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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

March 3, 2017

County Farm Bureaus host activities during Farm Bureau Week

Last week, county Farm Bureaus celebrated Farm Bureau Week with a variety of fun activities and delicious food.

This week allowed Farm Bureau members to host different activities and events to help promote Farm Bureau within their commu-

nities. It was also a great opportunity for county Farm Bureaus to gain members and become active in the community. Many county offices hosted open houses to allow those interested in Farm Bureau to stop by and learn more about the organization.



At Noble County Farm Bureau's hamburger and hot dog feed, Vance Chevrolet brought several Chevy trucks for display that Farm Bureau members can receive a discount on.



Noble County Farm Bureau had a great turnout for their hamburger and hot dog feed.



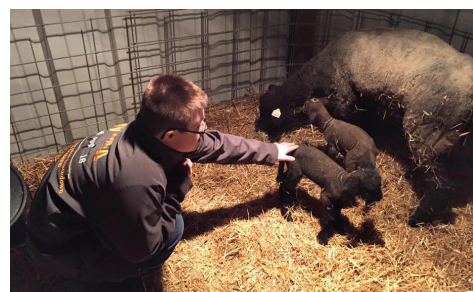
Jefferson County Farm Bureau had a large crowd for their open house with a great meal.



Cotton County Farm Bureau held an open house with a free meal and door prizes.



Stephens County Farm Bureau made a donation to a local school, Comanche Elementary School, in honor of Farm Bureau Week. The donation will help teachers buy supplies.



This photo, submitted by Shelly Sitton, was the winner of Payne County Farm Bureau's Facebook photo contest.

OKFB to dedicate commemorative courtyard March 7

Oklahoma Farm Bureau recently announced the celebration of the organization's 75th anniversary in 2017. To commemorate this milestone, OKFB is dedicating a new plaza Tuesday, March 7, at 12 p.m. The ceremony will take place on the southeast side of the home office after the adjournment of the Legislative Leadership Conference. Members will enjoy a short presentation followed by a light lunch and refreshments.

With 95,000 members statewide, Oklahoma Farm Bureau is connected to County Farm Bureaus in all 77 Oklahoma counties. Designed by an Oklahoma-based architecture firm, the courtyard will contain 77 pillar sculptures, each one in the shape of one of the state's counties. Each sculpture will also contain soil from the county it represents. There is also an elevation change in the four planning beds which represent four quadrants of Oklahoma per the geography elevation map. The

elevation changes start in NW Oklahoma at Black Mesa, the highest point in Oklahoma at 4,975 and ends at the Little River located by the Arkansas border at 289' above sea level.

The courtyard also contains pavers which were bought and engraved by employees, families, organizations and companies associated with and trusted by OKFB.

"The new plaza is beautiful, but my favorite thing about it is the connection it makes between Oklahoma Farm Bureau and our members across all 77 counties," said Tom Buchanan, OKFB president. "This is a tribute to their dedication to the farming and ranching lifestyle that



provides the food, fiber and fuel that powers Oklahomans' lives. We look forward to our next 75 years of serving them."

If you would still like to purchase your commemorative paver, please contact Amanda Rosholt at 405-202-1463.

OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers scholarship application available

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee is now accepting applications for their annual \$1,000 scholarships for high school seniors who will pursue a higher degree in agriculture after graduation.

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 10, 2017**.

Applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements to qualify for the scholarship:

- Must be a graduating high school senior.
- Must enroll full time in an agriculture program at an accredited Oklahoma institution of high learning.
- Must be a member of a Farm Bureau family (father, mother or legal guardian memberships qualify; grandparents', siblings' or other relatives' memberships may not be used). Membership must remain in good standing for the duration of the scholarship.
- Children of paid employees of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies are not eligible

Applicants must also provide the following materials along with the scholarship application: a copy of the applicant's official high school transcript, SAT and/or ACT test scores, two character reference letters (including one who is familiar with applicant's financial status), and a copy of the applicant's resume with activities/honors listed.

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 Online



OKAgPolicy's Lincoln to Local videos

Get the latest news and information about legislative issues through OKAgPolicy's Lincoln to Local videos. In last week's video, OKFB's LeeAnna McNally wraps up the week at the state Capitol by discussing ad valorem tax increases, Gov. Mary Fallin's tax plan and water as a potential new revenue source. Find the videos at okagpolicy.org.



More Farm Bureau Week photos

Want to see more photos from Farm Bureau Week? Visit our Facebook page for more photos and additional events from last week. Thank you to all county Farm Bureaus for sending us details about their various activities and for hosting such great events!



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www.okfarmbureau.org

Legislative Wrap-up: Five ways to stay involved in the legislative process

By John Collison, OKFB Vice President of Public Policy

The strength of Oklahoma Farm Bureau lies in its grassroots membership. You, the member, play the most integral role in our organization. Members work hard from August through November to finalize OKFB policies for the upcoming year. But your work isn't finished in November. We need your help to fight for your policy at the state Capitol! As the legislative session gears up, I cannot stress enough the significance of your involvement in the legislative process. Here's how to get involved:

Sign up for OKAgPolicy Today weekly e-newsletters.

Being informed of events at the state Capitol is the first step to being involved. Visit www.OKAgPolicy.org/okagpolicy today and enter your name and email address. Each week, you'll receive a recap of the week including videos, top headlines, bills we're tracking and more. You don't want to miss out on this incredible resource!

Attend the OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference.

The OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference is a perfect opportunity for Farm Bureau members to discuss statewide policy with various state leaders including Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, House Speaker Charles McCall, Oklahoma State University President Burns Hargis and more. The conference also will give you the opportunity to visit one-on-one with OKFB's Champion and 100 Percent Club members in the legislature, along with your own state lawmakers.

Schedule a state Capitol visit.

As a constituent, your legislators want to

hear from you. Call the OKFB Public Policy office to schedule a time for your county to visit its legislators. You'll receive a briefing from OKFB before you meet with your legislators at the state Capitol, followed by a lunch with your elected officials. Simply voicing your opinions and concerns with your legislators can make all the difference. **Sign up for legislative action alerts.**

The OKFB Public Policy team does its best to fight for your policy at the state Capitol, but we cannot do it without you. Your legislators must hear about your priorities straight from you! Sign up today to receive notification when your legislator needs to hear from you on specific bills. Visit www.OKAgPolicy.org/action-center, scroll to the "Quick Sign Up" box at the bottom, enter your email address and zip code and then click the arrow. Fill in the remaining information and click "Save." Please encourage your county boards and all of your members to sign up, too.

Follow OKFB and OKAgPolicy on Facebook and Twitter.

If you're not following us on either Twitter or Facebook, I encourage you to do so today! Our staff works hard to provide you with a vast amount of information and resources on social media. The tool not only gives you the latest information, but also provides a platform to share your message with your friends, family and even state lawmakers.

As your voice at the state Capitol, we are here to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. We look forward to seeing you at 23rd and Lincoln!

Reminder: OKFB to host Legislative Leadership Conference March 6-7 in Oklahoma City



JD Strong, former director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (left), visits with Oklahoma Farm Bureau members during the 2016 OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference in Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau leaders from across the state will gather in Oklahoma City March 6-7 for the annual OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference.

Held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City, the two-day conference will feature state and federal agricultural policy updates, a reception with state leaders and lawmakers, and more. OKFB also will present its 2016 Champion Awards to nine state leaders.

No registration is required to attend. Contact Tasha Duncan at 405-523-2300 for more information about the Legislative Leadership Conference.

Member Benefits

Gold Buckle Construction

Do you need a new shed? Or maybe new pasture fencing? Make sure to check out Gold Buckle Construction! As an OKFB member, you can receive a 10 percent discount on construction services, such as metal buildings, sheds, welding, pasture fencing, game fencing, pipe fencing, pipe and cable fencing, continuous fencing, chain link fencing, privacy fencing, metal roofing and custom projects. For more information about Gold Buckle Construction, call Dusty Gracia at (580) 309-0988.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

OKFB Courtyard Dedication

March 7 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Melisa Neal (405) 523-2475

State Legislative Leadership Conference

March 6-7 • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Contact: Tasha Duncan (405) 530-2681

Congressional Action Tour

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

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Pottawatomie, Seminole County Farm Bureaus host candidate forum

The Pottawatomie and Seminole County Farm Bureaus hosted a public forum with the ten candidates seeking House District 28 Thursday, Feb. 16 at the Seminole County Farm Bureau office.

Open to the public, the forum allowed House District 28 voters to meet the candidates and hear about their legislative priorities.

The special election will be held to replace Rep. Tom Newell who recently resigned.

Republican candidates include Billy Choate, Seminole; Daniel Matthews, Meeker; Zack Taylor, Seminole; and Mike Matlock, Prague. Democrat candidates include Steve Barnes, Wewoka; Jason Leonard, Seminole; Yasminda Choate, Saskwa; Blake Cummings, Maud; and Marilyn Rainwater, Seminole. One candidate, Cody Presley of Wewoka, is running as a Libertarian.

The primary election is March 7, and the election will be held May 9.



Attendees listen to Billy Choate of Seminole speak during Pottawatomie and Seminole County Farm Bureaus' public forum with ten candidates seeking House District 28.

Pruitt brings new day for farmers and ranchers, OKFB president says

The U.S. Senate voted 52-46 in favor of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan issued the following statement congratulating Pruitt on his new role.

"Today is a new day for farmers and ranchers across the country. We now have an Environmental Protection Agency administrator who will work alongside us, rather than against us, in protecting the

environment as we produce an abundance of safe and affordable food.

"In the past, the EPA has disregarded its constitutional role, and given itself authority far beyond Congressional intent. The agency's onerous regulations have hindered economic growth and placed undue burdens on U.S. farmers and ranchers.

"Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt has proved time and time again his ardent commitment to following the rule of law. As a longtime friend of family farmers

and ranchers, Pruitt will ensure the EPA preserves our environment while remaining within its constitutional jurisdiction.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau congratulates Pruitt on his prestigious new role and looks forward to working with the EPA under his leadership. We also would like to thank Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Barrasso, along with Sen. Jim Inhofe and Sen. James Lankford for their undeniable support of Pruitt."