

OFB Commodity Committees Conference

State producers warned they could be extremists next target

A leading proponent of animal agriculture admonished Oklahoma livestock producers that they could be the next to be targeted by animal rights extremists.

Steve Kopperud, representing Policy Directions, Inc., issued a stern warning to producers attending the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Commodity Committees Conference May 1 in Oklahoma City.

"You need to rise to the occasion because the next state (targeted) could be Oklahoma."

Kopperud, senior vice president with the Washington, D.C.-based animal agriculture coalition, told the group that "you have to stand up and defend your right" to produce and market livestock.

Become Activists

"You must get off your duffs and become activists," he declared. "One of the biggest issues we will deal with in the 2007 farm bill is animal rights."

He said the animal rights movement is being driven by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the small, fragmented radical groups hovering under its

wings for the last 20 years.

"HSUS is all over Capital Hill. The perception is that it's mainline. It carries the reputation with the public that it's just here for animal protection. But it has many radical alliances. They are," Kopperud cautioned, "dedicated to putting us out of business."

The debate is being driven by 14 percent of the population with a lot of time and money on their hands, he explained, adding that HSUS and organizations under its umbrella now boast 10 million members and an annual budget of \$120 million.

Finger Pointers

"There is no science for their philosophy. They are expert at pointing the finger. They don't offer solutions. They say it's our job to point out your problems and your job to fix them. That's the arrogance of HSUS," Kopperud declared.

He said he believes the animal rights issue – which proponents hope will eventually end the consumption of meat – will be punctuated during debate of the farm bill.

"We have the greenest Congress ever. The

farm bill is an ugly... process. HSUS agenda is to make it impractical the way we raise and market livestock."

He said HSUS and its radical affiliates have a goal of giving animals the same status as a custodial child or senior citizen.

Go Backwards

"Be vigilant, be aware if you see someone who wants to change the status of an animal," Kopperud warned. "Do not allow them to turn organic or natural into a moral standard."

"We have developed our system (of raising and marketing livestock) because it is more environmentally and economically friendly. Now the food industry is the only one being told to go backward."

"It's going to be tougher to stop them this time. If you wish to continue to progress, you have to stand up and defend your right to do so," Kopperud proclaimed. "You need to organize, galvanize your energy and connect with D.C."

A Piece of Our Fabric

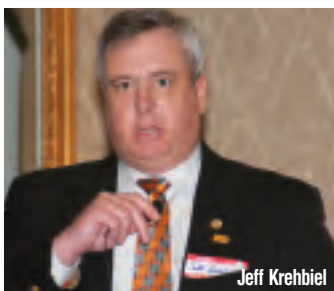
Oklahoma State University agriculture



Steve Kopperud



Mike Dicks



Jeff Krehbiel



Steven Clay



Kathy McNally



Todd Honer

economics professor Dr. Mike Dicks addressed the conference, providing an overall view of the 2007 farm bill.

"The farm bill is a huge piece of legislation covering a lot of topics. We've had farm policy since the 1770s and we (the U.S.) have the lowest percentage of disposable income spent on food."

Dicks said farm bills have served to keep food prices in the U.S. low, seeing Americans spending just 8 percent of their income on food.

"If we move from 8 percent to 16 percent, it means you won't buy something else and somebody will be without a job. The farm bill is a piece of our fabric," he said.

Revenue Assurance

The professor said the lion's share of USDA dollars go for nutrition programs followed by the actual commodity programs for producers.

"One of the reasons they pass ag programs is the food programs," Dicks said.

He said he believes the president and USDA farm bill proposals "have some pretty good things in there."

Dicks called for an increase in revenue assurance programs, calling them "a win-win for us," in farm program legislation.

He also said he believes "farm problems" are a result of high land prices and low returns on investments.

"We have a high profit margin but a low return on our investment. Outside investment is driving up the price of land. I haven't seen a

single piece of land sell in the U.S. in the last five years that would pay for itself. You can't generate enough production to pay for land.

"We must solve the land cost problem," he summarized.

Bullish on Meat

American Farm Bureau Federation economist Jim Sartwelle presented an outlook for the livestock markets, saying he was "very bullish on the meat outlook, particularly beef."

He said the beef industry was "not overproducing. . .out of a bullish market" and expects prices to remain good over the next three years.

Despite calling the pork market "flat to slightly climbing," Sartwelle said hungry export markets presented a good picture for pork prices for 2007.

Dairy prices are trending higher in the U.S., but still remain well below world prices. "It's export driven and it's been phenomenal. There's a good general outlook for dairy."

On-Farm Biodiesel Production

Thad Doye, OFB field representative, was the final featured speaker. He presented a brief slide show of and monologue about his farm biodiesel production.

Doye, who farms near Walters, grows his own sunflowers, crushes the seeds and distills his own biodiesel, and uses that fuel in his own tractor.

He told the audience that after some initial

tinkering with equipment used in the process that he now is pleased and has not seen any engine problems with tractors fueled with the biodiesel. The only problem of significance with the fuel was its tendency to gel when temperatures hit 40 or below. Doye said there are additives available to correct that problem.

He did present evidence that growing the sunflowers had improved his soils by breaking the hardpan core.

Doye also said he has used the remains from the crushed sunflowers in cattle rations, and reported no palatability problems.

State Reports

Those attending the conference also heard brief reports from OFB members serving on the AFBF commodity committees.

Caddo County's Jeff Krehbiel reported on the wheat committee while Steven Clay, also of Caddo County, reported on the peanut committee.

OFB's Kathy McNally presented a report from the equine committee while Todd Honer spoke on both the beef and cotton committee actions.

Dr. Jeff Pollock, Dewey County, reported on the animal health committee while Delaware County's Randy Allen talked about the poultry committee.

Okfuskee County's Karen Brewer presented the swine committee findings. Tulsa County's Mike Spradling also presented an overview of the pecan committee's actions.



Jim Sartwelle



Thad Doye



Dr. Jeff Pollock



Randy Allen



Karen Brewer



Mike Spradling

The 40th annual Safety Seminar



Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Mitch Nelson made overpowering points regarding traffic safety with a multi-media presentation and lecture at the 40th annual Safety Seminar. Nelson, who took time out of his vacation to attend the Safety Seminar, kept the more than 30 youngsters silent with his presentation, which featured his own experiences and photos at auto crashes in the Oklahoma City area and compelling videos from victims injured in wrecks. The trooper used two brothers from the seminar roster to show the youngsters the toughest part of his job – notifying families when a loved one is claimed an accident. Nelson warned the teens about the dangers of driving while impaired, plus the thousands of dollars in attorney fees, court costs and fines that would be incurred by them and their families. Safety Director Justin Grego said the trooper’s presentation had an impact on the youngsters attending the seminar, and that “his presentation was spell binding for our young people who rewarded Trooper Nelson with their absolute attention.”



Mary Lee Temple of Garvin County sports a broad smile as she attempts to negotiate traffic cones during the driving session of DUI prevention at the 40th annual Safety Seminar June 6 on the University of Central Oklahoma campus in Edmond. OFB Safety Specialist Micah Martin is a bit more concerned as he grips the go-cart roll bar and points to the traffic cones just ahead. Mary Lee was fitted with “Fatal Vision” goggles, which simulate the view of an intoxicated driver. More than 4,000 automobile accidents involve drivers impaired by alcohol or drugs. More than 15 percent of the accidents had drivers between 16 and 20 years old. Safety Director Justin Grego said he believes those who participate in the DUI prevention program come away with the realization that driving while impaired is irresponsible of the drivers and endangers others on the roadway.

Tyler Sutterfield of Seminole County descends from a ROPES obstacle course venue at Stillwater June 5 during the 40th annual Safety Seminar. Tyler apparently likes the Safety Seminar – the 2007 version was the third time for him to attend the Oklahoma Farm Bureau event. The ROPES course emphasized the importance of team building skills. More than 30 youngsters attended the three-day seminar and participated in a variety of educational programs. They also were treated to an evening at Frontier City and to an Oklahoma Redhawks baseball game.



**Safety
Services**

Rural property owners are urged to have their water tested annually

How safe is the water your family, pets and livestock drink every day? That's a question every rural landowner and farmer should know the answer to, according to Justin Grego, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Safety Services director.

Grego joined with the National Ground Water Association to urge rural property owners to have their water tested each year.

"There could be things in your water that you may not taste but could be harmful to you. So testing your water once a year could discover that, as well as give you a chance to improve the quality of your well water," Grego said.

"Other things you could do annually are have the flow rate tested, and make sure all your pumps and your pressure systems and tanks are in good shape and your water lines are good.

"Once you have your water tested, you should receive a written report that explains the results and recommendations."

More than 40 percent of all water used in agricultural irrigation is ground water. And an overwhelming majority of rural residents rely on ground water for their household supplies.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that from 1999 to 2000, contaminated private well water caused 26 percent of drinking water disease outbreaks that made people sick. And unlike with municipal water systems, the responsibility for maintaining a healthy well water supply is up to the well owner.

The CDC and Grego urge landowners to check their wells for mechanical problems; test once each year for germs and once every two to three years for harmful chemicals.

Grego said you also should have your well tested if there are known problems with well water in your area; you have experienced problems near your well (flooding, land disturbances, or nearby waste disposal sites); or you replace or repair any part of your well system.

"I have a well at my house, and I actually had to install filters on mine because the water was a little dirty and didn't taste that good, so that cleaned it up," Grego said.

A number of water testing kits and services

How safe is your drinking water? An annual test can help assure the quality of your well water.

are available both locally and on the Internet. Any local health department should be able to help property owners get started in the testing process, Grego said.

Another resource is the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Water Drinking Hotline 800-426-4791 and the EPA Web site at www.epa.gov.

A listing of Oklahoma laboratories certified to conduct water testing is available on the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality web site, deq.state.ok.us.



USDA, Oklahoma partner for 9,000-acre conservation plan

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner announced a new \$20.6 million cooperative conservation partnership with the state of Oklahoma to create up to 9,000 acres of riparian buffers and filter strips.

The conservation plantings will reduce the flow of nutrients, sediment and other pollutants in the Spavinaw Lake and Illinois River/Lake Tenkiller watersheds.

"I am pleased to announce this new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. . . Through this project, USDA and the state of Oklahoma will help landowners and operators establish effective conservation practices to enhance water quality in eastern Oklahoma," said Conner.

Conner and Gov. Brad Henry signed the project agreement during a late April ceremony at the Oklahoma Capital in Oklahoma City.

The project area includes parts of Adair, Cherokee, Delaware, Mayes and Sequoyah counties. The project seeks to filter runoff, stabilize stream banks, shade stream channels and improve drinking water and aquatic habitat by creating 500 acres of filter strips and 8,500 acres of riparian buffers.

Program participants will install these conservation practices on eligible environmentally sensitive marginal pastureland and

cropland in the Spavinaw Lake and Illinois River/Lake Tenkiller watersheds.

The project also will enhance wildlife habitat and preserve Oklahoma's natural resources by increasing the amount, quality and connectivity of protected riparian corridors.

Other project goals include:

- Providing producers, through financial and technical assistance, an opportunity to protect water resources from current and future agricultural practices and development by entering into voluntary 14- to 15-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts and additional voluntary 15-year or permanent state easements.

- Reducing the effects of agriculture on water resources of the targeted project area by installing field buffers to filter and trap sediment, nutrients and bacteria.

- Reducing sediment loading by 3,700 tons, phosphorus loading by more than 19,000 pounds and nitrogen loading by more than 191,000 pounds annually; and enrolled additional adjacent non-CREP forested grazing riparian acreage into a state incentive program.

Under Oklahoma CREP, participants will receive annual rental payments and other incentives for voluntarily enrolling land into contracts. FSA will administer Oklahoma



USDA Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner, seated left, and Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry completed the official paperwork providing \$20.6 million for buffers and filter strips in northeastern Oklahoma. Also on hand for the official signing ceremony were, standing from left, Oklahoma FSA Director Jim Reese; R. Lewis Raymond of the Tulsa Utility

Commission; Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Terry Peach; Oklahoma Secretary of Energy Miles Tolbert; Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Association Chairman Bill Blackard; Oklahoma Conservation Commission Director George Stunkard; and Oklahoma Conservation Commission Executive Director Mike Thralls.

CREP, with support from Oklahoma state CREP partners.

Eligible landowners receive a one-time practice incentive payment and a one-time signing incentive. Also, 50 percent of the

reimbursable costs of establishing eligible practices, compliance reviews and technical assistance will be provided. USDA will provide a total of \$16.5 million for Oklahoma CREP.

Oklahoma will help identify eligible

producers with appropriate land for enrollment. The state will provide payments to participants and pay a minimum of 20 percent of the overall costs, including payments for fencing and related costs for non-CRP acreage.

USDA will announce a sign up for the program in the future. It will accept offers for contracts under the program on a first-come, first-served basis until the 9,000-acre goal is achieved or until Dec. 31, 2007, whichever comes first.

AUGUST AREA MEETINGS SET

August Area Meetings are set, so mark your calendars now as the policy development season is quickly approaching. This is the beginning of the grassroots path to setting Oklahoma Farm Bureau policy for the next year, and your input is needed.

All meetings will be held from 6 to 9 p.m., unless otherwise specified. The 2007 Area Meetings are:

- District 1, Monday, Aug. 6, at Hunny's BBQ in Guymon; or Tuesday, Aug. 7, at Western Electric in Woodward.
- District 2, Tuesday, Aug. 21, at the Quartz Mountain Resort near Blair.
- District 3, Monday, Aug. 13, at the Canadian County Farm Bureau office in El Reno.
- District 4, Tuesday, Aug. 14, at Cattle Rustlers in Ardmore; or Wednesday, Aug. 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Stephens County office in Duncan.
- District 5, Thursday, Aug. 16, at Pete's Place in McAlester.
- District 6, Tuesday, Aug. 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cowboy Junction in Vinita; or Tuesday, Aug. 14, at Jasper's in Muskogee.
- District 7, Thursday, Aug. 9, at the Garfield County Fairgrounds in Enid.
- District 8, Thursday, Aug. 30, at the Elk's Lodge in Ada.
- District 9, Thursday, Aug. 16, at Freddie's in Mannford.

Farm City Festival

Well over 600 capitol workers and legislators sated their appetites April 17 during the Farm City Festival sponsored by the OFB Women's Committee.

The large crowd snaked around the hallways of the first floor rotunda waiting for a chance to sample food prepared and served by nearly 60 Women's Committee members from across the state.

Each year Farm Bureau Women's Committee members prepare a special luncheon for lawmakers and their staffs to emphasize the major role agriculture plays in the Oklahoma economy, and to celebrate the state's agricultural efficiency and abundance.

Pictured at the Farm City Festival are:

1. Rep. Wade Rousselot, Sen. Todd Lamb, Sen. Brian Bingman and Sen. Anthony Sykes make their way through the line.
2. Rep. Fred Jordon fills his plate.
3. Rep. John Enns begins his trek through the serving line.
4. Lt. Gov. Jari Askins filled her plate with a variety of foods.
5. Rep. Dale Turner and Rep. Jerry Shoemaker visit with Okmulgee County President Larry Harvey in between bites of FBW-prepared food.
6. Sen. Harry Coates posed with some of his constituents after going through the line. Robert Hughes, Sue Jarvis and Norita Morgan are pictured with the senator.
7. Rep. Wes Hillard fills his plate in the serving line.
8. Legislative secretaries fill plates for themselves and others in the serving line.



Member takes prize-winning photograph

A photo taken by a Carter County Farm Bureau member has been selected as America's best in the national contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Nelda Keck, who resides in the Woodford community northwest of Ardmore, picked up her trophy for the best photo at the DAR 116th Continental Congress in Washington, D.C., which was held June 27 to July 1.

Her photo entitled "Oklahoma Rings Liberty" was selected as the nation's best in the DAR contest. She snapped the photo from her backyard on Dec. 20, 2006.

"God painted it, and let me capture it," said Nelda. "Many beautiful sunrises and sunsets remind me of the patriotic songs we sing about our country."

Her photo captures a beautiful Oklahoma sunset framed with an American flag gently waving in the air and an old dinner bell attached to a post. The fleeting rays of sun are reflected on the bare pecan trees in her backyard.

Nelda entered the photo through her local

Nelda Keck's photo, "Oklahoma Rings Liberty," was the national winner in the DAR contest.

DAR chapter in Ardmore along with a narrative that explained her snapshot and what it meant to her. It won the local contest, then the state contest and regional and nationals.

"With two grandsons now serving in the military, my patriotism has been sharpened as to the importance of our freedom," she said.

"When one reaches a certain stage of life, everything takes on a new perspective. One's appreciation of basic everyday surrounds becomes more beautiful and meaningful."

The "Oklahoma Rings Liberty" photo was taken at the 510-acre family ranch – Glory B Ranch — on Dec. 20, 2006.

"I'm excited about it," Nelda said.

She and her husband, Bob, moved to their ranch after retiring from jobs they had in Texas for some 30 years. Both grew up in the area.

"I'm prejudiced to the Arbuckles," said Nelda.

It was the first time she had ever entered a photo contest. She is an accomplished poet, with several published pieces.

Several entities have asked for copies of her prize-winning photo to display. The Ardmore Library and Oklahoma Historical Society will have copies on display for visitors.

The DAR is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education.

Membership is available only to those who can establish their lineage and heritage as a descendent of a patriot of the American Revolution. They must prove a direct lineal bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence.

"Membership in the DAR has brought me to realize my destiny in life," said Nelda. "All my life has centered around the DAR motto, God – Home – Country, and the organization has brought more opportunities of service in all three areas that has been fulfilling."

Longtime FBW member honored by service sorority

Verna Lou Driscoll, a longtime member of the Custer County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, was honored for her years of volunteering with programs on the local, county and state level by Clinton's Beta Psi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha.

Verna Lou, 93, was presented with the Distinguished International Academy of Noble Achievement award, which was established by ESA to recognize a woman in a community who has unselfishly given of herself to others.

Verna Lou and her late husband, Roy, became charter members of Custer County Farm Bureau in 1946. When the Women's Committee was organized in 1956, she was elected as one of its leaders and has served continuously since.

"Rewarding" is how Verna Lou describes her volunteer work. Through her involvement with Farm Bureau, she has worked to bring safety and citizenship programs to all county elementary schools. She also coordinated her county's program to send youngsters to the annual Outdoor Adventure – OFB's statewide safety seminar held each summer.

She also helped bring OFB's Defensive Driving Course to Custer County, and has promoted it locally.

"Pride," Verna Lou says, is the feeling she has for activities she volunteers with that promote knowledge and understanding of the role of the farmer-rancher in her community.



She has participated in the Farm City Festival at the state capitol for 40 years. Farm Bureau women from across the state assemble each April at the capitol and treat lawmakers and their staffs to finger foods to emphasize the major role agriculture plays in the Oklahoma economy, and to celebrate the state's agricultural efficiency and abundance.

In Custer County, she has volunteered with the local Farm City Festival to entertain women and civic leaders with luncheons and farm tours.

"Every February, we Farm Bureau Women also set up a table of snack foods at the Custer County courthouse. Everyone here says they look forward to our coming with all the treats."

Another one of her favorite Farm Bureau projects has been the county's local Food Check Out Day activities.

"We often set up displays at grocery stores that show what amount of money the farmer receives from a loaf of bread. In the past, we have randomly paid for a person's cart of groceries at the check out counter. Now we



Verna Lou Driscoll, right, a longtime member of Custer County Farm Bureau, was recognized by the Epsilon Sigma Alpha with the Distinguished International Academy of Noble Achievement. The award recognizes a woman who has unselfishly given of herself to others. Nellrita Barrick, a member of Clinton's Beta Psi Chapter of ESA, presented the award.

donate four cases of food to various needy organizations," she said.

Verna Lou says another highlight "was selecting and honoring a Custer County Farm Family of the Year. We always enjoyed introducing them and sharing their stories along with other farm families at the annual Farm Bureau state conventions in Oklahoma City or Tulsa."

One of her fondest memories is the early-day letter writing campaigns.

"One thing I will never forget," she says, "is we farm ladies gathering in our rural homes and writing letters to our national legislators protesting using farmlands in a wide area near Fort Still for bombing test sites. That was in 1958. And the state officers of our Farm Bureau Women's Committee hand delivered those stacks of letters to the House and Senate leaders in Washington, D.C.

"And you know what? That plan was cancelled!"

"I have found Verna Lou to be a person of integrity who is considerate of her co-volunteers and is always willing to do her part in whatever project is being considered," said Sue Jarvis, former Farm Bureau Women's Committee chair. "The volunteers of our Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women are like an extended family."

"That's why," said Verna Lou, "volunteering all these years has been like helping my family."



FARM & RANCH OUTFITTERS

FENCING • SQUEEZE CHUTES • HORSE STALLS • CORRAL PANELS • GATES • POSTS

BORN TO WORK THE LAND

Photo by Joey West





Matt Muller

Muller picked for PAL Class

Oklahoma's Matt Muller is one of only 10 young agricultural leaders selected to participate in the fourth class of the Partners in Agricultural Leadership (PAL) honors program.

Farm Bureau's PAL program, carried out with support from the Monsanto Company, the Farm Credit Foundation and AFBF, is designed to strengthen participants' leadership skills and put their abilities to work for the benefit of agriculture.

Muller farms cotton, grain sorghum and hay near Altus in Jackson County. He and his wife, Kellie, were named AFBF's 2006 Achievement Award winner – the organization's top young farm family in the nation. The couple has four children, Lincoln, Luke, Levi and Tyler.

"Farm Bureau is pleased to announce the members of the fourth PAL class, and we look forward to the contribution they will make to strengthen American agriculture," said AFBF President Bob Stallman. "The first three PAL classes proved to be resounding successes and, thanks to partnerships with Monsanto and the Farm Credit Foundation, we are confident this one will be as well."

According to Stallman, the PAL program provides young farmers and ranchers with the opportunity to hone their leadership skills after they have served as AFBF Young Farmer & Ranchers Committee (YF&R) members/officers or participated in competitive YF&R events.

By participating in PAL, the young leaders will enrich their skills in problem solving, persuasion and consensus building. At the same time, they will be deepening their knowledge of specific agricultural and public policy issues.

Upon completion of the PAL program, participants will be equipped to represent agriculture in the media, on speaking circuits or in legislative activities. PAL graduates serve as "advocates for agriculture," promoting awareness on issues important to those in the farm-to-consumer food chain.

Respect for PTO can avoid injuries



The tractor's PTO can pose severe danger for operators if shields and guards are broken or missing. Always replace broken or missing shields before operating your tractor.

The figure on the warning label is cartoonish in its contortion. But becoming entangled in a tractor's power take-off can turn serious before anyone has time to react.

That's why a few common sense safety checks are in order before using equipment powered by a power take-off, or PTO.

"There's a reason all this equipment has guards, shields and warning labels on it," says Justin Grego, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Safety Services director. "And the time to think about not getting entangled is before you ever start the equipment up.

"The only sure way to prevent being injured

Win a Dodge

The winner of the American Farm Bureau Federation Achievement Award will win a nicely equipped Dodge Ram 3500 as well as paid registration to the 2008 YF&R Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Each of the four runners-up will receive a Case IH DX compact tractor.

Contact Oklahoma Farm Bureau YF&R Coordinator Marcia Irvin at 405-523-2300 for more information.

is to avoid all contact with moving parts."

The PTO transfers power from a tractor to implements such as mowers, posthole diggers, grain augers, manure spreaders, sprayers and feed grinders.

"The grabbing action of a turning shaft or universal joints can result in broken bones, severed limbs or even more severe injuries," said Grego.

Nevertheless, it's not uncommon for guards to get removed for machine maintenance and then never replaced.

"That safety feature can't help you any if you're in the field and it's sitting in the shop," Grego said.

Broken or missing safety features should be replaced before farm equipment gets used, and manufacturers have made considerable improvements to older safety guards.

"Talk with your dealer for specific information on what's available," said Grego.

The typical PTO shaft can:

- Wrap your arm or leg around the PTO shaft nine times in one second.
- Produce second degree burns on your skin, even if you are lucky enough to have the PTO strip only the cotton clothing from your body. Nylon and other synthetics will cut into skin and muscle rather than rub across it.
- Grind away skin, muscles, tendons and break bones starting in less than three-fourths of one second when you are caught by an unshielded PTO shaft.

"A very strong man," explained Grego, "can generate about three-fourths of one horsepower. A tractor transmits nearly all the engine horsepower to the PTO shaft. There is simply no contest. The tractor will win every time."

Amerisight®

Positioned LASIK Pricing

Freedom from Contacts and Glasses

Save **40% to 55%** off the Overall National Average Price

1-877-507-4448

www.amerisight.us/_fb

Get LASIK!



Get Amersight 1-877-507-4448
Hours: 9-5
Mon-Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 10am-3pm

© 2007 Amerisight, Inc. All rights reserved. This offer is subject to the availability of LASIK services and is not available in all states. Some restrictions may apply. See website for details. Offer ends 9/30/07. To be eligible for this offer, you must be a member of Amerisight. See website for details.

NEW TOW-BEHIND DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWER!

— ATTACHES TO YOUR ATV OR RIDING MOWER TO MOW FIELDS WHILE YOU RIDE!



MADE IN USA

- **CLEAR OVERGROWN LAND FAST** — 2 acres/hr with 44" wide cut!
- **MOW WEEDS, BRUSH,** even 1-1/2" thick saplings — with up to 17 HP of V-Twin power!
- **OUTRIGGER™ TOW BAR** cuts 100% outside the path of towing vehicle to mow along fences, under trees.
- **REMOTE CONTROLS** let you manage all blade, clutch, and engine functions from your towing vehicle!

FREE
Depot
SHIPPING
now in
effect!

CALL TOLL-FREE
1-888-212-0629

YES! Please rush complete FREE DETAILS of new TOW-BEHIND and WALK-BEHIND DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWERS including prices, specifications, and Factory-Direct Savings now in effect.

Name _____ FOK
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Email _____

DR® POWER EQUIPMENT, Dept. 58802X
127 Meigs Road, Vergennes, VT 05491

www.DRfieldbrush.com

© 2007 CHP, Inc.



Walk-behind DR® Brush Mower models also available!

Double Savings for Farm Bureau Members Only

1. Get a special Farm Bureau deal on any car or truck at Vance Auto Group
2. Then get an additional \$300 rebate (with coupon)

Farm Bureau Members
SAVE \$300

Present this certificate along with your Farm Bureau member card to your salesperson at any John Vance Auto Group dealership and receive an additional \$300 rebate off the final purchase price of any new or used car or truck. This rebate is available only to Oklahoma Farm Bureau members and is in addition to all other rebates available. Certificate expires Sept. 30, 2007.



SERVICE SPECIAL
Oil and filter change
(5 qt. max., does not include synthetic)
Only \$19.95
\$20 off on any Diesel oil change

JOHN VANCE

AUTO GROUP

Exit 153 & I-35
Just 10 minutes north of Edmond

800.375.4471
www.vanceautogroup.com



Nine Oklahoma students awarded Farm Bureau scholarships

Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies and its Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee awarded nine \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in May.

The students, who must pursue a career in agriculture at an Oklahoma institution of higher learning and be a full-time student, filed applications with county Farm Bureau offices for the scholarships.

All applicants had to be from an Oklahoma Farm Bureau voting member family. One student in each of the nine state board of director districts was eligible to receive the \$1,000 scholarship.

Beaver County's Melisa Barth earned the scholarship in district one. The Gage resident, who graduated from Follett High School, will attend Oklahoma State University in the fall and pursue a degree in veterinary medicine.

Custer County's Carissa Taylor earned the scholarship in district two. The Thomas resident graduated from Thomas High School and will attend OSU this fall and

major in agricultural leadership.

Grady County's William Osborn earned the scholarship in district three. The Tuttle resident graduated Amber-Pocasset High School and will attend OSU this fall and major in agricultural economics.

Murray County's Aaron Coffey earned the scholarship in district four. The Springer resident graduated from Davis High School and will attend OSU this fall and pursue a degree in agricultural economics.

Hughes County's Kaysie Fields earned the scholarship in district five. The Wetumka resident graduated from Wetumka High School and will attend Eastern Oklahoma State College this fall and major in agricultural communications.

Nowata County's Johnna Pierce earned the scholarship in district six. The Nowata resident graduated from Nowata High School and will attend Northwestern Oklahoma State University this fall and pursue a degree in agriculture ecology.

Major County's Drake Gard earned the scholarship in district seven. The Fairview resident graduated Fairview High School and will attend OSU this fall and major in plant and soil science.

McClain County's Timothy Roberts earned the scholarship in district eight. The Washington resident graduated from Washington High School and will attend OSU this fall and pursue a degree in agricultural education.

Pawnee County's Megan Bryan earned the scholarship in district nine. The Pawnee resident graduated from Pawnee High School and will attend OSU this fall and major in animal science.



keeping requirements.

"The non-compliance is not due to minor omissions but usually gross lack of records of pesticide application records," said Dr. Jim T. Criswell, pesticide coordinator for the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture requires records to be kept for two years after the date of application. Records are to be provided immediately upon request in person by an Oklahoma Department of Agriculture inspector any time during the regular business hours of the business being inspected.

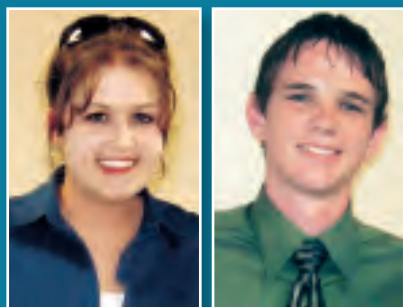
Copies of records must be furnished within seven working days of a written request by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture.

"It is best to record application records the same day the applications were made," said Criswell. "This allows for better recordkeeping."

Dealers also are required to keep records of restricted-used pesticide sales. Criswell said these records are:

- Complete brand name of pesticide
- EPA registration number
- Date pesticide was sold
- Total amount of restricted use pesticide sold
- Name of person to who sold
- Name and license of certification number of the certified or private applicator

Criswell said OSU highly recommends that dealers not sell restricted use pesticides to persons other than those that have valid certification cards.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS –

Seminole County Farm Bureau awarded \$2,000 college scholarships to two outstanding graduating seniors recently. Jaycie Brown, a 2007 Strother High School graduate, and Justin Parks, a 2007 Seminole High School graduate, were selected to receive the Farm Bureau scholarships. The scholarships may be used at the college of their choice. Jaycie is the daughter of Paul and Carol Brown. Justin is the son of Lloyd and Julie Parks.

Applicators fail to keep records on pesticides

After several meetings this year and reviewing Oklahoma Department of Agriculture closed complaint forms, it has become apparent that applicators are not complying with pesticide record-

Progressive Farmer names best rural places to live – Garfield County is number 8

Barren County in Kentucky took top honors in the third-annual edition of the “Best Places to Live in Rural America” rankings by *The Progressive Farmer* magazine.

Garfield County in Oklahoma was ranked eighth in the annual poll.

Each year, the rankings name the top 10 rural counties in the nation according to several quality-of-life indicators and statistics; all 10 counties are profiled in the February 2007 issue of *The Progressive Farmer*.

The rankings underscore the growing interest in “new ruralism,” or the trend of migration toward rural areas. Most rural areas in the nation are growing at the fastest rate in more than 20 years, and 71 percent of rural counties in America gained population from 1990 to 2000, according to two recent studies by Kenneth Johnson of Loyola University in Chicago.

“We feel our rankings reflect the newfound energy and vitality of rural America and showcase places that offer the very best in quality of life and comfort for their residents and workers,” said senior editor Jamie Cole.

Garfield County

A bustling wheat and cattle agricultural region about 85 miles north of Oklahoma City, Garfield County began in 1893 when thousands of prospective landowners came to the area to stake land claims.

Garfield County started with a boom. At the sound of a signal gunshot at noon on Sept. 16, 1893, thousands of prospective landowners — some on horseback, some in wagons, some on foot — poured into what is now Garfield County to stake land claims.

The new Oklahomans were in a rush to get one-quarter sections of free land in what was then known as the Cherokee Outlet — land bought from Indian tribes by the U.S. government to give to settlers.

The descendants of those “Boomers” have made quite a nice home for themselves.

FARM BUREAU BANK

Make your next vacation your best vacation!

When your vacation calls for the purchase of a new vehicle, RV, boat, or sport and recreational vehicle, turn to Farm Bureau Bank for a quick and easy loan.

Farm Bureau Bank finances new and used vehicles, RVs, boats, personal watercrafts, ATVs, and motorcycles. With vehicle loan rates starting at 5.19% APR* for 24 months, and an easy online application, Farm Bureau Bank can put you on the road to a great vacation.

For more information:
800.492.FARM | farmbureaubank.com

*Smaller text: *Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary depending on amount, term, vehicle age, and borrower's creditworthiness. APRs for vehicles 11, 15 and 24 months are 5.19%, 5.49% and 5.79% respectively. The advertised rates for a new vehicle with a down payment starting at 10%. This rate is subject to change without notice. The advertised rates for a used vehicle with a down payment starting at 10% are 5.79%, 5.99%, 6.19% and 6.39% respectively. APRs for boats, personal watercrafts, ATVs, and motorcycles are 6.19%, 6.39%, 6.59% and 6.79% respectively. APRs for boats, personal watercrafts, ATVs, and motorcycles with a down payment starting at 20% are 4.99%, 5.19%, 5.39% and 5.59% respectively. Some restrictions apply. See your loan officer for a complete list of terms, conditions, restrictions, and a copy of the financing contract and a copy of the vehicle or vessel title. Subject to change without notice. Finance your vacation the Farm Bureau way. Make it your best vacation yet.*

Financing available for selected Sport and Recreational Vehicle Loans.

Member FDIC

NEW TOW-BEHIND DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWER!

— ATTACHES TO YOUR ATV OR RIDING MOWER TO MOW FIELDS WHILE YOU RIDE!

- CLEAR OVERGROWN LAND FAST** — 2 acres/hr with 44" wide cut!
- MOW WEEDS, BRUSH, even 1-1/2" thick saplings** — with up to 17 HP of V-Twin power!
- OUTRIGGER™ TOW BAR** cuts 100% outside the path of towing vehicle to mow along fences, under trees.
- REMOTE CONTROLS** let you manage all blade, clutch, and engine functions from your towing vehicle!

FREE Depot SHIPPING now in effect!

Walk-behind DR® Brush Mower models also available!

CALL TOLL-FREE **1-888-212-0629**

Yes! Please rush complete **FREE DETAILS** of new TOW-BEHIND and WALK-BEHIND **DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWERS** including price, specifications, and FactoryDirect Savings now in effect.

Name _____ FOR
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____

DR® POWER EQUIPMENT, Dept. 50802X
 727 Meigs Road, Vergennes, VT 05481
www.DRfieldbrush.com

MADE IN U.S.A.