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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

September 30, 2016

OKFB YF&R host annual state fair livestock judging contest

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers committee hosted more than 1,000 Oklahoma agriculture students at the group's annual Oklahoma State Fair livestock judging contest held September 15 at the state fairgrounds in Oklahoma City.

"Our YF&R committee is proud to put on this judging contest for 4-H and FFA members to help develop their livestock judging skills," said Josh Emerson, OKFB YF&R state chairman. "We really believe the skills students can learn from livestock judging, things like decision-making and justifying their choices, will help them later in life no matter if they go on to work on a farm or in an industry not related to agriculture."

The top three award winners for each group were:

Junior 4-H Individual

First: Hattie Steichen of Kay County; Second: Preston Francis of Washington County; Third: Austin Reed of Alva

Junior 4-H Team

First: Kay County 4-H Team 3; Second: Amber-Pocasset 4-H Team 1; Third: Washington County 4-H Team 1

Senior 4-H Individual

First: Mackinzi Overman of Kay County; Second: Will Shelby of Marshall County;

Third: Maverick Williams of Stephens County

Senior 4-H Team

First: Stephens County 4-H Team 1; Second: Kay County 4-H; Third: Alex 4-H

Junior FFA Individual

First: Braden Burns of Kingfisher; Second: Peyton Burns of Kingfisher; Third: Victoria Gerken of Kingfisher

Junior FFA Team

First: Kingfisher FFA; Second: Sentinel FFA; Third: Adair FFA

Senior FFA Individual

First: Trent Kitchell of Hartshorne; Second: Braeton Kimble of Weatherford; Third: Caden Church of Sentinel

Senior FFA Team

First: Weatherford FFA Team 1; Second: Prague FFA; Third: Yukon FFA

Photos of the high individuals and teams in each category are available on the OKFB Flickr page.

Full results from the contest can be viewed at JudgingCard.com.



Livestock judging contestants evaluate a swine class during the Oklahoma State Fair contest hosted by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers.

Join us for a **TAILGATE !**

Saturday, Oct.1

Oklahoma State vs. Texas

**We will be located south of the practice field,
on the north side of Boone Pickens stadium on Hall of Fame.**



Buchanan praises Water Resources Development Act of 2016

The U.S. Senate today passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, which gives support to ports and inland waterways, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, drought technologies and more. The legislation also includes a provision that approves the Oklahoma water rights agreement between the state of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.

"As farmers and ranchers, we know water is vital in maintaining a successful agricultural industry and a prosperous economy. Oklahoma Farm Bureau is committed to developing our state's water to the benefit of all Oklahomans. We support the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 because it will help strengthen Oklahoma's water infrastructure and prepare our state to meet its water needs

both now and in the future.

"WRDA gives support and prioritization to our ports and inland waterways, which farmers and ranchers rely on to transport agricultural commodities, provides funds for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, and promotes technologies to mitigate the effects of drought. The measure also gives final Congressional approval to the historic Oklahoma water rights agreement, which allows Oklahoma to move forward in developing our state's water.

"We applaud Sen. Jim Inhofe, chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, and his efforts in passing WRDA 2016."

Learn more about the WRDA on the U.S. Senate Committee for Environment and Public Works website.

OKFB President Tom Buchanan responds to compelling state interest claims

Groups in opposition to State Question 777 used comments by Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan out of context in order to misguide Oklahoma voters. Buchanan issued the following statement in response.

"The Right to Farm amendment is critical to the future of agriculture in our great state of Oklahoma. Right to Farm protects both agriculture and the people of Oklahoma into the future. Unfortunately, special interest groups and critics of Right to Farm are using misinformation and false claims, including twisting my words, in another attempt to mislead voters.

"State Question 777 not only protects farmers and ranchers, but ensures Oklahomans can continue to vote with their dollar as they are offered the healthiest, most abundant and most affordable food supply in history. The use of the compelling state interest language ensures all new legislation is backed by research and science, not on the whims of activist legislators and groups.

"The outside interest groups opposing Right to Farm have resorted to lies and deceit to cloud the judgment of Oklahoma voters. We in agriculture, along with Oklahomans who understand this issue and value agriculture, stand united in voting yes on SQ 777 on November 8."

High School Discussion Meet to be held Nov. 10; registration deadline is Oct. 31

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers will hold their annual High School Discussion Meet at the OKFB annual meeting in Oklahoma City on Thursday, Nov. 10.

The contest is open to current high school students in 4-H or FFA. Each club or chapter may send one participant, who must attend a brief orientation on November 10 before the contest begins.

The meet provides 4-H and FFA members throughout the state with an educational opportunity to enhance their speaking, reasoning and presentation skills all while analyzing issues in agriculture.

The discussion meet simulates a committee meeting where members engage in conversations about a topic in hopes to foster thought and cooperative problem solving.

The winner of the discussion meet will win a MacBook Air computer, and the other three finalists will win iPad minis. Advisors must submit the High School Discussion Meet information sheet by October 31, 2016. Find the link on the OKFB website at okfarmbureau.org.

For more information or details, call Brittany Mikles at (405) 523-2307.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Presidential candidates weigh in on agriculture issues

Want to learn where presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump stand on agriculture issues? American Farm Bureau Federation is compiling the candidates' responses to AFBF's questions on a variety of agriculture issues, such as the Clean Air Act, regulatory reform, Clean Water Act and more. Find the link on the OKFB Facebook page.



Sesame photo on Instagram

Did you see our photo of a field of sesame in bloom near Clinton, Oklahoma? Whether you like sesame seed buns or food flavored with sesame oil, Oklahoma farmers help grow it! Don't miss future pictures of different areas around Oklahoma by following us on Instagram.



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www.okfarmbureau.org

OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers competitive events entries due Oct. 14

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers program is looking for bright young Farm Bureau agriculturalists ages 18-35 to compete in a variety of programs for recognition for their contributions to agriculture.

Applications for the YF&R competitive events, which include the Achievement Award, the Excellence in Agriculture Award, the Discussion Meet and the Charles Roff Award are due Friday, Oct. 14, 2016. The competitive events are open to OKFB members ages 18-35.

Winners will be recognized at the 75th-annual OKFB convention awards program held on Friday, Nov. 11. Prizes will be presented along with the awards for each event.

Applications can be found at the applications center page on OKFB's website. For questions or more information, contact Brittany Mikles at (405) 205-0066.

The Achievement Award recognizes

OKFB's top young farm and ranch family or individual actively engaged in production agriculture. The award is judged on involvement in the community and Farm Bureau as well as the quality of the contestants' farming operation and leadership activities. Applicants complete an application, which is judged by an independent committee. A member of the OKFB communications department will visit each contestant's farm to take photos and interview the applicant(s) for a presentation at OKFB's annual meeting in November.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes YF&R members who do not earn the majority of their income from their own farm or ranch, but still actively contribute to agriculture and grow through involvement in Farm Bureau. Applicants fill out an application for the award and give a presentation on their agricultural and community involvement at OKFB's annual meeting in Oklahoma City on Friday, Nov. 11.

The Discussion Meet is a panel-type forum that provides contestants an opportunity to hone their ability to discuss top agriculture issues in a meeting-style format. The discussion meet takes place at OKFB's annual meeting in Oklahoma City on Friday, Nov. 11. Participants attempt to influence each other by posing and answering questions with the goal of reaching a solution to a stated agricultural problem. The 2017 discussion meet topics, which will be used at OKFB's annual meeting, can be found on American Farm Bureau's website.

The Charles Roff award recognizes Oklahoma's top county YF&R committee. Applications are judged on the county's activities for the year and must be accompanied by no more than three pages (front and back) of photos and clippings for verification. The award is presented at OKFB's annual meeting on Friday, Nov. 11.

**Come celebrate Oklahoma agriculture
at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau tailgate for the
Oklahoma State vs. Iowa State game!
Enjoy great food, fun company and more!**

GO POKES !



Member Benefits

Wyndham Hotel Group

Are you planning a trip? Check out the OKFB member discounts for Wyndham Hotel Group, including Wyndham, Ramada, Days Inn, Super 8, Howard Johnson and more. With 15 hotel brands and more than 7,300 hotels in 66 countries, Wyndham offers a wide array of hotels no matter where your travels take you. Visit the Wyndham Group's online booking website and use discount ID number 8000002866 to receive your OKFB member price.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

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

Get on Tap with 777

October 20 • James E. McNellie's, Tulsa
Contact: Mark Yates (405) 606-9700

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Check your mailboxes for the next issue of Oklahoma Country! The October issue will be delivered soon. 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.

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.

OKFB hosts State Question 777 educational event in Norman

Oklahoma Farm Bureau helped educate voters in Norman about State Question 777, the Right to Farm amendment, at the organization's "Get on Tap with 777" event Sept. 22 at McNellie's Abner Ale House in Norman.

If approved by Oklahoma voters on Nov. 8, SQ 777 will give Oklahoma farmers and ranchers constitutional protection. Event attendees learned how the measure will protect not only farmers and ranchers, but also consumers.

"The Right to Farm amendment gives Oklahoma farmers and ranchers the ability to continue producing the world's safest and most affordable food supply," said Mark Yates, OKFB public policy field representative. "We're excited to see the support for farmers and ranchers in Norman."

OKFB also will educate Tulsa voters at another event on Oct. 20. For more details about the event, visit the OKFB Facebook page. For more information about the bill, visit www.OklahomaRightToFarm.com.



Above left: OKFB hosted the "Get on Tap with 777" at McNellie's Abner Ale House in Norman.
Top right: Attendees received promotional "Yes on 777" vehicle stickers at the event.
Bottom right: Oklahoma voters discuss the benefits of the Right to Farm amendment.