

FARM GRAM

Promoting, Protecting & Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County



A publication of the Marion County Farm Bureau

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Upcoming Workshops:

Land Buying and Water Rights

Looking to sharpen your knowledge on two essential topics for landowners and agricultural professionals? Prepare to tackle two critical topics in early 2025 with our upcoming workshops designed to empower landowners and agricultural professionals.

One will cover the real estate process. Whether you're buying your first property or expanding your agricultural footprint, this workshop will guide you through the complex real estate purchasing process.

Learn about key elements like escrow, lending, and negotiation strategies, ensuring you make informed decisions at every step.

The second will cover managing and protecting water rights. Water is an essential resource, and effective management is key. This workshop will help you evaluate your current and anticipated water supply and demand.

Discover creative, cost-effective strategies to secure a reliable long-term water supply while protecting your rights. This session is especially valuable for anyone navigating regulatory challenges or drought conditions.

Both workshops are designed to provide practical knowledge and actionable strategies.

Stay tuned for more details, including dates and registration information, and don't miss this chance to build your expertise and prepare for a successful future.



facebook.com/OregonYFR

Building Connections; Growing Ag's Future

Highlights from November YF&R Conference

The Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Conference in Redmond last month brought together agriculture professionals from across the state for a day of learning, networking, and inspiration.

Marion County YF&R representative Claire Zielinski shared her expertise on an Agritourism panel, highlighting opportunities for farmers and ranchers to diversify income streams and connect with consumers.

This free event welcomed participants from all facets of agriculture, offering a wide array of workshops and classes. Topics included succession planning, water rights, and strategies to ensure the long-term success of farming operations.

Attendees also had the opportunity to hear from District 26 Oregon Senator Daniel Bonham, who shared his unique journey into Oregon politics and its intersection with agricultural policy.

Beyond the sessions, the conference provided an invaluable platform for young professionals to connect, share ideas, and build lasting relationships with peers and industry leaders. Whether you're actively working in agriculture or passionate about its future, the YF&R Conference showcased how collaborative learning and community engagement can drive personal and professional growth.

Follow Young Farmers & Ranchers of Oregon Facebook page (www.facebook.com/OregonYFR) to learn more about upcoming conferences, meet-ups, and events.

Find us online anytime at: www.marioncofarm.com





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A Message from the President

We had a good wine grape harvest this year and, like many other farmers, appreciated the mostly favorable harvest weather in September and October. Quality is excellent and yields were on target though grape (and wine) sales are challenging.

We'd like to propose everyone have a glass of wine, beer or cider to celebrate the holiday season around your fresh cut Christmas tree. Non-alcoholic options that would also support our local farmers include a nice glass of milk or a Shirley Temple with a maraschino cherry or two.

Hazelnuts are a nice addition to every holiday meal. Blueberries, apples, and other local produce are available year-round in the delicious baked goods, preserves, and sauces available at our local Farm Markets. And everyone should have a wreath, poinsettia or other plant from one of the local nurseries to decorate their home during the holidays. Thank you for your support!

I've included "Purpose of Farm Bureau" from page 5 of the 2024 OFB Policy Book (found online at www.oregonfb.org/policy) in this Farm Gram as a review of the foundational principles of our organization, why it exists, and why we are involved. We are here to support all farmers, all sizes of operations, and all methods of farming. We are stronger when we, as agriculture, work together.



Dana Estensen
Marion County FB President

Purpose of Farm Bureau

The primary purpose of Farm Bureau is to support the continuation of agricultural and related industries, and prosperity for Oregon farmers and ranchers. Farm Bureau is an independent, nongovernmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulation action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national and international in its scope and influence and is nonpartisan, nonsectarian and non-secret in character. Farm Bureau is the voice of agricultural producers at all levels.

Marion County Farm Bureau officially registered with the State of Oregon as a business entity on September 28, 1950, nearly 75 years ago. But there are newspaper records that show a meeting in Salem in November of 1936 and it looks like in 1948 the Woodburn Farm Center was formed.

At this time there were 19 members and 50 members were required to affiliate with Oregon Farm Bureau. In 1962 there were 9 Farm Centers: Hazel Green, Jefferson, Mt. Angel, North Marion, Silverton, St. Paul, Stayton, Turner, and Waconda. Committees included Policy Development, Legislative (National and State), Taxation, Education, Natural Resources (including Nutria and Starlings), Membership, Farm Labor, Farm Safety and Women's Committee.

A lot has changed over the years but it appears we are still working on many of the same issues and foresee many challenges ahead. An easy way to keep in the loop is to sign up for Voter's Voice at oregonfb.org/advocacy.

When you sign up, you'll get alerts on issues that need our advocacy and helpful information with talking points to help you "craft" relevant testimony. You can also search for legislation and look up your elected officials by your address. It is very important for MCFB members to continue to be engaged at all levels.

Thanks to all who've contributed and made a difference throughout the years for Oregon Agriculture and Farm Bureau. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Please promote Farm Bureau and talk about it with people that you run into. It still easily provides more benefits than what it costs. We are engaged in the present, honor our past, and are prepared to continue to succeed in the future.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and happy and prosperous 2025!

Dana Estensen
Marion County Farm Bureau President

Celebrating Success at the MCFB Annual Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended the Marion County Farm Bureau's annual meeting in November!

It was a joy to gather with so many familiar faces and share a memorable evening together. From lively discussions to great food, the night was a celebration of our agricultural community.

We're thrilled to announce that over \$1,000 was raised for the Marion County Farm Bureau Scholarship Fund! Your generosity will help support future generations in agriculture.

During the meeting, we held elections for leadership positions. Congratulations to our newly elected officers:

President: Dana Estensen

Vice-President: Stuart Olson

Directors/Delegates: Greg Bennett, Claire Billman, Cheyne Fobert, and Anne Krahmer-Steinkamp

If you're interested in taking a more active role in our farm bureau, we welcome you to attend one of our monthly board meetings. We typically meet the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Oregon Farm Bureau office in Salem. Please check with our office to verify meeting time and location.

A special thank you to the Union Hill Grange for hosting us. Grange halls have long been a cornerstone of rural communities, providing space for education, fellowship, and agricultural advocacy. Their rich history aligns perfectly with our mission to support



local agriculture.

We're also grateful to the Phoenix Duo for their lively entertainment and to Wooden Nickel Catering for the delicious meal that brought us all together.

Thank you again for your support and for making this year's meeting a resounding success. Together, we continue to strengthen our farming community and support its bright future!

Marion County Delegates Prepare for Oregon Farm Bureau Convention

Marion County Farm Bureau delegates are gearing up for the Oregon Farm Bureau's Annual Convention, where representatives from across the state will gather for the House of Delegates to discuss and vote on policies shaping the future of agriculture.

Representing Marion County this year are Anne Krahmer-Steinkamp, Claire Billman, Claire Zielinski, Casey Stadel, Dana Estensen, Andy

Steinkamp, and Jessie DeJager. These dedicated individuals will advocate for Marion County's agricultural interests and contribute to vital discussions impacting farmers and ranchers statewide.

Marion County has submitted three proposed resolutions for consideration at the convention. The first addresses land use planning. The second focuses on roadside vendor regulation. The third

highlights propane quality.

The Annual Convention is a cornerstone of Farm Bureau's grassroots advocacy, allowing counties to present ideas, debate issues, and collectively shape the organization's policy framework. Marion County delegates are ready to make their voices heard and represent the interests of their community.

The convention is held in a different county each year. This year Lincoln County is

hosting at the Salishan Resort December 10-12. Besides the House of Delegates, convention programming includes: officer elections, county recognition lunch, council meetings, breakout sessions, pesticide training and the annual awards banquet.

Stay tuned for updates following the convention to learn about policy decisions and how they may impact local agriculture!

www.marioncofarm.com

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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: Dec.18, 6:30 p.m.
1320 Capital St NE, Salem, OR

Membership Renewal

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.

Can't find your member number? You can look it up online at: www.oregonfb.org/membnumber



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