OFB BOARD OF DIRECTORS
As a grassroots, nonprofit organization, Oregon Farm Bureau is guided by a Board of Directors comprised of 22 family farmers and ranchers who represent a wide variety of ag commodities, farming methods, and operation sizes. These volunteers take leave from their crops and animals to make a difference for Oregon agriculture.

The 2019-2020 OFB Board of Directors: Front row seated from left are 1st VP Angie Bailey, president Barb Iverson, 4th VP Women’s Advisory Council Chair Lacie Pegel, 3rd VP Share Otlei, 2nd VP Brian Brass, and Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee Chairs Logan Potgift. Standing from left are Pete Pavlovick, Region 7 (Clackamas, Multnomah Counties); John Zielinski, Region 15 (Marion County); Oregon State University rep. Kevin Koong, Logan Kems, Region 2 (Bates, Union, Walla Walla Counties); OFB EVP Dave Deetz; Dan Anderson, Region 13 (Marble County); Dave Freeman, 3rd VP (Yamhill County); Wanda Pegel; Region 8 (Cone, Chetco-Chetco, Jefferson); Jeff Thomas, Region 3 (Glover, Harney Counties); Carol Marie Leachfield, Region 6 (Dufur,os, Tillamook Counties); Ron Black, Region 11 (Josephine, Jackson Counties); Lyndon Kems, Region 6 (Klamath, Lake Counties); Karon Weirgfield, Region 12 (Cres, Curry Counties); Rick Epp, Region 16 (Lane, Douglas Counties); Mike McCarthy, Region 6 (Hood River, Sherman, Wasco Counties); KC Varlditsa, Region 14 (Columbia, Washington Counties); and Matt Wood, Region 1 (Cullow, Morrow, Umatilla Counties). Not pictured is Peter Kennedy, Region 10 (Barlow, Lincoln, Line Counties).

OREGON FARM BUREAU PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR THE STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROMOTE OREGON AGRICULTURE
Oregon agriculture is among the most diverse in the world, and our regulatory system must remain flexible enough to accommodate this diversity. Farm Bureau promotes coexistence, collaboration, and communication for the benefit and longevity of Oregon’s many different farm and ranch families, ag commodities, farm practices, markets, and operation sizes. So much of public policy directly impacts farmers and ranchers’ ability to do their jobs, including irrigation use, land use, labor, water, taxes, transportation, energy, and wildlife. Farm Bureau’s goal is to help Oregon’s farm and ranch families succeed, grow, and remain sustainable.

Barb Iverson
Oregon Farm Bureau President
Clackamas County farmer

ENHANCE RURAL COMMUNITIES
Oregon’s heritage is rooted in and exemplified by our rural communities. Agriculture is a generation-old economic driver and cultural foundation for many of these areas. OFB supports policies that will create new opportunities for rural Oregonians and begin to address the unique challenges associated with living and working in often remote, agriculture-based areas.

As a “fourth-generation farmer, I’m proud that our farm grows high-quality fruit and contributes to the local economy. But increasing tax burdens and costly labor regulations make it difficult for us to remain competitive and keep our family farm going.”

Catherine Kiyokawa
Hood River orchardist

STRENGTHEN OREGON ECONOMY
As Oregon’s second-most-traded sector, agriculture plays an important role in growing the state economy. Most farmers and ranchers are cost-takers, meaning they cannot adjust the price of their product to reflect the true cost of doing business. Oregon’s world-class ag products are successful because we can innovate with modern technologies to do more with less, and preserve our land, wildlife, air, and water for future generations. Farmers and ranchers work very hard to take excellent care of their crops and animals, contribute to statewide and rural economies, innovate with modern technologies to do more with less, and preserve our land, wildlife, air, and water for future generations.

“Farmers are dependent upon affordable inputs, like fuel, crop nutrients, and production tools. Oregon’s world-class ag products are successful because we can compete in the marketplace, which in turn strengthens our viability and the economy. A tighter budget and a streamlined regulatory system would help us keep our farms in the family. It would also encourage young entrepreneurs to enter agriculture.”

Jason Flowers
Klamath County farmer

OFB GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM
OFB Government Affairs staff advocates for Farm Bureau members in the legislature, within regulatory agencies, and in the courts, working closely with grassroots leaders at all levels of engagement. Having full-time OFB staff allows our members to spend their time working on the farm or ranch, knowing their interests are being well represented in Salem and Washington, D.C.

Mary Anne Cooper
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Samantha Bayer
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The OFB Policy Book guides Farm Bureau’s advocacy work on behalf of our grassroots membership and is developed on behalf of our grassroots membership.

OFB GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS
- Farm Employer Education & Legal Defense Services (FEELDS)
- Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program
- Oregon Farm Bureau Scholarships annually
- Ag education for the public
- Summer Ag Institute for teachers
- Farm Employer Legal & Defense Services (FEELDS)
- Resource Education & Agriculture Leadership (REAL) Oregon

From Astoria to the Jordan Valley, Hood River to Bandon, Farm Bureau represents family agriculture in Oregon.

Because less than 1% of the population are farmers and ranchers, Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) believes agriculture’s strength is in its unity. We advocate for all of Oregon’s diverse farming practices, farm sizes, 220+ commodities, and interests in the political, regulatory, and legal arenas.

Farm Bureau is Oregon’s most inclusive agricultural organization. With roots dating back to 1919 and active members in all 36 counties, County Farm Bureau offices are the foundation of our grassroots organization. OFB was established as a nonprofit statewide federation in 1952.

Our goal is to support policies that will protect the Oregon ag community, promote environmental stewardship, and benefit our membership of 6,700 farm and ranch families.

Farmers and ranchers work very hard to take excellent care of their crops and animals, contribute to statewide and rural economies, innovate with modern technologies to do more with less, and preserve our land, wildlife, air, and water for future generations.

We’re proud to advocate for policies that keep Oregon’s farm and ranch families viable, successful, and sustainable.

OREGON AG FACTS
1. Less than 1% of Oregonians are farmers and ranchers.
2. Nearly 97% of Oregon’s farms and ranches are family-owned and operated.
3. Oregon’s agriculture, food, and fiber industry is economically linked to 13,200,000, or 28% of Oregon’s total workforce.
4. Oregon is the #1 U.S. producer of hazelnuts, crimson clover, three types of grass seed, red clover seed, sugar beet for seed, white clover seed, potted florist azaleas, Christmas trees, rhubarb, and blueberries. (2018)

FARM PROGRAMS
- Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R)
- Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program
- ETV given to Farm Bureau scholarships annually
- Ag education for the public
- Summer Ag Institute for teachers
- Farm Employer Legal & Defense Services (FEELDS)
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OregonFB.org, 503.399.1701

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$70k given in Farm Bureau scholarships annually
“Nothing is more critical to farming in our basin than a reliable water supply. We work hard to be efficient, conserve, and make the most of our water resources. But many of the new laws from Salem aren’t workable for us. We need lawmakers to recognize and appreciate the decades of investment we’ve made in water conservation and efficiency. We need policies that will allow us to keep irrigating, implementing conservation practices, and exploring irrigation technologies — without the burden of constantly increasing and costly regulations.”

Charlie Barlow
Malheur County farmer

“Oregon agriculture is known worldwide for its diversity. On my farm, I grow everything from broccoli to cherries to hops. As an organic and conventional farmer, I know that Farm Bureau supports all types of farming and farming methods. Coexistence between crops and practices is not only possible, it’s something Oregon farmers should be proud of.”

Molly McCargar
Clackamas County farmer

MEET OUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU PRESIDENTS — Each County Farm Bureau is unique and geared toward the local membership.

SAFEGUARD WATER AND LAND USE
Oregon Farm Bureau represents ag producers from all corners of the state, from small farms with a local customer base to large-scale farms that ship internationally. Access to water and land is vital for all farmers and ranchers, regardless of their operation size. It’s also essential for wildlife and the future of our communities.

“Oregon’s farmers and ranchers work hard to reduce their environmental impact, promote healthy ecosystems, and steward our natural resources for future generations. As an organic and conventional farmer, I know that Farm Bureau supports all types of farming and farming methods. Coexistence between crops and practices is not only possible, it’s something Oregon farmers should be proud of.”

Molly McCargar
Clackamas County farmer

PROTECT ACCESS TO PRODUCTION TOOLS
Oregon’s farmers and ranchers use modern technology to conserve water, minimize soil erosion, apply nutrients precisely, and manage crops for pest and disease pressures. With changing market and environmental conditions, ag producers must be able to innovate in order to stay viable. Farm Bureau advocates for all farmers and ranchers — regardless of commodity type or farming method — to have access to the tools and practices that work best for their specific operations.

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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
Oregon’s lands, water, air, livestock, and wildlife all benefit from the environmental stewardship of farmers and ranchers. The changes in our climate are amplifying Oregon’s ability to grow a diverse abundance of food and sustain rural communities. Ag practices are ever-changing, learning from the past, and innovating for the future. Farmers and ranchers work hard to reduce their environmental impact, promote healthy ecosystems, and steward our natural resources for future generations.

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OREGON’S TOP AG COMMODITIES BY VALUE (2018)
1. Grains & feed: $945M
2. Cattle & calves: $652.1M
3. Hay: $480.4M
4. Grains: $617.4M
5. Milk: $473.3M
6. Wheat: $298.5M
7. Grapes for wine: $280.7M
8. Potatoes: $221.7M
9. Blueberries: $180.9M
10. Peas: $141M
11. Christmas trees: $120M
12. Onions: $100.4M
13. Hazelnuts: $100M
14. Eggs: $85.1M
15. Dungeoness crab: $74.5M

WASHINGTON COUNTY
President: Jarrod Maxwell
Roses raise wheat and barley and has a cow/calf ranch.

TILLAMOOK COUNTY
President: Dan Leuthold
Dairy farmer.

YAMHILL COUNTY
President: Jerry Manny
Ranches, cattle, alfalfa, and orchard grass.