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Oklahoma Farm Bureau *Perspective*

July 10, 2015

Sen. Inhofe announces DRIVE Act

A press conference was held June 26 to promote the Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy Act, otherwise known as the DRIVE Act, in Owasso, Oklahoma. U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and primary author of the bill, explained its importance in Oklahoma.

The DRIVE Act is a six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill that was announced on June 23.

Along with the efforts of Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., David Vitter, R-La., and Tom Harper, D-Del., Inhofe has proposed the DRIVE Act to start a mass renovation of U.S. highways, bridges and transportation programs.

The revamping of Oklahoma's roads is likely to have an affect on agriculture as well. With the agriculture sector utilizing so much of Oklahoma's infrastructure, improving it could benefit Oklahoma farmers.

"A good, reliable infrastructure is vitally important to Oklahoma agriculture," said Tom Buchanan, OKFB president. "We need safe and efficient roads and bridges to transport our valuable commodities to market. We applaud Sen. Inhofe for recognizing this need and for his continuing support of agriculture."

Other components of the bill, such as building more natural gas fueling stations and freight cost reduction, could also benefit Oklahoma agriculturalists.



Sen. Inhofe speaks in favor of the DRIVE Act at his press conference in Owasso, Okla.



John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy and media relations (left), with Congressman Frank Lucas, LeeAnna McNally, OKFB director of national affairs, and Rodd Moesel, OKFB district 3 director, celebrate the unveiling of Lucas' portrait in the House Agriculture Committee meeting room. The portrait will be displayed to honor Lucas' service as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

August Area Meeting Schedule

District 1

Aug. 10
12 p.m. – Woodward
6:30 p.m. – Guymon

District 2

Aug. 20
12 p.m.

District 3

Aug. 20
6:30 p.m.

District 4

Aug. 13
11:30 a.m.

District 5

Aug. 18
12 p.m.

District 6

Aug. 10
6:30 p.m.

District 7

Aug. 11
6:30 p.m.

District 8

Aug. 18
6 p.m.

District 9

Aug. 13
6:30 p.m.

**locations to be announced*

OKFB members set to begin public policy development process



By LeeAnna McNally
OKFB Director of National Affairs

It's that time of year again! In less than six weeks, the OKFB Public Policy staff will travel across the state to hold August Area Meetings in each OKFB district. These meetings will kickoff the 2015 policy making process, and allow OKFB members to voice ideas to move Oklahoma agriculture forward.

Last year, approximately 800 OKFB members from all corners of the state participated in the policy-making process, and we hope to see more this year. After August Area Meetings, Farm Bureau members will meet county by county to discuss potential resolutions to submit for review at the State Resolutions Committee meeting in the fall.

As the process begins, I encourage members to not only bring new ideas, but

also to review existing policy currently on the books. The OKFB Policy Book serves as a guide to OKFB staff; it's that important current OKFB membership views are reflected accurately in this book. As August approaches, I encourage everyone to participate in this important process. We, as a Public Policy staff, look forward to seeing you all at the 2015 August Area Meetings.

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Organization and Membership Services keeps busy in summer



By Chris Kidd
OKFB Vice President of Organization and Membership Services

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Membership Services and Organization Division has been exceptionally

active these past few months. Our division, possessing more than three successful departments with numerous educational programs, continues to make its way across all 77 Oklahoma counties.

With growth comes anticipated change, and the safety department has experienced just that. Micah Martin, a key staff member in the Safety Services department for more than 10 years, was recently promoted to director of safety services. In May, the safety department visited more than 23 counties and thousands of students. Students participating in the programs were taught fire safety practices, the effects of alcohol on vehicle operators, self-defense methods, facts on where food originates and the importance of agriculture.

Safety Services had an equally busy June because it was the National Safety Month. The department actively promoted safety practices to more than 40 kids, ages 11 to 17, during the first annual Women's Leadership Committee Youth Safety Day.

Similar to the hard work of the Safety Department, the Women's Leadership Committee has been occupied with numerous events and meetings. In conjunction with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the committee participated in Super Agriculture Day held at the Oklahoma City fairgrounds in May. The annual event teaches students from surrounding schools how food is grown, the diverse commodities our state offers, and the significance of farmers.

To further their knowledge on Oklahoma agriculture, the committee has also been active in attending On the Road with Ag in the Classroom. Sponsored by ODAFF, these tours travel to a multitude of farms and farmers markets, while informing attendants about the science and knowledge pertaining to specific commodities.

To continue with their traveling, the committee took their annual trip to the National Ag in the Classroom meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, June 16-20, where they planned for the upcoming year.

The Member Services Department has also been working effectively to grow our membership base and benefits offered. The department currently has an abundant

amount of member benefits (Chevy, Choice Hotels, Great Wolf Lodge, etc.) with numerous potential benefits being researched.

The department also has been presented with opportunities to teach agents, county secretaries and members about the diverse benefits and programs available. In fact, the attendees of the brokerage meetings held in Oklahoma City were informed of the abundant outpouring of member services and discounts. Looking into the future, the Member Services Department will be hosting a number of open houses this fall at many county offices, cooperatively with the membership drive.

It is highly evident the Membership Services and Organization Department at Oklahoma Farm Bureau hardly rests. With programs and events scheduled all year, the goal of teaching Oklahoma citizens about our organization and the importance of agriculture is remarkably met.

Keep an eye out for the next next issue of Oklahoma Country, which will hit mailboxes this week! This issue covers the latest legislative session, member benefits and features the stories of two Oklahoma agribusinesses.



Member Benefits

Sears Commercial

Sears Commercial offers Oklahoma Farm Bureau members special discount pricing on everyday products for the home, including kitchen and laundry appliances, gas grills, televisions, window air conditioners, hot water heaters, Craftsman Tools and so much more!

View products available at discount prices at www.searscommercial.com.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

OSU Big Three Field Days

July 14 – 16 – Stillwater
Contact: Holly Carroll 405-523-2307

Women's Nursing Scholarship Deadline

July 15
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

District Farm Family Application Deadline

July 31
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

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Ag in the Classroom visits Holdenville Livestock Market



Top left: Tom Holcomb creates a mock livestock auction for 55 teachers participating in the teacher bus tour with Ag in the Classroom. Many of the teachers were from urban schools and had limited agricultural knowledge.

Top right: Phyllis Holcomb (front left), OKFB district 9 director, Marcia Irvin, WLC coordinator, and Kitty Beavers, WLC chair, on June 25 with teachers participating in the Ag in the Classroom bus tour.

Bottom left: Urban schoolteachers observe a calf in the auction ring.