

FARM GRAM

Promoting, Protecting & Advancing Farm Interests in Marion County



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OFB President Angi Bailey Elected to American Farm Bureau Board of Directors

OFB Staff

Earlier this year, Angi Bailey, President of the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, was elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Board of Directors for the Western Region.



Angi Bailey
OFB President

Bailey's election is notable not only for the voice it gives to Western agricultural concerns but also because it marks the first time in eight years that Oregon has had representation on the AFBF board. This seat was previously held by past OFBF President Barry Bushue.

Bailey's election is also substantial as she is the first woman from the OFBF to be elected to the AFBF board.

"With the depth and breadth of challenges facing Oregon farmers and ranchers, including issues surrounding ag labor, the farm bill, water and drought, and livestock predation just to name a few, this board seat secures Oregon and the West a voice at the table and gives us a national platform to highlight the unique challenges we face," President Bailey said.

"I will never take this responsibility lightly. I look forward to advocating for Oregon, and the rest of the West, in this new and exciting way."

Bailey's achievement is not just a personal success but a win for the broader agricultural community in the Western Region, promising a stronger voice and representation in national agricultural policy discussions.

Congratulations President Bailey!

Stay Connected; Enroll in OFB Auto-Renewal



Enrolling in the Oregon Farm Bureau Membership Auto-Renewal Program is a convenient way to ensure uninterrupted access to the valuable benefits and support provided by the Farm Bureau.

Some other advantages to enrolling in auto-renew include:

Continuous Membership Access: Automatic renewal ensures uninterrupted access to the benefits, resources, and support provided by the Oregon Farm Bureau. You won't experience any gaps in your membership, allowing you to stay connected with the farming community.

Convenience and Time-Saving: Auto-renewal eliminates the need for manual renewal processes. You won't have to remember renewal dates, fill out forms, or go through the payment process each year. This saves time and effort, allowing you to focus on your farming activities.

Stress-Free Membership Management: Forget about the stress of keeping track of renewal deadlines. With automatic renewal, your membership

is seamlessly extended, providing peace of mind and reducing administrative burdens.

Exclusive Access to Benefits: As a continuously enrolled member, you maintain exclusive access to member-only benefits, programs, and events provided by the Oregon Farm Bureau. This may include educational resources, networking opportunities, and discounts on various services.

Supporting the Farming Community: Automatic renewal contributes to the stability and ongoing support of the Farm Bureau's initiatives, including community programs, advocacy efforts, and youth development. Your continuous membership helps sustain the organization's commitment to the farming community.

It's easy to enroll in the auto-renewal program. Visit the OFB website: www.oregonfb.org/membership and select the Voting/Supporting Auto Renewal Button.

**Never worry about your membership status again;
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A Message from the President

We hope the new year has been good for everyone so far. It sounds like the ice storm didn't cause too much damage here in the mid-valley thankfully, but we hope everyone made it through okay.

We're always looking forward to the new growing season and planning the things we can control. We're baseball fans so, like baseball, it's a new year, we've worked out in the off season, planned, prepared, and are looking forward to a great year but expecting there will be some challenges as usual.

The 2024 short legislative session is halfway through as I am writing this and seems to be as challenging as ever. Did you know that your dues pay for our crackerjack governmental affairs staff? They are amazing and so important to our success as an organization. As we always say, their "harvest" is the legislative sessions where they work long hours and are constantly adjusting strategies, especially in the compact timeline of a short session. Thank you, Lauren P, Lauren K, Jenny D, Executive Director Greg Addington and our members who take the time to engage.

Farm Bureau welcomes all farm/ranch sizes, farming methods, commodities, markets, etc. – All are welcome, and Farm Bureau is the largest, most inclusive agricultural organization in Oregon. We always make a point to work together with other Ag organizations and present a united front on issues, especially on issues pertaining to all of agriculture across the state.

Marion County Farm Bureau engages on the county level, but we are fortunate to have our members also serve on Oregon Farm Bureau state committees. Some of our members have taken on leadership rolls including Brenda Frketch who serves as co-chair of the Ag Production/Transportation committee and Anne Krahmer-Steinkamp who is the chair of the Labor Committee. Thank you to everyone who takes the time to serve on the MCFB and OFB committees.

We are well represented on the State Young Farmer & Rancher Committee with Claire Zielinski continuing in her role as District 15 representative and one of our newest members, Claire Billman serving in an at large position. Matt Dunbar is the State Vice President. A contingent of local YF&R members will be attending the American Farm Bureau YF&R conference March 8-11, 2024 in Omaha, Nebraska. I see a lot of young people out working on local farms and ranches – let us know how we can get them involved in YF&R. Membership is for 18 – 35-year-olds. It's a great opportunity for farmers, ranchers and individuals involved in associated ag industries to learn, share and grow.

In December we had a good contingent at the OFB Annual Convention in Tigard. As usual, we worked on policy, elected our OFB Board of Directors, and enjoyed networking with farmers and ranchers from across the state. My experience has always been that FB members are a great group and salt of the earth.

In January, John Zielinski (MCFB Board Member and OFB 3rd Vice President) attended the AFBF Convention in Utah and served as a delegate for OFB. At the same meeting, our OFB President Angi Bailey was elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Board of Directors for the Western Region. We are excited for the voice it gives to Western agricultural concerns and also because it marks the first time in eight years that Oregon has had representation on the AFBF board. She is also the first woman from the OFBF to be elected to the AFBF board.

In February, John Zielinski attended the AFBF Issues and Advisory Committee Meetings as chairman of the Organics, Food Safety, and Farm Market Committee. It is a great opportunity for our grassroots leaders to contribute their expertise on specific issues to the organization's policy deliberations. Committee members meet in person annually and hold additional meetings via webinar or conference calls throughout the program year as needed to discuss new developments on their assigned issues. In addition to the meetings, John and other OFB attendees met with legislators and staff on Capitol Hill and had the opportunity to attend meetings with different embassies including Cuba, Ireland, and attaché from the Philippines, Italy and Mexico. He also met with folks from USDA and FDA. Thank you, John, for your time and dedication to Farm Bureau and Oregon agriculture.

Let us know if you would like to get involved on some level – many hands make light work - but always know we are working hard for Oregon Agriculture.



Dana Estensen
Marion County FB President

Dana Estensen
Marion County Farm Bureau President



From left: Congressman Cliff Bentz, Denver Pugh, Angi Bailey, John Zielinski, Shane Otley, Greg Addington, Mike McCarthy, and Tim Deboodt

OFB Goes to Washington!

OFB Staff

This last month, Oregon Farm Bureau sent a delegation to Washington D.C. to attend the American Farm Bureau Issue Advisory Committee meetings. As they stepped onto the concrete in the National Mall, a casual bystander wouldn't notice these OFB members traded their boots for dress shoes, their jeans for slacks – and maybe even washed the grease from their hands.

Those present consisted of several members of the Oregon Farm Bureau State Board, two County Farm Bureau Presidents, and the Executive Director of OFB, Greg Addington.

Outside of their regular briefings with AFBF lobbyists on issues that affect the western region, the Farm Bill, and labor, our members were able to make several visits on the hill to our U.S. Congressional Representatives. This included Congresswomen Chaves-DeRemer and Salinas, Congressman Bentz, and staff for Senator Merkley.

Chaves-DeRemer and Salinas, who both sit on the House Ag Committee, welcomed input from the group and offered a few updates on the progress of the Farm Bill which has experienced several delays throughout the past year. There is hope that it will be complete by March of this year, but an extensive focus on ag and natural resource related issues from the Biden administration, political



OFB members meet with with Ambassador Lianys Torres Rivera in the Cuban Embassy

meanderings, and a difference of opinions might continue to derail progress.

The group also had the privilege of meeting with several foreign agricultural attaches at their embassies – a highlight of the trip for many. Gráinne Roughan – Agriculture and Food Counselor for the Embassy of Ireland – was gracious enough to organize several visits, including staff for the Embassies of Mexico, the Philippines, and Italy. Some of these same attaches visited Oregon late last year and spent time in Salem with OFB President Angi Bailey and Oregon Farm Bureau staff to learn about the unique challenges our farmers and ranchers face.

Another highpoint came at the

invitation of the Ambassador of Cuba, who expressed her desire to normalize trade relations with the United States and encouraged mutual trade missions and educational trips for our Oregon farmers and ranchers so that our members may learn more about Cuba's economy and agriculture.

Overall, the trip was a success and demonstrated the fantastic opportunity Oregon has to help steer our national affairs - especially as they relate to the convergence of specialty crops, natural resource issues, conservation efforts, as well as the unique challenges labor has presented the West Coast the last few years.

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