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# OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

August 5, 2016

## Beavers given Oklahoma AITC ag advocacy award

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee State Chairman Kitty Beavers of Stephens County was awarded Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom's agriculture advocate award during the annual Oklahoma AITC conference in Oklahoma City Monday, July 18.

"We wanted to recognize her for her efforts to promote agriculture, and specifically ag in the classroom around the state," said Audrey Harmon with Oklahoma AITC. "Her enthusiasm for agriculture and her excitement to share what she does with the teachers means they always enjoy getting to visit with her."

Beavers, who raises Angus cattle, wheat and hay near the southern Oklahoma town of Duncan with her husband, Charlie, said while winning the advocate award was a complete surprise, it's her passion for agriculture that keeps her involved with AITC programs and events across the state.

"Agriculture is one of the most important things that we can teach our young people," Beavers said. "Our teachers are the ones who take agriculture directly to the students in the classroom."

Harmon cited Beavers' willingness to jump in and help with any needs the AITC program encounters as a major reason for receiving the recognition.

Harmon also praised the entire OKFB



*OKFB Women's Leadership Committee's State Chairman Kitty Beavers of Stephens County addresses the audience at the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom conference.*

WLC for their help throughout the year with the Oklahoma AITC program, helping bring agriculture lessons and concepts to Oklahoma teachers, including at the state AITC conference, where WLC members served as room moderators and help facilitate activi-

ties for conference attendees.

Oklahoma AITC helps Oklahoma students learn about the state's food and fiber industry by providing resources for Oklahoma teachers. Oklahoma Farm Bureau is a major supporter of the program.

## August Area Meeting Tentative Schedule

### *District 1*

Aug. 25 • 6 p.m.  
Big Dan's, Woodward

### *District 2*

Aug. 18 • 12 p.m.  
Kiowa County Farm  
Bureau, Hobart

### *District 3*

Aug. 22 • 6 p.m.  
Canadian County Farm  
Bureau, El Reno

### *District 4*

Aug. 18 • 6 p.m.  
Rod and Gun Club,  
Marietta

### *District 5*

Aug. 15 • 12 p.m.  
Pete's Place, Krebs

### *District 6*

Aug. 16 • 12 p.m.  
J & L Bar-B-Q, Pryor

### *District 7*

Aug. 19 • 6 p.m.  
Hoover Building,  
Garfield County  
Fairgrounds

### *District 8*

Aug. 15 • 6 p.m.  
Ada Vo-Tech

### *District 9*

Aug. 16 • 6 p.m.  
Creek County  
Fairgrounds

# Agric-Bioformatics looking for beta testers for new web-based platform

**S**ean Akadiri, founder of Agric-Bioformatics, invites Oklahoma Farm Bureau members to apply for a free beta trial for AgBoost™, a new cloud-based platform designed to provide genetics, nutrition and health data for cattle producers.

AgBoost™ offers several useful features including genetic profiles and assessment, breeding suggestions, valuation and forecasting, lineage tracking, and nutritional recommendation. Oklahoma Farm Bureau has supported the development of the Agric-Bioformatics and AgBoost™ from the ground floor.

“Farm Bureau members have always been on the cutting edge of agriculture technology, and this program is the latest cutting edge,” said Todd Honer, OKFB director of commodities. “This is first program of its kind to use actual genetic makeup instead of statistical analysis, like EPDs, to evaluate your cattle herd.”

The beta version will allow the user to keep inventory, store performance data, sort and rank, cull, and choose replacement heifers based on the genomic information. The data will be presented to the user in a simple to interpret visual format. Best of all, Agric-Bioformatics will cover the cost to obtain genomic data of the user's cattle and users can use AgBoost™ for free throughout the beta period.

To receive the free beta trial:

- Register for the program and fill out the on-line application in the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AgBoost>. Once the producer is accepted by the program, an Agric-Bioformatics representative will be in contact.
- A kit will be sent for the producer to collect hair samples with prepaid return labeled address box, which will then be sent directly to the lab.
- When testing is complete, the producer



will be notified, and results can be viewed online with AgBoost™ platform.

- The beta tester will be able to enter performance data and keep animal inventory on AgBoost™ platform while waiting for the genomic test results.
- At the end of the beta trial period, producers will be asked to take a quick survey to give feedback.

For more information about Agric-Bioformatics or AgBoost™, visit their website at [www.agricbioformatics.com](http://www.agricbioformatics.com).

## OKFB Women's Leadership Committee hosts district luncheon

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee hosted a women's luncheon for District 9 on July 20 in Medford, Oklahoma.

Guest speaker Linda Woodruff from the Medford Family Clinic spoke about common health issues and gave advice on staying healthy and active. OKFB WLC's Mignon Bolay highlighted upcoming events, including activities to help promote State Question 777, or Right to Farm.

Marcia Irvin, OKFB WLC coordinator, also spoke about statewide events and reported updates from the home office. Afterward, the women enjoyed the opportunity to make scarves from old T-shirts.



Linda Woodruff from the Medford Family Clinic answers questions about Zika virus symptoms.

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

**f** Updates to August Area Meetings schedule  
Watch for the latest updates on your August area meeting on the OKFB Facebook page. The meetings serve as the first step in the grassroots policy development process. All OKFB members are encouraged to attend their district's meeting.

**📄** Summer 2016 issue of *Oklahoma Country* magazine now available online  
The latest issue of OKFB's *Oklahoma Country* magazine arrived in mailboxes last week and is now available online for electronic viewing. Find the link to the online version on the OKFB website.



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## Embrace Diversity – Support Choice: Environmental Stewardship

**E**nvironmental stewardship and sustainable agriculture have attracted a lot of attention in recent years, but the concepts are certainly not new. Farmers and ranchers have been serving as stewards of the land for many generations. As the world population continues to rise, farmers and ranchers must continue to advance – growing more food while using less water, land, energy and other resources.

Through voluntary conservation practices and application of technological advancements, agricultural producers are succeeding in operating their farms and ranches more efficiently and decreasing their carbon footprint. According to the USDA, an average farmer produces 262 percent more while using two percent fewer inputs including seeds, labor, fertilizer and fuel than in 1950.

Farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma grow crops and raise livestock on different types of soil and in varying weather patterns,

so environmental stewardship practices on each farm and ranch are different. But, the collective desire to care for the natural resources and protect the land for generations to come remains the same.

Many farmers perform crop rotation to improve soil health and help control weeds and pests, which reduces the need to apply herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers. Studies have shown that farmers using biotechnology (GMO seeds) have reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 62 billion pounds (equivalent to removing 12.4 million cars from the road for a year).

Building terraces and reducing tillage help farmers reduce soil erosion and runoff and keep water in the soil for crops to thrive. According to the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma leads the nation in EPA-recognized water quality success stories due in large part to the voluntary conservation practices implemented by farmers and ranchers in the state.

Farmers and ranchers are often avid

outdoorsmen and wildlife enthusiasts. A study by the American Farm Bureau Federation indicates that more than half of America's agricultural producers intentionally provide habitat for wildlife which have shown significant population increases for decades.

No one has a more vested interest in maintaining the quality of the air, water and soil than the farm families who often make their home and raise their children in the midst of the fields where their crops and livestock mature. It is a legacy that will continue – after all, they want the same opportunity to be available for the next generation.

By Amanda Rosholt,  
Oklahoma Farming  
and Ranching  
Foundation



## OKFB YF&R sponsor awards at Big 3 Field Days

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers provided plaques and trophies for the top competitors in Oklahoma State University's Big 3 Field Days July 19-21 in Stillwater.

More than 1500 young livestock judges from across Oklahoma gathered for the event. Participants judged sheep on Tuesday, beef on Wednesday and swine on Thursday. OKFB YF&R provided plaques and trophies for the top contestants in the individual, team and sweepstakes livestock judging competitions.



*Left: Participants evaluate their first class of swine during the 2016 Big 3 Field Days. Right: Livestock judges prepare for the final day of the three-day contest.*

## Member Benefits

### QualSight LASIK

Looking forward to the beautiful orange, yellow and red leaves of autumn? OKFB's QualSight LASIK discount can help you see it all with better vision! OKFB members receive preferred pricing for LASIK vision correction at 40-50 percent below the national average. Check out our member benefits page for more details and information on how to book your consultation today!

[www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits](http://www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits)

## Calendar

### State Farm Family Applications Due

August 15 • OKFB Home Office, Oklahoma City  
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

### Shotgun Shoot Fundraiser hosted by the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation and the OKFB Legal Foundation

August 27 • Quail Ridge, McLoud  
Contact: Amanda Rosholt (405) 202-1463

### YF&R State Fair Livestock Judging Contest

September 15 • Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City  
Contact: Holly Carroll (405) 523-2307

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## OKFB Safety Services Division is now certified for Alive at 25 program

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Safety Services Division attended a two-day course through the Oklahoma Safety Council July 28-29 to become certified to teach the Alive at 25 program.

Alive at 25 is a course developed by the National Safety Council that focuses on young adults between the ages of 15-24.

Designed as an early intervention program, the Alive at 25 program instructs young drivers on how to prevent traffic violations, collisions and/or fatalities.

The program addresses topics including speeding, distractions, aggressive driving, seat belts, impaired driving and other life-or-death issues common for teen drivers.

According to the Oklahoma Safety Council, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 16 and 24. This group of young drivers also represents the largest group of problem drivers on the road.

OKFB's Safety Services Division travels around the state to educate people of all

ages through a wide variety of programs, such as the fire safety, farm safety, school bus safety, bike safety, drunk driving and defensive driving.

Click on the "Engagement" tab on the OKFB website to learn how to request an OKFB Safety Services program for your local community, school or gathering. For more information, call the OKFB home office phone number at 405-523-2300 or call Safety Director Micah Martin at 405-641-5151.

## 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.*

### Upcoming Right to Farm events

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau will be hosting several events across the state in the next few months to promote the Right to Farm initiative. Be sure to check social media and the OKFB website for updated schedules, dates and locations. Inviting friends and neighbors will greatly contribute to the success of these events. We hope to see you there!



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Northwest Field Representative Brady Bond and Director of Commodities Todd Honer attended the 64th annual Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Convention and Trade Show July 21-23 to speak with attendees about State Question 777, or the Right to Farm initiative, and other upcoming issues. The three-day event featured informative speakers, a large trade show and educational opportunities.

### Oklahoma's RIGHT to Farm

