



www.okfarmbureau.org

Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Perspective

February 20, 2015



Legislative Update: The time to move Oklahoma forward is now



By John Collison
OKFB Vice President of Public Policy and Media Relations

It's mid-February and session is now well under way. Of the more than 2,000 bills that were filed, a handful of them have already met their demise. These were bills that were filed on behalf of constituents or members themselves that did not even get out of committee. Some were bills that died on the floor due to the fact that it just simply was not needed.

The process is deliberately hard — and should be — to get many of these bills passed. One of the questions for each one

of these bills that makes it further into the process is: Does this legislation move Oklahoma forward? What I mean by that is if this bill becomes a law, are all Oklahomans better off?

In looking and thinking about moving Oklahoma forward, we need to look at how that can be accomplished. For the past few years we

have been talking about developing all of our water resources to their fullest potential for all Oklahomans. Many of you wonder why this is such an important issue and why Oklahoma Farm Bureau would take on such a task. In the next few lines I hope to show why it matters.

“ We can either sit back and accept this fate that nothing can be done unless oil turns around or it starts to rain, or we can stand up and choose to do something about it. ”

— John Collison

(Legislative Update, cont'd on page 2)

Cotton County Farm Bureau visits the state Capitol

Five Cotton County Farm Bureau board members had the opportunity to visit the state Capitol and visit with Rep. Scooter Park and Sen. Don Barrington on Feb. 12 to discuss their priority issues for the 2015 legislative session. If your county is interested in scheduling a visit to the Oklahoma state Capitol, contact the Public Policy Department at (405) 530-2681.



(Legislative Update, cont'd from page 1)

If you have been following the news out of the Capitol in terms of dollars to spend for government services, you know we are in a budget shortfall. Much of this budget shortfall is due to four years of drought in agriculture and the downturn of oil and gas. The numbers that are coming in continue to get worse and worse. We can either sit back and accept this fate that nothing can be done unless oil turns around or it starts to rain, or we can stand up and choose to do something about it.

In this time of downturn, we need to ask what we can do today to create more wealth

for the future. We all know government doesn't create wealth — only the private sector does. While it is not the role of government to create wealth, it is their role to develop its resources to the fullest. Oklahomans understood this years ago and began a process to develop our water resources, and it has paid off in spades. Unfortunately, we got halfway finished and quit the job. The time has come for us to finish this job and leave a mark for our children to judge us by. If we were to develop our water resources to their fullest potential, the economic impact it would

have on agriculture would be off the charts.

Ask yourself this question: What would I be able to grow or raise on my land if water was never an issue? Let that sink in.

We have so much potential in our state to make this a reality. Our government officials need to be told it is time to finish the job. If we all invest in Oklahoma it will pay billions of dollars of economic returns. Now is the time to leave this state a better place than we found it. Call your legislators today and ask them to move all of Oklahoma Forward!

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Oklahoma Country is available online

The latest issue of *Oklahoma Country*, the magazine of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, is now available for viewing and sharing online. Go to okfarmbureau.org to view the publication and be sure to share the link with others on your social media pages.



Lincoln to Local

OKFB Vice President Jimmy Wayne Kinder and five other farmers and ranchers from Cotton County visited the Oklahoma Capitol on Feb. 12 to discuss the issues important to agriculture and their area. Jimmy shared the importance of visits like this and why they work together with their local legislators.



facebook



twitter



pinterest



instagram



flickr



wordpress



soundcloud



youtube

www.okfarmbureau.org

Discounts on ICEHOLE coolers offered to OKFB members



Oklahoma Farm Bureau encourages members to take advantage of a new member benefit with ICEHOLE coolers. OKFB members can now enjoy a 10 percent discount on all ICEHOLE products.

“Farm Bureau members in Oklahoma are accustomed to having exclusive access to superior, high-quality brands, programs and products,” said Tom Buchanan, Oklahoma Farm Bureau president. “ICEHOLE’s

generous offer to Farm Bureau members that includes a 10 percent discount on all products means our members can experience more savings than ever before. This is just one more example of how why it pays to be a member of Farm Bureau.”

ICEHOLE coolers are built for the outdoor enthusiast who demands high-performance products and designed with the environment in mind. Its insulating foam is

high-density for superior performance and is ecofriendly.

To take advantage of the ICEHOLE discount, please call 830-895-4405 to place your order. Offer is not valid for online purchases.

For a full list of OKFB member benefits, visit okfarmbureau.org.



Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese (right) visited Waterfall Creek Pecan Farm, owned and operated by McCurtain County Farm Bureau members Keith and Ski Batemen, as they shipped two truckloads of pecans from their farm to China. The pecans were loaded into shipping containers that will be sent to Hong Kong for distribution across China. Reese hopes to develop more opportunities like this to export Oklahoma agricultural products across the globe.

“Osage to the Ozarks” A Journey through Northeast Oklahoma

2015 OKFB Commodity Tour

March 25-27, 2015

Limited Space Available

\$225 for single occupancy

\$250 for double occupancy

For more information, contact:

Marcia Irvin

(405) 523-2405

Member Benefits

February is Chevy Truck Month

Chevy Truck Month is already underway! February is Chevy Truck Month and there are great deals available on dependable trucks for Farm Bureau members, such as the 2014 Silverado and the 2015 Colorado.

OKFB highlights a benefit in each issue of Perspective as a reminder of the savings available to OKFB members. You can find a complete list of savings on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau website.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

Registration Deadline for Congressional Action Tour

March 2 – Washington D.C.

Contact: Sara Rogers (405) 530-2681

YF&R Legislative Day

March 3 – Oklahoma City

Contact: Holly Carroll (405) 523-2307

OKFB Commodity Tour

March 25-27 – Northeast Oklahoma

Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

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 Public Policy and Media Relations

John Collison 405-523-2539

Directors of Corporate Communications

Sam Knipp 405-523-2347

Dustin Mielke 405-530-2640

Communications Specialists

Karolyn Bolay 405-523-2320

Samantha Smith 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.

Chevrolet expands benefit offering for eligible Farm Bureau members

Chevrolet is excited to announce the addition of Motor Trend's 2015 Truck of the Year – the all-new Chevy Colorado – to the list of 80-plus Chevrolet, Buick and GMC vehicles that qualify for a \$500 incentive for eligible Farm Bureau members. In addition, the new GMC Canyon is now eligible.

"Chevrolet is proud to partner with Farm Bureau with its long tradition of supporting American agriculture," said Ashlee Jenkins, assistant retail advertising manager for Chevrolet. "We are excited to expand our offering to better serve member needs."

Chevrolet is the most awarded car company of the year, and included in that award-winning line-up is the all-new Chevy Colorado. This game-changing truck offers Farm Bureau members the best highway gas fuel economy of any gas pickup – EPA estimated 27 MPG, available 4G LTE WiFi technology, most advanced available safety

package of any midsize truck and the best pickup coverage.

The new GMC Canyon offers the premium features and materials GMC customers have come to expect, combined with capability and versatility in a maneuverable, right-sized package. It offers both power and efficiency with an available V6 with 305 horsepower with an EPA estimated 26 MPG highway fuel economy. With features like the Duralife brake rotors and electric power steering, the Canyon redefines the small truck. It was awarded Autoweek's Best of the Best Truck for 2015.

"Providing exclusive access to superior, high-quality brands, programs and products is one of the many ways we strive to exceed member expectations," AFBF President Bob Stallman said.

The new Farm Bureau incentive may be stacked with other available in-market incentives, like Owner Loyalty or the GM



Business Choice program.

To take advantage of incentives available for the purchase or lease of a qualifying Chevrolet, Buick or GMC vehicle, members can visit fbverify.com/gm. Only customers who have been active members of a participating Farm Bureau for a minimum of 30 days will be eligible to receive a certificate. Members can confirm eligibility and print a required certificate by entering their membership number and zip code. The certificate should be taken to your dealership of choice and presented to the sales person. There is no limit to the numbers of certificates that a member may print or use, but certificates do expire after 60 days.

Oklahoma rancher, journalist says we need a strong rural voice

Paul Laubach, rancher and owner of four local newspapers and one of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's journalists of the year, talks with OKFB's Sam Knipp about the importance of telling the farm story.

Laubach is the owner of the Hennessey Clipper, Okeene Record, Canton Times and Dewey County Record.

To listen, go to soundcloud.com/okfarmbureau.



OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Leadership Conference scheduled to be held Feb. 16-17 in Oklahoma City was canceled due to inclement weather.

OKFB plans to reschedule the conference at a later date. Please check the OKFB website for up-to-date information.