

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bernie Faber honored with OFB Service to Agriculture Award

At the 2007 Oregon Farm Bureau 75th Anniversary State Convention in Pendleton, Dec. 4-6, OFB President Barry Bushue honored dairyman Bernie Faber of Marion County Farm Bureau with the Service to Agriculture Award.

Faber was selected in recognition of his tireless efforts to promote and benefit the entire Oregon agriculture industry, beyond any one specific commodity, as well as strengthen ties between OFB and the Oregon State Board of Agriculture. Faber is currently serving as chair of the state Board of Agriculture, in his third term. His long tenure is indicative of his dedication to teamwork, practical problem-solving, and passionate advocacy for agriculture.

"Because of Bernie's leadership, we now have ways in which we can negotiate, talk, and discuss the policies that are so important at the state level for us and the issues we deal with," said OFB President Barry Bushue.

Faber is also at the forefront of agriculture's work in the field of alternative energy. His dairy farm in West Salem was selected by Portland General Electric and the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association as a pilot project to transform cow manure into a renewable resource in the form of electricity.

Said Bushue, "It gives me great pleasure to give this Service of Agriculture Award to Bernie Faber, a person who has been a consistent, dependable leader dedicated to the advancement of Oregon agriculture."

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Editors: Attached is a high-resolution digital photo of the award presentation. From left is OFB Service to Agriculture Award Recipient Bernie Faber, OFB President Barry Bushue, and OFB Executive Vice President Dave Dillon.

* Note: "Farm Bureau" is a registered trademark; please capitalize in all cases.

Other 2007 Farm Bureau members honored at the OFB state convention:

Daryl Hawes of Baker County was inducted as the 18th member of the **OFB Hall of Fame** to recognize and thank him for his decades of volunteer leadership and efforts on behalf of Farm Bureau at the state and county level and for the betterment of the entire Oregon agriculture industry.

Paul Kovash of Benton County was inducted as the 19th member of the **OFB Hall of Fame** to recognize and thank him for his decades of volunteer leadership and efforts on behalf of Farm Bureau at the state and county level and for the betterment of the entire Oregon agriculture industry.

Don Schellenberg, OFB Associate Director of Governmental Affairs, was honored with the **President's Award**, in recognition of his tireless service, leadership, dedication, and advocacy for Farm Bureau members and the Oregon agriculture industry.

Gary Harris of Jefferson County was given a **Distinguished Service Award** for his years of excellent work, particularly in tax and land use issues, on behalf of Oregon agriculture.

Paul Thorp of Polk County received a **Top Hand Award** for his efforts in Farm Bureau and for promoting agriculture education and safety at the county and state level.

Mickey Killingsworth of Jefferson County was honored with the **Outstanding County Farm Bureau Secretary Award** for her volunteer work and commitment to the Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Bill Austin of Douglas County was honored with a **Memorial Award** for having made a significant difference to the Farm Bureau organization and agriculture industry during his lifetime. The award was accepted by friend and former Douglas County Farm Bureau President Rick Epp.

Press releases and photos of all honorees are available.

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Oregon Farm Bureau celebrated its 75th Anniversary at its 2007 State Convention, which took place Dec. 4-6, at the Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton. In 1932, the organization was founded by a group of agricultural producers during a meeting at a farmhouse in nearby Pilot Rock. Farm Bureau's first state office was established soon afterward in Pendleton.

Today, Farm Bureau is organized in all 36 Oregon counties and has more than 8,000 member families that are professionally engaged in agriculture. Barry Bushue, an east Multnomah County berry and nursery stock producer, is OFB's 15th president. Bushue was elected to a fifth two-year term as president at the 2007 State Convention.

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