



# Agriculture must vote!

**B**y now, Oregonians should have received their ballots in the mail for the November election. If you work in a job related to Oregon agriculture or natural resources, and you haven't voted yet, please take the time to do so.

"It's imperative that Oregonians working in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and natural resources vote on Election Day to carry our priorities forward," said **Jonathan Sandau** of Oregon Farm Bureau's (OFB) government affairs team.

To help farmers and ranchers determine which measures and candidates are best for ag, OFB offers our 2018 Election Guide at [OregonFB.org/election](http://OregonFB.org/election).

OFB-endorsed incumbents were evaluated on their voting records on Farm Bureau priority bills during the 2017 and 2018 Oregon Legislative Sessions. Newcomers were chosen based on interviews with OFB grassroots leadership, along with input from County Farm Bureaus and OFB staff.

The ultimate aim is to support lawmakers and measures that most



Farmers and ranchers: Join members of Jackson and Josephine County Farm Bureaus and vote! Learn which candidates support ag with OFB's 2018 Election Guide at [OregonFB.org/election](http://OregonFB.org/election).

reflect OFB's policy positions, which are developed and updated through an annual grassroots democratic process involving voting members of Farm Bureau. (See the full OFB Policy Book at [OregonFB.org](http://OregonFB.org).)

"The 2019 session will have its threats and opportunities for Oregon family farmers and ranchers. We anticipate legislation on carbon pricing, additional labor costs, water quality, ag

production, diesel regulation, and property tax reform, among others," said Sandau.

"It's critical that Farm Bureau members have strong allies who value agriculture and will reliably stand up for farmers, ranchers, foresters, and our rural communities," he said.

### Help pass Measure 104 to end easy tax hikes.

Measure 104 will close a loophole that allows

the government to raise revenue on hardworking Oregonians with a simple majority vote — instead of a 3/5 super-majority vote, which was approved by Oregon voters over 20 years ago.

This constitutional amendment would strengthen the 3/5 vote requirement for any revenue increases, including fees, taxes, and the elimination of deductions or tax exemptions.

### Help pass Measure 103 to keep groceries affordable.

Measure 103 would prevent the state from raising revenue off the backs of Oregonians by prohibiting taxes on the sale or distribution of groceries, including food production and processing. Food should be kept affordable for all Oregonians.

### Help get out the rural vote!

Join the grassroots I Farm I Vote grassroots campaign to get out the rural vote and inspire more farmers and ranchers to participate in the election!

Visit [OregonFB.org/election](http://OregonFB.org/election) to learn how.



Need an I Farm I Vote bumper sticker for your tractor or rig? Email a request with your mailing address to [annemarie@oregonfb.org](mailto:annemarie@oregonfb.org) or call 503.399.1701.

## Apply for Farm Bureau Fire Relief Funds by Nov. 1

**T**hrough the generous contributions of **Northwest Farm Credit Services** and individual Farm Bureau member families, OFB established a fire relief fund to support farm and ranch families impacted by the wildfires in Wasco and Sherman Counties this year. So far, the fund has raised over \$27,000.

An advisory committee made up of local farmers and ranchers, along with two OFB staff, will review

applications for aid. The task force chair is **Ken Polehn**, Wasco County Farm Bureau president and The Dalles-area fruit grower.

The current intent is to provide approximately \$2,000–\$2,500 amounts of help to those who demonstrate uncovered losses (meaning losses not covered by insurance, or other public or private relief funds). Once requests for funds are received and evaluated,

this range may be adjusted.

Any Wasco or Sherman County resident who makes a substantial amount of their livelihood from agriculture, and whose agricultural operation suffered uncompensated loss from the 2018 fires, may apply. You do not have to be a Farm Bureau member to apply or receive funds.

Applications are available at [OregonFB.org/fire](http://OregonFB.org/fire). All applications received prior

to Nov. 1, 2018, will be considered.

The task force intends to make funding decisions and distribute monies by Thanksgiving.

For more information, contact Ken Polehn, [kenpolehn@gmail.com](mailto:kenpolehn@gmail.com), or Dave Dillon, [dave@oregonfb.org](mailto:dave@oregonfb.org).

To contribute to the fund, make a check out to "OFB Fire Relief Fund" and mail to OFB, Attn. Patty Kuester, 1320 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97301.

## YF&R Leadership Conference coming to Eagle Crest Resort

**Y**oung farmers, ranchers, and others interested in agriculture have an incredible opportunity to attend the 2018 Oregon Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Leadership Conference, set for Nov. 9-11 at the Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond.

Open to Farm Bureau members between the ages of 16 and 35 (as of

Jan. 1, 2018), the conference is geared toward young people interested in improving their leadership and communication skills, learning about the most important issues impacting Oregon agriculture, gaining business tips from experts, networking with peers, and having fun!

The \$50 registration fee is due by Nov. 2. Find the registration form and

more information at [OregonFB.org/yfrconference](http://OregonFB.org/yfrconference). (Hotel stay not included in registration fee.)

Featured speakers at the 2018 YF&R Leadership Conference include:

- **Steve Gannaway**, Director of Training & Development for Illinois Farm Bureau, speaking on "Why Do People Do the Things They Do?"

- PR expert **Shannon Berg** and Oregon rancher **Elias Eiguren** speaking on "Lessons from the Owyhee Canyonlands"

- Past National FFA Officer **Jason Wetzler**

- Closing speaker **Damian Mason** on "The F Words of Ag"

Breakout sessions with ag industry experts will be offered in the topic tracks of ag business, natural resources, industry support, and leadership.

The opening rounds of the state **YF&R Discussion Meet** will also take place at the conference.

Social events include a Friday game night and Saturday night karaoke party with DJ **Brennan Cooper**!

Visit [OregonFB.org/yfrconference](http://OregonFB.org/yfrconference) or contact [yfr@oregonfb.org](mailto:yfr@oregonfb.org).

The YF&R Leadership Conference is an incredible opportunity for young farmers and ranchers!



## Upcoming Events

Visit [OregonFB.org](http://OregonFB.org) or call 503.399.1701 to learn more.

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

**Nov. 1: Last day to mail in your ballot** to ensure it arrives by Election Day.

**Nov. 6: Election Day** (drop-off collection locations open until 8 p.m.)

**Nov. 9-11: Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference**, Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond. [OregonFB.org/yfrconference](http://OregonFB.org/yfrconference).

**Nov. 30-Dec. 2: YF&R Coyote Hunt in Burns.** Learn more at [OregonFB.org/coyotehunt](http://OregonFB.org/coyotehunt).

**Dec. 4-6: OFB Annual Meeting in Salem.** Join 200 Farm Bureau members for speakers, fellowship, and the grassroots policy development process.

**Dec. 4: Two Oregon OSHA workshops**, presented by the OFB Health & Safety Committee as part of the OFB Annual Meeting in Salem: ODA Pesticide Recertification Program Accreditation for CORE credit hours, and required training for the small farm exemption from Oregon OSHA inspections.

