



# Perspective

November 11, 2016

## Three Oklahoma Farm Bureau candidates win election

Three candidates with Oklahoma Farm Bureau ties were elected Tuesday to serve in the Oklahoma State Senate. Roland Pederson, longtime OKFB member and former state board member, Lonnie Paxton, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company agent, and Chris Kidd, OKFB vice president of membership and organization, each overwhelmingly won their respective races.

“As Oklahomans become further removed from the farm, we must have elected leaders who value our farmers and ranchers,” said Monica Wilke, OKFB executive director. “We are proud of Roland, Chris and Lonnie, and know they will fight for agriculture at the state Capitol.”

Burlington native Roland Pederson was elected to serve Senate District 19. A

second-generation farmer, Pederson has produced cattle, wheat and alfalfa for the past 40 years.

Lonnie Paxton defeated opponent Larry Wasson in the Senate District 23 race. An insurance agent for 18 years, Paxton also farms and is a small business owner.

Chris Kidd was chosen to serve southwestern Oklahoma’s Senate District 31. Before beginning his eight-year career with OKFB, Kidd taught agricultural education at Waurika High School. The Waurika native also raises cattle with his father on the family’s southern Oklahoma ranch.

All three candidates were supported and endorsed by the OKAgFund, OKFB’s political action committee.

Additional successful OKAgFund-

supported state Senate candidates are Larry Boggs, Senate District 7; Rob Standridge, Senate District 15; Adam Pugh, Senate District 41; and Greg Treat, Senate District 47.

Additional successful OKAgFund-supported state House of Representatives candidates include John Bennett, House District 2; Todd Thomsen, House District 25; Kevin Wallace, House District 32; Sean Roberts, House District 36; Leslie Osborn, House District 47; Scott Biggs, House District 51; Casey Murdock, House District 61; John Michael Montgomery, House District 62; Jeff Coody, House District 63; Scooter Park, House District 65; Scott Inman, House District 94; and Elise Hall, House District 100.

## Farm Bureau women gather in Oklahoma City for fall conference

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee hosted their 2016 Fall Conference Oct. 28-29 in Oklahoma City.

Women from across the state attended the two-day event featuring various speakers, workshops, entertainment and more.

During the opening lunch, women heard OKFB President Tom Buchanan speak about recent events and upcoming agricultural issues.

Conference workshops featured safety tips concerning an active shooter from OKFB Director of Safety Services Micah

Martin, fun pumpkin crafts from Audrey Harmon from Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom, and the “Lions, Tigers & GMOs” presentation from Sarah Weeks, the ag business coordinator from Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee.

**(Continued on page two)**



Left: OKFB WLC members visit the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum during the annual fall conference. Above: Members enjoy fall-themed crafts led by Audrey Harmon of Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom. Harmon encouraged attendees to share the projects with teachers who could use them in the classroom.

# Farm Bureau women gather in Oklahoma City for fall conference

(Continued from page 1)

Attendees were encouraged to visit the trade show for a fun and unique shopping experience with various items, such as clothing, purses, gifts and more. Women also had bid on several items in a silent auction to benefit the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation.

Before dinner, women heard from Lois Lenkner, author of *Oodles of Tomatoes & One Packed Van*. Lenkner spoke about the inspiration behind the book and more information about their family farm in Barber County, Kansas. Connie Watts, the illustrator of the book, also attended the conference. Members had the opportunity to purchase books for their own use or for donation to a local school teacher for Ag in

the Classroom.

Saturday morning began with a fun wreath-making session. Finally, members toured the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum and attended an interpretive program provided by the National Park Service Rangers, which discussed the site's significance and the symbolism in the outdoor memorial.

To learn more about the OKFB WLC, contact Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2300. To view photos from the event on OKFB's Flickr page, find the link on the OKFB website.



Attendees of the WLC fall conference listen to a presentation highlighting important facts and myths regarding GMOs and other food concerns.

## Farm Bureau scores big with keynote speakers

From the American Farm Bureau Federation

**P**eyton and Archie Manning will keynote the 2017 AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show closing general session on Monday, Jan. 9 in Phoenix.

A future Hall of Fame quarterback, Peyton embodies what it means to be a professional athlete in this day and age, making a lasting impact both on and off the field. He has championed numerous charitable organizations and foundations to further his positive impact on the community, including the PeyBack Foundation, which he founded in an effort to help underprivileged youth in Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana and Tennessee. The two-time Super Bowl champ quarterbacked for the Indianapolis Colts and the Denver Broncos after completing his college career at the University of Tennessee.

"In some of his recent television

commercials, the NFL retiree seems to be embracing his football retirement, so we're glad to be able to give him something additional to look forward to," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Peyton Manning is a model of success, with a strong work ethic and proven track record of helping others. We look forward to hearing from him about the importance of teamwork and a good game plan. We think the sports star will feel right at home with the superstars of American agriculture."

A member of the College Football Hall of Fame, Archie enjoyed an impressive college football career at the University of Mississippi that included leading his team to the national championship game, finishing top-four in Heisman Trophy voting twice and twice being named to the All-SEC team. Drafted with the second overall pick

in the 1971 NFL Draft, Archie continued his illustrious football career with the New Orleans Saints, Houston Oilers and Minnesota Vikings. Archie has continued to excel post-football, serving as a broadcaster, restaurateur, endorser, founder of the Manning Passing Academy and philanthropist. In everything he does, Archie remains grounded and true to his "hard work means everything" mentality.

"Our annual convention is like a reunion for agriculture and the Farm Bureau Family," added Duvall, "so we're excited that father and son Archie and Peyton will join us and share some of their family's stories with us."

Join us in Phoenix to hear Peyton and Archie Manning! Register today at <http://annualconvention.fb.org/>.

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



View more WLC Fall Conference photos  
Want to see more pictures from the 2016 OKFB Women's Leadership Committee's Fall Conference? Visit the OKFB Flickr page to view and download photos from the event.



OKFB Annual Convention latest news  
Stay up-to-date with the latest news and announcements from OKFB's 75th Annual Convention by following OKFB on Twitter! Information about award winners, resolutions and voting results will be posted as soon as possible.



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## OKFB President Tom Buchanan issues statement on outcome of State Question 777

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan issued the following statement after State Question 777, Oklahoma's Right to Farm, did not pass.

"On behalf of the more than 26,000 family farmers and ranchers, Oklahoma Farm Bureau wants to thank the thousands of Oklahomans who voted for State Question 777, Oklahoma's Right to Farm. Family farmers and ranchers of Oklahoma work hard to provide the safest, most affordable

food this Nation has seen. Although we are disappointed in today's vote, we will not waver in our commitment to ensuring our family farmers and ranchers can continue to operate without fear from outside interest groups and provide consumers with choice when they go to the grocery store. This has always been the charge of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and we will continue in this endeavor."

## Government and industry groups ask court to overturn EPA water rule

From the American Farm Bureau Federation

The American Farm Bureau Federation, along with dozens of agricultural, business and municipal entities, today asked a federal court to vacate the EPA's and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' "Waters of the United States" rule. The brief filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit lays out in detail the substance of the groups' allegations. It follows a year of litigation over which court had jurisdiction to hear challenges to the expansive and unlawful rule.

The coalition's brief explains how EPA flouted important procedural safeguards designed to ensure a fair and thoughtful rulemaking process. EPA tactics included withholding key documents until after the public comment period had closed, ignoring and ridiculing critical public comments and issuing illegal "covert propaganda" in an effort to generate superficial public support for the rule.

"EPA set out to achieve a predetermined

outcome and then manipulated the public notice-and-comment process to achieve that outcome," AFBF General Counsel Ellen Steen said. "It treated the rulemaking process like a game to be won instead of a deliberative process for developing lawful and reasonable regulations."

The brief also explains how the rule violates the limits of the Clean Water Act and the Constitution. Petitioners show how the rule relies on vague definitions that allow agency enforcers to regulate land features that look nothing like "navigable waters" and provides no fair notice to the public of what features are covered. In determining whether a low area where rain-water flows across a field is a "tributary," the brief explains: "Regulators can reach any outcome they please, and regulated entities cannot know the outcome until they are already exposed to criminal liability, including crushing fines." The brief asks that the rule be struck in its entirety.

## OKFB Convention Sponsors

The 2016 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Annual Meeting will be held Nov. 11-13 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

OKFB would like to thank the sponsors of the 2015 OKFB convention. Without the donations of generous sponsors, the awards, meals, activities and more would not be possible.

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## Member Benefits

### TASC Agri Plan – New!

New to OKFB member benefits, TASC AgriPlan could save you \$5,000 a year by enabling family farmers and other qualified small business owners to deduct 100 percent of their family health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket medical, vision and dental expenses not covered by insurance as business expenses. For a free Tax Saving Analysis, find the link to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau affiliate partner page on the OKFB website.

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

## Calendar

### OKFB Annual Meeting

November 11-13 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Melisa Neal (405) 523-2475

### AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show

January 6-11 • Phoenix, Arizona  
Contact: Melisa Neal (405) 523-2475

### 2017 FUSION Conference

February 10-13 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Contact: Brittany Mikles (405) 523-2307

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## Farmers are proud of their sustainability narrative

*From Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation president*

**S**ustainability is a hot topic around food production these days. Food companies frequently hijack the word for a marketing advantage, but it's far more than a buzzword for us. Sustainability drives our business decisions from one season to the next: a farmer or rancher who doesn't know the value of sustainability isn't likely to be in business very long. And yet, when food companies and self-proclaimed food experts embrace the term, they too often leave the majority of farmers and ranchers out of the discussion and go after the very tools we're using to protect everyone's water, air and soil.

Our industry is all about innovation, and cutting-edge technologies have changed the landscape of America's farmland for the better. We have made great strides in protecting natural resources and reducing our environmental footprint, and it's time we brag on ourselves just a bit.

Organic, conventional or otherwise, farmers work hard to make the best choices for their crops, animals and land. We are committed to protecting the water we drink and the air we breathe, and we have the numbers to prove it. Resources like Field to Market's Fieldprint Calculator track environmental impact and give meat to our sustainability narrative. The U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance also is helping to show what sustainability looks like in agriculture through a series of infographics.

We are producing more with less. Take corn for example: The Field to Market Coalition survey shows production literally doubled from 1980 to 2011. Yet, soil erosion per bushel fell by a third, while irrigation water per bushel dropped by half over the same time period. Energy used for the average bushel dropped 44 percent, and greenhouse gas emissions were down 36 percent.

Thanks to precision technology, farmers are saving resources, time and money. We are using fewer pesticides than ever before and applying less water and nutrients to our crops. Smarter farm equipment with GPS helps us pinpoint exactly where and when we need to make applications. We can zero in on crop disease and pests, and target treatment so it's just the right amount. And we're adding more tools to the toolbox all the time. From drones to robotic harvesters, agricultural technology is becoming more efficient and streamlined to help farmers continue growing safe, affordable food for all.

We can be proud of the new practices and farming techniques we have adopted to protect the soil from erosion and reduce greenhouse gases. We need to take the time to explain terms that are second nature to us, like no-till, buffer strips, and integrated pest management. We shouldn't shy away from talking about why we choose GMO seeds. Instead, we should explain the

environmental benefits of growing crops that require little to no pesticides, are resistant to drought, preserve the soil and require fewer trips across the field.

Farmers do this because it's good business—and also because they are good people who want to do what's right. They know that the choices they make can make a big difference. Jesus tells us in Matthew 13, in the parable of the soils, that sustainability is important and the choices we make are crucial if we expect to reap a big harvest year after year. To "sustain" means to keep in existence, to maintain, to continue. We are in difficult times in agriculture right now, and we are asked to do more and more with less and less. We cannot sustain our farms and ranches without using best management practices and the best agricultural technologies in our tool box. Sustainability can seem like a complex concept, but Jesus made it simple when he said to plant in good ground, not by the wayside or among the thorns. He has blessed us with the talents to research and develop new ways to keep the good ground fertile and productive.

Farmers and ranchers have a great story to tell. We need to share the good news with consumers and explain how the choices we make are protecting what we all cherish—our environment and our farms.