



Mission: We help local farmers be successful.

Vision: Farmers, in reflection of their hard work, can expect incomes that support quality livelihoods for their families.

Values: We believe a diverse representation of farmers and farming methods will best support and defend our collective farm community.

Summer Membership Drive & News

Greetings Multnomah County Farm Bureau (MCFB) members and friends. With half of 2021 behind us, we wanted to connect with you about membership, information, opportunities, and resources. **We want you to know that everything we do is intended to help local farmers be successful.** We plan our work around five strategies: 1) Asking Farmers; 2) Assisting Farmers; 3) Connecting Farmers; 4) Representing Farmers; and 5) Sharing with Farmers.

Refer-A-Friend

We are now in the 2021 Summer Membership Drive so renew your membership today! If you are not a member, consider joining us. Also, you can refer someone new to join the Farm Bureau as a voting or supporting member and be entered into a quarterly drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card. The first six people who sign up as new Multnomah County Farm Bureau members (and those who refer them, if applicable) will also receive MCFB caps. Voting and Supporting MCFB Membership cost is \$125/year; Associate MCFB Membership is \$25/year (through Country Financial); and Student MCFB Membership is \$20/year. Start or renew memberships at:

<https://multnomahcfb.org/join-us.html>.



Thank you Angi Bailey!



Longtime MCFB Board Member and Secretary Angi Bailey stepped down from our Board in May 2021 to allow her to focus on her new role as Oregon Farm Bureau President. We would like to thank Angi for all of the time and hard work she put in on behalf of local farmers and wish her the best of luck at the state Farm Bureau. We know she will continue to do great things for Oregon farmers.

The MCFB Board of Directors now has six members. The Board met once per month January through May 2021 and is currently on summer "break" to attend to farming but will meet again in September and October 2021. **If you or someone you know is interested in attending any of these meetings or would like to consider Board service, please contact us.**

Asking Farmers

The "Ask a Farmer" strategy provides people an opportunity to ask real farmers questions. While we have answered several questions this year, similar questions regarding farm worker housing continue to persist: **How and where should we build affordable and desirable housing for farm workers?**

To help address the housing issue, in 2020 MCFB provided a letter of support for the *Amanda Court Project* located in Southeast Portland. Twenty-five percent of the housing in this project was allocated for farm workers. In 2021, the same developer requested input on a similar project targeted near the Gateway Transit Center in Portland. In our discussion with the developer, it became clear that the project was likely not best suited for farm worker housing. Moving forward, we will support farm worker housing that is:

- **Safe, clean, and affordable;**
- **Close to the farm and on the farm if possible;**
- **Allows for multiple generations within one household and/or communal type living situation; and**
- **Provides easy access to necessities.**



Assisting Farmers

MCFB undertakes projects, activities, and outreach to assist local farmers and communities. Timely information and resources that may assist you and others related to current issues are below.

- **Federal Disaster Assistance:** <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index>
- **COVID 19 vaccine clinics and resources:** <https://multnomahcfb.org/covid.html>
- **Mental health:** <https://www.fb.org/land/fsom>
- **Heat exhaustion resource:** <https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/topics/heat-stress.aspx>
- **Insurance:** <https://www.countryfinancial.com/>
- **Top 10 entities for local farmers:** <https://multnomahcfb.org/entities-for-local-farmers.html>



Connecting Farmers

Current and future opportunities for members to connect with other farmers and MCFB members include:

- **Social Outings:** Golf tournament (Sept 21 @ Hazelnut Drive) and trap shoot (Sept 15 @ Albany Gun Club).
 - **MCFB gatherings:** Annual Meeting (mid-November, likely in NE Portland) and End-of-Year Gathering (mid-December, likely in Gresham) – stay tuned for more information on these.
 - **State/National meetings:** OFB Convention (Dec 7-9 in Redmond, OR) and AFBF Annual Convention (Jan 7-12, 2022 in Atlanta, GA).
- * If you would like to attend any of these events, please let us know!



Representing Farmers

The 2021 legislative session is behind us. There were numerous issues of concern for local farmers in session this year, including the minimum wage, wildfires, animal husbandry and hunting. Non-legislative issues specific to the local Multnomah County area that MCFB engaged in include:

- Multnomah County agriculture housing-related code revisions;
- Portland Water Bureau Bull Run Treatment Project Advisory Committee;
- ODA Sandy River Basin Agriculture Water Quality Advisory Committee; and
- Oregon Department of State Lands permit review.

Sharing with Farmers

MCFB shares information, training, and other materials with local farmers through workshops, scholarships, grants, learning events, and conferences. Two current and upcoming opportunities you should be aware of include:

- Market Scouts @ Lents International Farmers Market, June – Nov 2021.
- Pesticide applicator license virtual training December 7, 2021, or February 24, 2022.



Contact Us

For additional information about any of the above, or for other questions, input, or requests, please contact:

- multnomahcfb@gmail.com
- 206-595-5078

We are always looking for good farm photos and content for our Opportunities page on our website. Please let us know if you have anything you would like to share!

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.