

FARM GRAM

Promoting, Protecting & Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County



A publication of the Marion County Farm Bureau

Volume 24, Issue 3

A Call for Urgent Support: Eastern Oregon Wildfires Set Records

Oregon has broken its record for acres burned, surpassing data dating back to 1992. This devastating fire season has already seen 1,399 fires scorch 1.49 million acres (equivalent to 2,200 square miles). For comparison, 2012 saw a total of 1.2 million acres burned, while 2020 reached 1.14 million acres. Worryingly, the situation could still worsen.

As of mid-August, 71 fires are considered “Large Fires,” with five being classified as “Mega Fires.” These fires, located in Gilliam, Morrow, Baker, Malheur, and Harney counties, are still burning, though some are at least 90% contained.

Human activity has been responsible

for 976 fires, burning 900,103 acres, while lightning strikes have caused 423 fires, affecting 592,509 acres. This year’s wildfires have already prompted the governor to invoke the Emergency Conflagration Act 13 times, nearly doubling the 2023 declarations.

The top needs for those affected include funding for livestock death and damage, grazing and hay support, and infrastructure repairs, such as fencing, trail roads, and remote watering troughs.

As these fires continue to ravage Eastern Oregon, the agricultural community must come together to support one another through these challenging times.

Ways You Can Help

Oregon Cattleman’s Association:
orcattle.com/wildfire-fund-donations

Oregon State University Foundation:
extension.oregonstate.edu/announcements/wildfire-resources-agriculture-livestock-producers

Oregon Farm Bureau:
www.oregonfb.org/donate

Wildland Firefighter Foundation:
wffoundation.org

United Way:

www.uwpnw.org/wildfires

Note: there is not a specific United Way that serves Eastern Oregon, although United Way of the Blue Mountains can support Baker, Umatilla and Wallowa counties.

Iowa Farm Bureau Explores Oregon Agriculture



Bruce Chapin hosted members of the Iowa Farm Bureau during a visit to Oregon in June.

In June, Iowa Farm Bureau visited Oregon for their Membership Incentive Trip. They recognize membership accomplishments of their volunteer farmer members and use the trip to reward and educate them.

As part of their 5-day visit to Corvallis, Salem, and Newport, 140 IFB members stopped by Chapin Dehydrating to learn about farming and processing filberts (hazelnuts). Bruce Chapin gave an engaging presentation on their operations, challenges and opportunities and there was really good interaction with the group from Iowa.

Filbert/hazelnuts were available to snack on and each IFB member took home a jar of Nutlicious Hazelnut Spread. Chapin’s wife Velan, son-in-law Matt Schuster, and MCFB President Dana Estensen were also on hand to engage with the IFB members.

Find us online anytime at: www.marioncofarm.com





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dana Estensen
President

Stuart Olsen
Vice President

DIRECTORS

Greg Bennett
Claire Billman
Cheyne Fobert
Graham Fordyce
Anne Krahrmer-Steinkamp
Joe Ruef
Casey Stadel
John Zielinski

DISTRICT 15 DIRECTOR

Bruce Chapin

YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

Claire Zielinski

WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jessie DeJager

VOTING DELEGATES/ ALTERNATES

Greg Bennett
Anne Krahrmer-Steinkamp
Casey Stadel

STAFF

Jill Ingalls
Macy Chapman
Ashley Christie

MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 12216
Salem, Oregon 97309
Phone: 503.877.1999

www.marioncofarm.com

A Message from the President

I am proud to be serving as your Marion County Farm Bureau president and proud to be a farmer in Marion County, Oregon! I enjoy seeing everyone in action, preparing fields, planting, spraying, irrigating, weeding, harvesting and driving down the road in all sorts of equipment.

I wish I had time to talk to every member and see what they are up to and learn about their farming operation, but extra time is hard to find. We usually start our wine grape harvest with a pick for sparkling wine a couple of weeks after hop harvest starts, so early September. It's been a challenging year for powdery mildew and grape sales, but the quality and yield look promising.

We took July off from our monthly board meeting, but we still keep working to advocate for agriculture. OFB staff, besides their work directly with the legislature, is a part of many rules' advisory committees, work groups, stake holder groups, lobby and coalition groups. They also monitor state agencies and work at the American Farm Bureau level. We are so lucky to have such a great staff and appreciative of their outstanding work on behalf of Oregon agriculture and Farm Bureau.

It was great to attend the Marion County Fair in July. Marion County Farm Bureau sponsors t-shirts for every 4-H/FFA member in attendance – 625 this year! They really appreciate them and wear them during the fair and beyond. Great advertising!

We also sponsor the STEAM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Agriculture, Mathematics*) activity at the fair. Over 1200 game cards were handed out to children and their families. The participants search for the STEAM signs, learn fun facts about agriculture and can win a prize!

We've met twice with the Marion County Board of Commissioners, Sheriff Hunter, Representatives Diehl and Lewis, and others regarding roadside vendors. In the past few years, more and more pop-up vendors have been present in county right of ways selling non-local produce and prepared food. They don't appear to meet requirements set by OSHA, BOLI, ODA, and other agencies and we are concerned, as the rest of the group is, that the people who are selling the products are not being treated properly. It's an ongoing discussion and we've made good progress.

In August, OFB hosted a very successful golf tournament fundraiser for Oregon Farm Political Action Committee. The tournament had been on hold during COVID but came back as roaring success. Kudos to Lauren Kuenzi (*OFB Director, Government and Political Affairs and Marion County Farm Bureau member*) and the rest of the OFB staff for organizing it.

If we are to be successful in the political arena, we need to raise money to compete. Thank you to everyone who participated and also to Olson Farms, EZ Orchards, Fordyce Farms, and Chapin Dehydrator for their donations to the raffle baskets.

On Saturday, September 7, there will be an opportunity to support the vital work of Oregon Farm Bureau's PAC at the 2024 Trap Shoot and BBQ. Please join us at the Albany Gun Club with a start time of 3 pm. We look forward to an afternoon filled with friendly competition, delicious food and great company – all for a great cause. More information is available on the Oregon Farm Bureau website under "Events".

Over the summer I attended the OFB Farm Dog of the Year event at Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm (*with my farm dog Skeeter*) and enjoyed a BBQ/tour in Portland hosted by Multnomah and Clackamas Farm Bureaus. At our August meeting we interviewed candidates for the upcoming primary election in November and will continue with our interviews and potential endorsements at our September meeting. Enjoy rest of the summer and I hope harvest goes well. I'm looking forward to seeing you at our annual meeting on November 20.



Dana Estensen
Marion County FB President



One of the dozen STEAM game signs at the Marion County Fair this summer with agriculture facts.

Cheers!

Dana Estensen

Marion County Farm Bureau President

Bringing Agriculture Into the Classroom

Julia Marshall
Central Howell English Teacher

My love for plants and animals began on my family's small farm in Jefferson and has carried over to a hobby farm I have today in Silverton with my husband and kids. At Central Howell, I connect with my students through hands-on farming activities like hatching chicks and growing seeds.

I've always wondered how I could incorporate more ag into our day. In June of this year, I was presented with the opportunity to attend the Summer Ag Institute (SAI) graduate course at Oregon State University and was generously sponsored by the Marion County Farm Bureau and our parent club.

The goal of this program is to help teachers like me find even more ways to use agriculture as a context for teaching core academic subjects. During the week-long adventure, our group of teachers watched presentations from OSU scientists and professors, ODA specialists, OSU Extension staff.

We also traveled to numerous farms and agricultural facilities for immersive tours. We were encouraged to peek behind the curtain and ask as many questions as we could think of to better understand the daily operations.

Most nights, we stayed on campus at the dorms, but one night of the week, we were treated to an overnight stay on a working farm or ranch. I stayed with Tom and Brenda Goracke and toured their impressive grass seed operation. It was definitely a highlight of the whole program.

At the end of the whirlwind of a week, we submitted our lesson plans for grading and sharing with our fellow peers. This collaboration was one of my favorite things, especially given the diversity of our class of teachers.


We had everyone from self-proclaimed "city folk" to people like me who dabble on hobby farms. Sharing views and experiences about teaching and farming gave me a multitude of ideas for the 2024-25 school year.




Julia Marshall, left, an eighth-grade English teacher at Central Howell in Silverton, gets hands-on farm experience at the Summer Ag Institute.

This school year we will continue to hatch poultry and my English class will do several research and writing assignments that align with both our state standards and help them learn more about the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives.

NOVEMBER 9, 2024
Deschutes County Fairgrounds







**YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Speakers and Topics


**Accredited
CPR Class**




**Water
Rights**




**First Time
Farmer**




Leadership




**Pesticide
Class**




**Succession
Planning**



Farm Safety



**Farm Bureau
Advocacy**



To register, scan the qr code or visit www.oregonfb.org/young-farmers-ranchers

Register Now:

Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference

The 2024 Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Leadership Conference is coming to the Deschutes County Fairgrounds this November! Registration is open now.

This event is specially designed for farmers and ranchers aged 16-35, offering a day packed with valuable learning and networking opportunities. They've lined up a diverse range of topics and classes that cater to your needs, from CPR and First Aid Training to Succession Planning and earning Pesticide Credits. The cost to attend is \$20.

It's an excellent chance to gain essential skills, connect with others, and stay ahead in your industry. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

If you need support in attending the Conference, please contact your local YF&R Representative, Claire Zielinski, at clairezielinski21@gmail.com.





Annual Dinner Set for November 20

Join us for the Marion County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting & Dinner on November 20 at the Union Hill Grange in Sublimity!

This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, celebrate our shared achievements, and connect with fellow farmers and ranchers.

The evening promises good food, great company, and celebration of our year. Plus, a 50/50 Raffle to benefit the MCFB Scholarship Fund.

Register online at: marioncofarm.com/events/annual-meeting

Marion FB Annual Meeting

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 20

Time: 6 - 8pm

Location: Union Hill Grange, 15775 Grange Rd SE, Sublimity

Cost: \$35 per person

Registration:

Online at marioncofarm.com or scan the qr code



News on the Marion Rural Transportation System Plan

MCFB member Karl Dettwyler recently attended a virtual introduction meeting for Marion County Rural Transportation System Plan (RTSP) hosted by Anthony Gamallo with DKS and associates.

RTSP is a long-term policy and planning document that guides transportation investments and improvements.

RTSPs make it possible for Marion County to apply for federal, state, and regional funding of transportation projects. This policy will focus on the rural areas of Marion County.

Dettwyler was able to share general input on what will be important pieces of the RTSP for agriculture. The goal is to maintain bridges with legal weight capacities to move products from field to processors in an efficient manner without having to find alternate routes due to weight limits on bridges.

Adequate shoulders to provide for the ease of moving farm equipment. Eliminating pinch points such as narrow bridges, guard rails and other obstacles when possible. These things all provide for safer travel for everyone.

Visibility thought given to sign placement and vegetation management for Trucks and Ag Equipment. What might be visible in a car may not be in a tractor or truck.

Pull outs for farm equipment to be able to move to the side to let other vehicles pass by – which can come with its own challenges.

Carl Lund, traffic engineer with Marion County, would like a better understanding or feedback if pullouts were something farmers would like to see. Any feedback that we could share with Carl would be great.

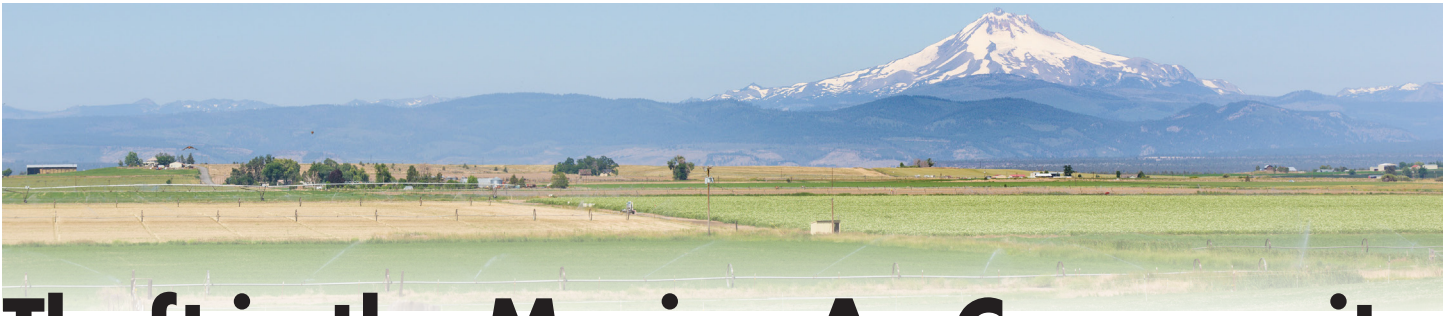
Visit marion-county-rtsp-deagis.hub.arcgis.com/ for more information.

Field of Greens

Agriculture Night at Volcanoes Stadium



Austin McClister, Oregon Farm Bureau Communications Director, throws out a first pitch at Oregon Agriculture Night during the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes vs. Portland Mavericks baseball game in August. The night, hosted at the Volcanoes Stadium in Keizer, brought together farmers, ranchers, and ag supporters for a night of baseball, fun, and celebration of our vibrant agricultural community.



Theft in the Marion Ag Community

Nick Hunter
Marion County Sheriff

The Marion County Sheriff's Office is committed to addressing livability issues for all of our communities and residents. Of significance, our current livability priorities are focused on the addiction crisis, community violence, and theft. For this article, I would like to specifically address the topic of theft in our communities.

We have seen a rise in theft surrounding both the addiction crisis and community violence. For the addiction crisis, theft is a means to obtain goods, readily capable of being traded or sold to support the purchase of drugs. Theft also has a nexus to community violence when offenders are targeting specific items such as firearms.

The Sheriff's Office is focusing efforts on the root of the theft problems and not simply responding to the symptoms. We are specifically dedicating resources to locating, investigating, and prosecuting those receiving, reselling, and distributing the stolen property.

For the community response to theft, three basic principles should be followed

to increase deterrence and assist with identification and prosecution.

First, the community needs to secure valuable items and locations where valuables are located. Offenders are generally non-sophisticated and look for the easiest time and place to offend. Securing buildings, doors, windows, and access points is an immediate deterrence.

Removing keys from equipment and vehicles may be an inconvenience to operations, but seeing keys is an immediate attraction to offenders looking for an easy score. Avoid leaving items in plain view, especially in vehicles, and take the time to secure items in a trunk or other non-conspicuous location.

Second, lighting is a deterrent to those who want to offend. We are rapidly losing daylight as the seasons are changing, and the cover of darkness provides a more secure environment for those trying to remain unseen.

Motion activated lighting, or lighting programmed to activate at random times are simple and cost-effective solutions. This is especially true for shops, barns and other outbuildings located away from a residential structure. Avoiding predictable patterns in lighting is also beneficial,

especially when away from a location.

Third, the use of technology is an affordable implementation that creates immediate notification, can be associated with lighting, and greatly assists with investigations and the prosecution of those responsible. Technology in the form of single cameras, or complete systems, will not only be a deterrent, but also a significant investigative tool for law enforcement.

Offenders do not generally strike at a single location, and camera footage allows investigators to share images to assist in the identification and prosecution of offenders. Multiple charges allow for aggravation of offences and greater accountability options.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies will continue to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of theft in our communities.

To assist in this effort, we are asking for the community's help following the three principles outlined in this article. We are also underscoring that all incidents need to be reported. The incident which happens to you, could be the incident that ties several together, leading to identification and arrest.

COVER CROP Assistance Grant

Improve soil health and structure.
Combat erosion and runoff.

APPLY ONLINE
8/1 - 10/31

WWW.MARIONSWCD.NET 503-949-1518 BECKY.PINEDA@MARIONSWCD.NET

REAL oregon
Resource Education & Agricultural Leadership Program

APPLY TODAY

OREGON'S PREMIER
NATURAL RESOURCE & AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

DEADLINE EXTENDED
SEPTEMBER 15

REALOregon.net
info@realoregon.net

www.marioncofarm.com

Phone: 503.877.1999
Salem, Oregon 97309
PO Box 12216



MCFB Board Meetings

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

Next Meeting: Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m.
1320 Capital St NE, Salem, OR



Nov. 9:

YF&R Leadership
Conference, Bend

Nov. 12-14:

Willamette Valley Ag Expo
Albany, OR

Nov. 20:

MCFB Annual Dinner
Sublimity, OR

Need to Renew your OFB Membership?

It's easy to renew your membership and enroll in the auto-renewal program. Visit the OFB website:

www.oregonfb.org/membership or scan the qr code.



PHOTO CONTEST



www.oregonfb.org/bounty

**SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS
FOR THE 2025
OREGON'S
BOUNTY CALENDAR**



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