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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

July 8, 2016

OKFB hosts "Get on Tap with 777"

Food, fun and camaraderie flowed in Bricktown as Oklahoma Farm Bureau hosted "Get on Tap with 777," an event that showed Oklahoma City residents the need for the Right to Farm in Oklahoma.

More than 100 guests attended the gathering at TapWerks Ale House Thursday, June 30, for food, drink and education about SQ 777. OKFB President Tom Buchanan, along with OKFB staff, visited with attendees and shared their personal stories

about Right to Farm's benefit to Oklahoma and why they are voting "yes."

Mark Yates, OKFB director of field operations, addressed the group, sharing the need for Right to Farm to protect our state's agriculture industry, along with rebuttals of some commonly-told myths surrounding SQ 777. With guests partaking of food and beverages, Yates made a strong case for the need for agriculture before the group of urban residents, stressing the importance of

protecting family farms.

Guests were invited to take their photo in a photo booth, and SQ 777 brochures, buttons and bumper stickers were available for participants to show their support for Right to Farm.

Plans for more open-forum events are in the works. Check OKFB's social media accounts for details on upcoming SQ 777 gatherings and events.



Top left: Attendees and OKFB President Tom Buchanan (right) take a picture in the photo booth with the #Yeson777 sign. Top right: Attendees were greeted by the SQ 777 truck at the entrance of the TapWerks Ale House. Right: Mark Yates addresses the group to dispel common myths about Right to Farm. Above: Brady Bond, OKFB northwest field representative (left), speaks to Mike Jackson, former Oklahoma state representative.

OKFB President Tom Buchanan praises Senate GMO labeling legislation

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan issued the following statement in support of U.S. Senate proposed legislation to create a uniform, national standard for GMO labeling.

“Genetically modified crops have allowed farmers to significantly increase the quality of food and fiber they produce, all while using less land and fewer pesticides. This benefit is directly passed onto consumers, who enjoy the safest and most affordable food supply to date.

“Across the country, individual states have passed mandatory GMO labeling laws, with Vermont being the first. The Senate’s proposed legislation will preempt all state GMO labeling laws, preventing a patchwork of state-by-state laws.

“Although the legislation makes GMO labeling mandatory, we believe a uniform, national standard is vital to avoid harming interstate commerce, confusing consumers and driving up food costs.

“We encourage Oklahoma Sens. Jim Inhofe and James Lankford to support this legislation, and look forward to its passage on the Senate floor.”



OKFB recognizes the corporate communications/public relations department

In the next few issues of this newsletter, Oklahoma Farm Bureau will highlight different departments with exceptional dedication to their daily responsibilities. In this issue, OKFB recognizes the outstanding staff in the corporate communications/public relations department. Many of these people work in several behind-the-scenes projects that are invaluable to our company.

You’ve probably seen most of the communications department staff at local and state events contributing their various skills to ensure effective communication for OKFB employees, staff and members. Their dedication to providing essential information to the public is an invaluable part of our company.

Did you participate in this year’s annual trip to Washington, D.C.? Then you probably noticed Dustin Mielke taking several pictures to share with the rest of the OKFB family. You might have also found his name beside several spectacular photos of Oklahoma agriculture. With his 10 years of experience at OKFB, Dustin is an integral part of the team and offers a variety of talents. Even though taking pictures is his passion, Dustin also contributes layout, writing and video skills. To see some of Dustin’s outstanding photos of this year’s wheat harvest, visit the OKFB Facebook page.

If you have followed the latest OKFB news, you’ve probably read about the newest members of the communication team: Clarissa Walton and Jeff Canton. Clarissa Walton began working as a communication specialist at the beginning of May. Her primary responsibilities include the production of the Oklahoma Country and the Perspective newsletter as

well as social media interaction and the FB Today daily email.


Jeff Canton joined the Strategic Corporate Communications Department as the brand specialist in May. Jeff is responsible for the layout and design of the company’s marketing materials, external communication design, advertising design, and other various projects. He uses his talent to produce graphics and images that speak to the public in an efficient and accurate manner. Most recently, Jeff has been working on the design of the OKFB 75th anniversary book that will be available to purchase at this year’s convention as well as the anniversary logo to be used on various memorabilia.

Becky Samples leads the team as the vice president of strategic corporate communications. With her exceptional communications and leadership skills, she oversees the team’s various projects and ensures the OKFB brand is represented well.

As part of their primary objective, these people work together as a team, striving to better serve OKFB members in rural and urban areas locating in the state of Oklahoma. This department is a key component of OKFB that contributes an exceptional amount of effort, dedication and passion.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

 Behind-the-scenes of Oklahoma Country
Want to see a behind-the-scenes shot for one of the feature stories in the next issue of Oklahoma Country? Check out our Instagram account at www.instagram.com/okfarmbureau.

 OKFB YF&R Leadership Conference
The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference is July 8-9. Be on the lookout for photos of the Chisolm Trail Terminal tour, dinner at Simpson’s Old Time Museum, Right to Farm speaker training, and more on our Facebook page.



www.okfarmbureau.org

OKFB WLC members attend NAITCO in Arizona

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee members attended the National Ag in the Classroom Conference called "Blooming in the Desert" June 20-24 in Litchfield Park, Arizona.

During the conference, WLC members and more than 400 educators from around the country learned how to use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, science, social studies and more. NAITCO, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute for Food & Agriculture and Arizona Foundation for Agricultural Literacy, held three days of workshops that showed kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers how to use agriculture to teach core subject areas.

In addition, conference participants went on traveling workshops of nearby farms and university research facilities to learn about the fruit, vegetable and nursery production, among other stops.

The conference also honored several national teacher winners and a national Ag Advocate winner for the innovative

ways they use agriculture to teach students about an important industry. The OKFB WLC sponsored conference registration for the 2016 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year Amber Bales.

NAITCO is a non-profit organization representing most of the state Agriculture in the Classroom programs around the

country. Its mission is to educate K-12 teachers and students about the importance of agriculture by providing them with materials, awards programs and a national conference that demonstrate how agriculture can be used to effectively teach core subject areas.



Top: OKFB WLC members prepare for their first traveling workshop. Above left: WLC members meet with the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year, Amber Bales (center), who teaches third-grade students at Morrison Elementary. Above right: WLC members Lena Henson (left), Marcia Irvin (center) and Paula Sawatzky make soil for their pumpkins during a session.

Member Benefits

Frontier City/Whitewater

Looking for a fun summer activity for your family? OKFB members get a special discount on one-day tickets for \$22.76 each at Frontier City and Whitewater Bay. Visit the special Frontier City/Whitewater website for OKFB members and use the username OKFBMEMBER and password FC2016 to experience special savings today.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

Nurse's Scholarship Application Deadline

July 15

Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

State Ag in the Classroom Conference

July 18 • Moore Norman Technology Center

Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

OSU Big Three Field Days

July 19-21 • Stillwater, OK

Contact: Holly Carroll (405) 523-2307

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STAFF DIRECTORY

- Executive Director
Monica Wilke 405-523-2303
- VP of Strategic Corporate Communications
Becky Samples 405-523-2528
- VP of Public Policy
John Collison 405-523-2539
- Director of Corporate Communications
Dustin Mielke 405-530-2640
- Director of Public Policy Communications
Hannah Nemecek 405-523-2346
- Communication Specialist
Clarissa Walton 405-523-2530
- Brand Specialist
Jeff Canton 405-523-2465

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

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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.

Oklahoma Agri-Women announce support for SQ 777

Oklahoma Agri-Women has officially announced support for State Question 777, Oklahoma's Right to Farm. The group made its announcement after gathering for an educational seminar presented by the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, where they learned more about SQ 777 and received presentation and media training.

"Our members are college students,

wives, mothers, consumers and agricultural producers, said Kristi Bishop, Oklahoma Agri-Women president. "We recognize the importance of passing SQ 777 to protect farmers, ranchers and consumers in our state."

"We understand that passing SQ 777 will ensure that farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma can continue to provide safe, healthy and affordable food choices for all Oklaho-

mans," she added.

About Oklahoma Agri-Women

Oklahoma Agri-Women unites women's agricultural organizations and individuals to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture. It is a state affiliate of American Agri-Women, the nation's largest coalition of farm, ranch and agribusiness women. For more information, visit www.okagriwomen.com.

Family farmers or liberal politicians? You choose

from OKAgPolicy.org

When it comes to agriculture in Oklahoma, who do you trust? Family farmers and ranchers, or liberal politicians?

Over the past week, an Oklahoma City senator, a former Oklahoma attorney general and a former Oklahoma governor have claimed State Question 777, also known as the Right to Farm, will remove protections on Oklahoma waters and deny farmers the use of new technology.

Oh, the irony. These individuals are just

one example of the reason the Right to Farm measure exists!

Left-leaning politicians want to take away your guns, and now they want to take away your food.

These liberal politicians and radical groups not only want to decide how farmers and ranchers produce food, but also want to tell you, the consumer, what to eat.

SQ777 allows family farmers and ranchers to make decisions about their

farms, not the government. It protects the use of new technology both today and in the future. Most importantly, it protects the consumer's right to choose at the grocery store.

Don't get distracted by scare tactics and emotional claims. Protect family farmers, protect private property rights, and protect your right to choose at the grocery store: vote yes on State Question 777!

Keep an eye out for the next issue of Oklahoma Country, which will hit mailboxes in the next couple of weeks! This issue covers the latest legislative session, member benefits, feature stories about Right to Farm and consumer choice, and more!

