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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

April 26, 2019

Legislative Update: Legislative session coming to an end

In 2019, a historically large crop of freshman legislators and several new statewide elected officials were ushered into the Oklahoma state Capitol. This has also been a year of change for the Public Policy Division, as we welcomed new staff and built a larger and more diverse legislative team in order to better represent Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

Before the state legislature moves into the fourth and final month of this session, we would like to highlight a few bills that have recently completed their journey through the process and arrived on the Governor's desk. April was a critical month as the i's were dotted and t's crossed for these proposals.

SB 294 by Sen. J.J. Dossett and Rep. Jim Grego prevents state agencies from requiring farm use vehicles to have U.S. Department of Transportation identification

numbers in certain instances. The vehicles must be registered with a farm tag, used to transport agricultural products, machinery, supplies or livestock and not be transporting hazardous materials.

SB 868 by Sen. Lonnie Paxton and Rep. Jon Echols converts the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry hemp regulations from a pilot program to permanent status and realigns certain elements of state law to match federal guidelines established in the 2018 Farm Bill. We are working with ODAFF in preparation for the soon-expected new hemp rules from the U. S. Department of Agriculture as part of the Farm Bill implementation process.

HB 2301 by Rep. Trey Caldwell and Sen. Casey Murdock clarifies the State Veterinarian's authority to issue stop movement orders for all livestock in the

state in order to determine the precise location of a foreign animal disease. It also requires any person who provides training on emergency management of livestock or other animals to be approved by the State Veterinarian. This requirement is in response to out-of-state animal activist organizations offering free training to Oklahoma law enforcement agencies.

As the legislative calendar flips over to May, much focus will center on the appropriations process. State budget shortfalls in recent years have led to increased stress and pressure on a number of important services, especially in regards to cooperative extension. Farm Bureau members have made it a priority issue to maintain funding for county extension and keep legislative appropriations for extension and research from being diverted to other purposes.

Nine OK high school seniors receive YF&R scholarship

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers committee has awarded nine high school seniors each with a \$1,000 college scholarship.

The scholarship recipients are Darci Peach, Dewey Co., Dist. 1; Dixie Boyce-Smith, Roger Mills Co., Dist. 2; Peyton Burns, Kingfisher Co., Dist. 3; Rio Bonham, Johnston Co., Dist. 4; Anna Bolen, McCurtain Co., Dist. 5; Tee Jay Trotter, Sequoyah Co., Dist. 6; Bree Kising, Garfield Co., Dist. 7; Angelica Ann Beck, Hughes Co., Dist. 8; and Ashton Cartmell, Payne Co., Dist. 9

All nine recipients will be attending either Oklahoma State University or Eastern Oklahoma State University with a wide array of majors including

animal science, pre-vet, agricultural communications, agricultural business, agricultural engineering, horticulture, agricultural education, and meat science and food safety.

Each year, the OKFB YF&R committee awards nine \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a degree in agriculture at an accredited institution of higher learning. This scholarship opportunity is available to members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

For more information on the YF&R scholarship or to learn how to apply next year, contact Zac Swartz at 405-523-2406 or zac.swartz@okfb.org.

Farm groups ask president, Congress for disaster relief

A group of 135 farm organizations and banks that supply seasonal loans to farms and ranches called on the president and Congress to put aside political differences and supply urgently needed relief in the wake of weather-related disasters that occurred in 2018 and 2019.

In a letter, the organizations, including Oklahoma Farm Bureau, highlighted the year's unprecedented destruction. These historic natural disasters left many farmers facing near or complete losses.

Canadian embassy officials visit OKFB office to tout the importance of trade

Representatives from the Canadian Embassy traveled to Oklahoma to discuss potential trade opportunities between Canada and Oklahoma April 12 at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau home office.

Acting Consul General of Canada Douglas George shared his optimism for a positive relationship between Canada and Oklahoma, citing specific to benefits for farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses across the state.

With Oklahoma farmers and ranchers producing more agricultural products than can be consumed within the United States, international trade is critical.

The newly written United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will be voted on in Washington, D.C., where OKFB has strongly urged Oklahoma's Congressional delegation to vote yes.



OKFB President Rodd Moesel (left addresses attendees of a meeting with Canadian Embassy staff at the OKFB home office April 12.



Brent Kislning, executive director for the Department of Commerce (right), speaks with the Canadians about his optimism for trade between Canada and Oklahoma.



In addition to OKFB, all Oklahoma Congressional offices, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry were represented.

District 7 meets with legislators during Capitol visit

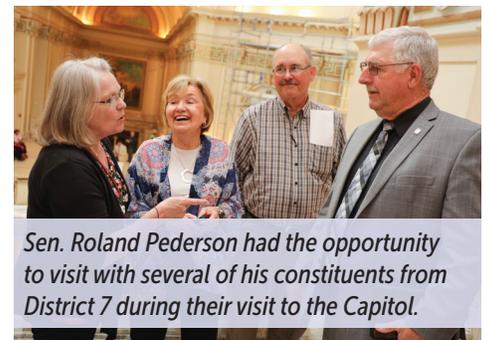
Oklahoma Farm Bureau District 7 members came to speak with their legislators during a Capitol visit held April 9 in Oklahoma City.

OKFB members, including several FFA members from area chapters, had the opportunity to build on the established relationships with their legislators and to promote OKFB policy.

To schedule a Capitol visit, please contact Emmy Karns at 405-530-2681.



Members of OKFB's District 7 traveled to Oklahoma City to speak with legislators during their Capitol visit held April 9.



Sen. Roland Pederson had the opportunity to visit with several of his constituents from District 7 during their visit to the Capitol.

Calendar

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 405-523-2405

On the Road with Ag in the Classroom

June 4-6 • State of Oklahoma
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

National Ag in the Classroom Conference

June 18-21 • Little Rock, Arkansas
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

Nurse's Scholarship Application Deadline

July 1
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

OKFB YF&R State Summer Conference

July 12-14 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

All women encouraged to take AFBF's Women in Ag survey

The American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Program has launched a Women in Ag online survey that aims to gauge the goals, aspirations, achievements and needs of women who hold various roles in the American agriculture industry.

All women who are farmers, ranchers, farm/ranch employees, employed in agricultural businesses, pursuing

ag-related higher education or supportive of agriculture in other ways are invited to participate in the survey at fb.org/women.

Data collected from respondents will be used to gauge trends related to the achievements of women in agriculture, including leadership positions, business successes and election to public office.

Grady County hosts annual legislative dinner

Grady County Farm Bureau members gathered for their annual legislative dinner April 18 in Amber. In attendance were Sen. Lonnie Paxton, Rep. Brad Boles and Rep. David Perryman who discussed the current environment at the Capitol with

their constituents as the legislative session is coming to an end.

Key topics from the evening included concerns for the future of rural healthcare, funding for rural fire departments and police stations, and ad valorem taxes.



Applications for WLC Nurse's Scholarship due July 1

To assist Farm Bureau members with the costs associated with nurse's training, three \$500 scholarships are being offered to qualifying students.

The members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee understand the expense that goes into pursuing a career in the nursing field. With the cost of a quality education increasing every year, OKFB WLC members want to be there to help financially.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a Farm Bureau member or a member of a Farm Bureau family
 - Be enrolled half-time or more at an accredited college, university, vo-tech or trade school. Please attach proof on enrollment to the application
 - Applicants must furnish a copy of high school or college transcript
- Applications are located on the OKFB website in the application center and must be submitted by July 1.

For more information, please contact Marcia Irvin at 405-523-2405 or by email at marcia.irvin@okfb.org.

Spring 2019 issue of Oklahoma Country available now

The spring issue of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's quarterly publication, *Oklahoma Country*, will be reaching mailboxes soon and is available now to read online on the publications page at okfarmbureau.org. Inside, learn about two Oklahomans making a name for themselves in the agricultural industry within the state and on a national level, an Enid pair bridging the gap between the producer and consumer with their new brewery and an exciting new member benefit available towards the purchase of select new and leased Ford and Lincoln vehicles.



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SAVE THE DATE

YF&R

Summer Conference

Discover northeast Oklahoma

July 12-14

- Friday, July 12** Friday night cookout
- Saturday, July 13** Farm and industry tours
throughout the day followed
by dinner & entertainment
- Sunday, July 14** Morning service and speakers

Room rates are \$89 + tax.

Conference ends at noon on Sunday, July 14.

Childcare will be provided Saturday and Sunday.



OKLAHOMA YOUTH LEADING AGRICULTURE

JUNE 25-28, 2019 || OKLAHOMA CITY