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Multnomah County’s Helen Bushue Receives Oregon Farm Bureau Award

Helen Bushue, member of Multnomah County Farm Bureau, was honored with the 2019 Oregon Farm Bureau Outstanding County Farm Bureau Secretary Award on Dec. 12, 2019 during the 87th Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) Convention at the Salishan Resort in Gleneden Beach.

“As a grassroots organization, a County Farm Bureau is only as functional as its secretary,” said Mary Anne Brady, chair of the OFB Membership & Recognition Committee. “After an impressive 24 years serving as secretary for Multnomah County Farm Bureau, I’m honored to give this award to Helen Bushue in recognition of her effectiveness, hard work, and dedication.”

Said Larry Bailey, president of Multnomah County Farm Bureau, “Everyone knew that Helen was the engine that kept Multnomah County Farm Bureau running. When she recently retired as our county secretary, she wrote down a list of all of her duties and responsibilities. We were simply shocked at just how long the list was and just how much Helen did so reliably, cheerfully, and without fanfare for over two decades.”

Beyond the typical county secretarial duties like taking meeting minutes, creating a newsletter, and planning events, Bushue served as treasurer, keeping the county’s finances in good order. She also launched and maintained Multnomah County Farm Bureau’s Facebook page.

“Beyond all that, Helen took membership very seriously, making time to welcome new Farm Bureau members and connect with potential members. As our grassroots organization, membership is our lifeblood, and her extra effort was invaluable,” said Brady.

Bushue is a constant promoter of Farm Bureau and of agriculture education in general. She shares the story of agriculture with the general public whenever she gets the chance, particularly when people come to visit her family farm in Boring.

Multnomah County Farm Bureau also credits Bushue for its involvement in, and financial support of, Sandy FFA, Oregon Ag in the Classroom, Summer Ag Institute, Oregon Ag Fest, Resource Education & Agricultural Leadership (REAL) Oregon, and other important ag-related programs at the local and state level.

“For her excellent work at the county level, her generosity of time and spirit, and her unwavering belief in Farm Bureau, we are proud to present the 2019 Outstanding County Secretary Award to Helen Bushue of Multnomah County Farm Bureau,” said Brady.
PHOTO 1: Helen Bushue (right), member of Multnomah County Farm Bureau, was honored with the 2019 Oregon Farm Bureau Outstanding County Farm Bureau Secretary Award during the 87th OFB Convention. She was congratulated by outgoing OFB President Sharon Waterman (left).

PHOTO 2: Helen Bushue (right), member of Multnomah County Farm Bureau, was honored with the 2019 Oregon Farm Bureau Outstanding County Farm Bureau Secretary Award on Dec. 12, 2019, during the 87th Oregon Farm Bureau Convention.


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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 at the county level in 1919 and the state level in 1932, Farm Bureau is organized in all 36 counties.

Oregon Farm Bureau President Barb Iverson, elected on Dec. 12, 2019, comes from a multigenerational family farm from Woodburn, raising industrial hemp, grass seed, squash, vetch seed, hazelnuts, wine and table grapes, and operating the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival, which attracts over 160,000 visitors each year.