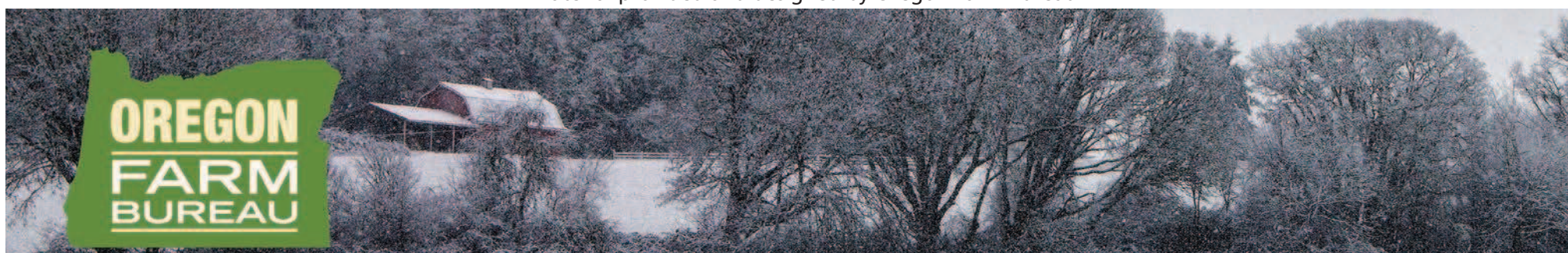


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Farm Bureau honors grassroots leaders

Seven dedicated Farm Bureau members were honored during a special ceremony on Dec. 10, 2015, during 83rd OFB Annual Meeting in Sunriver.

Farm Bureau is a grassroots nonprofit organization, and our volunteers – family farmers and ranchers from all parts of the state, raising all types of commodities – are what make our work credible and possible. Congratulations to all well-deserving honorees!

OFB President Barry Bushue presented the following awards:

- **OFB Hall of Fame** (for at least 35 years of service in Farm Bureau): **Don Schellenberg** of Polk County Farm Bureau
- **Service to Farm Bureau Award**: **Eugene Hawes** of Baker County Farm Bureau



Meet the OFB Board of Directors, family farmers and ranchers from all parts of the state, representing many commodities. Photo taken on Dec. 11, 2015, during the 83rd OFB Annual Meeting in Sunriver. Front row from left, Carol Marie Leuthold, Region 8 (Clatsop, Tillamook Counties); Dalton Straus, Region 11 (Jackson, Josephine); Kevin Westfall, Region 12 (Coos, Curry); Bruce Chapin, Region 15 (Marion). Middle row from left, OFB EVP Dave Dillon; Dean Freeborn, Region 9 (Polk, Yamhill); Larry Duyck, Region 14 (Columbia, Washington); Pete Postlewait, Region 7 (Clackamas, Multnomah); Mickey Killingsworth, WAC Chair & 4th VP;

Wade Flegel, Region 5 (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Wheeler); Peter Kenagy, Region 10 (Benton, Lincoln, Linn); Peggy Browne, 1st VP; Bill Browne, Region 2 (Baker, Union, Wallowa); Barry Bushue, OFB President; Jason Flowers, YF&R Chair; Sharon Waterman, OFB 2nd VP; Barb Iverson, OFB 3rd VP; Larry Lear, Region 1 (Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla); Dan Andersen, Region 13 (Malheur). Back row from left, Dean McAllister, Region 6 (Hood River, Sherman, Wasco); Rick Epp, Region 16 (Lane, Douglas); Shane Otley, Region 3 (Grant, Harney); and Lyndon Kerns, Region 4 (Klamath, Lake).

- **Distinguished Service Award**: **Edmund Duyck** of Washington County Farm Bureau
- **President's Award**: **Dave Dillon**, EVP of Oregon Farm Bureau

- **Top Hand Award**: **Jim Johnson** of Oregon Department of Agriculture
- **County Farm Bureau Woman of the Year**

Award (presented by the OFB Women's Advisory Council): **Helen Bushue** of Multnomah County Farm Bureau

■ **Retiring OFB Board member**: **Kathy Hadley** of Polk County Farm Bureau, former OFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee chair

Omnibus an overall win for ag

Congressional omnibus spending and tax extender bills will benefit agriculture greatly if passed, the American Farm Bureau said on Dec. 16. Farm Bureau said the bills would provide relief to America's farmers and ranchers, but is disappointed that Congress failed to stop the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule.

"This tax extender package gives farmers and ranchers critical tools to help them reinvest in their businesses," AFBF President Bob Stallman said. "Tax provisions like Section 179 small business expensing and bonus depreciation free up cash flow for farmers and ranchers to put their money to work. New provisions will let our members make important upgrades that reduce costs, increase efficiency and help make their businesses sustainable for generations to come."

A provision to stop the EPA's unlawful WOTUS rule was surprisingly missing from the package, as was language that would have set a nationwide standard for labeling of food containing genetically modified ingredients. Congress's failure to act will bring the heavy cost of a patchwork of state labeling mandates to farmers and consumers as early as next month.

"We are truly disappointed that Congress did not include legislation to stop implementation of WOTUS," Stallman said. "The courts have already expressed serious legal concerns about the rule, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office has concluded that EPA broke the law with its covert propaganda campaign to drum up ill-informed support for it. We remain committed to working with Congress to stop EPA and help America's landowners, businesses and state and local governments avoid years in court to overturn the rule. This measure undeniably resulted from an illegal and deceptive process. Defeating WOTUS remains a priority of Farm Bureau. We will explore all avenues to ditch the rule."

AFBF also supports omnibus provisions to repeal country-of-origin labeling requirements, which would effectively prevent Canada and Mexico from initiating retaliatory actions.

"Farm Bureau supports COOL programs that are in line with world trade rules," Stallman said. "Current COOL programs, unfortunately, risk serious retaliation by Canada and Mexico now that the World Trade Organization has approved more than \$1 billion in tariffs against American beef, pork and other U.S. commodities if COOL is not changed."

Advocating for ag in paid sick leave rulemaking

Throughout the fall and winter, OFB participated in the Bureau of Labor & Industries Rules Advisory (BOLI) Committee for mandatory paid sick leave, a law that was passed by the 2015 State Legislature despite Farm Bureau's best efforts to stop it.

On Dec. 9, BOLI released final the paid sick leave rules. The rules, necessary for employers across Oregon to implement the new mandated five days of paid sick leave, left a mere 22 days for small and large businesses to read, review, and implement 15 pages of new administrative requirements.

Seminars offered by BOLI to help employers comply with this new law also came way too late – and charging employers \$25 to attend a seminar just adds insult to injury.



Key components of the newly released rules include how to calculate whether or not a company reaches the 10-employee threshold count, a vital mathematic formula that results in either "paid" or "unpaid" sick days, as well as notice and accrual requirements.

"We have real concerns with the calculation of employees under these rules," said Jenny Dresler, OFB director of state public policy.

"It appears our farmers will have to double-count temporary laborers,

something that was never the intent of the Legislature," said Dresler. "This will result in thousands of farmers and small business-owners, many of whom operate on slim margins, being thrown into the new paid sick leave requirements."

BOLI has stated it will delay agency penalties until 2017. However, the law as adopted in SB 454, allows employees to seek private lawsuits against employers starting on Jan. 1, 2016.

"OFB will continue to work towards a solution for paid sick leave for agriculture because a one-size-fits-all policy does not work for farmers and ranchers with a temporary/seasonal workforce," said Dresler. "We are looking to 2016 for a legislative fix."

Take the Farm Bureau Challenge!

Farm Bureau fights for Oregon farmers and ranchers at the state level – for example, on the paid sick leave law – and at the national level – like with tax extenders and WOTUS – every day, year round.

What topic is of most concern to you? Share the most pressing agricultural issue(s) facing your farm or ranch at oregonfb.org/challenge – and OFB will respond with an update on what's being done on those specific topics.

Let us show you how Farm Bureau is valuable, necessary, and worthy of your support and membership.

Today, less than 1 percent of the population makes their living in agriculture. Through Farm Bureau, you join 7,000 fellow family farmers and ranchers across Oregon, and more than 5 million members across the United States, who actively



OFB Board member Peter Kenagy brings up a point about Farm Bureau policy at the 83rd OFB Annual Meeting last month.

advocate for agriculture and rural communities. Simply put, there is no more effective way to amplify your voice in the legislative arena than membership in Farm Bureau.

And you can easily recoup the cost of annual dues – and enjoy many more savings – through Farm Bureau's wide variety of great member benefits programs.

OFB's newest discount for members is with **Caterpillar**. Farm Bureau members can receive up

to \$2,000 off a wide variety of Cat machines.

Members also save \$500 on a new or leased GM, Chevy, or Buick vehicle (a discount that's stackable with other GM offers); save up to 50% on Grainger purchases and get free shipping with online orders; get \$200-\$300 off Polaris off-road vehicles; receive \$300-\$500 off certain Case-IH tractors or implements. Eligible farm and ranch operations can get a substantial Verizon discount for business lines.

As a Farm Bureau member, you also have access to savings on propane, prescription medications, hotel stays, rental cars, and more.

Become a Farm Bureau member today! Get the application at oregonfb.org or contact OFB's Melissa Armour at melissa@oregonfb.org, 800.334.6323.



Upcoming events

For more information, visit oregonfb.org.

- **NW Ag Show at the Portland Expo Center, Jan. 26-28.** Visit OFB's booth!
- **DIY Human Resources for Ag Employers Workshop** for Farm Bureau members, Jan. 29, at the OFB office in Salem. Cost is \$199. Event by OFB's Farm Employer Education & Legal Defense Service (FEELDS). Contact: Roberta Gruber, roberta@oregonfb.org, 503.399.1701
- **OFB Women's Advisory Council Legislative Reception, Feb. 1,** at the Oregon State Capitol