



Board of Directors:

John Zielinski, President
Brenda Frketch, Vice President

Directors

Greg Bennett
Kathleen Carl
Roger DeJager
Keith Ditchen
Dana Estensen
Stuart Olson
Joe Ruef
Matt Schuster
Dylan Wells

District 15 Director

Bruce Chapin

Young Farmer/Rancher

Joe Sherman

Women's Chair

Connie Young

Voting Delegates

Greg Bennett
Roger DeJager
Keith Ditchen
Brenda Frketch

Staff

Genoa Ingram
Jessica Carpenter
Lisa Van
Laureal Williams

Marion County Farm Bureau

1284 Court St NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
Phone: 503-378-0595
Fax: 503-364-9919
www.marioncofarm.com

*Images courtesy of
freedigitalphotos.net
unless otherwise noted*

IN THIS ISSUE

MCFB Annual Business
Meeting and Conference 2

Alexis Taylor Named ODA Director... 2

Congratulations to the 2016
MCFB Scholarship Recipients..... 3

Grieving Indiana Farmer Gets
Help From Fellow Farmers 3

2016 a Successful Year
for MCFB..... Back Cover

Schedule Time for Agricultural Advocacy

By John Zielinski, President

Winter, a time when farmers are planning for the next crop year. While deciding what to grow, budgeting, evaluating last year's production numbers, and developing plans for the coming crop year, you are carefully calculating how much time is needed to prep ground, plant, prune, or market crops, and hoping and praying that nature will be kind this year. The choices you make now will have an impact on your operation this year and for years to come. Your resources are valuable - not just your land and money but your time as well. I ask that you also consider what fraction of your precious time you can invest in agricultural advocacy.

The Oregon State Legislature will be in session beginning February 1, and decisions will be made in the Capitol by our elected officials that may impact your operation's bottom line more than Mother Nature or the price you receive for your crops. There are numerous bills planned for this session that will be crucial: labor issues, water issues, and pesticide issues are just a few of the areas of concern for your farming operation.

As the gap between rural and urban viewpoints widens, it is no longer an option to stay on the farm and ignore what happens in the Capitol. Everyone in agriculture needs to find their voice and use it; we are greatly outnumbered by those who are unaware of the challenges that farmers face.

To stay informed you can use the Oregon Farm Bureau Action Alerts at oregonfb.org/legislation-get-involved. Another good source is the Rural Voices Coalition at oregonruralvoices.com. From these sites, you can sign petitions and submit letters and emails to legislators using your own story or using talking points suggested by the OFB staff. If you are comfortable telling your story to others, coordinate with OFB staff to testify at the Capitol. The OFB legislative lobbyists are some of the very best at the Capitol; however, real stories from farmers have great impact.

Though this may seem daunting, it needn't be. Our elected officials are just people - people who need to hear from you about the impact impending legislation will have on your family farm. One easy thing you can do is attend the Farm Bureau Reception at the Oregon State Capitol Galleria on February 17, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

As you contemplate your resources this winter, remember to carve out a fraction of time for agricultural advocacy. The future of your farming operation depends on it.

Farm Bureau Reception at Oregon State Capitol

Friday, February 17, 2017
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Farmers, ranchers, lawmakers, and the general public are invited to a free cake & coffee reception in the Oregon State Capitol Galleria.

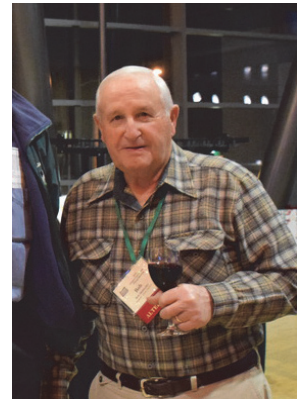
Hosted by the OFB Women's Advisory Council

MCFB Annual Business Meeting and Conference Shines a Bright Light on the Future of Ag

The 2016 Marion County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and Conference took place November 15 at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton. Nearly 90 members and guests attended the much anticipated event, one of our largest turnouts to date.

Elections took place after a summary of accomplishments of the year and a discussion about the exciting future for the Marion County Farm Bureau. Term lengths, which vary by position, are noted in parenthesis below. Your newly elected officers are:

President (1-year term):	John Zielinski
Vice President (1-year term):	Brenda Frketich
Delegates (1-year term):	Brenda Frketich Keith Ditchen Greg Bennett
Directors (2-year term):	Keith Ditchen Kathleen Carl Greg Bennett Joe Ruef



Bob Dettwyler
received the Jack Chapin
Passion for Agriculture
Award for his 25 years of
service.

*Photo from 2016
OFB Annual Meeting*

President Zielinski summarized the MCFB 2016 Annual Report outlining the financial health and stability of the association. Cowboy Poet Tom Swearingen entertained the crowd with a recitation of his poems. Bob Dettwyler was honored with the prestigious Jack Chapin Passion for Agriculture Award for his 25 years of outstanding service. The lively event concluded with a generous drawing of door prizes.

Thank you to all who participated in this special evening. We hope you will join us again next year.

Alexis Taylor Named ODA Director

Alexis Taylor, who formerly served US Department of Agriculture (USDA) as the Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, has been appointed by Governor Kate Brown to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Confirmed by the State Senate on December 14, 2016, Taylor will officially take office on January 23, 2017.

Lisa Charpilloz Hanson has served as interim director since October 1, following longtime ODA director Katy Coba's appointment to the state's chief operating officer and director of the Department of Administrative Services.

Taylor comes to the ODA from its federal government counterpart, the US Department of Agriculture. In her role at USDA, Taylor was responsible for advancing international trade policy and leads efforts with states to support and open new, international market opportunities for US food and agriculture producers. Additionally, Taylor lead the USDA's Women in Agriculture Initiative, dedicated to fostering and growing a mentoring network for women pursuing careers in agriculture.

During her time in Congress, Taylor negotiated key provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill, as well as the Senate version of the 2012 Farm Bill which was ultimately enacted into law as the 2014 Farm Bill.

Before joining USDA, Taylor served as the legislative advisor to Representative Leonard Boswell, D-Iowa, and later, US Senator Max Baucus, D-Montana.

"Alexis brings a passion for agriculture, rooted in her Midwest, family-owned farm upbringing," Governor Brown said in a release. "I look forward to welcoming Alexis, who will be a strong advocate for our rural communities and Oregon's incredibly diverse agriculture sector."

Taylor was raised on an Iowa farm and graduated from Iowa State University. She served in the United States Army Reserves from 1998-2006 during which time she completed one tour in Iraq with the 389th Combat Engineer Battalion.

Congratulations to the 2016 MCFB Scholarship Recipients

At its June meeting, the Marion County Farm Bureau awarded four scholarships, two in memory of Mary Petzel and two in memory of Scott Miller.

Mary Petzel Scholarship Recipients

Edith Santos is currently a senior at Gervais High School. As an active member in Gervais FFA, Edith has worked at the FFA pumpkin patch, volunteered for Ag in the Classroom, and also participated in many contests. She is a dedicated member of her community having been involved in many events including Oktoberfest, Sacred Heart Coin Drive, and Aguilas De Oro. Edith, who intends to become a dentist, plans to attend Chemeketa Community College this fall and then study at the University of Oregon majoring in Biology and Business Administration.

Andrew Miles is currently enrolled at Oregon State University majoring in Agricultural Education. Andrew grew up on a farm in Fort Rock, Oregon, and has always known that he wanted a career in agriculture. He not only has spent time learning here in Oregon, he also took an opportunity to study in New Zealand for a farm management internship where he gained valuable skills and knowledge about seed production. Andrew plans to become a high school ag teacher upon graduation from OSU.

Scott Miller Scholarship Recipients

Richard Schurter grew up on a farm in Silverton, Oregon, and has spent his entire life on the farm. He has a passion for problem solving, especially when it comes to ag equipment and how to make it operate more efficiently. He has been involved in FFA, Silverton Robotics Club, National Honor Society, and many other organizations throughout his high school career. Upon graduation Richard plans to attend Chemeketa Community College following a path of study that leads him to mechanical engineering.

Claire Zielinski is from Salem, Oregon. Growing up on her family's farm has taught her the value of hard work and dedication that it takes to grow and harvest food. Claire's involvement with agriculture doesn't stop at the farm, she has also been an active 4-H member, OHSET team member, and worked at her family's farm market. Her community involvement also keeps her busy, including volunteering at St. Edwards Catholic Church and the St. Paul Rodeo. Claire will be a sophomore at St. Mary's College of California this fall. She is majoring in Business Administration and hopes to pursue a career in agricultural business.

Congratulations to the 2016-17 scholarship winners!

Grieving Indiana Farmer Gets Help From Fellow Farmers, Harvest Over 100 Acres In One Day

Excerpted from www.fox59.com | Posted 12:53 PM, November 21, 2016, by Kylee Wierks

Read the entire article at: <http://fox59.com/2016/11/21/indiana-farmers-help-friend-after-granddaughters-death-harvest-over-100-acres-in-one-day/>

CONNERSVILLE, Ind. – An Indiana farming community came together to help a man coping with the death of his granddaughter.

Steve Wollyung was preparing to harvest the last 112 acres of his farm on November 5 when an unthinkable tragedy occurred.

His 4-year-old granddaughter Ayla was playing in a grain wagon when she became trapped in the wagon. First responders removed Ayla from the grain wagon, and she was airlifted to Cincinnati Children's Hospital where she later died from her injuries.

Tara Henry called up Steve's wife Carmen and asked if they were done harvesting, and Carmen told her they still had over 100 acres to finish and they weren't sure how they were going to get it all done.

Henry called a few farmers and asked if they would be willing to help. Word spread quickly and pretty soon more than 60 people from several counties contacted Henry about donating their time and equipment to help the Wollyung family.

Steve told FOX59 he was totally shocked. "I couldn't believe it when I saw everyone show up to help. All of the support and the number of people wanting to help is just overwhelming," Steve said. "It was emotional to see everyone. Whatever we needed, they brought."

Working together, they finished harvesting 18,463 bushels by about 5 p.m. Steve said it would have taken him about a week to do the work all on his own.

Williamson said this is typical of the farming community. "Most farmers look out for each other and would do that for anyone."

Steve says he hopes that by sharing his story he can raise awareness about how dangerous farms can be for children. "We're hoping this tragedy will help others down the road. Around Halloween, kids visit farms and play in corn mazes and it all looks so pretty and fun. But we need to teach them that farms are a place where serious work is done and it can be dangerous."



Photo of volunteers harvesting the Wollyung farm on November 12, 2016 courtesy of Tara Henry



1284 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Important Dates

*Information subject to change.
Contact staff to confirm event details.*

2017 MCFB Board Meetings

1284 Court Street NE, Salem

February 8

March 8

April 12

March/April —MCFB Ag Tour



2016 a Successful Year for MCFB

Marion County Farm Bureau remains financially healthy and our mission of “**Promoting, Protecting and Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County**” continues through our many events and worthwhile programs. As a member of Marion County Farm Bureau you’ll be pleased to know that your membership dues allowed us to provide four educational scholarships to youth this year (*see page 3*).

Be sure to support these affiliate organizations and programs within the state of Oregon that are supported by MCFB:

- Adopt a Farmer
- Ag Fest
- Ag in the Classroom
- First Aid Courses
- FFA/4H
- Marion County Fair
- MCFB Annual Meeting
- Marion County Farm Tour
- OEAF Century Farm/Ranch Program
- OFB Education Foundation
- OFB Government Affairs
- OFB Legal Foundation
- Oregon Dairy Princess
- Oregonians for Food/Shelter
- Radio Safety Ads
- Ronald McDonald House



Simplify by Going Paperless

In an effort to be careful stewards of resources, MCFB offers e-newsletters to members. Members are encouraged to sign up to receive e-newsletters in lieu of printed publications. Contact staff at jessica@marioncofarm.com to provide your e-mail address if you are interested in “being green” and going paperless.