

Farm Bureau Reports 49th Year of Membership Growth

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 7, 2009 – Farm Bureau’s national membership rose to 6,277,664 member families in 2009, marking 49 consecutive years of membership growth. State Farm Bureaus overall reported a total 34,378 more member families this year than in 2008.

American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman said this year’s membership growth is especially noteworthy considering the continuing economic challenges facing the nation. He credited agricultural advocacy programs at the local, state and national levels and services offered by state Farm Bureaus for the organization’s overall membership growth.

“Farm Bureau members and the county and state leaders they elect are the driving force behind our membership growth,” Stallman said. “Members are the lifeblood of true, grassroots organizations such as Farm Bureau. As AFBF heads into its 91st year, this membership accomplishment sets the stage for even greater achievements in policy, programs and services, all of which are developed with the goal of improving member families’ businesses and standards of living.”

Texas Farm Bureau had the single largest gain of 17,101 members, bringing its membership to 439,260.

Other states organizations with significant growth included Kentucky, which grew by 12,418 members to 483,352; Tennessee, which grew by 10,162 members to 646,240; North Carolina, which gained 9,592 members to 508,426; and Utah, which grew by 5,897 members to 27,313. Tennessee Farm Bureau remains the largest in the nation.

Utah Farm Bureau had the single largest percentage membership gain, growing 27.5 percent to 27,313 member families. Rounding out the top five by percentage of growth were West Virginia (11.6 percent), South Dakota (11.2 percent), Montana (7.7 percent) and Maryland (7 percent). The West had the largest percentage of growth, 3 percent.

Nineteen state Farm Bureaus earned Navigator Awards for exceptional membership growth: Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North

Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia.

Forty state Farm Bureaus achieved 2009 membership quota: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

2009 Final Farm Bureau Membership

Alabama	440,478
Alaska	354
Arizona	19,754
Arkansas	220,970
California	85,356
Colorado	21,870
Connecticut	5,027
Delaware	4,500
Florida	141,283
Georgia	408,173
Hawaii	1,664
Idaho	63,090
Illinois	421,919
Indiana	281,336
Iowa	154,273
Kansas	114,197
Kentucky	483,352
Louisiana	147,901
Maine	2,225
Maryland	32,782
Massachusetts	6,359
Michigan	190,001
Minnesota	27,936
Mississippi	209,376
Missouri	101,917
Montana	14,000
Nebraska	51,450
Nevada	20,072
New Hampshire	3,618

New Jersey	12,724
New Mexico	14,491
New York	28,335
North Carolina	508,426
North Dakota	26,491
Ohio	235,064
Oklahoma	170,218
Oregon	56,913
Pennsylvania	46,697
Puerto Rico	684
Rhode Island	2,352
South Carolina	110,750
South Dakota	10,502
Tennessee	646,240
Texas	439,260
Utah	27,313
Vermont	3,333
Virginia	149,857
Washington	38,384
West Virginia	21,218
Wisconsin	42,465
Wyoming	10,714
Total	6,277,664