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# Marion County and COVID-19

The Marion County Farm Bureau has had several meetings with Commissioner Kevin Cameron and members of the Marion County Health Department to make sure resources and supplies are available for growers as we enter harvesting season.

Marion County has released **Farm Worksite and Housing Health and Safety Guidelines** for area farms. It covers: preventing the spread of COVID-19, screening checklist for workers, what symptoms to look for, cleaning solutions and DIY tips, what to do when a worker tests positive, area medical clinics for workers, on-site education, OSHA temporary housing rules, financial assistance information, the latest resource links, English/Spanish informational posters. You can find it online at: [bit.ly/303g5f0](http://bit.ly/303g5f0)

The health department has hired an

internal Ag coordinator, Michael Keuler, to help organize and communicate between farms and the state. He is eager to help and get farms the support they need. You can contact him and his team with any questions at:

[health\\_liaison@co.marion.or.us](mailto:health_liaison@co.marion.or.us).

Oregon's Dept. of Agriculture has developed the **Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program** is designed to provide assistance to Oregon's agricultural producers and farmworkers to secure Oregon's food supply chain and protect essential agricultural workers from COVID-19 exposure and illness. A total of \$30 million in coronavirus relief funds have been made available for the program for housing assistance, field sanitation, transportation, and isolation quarantine fund. More information can be found online at: [bit.ly/2U2E7TG](http://bit.ly/2U2E7TG).

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## In need of PPE supplies?

Take this short survey at: [surveymonkey.com/r/8P6KTJJ](https://surveymonkey.com/r/8P6KTJJ) to let the county know.

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## Additional Coronavirus Resources

We have added a COVID-19 resource page to our website. It has links to the latest information and programs for area farmers and growers.

Visit the page at: [marioncofarm.com/covid-19/](http://marioncofarm.com/covid-19/)

## Rural Resilience Focus on Mental Health

Many American farmers and ranchers are facing an enormous amount of stress — and have been for the past few years.

From the pandemic, to international trade tensions, to low commodity prices, to labor shortages, to increasing regulatory pressures, many farm and ranch families are experiencing stress and mental health issues, either directly or by having a friend or family member in distress.

The American Farm Bureau has launched the Rural Resilience website, which has many useful resources for mental health support and awareness.

There is also a free online Rural Resilience Training anyone can do to learn how to provide better mental health support for family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else who may need it. Part of the training includes this Guide to Discussions about Mental Health and this Rural Resilience Scenarios document.

Please take care of yourself and your loved ones — and remember that Farm Bureau is here for you! Need more information? Email [annemarie@oregonfb.org](mailto:annemarie@oregonfb.org).

Need Help?  
Know Someone Who Does?

Contact the  
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:  
Call 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

It is free and confidential.  
You'll be connected to a skilled, trained  
counselor in your area.

For more information, visit the  
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
([suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)).

The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

## 2020 Marion County Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipients

The scholarship committee is pleased to announce this year's scholarship award recipients. We received many outstanding applications this year making the selection process very competitive and difficult. Congratulations to this year's winners!

### **Scott Miller Memorial Scholarship**

\$1,500 – **Sofia Zielinski** will be a sophomore at Linfield College in the Fall. She is enrolled in the Wine Studies/Viticulture program and grew up on her family's farm in Salem.

### **Mary Petzel Memorial Scholarship**

\$1,000 – **Emma Anderson** from Silverton is enrolled in the 5-year Wine Studies program at Linfield College and Ecole Superieure d'Agriculture. In Fall of 2020 she will continue her master's degree studies to receive her Vintage Master. Her goal is to be a Viticulturist.

\$1,000 – **Flora Noordam** grew up on her family's dairy farm in Mt. Angel. She will be starting at Chemeketa this fall as a freshman and she is looking forward to a career as a Registered Nurse.

\$750 – **Fabian Curell** from Salem is continuing his education at Oregon State University after graduating from Chemeketa. He will be a sophomore this fall in the major of Crop and Soil Science preparing to be an Agronomist.

\$750 – **Joseph Eisenbacher** from Woodburn will be entering Oregon State University this fall as a freshman. He is majoring in Ag Business with a goal of becoming a Farm Manager.

\$1,500 – **Turner Lear** from Gervais will be a sophomore at Oregon State University this Fall. His major is Animal Science which will prepare him for his goal of being a Large and Small Animal Veterinarian.

\$500 – **Abigail Berhorst** from Yamhill will be a senior at Eastern Oregon University in the fall. Her major is Ag Science and she is preparing to be a High School Ag Teacher.

\$500 – **Petrina Buchheit**, from Silverton, will be attending Chemeketa this fall as a freshman. Her goal is to be an Automotive Technician, but she also plans to continue raising meat and dairy goats as a side business.

\$500 – **Juniper Cosner** grew up on a sheep and cattle ranch in Weston. She will be a senior at Oregon State University this fall. Her major is Agriculture Science and her goal is to be a Rangeland and Ranch Manager.

\$500 – **Katelyn Millican** grew up on her family's farm in Gervais. She will be starting a dual program at Chemeketa/Oregon State University as a freshman this fall. Her major is Business and Agriculture and plans to go into Farm Management.

## CFAP Taking Applications

Are you a farmer or rancher whose operation has been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic?

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19.

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, or CFAP, provides vital financial assistance to producers of

agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline or who had losses due to market supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and face additional significant market costs.

USDA is accepting applications now through August 28, 2020. Application and information on eligible commodities, rules, regulations, can be found online at: [www.farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap).

# Help Highlight Oregon Ag

Among the heroes of the coronavirus pandemic are U.S. farmers and ranchers, families who're #StillFarming and #StillRanching to provide food and other ag products for society, while most Americans have been instructed to stay at home.

With so many people relying on online education and entertainment, there's a prime opportunity to highlight Oregon agriculture.

OFB 1st VP Angi Bailey, of Multnomah County Farm Bureau, is one of many who are sharing the story of Oregon agriculture by posting a video or photo of themselves on social media at work, using the hashtag #StillFarming and/or #StillRanching.

#StillFarming is a national Farm Bureau campaign and to date has had a reach of over 50 MILLION on social media. Please join in!

And tag OFB on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter so they can share your post!

Feel comfortable using social media? Then the OFB Social Media Committee needs YOUR help!

They're creating a new Social Media Crew to help share the story of



Kristie Glaser, member of the OFB Social Media Committee participated in the #StillFarming campaign.

agriculture across several social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

They'll give crew members content ideas, like the #StillFarming campaign, and alert them of Farm Bureau info, events, action alerts, etc. when OFB needs grassroots promotion on social media.

For folks already active on Facebook and other platforms, this is an easy, effective, and fun way to get involved in Farm Bureau and support Oregon agriculture!

To join, simply send an email to [ofbsocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:ofbsocialmedia@gmail.com).

## Extension Office Ready to Serve


The Marion County OSU Extension Office is all about the 3 F's: Food, Farm, and Families. They provide research, science-based remote learning opportunities to help Marion County youth and adults solve problems, develop life skills and manage resources wisely as well as ensure you have the information you need to protect you and reinvigorate our local economies.

Extension faculty, staff, and trained volunteers work alongside local partners to provide educational workshops, activities, and services tailored to the unique industries, natural resources, and people in our communities.

Oregon State University's land grant mission drives us to conduct research and share research-based education to improve economic vitality and promote personal and environmental health.


Learn more about some of the offices upcoming online events and programs online at: [extension.oregonstate.edu/marion](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/marion).

# Direct Agricultural Benefits of Biosolids




### Rich Source of Nutrients in Organic Forms

Biosolids are naturally rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, and to some extent, potassium. These nutrients are present in organic forms and, as a result, are less water soluble than the nutrients provided by chemical fertilizers. This allows the nutrients to be more available to plants in a slow-release form, often over several growing seasons, and reduces the potential for nutrient loss through surface water run-off. In addition to these macronutrients, biosolids also contain a certain amount of micronutrients such as iron and zinc, among others, which also contribute to healthy plant development.




### Improves Soil Structure

The organic matter in biosolids binds soil particles together which can reduce soil erosion potential and improve water holding capacity.



### Dramatically Improves Crop Yields

Improved soil structure promotes the development of robust root systems and maximizes nutrient uptake by crops. The slow-release of vital nutrients allows the crop to be adequately nourished throughout its development. As a result, crop production after biosolids application is typically significantly improved. In some cases, farmers have reported seeing crop yields doubled after fertilization with biosolids.





### Decreased Cost of Fertilization

The use of biosolids decreases a farmer's dependency on costly chemical fertilizers that must be re-applied each year. The cost of biosolids applications are typically very significantly less than the cost of traditional fertilizer.

Naturally rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, and to some extent, potassium

Promotes development of robust root system and maximizes nutrients

For more information, please contact:  
**Mark Stevenson**  
 Willow Lake - BioSolids Section

  
**503-763-3479**  
  
**mstevenson@cityofsalem.net**

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

If not, visit our homepage at [marioncofarm.com](http://marioncofarm.com)

Sign up and stay in the know!



## Farm Stop: *Al's Garden Growing Center*

We may not have been able to go on our Farm Tour this year but that doesn't mean we can't share a bit about the stops we were going to make. First up, Al's Garden Growing Center in Hubbard. This family-run business has been a part of the valley for over 60 years and there's no sign of slowing down.

In 1948, Al and Ann Bigej proudly opened Al's Fruit Stand. Housed in an unused chicken coop along Hwy 99E in Woodburn,

That stand has evolved into a third-generation family-owned business with multiple locations throughout the valley under the leadership of Al's middle son, Jack. His innovative ideas to bring in plants have kept the business successful and growing.

By 1982, Jack began putting up greenhouses behind the Woodburn store. In 1993, the greenhouse operations expanded to "the Farm" in Hubbard.

Though Al Bigej passed away in 1989, his legacy lives on in Jack and the Bigej family. Jack is still amazed by the growth of Al's



Photo provided by [als-gardencenter.com](http://als-gardencenter.com)

Bird's eye view of "The Farm" in Hubbard.

Garden & Home, "Most of our growth has come from our desire to find ways to offer customers better quality, as well as to keep good people employed throughout the year."

Our tour will be back in 2021! Keep an eye out for your chance to hop on the bus and tour Al's and other area farms. You can learn more about Al's on their website: [www.als-gardencenter.com](http://www.als-gardencenter.com).

Marion County Farm Bureau – PO Box 12216, Salem, OR 97309