



OREGON
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GROWING STRONG

April 2021

Dear Farm Bureau member,

We are at the half-way point of the 2021 Oregon Legislative Session.

Thanks to an enormous amount of Farm Bureau member engagement, OFB has already helped stop bills that would have had major impacts on Oregon's farm and ranch families. These included bills that would have created citizen suits for the enforcement of Oregon laws; increased the minimum wage; imposed a tax on dyed diesel, farm equipment, and tires; prohibited employees from working outside during wildfire season; and banned large dairies and mink farms; among others.

However, there's still work to be done. Bills that are still alive as of press time would mandate overtime pay in the agricultural sector (HB 2358), regulate indirect sources of emissions (HB 2814), impose a severance tax on timberland (HB 2379), and limit a stay of water rights decisions (HB 2244), among other bad bills.

OFB is also working to amend legislation to avoid impacts on Farm Bureau members, including the proposal to require measurement and reporting for water users (HB 3166), a myriad of wildfire bills, a bill to site new broadband connections (HB 2654), and several others.

So, what can you do to help and get better informed?

- **Visit OFB's Advocacy Center**, where you can write your legislators about important bills, as well as sign up for emailed action alerts and issue updates. Visit OregonFB.org/advocacy.
- **Attend OFB's Monthly Member Briefing via Zoom**. Voting and supporting members of Farm Bureau are invited to tune in the last Friday of every month at 7 a.m. to hear updates from the OFB Government Affairs Team about the most pressing state and federal issues. Find the Zoom credentials at OregonFB.org/monthlybriefing.
- **Learn how to testify remotely** during the virtual Legislative Session with step-by-step instructions. Find them at OregonFB.org/howtotestify.
- **Ag employers**: Sign up to join FEELDS, OFB's Farm Employer Education & Legal Defense Service. With more labor-related rules, regulations, and red tape than ever before targeting ag employers, farmers and ranchers need a program to help them stay informed, organized, and compliant. Learn more at OregonFB.org/feelds.

We thank the hundreds of Farm Bureau members who have already responded to OFB Action Alerts, filled virtual hearing rooms ready to testify on bills, submitted written testimony, and sent letters to the editor explaining why proposed legislation would harm or benefit Oregon agriculture and family businesses.

And as always, we thank you for your membership in and support of Farm Bureau. As a grassroots group, we are only as strong as our membership. Check out our page in this issue of the Capital Press to see some of the volunteer leaders who help make Farm Bureau the most respected, most effective general agriculture organization in the entire state.

