

Oklahoma

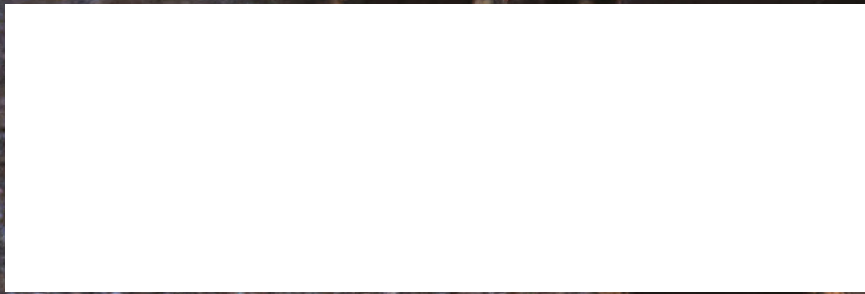
Country



The Magazine of the
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
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Seeding *with* knowledge

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Chair **Kitty Beavers** looks back on eight years of *servicing, educating and advocating* for agriculture.



A fine, feathered tradition

Producing poultry ethically and responsibly

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Oklahoma Country

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Vice President of Communications and Public Relations

Hannah Davis

Director of Media Relations



ON THE COVER

Stephens County Farm Bureau member Kitty Beavers reflects back on eight years as OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Chair.

HIDDEN NUMBER WORTH \$50

One member family's Oklahoma Farm Bureau membership number is hidden somewhere in this issue of *Oklahoma Country* and could earn that member family \$50. To claim the cash prize, the member family must find its own hidden membership number and contact Hannah Davis before the last day of the month, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (405) 523-2346.

The OKFB membership number hidden somewhere in *Oklahoma Country* must match the number on the face of your individual OKFB membership card for you to claim the cash prize. The membership number that appears on your magazine's mailing label is not the hidden number, but also must match the hidden number for you to claim the cash prize.

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Seeding with knowledge

By Hannah Davis

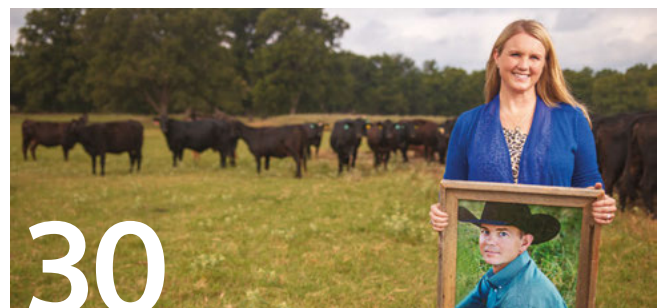
After serving Farm Bureau women for eight years, Kitty Beavers reflects upon a lasting legacy of advocating for agriculture.



A fine, feathered tradition

By Dustin Mielke

Through nearly 50 years of raising broiler chickens, the Bolen family continually improves with a focus on their birds and consumers.



Partners in protection

By Becky Samples

In the most difficult of times, members of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance family rally together to care for one another.

A red graphic with white text. At the top left is the Oklahoma Farm Bureau logo. Below it, the text reads 'STRONGER. TOGETHER.' in large, bold letters. To the right of this text is a large white number '77'. Below the '77' is the text 'OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU'S 77TH ANNUAL MEETING' and 'NOVEMBER 16-18, 2018'. At the bottom left of the graphic is a large white number '20'. The background of the graphic has faint, repeating text of Oklahoma county names.

7 things to know about OKFB's 77th Annual Meeting

With exciting changes to our convention schedule, join us in November to connect, learn and grow with fellow members.



PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING

Interested, informed, involved: Farm Bureau members, it is time to vote

By Rodd Moesel
President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies

The classic image of a farmer or a rancher is one of independence and freedom. Whether it is working cattle in wide-open spaces or checking crops alongside a gravel road, freedom is central to the lifestyle that farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans love.

With that freedom comes responsibility.

We thoroughly enjoy the opportunities afforded us by living in the United States, and particularly in Oklahoma, but we have to be aware, active and engaged to ensure that way of life flourishes. While it is easy to concentrate on our businesses and daily lives, we need to elect public officials at every level who hold dear the same values and ideals that are imperative to our way of life.

As the November 6 general election approaches, it is important to exercise our right to vote and make our voices heard. Individual involvement is the basis of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's grassroots structure as well as the foundation of our country. Rural residents of our state have always understood the importance of voting, and we should not forget that voting is one of the easiest tools we have to ensure our principles are upheld.

While exercising your right to vote is critically important, going to the polls as an informed voter, aware of the issues and candidates, is a responsibility I hope we all take seriously. We should all consider what issues are most important to us and research each candidate and initiative to make informed decisions in the voting booth.

I am proud to have spent time with OKFB's political action committee, the OKAgFund, as they have met throughout this election cycle. The OKAgFund board is made up of OKFB members from across the state, elected by their fellow district Farm Bureau members. They have worked tirelessly to research and discuss candidates for numerous offices, and they have supported and endorsed candidates who will fight for Oklahoma agriculture. You can see the list of candidates on page 14. I hope you will use that guide as you consider how to cast your vote.

A part of OKFB that I have always enjoyed is the opportunity

to meet our elected officials and political candidates seeking a variety of positions. Hearing directly from those serving in public office and those seeking office makes an incredible difference in making an informed decision.


I encourage you to seek out candidates on your ballot and visit with them, if possible. Get involved with civic organizations - like Farm Bureau - that connect voters with lawmakers and candidates through programs like meet-the-candidate events.

Often times, candidates running for local positions and for state House and Senate seats love to talk to voters and discuss issues.

Farm Bureau leaders and staff have the opportunity to visit with Oklahoma's legislators and regulators on issues important to agriculture and rural Oklahoma. It is apparent in these discussions that our lawmakers and policymakers know that Farm Bureau

members not only vote, but they also understand the issues and strive to participate in the lawmaking process. There is an obvious impact in our local, state and national governments when our members are interested, informed and involved.

It is also up to us to make sure our friends and neighbors are informed. If you're reading this magazine, you are already ahead of thousands of voters who do not take the time to research the candidates and issues, and who may not even exercise their right to vote. We must take it upon ourselves to help inform our fellow citizens about issues that are critical to the future of rural Oklahoma.

I hope you will join me and your fellow OKFB members as we each research the candidates and choices that are most important to us. Together, we make a strong, informed voice for rural Oklahoma and our agriculture industry. 

“There is an obvious impact in our local, state and national governments when our members are interested, informed and involved.”

— Rodd Moesel

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JAN. 11-16, 2019



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EXECUTIVE OUTLOOK

Pausing to reflect, direct and connect

By Thad Doye

Executive Director, Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is important to me because I am proud to be a farmer. Like all farmers, I hope to be a good steward of the land and of our natural resources so I can pass on our family's farm just like generations before passed it to me.

To be able to see the next generation make a living from the land, it is important to stop from time to time and evaluate what is working, what is not, where you have been and where you are headed. Keeping your goals in sight and measuring your progress is always a good idea, no matter what area of life you are talking about.

OKFB is at a great point do just that: analyze who we are as an organization, see the ways in which we are effective and target the ways we can grow. To accomplish this task, the OKFB state board and I have decided to take on a peer-review process to get an accurate snapshot of the status of your organization. We have asked American Farm Bureau to conduct this comprehensive review. They have the unique advantage of being "one of us" – they understand what makes Farm Bureau special – and they will be able to offer expert advice to help guide us into the future.

In the coming weeks and months, AFBF will look at our organization's structure, programs and services, analyzing them to see how they fit with our mission of serving our members. As part of the review, AFBF staff will also visit Oklahoma to do personal interviews with our members and staff as they

consider the efforts and initiatives OKFB is undertaking. From our member-driven committees to our publications and from our public policy efforts to our membership initiatives, AFBF

will assess our organization and spotlight ways in which we can grow.

I believe this is a great opportunity to pause and see where we are at as an organization. OKFB members have built their organization by striving to serve their fellow members, an attitude that we focus on and work toward every day. What we will learn from this review will allow us to concentrate our efforts and growth as an organization. We plan to thoroughly analyze the results of this review and implement any changes that we can make to better serve OKFB members as we charge forward with

our mission of improving the lives of rural Oklahomans.

I am excited for this chance to take stock of where we are at, identify steps that we can take to better serve our members, and continue our work together to move agriculture and rural Oklahoma forward. After all, passing on the fruits of our labor is a tradition our organization holds dear. **FB**

“I am excited for this chance to take stock of where we are at, identify steps that we can take to better serve our members, and continue our work together to move agriculture and rural Oklahoma forward.”

— Thad Doye



YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

2019 AFBF YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

Competition Awards



The YF&R program helps young members shape their future and American agriculture through leadership development and personal growth opportunities. Three competitions enable members to showcase their leadership experience, communication skills and successful business plans as they compete against the best of the best from each state Farm Bureau.

As part of the YF&R competitions, the top four competitors in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag areas will receive:



1ST PLACE

WINNER: A new Ford truck or vehicle of equal value and paid registration to the AFBF FUSION Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin courtesy of Ford.

2ND PLACE

RUNNER-UP: Case IH Farmall 50A, courtesy of Case IH.

3RD PLACE

THIRD PLACE: Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet & Top Chest and \$500 Case IH parts card, courtesy of Case IH plus **\$2,000 of Stanley Black & Decker merchandise** (PROTO, DeWalt, Stanley, Lenox & Irwin), courtesy of Stanley Black & Decker.

4TH PLACE

FOURTH PLACE: Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet & Top Chest and a \$500 Case IH parts card, courtesy of Case IH.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS





Corn in Oklahoma

From filling your tank with gas to loading your shopping cart with groceries, corn provides a variety of ingredients that make up many everyday necessities for Americans.

Oklahoma production

Over the past five years, Oklahoma corn farmers have produced an average of 40.9 million bushels of corn. One bushel of corn weighs approximately 56 pounds.

Types of corn

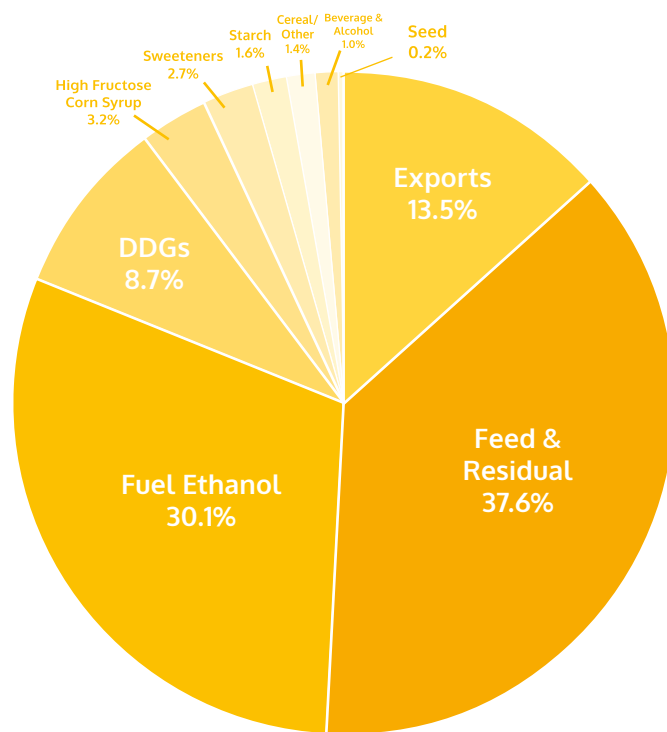
Did you know? The corn found on grocery store shelves is actually known as sweet corn. While Oklahoma farmers produce sweet corn, the large majority of corn grown in Oklahoma is dent corn, commonly referred to as field corn. Field corn can be grown for grain or for silage.

The many uses of corn

From livestock feed to ethanol fuel, the corn grown on Oklahoma farms can be used in a variety of ways. One bushel of corn can provide 33 pounds of sweetener, 31.5 pounds of starch, 13.5 pounds of gluten feed, 2.8 gallons of fuel ethanol or 1.5 pounds of corn oil.

More corn, fewer inputs

Thanks to improvements in farming techniques and technology, U.S. corn farmers now produce an average of 177 bushels of corn per acre compared to only 20 bushels per acre in 1912.



**U.S. Corn Use
by Segment 2017**

Visit an Oklahoma corn maze

Where else can you roam a maze, explore a pumpkin patch, and take an old-fashioned hay ride? Experience fall on an Oklahoma farm by visiting a local corn maze. Many farms offer interactive adventures that give maze-runners the option to solve riddles and learn agriculture facts. Find a maze near you at www.OklahomaAgriTourism.com.

SOURCE: National Corn Growers Association

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETINGS

Oklahoma Farm Bureau

To all county Farm Bureaus of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau: You are hereby notified that Oklahoma Farm Bureau will convene in annual session Friday, Nov. 16, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Norman. 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

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 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Norman on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018, 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; at which time any and all other activities of the company may be presented and considered. – Board of Directors

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500
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— 2018 —

A guide to the 2018 Oklahoma state questions

This November, Oklahoma voters will make decisions on five state questions along with a number of local, state and national races. Learn about each state question in the brief analysis below.

From property tax laws to crime victims' rights, Oklahoma voters will have a plethora of choices to make in November's general elections. Learn more about the five state questions found on the general election ballot below, and find OKFB's OKAgFund-supported candidates on page 14. After deciding how to vote, make sure to use the voter guide on the next page for use at the ballot box.

State Question 793

State Question 793 would provide Oklahomans with more choices regarding locations and costs for eye exams and corrective lenses. The question, which amends the state constitution, would allow optometrists or opticians to practice inside retail establishments.

The Legislature would be prohibited from creating laws that discriminate against eye care professionals based on where they practice, and from laws that restrict clinics inside retail establishments from selling prescribed optical goods and services. However, under SQ 793, the Legislature would have the ability to prohibit optometrists from performing surgery in eye clinics inside retail establishments. State lawmakers also would still have the ability to limit the number of locations a single optometrist may practice, maintain optometry licenses and impose health and safety standards.

Supporters of SQ 793 claim the question will make optical services more accessible, economical and convenient for all Oklahomans. Opponents, including the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians, say "optometric physicians are health care professionals that perform surgeries, diagnose and manage chronic eye diseases, and are tasked with detecting potentially life-threatening diseases. Oklahoma has correctly chosen not to place medical professions like optometry in retail settings." Oklahoma Farm Bureau members have no specific policy concerning SQ 793.

State Question 794

Also known as 'Marsy's Law', State Question 794 would expand the legal rights of crime victims in Oklahoma. The measure originated in the state Legislature in 2017 as SJR 46 by Sen. Anthony Sykes and Rep. Scott Biggs.

SQ 794 places new rights for crime victims in the state Constitution including the right to be heard in court proceedings, the right to be notified of such proceedings, the right to reasonable protection, the right to talk with prosecutors and the right to refuse interview requests from defendant's

attorney without a subpoena.

SQ 794 supporters include Marsy's Law for All, whose goal is to add victims' rights to all state constitutions that currently lack them and eventually amend the U.S. Constitution. SQ 794 also has been endorsed by municipalities, organizations, associations and several branches of law enforcement.

OKFB policy says, "We recommend that Farm Bureau support legislation mandating the crime victim's surviving family be notified in advance and given the privilege to attend any or all parole hearings of the convict who committed the crime against them and who is being considered for parole."

State Question 798

State Question 798, a measure created in the state Legislature under SJR 66 by Sen. Adam Pugh and Rep. Mark Lepak, would require the governor and lieutenant governor to run on a joint ticket. If passed, the new election format would begin in 2026. SQ 798 would charge state lawmakers with creating procedures for the joint nomination and election of candidates for governor and lieutenant governor.

Supporters of the measure believe Oklahoma leaders would gain a unified vision and better coordinated efforts to implement policies. SQ 798 opponents say the measure removes options for Oklahoma voters and grants the governor too much power. OKFB members have no policy on the issue.

State Question 800

Passed by the state Legislature as SJR 35 by Sen. John Sparks and Rep. Charles McCall, State Question 800 would amend the state constitution to require 5 percent of gross production taxes on oil and gas production be placed in a trust fund known as the Oklahoma Vision Fund beginning July 1, 2020.

The percentage of gross production tax directed to the fund would increase by two-tenths percentage points each year. Deposits would be made each year, rather than only in years when the state can afford it. Similarly, a percentage of the fund would be spent every year. The state could invest a portion of to increase the fund, but no more than 5 percent of the monies in the fund could be invested in Oklahoma state and local government bonds.

Supporters of SQ 800 believe the vision fund ensures a long-term approach to meeting state budget needs with a growing revenue stream, but opponents to the measure argue that the state already has two reserve funds and that a new fund could divert revenue needed today. OKFB has no policy on the issue.



OKLAHOMA VOTER GUIDE

Nov. 6, 2018

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

State Auditor and Inspector

Attorney General

State Treasurer

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Commissioner of Labor

Insurance Commissioner

Corporation Commissioner

United States Representative

State Representative

State Senator

State Question 801

Put on the ballot by the state Legislature's SJR 70 by Sen. Stephanie Bice and Rep. Elise Hall, State Question 801 would amend the state constitution to allow school districts to use property tax dollars for operational expenses.

State law currently permits school districts to use property tax dollars only for their building funds. SQ 801 would remove those restrictions and allow property taxes to be used for operational costs such as teacher salaries.

Supporters believe SQ 801 would give school districts the ability to pay teachers higher salaries or hire additional teachers and provide more flexibility in determining how to best use their funds. Opponents say SQ 801 could create an unlevel playing field in educational quality, could cause districts to receive less state aid, and could decrease funds for building maintenance. Though OKFB has no specific policy on SQ 801, the organization has various policy about using property tax dollars to fund education.

OKFB policy states, "We oppose any increase in *ad valorem* taxes. We urge patrons to vote necessary local funds to provide quality education, but favor state funding of new programs which are made mandatory by the state.

"OKFB opposes local school districts being penalized in the state funding formula because of local bond elections and other funding mechanisms. We support allowing school districts to have a larger carryover fund to be better prepared for economic down turns and not to be penalized for wisely using funds.

"We recommend OKFB do a study and encourage the Oklahoma Legislature to also do a study to find alternate ways of funding school buildings, other than property taxes, so that everyone is paying and not only the property owners.

"We encourage the Oklahoma Legislature to amend school spending laws to enable local boards of education the ability to use general funds for capital improvements.

"We support a state-funded teacher pay increase that raises teachers' pay to regional averages. We recommend that when the state Legislature votes an increase in teachers' and support personnel salaries, the raise be funded fully by the state for the duration of the increase. We propose state mandated teacher pay raises and associated costs be fully funded outside of the school funding program.

"We vigorously oppose any increase in the millage limits."

To find more information on the five Oklahoma state questions, visit www.ok.gov/elections.

STATE QUESTIONS

State Question 793 YES NO

Allows optometrists and opticians to operate in retail locations.

State Question 794 YES NO

Expands the constitutional rights of crime victims.

State Question 798 YES NO

Allows election of governor and lieutenant governor on joint ticket.

State Question 800 YES NO

Creates budget reserve fund for a portion of gross production tax revenues.

State Question 801 YES NO

Allows school districts to use building fund revenues for operations.



In rural Oklahoma, we value our families, our farms, our faith and our freedom. But we must stand together to preserve our way of life. Funded by voluntary contributions from Farm Bureau members, the OKAgFund – Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s grassroots political action committee – identifies and supports political candidates who cherish the rural way of life.

Farm Bureau members not only finance the OKAgFund, but also decide which candidates to support or endorse. The OKAgFund is made up of nine Farm Bureau members – one from each district – who each make decisions based on the recommendations of their fellow members.

A full list of the candidates receiving financial support from OKFB’s OKAgFund are listed on this page. The candidates also receiving an endorsement are noted with an asterisk (*).

STATE

Kevin Stitt* Governor	Mike Hunter* Attorney General	Cindy Byrd State Auditor	Bob Anthony* Corporation Commissioner
Matt Pinnell* Lieutenant Governor	Randy McDaniel* State Treasurer	Leslie Osborn* Labor Commissioner	Glen Mulready* Insurance Commissioner

SENATE

Marty Quinn SD 2	Frank Simpson* SD 14	Darcy Jech SD 26	Brent Howard* SD 38
Mark Dean Allen* SD 4	Kim David* SD 18	Jason Smalley SD 28	Joe Howell SD 40
Roger Thompson* SD 8	Chuck Hall SD 20	John Symcox SD 30	Brenda Stanley SD 42
Bill Coleman SD 10	Stephanie Bice SD 22	John M. Montgomery SD 32	Kay Floyd SD 46
James Leewright* SD 12	Darrell Weaver SD 24	John Haste SD 36	

HOUSE

Johnny Tadlock HD 1	Randy Randleman HD 15	Mark Lawson HD 30	Brian Hill HD 47	Rande Worthen* HD 64	Jason Reese HD 83
Tom Stites HD 2	Scott Fetgatter* HD 16	Garry Mize HD 31	Marcus McEntire HD 50	Toni Hasenback HD 65	Tammy West HD 84
Josh West* HD 5	Jim Grego* HD 17	Kevin Wallace* HD 32	Brad Boles HD 51	Jadine Nollan HD 66	Matt Jackson HD 85
John L. Myers HD 6	Donnie Condit HD 18	Aaron Means HD 34	Charles Ortega HD 52	Lonnie Sims HD 68	Jon Echols* HD 90
Ben Loring HD 7	Justin J.J. Humphrey* HD 19	Ty Burns HD 35	Mark McBride HD 53	Carol Bush HD 70	Chris Kannady HD 91
Tom Gann* HD 8	Dustin Roberts HD 21	Sean Roberts* HD 36	Kevin West HD 54	Cheryl Baber HD 71	Lewis H. Moore* HD 96
Mark Lepak HD 9	Charles McCall* HD 22	Ken Luttrell HD 37	Todd Russ* HD 55	Monroe Nichols HD 72	Ajay Pittman HD 99
Kevin Stacy HD 10	Terry O'Donnell HD 23	John Pfeiffer* HD 38	Harold Wright* HD 57	T.J. Marti HD 75	Marilyn Stark HD 100
Judd Strom HD 10	Steve Kouplen HD 24	Ryan Martinez HD 39	Carl Newton HD 58	Ross Ford HD 76	Robert Manger HD 101
Derrell Fincher HD 11	Dell Kerbs HD 26	Chad Caldwell HD 40	Mike Sanders HD 59	Todd Blackburn HD 77	
Kevin McDugle HD 12	Danny Sterling HD 27	Denise Crosswhite Hader HD 41	Rhonda Baker* HD 60	Karen Gilbert HD 79	
Avery Frix HD 13	Zack Taylor HD 28	Jay Steagall HD 43	Kenton Patzkowsky* HD 61	Stan May HD 80	
Chris Sneed HD 14	Kyle Hilbert HD 29	Bryan Vinyard HD 46	Trey Caldwell HD 63	Nicole Miller HD 81	



TASC AgriPlan helping farmers, ranchers demystify employee medical benefits

Through the TASC AgriPlan member benefit, farmers and ranchers can help alleviate confusion associated with providing health care benefits for employees while helping save money on taxes.

Farmers and ranchers are experts in their operations. From the types of soil on their place to fine-tuning their farm equipment for optimal efficiency, our state's agriculturalists are in touch with the land and the resources they have cared for through decades.

But when it comes to health insurance and medical benefits for their family members and employees, things can get pretty cloudy pretty fast.

TASC AgriPlan, a benefit offered to Oklahoma Farm Bureau members, can help alleviate some of the confusion for farmers and ranchers associated with providing health care benefits for their employees while helping them save money on their taxes. AgriPlan is a Section 105 Health Reimbursement Agreement that allows participants to declare medical expenses as a business expense instead of a personal deduction on their taxes.

TASC states on its website, "If you are a family farmer and are able to hire your spouse as an employee of your business, AgriPlan can help you and your family save thousands of dollars each year."

Major County Farm Bureau member Brenda Neufeld has used AgriPlan on her family's farm partnership since 1996. Neufeld is also an income tax preparer in Fairview, Oklahoma, and she has connected some of her clients with AgriPlan.

"TASC is a third-party administrator between your business – your farm – and the benefit plan you set up for your employees, which reimburses them for their health insurance and deductible medical expenses," Neufeld said.

"Through an employee benefit plan, you can move the expenses you have for medical expenses from a very limited Schedule A deduction for medical expenses to an employee benefit expense on your Schedule F," she said. "This not only offsets income taxes, but now also offsets self-employment taxes, which for many farmers is the big tax they pay – 15.3 percent on every dollar earned on the farm."

AgriPlan works best when farmers and ranchers have an employee, such as a spouse, who has a wage or salary. Records of hours worked need to be kept, appropriate payroll taxes must

be paid, a W-2 must be issued to employees and a federal tax identification number is needed.

From there, TASC issues a TASC Card that can be used to pay for prescriptions and medical expenses, a record of which will post to a report that TASC generates that can be used for tax deductions when preparing income tax returns. Anything not automatically posted from the debit card can be manually added to the year-end report.

While getting started requires some effort, Neufeld said that in her experience once the plan is up and running, it is a program that can pay off.

"While this may seem a little overwhelming the first year, after the plan is set up it gets much easier," Neufeld said. "It is well worth the effort if it fits your situation."


While the benefits of the AgriPlan program may not fit every producer or situation, it can provide real advantages along with the assurance that the plan is being kept compliant with ever-changing laws and regulations. In fact, TASC offers an audit guarantee, providing AgriPlan participants with peace of mind.

"We hire crop consultants, accountants and attorneys to help us be compliant with other regulations, and I look at this in the same way," Neufeld said.

Neufeld encourages those interested in AgriPlan to visit with someone familiar with the program to see if it will benefit them with their existing business and employee structure.

"Once the plan is up and running, it flows pretty easily, but getting it set up correctly and making sure you are doing it right is key to the success," Neufeld said. "Because it is a different way of thinking about doing things, I highly suggest you talk to someone familiar with AgriPlan to get started."

OKFB members receive 10 percent off TASC AgriPlan, and TASC offers a free tax savings analysis.

To learn more, find the link to TASC's OKFB partner page at okfarmbureau.org/benefits, or contact TASC at (855) 591-0562 or microbusiness@tasconline.com. 

SEEDING with KNOWLEDGE

Wrapping up her final term as Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Chair in November, Stephens County Farm Bureau member Kitty Beavers reflects back on eight years of serving agriculture through advocacy and education.

By Hannah Davis Photos by Dustin Mielke

Kitty Beavers didn't grow up on a farm. But now, it's a life she wouldn't trade for the world.

The daughter of an oilman, she was born and raised in Velma, Oklahoma. After graduating from high school, she married Charley, a farmer. Just a few days later, she was out in the field helping him cut silage for their cattle.

"It was so cold," she said. "I thought, 'What have I got myself into?' And it never stopped. We've had ups and downs, but I love it."

Though she admits adjusting to life on the farm was a big transition, the Stephens County native has helped manage the couple's cattle, wheat and hay farm with her husband for nearly six decades.

"It's a great life, it really is," she said. "It's a tough life, a 24/7 job. It's not easy. But of course, it's our living and we want it to be the very best."

Her love for their way of life grew into a passion for sharing it with others in her local community and across the state. She volunteers in her church, along with various civic and community organizations. But some of her favorite memories stem from her time serving as chairman of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee.

From inviting friends to the family farm to teaching children about agriculture to promoting farm issues with state legislators, Beavers has spent the past eight

years creating a lasting legacy of sharing the importance of agriculture with her community, with Oklahoma students and with state leaders.

"Everyone's not cut out to be a farmer, but I want them to know what it entails and what a farmer does," she said. "We impact everybody's life. Every time they drink that glass of milk or eat that steak, you know that comes from the farm. When a woman puts on her lipstick or makeup, part of that comes from the farm."

Beavers, a Stephens County Farm Bureau member for more than four decades, was drawn to the WLC because of its work to advocate for agriculture. She was involved with the Stephens County Farm Bureau women when Georgia Doye, a Comanche County Farm Bureau member and then-District Four WLC member, encouraged her to become active on the statewide level.

Doye invited her to share devotions at various women's events and convinced her to attend the committee's annual Farm City Festival at the state Capitol.

"(Georgia) kept getting me involved in different things," she said. "That's how I started going."

Before long, she was elected to take Doye's place as the District Four representative on the state women's committee. She served in that role for six years before being elected state WLC chairman in 2010. Beavers will wrap up her

final term in November.

"It's been a great ride," she said of her time on the committee. "I think we've accomplished a lot of things. I'm excited for the future because the women have so many things they can do to help our Farm Bureau and help our county Farm Bureaus."

One of her favorite endeavors has been working to educate Oklahoma students about the agriculture industry. And because of her work with local schools, she's seen firsthand the need for it.

Beavers said even students in Stephens County, who are surrounded by farmers and ranchers, have very little knowledge about agriculture. She has developed relationships with local schools and serves as a resource to help teach students about agriculture. A nearby school in Duncan recently asked the Stephens County Farm Bureau for assistance building a school garden for its students. Beavers was able to help students learn how food is grown.

"We must continue to promote agriculture and show them where their food and fiber comes from," she said. "I'm always telling the students, 'Your basketballs, baseballs, footballs all come from agriculture. Agriculture has a part in all of that.'"

Beavers' enthusiasm for teaching students about farming and ranching suited her role as WLC chair perfectly. For years, the WLC has been an integral



With a deep-seeded passion for farming and ranching, Kitty Beavers has dedicated the past 14 years to advocating for agriculture alongside the women of Farm Bureau.



Beavers and her husband, Charley, have raised cattle, wheat and hay on their family farm near Duncan, Oklahoma for the past six decades.

“Everyone’s not cut out to be a farmer, but I want them to know what it entails and what a farmer does.”

sponsor of Oklahoma Agriculture in the Classroom, a program coordinated between the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the Oklahoma Department of Education and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. AITC provides teachers with resources including lesson plans and curriculum to help teach students about the food and fiber industry.

“Our students have got to learn about agriculture,” Beavers said. “If we don’t tell them, no one else is going to.”

Over the past several years, the WLC also has partnered with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture to donate bushel baskets of accurate agriculture books to teachers and school librarians across Oklahoma. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to donate bushels of harvested crops to benefit the program. This year, the committee plans to present around 15 schools with a basket of books.

“We have just been overwhelmed at the

teachers who say, “We don’t have those (books) in our libraries,” she said. “I think Bushels for Books is something that we’ve done that really encourages teachers to get more involved in agriculture.”

Beavers’ passion for sharing agriculture with students also translates to the policy arena, where Farm Bureau women help advocate for agriculture and rural Oklahoma. Every year, the women serve lunch to legislators and their staff at the state Capitol during the WLC Farm City Festival. The women are able to visit one-on-one with state lawmakers to promote Farm Bureau policy.

“We want them to know the women of Farm Bureau are coming, we’re watching them, we want to know what’s going on, and we want to give them our opinion,” she said. “If you believe something about an issue, stand up and tell your legislators. Write a letter or go see them. Don’t be afraid. It’s important.”

Beavers said the greatest reward from



The relationships fostered with women in agriculture across the state have been one of Beavers' favorite parts of serving on the WLC.

her time with the WLC is the countless friendships she has fostered with women in agriculture from across the state.

"You don't realize how many women are in the same shoes you are," she said. "They understand your problems. They understand where you come from and they're there to help you."

Through the WLC, Beavers said a special bond is developed between women in agriculture.

"We're a kindred group," she said. "We know what you go through and what you have to do every day. We know it's hard work, but it's rewarding work."

She also has learned a lot from fellow women in agriculture.

"It's good to get off the farm every once in awhile," she said. "You see other women that are in your same situation and get new ideas of ways to do things. We'll sit around and talk and say, 'Well how do you do this with your wheat?' or 'How do you do this with your cattle?' It's refreshing."

Though her time as WLC chair is coming to a close, Beavers said she doesn't plan on hanging up her hat anytime soon. She remains committed to sharing her heart for her beloved industry with everyone she encounters.

"I'll stay busy, I always stay busy," Beavers said. "And I'll always be advocating for agriculture." **FB**



Married for nearly 60 years, Beavers said she couldn't be involved without the support of her husband and family.

For more information about the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee, visit www.okfarmbureau.org/women.



Beavers speaks with Sen. Eddie Fields at the state Capitol during the WLC Farm City Festival.



STRONGER. TOGETHER.

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU'S 77TH ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 16-18, 2018

77

Oklahoma Farm Bureau will hold its 77th annual meeting Nov. 16-18 at Embassy Suites in Norman. With some great additions and changes to our convention schedule, we're excited to share with you seven things you need to know about our 77th convention. Be sure to join us in Norman to connect, learn and grow stronger together alongside your fellow OKFB members.

1

Come on down to Norman Nov. 16-18!

OKFB members will gather Nov. 16-18, 2018, at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman, Oklahoma. The convention will kick off with the opening session at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16. Check the tentative agenda on the next page to find new and exciting additions to this year's schedule.



Norman Embassy Suites

3

Make a great find at the silent auction

In celebration of the newly renamed Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, OKFB members will be encouraged to bid on silent auction items benefitting foundation programs such as the Grown for You Commodity Trailer, the Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs, and the Bushels for Books program.

4

Enjoy some great red-dirt music

Following the Foundation Night Out on Friday evening, Farm Bureau members can enjoy a concert featuring the Jason Young Band. An Oklahoma native, Jason Young formed the band in 2003 and has produced singles including "Long Way Home," "The Moment" and "Under My Skin." Make sure to bring your boots and jeans to enjoy the sounds of this talented red-dirt group.



Jason Young

2

Our new Foundation Night Out

New to this year's convention, the Foundation Night Out on Friday evening will serve as an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends from across the state. With a silent auction benefitting the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, the informal evening also will include a reception and a movie night for a relaxing evening to enjoy with fellow Farm Bureau members.

OKFB 2018 annual meeting schedule at a glance

Check out our latest annual meeting schedule below. Please note that the schedule is subject to change. The latest schedule can be found on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau website at okfarmbureau.org. The final schedule will be published in the convention program.

Friday, Nov. 16

- 8 a.m. Credentials Committee Breakfast
- 9 a.m. Registration opens
- 9 a.m. OKFB Expo opens
- 9 a.m. County Farm Bureau Silent Auction opens
- 9:30 a.m. YF&R Excellence in Agriculture and YF&R Discussion Meet Orientation
- 10 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet Round One
- 10:45 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet Round Two
- 11:30 a.m. OKFB WLC Luncheon
- 11:30 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet Finals Luncheon
- 11:30 a.m. Commodity Committee Luncheon
- 12:15 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet Finals
- 1:30 p.m. Opening Session
- 5:30 p.m. OKAgFund Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. YF&R Dinner and Caucus
- 7:30 p.m. Foundation Night Out
 - OKFB Expo
 - Movie Night
 - YF&R Reunion
- 8 p.m. Jason Young Band concert

Saturday, Nov. 17

- 7:30 a.m. Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Flapjack Fundraiser
- 7:30 a.m. Credentials Committee Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Financials Committee Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Resolutions Committee Breakfast
- 8 a.m. Registration
- 8:45 a.m. OFBMIC Policyholders Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. General Session
- 12 p.m. Credentials Committee Meeting
(Credentials desk closes at 11:45 a.m.)
- 12:30 p.m. WLC Gavel Club Luncheon
- 1 p.m. OKFB District Caucuses
- 1:45 p.m. General Session
- 5:30 p.m. OKAgFund Reception
- 7 p.m. Dinner and Awards Program

Sunday, Nov. 18

- 7:30 a.m. County Presidents Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. WLC Chairman's Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast of Champions
- 9:15 a.m. Morning Devotional
- 11:30 a.m. Adjournment

5

Meet AFBF Women's Leadership Committee Chair Sherry Saylor

All Farm Bureau women are encouraged to attend the Women's Leadership Committee luncheon on Friday featuring American Farm Bureau Federation WLC Chair Sherry Saylor. A row-crop farmer from Arizona, Saylor will share her experience in her time with the committee and encourage Farm Bureau women to continue



Sherry Saylor

advocating for farmers and ranchers. During the luncheon, the WLC also will honor outstanding county committees, elect state WLC representatives and much more.


6

Come see OKFB's best at our awards banquet

This year, all county representatives are invited to attend the awards banquet held on Saturday evening. An entertaining event for all ages, the banquet will honor Farm Bureau members for achievements over the past year. Members must RSVP for the free event by Nov. 5.

7

Calling all Young Farmers & Ranchers for a reunion

Are you a current or former OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers member? Reminisce with old friends during the YF&R Reunion held on Friday evening before the Jason Young Band concert. 

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Heredit dition

Second-generation poultry farmer and McCurtain County Farm Bureau member Brent Bolen focuses on his labor of love raising chickens efficiently, sustainably and ethically.

Story and photos by Dustin Mielke

When you have done something for almost 50 years, you are bound to be pretty good at it.

Deep in southeastern Oklahoma's McCurtain County, just outside the town of Idabel, Brent Bolen continues a half-century-long family tradition of raising chickens as a second-generation poultry producer.

"When my dad was off pipelining, when I was born, he wanted to come home and raise me on the farm," Bolen said. "He came and talked to every bank in the county, and they turned him down. He was getting ready to go back pipelining, and one of the bank presidents saw him and asked him what he was doing, and he said, 'Well, I was going to build chicken houses, but nobody would loan me the money.'

"This bank president said, 'If you'll start writing the checks, I'll cover them if you want to build the houses.' So that's how my dad made the initial loan."

Bolen's father built the first chicken houses on the family's land in 1969, about a year after Brent was born. After nearly five decades raising broiler chickens, the Bolen family has worked to become better and better year after year as they have implemented changes and improvements that help them produce quality protein more efficiently and effectively.

Because Bolen has spent a lifetime raising chickens, he has seen firsthand the improvements the poultry industry has made. From implementing computer-controlled houses that ensure the birds are healthy and happy to working alongside the poultry company that supplies the birds and processes them into a variety of meat products, Bolen says his industry has constantly strived to become more efficient.

"My father started in 1969, and back then it took nine or 10 weeks to get to a four-pound bird," Bolen said. "Currently, we're growing an eight-pound bird. When I started, we were



Above: Brent Bolen walks through a chicken house to check on two-day-old birds. Whenever there are chickens on the Bolen family farm, the animals are closely monitored, and there is always somebody within five minutes travel time of the barns to ensure the birds receive the care and attention they need.

growing a four-pound bird in about five-and-a-half weeks, and now it takes eight to eight-and-a-half weeks to grow an eight-pound bird, depending on the time of year.

“Everybody asks, ‘How do you get them that big in that short amount of time?’ The environment in the barns is about as perfect as it can be. The feed is about as perfect as it can be, and then 50 years’ worth of genetic improvement on the birds.”

Bolen’s eight chicken houses are constantly monitored and controlled by automated computer systems to ensure optimal temperature, air quality, water and feed availability, and light. Four of Bolen’s chicken houses will call him when any of the systems is outside of the parameters he specifies. His other four barns take it a step further and allow him to change the conditions inside the barn remotely from his phone or a computer. The barns have generators to supply electricity in the event of power outages, and they even have a five-day water reserve.

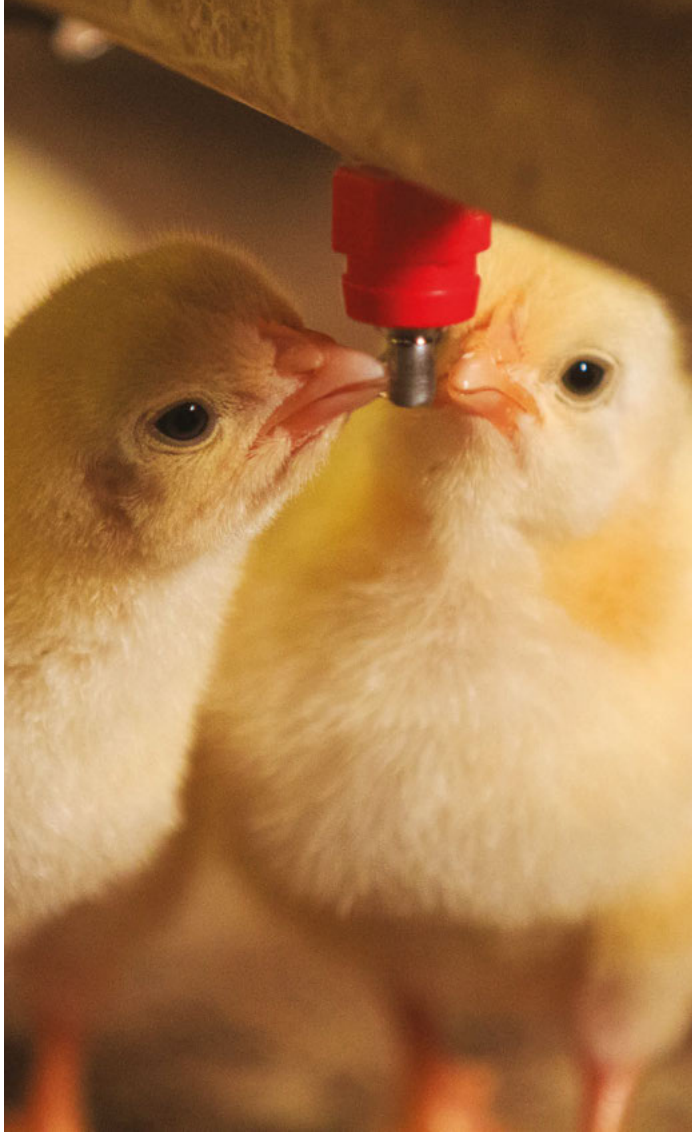
“I would say those two houses that my dad started with were more labor, required more management, and carried more risk than my eight houses,” Bolen said.

Chickens arrive on the farm within 24 hours of being hatched. From there, the Bolen family spends the next eight or so weeks painstakingly caring for the birds. The ideal temperature is constantly maintained in the barns with only a five-degree variation. Fans and ventilation provide air flow and exchange to ensure a healthy environment for the birds. The bedding in the houses is composted and re-used, which Bolen said is better for the birds compared to fresh bedding for every flock.

As far as he sees it, the advancements and technology in his modern chicken houses focus on one concept that is constantly on Bolen’s mind: caring for the chickens that call his farm home.

“I think it’s a moral and ethical issue,” Bolen said of animal care. “I think strongly from the day I get those birds until the day they go out that they’re mine, and I have that attachment – not just monetary, but from a moral or ethical standpoint.

“I think anybody that’s in the industry that has a care about being sustainable or passing it on to the next generation should feel the same thing.”



Above: Two-day-old chickens get a drink of water in one of Bolen's barns. The waterers emit a droplet for the chickens, similar to the way birds in nature drink.

Top: Bolen checks the computer in one of his barns.
Above: A young chicken eyes crumbled feed from a tray. The feed the birds eat is made of corn and soybeans.

Even with all the modern amenities Bolen's chicken houses provide, there's no substitute for personal care and attention. That's why when Bolen has chickens on his farm, personal attention is always nearby.

"Someone has to be within five minutes of the operation at all times," Bolen said. "Someone has to be within a moment's notice in case something goes wrong or needs attention. We take pride in that – that someone's there constantly to manage it and make sure the birds are in proper care and that there's nothing wrong."

While the chickens Bolen raises may be on his mind every moment they are on his farm, he also thinks about the consumers who will enjoy the chicken strips, wings and tenders the birds will be transformed into after they are harvested.

"Actually every day I think about the consumer, and I think about the pride that I take in bringing a wholesome product that is affordable to the table," Bolen said. "We take into account that each bird is going to be a wholesome product because my family will buy the same product that everybody will take part in – my friends and neighbors are

going to be buying the same product. So I take a lot of pride in the fact that it's going to be a quality product when it hits store shelves."

The chickens the family raises are free from added hormones, and the meat products are antibiotic free.

"In my 49 years on this planet, I've never given a chicken any kind of hormone or steroid – ever," Bolen said. "The feed is just as natural as it can be. It's made of corn and soybean meal and other micronutrients, but there's no added steroids or hormones. In fact, those things are illegal."

The chickens the Bolen family raises are hatched and provided by the poultry company with which the family has a contract to raise the birds. Bolen said this allows farmers to focus on caring for the birds and it allows the poultry company to focus on processing the animals and responding to consumer preferences as they market the meat products.

Bolen and his wife, Myndi, have raised three girls on the family's farm in an area where Brent's grandfather first purchased 40 acres. Today, the Bolen family's farm has grown to include eight modern chicken houses, a cow-calf herd and acres of grass that produce hay the family sells across north



"I think strongly from the day I get those birds until the day they go out that they're mine, and I have that attachment – not just monetary, but from a moral or ethical standpoint."

–Brent Bolen



Texas and western Arkansas. The family also has a flock of sheep the girls exhibit in livestock shows.

The chickens, cattle and hay on the Bolens' family farm combine to create a sustainable agriculture production system. The chickens produce litter that fertilizes the grass that the cattle eat and the family bales for hay.

"I'm fortunate to have enough land that I can apply the litter to all my property," Bolen said. "We've always used litter as a highly valuable commodity, and used it accordingly, to maintain grass production and grow the maximum amount of forage."

When using chicken litter to fertilize his land, Bolen tests the soil and the litter to manage proper phosphorous levels, which are regulated by the state of Oklahoma. He also records where litter is spread and follows a waste-management plan that has been custom designed for his poultry operation. Bolen reports all of this to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, which records the results of tests from Bolen and other producers from across the state. It is just another way Bolen works to ensure he is not only being efficient and keeping his farm productive,

but that he is also properly caring for the land and protecting the environment.

"Outside of all the regulatory things, the litter has become such a valuable commodity that it would be foolish for anybody – and in fact I don't know anybody – that would not manage it correctly because of the intrinsic value that it has," Bolen said.

Raising chickens may require seemingly endless care, attention and management acumen, but it is a labor of love for the Bolen family.

"One of my father's great quotes was 'The poultry business has been good to us, but we've been really good to the poultry business,'" Bolen said. "We live, breathe and eat being in production agriculture."

As with any good tradition, Bolen takes pride in the fact that he has created a life being a full-time farmer while raising his three daughters on the family farm. As he thinks back through the decades of work and effort he has invested to produce affordable, high-quality chicken for other families, he recalls one more quote from his father that sums it all up.

"Agriculture can be a tough living, but a darn good life." 





New name, new look, renewed commitment

By David VonTungeln

President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture

It is amazing to see all that has been accomplished by the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation since its inception in 2011. With the support of Oklahoma Farm Bureau members and our friends throughout the agriculture industry, the foundation has helped promote agriculture, educate consumers, and support our rural communities.

Our Grown for You commodity trailer, a partnership with the Noble Research Institute, has told agriculture's story to thousands of school-age children across the state. The Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs have helped feed hungry children through a coalition of rural and urban partners. The fire relief efforts we have undertaken the last few years have helped our fellow farmers, ranchers and rural residents get back on their feet after disaster strikes.

Through all these efforts, we have had an amazing opportunity to promote agriculture to our fellow Oklahomans. But one critical element was missing: the Oklahoma Farm Bureau name.

OKFB has been a strong voice for rural Oklahoma for more than 76 years. The foundation has always been a project of OKFB's, with the goal of supporting agriculture in new and exciting ways. Farm Bureau members and friends from across the agriculture industry sit on the foundation board. OKFB members support the foundation with donations and as part

of their optional membership dues. Farm Bureau staff help coordinate foundation projects and programs.


For all the effort, love and care OKFB pours into the foundation, the foundation board felt the ties to OKFB needed to be made more obvious. The name Farm Bureau is prominent in our rural communities because our members have been active and engaged across our state for generations. When the foundation steps in to support education, nutrition, disaster assistance and more, we want to make sure the familiar name of Oklahoma Farm Bureau is visible for all to see.

We are proud to announce that the foundation is moving forward as the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. With this change comes a renewed excitement and dedication to grow and support our state's farmers and ranchers. We will continue the same quality programs that have made an impact across our state while creating new opportunities to share the great things happening on Oklahoma farms and ranches.

With our name change comes the opportunity for a fresh look for our foundation materials and the opportunity to help spread the word about the great things OKFB does for our state. As the foundation continues to develop programs, it is an excellent opportunity to promote the work OKFB does across our state in a variety of ways.

As we move into the future as the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, I want to

thank all the OKFB members who support us in a variety of ways, including through donations and financial contributions. Whether you elect to pay the optional membership dues to the foundation or if you have supported our efforts with a larger donation, every dollar is appreciated. Together, we are paving the way for a bright future for all Oklahomans.

I hope you will join me, our foundation board and our friends who have made our programs possible as together we embark upon a new chapter of supporting rural Oklahoma as the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. 

“Together, we are paving the way for a bright future for all Oklahomans.”

— David VonTungeln

Supporting wildfire relief efforts in rural Oklahoma

Thanks to the generous donations of individuals across the state and nation, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture had the opportunity to support rural Oklahomans affected by spring wildfires through three main outlets.

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture donated \$500 to the following rural fire departments who helped fight spring wildfires.

Arapaho
Berlin
Butler
Camargo
Canton
Canute
CCAPPA
Cheyenne
Crawford
Eagle City
Fargo
Fireman's Fund
Fort Supply
Gage
Geary
Hammon
Hitchcock
Kingfisher
Longdale
Loyal
Mooreland
Mutual
Oakwood
Okeene
Orion
Putnam
Reydon
Seiling
Sharon
Strong City
Sweetwater
Taloga
Thomas
Vici
Watonga
Woodward



The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Foundation disaster relief fund received a \$50,000 donation from the foundation to be distributed to farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans affected by the spring wildfires.



Alongside the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture presented nine \$1,000 checks to the families of 4-H members who lost homes during the spring wildfires.

PARTNERS By Becky Samples *in* PROTECTION

Christie Yoder knows all too well the value of making lists and checking things off. As a mother of two, she and her children work hard on their ranch in Wagoner County feeding and caring for their cow-calf herd. Although the operation and general upkeep of the ranch is a full-time job, Christie balances it in addition to being an Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance agent. Even on this quiet Thursday morning on her ranch, she is making mental to-do lists.

“Although I feel like we (my family) have accomplished so much over the past year, I can see so much more to do,” Christie said. “I look over there and see two burn piles I need to move. There’s always something to do, but there’s comfort in that.”

Insurance was not her first calling, but it was her opportunity to bring compassion and counsel to policyholders in memory of her husband, Eric.

Eric and Christie met at Oklahoma State University. From her earliest memories, teaching was her passion. Eric, on a rodeo scholarship, serendipitously bumped into Christie on his last day of classes before graduation. Later, after encouragement from a friend, Christie went on a date with Eric. Shortly after graduation, Eric had an opportunity to join Farm Bureau in 2002 as an insurance agent. His family’s involvement with the organization throughout his youth made his choice an easy one.

Early in his career, Christie and Eric were married and began their own life and family. Eric quickly worked his way up in the company and became an award-winning

agent. His policyholders trusted him for his wise judgment and thoroughness. Eric spent his days at the office, and Christie enjoyed her teaching career, but in the evenings they discussed ongoing ranch projects and upcoming cattle sales.

“Today I think about the conversations I have at the dinner table with the kids, and I realize these are the exact conversations I had with Eric. Not only are we a family and they are my kids, but they are my business partners and advisors,” she said. “They are as much a part of this ranch and its success as Eric and I were.”

On Thanksgiving Day of 2015, everything changed for the Yoders. Eric hadn’t been able to shake a cold and had been feeling unusually tired despite just returning home with several other Farm Bureau agents from a hunting trip. After a series of tests, doctors confirmed that Eric had leukemia. Although Eric’s medical team mapped out a series of aggressive treatments, the former calf roper continued to balance his insurance sales, ranch work, and family life.

It wasn’t until four days after Christmas in 2016 from a hospital bed in Houston, Texas, that Eric asked Christie to grab a pen and paper and begin to make a list. After completing the first round of chemotherapy and achieving remission, his cancer had returned aggressively.

“I grabbed an envelope from a card we had received from a friend,” Christie said. “Eric began to tell me everything that he had already put in place to protect the kids and I. I had no idea; I had always been busy

taking care of our family and teaching. All this time Eric had been faithfully planning to make sure we were always taken care of, no matter the circumstances.”

Not only had Eric made sure that his family and assets were protected, but he also had plans for the ranch.

“We made a list of things that needed to be done around the ranch,” Christie said. “Corrals that needed to be built, roofs that needed to be repaired. He was entrusting with me what we had worked to build together.”

On December 30, 2016, Eric Yoder passed away surrounded by his family.

“I wasn’t sure what I was going to feel once I returned to the ranch without Eric, but as soon as we crossed the cattle guards, I felt a sense of peace and knew this is where we belonged,” Christie said.

Christie and the kids tried to settle back into life. She returned to teaching but found herself lacking the passion she once had. Even with the assurance provided by a life insurance policy, Christie began to look at expenses that could be eliminated such as internet, satellite and other home conveniences. It wasn’t until after a meeting with Eric’s Farm Bureau colleagues that Christie was provided with not only peace but also direction. A Farm Bureau Insurance agency manager presented Christie with Eric’s life insurance check, which was almost to the dollar the amount Christie need to absolve any outstanding expenses. It was then Christie who made a bold request.

“I told them if there was ever a chance



Eric Yoder Memorial Award

In 2017, the Eric Yoder Memorial Award was created to honor an agent who shows exceptional humanitarianism and selfless service to their local communities and fellow Farm Bureau members. The first recipient of the award was Scott Abbott (pictured left with Christie Yoder), an agent from Muskogee County. During Eric’s illness, Scott could often be found in the local Wagoner office assisting Eric’s clients with various insurance issues in his absence. In 2018, Sam Barrick became the second recipient of the award for his assistance in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Sam traveled to Houston with his airboat to help first responders rescue survivors and collect those who had perished in the storm.

to work for Farm Bureau, I would love the opportunity,” Christie said. “I wanted to be a part of this company and take care of people just as it had done for me.”

Christie did get the opportunity to join Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance as an agent. Farm Bureau agents from across the state poured in, offering advice and any help she might need starting her new career. She said the experience has been both humbling and healing.

“I have talked with Farm Bureau members that Eric took care of, and now that I’m their agent I feel like Eric and I are partners yet again,” Christie said. “Many times, I find a policy he began in his handwriting, and I have an opportunity finish it in mine.”

On August 28, 2018, Christie and her children checked off the last item on Eric’s ranch “to-do” list. It was also Eric’s birthday. They celebrated with a chocolate cake and shared their favorite memories of him. Finishing the list was bittersweet but also gratifying.

“I’m not quite sure what we’ll tackle next on the ranch, but I’ll know when I know,” she said. “The kids and I enjoy the hard work; it’s good to leave the office and work up a sweat on our ranch. As for Farm Bureau, I’m proud to serve and protect our members, just as it did for my family. Eric made insurance a noble endeavor, and I want to carry on that legacy.”

Farm Bureau Financial Services will produce a short video about Christie’s journey. Stay tuned to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance’s Facebook page for more information.



ALL AROUND OKLAHOMA

Members begin grassroots policy development at statewide meetings

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gathered to discuss ideas for the organization's 2019 policy during annual August Area Meetings held across the state in August.

Held each year, the meetings begin OKFB's grassroots policy development process. Members met in each Farm Bureau district to hear legislative and regulatory reports, as well as

organizational updates, before voicing issues they are facing on their farms and ranches and in their communities.

Preventing ad valorem tax increases, maintaining the state agriculture sales tax exemption, replacing the Waters of the U.S. rule, and producing industrial hemp were some of the most common concerns among members across the state. OKFB members also were

concerned about trade tariffs, feral hogs and mandatory cattle identification.

A state committee will meet in mid-October to review county resolutions to add to OKFB policy. The resolutions will be finalized by the delegate body at the 2018 OKFB Annual Meeting in November.

For more information, contact OKFB Public Policy staff at 405-530-2300.



District One



District Nine



District Six



District Seven



District Four



District Eight



District Five



District Two



OKFB Legal Foundation, other ag organizations file brief in support of private property rights

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation, along with a coalition of agricultural organizations, in September filed an application supporting private property rights in a lawsuit between county commissioners and oil and gas companies.

The Oklahoma Oil and Gas Association recently sued the Kingfisher County commissioners in the Oklahoma Supreme Court after the commissioners banned oil and gas companies from placing temporary produced-water pipelines in bar ditches along county roads. The OKFB Legal Foundation, along with Kingfisher County Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Farmers Union, Kingfisher County Farmers Union and the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, filed an *amicus curiae* application in the case to protect the rights of landowners.

"Private property rights are vitally important to those of us in agriculture

and rural Oklahoma," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "Farmers and ranchers work hard to care for the land. Our goal in filing this motion is to ensure our friends in the oil and gas industry also are protecting the land that's so crucial to our way of life."

The application asserts that the commissioners' ban "deprives Oklahoma landowners of property rights" that are protected by the state constitution, citing authority that the neighboring landowner "owns to the middle of the road." The application also argues that oil and gas companies must receive landowner consent prior to using the right-of-way, and that landowners are entitled to just compensation for use of the land.

OKFB members have longstanding grassroots policy on the issue. Current OKFB policy states that "any entity wanting to use easements or right-of-ways, such as oil and gas companies

placing temporary or permanent water lines in a bar ditch, must contact the landowner to first notify him and then negotiate with him for the right to do so. If any compensation is due for this use, it should be paid to the landowner. County commissioners shall be notified of such use, after the entity desiring use and the landowner have come to an agreement."

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation was created in 2001 for the purpose of entering the legal arena to protect private property rights and production agriculture. The OKFB Legal Foundation strives to serve farmers and ranchers through engaging in public interest litigation, researching legal issues affecting family farmers and rural Oklahomans, and educating farmers and ranchers and the public about issues important to agriculture.

Three nursing students awarded \$500 scholarships from WLC

Cade Baldwin of Stephens County, Cheyanne Gibbens of Okmulgee County and Logan Hukill of Caddo County each recently were awarded a scholarship to study nursing by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee.

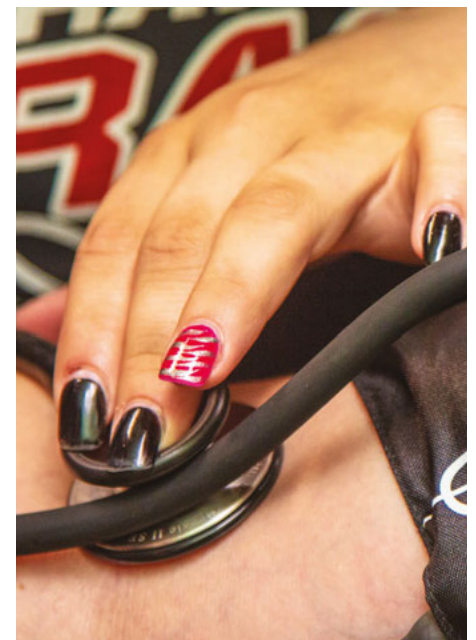
The annual scholarship program awards \$500 scholarships to students studying nursing at an accredited college, university, vo-tech or trade school. Applicants must be Oklahoma Farm Bureau members or a member of a Farm-Bureau-member family.

"Our committee chooses to support nursing students because we see

firsthand the need for qualified healthcare professionals in rural areas," said Kitty Beavers, chair of the OKFB WLC. "We're grateful to play a role in helping these future nurses succeed in their careers."

The WLC recognizes the significant role nurses play in ensuring a high quality of life for all Oklahomans, especially those in rural areas. With the cost of education rising yearly, the committee is proud to provide three students with scholarships to aid in their pursuit of a career in nursing.

To learn more about the WLC, visit www.okfarmbureau.org/women.





Top: A group of young farmers, ranchers and agribusiness professionals tour the Altus-Lugert Lake Dam during the 2018 YF&R Summer Conference July 13-15 in southwest Oklahoma. Bottom Left: Jackson County member Keeff Felty leads the group on a tour of a local cotton storage facility. Bottom Right: YF&R members Corey Holman, Ethan Theis and Jennifer Howard learn to use siphon tubes along an irrigation ditch to irrigate crops on the farm of Jackson County members Matt and Kellie Muller.

YF&R members gather in southwest Oklahoma for 2018 summer conference

Nearly 60 young agriculturalists gathered in southwest Oklahoma to tour local farms and ag-related industries, network with fellow farmers and ranchers, hear from political candidates and more during the 2018 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference held July 13-15 at the Quartz Mountain Resort in Lone Wolf, Oklahoma.

Organized and planned by the state YF&R committee, the highlight of the three-day conference was a day-long tour of various agriculture businesses and farms.

The group visited Sesaco in Hobart, where all U.S.-grown sesame is cleaned,

bagged and shipped around the country and around the world. While in Hobart, members visited the General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum, a historical foundation dedicated to telling the story of the U.S. military.

Jackson County Farm Bureau member Keeff Felty led the group on a tour through the Cotton Growers Gin outside of Altus, where cotton is cleaned and processed.

Conference attendees also toured Muller Farms, owned by Jackson County Farm Bureau members Matt and Kellie Muller. With a heavy focus on conservation of natural resources, the Mullers explained their use of drip

irrigation technology on their farm.

The tours ended at the Altus-Lugert Irrigation District, which provides water for farmers across the region.

During the conference, YF&R members also had the opportunity to hear from candidates in the August runoff elections including Republican gubernatorial candidates Mick Cornett and Kevin Stitt, and state labor commissioner candidate Leslie Osborn.

The conference also provided first-time attendees with a chance to learn more about Farm Bureau and leadership opportunities within the organization.

To learn how to get involved with YF&R, visit www.okfarmbureau.org/yfr.



With more than a decade of communications experience at Farm Bureau, Dustin Mielke will lead OKFB's communications and public relations department as vice president.

Mielke named vice president of communications and public relations

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has selected Dustin Mielke to serve as vice president of communications and public relations for the organization.

In the position, Mielke will guide the communications efforts of Oklahoma's largest general farm organization in an effort to promote agriculture and OKFB's member-focused grassroots advocacy.

"For more than a decade, Dustin has faithfully served our members by communicating the incredible work of the Oklahoma agriculture community," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "I'm excited to see Dustin's continued leadership in our communications department as they work diligently to strengthen Farm Bureau's voice for farmers and ranchers."

Mielke has worked in the OKFB communications department for 12 years, most recently serving as senior director

of communications. In his time with the organization, Mielke has worked on a wide array of projects and efforts, including publications, photography, design, media relations and digital communications.

"Agriculture is the industry I've wanted to work in since I was a child, and it's a privilege to get to tell the stories of Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers," Mielke said. "With consumers taking an active interest in their food, this is a great time to connect our Farm Bureau members with the people who benefit daily from agriculture."

A native of Conrad, Montana, Mielke earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural communications with a minor in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University. Mielke and his wife, Li, live in Edmond.

YF&R names winners of high school discussion meet

Pace Mittlestaedt of the Amber-Pocasset FFA Chapter was named the winner of the 2018 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers High School Discussion Meet held July 17 during the Oklahoma State University Big Three Field Days in Stillwater.

The other top four finalists included Rio Bonham of Madill FFA, Cade Jenlink of Timberlake FFA, and Jaycee Shelburne of Durant FFA.

"From learning more about agricultural issues to developing key discussion skills, the high school students who participate in this contest walk away with critical skills they'll use well into the future," said Brent Haken, OKFB YF&R vice chair. "As a committee, we're proud to invest in these bright young leaders in agriculture."

The high school discussion meet allows high school students to participate in an event that builds basic discussion skills, develops an understanding of agricultural issues, and explores how groups can pool knowledge to find solutions. The contest was open to high school junior and senior FFA and 4-H members.

The event participants competed in



OKFB YF&R committee members Brittany Krehbiel (far left) and Brent Haken (far right) flank the 2018 YF&R High School Discussion Meet top four individuals: (left to right) Pace Mittlestaedt, Amber-Pocasset FFA; Rio Bonham, Madill FFA; Cade Jenlink, Timberlake FFA; and Jaycee Shelburne, Durant FFA.

two rounds of discussion before being narrowed to the final four.

The top four finalists earned \$1,500, \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 college

scholarships, respectively.

To learn more about OKFB YF&R programs for ag youth, visit www.okfarmbureau.org/yfr.

Eleven students attend YF&R youth leadership program

High school seniors from across the state attended the Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference held July 23-25 in Oklahoma City.

The OYLA conference is a three-day annual event hosted by Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers to prepare high school students for a future career in agriculture and to advance youth leadership. The conference provided an opportunity to learn more about Farm Bureau, the agriculture industry, leadership and more.

This year's OYLA class included Kyra Bentley, Harper County; Rayanne Bowman, Payne County; Krista Carroll, Johnston County; Gage Clemmer, Comanche County; Cade Jenlink, Alfalfa County; LaBreska Jones, Tulsa County; Bree Kisling, Garfield County; Lucas Morrow, Pontotoc County; Morgan Nipp, Carter County; Allison Rhodes, Caddo County; and Peyton Smith, Payne County.

During the conference, OKFB President Rodd Moesel and Executive Director Thad Doye explained the importance of the grassroots farm organization and the significance of being involved on the local, state and national levels. Students also discovered real-life tips on sharing their agriculture story with friends, family and the public with Oklahoma Beef Council Executive Director Heather Buckmaster.

The group toured Oklahoma City-based Lopez Foods, Inc., which provides protein products for restaurants and retailers across the country and the world including McDonald's.

The OKFB communications department trained the OYLA group to talk with media including radio and television outlets, while Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom's Melody Aufill taught the students activities to use to share agriculture with elementary students in their hometown.

The students also learned teamwork and leadership skills at the University of Central Oklahoma ropes course.

The OYLA conference ended with a visit to the state Capitol, where students heard about serving in the state Legislature from Sen. Chris Kidd.



Top: Eleven high school students from across the state chosen to attend OYLA pose for a photo during the three-day youth leadership conference held July 23-25 in Oklahoma City. Left: Krista Carroll, Bree Kisling and Allison Rhodes help fill packs of nutritious food for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's Food for Kids backpack program during the 2018 OYLA conference.

Emily Karns named OKFB public policy coordinator

Oklahoma Farm Bureau recently hired Emmy Karns as its public policy coordinator. In her position, Karns will assist OKFB public policy staff as they work to advocate for organizational policy. She will assist in planning public policy events, scheduling Capitol visits and more.

Karns joins Farm Bureau after serving as an event and sales coordinator for PDC Productions where she assisted with

facilitating the OKFB Annual Meeting.

"I loved working with OKFB while at PDC Productions," she said. "I knew OKFB would be a wonderful next step in my career and would give me the opportunity to work alongside great people."

A native of Chickasha, Oklahoma, Karns earned a bachelor's degree in strategic communications from the University of Central Oklahoma.



CFTC Chair visits Oklahoma agriculture with OKFB, OCA



Left: Commodities Futures Trading Commission Chairman Christopher Giancarlo (far right) tours Xcel Feedyard in Watonga with OKFB and the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association during a visit to Oklahoma on Aug. 7. Pictured (L-R): OCA Executive Vice President Michael Kelsey, OKFB's Zac Swartz, Ron Justice and Marla Peek, CFTC Office of Legislative Affairs Director Charlie Thornton, Henry Giancarlo, Xcel Feedyard Manager Bill Roser and Chairman Giancarlo. During his visit to Oklahoma, Chairman Giancarlo also toured Wheeler Brothers Grain Co. in Watonga along with an oil rig site. The CFTC was created in 1974 with the enactment of the Commodities Futures Trading Commission Act. The mission of the CFTC is to foster open, transparent, competitive, and financially sound markets.



OKFB women promote WLC at Women in Ag conference

Top: Members of the state Women's Leadership Committee passed out information and encouraged women to get involved at the 2018 Oklahoma Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference held Aug. 8-9 in Oklahoma City. Women from across the state gathered to learn more about successfully managing their farms and businesses.

PAWNEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU.

MEETING NOTICE

Pawnee County Farm Bureau members will meet to vote on a proposed bylaw change. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Oct. 31 | 7 p.m.

Pawnee County Farm Bureau
623 Seventh Street
Pawnee, OK 74058

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WLC sponsors 2018 AITC conference

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee helped sponsor and facilitate the 2018 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom summer conference held July 13 at the Metro Technology Center in Oklahoma City.

Nearly 340 Oklahoma educators attended the conference, which featured 18 different workshops on a variety of topics including branding cattle, soybean production, harvesting berries and more.

The workshops were led by teachers who incorporate AITC lessons in their classrooms. The OKFB WLC presented gift cards to the schools that sent the most teachers to the conference. The women also assisted presenters in facilitating various workshops. 00348435

To learn more about Oklahoma AITC, visit www.agclassroom.org/ok.



The OKFB WLC assisted with the 2018 Oklahoma AITC summer conference July 13 in Oklahoma City. Pictured (L-R): Paula Sawatzky, District Two; Kitty Beavers, Chair; Misty Dowell, District Eight; Cindy Schoenecke, District Nine; Mignon Bolay, District Seven; Sandra Berry, District Four; and WLC Coordinator Marcia Irvin. Not pictured: Linda Fox, District One; Sharlene Lambring, District Three; and Mary Sloan, District Six.

OKFB's OKAgFund endorses Stitt for governor, expands support for other candidates

The OKAgFund, Oklahoma Farm Bureau's grassroots political action committee, has endorsed Kevin Stitt in the Oklahoma gubernatorial election following a meeting of the board on Thursday, Aug. 30.

A grassroots committee comprised of OKFB members from around the state, the OKAgFund contributed an additional \$29,500 in financial support to statewide candidates. The committee increased financial support for eight candidates and gave first-time financial support to 25 candidates.

"As farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans, we aim to support like-minded candidates who value the rural way of life," said Coy Farmer, chairman of the OKAgFund. "We are proud to stand with these candidates who we believe will work to ensure a strong future for agriculture and rural Oklahoma."

The OKAgFund also announced endorsements for nine other candidates

including Matt Pinnell for lieutenant governor and Leslie Osborn for labor commissioner.

Senate candidates endorsed include Mark Allen, Senate District 4, and James Leewright, Senate District 12.

Candidates for the House endorsed by the OKAgFund include Josh West, House District 5; Tom Gann, House District 8; Scott Fetgatter, House District 16; Kenton Patzkowsky, House District 61; and Rande Worthen, House District 64.

To see the full list of candidates supported and/or endorsed by the OKAgFund, see page 14.

Following the Aug. 28 elections, the group was 85 percent successful in backing candidates who won their primary runoff election.

The OKAgFund identifies candidates who demonstrate

beliefs and actions that are consistent with OKFB's policies, regardless of political affiliation. While the OKAgFund contributes financially to several state campaigns, an endorsement is the highest level of support the committee gives to chosen candidates.

The OKAgFund is supported by voluntary contributions from Farm Bureau members across the state as an optional portion of their membership dues. To learn more, visit www.okfarmbureau.org/okagfund.



YF&R host livestock judging contest

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers committee hosted more than 1,400 students during its annual Oklahoma State Fair livestock judging contest held Sept. 13 in Oklahoma City.

FFA and 4-H members judged eight categories of livestock with two classes of questions. The top three individuals and teams are listed below.

TEAMS

Senior FFA Division

First: Sentinel FFA
Second: El Reno FFA
Third: Lindsay FFA

Senior 4-H Division

First: Central High 4-H 1
Second: Alex 4-H
Third: Kay County 4-H

Junior FFA Division

First: Lindsay FFA Orange
Second: El Reno FFA
Third: Mulhall FFA

Junior 4-H Division

First: Kay County 4-H 2
Second: Minco 4-H
Third: Weatherford 4-H

INDIVIDUALS

Senior FFA Division

First: Baylor Bonham, Newcastle
Second: Garret Wellden, Guthrie
Third: Marlie Arrs, Sentinel

Senior 4-H Division

First: Riley Scott, Central High
Second: Kale Campbell, Alfalfa
Third: Ashlynn Arnold, Marshall

Junior FFA Division

First: Seth Tucker, Lindsay
Second: Brooklyn Jennings, Lindsay
Third: Zane Avant, El Reno

Junior 4-H Division

First: Hallie Herrel, Minco
Second: Tucker Jeffries, Kay County
Third: Ashley Purine, Thomas Fay Custer

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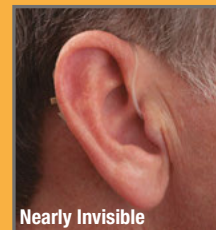


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No more bare ground

A national agricultural research initiative aims to promote soil health through the development and adoption of new cover crops across the U.S.

Beneath the surface of civilization lives another world, a microscopic one filled with fungi and bacteria so tiny that millions of them can fit in one teaspoon.

Many of these microbes make their homes along the underground highways of plant roots. They act as tollbooths, helping the roots take in water and nutrients from the soil in exchange for food and shelter. When the roots are gone, the microbes suffer. When microbes suffer, eventually the soil deteriorates. Soil sickness is not obvious at first. But over time, mediocre soils increasingly lose their ability to hold water. They become vulnerable to wind, which carries them away in storms reminiscent of the Dust Bowl. They lose natural fertility and ability to capture and store carbon.

Healthy soils hold the power to solve many of farmers' and ranchers' greatest challenges. But how do farmers and ranchers rejuvenate their lands? One way is to cover the soil in plants year-round with a practice called cover cropping. And today's agricultural producers are increasingly interested in the historical farming practice.

Jimmy Emmons stumbled upon the concept of cover cropping at a farming conference about seven years ago. The third-generation farmer and rancher from Leedey, Oklahoma, had been searching for ways to improve his wheat, alfalfa and canola yields. Regardless of how much fertilizer Emmons applied or how much rain the land received, his production had plateaued.

At the conference, a farmer from central Ohio talked about how he had transformed his land by planting cover

crops. After harvesting his primary crop, like corn or soybeans, this farmer planted a crop to grow during the season when the land would typically lie bare. Its primary purpose was to improve the health of the soil.

"I thought, 'Man, if I could do that here in Oklahoma, that would be great,'" Emmons said.

There are costs associated with planting any crop. There's seed to buy and machinery to maintain. The risk can seem high when the crop planted is one that typically is not harvested and sold. But Emmons found that the practice started paying off within three to four years. Today, he credits cover crops, alongside no-till and rotational grazing, with helping reduce his fuel costs by two-thirds and his fertilizer costs by half. As a result of reducing his need for inputs, Emmons also has reduced the potential for nitrogen and phosphorus runoff into nearby streams.

Based on a national farmer survey funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, cover crop users in 2012 were planting just more than 200 acres per farm. By 2016, that number had doubled. Still, the estimated 17 million acres of cover crops in the U.S. today represent just a small fraction of the 250 million acres of row crop fields in the U.S. as of the most recent census, from 2012.

In March 2017, the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research and the Noble Research Institute announced a \$6.6 million national research initiative to promote soil health through the development and adoption of new cover crops across the U.S.

The project will address some of


farmers' practical questions: Which is the best type of cover to use for which field? How do short-term costs compare with long-term gain? When is the best time to kill the cover crop? How do cover crops affect soil moisture?

"There's not going to be one answer," said Twain Butler, Ph.D., forage agronomist at the Noble Research Institute and project leader. "It's going to be different in Oklahoma and this part of the country than elsewhere."

To answer these questions across the nation, field studies will be conducted at five strategic sites: Maryland for the Northeast, North Carolina for the Southeast, Oklahoma for the Southern Plains, Nebraska for the Northern Plains, and Missouri for the Midwest.

Most species planted as cover crops today were bred for other purposes, like forage and grain production, rather than to maximize conservation traits. In developing new varieties for cover crop use, the researchers will look to bring out plants' natural abilities to develop deep roots and to grow at times that better coordinate with primary crops' growing seasons. Species of interest include small grains (wheat, rye, oat and triticale), annual legumes (hairy vetch, winter peas and clovers) and brassicas (turnips, radishes, kale and mustards).

The network of researchers will also work with farmers and ranchers to better understand what is needed in the field as well as with seed companies to expand effective options on the market.

"Our goal is simple: to get new cover crop solutions into the hands of those who use them or will be using them," Butler said. 



Western Oklahoma farmer Jimmy Emmons utilizes cover crops, including rye, to improve the health of his soil.



Proper tool storage helps ensure a good start to spring gardening

By Trisha Gedon

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

The lawn mower, pruning shears, garden hose and edger have been trusty sidekicks all through the gardening season. Now, as gardening activities begin to slow down just a bit, it's a good time to think about how to store these tools for the winter.

Although it takes some time to prepare tools for winter storage, it's time well

spent and can save some headaches when gardening season picks back up next spring. Gardeners across the state know how much easier gardening can be when using tools and equipment that are in good repair and working order, said David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension consumer horticulturist.

“Just like you need sharp knives in the kitchen, sharp tools in the garden are a must because they make a clean cut rather than tearing or bruising the plants,” Hillock said. “This helps the plants recover more quickly and reduces the possibility of disease. After a season of use, spades, hoes, shovels and shears all could use a good sharpening.”



If possible, store all your gardening tools in a garage or shed during the winter months. This will help protect them from the elements. Photos by Todd Johnson, OSU Agricultural Communications Services.



There are a variety of sharpening methods that can be used on various tools. A flat file is an inexpensive way to give a sharp edge to hoes, spades and shovels. Before getting started, always wear proper safety equipment such as gloves and safety glasses when handling tools. When using a flat file, make long diagonal strokes away from the body across the cutting edge. This provides a more uniform edge than short strokes in one spot.

Hillock said power equipment, such as a rotary tool or bench grinder, helps complete the task much more quickly.

“Keep in mind, however, power tools can wear down the blade quicker if you aren’t careful and can heat the metal quickly causing the blade to be weaker,” he said. “Sharpen only the beveled edge and try to keep the same angle on the new edge as it was when it came from the manufacturer.”

Smaller tools such as loppers and hand pruners also can be sharpened in the same manner. In some cases, the tool may need to be disassembled to access the entire cutting edge of the blade.

Mower blades also should be sharpened regularly. Because opposite ends of the blade are sharpened, it should be checked

for balance before reattaching to the lawn mower. Do this by hanging the blade by the center hole on a nail. If one side hangs lower than the other, a little more needs to be taken off that side of the blade to bring it back into balance.

“Be sure to clean your tools before storing them for the winter. Clean the rust and dirt off blades and handles,” Hillock said. “Dirt can be scrubbed off with water or scraped off with a wire brush. If you see rust spots on your tools, fine sandpaper or steel wool will take care of them. Again, it’s always a good idea to wear protective eyewear.”

Apply a thin coat of oil to the blade and lubricate any moving parts. A five-gallon bucket of oily sand can be used to both clean tools and apply oil so rust won’t form on the blade over the winter.

Handles should be inspected and broken handles replaced. Rough spots should be smoothed using a medium-grit emery cloth or sandpaper. After sanding, apply linseed oil to the handle to help preserve the wood.

Most small, gas-powered engines last longer if all the fuel is drained or used before storing for the winter.


“The alcohol in the fuel can eventually degrade plastic and rubber parts,” Hillock

said. “It’s a good idea to read your owner’s manual for specific instructions on storage.”

Homeowners can run the gas mower or other equipment until it is out of fuel. Another option is to add a fuel stabilizer to the full fuel tank. Then, run the engine for a few minutes to let the mixture circulate and top off the tank to ensure it is full.

Hillock suggests cleaning the frame of the mower before storing it, including scraping off any stuck-on dirt or grass clippings from the underside.

Another task that needs to be tackled is prepping garden hoses for storage. Remove nozzles and drain the hoses. When they’re dry, coil the hoses to keep them from kinking and store out of the elements. If possible, store all gardening tools in a shed, garage or other area protected from the weather.

“Once the spring rolls around next year, you’ll be excited to get back out into your landscape. The steps you take now to preserve your equipment will help ensure you can get started right away instead of spending time repairing tools,” Hillock said. “It’s definitely time well spent.” 



Clean the mud and dirt from gardening tools before storing for the winter. A stiff brush and water should do the trick.



A fuel stabilizer can be added to gas-powered tools if you plan to leave gas in the tank over the winter.

COUNTRY CLASSIFIEDS



AUTOMOTIVE

'77 Mercury Monarch, very good condition inside and out. 2-door hard top, has done well at car shows. 303 engine, 81K actual miles. 405-275-5673.

1963 Chevrolet Nova Super Sport. A/C, 283 engine power glide trans. 2 dr. nice car. 918-623-2872.

335 Cummins engine and 10 speed Road Ranger white auto car cab and frame and rear ends. \$2,500. Also, '88 Bronco, \$5,000. 72 IHC Pickup, \$6,500. 405-386-4416.

1936 Plymouth truck, very nice. 1936 Ford 2-door sedan. 1940 Ford "Opera" coupe, very nice. 1954 Chevrolet truck. 918-770-0822.

'34 Ford 2-door sedan (Bonnie and Clyde). '62 "Boat Tail" Buick Revere. 1913 Ford Model T. '81 Honda "Passport." 918-770-0822.

FARM MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT

2010 Kubota 70HP HST. 850 hours. \$26,500. 405-527-1663.

Old HI Cub equipment mower and Pitman; Disc plow; 20' wind mill; About 1982 HI tractor for parts. 580-889-7720.

Fence charger repair. All brands. Warranty service for Parmak and Woodstream products. Pioneer Electronics. Waukomis, OK. 580-603-0063.

For sale: 1959 JD #30 pull-type combine, always shedded, all the books, they're not making them anymore. \$2,000. 918-366-2403.

International tractor, diesel, needs a little TLC. \$500. Rear tires, 28" - 80 percent rubber. 918-759-1111.

For sale: 1949 Massey Pony Tractor; 1948 FarmAll Cub tractor; miscellaneous antique garden tractors (in parade or show condition). 580-854-6549.

Pearson chute - working cattle, good condition. Call for more information. 580-977-6807.

1938 B John Deere, was running when parked. \$2,500 firm. 1-405-654-9836.

2014 Landoll 7410-14 vertical tillage tool. Hydraulic leveling and rolling baskets. Low acres. \$21,000. 405-308-9481.

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Red Polled Shorthorn Bull. Gentle 5-year-old. \$2,000. JD 912 pickup header. Grain bin and auger. 580-678-7102

Commercial Black Angus bred heifers. Bred to low birthweight bulls. Have had all shots and preg checked. Seyler Farms, Greenfield, OK. Call Sandy, 580-614-1150.

Serviceable-age Angus or Maine bulls. Have been fertility tested. Four male donkeys. Cleaned wheat, Gallagher, Bentley, Smith Gold, Triumph Ruby Lee. 405-331-4307.

Texas Longhorn cattle from top bloodlines of the breed, reasonably priced. Bred cows, heifers, virgin bull and heifer calves. Bar Lazy D Cattle Co. 580-220-1477.

Beefmaster bulls and females. EPDs and performance information available. Practical cattle with proven performance. Simon Creek Beefmasters. 580-668-2523.

Registered Polled Hereford bulls and heifers. 14-20 months old. Remittal online 122L and PW Victor Boomer P606. 49 years breeding. 580-332-2468.

Registered Black Angus cattle for sale. Breeding for balanced EPDs for over 40 years. Ed Wilson, 580-739-1012.

MISCELLANEOUS

Structural pipe/sucker rods; guns; ammunition; collectable coins. Call 405-627-3920.

1943 Singer Featherweight in case with table and padded stool. Metal parts. Ponca City, OK. 580-763-4482.

Trophy deer hunts, Medicine River on OK-KS border. Limited number of hunts on secluded but easy access 3-mile stretch of river. Call for details/pictures. 405-368-4301.

Handiman jobs - big or small and various items for sale (from NIB to antique) sale or trade for guns, etc. Leave message. 918-968-5524.

REAL ESTATE

Lot #2 Harbor Point for sale. 0.675 acre, \$12,500. Lake Eufaula. For info, call 918-721-8384.

150 acres for sale. Good hunting property for deer, turkey and hogs. Southern Bryan County, OK. 580-380-1069.

10 acres, Lots 27 and 28, Lakeside Forest. Eufaula, OK. 580-277-9681.

WANTED

Wanted: Railroad items from the (MV) Midland Valley, (KO&G) Kansas, Oklahoma & the Gulf, the Frisco, the (OC&AA) Oklahoma City, Ada and Atoka Railroads, and the Oklahoma Railway Company. Also crocks from Ada Pottery Company. Advertising reflectors for cotton gins and elevators. 580-399-8866.



COUNTRY CLASSIFIEDS

Each OKFB member family is limited to one free classified ad per issue. No call-in ads will be accepted. The length of the ad cannot exceed the number of lines on this form. Ads run one time. We reserve the right not to publish submitted ads. Return to Country Classifieds, 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

All information must be completed.

Name _____

OKFB Membership Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please type or print legibly.

*Deadline for the next issue is Dec. 3, 2018.
The winter issue will publish in mid-January 2019.*

JOINT PRIVACY NOTICE



On Behalf Of: Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, AgSecurity Insurance Company and Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance Agents, Inc. 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, AgSecurity Insurance Company and Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance Agents, Inc.

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 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, 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 contract, 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 non-public 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 website 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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2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

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.

Clip & mail this form to:
General Counsel, c/o Opt-Out Notice
P.O.B. 53332 • Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332

*Name: _____

*Phone Number: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____

*Email: _____

*Policy Number: _____

*Membership Number: _____



Oven-Fried Buttermilk Chicken Drumsticks

Courtesy of the National Chicken Council


Ingredients

8 chicken drumsticks
2 tablespoons spicy red seasoning
1 bay leaf
1 teaspoon hot sauce
1 quart buttermilk
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons butter

Preparation

In a lidded plastic container large enough to hold the drumsticks, combine the seasoning, bay leaf, hot sauce and buttermilk. Stir well. Add chicken, turning to coat. Cover with lid and refrigerate for several hours or overnight.

When ready to cook chicken, preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Remove chicken from refrigerator. Drain chicken in colander (do not rinse); pat dry with paper towels. Place flour, salt and pepper in plastic, sealable one-gallon sized bag. Add chicken drumsticks in batches and shake bag thoroughly to coat.

Put butter in a roasting pan and place in hot oven. When butter is melted and pan is hot, add chicken, skin side down, to pan. Place chicken in oven and cook for 20 minutes. Lower oven temperature to 350 degrees Fahrenheit, turn drumsticks and cook another 20 minutes until cooked through. Remove cooked drumsticks to a paper towel-lined plate to drain. 

If you are a Farm Bureau member and want to see your recipes featured in *Oklahoma Country*, send a full list of ingredients along with preparation and cooking instructions to Hannah.Davis@okfb.org or mail a hard copy to Oklahoma Country Recipes, 2501 N. Stiles Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

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