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## **Marion County's Dettwyler Earns Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award**

January 27, 2017, SALEM, OREGON: Bob Dettwyler, a second-generation farmer and member of Marion County Farm Bureau, was honored with an Oregon Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award during the 84th Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) Annual Meeting in Salem.

"The Distinguished Service Award recognizes outstanding service to Farm Bureau and to Oregon agriculture," said OFB President Barry Bushue. "I can think of few more deserving of this award than Bob Dettwyler, an active, dedicated Farm Bureau member for 26 years."

A grower of hazelnuts, blueberries, grass seed, wheat, and green beans at Blue Line Farms in Silverton, Dettwyler became concerned about water issues and wildlife damage to crops, both having a major impact on his family farm. He volunteered to serve on the Farm Bureau Goose Depredation and Water Committees at both the county and state level so he could make a true difference for all of Oregon agriculture.

Knowing that nothing has more of an impact than when farmers and ranchers tell their own stories, Dettwyler has met with legislators, written letters, and testified at the state capitol on issues involving ag production, labor, water use, and wildlife.

A strong believer in the value and effectiveness of Farm Bureau, Dettwyler serves on Marion County's Board of Directors and Membership Committee.

It was membership recruitment that brought him to his wife Gail. In 1990, Gail Zielesch, a member of the Marion County Farm Bureau Board at that time, was working on expanding the local grassroots membership.

"I said, 'I'm going to visit the boys at Blue Line Farms. They should be Farm Bureau members,'" said Gail. "I gave Bob a membership pitch, and I guess I was pretty effective. He decided to join, and a bit later, called me for a dinner date."

The Dettwylers will celebrate their 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in February, and to this day can be spotted at almost every Farm Bureau function held in Marion County.

Beyond Farm Bureau, Dettwyler was a founding member of the Pudding Watershed Council and has served the Pratum Co-op, Oregon Ryegrass Commission, Oregon Grass Seed Bargaining Association, and Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District, among other ag organizations.

“Bob is known and admired for his consistency, loyalty, and kindness. He’s a reliable go-to person for Marion County Farm Bureau and we’re grateful for his decades of service,” said Bushue.

PHOTO: Bob Dettwyler (middle) of Marion County Farm Bureau was honored with an Oregon Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award during the 84th OFB Annual Meeting in Salem. He is pictured with OFB 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Peggy Browne and OFB Executive Vice President Dave Dillon.

- See full list of awards given at the 84<sup>th</sup> OFB Annual Meeting: <http://oregonfb.org/media/press-releases/>

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\* Note to Editors: “Farm Bureau” is a registered trademark; please capitalize in all cases

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is a grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit, general farm organization representing the interests of farming and ranching families in the public and policymaking arenas. First established in Oregon in 1919, Farm Bureau is organized in all 36 counties and has 7,000 farm and ranch family members.

Oregon Farm Bureau President Barry Bushue is a third-generation farmer raising a variety of vegetables and berries at a nearly century-old farm near Boring, Oregon. He is OFB's 15th president.

