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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

Nov. 25, 2016

Farm Family of the Year awarded to Maschino family



Pictured left to right: OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Chairman Kitty Beavers, OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke, Cameron Colter with Vance Auto, and OKFB President Tom Buchanan present the OKFB 2016 Farm Family of the Year award to Idella and Roger Maschino, pictured with their son, Austin, daughter, Fayla, and grandson, Dakota.

Roger and Idella Maschino of Guymon were named the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Farm Family of the Year during OKFB's 75th Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

"It's very humbling, but very honoring," Roger Maschino said shortly after being named farm family of the year. "We're proud to be Americans, and we're proud to be in agriculture, and we just pray that we will be a lighthouse and a good example of American agriculture and Farm Bureau for the state of Oklahoma."

The Maschinos raise cattle in Texas, Cimarron and Delaware counties. The couple is focused on quality animals, which produce quality beef for consumers.

"We have developed our beef to where our calves are grading 100 percent choice

and higher," Roger Maschino said. "They go into an all-natural beef program that is sold through the website 44steaks.com.

"We like quality and our quality is good enough that it is now featured in 200 restaurants across the United States."

Roger and Idella continue to develop their cattle herd by collecting detailed harvest data and careful selection of breeding stock.

Idella, a Colorado native, still holds an interest in her family's farm in southeastern Colorado, where the family raises white wheat, which produces a unique, high-quality flour.

Ranching is a passion for the Maschinos, who raised two children on the family's ranch, and who now work alongside their grandson, passing along their love for agriculture.

"In the ag environment, whether it be farming or cattle, there's two things that you have to have, and that's passion and commitment," Roger Maschino said. "You either love it or hate it, and if you love it, it doesn't matter how tough things get, you will find a way to survive."

"I remember my dad saying, 'It wasn't what you made in farming that kept you farming. It's what you're going to make,'" Idella said.

The farm family program, sponsored by the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee, recognizes farm and ranch families who embody the best traditions of Oklahoma agriculture and rural life.

Gibson honored with OKFB Distinguished Service Award



Pictured left to right: Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan and OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke present Billy Gibson with the 2016 Distinguished Service to OKFB award. Gibson is joined by his wife, Janet, and family.

Billy Gibson of Pontotoc County was recognized with the Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Award during the OKFB 75th Annual Convention Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

The award honors OKFB members who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture and the Farm Bureau organization.

Gibson has been in agriculture for nearly 42 years and served several terms on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau State Board of Directors as well as on the Pontotoc County Farm Bureau board since 1978. He is active in a cow/calf and stocker/feeder operation

in addition to his contributions within the pecan industry.

He has attended 23 national Farm Bureau conventions and served as a delegate five times. Gibson said Oklahoma Farm Bureau members and staff were at the heart of his dedication to the organization.

“This was quite a surprise,” Gibson said of receiving the honor. “The people I met and got to work with made it worthwhile.”

Gibson is also a member of the Oklahoma Cattleman’s Association and an AFBF Research Foundation Executive Club Member.

Other Awards

Seminole County wins John I. Taylor Award

The John I. Taylor Award is named after OKFB’s first president and serves as the organization’s highest county honor. County winners are required to earn the Four-Star Presidential Award and excel in at least six different program areas.

Alfalfa County earns Lewis H. Munn Award

The award is named after the second president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, and each year a specific area of involvement is judged for the award. This year’s area was local affairs and public relations.

Comanche County wins Charles L. Roff Award

The Charles L. Roff Award encourages county YF&R groups to improve their local committees and activity participation while strengthening the Farm Bureau organization.

Various county Farm Bureaus awarded for excellence

Each year, Oklahoma Farm Bureau honors counties for excelling in various awards with Presidential Star Awards. County Farm Bureaus also are awarded for reaching their membership quotas. Find the list on our website at www.okfarmbureau.org.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Convention photos available

More photos from the OKFB Annual Meeting have been uploaded to the OKFB Flickr page. From award winners to candid shots of members, the weekend has been captured and posted for you to see. To view, download, print and/or share the photos, go to flickr.com/photos/okfarmbureau.



More convention details

Looking for more information from our 2016 annual meeting? Visit our website for more in-depth stories about our award winners, complete with links to press releases, sponsors, captions, photos, and much more!



www.okfarmbureau.org

OKFB members elected to leadership positions

Several leadership positions, including three state board members, were decided during Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 75th Annual Convention Nov. 11-13 in Oklahoma City.

Rodd Moesel of Canadian County was re-elected to a three-year term on the OKFB board of directors representing District 3. District 3 encompasses Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Grady, Kingfisher, Logan and Oklahoma counties in central Oklahoma.

James Fuser of Ottawa County was also re-elected to serve a three-year term on the board of directors for OKFB representing District 6. Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, McIntosh, Mayes, Muskogee, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoia and Wagoner counties in northeastern Oklahoma represent District 6.

Jim Meeks of Okmulgee County was elected to serve a three-year term on the OKFB board of directors representing District 9. Meeks will take Phyllis Holcomb's place on the board. District 9 includes

Creek, Lincoln, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Osage, Pawnee, Payne, Tulsa and Washington counties in north central Oklahoma.

The OKFB Women's Leadership Committee re-elected Kitty Beavers of Stephens County to serve as the chairman for a term of two years. The OKFB WLC also elected two new board members: Mary Sloan from District 6 and Cindy Schoenecke from District 9. Sharlene Lambring was re-elected to represent District 3.

The OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee elected Travis and Rylee Schnaithman of Garfield County to serve as chairman for a one-year term. Members elected Brent and Jennifer Howard from Jackson County, District 2, as vice chairman. Additional new committee members are: Dell Farris of Comanche County, District 3; Baylie Cooper of McIntosh County, District 5; Rachel Pickens of Payne County, District 8; and Brent Haken of Noble County, District 9.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members reaffirm feral hog policy at annual meeting

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau delegate body reaffirmed its backing of feral hog eradication during the organization's annual meeting Nov. 12 in Oklahoma City. Members from all 77 county Farm Bureaus gathered to set policy to direct the organization throughout the coming year.

Feral, or wild, hogs are an invasive species found in all 77 counties costing farmers and ranchers millions of dollars in damage to property, equipment and facilities.

"Feral hogs are still an onerous burden for farmers and ranchers across the state," Buchanan said. "We fought for eradication last year and will continue to do so until the invasive species is no longer a problem."

OKFB feral hog policy states, "ODAFAFF should take action through the administrative rules process to end the transportation of live feral hogs in Oklahoma. We support the eradication of feral hogs as an invasive species. All landowners should be encouraged to eradicate feral hogs on their land by any means possible. We do not support commercial sport hunting of feral hogs."

The delegate body also approved policy

to encourage the elimination of unnecessary school administration positions.

"As our state's education crisis continues, rural Oklahoma must have a say in the future of our school systems," Buchanan said. "Today, our members made a progressive step toward improved education for both urban and rural students."

The newly-adopted education policy states, "We support examining the administrative structure of all education – primary, secondary and university – and the elimination of unneeded positions and repeated curriculum...We support allowing schools to share or co-op the services of a superintendent."

Other new policies include a call to declare the black buzzard as an invasive species, the maintenance of funding for county extension educators, and continued opposition against the Environmental Protection Agency's Waters of the U.S. rule.

All 77 county Farm Bureaus submitted resolutions to the OKFB policy book which were reviewed by a statewide committee and voted on by the delegate body during the annual meeting.

Morrow receives Golden Eagle Award



OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke (left) presents Charles Morrow with the 2016 OKFB Golden Eagle Award.

Charles Morrow of Pontotoc County Farm Bureau was presented with the Golden Eagle Award Nov. 11 during the Oklahoma Farm Bureau 75th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City.

The Golden Eagle award is presented each year to the individual or county who has worked to recruit the most new members throughout the year. These memberships were not based on insurance services, but instead joined as stand-alone members of the federation.

"I just let them know we're a farm organization that is involved in legislation and politics to some extent, and that we're not just an insurance company," Morrow said when asked about his success in recruiting new members. "I just let them know all the different things we do, because they want to know what membership would do for them."

As the winner of the Gold Eagle Award, Morrow received a traveling trophy and a personalized jacket.

Coble named OKFB Journalist of the Year

April Coble of the *Guymon Daily Herald Newspaper* was recognized with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Journalist of the Year award during the OKFB 75th Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

Coble is a reporter for the *Guymon Daily Herald Newspaper* in Guymon, Oklahoma. She also played a critical role in promoting State Question 777. Coble attends several Farm Bureau events as a means to publicize the Texas County advocacy efforts.

This award honors journalists for their contributions through reporting accurately and regularly about Farm Bureau news, agricultural issues and the importance of these to Oklahoma and the nation.

Payne County member wins YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award



Pictured left to right: OKFB President Tom Buchanan and OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson present Rachel Pickens with the 2016 OKFB YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award along with sponsors Kristin Zollinger, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma, and Ryan Luter, Oklahoma AgCredit.

Rachel Pickens was named the winner of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award on Nov. 11 at OKFB's 75th Annual Convention in Oklahoma City.

The award recognizes successful young adults ages 35 years or younger who are involved in farming, but whose primary occupations are not farming or owning an agricultural business. Winners are chosen

based on their involvement in agriculture and participation in Oklahoma Farm Bureau and other community organizations.

Known as the "Oklahoma Land Lady," Rachel is a successful realtor in Payne County. In 2010, she opened an agritourism venue, which also serves as an educational field trip destination for approximately 2,000 people per year.

Pickens also helps with the Kicking

Childhood Hunger Committee, which is designed to raise money to help with food insecurity in Payne County.

"The committee has helped at our agritourism farm to help connect the general public to the awareness of childhood hunger," she said. "We explain the importance of doing more with less and why we use practices the way we do in agriculture to continue to supply the demand of the growing population."

As the Excellence in Agriculture Award winner, Pickens received a Polaris four-wheeler, courtesy of Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma and Oklahoma AgCredit, and an expense-paid trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting Jan. 6-11 in Phoenix, Arizona, where she will compete for the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Pickens will be donating the Polaris four-wheeler to the Kicking Childhood Hunger Committee to auction next year.

"This award is truly an honor because that's another way I can give back to the community," Pickens said.

Pickens will compete for the National YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award during the AFBF Annual Meeting.

YF&R Achievement Award presented to Comanche County member

Isaac Fisher of Comanche County was named the winner of the 2016 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award. He was recognized as OKFB's top young farming and ranching individual at the 75th annual convention on Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

Fisher concentrates on raising stocker cattle and growing wheat and cotton near the southwest Oklahoma town of Chattanooga. He also runs a custom haying business swathing and baling hay for fellow farmers and ranchers in the area.

"It's an honor to even be considered for this award," Fisher said. "To be recognized for the Achievement Award from this organization feels really good."

Fisher serves on the OKFB YF&R state committee, and he is active in his local YF&R committee. He has attended numerous state Farm Bureau events in addition to serving as a local volunteer firefighter.

As the Achievement Award winner, Fisher received a Kubota RTV500 courtesy of Great Plains Kubota and an expense-paid



Pictured left to right: OKFB President Tom Buchanan and OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson present Isaac Fisher with the 2016 OKFB YF&R Achievement Award with YF&R sponsor Reed Boettcher of Great Plains Kubota.

trip to Phoenix for the 2017 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting.

Fisher will compete on a national level for the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award during the AFBF

Annual Meeting.

"I'm both excited and nervous about competing on the national level, but I'm looking forward to this opportunity," Fisher said.

OKFB YF&R name high school discussion meet winner

Dalton Miller of Blanchard, Oklahoma, was named the winner of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers high school discussion meet held Thursday, Nov. 10, in Oklahoma City.

Luke Muller, Elizabeth Schneider, Cody Courtney and Miranda Gilchrist were the other four finalists.

"This event provides students with experience discussing agricultural issues with their peers," said Brittany Mikles, OKFB southwest field representative. "These young people will help tell the story of farmers and ranchers for

generations to come."

Miller is a student at Amber-Pocasset High School in Amber, Oklahoma, where he is active in his local FFA chapter.

"I'm so thankful to this great opportunity," Miller said. "I enjoyed discussing agricultural topics with other knowledgeable, educated young people."

Miller received a MacBook Air laptop computer as the winner of the discussion meet. Muller, Schneider, Courtney and Gilchrist all received an iPad Mini as the remaining top four finalists.



OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson (left) presents Dalton Miller with the 2016 OKFB YF&R High School Discussion Meet Award.

Howard wins OKFB YF&R Discussion Meet

Jennifer Howard of Jackson County was named the 2016 Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet winner at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau 75th Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

Howard competed against four other participants in three rounds of debate-style discussion where performance was evaluated on the exchange of ideas and information on pre-determined topics. Participants were judged on their ability to offer constructive criticism, cooperation and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions.

"This is a great opportunity to promote this industry that we all love and feel so passionate about," Howard said. "I'm grateful to the sponsor of the event, P&K Equipment, for their generosity and for making this award possible."

As the state discussion meet winner, Howard received a John Deere X320 Lawn Mower, presented by P&K Equipment, an Icehole cooler, and the opportunity to



Pictured left to right: Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan and OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Chairman Josh Emerson present Jennifer Howard with the 2016 OKFB YF&R Discussion Meet Award along with sponsor Scott Eisenhauer of P&K Equipment.

compete in the national discussion meet contest at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting Jan. 6-11 in Phoenix, Arizona.

"I'm definitely very passionate about agriculture and I'm looking forward to conversations and the topics at the national level," Howard said.

Member Benefits

Choice Hotels International

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members can save up to 20 percent off their next stay at thousands of Choice Hotel locations when they call in advance. To obtain the special rate ID, look at the back of your membership card, contact your county office, or contact Kelli Beall at 405-523-2470.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

Happy Thanksgiving from Oklahoma Farm Bureau!

AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show

January 6-11 • Phoenix, Arizona
Contact: Melisa Neal (405) 523-2475

2017 FUSION Conference

February 10-13 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Contact: Brittany Mikles (405) 523-2307

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Collins named Oklahoma Farm Bureau Secretary of the Year

Cheslea Collins of the Texas County Farm Bureau office was honored as the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Secretary of the Year at the OKFB 75th Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

Collins works in the Texas County Farm Bureau office in Guymon. A lifelong Texas County resident, she raises cattle with her husband and boys in the area.

County secretaries serve as the face of the county Farm Bureau office with not only customers but also with potential new members.

"I do a little bit of everything," Collins said of her responsibilities in the county office. "I know pretty much every customer's name when they walk in the door, who they are, where they come from and what they do."

Collins went above and beyond in her efforts to serve her local community. She and another Farm Bureau member raised \$50,000 in two months to build a playground at a rural school that many Farm Bureau members' children attend. She has also been instrumental in advocating for agriculture and Farm Bureau programs throughout the county.

"It's an honor," Collins said of receiving the award. "I worked hard this year, and I had some goals that I set and we accomplished them. I have the best board members I could ask for who backed me on everything we wanted to do for the county, including open houses and our local parade. It's a tremendous honor, and I'm very happy to receive it."

Collins will receive an expense-paid trip



OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke (left) presents the 2016 OKFB Secretary of the Year Award to Cheslea Collins.

to the 2017 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in Phoenix for being selected as OKFB Secretary of the Year.

Bushels for Books awards presented at OKFB convention

Five educators from Oklahoma elementary schools were honored during the Flapjack Fundraiser for the Bushels for Books program at the Cox Convention Center on Saturday, November 12. During the event, the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers awarded five Oklahoma educators with bushel baskets of accurate agriculture books to be used in their classrooms and school libraries.

"We are thrilled to award these outstanding educators with resources

to help them include agriculture in their classroom curriculum," said Jeramy Rich, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation president.

Applications were accepted from elementary educators across the state. The five finalists selected to receive the award include: Mr. Nathan Akehurst, fourth-grade teacher at Heritage IGC in Coweta; Ms. Lindsay Headlee, librarian for Cherokee Elementary School in Cherokee; Ms. Cheryl Hyde, title 1 reading specialist for Lexington Elementary in Lexington; Ms. Sarah Johnston, library media specialist for Ida

Freeman Elementary in Edmond; and Ms. Shelley Wall, library media specialist for Will Rogers Elementary in Shawnee.

The Bushels for Books program takes donated bushels of any commodity crop as well as monetary donations from Oklahoma farmers and provides accurate agriculture books to Oklahoma elementary schools.

For more information on the program, please visit www.okfarmingandranching-foundation.org or contact Amanda Rosholt at amanda.rosholt@aggiving.org or (405) 202-1463.