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ODA's Jim Johnson honored with Farm Bureau Top Hand Award

Jim Johnson of the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture was honored with a Farm Bureau Top Hand Award by OFB President Barry Bushue and OFB Executive Vice President Dave Dillon during the 83rd OFB Annual Meeting in Sunriver, Dec. 8-10, 2015.

The Top Hand Award is given to individuals who have devoted an exemplary amount of time and energy toward furthering the goals of Oregon Farm Bureau. To be eligible, candidates must be nominated by a county Farm Bureau. Recipients are selected by the OFB Membership & Recognition Committee, comprised of family farmers and ranchers.

"The 2015 Top Hand Award goes to Jim Johnson, someone who has been at Farm Bureau's side on important issues in 2015 and in many other legislative sessions over the years," said OFB President Barry Bushue.

Johnson has been in public service since 1981. In the roles he's held over the decades, he has become one of Oregon's leading experts on land-use and water planning and the protection of farm-ground.

"Jim is one of few people who can quote Oregon statute like some can quote Bible verses. If you need data or citations or other information about farmland, he either knows it off the top of his head, or he can find it for you," said Bushue.

"I am so very proud to receive this award because it originates from a nomination from local members of Oregon Farm Bureau," said Johnson. "These are the farmers and ranchers that I have contact with and work with on a daily basis. They are dealing with the very real, everyday issues that agriculture must cope with. To be recognized by the 'grassroots' of agriculture is quite humbling for me.

"Oregon Farm Bureau represents the wide-ranging and diverse character of Oregon agriculture. I of course work most closely with Farm Bureau on land use-related issues. The work over the years by Farm Bureau in developing its policies and positions related to land use is indicative of how Farm Bureau learns, analyzes, and facilitates solutions that are good for agriculture as an industry, while not forgetting that Oregon agriculture is based on family farms and ranches," said Johnson.

Johnson serves as the Land Use & Water Planning Coordinator for the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture.

PHOTO CAPTION: Oregon Dept. of Agriculture's Jim Johnson (middle) was presented the Oregon Farm Bureau Top Hand Award by OFB President Barry Bushue (right) and OFB Executive Vice President Dave Dillon (left) during the 83rd OFB Annual Meeting in Sunriver, Dec. 8-10, 2015.

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* 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 grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing the interests of the state's family 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 7,500 member families that are professionally engaged in agriculture. Barry Bushue, an east Multnomah County berry and nursery stock producer, is OFB's 15th president and also serves as vice president of American Farm Bureau.

OFB website: www.oregonfb.org

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