

RURAL ROAD CRASHES AT-A-GLANCE

- Although 21 percent of the U.S. population lived in rural areas in 2004, rural fatal crashes accounted for 58 percent of all traffic deaths even though there are fewer vehicle miles traveled in rural areas than in urban areas.
- A study contrasting rural and urban crashes from 1994 through 2003 shows:
 - Fatal rural crashes are more likely to involve multiple fatalities, rollovers, and more trucks.
 - Fatal rural crashes more often occur on curved roadways and have greater vehicle damage.
 - Head-on crashes are more prevalent in rural areas than in urban areas.
- 2004 data show:
 - Drivers and passengers involved in rural fatal crashes are ejected 15 percent of the time.
 - Light trucks (pickups, vans and SUVs) accounted for 41 percent of vehicles involved in rural fatal crashes.
 - 3 percent of rural fatal crashes are head-on collisions.
- Research has shown that many pickup truck drivers feel like they are just safer in their trucks than in a car, but they are not. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) research shows that pickup trucks in fatal crashes roll over twice as often as passenger cars. Ejection is the most common cause of injuries and fatalities in rollover crashes. Seat belts reduce the risk of dying in a pickup truck rollover crash by up to 80 percent.
- Teenage safety belt use rates from observational and crash-involvement studies consistently show lower use rates compared to older adults. Surveys indicate from observations that teens wear safety belts at rates 5-15% less often than most older adult age groups. The NHTSA data indicates that 63 percent of fatally injured teens in crashes were not wearing safety belts, compared to 55 percent for older adult (21 and older) occupant fatalities.

she developed lead to a strong friendship with Norman Police Chief Phil Cotten. In 2000, the chief invited her to speak to his officers during a Buckle Up Norman program. That initial appearance before officers expanded her involvement, eventually leading to a position with the

NHTSA as a spokesman for the Buckle Up In Your Truck initiative and the evolution of her Write One for Rachel program.

The Write One for Rachel program is Ryden's special plea to officers to enforce the state's seat belt laws.

"I really feel enforcement and issuing tickets do change drivers' behavior," she says. "Sometimes you have to save people from their own bad choices.

"I make it personal for them and hope it will inspire them to enforce the seat belt laws."

Ryden was somewhat surprised by some officers stating that they "just don't like to write tickets."

But she has made some inroads with officers to change that attitude.

"This project is incredible. I tell them you may never know which one ticket will save a life. It is my belief they all will. Talking with them and telling them Rachel's story really inspires them. God has allowed

Rachel's story to touch many of the officers."

Ryden remembers one veteran officer who attended her Write One For Rachel presentation.

"He had been on the force 10 years and never written a seat belt ticket. The story touched

his heart. The next day he went out and dedicated himself to seat belt enforcement. In the next six months, he wrote over 600 seat belt tickets."

"If you're driving without a seat belt, you're living dangerously," said Thompson. "Tammy's done a good job urging officers to have no tolerance."

"It's really made a difference," says Shults, commenting on Ryden's involvement. "We've seen significant improvements."

"It is my belief," says Ryden, "that one of two things will make someone a seat belt user 100 percent of the time. They will either get tired of paying the seat belt tickets officers are writing them or they will suffer a tragedy much like my own."

"It's agonizing to think that so many pickup drivers ignore safety belt laws at the expense of their own well-being," laments Coberg. "We're not trying to say that driving a pickup is a bad thing. But dying when you don't have to sure is."

Promote Rapid Weight Loss

America's
Healthy Weight
Solution

APPLE CIDER VINEGAR PLUS™

New ACV Plus Provides Powerful Nutrients for Safe Rapid Weight Loss!

- ◆ **Helps jumpstart weight loss by curbing your appetite without making you jittery**
- ◆ **Promotes better digestion and elimination**
- ◆ **Benefits your entire cardiovascular system**
- ◆ **Maintains healthy blood sugar levels within normal range**



It's Never Been Easier to Lose 10, 20 or Even 30 Pounds!

ACV Plus® is scientifically blended with nature's nutrient rich Apple Cider Vinegar and powerful weight reducing herbs. These safe & natural ingredients work to stop the fat absorption process and turn your body into, literally, a fat burning machine.

ACV Plus® works by promoting a simple body function known as thermogenesis (the burning of fat cells to create energy) which is an important key to permanent weight loss.

Apple Cider Vinegar Plus Facts!

- Lowers the amount of fat the body absorbs while enhancing calorie burning.
- Contains a wealth of minerals considered essential for good nutritional health.
- Rich in trace minerals, and beneficial enzymes.
- Helps regulate the pH balance in the body for efficient weight loss.
- Discourages bacterial growth.
- Supports your entire cardiovascular system.

Here's What Makes ACV Plus so Remarkable:

Apple Cider Vinegar 300 mg. - Nutrient rich in minerals and enzymes.

Apple Pectin 400 mg. - Speeds elimination of toxins and helps promote healthy cholesterol.

Bromelain 200 mg. - Powerful digestive enzymes breakdown protein while helping the body digest nutrients.

Cayenne 100 mg. - Helps promote higher metabolism, to burn more fat.

Citrin 300 mg. - Curbs food intake and helps suppress cravings.

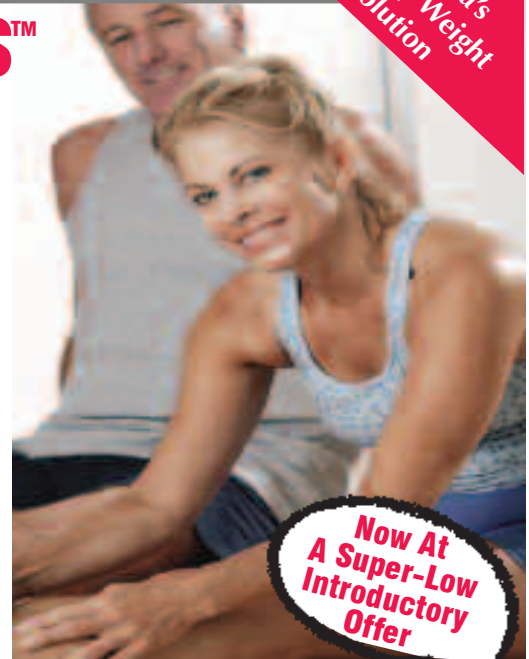
Ginger 200 mg. - Helps stimulate digestion while helping to guard against occasional indigestion and heartburn.

Fenugreek Seed 100 mg. - Helps support proper blood sugar levels.

ACV PLUS will help you burn calories, fight cravings and support your weight loss goals when combined with a reduced calorie diet and exercise program which is included.

100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Try ACV Plus for just 30 Days. If you're not 100% totally satisfied with the results, just return the unused portion for a full and prompt refund.



Now At
A Super-Low
Introductory
Offer



Send To: **Botanic Choice®**
3401 West 37th Ave., Dept. OA6TC
Hobart, IN 46342

Yes! I want to start losing weight!
Please send me **Apple Cider Vinegar Plus** as indicated below:

BEST DEAL! Buy 360 Capsules
Reg. \$82.99 **Sale! \$29.99**
(Save \$53.00) **Plus FREE Shipping**

BETTER DEAL! Buy 180 Capsules
Reg. \$46.99 **Sale! \$16.99**
(Save \$30.00) Add \$3.95 Shipping

GOOD DEAL! Buy 90 Capsules
Reg. \$24.99 **Sale! \$9.99**
(Save \$15.00) Add \$3.95 Shipping

Name (please print)

Address

City State Zip

Enclosed is a Check Money Order \$

My Credit Card Number is: VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

Exp. / Phone

Signature

Comes complete with diet and exercise plan

Here's What Satisfied ACV Plus Users Say:



"Apple Cider Vinegar Plus has helped me lose weight wonderfully. I weighed 285 lbs. I now weigh 213 lbs. Blood pressure is down to normal." *T.G., Schererville, IN*



"Apple Cider Vinegar Plus has helped maintain my cholesterol levels. Since taking it, my cholesterol is at a healthy level and in check, plus I am losing weight." *H.C., Raleigh, NC*

Call Toll-Free: 1-800-644-8327

(Mention Promotion OA6TC) 24 Hours a Day - 7 Days a Week

© 2006 Indiana Botanic Gardens, Inc.

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THESE PRODUCTS ARE NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE, OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE.

All Around Oklahoma



OFB President Steve Kouplen put a new \$5,000 reward sign on his Beggs ranch. Okmulgee County Sheriff Eddy Rice stopped for a visit when he saw Kouplen hang the new sign on his fence.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau beefs up reward program

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members now have access to a beefed up crime deterrent program. The state board of directors quintupled the long-standing reward program's ante from \$1,000 to \$5,000 recently.

"Farm Bureau's primary goal is to serve our members," said Matt Wilson, OFB & Affiliated Companies Executive Director. "The state board believed the time was right to offer more help to our members whose property and belongings are exposed to thieves, vandals and arsonists."

The reward program was one of the earliest member services established by Farm Bureau. It was set up to discourage theft, arson and vandalism on the farms, residences and other property of OFB members. Originally, it offered \$500 to the person who furnished original information leading to the arrest and felony conviction of the person or persons committing theft, arson or vandalism on the

property of members.

The reward was increased to \$1,000 in late 1988.

"It works very simply," said Wilson. "All that's required of the member is posting of official reward signs in a conspicuous place on the premises involved."

The official reward signs are available at all county Farm Bureau offices. New members are entitled to one free reward sign. Signs are available for a nominal cost of \$1 each to both new and existing members.

"We realize that even the increased reward amount of \$5,000 won't stop crime," said Wilson. "However, we do feel the higher amount will tend to make neighbors more cognizant and serve as an incentive for a few more pairs of eyes to be on the lookout for burglars, vandals and arsonists."

The \$5,000 reward program is available to all members whose annual Farm Bureau dues

are paid. Only one reward will be paid for each violation, regardless of the number of persons arrested and convicted.

The Farm Bureau member, members of his or her immediate family or household or any person having an interest in the damaged or stolen property are excluded from claiming the reward.

It also is not offered to law enforcement officers.

Wilson said a reward cannot be paid until a final conviction of the criminal is made and all appeals have been exhausted. If the perpetrator is a juvenile, the presiding judge must issue a letter verifying guilt since first-time young offenders are afforded special treatment in the courts.

Farm Bureau also retains the authority to determine the party who receives the reward in the event more than one person files a claim for it.

Program provisions do allow the reward program to be applicable to a member's

property located outside the state provided that property is contiguous and part of an operating farm unit located in and headquartered in Oklahoma.

"Farm Bureau is happy to offer the enhanced reward program to our members. We realize it won't stop criminals," Wilson concluded, "but it certainly will expose them to increased scrutiny if someone sees that \$5,000 reward sign."

State's first user endorses Amerisight

LeFlore County County Farm Bureau office secretary Cindy Gibson was the first to take advantage of the Amerisight LASIK offer available only to Oklahoma Farm Bureau members.

She learned about the program in August 2004 when she attended an Oklahoma Farm Bureau August Area Meeting in McAlester. That was about a month prior to the program being formally launched via the FB Card program included in the 2005 membership billing packets sent to all OFB members.

Cindy wasted no time after that meeting, calling immediately to find a participating doctor and then scheduling an appointment.

She said she had been considering LASIK surgery for about a year prior to the money-saving program being introduced by Oklahoma Farm Bureau. She had gone from glasses to contacts and doctors delayed LASIK surgery she had scheduled about six months earlier.

The delayed proved beneficial when she paid for the procedure.

"The first time it (surgery) was going to be about \$2,800 or \$2,900. I saved about \$1,000 (using the OFB and Amerisight offer). It was about \$945 per eye," said Cindy.

She said arranging for the procedure through Amerisight was simple. Cindy called the toll-free number and Amerisight

helped her with a list of providers. She called and made her own appointment with a provider in Muskogee.

"They worked with me, and checked to make sure I was a candidate for LASIK," Cindy said, referring to Amerisight. "I'm really pleased."

Her LASIK procedure was done the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Cindy scheduled it then since the county Farm Bureau office was closed the following Thursday and Friday for the holiday.

Her procedure was so successful she said she could have returned to work Wednesday. She did, however, schedule a recommended surgical follow-up visit with her own ophthalmologist that day.

"It was barely a five- to 10-minute deal. They put drops in your eyes and then it's over in about five minutes."

Cindy was complimentary of the Amerisight-affiliated doctor, recalling that he informed her of each step he was taking while performing LASIK on each eye.

There was no pain, although she said she felt a "little bit of pressure" during the procedure. When one eye was completed, it was patched and the doctor performed the LASIK on her other, she said.

"When I sat up, I could see."

The doctor gave her dark glasses and sent her home and instructed her not to read or watch television that evening. "He basically wanted me to go to sleep."

Cindy surprised her husband – and herself to some extent – on the trip home. She informed him she could read the road signs, but was quickly reminded she wasn't supposed to be reading.

"I've got 20-20 vision now. If anyone is thinking about getting LASIK, it would certainly be worth their time to check out our arrangement with Amerisight. I was very pleased, and I sure would recommend them."



LeFlore County Farm Bureau office secretary Cindy Gibson was the first member to take advantage of the special pricing with Amerisight for LASIK surgery.

Farm Bureau offers savings on eye surgery

Since its approval for use in the United States in 1996, LASIK, short of Laser-Assisted In Situ Keratomilusis, has been the preferred technique for successfully and safely correcting vision on patients with most forms of nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia) and astigmatism.

LASIK has consistently shown that over 95 percent of patients treated achieve uncorrected vision of 20/40 or better which would allow them to pass a drivers test without any restriction. There are also numerous studies, which have also shown that 85 percent of those patients treated achieve 20/20 vision or better. The success of the procedure is supported by data from the National Institute of Clinical Excellence, which found that, since its inception, over 7.5 million people have enjoyed the benefits of LASIK worldwide.

LASIK has many advantages over other vision correction procedures (such as RK and PRK), including a relative painless recovery and good vision usually achieved shortly after the procedure. Most patients have clear enough vision to comfortably drive to the doctor the very next day.

Presently, there are two types of LASIK procedures. One is called traditional or standard LASIK, which was approved for use in 1996. New advances in technology have enhanced and expanded on traditional LASIK and lead to the development of custom, or Wavefront LASIK, which was FDA approved in 2002. Custom or wavefront technology creates a 3-D map of the cornea allowing the laser to measure and treat individual irregularities of a cornea, customizing the procedure to allow for the possibility of even better vision. Another advantage of this technology is that it helps reduce risk of potential side effects such as glare, night vision difficulties and halos that sometimes occur after LASIK.

With LASIK, a change in vision correction is achieved by shaping the cornea to compensate for the patient's natural eye shape and prescription. In patients who are nearsighted the goal is to flatten a cornea that is too steep; with farsighted patients a steeper corner is desired; and astigmatism is corrected

Age and LASIK

Patients often wonder whether age has an effect on LASIK and are there age limitations to having a successful outcome.

The general consensus has been that from a safety and developmental standpoint the minimum age a patient would be considered a candidate for the procedure would be 18. The other requirement would be the patient's vision would need to be stable.

The reason for stable vision is because if the vision were still changing then after the procedure is completed the vision regression would start again and continue until stabilization would occur, requiring a second procedure in the future.

There is no upper age limitation currently, but there are changes that need to be considered as a patient ages.

First when a patient reaches their early 40s natural changes in their near vision occurs and will require the need for reading glasses after the LASIK procedure is performed. The second consideration occurs for patients who are over 65 and that relates to cataract formation. When a patient develops the start of cataract formation, which is also a normal part of the eyes aging process, they stop becoming a candidate for the LASIK procedure due to future need for cataract surgery.

So, once a patient reaches the age of 18 and their vision becomes stable they would continue to be a good candidate for LASIK until the time at which they start to develop cataract formation.

by smoothing an oval or irregular cornea into a more spherical shape.

To be able to correct vision with LASIK, the surgeon must first create a thin, circular flap in the top layer of the cornea. The surgeon lifts the flap out of the way, exposing the corneal tissue underneath, and uses an excimer laser to remove and shape the necessary tissue to correct a patient's vision.

The laser uses a cool ultraviolet light beam of light, which gently and precisely removes the correct amount of corneal tissue to

reshape the cornea – changing its focus and producing clear and stable vision. The flap is then laid back in place covering the area where the tissue was removed and will reattach by itself using the eye's own natural suction.

The total time of the procedure takes about 30 minutes. The laser itself is used for less than one minute. Most patients will experience rapid vision recovery and are able to return to work on their normal routine the next day.

Though vision is clear enough to comfortably drive the next day, it is common for the vision to fluctuate for the next month as a part of the healing process, before becoming stable.

In most cases, clear and functional vision occurs with the first treatment. Occasionally a second treatment or an enhancement is needed if all of the prescription has not been corrected from the initial procedure.

The one limitation that LASIK has is that it is not designed to correct presbyopia, or the blurred vision of patients over 40 years of age. Patients who are over 40 may still require the use of reading glasses after the procedure. Patients with presbyopia may also choose a monovision technique in which one eye is corrected for distance and the other is

corrected for reading.

As with any surgical procedure, side effects are inherent in the procedure. The ones that seem to be most common are glare, halos, light sensitivity, dry eye, and over/under correction. In most cases, the side effects are generally mild and do not normally outweigh the benefits of the procedure.

There are certain criteria a patient must meet in order to be consider a good candidate for LASIK:

- A patient must be a least 18 years old
- The patient must have stable vision
- The eyes must be healthy and no current or active corneal disease.

Though most patients are good candidates for LASIK there are a number of conditions, which may preclude a patient from being able to have the procedure:

- Corneas that are too thin
- Pregnancy or nursing
- Severe dry eyes
- Auto immune disease
- Large pupils greater than 7mm in

diameter – this can increase the chances of glare and halo at night

To determine if you are a good candidate for the procedure, talk to your doctor and have a LASIK evaluation done.

More than a third of Americans who use corrective eyewear are considering having laser surgery to improve or correct their vision. As a Farm Bureau member, you have access to Amerisight, the nation's largest managed laser vision correction network. Members and their families can save 40 to 55 percent off the national average cost of LASIK. Simply call Amerisight at 1-877-50-SIGHT (1-877-507-4448) to review cost, financing options and physician access at any of the four state locations.

The 39th Annual OFB Safety Seminar / Outdoor Adventure

1 Jon Cross of Pontotoc County not only frightened himself attempting to make his way through the course during the DUI Prevention session. Jon also had OFB Safety Specialist Micah Martin hanging on to the go cart roll bar before he finished weaving through the traffic cone obstacles.

2 Cassidy Bender of Pottawatomie County scattered the traffic cones she was attempting to negotiate while wearing "Fatal Vision" goggles during the DUI Prevention session of the 39th annual OFB Safety Seminar/Outdoor Adventure. OFB Safety Director Justin Grego accompanied Cassidy on her simulated drunken drive through the course.

3 Team building skills were emphasized during a visit to the ROPES Course in Stillwater when the 39th annual OFB Safety Seminar/Outdoor Adventure was held June 5-7. These teens discovered that it also was fun. Pictured, from left, are Cassidy Bender of Pottawatomie County, Jessica Turner of Payne County, Tiffany Diefenbach of Alfalfa County, Kalie Clickner of Garfield County and Baleigh Seymour of Payne County.

4 Dylan Shuman of Harper County finds it difficult to walk a straight line when wearing "Fatal Vision" goggles. UCO Officer Brian Malloy administered the field sobriety test during the DUI Prevention session of the Safety Seminar/Outdoor Adventure on the UCO campus in Edmond June 7.

5 Tyler Sutterfield of Seminole County descends from a ROPES Course obstacle at Stillwater June 6 during the 39th annual Safety Seminar/Outdoor Adventure.

6 Troy Cowley, OG&E community relations director, spoke to Safety Seminar/Outdoor Adventure participants about the dangers of electricity.OFB

7 Oklahoma Highway Patrolman Mitch Nelson made his points about traffic safety with a multi-media presentation and lecture at the Safety Seminar/Outdoor Adventure. The trooper kept the group of about 40 teens in silence with his presentation, which featured his own experiences at auto accidents, videos from victims injured in wrecks and photos from OHP files from crash scenes. Trooper Nelson told the teens the toughest part of his job was notifying families when a loved one was claimed in an accident.

8 Safety Director Justin Grego tells participants of the upcoming schedule for the Safety Seminar/Outdoor Adventure. In addition to educational sessions, the teenage participants were treated to an evening at Frontier City and an Oklahoma Redhawks baseball game.



2



3



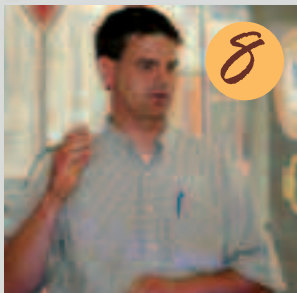
1



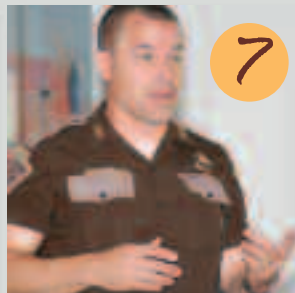
4



5



8



7



6

Area Meetings set for August

Oklahoma Farm Bureau leaders and members have the opportunity to help begin the organization's annual policy development process by attending August Area Meetings.

Twelve meetings will be held across the state to brief members on the issues expected to come to the legislative forefront on the state and national levels to assist leaders with their county policy development process.

The schedule of the area meetings, listed by state director district, is:

- **DISTRICT 1** – Aug. 7, 6 to 9 p.m., Hunny's Barbecue in Guymon; or Aug. 8, 6 to 9 p.m., Elks Lodge in Woodward.
- **DISTRICT 2** – Aug. 10, 6 to 9 p.m., Quartz Mountain State Lodge in Blair.
- **DISTRICT 3** – Aug. 14, 6 to 9 p.m., Canadian County Farm Bureau office in El Reno.
- **DISTRICT 4** – Aug. 15, 6 to 9 p.m., Lake Murray State Lodge in Ardmore; or Aug. 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Stephens County Farm Bureau office in Duncan.
- **DISTRICT 5** – Aug. 17, 6 to 9 p.m., Pete's Place in McAlester.
- **DISTRICT 6** – Aug. 8, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Cowboy Junction in Vinita; or Aug. 8, 6 to 9 p.m., Jaspers in Muskogee.
- **DISTRICT 7** – Aug. 15, 6 to 9 p.m., Ramada Inn in Enid.
- **DISTRICT 8** – Aug. 31, 6 to 9 p.m., Elks Lodge in Ada.
- **DISTRICT 9** – Aug. 10, 6 to 9 p.m., Freddie's in Mannford.

Members are asked to contact their county Farm Bureau office at least three days prior to the meeting they plan to attend to assist with meal planning.

Why YOU need (to understand) Crop Insurance

If a farmer ever needed to understand how crop insurance works it's this year. At the time of this writing (mid June) the wheat harvest is nearly complete with only one half of a normal crop in the bin. The spring crops are under pressure from very high temperatures and intense drought with no relief in sight.

"Understanding how Multiple Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) works is critical to making good management decisions," said Scott Bulling, crop insurance manager for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. "MPCI can, in years like this help producers pay the bills when crops are short or nonexistent".

It is extremely important that farmers understand that a large part of their production and income risk can be protected by a crop insurance policy. It can also be a significant part of their marketing plan and allow them to forward contract their grain before harvest, when prices are generally higher. Then if the crop does not meet the



HUNGRY – These legislative staff members obviously were hungry when they went through the serving line at the Farm Bureau Women's Committee Farm City Festival. More than 500 staff members and legislators filled their plates, trays or boxes with homemade goodies prepared by county Women's Committee members for the April 26 event. Each year the Farm Bureau Women's Committee hosts the special luncheon for lawmakers and their staffs to emphasize the major role agriculture plays in the Oklahoma economy.



LUNCH AND MORE – OFB Director Charles Sloan, center, chats with state Reps. Jerry McPeak, left, and Terry Hyman during the Farm City Festival April 26 on the first floor rotunda of state capitol.

amount of grain contracted the insurance policy allows the producer to purchase the additional bushels needed.

Have a good relationship with your agent

It is important to have a good agent helping you understand how the program works. Our agents are trained and tested every year to make sure they understand the various MPCCI policies to best fit the needs of farmers.

Due to the importance of the agent involvement, Bulling does not think federal crop insurance transactions should be conducted by mail.

“If you don’t have an agent that will sit down with you in their office or in your home to discuss which crop policy works best for you then I would find a new agent.”

Many agents try to conduct business by mail and that is how mistakes happen.

“I have talked to many farmers that have told me they have only met their agent once or twice, after that it has all been through the mail. They also said they don’t understand their policy or what they are signing.

“MPCI is too complicated not to take time to discuss how it works. The policies continue to change and evolve every year and farmers need to know the changes,” said Bulling. “The

various plans can be structured to meet your specific needs that may include production, revenue or livestock price protection.”

Multi-peril insurance is designed to protect you from disastrous years like this year and can also protect against declining market prices, but only if the correct policy plan is selected at the time of application. Make sure that you have an agent and company that has your best interest as their number one priority.

At Farm Bureau we view crop insurance as a vital service to our members, one that helps keep our members in business. We are continuing to carry on the tradition of working for Oklahoma agriculture.

Don’t buy CAT policies

Having a higher level revenue policy really paid off this year. Approximately 10 percent of Oklahoma wheat farmers had only a Catastrophic policy on their wheat acres this year.

“A CAT policy is little better than no coverage at all,” said Bulling. “We are paying some claims on CAT policies but it takes a disaster before you ever have a claim. The farmer is still carrying most of the risk.”

For example, a farmer dropped his coverage to a CAT policy this year because he has had a good crop for the last two years. He

didn’t harvest an acre this year! We paid him a check for \$30,000 on 1,500 acres (\$20/acre). If he had kept his 70 percent revenue policy the coverage was guaranteed to be \$110,000 and will likely exceed \$150,000 because of higher wheat prices! (\$100/acre). The major difference in coverage level should be strongly considered when thinking about purchasing a CAT policy.

A well thought out crop insurance plan can protect your farm from disaster. Farm Bureau agents and the adjusters working claims are among the best trained in Oklahoma. Working with an agent and company that you’ve known and trusted for years with all of your other insurance is also the right choice for your crop insurance.

If you have any questions about crop insurance please call your county Farm Bureau office or 405/523-2300. Deadline to purchase is September 30.

State’s highest court rules against seizure via eminent domain

Oklahoma property owners scored a significant victory in early May when the state Supreme Court ruled in a precedent-setting case involving eminent domain.

The court ruled against a private company’s attempt to seize private property through eminent domain in Muskogee County.

That county condemned private property for use by Energetix, a private electric generation concern. Muskogee County had begun condemnation against landowners to acquire easements for the installation of three water pipelines to bring water from the Arkansas River to cool a natural gas-fired 823-megawatt power plant.

Ed and Mary Lowery, who own a farm south of Muskogee, would have had their land taken for the pipeline. The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation adopted the Lowery’s case, and was involved in taking the case to the state Supreme Court. The couple sued, claiming the plan violated eminent domain provisions of the Oklahoma Constitution and state law.

A Muskogee County judge initially ruled in favor of the county. That ruling was overturned



HELP FOR FIREFIGHTERS – Cleveland County Farm Bureau donated \$500 to each of the county’s four volunteer fire departments to help offset the unexpected costs of battling wildfires. Farm Bureau Directors, from left, Mike Argo, Charlie Greeson and Bill Sieter, presented \$500 checks to Slaughterville’s Jimmy and Marsha Blair, Cedar Country’s Roger Wickey, Lexington’s Harry Grider and Little Axe’s Al Schneider. Since the wildfire epidemic began last November, 20 county Farm Bureaus in Oklahoma have donated almost \$65,000 to the volunteer fire departments serving their areas.

by the Civil Court of Appeals and then wound up before the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

"This has been a lengthy struggle to establish the government does not have the right to decide who can own property," said Harlan Hentges, Lowery's attorney and legal counsel for the OFB Legal Foundation.

"We would not have been able to take this to the courts without the financial support of the foundation," said Lowery.

Muskogee County officials claimed Oklahoma's eminent domain laws allowed them to take private property for economic development purposes – like increased taxes, jobs and private and public investment in the community. They claimed economic development constituted a "public purpose" within the meaning of the constitution and state law.

"We hold that economic development alone does not constitute a public purpose and therefore does not constitutionally justify the county's exercise of eminent domain," the state Supreme Court said.

And, it also said "we determine that our state constitutional eminent domain provisions place more stringent limitation on governmental eminent domain power than the limitations imposed by the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution."

OFB Scores Victory for Private Property Rights During 2006 Legislative Session

The Oklahoma Legislature closed its general session for 2006 following the passage of a trespass reform bill. A long time priority issue for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, legislation was originally introduced this session in the House of Representatives by Rep. Jeff Hickman and authored in the Senate by Sen. Daisy Lawler

to remove the posting requirements for landowners and place the burden on the person entering private property to have express or implied permission or legal authority to enter land. After a hard fought battle through the legislative process, Rep. Shane Jett and Sen. Frank Shurden, authors of HB 2984, were able to get the bill, including a strong no trespassing amendment, through both the House and the Senate and onto the governor's desk. Signed by the governor June 7, the bill becomes law Nov. 1. HB 2984 states that entering farming, ranching or forestry land without permission is trespassing. The bill allows access for emergency personnel such as police or firefighters and utilities employees acting within the scope of their employment.

Signed into law by the governor, HB 2895 by Rep. Ryan McMullen and Sen. Daisy Lawler, simplifies the process for custom harvesters to receive a harvest permit by allowing the permit to be obtained from any corporation commission officer or via the Internet. HB 2895 also limits the use of portable scales within a two mile radius of a grain elevator.

HB 3016 authored by Rep. Don Armes and Sen. Gilmer Capps, also signed by the governor, defines that permission to hunt or fish on private land is not valid for more than one year unless otherwise stated.

Three separate bills dealing with Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) have also been signed by the governor. HB 2646 by Rep. Dale DeWitt and Sen. Earl Garrison expedites the process for receiving a permit for a CAFO, HB 2603 by Rep. Dale DeWitt and Sen. Ron Justice aligns our state law with EPA guidelines with respect to CAFOs, and HB 3015 authored by Rep. Don Armes and Sen. Richard Lerblance changes the frequency for monitoring and sampling of groundwater wells used by CAFOs. Wells that



QUILTED ART – When Pontotoc County Farm Bureau members visit the office in Ada, they are greeted by a bit of original art work in the front lobby. County office secretary Shirley Barrett put this wall hanging on display after renovations to the office were completed. Shirley's sister-in-law, Dollie Smith of Reagan, stitched the top of the quilt from artwork off the cover of the Farm Bureau Policy Book. "I thought she did a great job on it. I am very proud of it." Shirley had a woman in Ada quilt the wall hanging, which is about four feet by four feet.

have been sampled for three consecutive years and found to be dry would be tested every third year.

OFB was also successful in defeating attempts to place a \$100 permit fee on holders of water permits by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. HJR 1072 authored by Rep. Gus Blackwell and Sen. Owen Laughlin would have disapproved the fee; however, the fee was disapproved by the Governor and HJR 1072 was no longer necessary.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau supported HCR 1062 by Rep. David Braddock and Sen. Gilmer Capps implementing the Department of Agriculture's rules relating to the application of herbicides in five counties in southwest Oklahoma.

Earlier in the session, Oklahoma Farm Bureau successfully defeated HB 1505 and SB 1019 attempting to designate the Blue River as a "scenic" river and placing addition regulations on agriculture producers in the area. OFB was also able to defend last minute attempts to include this language in other legislative measures.

Also, attempts by oil and gas interests in the last days of the session to exempt their production equipment from the property tax rolls were unsuccessful.

Following the Oklahoma Supreme Court's favorable ruling in *Bd. Of County Commissioners of Muskogee County v. Lowery*, legislation with respect to the issue of eminent domain was put on hold by the Oklahoma legislature who commended the Oklahoma Supreme Court for protecting private property rights and not allowing the use of eminent domain for economic development purposes in that case. Further, members of the legislature agreed to revisit the issue following further study of the court's ruling in conjunction with current Oklahoma law.

It took a special session to get it done, but the Legislature reached a budget agreement which included a long time Oklahoma Farm Bureau priority issue, the elimination of the estate tax in Oklahoma. The agreement also included a reduction in the state's income tax rate from 6.25 percent to 5.25 percent over a four-year period, raising the Oklahoma standard deduction to the level of the federal standard deduction over the next four years as well as repealing the estate tax over three years.

Bulldog Tough Vinyl Windows

Highest Quality Window Available Anywhere
Freedom from Maintenance
plus added Safety & Security!

- Bay Windows • Patio Doors • Sunrooms
- Super Energy Efficient
- Smooth operating for venting & cleaning
- 2 Security locks for double protection
- Frost-guard™ "warm edge technology"

800-833-7437
www.westchesterfoundations.com

Family Owned & Operated Since 1977
Bonded & Insured for Your Protection

Lifetime Warranty • Super Special Financing Available
References available upon request
Free estimates to Homeowners

John Vance Auto Group Celebrates the

60TH

Year Anniversary of Oklahoma Farm Bureau

We're offering super savings to Farm Bureau members during this special 60th anniversary event. Come and shop for 9-lines of cars and trucks all in one location.

JOHN VANCE AUTO GROUP

Exit 153 and I-35 north - Guthrie • 1-800-375-4471
www.vanceautogroup.com

CHRYSLER PONTIAC GMC BUICK CADILLAC JEEP RAM



ALABAMA FAVORITE – Alabama Farmers Federation Friends & Family Editor Debra Davis caught Dakota Bailey on the Parker Ranch near Waurika in this contemplative pose recently. She was accompanying a group of 60 cattlemen from the Alabama Farmers Federation on the annual beef tour. The group visited Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi cattle producers. Debra complimented Oklahoma as being a “beautiful state” with “wonderful people.” Alabama Farmers Federation is an affiliate of American Farm Bureau and has 460,000 members statewide. The beef industry there represents \$2 billion in cash receipts annually.



NATIONAL WINNERS – The Roland FFA team returned to Sequoyah County with the national championship from the National Land and Range Judging Contest in Oklahoma City May 4. Members of the team tested their skills against other land judging teams from 35 states by evaluating land characteristics like topsoil, subsoil slope and plant life. They also were required to recommend treatment to improve the land’s adaptability for certain purposes like producing crops, raising cattle or building homes. The FFA team was the national champion in the rangeland judging competition. Team members, from left, Adam Jones, Sara Lockwood, Tristan Atkerson and John Brunk are pictured with their coach, Roland FFA Advisor M.L. Lockwood, who is a Sequoyah County Farm Bureau member. Sara was the national individual champion in the contest. John was the fourth place individual and Tristan was the sixth place individual. The Roland FFA team finished first or second in five of the six events it participated in during the spring, and was state runner-up at the OSU contest. The championship marked the second one for Roland FFA, which took home the trophy in 1996. The advisor said Tristan and Adam would be back again next year as senior members of the team. Sara and John were seniors this school year. Oklahoma Farm Bureau was a co-sponsor of the contest. *(Photo courtesy of J Page Thompson Photography)*

Safety Day Camp

The Progressive Agriculture Safety Day program was founded by The Progressive Farmer magazine in 1995.

It trains and provides the resources that local communities need to conduct one-day safety programs that are age-appropriate, hands-on, fun, and safe for children. While the basic program reaches children of ages 8 to 13, safety days may also be conducted for 4- to 7-year-olds or even entire families.

The mission of the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day is simple – to make farm and ranch life safer and healthier for all children through education and training.



Above top: Sharlene Lambring and Mary Lou Roberts assisted the Farm Bureau Safety staff with almost 250 Oklahoma County school children that made their way through the Kid’s Fire Safety Trailer. The OFB Women’s Committee donated \$500 to purchase pizza for the school children that attended the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Camp May 9.

Above bottom: Oklahoma County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee leaders Sharlene Lambring, left, and Mary Lou Roberts, right, chat May 9 at the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Camp at the State Fairgrounds while OFB Safety Director Justin Grego talks to a group of youngsters that just finished going through the Kid’s Fire Safety Trailer.

FARM BILL FORUM



Kouplen

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Steve Kouplen opened the May 10 Farm Bill Forum in Oklahoma City with an overview of organizational policy on farm programs.



Brooks

AFBF Congressional Relations Director Dana Brooks gave her opinion of how the World Trade Organization will impact the direction of the 2007 farm bill.



Finchbaugh

Two noted agricultural economists, Kansas State University's Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh and Oklahoma State University's Dr. Michael Dicks told the crowd of about 200 attending the forum what they anticipated lawmakers would do with the 2007 farm bill. Despite disagreeing on some points, the two economists shared the opinion that the 2007 farm bill could be the first to signal the beginning of the end of market distorting farm programs.



Dicks



Phillips

Jim Phillips, former business editor and Washington, D.C., correspondent for Progressive Farmer magazine, gave his opinion on the media's perspective on the farm bill.