



*Promoting, Protecting & Advancing  
Farm Interests in Marion County*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dylan Wells  
*President*  
Matt Schuster  
*Vice President*

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Greg Bennett  
Kathleen Carl  
Bruce Chapin  
Jessie DeJager  
Dana Estensen  
Anne Krahmer  
Stuart Olson  
Joe Ruef  
Keith Ditchen  
Lisa Stone  
Matt Dunbar

#### DISTRICT 15 DIRECTOR

John Zielinski

#### YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

Matt Dunbar

#### WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jessie DeJager

#### VOTING DELEGATES/ ALTERNATES

Keith Ditchen  
Bruce Chapin  
Kathleen Carl  
Matt Schuster  
Dylan Wells

#### STAFF

Jill Ingalls  
Caitlin Koenig

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Now that all of the election ads have stopped, we are being bombarded with the hottest toys that we just *have* to have! Board member Lisa Stone has been slinging Christmas trees for over a month now I believe; hard to believe since many of us in the valley are blessed to have many u-cut farms just a short drive away. Many of us say it is the slow season but there is a lot of ag still happening! It also seems that we have a lot of education going on or coming up in these next few months.



As a statewide organization we are meeting in Salem this year. This is when delegates from all the county farm bureau's go through the statewide policy book and see if we need to change anything or add new language into policy. It is a very interesting procedure and I would encourage you to stop in and see the process.

Positive actions have been happening at your county farm bureau level, some you may know about or be involved in, others this may be your first-time hearing about it. Our County Commissioners have asked us to weigh in on a couple issues that affect the farming community. We have positioned ourselves as a knowledgeable and credible organization and our voice has power.

My greatest compliment would be that you feel the same and trust us with your issues - that's one of the greatest benefits to membership. I feel that this relationship can only help the rural and urban areas of the county thrive; opening up lines of communication allows everyone to see each other's priorities and then work together on areas of overlap to provide consistency in policy. Three ongoing issues right now that we are in conversations with are: solar siting in the county, improving coverage from Sheriff's office; and Willamette water system allocation.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Let the wrap up finish and the planning for this next year turn into doing! This new year is going to bring opportunity to us that we have not seen in the past. Be open to change I believe that is key to our survival.

Please reach out if there is something that you want us to get involved in.

Dylan Wells  
Marion County Farm Bureau President

#### MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 12216

Salem, Oregon 97309

Phone: 503-877-1999

Fax: 866-509-3212

[www.marioncofarm.com](http://www.marioncofarm.com)

## Tax Workshop

**hosted by Marion County Farm Bureau  
before OFB Convention**

Kick off the OFB Annual Meeting by joining fellow Farm Bureau members to learn how new tax laws impact your farm or ranch. Speakers will touch on estate planning, Oregon Saves (mandatory retirement program), and best ways to make the new tax laws advantageous to your operation.

Representatives from COUNTRY Financial, Aldrich CPAs, and Dunn Carney will be presenting.

**WHAT:** Tax Workshop hosted by Marion County Farm Bureau

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018

**WHERE:** Salem Convention Center, Willamette A & D Room

**TIME:** 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**WHY:** Join fellow Farm Bureau members to learn how new tax laws impact your farm or ranch.

Speakers will touch on estate planning, Oregon Saves (mandatory retirement program), and best ways to make the new tax laws advantageous to your operation.

Representatives from COUNTRY Financial, Aldrich CPAs, and Dunn Carney will be presenting.

## The 86th Oregon Farm Bureau Annual Meeting will be held Dec. 4-6 at the Salem Convention Center!

*2018 OFB Annual Meeting theme: United We Grow Stronger!*

All voting and supporting members of Farm Bureau are welcome and encouraged to attend. Besides the grassroots OFB policymaking process, the convention offers a chance to learn about Farm Bureau's programs and priority issues, network, and socialize with farmers and ranchers from across the state.

All Activities will take place at the Salem Convention Center. The WAC Business Meeting and County Women's Business Meeting will take place in Suite 435 of "The Grand Hotel".

OFB Annual Meeting contact: [tiffany@oregonfb.org](mailto:tiffany@oregonfb.org)

## Second Natural Resource Leadership Class Underway

*Marion County Farm Bureau President Among those Selected*

REAL Oregon (Resource Education & Ag Leadership) has launched its second leadership and professional development class. Class 2 started last month in Ontario, OR where participants received a variety of training focused on both personal and professional development. Following the successful completion/graduation of Class 1 last spring, the organization announced in October the selection of 30 new natural resource professionals from throughout the state for Class 2. Participants were selected from a pool of well-qualified applicants and reflect a balanced mix of resource producers, agri-businesses, advocacy organizations, and government agencies.

The program is modeled after a similar and very successful program in Idaho. "Leadership Idaho Ag" is currently preparing for its 39<sup>th</sup> class.

REAL Oregon is a collaboration of industry and other groups throughout the state that have recognized the importance of developing and supporting leaders within Oregon's natural resource communities. In addition to networking opportunities and learning more about the diversity of Oregon, the program brings current and future leaders together from agriculture, fishing, and forestry for a series of five sessions based in different regions of the state. The annual leadership program exposes this cross-section of professionals to the wide range of Oregon's geography, economy, and culture through training in board governance, communication skills, conflict resolution, government interaction, public policy work, critical thinking, media relations, professional presentations, public speaking, relationship building, and other areas.

Class 2 includes nine individuals directly involved in production agriculture, including Marion County Farm Bureau President Dylan Wells, five involved in timber production and forestry, 11 from agri-businesses or other natural resource organizations, three from state government, and two from resource-related university fields.

"I am very excited to get this group together and watch them grow as leaders," says Greg Addington, REAL Oregon Executive Director. "This class will build on the solid foundation established by Class 1. We are beginning to fulfill the vision of building a solid network of agriculture and natural resource leaders who will benefit the state for many years to come."

Class 2 meets next in Roseburg, then in Newport in January, followed by Boardman in February and finishing in Salem in March. For updates and additional information, visit [www.realoregon.net](http://www.realoregon.net) and follow REAL Oregon on Facebook.

by: Greg Addington



*(REAL Oregon Class 2 pictured above)*

## Wonderful turn out for Marion County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting

A heartfelt thank you to all members who joined us for a fun night of camaraderie and important business. During our annual meeting, long standing board member Roger DeJager, was awarded a plaque thanking him for his exemplary service to the Marion County Farm Bureau and the Ag Industry as a whole. Unfortunately, Roger was not present to accept his award, but his wife Jessie was there to accept on his behalf.



(Above: Judy and Greg Bennett in their Sock Hop attire – Greg won best dressed for his Fonzie getup!)

During the meeting Anne Krahmer, formerly the YF&R county representative, was voted onto the board and Matt Dunbar was appointed to fill her YF&R county position. We ended our night with entertainment provided by Joe Stoddard, some dancing, door prize giveaways and a good old fashion best dressed contest!

### Your 2019 Marion County Farm Bureau Board of Directors are as follows:

Dylan Wells – President/Delegate	Dana Estensen – Director
Matt Schuster – Vice President/Delegate	Stuart Olson – Director
John Zielinski – District 15 Director	Joe Ruef – Director/Delegate
Greg Bennett – Director	Keith Ditchen – Director/Delegate
Kathleen Carl – Director	Lisa Stone – Director
Anne Krahmer – Director	Bruce Chapin – Director/Delegate
Matt Dunbar – YF&R County Rep	Jessie DeJager – Women's Chair



(Above: Jessie DeJager accepts award for husband Roger DeJager presented by John Zielinski)

## Solar Farming Workgroup

By: Dylan Wells

Marion County Farm Bureau is involved in a workgroup with members of solar energy developers and Marion County Planning Commission to make a recommendation to the Marion County Board of Commissioners on where to site solar arrays.

It has been a learning process on the many factors that go into placing a solar array. Such as: Demand for the power and how close the power source is to that demand, proximity to a substation, and also ease of access to the array for maintenance.

Why not say place it in Eastern Oregon plenty of land with few hurdles? The issue is the demand is here in the Willamette Valley. There is a loss when transporting the power over a distance, but furthermore the transmission lines are already very close to capacity. What that means is developers and public utilities companies want to place them as close to the demand as possible.

Marion County Farm Bureau is working on negotiations currently to protect our Class 1, 2, Prime and Unique soils - while allowing a little wiggle room for those places of ground where we struggle for good yields on crops. We recognize that having the option of solar might help us utilize unproductive ground more efficiently.

## Silverton Area Farmers Meet to Prevent Crime

Recently the Marion County Sherriff Jason Meyers, Commissioner Kevin Cameron, Rep. Rick Lewis and members of Marion County Farm Bureau met up to discuss issues in the Silverton area with regard to increasing theft in the ag community. As a result, some insightful conversation that was had and plans to prevent continued theft were initiated.

One of the most encouraging assurances was learning we should have more patrol units out in the rural area within the next 18 months. This comes as the result of hiring 10 new officers to cover the unincorporated area of east Salem - It was reported in the meeting that 50% of Marion County calls are for assistance within that area.

With the addition of more units to the department, there will be more opportunities for deputies to move out into the rural areas. Sheriff Meyers cautioned that this will take time and asked for our patience and cooperation. They asked us to get the word out that they are hiring!

This news is encouraging and here are things we can do to assist the sheriff's department with our safety and theft problems.

- Call it in – 5 gallons of gas stolen? Call it in!
- Report unknown vehicles in your fields.
- If you are having issues with organized events (Bike Rides and Runs) please let the sheriffs office know.
- Lock up equipment and also keep a file of Serial Numbers for motors, generators, and tools - report them in the case file when stolen.
- Document activity - If you are having constant issues, make sure to take pictures and record dates/times.

The Marion County Sheriff's Department has been made aware of crime in the ag community and are listening to our concerns - Let them know of the issues you are facing!



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#### **MCFB Board Meetings**

*Information subject to change.  
Contact staff to confirm details.*

**January 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.  
1320 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR

**February 13, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.  
1320 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR

**March 13, 2019**

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.  
1320 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR

#### **Other Events**

**December 4-6, 2018**

OFB Annual Meeting  
Salem, OR

Stay Tuned to our website and  
Facebook Page for info on CPR  
Training and Propane Handling  
Details Coming Soon!

Have you signed up to receive your  
newsletter via email, yet?

If not, please do so at on our homepage at  
[www.marioncofarm.com](http://www.marioncofarm.com) and stay in the know!



Please remember to update our contact information!  
Marion County Farm Bureau – PO Box 12216, Salem, OR 97309