



WWW.OKFARMBUREAU.ORG

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

April 15, 2016

A glimmer of good amongst all the bad

By Marla Peek • OKFB Director of Regulatory Affairs

Although most of the news is grim from the state Capitol this year, we have seen a few positive bills for agriculture. Last Friday was a legislative deadline in which all Senate bills had to pass out of House committees. With only about six weeks left until the end of the session, our list of bills we have been tracking here at Oklahoma Farm Bureau is slowly narrowing down.



aquifer storage and recovery in Oklahoma. Aquifer storage and recovery allows us to replenish underground aquifers. The technology has been used around the United States for several decades, and would be an important step in preparing Oklahoma for future droughts. As most of you know, we have been talking about water for years; it is farmers' and ranchers' most valuable resource. We're excited to see state legislators embracing our vision. The bill passed out of the House Environmental Law Committee last week and is now eligible to be considered by the House.

Also in the works is a pair of bills to allow the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety to issue commercial driver's licenses to H2A temporary agricultural workers. These temporary workers are vital to harvesting crops in Oklahoma, especially cotton. HB 2554, by Rep. Harold Wright and Sen.

Mike Schulz, is eligible to be considered by the Senate; SB 1018, also by Wright and Schulz, is eligible to be considered by the House. We hope to see the bills supported by both chambers and approved by the governor so farmers again can utilize this important source of agricultural labor.

HB 2504, also authored by Pfeiffer, would create stronger punishment for the theft of cattle and other domestic animals. The fine would be increased to three times the value of the animal, and each animal stolen would constitute a separate offense.

Just last week, Rep. Earl Sears, chair of the House Appropriations and Budget Committee, told OKAgPolicy that agricultural sales tax exemptions will not be touched in the budget. Although we haven't seen many details on the state's budget fix, we're watching closely to ensure farmers' and ranchers' interests are protected.

Farm Bureau women award AITC teacher of the year with Arizona trip

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee presented Amber Bales, Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom's 2016 teacher of the year, with a sponsorship for Bales to attend the national AITC conference to be held June 20-24 in Arizona.

Kitty Beavers, OKFB WLC chairman, along with Marcia Irvin, WLC coordinator, presented the award during Ag Day at the Capitol Wednesday, March 30, in Oklahoma City. The national AITC conference provides educators and program coordinators with ideas and techniques on integrating farm and food lessons into their daily lesson plans.



(L to R): Marcia Irvin, OKFB Women's Leadership Committee coordinator; Amber Bales, Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom teacher of the year; Jim Reese, Oklahoma secretary of agriculture; and Kitty Beavers, OKFB WLC chairman during the AITC teacher of the year presentation.

continued on page three

OKFB members at the state Capitol



(L to R) Okmulgee County Farm Bureau members Glenda and Jim Meek visit with Sen. Roger Thompson during a Capitol visit on Tuesday, April 5.



(L to R) Sen. Bryce Marlatt took time to visit with OKFB District 7 members, including District 7 State Director Keith Kisling, during an April 5 Capitol visit.

Sen. Don Barrington (standing) gives an update on agricultural legislation to Comanche and Cotton County Farm Bureau members during a legislative visit lunch on March 29.



Rep. Ann Coody (left) engaged Cotton and Comanche County members in a lengthy discussion about education in our state during their legislative visit March 29.



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

Buchanan's testimony to Senate EPW Committee

OKFB President Tom Buchanan testified April 12 before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management and Regulatory Oversight about the burdensome regulations the EPW thrusts on agriculture. The archived video of the hearing is available at epw.senate.gov under the Hearings navigation.

 The real cost of feral hogs
Our OKAgPolicy Facebook page has an infographic that outlines the real cost and threat feral hogs pose to our state, from economic impacts to the difficult task of eradication. To view the graphic, visit facebook.com/OKAgPolicy/photos.



facebook



twitter



pinterest



instagram



flickr



wordpress



soundcloud



youtube



website

www.okfarmbureau.org

AITC celebrates teacher of the year

(continued from page one)

Bales, a third-grade teacher at Morrison Elementary with more than 19 years of teaching experience, infuses her curriculum with agricultural knowledge and lessons. After being named an AITC teacher of the year runner-up last year, she embarked on a year of growth in hopes to claim the prize in 2016. During her year of self-improvement and discovery, Bales said she grew as a teacher.

“I learned a lot about myself, including the passion I had for agriculture, more ways to integrate agriculture and technology, and I was given new opportunities to share my agricultural experiences,” Bales said of her year of growth.

Bales will speak at Oklahoma’s summer AITC conference and serve as an inspiration for other teachers who use the AITC curriculum to bring agriculture inside the classroom. She will help them learn how to use lessons like sprouting bean seeds, learning why purple vegetables and fruits are so good for your health, protecting pollinators and researching buffalo facts.

The OKFB WLC is proud to support the Ag in the Classroom program on many levels, helping Oklahoma educators learn more about agriculture and how to incorporate farming and food into their daily classroom activities.

Ag Day at the Capitol 2016



(L to R) Rep. John Enns stopped by the OKFB booth and visited with OKFB’s Zac Swartz and Kelli Beall about SQ 777 during Ag Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 30.

Noble County’s Marty Williams (right) visits with The Daily Oklahoman’s Brianna Bailey about the realities of modern farming during an interview for the paper’s business section.



Member Benefits

Six Flags

Trying to plan some summertime fun? Or perhaps you’re looking for a good weekend getaway with our lovely spring weather. Six Flags theme parks give OKFB members special discounts! Visit our member benefits page to access our special Six Flags website and get the login information to get your special OKFB-member pricing.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

OKFB Commodity Tour

May 4 – 6 • Woodward Area
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

YF&R Golf Tournament

May 6 • Roman Nose Golf Course, Watonga
Contact: Holly Carroll (405) 523-2307

State Legislature Adjourns

May 27 • Oklahoma State Capitol, Oklahoma City
Contact: Tasha Duncan (405) 530-2681

Published by Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Postmaster: Send address corrections to:
Perspective, P.O. B. 53332, OKC, OK 73152-3332

STAFF DIRECTORY

Executive Director

Monica Wilke 405-523-2303

VP of Strategic Corporate Communications

Becky Samples 405-523-2528

VP of Public Policy

John Collison 405-523-2539

Director of Corporate Communications

Dustin Mielke 405-530-2640

Director of Public Policy Communications

Hannah Nemecek 405-523-2346

Oklahoma Farm Bureau
2501 N. Stiles
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3126

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 131
Okla. City, OK.

Buchanan issues statement on aquifer storage bill

The Oklahoma House Environmental Law Committee on April 5 approved SB 1219 to allow the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to create and implement rules for aquifer storage and recovery. Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan issued the following statement in response:

“Oklahoma Farm Bureau is thankful today for the vision of the House Environ-

mental Law Committee in passing SB 1219.

“SB 1219 is the first big step toward allowing aquifer storage and recovery in Oklahoma. The legislation will allow Oklahoma to begin restoring valuable aquifers, and ultimately will help prepare our state for future devastating droughts.

“Our farmers in western Oklahoma rely on groundwater to produce food and fiber for the world. For years, OKFB has studied

and discussed methods to develop our state’s water supply. We believe aquifer storage and recovery is an excellent and viable opportunity to move Oklahoma’s water supply forward.

“As the state’s largest general farm organization, we urge state representatives to support Oklahoma agriculture by approving SB 1219.”

State Question 777 corner

The latest news on Oklahoma’s Right to Farm amendment, SQ 777, which will appear on the general election ballot on November 8, 2016.

Noble County Farm Bureau invites community and businesses to SQ 777 fundraiser and forum

Noble County Farm Bureau hosted a SQ 777 informational lunch and forum in Perry Wednesday, April 6, inviting members from the community to learn more about the Right to Farm and how they can help.

Local businesses were invited to hear the story of agriculture’s impact on our small communities, including businesses on main streets across our state.

OKFB President Tom Buchanan and others spoke to attendees about the importance of agriculture, and Buchanan took questions from the crowd, providing an open dialogue about the Right to Farm.

At the end of the program, an opportunity was provided to local businesses and individuals to donate to SQ 777.

Thank you to Noble County for sponsoring this event, and to all our county Farm Bureaus who have held similar forums.



Oklahoma’s RIGHT to Farm

