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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

May 26, 2017

2017 YF&R Golf Tournament raises funds for legal foundation

More than \$10,000 was raised for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation during the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Golf Tournament on Friday, May 12 at the Silverhorn Golf Club in Oklahoma City.

More than 70 golfers making up approximately 20 teams played in the annual scramble-style tournament.

“We had a lot of fun at this year’s golf tournament, and we’re thankful for everyone’s contributions to the legal foundation,” said Travis Schnaithman, YF&R chairman. “We hope our donations will help the foundation continue to defend Oklahoma’s farmers and ranchers in future legal issues.”

The winning team included golfers Trevor Barnes, Roy Blevins and Nevada Cole hitting a 57 on the course.

A tiebreaker was held to separate the second- and third-place teams, both of which turned in a score of 58. Winning the tiebreaker for second place was the Alfalfa County Farm Bureau team, which included golfers Terry Ryel, Damon Hawkins, Eric Smith and Chad Kisling. Third place was awarded to the Texas County Farm Bureau



Above: The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers committee presents LeeAnna McNally with a \$10,000 check to the OKFB Legal Foundation as attendees stand in the background.

team with Cory Winters, Zach Homer, Brian Hough and Chad Blackmore.

The OKFB Legal Foundation was created in 2001 by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Board of Directors for the purpose of entering the legal arena to protect private property rights and production agriculture. The foundation strives to serve farmers and ranchers through engaging

in public interest litigation, researching legal issues affecting family farmers and rural Oklahomans, and educating farmers and ranchers and the public about issues important to agriculture. For more information about the legal foundation, visit www.ofblegalfoundation.org.

To see additional photos from the event, visit flickr.com/okfarmbureau.



Above: At the YF&R golf event, John Vance Auto Group donated a Dodge Challenger to be awarded if any player hit a hole-in-one. Left: Attendees of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Golf Tournament had fun participating in friendly competition at the SilverHorn Golf Club in Oklahoma City.

2017 YF&R scholarship winners announced

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers selected nine Oklahoma high school students to receive \$1,000 scholarships to study agriculture at an institution of higher education in Oklahoma.

“Agriculture plays such an important role in Oklahoma, and our Young Farmers & Ranchers committee is honored to help Oklahoma students continue their passion for agriculture,” said Travis Schnaithman, OKFB YF&R Chairman. “We hope this scholarship will help develop the next generation of agriculturalists who will go on to create the future of our industry.”

The nine students receiving 2017 YF&R scholarships are:

- Anna Blasdel, OKFB district one
- Luke Muller, OKFB district two
- Macy Griffin, OKFB district three
- McKenna Laminack, OKFB district four
- Rhiannon Wyma, OKFB district five
- Grant Hubbard, OKFB district six
- Brooklan Taylor Light, OKFB district seven

- Shyann McWhirter, OKFB district eight
- Kohl Murray, OKFB district nine

The nine students receiving scholarships have a wide variety of agricultural career interests and are choosing degrees spanning the agriculture spectrum, including plant and soil science, agricultural economics, parks and recreation management, agricultural communications, agri-business, agricultural law, agricultural education, and plant biotechnology.

Students plan to study at a variety of Oklahoma higher-education institutions, including Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Northeastern A&M College and Conners State College.

The OKFB YF&R committee awards \$1,000 scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors who plan to study agriculture at an Oklahoma institution of higher learning. The scholarship program is open to voting members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

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|---|---|---|---|--|
| district 1 anna blasdel buffalo | district 2 luke muller altus | district 3 macy griffin fort cobb | district 4 mckenna laminack devol | district 5 rhiannon wyma antlers |
|  young farmers & ranchers 2017 scholarship winners  | | | | |
| district 6 grant hubbard miami | district 7 brooklan taylor light enid | district 8 shyann mcwhirter maysville | district 9 kohl murray perkins | |

Kiowa County announces essay contest winners

The Kiowa County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee recently announced the winners of the group's fourth-grade essay contest.

This year's winners of the contest are:

- 1st Place: Reese King, Hobart
- 2nd Place: Luke Tacker, Hobart
- 3rd Place: Aerial Bailey, Hobart
- 3rd Place: TJ Handlin, Snyder

The contest winners and their guests enjoyed a delicious potluck meal prepared by Greg Holt, Kiowa County Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance agent, and the Kiowa County WLC. Also in attendance were the Kiowa County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and Dawayne Smith, insurance agent manager.

This year's contestants entered the essay contest with the prompt "What is Your Favorite Food and How Does it Get to Your Plate?"

The Kiowa County Farm Bureau would like to say "Thank You" to all the county schools for participating in the essay contest and looks forward to next year's entries.



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

 Spring 2017 issue of *Oklahoma County* is now available online

The latest issue of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's *Oklahoma Country* has arrived in mailboxes and is now available online for electronic viewing. This issue features the new OKFB courtyard, a second feature in the OKFB 75th anniversary series, a story about the devastating wildfires in northwest Oklahoma and more. Visit the OKFB website for details.

 Want more photos from the YF&R Golf Tournament?

Additional photos from the 2017 OKFB YF&R Golf Tournament have been uploaded to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Flickr page. To view, download, print and/or share the photos, go to flickr.com/photos/okfarmbureau/albums.



www.okfarmbureau.org

YF&R High School Discussion Meet registration deadline June 15

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers will hold their annual High School Discussion Meet at Oklahoma State University's Big Three Field Days in Stillwater on Tuesday, July 18.

The contest is open to current high school students in 4-H or FFA. Each club or chapter may send one participant who must attend a brief orientation on July 18 before the contest begins.

The meet provides 4-H and FFA members throughout the state with an educational opportunity to enhance their speaking, reasoning and presentation skills all while analyzing issues in agriculture.

The discussion meet simulates a committee meeting where members engage in conversations about a topic in hopes to foster thought and cooperative problem solving.

The top three contestants of the discussion meet will receive the following awards:

- 1st place: \$1,500 scholarship
- 2nd place: \$1,000 scholarship
- 3rd place: \$500 scholarship



High school students discuss current agricultural issues during the 2016 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers High School Discussion Meet.

Advisors must submit the High School Discussion Meet information sheet by June 15, 2017. A competitor's guide is also available on the Applications Center page

of the OKFB website.

For more information or for questions about the event, call Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2406 or Zac.Swartz@okfb.com.

OKFB offers new Grasshopper Mower member benefit

You work hard to keep your piece of America looking its best, so why not choose a mower made in the USA to take care of it?

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members can now receive a 15 percent discount on all Grasshopper makes and models as well as implements and accessories purchased with a mower.

Made in America by hard-working people committed to craftsmanship, durability and attention to detail, Grasshopper mowers can help keep your piece of land looking

its best. In addition, these products are designed with features that make mowing easier, more productive and more powerful.

Sitting on the seat of a Grasshopper True ZeroTurn mower is enough to convince you because the company's engineers understand what it takes to stay alert and in control – all day if necessary – and still step off feeling energized. To take it a step further, they translate that understanding into features that make mowing easier, more productive and more powerful than imaginable.

To take advantage of this special members-only offer, simply present your OKFB membership card to your local dealer. Discounts must be redeemed at the time of purchase.

Grasshopper products are available through a worldwide network of knowledgeable, independent dealers offering sales, parts and service to turf care professionals, business and government entities and discerning individuals. Find your local dealer on Grasshopper's website at grasshoppermower.com.

Member Benefits

Reminder: Only a few days left for OKFB's GM benefit
Oklahoma Farm Bureau members have a limited time to save on a Chevrolet, Buick or GMC vehicle purchase before the company's member benefit ends on May 31, 2017. This OKFB member benefit allows Farm Bureau members to receive \$500 FB Bonus Cash toward the purchase or lease of most new Chevrolet, Buick and GMC vehicles with a Farm Bureau discount certificate. Visit okfarmbureau.org/benefits for more information about this benefit and how to print your certificate.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

OKFB Youth Safety Day
June 2 • OKFB Home Office
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

On the Road with Ag in the Classroom
June 13-15 • State of Oklahoma
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture Conference
June 14-16 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Zac Swartz (405) 205-0070

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Take a trip back in Oklahoma Farm Bureau's history to some of the key moments of the formation of state's largest agricultural organization.

Roberts pushes for the formation of Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's roots date back to the early 1900s, when farmers and ranchers were dealing with the results of the stock market crash, the Great Depression and starvation-level farm prices.

Clarence Roberts, editor of *The Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman*, was convinced the answer to the problems of Oklahoma farmers and ranchers was a farm organization to serve as one voice for the state's rural community. Although his early attempts to rally farmers behind Farm Bureau failed, his determination eventually led to the creation of OKFB.

Throughout the years leading up to 1942, Roberts touted the importance of a farmer-led organization through countless editorials, meetings and personal conversations. In December 1938, Roberts led an unofficial delegation of observers

to the American Farm Bureau Federation convention in hopes to spark interest in Oklahoma's own organization.

Roberts was also a major part of the organizational effort during the first meetings by writing letters to potential leaders and encouraging support and membership through editorials in *The Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman*.

Sadly, Roberts became ill at the end of 1941 and died only a month after the first OKFB convention in 1942, where an honorary life membership was presented to him. The first issue of the *Oklahoma Farm Bureau Farmer* was dedicated to the memory of Roberts, citing his love for the soil and for those who worked in it daily.

Although Roberts never held a leadership position in the organization and never had the chance to see OKFB's success, his



Clarence Roberts

efforts were integral to the history of OKFB. His part in the formation of OKFB will always be remembered with gratitude for his service to Oklahoma farmers and ranchers.

OKAGPOLICY

today



Left: OKFB President Tom Buchanan gives members in southeastern Oklahoma a legislative update during a May 17 visit to McCurtain County. Right: McCurtain County Farm Bureau board member Brent Bolen asks Buchanan about Farm Bureau's work to promote family farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma during the meeting.

Buchanan: Farm Bureau stands up for agriculture, rural Oklahoma at state Capitol

As the Oklahoma population continues to grow more urban, Oklahoma Farm Bureau is committed to remaining the voice of agriculture and rural Oklahoma at the state Capitol, said OKFB President Tom Buchanan during a May 17 visit to McCurtain county.

The Altus farmer traveled to Idabel to listen to concerns of area farm and ranch members, as well as share an update on Farm Bureau's legislative work this year.

The statewide grassroots organization's most significantly opposed piece of legislation this year was HB 1374, a measure which

would allow municipalities to fund public safety through increased property taxes.

"As an avid defender of private property rights, Oklahoma Farm Bureau this year fought arduously against what could have been the largest property tax increase in state history," Buchanan said.

HB 1374 would give cities and towns access to property taxes for the first time in history, Buchanan said, opening the door to endless property tax increases into the future. The bill also would lower the current vote threshold on property tax increases from a super majority

to a simple majority.

"Once municipalities are given property taxes as a source of funding, when will it stop?" Buchanan said. "Farm Bureau members see the writing on the wall. The concept is bad policy for farmers and ranchers, and bad policy for rural Oklahoma."

Though the measure passed the House, it was stalled in the Senate. However, it remains alive for next year's legislative session and Buchanan said Farm Bureau will continue to fight against it in the future.

Cont'd on last page (see Buchanan)



Roger Fisher of Cotton County Farm Bureau stands in his southwestern Oklahoma field. The U.S. EPA under the previous administration vastly expanded its jurisdiction over private land with the Waters of the U.S. rule. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, former Oklahoma attorney general, is now working with the Trump administration to review and repeal the WOTUS rule, and other burdensome EPA environmental regulations..

OKFB identifies EPA regulations for reform

Can you believe it? The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency actually has asked farmers and ranchers about environmental regulations. A new administration makes all the difference.

Under Oklahoma's own Administrator Scott Pruitt, the EPA asked for comments about environmental regulations in need of repeal or replacement. The call came in response to an executive order (E.O. 13777) by President Donald Trump, which directed federal agencies to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations.

The goals of Pruitt's "Back-to-Basics" agenda are to protect the environment, engage with partners, and provide sensible regulations for economic growth.

Historically, Oklahoma Farm Bureau has supported environmental regulations that are consistent with

federal legislation and congressional intent.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OKFB RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EPA:

- Repeal or conduct new rulemaking of the Waters of the United States rule. Much despised by farmers and ranchers across the country, the WOTUS rule in its current form greatly expands federal jurisdiction over private property including dry creek beds, farm ponds, ditches and even puddles.
- Repeal the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure regulations for on-farm oil/fuel storage tanks. The rule places unreasonable and costly burdens on agricultural operations with no data to justify the cost.
- Clarify the Clean Air Act to ensure agricultural producers do not violate air quality standards for

coarse particulate matter, like naturally occurring dust on farms.

- Research the recharge of underground aquifers for the benefit of production agriculture. Current regulations require stored water be treated to drinking water standards before inserted into an aquifer.

President Trump's executive order also called for the creation of a Regulatory Reform Task Force, which is charged with making recommendations on regulations to repeal, replace, or modify. The task force will identify regulations that inhibit job creation, that are outdated, unnecessary or ineffective, or that impose costs that exceed benefits. In addition to public comment, the agency also has reached out to state and local governments for input.

Find full OKFB and American Farm Bureau Federation comments at www.OKAgPolicy.org.

Inhofe promotes infrastructure on statewide tour

U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, toured water and surface transportation projects throughout the state on May 12 in a push to promote state and national infrastructure projects.

Inhofe's tour included a visit to the Port of Catoosa's recently rehabilitated main dock, which was funded by a 2012 \$6.4 million U.S. Department of Transportation Transportation Investment

Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. He then toured various infrastructure projects throughout the state, followed by a Norman press conference at I-35 and Highway 9.

Inhofe focused on President Trump's upcoming infrastructure package and his own priorities as the EPW T&I chairman.

"We have a president now who is dead serious about this trillion-dollar infrastructure package," Inhofe said at the press conference. "He knows (infrastructure) is a serious problem in this country. I will be working very closely with this administration and

you can look for very good things to come."

Joined by Oklahoma Department of Transportation Gary Ridley and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson, the senior senator from Oklahoma also highlighted plans to improve Oklahoma's surface transportation.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are committed to working alongside Sen. Inhofe, Oklahoma's Congressional delegation and President Trump to improve not only statewide roads and bridges, but also water infrastructure.



Top: Sen. Jim Inhofe (center) poses with Tulsa Port of Catoosa Director David Yarbrough (third from left), ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson (sixth from left), and other industry leaders in front of the Tulsa Port of Catoosa's main dock on May 12. Bottom Left: Patterson emphasizes the importance of ODOT's work in Oklahoma. Bottom Right: Yarbrough speaks about work to promote the port and the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigational System in Congress.



CORRECTION: In thanking county Farm Bureaus that hosted a legislative event this year, we mistakenly left Nowata, Osage and Washington counties off the list in the previous *OKAgPolicy Today* issue. We sincerely apologize for the mistake, and greatly appreciate the counties' work to promote agriculture and Farm Bureau with local legislators.

Duvall: President Trump's NAFTA renegotiation must expand markets, benefit agriculture

President Donald Trump last week announced his decision to renegotiate the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall released the following statement in response.

“With the delivery of the required formal notice to Congress, the Trump administration has officially taken the first step toward renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement. The American Farm Bureau looks forward to working with the administration, Congress, other

agricultural groups, and officials in Canada and Mexico to protect these important markets while also addressing issues that have limited the trade potential of U.S. farmers and ranchers. We remain committed to the goal of a positive, market-expanding and modernized NAFTA. Achieving this objective starts with ensuring the negotiations protect U.S. agriculture's benefits under the current trade agreement.

“The 2015 Trade Priorities and Accountability Act gives farmers, ranchers, the agriculture community and other stakeholders the opportunity to provide input and

share our significant expertise with U.S. negotiators. Our ability to be part of these negotiations is important to our members and will help ensure the outcome improves trade relationships with our neighboring countries. Mexico and Canada are two of our largest export markets for the commodities and products raised on U.S. farms and ranches. America's farmers and ranchers value them as customers and trade partners. We will work to ensure the renegotiation strengthens that critical relationship.”

Buchanan (cont'd from first page)

Farm Bureau also adamantly opposes the state Legislature's proposed 6-cent increase to the fuel tax in Oklahoma, Buchanan said.

“Obviously, an increased tax on gasoline and diesel disproportionately impacts rural Oklahomans,” Buchanan said. “Farmers and ranchers use fuel to produce and transport goods, but even further, rural Oklahomans as a whole drive further than those in urban areas.”

During the meeting, Buchanan also

emphasized the significance of the Trump administration for farmers and ranchers.

“November brought a new era in Washington, D.C.,” Buchanan said. “We now have an administration who will work alongside us as farmers and ranchers, rather than against us.”

Buchanan said Farm Bureau members visited the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during a recent trip to the nation's Capitol—and were welcomed by Administrator Scott Pruitt, former

Oklahoma attorney general. Under Pruitt's leadership, Buchanan said the EPA will protect the environment without hindering economic growth.

“Administrator Pruitt understands how regulations impact every day Americans, including those of us who produce our nation's food,” Buchanan said. “Without a doubt, he will remove the burden of excessive regulations from farmers and ranchers. It's an exciting time for American agriculture.”



Left: Choctaw County Farm Bureau member Terry Caldwell shares about his experience with Farm Bureau in Washington, D.C. Right: Choctaw County Farm Bureau member Marty Lester asks about OKFB advocacy efforts for farmers and ranchers.