FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lane County Farm Bureau President Harper Monroe Awarded with OFB Service to Ag Award

Hazelnut farmer Tiffany Harper Monroe, president of Lane County Farm Bureau, was honored with the 2019 Oregon Farm Bureau Service to Agriculture Award on Dec. 12, 2019, during the 87th Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) Convention at the Salishan Resort in Gleneden Beach.

The OFB Service to Agriculture Award is for individuals or groups that have dedicated an extraordinary amount of time, effort, and expertise in ways that benefit Farm Bureau and Oregon agriculture as a whole. Candidates for this award are submitted by their County Farm Bureaus to the OFB Membership & Recognition Committee for consideration.

“Oregon Farm Bureau is proud to honor Tiffany with the 2019 OFB Service to Agriculture Award for her extraordinary accomplishments within Farm Bureau over the past year. Tiffany is passionate about bridging the divide between rural and urban Oregonians, making connections, and building community. She has done an outstanding job of helping farmers and ranchers share their stories with lawmakers and their urban neighbors,” said outgoing OFB President Sharon Waterman.

Harper Monroe is the third member of her family to serve as president of Lane County Farm Bureau. She took over the position from her brother Bryan Harper, and is proudly keeping alive a tradition started by their grandfather Tom Harper.

“My heart is so full of appreciation for my Oregon Farm Bureau family. Thank you to everyone who has supported my efforts to engage at the county and state level. Special thanks to my brother Bryan Harper, who passed on the Lane County Farm Bureau presidential torch to me a year ago. Our grandpa Tom Harper was the very first Lane County Farm Bureau president. I hope he is Farm Bureau Proud,” said Harper Monroe.

Within just a couple months of moving back to her family’s hazelnut farm in Junction City from Kentucky in the summer of 2018, Harper Monroe got involved in Lane County Farm Bureau and was soon elected county president.

Harper Monroe also attended the 2018 Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference in Redmond and participated in the state YF&R Discussion Meet — which she went on to win at the state level. She represented Oregon at the National YF&R Discussion Meet in January at the 2019 American Farm Bureau Convention in New Orleans.
As president of Lane County Farm Bureau, Harper Monroe has prioritized strengthening relationships between rural and urban Oregonians. This fall, the county hosted its first annual Dinner At The Farm event, inviting state lawmakers and community leaders and offering a chance for them to meet and mingle with local farmers and ranchers.

During the 2019 Oregon Legislative Session, Harper Monroe advocated on many important agriculture-related bills, including legislation involving pesticide use, ditch cleaning, and cap-and-trade.

She met with lawmakers, testified before legislative committees, wrote letters to the editor, and encouraged other Farm Bureau members to take action and share their stories.

Harper Monroe was one of the Farm Bureau leaders who spoke at the historic No On HB 2020 rally at the capitol on June 27. Her comments were picked up by media outlets and appeared in national coverage of the event.

She’s also been very proactive in Lane County Commission meetings, sharing a farmer’s perspective on various issues important to the local ag and forestry community.

Because of her outspoken, eloquent advocacy for agriculture, Harper Monroe was invited to be a columnist for the Eugene Register Guard.

In her column, she wrote about topics like agriculture’s contributions to society and what it was like to come back to the family farm after years away. She also did not shy away from more divisive topics like climate/cap-and-trade, biotechnology, and dust caused by farm practices.

“We thank Tiffany for her leadership in Farm Bureau, her ability to build community, and her effectiveness at sharing the story of Oregon agriculture,” said outgoing OFB President Sharon Waterman.

PHOTO 1: Hazelnut farmer Tiffany Harper Monroe, president of Lane County Farm Bureau, received the 2019 Oregon Farm Bureau Service to Agriculture Award.

PHOTO 2: 2019 Oregon Farm Bureau Service to Agriculture Award winner Tiffany Harper Monroe, president of Lane County Farm Bureau, represented Oregon at the national Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet during the 2019 American Farm Bureau Convention in New Orleans.


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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.