

**OREGON
FARM
BUREAU**

OFB Spring 2022 Update



This month, OFB organized a series of seminars to help ag employers navigate the new ag overtime laws. The first seminar was held in Salem on April 6 — and it was recorded for Farm Bureau members who are interested in the law's impacts, but could not attend. If you want a link to the two-hour recording emailed to you, please send a request to maryannecooper@oregonfb.org.

Ag overtime

The 2022 legislative session was the most challenging for Oregon farmers and ranchers in recent memory. Ag overtime (HB 4002) was the top priority of progressive Democrat leadership, with leadership and labor unions and Oregon Food Bank pushing forward a 40-hour threshold over the opposition of thousands of farmers and ranchers across the state, and in spite of numerous workable proposals that would have been better for both farmers and their employees.

In the end, the bill passed along a party line vote in the House, and in the face of bipartisan opposition in the Senate, with Senator Lee Beyer (D-Eugene) joining Republicans in voting against the proposal.

We are so proud of the hundreds of Oregon Farm Bureau members who showed up in force to explain what the ag overtime proposal would mean to your operations. You hosted legislative tours, participated in workgroups, wrote op-eds, shared your financials, wrote your legislators, and showed up to testify. At the House committee hearing, over 80 farmers, ranchers, and employees testified

against the bill. Zero paid lobbyists testified against the bill. Nearly all of those who testified in favor of the bill were paid lobbyists for unions and Oregon Food Bank.

As an organization, OFB led a coalition of agricultural associations, commissioned a third-party economic study, lobbied legislators nonstop for the last 12 months, intervened in the lawsuit brought by labor advocates to force a 40-hour threshold in the Courts, and engaged in a state-wide media campaign. The ag coalition stood strong and remained fully united throughout in spite of efforts to buy off different commodities.

This is a devastating loss and a failure of both legislative leadership and process by party leaders who have lost touch with common sense. Members and staff stood up and did everything we could do on this issue. And we did it well and with honor and honesty and integrity and good faith. We will not give up the fight. As soon as there is an opportunity, we will push for meaningful changes to this law to help family-scale agriculture remain viable in Oregon. Do not give up hope! We are here, and we will continue to fight for you.

Oregon Farm Bureau Legislative Champions

As always, Oregon agriculture had some amazing champions in the state Capitol. We want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of **Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis** (R-Albany and a member of Linn County Farm Bureau) and **Rep. Daniel Bonham** (R-The Dalles). Representatives Boshart Davis and Bonham went above and beyond in their work on ag overtime (HB 4002), participating in the workgroup leading up to session, engaging closely with the coalition during session, educating legislators and the public on ag overtime, introducing amendments, and pointing out the myriad of issues with HB 4002 during the work sessions on the bill. Oregon agriculture could not have two better advocates in Salem, and we want to recognize their hard work this legislative session.

OFB also had strong advocates in **Rep. Vikki Breese Iverson**, the new House Republican Leader, **Rep. Mark Owens**, **Rep. Bobby Levy**, **Rep. Jami Cate**, **Rep. Jessica George**, and **Rep. Anna Scharf**, all farmers and Oregon Farm Bureau members who do an amazing job helping agriculture in the Capitol.

We also want to give a special thanks to **Rep. Christine Goodwin** and **Rep. David Brock Smith** for championing the predator control district bill and a large number of other ag causes. We appreciate their hard work and dedication to agriculture. We thank all our champions for their stalwart advocacy and for always supporting Oregon agriculture.

In the Senate, **Senator Bill Hansell**, **Senator Chuck Thomsen**, **Senator Lynn Findley** and **Senator Fred Girod** were amazing champions for agriculture and put in yeoman's work to help Farm Bureau this legislative session, particularly on ag overtime.

We also want to recognize and thank retiring **Senator Lee Beyer** for his courageous vote and his outstanding speech on ag overtime highlighting what happens when rural economies die. Senator Beyer has always been a strong champion for agriculture and will be missed by OFB.

Better News

OFB joins suit against DEQ's rules

On March 18, OFB joined a broad coalition of businesses from across the state filing a court challenge to the state's "Climate Protection" Program rules.

"The rules were adopted by the agency in December and would impose significant new fuels costs on all Oregonians, which we know Oregon's family farms and ranches cannot afford to pay," said OFB VP of Government Affairs Mary Anne Cooper. "It would spend that money on hand-picked offset projects largely in urban areas."

In enacting these rules, DEQ acted well outside its authority. "Our coalition cares deeply about this state and the substantial impact that these rules will have on Oregon families and businesses," said Cooper. Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions have been going down for decades and the state is not a significant contributor to climate change, making these rules even more unfounded.

IP-13 withdrawn for 2022

The two people behind IP-13 — the measure that sought to criminalize animal husbandry and farming practices, hunting, fishing, trapping, and pest control — have withdrawn their petition for the November 2022 ballot. This is great news!

However, we are not yet out of the woods. They have already filed a similar ballot initiative, this time named IP-3, for the 2024 election cycle. They will have to get another 1,000 signatures to qualify the "new" measure to start the process again. OFB is part of a coalition of 17 ag groups and businesses organized to fight this kind

of nonsense, and we're ready for 2024 should the activists find a way onto the ballot.

Oregon's Farm Dog of the Year

The Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation (OAEF) is launching a competition to select Oregon's Farm Dog of 2022.

Does your farm dog have what it takes?

"We want to celebrate the dedicated canine companions who make long days on the farm easier and inspire us to have fun and work harder," said OAEF Director Sherri Noxel.

All Oregon Farm Bureau members who are at least 18 years old are eligible to participate. Visit OregonFB.org/oaef and follow the entry submission instructions. The deadline to enter your farm dog is June 1.

The winner of the contest will receive a professional video that can be used to compete in the American Farm Bureau's American Farm Dog of the Year contest.

For more information, visit OregonFB.org/oaef or call Sherri Noxel at 971.727.7212.

VOTE MAY 17!

Good public policy depends on electing good leaders to office. We can't win if we don't vote. Please get your ballots completed and returned by 8 p.m. May 17. You can enter "Oregon Secretary of State My Vote" into any search engine to find Oregon's online ballot tracker to make sure your vote has been received and will count. With the governor's race and a huge number of open legislative seats, **this is the most important election cycle in years.**

PLEASE VOTE.



American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall and wife Jennifer Duvall learned about Oregon agriculture during a tour April 11-13 led by OFB President Angi Bailey. This photo was taken at the fruit orchard of Devon Wells, president of Hood River County Farm Bureau. At the national level, Duvall said top American Farm Bureau priorities include massive costs increases on inputs and supply chain disruptions that are impacting American farmers and ranchers and the need for ag labor. He also gave updates on Waters of the U.S., the Endangered Species Act, and securing more disaster relief risk management programs for specialty crops in the next Farm Bill. "I knew the political environment in Oregon was tough," said Duvall, "After being here and hearing from you all, I don't think there's another state in the country that is rougher on our farm and ranch families." Pres. Duvall has spent an enormous amount of his time as national president in the West and advocating for issues of particular concern to the West including protecting dams and making productive use of our federal lands. Duvall met with over 120 OFB members.

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