



MULTNOMAH COUNTY FARM BUREAU
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
FY19-20 (October 2019 – September 2020)

*The Multnomah County Farm Bureau (MCFB) would like to wish everyone a happy holiday!
We missed our end-of-year gathering this year but will hopefully resume it in 2021.*

INTRODUCTION: Starting new this year, MCFB has prepared an annual progress report which summarizes activities from the previous year related to each strategic goal identified in the 2020-2025 business plan. This is the first of such annual progress reports. If you would like additional information, please contact us.

1.0 ASKING FARMERS: MCFB began the development and implementation of an easily accessible and readily used program to connect people (who have questions about farming) with local farmers (who can answer their questions).

- Completed Activities
- Soft launched *Ask-A-Farmer* program.
 - Responded to eight questions related to: new farmer advice, agritourism, farm plans, small farm operations, irrigation needs, water rights, lease rates, and a media inquiry.

2.0 ASSISTING FARMERS: MCFB assisted local farmers and farm communities with problem-solving efforts.

- Completed Activities
- MCFB Health & Safety Committee consisted of a single Board Director.
 - Established [Find-A-Farm](#) webpage and [Opportunities](#) webpage.
 - Engaged Portland Farmers Market and Slow Food Portland.
 - Assisted farmers with 24 actions related to: continuing education credits, farm worker housing, new farmer guidance, water use charges, theft/agritourism signs, COVID, coyotes, grants, and ag-oriented accountants.

3.0 CONNECTING FARMERS: MCFB is establishing a network of local farmers and farm supporters through which formal and informal communications and exchanges occur to help farmers address issues.

- Completed Activities
- Information & Outreach Committee consisted of a single Board Director.
 - MCFB Board Directors attended the Oregon Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation conventions.
 - MCFB hosted the Annual Members Meeting/Dinner and end of year celebration (~60 attendees total).
 - Outreach efforts included: new [website](#), rejuvenated [Facebook](#), new [Instagram](#), new [LinkedIn](#), summer newsletter, brochure development and distribution (~300 recipients), several member email updates, and new member postcard development and mailout.

4.0 REPRESENTING FARMERS: MCFB is establishing and implementing a mechanism through which local farmers receive and respond to accurate information about laws, regulations, policies, and programs that may affect their farming businesses; when local farmer response is not possible or practical, MCFB served as a proxy.

- Completed Activities
- Local Government Affairs Committee consisted of a single Board Director.
 - Participated in 10 meetings with local, state, and federal officials.
 - Representation on three local committees/boards (2 LACs and 1 SWCD).
 - Fielded inquiries from one external organization (regenerative farming questions by CO2 Foundation).
 - Distributed information on local candidate fundraiser and local wage tax initiative.
 - Reviewed 26 Oregon Department of State Lands permit applications.
 - Made external contributions of approximately \$6,250, including: OFS annual membership, OFB Voter Education Fund (golf tournament), OFB PAC (trap shoot & dinner), and OFB Ronald McDonald House.

5.0 SHARING KNOWLEDGE WITH FARMERS: MCFB is establishing and implementing an annual training curriculum that meets the unmet needs of local farmers.

- Completed Activities
- Agriculture Education Committee consisted of a single Board Director.
 - Hosted two Pesticide Applicator License training workshops for 30 farmers.
 - Distributed information for EMSWCD's succession planning workshop.
 - Sent letter of support for 4-H Urban/Rural Ag Exchange (OSU Extension).
 - Made external contributions of approximately \$11,000 for: Sandy FFA, OR FFA President training, Oregon Agriculture Education Foundation Memorial Scholarship, Oregon Agriculture Education Foundation/Summer Ag Institute, Sandy Area Buyers Pool, and Oregon Ag in the Classroom.



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6.0 ADMINISTRATION

6.1 Membership: MCFB is working to increase its voting and supporting membership to 200, representing a 30% increase over 2020 numbers (154) and approximately 31% of the farmers in Multnomah County.

- Completed Activities
- Membership Committee consisted of a single Board Director.
 - As of September 2020, total membership was 8,135, consisting of: 128 Voting members, 29 Supporting members, and 7,978 Associate members.

6.2 Board of Directors: The MCFB Board of Directors is working with the Executive Director to increase the capacity and diversity of the MCFB Board—by adding, on average, one new Board member per year — as a means to provide more direct benefit to local farmers and farming communities.

Completed Activities

- Board President: Larry Bailey, Verna Jean Nursery
- Board Secretary: Angi Bailey, Verna Jean Nursery
- Board Treasurer: Deniece Tucker, Tucker Farm
- Board Directors: John Bergan, Al Garre, Helen Bushue, and Joe Rossi.
- Eight Board meetings were held throughout the year (June – August were taken off for farming activities).

6.3 Contractors: MCFB maintained existing contracts, is monitoring for other needs and will adapt as necessary.

- Completed Activities
- Executive Director and Treasurer contractors were retained throughout year; no other contracts were implemented.

6.4 Volunteers: MCFB maintained existing volunteer capacity and will recruit additional volunteers as needed.

- Completed Activities
- Web Designer volunteer was recruited and retained throughout year.
 - Social media volunteer position was initiated with one volunteer; a second volunteer was recruited for but not placed.

6.5 Document Administration: MCFB will review foundational documents, plans, and policies on at least a five-year basis and will revise as necessary.

- Completed Activities
- Developed and adopted five-year business plan, including vision, mission, values, and goals.

6.6 Budgeting and Finance: MCFB is working to diversify and increase organizational funding and is striving to increase its annual funding level to \$150,000 by 2025.

- Completed Activities
- Total savings and checking: \$276,529; total annual income: \$73,735; total annual expenses: \$61,026.
 - FY 18-19 taxes were prepared and submitted.
 - Investigated “check-out charity” fundraising options.

6.7 Reporting: MCFB will continue annual reporting to the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) as required and will begin and continue annual progress reporting to track progress toward business plan goals.

- Completed Activities
- SOS annual report submitted.

For more information: see: www.multnomahcfb.org or contact: multnomahcfb@gmail.com

MCFB prohibits workplace discrimination and harassment in all of its programs and activities. MCFB will not condone or tolerate prejudicial remarks, actions, slurs, or jokes expressed and directed at or to any person for any reason.