

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

Sept. 15, 2017

OKFB annual meeting details, tentative schedule released

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from across the state will meet at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Norman Nov. 10-12 for OKFB's 76th annual meeting.

The OKFB awards program will take place on Friday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. The featured entertainment is scheduled for Nov. 11 following the annual OKFB banquet at 7 p.m.

This year's theme is "75 Years Strong" in celebration of the accomplishments and success of the organization's past 75 years protecting and unifying Oklahoma farmers and ranchers.

This year's break-out sessions will feature important agricultural topics including rural education, rural health, and oil and gas.

The tentative convention schedule will be posted on the OKFB website and information will be updated as changes are released. Additional details will also be announced soon. The final schedule will be distributed at convention.

2017 OKFB ANNUAL CONVENTION JOIN US IN NORMAN

NOVEMBER 10-12 • EMBASSY SUITES



75 YEARS STRONG

2017 OKFB annual meeting schedule

Schedule is current as of press time. Updated schedules will be posted online at okfarmbureau.org as they become available. The final schedule will be distributed at convention.

Friday, November 10

8 a.m.	Credentials Committee Breakfast
9 a.m.	Registration Opens
9:30 a.m.	YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Judging
10 a.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Round 1
10 a.m.	Trade Show Opens
10:45 a.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Round 2
11:15 a.m.	State Board Meeting and Luncheon
11:30 a.m.	Women's Leadership Committee Luncheon
11:30 a.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Finals and Luncheon
1:30 p.m.	Opening Session
3:15 p.m.	First Break-out Session
4:30 p.m.	Second Break-out Session
5:30 p.m.	OKAgFund Meeting
5:30 p.m.	YF&R Dinner and Caucus
7 p.m.	Awards Program
8:15 p.m.	Cupcake/Cookie Social – Meet the Candidate

Saturday, November 11

7:30 a.m.	Flapjack Fundraiser
7:30 a.m.	Credentials Committee Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Financial Review Committee Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Resolutions Committee Breakfast
8 a.m.	Registration Opens
8 a.m.	Trade Show Opens
8:45 a.m.	OFBMIC Policyholders Meeting
9:30 a.m.	General Session
12 p.m.	Credentials Committee Meeting
12:30 p.m.	Women's Leadership Committee Gavel Club Luncheon
1:30 p.m.	District Caucuses (Districts 1, 4 and 7)
2:15 p.m.	General Session
5:30 p.m.	OKAgFund Reception
7 p.m.	Dinner and Entertainment

Sunday, November 12

7:30 a.m.	County Presidents Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Women's Leadership Committee Chairman's Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast of Champions
9:15 a.m.	Memorial and Worship Service

More than 450 OKFB members ask EPA to ditch WOTUS rule

More than 450 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members recently urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to repeal the 2015 Waters of the U.S. rule.

County Farm Bureaus collected more than 300 signatures over a two-week period, while other members submitted written comments at the organization's annual August Area Meetings.

Finalized in June 2015, the WOTUS rule has been despised by farmers, ranchers and landowners across the country. The rule vastly expanded the definition of "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act, granting the EPA and the Corps regulatory authority over virtually all waters

including any place rainwater collects such as farm ponds, ditches and puddles.

"Waters of the U.S. has been a blatant power grab by the federal government that flies in the face of personal property rights," said Marc Harder, a landowner and Canadian County Farm Bureau member.

Under direction of a presidential executive order, the EPA and the Corps now are conducting a two-step rulemaking process to repeal and revise the rule.

Many Oklahoma Farm Bureau members expressed their opposition to the rule because of its potential to inhibit the production of safe and affordable food.

"The only way agriculture can stay in existence and feed our country is for

each producer to have the right to control their ground and ag practices," said Kathy Boyd, a farmer and Texas County Farm Bureau member.

Farm Bureau members also believe farmers and ranchers are the greatest stewards of the environment and should be trusted by the government.

"The environment is no more valuable to anyone than to agriculturalists," said Alfalfa County Farm Bureau member Terry Pederson, a farmer and rancher. "It is the basis of the progress, profitability and self-sufficiency of production agriculture."

Comments on the WOTUS repeal may be submitted through Sept. 27 on the American Farm Bureau Federation website.

OKFB hosts tailgate at OSU football opener



Oklahoma Farm Bureau hosts a tailgate and cookout at the Oklahoma State versus Tulsa football game in Stillwater Aug. 31. Both members and fans stopped by to enjoy great food and fellowship before heading to the football game.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



How is OKFB's grassroots policy created?

Ever wonder how OKFB's grassroots policy is created? Check out the video posted on OKFB's Twitter account! You'll see how members in all 77 Oklahoma counties write, edit and approve the policy we advocate for at the state Capitol and in Washington, D.C.



Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College joins the OKFB family

Last week, OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers kicked off the very first meeting of a new Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami. A packed room of 50 students were welcomed by OKFB leaders. Visit the OKFB YF&R's Facebook page at [facebook.com/OklahomaYFR](https://www.facebook.com/OklahomaYFR) to view photos.



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www.okfarmbureau.org

Comanche County YF&R hosts annual contest



The Comanche County Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee hosts its annual farmhand olympics Sept. 5 in Lawton. More than 100 area students participated in the competition, which included wheel barrel races, changing a tractor tire, goat herding and more.

OKFB YF&R competitive entries due Oct. 13

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers program is looking for bright young Farm Bureau agriculturalists ages 18-35 to compete in a variety of programs for recognition for their contributions to agriculture and OKFB.

Applications for the YF&R competitive events, which include the Achievement Award, the Excellence in Agriculture Award, the Discussion Meet and the Charles Roff Award are due Friday, Oct. 13, 2017. The competitive events are open to OKFB members ages 18-35.

Winners will be recognized and awarded prizes at the 76th-annual OKFB convention awards program held on Friday, Nov. 10.

Applications can be found at the applications center page on OKFB's website. For questions or more information, contact Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2406.

The Achievement Award recognizes OKFB's top young farm and ranch family or

individual actively engaged in production agriculture.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes YF&R members who do not earn the majority of their income from their own farm or ranch, but still actively contribute to agriculture and grow through involvement in Farm Bureau.

The Discussion Meet is a panel-type forum that provides contestants an opportunity to hone their ability to discuss top agriculture issues in a meeting-style format. The discussion meet takes place at OKFB's annual meeting in Oklahoma City on Friday, Nov. 10.

The Charles Roff award recognizes Oklahoma's top county YF&R committee. Applications are judged on the county's activities for the year and must be accompanied by no more than three pages (front and back) of photos and clippings for verification.

Oklahoma ag groups partner to promote relief for hurricane victims

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is partnering with Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Beef Council, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Pork Council, American Farmers & Ranchers, Oklahoma Wheat Commission and Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association to help fund relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. These agricultural advocacy groups are also collecting donations from the public that will directly benefit southeast Texas agricultural communities and local farming and ranching organizations.

"Oklahoma's agricultural community always comes together during times of disaster," said Jeremy Rich, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation president. "Just as the Texas agricultural community supported us during the historic wildfires northwest Oklahomans experienced earlier this year, we hope to help our neighbors on their long road to recovery."

Members of the public are encouraged to mail donations in the form of checks made payable to the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation to 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK, 73105, with "Hurricane Harvey Relief" written in the memo line. Gifts of any size are tax deductible as charitable donations to a 501(c)(3) corporation, pursuant to IRS guidelines.

Member Benefits

M. Rhodes Company

Need new siding for your house? Check out M. Rhodes Company! As a Farm Bureau member, you can receive a 33 percent discount from nationally published prices on an applied basis on ALCOA steel or vinyl siding. For more information, call the M. Rhodes Company at (405) 721-2807. You can also see their ad in every issue of OKFB's *Oklahoma Country* magazine.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Fall Conference

September 15-16 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

Resolutions Due

October 6 • OKFB Home Office
Contact: Tasha Duncan (405) 530-2681

YF&R award applications due

October 13 • OKFB Home Office
Contact: Zac Swartz (405) 523-2406

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CELEBRATING OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU'S 75 YEARS



Take a trip back in Oklahoma Farm Bureau's history to some of the key moments of the formation of state's largest agricultural organization.

Why do county Farm Bureaus hold annual meetings?

From the very beginning of Oklahoma Farm Bureau in 1942, leaders and members adopted the belief that the organization's policies must be developed from the grassroots up. It was through this belief county Farm Bureaus were formed to provide a way for local farmers to have a voice in the development of OKFB's policy. This was accomplished through annual county meetings.

Each year since the formation of the organization, county Farm Bureaus host an annual meeting to provide the opportunity for local farmers to gather together and discuss policies and farm challenges.

But these meetings were not all work. Known as a family organization from the beginning, OKFB hosted county meetings that served as a social gathering where local members became friends.



*Left: Comanche County Farm Bureau members discuss price supports during their annual meeting.
Right: Osage County Farm Bureau members visit with neighbors and friends at their annual meeting.*



In the past, county Farm Bureau members have attended picnics, contests, songfests, square dances, fireworks, nail driving contests, sack races, ball games, skits, rural youth contests, and always food and refreshments.

As we near the time for this year's county

Farm Bureau annual meetings, remember the importance of your participation in the organization's grassroots policy development process.

Want to find out where and when your local county's meeting will be? Visit the OKFB website for a complete list.