

FARM GRAM

Promoting, Protecting & Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County



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Climatologists Plan for Wetter Winter

DON JENKINS, Capital Press

The surface of the Pacific Ocean along the equator is cooling and likely will continue to cool, triggering a La Nina this summer that will stay through the winter, the National Weather Service predicts.

Sea-surface temperatures have been above average for almost a year, but dropped in May to near normal, ending a strong El Nino that peaked in December, according to the weather service's Climate Prediction Center.

There is a 69% chance that between July and September seas will be cool enough for a La Nina. La Nina winters are generally cooler and wetter in the Pacific Northwest and good for irrigators.

Some stretches of the Pacific Ocean already are cooler than normal. La Ninas tend to follow strong El Ninos, adding confidence to the forecast, according to the climate center.

The fading El Nino broke a string of three straight La Nina winters. It has been blamed for droughts and floods around the world because of its varying influence on global weather patterns.

Climatologists lean on sea-surface temperatures in making seasonal forecasts because warmer or cool seas cause changes in the atmosphere that shift storm tracks.

El Ninos are linked to warm and dry winters in the northern tier of the U.S., including Washington and the Idaho Panhandle. Winters are generally cooler and wetter farther south.

The state Department of Ecology anticipates summer water shortages and has declared a drought. In Oregon, parts of Deschutes, Crook, Lake and Klamath counties are in a "moderate" drought, making up 4% of the state.



Protecting Your Legacy Understanding the Importance of Liability Insurance

As a farmer, safeguarding your legacy and assets is paramount. Liability risks are ever-present, and having the right insurance coverage is essential to protect your hard-earned investments.

It's important to have enough liability insurance to cover the assets you could lose. Here are some important things to ask your insurance advisor about to make sure you're covered:

General, Personal, and Farm Liability:

This ensures that you have sufficient coverage to protect against potential lawsuits or claims that could otherwise jeopardize your assets. Coverage includes defense costs, medical expenses, and property damage.

Auto Insurance Liability:

Separate personal use from farm/business use to avoid complications and ensure appropriate coverage.

Umbrella Insurance:

Provides an additional layer of liability protection at a relatively low cost, extending the limits of your other liability policies.

Workers' Compensation:

Covers medical expenses and lost wages for employees who are injured on the job, reducing your liability.

Employment Practices Liability Insurance (EPLI):

This is a must for modern farms. EPLI covers a range of employment-related issues including wrongful termination, harassment, discrimination, invasion of privacy, breach of contract, and violations of wage and hour laws. Unlike large corporations with extensive HR departments and legal staff, small and new businesses are particularly vulnerable to employment claims.

To Protect Yourself from EPLI Claims:

- Develop an Employee Handbook
- Create Job Descriptions
- Conduct Performance Reviews
- Implement a Screening and Hiring Program
- Institute Zero-Tolerance Discrimination, Substance Abuse, and Harassment Policies
- Maintain Comprehensive Records:

By working closely with your insurance advisor and ensuring they understand the specifics of your assets and how they are owned (LLC, Trust, etc.), you can secure the right coverage. Protecting your farm with appropriate liability insurance and EPLI not only safeguards your business but also ensures that your legacy can be passed on without the burden of unresolved claims or lawsuits.

Stay protected, and keep your farm's future secure.

Find us online anytime at: www.marioncofarm.com





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A Message from the President

I'm writing this on a cool, somewhat rainy day in May, typical for this time of year. We are looking forward to a bit warmer weather – 70 deg F to 80 deg F is nice but also perfect conditions for powdery mildew. The vineyards are more uniform this year than the past 2 years but there are some cold, spotty areas that got hit by the frost earlier in the year. Be careful of those low, confined spots when you plant a vineyard.

Farm Bureau is about community and looking out for and helping each other on many levels so hopefully your neighbors are all good and Farm Bureau members. We have great neighbors and always appreciate the opportunity to help each other out. Whether it's borrowing bins or a semi-truck for harvest, letting neighbors use our yard for staging empty trailers, or re-homing abandoned cats, it's nice to have each other's backs.

One of the priorities for Oregon Farm Bureau (and Marion County Farm Bureau) is to grow our membership. We try to keep up with renewals and past due members but what was reinforced at our last OFB membership committee meeting was that "You can't renew yourself into growth!" Organizations with compelling value and seen as innovative are the most likely to grow membership and that will continue to be our focus.

For example, a big win for agriculture in the 2024 Legislative Session was the passage of HB 4111. This will ensure that farm equipment and machinery is no longer assessed as real property. Greg Bennett, a MCFB board member, has been at the forefront of this issue for a long time and we are glad that the efforts of Greg and our OFB Governmental Affairs were successful. Thank you to Greg, Lauren Kuenzi and Lauren Poor for your efforts.

Please let us know what issues you are dealing with and if there are additional programs that you'd like to see MCFB promoting. As usual, we are working hard for Oregon Agriculture but as a grassroots organization, the input of members is invaluable.

Cheers to a smooth and bountiful growing season!

Dana Estensen
Marion County Farm Bureau President



Dana Estensen
Marion County FB President

2024 Marion County Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the winners of the Scott Miller, Mary Petzel, and Roger De Jager Memorial Scholarships for 2024! It is impressive to read all the applications which makes it challenging to select the recipients. This year, we had a record number of applications, and all of the applicants were enthusiastic, imaginative, creative, and hardworking. We are launching an event at our annual meeting in November to raise funds to be able to help more deserving students in our county continue their Ag education. Keep an eye out for more announcements this fall!

Roger De Jager Memorial Scholarship

Denali Bosco from Hubbard will be continuing her education at Oregon State University this fall as a sophomore. Her major of Animal Science with minors in Wildlife Conservation or Range Land Science will help her to reach her goal of becoming a large and small animal mobile veterinarian.

Kamryn Keller from Clackamas County is currently getting hands on experience at a dairy in Marion County. She will be attending Linn Benton Community College as a sophomore in the fall. Her major is Animal Science, and her career goal is to work in Dairy Husbandry and Production.

Scott Miller Memorial Scholarship

James Davidson from St. Paul will be a freshman at Corban University in the fall. His major will be Agricultural Education with a minor in Religious Studies preparing him for a career as a High School Agriculture Teacher.

Lena Tribbett, a Silverton High graduate will be entering her junior year at Corban University this fall. She is majoring in Agriculture Science with a minor in Business and she is looking forward to a career as an Ag Business Financial Accountant for her family's farm.

MaKayla Rose from Silverton will be entering her freshman year at Corban University this fall. She will major in Agriculture Business Management with a minor in Religion.

She is looking forward to a career in Farm Management in her family's business.

Emily Barnett from Aurora will be attending Carroll College as a freshman in the fall. Her major is Business: Accounting and Strategic Finance and she is preparing for a career as bookkeeper/nursery manager.

Hanna Krahmer from Salem will be attending Linn Benton Community College as a freshman this fall. Her major is Diesel Technology with Ag Business Management and Animal Science as her minors. She will be pursuing a livestock or equipment related role in production agriculture.

George Pohlschneider from St. Paul will be attending Oregon State as a freshman in the fall. His major will be Business, which will help him out with any number of career choices.

Ainsley Goughnour from St. Paul will be a junior at the University of Idaho in the fall. Her major is Agricultural Education with a minor in Agricultural Sciences Communications and Leadership. Her career goal is to be a High School Agricultural Science teacher and FFA advisor.

Samuel Schuster grew up on his family's farm in Gervais. He is continuing his college career as a junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this fall. His major is Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Mathematics leading to his future occupation as a Professional Engineer at NASA.

Rebecca Noordam from Mt. Angel will be attending Corban University as a sophomore in the fall. Her majors are Agricultural Science and Business Administration with a minor in Biblical Studies. She is preparing for a career as an Agricultural Lobbyist.

Mary Petzel Memorial Scholarship

Issac Santiago from Salem and Salem-Keiser FFA will be a freshman at Oregon State University this fall. He will be pursuing degrees in Animal Science and Biology and is looking forward to a career as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Brandon Metzger grew up in Salem and will be starting his education with dual enrollment at Chemeketa Community College and Oregon State University this fall as a freshman. His majors are Agricultural and Food Business Management, which will prepare him for his career in agriculture.

David Tribbett is graduating Silverton High School this Spring and will be a freshman at Chemeketa Community College in the fall. His major in Diesel Technology with a minor in Business will help prepare him for his career in farming.

Jared Mehlschau is from Jefferson and will be continuing his education at Oregon State University this summer as a junior. His major is Agricultural Sciences which will prepare him for his career as a farmer or rancher.

MCFB Welcomes Billman and Fobert to Board

The board of Marion County Farm Bureau has 14 directors and it's a terrific, diverse group that is always engaged with the different programs and issues affecting agriculture on a county, state and national level. We're excited to introduce our 2 recently elected Marion County Farm Bureau Board members.

Our newest MCFB board member is Claire Billman who was elected in April. She is originally from Harney County where she worked on her family's 4th generation hay and cattle ranch. After graduating from Oregon State, she was involved in the cattle

industry in Baker County where she also served on the Baker County FB board.

She, and her husband Tucker, moved to "the west side" at the beginning of the year and she has taken on a new role at a nursery in Mt. Angel. She currently serves on the Oregon YF&R State Committee as an at-large representative.

Cheyne Fobert was elected to our board in February of 2024. He returned to Fobert Farms (a 4th generation family farm) after graduation from Oregon State University with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business Management. Cheyne is married with 2 children and a

third child due any day.

Their farm's main focus is on hop production, but he has also diversified into other crops including grass seed, wheat, hazelnuts, and hay. He serves on the Oregon Hop Commission Board and is the Hop Research Council of Oregon Representative.

With their backgrounds in agriculture, including their family's businesses and their involvement on other boards, we are looking forward to the valuable experience and perspective they will bring to our MCFB board. Welcome Claire and Cheyne!

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MCFB Board Meetings

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

Next Meeting: June 12, 6:30 p.m.
1320 Capital St NE, Salem, OR



June 14:
Farm Dog Day
Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm

June 21:
YF&R Hop Tour & Social

July 11-14:
Marion County Fair

Nov. 9:
YF&R Leadership
Conference, Bend

Nov. 20:
MCFB Annual Dinner

YF&R Hop Tour & Social

FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST

Join Oregon Young Farmers & Ranchers on a tour of Crosby Hop Farm at 2:00 PM.
Social at Topwire Beer Garden after the tour at 4:00PM.

Please RSVP on the YF&R Website



**CROSBY
HOPS**

Please Park at
Topwire overflow
parking lot
8668 Crosby Rd
NE, Woodburn,
OR 97071



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