Coquille Valley - Save Family Farms

Program Area: Education and Ag Promotion (EAP)
County Farm Bureau: Coos Curry Farm Bureau
State: OR
Membership Category: 0-1,000
Year: 2014
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Program Description:
In an effort to raise public awareness, Coos-Curry Farm Bureau has become the lead farm organization in educating and opposing the acquisition of and wetland restoration of Exclusive Farm Use lands by federal and state agencies and other nonprofit organizations. Their endeavors have included purchasing 250 signs that were distributed and put up throughout Coquille Valley by supportive landowners, publishing articles in the local newspaper and hosted a public meeting on the land acquisition/restoration issue. During the meeting, a state Farm Bureau staff member spoke about existing land use laws and 2013 legislative bills designed to allow everyone, including the agricultural community, more input into these conversions during the land planning process.

Coos-Curry Farm Bureau felt it was important for the public to understand what kind of land practices government agencies and other nonprofit organizations were engaged in and the impact those practices had on the community. The county Farm Bureau deemed it essential that these prime agricultural lands be protected and preserved for future generations of farmers and ranchers, the public and wildlife, in addition to sustaining the local economic infrastructure.

This is a multi-faceted local issue for members of this community, but the overall matter of acquisition of agricultural lands by agencies and nonprofit organizations is a nationwide issue. It is the hope of the Coos-Curry County Farm Bureau that what they have done will carry over to other county Farm Bureaus within the state.