

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

Sept. 13, 2019

Farm Bureau members kick off policy development season

Throughout the last few weeks, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gathered within their districts for the organization's annual August Area Meetings across the state.

Signifying the beginning of the OKFB grassroots policy development process, members were able to share issues they are facing within their local communities and ask questions about OKFB policy on a variety of topics. Members also learned more about upcoming organizational activities.

Within OKFB's nine districts, 11 meetings were held. Below is a list of the top six most common issues Farm Bureau members discussed at the meetings as they prepare to develop the organization's policy for the next year.

Property taxes

Following the state Legislature's 2019 proposal that would allow municipalities to create "Public Safety Protection Districts" funded by ad valorem taxes, Farm Bureau members expressed concern about a potential expansion of property taxes. Money generated through the ad valorem tax could be used in several ways such as purchasing and maintaining public safety vehicles and equipment; fire, police and jail operations; and salaries and benefits of the law enforcement or fire protection employees. OKFB members discussed ways to support public safety while balancing the impact of ad valorem tax increases.

Rural health care

As hospitals and medical facilities across rural Oklahoma continue to struggle, Farm Bureau members voiced frustrations regarding access to proper medical care without having to drive to Oklahoma City or Tulsa. Since 2010, 99 rural hospitals across the state have closed due to a combination of lack of proper funding and lack of



essential care providers. Currently, 58% of Oklahomans are living in a primary care shortage area.

Mandatory animal identification

In April 2019, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced plans to require beef cattle and bison 18 months and over to have an electronic radio frequency identification, or RFID, ear tag to be transported across state lines. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry is currently exploring mandatory identification of cattle sold in state. Farm Bureau members discussed how the change could potentially impact their operations.

Feral hogs

Found in nearly every county within the state, feral hogs are a continual threat to many farmers and ranchers. With an ability to destroy crops and serving as a potential risk for livestock health, feral hogs continually cause significant damage to the farms and ranches of Farm Bureau members across the state.

Black vultures

Cattle producers from eastern and central parts of the state, shared their continual struggle to combat an increasing population of black vultures. The birds often prey on, and kill, newborn calves. Unfortunately for producers, black vultures are protected in the Migratory Bird Treaty even though their numbers are not declining.

Plant-based protein

With the growing amount of plant-based protein options available to consumers, OKFB members voiced concerns about the impact of these alternatives on the beef industry. Many members called for the plant-derived protein products to be accurately labeled.

OKFB members will meet within their counties over the next several weeks to develop policy resolutions on a variety of issues including those listed above. The resolutions will be considered by a committee of members from across the state before being voted on during the OKFB annual meeting November 8-10.

YF&R award applications due Oct. 1 to OKFB home office

Each year, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers recognize members ages 18-35 for their achievements through several awards presented at the OKFB Annual Meeting to be held Nov. 8-10, 2019 in downtown Oklahoma City. OKFB YF&R members are encouraged to apply, due to the home office by Oct. 1.

YF&R Achievement Award

The YF&R Achievement Award is presented to OKFB's top young farmer and rancher, and is based on his or her efforts in production agriculture and leadership achievement.

Applicants must be Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 who are actively engaged in production agriculture and receive a majority of his or her income from production agriculture.

The winner will be announced at the

OKFB Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 9 in Oklahoma City. The Achievement Award winner also will win a trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, in January to compete on the national level.

YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award

The Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes YF&R members who are actively engaged in agriculture, but have not received a majority of their income from production agriculture in the past three years. Applicants are evaluated on their knowledge of agricultural issues, leadership experiences and achievements, and ability to communicate their agriculture story.

Applicants must be Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 who have not derived a majority of his or her income from production agriculture in the past three years.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award also will be presented at the OKFB Annual Meeting in November. The winner will receive a prize package and a trip to Austin, Texas, to compete at the AFBF Annual Meeting in January.

Charles L. Roff Award

Highlighting Oklahoma's top county YF&R program, the Charles L. Roff award encourages counties to improve their local committees and activity participation while strengthening the Farm Bureau organization.

The winner will be recognized at the OKFB Annual Meeting in November and will receive a traveling plaque.

For more information about the awards, please contact OKFB YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at the home office by calling 405-523-2406.

78th annual OKFB Annual Meeting scheduled for Nov. 8-10 in OKC



Members from Oklahoma's largest general farm organization will convene in Oklahoma City Nov. 8-10 at the Cox Convention Center for the 78th annual Oklahoma Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

As the organization's largest annual gathering, members will once again gather to set policy for the upcoming year, elect OKFB leaders, celebrate the accomplishments of individuals and county Farm Bureaus alike and engage with others from around the state.

A tentative agenda will be made available in the coming weeks on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau website. For more information on how you can attend the 78th annual OKFB Annual Meeting, contact your county Farm Bureau office.

Calendar

OKFB YF&R Shotgun Shoot

Sept. 21 • McLoud
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

OKFB WLC Fall Conference

Sept. 27-28 • Edmond
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

YF&R Achievement Award application due

Oct. 1 • OKFB Home Office
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

YF&R Excellence in Agriculture application due

Oct. 1 • OKFB Home Office
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

State Resolutions Due to Home Office

Oct. 7 • OKFB Home Office
Contact: Emmy Karns 405-530-2681

Other Awards Due to Home Office

Oct. 15 • OKFB Home Office
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

OKFB to hold state resolutions meeting Oct. 16-17 in Edmond

County Farm Bureau members have begun meeting to discuss resolutions that will be brought before the state resolutions committee Oct. 16 - 17 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Edmond.

Counties participating in the state resolutions meeting include Beaver, Woodward, Roger Mills, Harmon, Kiowa, Oklahoma, Grady, Stephens, Love, Johnston, McCurtain, Atoka, Haskell, Adair, Muskogee, Rogers, Craig, Garfield, Grant, Seminole, McClain, Payne, Washington and Creek. In addition, six women from the Women's Leadership Committee and six members of Young Farmers and Ranchers will participate.

All county level resolutions are due to public policy by Wednesday, October 9.

For questions regarding the state resolutions meeting, contact Emmy Karns at 405-530-2681 or Emily.Karns@okfb.org.

Wednesday, October 16

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|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Registration |
| 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Lunch |
| 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Break out into subcommittee rooms for consideration of resolutions |
| 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. | Dinner (on your own) |
| 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. | Full committee to work on revised resolutions |

Thursday, October 17

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|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Full committee continues to work on resolutions |

2019 member update available for county annual meetings



NEO A&M Collegiate Farm Bureau elects officers for 2019-2020 year

More than 55 students turned out for the NEO A&M Collegiate Farm Bureau kickoff meeting held Aug. 29.

The group elected its officers for the year which include Shelby Hubbard, freshman representative – Miami, Oklahoma; Roy

Stovall, vice president – Wyandotte, Oklahoma; Katie Krehbiel, sophomore representative – Inman, Kansas; Derek Strawn, treasurer – Columbia, Missouri; Mattie Haynes, president – Jay, Oklahoma; and Owen Coon, secretary – Wingate,

Indiana. We're excited to welcome these outstanding students to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau family!

For more information on Collegiate Farm Bureau, contact Zac Swartz at Zac.Swartz@okfb.org or 405-523-2406.



Above: More than 55 students attended the first NEO A&M Collegiate Farm Bureau meeting of the school year held Aug. 29 in Miami.



Above: New officers were elected by their fellow Collegiate Farm Bureau members for the 2019-2020 school

Member Benefits

MyHealthPass

MyHealthPass' telehealth service puts accesses to thousands of doctors at Oklahoma Farm Bureau 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 that may not be getting the quality healthcare they need due to costly insurance deductibles or co-payment rates.

To learn more about MyHealthPass, visit getmyhealthpass.com/okfb.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

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Register for YF&R Discussion Meet by Nov. 1 to OKFB home office

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers will host its annual discussion meet at the organization's annual convention Nov. 8, 2019 in downtown Oklahoma City.

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 pre-determined topic in

three rounds of debate-style discussion. Participants are judged on their ability to offer constructive criticism, cooperation and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions.

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 Austin, Texas, in January.

Contestants may find a list of potential

topics by going to okfb.news/2kejeGq.

To be eligible to compete, participants must be an Oklahoma Farm Bureau member between the ages of 18 and 35. Participants must complete and return the registration form to the OKFB home office by Nov. 1. For more information, contact OKFB YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at 405-523-2406 or by email at Zac.Swartz@okfb.org.

WLC participates in 'Read an accurate ag book' day held Sept. 6



Above: OKFB WLC members (left to right) Mary Sloan, Dist. 6; Cindy Schoenecke, Dist. 9; and Mignon Bolay, WLC chair were among many OKFB members who participated in 'Read an accurate ag book' day at schools within their local communities on Sept. 6.