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President's Message

John Zielinski
MCFB President

Oregon, along with the rest of the nation, is in the midst of what promises to be one of the most robust, if not the most contentious, election seasons ever. Should the legislature regulate which crops are grown in Oregon? Should there be a gross receipts tax? What relief should be offered to small business in response to recent changes in Oregon's labor laws such as paid sick leave and the new tiered minimum wage scale?

Marion County Farm Bureau, a non-partisan organization, strives to identify those candidates who support the farming community and the business of farming. To that end, the Board will once again hold candidate interviews with Marion County's incumbent legislators and candidates to have a meaningful dialogue with them about issues of concern to our members.

Questions like the ones posed above will be used to gage support for the farming community. Our Board of Directors will share our recommendations with you, the Marion County Farm Bureau members, in the October newsletter and on our Facebook page. We feel it is important that you know where the candidates stand on the issues which impact agri-business.

What can you do? The single most important thing you can do this election season is to **vote!** You can be assured that those who want to tax businesses, including farm operations, to support bigger government and to increase regulations, will make their voices heard at the ballot box this November. We need to make 100 percent certain that the voices of the farming and ranching community are raised equally as loud.

You may argue, as many do, that the voters of the Portland metro area often determine the outcome of Oregon politics, but that is only true if you allow it to be. In the previous gubernatorial race, the under vote in rural areas (those who chose not to vote), would have put the Ag friendly candidate in the Governor's Office. So I challenge you to fill-out and mail-in your ballot... Your vote matters!

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Ready for the 2016 General Election?

The 2016 General Election is scheduled for November 8—are you registered to vote? The last day to register to vote in the General Election is October 18, 2016. You can register to vote or update your current voter status on-line at www.oregonvotes.gov. Contact the Oregon Secretary of State's office at 1-866-673-VOTE for additional information.

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Marion County Fair 'STEAMs' Ahead

Dylan Wells
MCFB Board Member

What do Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) have to do with Marion County agriculture? Darn near everything according to Marion County Fair. Thanks to support from The Marion County Farm Bureau, Country Financial, and other sponsors, the educational system known as STEAM is coming to the fair.

Members from the Marion County Fair Board attended the Oregon Fairs Association Conference and learned how STEAM was successful at the Alameda County Fair (California). The idea was that the STEAM program offered new ways to attract students and incorporate current trends into the fair.

The presentation about STEAM encouraged fairs to find partners already using STEAM in other areas, especially schools. School districts have been using STEM, and recently added the A for Arts. Marion County Fair thinks STEAMA has been started here – with the last A representing Agriculture. Examples of some of the STEAM projects currently in development for this year's fair include:

Science - Cross contamination demonstration, featuring a black light system set up near a hand washing sink with an informational board about germs.

Technology – Use of computers, GPS, and drones to map fields and drive machinery.

Engineering - Lego – from bridge building to popular mechanics.

Art – Join the fun in a giant paint-by-number being created by the OSU Extension.

Milk Mathematics – Offering a display board in the dairy barn detailing how much milk is consumed in Marion County, how much milk a single cow produces, and how many cows are required to provide an annual supply of milk to Marion County.

Of course, **Agriculture** is what ties all this back to the County Fair. The need for our next generation to understand the demands of a changing world of agriculture and how their education and mastery of all elements of STEAM can help make our world a better, safer, more productive place to live and work.

The 2016 Marion County Fair will be July 7-10 at the Oregon State Fair & Expo Center. General admission is \$9 for adults (12 and over), \$5 for seniors (62 & older), \$5 for youths (6–11), free for children (under 6); parking is free every day. For more information, visit the fair's website at <http://www.co.marion.or.us/CS/Fair/visit/Pages/default.aspx>.



2016 General Election (cont'd)

In addition to the national and statewide elections, a number of candidates for state legislative seats will be vying for your vote: A complete listing of the Marion County candidates for the state legislature includes:

Marion County Candidates for State Senator

9th District: Fred Girod-R; Rich Harisay-D

12th District: Brian Boquist-R; Ross Schwartzendruber-D

Marion County Candidates for State Representatives

17th District: Jeffrey Goodwin-I; Sherrie Sprenger-R

18th District: Vic Gilliam-R; Tom Kane-D

19th District: Jodi Hack-R; Larry Trott-D

20th District: Paul Evans-D; Laura Morett-R

22nd District: Teresa Leon-D; Patti Milne-R

23rd District: Mike Nearman-R; Jim Thompson-D

25th District: Sharon Freeman-D; Bill Post-R



It Pays to be a Member of Farm Bureau

Dylan Wells

MCFB Board Member

Our strength as an organization comes from two main places: the volume of members and how active those members are. Marion County Farm Bureau is a very active farm bureau. Part of this strength comes from our vicinity to Salem; the fact that the capital is right in our backyard makes it very easy for our members to get out and be heard in the legislature and the community, but there is a lot more going on with our membership than just the advocacy in Salem for agriculture.

Marion County has a thriving Ag Tour program. Over the past three years, members and guests have been to a multitude of different agri-business and related locations, met the proprietors, and toured their operations. Members have been able to attend free First Aid and CPR classes both in Spanish and English. The volunteer hours and monetary support provided for FFA & 4H programs, the Oregon Dairy Princess program, Ag Fest, and Marion County Fair are all areas of pride for our organization. As we all know, educating youth and growing their interest in agriculture will be the best way to continue to build strong membership.

Farm Bureau membership has some very tangible, cost-savings benefits as well. Do you have any travel planned soon? Do you have a Verizon business account? Do you order parts and supplies from Grainger? Are you going to buy a new Polaris? If you said "Yes" to any of these questions, as a member of Farm Bureau you can be eligible for discounts! Discounts that can add up to more than you pay for Farm Bureau membership!

Please be sure your farm bureau membership is current and invite your neighbor to join! Membership packets are available at the Marion County Farm Bureau office or by contacting the MCFB staff at 503-378-0595.

MCFB Scholarship Winners Announced

At its June meeting, the Marion County Farm Bureau awarded four scholarships, two in memory of Mary Petzel and two in memory of Scott Miller:

Edith Santos was awarded one of the Mary Petzel scholarships. Edith is currently a senior at Gervais High School. As an active member in Gervais FFA, Edith has worked at their FFA pumpkin patch, volunteered for Ag in the Classroom, and also participated in many contests. She is a dedicated member of her community having been involved in many events including Oktoberfest, Sacred Heart Coin Drive, and Aguilas De Oro. Edith plans to attend Chemeketa Community college this fall and then study at the University of Oregon majoring in Biology and Business Administration, planning to become a dentist.

Andrew Miles was also awarded one of the Mary Petzel scholarships. Andrew is currently enrolled at Oregon State University majoring in Agricultural Education. Andrew grew up on a farm in Fort Rock, Oregon, and has always known that he wanted a career in agriculture. He not only has spent time learning here in Oregon, he also took an opportunity to study in New Zealand for a farm management internship where he gained valuable skills and knowledge about seed production. Andrew plans to become a high school ag teacher upon graduation from OSU.

Richard Schurter is a recipient of funds from the Scott Miller scholarship. Richard grew up on a farm in Silverton, Oregon, and has spent his whole life out on the farm. He has a passion for problem solving, especially when it comes to ag equipment and how to make it operate more efficiently. He has been involved in FFA, Silverton Robotics club,

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Important Dates

July 7-10 — Marion County Fair
Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem

August 13 — MCFB Board Meeting
Salem Office, 1284 Court Street

September 14 — MCFB Board Meeting
Salem Office, 1284 Court Street

October 12 — MCFB Board Meeting
Salem Office, 1284 Court Street



MCFB Scholarship Winners *(cont'd)*

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National Honor Society, and many other organizations throughout his high school career. Upon graduation Richard plans to attend Chemeketa Community college following a path of study that leads him to mechanical engineering.

Claire Zielinski is also a recipient of funds from the Scott Miller scholarship. Claire is from Salem, Oregon. Growing up on her family's farm has taught her the value of hard work and dedication that it takes to grow and harvest food. Claire's involvement with agriculture doesn't stop at the farm, she has also been an active member 4-H, OHSET team member, and worked at her family's farm market. Her community involvement also keeps her busy, including volunteering at St. Edwards Catholic Church, and the St. Paul Rodeo. Claire will be a sophomore at St. Mary's College of California this fall. She is majoring in Business Administration and hopes to pursue a career in agricultural business.

Congratulations to the 2016-17 scholarship winners! For additional information about scholarship funds available through Marion County Farm Bureau, visit the Bureau's website at www.marioncofarm.com.

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.