



1284 Court Street NE ★ Salem, OR 97301
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Important Dates

- October 14—MCFB Board Meeting, MCFB Office, Salem
- October 14—OFB Workshop on Retail Cannabis & Related Ag Issues OFB Office, Salem
- November 11—MCFB Board Meeting MCFB Office, Salem
- November 13—MCFB Banquet Quality Suites, Keizer
- December 8-10—OFB Annual Meeting Sunriver Resort, Sunriver
- January 10-13—AFBF Convention Orlando, Florida

25 Fields (continued)

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“Marion County has the highest value of agricultural production of any county in Oregon. This can only be the result of a concerted effort by state and local officials to protect farming practices and preserve the productivity of Marion County’s farms. MCFB believes there are other alternatives available to 25 fields that would not impede farm operations and we encourage proponents to further explore those alternatives.”

“The Marion County Commissioners have told us not on their watch, especially highly productive EFU (Exclusive Farm Use) land,” Bennett said. “The Department of Agriculture is not in favor, saying it’s not the right location. We all agree it’s a great thing for kids, but let’s create a spot where it won’t have such a big impact on farming.”

Bennett said one issue to consider is the impact on smaller roads in the proposed area if 25 soccer fields are built. “Long term, we need to think of the amount of infrastructure it would take to support that, and how would they support that,” Bennett said. “We’re not against a program like this, because kids need something. But let’s pick a place that will work. (The proposal) could really raise problems with what we do.”

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.

**3rd Quarter
2015**
Volume 15 Issue 3

Board of Directors:

- President John Zielinski
- Vice President Troy Hadley

Directors:

- Kathleen Carl
- Brenda Frketich
- Bob Dettwyler
- Roger Dejager
- Greg Bennett
- Joe Sherman
- Stuart Olson
- Keith Ditchin

Young Farmer/Rancher:

- Joe Sherman

Women's Chair:

- Connie Young

Voting Delegates:

- Brenda Frketich
- Troy Hadley

Staff:

- Genoa Ingram
- Jessica Carpenter
- Laureal Williams

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Images courtesy of xedos4 at freedigitalphotos.net

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Farm Bureau Denies 25 Fields Claim of Support

Excerpted with permission from the Keizertimes

More than once, Carrie Cool, executive director of 25 fields for Oregon, has indicated support from the agricultural community for her organization’s plans to build soccer fields in the Keizer area for Oregon youth. In a recent article in the *Keizertimes*, Cool emphasized the support her group has from the agricultural community. According to Cool, “We haven’t met a stakeholder yet that is negative on it. We have a positive impact on everyone we’ve met with.”

Not so fast, according to the Marion County Farm Bureau. Jessica Carpenter from the MCFB said Cool’s comments misrepresent support from her bureau.

“Our board has met with 25 fields, on more than one occasion, and suggested that alternate plans should be considered in an attempt to lessen the impact on the agricultural community,” Carpenter said. “The idea that Marion County Farm Bureau has been overwhelmingly supportive of the plans that 25 fields is proposing is inaccurate.”

MCFB board member Greg Bennett has land bordering the proposed area for the fields. “The people I associate with, the farmers in the area, they’re not against what needs to be done but they’re not thinking it’s a good location. I think we all agree it’s a great idea for kids, but they need to place it where it won’t have a negative impact on agriculture.”

This isn’t a new stance for the MCFB to be taking. Last July, John Zielinski, president of the MCFB Board, submitted a letter of opposition to the 25 fields project to Marion County Commissioners. Zielinski referenced a 25 fields flyer indicating MCFB was one of more than 30 stakeholders giving “overwhelming support” to the project.

“By association, the flyer’s message implies that MCFB supports 25 fields’ proposed use for the referenced property,” Zielinski wrote. “The flyer is inaccurate and an unfortunate misrepresentation of MCFB’s position.”

“While MCFB recognizes the good intentions of the proponents and can agree with the values that inspired the project, our members do not believe proponents have taken into consideration the impacts of commercial agricultural production practices operated in close proximity to the proposed 25 fields location,” Zielinski wrote.

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Salem Harvest Shares Bounty with Everyone

By Heather McPherson, Marketing & Communications Manager

Summer time is harvest time in the Willamette Valley and because of Salem Harvest, the bountiful berries, healthy greens and plentiful produce that the region is known for are shared by everyone in our community.

"We are harvesters," says Elise Bauman, President of Salem Harvest. "Our volunteers go into home gardens, backyard orchards and even large farms to collect food that would otherwise go to waste. We want the food to go from farm to family. Volunteers can take up to half of the produce they pick home with them and the rest goes to Marion-Polk Food Share to distribute to people who need it."

The simple concept of Salem Harvest was born in 2009 by a group of neighbors who got together to harvest excess cherries from a neighborhood tree. The commitment of volunteers has helped the organization grow. In 2014, 293,000 pounds of produce was saved from waste.

"With Salem Harvest, everyone wins," explains Bauman. "It's a win for hungry people in the community who receive healthy food, the farmer who donates the crop wins a tax credit, the people who harvest win because they work together and bring home food, and it's a win for all of us to ensure that produce is eaten by people who need it."



Photo courtesy of Dick Yates and Salem Harvest

2015 is already off to a tremendous start for Salem Harvest. If it weren't for Salem Harvest, we wouldn't be able to distribute nearly as much fresh produce in food pantries and at meal sites," says Abisha Dunivin, Vice President of Operations at the Food Share. "We hear from people all the time how important it is to receive fresh fruits and vegetables in emergency food boxes. Salem Harvest helps us provide that. We just built a new cooler and Salem Harvest has already filled it with strawberries." If you would like to harvest fresh produce, or if you may have excess fruits and vegetables that you would like to donate, please visit www.SalemHarvest.org. The Food Share is also looking for volunteers who can help sort fresh food. For more information on how you can make sure that everyone in our community has food, please contact 503 381 3855.

Marion County Farm Bureau Awards Three Scholarships

The Board of Directors of the Marion County Farm Bureau awarded scholarships to three college-bound young adults in time for the start of the 2015 academic year.

Korie Chapin, recipient of a Mary Petzel scholarship, was raised on and worked on a Marion County family farm since 2009. Korie will begin her college education at Chemeketa Community College in Salem this fall.

Daniel Schurter, also a recipient of a Mary Petzel scholarship, grew up on a family farm in Marion County. Daniel is planning to attend Chemeketa Community College in the fall; he plans transfer after his sophomore year to Oregon State University.

Claire Zielinski, recipient of the first annual Scott Miller scholarship, grew up on a family farm in Marion County, where she worked for both the farm proper and the family's farm market. Claire will be attending St. Mary's College in Moraga, California.

Marion County Farm Bureau offers three scholarships annually to members of Farm Bureau families. Check the MCFB website (www.marioncofarm.com) for details and to download an application form.

EPA Announces Revision to Pesticide Use Rules

Reprinted from the Federal Produce Policy website www.federalproducepolicy.com, October 1, 2015

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced several revisions to rules governing pesticide use on farms to better protect farmworkers on Monday, September 28, 2015. The revised rules are designed to modernize safeguards for agricultural laborers and make them comparable to safeguards that protect employees in other industries. Some of the biggest changes include the following:

- prohibiting children from handling pesticides;
- requiring workers to be at least 18 years old to mix, load or apply the chemicals on fields; and
- require mandatory pesticide training for farmworkers each year instead of every five years.

There are an estimated two million U.S. and migrant farmworkers, and the EPA reports between 1,800 and 3,000 incidents involving pesticide exposure each year. The current worker-protection standards have not been revised since they were introduced in 1992.

The EPA stated that the revisions will be published in the Federal Register within the next 60 days.

OFB's Bushue Running for AFBF Presidency

Barry Bushue, president of Oregon Farm Bureau and vice president of American Farm Bureau, will run for the position of president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. On July 14, Bob Stallman, who has served as AFBF president for 16 years, announced he would not seek reelection in January 2016. The election will take place at the AFBF Annual Convention in January 2016 in Orlando, Florida, with voting done by representatives from all state Farm Bureaus.

Involved in Farm Bureau since childhood, Bushue has served as president of Multnomah County Farm Bureau, a regional director on the Oregon Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and as OFB's first vice president. He was elected as state president in December 1999 and is currently serving his eighth two-year term.

In 2008, Bushue was elected vice president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. His leadership at the national level includes service on the AFBF Nursery & Greenhouse Committee, AFBF Trade Advisory Committee, a national labor taskforce, and a National Food Quality Protection Act workgroup. Named Agriculturalist of the Year in 2014 by the Oregon Agri-Business Council, Bushue has worked on numerous taskforces at the request of the Oregon Governor, the state legislature, and with natural resources agencies on critical issues.

MCFB Annual Meeting & Banquet Scheduled



The 2015 Annual Meeting and Banquet for Marion County Farm Bureau is scheduled for Friday, November 13. The event will be hosted at the Quality Suites in Keizer (formerly the Wittenberg Inn) at 5188 Wittenberg Lane.

The program is scheduled to start at 6:30 with time to socialize before the dinner and business meeting begin at 7:00 pm.

The business meeting includes the bureau's annual report and election of board members.

Watch your email and the MCFB website for announcements about the menu, dinner cost, and a request for RSVPs. We hope to see you there!