



# New OFB president elected

On Dec. 12, 2019, during the 87th OFB Convention at Salishan, Farm Bureau members elected Barb Iverson of Clackamas County Farm Bureau to be OFB’s new president.

Over the years, Iverson has served as OFB 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, 3rd vice president, chair of the OFB Budget Committee, board member of the Oregon Ag Education Foundation, Clackamas County Farm Bureau president, on many OFB issue advisory committees, including labor and water, and on American Farm Bureau issue advisory committees for nursery and labor policy.

OFB President Iverson shared her goals for 2020.

**Q: What inspired you to run for OFB president?**

**BI:** The people in Farm Bureau are like family. We speak the same language and understand each other, which is rare outside of the farming and ranching community. I realized with my long and diverse farming career, as well as my 30 years of involvement in the organization, this was a challenge I wanted to take on.

**Q: What are some of your goals as OFB president?**

**BI:** The perception of what we do in agriculture isn’t matching up with reality. We need to tell our stories with lawmakers and the public more effectively. My ultimate goal is healthy rural communities. And to get there, we need healthy farms and ranches where the people who are immersed in the day-to-day

care of their land can thrive.

**Q: What do you see as some of Farm Bureau’s biggest strengths?**

**BI:** We have a diverse membership that is extremely intelligent and passionate about what they do. We also have some of the best lobbyists and staff in the state. Their presence in Salem is important for farmers and ranchers who can’t get away from their operations to express their concerns.

**Q: Where would you like to see growth?**

**BI:** Membership growth will be a big priority for 2020.

Any farmer or rancher reading this in the *Capital Press* who isn’t a member yet – or who used to be – is encouraged to join and help Farm Bureau keep Oregon agriculture vital, viable, and sustainable.

Those who aren’t farmers and ranchers, but who support Oregon agriculture, are also welcome to join as supporting members.

Join at [OregonFB.org/join](http://OregonFB.org/join) or call 503.399.1701.

**Q: What are some state priorities heading into 2020?**

**BI:** Right now, we have an OFB Action Alert for Farm Bureau members to submit comments to the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) about its draft 2018-2020 Integrated Report.

In the draft report, DEQ proposes to list hundreds of miles of new waterways on agriculture and forestry lands as “water quality impaired” without any data



New Oregon Farm Bureau President Barb Iverson comes from a multigenerational family farm from Woodburn, raising industrial hemp, grass seed, squash, vetch seed, hazelnuts, wine and table grapes, and operating the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival, which attracts over 160,000 visitors each year. Before being elected president on Dec. 12, Iverson was serving as OFB’s 1st vice president.

showing that these waterbodies are impaired. DEQ should not be regulating the ag and forestry community without data.

I encourage farmers and ranchers to visit [OregonFB.org/advocacy](http://OregonFB.org/advocacy) and take action before the comment deadline of Jan. 6, 2020.

In the upcoming 2020 state legislative session, bills around **carbon/cap-and-trade** have a lot of farmers nervous. I know this is a big hit for my farm with the natural gas we use for drying our industrial hemp.

The **corporate activities tax** is still an ongoing concern. There are still a lot of unanswered questions and registration has already begun. Besides that, many of our suppliers have already told us they will be passing on their increased costs to us. Think fertilizer and seed just to start.

Farmers and ranchers are in a position of not being able to raise their price, so this will be a much harder hit for many than anticipated. We are working with key legislators this session to try to exempt agricultural products from this tax.

Keeping up with the paperwork for farm employees is also a mounting concern for small farmers who can’t afford an HR department.

The ability to utilize land, water, and the tools farmers need to grow food and other ag products is always an issue for us at the capitol.

OFB will also continue to cooperate and collaborate with our partners working in the agriculture and natural resources sector to get things done.

**Q: How about nationally?**

**BI:** Labor! There is an H2A reform bill making its

way through Congress. We are watching this closely as it could potentially have long-term ramifications for many family farms and ranches in our state.

The **new hemp rules** put out by the USDA could cause a number of headaches for growers, but there is still a comment period open. The lack of any input from the FDA is also creating a backlog in the hemp industry. Until the FDA makes a ruling, many larger manufacturers are sitting on the sidelines. Along with overproduction, this has created a huge drop in prices.

An issue at the federal level, although really working its way through the Army Corp of Engineers, is the **Willamette Basin water reallocation**. This has the potential of impacting many farms and ranches in the Willamette Valley who’ve had irrigation rights in that system for generations.

Trade is very important to Oregon agriculture and we hope to see more international markets open up for farmers and ranchers.

**Q: Why do you believe so strongly in Farm Bureau?**

**BI:** I trust in those who live and work on the land of this great state: our farmers and ranchers. Their vision of sustainability is in generations, both previous and future. How could Farm Bureau not advocate for that?

**We need your support! Join Farm Bureau today at [OregonFB.org/join](http://OregonFB.org/join).**



Three longtime Farm Bureau leaders were inducted into the OFB Hall of Fame, the organization’s highest honor. Former OFB Board member Bruce Chapin (left) of Marion County, OFB Ag Ed Committee Chair Mickey Killingsworth (middle left) of Jefferson County, and OFB Board member Dean Freeborn (right) of Polk County. They were inducted by fellow Hall of Fame member and outgoing OFB President Sharon Waterman (middle right).

## OFB honors grassroots leaders

At the 87th OFB Convention, which took place Dec. 10-12, 2019, at Salishan in Gleneden Beach, Farm Bureau members honored exemplary volunteer leaders for outstanding contributions to the organization and Oregon agriculture as a whole.

### OFB Hall of Fame:

- Bruce Chapin of Marion County Farm Bureau
- Dean Freeborn of Polk County Farm Bureau
- Mickey Killingsworth of Jefferson County Farm Bureau



The 2019 OFB Top Hand Award went to Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis (middle), member of Linn County Farm Bureau. The award was presented by outgoing OFB President Sharon Waterman and OFB EVP Dave Dillon.

**Distinguished Service Award:** Lyndon Kerns of Klamath-Lake County Farm Bureau

**Top Hand Award:** Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis of Linn County Farm Bureau

**Service to Agriculture Award:** Tiffany Harper Monroe, president of Lane County Farm Bureau

**County Farm Bureau Action Award:** Multnomah County Farm Bureau

**Outstanding County Farm Bureau Secretary:** Helen Bushue of Multnomah County Farm Bureau

**YF&R Discussion Meet Winner:** Logan Padget of Sherman County Farm Bureau

**YF&R Achievement Award winner:** Jon Iverson of Clackamas County Farm Bureau



OFB Board member Lyndon Kerns, member of Klamath-Lake County Farm Bureau, received the 2019 OFB Distinguished Service Award.

### OFB Calendar

Get more information about each event listed below at [OregonFB.org/events](http://OregonFB.org/events) or call OFB at 503.399.1701.

**Jan. 15:** OFB legislative preview starting at 9:15 a.m. at the NW Ag Show at the state fairgrounds in Salem. Farm Bureau members get a voucher for two free entries to any day of the NW Ag Show, which takes place Jan. 15-17. The voucher appears in this complimentary Jan. 3 issue of the Capital Press or it will be mailed to you if you are already a Capital Press subscriber.

**Jan. 17-22:** 2020 American Farm Bureau Convention & Expo, Austin.

**Jan. 24:** Dunn Carney Ag Summit, free with registration at [DunnCarney.com](http://DunnCarney.com) or 503.224.6440, Salem Convention Center, 7:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

**Feb. 3:** Start of the 2020 Oregon Legislative Short Session. Sign



up for emailed OFB legislative updates & action alerts at [OregonFB.org/advocacy](http://OregonFB.org/advocacy).

**Feb. 3:** Farm Bureau Legislative Reception for lawmakers and the public, organized by the OFB Women’s Advisory Council, Oregon State Capitol, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**March 1:** Deadline for OFB Memorial Scholarships and Associate Member Scholarship funded by COUNTRY Financial. Visit [OregonFB.org/scholarship](http://OregonFB.org/scholarship).

**March 15:** Deadline for voting & supporting Farm Bureau members to add their farm stand, u-pick, on-farm event, etc. in the Oregon’s Bounty Farm Stand Guide & website. Visit [OregonFB.org/bounty](http://OregonFB.org/bounty).



On Dec. 12 during the 2019 OFB Convention, Farm Bureau honored partners who were instrumental in getting the “ditch bill,” HB 2437, passed through the state legislature this year. From left are Jena Carter of The Nature Conservancy, Chandra Ferrari of Trout Unlimited, OFB VP of Public Policy Mary Anne Cooper, Rep. Susan McLain, and Rep. David Brock Smith.