

## **Board Member Profile: Georger Porter**

Meet FCFB Director George Porter. George Porter has been involved in agriculture his whole life. He grew up in Easton, living on twenty acres of vineyard and open ground. Porter graduated from California State University, Fresno in 1974, with a Bachelor's degree in animal science. Following college, he was a meat inspector for the California Department of Food and Agriculture for a year-and-a-half. Around the time when meat inspection was taken over by the U.S.D.A., he decided his passion was in production agriculture.

In January 1976, Porter decided to settle in the rural community of Kerman, where he now farms 120 acres of almonds and is planting thirty more acres this October. Porter believes farming has provided him with a great sense of accomplishment.

"Farming is something I care to do," he said. "I have learned a lot through the years on my own." Porter's farming background and his previous experience on the Raisin Bargaining Association as a director has been an asset to the FCFB Board of Directors.

Porter was recruited many years ago by FCFB President Mark Thompson. "I enjoy the networking at the board meetings," Porter said.

Porter understands how important the Farm Bureau is to the industry, and why it is important to have an organization like Farm Bureau to look out for best interest of agriculture. One example he cites are the legislative visits and the outreach that Farm Bureau provides in the legislative process.

While Porter has proven to be an exceptionally good farmer, perhaps his most rewarding experience has come with the raising of his two sons, Tres, 49, and Tyson, 47. "I have great pride in my boys," Porter said.

It is not uncommon to see the entire Porter family at a team roping event. "This was once a business and a hobby for us, now it is a hobby, something we just want to enjoy." Porter said. "This is something we've done since I was a kid."

Porter believes farming has allowed him more time to spend with his family, including JoAnn, his wife of 50 years. While the Porters' two sons are already grown, they have the opportunity to watch their grandchildren grow up. They now have four grandchildren. Tres and his wife, Julie, have two children, and Tyson and his wife, Anna, also have two children.

Lined along the walls of Porter's dining room is a collage of pictures created by JoAnn that depict great memories with family and friends. The collection will only expand as the Porter family continues to grow and embark on new memories