



Board of Directors:

- President John Zielinski
- Vice President Troy Hadley

Directors:

- Kathleen Carl
- Brenda Frketich
- Bob Dettwyler
- Roger Dejager
- Greg Bennett
- Jeff Butsch
- Joe Sherman
- Stuart Olson

Young Farmer/Rancher:

- Joe Sherman

Women's Chair:

- Connie Young

Voting Delegates:

- Dan Goffin
- Brenda Kirsch
- Troy Hadley

Staff:

- Genoa Ingram
- Jessica Carpenter
- Laureal Williams

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Images: freedigitalphotos.net

**Inside this issue:**

*MCFB Loses a Good Friend* 2

*MCFB Annual Potluck: December 17* 2

*Year in Review* 2

*Farm to School Program Awarded USDA Grant* 3

*Claiming a Section 179 Deduction* 3

## Can I Buy You a Cup of Coffee?

*John Zielinski, President*

In the winter, some folks are as busy as ever on their farm; for others, the pace is a bit more relaxed. Winter is often a time to catch up with your friends and neighbors. In that same spirit the Marion County Farm Bureau Board of Directors will be hosting four community gatherings in the first two months of the new year. Anyone who farms or is in an Ag support industry is welcome to attend.

We aren't selling anything or asking for money. No, the Board of the MCFB just wants to know what we can do to help make things go smoother for you in your operation. We aren't volunteering to muck out stalls or dig ditches, but we would like to know what political or other industry challenges you face. We would like to share with you some of the issues that we have worked on in the past year and identify those issues that we will continue to work on.

The four community gatherings will be held in different regions of the county to make it more convenient for you to attend. They will be in Aumsville, St. Paul, Jefferson, and Keizer. The location of the Aumsville meeting will be in conjunction with the Foothills Association meeting on January 7, 7 a.m., at Neufeldt's Restaurant. The location and dates for the Jefferson, Keizer, and St. Paul meetings have not been finalized yet. We will send out a card once all of the dates and times are confirmed.

One of the things that I hope to accomplish at these community gatherings is something that was stated very well a few years back by my friend Scott Miller, the husband, father, farmer, and MCFB Board Member who was tragically killed when a car struck his tractor in early October. I had been purchasing broccoli and cauliflower from Scott for a year or two, and in that time I had formed a pretty good idea of the farming and political challenges for his operation. I asked Scott if he would be willing to step up and run for a seat on the MCFB Board. He was reluctant, but I kept asking over several months: finally he said, "John, you know, if we don't then who will?" Scott was elected to the Board and served it well until his passing.

I am not asking all of you to run for the Board; I know that would be more of a commitment than some people have time for. Some folks have young families or are busy with other obligations such as church, the school PTA, or a commodity association. I am asking that you take the time to come to one of the four community gatherings and share with us what is going on in your operation.

The challenging issues facing Ag such as labor, pesticides, zoning, and taxes are only becoming more intense as political power becomes more focused in the urban areas of the state. With each generation our urban friends are less aware of what it takes to run a farm. We need you to tell us what issues you face; and if you are able, to get involved in some way. Now how about that cup of coffee?

## MCFB Loses a Good Friend and Valued Member

Long-time Marion County Farm Bureau Board Member Scott Miller died on October 13, 2014, when the trailer he was pulling with his tractor was rear-ended by a speeding car on French Prairie Road near Woodburn.

At a memorial service conducted October 24 at the Salem Alliance Church, friends and family members fondly reminisced about Scott's unfailing devotion to his family, his community, and his faith.

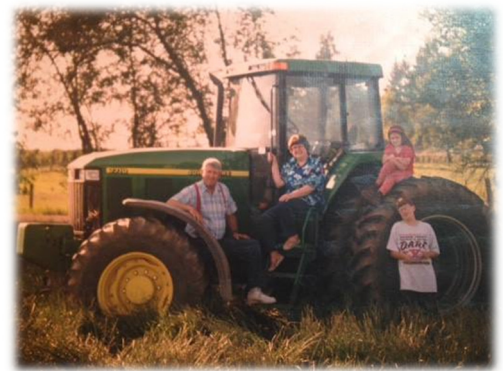
As evidence of Scott's spiritual beliefs, one attendee commented on the well worn condition of his family Bible by stating, "A Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't."

Speaking on behalf of the Marion County Farm Bureau, President John Zielinski noted Scott's commitment to service by re-joining the MCFB Board in the midst of a life already full of personal and professional activities. Scott's simple comment was, "If we don't, who will?"

In recognition and appreciation of Scott's leadership and service to the Marion County Farm Bureau, the Board has established a \$1,000 annual scholarship in his name. This scholarship will be administered under the same guidelines used for the annual Mary Petzel scholarship. In

addition, the MCFB will fund five \$100 youth driver education scholarships annually and will provide a \$1,000 contribution to provide materials and supplies for local driver education programs.

The Miller family has invited those individuals who would like to provide a remembrance in Scott's name to do so through a donation to the Salem Alliance Church Great Commission Fund.



## Annual Potluck Scheduled

The Marion County Farm Bureau's Annual Potluck will be hosted Wednesday, December 17, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the new offices of the Oregon Farm Bureau at 1320 Capital Street NE in Salem.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served at 6:00 pm, followed by an abbreviated Board meeting at 6:30. The evening finishes with potluck desserts and time for socializing.

All members are invited to attend; please contact the Marion County Farm Bureau office at 503-378-0595 to RSVP by 5:00 p.m. December 15 so we can ensure adequate food is available.

Attendees are welcome to bring a dessert of their choosing but are not required to do so.

We hope to see you there!

## Year in Review

Marion County Farm Bureau's Annual Report was presented to the membership at the 2014 Annual Meeting hosted on November 13 in Keizer. Highlights of the organization's involvement and accomplishments include:

- Support of Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District
- \$10,000 Contribution to the 'Hot Goods'-related Legal Defense Fund
- Opposition to the Proposed Location of a Youth Sports Complex
- Participation in the Development Fire Codes for Fall Festivals
- Meeting with Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian
- Hosting an Ag Tour
- Formal Support of the 'No on 92' Campaign

For a complete copy of the 2014 Annual Report, please visit our website at [www.marioncofarm.com](http://www.marioncofarm.com).

## Corvallis Farm to School Program Receives USDA Grant

*Excerpted from thepacker.com, 12/3/2014*

More than \$5 million in grants has been awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for projects in 42 states to help schools buy local food. Agriculture Tom Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the 82 grant awards. Among those organizations receiving grant funds is the Farm to School Program operated by the non-profit Corvallis Environmental Center (CEC). The Corvallis Farm to School Program received an award of \$99,112.

Established in 1994, the CEC seeks to educate and assist people in the areas of local food security, environmental education, and energy conservation. According to the CEC website ([corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org](http://corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org)), the Farm to School Program is a component of the Edible Corvallis Initiative. The program "makes connections between our food system and our school system. We work directly with our school districts to procure and promote locally grown foods. Our program is working to increase the use of local foods, encourage our children to make healthy eating choices and support regional farms."



"USDA is proud to support communities across the country as they plan and implement innovative farm to school projects," Vilsack said. "These inspiring collaborations provide students with healthy, fresh food, while supporting healthy local economies."

The USDA's Farm to School Program helps schools purchase more food from local growers. According to USDA's first Farm to School Census released earlier this year, school districts participating in farm to school programs purchased and served more than \$385 million in local food in the 2011-12 school year. More than half of participating schools plan to increase purchases, according to the USDA.

USDA's Farm to School Program is authorized by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which allocates funds for the agency to provide grants and assistance to help schools source local foods. Since 2012, USDA has awarded \$15.1 million in grants to 221 farm to school projects in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands.

## Tax Tip: Claiming a Section 179 Deduction

*Jeff Caldwell, excerpted from Agriculture.com, 12/9/2014*

The IRS Section 179 tax deduction for farm machinery, equipment and software has been restored for this year. So, if any of your big-ticket purchases in the last year -- or those between now and the December 31 deadline for filing -- qualify, you could write off the entire purchase price.

Before the Section 179 deduction, you could write off a percentage of the full purchase price for a few years; this deduction allows you to write off the full amount all at once. It was the federal government's way of adding incentive for business owners to make purchases sooner rather than later. It does have limits, though.

"There are caps to the total amount written off (\$25,000 for 2014), and limits to the total amount of the equipment purchased (\$200,000 in 2014)," according to a report from [Section179.org](http://Section179.org). "The deduction begins to phase out dollar-for-dollar after \$200,000 is spent by a given business, so this makes it a true small and medium-sized business deduction."

So, what qualifies? Any machinery, equipment or "off-the-shelf" software can be applied to the deduction. According to [Section179.org](http://Section179.org), if it's purchased by December 31, that includes:

*(Continued on page 4)*



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### Important Dates

MCFB Annual Potluck & Board Meeting  
December 17, OFB Board Room

American Farm Bureau Annual Convention  
January 11-14, San Diego, CA

MCFB Board Meeting  
January 14, MCFB Office

SAIF Corporation Agri-Business Banquet  
January 23, Salem Convention Center



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## Section 179 Deduction *(continued)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

- Equipment (machines, etc.) purchased for business use
- Tangible personal property used in business
- Business Vehicles with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 6,000 lbs (Section 179 Vehicle Deductions)
- Computers
- Computer "Off-the-Shelf" Software
- Office Furniture
- Office Equipment
- Property attached to your building that is not a structural component of the building (i.e.: a printing press, large manufacturing tools and equipment)
- Partial Business Use (equipment that is purchased for business use and personal use: generally, your deduction will be based on the percentage of time you use the equipment for business purposes).

And, the deduction also applies to equipment leases. "Leasing equipment and/or software with the Section 179 deduction in mind is a preferred financial strategy for many businesses, as it can significantly help with not only cash flow, but with profits as well," according to [Section179.org](http://Section179.org). "The main benefit of a non-tax capital lease is that you can still take full advantage of the Section 179 Deduction, yet make smaller payments. With a non-tax capital lease you can acquire and write-off up to \$25,000 worth of equipment this year, without actually spending \$25,000 this year.

As always, consult with your tax specialist and/or accountant to determine your eligibility for this deduction.

### ***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).