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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

May 27, 2016

OKFB Breaks Ground on 75th Anniversary Commemorative Courtyard

Oklahoma Farm Bureau broke ground to mark the beginning of the construction of the OKFB 75th Anniversary Commemorative Courtyard May 11.

The courtyard, which will be installed at the OKFB home office in Oklahoma City, will commemorate 75 years of Oklahoma Farm Bureau while highlighting the county Farm Bureaus. The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is offering personalized brick pavers to individuals and businesses for a \$100 donation. The pavers will provide the foundation for the courtyard. The outdoor space will also include a pillar that will contain soil from each of the 77 Oklahoma counties. The theme for the courtyard is "Bringing generations together

by honoring the past and paving the way for the future."

Ceremony attendees included President Tom Buchanan, Executive Director Monica Wilke, General Manager Gary Buckner, and the nine members of the state board of directors.

For more information about ordering brick pavers, visit www.okfarm-ingandranchingfoundation.org or contact Amanda Rosholt at 405-202-1463.



Legislative wrap-up: Two words: budget and adjournment

By LeeAnna McNally • OKFB Director of National Affairs

As we close out the 55th session of the Oklahoma Legislature, two words come to mind: budget and adjournment.

Last week, the Oklahoma House of Representatives failed to pass a cigarette tax after leaving the vote open for an abnormal amount of time while negotiations ensued. The proposal would have raised the cigarette tax by \$1.50 per pack and generated \$182 million in additional revenue. Other proponents of the proposal indicate it would have driven down cigarette consumption by about 10 percent.

Tax credits across the board also are being carefully examined by both the House and the Senate. Late last week, the Oklahoma House voted to suspend the rules in order to conduct business after midnight. Just after midnight, the chamber narrowly passed an adjustment to the earned income tax credit expected to provide an additional \$29 million in tax revenues for the year 2017. The proposal already had cleared the

Senate earlier in the week. The Senate also voted last week to cut the railroad rehabilitation tax credit in half, generating further revenue to fund the budget shortfall.

Make no mistake, these votes are difficult for members, especially for those who are facing reelection campaigns. These decisions will need to be explained on the doorsteps of their constituents – constituents who are not interested in their taxes being raised or their tax credits being adjusted.

As Oklahoma's voice for agriculture, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are engaged in meeting the individuals running for office in their respective districts. This process of sending individuals who know and understand rural Oklahoma to the state Capitol is vital. If you, as a Farm Bureau member, have questions about contacting individuals running for office in your district, please don't hesitate to contact the Public Policy team. Thank you to everyone who is active in the process!

OKFB members visit northwest Oklahoma during 2016 Commodity Tour

O KFB members explored Oklahoma's "Red Carpet Country" around Woodward May 4-6 to learn more about the area's diverse agricultural industry and history during the 2016 OKFB Commodity Tour.

The first stop on the tour was Plymouth Valley Cellars in Fairview, Okla. Dennis and Elaine Flaming, 2006 OKFB Farm Family of the Year, spoke to OKFB members about the winery's production practices, water usage and pesticide application.

During lunch at the Sale Barn Café in Woodward, Duane Mote spoke to members about Superior Livestock Auction. OKFB members then toured the Woodward Sale Barn. Owner Jerry Nine spoke with members about the unique

(Continued on page two)

Walton joins OKFB communications

Oklahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies is pleased to welcome Clarissa Walton to the Strategic Corporate Communications department.

Walton, a native of Amber, OK, graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree in animal science and a master's degree in agricultural communications. After writing her thesis on the organization's Oklahoma Country magazine, Walton knew the Oklahoma Farm Bureau was a perfect fit.

"I am excited to serve farmers and ranchers every day through Oklahoma Farm Bureau," Walton said. "I feel very privileged to be working with such a wonderful group of people who are passionate about Oklahoma agriculture."

Walton grew up on an Angus cattle farm in Chickasha, Okla. As the daughter of

an OKFB county board member, Walton learned the importance of the organization's mission to serve Oklahoma farmers and ranchers at an early age.

"The communication gap between farmers and consumers continues to be a major issue," Walton said. "I plan to use my skills and talents to help bridge that gap and advocate on the behalf of farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma."

Walton will oversee the production of Oklahoma Country magazine and the organization's Perspective newsletter along with assisting the communications department with various tasks.

"Clarissa is a third generation Oklahoma Farm Bureau member, and I know her passion and dedication to our organization will shine through her work," said Becky Samples, OKFB vice president of strategic



communications. "She embodies the values OKFB represents and I am excited to have her on our team as we continue to serve our membership and spread awareness and education about the role farming and ranching plays in the lives of all Oklahomans and beyond."

Commodity Tour *(Continued from page one)*

history of the sale barn and his streamlined livestock auction process.

The next stop on the tour was Cudd Quarter Horses in Woodward. Renee Cudd, owner, explained the history of the ranch and her marketing techniques.

Next, members had the opportunity to learn more about the history of Wes Sander's longhorn steers. As part of the Chain Ranch, the longhorn steers attend several parades across the U.S.

The day ended with a tour of a farm owned by Mervin Compton, Woodward County Farm Bureau president. Woodward County Farm Bureau sponsored a shrimp boil for members at Compton's farm.

Day two kicked off at CF Industries' Woodward Complex learning about the production of anhydrous ammonia, urea



ammonium nitrate solutions, urea liquor and diesel exhaust fluid.

After lunch, a tour of the Cargill Salt Plant in Fairview, Oklahoma, offered a look into the production of salt. Members were guided through the solar evaporation process, which allows salt water captured in shallow ponds and naturally evaporated.

Members toured the history of farm

machinery presented in 1/16-scale replicas collected by Elmer Maddux. Members looked at more than 2,500 pieces that represented 100 years of history.

The final day began with a tour of the Southern Plains Research Station located on the southwest edge of Woodward. Members learned about the quality of experimental and available forages.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



See more event photos on flickr

See more photos from our time in northwest Oklahoma during the 2016 Commodity Tour and at the 2016 YF&R Golf Classic on our flickr account. Find the albums at flickr.com/okfarmbureau.



Students get dizzying lesson about drunken driving dangers

Walters High School students participated in the OKFB Safety Services Division's DUI prevention program May 10 at the Cotton County Fairgrounds. Find the link to the story on our Facebook page.



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www.okfarmbureau.org

Canton joins OKFB communications

Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies is pleased to welcome Jeffrey Canton. Jeff has joined the Strategic Corporate Communications Department as the brand specialist.

Canton, a native of Washington D.C., graduated from the Art Institute of Washington with a bachelor's degree in graphic design. Canton brings a wealth of experience in design and branding having worked with several companies such as: Food Marketing Institute, The Arlington Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, the Bridge to Freedom Foundation, and most recently Petra Industries.

"We are excited to harness Jeff's graphic design expertise as we continue to develop new marketing strategies for our insur-

ance products as well as our various other member benefits," said OKFB Vice President of Strategic Communications, Becky Samples. "He brings a fresh perspective in which I am confident will drive our brand to the next level."

Canton will be responsible for layout and design of the company's marketing materials, external communication design, advertising design, and other various OKFB collateral.

"I believe that developing a brand is vital for a company's success and I'm excited to be a part of the Farm Bureau's next chapter," Canton said. "I love ideas; building them, cultivating them, and watching them come to fruition. I plan to use my skills to make creative and innova-

tive designs that will help OKFB."

Canton now lives in Oklahoma City with his loving wife Ann and two beautiful daughters Juliana and Adalynn.



OFBMIC agency managers fight childhood hunger with Backpack Program donations

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is proud to recognize the agency managers of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company for their contributions to the Pork for Packs and Beef for Backpacks programs.

"Our agency managers live and work in the communities they serve. Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company is committed to supporting our fellow Oklahomans and participating in the backpack programs is a great way for us to give back," said Greg Golden, vice president of agency.

The Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs provide nutritious, high-protein beef and pork sticks to be distributed through the Food for Kids

programs operated by the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. Through both food banks, the programs serve over 29,000 hungry students in all 77 counties.

"One in four Oklahoma children struggles with hunger on a regular basis," said Jeremy Rich, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation president. "These are the kids we are serving through the backpack programs. We are so thankful for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company's generous gift and the impact it will have on the lives of these students."

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company is the leading Oklahoma-based insurance company and has been providing insurance services to Oklaho-

mans for more than 60 years. It is the only insurance company with offices in all 77 counties, providing a full range of insurance products and financial services.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is committed to enhancing awareness and understanding of agriculture's importance to the state. Through educational and social programs for citizens of all ages, the Foundation aims to help Oklahomans recognize the positive impact agriculture has on the state and the importance of protecting it for future generations.

For more information on the backpack programs, please visit <http://okfarmingandranchingfoundation.org/beef-for-backpacks/>.

Member Benefits

Orlando Vacations and Silver Dollar City

Looking for a fun vacation? Consider the OKFB member benefits for Orlando, Fla., or Silver Dollar City, Mo. OKFB members can save up to 35% on a vacation at Orlando using exclusive discounts for all major theme park tickets, vacation homes, hotels and resorts. Silver Dollar City offers a 20% discount on tickets to Silver Dollar City, White Water Park and the Showboat Branson Belle.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

Women's Leadership Committee Youth Safety Day Camp

June 3 • OKFB Home Office, Oklahoma City

Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture Conference

June 15-17 • Oklahoma City

Contact: Holly Carroll (405) 523-2307

OKFB YF&R State Leadership Conference

July 8-9 • Oklahoma State Capitol, Oklahoma City

Contact: Tasha Duncan (405) 530-2681

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2016 YF&R Golf Classic



The OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers hosted its annual Golf Classic at Roman Nose Golf Course in Watonga, Okla., raising \$7,777 for State Question 777.



Congratulations to the BancFirst team, the winners of the 2016 YF&R Golf Classic!

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.

Let them eat cake

In the late 18th century, France experienced a great famine and many of its citizens suffered from hunger due to a lack of bread.

When told about the hardships of the poor, Queen Marie Antoinette is rumored to have replied, "Let them eat cake."

As revealed in her response, the queen understood little about the plight of the poor and cared even less.

In similar fashion, radical environmental and animal rights organizations across the country are forcing an agenda only they can possibly afford.

With little understanding of economics or animal husbandry, these groups are pushing for legislation that ultimately limits the ability of farmers to produce food.

For example, California voters approved Proposition 2 in 2008 that prohibited any

confinement of farm animals that does not allow them to turn around freely, lie down, stand up, and fully extend their limbs.

After it took effect in January 2015, the price of eggs in California skyrocketed. The increase in egg prices was 35 times higher than the overall inflation rate, according to a study by Cornell University.

Ballot initiatives like Proposition 2 are being passed across the country. And what happens as a result? The price of food soars. When the price of food increases, who suffers? Certainly not Wayne Pacelle or any of the folks at HSUS. Low-income Americans suffer. When we tie the hands of farmers and ranchers, we limit the production of food and prices increase.

Here's the bottom line: Oklahoma is one of the top five hungriest states in the United States. More than 650,000 Oklahomans lack

reliable access to a nutritious food supply. One out of every four Oklahoma children struggles with hunger.

Sixty-seven percent of Oklahoma public school students receive free or reduced-price lunch. One in six senior citizens struggle with hunger; 19 percent of those hungry seniors are responsible for grandchildren.

Low-income families already spend 28 percent of their income on food compared to average American's 10 percent, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Why should we take any more food off the table?

Vote YES on State Question 777 so hungry Oklahoma families never have to hear "Let them eat cage-free eggs."

from OKAgPolicy.org