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Oklahoma County Farm Bureau hosted an open house and ribbon cutting to celebrate their new location in Edmond on March 29. In an effort to better serve their members, Oklahoma County Farm Bureau recently moved to the new office located at 2924 Astoria Way, Suite 100, Edmond, OK 73034. Although their office phone number will remain (405) 525-2607 and (405) 340-5087, they have a new fax number: (405) 340-5028.

OKFB YF&R scholarship deadline extended

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee will continue to accept applications for their annual \$1,000 scholarships until **Monday, April 17.**

Nine \$1,000 scholarships, one from each OKFB state board district, will be awarded to high school seniors pursuing a career in agriculture at an Oklahoma institution of high learning as a full-time student.

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 17, 2017. Applicants must meet all of the eligibility requirements listed in the application.

The application can be found on the OKFB website at okfarmbureau.org/ applications. More information can be obtained by contacting YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2406 or zac.swartz@okfb.org.



Oklahoma Farm Bureau members visit the nation's Capitol during the 2017 Congressional Action Tour

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members shared concerns and issues in agriculture with Oklahoma's Congressional delegation during the annual OKFB Congressional Action Tour March 28-April 2 in Washington, D.C.

Attendees heard directly from key Trump Administration leaders and several Oklahoma congressional delegates, who outlined their main priorities under the new administration.

Other trip highlights included a legislative reception with Oklahoma Congressmen and their staff as well as and a policy briefing from the American Farm Bureau Federation. Members concluded the tour with a trip to Annapolis, Maryland.

For more detailed information about legislative and regulatory matters discussed during the trip, see the OKAgPolicy Today insert found in this issue.



Top: Oklahoma Farm Bureau members visited the American Farm Bureau Federation's office for a policy briefing from AFBF staff. Above right: Congressman Frank Lucas speaks with OKFB members about upcoming issues affecting Oklahoma agriculture. Above left: OKFB District 2 Director Monte Tucker, Roger Mills County, discusses agriculture concerns with Sen. Jim Inhofe during a legislative reception as part of the 2017 OKFB Congressional Action Tour.

Farm Bureau women award AITC teacher of the year with gift card for school supplies



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee Chair Kitty Beavers (second from left) joins other supporters in congratulating Debra Deskin, Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom’s 2017 Teacher of the Year (third from right) during the Ag Day celebration at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Photo courtesy of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee presented Debra Deskin, Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom’s 2017 teacher of the year, with a gift card to help purchase school supplies during Ag Day at the Capitol Wednesday, March 29 in Oklahoma City.

Deskin, a second-grade teacher at Orvis Risner Elementary with more than 13 years of teaching experience, brings agriculture into the classroom using lessons from the AITC curriculum. In the past, she has presented at two national AITC conferences and four state AITC conferences. In addition, she was selected as an Oklahoma

AITC Teacher of the Year finalist three times in the past.

The Ag Day at the Capitol event recognized the Teacher of the Year along with winners of the 2017 AITC “Agriculture Puts the Puzzle Together” contest. The OKFB WLC donated gift cards to the other winners from across the state to be used to purchase school supplies.

The OKFB WLC is proud to support the Ag in the Classroom program on many levels, helping Oklahoma educators learn more about agriculture and how to incorporate farming and food into their daily classroom activities.

Payne County Farm Bureau donates \$1,000 worth of pipe to wildfire relief effort



Members of the Perkins-Tryon FFA Chapter weld H braces in an effort to help rebuild miles of fences destroyed in wildfires in northwest Oklahoma.

Payne County Farm Bureau board member and Perkins-Tryon High School FFA advisor Brad Chapman and his FFA students joined other county board members and the Railroad Yard, Inc., to donate to northwest Oklahoma wildfire relief. The county Farm Bureau purchased \$1,000 worth of pipe, which the FFA class welded into H braces to help rebuild destroyed fences. The Railroad Yard, Inc., helped with delivery to northwest Oklahoma.

OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers host 2017 Legislative Day

Young agricultural leaders from across the state attended this year’s Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers’ Legislative Day, held April 9-10, as a way to personally meet with members of the state legislature and learn more about the issues being discussed at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

To kickoff the event, attendees met on Sunday at Top Golf to perfect their golf swings while visiting with state legislators and other YF&R members.

After meeting at the OKFB home office for a short legislative briefing on Tuesday morning, YF&R members visited the Capitol to sit in on the Senate General Government Committee meeting as it heard HB 1347, a bill giving municipalities the ability to increase ad valorem taxes to fund public safety. The group also heard from Sen. Bryce Marlatt over lunch, and ended the day by visiting their legislators.



Above left: Justin Maxey, YF&R District 6 committee member from Delaware County, takes a swing at Top Golf. Above right: Attendees visit the state Capitol to urge a no vote on HB 1374 during the Senate General Government Committee meeting. Right: Sen. Bryce Marlatt speaks to the group about the importance of calling and visiting legislators about agricultural issues.



OKFB WLC provide lunch for legislators during Farm City Festival



Legislators at the state Capitol received a steak and baked potato lunch last week, courtesy of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee during the Farm City Festival.

Each year, the WLC state committee members provide legislators with a delicious lunch to help educate state legislators about agriculture.

“We want our legislators to remember where their food and fiber comes from and the importance of agriculture,” said

OKFB WLC members deliver steak and baked potato lunches at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Kitty Beavers, OKFB WLC chairman from Stephens County. “Agriculture provides everything from food, clothing, shelter, medicine and so much more. We want them to stay aware of that; the only way to do that is to keep in contact with them.”

County WLC members helped donate money to provide the meals, which was hand-delivered by the state WLC.

“Farm City Festival is our way of showing our legislators we’re here, we’re present, and we appreciate them,” Beavers said. “When we contact them on a bill or issue, they’re more receptive to us if they know us and see what we do.”

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

Caddo County Farm Bureau hosts Feed the County event

Caddo County Farm Bureau had a great time at their Feed the County event, hosted by the Caddo County Women’s Leadership Committee. At the event, Caddo President Wayne Taggart presented a donation check to Jeff Boren, fire chief for the Gracemont Volunteer Rural Fire Department. Visit our Facebook page to view photos from the event.

Additional photos from this year’s Congressional Action Tour

More photos from the 2017 OKFB Congressional Action Tour have been uploaded to the OKFB Flickr page. From congressional visits to sightseeing adventures, you’ll get to experience the trip for yourself as your scroll through pictures. Visit flickr.com/photos/okfarmbureau/albums to view, download, print and/or share photos.



www.okfarmbureau.org

Member Benefits

Storm Safe Shelters

Tornado season has arrived! Do you have a plan in case of severe weather? If you’re thinking about purchasing a storm shelter, check out Storm Safe Shelters, who have been providing Oklahomans with safe havens during severe storms since 1987. Storm Safe gives OKFB members a \$100 discount on the purchase of a qualifying Storm Safe in-ground shelter. Call Chris at (405) 204-9223 or visit www.stormsafeshelters.com.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

YF&R Extended Scholarship Deadline
April 17 • OKFB Home Office
Contact: Zac Swartz (405) 205-0070

OKFB Commodity Tour
May 3-5 • Southcentral Oklahoma
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

OKFB YF&R Golf Tournament
May 12 • SilverHorn Golf Club, Oklahoma City
Contact: Zac Swartz (405) 205-0070

Mayes, Rogers County Farm Bureaus host successful legislative dinner



Top Left: Rep. Tom Gann speaks to members at the Mayes and Rogers County Farm Bureaus legislative dinner April 6 in Pryor. Top Right: Sen. Marty Quinn visits with members about state issues following the meeting. Bottom Right: Sen. Michael Bergstrom offers a legislative update from the state Capitol. Bottom Left: Sen. Wayne Shaw speaks to members during the meeting.



Washington, continued from page one

regulations like WOTUS. A longtime advocate for infrastructure, Inhofe commended Farm Bureau members for their commitment to water infrastructure and emphasized it as a priority for President Donald Trump. Despite a setback with repeal and replace of the Affordable Care Act, Oklahoma Congressmen reassured members that healthcare reform is still in the works. A repeal of the ACA would free up billions of dollars for other priority items like tax reform, the farm bill and infrastructure. “Washington, D.C. is open for business,” said John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy. “Farm Bureau members now have an incredible opportunity to work alongside the new administration in crafting policy that works for them.” View more from the trip on the OKAgPolicy Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages.



Top Left: Rep. Jim Bridenstine says tax reform is the next priority following ACA repeal. Top Right: Sen. James Lankford discusses relief for Oklahoma wildfire victims, among others. Bottom Left: Sen. Jim Inhofe shares his work alongside President Trump to repeal regulations like WOTUS and the Clean Power Plan.

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU'S

APRIL 14, 2017

OKAGPOLICY

today

OKFB visits EPA Administrator Pruitt, Congress in Washington



OKFB members visit the U.S. EPA and hear from Oklahoma native and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt during the OKFB Congressional Action tour.

Oklahoma family farmers and ranchers experienced a new excitement in Washington, D.C. during the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Congressional Action Tour March 28 through April 2. OKFB members for years have traveled to Washington, D.C. to fight excessive regulations from the federal government. With a change in administration, OKFB members left the nation’s Capitol optimistic for the first time in years. The trip began on a high note with a visit to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to see Oklahoma native EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Only a few months into his tenure as administrator, Pruitt has worked to rescind and review onerous regulations like the Waters of the U.S. rule and the Clean Power Plan. “You know what’s wonderful? You all are spending time at the EPA and you’re still smiling,” Pruitt said,

speaking to OKFB members. Pruitt outlined for members his priorities as head of the EPA which include improving the rulemaking process, following the law, and working alongside states and stakeholders. “If my fellow farmers and ranchers across the country don’t get excited about Scott Pruitt, I’m not sure what will excite them,” said Tom Buchanan, OKFB president. Farm Bureau members also met with Sen. Jim Inhofe and Sen. James Lankford, along with Rep. Jim Bridenstine, Rep. Tom Cole, Rep. Frank Lucas, Rep. Markwayne Mullin and Rep. Steve Russell. Each carried a message of confidence and hopefulness under the new administration. Sen. Jim Inhofe spoke of the eight Congressional Review Acts passed to repeal many Obama-era

Continued on page 4 (Washington)

ACTION ALERT: NO on HB 1374

Don’t let cities steal your property taxes. Contact your senator and urge a NO vote on HB 1374 today!

- HB 1374 TALKING POINTS:**
- I’m (insert name) from (insert town) and an Oklahoma Farm Bureau member, asking Senator (insert name) to vote NO on House Bill 1374.
 - The bill would allow municipalities to increase property taxes to fund public safety, upon voter approval.
 - Allowing municipalities to use property taxes is poor policy for rural Oklahoma.
 - Property taxes are used to fund tangible assets like schools, libraries and vocational technology centers, not salaries and equipment.
 - It contains an agriculture exemption, but for how long? HB 1374 sets a dangerous precedent and creates opportunity for endless ad valorem tax increases in the future.
 - Bond issues currently must receive a super majority of votes to increase ad valorem taxes, but HB 1374 lowers the threshold to a simple majority.
 - Cities and towns have other sources of revenue, like sales taxes.
 - HB 1374 is a tax increase.
 - **Please vote NO on HB 1374!**

Questions? Contact OKFB Public Policy at 405-523-2346.

Noble County Farm Bureau visits legislators at state Capitol



Left: Noble County Farm Bureau members pose with Sen. AJ Griffin (center) in the state Capitol rotunda after a meeting. Top Right: Noble County Farm Bureau members Eldon Cinnamon, Denise Kienholz and Ryan Sproul visit with Rep. Dennis Casey. Bottom Right: Rep. Dennis Casey explains the importance of Farm Bureau’s involvement in the legislative process.



OKFB praises Trump, Inhofe for USDA authorization of emergency grazing on CRP acres

Oklahoma Farm Bureau applauds Sen. Jim Inhofe’s work to provide relief to farmers and ranchers affected by the devastating wildfires in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. Thanks to the efforts of Sen. Inhofe, President Donald Trump this week directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to authorize emergency grazing on Conservation Reserve Program acres affected by the wildfire.

“Oklahoma Farm Bureau has stood by the farmers, ranchers, and rural residents impacted by the devastating wildfires in Oklahoma. I am proud to say that President Trump is standing by them too, with his decision to allow grazing on CRP lands during this emergency,” said OKFB President Tom Buchanan.

“While there is no silver bullet, this action will go a long way to providing the immediate relief and support

Oklahomans need to recover and rebuild from this disaster.”

To reduce the concentration of livestock near the burned areas, livestock owners who suffered damage during the March 2017 wildfire now are permitted to graze livestock on CRP land in other counties, or even other states.

“Authorizing emergency grazing on CRP lands throughout Oklahoma and even outside the state is a critical step in helping ranchers recover from the devastating impacts of the wildfires in Northwest Oklahoma and I applaud President Trump’s directive,” Inhofe said. “I have seen the damage of these fires first hand and spoken with numerous farmers and ranchers affected; while nothing will undo the damage done to the livelihood of so many in northwest Oklahoma, this measure will provide immediate relief to ranchers trying to

cope with feeding their herds.

“I am pleased that this Administration is listening to and working for rural America. I look forward to continuing to work with the President and his administration to make sure Oklahomans get the relief they need.”

The directive includes CRP land under CP1, CP2, CP4, CP10, CP18 and CP38 practices. Livestock must be removed from CRP acres 90 days after access, but no later than Sept. 30, 2017. Livestock owners will be required to complete and sign a form verifying the livestock were on grazed land burned land.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EMERGENCY GRAZING AUTHORIZATION, CONTACT LOCAL OR STATE USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICES.

OKFB urges Senate to confirm Sonny Perdue NOW

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has joined countless agricultural organizations, as well as farmers and ranchers across the country, in the belief that former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue is the right choice for America’s farmers and ranchers.

The U.S. Senate is scheduled to vote on Perdue’s confirmation on April 24. Please contact Oklahoma’s senators to urge an immediate confirmation vote on Sonny Perdue as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture! Agriculture and rural America *need* a leader now.

Perdue grew up on a family farm in central Georgia, and has lived and worked in the agriculture industry throughout his life. Perdue holds a doctorate in veterinary medicine and owns a company with agribusiness and transportation holdings. As an agribusinessman, Perdue will be only the third Secretary of Agriculture in history who has worked in the

agriculture industry as an adult. Thus, he not only understands, but also has firsthand experience with the challenges facing both agriculture and rural America.


Perdue has a long record of outstanding leadership and commitment to the agriculture industry. Governing a state that produces billions in agricultural commodities, Perdue valued the problems and concerns facing farmers and ranchers. In the words of American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall who served as Georgia Farm Bureau president during Perdue’s tenure as governor, Perdue will serve as a strong voice for agriculture.

American agriculture needs a Secretary of Agriculture who not only understands the problems plaguing production agriculture, but also is willing to fight to solve them. Sonny Perdue is that person.

Oklahoma County Farm Bureau educates senators on HB 1374



Top: Oklahoma County Farm Bureau board members Bob Bierschenk (left) and Rex Lundy (right) meet with Sen. Kay Floyd (center) to discuss the implications of HB 1374. Left: Oklahoma County Farm Bureau members share their concerns about ad valorem tax increases under HB 1374 with Sen. Anastasia Pittman (right) on April 3.



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 18
OKFB Caucus Retreat
Oklahoma City

APRIL 23
Muskogee County Farm Bureau
Legislative Breakfast
Muskogee

APRIL 24
Senate vote on confirmation of Sonny Perdue as Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

APRIL 27
Deadline for third reading of bills from opposite chambers
Oklahoma City

MAY 26
Sine Die
Oklahoma City