



## Promoting, Protecting & Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County.

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## SPCC: Spill Prevention, Control, & Countermeasure Plans

*SPCC Plan Seminar ~ March 25, 2014*

*Your facility needs to develop a SPCC Plan if it does any of the following:*

- Stores, transfers, uses or consumes oil or oil products above ground in any size tank(s) with a total aggregate volume over 1,320 gallons (containers of less than 55 gallons and/or permanently closed storage containers are exempt from the total); or
- Stores oil under ground in any size tank(s) with a total aggregate volume of 42,000 gallons (except for tanks that are compliant with the state requirement for Underground Storage Tanks); and
- Could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to a “navigable water of the United States” or “adjoining shorelines” considering a worst case possible scenario.

SPCC Plans were required as of May 10, 2013. If you have questions about if your farm requires a SPCC Plan or creating an SPCC Plan please attend one of the complimentary seminars sponsored by Marion County Farm Bureau and Ag Compliance Group.

Two seminar opportunities Tuesday March 25, 2014, at Brooks Regional Training Facility, 4910 Brooklake Rd. NE, Brooks, Oregon 97305.

- 8:30 am-11:30 am includes complimentary breakfast
- 12:30 pm-3:30 pm includes complimentary lunch
- 

Please contact MCFB staff by March 18, 2014, at 503-378-0595 or [jessica@marioncofarm.com](mailto:jessica@marioncofarm.com) to RSVP for this complimentary seminar.

## Fast Fact on Hot Goods

**Issue:** Two Marion County farms, Pan-American Berry Growers and B&G Ditchen, were forced to collectively pay \$210,000 for alleged minimum wage violations after the U.S. Department of Labor invoked the "hot goods" provision of federal labor law.

**Background:** In the summer of 2012, USDOL accused the farmers of unfounded labor violations and threatened them with severe hot goods orders. This tactic threatened an embargo on the growers' fresh, perishable blueberries, preventing their customers from receiving the crops, unless large fines were paid and declarations of guilt were signed — even before the alleged labor violations were identified to the farmers and without any due process of law.

On Jan. 15, Federal District Court Judge Thomas Coffin issued a ruling vacating so called consent agreements between USDOL and the two Oregon blueberry farms. Judge Coffin ruled the agreements invalid because USDOL misused its hot goods powers to the point of duress. OFB has engaged on behalf of the growers, B&G Ditchen Farms of Silverton and Pan American Berry Growers of Salem, since Aug. 2, 2012 when the new coercive USDOL tactics first came to light. The two farms employed a legal strategy developed by OFB and were represented by OFB legal counsel Tim Bernasek.

At issue are the two consent agreements signed by the farms after USDOL began calling customers and telling them not to receive berry shipments from the farms because the department was considering using its hot goods powers. The farms had over \$4 million in fresh-market berries in production and could not risk losing the fruit.

*Source: Oregon Farm Bureau*

(See [http://media-ofb.oregonfb.org/wp-content/themes/twentyten/pdf\\_ofb/012014\\_courtwin.pdf](http://media-ofb.oregonfb.org/wp-content/themes/twentyten/pdf_ofb/012014_courtwin.pdf))

**Legal Costs:** The two farms who have been part of this legal case have incurred significant legal fees to defend themselves against the US Department of Labor. Farmers from all over Oregon and the US will benefit from their willingness to stand up to the injustice they have endured. Marion County Farm Bureau Board of Directors is proud to announce that a donation of \$10,000.00 to the legal defense fund for this case. In appreciation for their steadfast belief in the principle of justice. Their actions will benefit all farmers who use labor.

## Marion County Farm Bureau—Farm Tour April 4, 2014

Marion County Farm Bureau will host a farm and port tour on Friday April 4, 2014. The tour includes a visit to: Chapin Farms new Hazelnut Drying facility and a display of micro propagation of rootstock, Crosby Hop Farms pelletizing, storage and marketing of Hops, Northwest Onions packing plant, Golden Valley Hay Press, The Food Innovation Center and the Port of Portland. Through the day you will be able to see farms and the products that they export through the Port.

Space is limited on the charter bus so sign up soon. The bus is scheduled to load at 7:45 am at EZ Orchards Farm Market, we will depart no later than 8 am. Lunch will be provided. So that we do not battle traffic back to Salem we will be stopping at Portland Brewery to taste some of Oregon's bounty after our Port visit. Appetizers will be provided. Full meals and beverages will not be hosted by MCFB

Please contact MCFB staff by March 26, 2014 at 503-378-0595 or [jessica@marioncofarm.com](mailto:jessica@marioncofarm.com) to RSVP for the farm tour.

This will be an informative fun farm and port tour. The cost is \$20.00 per person, no young children please.

## Marion County Extension Support Letter

Over the past few years, Marion County Extension budgets have been cut 25 percent because of shrinking federal and state resources. In order to secure a more stable funding system in the future, Marion County will need to ask voters to approve a new tax base just like 21 other counties have done in Oregon. Derek Godwin, Regional Administrator with Oregon State University Extension Services, visited the Marion County Farm Bureau Board of Directors in January 2014 and sought support of a resolution. Below is the letter provided to support this goal.



Citizens of Marion County Extension:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Marion County Farm Bureau (MCFB), I am writing to express MCFB's strong support of efforts to establish a Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District. As an organization, our primary goal is to promote educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement for our members and the farming, ranching, and natural resources industry as a whole. We believe that long-term support and sustainability for the OSU Extension Service in Marion County is critical to the vitality, growth, and the economic development of Marion County. Marion County has the highest value of agricultural production of any county in Oregon, with estimated gross sales of \$639 million for all commodities in 2012. Marion County is comprised of approximately 2,700 farms, encompassing 300,000 acres of land or about 40 percent of the County, operated by individuals, families, partnerships and corporations that produce more than 70 different commodities. Agriculture, food processing, the food and beverage industry, and other related industries are important to our county and state's economy with nearly 1 of every 8 jobs in Oregon relying on agriculture. Marion County's economic success is directly tied to the continued success of agriculture production.

The OSU Extension Service in Marion County plays a vital role in conducting research, providing training, and working side by side with urban and rural residents, farmers, and others to offer research-proven, objective information that helps individuals solve problems, promote leadership, and manage resources wisely. Their presence in Marion County must be sustained and expanded for the advancement of our agricultural and natural resource industries. They also provide a critical foundation to our communities' future by providing young people the opportunities and environments to gain life skills and experiences in science, healthy living and citizenship through the 4-H youth development program. We also acknowledge the importance of Extension work in nutrition, family and community health, gardening, and home horticulture. The OSU Extension Service positively affects the lives of many Marion County residents. The Marion County Farm Bureau, representing over 600 farm members and approximately 2,000 affiliate members, supports the efforts of the Citizens for Marion County Extension in their formation of a special district to be known as the Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District.

Sincerely,

Marion County Farm Bureau Board of Directors



Marion County Farm Bureau  
1284 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301  
503.378.0595

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## Important Dates

March 19, 2014—MCFB Board Meeting

*Guests: Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian*

*Daniel J Arp, Dean of the School of Agriculture, OSU*

March 25, 2014—SPCC Ag Compliance Seminar

April 4, 2014—Farm Tour

April 16, 2014—MCFB Board Meeting

April 26-27, 2014—Ag Fest

May 21, 2014— MCFB Board Meeting

### ***Don't Miss Your Newsletter!***

In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, MCFB plans to switch to e-newsletters to save money on printing and postage. Members are encouraged to forward your email address to [jessica@marioncofarm.com](mailto:jessica@marioncofarm.com)

**Visit the Marion County Farm Bureau website at [www.marioncofarm.com](http://www.marioncofarm.com)  
to review recent newsletters, important events, board activity and legislative updates.**