

ODA joins Farm Bureau in D.C. meetings

Coba represents state's interests

Last month, Oregon Farm Bureau traveled to Washington D.C. to address some pressing issues on behalf of Oregon's family farmers and ranchers: pesticides, grazing, and biotechnology. Along on Farm Bureau's visits to federal agencies and congressional offices was Oregon Dept. of Agriculture Director **Katy Coba**. Her presence highlighted the critical nature of these issues and how OFB and ODA were united in their concerns.

"I really appreciated the opportunity to join the Oregon Farm Bureau in Washington D.C. and meet with federal agency personnel and congressional offices," said Coba. "The issues we are dealing with in Oregon are extremely complicated and have very direct impacts on farmers and ranchers in our state. I think it sends an incredibly strong message when you have the private sector and the public sector joined together to express their collective concerns."

"Katy was able to explain how potential rulings would affect Oregon agriculture and the economy from the state's perspective, as well as producers on the ground," said OFB Director of Governmental Affairs **Katie Fast**. "She was a tremendous asset in the discussions."

On hand for the meetings were Coba, Fast, OFB President **Barry Bushue**, OFB 1st Vice President **Tracey Liskey**, **Shane Otley** of Baker County Farm Bureau, OFB National Affairs Specialist **Gail Greenman**, **Paulette Pyle** of Oregonians for Food & Shelter, and **Kellie Bray** of CropLife America.

Meetings were held with the offices of Oregon Congressman **Greg Walden**, Speaker of the House **John Boehner**, Washington Congressman **Doc Hastings**, Idaho Congressman **Mike Simpson**, and Wyoming Congresswoman **Cynthia Lummis**. Agency visits were



Advocating for Oregon ag in D.C. From left is Kellie Bray of CropLife America, Paulette Pyle of Oregonians for Food & Shelter, OFB National Affairs Specialist Gail Greenman, OFB President Barry Bushue, OFB Director of Governmental Affairs Kaite Fast, and Oregon Dept. of Agriculture Director Katy Coba.

made to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the USDA Forest Service, and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

PESTICIDES: Farm Bureau expressed concern over NOAA Fisheries' work on biological opinions about the effects of 37 pesticides on salmonid populations. These studies were conducted as a result of a lawsuit filed by the Washington Toxics Coalition.

Unfortunately, the biops were made with unrealistic, amplified pesticide use rates, thereby resulting in overly conservative environmental recommendations — for example a requirement for 1,000-foot buffer zones on waterways.

"Our concern is that the biological opinions are not valid or science-based in terms of real agriculture applications," said Fast.

Fast explains how if NOAA's recommendations are