

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clifford Horning honored with the Farm Bureau Memorial Award

At the 2006 Oregon Farm Bureau State Convention in Bend, Dec. 4-8, OFB President Barry Bushue honored Clifford Horning of Benton County Farm Bureau with a Memorial Award, for having made a significant difference to the Farm Bureau organization and agriculture during his lifetime. The award was accepted on behalf of Horning, who passed away last spring, by his brother Eric Horning.

In 1946, Horning was born into a family of ag producers from Benton County and spent his entire childhood on the farm. Horning Farms in Corvallis grew a variety of commodities, including peppermint, silage corn, fresh-market corn, ryegrass, and various row crops for processing. The operation also raised beef and dairy cattle.

Horning served two years of active duty in the Navy and remained part of the Naval Reserves after returning home to farm with his father and brothers.

Horning joined Benton County Farm Bureau in 1975 and became a board member in the early 90's. He served as a member of the OFB House of Delegates, the grassroots body that develops Farm Bureau policy, for five years.

Outside of Farm Bureau, Horning was involved in several agricultural organizations, including a state appointment to the Oregon Vegetable Commission, the Benton County Farm Tax Assessment Board, the Benton County Planning Commission, and the Long Tom Water Board. He was also recognized by the State of Oregon for his pioneering farming techniques, such as a single till weed control method.

Additionally, Horning served in several civic organizations, including the VFW, the Irish Bend School Board, and the Monroe First United Methodist Church.

"Horning also was a well respected spokesperson for the Benton County farm community," said Bushue. For example, he was interviewed by the *Corvallis Gazette Times Newspaper* regarding agricultural issues several times, including a February 2006 article about the effect of flooding on local agriculture.

"Two things that Benton County Farm Bureau members say they miss most about Clifford are his cheerful attitude and a tendency to break into song at parties," said Bushue.

Horning passed away in May 2006 while attempting to swim a river to start an irrigation pump. He is survived by his wife, three sons, and five grandchildren.

Editors: More high-resolution digital photos of the award presentation and honorees are available. Contact Anne Marie Moss, OFB Communication Director, annemarie@oregonfb.org, (503) 399-1701, ext. 313.

Note: In all instances, "Farm Bureau" must be capitalized.

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Other 2006 Farm Bureau members honored at the OFB state convention:

Katy Coba, Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, was honored with the **President's Award**, in recognition of her outstanding advocacy and leadership toward the betterment of the Oregon agriculture industry.

Jim Johnson, Land Use and Water Planning Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Agriculture, received a **Distinguished Service Award** for his years of service, support, and dedication to Farm Bureau and the ag industry as a whole.

Paul Kovash of Benton County was honored with a **Top Hand Award** for his innovation, passion, and energy in Farm Bureau activities, particularly in ag education and health and safety projects.

Arlene Kovash of Benton County received a **Distinguished Service Award** for her decades of representing Oregon agriculture in the political arena and her volunteer service in Farm Bureau.

Anne Rigor of Benton County was honored with the **Outstanding County Farm Bureau Secretary Award** for her volunteer work and commitment to the Benton County Farm Bureau.

Dalton Straus of Jackson County received a **Top Hand Award** for his decades of work promoting the Oregon ag industry around the state, nation, and world.

Press releases on and photos of all honorees are available.

About Oregon Farm Bureau

Oregon Farm Bureau traces its roots to 1919 when the Umatilla County Farm Bureau was established in the heart of the state's wheat country. Oregon Farm Bureau was formally incorporated in 1932. In 2007, OFB will celebrate its 75th anniversary. The state headquarters remained in Pendleton until 1949, when it moved to Salem.

Farm Bureau is organized in all 36 Oregon counties. Today, OFB has over 53,000 total member families, making it the largest general agricultural organization in the state. About 8,800 member families are professionally engaged in agriculture. Barry Bushue, an east Multnomah County berry and nursery producer, is OFB's 15th president.

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