

# Bushue running for American Farm Bureau Federation presidency

SALEM — The leader of the Oregon Farm Bureau has announced his bid for the presidency of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Barry Bushue, who has been president of the Oregon Farm Bureau since 1999 and vice president of American Farm Bureau since 2008, will seek the national organization's top office at its January convention, according to an OFB press release.



Bushue

"In recent years, Oregon has been on the front line of numerous challenges facing American agriculture. We continue to engage in public policy debates around genetically modified organisms,

immigration, animal welfare, pesticides, water use, endangered species, and other environmental issues," Bushue said in the press release. "I've been blessed as a leader to work for farmers in my community, county, state, and across the country. To serve as AFBF president would be an unrivaled opportunity to use these experiences for the benefit all American farmers and ranchers on the national stage."

Bob Stallman, AFBF president for 16 years, announced

last week that he would not seek re-election.

Bushue has served as president of Multnomah County Farm Bureau, a regional director on the Oregon Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and as OFB's first vice president.

In 2008, in addition to retaining the presidency of the Oregon Farm Bureau, Bushue was elected vice president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. His leadership at the national level includes service on the AFBF Nursery & Greenhouse Committee, AFBF Trade Advisory Committee, a national labor taskforce, and a National Food Quality Protection Act workgroup.

Bushue continues to serve on the USDA Advisory Committee on Biotechnology & 21st Century Agriculture, the Executive Committee of the United States Biotech Crop Alliance, and the Board of Directors of the Generic Event Marketability & Access Agreement Biotech Accord.

In Oregon, he serves on the Executive Committee of Oregonians for Food & Shelter, a coalition that protects and advocates for access and safe use of pesticide, fertilizers, and biotech tools for the agriculture and natural resource communities.

Named Agriculturalist of the Year in 2014 by the Oregon Agri-Business Council, Bushue has worked on numerous task

forces at the request of the governor, the state legislature, and with natural resource agencies on critical issues, including water quality and quantity, pesticide use, biotech, labor, navigability, public land grazing, and wildlife depredation.

Bushue is the third member of his family to run the farm in Multnomah County, Ore. He and his wife raise vegetables, berries, flowers and pumpkins at the nearly century-old farm near Portland. They sell directly to the public and host events for the local community.

After attending college, Bushue taught high school in South Australia. It was during those years "down under" that

he met his wife Helen. The Bushues returned to Oregon in the late 1980s to take over the family farm. They have three grown children.

"At the county, state, and national level, Farm Bureau is a true grassroots, democratic organization," Bushue said. "Farms and ranches of all sizes, commodities, and production types have an opportunity to bring their issues forward and have their voices heard. Our unity is our strength, and there is no more effective way for family agriculture to be heard in the legislative arena than Farm Bureau. It would be an honor to serve our members at the national level."



Courtesy of WSU

Joseph Davidson, WSU doctoral student, and Changki Mo, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, talk about physical design of apple-picking robot.

## Researchers hope to test robotic apple picker

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

RICHLAND, Wash. — Engineers and scientists hope to test a robotic apple picker this fall that is able to pick apples fast and gently enough to make it economically viable.

Such a system could be a huge boost to the apple industry in labor savings and in overcoming labor shortages.

The Washington State University team has been working on the project with a USDA National Robotics Initiative grant of \$548,000 awarded in 2013.

Apples require a system delicate enough to pick fruit without bruising it while maneuvering around tree branches, leaves and other obstructions, said Manoj Karkee, assistant professor of biological systems engineering and project lead.

"That's why it is more challenging and difficult compared to the robotics we have in industrial applications," he said.

The robot will do 95 to 98 percent of the job with the assistance of a human operator.

Eight motors will operate an arm and hand using cameras and sensors. Using algorithms to identify color, shape and texture, the machine differentiates fruit from the rest of the plant and determines fruit location so the robotic arm can be directed for picking, Karkee said.

He said he is pleased with the progress that's been made and optimistic that a prototype could be commercialized in the near future.

Others involved in the project are Qin Zhang, director of WSU Center for Precision and Automatic Agricultural Systems; Karen Lewis, WSU Extension tree fruit specialist; and Changki Mo, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, WSU Tri-Cities.

Various levels of mechanical harvest assist are being developed by the apple industry in Washington, New York and Michigan. Most involve mobile platforms replacing ladders for pickers.

A robotic apple picker was tried in France in 2007 but proved to be too slow and expensive, Terence Robinson, a

Cornell University fruit physiologist, said at the Washington State Horticultural Association annual meeting in 2013.

The robot detected only 80 percent of the fruit, pulled 30 percent of stems and picked eight apples per minute compared to humans detecting 100 percent of fruit, pulling 2 to 3 percent of stems and picking 33 apples per minute, he said.

## NE Washington wolves linked to more cattle deaths

### Ranchers urge quick and lethal response

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

Stevens County ranchers are calling on Washington state wildlife managers to take lethal action to deter wolves in the Dirty Shirt pack, which has now claimed three adult cows and a calf.

"I think when there are four dead cows, the department should have initiated removal by now," Stevens County Cattleman's Association Vice President Scott Nielsen said Monday.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reported 10 days ago that the pack, known to have six members, had killed two cows on a U.S. Forest Service grazing allotment in northeastern Washington. The agency has not disclosed details of the discovery of a third cow and a calf from the same herd killed by wolves, though sources say the department confirmed the depredations.

The cattlemen's association Monday posted a statement on its website reporting that the depredations occurred on or before July 10.

"We know that wolf attacks on livestock can only be stopped by immediately removing the offending wolves before the behavior spreads to the whole pack," the association's president, Justin Hedrick, said in a written statement.

Efforts to reach WDFW officials Monday were unsuccessful. Shawn Cantrell, Defenders of Wildlife's Northwest director, said it's too early for WDFW to consider shooting wolves.

Cantrell, a member of the department's wolf advisory group, said the depredations occurred before WDFW put range riders in the area to haze Dirty Shirt wolves away from the herd.

The department's policy demands for multiple depredations to occur after non-lethal measures have been employed before it will authorize shooting wolves.

Considering lethal removal now "seems, A, unnecessary, and, B, inappropriate, given the fact these other tools are working," Cantrell said.

Nielsen said non-lethal measures such as range riders, flags and loud music won't protect

grazing livestock over a large landscape.

"We are talking about thousands and thousands of acres," he said.

WDFW reported the producer, who was grazing 166 cattle before depredations, has moved the herd. Nielsen said that other ranchers are grazing in the pack's territory. Even if the wolves are hazed from the area, they will find cows wherever they go, he said.

"It doesn't matter which way you chase them, you're chasing them to somebody's cows," Nielsen said. "Stevens County is virtually blanketed with livestock. We graze everywhere."

To stop the Huckleberry pack from preying on a sheep herd in Stevens County last year, WDFW authorized lethal removal of up to four wolves. The agency suspended the hunt after one wolf was shot because the sheep were no longer in the pack's territory.

WDFW killed seven members of the Wedge Pack in 2012 after the department concluded the wolves were targeting livestock over natural prey in Stevens County.

## Governor declares drought in 3 more Oregon counties

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — Gov. Kate Brown has declared drought emergencies in three more Oregon counties.

With Tuesday's declaration, 23 out of 36 counties are under drought emergencies. The new ones are Curry, Hood River and Union counties.

Brown says this year's extreme drought reflects a new reality for Oregon and deal-

ing with it is part of the "continuing challenges of climate change."

The governor's drought declaration does not bring any help in the form of aid or loans, but does allow increased flexibility in how water is managed.

Last winter saw a record-low snowpack, leading to low streamflows this summer that have affected irrigators as well as fish.

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