

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dalton Straus honored with a Farm Bureau Top Hand Award

At the 2006 Oregon Farm Bureau State Convention in Bend, Dec. 4-8, OFB President Barry Bushue honored Dalton Straus of Jackson County with a Top Hand Award for his years of exemplary service and volunteer leadership.

“Dalton has been a Farm Bureau member for 50 years and has remained a tireless activist on behalf of Oregon agriculture,” said Bushue.

Straus has served on the Jackson County Farm Bureau Board, on various Oregon Farm Bureau Advisory Committees, and as a member of the OFB House of Delegates, the grassroots body that develops Farm Bureau policy.

Born on a wheat ranch during the Great Depression, Straus’s family ventured into the dairy business to make ends meet. Beef became the dominant commodity as time progressed, and Straus rode on horseback all day checking cattle on leased land miles from home.

During the Korean War, Straus joined the military. He completed officer training school and could have made a full-time career with the Army, but the pull back to his Oregon family farm was too strong. Nevertheless, he spent the next 35 years in the Army Reserves and retired as a full colonel in 1986.

By 1964, Straus went into partnership with his father. Today, he and his wife Ruth raise cattle and hay on a ranch in Sam’s Valley, near Central Point.

In recent years, Straus has worked with the Oregon Beef Council, helping to manage industry messages and consumer assurances during the critical time when BSE first appeared in neighboring Washington state.

As a member of the Governor’s Livestock Advisory Board, Straus took a trip to Japan with the state Dept. of Agriculture to promote Oregon beef. He has also served on the board of directors for the National Cattlemen’s Assn., Northwest Farm Credit Services, and District Farm Credit Council.

“In his many travels, Dalton has been an effective ambassador for the beef industry, Oregon agriculture, and Oregon Farm Bureau. It’s an honor to present him with a Top Hand Award,” said Bushue.

The Top Hand Award is given to individuals or groups that have dedicated a sizeable amount of time and energy toward furthering the goals of Oregon Farm Bureau. To be eligible, candidates must be nominated by their county Farm Bureau. Recipients are selected by the OFB Membership & Recognition Committee.

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.

Clifford Horning of Benton County was honored with a **Memorial Award** for having made a significant difference to the Farm Bureau organization and agriculture during his lifetime. The award was accepted by his brother Eric Horning.

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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