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# OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

September 16, 2016

## OKFB annual meeting details, schedule released

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from across the state will meet at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City Nov. 11-13 for OKFB's 75th annual meeting.

The OKFB awards program will take place during the first general session on Friday evening at 7 p.m. The featured entertainment is scheduled for Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. following the annual OKFB banquet.

The tentative convention schedule will be posted the Oklahoma Farm Bureau website and information will be updated as changes are released. Additional details will also be announced soon. The final schedule will be distributed at convention.

This year's theme is "Bold Innovators with the Wisdom to See Beyond Tomorrow," which represents the very reason the organization was founded: to protect and unify Oklahoma farmers and ranchers for generations to come.



## 2016 OKFB Annual Convention Schedule

Schedule is current as of press time. Updated schedules will be posted online at [okfarmbureau.org](http://okfarmbureau.org). The final schedule will be distributed at convention.

### Friday, November 11

8 a.m.	Credentials Committee Breakfast
9 a.m.	Registration Opens
9:30 a.m.	YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Judging
10 a.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Round 1
10 a.m.	Trade Show Opens
10:45 a.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Round 2
11:15 a.m.	State Board Meeting and Luncheon
11:30 a.m.	Women's Leadership Committee Luncheon
11:30 a.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Finals and Luncheon
1:30 p.m.	Opening Session
3:30 p.m.	First Break-out Session
4:30 p.m.	Second Break-out Session
5:30 p.m.	OKAgFund Meeting
5:30 p.m.	YF&R Dinner and Caucus
7 p.m.	Awards Program
8:45 p.m.	Ice Cream Social

### Saturday, November 12

7:30 a.m.	Flapjack Fundraiser
7:30 a.m.	Credentials Committee Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Financial Review Committee Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Resolutions Committee Breakfast
8 a.m.	Registration Opens
8 a.m.	Trade Show Opens
8:45 a.m.	OFBMIC Policyholders Meeting
9:30 a.m.	General Session
12 p.m.	Credentials Committee Meeting
12:30 p.m.	Women's Leadership Committee Gavel Club Luncheon
1:30 p.m.	District Caucuses (Districts 3, 6 and 9)
2:15 p.m.	General Session
5:30 p.m.	OKAgFund Reception
7 p.m.	Dinner and Entertainment

### Sunday, November 13

7:30 a.m.	County Presidents Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Women's Leadership Committee Chairman's Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast of Champions
9:15 a.m.	Memorial and Worship Service

# A call to action from OKFB President Tom Buchanan

By Tom Buchanan • OKFB President

I'm pleased to report that we wrapped up a series of successful August Area Meetings. I was excited to see you there and look forward to state resolutions and representing you at the annual convention November 11-13.

I'm writing to ask for your help as we continue in the fight for State Question 777, the Right to Farm. As many of you may have seen, some municipalities have come out in opposition to SQ 777 because of half-truths told by the opposition. We must explain to our local city governments that Right to Farm in no way will affect any municipality's ability to enforce city ordinances. The exact language of the state question reads as follows:

*"Nothing in this section shall be construed*

*to modify or affect any statute or ordinance enacted by the Legislature or any political subdivision prior to December 31, 2014."*

These attacks by the opposition come as no surprise to us. They are devious and have used many tactics to cloud the judgment of Oklahomans. As members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, it is our responsibility to explain this question as a necessary measure to protect our legacy and ultimately the food, fiber, and fuel for all Oklahomans and our nation.

If you know any of your city officials, such as mayors and city council members, please reach out to them and explain what Right to Farm is and what it is not. Our public policy and communications departments at the home office will be glad to

join you in speaking with your city officials. Moreover, if you are involved with your local Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis or other various community organizations, it is important to share with them accurate and correct information.

You are the soldiers on the ground in a grassroots-driven army. We are going to



need each and every one of you to help in this endeavor. I thank you for your service to OKFB and I look forward to a victory in November.

*Tom Buchanan,  
OKFB President*

## ODAFF, OSU launches new program to recognize Significant Women in Oklahoma Agriculture

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry, in collaboration with Oklahoma State University, recently launched a new program, Significant Women in Oklahoma Agriculture, at the Statewide Women in Ag and Small Business Conference.

The initiative is designed to honor and recognize the numerous women in agriculture across all 77 counties of the state, from all aspects and areas of the industry ranging from producers to educators, leaders to entrepreneurs, veterinarians to board members and many more.

"Our hope is to tell the stories of the countless women who give selflessly to this industry but don't always receive an award,"

said Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese. "We want to find the hidden inspirational women and give them the recognition they deserve. Giving one woman of the year award is great, but it leaves out so many other worthy women."

One honoree will be selected each week and recognized on ODAFF's social media with a detailed biography and her "ag story." Additionally, a press release acknowledging her selection will be submitted to area newspapers.

The benefit of using social media for recognition is that it is accessible to most everyone and allows the archives to be accessed long after they were published.

"We encourage everyone to submit a nomination," said Secretary Reese, "Whether that is nominating yourself or someone you know."

The nomination form can be found by visiting [okwomeninagandsmallbusiness.com](http://okwomeninagandsmallbusiness.com) and clicking on the Significant Women in Ag nomination link.

All nominations must be submitted online before February 1, 2017.

After all nominations have been submitted, a selection committee will begin the process of recognizing Oklahoma's Significant Women in Agriculture.

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



YF&R President John Morris speaks about Farmhand Olympics on KSWO

Did you see the news clip of YF&R President John Morris speaking about the Farmhand Olympics in Comanche County on KSWO Channel 7? Find the link on the OKFB Facebook page.



OKFB Convention details

Additional details about the OKFB Convention will be announced soon, including information about convention sponsors, tradeshow vendors, keynote speakers, entertainment and Farm Family of the Year finalists. Stay up-to-date on the latest news by visiting our website at [okfarmbureau.org](http://okfarmbureau.org) or following us on social media.



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

# Vote "Yes" on SQ 777 for Oklahoma Farmers

By Barry Pollard

Farming and agriculture, like every other industry, has changed. For almost 32 years, I've been in the business of providing farmers and ranchers with the tools to handle that change through my company, P&K Equipment, and I'm a rancher myself. For the most part, the changes we've seen have been good. Technology has made it easier and faster to produce more with less. Methods have become more responsible. Science has given us insights to make smarter and more informed decisions.

But the farming and ranching industry is experiencing another kind of change that makes frivolous regulations and legal maneuvering more common and pervasive. In this environment, it's harder than ever to defend yourself or your business against special interest groups with an agenda and deep pockets. I don't know about you, but I want farmers and ranchers, including me, focused on running their family farms, not worrying about legal battles and lobbying.

That's why I feel strongly that State Question 777 – the Right to Farm, will provide an additional layer of much-needed protection for those whose livelihood is not only the lifeblood of our state's economy, but is also the nutritious food, fuel and fiber for our families. Other states, including North Dakota and Missouri, have already seen

the benefit of constitutional protection for agriculture, and I encourage Oklahomans to follow their lead.

Protecting the rights of farmers and ranchers at a higher level by including their Right to Farm in our state constitution ensures that family farmers, who know their business better than anyone else, can continue to produce affordably and responsibly, which will ensure that Oklahoma families will have plenty of reasonably priced choices in healthy, locally grown food.

According to the U.S. Census 2015 data, 98 percent of Oklahoma farms are family owned, and the industry has a \$40 billion economic impact in Oklahoma. I admire the men and women who have chosen this line of work – it's not easy. Not only are they good people, but they're doing a service for the rest of us and are an important part of our economy. Food is fundamental, and the people who work to bring it to our tables deserve our thanks and support.

Many of my customers at P&K Equipment run independent family farms that have been around for generations. It is their responsibility as business owners, food suppliers and stewards of their families' legacies to protect the work they do. It's our responsibility, as beneficiaries of that

important work, to protect their rights to do it.

I encourage Oklahomans to vote yes on State Question 777 – the Right to Farm. Oklahoma's past is deeply ingrained in the agriculture industry, and Oklahoma's future depends on it.

**This letter was published on the NewsOK website on August 13, 2016.**



*Barry Pollard is a farmer and rancher, owner of P&K Equipment and practicing physician in Enid, Oklahoma*

Ready for the next issue of Oklahoma Country? The October issue will be published in the next couple of weeks. This issue will cover the latest Right to Farm news, the convention schedule, recent OKFB activities, Oklahoma farmers supporting State Question 777, and a feature story about agriculture in the legislature.

## Member Benefits

### MyHealthPass

Are you looking for an innovative method of delivering healthcare to a rural area? Or maybe to individuals who may not be getting the quality healthcare they need due to costly insurance deductibles or co-payment rates? With MyHealthPass, you now can have access to thousands of doctors nationwide 24/7 by phone or video who can even prescribe medication, when necessary, right over the phone. Visit the OKFB website for more information.

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

## Calendar

### Get on Tap with 777

September 22 • McNellie's Abner Ale House, Norman  
Contact: Mark Yates (405) 606-9700

### Resolutions Due

October 7 • OKFB Home Office, Oklahoma City  
Contact: Tasha Duncan (405) 530-2681

### State Resolutions Meeting

October 18-19 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Tasha Duncan (405) 530-2681

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## State Question 777 corner

*The latest news on Oklahoma's Right to Farm amendment, SQ 777, which will appear on the general election ballot on November 8, 2016.*

### Krehbiel featured in Right to Farm video



**B**rittany Krehbiel, fifth generation Oklahoma farmer, was recently featured in a “Yes on 777” video produced as part of the campaign.

Along with her mother and grandparents, the 20-year-old Krehbiel grows seed wheat, peanuts, milo and canola, and raises a commercial sheep herd.

Agriculture is Krehbiel’s way of life. Farming isn’t easy, but she finds it rewarding to know the food she produces will provide much-needed nourishment for families across the nation.

“There’s a lot of people who say miracles don’t exist, but there’s fields of them all

around me,” she said.

In the video, Krehbiel explains that even though she doesn’t know what regulations will be enforced in a few years, the Right to Farm bill will help protect not only the future of farmers and ranchers, but also the entire state of Oklahoma.

“With State Question 777 in place, I know that the regulations that are in place are going to be to the best interest of Oklahoma,” she said.

To watch the video and hear the rest of Krehbiel’s story, visit the “Yes on 777” Facebook page.

### OKFB to host “Get on Tap with 777” in Norman, Tulsa

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau is set to host “Get on Tap with 777” September 22 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at McNellie’s Abner Ale House in Norman.

The next “Get on Tap with 777” event is scheduled from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. October 20 at McNellie’s in Tulsa.

At both events, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about State Question 777, or the Right to Farm bill. Guests will enjoy free drinks and appetizers.

Please invite your family and friends to this event to help spread the word about this initiative.

The bill is a state constitutional amendment to protect Oklahoma’s farmers



and ranchers by creating additional constitutional protections they currently lack and need. The state question will appear on the general election ballot

November 8. For more information about the bill, visit [www.OklahomaRightToFarm.com](http://www.OklahomaRightToFarm.com). For more information about the event, visit the OKFB Facebook page.