

Board of Directors:

- President John Zielinski
- VP Troy Hadley

Directors

- Kathleen Carl
- Brenda Kirsch
- Bob Dettwyler
- Roger Dejager
- Gregg Bennett
- Scott Miller
- Jeff Butch

Joe Sherman

Young Farmer/Rancher

- Brenda Kirsch
- Women's Chair
Connie Young

Voting Delegates

- Dan Goffin
- John Zielinski
- Troy Hadley

Staff & Membership

- Mike McLaran
- Genoa Ingram
- Mary Tucker

Images: freedigitalphotos.net

Inside this issue:

- President's Message* 2
- Farm Bureau Meetings* 2
- DOL Ag Youth Proposal* 3
- Young Farmer & Rancher* 3



MCFB Meeting Report

PGE to discuss Cascade Crossing Project

The May 16th board meeting was a great success with guest speaker Katy Coba, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture speaking on the issues between private agriculture and government. At the June meeting, a team from PGE will be attending to discuss the Cascade Crossing Project. PGE proposes to construct approximately 215 miles of 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line running from Boardman to Salem, Oregon. They also plan to build four new substations and upgrade existing substations. Operations are planned to begin in 2016 or 2017. For more informa-



tion, please visit the Cascade Crossing Project's website at <http://www.cascadecrossingproject.com/PGE.aspx>. If you would like to search a map to see exactly which landowners will be affected, please visit http://www.cascadecrossingproject.com/maps_landowner.aspx.

The next MCFB board meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 20th, starting 6:30 pm** at the Oregon Farm Bureau headquarters (**3415 Commercial St. SE, Salem**). The meeting is open to any farmer that would like more information or has any concerns about the Cascade Crossing project.

Only for our electronic subscribers:

[Click here to watch a short tribute to farmers!](#)

President's Message

By John Zielinski

Ever since the economic recession began in 2008 I've been hearing the expressions "Agriculture forms the backbone of America" and "Agriculture is the engine that drives the economy" more often. The terms "backbone" and "engine" both evoke strong images. The spine or backbone is critical in assisting the nervous system and forming the foundation of our body's frame. An engine's power is measured in horsepower and torque and they are used to power anything from a lawn mower to a large articulated tractor, and in each and every case they serve as the catalyst behind any action these machines perform. The "Backbone of America" metaphor always reminds me of the murals in the state Capital dome painted by Barry Faulkner. Within them are depicted strong and healthy woodsmen, explorers, and farmers, blazing new trails, cutting down trees, and working in the fields. There is still a great deal of back-breaking work that goes into the production of Oregon's agricultural bounty and forestry products, but in this modern age many of the hardest tasks that the pioneers had to deal with have been made much easier through new technology and mechanized equipment. When Oregon became a state about 95 percent of workers were either farmers or lumbermen. One hundred and fifty three years later there are far fewer farmers and loggers around, yet agriculture still produces 12% of the State's economic activity, and employs 10% of the State's labor directly or through processing and sup-

port businesses. This "backbone" of both the Oregon and U.S. economies is experiencing a newer and different kind of stress, not the physical stress that our ancestors endured but the stress of burdensome regulations and taxation. Of course, many regulations serve a useful and beneficial purpose, and a moderate level of taxation is necessary for a functional society to flourish. However, when regulations and taxation stretch the agricultural "backbone" near to its breaking point they endanger the entire economy to which its existence is so vital. Our State, which relies upon the economic power of the agricultural "backbone" and the taxes which agriculture and their employees pay, must remain conscious of the fact that if taxes and regulations are stretched beyond the breaking point it may take a long time to recover from the ensuing "backache".

Tractor Safety Courses Offered

Troy Hadley, MCFB Vice President

There is still room available in the Tractor Safety Course. The five-day (30 hour) course is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. Monday, June 25 through Friday, June 29 at Antique Powerland in Brooks. Individuals completing this behind-the-wheel training will receive certification from the U.S. Department of Labor for competency in tractor operation. The course is offered by Jeremiah Coop who received his instructor certification from Oregon State University in 2002. A special discount is available to members of MCFB, their family members and their employees. For more information, contact Genoa Ingram at genoa@courtstreetconsulting.org.

Farm Bureau Meetings

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| June 20 | Marion County Farm Bureau Board Mtg |
| June 24-29 | SAI, Session #1—OSU, Corvallis |
| June 25—29 | Tractor Safety Course—Antique Powerland, Brooks |
| July 8-13 | SAI, Session #2—LaGrande/Union |
| July 10-11 | Council of Presidents Meeting—Washington DC |
| July 17-20 | Women's Communications Boot Camp—Washington DC |
| July 29-Aug 1 | Western Reg. Presidents & Admin Conf—Nevada |

DOL Officially Withdraws Ag Youth Proposal

Excerpt from the [Federal Register, Vol. 77, No. 103, May 26, 2012, p. 31550](#)

The Department of Labor received over 10,000 comments on their proposed amendments to child labor regulations. Many of the comments were from parents who own or operate farms who believed that the Department’s proposal would limit their ability to employ their own children on their farm and to provide their children with hands-on experiences in agricultural occupations. Further, many of the commenters maintained that the Department’s proposed amendments interpreting the statutory parental exemption failed to recognize that many farms are no longer wholly owned by a parent or parents of the children employed on the farm and the proposed rule should allow for corporate and other types of ownership of farms by multiple members of an employed child’s family. Other commenters, including 153 Members of the House of Representatives, 42 United States Senators, and a number of agricultural education instructors, emphasized the importance of preparing the next

generation of farmers and ranchers. These individuals also stated that the Department’s proposal to increase the rigor of the current student learner exemptions that allow 14- and 15-year-olds to be employed in certain occupations that the Secretary has declared are particularly hazardous for children under the age of 16, would unduly limit the work young children could be employed to perform on a farm and thereby limit their opportunity to learn about farming through hands-on experience and discourage them from entering the field of farming.

NEW LOCATION!!

The Marion County Farm Bureau has relocated to the Capitol Mall area.
Our new address is:

1284 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 07301

The new phone number is:

(503)378-0595.

Young Farmers and Ranchers

Brenda Kirsch, MCFB Board Member

We had another Young Farmer & Rancher event June 7th. It will be the last one until next fall, as we all get geared up for summer and harvest. Dinner was provided along with a tour of the fertilizer facility. Anyone involved in any facet of agriculture and their family members are welcome to join the group.

Throughout the summer we will also be discussing what other things this group may want to do. Bowling, tour ideas, travel, speakers, etc. So if you have any ideas please share them so that we can start to get things rolling once fall comes around.

If you are interested in joining please contact Brenda Kirsch, brenda_kirsch@yahoo.com

Marion County Farm Bureau
1284 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301
503.378.0595

MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Promoting, protecting & advancing
farm interests in Marion County

IMPORTANT DATES:

<u>Marion County Fair</u>	July 12-15, 2012
<u>Farm-City Week</u>	November 16-22, 2012
<u>OFB Annual Convention</u>	December 4-6, 2012
<u>American Farm Bureau Convention</u>	January 13-16, 2013

Don't Miss Your Newsletter!

In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, MCFB plans to switch to e-newsletters to save money on printing and postage. Members are encouraged to forward your email address to mary@courtstreetconsulting.org at your earliest convenience so you don't miss out on MCFB news. Those members who do not have internet access can request to receive their newsletters printed and mailed to them.