

## **[Outstanding Ag Achievement]**

Tonight, as we share the story of our Agricultural Achievement Award Recipient, we hear about their exemplary representation, how they have been a strong advocate for agriculture, and how they are continuing to bring Agriculture awareness to all. Our winner helps others to understand and appreciate what agriculture means for our area.

Our recipient is a third-generation producer in their family operation. They have grown up in our community and are a part of this family we call community. They began many years ago advocating for the protection and conservation of the agriculture industry. They put their efforts where they knew they were needed, agriculture needed a voice for our producers and our recipient filled that need by serving on many boards, agencies, and task forces.

They were a part of the Columbia Gorge Fruits Growers but set their sights on being a voice to a much bigger audience. They knew they needed to serve at the state level in Oregon to make sure our area was represented in matters of labor, water, best harvest practices, land use and more. He served on the Oregon State Farm Bureau and even served on the National Council of Agricultural Employers which gave a voice to our Ag Employers and their concerns and questions.

His impact while serving on the Oregon State Board of Agriculture was helping to revive the ODA Ag Water Quality Program's PAC. This helped give producers all over our state a clear and collective voice regarding the quality of water for their operations and to let our state know what they needed to produce their crops.

To say that our recipient is passionate about his industry is an understatement and we can't thank him enough for continuing to work with agencies from local to national to help protect and preserve our ag industry.

There are so many organizations that our recipient is still currently active with, and we could continue to mention all the things he has done for the Sweet Cherry Industry, but we like a quote from a family member best: "We are thankful for your commitment to farming, conservation, and stewardship. You have made a valuable impact on many and you are worthy of this recognition. All of us, three generations worth, are very proud of you. We also want you to know it took us 2 days to gather this information together and you are simply the best"

We are thankful for the many years that he has dedicated to being an advocate for many and for being such a part of our community. We know that

he isn't done as he is still serving our community and the agriculture industry. Please help me congratulate our 2021 Outstanding Agricultural Achievement award, **Ken Bailey**.