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# MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU



**Promoting, protecting & advancing  
farm interests in  
Marion County.**

## ***MCFB Board President John Zielinski's Message***

Ever since the economy took a down turn in 2008 I've been hearing the expressions "Agriculture is the backbone of Oregon" and "Small business is the engine that drives the economy". The terms "backbone" and "engine" are both strong images. The spine or backbone is critical in assisting the nervous system and forming the foundation of our body's frame. An engine's power is measured in horsepower and torque and they are used to power anything from a family lawn mower to large articulated tractors that work many acres of ground.

The "Backbone of Oregon" metaphor always reminds me of the murals in the state Capitol dome painted by Barry Faulkner. I have seen these mural many times when I have been in the capitol to testify or meet with our elected representatives about agricultural issues. Depicted in the murals are strong and healthy woodsmen, explorers, and farmers toiling in tall-masted ships, cutting down trees, and working in the fields. There is still a great deal of back-breaking work that goes into the production of Oregon's agricultural bounty and forestry products, but in this modern age, many of the hardest tasks that the pioneers had to deal with have been made much easier through new technology and mechanized equipment. When Oregon became a state, each business was considered a "small business," with about 95 percent of workers being either farmers or lumbermen. One hundred and fifty four years later there are far fewer farmers and loggers around, yet natural resource industries are still the backbone of our economy.

Recently, two local governments have shown their appreciation of the agricultural economic engine. The Marion County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution stating the value and importance of agriculture to Marion County's economy and the need to be supportive of agriculture and agri-businesses. Salem Mayor Anna Peterson is researching the possibility of an Agribusiness Incubator, to foster growth among processors and other agriculture related businesses. It is a good day for the local agriculture industry when local governments recognize, are willing, and wanting to show their support. Now, if we can just get the State and Federal governments to recognize the importance of agriculture perhaps we could add some real horsepower to the economy.

# The Business of Farming

By Jason Flowers, OFB YR&R

Oregon Farm Bureau's Young Farmer & Rancher Committee put on a leadership conference during the first day of the state's annual meeting. The title was "The Business of Farming," and was keyed towards multiple generations managing the farm. Dick Wittman took up a large part of the day talking about running the farm professionally while touching on successfully transitioning to the next generation. His discussion was followed by a couple of hands-on breakout sessions. After lunch Ricky Adams from Northwest Farm Credit talked about the importance of financial statements for farm management. Marty Tatman finished out the conference by explaining what makes the different generations tick, and how they can use that knowledge to better interact with each other. The conference was a huge success with 83 people in attendance. The committee would like to thank our sponsors that helped make this event possible: Northwest Farm Credit; Capital Chevy; and Linn, Benton, Douglas, Klamath-Lake, Marion, Polk and Yamhill County Farm Bureaus.

## CPR Classes—Time to Renew!

Are you and your foreman CPR certified? You are invited to sign up for a CPR class, with up to 2 people from your farm with voting member status attending for free. All others interested are invited to sign up at a reduced price of \$35.00 per attendee. Refreshments and lunch will be provided at each class.

Class space is limited, so please contact Jessica Carpenter at the MCFB Office at 503-378-0595 or at [jessica@courtstreetconsulting.org](mailto:jessica@courtstreetconsulting.org) to secure your desired date and location.

Classes are currently scheduled as follows:

Tuesday March 12, 2013 9am-3pm Brooks Training Center

Friday March 15, 2013 9am-3pm Brooks Training Center

Monday March 18, 2013 9am-3pm Jefferson Fire Department



MCFB board meetings are typically scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

The next few meeting dates are:

**February 20, 2013**

**March 20, 2013**

**April 17, 2013**

starting **6:30 pm** at

Location is usually at the MCFB Office,  
1284 Court St NE,

but please call 503-378-0595 to  
confirm location.

The meetings are open to any farmer.

### The Old Farmer's Almanac - 2-Month Weather Forecast

<http://www.almanac.com/weather/longrange/region/us/15>

**JANUARY 2013:** temperature 45° (2° above avg.); precipitation 8" (2" above avg.); Jan 1-4: Rain to snow, cool; Jan 5-14: Rain, heavy at times, mild; Jan 15-17: Misty, mild; Jan 18-23: Snowy periods, cold; Jan 24-28: Stormy, mild; Jan 29-31: Sunny, cool, then mild.

**FEBRUARY 2013:** temperature 50° (6° above avg.); precipitation 4.5" (0.5" above avg. north, 1" below south); Feb 1-8: Sunny; warm, then cool; Feb 9-16: Stormy, turning quite mild; Feb 17-25: AM mist, PM sunshine and warmth; Feb 26-28: Rainy, mild.

## Marion County Resolution Supports and Advocates for Economics of Agriculture in Community

Friends,

To build on the strengths of the region, the Marion County Board of Commissioners issued a resolution last week declaring the importance of agriculture in economic development. The resolution recognizes Oregon land use policy, statutes and rules that protect and advocate for the economics of agriculture; the resolution also recognizes that successful farm use today requires a combination of activities, a complex process that is ever evolving and brings continual challenges from market demands, technology, cost and other factors.

"Through this resolution, I am proud," said Commissioner Patti Milne, "that we at Marion County are now better poised to support agriculturally-related enterprises, employers, business and property owners in the promotion of economic development and higher standards of livability for our communities."

In response to the resolution, John Zielinski, Board President, Marion County Farm Bureau, commented, "Those of us who have been part of the agricultural community, in many cases for multiple generations, truly appreciate the recognition of our contribution to the economy and community of the Mid-Willamette Valley. We are glad that the Marion County Board of Commissioners recognizes our industry being the financial backbone of the region."

Please share the resolution and materials attached with your friends and colleagues. We welcome your comments, questions and concerns. Thank you for your work and interest.

Don Russo  
Economic Development Manager  
Marion County Board of Commissioners Office

A copy of the Marion County Resolution along with an editorial from the Capital Press is available on the Marion County Farm Bureau website on the Government Relations page at <http://www.marioncofarm.com/government-relations/>



### SAIF Corporation Agri-Business Banquet

Sixteen MCFB Farm Bureau Board Members, Staff and Spouses attended the SAIF Corporation Agri-Business Banquet on Friday January 25, 2013 at the Salem Conference Center. Farmer/Comedian Jerry Carroll was the Keynote Speaker and dinner included a choice of:  
A good time was had by all!

### National Ag Day is March 19 National Ag Week is March 17-23

This week recognizes and celebrates the abundance of agriculture. Oregon Farm Bureau will host a Natural Resources Day on March 19 at the State Capitol in Salem. Please join us in celebrating National Ag Day.

**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.**

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

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Happy New Year!

**Promoting, protecting & advancing farm interests in  
Marion County**

**Important Dates**

February 4, 2013—Legislative Reception—*hosted by OFB & WAC State Capitol 10am-3pm*

February 20, 2013—MCFB Board Meeting

March 12, 2013—CPR Class—Brooks—RSVP Required

March 15, 2013—CPR Class—Brooks—RSVP Required

March 18, 2013—CPR Class—Jefferson—RSVP Required

March 20, 2013—MCFB Board Meeting

April 17, 2013—MCFB Board Meeting

April 27-28, 2013—Ag Fest

***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@courtstreetconsulting.org](mailto:jessica@courtstreetconsulting.org) at your earliest convenience so you don't miss out on MCFB news. Those members who do not have internet access can request to receive their newsletters printed and mailed to them.