



OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

June 10, 2016

OKFB women hold second-annual Youth Safety Day

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee hosted its second-annual safety day June 3 at the OKFB home office in Oklahoma City.

More than 60 students in grades 5-9 from around the state attended the one-day event, learning safe practices and habits both on the farm and off.

"Our women's committee is proud to host this event because we know these students

are involved in so many activities during the summer months," said Kitty Beavers, OKFB WLC state chairman. "We know the lessons that Farm Bureau's safety staff and our partners teach stick with our students because the kids get to actively participate in the event."

OKFB staff presented lessons on fire safety, DUI prevention, ATV safety and

(Continued on page two)



Top: Micah Martin, OKFB director of safety services, teaches students about ATV safety. Above left: Zac Swartz, OKFB safety specialist, assists with the OKFB fire safety trailer that allows students to learn to crawl out of a smoke simulated area, feeling their way around heated doors. Above middle: Students attempt to walk in a straight line wearing goggles that simulates a blood alcohol concentration of 0.17 to 0.2. Above right: Safety staff from OG&E illustrates the dangers of electricity using various real-life scenarios.

Legislative Wrap-up: Four legislative highlights for agriculture

from OKAgPolicy.org

As the second session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature adjourned, most everyone was focused on the last-minute budget. Despite the doom-and-gloom of the state's budget, Oklahoma farmers and ranchers saw several key wins at the state Capitol this year.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery

As farmers and ranchers know all too well, an adequate supply of water can make or break the agriculture industry. State legislators took another step this year to help

prepare Oklahoma for future droughts by passing SB 1219.

The bill, authored by Sen. Eddie Fields and Rep. John Pfeiffer, allows the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to create rules for aquifer storage and recovery. Utilized across the country, the technology captures excess water and pumps it back into underground aquifers for use at a later time. Many Oklahoma farmers and ranchers, especially in the panhandle, rely on groundwater to irrigate crops. The ability to restore those

aquifers in periods of heavy rain will prove invaluable.

Commercial Driver's Licenses for H-2A Workers

Last year, a Federal Motor Carriers Administration rule change prohibited the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety from issuing non-domiciled commercial driver's licenses. Temporary agricultural workers on an H-2A visa would not have access to a CDL, which would have greatly hindered their ability to harvest crops.

(Continued on page two)

OKFB women hold second-annual Youth Safety Day

(Continued from page 1)

tractor safety. Safety staff from OG&E taught students the need to be aware of electrical lines and infrastructure, and the Oklahoma County Sheriff's office demonstrated the importance of seat belt use with the department's rollover prevention cage.

During each session, students learned appropriate safety techniques through hands-on activities and live demonstrations.

The OKFB WLC hosts their annual safety day early in the summer in an effort to help students be safety aware during their summer activities and beyond.

Students observe a vehicle rollover simulation put on by the OKC Police Department. This device simulates a 25-30 mph rollover accident and illustrates how the crash can affect the human body when seat belts are used and when seat belts are not used.



Legislative Wrap-up: Four legislative highlights for agriculture

(Continued from page 1)

SB 1018, authored by Sen. Mike Schulz and Rep. Harold Wright, allows DPS to again issue non-domiciled CDLs, allowing the H-2A workers to drive trucks and help farmers get crops to market.

Cattle Theft Penalties

Cattle theft has a huge impact on farmers and ranchers across Oklahoma. But current state statutes addressing cattle theft were originally written in the 1930s, and had not recently been updated to align with the increase in cattle prices.

Rep. John Pfeiffer, a cattle rancher himself, authored and passed HB 2504 alongside Sen. Ron Justice to update those state statutes to fit today's market. The bill

increases the fine for cattle theft to three times the value of the animals stolen, up to \$500,000. In addition, each animal stolen will constitute a separate offense.

Feral Hogs

A bill that would have allowed landowners to remove feral hogs any time of day without a permit passed the House and Senate, but was vetoed by Gov. Mary Fallin. In the place of SB 1142, Fallin issued an executive order requiring the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to expedite the issuance of permits, and also develop rules that:

- allow landowners to remove feral hogs on their property at night with the use of night-vision equipment, off-road vehi-

cles, and handheld or vehicle-mounted headlights;

- require private landowners to provide advance notice to game wardens when attempting to remove feral swine;
- and explain how to access information on feral hog eradication.

Located in all 77 Oklahoma counties, feral hogs are an invasive species causing millions of dollars in damage to farms, ranches, public and private property, ecosystems, and even motorists.

For more information on these bills, visit our website www.OKAgPolicy.org.



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

 Noble County Farm Bureau member Mason Bolay featured on State Impact Oklahoma

Is drought coming back to Oklahoma? Listen to OKFB member Mason Bolay talk about the possibility with State Impact Oklahoma. Find the link on our Facebook page.

 OKAgPolicy's introduces The Break Down
Listen to OKAgPolicy's new weekly podcast The Break Down created to provide an analysis of agricultural policy issues. The first edition features OKFB's John Collison speaking about legislative action near the end of the legislative session. Find the podcast on OKAgPolicy's website at okagpolicy.org/series/the-break-down.



www.okfarmbureau.org

OKFB partners with ODAFF to initiate an official labeling program

As veterans they stood for you, now as consumers you have a chance to stand by them – through agriculture. Coming soon to farmers markets and grocery stores across Oklahoma is a new label that will inform consumers that they are purchasing their food straight from veterans. Homegrown by Heroes (HBH) is the official farmer veteran branding program of America through the Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC).

The FVC's mission is "To mobilize veterans to feed America." The coalition believes how important therapeutic agriculture careers are to veterans and how the agriculture producer population is aging and needs replacing, the combination of the two is the perfect fit.

At its core, Homegrown by Heroes is a labeling program for veterans producing agricultural products.

One farmer veteran who was quoted on farmvetco.org said, "This program gives me a sense of purpose and fulfillment while producing a quality product. It allows us to have a sense of peace again. This is what I needed to heal."

This program is coming to Oklahoma through a partnership of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. According to farmvetco.org, "The HBH logo serves to inform consumers that products donning the logo were produced by military veterans. The program is available to farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and value-added producers of all branches and eras of military service."

"Whether it be by participation in Oklahoma Honor Flights or various other veteran events, Oklahoma Farm Bureau has had an opportunity to connect with many

of our Oklahoma veterans," said Becky Samples, OKFB vice president of strategic corporate communications. "Now we have the opportunity to recognize these men and women who continue to care for their fellow neighbors by feeding and clothing Oklahomans and ultimately Americans. The feedback we have received from our veteran communities has been phenomenal and we look forward spreading awareness about the Homegrown Heroes program."

To sign up for or learn more about this program please go to the national website, www.farmvetco.org/homegrown-by-heroes/ or contact Meriruth at (405) 488-7532 or meriruth.cohenour@ag.ok.gov.



OKFB Save-the-Dates:

**2016 OK Farm Bureau
Annual Meeting
Nov. 11-13, 2016
Oklahoma City**



OKLAHOMA FARMING AND RANCHING FOUNDATION & OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU LEGAL FOUNDATIONS

1ST ANNUAL

SHOTGUN SHOOT FUNDRAISER

QUAIL RIDGE
2401 S M CLOUD RD
M CLOUD, OK

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 A.M.
LUNCH AT 11:30

AUGUST 26TH

Member Benefits

ICEHOLE Coolers

Need a cooler built for all your outdoor needs? OKFB members can receive a 10% discount on all ICEHOLE cooler products. 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. Call (830) 895-4405 to place your orders.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

On the Road with Ag in the Classroom

June 14-16 • State of Oklahoma
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture Conference

June 15-17 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Holly Carroll (405) 523-2307

National Ag in the Classroom Conference

June 20-25 • Lichtfield Park, Arizona
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 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
- Communication Specialist
Clarissa Walton 405-523-2530
- Brand Specialist
Jeff Canton 405-523-2465

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

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

Embrace Diversity – Support Choice: Food Animal Production

In Oklahoma and across the country, farmers and ranchers employ a variety of production systems to raise food animals. Those systems were the focus of conversation during the Center for Food Integrity’s 2016 Strategy Conference held May 18th.

Panelists gathered to discuss animal housing included Dr. Janeen Salak-Johnson, associate professor of stress physiology and animal well-being at the University of Illinois; Paul Shapiro, vice president of farm animal protection for the Humane Society of the United States, and Randy Krotz, chief executive officer of the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance. The group concluded that there is no right way to raise food animals. Rather, different systems offer a variety of benefits and challenges.

Salak-Johnson explained, “There is a place for all types of animal production and at this time, the science does not support the phasing out of any particular system on the basis of animal welfare. The reality is, there are advantages and disadvantages to each animal production system.”

Oklahoma State University professor and food and agricultural economist Jayson Lusk has addressed the range of systems in his blog on multiple occasions. His conclusion – “No housing system is superior to another in all respects, and there are tradeoffs and costs with each.”

Nowhere is it more critical to preserve choice than in food production and consumption. Oklahoma livestock producers and consumers benefit from

the opportunity to access a variety of safe production systems and the state’s economy benefits as well. According to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture and the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service, livestock and food animal production contribute more than 100,000 jobs and adds more than \$6.5 billion dollars to the Oklahoma economy. Those contributions are a direct result of farmers and ranchers continued access to a wide range of safe and efficient food animal production systems.



By **Amanda Rosholt**
 Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation

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.



Thank you to Sam Barrick for hosting a crawfish boil in Love County to raise donations benefiting Right to Farm and the Jimtown Volunteer Fire Department!



GET ON TAP WITH 777

**THURSDAY
 JUNE 30TH
 5:00PM-8:00PM**

**TAPWORKS
 ALE HOUSE**
 121 E SHERIDAN AVE
 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

VISIT THE OKFB
 FACEBOOK PAGE
 TO RSVP