Oregon Farm Bureau had an exceptional 2014.

We achieved a major victory of justice for Oregon blueberry growers unfairly targeted by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, purchased and moved into a new building less than one mile from the state capitol, and earned numerous awards of excellence from the American Farm Bureau Federation, to name only a few highlights.

In this annual report, OFB is proud to share a review of its accomplishments for the year. All of the work we do is on behalf of, and in cooperation with, our valued farm and ranch member families. OFB’s mission is to strengthen, protect, and promote Oregon agriculture now and for future generations.

For information on any aspect of Farm Bureau or its programs, call 800.334.6323 or visit oregonfb.org.
“Farm Bureau is a grassroots, county-based organization. Farms and ranches of all sizes, commodities, and production methods have an opportunity to bring their issues forward and have their voices heard.”

Barry Bushue, Oregon Farm Bureau President, American Farm Bureau Vice President
OFB Impact

In 2014 OFB’s work on a variety of state and national issues had a major impact in both the political and public arenas. Working tirelessly on behalf of family agriculture in Oregon, Farm Bureau achieved impressive victories and advanced important causes. A few 2014 highlights:

**Hot goods victory:** 2015 started with a giant win for agriculture employers and OFB in the two-year-long “hot goods” fight for justice. On Jan. 19, 2015, the U.S. Dept. of Labor announced it would drop its charges against two Oregon blueberry growers, return the penalty money it demanded, and also pay an additional $30,000 to each farm as part of a legal settlement.

“This case is exactly what Farm Bureau is made for,” said OFB EVP Dave Dillon. “When these family farms had their blueberries held hostage and were coerced into signing Putin-like documents, they turned to OFB. OFB put together a staff, volunteer, and legal team no one else could have assembled, and we fought a long uphill battle to get results few others have ever achieved. I’m so proud of the work Farm Bureau did to right USDOL’s wrongs against these farms, and the strong signal we sent the department to never try these tactics again.”

In 2014, OFB supported two Farm Bureau members in their lawsuit against the USDOL for unfairly targeting them with a $220,000 penalty and holding their perishable blueberry crops hostage until payment was received — despite any evidence of the alleged labor violations and without any due process of law.

Using a legal strategy developed by OFB, the farmers courageously took on this national agency in court, where three federal judges sided with the farmers. Congressman Kurt Schrader, Oregon Bureau of Labor & Industries Commissioner Brad Avakian, and other Oregon lawmakers and agency reps publicly expressed concern over USDOL’s actions. Many news outlets covered the issue, highlighting the agency’s draconian tactics, including The Oregonian, Capital Press, Bend Bulletin, Statesman-Journal, and Wall Street Journal.

Part of the successful case used information gained in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by OFB, and OFB raised $40,000 to help offset the legal fees accrued by the farmers.

Farm Bureau’s leadership on the issue inspired the American Farm Bureau House of Delegates to adopt an official policy in 2014 calling for a complete repeal of USDOL’s hot goods powers on perishable crops. Also thanks to action by Rep. Schrader and OFB, a new provision in the 2014 Farm Bill requires the agency to consult with USDA before halting shipments of ag products via a hot goods order.

**Ditch the Rule:** Thanks to Farm Bureau at the state and national level, the Environmental Protection Agency got the message loud and clear that agriculture producers wanted the EPA to “Ditch the Rule” and drop a proposal that would allow it to regulate all waters on private land.
Thousands of Farm Bureau members across the country submitted comments to the EPA against changing the definition of “Waters of the U.S.” under the Clean Water Act. If the proposal moves forward, it will mean that puddles, ponds, ditches, ephemerals, and isolated wetlands on private lands will become open to federal scrutiny, and agencies will have the power to dictate land use decisions and farming practices in or near these water bodies. It will impose complex and costly permitting schemes, regardless of need.

To galvanize grassroots action, Farm Bureau created an effective outreach campaign. The Ditchtherule. fb.org website was a one-stop-shop for making comments to the EPA, spreading the word via social media, and accessing information, videos, and graphics. Coupled with information via OFB’s communication channels, comments were made, interviews given, letters written, and messaging shared. OFB also submitted formal comments.

The last deadline for comments to the EPA was in November. Thank you to the many members who participated in the Ditch the Rule campaign. Farm Bureau will continue to lead the charge on this issue in the coming year.

**Biotechnology:** Farm Bureau is pro-agriculture, believing that all types of farming and ranching are valuable and needed, including organic, conventional, biotech, and no-tech. Family farmers and ranchers are the best people to decide what commodities and production methods are right for their own operations and customer bases.

In 2014 biotechnology and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) were under attack in Oregon in Jackson County and via a statewide measure. Jackson County Farm Bureau and OFB worked tirelessly in the fight against a local measure to completely ban biotech crops. The effort was a huge commitment of time and resources, and it took courage for members to take a public stand on this contentious issue. Members of the Farm Bureau family from around the nation and AFBF contributed over $125,000 toward this effort.

Unfortunately the measure became a case of farmers being pitted against fellow farmers, fueled by misinformation and fear about GMO crops. Not for lack of passion and hard work from Farm Bureau, county voters passed the measure.

Since its passage, two Jackson County Farm Bureau members, who would have to destroy their Roundup-ready alfalfa crops to a loss of $2 million each, have filed suit against the ban, arguing that it violates Oregon’s Right to Farm law.

At the state level, OFB was front-and-center in the No on Measure 92 campaign. The measure would have created a costly, unnecessary, state-specific label for GMOs that would only vilify a safe and legal method of farm production.

OFB thanks the Farm Bureau members who were featured in the No on Measure 92 ads, and the many others who erected signs, gave media interviews, shared on social media, and talked to family, friends, and neighbors about why this measure was a bad idea for Oregon.

OFB’s efforts definitely helped defeat Measure 92, which lost by only about 800 votes. Every vote counted in this election.

**Crop donation tax credit:** Thanks to OFB, farmers and ranchers can get a 15% tax credit (based on wholesale prices) for surplus or dedicated fruits, vegetables, and meat that is donated to a food bank or local food pantry. Farm Bureau worked with the Oregon Food Bank to craft and champion this bill in the 2014 state legislature. The goal was to offset some of the costs for farmers who already donate food to charity and to encourage more to do the same. Farm or ranch food donations made in 2014 can qualify for 2014 taxes. An unused tax credit can be carried forward for up to three years.

**Food Safety Modernization Act:** In 2014, Farm Bureau demanded that farmers and ranchers have more input in the proposed national Food & Drug Administration’s Food Safety Modernization Act. To demonstrate how parts of the proposal were unworkable and cost-prohibitive, OFB organized a farm tour in eastern Oregon for FDA officials. Farmers were able to explain and demonstrate to agency reps how impractical it was in a real-life scenario.

In 2014 OFB also filed formal comments on the FSMA’s proposed produce safety rule and preventive controls for human food consumption rule. AFBF submitted comments with concerns on the specifics of the animal feed rule and other aspects.
OFB Events

Besides the OFB Annual Meeting in December, in 2014 OFB organized numerous presentations, tours, and legislator events for members.

Washington D.C. trip: In March, five Farm Bureau leaders went to Washington D.C. and met six members of Oregon’s congressional delegation to discuss priority issues, including national tax extenders, immigration, public lands, and the Food Safety Modernization Act.

County Farm Bureau presidents at state capitol: In February, OFB invited county Farm Bureau presidents to a meeting at the state capitol to hear from lawmakers and OFB staff during the 2014 legislative session. County presidents met again at the new OFB office in November.

Outdoor Business Workshop for Landowners: In May, OFB worked with Oregon State Univ. and Mississippi State Univ. to host an Outdoor Business Workshop in Klamath County for farmers, ranchers, and foresters interested in expanding into public recreational enterprises (agritourism, fishing, bird-watching, etc.).

AgPac Tour: OFB was instrumental in organizing the 2014 AgPac tour of Salem-area farms for legislators, candidates, and legislative staffers to learn about Oregon agriculture issues directly from farmers and ranchers.

OFB Update at Willamette Ag Expo: Farm Bureau members were invited to lunch and a legislative update from OFB governmental affairs staff during the 2014 Willamette Valley Ag Expo in Albany in November.

OFB Classic Golf Tournament: In September, OFB hosted its 11th annual golf tournament for Farm Bureau members, legislators, and supporters of Oregon agriculture. The event raised over $30,000 for OFB’s PAC.

AFBF Western States Presidents & Administrators Conference: The 2014 conference for Farm Bureau state presidents and administrators in the Western region was held on the Oregon coast. OFB organized a tour of Farm Bureau-member farms, showcasing the diversity of agriculture in the Willamette Valley.

OFB Annual Meeting: In December, OFB hosted its 82nd Annual Meeting at Salishan on the Oregon coast. Two hundred Farm Bureau members met to discuss and vote upon OFB policy, get ag issue updates, hear from distinguished speakers, and enjoy fellowship.

“Ultimately, agriculture in the United States is stronger and better protected by the grassroots input and policy structure of the Farm Bureau organization, where the concerns of an individual are heard but policies are made on what is best for agriculture in general.”

“What Makes Farm Bureau Agriculture’s Strongest Voice” editorial by the Capital Press
New OFB Building

After almost 20 years in the building in south Salem, OFB moved to a new headquarters at 1320 Capitol Street NE in Salem in October 2014.

The relocation completes part of a multi-year plan by the OFB Board of Directors to be based closer to the capitol and state agencies, to reduce the amount of real estate on the OFB balance sheet, and to decrease the amount of staff time used for property management and tenant relations.

The new building, called The OFB Natural Resource Center at Capitol and Gaines, is less than one mile from the state capitol and less than three minutes from the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture and Oregon Water Resources Dept. It is also closer and easier to reach from I-5, right off the Market St. exit.

Oregon Cattlemen’s Assn., Oregon Dairy Farmers Assn., and Western Advocates have joined us in the new building. The Marion County office of the Oregon State University Extension Service will move into the building in 2015.

Grassroots Policy Development

Farm Bureau is a true grassroots organization, with its legislative work guided by policy positions developed by family farmers and ranchers.

Voting members, who generate at least $2,500 in gross income from farming and ranching activities, can get active at the county Farm Bureau level. That’s where Farm Bureau’s policy positions and initiatives start. Counties typically meet monthly and discuss ideas, issues, and challenges facing their farms, ranches, and rural communities. County Farm Bureaus do extraordinary work on their local issues and in the realm of public education and promotion of agriculture.

If you’re not involved already, please consider attending a county Farm Bureau meeting and have your voice heard. Call 800.334.6323 or email dennis@oregonfb.org for information on the next gathering.

At the state level, Oregon Farm Bureau is guided by the OFB Policy Book, a list of the organization’s official positions on topics ranging from water to wildlife, labor to land use. The policy book is what guides OFB staff and volunteer leaders in their advocacy work in the state and national legislature.

Find the OFB Policy Book at oregonfb.org.

If a county Farm Bureau has an issue that’s missing from the policy book, it has an opportunity to present it at the OFB Annual Meeting, held every December. At this gathering, representatives from all county Farm Bureaus discuss and vote upon additions, edits, or deletions to OFB policy. The OFB Policy Book is not a stagnant document; it is reviewed and revised annually to best meet the needs of Oregon’s diverse agriculture community.

From Oregon, issues can make their way into American Farm Bureau policy, for work at the national level.

Farm Bureau is a general agriculture organization that values and welcomes all types of agriculture production, farm sizes, and commodity types. Your membership directly helps keep Oregon agriculture sustainable, strong, and viable. Thank you.
OFB’s Board of Directors is comprised of 16 farmers and ranchers who represent different regions of the state, as well as four officers (one who is chair of the Women’s Advisory Council), the Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee chair, and an Oregon State Univ. ex officio.

With members elected at the OFB Annual Meeting in December, the board manages the business, affairs, property, and personnel of Oregon Farm Bureau, and guides the organization toward the goal of implementing OFB public policy positions. The OFB Board works closely with OFB staff and meets quarterly. Board members are exceptional, dedicated volunteer leaders who care deeply about Farm Bureau’s mission and the strength, vitality, and viability of Oregon agriculture.

- **President Barry Bushue** raises a variety of vegetables, berries, and flowers in Boring, and sells in farmers markets.
- Newly elected **1st Vice President Peggy Browne** is a cattle rancher and raises hay and grain in North Powder.
- Newly elected **2nd Vice President Angela Bailey** is an ornamental tree and shrub grower from Gresham.
- **3rd Vice President Barb Iverson** grows tulips, grass seed, wheat, and other crops in Woodburn.
- **4th Vice President/Women’s Advisory Council Chair Mickey Killingsworth** raises sheep in Madras.
- **Region 1** (Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla): Larry Lear is a retired wheat and hog farmer from Condon.
- **Region 2** (Baker, Union, Wallowa): Bill Browne raises cattle, grain, and hay in North Powder.
- **Region 3** (Grant, Harney): Shane Otley is a cattle rancher from Burns.
- **Region 4** (Klamath, Lake): Lyndon Kerns raises cattle and hay in Klamath Falls.
- **Region 5** (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Wheeler): Wade Flegel is a cattle rancher and hay farmer from Prineville.
- **Region 6** (Hood River, Sherman, Wasco): Dean McAllister grows cherries and wine grapes in The Dalles.
- **Region 7** (Clackamas, Multnomah): Pete Postlewait grows beans, cucumbers, rhubarb, and pumpkin seeds in Aurora.

Front row from left: 1st VP Peggy Browne, 2nd VP Angela Bailey, President Barry Bushue, 3rd VP Barb Iverson, and 4th VP and chair of Women’s Advisory Council Mickey Killingsworth. Back row from left: Carol Marie Leuthold, Region 1; Dalton Straus, Region 11; Shane Otley, Region 3; Kathy Hadley, chair of Young Farmers & Ranchers Comm.; Bill Browne, Region 2; Larry Duyck, Region 14; Larry Lear, Region 1; Pete Postlewait, Region 7; Lyndon Kerns, Region 4; Bruce Chapin, Region 15; Dave Dillon, EVP; Wade Flegel, Region 5; Dean Freeborn, Region 9; Dan Anderson, Region 13; and Dean McAllister, Region 6. (Not pictured are Peter Kenagy, Region 10; Sharon Waterman, Region 12; and Larry Curtis, ex officio).
Newly elected Region 8 (Clatsop, Tillamook): Carol Marie Leuthold is a dairy farmer based in Cloverdale.

Region 9 (Polk, Yamhill): Dean Freeborn raises grass seed, hay, and cattle in Rickreall.

Region 10 (Benton, Lincoln, Linn): Peter Kenagy raises seed crops and u-pick pumpkins in Albany.

Region 11 (Jackson, Josephine): Dalton Straus operates a cattle ranch in Central Point.

Region 12 (Coos, Curry): Sharon Waterman has a ranch in Bandon with timber, cattle, and sheep.

Region 13 (Malheur): Dan Andersen is a cattle rancher from Ontario.

Newly elected Region 14 (Columbia, Washington): Larry Duyck raises a variety of berries on his farm in North Plains.

Region 15 (Marion): Bruce Chapin grows cherries and hazelnuts in Salem.

Region 16 (Lane, Douglas): Rick Epp raises hay in Roseburg.

Young Farmers & Ranchers Chair: Kathy Hadley grows a variety of seed crops, grain, cattle, and hay in Rickreall.

Ex Officio: Dr. Larry Curtis is an Associate Dean at Oregon State University’s College of Ag Sciences.

Members Honored

As a grassroots organization, there are many exceptional Farm Bureau volunteer leaders who are dedicated, hard-working, and effective in their efforts to further OFB’s public policy goals and educate society about Oregon agriculture.

Following are some member recognition highlights from 2014.

Oregon Farm Bureau Hall of Fame inductees: Jackson County’s Ron Bjork and Klamath-Lake County’s Tracey Liskey

Farm Bureau Top Hand Awards: Jackson County’s Glenn Archambault and Grant County’s Shaun Robertson

Retiring OFB Board members honored: 1st VP (and longest consecutively serving board member with 20 years) Tracey Liskey of Klamath-Lake County, Dale Buck of Tillamook County, and KC VanNatta of Columbia County

Service to Agriculture Awards: Marion County’s Brenda and Matt Frketich and Molly Pearmine McCargar, and OFB VP of Public Policy Katie Fast

Outstanding Farm Bureau Woman Awards: Coos-Curry County’s Sharon Waterman and Multnomah County’s Angela Bailey

President’s Award: Paulette Pyle of Oregonians for Food & Shelter

Outstanding County Farm Bureau Secretary Award: Yamhill County’s Marie Schmidt

Farm Bureau Memorial Award: Klamath-Lake County’s Bob Flowers

WAC Outstanding County Farm Bureau Woman Award: Coos-Curry County’s Kay Warnock

AFBF VP/OFB President Barry Bushue named 2014 Agriculturist of the Year by the Agri-Business Council of Oregon

Jason Flowers of Klamath-Lake County Farm Bureau appointed to serve on national AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee

AFBF County Activity of Excellence: Coos-Curry County Farm Bureau featured at 2014 AFBF Convention with its “Save Family Farms” initiative. The county had launched a campaign to protect farmland from being purchased and taken out of ag production.

Newly elected county Farm Bureau presidents: Don Anderson of Columbia County, Matthew Brady of Douglas County, and John Moxley of Klamath-Lake County.
OFB Awards

In 2014, OFB was recognized numerous times by American Farm Bureau for outstanding work.

OFB received Awards of Excellence from AFBF in all five possible categories: Education & Outreach, Leadership Development, Member Services, Membership Initiatives, Policy Development & Implementation, and Public Relations & Communications.

OFB earned the President’s Award for the “best of the best” in the category of Education & Outreach. This category included programs like Summer Ag Institute, Century Farm & Ranch, Ag Fest, and Farm Bureau scholarships. OFB was one of only 17 states to achieve this distinction.

At the 2014 AFBF communications conference, OFB won “Best Feature Story” for an Oregon’s Bounty magazine article on Hood River County Farm Bureau President Randy Kiyokawa, and “Best Leader Newsletter” for the printed OFB News.

OFB also was honored with an AFBF Navigator Award for exceeding its state membership growth goal in 2014 (voting, supporting, and associate members). OFB ended its 2013-2014 membership year with 6,995 farm and ranch family members.

OFB Programs

Young Farmers & Ranchers: Young Farmers & Ranchers is a group within Farm Bureau specifically for agriculture producers between the ages of 16 and 35. YF&R gives members the tools to become effective “agvocates” for agriculture, and many opportunities for travel, leadership development, networking, and fun. YF&R is a natural progression from FFA and a great way to get involved in Farm Bureau.

In 2014, the YF&R Committee organized a leadership workshop open to all Farm Bureau members that focused on improving communication skills on the farm, and with legislators, lenders, and the general public. The group visited Washington D.C. and met with national lawmakers, organized the annual statewide tractor driving contest for FFA students, and helped coordinate a number of educational and networking events for young ag producers around the state.

Women’s Advisory Council: The OFB Women’s Advisory Council is dedicated to supporting leadership development for women in Farm Bureau and promoting the importance of Oregon agriculture to the general public.

Throughout the year, WAC raises money to donate to the Ronald McDonald House Charities in conjunction with AFBF’s Our Food Link campaign. Thanks to county Farm Bureau donations and funds raised by WAC activities, over $4,000 worth of groceries was given to Oregon’s Ronald McDonald Houses in 2014.

In 2014, WAC members hosted a reception at the state capitol for lawmakers, legislative staffers, and the general public to celebrate and highlight Oregon agriculture. Recent WAC workshops for Farm Bureau members include farm succession planning and a legislative update.

WAC’s subcommittees are the Ag Education Committee and the Health & Safety Committee.

Ag Ed organizes Farm Bureau’s popular “Dirt Baby” booth at Oregon Ag Fest in Salem. In 2014, over 30 volunteers helped kids and families make 2,800 Dirt Babies (aka “a farmer’s version of a Chia Pet”) at Ag Fest. An estimated 25,000 babies have been made at the Farm Bureau booth since 1998.
In 2014, the Health & Safety Committee coordinated a radio ad campaign with county Farm Bureaus in the Willamette Valley that focused on rural road safety, promoted rural road safety with brochures and a traveling display, and organized numerous CPR trainings for counties.

**FEELDS:** OFB’s FEELDS program — Farm Employer Education & Legal Defense Service — reached a record 152 member farms in 2014. The program helps ag producers keep up with ever-changing state and federal regulations, and provides guidance on managing employment situations.

FEELD’s 2014 Ag Employer Update attracted 120 participants. The program distributed 500 posters, featuring required state and federal labor signage, to farmers and ranchers.

**SAI:** Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2014, the Summer Ag Institute (SAI) was recognized for educating Oregon K-12 teachers about agriculture and ag’s inclusion in the classroom. The program earned an Excellence in Education award from the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture. In 2014, 39 teachers participated in SAI. In its 25-year history, SAI has enrolled 770 of Oregon teachers with the goal of helping to promote the importance of agriculture to society.

**Century Farm & Ranch:** One of the oldest agricultural heritage programs in the country, Oregon Century Farm & Ranch honored eight farms and ranches with Century status (100 years in operation within the same family) — and two farms with Sesquicentennial status (150 years). These inductions bring the total of Oregon Century Farms and Ranches to 1,164 and families with Sesquicentennial status to 28.

**OFB Foundation for Education:** Overseeing the Summer Ag Institute and Century Farm & Ranch program, the foundation also offers two scholarships. The Oregon Farm Bureau Memorial Scholarship is for students studying an agriculture and/or forestry related major, and the Oregon Farm Bureau Associate Member Scholarship, funded by COUNTRY Financial, is open to a student from a family with an associate Farm Bureau membership.

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**Schaeffer Gift to Rossner Scholarship**

In 2014, Carol and Scott Schaeffer of Multnomah County Farm Bureau made a transformational gift to the 501c3 Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education’s scholarship fund. The gift totaled $70,000, which pushed the John T. Rossner Memorial Scholarship Endowment over the $100,000 mark, a first for any program of the OFB foundation. The gift was to honor Carol’s late mother, Leona Tyler, and was funded in the settlement of her estate.

Between the foundation and individual county Farm Bureau efforts, the OFB family awards over $65,000 in college scholarships each year. The vast majority of these are funded by annual contributions. The Schaeffer/Tyler is a permanent gift. These funds are now part of an endowment that will produce three to five scholarships per year, in perpetuity.

All contributions to the foundation scholarship fund help prepare tomorrow’s farmers and ranchers for success. Larger contributions to endowment funds, through estate planning or other means, allow those scholarships to provide this needed help forever.

OFB thanks Scott and Carol for this landmark gift, and hope it inspires you to consider how you can support the future success of the agriculture community through your own estate plan.
Membership Recruitment Tools

Membership is Farm Bureau’s reason for being. As a grassroots organization, Farm Bureau’s strength, effectiveness, and credibility come from its farmer and rancher member families.

And the best way to get new members — and keep existing members — is when farmers talk to other farmers.

OFB has developed some new tools to help our grassroots network with membership recruitment and better explain what Farm Bureau is and why the annual dues are worth it. Please share these with your neighbors, friends, family, even vendors and customers.

Prospective Member Kit: This kit is a perfect item to give to an ag producer who wants to learn more about Farm Bureau. A sturdy, attractive envelope includes an 8-page brochure that describes Farm Bureau, the member benefit discounts, how farmers and ranchers can get involved, OFB programs, OFB legislative highlights, a county Farm Bureau meeting calendar, and a sample page of the voting and supporting member newsletter — as well as a membership application.

Have some potential Farm Bureau members in mind? Request kits by contacting Anne Marie Moss, 800.334.6323, annemarie@oregonfb.org.

Farm Bureau Challenge website: Another tool is The Farm Bureau Challenge website at oregonfb.org/challenge (also a rotating panel on the home page). Geared toward non-members, the site invites visitors to share the most pressing agriculture issue(s) facing their operations. An OFB staffer responds directly to that person with an update on the topic and what OFB is doing about it.

The Challenge demonstrates how Farm Bureau is responsive and actively working on issues most important to family farmers and ranchers.

Counties Achieving Membership Goal

Special congratulations to the county Farm Bureaus that reached or surpassed their membership goals in 2014: Coos-Curry, Crook-Wheeler, Douglas, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Josephine, Linn, Multnomah, Polk, Wallowa, and Yamhill.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Members can easily save more than the cost of their annual Farm Bureau dues with great discount programs. (Look in the Feb. 2015 OFB Newsletter for details on how to redeem these discounts.)

COUNTRY Financial offers a wide range of insurance and financial services
10% to 50% discounts on many Grainger purchases (and free online shipping)
$500 Bonus Cash with General Motors
Verizon Wireless discount
$200 to $300 Polaris off-road vehicles
$300 to $500 discount at Case-IH
5¢-per-gallon discount on AmeriGas propane

30% to 75% prescription drug discount
20% discount from Choice Hotels
20% discount at Wyndham Hotels
20% off of Avis car rentals
15% discount at Ritter Hobson law firm
60% off ClearValue hearing instruments
Life Line Screening discount

Publicize farm stands, u-pick fields, etc. with Oregon’s Bounty website & magazine.
OFB Finances

OFB’s operating revenue for 2014 was $2,263,359, which was about $60,000 over budget. 64% of this revenue comes from member dues. 34% of revenue is a combination of investment proceeds, reimbursements, and endorsement revenue. OFB neither sought nor received grants or public funds in 2014.

Operating expenses for 2014 were $2,108,466, which was $53,488 under budget. The major categories of expenditures are personnel, dues to American Farm Bureau, volunteer programs, communications, and legal counsel costs.

The FEELDS employer consulting service operates on a financially self-sustaining basis and returns a small overhead contribution back to OFB each year. Overall OFB operating surpluses are returned to the investment pool on the balance sheet.

OFB ended 2014 with $9.77 million in assets. An outside investment firm manages the investment of these assets with oversight from the OFB Board’s budget and investment committee. The OFB Board of Directors receives a full audit of financial statements every year, with a report on the audit given to the House of Delegates at the OFB Annual Meeting.

OFB Staff

In honor of her 25th anniversary of working for Farm Bureau, Candace Seal, OFB treasurer/accounting director, received a special award from OFB EVP Dave Dillon.

Your OFB staff is comprised of a great group of people dedicated to serving Farm Bureau, our goals, and, most importantly, our members. With the move to a new building, a new membership management system with COUNTRY in place, and the addition of two new great employees, 2014 was a year of many changes.

2014 Milestones: Congratulations to the following OFB staffers for reaching major milestones in their tenure at Farm Bureau!

Candace Seal, OFB treasurer/accounting director, celebrated her 25th anniversary with Farm Bureau.
Patty Kuester, accounting assistant, celebrated 20 years of working at OFB.
Anne Marie Moss, communications director, celebrated 10 years of working at OFB.

New staff: In 2014, OFB welcomed two new governmental affairs staffers, OFB Governmental Affairs Associate Jennifer Dresler and OFB Public Policy Counsel Mary Anne Nash. (More information about these new employees will appear in the Feb. 2015 OFB Newsletter).
Sheep rancher Mac Hoke was the founder of Farm Bureau in Oregon, which in 1919 began as a meeting in Umatilla County to educate area farmers about efficient wheat-growing methods. In 1932, Hoke helped establish the statewide Oregon Farm Bureau Federation and served as its first president for 13 years. Today, Farm Bureau is Oregon’s largest and premier grassroots agriculture advocacy organization, still guided by the needs and concerns of family farmers and ranchers.

**OFB PAC**

The Oregon Farm Bureau Political Action Committee supports political candidates, ballot measures, and political education efforts that are most beneficial for Oregon agriculture as a whole.

OFB PAC raises funds over a two-year cycle, with most contributions given in the general election year. In 2014, the PAC did not run a deficit. More about OFB PAC in 2014:

- 85% of OFB PAC–endorsed candidates won their races
- raised $67,553
- contributed $96,892 to candidates
- gave $27,000 to ballot measure campaigns
- contributed $3,000 to AgPac, an ag and natural resources PAC comprised of 17 different organizations
- had $11,387 in fundraising & administrative expenses

**OFB Communications**

In 2014, there were (at least) 340 news mentions of OFB, a county Farm Bureau, a Farm Bureau member, or an OFB program.

- 41 OFB press releases distributed
- OFB Facebook page grew by 463 to 1,825 fans.
- OFB Twitter grew by 518 to 1,353 followers.
- The OFB Update email goes to 2,800 people
- 115 photographers submitted images for the 2015 Oregon’s Bounty Calendar
- 323 public ag ventures are listed in Oregon’s Bounty guide
- 2 two-page inserts were published in the Capital Press about OFB’s work & programs

Contact OFB
800.334.6323
annemarie@oregonfb.org
oregonfb.org
“As an organization, Farm Bureau strives to work on issues that can keep farmers farming. It’s one of those groups where it pays to show up, work hard to get what you want, and help get more people behind the challenges you’re facing. I’m glad to be a member and glad that we have a strong group that is looking out for farmers across the state and across industry lines.”

Brenda Frketich, OFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee, on her blog nuttygrass.com
Looking Ahead

Keep current with OFB’s work in 2015 at the state and national level — and get grassroots action alerts — by signing up for OFB’s Legislative Bulletin email. (If you receive the OFB Update email, you’re already on the list). Not signed up yet? Send a request to annemarie@oregonfb.org.

Following are some priority ag issues for OFB at the state and national level in 2015.

Hot topics for the 2015 Oregon Legislative Session
(A more detailed legislative agenda will appear in the Feb. 2015 newsletter)

- **Water**: Supportive of funding for water supply development projects.
- **OSU Statewides**: Supportive of more funding for Oregon State University statewide services.
- **Protecting farmland**: Supportive of protecting farmland from being taken out of production or being negatively impacted by non-ag activities.
- **Pesticides**: Opposing bills to make it harder for farmers to utilize crop protection tools.
- **Labor**: Opposing minimum wage hike, paid sick leave for employees, and public/private retirement system.
- **Low carbon fuels standards**: Opposing a cap-and-trade system for fuel.
- **Biotech**: Opposing control or exclusion areas around GMO crops or allowing the state to determine what farmers can and cannot grow.

**National issues**

- **Tax extenders**: Fighting to make permanent tax provisions like Section 179 small-business expensing and bonus depreciation.
- **Immigration reform**: Urging Congress to address border security, create a flexible agricultural visa program, and help current experienced workers gain legal status.
- **Ditch the Rule/“Waters of the U.S.”**: Opposing an EPA proposal to allow the federal government to regulate all water on private land and dictate farming practices.
- **Other priorities**: International trade opportunities, Farm Bill implementation, the overall farm economy, and energy availability and affordability.

Go to AFBF online to track progress on national issues. Visit fbactinsider.org for backgrounders and fbnews.fb.org for the AFBF Newsletter.