

**OREGON
FARM
BUREAU**

Farm Bureau has your back

If you work in agriculture or have a job that's tied to agriculture, you should be a Farm Bureau member.

Why?

Because the number of farmers and ranchers is decreasing, and the number of urban residents is dramatically increasing.

With fewer voices speaking out for agriculture in the legislature, the needs of farmers and ranchers are less likely to be heard, let alone understood, by lawmakers - and new rules and regulations that make it even harder for rural families to stay in business are more likely to pass.

Farm Bureau is unique in that it unites all of Oregon agriculture, from grass seed farmers to hazelnut growers, cattle ranchers to dairy farmers. Our common goal is to protect Oregon agriculture as a whole so it remains a viable, vibrant industry for all commodity types,



"I am Farm Bureau Proud! Leadership and advocacy for Oregon agriculture are big deals for me. In Farm Bureau we stick together to persevere and push back against the onslaught of constantly expanding and expensive regulations targeting our operations."

Logan Kerns
farmer & president of
Baker County Farm Bureau

production methods, and operation sizes.

If you work in or around agriculture, Farm Bureau has your back.

■ This year alone, Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) saved families thousands of dollars by stopping legislation that would've eliminated "farm-use assessment" on farm-ground along with personal property tax exemptions for farm equipment. These would've devastated family agriculture.

■ OFB helped defeat a proposal for a \$200 million state tax increase that would've saddled the smallest farm and ranch businesses with a huge financial burden.

■ OFB saved irrigators from having to pay a new water rights fee and invest in costly water measuring devices for each point of diversion.

■ OFB provided relief for ag employers already strapped with expensive new labor mandates by

stopping an employer-paid family leave proposal. OFB also successfully exempted seasonal businesses from a new predictable scheduling requirement.

■ OFB championed a bill that ensures that farmers and ranchers get to keep existing barns and homes built on farm-ground.

■ OFB worked to secure state funding for predator control, continued investments in sage grouse work, \$4.5

million for the Farm-to-School Program, and \$5.6 million added back to OSU's Statewides.

OFB is working hard for Oregon farmers and ranchers in the state and national legislature, with state and federal agencies, and in the public arena with the goal of helping rural families remain sustainable and profitable.

OFB membership is only about \$10 a month, an incredible value for the results you get on your operation's bottom line. Membership also brings access to big discounts with partners like John Deere, Grainger, Supervised Fuels, Case-IH, CAT, Choice and Wyndham hotels, Avis and Budget rental cars, and more.

If you're not yet a member, please consider joining Farm Bureau today and help us protect Oregon agriculture now and for future generations. Visit oregonfb.org or call 503.399.1701.

Antiquities Act, taxes, water, '18 session on OFB's radar

OFB and American Farm Bureau are busy advocating for Oregon farmers and ranchers throughout the fall.

OFB's national priorities

Stop the misuse of the **Antiquities Act** by the executive branch and pass legislation to improve accountability and transparency in the designation of national monuments. The will of local communities most impacted by proposed monuments must be respected. OFB supports Interior Secretary Zinke's recommendation to reduce the size of Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

The Trump Administration's **tax plan** includes important principles, such as lower tax rates for business owners, elimination of the death tax, and some business interest deductibility. Farmers and ranchers also need permanent tax provisions like the continuation of

cash accounting and like-kind exchanges, unlimited stepped-up basis, and lower capital gains taxes.

Make sure the Environmental Protection Agency officially rescinds **Waters of the U.S.** (WOTUS), the rule that would've made every drop of water, and even dry farm-ground, subject to onerous federal Clean Water Act regulations.

Immigration reform to help farmers and ranchers have access to a reliable, skilled workforce. Where American workers are unwilling or unavailable, workers from other countries have stepped in and have played a very important role in Oregon agriculture. Congress needs to pass responsible immigration reform that addresses agriculture's current experienced workforce and creates a new flexible guest worker program.

Participate in the creation of the 2018 Farm Bill to secure America's food supply by protecting current Farm Bill spending;

funding programs for new and beginning farmers and ranchers; prioritizing federal crop insurance and Title I commodity programs; and keeping the farm and nutrition programs together under the bill.

OFB's state priorities

At the state level, OFB staff and grassroots policy advisory committees are already preparing for the short 2018 Legislative Session. Priorities include:

■ Clarity on the new cell phone law for farmers and ranchers. As of now, there is no ag exemption for farmers to use cellphones or two-way radios for work-related communication while driving.

■ Strategies to oppose a carbon pricing requirement and paid family leave tax and mandate.

Water is always a top issue for Farm Bureau. In recent months, OFB has submitted comments and proactively worked

with agencies and stakeholders on:

■ The Dept. of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) review of Oregon's water quality standards

■ DEQ's upcoming groundwater resource guide

■ Oregon's updated Integrated Water Resources Strategy

■ Reallocation of Willamette River water use

■ Instream water rights

■ State water supply development, among other critical water issues

Keep up to date with weekly OFB news and as-needed OFB Action Alerts by signing up for emails at oregonfb.org/advocacy under "Quick Signup." During session, you'll also receive the weekly OFB Legislative Bulletin.

OFB partners with John Deere

Oregon Farm Bureau and John Deere are excited to announce a new partnership that gives Farm Bureau members special access to John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards program, providing members with a free two-year Platinum 2 membership.

Along with valuable equipment discounts, GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards Platinum members are eligible for special parts savings, home and workshop products discounts, and other members-only promotions. Normally, a customer must initially purchase five pieces of qualifying

equipment within 12 months to reach Platinum 2 status.

Members will automatically qualify by signing up through **JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau** with their Farm Bureau number. (Need your number? Email a request with the name your Farm Bureau membership is under to annemarie@oregonfb.org or call OFB at 503.399.1701.)



JOHN DEERE

YF&R Leadership Conference

Oregon Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee invites Farm Bureau members between the ages of 16 and 35 to attend the 2017 Oregon Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Leadership Conference, Nov. 11-12 in Salem.

"The conference will be an excellent opportunity for young farmers and ranchers to learn about policy issues facing Oregon agriculture, gain useful information for their businesses, sharpen advocacy skills, network, and have a lot of fun," said Jenny Freeborn,



Members of Oregon's Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) program gain skills, give back, and have fun.

vice chair of the YF&R Committee.

Registration for the two-day conference is also a great deal at only \$40.

Presentations by distinguished speakers will cover the topics of agriculture business,

natural resources issues, ag advocacy, and Farm Bureau basics.

Registration for the YF&R conference is due Nov. 3! Find the registration form and conference agenda at oregonfb.org/yfrconference.

Upcoming events

Visit oregonfb.org or call 503.399.1701 for more information.



Oct.-Nov.: County Farm Bureau Annual Meetings around the state

Oct. 25: FEELDS workshop on I-9 Forms for Agriculture, Salem

Nov. 11-12: Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Leadership Conference, Salem

Nov. 14: OFB-hosted lunch & issue update at Willamette Valley Ag Expo, Albany

Nov. 21: OFB Trap Shoot fundraiser, Albany

Dec. 5-7: 85th OFB Annual Meeting, Pendleton

Jan. 5-10, 2018: American Farm Bureau Convention & Expo, Nashville, Tenn.