 1,000 ppm on a boron basis based on the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet.

4. The ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a weight ratio (surface boron compound content/overall boron compound content) between the boron compound content of the pellet surface portions of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet on a boron basis and the overall boron compound content of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet on a boron basis is not higher than 1.38

$\times 10^{-2}$.

5. The ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet according to any one of claims 1 to 4, which has a water content of 0.01 to 1 wt.%.

6. A method for producing an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet, comprising:

bringing a pellet of an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer into contact with a boron compound to incorporate the boron compound to the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellet; and

rinsing the boron compound-incorporated ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellet so that pellet surface portions of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet have a boron compound content of not higher than 1.7 ppm on a boron basis based on a weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet, and

at least one action selected from the group consisting of:

(A') bringing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellet into contact with a cinnamic acid component so that the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet has a cinnamic acid component content of 0.0001 to 0.05 wt.% based on the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet;

(B') bringing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellet

into contact with an alkali metal so that the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet has an alkali metal content of not higher than 500 ppm based on the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet;

(C') bringing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellet into contact with a conjugated polyene so that the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet has a conjugated polyene content of not higher than 0.06 wt.% based on the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet;

(D') bringing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellet into contact with a lubricant so that the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet has a lubricant content of 0.001 to 0.15 wt.% based on the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet; and

(E') bringing the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellet into contact with an alkali earth metal so that the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet has an alkali earth metal content of not higher than 100 ppm based on the weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition pellet,

wherein the boron compound-incorporated ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellet, after being dried, is brought into contact with a water/alcohol mixed solution containing water and an alcohol in a water-to-alcohol weight

ratio (water/alcohol) of 80/20 to 0/100 or into contact with the alcohol in the rinsing of the boron compound-incorporated ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer pellet.