

Wildfire Policy Changes Possible

3 Things to Know

By Samantha Bayer
OFB Policy Counsel

The wildfire policy debate is intense in Salem. There are many important policy changes that Oregonians will likely need to be prepared for. Here are the top 3 things you need to know about Oregon's wildfire policy if these bills pass:

Get ready for rolling "black outs"

After the Labor Day Fires the idea that we would have Public Safety Power Shut-offs shouldn't be a surprise.

If passed, SB 762 would require public utilities to identify protocols for the "deenergizing of power lines and adjusting of power system operations" to mitigate wildfires and protect public safety.

Be prepared for protection costs

Protecting Oregonians from wildfire comes with a hefty price tag, -\$1.5 billion to be exact. To help pay for our state's fight against wildfire, a number of Representatives have proposed HB 3160, which would establish the Oregon Wildfire Preparedness and Community Protection Fund.



To pay for the fund, the bill suggests a \$10 tax on each property and casualty insurance policy held by Oregonians, and the -2 amendment adds a \$25 or \$50 per policy tax for commercial businesses and farms.

While supporters the bill have argued that \$10, \$25, or even \$50 is not much to pay for fire protection, bill drafters made clear in the last hearing that the tax is intended to apply on a per policy basis - which can stack up for rural residents who may hold dozens of policies.

You'll need to manage your property

The final big item that will come out of this session is the creation of enforceable statewide "defensible space" standards.

SB 762 would require the State Fire Marshall to adopt defensible space rules for properties in the wildland-urban

interface zone.

Currently, Oregon has defensible space standards under what is called the "477 program." However, landowners are only required to self-certify compliance. As currently proposed, SB 762 would remove self-certification and would fully staff the State Fire Marshal's office to inspect properties and enforce the new rules.

If any of these bills or concepts give you concern, make sure to reach out to your state Representative or Senator right away! To find out who represents you in Oregon, use this tool and send them a message: [Legislator Lookup \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](http://LegislatorLookup(oregonlegislature.gov))

If you have any questions about what was written here, please do not hesitate to reach out to OFB staff at samantha@oregonfb.org.

Marion County's JW Ranch Named a Century Farm

JW Ranch was founded in Marion County in 1920 by Missouri native John Calahan and his wife Anna.

The early crops were carrots, potatoes, field corn, hay, cattle, horses, and hogs.

The farm was deeded to Calahan's daughter Gladys in 1948. Her son Larry took over in 1957 and raised a variety

of cannery crops such as corn and bush beans.

Cattle continued to be raised until a disease devastated the herd. Hay for the animals was a key crop as well. Larry continued to raise the field crops on about 40 acres.

Sheep were introduced; and continue

to be raised today.

John W. Wells, Calahan's grandson, and his family moved onto property in 1983. He manages the land that now grows grass seed.

You can read more about all of this year's selected farms across the state at centuryfarm.oregonfb.org/honorees/.



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**MARION COUNTY
FARM BUREAU**
PO Box 12216
Salem, Oregon 97309
Phone: 503.877.1999
www.marioncofarm.com

A Message from the President

Welcome to Summer!

For many of us, the planting season is kicking into high gear! It's a busy time of year, between sowing seed and tending crops, plus the world opening up and the chance to see family and friends again. Your board has been working diligently to make sure your voice is heard in the Oregon Legislature.

It has been a long, weird session of legislature this year and we're in the home stretch! I hope you've all been taking advantage of Oregon Farm Bureau's monthly member zoom briefings on the fourth Friday on every month. It's a great opportunity to log-in and see what is going on. There are two meetings left, June 25th and July 23, at 7 p.m. Link is on the last page.

Some congratulations are also in order. John Zielinski, our District Representative has been elected as Oregon Farm Bureau's Third Vice-President. While we're saddened that you'll no longer be our county rep. we're excited to see you take on this new position within the Farm Bureau. Thank you for your service to our county!

With John's move to 3rd VP it means we have an open board position. If you've ever wanted a chance to get more involved with the farm bureau, now's your chance! I'd love a chance to talk to you more, reach out to us at info@marioncofarm.com.

Also, a round of applause to our 2021 Scott Miller and Mary Petzel Memorial Scholarship recipients. We had a very impressive group of students apply this year and look forward to all that they will accomplish.

As we head into the summer months, I am hoping for a return to normalcy. We're having our first non-zoom Marion County Board Meeting this month which is a good sign. I'm excited to finally get off my zoom screen and be with you in person. Here's to great planting and harvesting kick-off and some wonderful summer family time!



Dylan Wells
Marion County Farm Bureau President

Zielinski Elected OFB 3rd Vice-President

At the May 2021 OFB Board meeting, John Zielinski, member of Marion County Farm Bureau, was elected to serve as OFB 3rd vice president.



In April, Angela Bailey moved up from the post of OFB 1st VP to serve as OFB president after Barb Iverson had to step down because of health issues.

The OFB Bylaws call for the three OFB vice presidents to move up when a president leaves before a term expires. The OFB 1st vice president is now Brian Glaser of Linn

County, the 2nd vice president is Shane Otley of Harney County.

As he became OFB 3rd VP, Zielinski vacated his spot on the OFB Board representing Marion County. Bruce Chapin will act as interim rep.

Zielinski grows pears, apples, peaches, hazelnuts, and has a farm-direct business in Marion County.

At the 2021 OFB Convention in December, another election for the OFB 3rd VP position will take place, along with elections for the posts of OFB president and 2nd VP.

2021 Scholarship Recipients Selected

Marion County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce the winners of the Scott Miller Memorial Scholarship and the Mary Petzel Memorial Scholarship for 2021. The group of applicants was outstanding this year and we expect them all to have bright futures.

Scott Miller Memorial Scholarship

Turner Lear (\$1000 award) from Gervais will be a junior 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.

Grace McCarthy (\$1000 award) from Mt. Angel will be entering her junior year this fall at Blue Mountain Community College. She is preparing for a career in Ag Communications and is majoring in Ag Business with a minor in Communications.

Lucas Roth (\$1000 award) from Silverton will be starting his college career in the fall as a freshman majoring in Agricultural Engineering.

Elizabeth Schmitz (\$1000 award) is from Scotts Mills and will be a sophomore attending the University of Hawaii at Hilo this fall. She is studying towards her bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science and is planning to have her own farm.

Hannah Chapin (\$750 award) from Salem is planning to enter George Fox University in the fall to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in preparation for her career as a nurse.

Adeline Schmitz (\$750 award), from Scotts Mills, will be a junior attending the University of San Francisco this fall. She is majoring in International Studies and her goal is to attend law school after graduation to study International or Environmental Law.

Katrianne Sinn (\$750 award), from Silverton, will begin the Education Program at Corban University as a junior this fall to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. Her goal is to be an Elementary Teacher.

Mary Petzel Memorial Scholarship

Ellaena Axmaker (\$500 award) from Silverton will be a freshman at Chemeketa Community College this fall. Her major will be Business and she is looking forward to owning her own business and being an advocate for Agriculture in the future.

Abigail Berhorst (\$500 award) from Yamhill will be continuing her education this fall at Oregon State University and will be working towards her Master's Degree in Ag Education. She is preparing to be a High School Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor.

Fabian Curiel (\$500 award) from Salem will be entering his senior year this fall at Oregon State University. His major is Crop and Soil Science with an option in Agronomy and he is preparing to be an Agronomist.



April Hesser (\$500 award) from Lebanon will be entering Oregon State University this fall as a freshman. She is preparing for her career as a Dietician and majoring in Biology.

Kimberly Ortiz (\$500 award) from Scio is enrolled in Eastern Oregon University's dual enrollment program with Oregon State University's College of Agriculture. She is working towards a

Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Sciences with a minor in Sustainable Rangeland Ecosystem Stewardship. Her future plans include working as a Rangeland Ecologist in the Pacific Northwest.

Mark Thomas (\$500 award) from Kimberly is planning to enter Northwest Lineman College this fall to earn his Electrical Lineworker Program Certificate of Completion. He will be working towards his goal of becoming a Lineman.

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Provides Advice & Funding

Marion Soil & Water Conservation District is charged with protecting, conserving, and improving the quality of soil and water in Marion County through planning, technical assistance, and education.

The staff of Marion SWCD provides technical assistance and education to folks within the district regarding soil and water issues on their land or property. The district has



no regulatory authority but is a valuable source of advice for Marion County residents.

Funding Opportunities through Marion SWCD:

- **Landowner Assistance Program (LAP):** Projects include conservation practices or best management practices that solve a specific natural resource issue. Examples: erosion prevention, invasive plant control, and agricultural runoff.
- **Special Projects Grants (SPG):** Projects solve a local area resource concern through either new and innovative technologies or proven but

under-represented technologies.

- **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB):** This is a competitive small grant program that awards funds up to \$15,000 for on-the-ground restoration projects.
- **CLEAR Grants:** Projects focus on SWCD agency mission with educational components for youth and/or adults. We are excited to work with the people of Marion County to put conservation practices on the ground.

For more information, please call the Marion SWCD office at 503.391.9927 or visit the website at marionswcd.net.

www.marioncofarm.com

Phone: 503.877.1999

Salem, Oregon 97309

PO Box 12216



MCFB

Board Meetings

Information subject to change.
Contact staff to confirm details.

The MCFB Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. We will be returning to in-person meetings in June!

We will be meeting at NW Onion: 3945 Chemawa Rd, Salem.

Membership Up-to-Date?

Contact the OFB at 503.399.1701 to renew your membership today!

Monthly Member Briefings

To keep Farm Bureau voting and supporting members better informed about what is going on in Salem and Washington D.C., OFB began hosting Monthly Member Briefings via Zoom in January.

These hour-long meetings will take place the fourth Friday of the month at 7 a.m. and will feature OFB staff giving need-to-know updates about the most pressing issues facing Farm Bureau members, with plenty of time for questions.

Please use the following Zoom link or phone number to join the OFB Monthly Member Briefing every fourth Friday, through July, starting at 7 a.m.

- **Join by Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85271307832>
- **Join by Phone:** 253-215-8782, Meeting ID: 852 7130 7832



Next briefing: Friday, June 25 at 7 a.m.

Mark your calendar for the final briefing on Friday, July 23 at 7 a.m.

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