

## Karolyn Bolay joins OFB as communications intern

Karolyn Bolay of Perry, Okla., began working in late May for Oklahoma Farm Bureau as the



communications summer intern.

Bolay is an agricultural communications senior at Oklahoma State University. Bolay said her interest in the internship at

Oklahoma Farm Bureau began when she changed her major to agricultural communications and began a legislative internship at the state capitol.

“Working for an agricultural organization like Oklahoma Farm (See Bolay, page 2)

## OFB to expand Trade Show at annual meeting

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is excited to announce it is expanding the OFB Trade Show during the 2010 OFB Annual Meeting, which will be held November 19-21 in Oklahoma City. This year’s trade show is moving to the first floor of the Cox Convention Center, and the extra space will allow for more than double the booth space from previous years.

“Trade show exhibitors will have the opportunity to visit with the key decision makers from both large and small agricultural operations across the state,” said Thad Doye, OFB vice president of Field Services.

Approximately 800 farm and ranch leaders attend the annual meeting each year.

“This is an excellent opportunity for companies to reach a large number of farmers and ranchers, all in one setting,” Doye said.

The dates for the OFB Trade Show are Friday, Nov. 19 and Saturday, Nov. 20.

OFB is offering a single booth space for \$200, or a double space for \$250. Spaces will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis.

If you are interested in reserving a booth space, or know of anyone who might be, please contact Doye at 405-523-2307 or Thad.Doye@okfb.org. Watch future issues of *Perspective* for more specific details.



## Oklahoma Farm Bureau successful in 2010 despite budget shortfall

By Lori Kromer Peterson,  
OFB Vice President of Public Policy



Facing a serious budget shortfall and looking ahead to the 2010 elections, the Oklahoma Legislature reached a budget agreement. In general terms, almost every state agency received a budget cut; however, the cuts were less than many had anticipated. Common education received a 2.9 percent budget cut while higher education was cut about 3.3 percent. Other state agencies received various cuts ranging from 1 percent to more than 10 percent. The most controversial part of the budget agreement is a 1 percent fee on health care claims. Supporters of the fee focused on the federal matching funds which would be generated for the state’s Medicaid programs. Opponents say the fee is a tax in disguise that should go to a statewide vote because of State Question 640. An almost \$80 million part of the \$6.68 billion budget agreement, some questions still remain with respect to the fee/tax on health care claims.

### Oklahoma Farm Bureau-Supported Legislation Signed Into Law

#### PROTECTING TRADITIONAL ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

HB 3202, Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s priority legislation for the 2010 session, was signed into law by Governor Henry on April 19. The bill clarifies that acts of animal husbandry are not prohibited by the Veterinary Practice Act. It also requires that of the five veterinarian members of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board), one must be an equine practitioner and one must be a large animal practitioner. HB 3202 also sets up a certification process for equine teeth floaters under the Board.

#### INVASIVE SPECIES

A request bill from OFB, SB 1330 will set up a task force to look at invasive species, particularly musk thistle and what efforts the (See OFB successful, page 3)

## MEMBER BENEFITS

- **ScriptSave** – Offers members and their families access to discounts on brand name and generic prescriptions and free health and wellness information. 800-700-3957
- **QualSight** – Offers members 40 to 50 percent off the national retail price for LASIK eye surgery. 877-507-4448

OFB will highlight a few benefits in each issue of *Perspective* as a reminder of the savings available to OFB members. Find a complete list of savings online at [www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org).

## OFB CALENDAR

### OFB Safety Seminar

June 7-9 • Tatanka Ranch in Stroud  
Contact: Justin Grego, 405-850-6479

### National Ag in the Classroom Mtg.

June 24-27 • Baltimore, MD  
Contact: Marcia Irvin, 405-523-2405

### OKAgFund Meetings - Districts 5, 6, 9

June 28 • Contact county office for location  
Contact: Lori Peterson, 405-523-2539

## FFA scholarships awarded to Farm Bureau family students

Oklahoma's Emily Handke and Demi Jackson are two of only 50 high school students across the nation receiving \$1,000 scholarships for agricultural studies. The scholarships have been awarded by the National FFA Organization in conjunction with the American Farm Bureau Federation and Ram Trucks, a division of Chrysler Group LLC.

Ram Trucks provided funding for the scholarships with the stipulation that winning FFA students had to be from a Farm Bureau family. Selection of winners also was based on the applicant's academic record, FFA and other school and community activities, supervised agricultural experience in an agricultural education program and the student's future goals.

"It's an honor to recognize these 50 students from Farm Bureau families who have dedicated their academic and social activities to agriculture," said Will Gilmer, AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher chair. "With their commitment and enthusiasm, U.S. agricultural production will have a bright future."

Ram Trucks sponsors the scholarships as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Scholarships are presented to the winning students by Ram Trucks dealers on behalf of the company.



**Bolay joins OFB...**

(continued from page 1)

Bureau is such a great and unique opportunity," Bolay said.

Bolay grew up on a farm in Perry, Okla., where her family grew wheat and raised cattle before starting a pumpkin patch in May 2000. Bolay was also very involved in the 4-H program and served as a State 4-H Ambassador for two years. Throughout her college career, Bolay has served as an Agricultural Ambassador and as an officer in Alpha Zeta.

"Growing up in a rural community and having a background in agriculture, I am aware of the positive impact Oklahoma Farm Bureau can have on agriculturalists," Bolay said. "I am excited to be a part of that."

The communications internship at Oklahoma Farm Bureau is designed to provide quality work experience to an agricultural communications student. Interns are allowed to write stories for Farm Bureau publications and radio, as well as gain experience in the field taking photographs and video.

Besides working on publications and media, Bolay will also have the opportunity to work on public relations and advertising campaigns. Interns are also asked to help with working in exhibit booths throughout the summer and during Oklahoma Farm Bureau's annual convention.

Bolay is the daughter of Kurt and Beth Bolay and will be residing in Oklahoma City while working for Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Monitor the latest Farm Bureau and agricultural news and information online at [www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org).

Currently online:

- **Legislative Wrap-Up** – Read about Oklahoma Farm Bureau's legislative victories during the 2010 Legislative Session. The organization had a successful session despite the budget shortfall. Governor Brad Henry signed several pieces of OFB-supported legislation into law.

- **OFB Calendar** – Get ready for all of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's summer events, including summer conferences and August Area Meetings.

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



# OFB successful in 2010 despite budget shortfall...

(continued from page 1)

state can take to help mitigate this problem. The legislation, by Sen. Mike Schulz and Rep. Don Armes, was signed into law on April 20.

## REMOVAL OF WHEAT COMMISSION FROM THE CENTRAL PURCHASING ACT

Supported by OFB, HB 3204 has been signed into law by Governor Henry. The bill, authored by Rep. Don Armes and Sen. Ron Justice, removes the Wheat Commission from the requirement of the Central Purchasing Act. HB 3204 is a cost saving measure for the Wheat Commission, a non-appropriated agency that runs completely on producer dollars.

## ANNEXATION REFORM

SB 1864, authored by Sen. Brian Bingman and Rep. Skye McNeil, will allow a landowner who was wrongfully annexed to recover attorney fees and would also allow owners of agriculture land previously annexed to have an exemption from municipal ordinances relating to agriculture use of the land. The legislation addressed sections of law relating to annexation by towns just as legislation in 2009 addressed annexation laws for cities. A request of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, SB 1864 has been signed into law by the governor and will likely be of value in a pending issue with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation.

## LANDOWNER RIGHTS FOR WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

HB 2973, authored by Rep. Mike Sanders and Sen. Bryce Marlatt, seeks to address some concerns for landowners wishing to develop wind rights, such as the decommissioning of commercial wind energy facilities while still encouraging wind development in Oklahoma.

## PROHIBITING THE SEVERANCE OF WIND RIGHTS FROM SURFACE

SB 1787, by Sen. Mike Schulz and Rep. Fred Jordan, prohibits the severance of wind

rights from the surface of the land. Prior to the bill's passage there was no clear legal precedent that allowed for the severance of wind rights, nor was there a definition of "wind rights." SB 1787 resolves this important question of state law and also preserves the rights of Oklahoma landowners. Oklahoma landowners will not have to secure the permission of a holder of wind rights, which could include out-of-state landowners and developers, for things as simple as crop cultivation or building improvements on the land.

## INCREASED FINES FOR SHOOTING FROM THE ROAD

SB 2093, by Sen. John Sparks and Rep. Mike Sanders, will increase the fine for shooting from the road from \$100 to no less than \$500 or more than \$1,500 for a first offense, and no less than \$1,500 or more than \$2,500 for a second offense. These are the current fine levels for trespassing and hunting without permission on agriculture land.

## AGRICULTURE TRANSPORTATION EXEMPTION FOR HAULING OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

HJR 1089, authored by Rep. John Enns and Sen. Ron Justice, disapproves a Department of Public Safety rule that would have  
**(See OFB successful, page 4)**



**News Channel 9 Reporter Colleen Chen, center, and Cameraman David Valega, right, interviewed Curt Roberts in his wheat field near Arcadia.**



**U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, left, spoke during a press conference on estate taxes at Oklahoma County Farm Bureau President Curt Roberts' Arcadia farm.**

**DEATH TAX IS A KILLER!** – Calling it a morality issue, U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe blasted federal estate tax laws during a press conference May 21 at Curt Roberts' farm near Arcadia. Inhofe has introduced legislation that would establish a \$5 million exemption per spouse. Farm Bureau supports the legislation, but prefers total elimination of the tax. Roberts wants his family to inherit the farmland, some of which was originally settled by his grandfather in the land run of 1889. Curt's son Greg believes the estate tax would kill any hopes of a family carrying on the farming tradition as the family could be forced to sell all or part of the land to pay the estate tax.

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(continued from page 3)

eliminated an exemption for farmers and ranchers to haul hazardous materials such as fuel and certain fertilizers. The rule was put in place due to federal mandates; however there are some exceptions that can be made under the new federal rule. Oklahoma Farm Bureau is working closely with the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety and the Highway Patrol to write a new rule that is in compliance with federal law while still allowing producers to haul materials within 150 air miles of their farm. This will continue to allow agricultural producers to operate as they have previous to proposed changes in federal law.

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT

HB 2852, authored by Rep. John Wright and Sen. Cliff Aldridge, has been signed into law by Governor Henry and requires any agency to include the need for an emergency rule in the rule impact statement as required by the Administrative Procedures Act. This is a step in the right direction, but additional reform is certainly needed. Other legislation seeking to require legislative approval of agency

promulgated rules failed to be heard in the House of Representatives.

### BUSINESS ACTIVITY TAX IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX ON INTANGIBLE PROPERTY

In 2009, the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that with exception to items listed in Article 10, Section 6A of the Oklahoma Constitution, locally assessed business should

be paying ad valorem taxes on their intangible personal property. This means that things such as trademarks, patents, licenses, contracts, customer lists and goodwill are now taxable as intangible personal property. In response, the legislature passed SJR 61 to address the potential problem of assessment of ad valorem tax on intangible property. Supported by Oklahoma Farm Bureau and many other business-friendly organizations, the legislation

requires a \$25 business activity to be paid in lieu of any taxes on intangible personal property. It also creates a task force to review the different types of taxes imposed on businesses and individuals in Oklahoma and develop recommendations for improvement to the state's tax structure.

### WASTE TIRE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE AGRICULTURE TIRES

SB 441 has been signed into law by the governor. The legislation states that beginning in July of this year, tires used on implements of husbandry and agriculture equipment that are not more than 14 inches wide and 44 inches in diameter shall be assessed a waste tire recycling fee. In July of 2013, larger agriculture tires will be included in the program. Supported by Oklahoma Farm Bureau, no fee shall be assessed if the owner retains the used agricultural tire for use on a farm or ranch.



**FBW LUNCHEON – Jessica Knox, radiologist for Perry Memorial Hospital, was the keynote speaker during the Noble County Farm Bureau Women's Luncheon at the Shady Lady Restaurant in Perry May 25. Knox discussed the use of CT scans and PACS during a health presentation.**