

FARM GRAM

Promoting, Protecting & Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County



A publication of the Marion County Farm Bureau

Volume 21, Issue 4

County Holds Annual Meeting New Officers Elected

The Marion County Farm Bureau met in November at the Creekside Golf Club in Salem for our annual meeting. The night gave members an opportunity to reconnect with the farm bureau and get reacquainted with each other after a year of virtual meetings.

The evening, hosted by John Zielinski, began with a “State of the Bureau.” Through the pandemic, ice storms, and heat waves, the farm bureau continues to be there for it’s members and offer support to the ag community.

The MCFB offered sponsorships to several ag programs including: Ag Fest, Adopt-a-Farmer, Century Farm & Ranch Program, the Marion County Fair, Oregon Dairy Princess, the Ronald McDonald House, Oregonians for Food and Shelter, and the FFA.

Both the Mary Petzel and Scott Miller Memorial Scholarships saw a tremendous number of outstanding applicants. The MCFB awarded 13 scholarships totaling \$9,250.

Elections were also held at the meeting. Dana Estensen was elected our new Board President for the 2021-2022 year with Stuart Olson elected to serve another term as vice-president. Bruce Chapin was elected to serve as our OFB District 15 Representative.



MCFB Memebers met at Creekside Golf Club for our annual meeting in November.

Joe Ruef, Casey Stadel, John Zielinski, and Dylan Wells were all elected to two-year terms as Directors.

Marion County also welcomed a new Young Farmers and Ranchers chair, Claire Zielinski. Congratulations to all and welcome to the board!

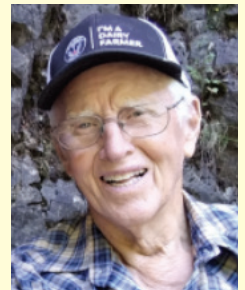
After elections, members enjoyed a lovely dinner and danced the night away to some classic rock tunes provided by Billy and the Rockets.

Thank you to everyone who attended and we hope to see you at next year’s meeting!

Condolences to DeJager Family

The Marion County Farm Bureau sends its condolences to the DeJager family of Jefferson.

Roger DeJager, a former farm bureau board member, passed away in November.



Roger DeJager

Roger and his wife Jessie, our Women’s Advisory Council Representative, moved to Oregon in 1969 and started a dairy. He was a friend to all that knew him and loved to help those in the ag community.

He served on the Marion County Farm Bureau board from 2002-2018, as well as many other co-op/organizational boards.

He received the Diamond Pioneer Award through Oregon State University in 2014. And the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association awarded Roger and Jessie with their Community Service Award in 2020.

Roger is survived by his loving wife, Jessie, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dana Estensen
President

Stuart Olsen
Vice President

DIRECTORS

Greg Bennett
Kathleen Carl

Anne Krahmer-Steinkamp

Joe Ruef

Keith Ditchen

Richard Hostetter

Casey Stadel

Dylan Wells

John Zielinski

DISTRICT 15 DIRECTOR

Bruce Chapin

YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

Claire Zielinski

WOMEN'S

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jessie DeJager

VOTING DELEGATES/ ALTERNATES

Greg Bennett

Anne Krahmer-Steinkamp

Casey Stadel

Dylan Wells

STAFF

Jill Ingalls

Macy Chapman

Ashley Christie

MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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A Message from the President

Hello Marion County Farm Bureau members! My name is Dana Estensen and I am honored to be your new board president. I am a 1st generation farmer, and this past year was my 21st wine grape harvest. I have worked in an almond processor/huller and olive oil production as well as other ag related jobs.

I have always been a strong advocate for Farm Bureau. I was on the State YF&R committee in California in the late 80s and involved with both the Yolo and Napa County Farm Bureaus, including a two-year term as president in Napa.

One of my favorite programs has always been Ag in the Classroom. It's so important to get our message out to the 99% of the population that isn't involved in agriculture and give them an appreciation for the work we do. We are fortunate that Oregon has such great organizations that do excellent work in this area.

We arrived in Oregon in 2014 and have thoroughly enjoy being involved in Oregon agriculture, meeting our fellow farmers, and learning about the many diverse crops. Our neighbor (and fellow board member) Stuart Olson came over to our vineyard office one day to talk to "the new neighbors" about Farm Bureau. Someone pointed him in my direction, and I've been on the board ever since.

We're excited that the Marion County Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee has Claire Zielinski as its new chairperson. The YF&R group is such an important building block for Farm Bureau's future. It's a great opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues locally and across the state as well as develop leadership and communication skills. Please encourage any young people from ages 16 to 35 who are involved in agriculture to get involved. Farm Bureau memberships for Young Farmers and Ranchers are only \$75/year and members receive all the benefits of a regular membership. What a great stocking stuffer!

As usual, there are many challenges coming up in the 2022 legislative session and our OFB staff is already hard at work. We would encourage all members to sign up for the Action Alerts at oregonfb.org/advocacy and personalize and submit the talking points provided to make your voice and story heard. If you have ever attended a legislative hearing and heard (or read) testimony differing from Farm Bureau, you realize the importance of getting our message out. You should also be getting email updates from Marion County Farm Bureau as issues come up so please make sure that we have your email address.

Thank you all for your hard work and commitment in making Farm Bureau the formidable organization that it is. We have a dedicated, knowledgeable board of directors and staff. Our members' contributions are very much appreciated. Besides engaging with the legislature, I know many of you sit on advisory committees at the local and state levels and in the past year have actively engaged in issues such as the COVID-19 and Heat Illness rules, road safety and crime in agricultural areas. Thank you for representing the agricultural point of view on these important issues.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season and a peaceful, prosperous New Year!

Dana Estensen
Marion County Farm Bureau President

Catching Up with the OFB Government Affairs Team

We sat down with members of OFB's Government Affairs Team — Vice President for Government Affairs Mary Anne Cooper and new Director of Government Affairs Lauren Smith — to talk about a couple of the top issues they are working on this fall.

Cooper's issue portfolio includes water, labor, carbon, climate change, pesticides, biotech, agency budgets, agency boards and commissions, food safety, and land use.

Smith focuses on wildlife, wildfire, tax, transportation, energy, and a few land use issues.

OFB is already deep in preparation for the 2022 short legislative session, meeting with lawmakers and looking at which Farm Bureau priorities should be tackled next year.

Ag overtime is definitely going to be a major issue.

"We're encouraging folks to start having conversations with their legislators about what an ag overtime law would mean to them," said Cooper.

REDISTRICTING

"OFB has worked on the redistricting issue for over two years," said Cooper.



OFB Government Affairs Director Lauren Smith (left) and VP for Government Affairs Mary Anne Cooper

Last year, OFB led a coalition of organizations, ranging from the League of Women Voters to the Eugene-Springfield NAACP, in an effort to create a ballot measure that would establish an independent redistricting commission.

"So redistricting went to the Legislature in a special session this fall, where we engaged heavily with lawmakers. We had great grassroots engagement from members calling for an independent redistricting process to be adopted. Unfortunately, they did not do that," said Cooper.

DISASTER RELIEF

There are very few Oregon farmers and ranchers who were not impacted in some way by the unprecedented natural disasters that ravaged the state over the

past year.

As Farm Bureau members began applying for federal natural disaster relief programs, service gaps in those programs were identified, and many ag producers either weren't eligible or the coverage they could receive wasn't even worth the effort of the application process.

"We've been advocating with our congressional offices and have had really great support from them in helping get some of the federal gaps resolved and closed," said Cooper. "We've also had good conversations with USDA about implementing flexibility in those programs."

CAP & TRADE

Farm Bureau members came out in force to help stop the

state's harmful "cap and trade" legislation in 2019 and 2020. However, following Oregon's 2020 short session, Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-4, which directed the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to promulgate rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

"We know this is going to increase costs of gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, and natural gas for producers on a pretty major scale. So, there's a really significant impact for Farm Bureau members," said Cooper.

WILDFIRE

During the 2021 Oregon Legislative Session, OFB spent hundreds of hours on SB 762, the omnibus wildfire mitigation and suppression bill.

The bill includes the creation of a statewide wildfire risk map, defensible space standards for high and extreme-risk properties, provisions for utility management, and much more.

WILDLIFE

Smith is also working on two groups organized by the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. One group focuses on the management of beavers on federal lands.

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MCFB Board Meetings

Information subject to
change.
Contact staff to confirm
details.

Dec. 15, 2021,
6:30 p.m.
1320 Capital St NE,
Salem, OR

**Check our
website
for other
Upcoming
Events**

Apply for Farm Bureau Scholarships

We are pleased to announce the Mary Petzel and Scott Miller Memorial Scholarship applications are now available.

Starting January 1, high school seniors and undergrad students will be able to download the applications from our website: www.marioncofarm.com.

Scholarship applications will be judged by a panel of Marion County Farm Bureau members and judged on accuracy, neatness and organization, financial need, agricultural experience, and GPA.

Scholarships ranging up to \$2500 may be awarded. Award recipients will also receive a one-year supporting membership to the Marion County Farm Bureau.



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