

State Questions Overview

By Lori Kromer Peterson,
OFB Vice President of Public Policy

Eleven state questions will appear on the November general election ballot in Oklahoma. One came to the ballot through the initiative petition process, and 10 were placed on the ballot by the Oklahoma Legislature. This will be the first of two installments in the Perspective outlining these proposed changes to Oklahoma law to be decided by a vote of the people.

The first state question on the ballot will be SQ 744. SQ 744 would amend the Oklahoma Constitution to require the state to fund common education (K-12) for each child up to the levels of surrounding states. Oklahoma Farm Bureau policy opposes SQ 744 because of the consequences its passage would bring. SQ 744 has no funding mechanism, which means that the legislature would be forced to raise taxes and
(See State Questions, page 3)

Vet Board passes emergency rules

Rules ignore legislative intent of HB 3202

By Lori Kromer Peterson, OFB Vice President of Public Policy

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's priority legislation for the 2010 session was signed into law by Governor Brad Henry on April 16. HB 3202 clarified that acts of animal husbandry are not prohibited by the Veterinary Practice Act. It also required that of the five veterinarian members of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Vet Board), one must be an equine practitioner and one must be a large animal practitioner. The bill also set up a certification process for equine teeth floaters under the Vet Board. HB 3202 was authored by Rep. Don Armes and Sen. Mike Schulz. It passed the House of Representatives 58 to 37 and the Senate 38 to 7. It became law in Oklahoma on August 27, 2010.

On August 17, 2010, the Vet Board passed Emergency Rules. Those rules define animal husbandry in favor of the practice of veterinary medicine. In fact, the rule states that animal husbandry does not include acts of reproductive services, such as but not limited to those involving pregnancy diagnosis or prognosis by ultrasound, embryo transfer and fetal sexing. Oklahoma Farm Bureau policy supports that "all traditional animal husbandry practices shall be at the discretion of the animal's owner," as was set forth in HB 3202. These emergency rules, now law in Oklahoma, ignore the legislative intent of HB 3202. **(See Rules ignore, page 2)**

'No on SQ 744' promotional items available

The yards signs and bumper stickers are in! Both are printed with "VOTE NO on State Question 744."

The yard signs and bumper stickers are available for Farm Bureau members. Just call your OFB Field Representative and let them know how many you need!

Visit www.okfarmbureau.org for more information on SQ 744.



OFB's 20th Annual YF&R Livestock Judging Contest



LJC – Approximately 600 4-H and FFA members participated in the 20th annual Oklahoma Farm Bureau-sponsored Young Farmers & Ranchers Livestock Judging Contest, which was held Sept. 17 during the State Fair in Oklahoma City.

The contest gave youngsters the opportunity to test their judging skills on cattle, swine, sheep and goats. Winners received prizes of ribbons and plaques, and the first place winners received jackets.

Results are posted on OFB's website at www.okfarmbureau.org.

MEMBER BENEFITS

• **EZ Ranch** – Offers its profit and loss herd management software to OFB members at 15 percent off.
www.ez-ranch.com, 1-888-EZ Ranch

• **PetPartners, Inc.** – Offers health care for your dog or cat.
www.okfbph.com, 877-738-7888

OFB will highlight a few benefits in each issue of *Perspective* as a reminder of the savings available to OFB members. Find a complete list of savings online at www.okfarmbureau.org.

Webinar to address GIPSA proposed rules is scheduled for October 14

The United State Department of Agriculture Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has proposed a rule addressing competition in the livestock and poultry sectors.

The National Agricultural Law Center at the University of Arkansas will host a nationwide webinar open to all farmers and ranchers on Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (CST). Information about how to participate in the webinar can be found at <http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/gipsaworkshops/>. Comments on the

proposed rule are due by Nov. 22, 2010.

OFB staff has heard mixed reviews about the proposed rule depending upon the livestock species addressed. AFBF has prepared white papers explaining competitive injury in the context of the Packers and Stockyards Act and AFBF policy on the proposed rule.

To receive copies of the white papers or for additional information on the proposed rule, contact Marla Peek at Marla.Peek@okfb.org or 405-523-2437, or Tyler Norvell at Tyler.Norvell@okfb.org or 405-523-2402.

OFB CALENDAR

YF&R International Student Tour
 October 15-16 • Northeastern OK
 Contact: Marcia Irvin, 405-523-2405

State Resolutions Meeting
 October 26-27 • Oklahoma City
 Contact: Lori Peterson, 405-523-2539

OFB Annual Meeting
 November 19-21 • Oklahoma City
 Contact: Monica Wilke, 405-523-2303



FARMHAND OLYMPICS – Noble County Farm Bureau YF&R Chairman Jason Robedeaux, left, looked on as contestants raced to fill a bucket with water using pails filled with holes. The event was one of several during the county's annual YF&R Farmhand Olympics Sept. 13 in Perry.

Rules ignore.....

(continued from page 1)

Additionally, the emergency rules also addressed the process for an individual to obtain a certification for teeth floating. The requirements include a fee to be paid to the Vet Board and that the floater not administer any medication, taking away the animal owner's private property right to hire who they choose to perform traditional animal husbandry practices on their farms.

This is just the latest example of a state agency passing emergency rules when the legislature is not in session. The legislature has the ability to disapprove the Vet Board's emergency rule, but that cannot happen until February of 2011 when the Oklahoma Legislature convenes. Oklahoma Farm Bureau has been a longtime proponent of shifting the balance of power from state agencies back to the legislature. That would mean that the legislature must approve an agency rule before it becomes law. Currently, a rule is passed and must be disapproved by the legislature or it becomes law.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Monitor the latest Farm Bureau and agricultural news and information online at www.okfarmbureau.org.

Currently online:

• **AFBF Annual Meeting** – Download a registration form to join the OFB delegation bound for the 92nd American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting, which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia Jan. 9-12, 2011.

• **State Question 744** - OFB has serious concerns about State Question 744, which will be on the November ballot. Learn why OFB opposes State Question 744 and where you can find more information.

www.okfarmbureau.org





Richard Newberry is named General Manager and Executive Vice President of OFB Mutual Insurance Company

Richard Newberry has been named General Manager and Executive Vice President of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company.

“Richard is an excellent leader and insurance professional,” said Monica Wilke, Executive Director/General Counsel for Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies. “His skills will help us continue moving our company forward.”

Newberry brings a wealth of insurance experience to the position. He started his career with the company in 1993 as an adjuster in the Tulsa District Claims office. He has steadily been promoted to a number of important managerial positions including Central District Claims Manager, Associate Claims Manager and in 2005 was named Vice President of Claims.

He has completed numerous insurance related courses including Property Insurance, Life and Health Insurance, Insurance Law, Essentials of Risk Management and Risk Financing. He also has the Associate in Claims (AIC) designation.

Newberry is a native of Mounds. He graduated high school in that Creek County Community and later earned a bachelor of business administration in insurance from the University of Central Oklahoma. He resides in Shawnee with wife Laura and two children.

State Question Overview.....

(continued from page 1)

cut government services to increase funding for common education. SQ 744 would mean increased property taxes, less money for rural roads and bridges, as well as less funding for hospitals and nursing homes.

The next state question on the ballot will be SQ 746. This state question seeks to require voters to show identification. The identification can be in the form of a driver’s license or a voter registration card, when voting in person or by absentee ballot. Without identification the voter could sign a sworn statement and cast a provisional ballot. Oklahoma Farm Bureau policy supports SQ 746.

SQ 747 is supported by Oklahoma Farm Bureau and would place term limits on several statewide offices. Passage of SQ 747 would amend the Oklahoma Constitution by setting eight-year term limits for the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer, commissioner of labor, auditor and inspector, and superintendent of public instruction. It also would set a 12-year term limit for service as corporation commissioner.

Should SQ 748 pass, it would amend the Oklahoma Constitution and change the apportionment process (also known as redistricting). The legislature is required to make an apportionment after each 10-year federal census. If the legislature fails to act, an Apportionment Commission must do so. SQ 748 seeks to change this commission by removing the attorney general, the superintendent of public instruction and the state treasurer. The measure then increases the number of members from three to seven. Of those seven members, two would be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, two by the Speaker of the House and two by the governor. The measure provides that the lieutenant governor chair the Commission as a nonvoting member. At least four members of the Commission must sign the orders of apportionment. Oklahoma Farm Bureau has no policy on this proposed measure.

SQ 750 proposes an amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution relating to the number of signatures required to place a measure on the ballot by initiative petition. Under current law, eight percent of voters must sign an initiative petition for a legislative measure, and 15 percent must sign for a constitutional amendment. These percentages are based on the state office receiving the highest number of votes at the last general election. Passage of SQ 750 would make the percentage based on the number of votes cast at the last general election for the Office of Governor. Oklahoma Farm Bureau policy supports this state question.

In the next issue of *Perspective*, the final six state questions will be outlined.



OFB sponsoring cattle sale at Tulsa Farm Show

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is sponsoring the Herd Builder Private Treaty Sale during the annual Tulsa Farm Show, which is presented by Midwest Shows, Inc.

The sale is set for Dec. 9-11 at the Tulsa State Fairgrounds in Tulsa.

An expansion of the popular bull sale, this private treaty sale is open to all breeds. It will include heifers, bred heifers, cow-calf pairs and more offerings. The sale is open to everyone attending the farm show for all three days.

“Oklahoma Farm Bureau is excited to offer producers the opportunity to showcase all breeds of beef animals,” said Thad Doye, Field Services vice president. “Producers can choose to bring a group of animals or just one individual. This sale is a unique and great marketing tool for all producers.”

Cattlemen interested in offering animals should call Doye at 405-523-2307.

Health certification by a licensed veterinarian must be provided for all animals. Owners should be present throughout the sale, and will be responsible for the feeding, watering (water tub and water source will be provided) and stall upkeep.

SQ 744 • SQ 746 • SQ 747 • SQ 749 • SQ 750

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Delegation receives 'Friend of Farm Bureau' Award

The American Farm Bureau Federation has honored all seven members of Oklahoma's congressional delegation with its "Friend of Farm Bureau" award for their sustained and exemplary support of farmers and ranchers.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau nominated the entire Oklahoma delegation for the award, which recognizes members of Congress, regardless of party affiliation, for outstanding agricultural leadership and support of Farm Bureau policies.

"We are extremely pleased to have the opportunity to work with these outstanding legislative leaders," said OFB President Mike Spradling. "They understand our needs and have a positive response to our issues."

Receiving the "Friend of Farm Bureau" award are U.S. Sens. Jim Inhofe and Tom Coburn, and Reps. Frank Lucas, Mary Fallin, Dan Boren, Tom Cole and John Sullivan.

The Oklahoma farm organization will recognize the delegation at its state convention Nov. 19-21 in Oklahoma City.

Registration form available online

Register for the 92nd Annual American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting by downloading a registration form from Oklahoma Farm Bureau's website, www.okfarmbureau.org.

The annual meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia Jan. 9-12, 2011.

Mike Rowe to keynote AFBF Annual Meeting in Atlanta

Mike Rowe, the creator and executive producer of Discovery Channel's Emmy®-nominated series *Dirty Jobs* with Mike Rowe, will deliver the keynote address to the American Farm Bureau Federation's 92nd annual meeting on January 10, 2011, in Atlanta, GA.

More than 5,000 Farm Bureau members from across the nation will gather in Atlanta Jan. 9-12 to hear from distinguished leaders and participate in a grassroots policy setting process that will guide the American Farm Bureau through 2011.

A champion of farmers and ranchers and other hard-working Americans, Rowe has spent years traveling the country, working as an apprentice on more than 250 jobs that

most people would go out of their way to avoid. Rowe knows how to get his hands dirty and has worked in just about every industry, including many agriculture jobs.

"We are excited to have Mike Rowe as our keynote speaker," said AFBF President Bob Stallman. "Mike understands that most things that contribute to our standard of living—such as abundant food—are the result of someone else's hard work, dedication and skill, not magic."

Some of Rowe's *Dirty Jobs* have included apprenticing as a big animal veterinarian, cow feed lot worker, dairy cow midwife, rice plantation worker, egg producer, and a farmer for goats, pigs, turkeys, potatoes, and sugar cane.

While *Dirty Jobs* showcases some of America's toughest occupations, Rowe's work doesn't stop at the job site. He's launched a website called mikeroweWORKS.com, where skilled labor and hard work are celebrated in the hope of calling attention to the steady decline in the skilled trades and dwindling enrollments in trade schools and technical colleges.

In furtherance of his support of farming, Mike is doggedly highlighting the issues facing America's farming community through his website and specifically on his blog "The Future of Farming" (www.mikeroweworks.com/2010/08/the-future-of-farming/). Rowe was the keynote speaker at the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis last year.



Mike Rowe, creator of the Discovery Channel's *Dirty Jobs*, will be the keynote speaker during the AFBF Annual Meeting in Atlanta in January.