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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

Oct. 12, 2018

OKFB sponsors ag youth at Tulsa State Fair junior livestock auction



Oklahoma Farm Bureau proudly supported the state's ag youth during the Tulsa State Fair junior livestock auction on Oct. 4. Top Left: OKFB purchased and partnered with the agriculture community on animals, including the Grand Champion Steer shown by Baylor Bonham of Newcastle FFA. Top Right: OKFB District Six Director James Fuser (center) poses for a photo with the Reserve Champion Shropshire Market Lamb shown by Shaylie Fletcher of Walters. Bottom Right: James Fuser (left), Creek County Farm Bureau member Phyllis Holcomb (center) and OKFB field representative Gage Milliman review the sale order before bidding on animals.

AFBF: Encourage lawmakers to pass farm bill during extended recess

Though House and Senate farm bill negotiators say they are close to a compromise on a final bill, they didn't seal the deal before the current legislation expired on Sept. 30 and the House recessed for an extended break in the run-up to the midterm elections in November.

In a recent column, American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall explained that without a farm bill in place, farmers, already struggling with a sagging farm economy and uncertain trade situation, will soon face a new set of problems that comes with not knowing if the risk management

programs they need to qualify for operating loans will be there.

"The sky won't fall right away," Duvall wrote. "The residual effects of programs that have been in place until now will keep working for a little while. But time will run out. And the longer it takes to get the new farm bill passed, the greater the harm to confidence in our farm economy. The proverbial runway is short – weeks at best."

Over the past year, farmers and ranchers have delivered a strong message to Congress about the need for a farm bill – delivered on-time – that provides the

programs and resources that agriculture relies so heavily on.

Though the House's several-weeks-long recess means lawmakers won't be in D.C. for voting, it is an opportunity for farmers and ranchers to hold their members' feet to the fire on the farm bill.

"We encourage you to call your district offices, or better yet, seek out your members in person, at campaign events and other activities, and ask them what they're personally doing to get the farm bill over the finish line," said AFBF managing director of advocacy and political affairs Cody Lyon.

Mielke named vice president of communications and public relations

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has chosen Dustin Mielke to serve as vice president of communications and public relations for the organization.

In the position, Mielke will guide the communications efforts of Oklahoma's largest general farm organization in an effort to promote agriculture and OKFB's member-focused grassroots advocacy.

"For more than a decade, Dustin has faithfully served our members by communicating the incredible work of the Oklahoma agriculture community," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "I'm excited to see Dustin's continued leadership in our communications department as they work diligently to strengthen Farm Bureau's voice for farmers and ranchers."

Mielke has worked in the OKFB communications department for 12 years,

most recently serving as senior director of communications. In his time with the organization, Mielke has worked on a wide array of projects and efforts, including publications, photography, design, media relations and digital communications.

"Agriculture is the industry I've wanted to work in since I was a child, and it's a privilege to get to tell the stories of Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers," Mielke said. "With consumers taking an active interest in their food, this is a great time to connect our Farm Bureau members with the people who benefit daily from agriculture."

A native of Conrad, Montana, Mielke earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural communications with a minor in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University. Mielke and his wife, Li, live in Edmond.



Dustin Mielke

Kay County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee educates consumers during local Our Food Link event



The Kay County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee worked to educate consumers about Oklahoma agriculture during an Oct. 6 event at a grocery store in Newkirk. Partnering with the Kay County Healthy Living Program and the Made in Oklahoma Coalition, the women hosted taste testings and provided information about healthy living during a big in-store sale. Top Left: Kay County WLC Chair Darlene Engelking (left) poses with store manager Mark Pritchard during the event. Top Right: A customer signs up to win a \$50 gift card from the MIO Coalition. Bottom Right: Store manager Mark Pritchard helps Carrie Winslett (center) and Jenny Creech (right) with the Kay County Healthy Living Program provide customers with information about healthy living.



Farm bill expiration adds to farmers' uncertainty, Kinder tells KGOU

After House and Senate farm bill negotiators failed to reach a compromise on the bill by the Sept. 30 deadline, Oklahoma Farm Bureau District Four Director Jimmy Kinder shared how Oklahoma farmers and ranchers will be affected by the current bill's expiration with KGOU Radio.

A wheat and cattle farmer near Walters, Oklahoma, Kinder explained that he and other farmers and ranchers in the state are facing uncertainty due to trade tariffs, low commodity prices and poor harvest yields.

"This layers on top of the tariffs that are going on with a lot of the ag commodities, so it just adds to all the uncertainty that we have out here on the farm," Kinder said in an interview with KGOU.

The Cotton County farmer said that though the federal crop insurance program is not affected by the current farm bill's expiration, funding for programs like research will extend only through the end of the year.

"Some of these other smaller programs are vitally important to farmers," Kinder

said. "You need to have a healthy research pipeline to make sure that you stay current."

A farm bill conference committee was created by lawmakers to negotiate the differences in House and Senate versions of the bill. Failing to reach a compromise before the House's recess, the committee now has until mid-December to either pass a new farm bill or extend the current one.

Find a link to the full story by KGOU on the OKFB website at okfarmbureau.org or on the OKFB Facebook page at facebook.com/okfarmbureau.



Fall 2018 Oklahoma Country in mailboxes soon

Make sure to keep an eye out for the latest edition of Oklahoma Country, OKFB's membership magazine, which should arrive in mailboxes in the coming weeks. The fall 2018 issue includes a profile of OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Chair Kitty Beavers and her eight years as the leader of the state committee, along with a story about McCurtain County Farm Bureau member Brent Bolen and his work to produce poultry ethically and efficiently. You'll also read about OKFB Insurance's work to care for one of its own, learn about the newly renamed Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, discover OKFB policy on upcoming state questions and more.

Member Benefits

MyHealthPass

MyHealthPass' telehealth service puts access to thousands of doctors at OKFB members' fingertips through telephone or video. MyHealthpass is an innovative method of delivering healthcare, including specialist care, to patients in rural areas and for those individuals who may not be getting the quality healthcare they need due to costly insurance deductibles or co-payment rates. To learn more about MyHealthPass, visit <http://getmyhealthpass.com/okfb>.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

State Resolutions Meeting

October 17-18

Contact: Emmy Karns 405-530-2681

OKFB Annual Meeting

November 16-19

Contact: Melisa Neal 405-523-2475

AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show

January 11-16

Contact: Melisa Neal 405-523-2475

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Register for YF&R discussion meet by Nov. 9

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers will host its annual discussion meet at the organization's annual convention Nov. 16-18, 2018 in Norman, Oklahoma.

The discussion meet is designed to replicate a committee meeting in which all participants are expected to discuss and actively contribute. Participants are evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a predetermined topic in

three rounds of debate-style discussion.

The overall winner will receive a prize package including a trip to compete in the national discussion meet at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in January.

To compete, participants must return the registration form, found at okfarmbureau.org/applications, to OKFB by Nov. 9. For more information, contact OKFB YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at 405-523-2406.

OKFB sponsors OSU's Celebrate Ag Day



OKFB District Seven Director Keith Kising represented the organization as it was honored on the field at the Oklahoma State University versus Iowa State University football game as a sponsor of Celebrate Agriculture Day on Oct. 6.