

# FARM GRAM

Promoting, Protecting & Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County



A publication of the Marion County Farm Bureau

Volume 22, Issue 3



## Challenges Facing Oregon Agriculture

by Oregon Farm Bureau

Farmers and ranchers in Oregon produce over 240 agriculture products that feed Oregonians and are renowned across the country – and the globe – for their quality.

It may be surprising to some that 97% of Oregon's farms and ranches are family owned and operated. The benefits Oregonians enjoy from Oregon agriculture are largely provided by family-scale operations.

But there are enormous pressures on farm and ranch families. They are grappling with supply chain issues, inflation, drought, labor costs and increased regulations. Every farmer knows that weather and markets can be unpredictable and unforgiving. However, these days, Oregon's political climate has proven equally as challenging.

In recent years, the state Legislature has passed a number of laws that, while well intentioned, are serving to increase the costs of production in Oregon. Since Oregon producers are largely price takers in international commodity markets, they have little way of passing these new costs onto consumers.

Examples include the so-called "Corporate

Activities Tax," which is hitting producers at each stage of their supply chain, from parts to feed. The Department of Environmental Quality has also implemented a Climate Protection Program which will cause a significant increase in fuel and home heating costs at a time when those are already astronomical.

Farmers are also grappling with new clean fuel and clean energy policies, which are compounding the already significant effect of inflation on fuel prices.

In the labor sphere alone, producers are trying to deal with ever increasing wage pressure from the state's high minimum wage laws, paid medical leave, Oregon Saves, and new heat and smoke rules this summer.

On top of that, producers are struggling to figure out how they will afford the new overtime rule for agricultural workers, which will sharply increase costs for producers, a burden that many overwhelmingly said they cannot bear.

The greatest concern about the burdens policymakers are heaping on the backs of farmers and ranchers is that these public policies will make it impossible for family-scale farming and ranching to survive. We

are already seeing that large corporate entities are the ones with the resources to survive, as farm and ranch families sell and move to other states or leave the farm altogether, as a Capital Press story recently highlighted.

Like other industries, farmers and ranchers are dealing with inflation at a 40-year-high, diesel prices over \$5.30 per gallon and fertilizer costs that have more than doubled. Beyond the normal drivers of inflation, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has disrupted wheat markets and 28% of the world's nitrogen and phosphorus-based fertilizers. There is inflation on everything our farmers and ranchers buy – all of their inputs, and their supply costs are outpacing the price of agricultural goods.

In poll after poll, Oregonians say that they value farm and ranch families and the fresh, local products that are contributed to Oregon's quality of life. Oregon agriculture producers are on the cutting edge of climate issues, energy use reduction, and fair family wage jobs.

Our farmers and ranchers want workable solutions, but we cannot continue to burden our farm and ranch families with challenging policies at an unprecedented pace and expect them to survive. Healthy family farms and ranches mean a healthy Oregon.

Find us online anytime at: [www.marioncofarm.com](http://www.marioncofarm.com)





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# A Message from the President

Happy Fall everyone. Summer has just flown by. A long, cold, wet spring has had a few weeks behind “normal” though we seem to be catching up. It did not allow for a great pollination season for many crops and there are some crops still negatively affected this year by the heat dome in 2021.

Our wine grapes went through bloom and fruit set later than usual so the weather was nice, and clusters are average to above average in size. Hopefully there is enough good weather at the end of our growing season to allow us to harvest them all and retain the good quality that the winemakers desire.

Your Marion County Farm Bureau has been busy the last few months. Among many other issues, we took the time to interview candidates for both local and statewide races. After much discussion and careful consideration, we endorsed candidates when we thought it was appropriate.

It is so important for everyone to VOTE! Farm Bureau is a non-partisan, grass roots, membership driven organization. We could be more effective with a more balanced legislature that is willing to listen to those of us in agriculture and work with us on issues important to Oregon agriculture.

There has been very little discussion and compromise in favor of agriculture in the recent legislative sessions. Our OFB Governmental Affairs staff does a fantastic job engaging and working with the members of the legislature and their staff, though some doors remain closed to them. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to testify (in person, over Zoom, and in writing) over the years. It does make a difference!

We’ve included our current endorsements in this issue of Farm Gram and will send updates by email if we endorse any additional candidates.

I hope everyone continues to have a safe, bountiful harvest.

*Dana Estensen*  
*Marion County Farm Bureau President*

## SAVE THE DATE Annual Meeting Nov. 9

Please join us for an evening of good food and great company! Our Annual Meeting is the evening of Wednesday, November 9, at the Chemeketa Community College Agricultural Sciences Building.

Reunite with friends and colleagues and tour Chemeketa’s newly renovated Ag Sciences Building before our annual business meeting. Dinner will be followed by prizes and entertainment from the Mark Seymour Duo!

Register online using the QR code  
or at the web address below:

<https://conta.cc/3Awbr9M>





# OREGON FARM BUREAU IS FIGHTING FOR YOU

The Courts

The Oregon State Capitol

The Halls of Congress



We are the only agricultural organization with a team of **dedicated lobbyists** and **lawyers** who engage on issues that impact **your operation**. We also have a **full support staff** that can help connect you to a myriad of other opportunities within Oregon Farm Bureau.

## This year alone, your team:

- Led the fight against mandated overtime pay for agricultural employees.
- Helped sue against the state's overly broad heat and smoke rules.
- Fought increased trap check times that would overly burden agricultural producers.
- Pushed back on overly broad wildfire regulations.
- Led the charge for sensible water regulations.

## GRASSROOTS LED



From our county Farm Bureaus to our member-based committees to our family farmer run board, Oregon Farm Bureau **members have input** into **every facet** of Oregon Farm Bureau's policy development and execution. We are **leading the charge** for Oregon agriculture.

**We need you to join us in this fight!**

Visit [oregonfb.org](http://oregonfb.org) to learn more.



## I Farm, I Vote

The Marion County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met with several candidates asking them about the issues that impact farmers and ranchers. We made the following endorsements:

### Congressional District 5

Lori Chavez-DeRemer

### Senate District 10

Raquel Moore-Green

### Senate District 11

Kim Thatcher

### House District 11

Jami Cate

### House District 15

Shelly Boshart Davis

### House District 17

Ed Diehl

### House District 18

Rick Lewis

### House District 19

TJ Sullivan

### House District 20

Dan Farrington

### House District 21

Kevin Mannix

### House District 22

Tracy Cramer

Help us make ag's voice heard this election and inspire others in rural communities to VOTE in November!

## Upcoming Events

### Farming with Drought Farm Tour Series

September 20 & 27

For more information, call 541-776-7371

### Trap Shoot and BBQ Fundraiser

Sept. 21, 3 p.m. start

Albany Gun Club

For more information, contact Tiffany Niño, [tiffany@oregonfb.org](mailto:tiffany@oregonfb.org), 503.399.1701

### MCFB Annual Meeting

November 9, 6:30 p.m.

Chemeketa Community College

Register online: <https://conta.cc/3Awbr9M>

### Willamette Valley Ag Expo

November 15-17

Linn County Expo Center

[www.wvaexpo.com](http://www.wvaexpo.com)

[www.marioncofarm.com](http://www.marioncofarm.com)

Phone: 503.877.1999  
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## MCFB Board Meetings

The MCFB Board of Directors meets the second Wednesday of the month. Information subject to change. Contact staff to confirm details.

Sept. 14, 2022

6:30 p.m.

1320 Capital St NE,  
Salem, OR

Oct. 12, 2022

6:30 p.m.

1320 Capital St NE,  
Salem, OR

## Annual Meeting

Nov. 9, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Chemeketa CC



photo by Santos Lingmai

The Marion County Farm Bureau is proud to be a Marion County Fair sponsor and supporter of the over 1,400 4H and FFA youth the fair was able to serve. This year's Jr. Livestock Auction exceeded \$1 Million in sales - that goes right back to the kids.

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