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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

Feb. 15, 2019



Congressional Action Tour registration open through Feb. 26

Travel to Washington, D.C., with Oklahoma Farm Bureau staff and fellow members to advocate for farmers and ranchers on Capitol Hill. The annual trip provides Farm Bureau members with a unique opportunity to promote agriculture and rural policy to Oklahoma's congressional delegation and federal agency leaders in our nation's Capitol.

On the evening of Wednesday, April 3, members have the chance to see the stage play *Into the Woods*, at Ford's Theater. OKFB will purchase tickets to the play for interested members.

Members wishing to attend the Congressional Action Tour in Washington, D.C. only have a limited time left to register. To RSVP for the trip and pay for the hotel rooms, please complete a registration form and return it by February 26 to Emmy Karns at the OKFB home office.

Hotel accommodations for the four night

trip cost \$1,400 per room and includes breakfast each day. Farm Bureau members are responsible for booking their airfare.

For more information about the Congressional Action Tour, please contact

Emmy Karns at (405) 530-2681 or at emily.karns@okfb.org. A final itinerary will be sent to attendees prior to the trip.

Monday, April 1

- Fly in to Washington, D.C.
- 4 p.m. - Check-in at hotel
- 7 p.m. - Oklahoma Farm Bureau briefings
- Dinner on your own

Tuesday, April 2

- 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. - AFBF breakfast briefing
- 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Inhofe & Lankford briefing
- 5:30 - 7 p.m. - Legislative Reception
- Dinner on your own

Wednesday, April 3

- 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. - EPA briefing
- 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Briefings from Congressmen
- Dinner on your own

Thursday, April 4

- 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Free time
- 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - USDA briefing
- Group dinner

Friday, April 5

- 12 p.m. - Check-out of hotel
- Fly back to Oklahoma

Alfalfa County member discusses USMCA on Yahoo! Finance

American farmers and ranchers – still dealing with retaliatory trade tariffs – need strong trade agreements like the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, Alfalfa County Farm Bureau member Hope Pjesky said recently in an interview with Yahoo Finance.

The Oklahoma family farmer last week joined Adam Shapiro and Julie Hyman on Yahoo! Finance's On the Move segment to discuss the impact of trade disputes on U.S. agriculture.

“It’s very important for those tariffs on steel and aluminum to go away because the retaliatory tariffs on us are still on there.”

– Hope Pjesky

“It’s very, very important now that we have successfully negotiated the USMCA – of course, we don’t have it ratified by Congress yet – but now that it’s negotiated, the three countries have agreed to it, it’s

very important for those tariffs on steel and aluminum to go away because the retaliatory tariffs on us are still on there,” Pjesky said in the interview.

Though the USMCA has been signed by the U.S., Mexico and Canada, the agreement is awaiting ratification by Congress. American Farm Bureau has

urged Congress to ratify the agreement as quickly as possible to relieve farmers and ranchers from retaliatory tariffs.

Watch the interview online at okfb.news/2S0Vt4p.



OKFB proud to sponsor OSU wheat pasture field day

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is proud to be a sponsor of the 30th annual field day at Marshall Wheat Pasture Research Unit to be held March 8, 2019.

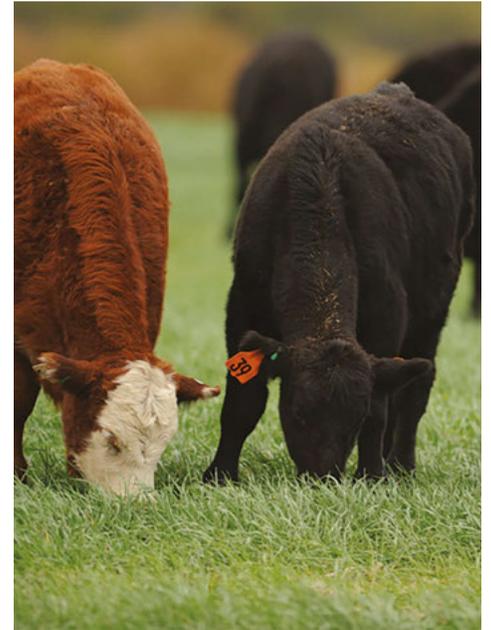
This opportunity gives producers from across the state the chance to further their knowledge regarding wheat pasture stocker enterprises. A variety of afternoon breakout sessions will be offered to participants led by industry professionals.

“Oklahoma is well known for wheat and cattle production,” said Paul Beck, associate professor, animal and food sciences. “The 30 years of research at the OSU Marshall Wheat Pasture Research Unit has provided most of what we know about the best

practices for dual-purpose wheat production. This field day will provide overviews about what we have learned in the past and glimpses of exciting current research.”

Registration for the event will begin at 9 a.m. at the Marshall Wheat Pasture Research Unit located 1.2 miles west of the intersection of Highways 51 and 74. For those interested in participating in the field day, please register no later than March 1. Lunch is provided.

For more information, please contact Amy Lavicky at (405) 744-6060 or at amy.lavicky@okstate.edu.



Calendar

YF&R Legislative Day

Feb. 18 • Oklahoma City

Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

OKFB Leadership Conference

Feb. 18-19 • Oklahoma City

Contact: Emmy Karns 405-523-2681

State WLC Committee Meeting

Feb. 26 • Oklahoma City

Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

WLC Farm City Festival

Feb. 27 • Oklahoma City

Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

Oklahoma Youth Expo

March 13-22 • Oklahoma City

Congressional Action Tour

April 1-5 • Washington, D.C.

Contact: Emmy Karns 405-530-2681

Ag Day at the Capitol

April 2 • Oklahoma City

Oklahoma State FFA Convention

April 30-May 1 • Oklahoma City

Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

OKFB Commodity Tour

May 8-10 • Clinton, Woodward area

Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-530-2405

2019 OKFB legislative preview from the conclusion of the first week of session

As lawmakers convened at the state Capitol last week for the start of the 2019 Oklahoma legislative session, Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel previewed the priorities of Farm Bureau members in a video posted to OKFB's Facebook and YouTube pages.

Educating new legislators about agriculture and rural issues will be a chief task for the organization as the legislative session begins, as more than 30 percent of the legislature is made up of new lawmakers.

"There are lots of new faces to learn more about and to start teaching them about Oklahoma agriculture and rural Oklahoma," Moesel said.

Taxes

Protecting the state sales tax exemption on agricultural production inputs – a law obtained after a 30-year fight by OKFB and other agricultural organizations – again will be a priority for Farm Bureau at the state Capitol.

"It's very important that our producers, who are competing with producers in all other states, have that same (sales tax) exemption on their inputs so that they aren't paying sales tax on their fertilizer, their animal feed and their other inputs that go into producing their crop," Moesel said.

OKFB also will fight against legislation allowing municipal government or other entities to levy *ad valorem* taxes.

"*Ad valorem* has a disproportionate impact on agricultural producers, so we'll be working hard to try to limit and stop those expansions of *ad valorem* tax," Moesel said.

Farm Bureau also will be monitoring any legislation that removes the state's current capital gains tax exemption, Moesel said.

Rural Healthcare

OKFB again this year will work to expand the ability of nurse practitioners to practice in rural Oklahoma to help retain access to healthcare in rural areas. In past years, the legislation had been blocked by a senator who also worked as a physician.

"We obviously would much prefer to have doctors in every small town in Oklahoma, but there simply are not doctors going to every little town in Oklahoma," Moesel said. "The choice between having a nurse practitioner and not having anything is an easy choice for our members."

Rural Education

With education playing a leading role in the last few legislative sessions, Moesel reiterated the organization's support for maintaining high-quality public education in rural areas.

"With technology that's available now, there's no excuse for not being able to deliver those advanced subjects," he said.

OKFB members also are very supportive of protecting local school districts, which often are the center of rural communities.

Get Involved

Moesel encouraged Farm Bureau members to study the issues and take the time to share their opinions on important agriculture and rural issues facing the state.

"We're very excited about the great public policy team that we've got, and they can do good work, but nothing works as good as members talking to legislators," he said. "It really makes a difference when they know that real people, real farmers, real ranchers are contacting them. There's nothing like hearing from a local farmer or rancher."

For a more in-depth look at Farm Bureau's priorities in the 2019 legislative session, watch the legislative preview video at www.okfb.news/okfblegpreview19.

State leaders scheduled for OKFB Leadership Conference

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members will hear remarks from Gov. Kevin Stitt during the organization's 2019 leadership conference to be held Feb. 18-19 in Oklahoma City.

Stitt is scheduled to speak on Monday, Feb. 18 at 1:45 p.m. He will be joined at the conference by Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell, Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur and state legislative leaders.

The annual conference provides OKFB leaders an opportunity to discuss important agriculture and rural policy issues, meet with state leaders, and develop leadership skills within the organization.

A conference agenda may be found on the OKFB website. For information about attending the conference, please contact OKFB Public Policy Coordinator Emmy Karns at (405) 530-2681.



Winter 2019 issue of Oklahoma Country available

The most recent issue of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's *Oklahoma Country* magazine is hitting mailboxes and is now available to read online on the publications page at okfarmbureau.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Oklahoma Farm Bureau
commodity tour
in the hub of
Western Oklahoma
Clinton/Weatherford 2019

May 8-10 2019

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County board training opportunity set for each district

Oklahoma Farm Bureau field services will hold ten training and educational sessions across the state for county Farm Bureau board members to learn and grow as leaders in their local communities.

Each training will focus on the duties and responsibilities of county Farm Bureau board members and help answer questions about being a Farm Bureau leader using American Farm Bureau's FB University training materials. Members are encouraged to bring ideas to share to help their fellow leaders grow and develop programs in their home counties.

One session will be held in each Farm Bureau district, and two sessions will be held in district one. The sessions will be held from February through April, and county Farm Bureau board members are welcome to attend the session most convenient for them.

For more information, please contact your district field representative.

District 1

Tuesday, March 26, 6 p.m.
High Plains Vo-Tech
3921 34th St.
Woodward, OK 73801

Tuesday, April 2, 6 p.m.
Texas County Farm Bureau Office
121 NW 9th St.
Guymon, OK 73942

District 2

Friday, March 1, 10 a.m.
Kiowa County Farm Bureau
801 S. Broadway
Hobart, OK 73651

District 3

Tuesday, March 12, 6 p.m.
Oklahoma Farm Bureau Home Office
2501 N. Stiles Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

District 4

Monday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.
Southern Tech, Conference Room B
2610 Sam Noble Parkway
Ardmore, OK 73401

District 5

Thursday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.
Kiamichi Technology Center
1301 W. Liberty Rd.
Atoka, OK 74525

District 6

Monday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.
Muskogee, OK

District 7

Tuesday, February 26, 6 p.m.
Autry Technology Center
1201 W. Willow Rd.
Enid, OK 73703

District 8

Monday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.
Pontotoc Technology Center, Room 411
601 W. 33rd St.
Ada, OK 74820

District 9

Tuesday, March 5, 6:30 p.m.
Central Technology Center,
3 CT Circle
Drumright, OK 74030