



## Farm Bureau Women rally in OKC

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Committee held their annual winter rally in downtown Oklahoma City, Dec. 2-3. See page 3 for more pictures and a review of the conference.

From left – Helen Keller, Muriel Hayes and Missy Fuller of the Tulsa County Farm Bureau Women's Committee.



## OFB discusses agricultural topics on OETA show

OETA's weekly show, Oklahoma Forum, hosted State Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese, Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Mike Spradling and Major County FB member Scott Neufeld at a taping, Dec. 1. OETA personality and host Dick Pryor led the discussion on several ag topics including weather, the writing of the 2012 farm bill and the status of Oklahoma's agricultural economy. The show aired Dec. 4.



OKLAHOMA FORUM – OETA host Dick Pryor (left) leads a discussion on Oklahoma agriculture at a recent Oklahoma Forum taping. Also pictured left to right are Jim Reese, Scott Neufeld and Mike Spradling.



## Clarification on SPCC deadline extension

There have been some questions about the compliance extension deadline for farms and ranches to have a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) for aboveground fuel and oil storage tanks, as required by the EPA. The compliance extension applies to only those facilities in operation after Aug. 16, 2002. If a facility requires a SPCC plan and it has been in operation prior to Aug. 16, 2002, it should already have a plan. If a facility becomes operational after May 10, 2013, a plan must be prepared and implemented prior to beginning operations.

Whether a SPCC plan is required is usually the most difficult question to answer, as there is no one size fits all. Information regarding whether farmers and ranchers need to obtain a SPCC plan and other related information can be found on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/index.htm>.

## Legislation allows for horse processing

In a state where horses outnumber people in many rural areas, farmers and ranchers are celebrating the passage of federal legislation that allows for the funding of horse processing facilities.

"This eliminates a major hurdle for the resumption of domestic horse processing," said Mike Spradling, president of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

The legislation, H.R. 2112, is contained in the fiscal year 2012 agriculture appropriation bill. It does not include any language  
**(See HORSES, page 2)**

## MEMBER BENEFITS

• **Lenscrafters** – Offers members a 15 percent discount at all Oklahoma locations on frames and lens, contact lens and eye exams. Call 800-522-LENS.

• **Quasight** – Offers members 40 to 50 percent off the national retail price for LASIK eye surgery. Call 877-507-4448 for a local provider.

OFB highlights a few benefits in each issue of *Perspective* as a reminder of the savings available to OFB members. Find a complete list of savings online at [okfarmbureau.org](http://okfarmbureau.org).

## OFB sponsors Bedlam series, hosts membership drive



**BEDLAM** – Oklahoma Farm Bureau's top-producing insurance agents during OFB's fall auto/membership campaign were recognized during halftime of Bedlam football on Dec. 3. Back row from left: agent Scott Abbott, OFB District 3 Director Rodd Moesel, District 7 Director Roland Pederson and OFB VP of Public Affairs John Wiscaver. Front row from left: OFB President Mike Spradling, OFB Executive Director Monica Wilke and OFB agent Mark Wolf.

## OFB CALENDAR

### AFBF Annual Meeting

January 8-11, 2012 • Honolulu, Hawaii  
Contact: Melisa Neal, (405) 523-2475

### Oklahoma Legislature Convenes

February 6, 2012 • OKC  
Contact: Tyler Norvell, (405) 523-2402

### National YF&R Leadership Conference

February 17-20, 2012 • Grand Rapids, MI  
Contact: Chris Kidd, (580) 228-4001

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

Monitor the latest Farm Bureau and agricultural news and information online at [okfarmbureau.org](http://okfarmbureau.org).

Currently online:

• **AFBF Annual Meeting** – The American Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting is less than a month away! See OFB's homepage for more information on the 2012 AFBF convention in Hawaii.

• **OFB 2012 Calendar** – Oklahoma Farm Bureau's staff is gearing up for a busy schedule in 2012. From the upcoming legislative session to summer conferences, see our lineup of events!

[www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org)



### (HORSES, from page 1)

prohibiting funding for the inspection of horses at processing plants.

"There never was a federal law banning processing," Spradling said. "The government just prohibited funding USDA inspection."

During the two-year funding void, there was little or no option for horse owners. The economic downturn resulted in many horses being abandoned or left with owners who could no longer afford to properly care for them.

"Our farmers and ranchers compassionately care for their horses," Spradling said. "Well cared for horses need proper nutrition as well as regular veterinary, dental and farrier services. Without any domestic horse processing facilities, many horses needlessly suffered," Spradling said.

Spradling recently sent a letter to the White House, expressing Farm Bureau's appreciation to the President for signing the legislation. See future issues of *Perspective* for horse processing updates.

## FBW Winter Conference (from page 1)

Hosted by Oklahoma City's historic Skirvin Hotel, the FBW winter rally featured crafts, informative sessions and a silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction totaled more than \$1,280 and were designated toward the FBW's Ag in the Classroom video project.

Featured sessions on Friday included information on grieving from Major County Farm Bureau member Nicole Martens, tips on telling your agriculture story from OFB staff member Holly Carroll and details on new Ag in the Classroom projects from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry's Dana Bessinger.

Saturdays mini sessions covered the topics of wills and trusts from Duncan attorney Toby Baldwin, wildlife animal control from the United States Department of Agriculture's Reggie Creekmore and an update on water rights and the statewide water plan from OFB Legal Foundation Director Marla Peek.

**Pictures clockwise** – Elfrieda Wagoner of Noble Co. FB places a bid on a silent auction item, Dana Bessinger with the State Dep. of Agriculture explains a new Ag in the Classroom project to the FB women and Clem Braden (left) and Hannah Braden (right) provide musical entertainment for the evening dinner.



## 2012 OFB Campaign School



LEFT – Cody Lyon, Director of Grassroots/Political Advocacy for the American Farm Bureau Federation speaks to Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Campaign School participants, Nov. 28-29. The training for potential political candidates is hosted every two years by OFB's public policy division. Lyon covered important topics for running a campaign including campaign funding, conducting media interviews and volunteer recruitment. A total of 15 possible candidates, spouses of candidates and campaign managers attended the training.

RIGHT – Oklahoma Farm Bureau Vice President of Communications Sam Knipp conducts a mock media interview with campaign school participant Michael Shaw. Training attendees later had the opportunity to hear critiques on their practice interviews.

Published by Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
Postmaster: Send address corrections to:  
Perspective, P.O. B. 53332, OKC, OK 73152-3332

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**Gail Banzet**, 523-2346

Perspective/Online News Editor

**Monica Wilke**, 523-2303

Executive Director

**Sam Knipp**, 523-2347

Vice President of Communications/PR

**Tyler Norvell**, 523-2402

Vice President of Public Policy

**Marla Peek**, 523-2437

Director of Regulatory Affairs

**Kinsey Money**, 523-2539

Director of Research & Policy Development

Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
2501 N. Stiles  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3126

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 131  
Okla. City, OK.

## GoBob Pipe and Steel offers new membership service

GoBob Pipe and Steel is Oklahoma Farm Bureau's newest partner to offer OFB members a discount on products. The Mounds, Okla.-based company deals in fencing and corral material, hay and feed equipment and other agricultural structures.

To qualify for GoBob discounts, OFB members must fill out a simple Cattlemen Scholarship Program Form. As a result, one percent of all GoBob sales made to OFB members for the year will be returned to

Farm Bureau for scholarships. Also, OFB will receive an \$850 hay feeder to auction off for scholarship funds. For more information about GoBob's new member service, visit [gobobpipe.com](http://gobobpipe.com) or call OFB's Thad Doye at (405) 523-2307.



## Spradling participates in OKC forum

Roundtable Discussion – Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Mike Spradling was a member of Gov. Mary Fallin's Economic Roundtable Discussion during the State Chamber 2011 Public Affairs Forum, Dec. 7. The event was hosted by the State Chamber of Oklahoma, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Chamber Foundation and American Free Enterprise in Oklahoma City. Fallin's economic roundtable featured some of Oklahoma's top business leaders as they discussed the state's economy, job creation and economic development.



**RIGHT – OFB President Mike Spradling discusses jobs in agriculture during the economic roundtable event.**

## FSA offering electronic news service

Francie Tolle, executive director for Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA), announced recently that farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma now have a more efficient, timely option for receiving important FSA program eligibility requirements, deadlines and related information.

"FSA is now offering free online communications through our GovDelivery electronic news service," Tolle said. "News will now be sent via email right to your home or farm office or to your Smartphone – allowing you to receive immediate notification of farm program news that is pertinent to your agricultural operation."

Through FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service, producers can establish subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program information by topic, by state and/or by county. Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest.

"GovDelivery will enable FSA to keep producers better informed and allow us to conserve resources and reduce taxpayer expenses associated with the preparation, printing and distribution of hardcopy newsletters," Tolle said.

To begin using GovDelivery, subscribe online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or contact your local office.