

Flatbed owners get insurance premium break

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance now offers a money-saving break on pickups and trucks by exempting the premium for the first \$4,000 of coverage for flatbeds that are listed as additional equipment.

"The change is for both new business and existing policies," said Jeff Gaughan, vice president of underwriting for the largest Oklahoma-based property and casualty insurance company. "It will be a nice break."

Gaughan said he believes Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance is the only company in the state to offer this policy feature.

"The first \$4,000 of coverage on the flatbed will be provided at no premium charge," he explained. "The premium charge will only apply to any amount in excess of that

amount, and would be rated at the standard additional equipment rate.

"Any premium amount showing on the policy declaration page will only be for the amount over \$4,000," he added.

Gaughan said Farm Bureau has over 3,200 policies in force with flatbeds listed as additional equipment.

All members of the statewide Farm Bureau Insurance agency force

have been notified of the change and will be reviewing their members' policies to make adjustments for those that qualify for the allowance.

Policyholders also can contact their agent for information.

"Insureds should list the flatbeds as additional equipment if they are not already listed," Gaughan said.

Toolboxes, feeders, hoists, bale spikes or other additional accessories that have been added to flatbeds need to be listed separately and are not included in the premium exemption.



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance clients who have flatbeds on their trucks now receive a money-saving break on their policies. The first \$4,000 on those vehicles listed as additional equipment is excluded and will be provided at no premium charge. The change came as a result of delegates to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau convention asking the insurance company to exclude flatbeds as additional equipment on trucks and pickups.

Representative lauds Claims response to storm damages

Editor's Note: *The unsolicited letter at right was sent to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Executive Director Matt Wilson Aug. 18. The letter's author is the Minority Leader of the Oklahoma House of Representatives Danny Morgan, who represents district 32.*

Danny Morgan



Matt,

I want to share with you the pleasant surprise I received when I filed a claim with Farm Bureau. I have been insured by Farm Bureau for several years and had hoped to never need your services due to a loss. Great thought, but I was not that lucky.

In May, a hail storm occurred in Prague, Oklahoma, that damaged the roof of my home as well as several of my rental houses that you insure. My wife and I made the dreaded call to my agent, who after our conversation directed us on the claims department. I say "dreaded" because I have made this type of call to other insurance companies and it was never pleasant.

Your claims representative, Felecia Echelle, was very prompt in her action on our claims. She was very professional in her dealings with us. She was patient in answering our questions and made several follow up calls to us as we provided more information to her about our properties.

We were also working on a claim for my mother's home which was also damaged due to the storm. It has been what I dreaded, delays and no call backs. I even had to get a manager involved to finally get the assistance that I needed.

We could not have had a more pleasant experience settling our loss. Please thank everyone involved at Farm Bureau for the professionalism and caring that they showed to us.

Sincerely,
Danny Morgan

SPEAKING OUT



Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Mike Spradling, right, told Rep. Mary Fallin, left, and Dan Boren, second from left, and Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Terry Peach that federal truck weight regulations create “an impossible roadblock” for Oklahoma farmers trying to get their products to markets in surrounding states. Under federal regulations, farm vehicles weighing more than 10,000 pounds can be deemed commercial carriers once they cross state lines, subjecting farmers to heavy fines and penalties. Current rules can require farmers to obtain a

commercial license and be subjected to drug and alcohol testing and other regulations required of long haul and large semi rig operators. Fallin and Boren held the forum because they want to change the rules with a law raising the limit to 26,001 pounds, the amount allowed for farm vehicles to travel within Oklahoma. State officials told the federal lawmakers the change would not negatively affect the safety of state roads and bridges. Spradling said some states, like Texas, seem eager to enforce the current regulations, which put farmers in violation for driving a

pickup and small trailer into other states. Fallin and Boren have introduced federal legislation to change the law. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate by Oklahoma’s Jim Inhofe and Tom Coburn. Fallin and Boren told the throng attending the forum at the state Capitol Aug. 21 that it likely is too late to get Congress to pass their legislation this session, but that it could be attached to the highway funding bill in 2009.

FAPC basic training graduate catches dream

Running a gourmet salsa company is a dream come true for Dee Sporn of Edmond. Consequently, the name of her company is DreamCatcher Farm Gourmet Salsa LLC.

Sporn's inspiration for making a refrigerated salsa came to fruition during her years spent at the lake. She wanted to snack on fresh vegetables when it was hot outside; however, she thought the refrigerated salsas were too watery and bland, so she decided to make her own salsa.

"This is a dream come true for me because this will give me the opportunity to spend my retirement doing something I really enjoy ... spending time with my husband and making and selling fresh salsa together," Sporn said. "So far, everyone who tries it likes it. Every day, it is such a joy to receive compliments and positive reactions from our customers.

Sporn has experimented with various recipes during the years and with the help of her family, has captured just the right combination of ingredients to create award-winning gourmet salsas.

Sporn and her family have competed in many competitions since 1999 and have taken first place in at least one category every time. Her latest achievement was the first place winner of the 2008 International Scovie Award (Fresh Habanero Category), the most prestigious award given at the Annual Fiery Foods Show in Albuquerque, N.M.

Soon after winning the award, Sporn and her husband, Jerrie, enrolled in Basic Training

for Food Business Entrepreneurs, a one day class offered by the Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center at Oklahoma State University.

"A client and friend of mine who owns hotels in Edmond and Guthrie attended an Oklahoma Restaurant Association meeting and inquired about how I should go about selling my salsa to consumers on a much larger scale," Sporn said. "He was referred to Chuck Willoughby at the FAPC, and word in the local food industry was that if we wanted to get our product on the shelves, Chuck was the man to talk to."

At Basic Training, the Sporn's learned about business planning, marketing, good manufacturing practices and many other topics. The first step after Basic Training for Sporn was to work on the business plan.

Chuck Willoughby, business and marketing relations manager, reviewed her plan and provided feedback.

"Dee's plan was very well written and organized," Willoughby said. "One thing she emphasized in the plan was that her salsa not only was award winning but also was not cooked. Fresh refrigerated salsas have not saturated the market like shelf stable ones — this gives her a little stronger point of differentiation; consumers perceive the fresh salsas as higher quality than those on the shelf."

After reviewing the plan, Willoughby and a team of FAPC specialists helped her with market research and market strategy, nutrition analysis, label review and co-packer identification.

"Prior to the workshop, we made inquiries to other non-profit consulting business organizations — none of which gave us guidance on

preparing a business plan, nor did they ever tell us of the possibility and benefits of partnering with a co-packer... the most valuable information we've obtained to date," Sporn said. "We have a wonderful co-packer right here in Oklahoma City who does an excellent job of preparing the recipe and helped finalize the ingredient information for the labels, which FAPC was very kind to prepare the nutrition analysis needed to make this possible."

Soon after finding the right co-packer, Sporn and her family began marketing her salsa at Farmers' Markets and consumer shows. They are currently participating in the Edmond Farmers' Market and are applying to participate in local craft shows in the fall.

"Our current schedules allow us to be flexible enough to have a hands-on approach to protect and learn about our product in the consumer market, so we'd like to establish a presence and a consumer base in farmers' markets, festivals and eventually a trade interest at food shows," Sporn said.

To transport the products to the farmers' markets and as part of Sporn's product display, she converted an ice unit to a refrigerated unit. The "rolling refrigerator" is complete with colorful peppers and vegetables to match the products. Sporn said the booth accessories help to spark the curiosity of any spicy food lover.

It is important for entrepreneurs to take advantage of the many resources when starting a new business, such as the FAPC, co-packers, supply companies and funding sources.

"We're very thankful to the Citizen Pottawatomie Development Corp. in Shawnee, Okla., who came to the rescue to help with a portion of our 'start-up' capital because it has definitely been more financially demanding than we could have ever anticipated," Sporn said.

Like many of the entrepreneurs FAPC works with, Sporn and her family have that persistence, never give-up attitude, Willoughby said.

"Dee's creativity and savvy business sense are commendable and her enthusiasm is contagious," he said. "Working with Dee and folks like her inspire us to live out our mission — to add value to Oklahoma!"



Dee Sporn is pictured with her marketing display for her gourmet salsa at an Oklahoma farmers' market.

AUGUST AREA MEETINGS



Oklahoma Farm Bureau members took the opportunity to help their organization begin its annual policy development process by attending the August Area meetings held throughout the state. From Vinita to Ardmore and from Guymon to McAlester to points in between, about 700 county Farm Bureau leaders attended the 12 meetings hosted by OFB state directors in their districts. The Public Policy team of Ericka McPherson, Tyler Norvell, Marla Peek and Lori Peterson pictured at the top of the page answered questions posed by members and distributed information from the 2008 Policy Development Book during the meetings. County leaders listened to the information presented and also raised issues they believe the organization should include in the policy development process. In the center photo on the left, Garvin County President Dale Schauer and his wife, Sherry, listen as some of the pending issues are discussed. In the center right photo, Pushmataha County Vice President Kenneth Blan took the microphone to speak on an issue he felt should be addressed by Farm Bureau. Mayes County Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Koelch, bottom left photo, listens intently to a concern raised prior to the meeting he attended in Vinita. Muskogee County President Jon Leeds, bottom right photo, gave a report on YF&R activities across the state. Leeds and his wife, Natalie, serve as chairmen of the state YF&R Committee.



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The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Service Corporation offers this program to members as a cost savings initiative only and in no way recommends, endorses or guarantees this or any other elective medical procedure. It is solely the responsibility of the member to evaluate and elect to have the procedure performed. *with CareCredit approval

Benefits added to the FB Card

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members will notice some significant additions to the list of products and services included in the Farm Bureau Card program.

The most recognizable addition is Sears.

One of America's oldest and most trusted retail giants has joined the Farm Bureau Card fold with the Sears Commercial Customer Advantage Program.

The Sears program offers OFB members the opportunity to save between 5 and 35 percent on products used nearly everyday in their home.

Members can save on items such as kitchen and laundry appliances, exercise equipment, grills, mowers and lawn and garden tractors, televisions, water softeners, filtration systems, garage door openers, storage and much more.

The Sears program also offers Farm Bureau members the opportunity purchase gift cards for Sears, K-Mart and Lands End at discounted prices. The gift cards are offered to Farm Bureau members at a five percent discount, meaning a \$100 gift card will cost the purchaser only \$95.

The new program is not available at Sears retail stores or at Sears.com. It is available only through Sears Commercial.

Farm Bureau members can view the entire line of products offered through the new program by visiting commercial.sears.com/catalog/catalog_index.html.

A complete list of all products available is listed at that site. By clicking on a particular item, its list of specifications will be brought up for further inspection.

When a FB member decides on a particular product or has questions, Sears Consultant Sherry Wells is ready to assist. She can be contacted at 918-289-1614 or by email at SWells04@SearsHC.com.

Members simply provide Wells with the account number and their OFB membership number, the Sears number of the article they're interested in, and she will provide the discounted price usually within one business day.

"The discount is based on the suggested price," said Wells. "It will be a minimum of 5 percent and can go up to 35 percent. It could be more on some things. Sometimes discontinued items are reduced even more."

Wells will take down the member's information, preferred payment method and send an order confirmation and warranty card after the selection is made. The member can either pick up the item at the Sears warehouse in Oklahoma City or Tulsa or make arrangements for delivery with Wells.

For members who live in the rural areas and must use dial-up to connect with the Internet, there's now a high-speed solution. Oklahoma Farm Bureau has



enlisted Agristar on the FB Card program.

Agristar uses advanced business-grade satellite technology to deliver high-speed access. No matter where you live in Oklahoma, broadband is available. The service is more than broadband. Subscribers have access to premium ag information at no extra charge.

A business-grade satellite system and professional installation is only \$249. That price is \$150 less than Agristar's traditional charge. A monthly service fee is applicable, and varies in price depending upon the download and upload speed preferences of the member.

To order or learn more, contact Agristar at 888-777-0440.

Farmers, ranchers and contractors interested in mid-mount front end loaders will save \$150 through Farm Bureau's agreement with KD Loaders.

The company offers loaders to fit from 30 to 160 horsepower two and four-wheel drive tractors. The loaders offer the proper fit, brute strength and best value in the industry. The loaders are available in either green or black.

To check prices or purchase, contact KD Loaders at 325-641-0420 or visit the web site at kdloaders.com.

Another new addition to the Farm Bureau Card family is Chappell Supply and Equipment.

The firm is a leading supplier of power washers, selling one of the last American-made industry leaders in the Mi-T-M brand. Farm Bureau members can purchase any of the power washers – from the smallest to the largest – at a 10 percent discount.

Chappell also is offering the 10 percent discount on its entire line of poly tanks as well as suction and hydraulic hoses.

To check prices or make a purchase, contact Chappell at 405-495-1722 or toll free at 800-525-4970. Members also can visit the company's web site at chappellsupply.com.



A NEW MODEL

Farm Bureau's Safety Services hit the Oklahoma roads with a new fire safety house to kickoff the 2008-2009 school year. The new trailer replaces the first rolling fire safety house that Safety put into service in 1999, which after about 500,000 miles and 500,000 children being educated on home fire dangers was retired from active duty but remains in reserve. The new 38-foot trailer was purchased and converted from its bare state to a teaching fire safety house by Safety Services with just a bit of help from a few vendors. A smoke generator was installed to simulate the blinding conditions that occur when a home is burning to instruct youngsters on the best way to exit their homes in case they are engulfed in flames. A working fireplace in the living room, a fully equipped kitchen and master bedroom were installed and are used to teach youngsters about the dangers in different rooms of their homes. The new trailer is equipped with a ramp door in the rear to allow easy access for those with special needs. To book the fire safety trailer for your school or community, contact Safety Services at 405-523-2300.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

To all county Farm Bureaus of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

You are hereby notified that Oklahoma Farm Bureau will convene in annual session Friday, November 11, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. This is the annual meeting of the delegate body. See that your delegates are properly certified and in attendance to represent your membership. This meeting will continue until all business is transacted.

Board of Directors

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.

Notice is hereby given of the annual meeting of the Policyholders of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company to be held in the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City on Saturday, November 15, 2008, commencing at 8:45 a.m. at which time a report of the activities of our company during the past fiscal year will be submitted together with a report of the financial position of the company; and at which time any and all other activities of the company may be presented and considered.

Board of Directors

Annual convention is set for Nov. 14-16

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 67th convention will attract nearly 1,000 delegates and guests to Oklahoma City's Cox Convention Center Nov. 14-16.

The Friday, Saturday and Sunday version of the annual meeting will take care of the business of the state's largest voluntary farm organization as well as set policy to help mold the future of the state and nation.

Three state directors plus the delegates for the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in January also will be selected.

Top state awards to counties and individual members also will be presented during the annual meeting and competitions, such as the Discussion Meet, will be held.

At the early September press time, the schedule was:

The opening session begins at 1:30 p.m. Friday. Syndicated columnist Trent Loos and American Farm Bureau Vice President Barry Bashue are scheduled. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer also has been invited.

Breakout sessions follow at 3:15 p.m. and repeat at 4:15 p.m. Oklahoma State University's Darrell Peel has been invited to lead a session on agri-terrorism while AFBF's Jim Sartwell has been asked to lead a session on the farm commodity outlook.

The annual awards and recognition program is slated for 7:30 p.m. It will feature presentation of awards like the Secretary of the Year, Distinguished Service and Farm Family of the Year as well as the YF&R Achievement Award along with other top county and individual awards.

An ice cream social to raise funds for the

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation is scheduled immediately following the awards program.

OFB Expo, the official trade show of the convention, is back again. It will host a variety of vendors from across the state promoting agricultural businesses and associations, along with other vendors. The trade show will satisfy the interest of all participants.

The Nov. 15 morning general session features the annual policyholders meeting followed immediately by a general session. The general session will focus on setting policy for 2009. Delegates also will select delegates to the AFBF annual meeting.

Various YF&R and Farm Bureau Women's functions begin after the general session adjourns at noon. When it reconvenes at 2:15 p.m., results of caucuses in districts one, four and seven for state directors will be announced. Delegates will finish a resolutions session before the general session adjourns.

A reception for Ag Fund donors is scheduled at 6:15 p.m.

The annual banquet begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by a performance by the Connie Smith.

Sunday activities begin with breakfast for county presidents, FBW chairmen and leaders in the legislative arena.

The Vespers and Memorial Session begins at 9:15 a.m. Dallas evangelist Jon Randles has been invited to speak. Inspirational music and a memorial ceremony for Farm Bureau members will be a part of the morning's session, which is schedule to conclude the annual meeting by 11:30.

Joint Privacy Notice

On Behalf Of: Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company and AgSecurity Insurance Company. When you see the words we, us, or our within this *Joint Privacy Notice*, you should understand that those words include Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company and AgSecurity Insurance Company.

Our Commitment To Safeguarding Your Privacy

This *Joint Privacy Notice* is being provided to you to inform you of our practices and procedures regarding the sharing of non public personal information. Non public personal information is personally identifiable financial information about you, your family, or your household that we may obtain directly from you, that we may obtain as a result of our business dealings with you, or that we may obtain from any other source.

We do not engage in the practice of disclosing your non public personal information to nonaffiliated third parties other than, as necessary, to provide quality insurance services to our customers. For instance, we do not sell your name, address or telephone number to telemarketers or to direct mail solicitors. We do not engage in "list-selling," and we do not offer your personal information to publishing houses, retailers, or coupon companies.

During the continuation of our customer relationship with you, we will also provide you with a copy of this *Joint Privacy Notice* at least once during each calendar year as part of a regular mailing, such as within a billing or a renewal notice or with a policy and at any time that you request in writing a copy of this *Joint Privacy Notice*. Further, because of federal and state laws, regulations and business practices can change at any time, we may revise this *Joint Privacy Notice* accordingly. Once you cease to be a policyholder, we will stop sending you annual privacy notices.

Information We May Collect & Use

During the course of reviewing your application for insurance coverage and deciding whether or not to underwrite the insurance policy for which you have applied, and, if we issue you a policy, during the course of providing services to you as required by the policy, we collect and evaluate information from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications or other forms;
- Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates or others;
- Information we receive from consumer reporting agencies; and
- Information we receive from state or federal agencies.

It is important for us to collect and use this information to properly provide, administer and perform services on your behalf. We could not provide optimum service to you without collecting and using this information.

Information We May Disclose

We regard all of your personal information as confidential. Therefore, we do not disclose any non public personal information about our customers or former customers to anyone except as permitted by law. In the course of conducting our business dealings, we may disclose to other parties certain information we have about you. These disclosures are only made in accordance with applicable laws, and may include disclosures to reinsurers, administrators,



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service providers, consultants and regulatory or governmental authorities. Furthermore, certain disclosures of information will be made to your Farm Bureau personnel authorized to have access to your personal information for the purpose of administering your business and providing services to you.

We may disclose the following categories of information to companies that perform services on our behalf or to other financial institutions with which we have joint marketing agreements:

- Information we received from you on applications or other forms, such as your name, address, Social Security number, county Farm Bureau membership number, assets, income and beneficiaries;
- Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates or others, such as your policy coverage, premium, loss history and payment history; and
- Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency, such as your creditworthiness and credit history.

We may disclose non public personal information about you to the following types of third parties:

- Financial service providers, such as life insurers, automobile insurers, mortgage bankers, securities broker-dealers, and insurance agents;
- Non financial companies, such as retailers, direct marketers, airlines, and publishers; and
- Others, such as nonprofit organizations.

These entities with which we share personal information are required to maintain the confidentiality of that information. We do not authorize these parties to use or disclose your personal information for any purpose other than for the express purpose of performing work on our behalf or as required or permitted by law.

How We Maintain The Confidentiality & Security Of Your Information

We carefully restrict access to non public personal information to our employees, our independent contractor insurance agents, our service contract providers, and our affiliates and subsidiaries. The right of our employees, our independent contractor insurance agents, our service contract providers, and our affiliates and subsidiaries to further disclose and use the information is limited by our employee handbook, agent's manual, applicable law, and nondisclosure agreements where appropriate. We maintain physical electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal and state law to guard your non public personal information.

Your Opt-Out Right

We reserve the right to disclose non public personal information about our customers to a nonaffiliated third party. However, if you prefer that we not disclose nonpublic personal financial information about you to nonaffiliated third parties, you may opt out of those disclosures, that is, you may direct us not

to make those disclosures (information sharing which is permitted by law includes sharing information with our affiliates and non-affiliates about our transactions or experiences with you for business, administrative and other legal purposes).

If you wish to opt-out of disclosures to nonaffiliated third parties, you may choose one of the following options:

1. Complete the opt-out form on our web-site located at okfarminsurance.com OR
2. Mail or Fax the attached opt-out form to us. Fax # 405-523-2581.

Your opt-out form must reach us within 30 days of your receipt of our privacy notice. Your opt-out request will take effect on the 7th day following receipt of your request, to allow for notification to all applicable affiliated or nonaffiliated third parties.

If you share your account with another person, either of you may opt-out of disclosures (other than disclosures permitted by law) for both of you. Please indicate on the Opt-Out Notice form if you are opting-out for one or both of you.

Conclusion

If you have any questions or comments concerning this *Joint Privacy Notice* or our privacy standards and procedures, please write us at Post Office Box 53332, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152-3332. Our functional regulator is the State of Oklahoma, Department of Insurance. If we cannot resolve your concerns or answer your questions, feel free to contact our regulator.

This Joint Privacy Notice describes our company's privacy policy and practices in accordance with the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 USC §6801, and with various state-specific privacy financial information laws and regulations in the states in which our company does business.

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OPT-OUT NOTICE

I prefer that you do not disclose nonpublic personal financial information about me to nonaffiliated third parties, (other than disclosures permitted by law, which include sharing information with our affiliates & nonaffiliates about our transactions or experiences with you for business, administrative and other legal purposes). In order for an opt-out notice to be valid, all *required information must be completed.

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Contest attracts 14 farm families

Families from 14 counties have been nominated by their county Farm Bureaus for consideration as the 2008 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Farm Family of the Year.

The winning family will be announced during the Awards and Recognition Program of the 67th annual meeting of Oklahoma Farm Bureau in Oklahoma City in November.

The winner will receive an expense-paid trip to the 2009 American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in San Antonio, Tex., use of a new Dodge pickup, and other prizes.

The annual Oklahoma Farm Bureau contest honors the farm family who best represents farming and ranching and the spirit of Oklahoma agriculture.

Farm families nominated, listed in county alphabetical order, are:

- **Russell and Dianna Yell** of Adair County.

Their dairy operation was established in 1963, starting with 60 acres and growing to today's 800-plus acres with a 24-cow milking parlor. They have a 200-head dairy herd, and raise their own sorghum and hay for their cattle.

- **Scott and Laura Cormack** of Alfalfa County. They have a large operation, with 1,600 acres of pasture and 1,600 acres of cropland, where corn, milo and soybeans are grown. A 300- to 400-head cow herd is maintained along with hundreds of stockers being pastured during the winter months.

- **Gary and Kimberly Adams** of Choctaw County. They have a 1,500-acre operation where corn, wheat and soybeans are grown. They also have a cattle herd and haying operation.

- **Allan and Janna Barrington** of Comanche County. Their operation includes 1,000 acres of wheat and 1,000 acres of native pasture where they graze their 150-head registered Angus cattle herd. An additional 80 acres is leased for haying and grazing.

- **Bryan and Staci Hunter** of Custer County. They farm more than 3,000 acres. The majority of the land is in pasture for a large cattle herd. Wheat and alfalfa comprise about 450 acres of the operation.

- **Harvey and Ruth Moeller** of Kiowa County. The well-established operation has seen cattle, hogs and chickens raised, but now focuses on cattle, hay and pasture. They also own and operate a flower shop.

- **Allen and Susan Brewer** of LeFlore County. Their operation consists of four large poultry houses where they produce some 570,000 broilers each year. They also have a small cattle herd and sell poultry litter and hay.

- **Charles and Jan Pearson** of Muskogee County. The 1,500-acre bottom land farm produces corn, soybeans and wheat. Popcorn also has been a frequent crop recently, with some of the soybeans being food-grade and going to Japan.

- **Scot and Carol Dvorak** of Noble County. They have about 4,000 acres where they raise wheat, corn, alfalfa and prairie hay as well as a large cattle herd and stocker operation. They also have a niche market for fed steers for customers seeking farm-raised beef.

- **Albert and Louise Rutledge** of Payne County. Their registered Angus operation traces its roots to 1959. They run 35 to 40

registered mother cows and sell about 10 test-station bulls annually.

- **Joey and Monica Morrow** of Pontotoc County. They run cows on 800 acres of pasture and plant wheat on 200 acres of grazing, haying and grain. They also bale 100 acres of grass and have a custom haying operation.

- **Steve and Tracy Shepherd** of Seminole County. They have a small cow-calf operation on 278 acres. They have about 50 head of cattle and raise and show registered Angus heifers.

- **Jack and Sandra Berry** of Stephens County. They own 160 acres and lease another 720 where they have about 120 head of registered Angus, Maine-Anjou and Maine cattle. They produce seed stock heifers and bulls.

- **William and Carolyn Fesler** of Washington County. After retiring from a family medical practice in 2006, the family now has meat goats and a calf and stocker operation. They own and lease 690 acres with an 85-head cow herd and 300-head goat herd.

Four vie for Achievement Award

Four county Farm Bureaus submitted nominations for consideration as the 2008 YF&R Achievement Award. The award honors the state's top young farm family.

The winner will be announced during the Awards and Recognition Program of the 67th annual meeting of Oklahoma Farm Bureau in Oklahoma City in November.

The winner receives an expense-paid trip to the 2009 American Farm Bureau Federation convention in San Antonio, Tex. The Oklahoma winner also receives a year's use of a Dodge pickup, the use of a Kubota tractor, \$500 worth of Syngentia crop protection products and other awards.

The nominees, listed in county alphabetical order, are:

- **Jack and Jodi Simmons** of Adair County. The Simmons own and operate 1,369 acres where they have 100 acres of hay and run 240 head of cattle in addition to operating a liquid feed business.

- **Charlie and Amber Coblentz** of Mayes County. The couple has a diversified operation covering 6,000 acres with cattle, horse hay and

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• **Mason Bolay** of Noble County. The recent college graduate operates 422 acres with wheat, milo and corn being the prime crops. He also has a cow-calf herd and hauling service and is in his second year as a vocational agriculture teacher at Thomas.

• **Chad Selman** of Tulsa County. He operates 2,000 acres with cattle, pecans and hay being the primary enterprises. Chad also manages a custom pecan company and operates a roping stock cattle business for his father.

Two nominated for YF&R award

Two county Farm Bureaus have submitted nominations for the YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award which will be presented at the 67th annual

convention in Oklahoma City in November.

The award recognizes successful young people 35 or younger who are involved in farming but whose primary occupations are not farming or owning an agricultural business. The award is based on their involvement in agriculture and participation in Oklahoma Farm Bureau and other community organizations.

The winner receives a four-wheeler ATV plus a trip to the AFBF convention in San Antonio, Tex., to represent Oklahoma in the national contest.

Jason and Mandi Robedeau of Red Rock were nominated by Noble County Farm Bureau. He works as a UPS driver in Ponca City and she is an administrative assistant in the school of hotel and restaurant management at Oklahoma State University. They own a herd of commercial cattle with plans to expand, and have created their own farm fresh beef business in the last two years.

Scott Stephen Story of Stillwater was nominated by Payne County Farm Bureau. He

is a biological science technician with the USDA Agriculture Research Service, where he helps conduct research on barley to find genetically superior varieties. He and his wife, Amanda, have 20 head of Brangus influence cows on leased land in McCurtain County.

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