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FARM GRAM

A publication of the Marion County Farm Bureau

Promoting, Protecting & Advancing
Farm Interests in Marion County

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From the President

It has been quite a year with several challenges to our area. It's been a year of pandemics, quarantines, increased health regulations, and just when we start to find a "new normal," wildfires up and down the state. Through it all, I'm amazed at how we've come together (figuratively speaking) and overcome the obstacles. I'm so proud to be a member of our farming community.

It's been a busy quarter for my family and I'm sure it has been for yours too. I hope your harvest went well. Some of us are just getting going! And with preparation for the winter weather approaching there is never a dull moment. Through it all I'm grateful the my family is safe and healthy and hope that yours is too.

With Fall approaching it means we're getting closer to election season. And each year is seems more crucial than ever to get out there and vote. I would really urge you to please let your voice be heard! Our board has made endorsements to several candidates in our area but if you need help feel free to reach out to me. We have a network of people to help you make informed voting decisions on all issues that touch the agriculture industry.

It's October, which means the new fiscal year for the farm bureau. I encourage you to renew your membership and make sure you're up to date. Maybe ask your neighbors and friends is they are members? The bigger numbers we have the stronger our voice is. Even if they're not farmers, we have supporting membership for them. Send them to: www.oregonfb.org/join

I know this has been a trying year for all of us. Please know that we're here for you and continue to bring you the latest news and resources. Follow us on facebook and check our COVID and Wildfire resource page at: www.marioncofarm.com/covid-19/

Happy fall and please feel free to reach out with any questions. Send us an email at info@marioncofarm.com. And keep an eye out for an invitation to our Virtual Annual Meeting in November.



Dylan Wells

Marion County Farm Bureau President

MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Oregon Announces Top Ag Commodities

Agriculture remains vital to Oregon's economy. The state is home to more than 37,200 farms and ranches and with the commercial fishing industry, the state produces more than 220 commodities, generating about \$5 billion in annual farm gate sales and services a year.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has released a list of the top agriculture commodities in the state.



For full list and statistics on livestock, crop production, commercial fish landings, agricultural exports, and more, please see the Oregon Agricultural Statistics brochure at oda.direct/AgStats.



Marion County Farm Bureau Board Endorses Candidates

The Marion County Farm Bureau invited local candidates to participate in one of two candidate forums hosted by the MCFB Board of Directors in August and September.

Candidates who elected to participate provided written responses to a series of questions addressing issues such as: agriculture's contribution to the state economy, the role of state government in issues related to immigration, assistance to small businesses in responding to the world pandemic, prioritization of water usages, and land use planning.

A total of 18 candidates opted to participate in the forums. Unfortunately, due to the wildfires the September forum was cancelled. The board reviewed their questionnaires.

At the September meeting the Board of Directors elected to make the following endorsements:

- Danielle Bethell (R), *Marion County Commissioner*
- Jami Cate (R), *House District 17*
- Rick Lewis (R), *House District 18*
- Raquel Moore-Green (R), *House District 19*
- Selma Pierce (R), *House District 20*
- Brian Clem (D), *House District 21*
- Anna Kasachev (R), *House District 22*
- Bill Post (R), *House District 25*
- Denyc Boles (R), *State Senate District 10*
- Kurt Schrader (D), *US Congressional District 5*



The forums were an opportunity to learn about the candidates' knowledge of agricultural issues and to let them know about the needs and challenges faced by the agricultural community in Marion County and across the state.

This year's general election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3 with ballots mailed out mid-October. We encourage you to make your voice heard and make your vote count!

AFBF Offers 2020 Election Analysis

Through a series of articles the American Farm Bureau Federation's Advocacy & Political Affairs team is providing analysis related to "the state of" various aspects of the campaign season.

Learn more at: www.fb.org/news/category/the-state

County Resources Available to Protect Farmworkers

Protecting Oregon's farmworkers will ensure Marion County's agriculture community stays safe and healthy throughout the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic.



Therefore, to protect the industry, keep farmworkers safe, and keep harvests going, various organizations have come together to provide support and help! The following resources are available to you and your workers: COVID-19 Testing, Sick Leave, Return to Work, and General Guidelines. Visit our website to learn about these and more: www.marioncofarm.com/covid-19/

Together, we can keep Marion County open!

Fond Farewell

Our condolences go out to the family of Terry Harchenko, who died in a helicopter crash in July. He was a good friend and he will be missed.

Harchenko was owner-operator of Industrial Aviation Services for the past 50 years and a MCFB member since 1991.

He provided aerial services using both airplanes and helicopters in Salem and the surrounding areas for over 265 family farms.

Applications Accepted for FSFS Program

With the rigors of summer harvest, not many Oregon farmers and ranchers have yet applied for the state's Food Security & Farmworker Safety Program.

This program was launched in June to assist farmers and ranchers to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 at the workplace and in employer provided housing and transportation. Applications will be accepted through October 25th and receipts must be in by November 16th. Learn more at oregonfb.org/fsfsupdate.

Program includes:

- Face Covering Reimbursements
- Transportation Reimbursements
- Resources for Farmers & Workers
- Free Risk Assessments
- Free testing & Face Masks

Thank you for all your work! For additional questions please contact the FSFS Program at fsfsquestions@oregon.gov.

Find links to this COVID-19 program and others at OregonFB.org/covid19/.

Food Security & Farmworker Safety Program

Protecting Agriculture

- Financial Support
- Free COVID -19 Testing
- Free Face Coverings
- Safety Consultations

Resources for Employers & Employees

- Financial Support**
Apply today for financial support for on-farm mitigation measures
- Face Coverings**
Community health partners can help provide face coverings at no cost
- COVID-19 Testing**
Community health partners are hosting testing and educational events around the state
- Safety Consultations**
Contact ODA to schedule an on-site or virtual consultation of mitigation measures

For all information visit: ODA.DIRECT/FSFS or scan QR code above



Stay compliant!

Oregon OSHA and the Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) Health & Safety Committee are providing virtual training to help keep farms and ranches compliant.

Continuing education credits for any pesticide applicator licensed in Oregon are provided. This is a great opportunity to receive pesticide recertification CORE credits to maintain an applicator's license.

What: Join us for this virtual training for **four CORE credit hours** approved by the Oregon Department of Agriculture's **"Worker Protection Standard: What You Should Know"** program.

When: Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 8 a.m. to noon

This training is FREE to current voting or supporting Farm Bureau members
(Membership will be verified.)

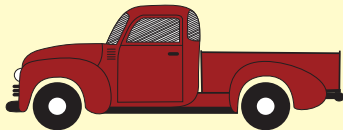
For non-members, the cost is \$150.

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ANNUAL MEETING COMING SOON

Be on the lookout for more
info about our
2020 Annual Meeting.

It will be a bit different this
year. This year's meeting will
be virtual and we'll only be
covering the basic business.

Invitations will go out soon
for our November meeting.

Is your membership up-to-date?

Contact the Oregon Farm Bureau to check
your status and renew today!

Visit their website at: OregonFB.com

or

Give them a call at: 503.399.1701



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