

FARM GRAM

Promoting, Protecting & Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County



A publication of the Marion County Farm Bureau

Volume 23, Issue 4



Annual Dinner Held

The Marion County Farm Bureau met at the B-17 Alliance Museum and Restoration Hanger in November for the Annual Meeting.

The evening, hosted by President Dana Estensen, was a chance for members to meet and learn about all the MCFB has accomplished the past year. We also celebrated the 2023 scholarship recipients.

During the annual board elections, Dana Estensen was elected as President, Stuart Olson was elected as Vice-President, and the following directors were elected: Graham Fordyce, Joe Ruef, Casey Stadel, Dylan Wells, and John Zielinski.

After elections, members were treated to a tour of the museum and could see the restoration progress of the "Lacey Lady" aircraft.

Thank you to everyone who attended! Anyone interested in joining the board of directors can learn more on our website: www.marioncofarm.com/about-us/board-of-directors.

Kathleen Lee Carl 1949-2023

"I Enjoyed Every Minute of My Life"

from Statesman Journal

Kathleen Lee Carl died on November 19, 2023. In September she was diagnosed with advanced bile duct cancer. She died at her home in Salem with her boyfriend of 35 years, Tom Yoder, by her side.

Kathleen was born on February 18, 1949 and grew up on her family farm in Hubbard. Kathleen was an active member in 4-H from the age of 9 through high school, showing horses at the Marion County Fair. She was named Oregon Farm Bureau Sweetheart in November 1966.

Kathleen graduated from North Marion High School as valedictorian and briefly attended Oregon State University before graduating from University of Oregon with a degree in teaching. She dedicated her life to teaching, focusing on bilingual education in Molalla, Woodburn, and Salem.

She embraced inclusivity in education and in life. Her inquisitive mind, engaging smile, and genuine love of people and life allowed her to make friends and spread joy wherever she went.

Kathleen took every opportunity to travel internationally. As a college student, she participated in an International 4-H Youth Exchange program in the Philippines, travelled to Guatemala for an immersion study program in Guatemala,



Kathleen Lee Carl
MCFB Board Member
2012-2023

went diving for conch in Belize with her sister, and followed multiple musical tours around the world to places like Brittany, Cuba, Zimbabwe, and Louisiana.

Kathleen made her home in Salem from 1978 until the present and was the single parent of her son Manton. Kathleen and Manton took many trips together, including Zimbabwe where they whitewater rafted down multiple level 5 rapids on the Zambezi River. Kathleen had a true spirit of adventure and fun.

Kathleen was a staunch supporter of responsible use of natural resources. She was outspoken on issues she cared about and was active in preserving farmlands from development.

She worked with 1000 Friends of Oregon to testify against over-reaching urban growth boundaries, and she supported Columbia Riverkeepers to restrict liquified gas pipelines from being constructed through farmland. In retirement Kathleen served on the board of Marion County Farm Bureau, advocating for responsible land use.

Although Kathleen's vibrant life was cut short by her 74-day battle with cancer, she lived it to the fullest throughout all of her 74 years. Shortly before her death she remarked: "I enjoyed every minute of my life and I don't regret anything."

Contributions in her honor may be made to [1000 Friends of Oregon](http://1000FriendsOfOregon.org) or [Marion Polk Food Share](http://MarionPolkFoodShare.org).

Read Kathleen's full obituary on the [Statesman Journal website](http://StatesmanJournal.com).

Find us online anytime at: www.marioncofarm.com





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**MARION COUNTY
FARM BUREAU**

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Phone: 503.877.1999

www.marioncofarm.com

A Message from the President

Greetings, I'm Dana Estensen, your Marion County Farm Bureau President, and I am privileged to be elected for a 3rd term as your President.



Dana Estensen
Marion County FB President

It's exciting, once again, to hear the helicopters fly as Christmas tree harvest begins - let the holiday season begin! Our wine grape crop was a bit light this year but, as one grass seed farmer said, "the process was good!" We've had positive feedback on the quality and, as usual, are always looking ahead to a better year next year.

We had our MCFB Annual Meeting in November at the B-17 Alliance Museum and Restoration Hangar. It was a great turnout. Thank you to everyone who attended; we hope everyone enjoyed themselves. It is always nice to meet in person and a big thanks to the museum. If you are interested in the history of World War II, it is a great opportunity to experience the life and times of that era. A big thank you to those that donated door prizes including cheese, onions, apples, wine and donuts and a special thank you to Country Financial for their \$250 Wilco gift certificate donation. Thank you to all our members who were able to join us - it is always wonderful to visit all those that attend.

In December a good contingent of MCFB members/delegates will be attending the OFB convention in Tigard. We've put forward a resolution this year for Voluntary Ranked Voting. It was approved by the OFB Government Affairs staff and will be discussed and voted on by the delegates at the convention to determine if it should be OFB policy. We're expecting lots of good conversation on the topic. At the OFB Convention guest speakers, delegate sessions, and themed lunches and dinners are always fun as is mingling with our fellow OFB members and staff from across the state. We are looking forward to it.

If you haven't signed up for OFB's advocacy alerts, please do so through oregonfb.org/advocacy/. You will be notified of issues and opportunities to help the voice of agriculture be heard by our elected leaders through sharing your story on-line or in person. Every little bit helps. And please let us know if you need any help getting started or have any questions. A short Oregon Legislative session is scheduled for 2024 and, in addition, issues like the IP-3 and the EPA herbicide ballot initiatives look to be challenging.

On a sad note, our longtime board member Kathleen Carl passed away in November. She was Farm Bureau through and through and even won the Farm Bureau Sweetheart award in 1966. She was such a positive force in her support of Farm Bureau and a dear friend to many. Her advocacy for land use issues and dedication to supporting young people through her participation on the scholarship committee is appreciated by all. Our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.

As usual, this year has certainly had its challenges, but we are always thankful for all the good things in our lives.

*We wish you a wonderful Holiday Season
and a happy, prosperous New Year!*

Dana Estensen
Marion County Farm Bureau President

Salem-Keizer FFA Attends National Convention

Gerald Hosler
Instructor/FFA Advisor
Salem-Keizer Agricultural Science & Technology

In November, seven of our members had the opportunity to attend the 96th annual National FFA Convention to support Mena Drakeley, a past McKay graduate, who received her American FFA Degree (highest honor a member can receive).

While we were in the Midwest, our members were able to gain different perspectives of agricultural practices that are not common in Oregon (they were surprised by the lack of elevation, and diversity of crops grown in the Midwest; a never ending sea of Corn and Soybeans).

Members gained insight in the Dairy and Pork industry through touring facilities at Fair Oaks Farms, and learned the importance of Agricultural Literacy and the devastating effects misinformation can have on the industry. Students got to tour Hummel Livestock, a high-end show goat and cattle breeder, who, funds their farm through the breeding and sale of Savannah Cats (We were shocked with the cost of these cats, upwards of \$25,000).

While there we were able to meet Ryan Rash, a world renown livestock judge and



provided by Gerald Hosler

The Marion County Farm Bureau is proud to support the future of agriculture. In November, the board contributed to the Salem-Keizer FFA's trip to their National Convention in Indiana.

ask questions about the animal projects our students raise and how to improve with their projects.

Some key things from our trip back East that stood out to our members:

- The sheer number of students involved in FFA at a National Level (we set a record of attendance with 73,000 members attending, and our membership is at an all-time high, just shy of 946,000 members nationwide).
- All the opportunities that are available to them. After seeing numerous

members, they knew on stage, our small group is now motivated more than ever to be one of those members recognized on a National level, one is even energized to become a National Officer in the future now.

- Hearing the story of a Hummel livestock; a family-owned breeder who started with a dream and worked to become the leading breeder of Savannah Cats which funds their entire livestock operation.
- The vast history of agriculture and our Nation.

Marion FB Attends OFS Conference

Last month Marion County Farm Bureau board director Casey Stadel attended the Oregonians for Food and Shelter's Annual Conference in Salem.

He heard from speakers on topics relating to Oregon's natural resource industries, the tools that support production, and successes and challenges as we look ahead.

Stadel attended sessions about:

- Use of drones for pesticide and fertilizer applications
- Working lands and water quality
- Coexistence with biotech crops
- Political updates
- Natural resource and rural communities engagement in environmental justice conversations

We will be sharing more information about what he learned in future newsletters.



Marion FB Director Casey Stadel and his wife, Lisa, at the OFS Fields & Forest Gala.

MCFB College Scholarships

Scholarship applications for the 2024-25 school year are open. High school seniors and undergraduates are welcome to apply. Deadline is April 15, 2024.

Scholarship applications will be judged on accuracy, neatness and organization, financial need, agricultural experience, and GPA.

Applications available on our website: www.marioncofarm.com/scholarships/

Please share with the students in your life!

**Stay tuned for more info on
Spring Ag Tour 2024!**

www.marioncofarm.com

Phone: 503.877.1999
Salem, Oregon 97309
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MCFB

Board Meetings

Information subject to change.
Contact staff to confirm details.

Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.
1320 Capital St NE,
Salem, OR

Other Events

CPR Class
Feb. 2, 9:00 a.m.
1320 Capital St NE,
Salem, OR

Spring Ag Tour
TBA
More info soon

MCFB Scholarship Deadline
April 15

CPR/First Aid/AED Certification Class - English & Español

Friday, February 2, 2024

9am - Noon

Oregon Farm Bureau

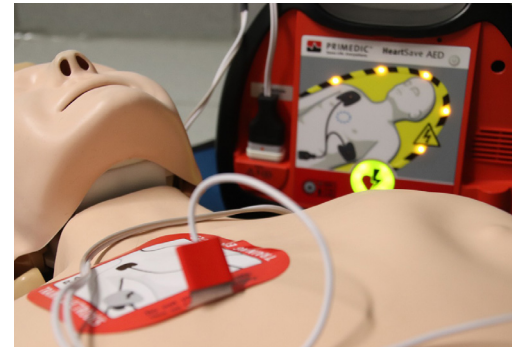
Heritage Room, 1320 Capitol St, NE, Salem

Two Free Registrations per Voting Member

Are you and your foremen CPR/First Aid/AED certified? Please join us to get certified or renew your certification. This class will provide you with current safety information that is detailed, easy to understand and fun.

Your certification is good for 2 years in both first aid and in CPR. Nothing is more important to us than having you leave with both knowledge and confidence. The life you save might just be your own or someone close to you!

Marion County Farm Bureau members with current voting status receive 2 complimentary registrations. Additional registrations and non-members interested are invited to sign up at a price of \$75/attendee (payable at the door). Contact our office at office@marioncofarm.com with any questions. Class space is limited, so please do not delay in registering!



Register online: marioncofarm.com/events

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