

## **Overview of Marion County Issues/Driving Forces – April, 2008**

### **Population** – (source: Oregon Employment Department)

- Salem competes with Eugene each year to be the second largest city in Oregon, Marion County population 306,665, 7.66% increase since 2000.
- Urban – rural divide (Salem and Keizer 184,185, Woodburn 22,615, Silverton, 8,915, Stayton 7,700)
- Hispanic population 21.4%

### **Agriculture** – (source: Oregon State University)

Gross sales - largest of all counties \$614,727,000 (2007)

Products – nursery, greenhouse, Christmas trees, dairy products, grass seed, small fruit and berries, miscellaneous vegetable and truck crops, chicken eggs

### **Seven State Correctional Institutions, One State Hospital**

### **Poverty and Hunger** – (source Oregon Food Bank, Marion-Polk Food Share)

- 18-20% of residents live below poverty level
- 50% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunches
- Meth epidemic – large number of children in protective custody, shortage of foster families,

**High drop-out rates** – (source: Oregon Department of Education) 28% of 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students

**Federal Forest land and BLM land** – (not sure of %), some impacts of Title III funding

### **County budget for Extension**

- \$367,187 for fiscal year 2008/2009 (\$273,068 salary/OPE, \$94,119 materials and services), this includes \$15,000 for North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC)
- Positive relationships – but typically flat funding
- 5-10 year timeframe for moving to a different location