



## Farm Bureau disappointed with farm bill vote

The state's leading farm group voiced strong disappointment in the negative vote on the farm bill in the U. S. House of Representatives on June 20.

"We are extremely disappointed in the vote against the farm bill," said Mike Spradling, president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau. "Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers need a farm bill now to help them plan for their next crop. No business can successfully operate without a plan and this negative vote will indefinitely delay business decisions."

Spradling noted the farm bill is for everyone, not just farmers, and this rejection impacts all Americans.

"Farmers provide food and fiber for our citizens, as well as those around the world," Spradling said. "We produce abundant crops despite the variable weather conditions and that is why this farm bill is so important. It would give farmers the protection and ability to manage risks with a solid crop insurance program."

The bill was rejected on a 234 to 195

vote. There was overwhelming support from the Oklahoma delegation, with the lone exception of Rep. Jim Bridenstine, R-1.

"We appreciate all the hard work Rep. Lucas extended on our behalf," Spradling said. "He (Lucas) has worked tirelessly on this legislation and I know he will continue to support farmers and ranchers as they reconsider the bill's direction."

## Stephens County Farm Bureau hosts dinner for legislators



LEFT – Stephens County FB member Neal Owen (right) visits with Sen. Don Barrington during a legislative dinner in Duncan, June 14.

RIGHT – Stephens County FB Vice President Harris Powers (right) and President Eddie Sutton (center) discuss the 2013 legislative session with OKFB President Mike Spradling.



## Please excuse our mistake

We incorrectly identified Sen. Greg Treat in the legislative wrap-up section of the June 14 *Perspective*. Sen. Treat co-authored HB 2055, which provides a complete overhaul of the Administrative Procedures Act.



## MEMBER BENEFITS

•**Storm Safe Shelters** – OKFB members receive a \$100 discount on the purchase of a qualifying Storm Safe in-ground shelter. Call (405) 606-2563 or visit the Storm Safe Shelters website at [www.stormsafeshelters.com](http://www.stormsafeshelters.com).

OKFB highlights a benefit in each issue of *Perspective* as a reminder of the savings available to OKFB members. Find a complete list of savings online at [www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org).

## OKFB CALENDAR

### OKFB Leadership Team Nurse's Scholarship Deadline

July 1 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Marcia Irvin, (405) 523-2405

### OKFB Leadership Team Summer Conference

July 12-13 • Claremore  
Contact: Marcia Irvin, (405) 523-2405

### OSU Big Three Field Days

July 16-18 • Stillwater  
Contact: Holly Carroll, (405) 301-6610

## Students discover importance of safety during OKFB camp



Safety camp participants challenge themselves on the high ropes course during a day of activities at Camp Redlands near Stillwater.

Nineteen Oklahoma teens learned about ATV, gun and farm safety at this year's Oklahoma Farm Bureau Safety Camp, June 11-13, at Tatanka Ranch in Stroud. Campers participated in several activities throughout the week to improve their knowledge on safety procedures to take back to the farm.

OKFB Safety Services Director Justin Grego said teenagers need to be aware of the risks associated with ATVs, guns and farm equipment so they know how to oper-

ate them properly.

"It's important to talk to them about rollover protective structures, PTO entanglements and slow moving vehicle emblems," Grego said. "It not only makes them aware of it, but they might also take the safety precautions back to their farm and remind their parents about it too."

ATV safety was a top priority at this year's camp. Statistics show ATVs cause about 18 deaths annually in Oklahoma, with a majority of those drivers being under 16 years of age.

"We spent about seven hours with them going over ATV safety," Grego said.

Second-time camper Colton Budy said the ATV safety training was one of the most eye-opening parts of camp.

"I saw the number of ATV accidents and how high they can be and how much you can reduce it by just wearing a helmet," Budy said.

The group also participated in the ropes course at Camp Redlands in Stillwater. The course is designed to promote teamwork, leadership and communication among small groups.

"They really learn to trust each other and look out for one another," Grego said. "It's really neat to watch them come together as a group."

Grego said he hopes the campers will practice the safety techniques they learned and warn others of the possible dangers, as well.

"They won't just be saving their life," Grego said. "They might be saving someone else's life too."

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

Monitor the latest Farm Bureau and agricultural news and information online at [okfarmbureau.org](http://okfarmbureau.org).

Currently online:

• **Agricultural News** – Oklahoma Farm Bureau features a new agriculture-related story every day on its site. Read about both AFBF and state Farm Bureau news by visiting the homepage.

• **OKFB Harvest Watch Blog** – The second annual OKFB Harvest Watch blog season is underway. Visit [www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org) and click on the OKFB Harvest Watch link to follow the six farm families.

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





# Farm Bureau applauds Supreme Court ruling on Oklahoma water

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling rejecting the state of Texas' claim to Oklahoma water is a huge win for Oklahoma citizens, said Mike Spradling, president of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. The farm group has long supported the idea of putting the state's water needs ahead of out of state interests.

"We've always believed Oklahoma has the sovereign power to the state's water resources," Spradling said.

The Supreme Court ruled that the Red River Compact, which includes Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, does not automatically give Texas rights to water in another state.

"Water is a valuable resource for our farmers and ranchers," Spradling said. "This ruling protects our rights to the water and reinforces the mission of using Oklahoma water for Oklahoma citizens."

# Don't forget OKFB member benefits when planning summer vacations

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has partnered with several popular summer destinations to make planning a warm weather vacation a breeze. Members can also use their cards to take advantage of deals on car rentals and lodging.



OKFB members receive a 15 percent discount from Great Wolf Lodge, an indoor family water park resort with 10 locations across the country (including

Grapevine, Texas and Kansas City). Members can use the code OKFB105A when making reservations and then present your OKFB membership card when checking in. Visit [www.greatwolf.com](http://www.greatwolf.com) to book your stay.



Six Flags Over Texas offers OKFB members substantial savings off the main gate price. One-day

tickets are \$37.79, season passes are only \$64.79 and Hurricane Harbor one-day tickets are \$23.75. Log into the OKFB Six Flags site to buy and print tickets <https://shop.sixflags.com/clients/sixflags/affiliate/index.php?m=20908>

Username: OKFBMEMOT

Password: SixFlags9 (Password is numeric and case sensitive)



OKFB members receive a discount on one-day tickets to Oklahoma City's Frontier

City or Whitewater Bay. Tickets to each park are \$22.76 plus a \$5 processing fee (per transaction not per ticket). Visit [www.frontiercity.com](http://www.frontiercity.com) or [www.whitewaterbay.com](http://www.whitewaterbay.com) to purchase tickets.

Username: OKFBmembers

Password: summerfun



OKFB members can save on admission to Branson's Silver Dollar City and White Water.

Visit [www.sdcticketoffers.com](http://www.sdcticketoffers.com) and use promo code 14605 to purchase tickets. While you're in Branson, make sure to take a ride on the Showboat Branson Belle, an entertaining dinner cruise on Table Rock Lake. Call (855) 769-4935 and ask for offer number 2002 to receive \$5 off adult tickets.



OKFB members can save

up to 30 percent off their next stay at thousands of Choice Hotel locations when they call in advance. Call (800) 4CHOICE or visit [www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com) and use the special rate ID #00209760. Members will earn a \$50 gift card for dining, shopping or gas when you book two separate stays.



Hertz Rent

A Car offers

OKFB members a variety of discounts and upgrades. Visit the OKFB website for details and then call (800) 654-3131 to make reservations.

# OKFB award deadlines nearing

Application due dates for some of OKFB's top member awards will be here soon. Visit OKFB's website to download forms and for more information on the award programs.

## August 1

- District Farm Family of the Year

## August 15

- State Farm Family Applications

## September 1

- YF&R Excellence in Agriculture
- YF&R Achievement

## October 11

- Other Awards Due

# OKFB offers course for political candidates

Many Farm Bureau members are involved in public service and serve as leaders in their communities. The 2014 elections will be here before we know it, and OKFB is once again hosting a campaign management seminar for members interested in running for public office, Sept. 12-13, at the OKFB home office in Oklahoma City.

American Farm Bureau Federation has developed this seminar with the help of professional political consultants and staff members of the Democrat and Republican parties. Linda Johnson, director of policy implementation for the AFBF office in Washington, D.C., will lead participants through case study exercises, including a computer simulated campaign. The computer-simulated campaign will test the candidates' campaign techniques, tools and methods. The campaign seminar will also include sessions on candidate evaluation, campaign issues, raising campaign funds, working with the news media, recruiting volunteer campaign workers and using polling data to your advantage.

The seminar is open to candidates, spouses and campaign managers. Contact your county Farm Bureau office or Marla Peek at (405) 523-2437 or [marla.peek@okfb.org](mailto:marla.peek@okfb.org) for more details on the course or registration fees. The deadline to register is Aug. 8.

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# Oklahoma Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference set for Aug. 8-9

Oklahoma's statewide Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference will take place Aug. 8-9 at the Moore-Norman Technology Center.

"The focus of the two-day conference is to assist women and producers to successfully manage risk for their agricultural enterprises or small businesses," said Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension farm management specialist.

A number of concurrent sessions will be offered during the conference. Sessions will focus on a variety of high-profile topics about agriculture, alternative enterprises and business and finance. Participants will be able to attend sessions of most interest and value to them.

"The conference is a great resource to learn the latest information on topics that empower women to solve issues and concerns of importance to them, their families and communities," Doye said. "A particular strength of the conference is the ability of participants to personalize their experience."

Keynote speakers are Jolene Brown, professional speaker, author and family business consultant, and Celeste Settrini, a media, graphics and communications expert and founder of Couture Cowgirl 'n Co. Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese will provide an opening welcome.

"Opportunities for informal networking between participants and interaction with conference experts often lead to personal and professional inspiration, ideas and

solutions, as do the informational booths and women-owned businesses featured in the mini-mall," Doye said.

The two-day event is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and numerous sponsors who have helped keep costs low to participants.

Post-conference training features will include the Beef Quality Assurance Program, part of a national program that provides guidelines and best management practices for beef cattle production. It will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 9.

"The statewide Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference really is the place to be in August," Doye said. "Think of it as one-stop shopping to build awareness and skills."

Cost is \$50 per participant if registering by Aug. 1 and \$60 thereafter. Registration includes two breakfasts, two lunches, all refreshment breaks, conference materials, post-conference training and a Taste of Oklahoma reception on Thursday evening,



Professional family business consultant Joleen Brown is one of the keynote speakers planned for the 2013 Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference.

Aug. 8.

Registration forms and additional information are available at <http://www.OKWomeninAgandSmallBusiness.com> or by calling the OSU Department of Agricultural economics at (405) 744-9826.

The Moore-Norman Technology Center is located at 13301 S. Pennsylvania Ave. in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

Additional information is available at <http://www.OKWomeninAgandSmallBusiness.com> or by contacting Doye by e-mail at [damona.doye@okstate.edu](mailto:damona.doye@okstate.edu) or Jennifer Jensen, project manager, by email at [jennifer.jensen@okstate.edu](mailto:jennifer.jensen@okstate.edu).