

# REAL OREGON

## Resource Education & Agricultural Leadership Program

*Growing Natural Resource Leaders who make a difference for Oregon*  
[www.realoregon.net](http://www.realoregon.net)

### NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**October 3, 2017**

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## Inaugural Natural Resource Leadership Class Announced

*30 Resource Professionals Selected, Sessions Begin November 2017*

*Salem, OR* - The recently organized REAL (Resource Education & Ag Leadership) Oregon program announced today the selection of 30 natural resource professionals from throughout the state to its inaugural class. The individuals were selected from a large pool of applicants and reflect a diversity of resource producers, agri-businesses, advocacy organizations, and government agencies. Bill Buhrig, with Simplot Food Group and Board Chair for REAL Oregon, said the response to the program has been overwhelming. “We knew there was a need for a program like this, but to have more than 30 applicants in the first year exceeded our expectations and is a good indicator that a program like this is long overdue.” Oregon is modeling its program after a similar program in Idaho. “Leadership Idaho Ag is currently preparing for its 38<sup>th</sup> class so we know this can work and be sustainable”, said Buhrig.

REAL Oregon is a collaboration of industry and other groups throughout the state that have recognized the importance of developing and grooming natural resource leaders now and in the future. In addition to networking opportunities and learning more about the state, the program will bring current and future leaders together from agriculture, fishing, and forestry sectors in a series of 5 statewide sessions starting in November. The annual leadership development program will expose this cross-section of representatives to the diversity of Oregon’s geography, economy, and cultures through training in board governance, communication skills, conflict resolution, government interaction, public policy work, critical thinking, media relations, professional presentations, public speaking, relationship building and other areas.

Class 1 includes 10 individuals directly involved in production agriculture, 3 involved in timber production and forestry, 11 from agri-businesses or natural resource organizations and 6 from local, state and federal agencies.

“We have participants from all corners of the state and I couldn’t be more pleased with the quality of applicants”, said Greg Addington, the REAL Oregon Program Director. “We couldn’t have a better group of people to get this program started. Oregon’s natural resource industries will be the beneficiaries of this effort in the near future.”

According to Addington, Class 1 will conclude in March of 2018 and recruitment for Class 2 will be underway in the coming months. For updates and additional information, visit [www.realoregon.net](http://www.realoregon.net).

# CLASS 1

## REAL OREGON PARTICIPANTS

### Northwest /Willamette Valley -20

Dylan Branch  
Riddell Farms – Monmouth

Kent Burkholder  
Burkholder Farms – Albany

Doug Grott  
Wilbur Ellis – Corvallis

Stuart Butsch  
USDA Farm Service Agency – Salem

Rick Jones  
Cascade Timber Consulting– Sweet Home

Lauren Lucht  
Northwest Transplants, LLC – Molalla

Andrea Krahmer  
Northwest Farm Credit Services – Salem

Erick Garman  
Oregon Department of Agriculture – Portland

Nolan Sundberg  
Northwest Farm Credit Services – Eugene

Macey Wessels  
Barenbrug USA – Scio

Jeff Fox  
Wilco Hazelnut, LLC – Aurora

Christina Higby  
Oregon Department of Agriculture – Stayton

Matt Mattioda  
Miller Timber Services – Albany

Lauren Smith  
Oregon Water Resource Congress – Salem

Karl Dettwyler  
Blue Line Farms – Silverton

Jenny Freeborn  
Pacific Risk Management– Rickreall

Molly McCargar  
Pearmine Farms – Gervais

Helle Ruddenklau  
Ruddenklau Farms – Amity

Jacon Taylor  
Oregon Farm Bureau – Eugene

Anne Marie Moss  
Oregon Farm Bureau – Salem

### Eastern/High Desert - 5

Scott White  
Klamath Water Users Association– Klamath Falls

Victoria Flowers  
Flowers Farms – Midland/Klamath Falls

Susan Doverspike  
Hotchkiss Company – Burns

Pete Schreder  
OSU Extension – Lakeview

Megan Thompson  
Sage Fruit Company – The Dalles

### Northeast - 3

Sam Taylor  
Pacific Ag – Hermiston

Robert Waldher  
Umatilla County – Athena

Tom Demianew  
Oregon Department of Agriculture – Pendleton

### Southwest - 2

Mark Kincaid  
Lone Rock Resources – Roseburg

Kyle Kenagy  
Kenagy Cattle Company – Oakland