

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Don Schellenberg honored with the Farm Bureau President's Award

At the 2007 Oregon Farm Bureau 75th Anniversary State Convention in Pendleton, Dec. 4-6, OFB President Barry Bushue honored Oregon Farm Bureau staff member and prune grower Don Schellenberg of Polk County Farm Bureau with the OFB President's Award for his decades-long commitment to Oregon's agriculture producers.

The OFB President's Award recipient is selected by the sitting OFB President and is given to an individual who has displayed an outstanding level of vision, service, and leadership toward the betterment of the Oregon agriculture industry.

Schellenberg first joined Farm Bureau in 1965. He became active at the county level almost immediately and soon followed in his father's footsteps by serving as the Polk County Farm Bureau President for several terms during the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s. Over the decades, Schellenberg has been honored by his county Farm Bureau twice for his work as a volunteer leader and later for his overall service to the industry.

In 1980, Schellenberg came to work for the Oregon Farm Bureau as a Public Affairs Manager. Twenty-seven years later, his title has changed to Associate Director of Governmental Affairs and he has become an undisputed expert on the topics of agriculture land use, taxation, labor, and transportation.

Said OFB President Bushue, "Almost every active volunteer leader in Farm Bureau has a story about how Don helped him or her be heard by legislators at the State Capitol or navigate a complicated tax law or gain grassroots support on an issue. For all of his years of dedication, enthusiasm, and effective hard work, I say thank you to Don and ask him to accept this President's Award."

Schellenberg raises prunes on his farm in Dallas. He and his wife Judy are proud parents of two and grandparents of five.

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Editors: Attached is a high-resolution digital photo of the award presentation. From left is OFB President Barry Bushue, OFB Executive Vice President Dave Dillon, and OFB President's Award Recipient Don Schellenberg.

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

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

Paul Kovash of Benton 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.

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.

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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