

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Virginia Kutsch inducted into Farm Bureau Hall of Fame

At the Oregon Farm Bureau 78th Anniversary State Convention, OFB President Barry Bushue inducted Virginia Kutsch of Benton County Farm Bureau into the OFB Hall of Fame in recognition of her years of exemplary service and volunteer leadership.

The Hall of Fame, established in 1996, is the highest award given by the Oregon Farm Bureau. To be eligible, candidates must be nominated by their County Farm Bureau and must have at least 35 years of active involvement in the organization. Inductees are selected by the OFB Membership & Recognition Committee. Kutsch is the 20th Farm Bureau member to be inducted into the OFB Hall of Fame. She is a previous recipient of the OFB's Distinguished Service Award.

"Farm Bureau and the Oregon agriculture industry as a whole are better off because of the decades of involvement, passion, and dedication of Virginia Kutsch," said Bushue. "We are honored to induct her into the Oregon Farm Bureau Hall of Fame."

"I consider it a privilege to have spent my life on a farm for over 58 years — and a privilege that my children and grandchildren were exposed to the values and morals of a farm upbringing. I am so grateful," said Kutsch at the induction ceremony. "It has been an honor to serve other farm and ranch families through my work with Farm Bureau."

A charter member of Benton County Farm Bureau, Kutsch has served as an active volunteer leader in the organization since 1949.

Over the years, Kutsch has held numerous leadership positions in Farm Bureau, acting as a strong advocate for Oregon's farm and ranch families. Her roles have included multiple terms as Benton County Farm Bureau President and as a Regional Director for the OFB Women's Advisory Council.

Kutsch's grassroots political advocacy activities with Farm Bureau include countless letters to the editor, testimony before the Oregon legislature, and trips to Washington D.C. to meet with congressmen and administration leaders about the needs of agriculture.

As Chair of the Benton County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, Kutsch helped coordinate myriad county annual meetings. One of her most memorable contributions at these meetings was a series of skits for which she helped write, direct, and make costumes.

A passionate promoter of agriculture education, Kutsch also is an active leader in Oregon Women for Agriculture organization, has been a longtime host for teachers attending the Summer Ag Institute, and contributed to the production and revision of the "Get Oregonized" book about role of natural resources in our state's history. She also recently traveled to India with Oregon Women for Agriculture to learn about the country's culture and agriculture industry.

In 1964, Kutsch and her husband Mike purchased his family's farm. For most of the next 56 years, the couple grew grass seed on their farm in Benton County, until recently leasing the operation. Kutsch is the mother of two, grandmother of seven, and great grandmother of five.

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Attached is a photo of OFB President Barry Bushue and Virginia Kutsch, the newest Oregon Farm Bureau Hall of Fame inductee.

* Note to Editors: "Farm Bureau" is a registered trademark; please capitalize in all cases.

The state's largest general farm organization, Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is a voluntary, grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing the interests of the state's farmers and ranchers in the public and policymaking arenas.

First established in Oregon in 1919, Farm Bureau is organized in all 36 counties and has more than 8,000 member families that are professionally engaged in agriculture. Barry Bushue, an east Multnomah County berry and nursery stock producer, is OFB's 15th President.