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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

# Perspective

March 31, 2017

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau supports ag youth at 2017 Oklahoma Youth Expo Sale of Champions

Oklahoma Farm Bureau purchased premiums on livestock as the organization supported Oklahoma's agriculture youth during the 2017 Oklahoma Youth Expo Sale of Champions Friday, March 17 in Oklahoma City.

Before the start of the 2017 sale, OKFB received the 2016 OYE volume buyer award for purchasing the most premiums at the 2016 sale with 34 animals.

This year, OKFB partnered with fellow agricultural and rural organizations and individuals in purchasing the premiums for 27 animals.

"We are proud to be supporters of such a great opportunity for Oklahoma's rural youth," said Tom Buchanan, OKFB president. "We understand the skills learned through showing livestock, such as responsibility, record keeping and time management, is integral for the future success of these young agriculturalists."

OKFB also purchased the chalice for the grand champion steer, shown by Tommy Glover of Elgin 4-H.

During the Sale of Champions, a special auction raised \$60,000 in an effort to help with wildfire relief efforts. The steer was donated by the family of state Sen. Eddie Fields.

The 2017 OYE premium sale raised \$1.15 million for students across the state who showed their livestock at the annual expo. The Grand Champion Steer topped the sale with \$75,000.



Top: Oklahoma Farm Bureau is honored to receive the 2016 Volume Buyer Award at the Oklahoma Youth Expo. Above right: OKFB Monte Tucker sells Elk City FFA's Emily Smith's sheep during the OYE Sale of Champions. Above left: Oklahoma Farm Bureau purchased the chalice for the grand champion steer, shown by Tommy Glover of Elgin 4-H.

# OKFB Women's Leadership Committee to host Youth Safety Day June 2

Join the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee for their annual

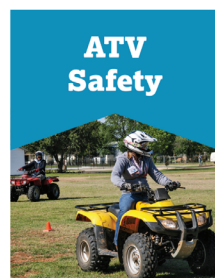
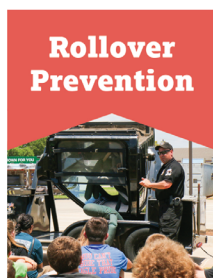
	<b>Friday, June 2</b>
	<b>10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</b>
	<b>OKFB Home Office • 2501 N Stiles Ave • OKC</b>
	<b>for students grades 5 – 9</b>
	<b>applications due May 24</b>

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee welcomes **students in grades 5-9** for as they host their annual safety day **Friday, June 2!**

**Registration will begin at 9 a.m.** with safety day activities ending at 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Applications must be returned to the OKFB home office by **May 24.**

## Safety lessons will include



**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee will hold their annual Youth Safety Day on Friday, June 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the OKFB home office in Oklahoma City.

The 2017 Youth Safety Day will host students grades 5-9 from across the state of Oklahoma and offer a wide variety of safety lessons related to everyday life. Participants will learn about rollover prevention from the

Oklahoma Highway Patrol, tractor safety, the life-saving flight crews of Air Evac Lifeteam, ATV safety and much more.

Safety day will begin with registration 9 a.m. with safety lessons starting at 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided for participants.

Applications must be received by Wednesday, May 24, and are available on our applications center page on the OKFB website.

## Nominations for Farm Mom of the Year close March 31

**D**o you know an outstanding farm mom? Consider nominating her for America's Farmers Farm Mom of the Year and a chance to win \$10,000. Nominations close **March 31.**

The Farm Mom of the Year program was created by the America's Farmers program to recognize women in agriculture who are balancing their passion for agriculture with a dedication to their family and community. The American Agri-Women will select five regional winners to receive a \$5,000 prize, and the national winner, selected by the public, will receive an additional \$5,000.

To enter your choice for Farm Mom of the Year, you will need to simply explain what makes your nominee exceptional in the following areas: supporting her farm, supporting her community, supporting agriculture and supporting her family.

America's Farmers is an advocacy program sponsored by Monsanto to celebrate U.S. Farmers through communications, awards and special programs that highlight the importance of modern American agriculture.

Nominations opened Feb. 23 and will close on March 31. Entries will be accepted via the online form or through the mail. The public voting for the National Farm Mom of the Year will run from April 22-May 4.

To learn more about the Farm Mom of the Year contest or read about past winners, visit the OKFB website.

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



#OKFBLife

Do you use Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to share photos, videos, stories, news or personal accounts about agriculture? Join us in using the hashtag #OKFBLife to help share the stories of Oklahoma farmers and ranchers and their vital contribution to society.



Beaver County Farm Bureau president featured on News 9

Did you catch Britt Hilton, Beaver County Farm Bureau president, on KWTW - NEWS 9 last week? Hear the fifth-generation rancher and volunteer firefighter tell about the 32,000 acres of land he lost to the state's largest wildfire and how grateful he is for the donated hay from around the country. Find the link on the OKFB Facebook page.



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

# Livestock donated to food banks during OYE

From the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation

**M**ore than 28,500 chronically hungry students across Oklahoma will receive protein sticks on weekends and school holidays thanks to the 295 animals donated to the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation for the FFA Hunger Challenge during the Oklahoma Youth Expo. The Foundation coordinates the processing of those animals to support the Food for Kids programs at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

"This display of generosity by the FFA and 4-H livestock showing students is truly humbling," said Jeramy Rich, president of the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation. "Through their generous support, we can continue to provide a valuable protein source to chronically hungry children in all 77 Oklahoma counties."

The Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs use donated cattle and hogs to produce beef and pork sticks for the Food Banks' Food for Kids program. The programs are a collaboration among Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Pork Council, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching



*Hogs donated by Oklahoma Youth Expo participants to the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation's Pork for Packs program wait to be loaded into the trailer.*

Foundation, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Oklahoma FFA, Ralphs Meat Company in Perkins, Chickasha Meat Company, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and the Oklahoma Beef Council.

Together, the two food banks provide backpacks with non-perishable, kid-friendly food to students in 596 schools across all of Oklahoma's 77 counties.

For more information, contact Amanda Rosholt at (405) 202-1463, or Amanda.Rosholt@aggiving.org.

## Oklahoma County Farm Bureau hosts open house in new office

**O**klahoma 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 a new office located at 2924 Astoria Way, Suite 100, Edmond, OK 73034.

Although their office phone number will remain (405) 525-2607, they have a new fax number: (405) 340-5028.

Members and non-members were invited to attend the open house and enjoy refreshments and drinks.

This open house not only celebrates the new location, but also 2017 also marks

OKFB's 75th anniversary. OKFB kicked off the celebration by dedicating a new courtyard at the home office. Members and non-members alike will have an opportunity to celebrate with OKFB by visiting OKFB's 75th anniversary website, which will launch soon along with several other initiatives planned for the year.

## Member Benefits

### Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Do you need to buy or lease equipment from Caterpillar? Don't forget to use your OKFB membership to save up to \$2,000 on a qualifying Cat® Backhoe Loader, Wheel Loader, Mini Hydraulic Excavator, Multi Terrain Loader, Skid Steer Loader, Compact Track Loader, Telehandler or Small Dozer. Visit [fbadvantage.com/cat](http://fbadvantage.com/cat) to print your Membership Verification Certificate today!

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

## Calendar

### Congressional Action Tour

March 28-April 2 • Washington, D.C.  
Contact: Tasha Duncan (405) 530-2681

### Ag Day at the Capitol

March 29 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

### Farm City Festival

April 4 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

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## Monsanto Company gives \$200,000 to assist farmers impacted by wildfires

### From the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation

**I**n the wake of the devastating wildfires that swept across the panhandle of Oklahoma, Monsanto Co. is partnering with the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation to bring essential financial relief to the victims.

Monsanto, a sustainable agriculture company, announced yesterday the company would donate \$200,000 to those affected by the fires throughout Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. The donations would be divided equally in gifts of \$50,000 each and distributed respectively to the four states.

"This is a tremendous gift for those who lost so much and we are extremely grateful to Monsanto for this generous gift. We have witnessed extreme acts of

generosity pouring out from the agriculture community," said Jeramy Rich, president of the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation.

The fires which swept across Oklahoma destroyed over 3,000 acres and killed an estimated 3,000 head of cattle and 6,500 hogs according to a statement by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. Several homes, over 1,100 miles of fence lines and livelihoods were all affected by the fire.

"Our hearts go out to those individuals and families who have been impacted by the devastating wildfires in Oklahoma," said Brett Begemann, president and chief operating officer at Monsanto. "Here at Monsanto we are committed to

strengthening both farming communities and the communities where we live and work, and supporting others in agriculture.

"We consider it a privilege to play a small part in the Oklahoma relief efforts and encourage others to join us in restoring the livelihoods of the state's farmers and ranchers who have lost homes, crops, livestock and grazing lands. We're all in this together," he added.

For more information, please contact Amanda Rosholt, public relations and fundraising director for the Oklahoma Farm Ranching Foundation at 405-202-1463. Those in need of reimbursement for transporting hay may also contact the foundation.

# Making water infrastructure a priority

By Sens. Jim Inhofe, John Barrasso, Tom Carper and Ben Cardin. Published on The Hill

**E**ven though it is invisible to most Americans, every community across this country relies on a complex system of reservoirs, aqueducts, dams, levees, treatment plants, pumping stations, and millions of miles of pipes forming our water infrastructure.

For decades, most Americans haven't given much thought to our water systems, not worrying where water comes from when we turn on the tap, or where it goes after it swirls down the drain.

Now years of deferred maintenance are catching up with us, and the cost of inaction could be severe.

On Capitol Hill, the latest legislation to improve our nation's water systems is something we can all get behind.

Both Democrats and Republicans know that water is vital to America's economy and our quality of life.

For businesses, a disruption in water service could be catastrophic.

A new economic analysis from the Value of Water Campaign found that a one-day nationwide disruption in water service would result in \$43.5 billion in losses for the economy. That is just a single day, and the damage would be widespread. Farms to factories, hotels to hospitals, and ranches to restaurants—everything would shut down without water service.

Improving our water infrastructure

must be a priority for all of Congress.

Doing so will put Americans to work in jobs that can't be automated or outsourced overseas. In fact, experts suggest a \$1 billion infrastructure investment would create tens of thousands of jobs and help put Americans back to work.

Communities across the country are already dealing with our aging water infrastructure. We've seen failing dams in California, ice-jam floods in Wyoming, record flooding from storms

along the east coast, and water contamination in the Midwest.

This is everyone's issue, and addressing it is a shared responsibility.

The U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee continues to move this issue forward by holding bipartisan hearings on the nation's water infrastructure needs.

One of the things we hear is that rural and urban water systems, and everything in between, all need attention and investment. Clean, safe water is essential to larger cities like Baltimore and Oklahoma City, as well as smaller communities like Cody, Wyoming, or the town of Wyoming, Delaware.

The president has voiced his

support for improving the nation's water infrastructure, and we are ready to work with his administration to move the ball forward. It's still early in the process, but we are committed to working together to upgrade America's water system.

Federal investment in water infrastructure has dropped over the past few decades, with more states and localities picking up the costs. We can't just leave this burden to state and local governments.

Washington has an important role to play.

This is Water Week, and it is a great opportunity for us to recognize the

vital role water plays for our nation.

Everyone—every home, every business—needs reliable and safe water. It is time to make water infrastructure a national priority.

*Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), is chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) is ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) is chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ben Cardin (D-Md.) is ranking member of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure.*

**“Everyone—every home, every business—needs reliable and safe water. It is time to make water infrastructure a national priority.”**

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## OKAGPOLICY

today

## House passes bill granting cities access to ad valorem taxes

**T**he state House last week passed a bill authorizing cities and towns in Oklahoma to increase ad valorem property taxes.

HB 1374 by Rep. Weldon Watson, R-Tulsa, gives municipalities the ability to increase ad valorem taxes by up to five mills to fund public safety districts, upon voter approval. The bill passed the House by a 54-35 vote, with 30 Republicans in favor. "Make no mistake, we're voting on a tax increase," said Rep. Jeff Coody, R-Grandfield, debating in opposition to the bill. "We're opening the door to changes in our fundamental tax code."

Cities and towns currently cannot access ad valorem tax dollars in Oklahoma. HB 1374 modifies the Oklahoma tax code, letting municipalities fund themselves on the backs of property owners.

"When we allow an entity to access taxpayer dollars, they never want

less," Coody said. "They never want to sunset; they just want more."

As the state's largest general farm organization, Oklahoma Farm Bureau opposed the bill. Though it contains an exemption for agriculture and business land, the organization believes it has serious implications for the future.

"The bill exempts agriculture land today, but until when?" said Tom Buchanan, OKFB president. "If this bill is passed, we'll see numerous other entities lining up in the future to use ad valorem taxes, as well. It's bad tax policy and must be defeated in the Senate."

While current state law requires a super majority to pass ad valorem tax increases, HB 1374 only requires a simple majority to pass. The bill now heads to the Senate for approval. OKFB is urging its members to contact state senators and urge a no vote on HB 1374.

## ACTION ALERT: NO on HB1374

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau members are urged to contact state senators regarding HB 1374, which will allow municipalities to increase ad valorem taxes to fund public safety districts. OKFB has longstanding policy to keep ad valorem taxes low in our state.

### HB 1374 talking points:

- I'm (insert name) from (insert town) and a member of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, asking Senator

(insert name) to vote NO on House Bill 1374.

- The bill would allow municipalities to access property taxes within city limits for public safety districts.
- Although there is an agriculture exemption in the bill, the concept of municipalities accessing property taxes is poor policy for rural Oklahoma.
- Property taxes are used to fund core infrastructure, not to fund cities and towns.

### HOW DID YOUR LEGISLATOR VOTE?

#### YEAS

McCall	Hoskin	Nollan
Bennett, F.	Inman	Osborn
Bennett, J.	Jordan	Osburn
Blancett	Kannady	Ownbey
Bush	Kouplen	Perryman
Caldwell	Lawson	Proctor
Cannaday	Lepak	Renegar
Condit	Martin	Roberts, D.
Derby	Martinez	Stone
Dollens	McBride	Tadlock
Dunnington	McDaniel	Thomsen
Enns	McEachin	Virgin
Ford	McEntire	Walke
Fourkiller	Meredith	Watson
Goodwin	Montgomery	West, J.
Griffith	Mulready	West, T.
Hall	Munson	Williams
Henke	Nichols	Young

#### NAYS

Babinec	Frix	Pfeiffer
Baker	Gann	Ritze
Biggs	Hilbert	Roberts, S.
Brumbaugh	Humphrey	Rogers
Calvey	Kerbs	Russ
Casey	Loring	Sanders
Cockroft	Moore	Strohm
Coody	Murdock	West, R.
Dunlap	Murphey	Worthen
Echols	Newton	Wright
Faught	Ortega	
Fetgatter	Park	

#### EXCUSED

Cleveland	McDugle	Wallace
Downing	O'Donnell	West, J.
Hardin	Sears	
Lowe	Teague	



## Let Oklahoma prosper: Develop its water

An op-ed by the OKFB Public Policy Division

Imagine the state of Oklahoma with more water than it can use.

All lakes and reservoirs across the state are full. Underground aquifers are replenished.

The farmer never worries about drought-ravished crops. The city manager never frets about supplying water for city residents. People from near and far travel to Oklahoma to recreate on the state's plentiful lakes and rivers.

Oklahoma's agriculture industry flourishes. The oil and gas industry booms. Tourism thrives. The Oklahoma economy prospers.

Seem like a dream? It's actually not

far from reality.

As Oklahoma's most precious commodity, water is the lifeblood of *everything*.

Yet, over the past decade, Oklahoma allowed an average of nearly 35.4 million acre feet of water to leave the state each year. That's nearly 20 times the amount of water the entire state uses in a year.

Developing Oklahoma's water infrastructure and utilizing the state's most precious resource can provide billions of dollars to the Oklahoma economy.

Why doesn't Oklahoma work to develop water infrastructure across

the state to ensure no Oklahoman ever wants for water?

With an extra 35 million acre feet of water available every year, the state can fill every lake and reservoir, replenish every aquifer, and ensure every Oklahoman has access to an abundant source of water.

Though some may argue developing Oklahoma water is too big of a feat, cities around the state have developed water for decades.

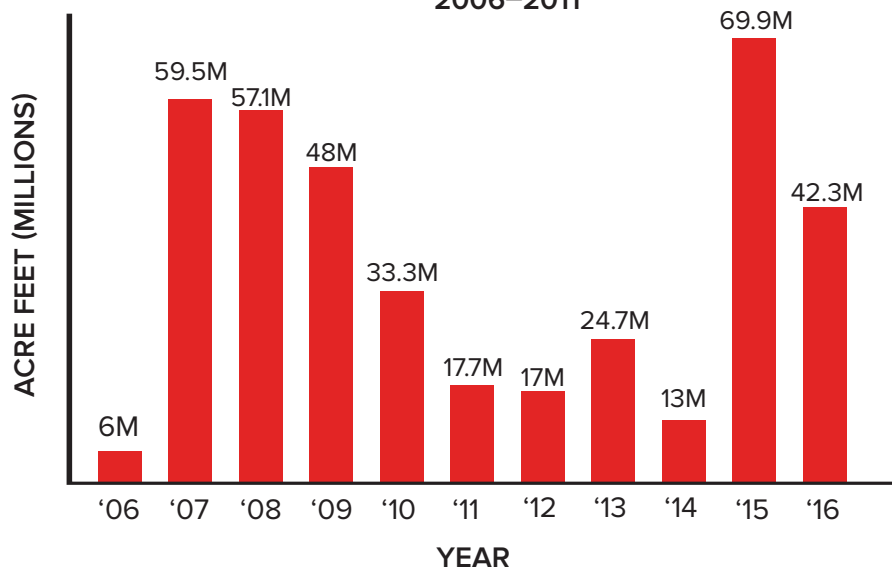
The city of Enid currently is working to construct a pipeline from Kaw Lake to supply itself with water for the next 50 years.

Oklahoma City pumps water more than 100 miles from Lake Atoka. Tulsa pumps water from Lake Eucha, Lake Spavinaw and Oologah Lake.

The technology exists; the idea is not difficult. What is difficult? Finding leaders with the vision and the courage to pursue it.

Why don't Oklahomans demand more from their state elected officials? By the year 2060, Oklahoma water infrastructure will face an estimated \$82 billion in improvements and replacements, according to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan. State leaders, including the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, must begin working today to secure a vibrant future for the state through a plentiful water supply. Will you join us?

WATER LEAVING OKLAHOMA  
2006–2011



# Comanche County Farm Bureau visits state Capitol



Top Left: Comanche County discusses rural education and water development with Sen. Chris Kidd (far left). Top Right: Members discuss HB 1374 with Rep. Rande Worthen (right). Bottom Left: Comanche County Farm Bureau President Kerry Givens urges Rep. Scooter Park (left) to vote no on HB 1374. Bottom Right: Comanche County members visit with Rep. Jeff Coody (center) about HB 1374.

## County Farm Bureaus host legislative dinners around state



Top Left: Senate Pro Tem Mike Schulz says he supports developing water at the Jackson, Kiowa, Greer and Washita County Farm Bureaus Legislative Dinner March 23. Top Right: Washington County Farm Bureau President Macy Strom (left) asks Rep. Earl Sears and Sen. Eddie Fields about ad valorem tax increases at the county's legislative breakfast March 24. Bottom Left: Rep. Todd Thomsen (left) poses with Pontotoc County Farm Bureau President Mike Casady at the county's legislative dinner March 24.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**APRIL 4**

OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Farm City Festival  
*Oklahoma City*

**APRIL 6**

Mayes and Rogers County Farm Bureaus Legislative Dinner  
*Moore Farms – Pryor*

**APRIL 9–10**

OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Legislative Day  
*Oklahoma City*

**APRIL 13**

Grady County Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner  
*Ken's – Amber*

**APRIL 23**

Muskogee County Farm Bureau Legislative Breakfast  
*Muskogee*