



Volume 19, Issue 1

# FARM GRAM

A publication of the Marion County Farm Bureau

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

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Greetings, Members of Marion County Farm Bureau,

I hope each and every one of you are aware of the legislative session that is going on right now in Salem. With that, I hope you have responded to the action alerts that have been sent out via Oregon Farm Bureau. If you are not receiving these alerts please sign up at <https://oregonfb.org/advocacy/>. With our proximity to the Capital we need to be heard in numbers!

We are trying to get the message out to you in as many ways as possible. IF you have an issue you think we are not acting on please reach out to myself or our staff at [info@marioncofarm.com](mailto:info@marioncofarm.com). You cannot rely on your neighbor to speak up. The honest truth is your neighbor is probably not speaking up because they think you are!

Our 2018 membership was 604 members. If even the one person that holds a membership sent an email on Cap and Trade to the committee and your representative, then we have a shot of moving the needle. Think what could happen if your whole family, who is of voting age, sent an email, made a phone call or set up a meeting to come to Salem and have a chat? We could have a shot at doing something. Let us be organized and get our voices heard.

State wide only 1% of our population are farmers. We must be vocal and we have to make our message loud and clear. With that, I am using this message as a call to action! Send an email today! It takes five minutes and it will make a difference. Here is where you can find the information on to whom you should send your email:

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html>

Members, colleagues, and friends we have a big fight ahead of us. I am tired of being put to the way side. We need to unite and stand up and make our voices heard. Please reach out if you need help with writing something, setting up appointments in Salem or looking for a place for your voice to be heard. We again cannot let our neighbor speak for us. We must act together as farmers.

Final thoughts: If you want to track something through the Capital, look up what bills are floating around right now, or learn more about the Oregon law making process, this is your place: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1>. There is a wealth of information here. Get familiar with it. Speaking up is the only way we can protect our way of life we so dearly cherish.

Dylan Wells  
Marion County Farm Bureau President



## MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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## McKay High School re-establishes FFA chapter, expands program and invites community support

By Matt Schuster

The FFA Organization guides students through developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success while recognizing this as an integral part of agricultural education. FFA covers all aspects of agriculture from production farming, agribusiness and forestry to biotechnology, marketing and food processing.

It wasn't that long ago that the FFA program at McKay High School in Salem was decommissioned and most everything was sold. When the program was recently reinstated in 2015, the new Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor, Gerald Hosler, had nothing more than an empty shop and his own passion for agriculture to welcome his new students.

Over the last few years, Mr. Hosler has done a great job getting the program back on track. He resurrected the greenhouse and purchased some equipment. More importantly, he generated a lot of enthusiasm with a large group of students that do not come from an agricultural background.

He has provided agriculture education to over 1,300 McKay high school students and has approximately 30 students actively involved in the FFA program. He is expected to reach many more students in the 2019-2020 school year when Salem-Keizer FFA

becomes fully integrated with the district wide Career and Technical Education Center program.

While the school property has 6-acres for Mr. Hosler to develop a crops program, he lacks some of the necessary equipment. The crops program is going to reach students across the Salem-Keizer school district in a massive way. Mr. Hosler is developing a Farm to Fork program that will supply fresh produce directly to the Salem-Keizer Culinary Arts students. It will also include significant outreach activities to middle and elementary school students educating them about where their food comes from.

Will you consider supporting this program that is so valuable to our youth and agricultural community? Ways you can offer support include serving as a guest speaker, opening your place of business up for a field trip opportunity, and providing in kind donations or cash for the following items:

- Hand tools (particularly hoes and shovels, but all kinds of tools would be appreciated)
- Power Tools
- Potting Soil
- Seeds
- Planter
- Irrigation gun



Capitol Dist. Leadership Camp - McKay FFA Chapter - Fall 2018

For more information, please contact Mr. Hosler at [hosler\\_gerald@salkeiz.k12.or.us](mailto:hosler_gerald@salkeiz.k12.or.us) or Salem-Keizer FFA 2440 Lancaster Dr NE Salem, OR 97305 (503) 399-3080.

## Marion County Farm Bureau to host Ag Tour

On Thursday, March 14 the Marion County Farm Bureau will host a tour of agricultural operations in our county. The Ag Tour Committee has been working hard to make sure this is a tour you won't want to miss.

The scheduled stops are: Falconer Demo by Integrated Avian Solutions at Howell Prairie Vineyard, Wavra Farms & Nursery, Corban University (campus tour and info session with Tim Peterson head of their Agribusiness Program), Agri-Seed Testing, and BTN of Oregon. For more information or to register please visit our website at [www.marioncofarm.com](http://www.marioncofarm.com) and click on the event tab or click [here](#) to register. The tour includes lunch and light refreshments and is \$25 per person. Space is limited.

## National Ag Week: March 10-16, National Ag Day: March 14

March 10-16 is National Ag Week! Please take this opportunity to share positive messages about Ag in our community!

Here are some ways you can show your support:

- WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR! (letter template link <http://bit.ly/2NKengL> )
- Help share the story of Oregon agriculture on social media!
  - Share photos and/or videos from your farm/ranch, explaining who you are and what you do.
  - Use hashtag #AgDay19.
- Find facts about Oregon agriculture here: <https://oregonfb.org/about/oregon-agriculture/>
- Find general National Ag Day resources here: <http://www.agday.org/>



## Spring OFB Trap Shoot set for May 7



Mark your calendars for an OFB Trap Shoot and BBQ set for the afternoon of Tuesday, May 7, at the Albany Gun Club in Albany!

It's always a great time with fantastic prizes for winners, tasty food, and lots of Farm Bureau members in attendance.

The event is a fundraiser for the OFB PAC.

[GET THE REGISTRATION FORM](#)  
[BE A TRAP SHOOT SPONSOR](#)

For more information, contact [tiffany@oregonfb.org](mailto:tiffany@oregonfb.org)

## Cap and Trade Hearings Wrap; Hundreds of New Bills Dropped

*By Jonathan Sandau*

The Roadshow on Cap and Trade concluded on Saturday, March 2nd with the final hearing in Bend. Thank you to all the farmers and ranchers who showed up and made our voices heard across the state!

That week was also the deadline for legislators to drop bills prior to it counting against their session limit, so OFB saw a significant number of new bills on everything from CAFOs to pesticides and labor to wildlife management, bringing the total number of bills dropped so far to over 2,360.

OFB is tracking almost 550 of these proposals for a potential impact on agriculture. While the number of bills introduced will begin to slow down, there will be new bills introduced throughout the session that OFB will track.

With the deadline for bills to move out of their current chamber a little over a month away, OFB's government affairs staff is working nonstop to ensure that legislators understand the impact of each of these proposals and to try to minimize the negative effects on agriculture.

As legislative activity heats up over the next month, please be checking your email regularly, ensuring your neighbors are signed up for OFB's legislative updates and action alerts, and writing your legislators and legislative committees about proposals that could impact your operation!

### Get involved!

Join Farm Bureau's grassroots network — and do your part to protect Oregon agriculture!

Take action online with Farm Bureau: [OFB Advocacy](#)

Get informed: Sign up for OFB emails (includes Action Alerts, OFB Legislative Bulletin, and OFB News) [HERE](#)

## Marion County Farm Bureau Scholarship Opportunities

Marion County Farm Bureau is excited to announce scholarship applications are now available on their website!

The [Scott Miller Memorial Scholarship](#) will award scholarships up to \$2,500 in 2019.

Scott Miller was the fourth generation of his family to farm on their land in Woodburn. He farmed row crops and fresh market produce and was on the Marion County Farm Bureau board of directors. He tragically died when the tractor he was driving was rear ended by a vehicle in 2014.

To be considered for the Scott Miller Scholarship:

1. The applicant must be a family member of a voting or supporting member of Marion County Farm Bureau.
2. The applicant must be a graduating high school senior or a full-time freshman, sophomore, or junior at an accredited college or trade school.
3. The applicant must be from Marion County.

In 2019 the [Mary Petzel Memorial Scholarship](#) will award scholarships up to \$2,500.

Mary Petzel was the long-time secretary of Marion County Farm Bureau and was recognized for her disciplined approach to *all* aspects of the Farm Bureau. She also served as a member of the Oregon Farm Bureau Women's Advisory Council. Her family farms in the Brooks/Gervais area.

To be considered for the Mary Petzel Scholarship:

1. The applicant must be a family member of a voting or supporting member of Marion County Farm Bureau, **or** enrolled in FFA **or** 4-H, **or** majoring in Agriculture.
2. The applicant must be a graduating high school senior or a fulltime freshman, sophomore, or junior at an accredited college or trade school

## Application deadline is Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

Applications and instructions can be found on our website home page at [www.marioncofarm.com](http://www.marioncofarm.com)

**for more information:**

**Email:** [office@marioncofarm.com](mailto:office@marioncofarm.com)

**Office:** (503) 877-1999

## President Wells featured on KYKN podcast

On March 4, Marion County Farm Bureau President Dylan Wells was the featured guest on KYKN Radio's Newsmakers podcast.

Dylan did a fantastic job talking about his work as a pumpkin farmer, the Oregon agriculture community, its contributions to the state, and the importance of Farm Bureau. Listen in via link! #FarmBureauProud [LISTEN TO PODCAST](#)







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#### **MCFB Board Meetings**

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

**April 10, 2019 6:30 p.m.**

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

**May 8, 2019 6:30 p.m.**

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

#### **Other Events**

**April 20**

Oregon Women for Ag  
Auction  
Albany, OR

**April 27-28**

Oregon Ag Fest  
Salem, OR

Stay Tuned to our website and  
Facebook Page for info on  
upcoming events and calls to  
action!

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