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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

Aug. 4, 2017

Oklahoma Farm Bureau names Doye interim executive director



Thad Doye

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau has named life-long farmer and rancher Thad Doye interim executive director.

A veteran of Farm Bureau, Doye has been associated in some aspect of the company most of his life. His involvement began when he served as Comanche County Young Farmers and Ranchers chairman. He later became vice president of the state YF&R Committee. He received the State YF&R Outstanding Young Farm Family Award in 1995.

The Lawton native's career with Oklahoma Farm Bureau began as a field service representative in June 1998. He completed a fellowship with the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program, then became vice president of field services.

Doye will continue to serve as the crop insurance specialist for Oklahoma Farm

Bureau. He also works with the Oklahoma Food Bank and Farming & Ranching Foundation through the Pork for Packs and Beef for Backpacks Program. He holds a degree in agriculture business from Cameron University.

"Being chosen for this position is a great honor," Doye said. "I'm looking forward to working closely with the many people in the Oklahoma Farm Bureau family."

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan noted Doye's experience with Farm Bureau.

"Thad has served our organization well through various positions," Buchanan said. "Through his many years of service, he has an intimate understanding of our 75-year-old organization. He is well suited to meet our mission of improving the lives of rural Oklahomans."

OKFB YF&R names high school discussion meet winner

Emile Mittelstaed of Amber-Pocasset was named the winner of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers high school discussion meet held Tuesday, July 18, in Stillwater.

Held in conjunction with Oklahoma State University's Big Three Field Days, the event attracted 15 competitors from across the state. The high school discussion meet allows high school students to participate in an event that promotes basic discussion skills, develops an understanding of agricultural issues and explores how groups can pool knowledge to solve problems.

Tess Haddock of Glenco and Emily Kennedy of Edmond received second and third place, respectively. Elizabeth Schneider of Seiling was the fourth finalist.

"Our Young Farmers and Ranchers committee was extremely impressed by the quality of these high school students and their thoughtful discussion," said Travis Schnaithman, OKFB YF&R chairman.



Left: Emile Mittelstaed (speaking) discusses food labeling and consumer confidence with the other three qualifying contestants in the final round of the OKFB YF&R High School Discussion Meet. Right: OKFB YF&R Chairman Travis Schnaithman (right) presents Emile Mittelstaed with a \$1,500 scholarship for placing first at the OKFB YF&R High School Discussion Meet.

"We are proud to host this contest, which promotes real-world skills that these students can take home and use in their daily lives and well into their future."

Mittelstaed received a \$1,500 college scholarship as the winner of the discussion meet. Haddock and Kennedy also received college scholarships in the amount of

\$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

"I learned that other people have really valuable experiences than can have an impact," Mittelstaed said. "With young people working together with an organization like Farm Bureau, a lot can be accomplished."

EPA Administrator Pruitt attends town hall in Oklahoma Panhandle

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt met with more than 90 local area farmers from Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas on July 27 in Guymon to discuss the repeal and clarification of the 2015 Waters of the United States rule.

With the February Executive Order to revise or rescind the 2015 WOTUS rule, newly appointed EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is taking strides to clarify this rule by sitting down with agriculturalists across the country to hear their concerns. Pruitt's goal is for the replacement definition to be finalized by the end of the first quarter in 2018.

"As we do rule making, as an agency, it's our job to hear from you," Pruitt said. "The last time this rule [2015 WOTUS rule] was adopted, this didn't happen. This dialogue is very important to us."



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt discusses the repeal and clarification of the WOTUS rule with more than 90 local area farmers from Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas during a town hall meeting in Guymon.

OKLAHOMA FARMING AND RANCHING FOUNDATION & OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU LEGAL FOUNDATION'S



PLEASE CONTACT LEEANNA AT
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Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

 Order your OKFB 75th-anniversary history book before August 15

Don't forget to order your copy of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 75th-anniversary history book! This hardcover volume spans 140 pages and includes more than 170 photos. To reserve your copy of the book, contact your main county Farm Bureau office by August 15. Learn more about the book and view a few pages on the OKFB website.

 Video of OKFB YF&R High School Discussion Meet final round available online

Want to watch the final round of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers High School Discussion Meet? Visit the OKFB YF&R Facebook page for a video of the final four contestants discussing food labeling and consumer confidence.



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August Area Meeting Tentative Schedule:

District 1

August 21 at 6 p.m.

Guymon
Hunny's Barbecue
103 N. Main St.

August 22 at noon

Woodward
Big Dan's
3113 Williams Ave.

District 2

August 24 at noon

Blair
Backdoor Steakhouse
400 US-283

District 3

August 15 at noon

Okarche
Eischen's
109 2nd St.

District 4

August 24 at 6 p.m.

Duncan
Duncan Golf Club
1800 Country Club Rd.

District 5

August 14 at noon

Krebs
Pete's Place
120 S. West 8th St.

District 6

August 17 at noon

Pryor
Moore Farms
Event Barn
9353 W. 500 Rd.

District 7

August 15 at 6 p.m.

Enid
Central National
Bank Center
302 S. Grand Ave.

District 8

August 14 at 6 p.m.

Purcell
McClain County
Ag Services
1721 Hardcastle Blvd.

District 9

August 17 at 6 p.m.

Tulsa
Michael V's
8222 E. 103rd St.

Buchanan leads roundtable discussion with EPA Administrator Pruitt

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan led a roundtable discussion as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt addressed comments and questions from a wide array of Oklahoma agriculture interests on July 28 in Oklahoma City.

The event, held at the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, allowed members and staff from agricultural and commodity organizations a chance to voice their opinions on the proposed rollback of the 2015 Waters of the United States rule and give input about water policies that would provide a platform for agriculture to grow into the future.

"Our goal, and our objective, and our responsibility is to make sure that as we develop a new definition of what a water of the United States is, that it provides objective criteria that farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma know where federal jurisdiction begins and ends," Pruitt said.

Pruitt held similar discussion in other

locations including Utah, Minnesota and Guymon, Oklahoma.

OKFB Vice President Jimmy Wayne Kinder offered comments on how the WOTUS rules impeded his ability to properly install on-farm fuel storage due to uncertainty and ambiguity.

Other comments from the group focused on the work that Oklahoma agriculture is already doing to improve water quality, including nutrient management and rural

water development.

"We're going to respect private property rights," Pruitt said. "We know that farmers and ranchers are the first environmentalists, and they care about their land and they're going to be partners in the process, not adversaries."

Read more about the effort to repeal the 2015 WOTUS rule and take action at the American Farm Bureau Federation's website at fb.org.



Left: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses comments and questions on the proposed rollback of the 2015 WOTUS rule. Right: OKFB President Tom Buchanan speaks about Oklahoma agriculture's interests during a roundtable discussion.

Member Benefits

Cimarron Trailers

Did you know OKFB members can receive up to a \$400 discount for Cimarron Trailers? With highly customizable and high-quality trailers, Cimarron Trailers offers several different models, such as livestock, cargo, horse, low-profile stock and club-calf. Find your next trailer at CimarronTrailers.com!

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

State Farm & Ranch Family Recognition Award Due

August 15 • OKFB Home Office
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

Shotgun Shoot

August 25 • McLoud, Oklahoma
Contact: LeeAnna McNally (405) 530-2681

YF&R State Fair Livestock Judging Contest

September 14 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Zac Swartz (405) 523-2406

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Comments wanted: Help EPA ditch the Waters of the U.S. rule

Applauded by farmers and ranchers, the Environmental Protection Agency announced in late June its decision to rescind the Waters of the United States rule. The agency also said it will look carefully at the definition of waters of the United States and propose a new rule.

Farmers and ranchers support clean water and work hard to protect natural resources. But the WOTUS rule had more to do with land than water. It was a land grab, pure and simple, that:

- Created a huge regulatory burden for farmers, ranchers and others who depend on their ability to work the land;
- Increased costs for farmers, ranchers and others; and
- Produced confusion and uncertainty.

The rule has never been implemented because it was halted

by both a federal district court and a federal court of appeals; but those court orders are only temporary.

EPA's current proposal would eliminate the 2015 WOTUS rule permanently while the agency goes back to the drawing board to develop a WOTUS definition that protects water quality without asserting federal regulatory power over puddles in farm fields.

But environmental activist groups desperately want to preserve the 2015 land grab. The groups will try to stop EPA from ditching the rule, claiming its withdrawal will harm water quality.

The voice of the opposition cannot drown out the voice of reason. OKFB members need to send comments to the EPA to support the repeal of the illegal 2015 WOTUS rule.

Take action now by visiting this link: bit.ly/2u1SZ4Q.

OKFB YF&R supports ag youth at OSU's Big Three Field Days



Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers served as a title sponsor for Oklahoma State University's Big Three Field Days July 18-20, where more than 1,500 youth from several states participated in the event.