

OKFB YF&R members visit Enid during annual conference

More than 50 young agriculturalists gathered in Enid for the two-day Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers conference July 8-9.

The annual conference brought together young farmers, ranchers and agribusiness people ages 18-35 as attendees toured agricultural businesses, heard presentations from speakers and made connections with like-minded agriculturalists.

“Our YF&R members really enjoyed the opportunity to meet with friends and learn about agriculture in the Enid area,” said Josh Emerson, OKFB YF&R state chairman. “It’s always eye-opening to tour businesses and learn about new agriculture technologies and trends.”

The Friday tours included the ADM flour mill in Enid, Equity Marketing Alliance and Chisholm Trail Grain Terminal near Medford. YF&R members learned first-hand how the agricultural products they grow are handled, processed and marketed.

The group had supper at Simpson’s Old Time Museum in Enid, the home of Skeleton Creek Productions movie studio, where they viewed frontier artifacts and walked through movie sets the production company uses.

During Saturday morning’s session, YF&R members learned about a variety of opportunities to help them protect the future of agriculture and increase their efficiency on their farms and ranches.

OKFB field representative Brady Bond and YF&R committee member Travis Schnaithman helped guide members on advocating for SQ 777, the Right to Farm, in their local communities.

Speakers shared agricultural information

with YF&R members on a variety of topics, including Machinery Link’s sharing platform, the Vet Gun pneumatic fly treatment system and how the FDA’s veterinary feed directive will impact livestock care.

OKFB’s YF&R program is for young agriculturalists ages 18-35 who are involved in production agriculture or agribusinesses, and helps them connect with like-minded individuals as they shape the future of agriculture and Farm Bureau.



Top: OKFB YF&R members tour the under-construction Chisholm Trail Grain Terminal near Medford, Oklahoma, which will be a shuttle train loading facility. Above left: YF&R members enjoy the opportunity to try a hands-on demonstration of the Vet Gun, a pneumatic paintball-like system for administering fly treatment for livestock. Above right: Members tour Simpson’s Old Time Museum in Enid, home of Skeleton Creek Productions, which houses several movie sets among a myriad of Western artifacts.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau praises final passage of GMO labeling bill



The U.S. House gave final approval to S. 764 on July 14, which creates a national standard for disclosure of genetically modified food ingredients. Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan issued the following statement in response.

“For decades, genetically modified crops have helped farmers produce an abundance of high-quality and affordable food, while also decreasing agriculture’s impact on the environment. A consistent national labeling standard not only allows farmers to continue embracing GMO technology but also gives consumers access to information

about their food.

“Although Oklahoma Farm Bureau policy does not support a mandatory label, individual state labeling laws would only confuse consumers and increase food prices. This legislation, which prevents a patchwork of state-by-state labeling laws, benefits farmers, businesses, consumers and the overall American economy.

“We appreciate the support of Oklahoma Reps. Tom Cole, Frank Lucas, Markwayne Mullin and Steve Russell, as well as Sens. Jim Inhofe and James Lankford, and look forward to President Obama’s approval.”

OKFB August Area Meeting dates released

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has announced the tentative details for its annual August Area Meetings, which serve as the first step in the grassroots policy development process. The meetings allow Farm Bureau members from across the state to gather and discuss issues impacting agriculture and rural

Oklahoma. In addition, attendees will be briefed on OKFB’s legislative action, State Question 777 and upcoming issues. All OKFB members are encouraged to attend the August Area Meeting for their district. Please note the following information is tentative and will be updated as more details become available.

August Area Meeting Tentative Schedule

District 1

Aug. 25 • 6 p.m.
Big Dan’s, Woodward

District 4

Aug. 18 • 6 p.m.
Rod and Gun Club,
Marietta

District 7

Aug. 19 • 6 p.m.
Hoover Building,
Garfield County Fairgrounds

District 2

Aug. 18 • 12 p.m.
Hobart

District 5

Aug. 15 • 12 p.m.
Pete’s Place in Krebs

District 8

Aug. 15 • 6 p.m.
Ada Vo-Tech

District 3

Aug. 22 • 6 p.m.
TBA

District 6

Aug. 16 • 12 p.m.
J & L Bar-B-Q in Pryor

District 9

Aug. 16 • 6 p.m.
Creek County Fairgrounds

OKAgPolicy launches daily e-newsletter

Interested in the latest agricultural news and information? OKAgPolicy, Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s policy news service, has launched *OKAgPolicy Today*, a morning email containing the day’s top agriculture and policy news stories.

Delivered to inboxes each weekday morning, *OKAgPolicy Today* contains major headlines in agriculture and rural policy, energy, natural resources, trade, food and nutrition, and much more. Although the service is free-of-charge, some stories may require a subscription to read.

To sign up for the morning e-newsletter, visit okagpolicy.org/okagpolicy-today. For updated headlines throughout the day, follow @okagpolicy on Twitter and like OKAgPolicy on Facebook. Also, find previous e-newsletters on the OKAgPolicy site at okagpolicy.org.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



YF&R Leadership Conference Photos

Want to see more fun photos from the OKFB YF&R Leadership Conference? Find more pictures on the OKFB Flickr account at flickr.com/okfarmbureau.



Farm Family of the Year applications due Aug. 1

The application deadline is drawing near for OKFB WLC’s Farm Family of the Year award, which recognizes a top farm and ranch family in rural Oklahoma. Find more information about the application on our website at www.okfarmbureau.org.



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www.okfarmbureau.org

OKFB women make donation to OKC Ronald McDonald House for Our Food Link program

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee donated a basket of snacks and gift cards to the Ronald McDonald House in Oklahoma City on Wednesday, July 14, as part of the group's ongoing commitment to connecting consumers with farmers and ranchers through the Our Food Link program.

The gift basket included gift cards to local grocery stores along with a wide variety of snack foods for families as they travel between the house and area hospitals.

In addition to the state WLC donation, Oklahoma County Farm Bureau Women's Committee donated \$100 to the house, which was presented by Oklahoma County Farm Bureau Women's Chairman Sharlene Lambring, who also serves as the state WLC secretary representing OKFB district three.

"The Ronald McDonald House is one of the more important charities in Oklahoma City and the surrounding area because of the work they do to take care of parents while their children are receiving medical care," Lambring said. "We love this opportunity to make a donation to such a meaningful group and provide these families with a variety of food and snack options."

Susan Adams, president and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oklahoma City, said the donation helps the house provide families with accommodations without the need to ask for a nightly donation.

"It does make sure there are nutritious meals and snacks that they can take to the hospital with them so that they are defraying their non-medical out of pocket

costs," Adams said.

The OKFB WLC made a similar donation in March to the Tulsa Ronald McDonald House for families with children receiving medical care in the Tulsa area.

Farm Bureau women have been donating to the Ronald McDonald houses in Oklahoma City and Tulsa for years, helping provide the families of children needing medical attention with plentiful and nutritious food options during their stay at the houses.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities provide a "home away from home" for families with children receiving medical care at local hospitals, providing peace of mind as families navigate medical appointments, decisions and procedures.

Our Food Link is a year-round program that county and state Farm Bureaus across the nation use to reach consumers of all ages and backgrounds with information about today's agriculture.



The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee presents a gift basket of snacks and gift cards to the Oklahoma City Ronald McDonald House to provide food to families staying at the house while their children receive medical care. Left to Right: Marcia Irvin, OKFB WLC coordinator; Susan Adams, president and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oklahoma City; Sharlene Lambring, OKFB WLC secretary; and Casidy McMeans, Oklahoma City Ronald McDonald House manager.

Member Benefits

Big Iron Online Auctions

Need to sell some of your unused farm equipment? Big Iron Online Auctions provides you the support and online venue to efficiently turn your capital assets and real property into cash. As an Oklahoma Farm Bureau member, you can receive a 10 percent discount off Big Iron's standard selling service fees. Visit our member benefit page to learn more.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

District Farm Family Applications Due

August 1 • OKFB Home Office, Oklahoma City
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

State Farm Family Applications Due

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

Shotgun Shoot Fundraiser hosted by the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation and the OKFB Legal Foundation

August 27 • Quail Ridge, McLoud
Contact: Amanda Rosholt (405) 202-1463

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OKFB state commodity committee meets in Oklahoma City



The Oklahoma Farm Bureau state commodity committee meet on July 7 at the home office in Oklahoma City to hear from industry leaders and discuss commodity policy ideas. They also received an update on State Question 777, the Right to Farm initiative, from John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy. The work these grassroots leaders do helps shape the OKFB commodity policy and strengthens Farm Bureau's vision for the future.

State Question 777 corner

The latest news on Oklahoma's Right to Farm amendment, SQ 777, which will appear on the general election ballot on November 8, 2016.

Noble County Farm Bureau talks Right to Farm at Ice Cream Social



About 40 Noble County Farm Bureau members gathered at their meet-the-candidate ice cream social July 11 at the Noble County Fairgrounds. Oklahoma Farm Bureau Director of Field Operations Mark Yates (top right) spoke about the latest news on State Question 777 and common myths about the initiative. State Sen. A. J. Griffin (bottom middle) and State Reps. Dennis Casey (bottom right) and John Pfeiffer (bottom left) gave an update on current legislative issues as well as insight about the upcoming election. Bryson Panas, representing U.S. Sen. Inhofe, also spoke about legislation on Capitol Hill.

