

**FARM GRAM**

A publication of the Marion County Farm Bureau

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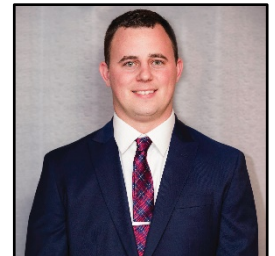
Jill Ingalls  
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**MARION COUNTY FARM  
BUREAU**

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Hello Members,

What a whirlwind summer it has been! Stephanie and I welcomed our second boy to the family (Drew) in the middle of June. Along with the excitement of our newest addition, we have enjoyed many engagements in the community, vacations, and of course a little farming.



The ag community has been busy as well. The #TimberUnity group is still gaining traction as the buzz and anticipation of what is going to happen in the short session continues to grow. The news of NORPAC filling chapter 11 bankruptcy was a blow to *all* Oregon Agriculture. I sincerely hope things turn out ok for all farmers involved with the pending sale!

Don't despair, there are good things going on for us in Marion County. The county is engaging in many conversations steered towards benefiting us all. One of those conversations is: Water. Marion County has made water one of the strategic matters they want to be sure to address. They have come to Marion County Farm Bureau asking about our needs. Is there infrastructure that we could use help with? Upgrades to help us be more conservative with our water use? Are there any stands they should take on at the Capital? Please reach out and let us know your needs for water on your farm and how we can advocate for you.

Also, September is the last month of our fiscal year. With that, we are currently short on Farm Bureau members to meet our goal. So please, I encourage you to talk to your neighbor and see if they are a member. Or is there someone in your operation that you feel should be a member to support the Farm Bureau mission? Let me know if you would like me to reach out and help encourage involvement. This community is something else - I challenge you to get one member to sign up!

With that short briefing, I am heading back to the pumpkin fields. The Wells family is just starting our harvest and it is looking like a good year. Until next time, happy farming.

Dylan Wells  
President



**OFB's Young Farmers & Ranchers Ag Tour**

OFB's Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee invites Farm Bureau voting and support members to a fun, educational, three-day agricultural tour of the Southwest Oregon Coast.

**Set for Oct. 11-13**, the tour will visit a variety of family farms, including a cranberry bog, cow/calf operation, sheep farm, oyster farm, and industrial timber processing facility. We will also have meals with local Farm Bureau leaders and enjoy the coast's beautiful scenery.

Tour will depart from Corvallis at 8 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 11, and will return by 5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 13. Get the registration form and hotel information. Cost is \$40 per person.

The tour is open to voting and supporting Farm Bureau members.

Lodging reservations & costs will be the responsibility of attendees.

Transportation for the tour Friday, Saturday, and Sunday is included. Attendees are responsible for getting to the departure location in Corvallis (to be determined). Most meals are included.

For more information, contact YF&R staffer Jacon Taylor at [jacon@oregonfb.org](mailto:jacon@oregonfb.org).

(source: <https://oregonfb.org/agtour/>)



*Pictured: Jay Thompson (left) and Tim Thompson.  
Source: Capital Press Apr 11, 2019*

**Marion County Farm receives Sesquicentennial Award:**

**Thompson Farm:** Founded in Marion County in 1868 by Alexander Thompson. Alexander Thompson purchased the Rice Dunbar DLC in 1868 after travelling through Idaho, Montana, and Washington states. The early crops on the farm were livestock (sheep) and grains. The farm in these early days was worked with horses. His boys James Jay and George Harris raised sheep. James Jay was known for his Sufflock flock and later grew fine fescue as well.

His son James H. continued raising sheep & grains and added pigs and a cherry orchard. Along with grains, James H. also sold eggs to local grocery stores. In the 1940's he bought his first tractor and the work horses were transitioned out. In 1972 the orchard froze out and was replaced with pastureland. The applicant Tim started farming with his father James H in 1973. The main crops since then have been horned Hereford cattle and fine fescue grass seed. With his father's passing in 1983, the farming operation was left to Tim. Tim started diversifying the grass seed species to include turf type tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, and hard fescue. Tim's son Jay H. joined the operation in 2008. In 2009 the first field of hazelnuts was planted with additional acreage being added through 2018. In 2016 Jay H, along with this wife and two children Trent and Annie (6th generation), purchased and moved to a nearby farm. Jay H. continues to work with his father. James A. another son of Tim's, now lives on the farm with his wife and their daughter Catherine. Catherine is the 6th generation to live on the Thompson Family Farm. Tim Thompson is the great grandson of the founder Alexander Thompson. (Source: <https://centuryfarm.oregonfb.org/news>)

**Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Awards Century Status to 15 Farms & Ranches and 5 Sesquicentennial Farms & Ranches**

By Andréa Kuenzi

(Salem, OR) – At an annual awards ceremony on Aug. 24 at the Oregon State Fair, families from 15 counties received recognition for operating as a Century or Sesquicentennial (150-year) Farm or Ranch. Fifteen farms and ranches were honored this year as Century Farms or Ranches and five farms reached Sesquicentennial status, bringing the total number of Oregon Century Farms and Ranches to 1,227 and Sesquicentennial to 46. Every Oregon farm and ranch has a unique history and special family story. The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch program encourages agriculture families to share, with a broader audience, these stories. By promoting family stories, rich cultural heritage is passed down to future generations while educating Oregonians about the social and economic impact of Oregon agriculture. To see the list of winners and 2019 family narratives, please visit: <https://centuryfarm.oregonfb.org/>

**Oregon Farm Bureau statement on Governor Brown signing HB 2437**

SALEM, OREGON, August 9, 2019 – By signing HB 2437, Governor Brown has signaled that good faith cooperation and solution-oriented bipartisanship are the "Oregon Way" and will be honored. We thank Rep. Susan McLain, Rep. David Brock Smith, and Rep. Brian Clem for their hard work, leadership, and political courage during the long, inclusive, and difficult process to produce a good bill that won large bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate.

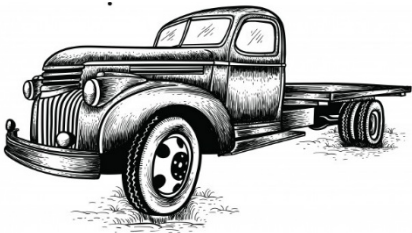
We thank the Governor for her deep study of the merits of the bill and the process that led to it and for signing HB 2437. We look forward to working with the Governor to address her concerns during implementation. We thank the Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited for coming to the table, rolling up their sleeves, and helping solve this long-standing issue.

Farmers and the environment both won today. More importantly, the Governor and all the involved stakeholders showed that the Oregon Way of solving problems together can still work.

(source: <https://oregonfb.org/media/press-releases/>)

**HB 2437** Authorizes maintenance activities in dry, traditionally maintained channels to be conducted without removal or fill permit subject to certain conditions.





**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019**

Mark your calendars – Registration information coming soon!  
We would love to have member involvement with the planning of this year's annual meeting & dinner. Please let us know if you would like to help!

Event Contact: Caitlin Koenig [office@marioncofarm.com](mailto:office@marioncofarm.com)



# Marion County Farm Bureau Board Member, Jessie DeJager Inducted into The Diamond Pioneer Registry

By Lisa Stone & Jessica Brawley

Jessie Boersma was born on June 6, 1941 in Freisland, Netherlands. She was raised on her family's dairy farm until her eleventh birthday when her family relocated to the United States. The voyage from Holland to the U.S was made by boat. Her entire family initially settled in Corona, California where they continued their family trade of Dairy farming. At 18, her family purchased their own dairy farm in Chino, California.



October 18, 1963 Jessie married Roger DeJager. The happy couple lived in Apple Valley, California where they started and ran a cash and carry business that offered milk delivery. Jessie managed the main office and Roger delivered fresh milk to families. As their business continued to grow, so did their family. During this busy time they were blessed with 3 children: Sandra, Peter, and Alice. Despite the success of their own business, Jessie and Roger still dreamed of owning their own dairy. To further this goal, the family moved to Corbett, Oregon where they rented a dairy for 3 years and had another child, Robert.

In 1972, with the purchase of 135 acres of farmland in Jefferson, Oregon, Roger and Jessie DeJager founded The DeJager Dairy Farm. Jessie managed the farm books, calf feeding, and their children, while Roger performed the day to day duties. Over the years, the farm continued to grow and gain recognition, eventually receiving the Oregon Dairy Farm of the Year Award. Once Roger and Jessie's children reached maturity, Jessie became increasingly involved in various boards and fundraisers focused around the dairy industry and the community.

Around 1983, Jessie became involved with the Marion County Dairy Women and the Oregon Dairy Women. In 1991 Jessie served as the Vice President of the Oregon Dairy Women and then went on to serve as the President from 1995-96. She later served as the President of the Marion County Dairy Women and the Treasurer for both organizations. In 1993 She was the recipient of the Oregon Dairy Women Appreciation Award, and in 1999 the entire family was acknowledged with the same award. Jessie is currently the treasurer for the Marion County

Dairy Women, while also serving as the treasurer for the Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador Program.

Along with her Cabinet duties within the Oregon and Marion County Dairy Women, Jessie also manages a large fundraiser called the Red Barn, which she has been doing since 1991. In addition to managing the Red Barn, Jessie spends a large part of her time serving The Dairy Princess Ambassador Program (a scholarship program established by the Marion County and Oregon Dairy Women). This program provides college scholarships to young women in exchange for promotion of the dairy industry. Her service involves escorting these young women to various events throughout the year, always being an excellent example, mentoring, guiding, and encouraging the young women along the way.

Jessie has also been a Board Member of the Marion County Farm Bureau for many years. She is very involved with the Oregon Farm Bureau's Women's Advisory Council and has devoted countless hours to raising money for the Ronald McDonald House. In the past 30 years, they have successfully raised over \$80,000 to support the 3 Ronald McDonald Houses in Oregon and their mission of providing a "home away from home" and a community of support for seriously ill or injured children and their families.

Jessie continues to be deeply involved with the Marion County Dairy Women, Oregon Dairy Women and Marion County Farm Bureau. She is a woman who is deeply admired by many for her hard work and tireless dedication. Her contributions are a testimony to who she is as a person and her commitment to endeavors that have a significant positive impact on the community. Jessie DeJager is a woman who does so much for her community and desires no personal recognition for all the years of hard work. The Marion County Farm Bureau is proud to see Jessie receive the recognition of the Oregon State University Diamond Pioneer Registry.



Portland RMH Donation, April 2019  
Pictured L to R: Kristie & Brooke Glaser, Jessie DeJager, Anne Rigor, and Anne Marie Moss

## SAVE THE DATE

**Oregon Farm Bureau Annual Meeting**

**December 10-12, 2019**

**Salishan**

More info coming soon!

Event contact: Tiffany Nino

[tiffany@oregonfb.org](mailto:tiffany@oregonfb.org)



The Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences wishes to honor people whose lifetime contributions to agriculture, natural resources, and the people of Oregon and/or Oregon State University have been significant. This award provides the opportunity to publicly recognize these accomplishments of individuals who have contributed to the well-being of their community, industry, or state. The Diamond Pioneer Registry was established in March 1983.



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#### **MCFB Board Meetings**

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

**September 11 6:30 p.m.**

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

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

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

#### **Other Events**

**Sept. 24:**

16th annual OFB Classic Tourney  
Woodburn, OR

**November 19**

MCFB Annual Meeting  
Brooks, OR

**December 10-12**

OFB Annual Meeting  
Salishan, OR

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Facebook Page for info on upcoming  
events and calls to action!

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[www.marioncofarm.com](http://www.marioncofarm.com), sign up, and  
stay in the know!

