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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

# Perspective

July 21, 2017

## OKFB YF&R members visit Ardmore area for annual conference

**M**ore than 30 young agriculturalists gathered in the Ardmore area for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers summer conference held July 13-15.

The event brought together YF&R members from around the state for two days of tours, agricultural information and fun with fellow agriculturalists.

“We had a great time at this year’s YF&R summer conference,” said Travis Schnaithman, OKFB YF&R state chairman. “Our members enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about agriculture and

agribusiness in southern Oklahoma while expanding our perspectives.”

The conference kicked off on Thursday, July 13, with a cookout sponsored by Oklahoma AgCredit along with volleyball and plenty of time to visit and connect with each other.

Tours on Friday gave summer conference attendees access to several agriculture businesses in the Ardmore area: Mid-American Steel and Wire in Madill where scrap metal is transformed into barbed wire and other fencing materials; the Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery;

and the Noble Research Institute, where YF&R members learned about a wide variety of the institute’s agricultural research programs.

YF&R members also heard from American Farm Bureau YF&R committee members Chandler and Jenna Bowers of Texas as they presented their agriculture story to the group. The Bowers, who attended the entire summer conference, grow a variety of crops on their farm in the Texas Panhandle near Pampa.

A variety of speakers capped off the [see “YF&R conference” on the next page](#)



*Above: The group poses for a photo after touring Mid-American Steel and Wire in Madill. Above right: Conference attendees kick off the summer conference with volleyball and a cookout. Right: OKFB YF&R members learn about USDA FSA loan programs to help them expand their farming and ranching operations. Below left: Members tour the Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery as part of the Friday tour. Below right: OKFB YF&R members learn about a variety of programs and projects at the Noble Research Institute.*



## Pontotoc County Farm Bureau awards \$2,000 scholarships

The Pontotoc County Farm Bureau scholarship committee recently awarded \$2,000 college scholarships to three 2017 graduating seniors: Ivy Borders (Sulphur High School), Elijah Smith (Remnant Academy Homeschool) and Scarlet Stinchcomb (Victory Life Academy).

## YF&R conference

*continued from the first page*

conference on Saturday morning, providing an opportunity for members to learn how to build and grow their farms, ranches, businesses and themselves. Greg Gunn presented how YF&R members could live with a vision and purpose to establish a healthy work-life balance. Brady Sidwell of Sidwell Strategies shared information on marketing commodities using futures and options. YF&R State Committee Member Brent Howard shared insight into farm succession planning. Attendees also learned about a variety of USDA loan programs to help them grow their farms and ranches.



*Greg Gunn speaks to OKFB YF&R members about the power of purpose at the OKFB YF&R summer conference.*

The OKFB YF&R program is open to young agriculturalists ages 18-35 as an opportunity to grow as leaders and agriculturalists to provide our industry with innovative leaders for tomorrow.

## OKFB WLC members help at Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom conference



*Left: Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee members who helped moderate workshops during the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom conference July 6 are (left to right) Linda Fox, Paula Sawatzky, Kitty Beavers, Mignon Bolay and Marcia Irvin. More than 300 teachers from across the state attended the conference to learn ways to teach their students about agriculture. Above: Sandra Berry, teacher and Stephens County Farm Bureau member, teaches educators to use a "Learn like a farmer, live like a cowboy" method in the classroom.*

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

 New summer issue of *Oklahoma Country* now available online

The latest issue of *Oklahoma Country* magazine arrived in mailboxes last week and is now available online for electronic viewing. This issue includes a story featuring newly-elected Oklahoma legislators with Farm Bureau ties, the third installment in the OKFB 75th-anniversary series highlighting the 1970s and 1980s and much, much more!

 Want more photos from the YF&R conference? More photos taken at this year's YF&R summer conference while members participated in workshops, tours and other activities can be viewed on our Flickr page. To view, download, print and/or share the photos, visit [flickr.com/photos/okfarmbureau/albums](http://flickr.com/photos/okfarmbureau/albums).



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# August Area Meeting Tentative Schedule:

## District 1

**August 21 at 6 p.m.**

Hunny's Barbecue –  
Guymon  
103 N. Main St.

**August 22 at 12 p.m.**

Big Dan's – Woodward  
3113 Williams Ave.

## District 2

**August 24 at 12 p.m.**

Backdoor  
Steakhouse – Blair  
400 US-283

## District 3

**August 15 at 12 p.m.**

Eischen's – Okarche  
109 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

## District 4

**August 24 at 6 p.m.**

Duncan Golf Club –  
Duncan  
1800 Country Club Rd.

## District 5

**August 14 at 12 p.m.**

Pete's Place – Krebs  
120 S. West 8<sup>th</sup> St.

## District 6

**August 17 at 12 p.m.**

Moore Farms Event  
Barn – Pryor  
9353 W. 500 Rd.

## District 7

**August 15 at 6 p.m.**

Central National  
Bank Center – Enid  
302 S. Grand Ave.

## District 8

**August 14 at 6 p.m.**

McClain County Ag  
Services – Purcell  
1721 Hardcastle Blvd.

## District 9

**August 17 at 6 p.m.**

Michael V's – Tulsa  
8222 E. 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

## FMCSA publishes updated ag exemptions

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has published an update for agricultural exemptions in response to concerns about the impending Electronic Logging Devices mandate. While this new interpretation is helpful for some drivers, this action does not alleviate all concerns with the mandate and Hours of Service regulations.

On December 18, 2017, FMCSA's ELD mandate will go into effect. Carriers and drivers who are subject to the rule should review the rule in detail to see if required to use ELDs by this deadline.

Below is a list of Hours of Service and agricultural exemptions:

- 49 CFR 395.1(k) provides exceptions from the HOS rules during planting and harvesting periods as determined by the State for the transportation of agricultural commodities (including livestock, bees and other commodities) within a 150-air mile radius from the source of the commodities. The same provision applies to the delivery of supplies and equipment for agricultural use from a wholesale or retail

- distribution point.
- The HOS regulations do not apply to the transportation of agricultural commodities operating completely within the 150-air mile radius. Therefore, work and driving hours are not limited and the driver is also not required to use an ELD. In an operation where drivers share vehicle(s) equipped with ELDs, a driver that is always exempt can use an "Exempt Driver" account.
- Once a driver operates beyond the 150-air mile radius, the HOS regulations apply. Therefore, starting at the time and location where the transporter goes past the 150-air mile radius, the driver must maintain logs using an ELD, unless the driver or the vehicle meets one of the limited ELD exemptions. The driver must work and drive within the limitations of the HOS rules when operating beyond the 150-air mile radius. Time spent working within the 150 air-mile radius does not count toward the driver's daily and weekly limits.

- When operating within the 150 air-mile radius the driver should not log into the ELD. Upon exiting that radius, the driver should then log into the ELD, and annotate that any unassigned miles accumulated prior to that point were exempt miles.
- A driver transporting agricultural commodities is not required to use an ELD if they do not operate outside of the 150 air-mile radius for more than eight days during any 30-day period or if the vehicle was manufactured before the model year 2000, provided they prepare paper logs on the days when they are not exempt from the HOS rules.
- Covered farm vehicles, as defined in 49 CFR 390.5, are exempted from the HOS regulations per 49 CFR 395.1(s). Carriers operating under this exemption are also not required to have an ELD. This includes private transportation of agricultural commodities, including livestock.

For more information, please contact the Public Policy Department at 405-523-2344.

## Member Benefits

### Air Evac Lifeteam

Do you live in a rural area? If you do, consider signing up for Air Evac Lifeteam! This group of highly trained pilots, paramedics and registered nurses is standing by 24 hours a day to provide emergency medical care for critically ill or injured people. In an emergency situation, AEL will fly directly to members' residences, farms, fields or the location of an accident simply by members calling AEL's toll-free number. And, as an OKFB member, you're eligible for a reduced annual fee.

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

## Calendar

### State Farm & Ranch Family Recognition Award Due

August 15 • OKFB Home Office  
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

### YF&R State Fair Livestock Judging Contest

September 14 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Zac Swartz (405) 523-2406

### OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Fall Conference

September 15-16 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

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## CELEBRATING OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU'S 75 YEARS

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YEARS



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.

### A voice for agriculture

By Dan Arnold, OKFB executive secretary, published in the first Oklahoma Farm Bureau Farmer, June 1949

**F**arm Bureau is a Service Organization, and is now the only Farmers Organization through which nationwide farm thinking and united action can be reflected for him and his family.

The thinking farmer does not join his local cooperative wheat elevator association to have them do his thinking for him. He cooperates with his local neighbors in these programs for a specialized service, through which he and they can do a better job of self service at a savings. He joins his county Farm Bureau for the purpose of doing his own thinking and reflecting his thoughts along with those of his fellow farmers from other counties in his state, and with farmers from other states, then comes to an agreement on the many economic and social complex problems confronting the industry; thereby, creating the effect of one voice for agriculture, an effective legislative objective, if you please. Any group which professes to speak of one segment of agriculture, whether in conflict with a general farm organization or not, weakens the effectiveness of both organizations.

Next to his church, the Farm Bureau member should strive to keep his organization nearest his heart. Farmers are a minority group and only represent

18 percent of the total population of the country. If he is to continue to hold his position with other economic groups, it is imperative that he make a sincere effort to keep his many commodity group interests from being divided among themselves on issues which will destroy the harmony processes and at the same time any jeopardize his and their voice for agriculture.

A voice for agriculture, to be effective, must be strong and active. It must be backed up with a broad, loyal, conscious membership. Passive membership detracts, rather than attracts. Farm Bureau must be an organization which attracts members.

Unfortunately, Farm Bureau, like many other organizations, is made up of too few active participating members. It seems there are about three classes of members: those passive members who just belong because it is popular to belong – these fall by the wayside early when the going gets a little rough; the second group, those receiving participating members who are tinged with just a little selfishness and have not yet been convinced of the general good of the organization. This group usually takes a neutral position, but continues to go along. The third group is active, loyal, giving

members, who give of themselves to the cause of the Farm Bureau organization, and the general good. These are the kind of members which keep the county

Farm Bureau program clicking.

If we want to keep a voice for agriculture we must recognize that we have these three types of memberships and we must develop a program which will encourage the passive and the neutral member to move up the scale to the active participating group.

While Farm Bureau members may not always agree on methods, or approaches to their many problems, they do abide by the rule of the majority vote of the membership; and if we can find the way to realize more loyal, conscientious participation of a greater number of our members in expressing themselves toward a unity of agreement, and unity of purpose, the voice for agriculture will speak louder than ever in our state and national legislative halls.



Dan Arnold