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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

June 24, 2016

Oklahoma youth attend OKFB leadership conference

Nineteen of Oklahoma's top 20 high school seniors spent three days learning about leadership, team building and agriculture at the fifth annual Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference, June 15-17 in Oklahoma City. OYLA is hosted by Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

"These students are our best and brightest students across the state," said Holly Carroll, OYLA and YF&R coordinator and OKFB vice president of field services. "The main purpose of this event is to help them to realize the agricultural opportunities they have right here in Oklahoma."

The conference was designed to prepare

high school students for a future career in agriculture and to advance youth leadership. The group learned about effective habits of leaders, communications training, tips for college and the importance of rural doctors. They toured places such as Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Whole Foods, Lopez

(Continued on page two)



Above: Nineteen Oklahoma high school seniors met in Oklahoma City for the OYLA conference. Far left: The youth toured Whole Foods and had the opportunity to sample many different kinds of food, including cotton candy grapes. Left: Brandon Baumgarten teaches students about effective communication in interviews, public speaking and social media.

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Food Industry and Express Ranch.

"Our hope is that after students learn more about agriculture-related jobs and the opportunities we can offer in Oklahoma, they'll want to stay in our state and be involved in Oklahoma Farm Bureau," Carroll said.

OYLA also encourages service-minded leadership. The students participated in a Kids Against Hunger food-packing event sponsored by the Oklahoma Farming and

Ranching Foundation.

"We are so grateful to the OYLA students for their help in packing 3,000 meals for hungry Oklahomans," said Jeremy Rich, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation president. "Oklahoma farmers and ranchers truly are feeding the hungry, starting right here at home."

For more pictures of the conference, visit our Flickr album.



OYLA students pack food for Kids Against Hunger.

On the Road with Ag in the Classroom visits eastern Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom traveled to eastern Oklahoma for this year's On the Road tour, June 14-16.

On the tour, Oklahoma Farm Bureau joined teachers from around the state to learn more about agriculture and its impact in Oklahoma.

The tour began with a stop at Dismukes' Cattle Ranch in Checotah, where educators learned about the health benefits of eating beef. The group then traveled to the Greenleaf Nursery in Park Hill to tour their greenhouses. Educators learned the nursery covers 570 acres of land. The next stop included Mountain View Meats in Stilwell, which makes more than 11 million sausage/hotlinks each year. Educators learned about the sausage production process and toured the facilities.

The tour continued to Spring Valley Dairy in Stilwell where teachers learned about feeding cattle and the milking process. The last stop of the day was to Maple Creek Berry Farm in Poteau where they picked blueberries and learned about Oklahoma's specialty crops.



The Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom visited Mountain View Meats for this year's On the Road tour.

The first two stops on the second day of the tour included Hal's Beef Jerk in Poteau, and Don Sebo's Cattle Ranch and Sod Farm in Keota. Next, the group toured Spiro Mounds Museum while learning about several aspects of Oklahoma history, followed by a stop at Wild Things Farm in Pocola to learn about a wide variety of specialty crops.

The final day of the tour continued at Cal2Homa Christmas Tree Farm in Gore. Next, they traveled to AgriTech, Inc. at Webbers Falls to learn about aerial spraying and the Oklahoma Mesonet. Then, teachers learned about agricultural GPS systems for soybeans and corn at Sloan Farms. The final stop on the tour was a mock cattle sale at the Holdenville Sale Barn.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



OKFB Farm Family of the Year featured on NewsOK

OKFB member Matt Muller talks about the capacity of most Oklahoma grain elevators in an article featured on NewsOK's website. The featured photo was taken by Muller's son, Levi. Find the link on our Twitter page.



OKFB Wheat Harvest Photos

View our 2016 wheat harvest photos on our Facebook page. Photos were taken in Woods and Alfalfa counties as well as from Calumet and the Loyal-Omega area. Thanks to everyone who graciously hosted us in their fields and combine cabs!



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OKFB recognizes the administrative services department

In the next few issues of this newsletter, Oklahoma Farm Bureau will highlight different departments with exceptional dedication to their daily responsibilities. In this issue, OKFB recognizes the outstanding staff in the administrative services department. Many of these people work in several behind-the-scene projects that are invaluable to our company.

As you first walk into the home office in Oklahoma City, you'll most likely pass by Linda Gossman, the switchboard operator. In the 17 years she has worked at OKFB, it is her patient demeanor and helpful attitude that our members and callers have come to rely upon.

As you move farther into the building, you may bump into one of our mailroom clerks. Hannah Little and Ashlee Williams are responsible for sorting and delivering incoming mail to proper departments, which includes sending bulk mail to all 77 counties daily, a large task for a company that employs more than 200, just in our home office alone. They also assist all departments with mailing or paper needs.

Walk up to the third floor on the east side of the building and you may run into Latisha Webb and Dalayne Richard. These two ladies wear a lot of hats at Oklahoma Farm Bureau! Latisha, or Tish as we like to call her, helps with new employee onboarding such as business cards and office supplies as well as any other various

request that land on her desk. Dalayne serves as the administrative assistant for the administrative services department and also can be found juggling lots of different projects from designing new shirts for the Company Store to helping keep our fleet of vehicles organized. Both ladies make a great team and often are able to tag team on various projects and requests which helps efficiently serve our home office.

Continue around the building and you will probably find William Todd, our maintenance manager, helping someone with a variety of tasks. He is responsible for the daily running of the building, overseeing electrical, plumbing, mail runs, lawn care and janitorial tasks. He is known for helping anyone who asks with tasks like airing up tires or charging batteries. William's dependable smile always makes it easier when you have to call him because you've locked yourself out of your office.

Somewhere along the way, you might bump into Jay Hale, our maintenance technician. Prior to working at OKFB, Jay

attended Eastern Oklahoma County Tech Center from 2001 to 2004 for electrical trades and HV/AC certifications. He has been the co-owner of R&J Landscape and Design since 2006. He was hired at OKFB as the maintenance tech in March 2016.

Right now, you will probably find the director of the facilities overseeing the construction on the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Courtyard. Bobby Krag is the manager of administrative services, switchboard, mailroom, maintenance, security and the OKFB café. Bobby worked at Lathrop Electric before he was hired by OKFB in the maintenance department as assistant manager in September 2002. Later, he was hired as building manager. In February 2016, Krag became the director of facilities. Bobby's leads a great team, and it is obvious to everyone that the spirit of selfless servitude runs true in their department.

This department truly is some of the quiet heroes of OKFB that help our great company run seemingly effortless.

OKFB President issues statement on Global Food Security Act

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan issued the following statement in support of the Global Food Security Act of 2016. The measure aims to educate farmers around the world in agricultural technology to help fight hunger and achieve political stability.

"As Oklahoma farmers and ranchers,

we continue to utilize ever-changing technology methods for both crop and live-stock production to provide the safest and most affordable food supply in the world. However, we recognize food insecurity issues still exist not only in Oklahoma, but also around the world.

"Successful farmers and ranchers are

the backbone of a strong economy, as all people must have access to a safe, healthy and affordable food supply. We support the Global Food Security Act because it will help educate farmers across the globe to use technology to produce an abundant food supply for their citizens."

Member Benefits

QualSight LASIK

Tired of wearing glasses or contacts every day? Now is a great time for LASIK vision correction! As an Oklahoma Farm Bureau member, you can receive preferred pricing at 40-50% below the national average. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 866-979-8794.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

Get on Tap with 777

June 30 • TapWerks Ale House
Contact: Mark Yates (405) 606-9700

OKFB YF&R State Leadership Conference

July 8-9
Contact: Holly Carroll (405) 523-2307

Nurse's Scholarship Application Deadline

July 15
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

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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.

Embrace Diversity – Support Choice: Food Affordability

By Amanda Rosholt, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation

As we near closer to the SQ 777 vote on Nov. 8, 2016, we want to share with you some reasons why Right to Farm matters. This section will serve as a resource as you visit with neighbors in your communities.

A recent study by the United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service set out to determine what price premiums consumers are paying for organic foods and whether those premiums are declining over time. Their conclusion: all organic products studied were more costly than their nonorganic counterparts; and the premium was above 20 percent for every product studied except spinach. Price premiums for organic products in the study ranged from 7 percent for fresh spinach to 82 percent for eggs.

According to the Nutrition Business Journal, total sales for organic food were just under \$11.5 billion in 2004, climbing

to an estimated \$35 billion in 2014. It is a growing market in which Oklahoma farmers and ranchers can choose to participate.

Many consumers have an opportunity to vote with their dollar – purchasing organic or traditionally grown food products according to their taste and personal preference. But, we cannot ignore the ones who don't. The concern lies in the fact that one in six Oklahomans are food insecure – unsure of where their next meal will come from. And, many others choose not to pay a premium for food products that differ only in the methods used to produce them.

Dena Bravata, MD, MS, and senior author of a paper comparing the nutrition of organic and non-organic foods, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* said, "There isn't much difference between organic and conventional foods, if you're an adult and making a decision based solely on your health."

California's Proposition 2 and Vermont's GMO labeling law provide two current examples of legislatures taking steps to limit food choice in other states. At the same time, we have seen retailers begin to limit choices as well. In mid-March, Whole Foods, a well-recognized natural and organic food retailer announced it will begin replacing faster-growing poultry breeds with slower-growing varieties. The shift is expected to increase broiler time to market by 23 percent – a cost that could not be absorbed by most producers and will ultimately be passed on to consumers.

Keeping low-cost food options available is more than a matter of convenience. Providing affordable options for all Oklahomans is a moral obligation that farmers and ranchers in our state take very seriously.

As you talk with you friends and family about SQ 777, bring up some of these points that will ring true to all consumers.

GET ON TAP
WITH 777

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



TAPWERKS
ALE HOUSE
121 E SHERIDAN AVE
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

COME OUT TO LEARN ABOUT SQ: 777. AND ENJOY
APPETIZERS AND DRINKS. PLEASE BRING SOME ITEMS OF
FRESH PRODUCE TO BE DONATED TO THE CITY RESCUE MISSION.