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Inside this issue:

<i>Scholarship Notice, Century Farm Program</i>	1
<i>Presidents Letter & Board Meeting Dates</i>	2
<i>Marion County Health CPR Class Updates</i>	3
<i>Important Dates</i>	4

MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Promoting, Protecting & Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County.

Mary Petzel Scholarship

The Mary Petzel Memorial Scholarship is made available to any immediate member of a Marion County Farm Bureau family preparing to study an agriculture related major at any Oregon University, four-year college or junior college. Applications are available online at www.marioncofarm.com, by contacting the MCFB Office at 503-378-0595 or emailing jessica@marioncofarm.com. Applications are due July 1, 2013.

Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program

Applications are now being accepted for the 2013 award year of the Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program, a statewide recognition program honoring farmers and ranchers who have worked the same land for at least 100 years. Applications are also available for the Sesquicentennial Award, introduced by the program in 2008, honoring families with farms or ranches continuously worked for 150 years or more. To date, 1,144 families have formally received the Century designation and 25 families have received the Sesquicentennial Award. Family farmers and ranchers throughout Oregon are encouraged to apply for the Century Award and/or the Sesquicentennial Award by the May 1, 2013, deadline. Successful applicants receive a personalized certificate with acknowledgment by the Governor and the Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. A durable metal road side sign to identify the family's farm or ranch as having historic Century or Sesquicentennial status is also available. Each family will be honored during a special ceremony and reception at the Oregon State Fair, August 24, 2013, at 1:00 p.m.

To obtain application guidelines for either award, please visit <http://oregonfb.org/centuryfarm/> or contact Sharon Leighty at 503-400-7884 or send us an email at cfr@oregonfb.org.

Soils, Slugs, and Solutions. A Workshop You Won't Want to Miss!

Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Conference Rooms at the Oregon State Fire Marshal Office

4760 Portland, Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305~Please **RSVP to: 503-391-9927** or office@marionswcd.net

Information about this workshop available at www.marioncofarm.com/events

MCFB Board President , John Zielinski's Message

Being involved in Farm Bureau has given me the opportunity to participate in the “behind the scenes” workings of our government from the local level to our Nation’s capital. I have seen how policy is formed, shaped, evaluated, and how it moves forward. From this I have found a greater understanding of why being involved or “at the table” is so crucially important. Recently I have had the opportunity to serve on a task force that Mayor Anna Peterson of Salem formed to assess how the city can better serve Ag-related businesses. At the county level, Commissioner Patti Milne recently attended the MCFB board meeting to inform us that the commissioners would be passing a resolution in support of agri-business in Marion County, and they have since passed that resolution. In advance of the current State legislative session, the Oregon Farm Bureau had its annual convention to review and modify the OFB policy book regarding all aspects of issues that impact agriculture. Several of us from MCFB attended the convention serving as delegates for the interest of farmers in Marion County. Now the OFB lobbyist are at the state capital daily, being the voice for agriculture, with our up-to-date policy book as their game plan, their policy bible.

In mid February, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. and represent Oregon at the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Commodity Advisory Committee CAC meetings. I traveled with officers from several other Oregon county farm bureaus who were representatives on the timber, horticulture and nursery committees. Our State President, Barry Bashue, is the AFBF Vice President and has been responsible in elevating the number of committee appointments from Oregon. This has given Oregon a bigger voice in the national Farm Bureau organization.

At the CAC’s I serve on the labor committee. It was my third year on the committee and in all honesty I was becoming frustrated with the fact there had been no change in the U.S. Immigration and Guest Worker Policies. The committee had made suggestions, one of which was to form an alliance with other ag interest groups, but there had been no real change in U.S. policy. This year however, I was able to see that the ground work we laid, from the two previous years was beginning to influence our elected officials, and I finally felt like we started to accomplish something. The alliance formed was the Agriculture Workforce Coalition <http://www.agworkforcecoalition.org>. The Coalition, a twelve member organization with one collective voice is having a real impact in the shaping of legislation.

When the CAC meetings were over, three of us Oregon farmers spent a day speaking with the staff of our congressional delegation. We visited with staff from the offices of Representatives Schreder, Bonamich, and Defazio, and staff from both Senators Merkley and Wyden. Because of the timeliness of the issue we focused our message on farm labor. Mainly, how important it is to have enough people available to get the job done. How the current workforce is aging, and that many of us require skilled labor for an extended timeframe. We shared our frustration about the U.S. Dept. of Labor over the issues of this past summer regarding the extortion of blueberry growers here in Marion County and the threatened use of a “Hot Goods” order. You may ask, “why did you not visit the elected officials rather than with the staff?” Whereas most government employees had that Monday in February off for Presidents Day, the House and Senate took the whole week off. This was of course at the time of the fiscal cliff debate, which makes me pose the question, would any of you take a week off if there was a crop in the field that needed to be harvested immediately? Anyway, I digress. Though it may not always be a smooth process, it is an important process. And you can only influence the decisions made if you are “at the table”. Ideally you can be involved yourself, which will help to make ag stronger in the eyes of the general public and our elected officials. If you are currently unable to be directly involved, we still ask you to show support for Farm Bureau and the other organizations that not only represent you, but who represent the interest of all agriculture.

Protect yourself and others from Whooping Cough

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a highly contagious disease that can be passed easily from person to person. Infants who are too young to be vaccinated are at the highest risk for becoming seriously ill. Childhood whooping cough vaccines wear off over time leaving adults at risk of getting sick. The number of whooping cough cases in the state of Oregon is at its highest since 1959. Adults with whooping cough often miss work and make repeated visits for medical care. They can also spread the disease to friends, family and co-workers--- and pass the disease on to infants around them.

Many adults don't realize that their immunity to whooping cough can wane over time. Adults and adolescents 11 years and older can protect themselves from whooping cough by getting vaccinated with the Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis vaccine (TDAP).

Vaccinations can be obtained from your medical provider or local pharmacy. The Marion County Health Department would like to help you and your employees get vaccinated. This spring they are scheduling clinics at local farms at no cost to employers as well as providing free vaccinations for those without insurance.

For more information contact Kelly Martin, 503-566-2956.

Safety Reminders

Marion County Farm Bureau put together two CPR/First Aid classes in March that were attended by over 50 members. Some things have changed with CPR and our members learned that offering compressions alone can save lives and provide crucial time to an individual while awaiting professional help. American Heart Association is calling on all Americans to learn how to give Hands-Only® CPR by watching a simple one-minute video at www.heart.org/cpr.

The instructor reminded of the importance of checking the supplies in First Aid Kits in your house, car and business. Supplies within First Aid Kits are often used as needed and restocking is necessary to ensure supplies are available when needed. Please consider taking the time each year to check supplies when checking the batteries in smoke alarms during Daylight Savings. Marion County Farm Bureau is exploring some options for bulk pricing on First Aid Kits, possible discounts on AED Machines and a Spanish instructed CPR/First Aid Class. Read future newsletters for information on these opportunities.

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

The next few meeting dates are:

April 17, 2013

May 15, 2013

June 19, 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>

MARCH 2013: temperature 48° (1° above avg.); precipitation 4" (1" above avg. north, 1" below south); **Mar 1-3:** Sunny, cool; **Mar 4-10:** Rainy; warm, then cool; **Mar 11-14:** Sunny, mild; **Mar 15-22:** Rainy periods, turning cool; **Mar 23-24:** Sunny, mild; **Mar 25-28:** Rainy periods, mild; **Mar 29-31:** Misty, cool.

APRIL 2013: temperature 48° (2° below avg.); precipitation 1" (2" below avg.); **Apr 1-9:** Periods of light rain and drizzle, turning cool; **Apr 10-16:** A few showers, cool; **Apr 17-22:** Sunny, turning warm; **Apr 23-30:** A few showers, cool. **30:** A few showers, cool.

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

Promoting, Protecting & Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County.

Important Dates

April 6, 2013—First Saturday Market Opens—Downtown Salem 9am-3pm

*** Weekly on Saturdays through October*

April 16, 2013— Soil, Slugs & Solutions Workshop—see pg. 1 for details

April 17, 2013—MCFB Board Meeting

April 27-28, 2013—Ag Fest

May 1, 2013—First Wednesday Market Opens—Chemeketa St—Downtown Salem 10am-2pm

***Weekly on Wednesday through October*

July 1, 2013—Scholarship Deadline

Interested in participating in a Farmers Market—applications available at:

<http://www.salemsaturdaymarket.com/applications-guidelines/>

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 at your

**Visit the Marion County Farm Bureau website at www.marioncofarm.com
to review recent newsletters, important events, board activity and legislative updates.**