

FARM GRAM

Promoting, Protecting & Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County



A publication of the Marion County Farm Bureau

Volume 23, Issue 2

Summer Ag Institute: Teaching Teachers About Agriculture

For over thirty years the Summer Ag Institute (SAI) has offered an immersive summer educational program.

Teachers enroll to learn about agriculture and how to enhance their classroom lessons. But the full experience often leaves them with a deeper understanding of the industry and connection to Oregon's producers.

A recent participant had this to say about the program – "it's amazing how they all do their jobs, and how incredible they are to their communities, environment, and employees. Understanding and learning about the demands placed on farmers, and the farming community is so important."

Oregon Farm Bureau members provide tours, cook and serve lunches and even host teachers for a one-night home stay. Additionally, Oregon State



University provides three graduate credits for academic assignments.

Educators from all subjects and grade levels receive valuable lesson materials. Donations help cover the cost of meals, transportation, lodging and OSU tuition. The registration fee is a great value at \$800, as SAI costs more than \$3,000 per participant.

Since its first summer in 1989, SAI

has enrolled more than 1,250 Oregon teachers with the goal of helping promote the importance of agriculture to society.

Help continue the success of SAI by inviting early career teachers to apply today!

SAI West is taking place June 20-24, 2023. Learn more at oregonfb.org/programs/summer-ag-institute



Spring Ag Tour Returns

The Marion County Farm Bureau was excited to offer our Ag Tour once again in May.

Participants met at EZ Orchards for coffee and doughnuts before boarding the bus and heading out to learn more about growing operations in the area.

We visited Al's Garden Center in Hubbard, Oregon Flowers, Inc. in Aurora (pictured), and the North Willamette Research & Extension Center.

Thank you to our hosts and everyone that joined us on the tour! See more photos from the day on our [Facebook page](#).

Find us online anytime at: www.marioncofarm.com





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A Message from the President

It was another cool, wet start to the growing season and bud break in our vineyards was later than usual. But since then, with the warmer weather, we've been accumulating Growing Degree Days at a good clip. That's positive but we also have areas in some blocks that are spotty – the buds aren't pushing uniformly, and the shoots are either way behind or non-existent. In talking to other growers, field reps/horticulturists, and our extension viticulturist from Oregon State University, the latest theory is it is a carryover from last year's April 15th hard frost. There is nothing we can do at this point, but it is helpful to know the crop yield from those areas will be affected.



Dana Estensen
Marion County FB President

The legislative session continues, and we'd like to thank OFB staff and our members who have testified (in person, via zoom, and in writing) for all of your time and effort. It is so important that we stay involved and engaged; it does make a difference. We plan to get a recap of the session at our July Board meeting.

At our board meetings, we usually have a guest speaker in to discuss issues our members are concerned about. In the past few months, we've learned about grants and funding to improve rural broadband internet in Marion County, the Oregon Ag Trust, canola and the specialty seed industry, and biosolids. In March, Eric Lloyd from Oregon Risk Management Services joined our meeting to talk about improving outreach between agriculture and local fire districts and their first responders. He suggested reaching out to our local fire departments, offering to host them for a meeting or training, and helping them understand any hazards that potentially exist at your location. It may help our First Responders, who very often are members of our Ag community.

As a follow-up, our vineyard has been reaching out to our local fire departments to make sure they have the information they need for each of our vineyard locations. Here's the information we have gathered so far.

• A pre-fire plan (for example the app Active 911) includes the locations of hazardous materials on site and any other useful information as well as contact numbers. The information is only available to the public with a public record request form. Other fire departments use the same or something similar. Contact your local fire department through their business telephone line.

- Is there an address sign at your field location with numbers big enough to be seen? Fire Departments will often provide one for a small fee.
- Do your employees know the addresses of the locations they are working at? In our case one fire district was able to link the name of one of our vineyards to the street address. We set up a phone "contact" for each vineyard location and shared with our supervisors. Another idea is pocket cards with the information.
- Is there access to the property if it is fenced/gated/locked? Some locks/chains can be cut with bolt cutters (which most emergency responders carry) but in some cases a special fire department lock might be required.
- Who are the contacts for the property? There might be someone on site during the day but who would they notify after hours.
- We try to minimize the amount of ag chemicals and fertilizers that we keep on hand, and none are extremely flammable or combustible so that didn't seem to be the biggest concern.
- In the vineyards we've gone through so far, gasoline seemed to be the biggest concern. We let them know the maximum amount that we would have on hand and location if they were mapping the location.
- If water is available and appropriate connections are available, that might be helpful if the water source is far enough away from the fire.
- One common hazard is shipping containers that are sealed for use as storage. Make sure the vents are open at all times!

To find out which fire district you are in, there is a searchable map at <https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d3cb788c24134dee9a9eaea7721d4bae>.

You can find contact information for your local fire district at <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/Pages/Fire-Agency-Contact-List.aspx>.

We'll keep working on this very important issue and appreciate any input from our members. If you have any questions or need help locating or contacting your local Fire District, please contact us at office@marioncofarm.com or 503 877-1999.

I hope everyone has a bountiful, prosperous year but most of all, please stay safe. Seven employees who worked for one of our Farm Bureau members were tragically killed and another four were seriously injured in a horrific car crash on I-5 south of Salem on May 18th. Oregon Farm Bureau has set up a GoFundMe site (<https://gofund.me/4f56a23d>) in order to support the families and help with expenses. Or contributions can be sent, via checks made out to Oregon Farm Bureau (please note Farmworker Fund), to OFB, 1320 Capital St. NE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97301. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

Dana Estensen
Marion County Farm Bureau President

THANK YOU

to all the students that applied to our Memorial Scholarships. We had a record number of applicants! Our 2023 recipients will be announced soon.

Check our website for updates:
www.marioncofarm.com/scholarships/



WAC Hosts Spring Conference

Your Marion County WAC Representatives Kathleen Carl (left) and Jessie DeJager (center) were in attendance at the OFBF Women's Advisory Council Spring Conference in Medford last month.

Photo Credit: OFB Facebook

YF&R Recruiting Meeting!

Saturday June 3rd at 1:00 at E.Z. Orchards Shortcake Stand!

One Free Shortcake for every attendee!

Open to all Young Farmers and Ranchers in the Marion County area. To be a Member of Young Farmers and Ranchers you must be 16-35 years old and work in Agriculture or in an Agriculture Related Industry.

You do not have to join immediately, please come by and learn about our Organization.

Contact Claire Zielinski with any questions clairezielinski21@gmail.com



Ripley, the 2022 Oregon Farm Dog of the Year, guarding reindeer at Timberview Farm in Lane County.

Oregon's Farm Dogs Teach Others About Ag

The Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation is expanding the Oregon Farm Dog project to include a fundraising social event. The OAEF Farm Dog Invitational, held on June 2, will feature business and community leaders bringing their dogs to experience a farm obstacle course.

Together they'll celebrate those dedicated canine companions who make long days easier and inspire us to have fun and work harder. Sharing stories about our beloved dogs and the important role they play on our farms and ranches or in our homes can connect us as dog lovers throughout Oregon.

Handing over the Oregon Farm Dog of the Year title is Ripley, the 2022 recipient owned by Cindy Murdoch. Ripley is a 3-year-old Lapponian Herder who guards reindeer at Timberview Farm in Lane County.

For more than 30 years, the OAEF has delivered high-impact educational programs to increase agricultural knowledge and understanding for all Oregonians. Donations help connect farm leaders, inspire future leaders, and honor Oregon's rich agricultural heritage.

Learn more at Oregonfb.org/oaef or contact Sherri Noxel, OAEF Director, at 971-727-7212 or at snoxel@oregonfb.org.

Community Hobby & Car Show

Come and enjoy some FREE simple community fun. Classic and antique cars on display, plus hobby and craft demos.



Saturday, August 5 • 9am-4pm



**Labish Center
Community Church**
7114 Labish Center Rd NE
Salem, OR 97305



For more information call Bruce Chapin at 503-393-6327

www.marioncofarm.com

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MCFB Board Meetings

Information subject to change.
Contact staff to confirm details.

June 14, 6:30 p.m.
1320 Capital St NE,
Salem, OR

Other Events

YF&R Meeting
June 3, 1:00 p.m.
5504 Hazelgreen Rd,
Salem, OR

Marion County Fair
July 6-9
Salem, OR

MCFB Annual Meeting
November 8

Photos Sought for 2024 Oregon's Bounty Calendar

Farm Bureau welcomes photographers to submit their best images of Oregon agriculture for possible inclusion in the 2024 Oregon's Bounty Calendar!

This calendar celebrates all aspects of Oregon agriculture: the products, people, production, enjoyment, landscape, and anything that depicts the beauty, technology, culture, appreciation, or tradition of family farming and ranching in this great state.

Deadline to submit is September 15, 2023. Full rules available online at OregonFB.org/2024calendar. Contact Mia Pedersen at mia@oregonfb.org or 503.399.1701 with any questions.



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