

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Paul Kovash inducted into Farm Bureau Hall of Fame**

At the 2007 Oregon Farm Bureau 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary State Convention in Pendleton, Dec. 4-6, OFB President Barry Bushue inducted Paul Kovash of Benton County Farm Bureau into the OFB Hall of Fame in recognition of his years of exemplary service and volunteer leadership.

The Hall of Fame, established in 1996, is the highest award given by the Oregon Farm Bureau. To be eligible, candidates must be nominated by their county Farm Bureau and must have at least 35 years of active involvement in the organization. Inductees are selected by the OFB Membership & Recognition Committee. Kovash is the 19<sup>th</sup> Farm Bureau member to be inducted into the OFB Hall of Fame.

“Farm Bureau and the Oregon agriculture industry as a whole are better off because of the decades of involvement, passion, and dedication of Paul Kovash,” said Bushue. “We are honored to induct him into the Oregon Farm Bureau Hall of Fame.”

Kovash came to Oregon from Arizona, where he graduated from the University of Arizona and taught Vocational Agriculture at Phoenix Union High School for four years. He moved to Corvallis in 1964 with his wife Arlene and two daughters to teach Vocational Agriculture at Corvallis High School. While teaching, he also farmed south of town, raising cattle and hogs.

While in Corvallis, Kovash joined Benton County Farm Bureau, becoming president for two years starting in 1974. In 1979, he moved to Polk County, but remained active in Benton County Farm Bureau. He was elected Benton County President for the second time in 2000. He is a member of the OFB Transportation Committee and OFB Membership Committee, of which he has served as chair for four years.

“As president of Benton County Farm Bureau, Paul is very active in his own right, but he is also known as a delegator, always working to involve as many of the other Benton County members as much as possible,” said Bushue. “As Benton County President, he and the county board make a point of discussing at least one Farm Bureau policy at each meeting to ensure the OFB Policy Book stays current with the needs of Oregon’s agriculture producers.”

Kovash’s other civic service includes the Oregon State County Fair Commission, the Polk County Soil and Water Committee, and the Oregon Women for Agriculture Auction.

“Paul has exceptional organizational skills,” said Bushue. “He is able to see what needs to be done in any situation, how to do things better, and can recognize problems that will arise from a course of action.”

Kovash and his wife, Arlene, operate a beef and hay farm in the Coast Range near Pedee.

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Editors: Attached is a high-resolution digital photo of the award presentation. From left is new OFB Hall of Famer Paul Kovash, OFB Executive Vice President Dave Dillon, and OFB President Barry Bushue.

\* 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 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.

**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.

**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.

**Bernie Faber of Marion County** received a **Service to Agriculture Award** for his passionate commitment to advancing the agriculture industry and furthering the interests of Oregon's farming and ranching families.

**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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