

Oklahoma *Country*



The Magazine of the
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
© Spring 2017

A tribute to legacy

Oklahoma Farm Bureau kicks off its 75th
anniversary celebration with the dedication
of a new **commemorative courtyard**

Building & growing: 1950s & 1960s

Decades of increasing impact for OKFB

From the ashes

Wildfire recovery brings agriculture together

Forward Foundation

New campaign kicks off on social media



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Oklahoma Country

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Photo by Dustin Mielke

ON THE COVER

The 77 metal sculptures representing each Oklahoma county rise illuminated toward the dusk sky at the OKFB home office in Oklahoma City.

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 Clarissa Walton before the last day of the month, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (405) 523-2530.

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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Spring 2017



Brand News

by the OKFB Communications Team

As we continue to celebrate our 75th anniversary, we're excited to share another glimpse into our history. Members will have the opportunity to travel back to the 1950s and 1960s in the OKFB archives and read about challenges and victories won for an organization still trying to find their voice in the fight for Oklahoma family farmers and ranchers. All of OKFB's history will culminate in a commemorative 75th anniversary coffee table pictorial book. Details on how you can purchase your copy will appear in our summer issue.

Our cover photo showcases our newly dedicated courtyard. The commemorative courtyard contains 77 pillar sculptures, each one in the shape of one of the state's counties. Each sculpture also contains soil from the county it represents.

As many of our readers know, several OKFB members as well as farmers and ranchers from surrounding states were affected by devastating wildfires that swept the Oklahoma Panhandle in March. Since then donations and volunteers have poured in from all corners of our state and nation. *From the Ashes* tells the story of one such member, highlighting the support that came from not only our own members, but also from first responders, state agencies and other Farm Bureaus from across the United States. In the wake of these fires, our agricultural community has banded together to begin a rebuilding process which will take months and even years to recover.

As always, it is an honor to share our members' stories with you and we hope you enjoy this spring edition.

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OKFB dedicates the commemorative courtyard to kick off its 75th year celebration.

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Building foundations & growing for the future

A 75th story

In this second installment in OKFB's 75th anniversary series, the 1950s and 1960s bring new challenges and unlikely victories to the young organization as early leaders campaign for the rights of farmers and ranchers across the state.



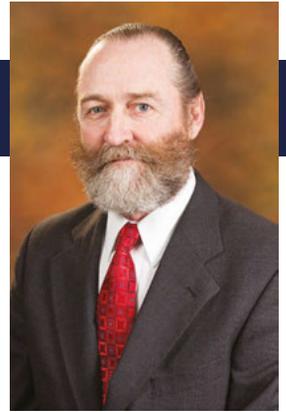
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From the ashes

By Becky Samples

After the flames of a devastating wildfire were extinguished, family farmers and ranchers find hope through the generosity of others.

PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING



Healing rains and recovery

By Tom Buchanan

President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies

In the wake of the wildfires that swept across northwest Oklahoma, I can attest that the last few months have been surreal. I have seen unity and generosity overflowing throughout the agriculture community.

I have looked into the eyes of a rancher with tearstained cheeks, overcome with emotion because he awoke the morning after the fires not knowing how he was going to feed his 750 head of cattle, only to learn that help was on the way.

As you well know by now, hay, fencing supplies, milk replacer, feed and various other relief items have been pouring into the panhandle. We are in for a long recovery period, but our panhandle will thrive again.

Farmers and ranchers are weathered and tested, but there is a spirit not found in any other sector. We are environmentalists who care for the land we cultivate so we may pass it onto the next generation. We are innovators, who through trial and error, find improved ways to make our lives and our operations more efficient. We are conservationists, honing our efforts so we

leave our land better for the next generation. We are activists of a sort, working to shed light on an industry widely overlooked.

You see, we don't farm and ranch to bring large yields to our bank accounts and our store houses. We continue in this legacy because we are the farmers and ranchers of Oklahoma, quietly, yet humbly, feeding fellow Oklahomans and our nation. We do this because it is our charge – a responsibility we don't take lightly.

As we saw in the wake of the wildfires and countless times before, we bind together when we see those in need. During trying times such as these, it is important to remember why Oklahoma Farm Bureau exists. Your very membership dues are at work during this time helping those who need it most. In this time of spring, we look forward to healing rains and recovery. Thank you for your help in the relief efforts and your continued support of OKFB. 

“Farmers and ranchers are weathered and tested, but there is a spirit not found in any other sector.”

— Tom Buchanan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Buchanan', with a stylized flourish at the end.



EXECUTIVE OUTLOOK

Building upon 75 years of strength: Thank you for your continued support!

By Monica Wilke
Executive Director, Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies

As I'm sure you are aware, our panhandle experienced devastating wildfires resulting in the loss of life, livelihoods, land and livestock. The relief pouring in from across this state and in neighboring states has been humbling to experience to say the very least.

Although I was not personally affected by the fires, I know members who are reeling from this event and are learning how to rebuild after legacies and generations literally burned before their very eyes. Although it is extremely devastating, I can point to the one factor that has given me so much pride: you.

You, the member of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, are a vital component of this organization, 75 years young. It is your membership that allowed us to send fuel cards, fencing supplies and donations within 24 hours of the fires and allowed us to care for our rural neighbors. Although you yourself may not be from an agriculturally-related industry, it is your membership that helps continue to advocate and educate on behalf of an industry all too often taken for granted.

As a farm girl who grew up in Grandfield, Okla., on a stocker

cattle farm and a mother of a young son who manages a cow/calf operation with his papa, I know the fight is never finished for myself and those working at OKFB.

As the executive director of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies, providing insurance products that protect

your livelihood and interests is a priority, but it also allows OKFB to tell agriculture's story to thousands of members who might now have the opportunity to understand the impact modern agriculture has on consumers, economic imports and exports, and our nation as a whole.

Our farmers and ranchers need your help to continue to shape the narrative of the importance of this industry. I want to personally thank you for your continued support of OKFB by being a member, and I am proud to serve not only our farmers and ranchers, but also Oklahomans across our great state. 

“You, the member of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, are a vital component of this organization, 75 years young.”

— Monica Wilke

OFBMIC receives improved credit rating

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. is proud to receive an upgraded credit rating status, taken from B to B+, reflecting the company's commitment to remaining a statewide leader in the insurance industry. OFBMIC was given a secured rating status with a positive outlook by A.M. Best, a nationally-renowned credit rating service that specializes in insurance.

The Oklahoma-based insurance company has enhanced its credit

rating status for two consecutive years, illustrating the efforts of OFBMIC leadership to bring the highest-quality service to its members.

“Since the beginning of my tenure three years ago, Oklahoma Farm Bureau has continued to improve in financial strength and solidity,” said Tom Buchanan, OKFB president. “We're proud to again prove our dedication to serving and protecting Oklahomans.”

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's persistent growth and improvement ensures it

will remain an unwavering voice for agriculture and all Oklahomans.

“I'm proud of Oklahoma Farm Bureau leadership and our work to move our company forward,” said Monica Wilke, OKFB executive director. “This is a significant accomplishment for both our members and the state of Oklahoma. We look forward to a long future of fulfilling our mission to protect and preserve agriculture and Oklahoma.”



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Are you one of the 30 million Americans who doesn't have life insurance?¹ We can help. Contact your Farm Bureau agent today.



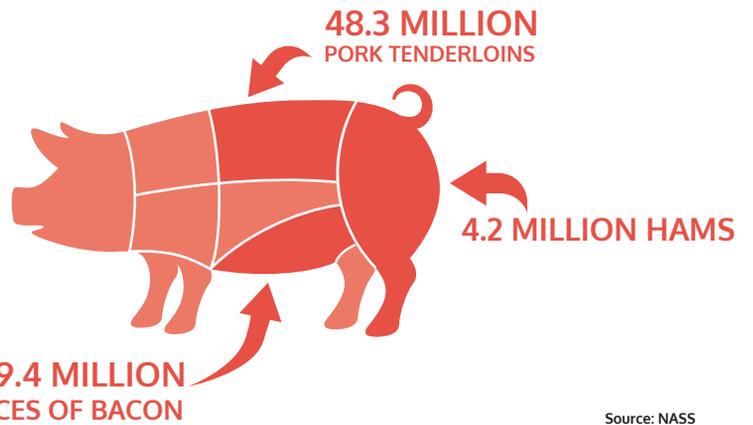
¹LIMRA Life Insurance Consumer Studies, Facts About Life 2016. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA. Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company/Oklahoma City, OK. LI169 (2-17)

COMMODITY CORNER

Oklahoma ranks No. 9 in U.S. for hog production

2.1 MILLION HOGS

were produced in Oklahoma in 2015.
That's enough to make ...



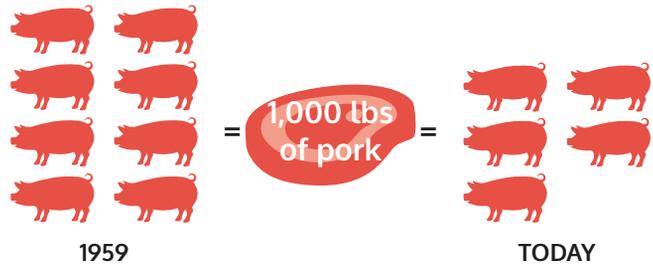
Source: NASS

In 2015, Oklahoma produced about

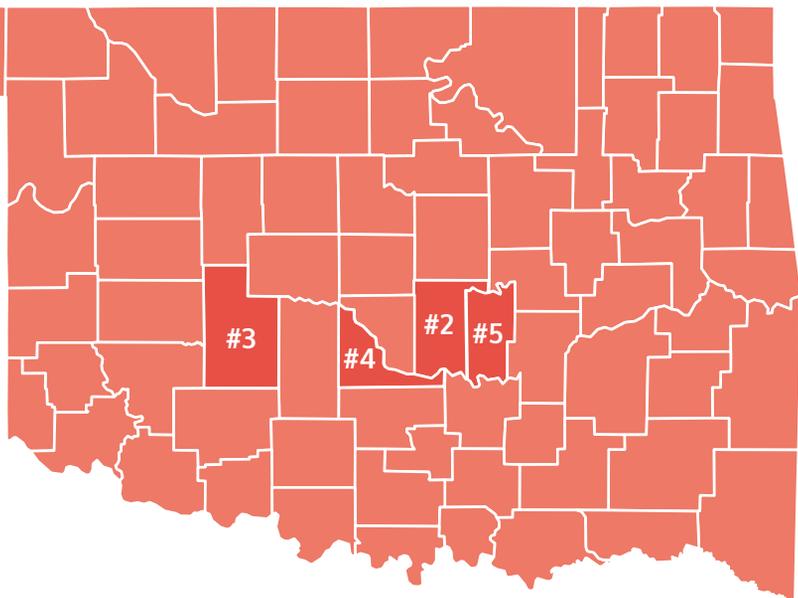
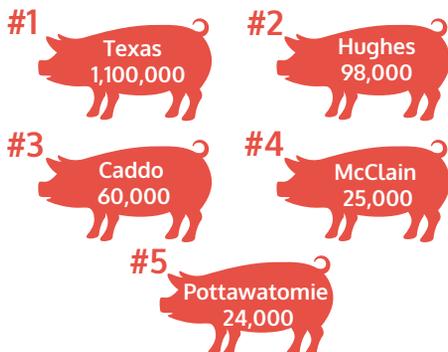
1.56 BILLION lbs
of pork

UP
23%
from
2014

Today's hog producers can produce the same amount of pork with fewer hogs.



TOP HOG-PRODUCING COUNTIES



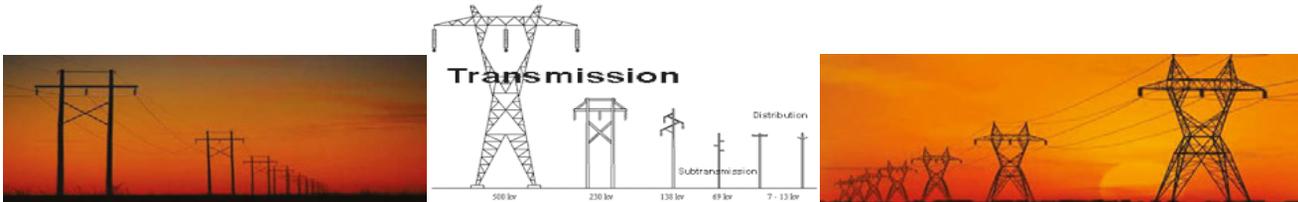
* based on hog inventory at the end of 2015
Source: NASS



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It's time to develop Oklahoma water

With an abundant and reliable water supply, Oklahoma can ensure a plentiful food supply and a prosperous economy for the future of the state.

When was the last time Oklahoma significantly invested in its water infrastructure? Former state governor and U.S. Sen. Robert S. Kerr called water a “blessed resource.”

Kerr, who lived through the devastating drought and Dust Bowl in the 1930s, understood the significance of an abundant and reliable water supply. He played an instrumental role in the development of current water infrastructure in Oklahoma.

But the state’s current water infrastructure needs help. By 2060, Oklahoma will need an estimated \$82 billion in water infrastructure improvements and replacements.

As the population continues to grow, demand for water also will increase, especially for agriculture. How will Oklahoma ensure it retains an abundant water supply into the future? Water infrastructure must be developed.

Water is the lifeblood of Oklahoma. A steady and reliable supply brings basic sustenance to all Oklahomans, allows farmers and ranchers to produce an abundance of safe and healthy food, helps the oil and gas industry grow, and leads to a

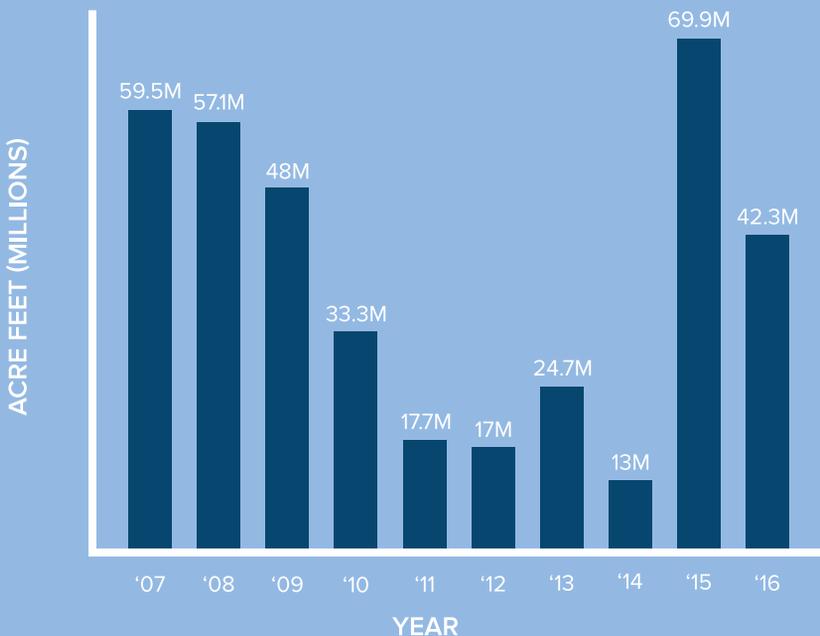
thriving state economy.

Yet, more than 35 million acre feet flowed out of Oklahoma’s borders each year over the past decade. The entire state uses only about 2 million acre feet of water per year, meaning Oklahoma has access to an unimaginable amount of the precious natural resource but simply allows it to leave the state.

As the state’s largest general farm organization, Oklahoma Farm Bureau is committed to developing water infrastructure to benefit all Oklahomans. Drought is cyclical; one of the state’s worst droughts on record ended with a record-breaking rainfall in 2015. Why should any Oklahoman lack for water when a vast supply is within reach?

Rather than wasting the priceless commodity, Oklahoma should capture water, store it in reservoirs, replenish underground aquifers, and even build pipelines to connect reservoirs around the state. Oklahoma no longer can wait to take action; the state must begin working today to create a bright future through a plentiful and accessible water supply. **OFB**

WATER LEAVING OKLAHOMA
2007–2016



Source: USGS

**35.4
MILLION**

acre feet of water left Oklahoma each year over the past decade.

Source: USGS

1.8 MILLION

acre feet of water are used by the entire state each year.

Source: OWRB

AGRICULTURE

is the largest water user in Oklahoma, using 44 percent.

Source: OWRB



PROVIDING WATER FOR OKLAHOMA

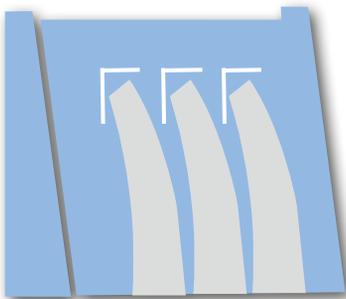
TRANSPORT WATER

Move water regionally to ensure water is where it is needed, when it is needed. Below, see cities already transporting water.



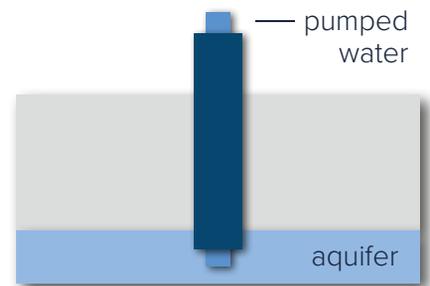
BUILD NEW RESERVOIRS

Construct new reservoirs around the state to hold excess water.



REPLENISH AQUIFERS

Capture excess water, treat it and pump into underground aquifers.



A T R I B U T E



OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU'S COMMEMORATIVE COURTYARD CELEBRATES COUNTY

SEVENTY-SEVEN METAL SCULPTURES,

bronzed a color mirroring Oklahoma's red soil, stretch toward the sky just off the southeast side of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau home office in Oklahoma City. These 77 pillars, each containing soil collected by Farm Bureau members from our state's 77 counties, form the new commemorative courtyard, celebrating the achievements and dedication that have built OKFB over the organization's 75 years.

The courtyard is the result of more than a year's worth of vision and planning to build a commemorative centerpiece for OKFB's 75th anniversary celebration. The plaza was dedicated during a ceremony on March 7, with Farm Bureau members, staff and guests looking on.

"The new plaza is beautiful, but my favorite thing about it is the connection it makes between Oklahoma Farm Bureau and our members across all 77 counties," said Tom Buchanan, OKFB president. "This is a tribute to their dedication to the farming and ranching lifestyle that provides the food, fiber and fuel that powers Oklahomans' lives. We look forward to our next 75 years of serving them."

The fresh outdoor space was created with special touches celebrating Oklahoma. Each metal pillar bears the name of an Oklahoma county and features a cutout of that county's shape, through which soil collected from the respective county is visible.

The four planting beds that contain the metal pillars were installed at different heights, representing the elevation changes that make Oklahoma mile-for-mile one of

the most ecologically diverse states in the nation. Also mimicking our state's natural vegetation, grasses are used more heavily as ornamental plants on the western side of the courtyard, while trees and shrubs are featured more heavily on the eastern side.

The center of the courtyard features a 19-foot by 9.5-foot Farm Bureau logo created using red and black bricks. Surrounding the logo are brick pavers featuring personalized messages commemorating individuals, groups and friends of agriculture. These customized brick pavers are still available for purchase to memorialize Farm Bureau members, families and friends who have made an impact on our organization through decades of OKFB history.

The courtyard features a myriad of LED lights that illuminate the space in the evening, making it a true showpiece for the surrounding Capitol neighborhood. The new space, along with a new OKFB sign that matches the design of the courtyard, brings a fresh look to the organization's longtime headquarters as OKFB celebrates 75 years of representing rural Oklahoma and our state's agriculture industry.

The new commemorative courtyard replaced an outdoor space that was installed during OKFB's 25th anniversary in 1967, while keeping with the original spirit of the previous design.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the new plaza between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily. It is located on the southeast side of OKFB headquarters at 2501 N. Stiles in Oklahoma City. 

To purchase brick pavers for inclusion in the OKFB commemorative courtyard, please contact Amanda Rosholt with the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation at (405) 205-0066, or visit the Brick Pavers page at the foundation's website, www.OKFarmingAndRanchingFoundation.org.

TO LEGACY.

FARM BUREAUS AND RECOGNIZES THE DEDICATION OF FARM BUREAU MEMBERS.



BUILDING FOUNDATIONS & GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU THROUGH THE 1950s AND 1960s



In 1953, Pontotoc County Farm Bureau created an agricultural demonstration plot to help farmers determine the best varieties of field crops, legumes and grasses; the best tillage methods for each; and particularly, the maximum amount of fertilizer that could be used profitably on each.



Membership drives were a common practice throughout the 1950s and 60s. Each year, counties would strive to meet their county goals and reach their yearly quota. This photo was taken at a Custer County Farm Bureau membership kickoff held at the county office on October 7, 1958.



1953 | MUNN ELECTED OKFB PRESIDENT

Lewis H. Munn, Alfalfa County farmer, is elected to lead OKFB, holding the position of president until 1975.

APRIL 1950 | MEMBERSHIP REACHES 26,646

1950

1952

1954



1952 | OKFB BOARD GAINS TWO POSITIONS

Two positions are added to the OKFB State Board of Directors, increasing the total number of members from seven to nine, following a restructuring of OKFB districts.



1953 | NEW BUILDING FINALIZED

Contracts are signed, beginning construction of a new OKFB office near the state Capitol Building.

"IT WAS THE SPRING OF 1951.

The legislature was ready to adjourn and go home. In those days, the legislature met biannually, and with a sharp cut in per diem after 100 days, sessions were shorter.

"Directors of Oklahoma Farm Bureau weren't ready for them to go home. On April 6, 1951, the board addressed a letter to the governor and to each member of the legislature. The lawmakers had not finished their work as far as agriculture was concerned, OKFB directors said. In six typewritten pages, single-spaced, the board noted that few farm bills had been passed and suggested that eight others ought to be enacted before adjournment. Sixteen other pending measures that were of interest to OKFB were mentioned.

"The letter had significant effect. OKFB didn't get all it asked for, but the legislature stayed around another week and enacted part of the OKFB demands. Oklahoma farmers had influence."

This excerpt from Ferdie J. Deering's book "From the Grassroots Up" illustrates the rapid growth of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau in the early 1950s. With just nine years of existence, the organization had already built a reputable name associated with honesty, integrity and reliability. Key leaders, such as John I. Taylor, Lewis H. Munn and Dan Arnold, were the foundation for such a reputation.

Membership in the early 1950s included more than 26,000 families. Leaders encouraged members to talk to any other farmers they knew and emphasized the importance of a united voice. By May 1952, only one county was without a Farm Bureau.

The reason for such growth was obvious: farmers believed in the organization. Members donated hours upon hours to membership drives and personal discussions with other farmers.

"I spent a lot of days recruiting members," said Caddo County charter member Elmer Mannschreck in Deering's book. "We would line up a task force, set a date and all go out and try to get our neighbors and friends to join.

"At that time, I knew every farmer within a 10-mile radius of where I lived," he continued. "I never tried to promote insurance. It's a good service, but we emphasized that if we would get together and talk about what we wanted, we would be able to help farm people."

Early leaders of the organization missed no opportunity to share the story of OKFB and ask their fellow farmers and ranchers to join. During one membership visit, OKFB President Taylor called on a farmer whose mare was delivering a colt. Taylor joined in to help, and the farmer signed up right away.

Leaders soon recognized the need for a new building to house the ever-expanding organization. By Feb. 9, 1952, a contract was signed for a new building to be constructed near the state Capitol. With the contract price of \$610,481, OKFB turned to the membership for help with funds. Farm Bureau families invested \$247,150 in building certificates, indicating the membership's deep confidence in the organization. The remainder of the funds was paid by the insurance company's surplus funds. The building was officially dedicated Aug. 3, 1954.

Leadership was a great contributing factor to the significant growth. Taylor, who led the organization until 1953, provided a guiding voice of encouragement to members across the state. Taylor and the other seven board members took the lead in establishing organizational and policy-making initiatives, in addition to setting the tone for the fundamental philosophy of the organization.

Munn was elected president after Taylor's resignation in

1954 | NEW BUILDING DEDICATED

An open house celebrated the opening of a new Farm Bureau office at 2501 North Stiles Avenue in Oklahoma City, where the OKFB home office is located to this day.



1956 | OKFB SUCCEEDS IN THE COURTROOM

Frank Carter, OKFB legal counsel, asks the state Supreme Court to permit Farm Bureau to intervene in a lawsuit involving the rights of a farmer to use natural gas produced on his farm for fuel for irrigation pumps. The case was decided in favor of the farmer.

1956

1955 | PRIVATE PROPERTY DEFENDED

OKFB opposes the taking of private land to expand the Fort Sill artillery range. Within four years, the Army ceases condemnation.



1958

JULY 1959 | AFBF MEETING IN OKC

More than 500 county leaders attend the southern region American Farm Bureau institute held in Oklahoma City, with AFBF President Allan B. Kline as the featured speaker.

1953 and served until 1975. During his 33 years as a member of OKFB's board of directors, he never missed a meeting. He attended every AFBF convention from 1942 through 1980, except two.

"Farm Bureau is now, and can continue to be, a great and valuable organization to agriculture, this state and our nation," Munn wrote in his 1975 resignation letter. "Carefully guide and direct its course and work diligently to sustain and mold its growth. As time goes on, most of you will find your efforts in sincerely working to build and strengthen the organization to be much more rewarding than efforts to use the organization for personal recognition or gain."

Often overlooked in the history of OKFB was the outstanding community that was developed in those early years through organizational activities. From meetings to picnics, from square dances to learning workshops, these activities pulled together farmers and ranchers throughout the state to not only discuss legislative issues, but also to create relationships that would last a lifetime. This was the foundation of the organization.

"Munn calls the people with whom he worked 'the finest, most upstanding people in the world,'" Deering wrote. "He admits it is possible to find nice people wherever you go, but insists, 'There just happens to be more of them in Farm Bureau.'"

One main consensus among OKFB's farmers and ranchers was the desire to learn. Several OKFB educational workshops and discussions were created to help disseminate information to farmers and ranchers who were eager to learn about the latest farm practices and new technology.

With a rapidly growing organization came added member benefits and services. In response to resolutions from the previous year, OKFB launched a tire-and-battery service in 1964, offering all types of tires and batteries at a considerable savings over regular retail prices.

In 1966, OKFB hired Jim Williams to organize a safety unit in the information division to promote general farm and household safety as well as inform members and the public about highway laws and share safe driving tips.

With the beginning of the safety service, OKFB began



In 1952, Oklahoma Farm Bureau introduced the Votemobile, a truck with sound reinforcement equipment installed that toured the state, spotlighting the dates for registration and voting. The Votemobile debuted in a ceremony on the south steps of the Oklahoma State Capitol on May 26, 1952.



Members across the state donated countless hours to membership drives as the organization grew. Here, W.A. Cassell of Elmore City (left) signs up for his Garvin County Farm Bureau membership with A.J. Chapman, membership committee co-chairman, during OKFB's 1953 campaign.

OKFB'S 1960 FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR
Darold Butler family of Pauls Valley.

1962

JULY 1962 | SAFETY SERVICE STARTS
OKFB inaugurates a safety service, which, through the county offices, members could purchase a number of safety devices for emergencies.

1964

1960

1963 | COMMODITY COMMISSIONS
With support from OKFB, the Oklahoma legislature creates the wheat and peanut commissions.

1961 | MEMBERSHIP REACHES 41,821

encouraging members to use Slow Moving Vehicle signs, which were designed at the Agricultural Engineering School at Ohio State University for all vehicles not capable of moving faster than 25 mph. OKFB was the state distributor for one of the major manufacturers of the signs, which were sold through county Farm Bureaus.

The newly formed organization had a significant number of legislative issues brought to the table from county members, some of which were readily accepted by the legislature and some that would take years to achieve.

One of the first resolutions passed at the first OKFB convention was to attain sales tax exemptions on agricultural inputs. After several years and attempts to remove sales tax for farmers, the first success was in 1957 when a measure passed granting a sales tax exemption for feed and the trade-in value of used farm machinery, followed by an exemption for fertilizer in 1965. It would take a few more years to receive a blanket exemption, but farmers and ranchers were well on their way to victory.

In the 1960s, OKFB entered several court cases in support

of farmers' and ranchers' water rights and was involved in passing the state's first egg-grading law. OKFB also supported the will of farmers and ranchers through the formation of checkoffs for a variety of commodities, including wheat, lambs, hogs and pecans. These matters served as part of the growth of the organization, providing the opportunity to learn through failures and capitalize on successes. In the coming years, this valuable experience in legislative matters would be essential for overcoming new challenges.

Through the 1950s and 1960s, OKFB took the energy that was evident throughout the organization's formation and transformed it into progress for agriculture and rural Oklahoma. Capitalizing upon the state's pioneer spirit, members transformed their passion and desire to maximize the organization's impact into progress for OKFB's members from the statehouse to the courthouse to the farmhouse. Closing out the 1960s with more than 50,000 members, the influence OKFB could wield was built on the foundations of the organization's charter members and allowed the budding farm organization to grow into the future. 



On July 10, 1958, members of Farm Bureau counties in western Oklahoma held this Meet the Candidate forum with two runoff candidates for the democratic nomination for congressman: Congressman Toby Morris (second from left) and challenger Victor Wickersham (second from right).



Sharing agriculture's story with Oklahomans removed from the farm has been a long-standing effort undertaken by OKFB. In 1968, one of the top commercial attractions of the State Fair of Oklahoma was the "see-through" incubator in the Farm Bureau exhibit, viewed by thousands of fair attendees.

1964 | SAFEMARK MEMBER BENEFIT BEGINS

OKFB launches a tire-and battery-service in response to member resolutions. Members could buy all types of tires and batteries at a considerable savings over regular retail prices.



1966

1965 | FERTILIZER EXEMPTED

After more than 20 years of consistent pressure from OKFB, the Oklahoma Legislature adds fertilizer to the list of items exempted from state sales taxes.

1966 | SLOW MOVING VEHICLE SIGN INITIATIVE

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's newly-formed Safety Service becomes a distributor of Slow Moving Vehicle signs to encourage OKFB members to implement them.



JAN. 1967 | 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

As part of the celebration, Dan Arnold asks OKFB members to bring a gallon of soil from every county to be deposited in a planting area in front of the OKFB home office building.



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Oklahoma Farming & Ranching Foundation announces OK AG Social Media Challenge

By Amanda Rosholt

Director of Fundraising and Public Relations for the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation

Spring is upon us, and for many of us in agriculture it signifies a time for new beginnings. We have been surrounded by a lot of noise in the last year, but as your Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, our message has been strong, consistent and clear: Oklahoma's farming and ranching families are our state's heritage and our future. That message does not change with the political climate and is more important now than it ever has been.

It is our mission to share the truth – that Oklahoma's farming and ranching families are advanced; we are efficient; we are exceptional stewards of our resources; and we truly care about the food products we raise for our families and for families around the world.

A recent study by the Center for Food

“ It is our mission to share the truth – that Oklahoma's farming and ranching families are advanced; we are efficient; we are exceptional stewards of our resources; and we truly care about the food products we raise for our families and for families around the world.

Integrity indicates that 80 percent of consumers want to know more about farming. It is our responsibility to ensure that they have an opportunity to learn from the true experts – the farming and ranching families who grow the food that sustains them.

Please join us in the OK AG Social Media Challenge to share the positive impact agriculture has on our state. For full program information, visit www.okfarmingandranchingfoundation.org. We must not grow weary in doing good – in fact, the work has only just begun. 

OKAGAdvances

Why is technology important on your farm or ranch and how do you use it?

How have improvements in seed technology benefited your farm?

How does technology improve your environmental stewardship or animal care?

OKAGEndures

What is your family history in agriculture or are you beginning on your own?

What legacy do you hope to leave to future generations of your family?

Why do you choose to be involved in agriculture?



OKAGProvides

What foods or consumer products are produced from your farm?

What jobs are provided by agriculture in your community?

What is the economic impact of agriculture in your community?

OKAGCares

How do you care for livestock on your farm or ranch?

Why is food safety important to you?

Why is it important to you to provide a quality, affordable product for consumers?

What community service or civic organizations are you involved with in your community?

Why is affordable food important in addressing food insecurity?

Why is environmental stewardship important on your farm or ranch?

What conservation practices do you employ to improve your natural resources?

Livestock donated to food banks during OYE

More than 28,500 chronically hungry students across Oklahoma will receive protein sticks on weekends and school holidays thanks to the 295 animals donated to the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation for the FFA Hunger Challenge during the Oklahoma Youth Expo. The Foundation coordinates the processing of those animals to support the Food for Kids programs at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

“This display of generosity by the FFA and 4-H livestock showing students is truly humbling,” said Jeramy Rich, president of the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation. “Through their

generous support, we can continue to provide a valuable protein source to chronically hungry children in all 77 Oklahoma counties.”

The Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs use donated cattle and hogs to produce beef and pork sticks for the food banks’ Food for Kids program. The programs are a collaboration among Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Pork Council, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Oklahoma FFA, Ralphs Meat Company in Perkins, Chickasha Meat Company, Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association and the Oklahoma Beef Council.



Together, the two food banks provide backpacks with non-perishable, kid-friendly food to students in 596 schools across all of Oklahoma’s 77 counties.

For more information, contact Amanda Rosholt at (405) 202-1463, or Amanda.Rosholt@aggiving.org.



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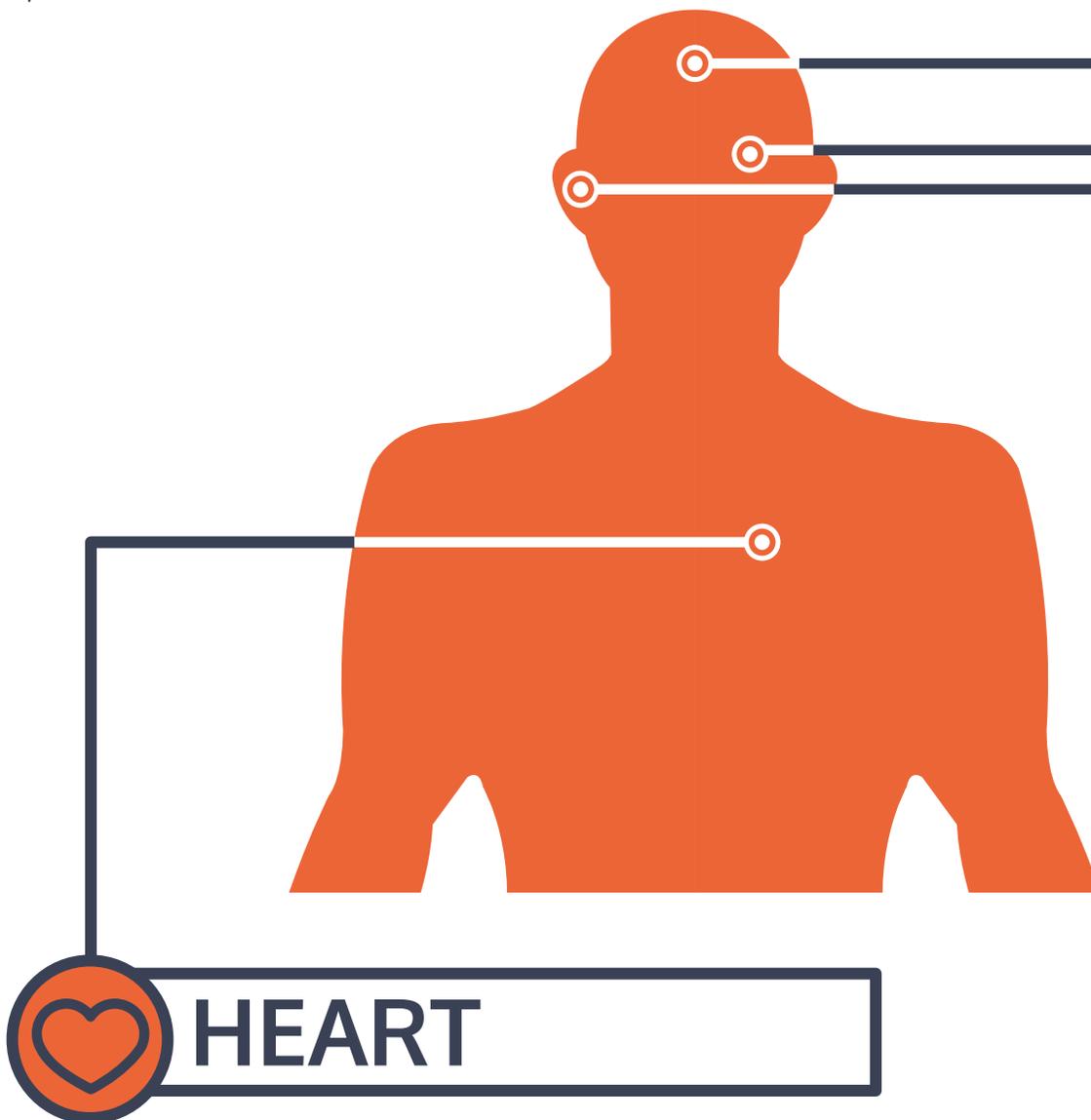


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Let Air Evac Lifeteam ease your mind about accidents in rural areas. In an emergency situation, AEL will fly directly to members' residences, farms, fields or the location of an accident simply by members calling AEL's toll-free number. Plus, OKFB members get a reduced annual fee.

LifeStation Medical Monitoring

Electronic medical monitoring from LifeStation puts medical help just a push of a button away, providing you and your loved ones with peace of mind. Oklahoma Farm Bureau members receive a discount on LifeStation's monthly service fee – only \$25.95 per month – with no equipment charges.



EYES

Primary Vision Care Services (PVCS)

As a new OKFB benefit, PVCS offers an outstanding vision care services plan to ensure the best possible care for your vision.

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from the
ashes

*by Becky Samples
photos by Dustin Mielke*

Farming and ranching communities band together to help Oklahoma ranchers recover and rebuild after the devastating wildfires that swept through three states.

On a crisp March afternoon, Britt Hilton looks to the sky, praying for rain. Although the opportunity for rain has never been far from the minds of family farmers or ranchers, Hilton's prayer has a tone of hopeful desperation. His ranch recently lost 35 head of cattle, 31,000 acres of grass, and more than 150 miles of fence. A good rain would help with the healing process, but Hilton, along with several family farmers and ranchers spread across Beaver, Woodward and Harper Counties, as well as parts of Kansas,

Colorado and Texas, has a long road of recovery ahead of him in the coming days, months and years.

Hilton's passion for ranching is a generations-old tradition. The Beaver County Farm Bureau member's family has been ranching in the Oklahoma Panhandle since statehood. Soon after graduation from Oklahoma State University, he made the decision to start his own ranch in partnership with his brother on family land.

To those unfamiliar with Oklahoma's rural areas, 31,000 acres may invoke

visions of the land-controlling cattle barons of Western lore. The reality could not be further from the truth. Hilton's herd of nearly 1,000 head of cattle isn't paid off, not unusual for ranchers just beginning their business, and the land on which his cattle graze is leased.

As Hilton surveys his once-lush pastures from his truck, he stops next to one small green patch of grass surrounded by charred earth.

"Finding my cattle in this small valley was nothing short of a miracle," Hilton said. "I had no idea what would be left of



my land or my herd.”

Initially, Hilton wasn't able to survey his own damage. As a volunteer firefighter, he was one of the first to respond when the fires began. He continued to fight the fires for more than 40 hours after the first blaze started around 11 a.m. on March 6.

“We really thought we had it handled by mid-afternoon,” Hilton said. “I was optimistic that we had really dodged a bullet, but by 5 p.m., the winds shifted and it took off.”

The blaze continued into the night,

and Hilton, along with several other first responders, fought the fires. Oftentimes overwhelmed by extremely dense smoke, they had to be careful not to hit other firefighters' trucks.

After two days, the fires were contained, but not without casualties.

As Hilton now stands next to what can only be described as the closest thing to Eden in this now desolate wasteland, the relief is still evident in Hilton's voice. The majority of his herd made it to safety throughout the fires, but as with any disaster, a domino effect

would be felt throughout the panhandle.

According to a preliminary report by Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, more than 3,000 head of cattle were lost along with 6,700 estimated hogs. After the initial shock of the fires, ranchers quickly realized the totality of the next steps facing them. The dreaded task of disposing of perished cattle and hogs was obvious, but the problem of feeding the animals that survived the fires became the main priority. In addition, miles of fencing had been burned, damaged or purposefully cut to allow animals to retreat from the flames.

As sleepless days and nights of fighting the raging fires faded and attention turned to restless days of moving toward recovery, ranchers making their livelihoods in a place some might consider the “middle of nowhere” found themselves in the midst of an outpouring of support and resources.

a community binds together

In the midst of tragedy, another domino effect was witnessed. Almost immediately following the blaze, the agriculture community sprung into action. County Farm Bureaus in the Panhandle began to receive numerous calls. Oklahoma State University dedicated their county extension offices in the area to become hubs of the relief effort, serving as “mission control” for connecting donations with those who needed them most. Individuals who had been affected began to mobilize and organize hay drop-off locations while also fielding calls from desperate ranchers trying to save their herds and begin the rebuilding process. Emergency management teams flooded into the area to help with efficiently organized wildfire relief efforts. Sen. Jim Inhofe and Sen. James Lankford both made emergency trips to survey the damage and offer words of support and encouragement.

Once again, the “Oklahoma Standard” was embodied in the outpouring of compassionate support and selfless giving in a time of certain need.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members, along with members of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association, the Oklahoma Pork Council and various other agriculture groups, began fielding response efforts, as well. Oklahoma Farm Bureau partnered with Love’s Travel Stops and Farm Credit of Oklahoma to sponsor fuel donations to help with the expenses of delivering hay donated to wildfire relief. OKFB also networked with Farm Bureaus across the nation, including states affected by fires and those that were not, to identify ways that resources could be shared to the greatest benefit for all.

Social media proved invaluable by not only spreading the word about the relief efforts, but also serving as a conduit for those wishing to express their pride in and dedication to a community often overlooked. Dozens of videos were posted to social media highlighting convoys of trucks delivering hay. Farmers and ranchers posted testimonies on social media, sharing their story as a means to tell our state and nation not only about the groundswell of support, but also about how agriculture was binding together void of

ego or accolade. A quiet, yet determined, community found strength as they banded together to help those affected, as individuals and groups dedicated to protecting the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers.

Two weeks after the fires, green grass began to peek through the sand and soil amongst the charred prickly pear and yucca, although it would be months before the newly-sprouted grass would be hearty enough for Hilton’s cattle to graze upon. This grass could possibly become fraught with weeds, but it also represents hope. Miles of fence will need to be replaced, but until grass takes hold, the sandy soils on Hilton’s ranch will continue to blow and could bury both existing and new fence.

Hilton will still continue to pray for rain, but his heart is full of unfettered gratitude.

“Words can’t explain the outpouring of support and love the agriculture community has witnessed,” Hilton said. “I have heard stories of farmers driving as far as Michigan, Louisiana and West Virginia to deliver desperately-needed hay and other supplies. We will be in recovery for a long time, but after an event like this, it really puts what is important into perspective: your loved ones and a livelihood that requires grit and determination.” 



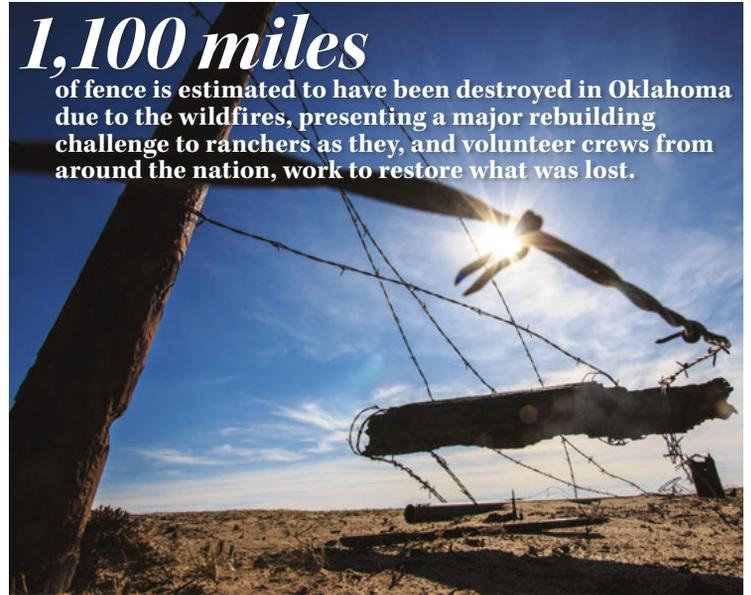
near the ignition point

of the fire that spread northeast to Ashland, Kansas, and south to the Hilton family ranch as winds changed, pastures once dense with forage for cattle were reduced to hills of barren ground peppered with charred yucca.



britt hilton

stands in front of hay from around the state, and nation, that was donated to help panhandle ranchers continue to feed their cattle in the aftermath of the March 2017 fire.



1,100 miles

of fence is estimated to have been destroyed in Oklahoma due to the wildfires, presenting a major rebuilding challenge to ranchers as they, and volunteer crews from around the nation, work to restore what was lost.



Oklahoma wildfire economic impact exceeds \$16 million

Dr. Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

The wildfires that ravaged parts of the Southern Plains in early March caused enormous economic losses and incalculable loss of human life. In Oklahoma, over 310,000 acres burned, causing a wide variety of losses to livestock, pastures, hay, fences and facilities. Estimates of losses based on preliminary information currently available sum to a total of \$14.6 million for cattle operations. In addition, a large hog farm sustained losses of some 6,000 sows and an unknown number of weaning pigs. Hog farm losses of animals and facilities likely total \$2 million dollars or more.

Estimated cattle industry losses in Oklahoma include \$6.7 million for fence replacement and repair; \$3.5 million for livestock killed or destroyed as a result of the fire, plus veterinary costs and reduced value of surviving injured animals; \$2.2 million for burned facilities and corrals; \$1.3 million for emergency feed; and \$0.92 million for burned pasture and hay. These estimates are based in part on preliminary totals of some 3,000 head of cattle lost and over 1,100 miles of fences impacted. These totals do not include any estimates for equipment losses. These estimates may increase as more comprehensive assessment of the losses is completed.

The losses incurred in the fires will have significant and long-lasting financial impacts on the operations and families affected. However, no significant market impacts on livestock prices are expected as a result of the fire impacts.



Cracking pecan's problems

Researchers from across disciplines come together for the first time in history to answer pressing, fundamental questions about the native nut as it gains global popularity.

One of the first Americans to appreciate the flavor of pecans was George Washington, who planted the stately trees on the lawns of Mount Vernon in 1775. Yet true cultivation of the nuts wouldn't begin for about another century, when entrepreneurs established orchards in Texas, Louisiana and Georgia.

Today, pecans remain as all-American as ever. They live naturally nowhere else in the world, thriving in the moist but well-drained soil along the riverbanks of Texas and Oklahoma, stretching as far north as Illinois. Over the past few decades, production has expanded far outside a pecan's native range to 15 states. And while the trees have changed

little over the centuries, modern demand has. Spurred largely by a rising appetite for pecans in China, production has gone nuts over the past decade. Now about 300 million pounds of pecans are produced annually.

But the trees are paying a price for their newfound popularity. Crops are increasingly attacked by pecan scab, a disease that is caused by a fungus.

"We're pushing the trees harder, and that makes it worse," said Charles Rohla, director of the Center for Pecan and Specialty Agriculture (CPSA) at the Noble Foundation.

The scab spores only strike actively growing tissue. Therefore, when the trees

maximize production, they also become more vulnerable to disease.

More than two-thirds of pecan varieties are now affected by this disease, especially those grown in warm, humid states like Georgia. Plus, to get the most economical use out of their land, growers will plant trees close together, which limits air circulation and enhances the moist, muggy conditions the fungus likes. Some southeastern growers spray fungicide multiple times a year to keep the disease under control.

This real-world production problem has become the focus of a new Noble Foundation research project that draws together the organization's expertise from the laboratory to the orchard. The effort received a boost in October, when the National Institute of Food and Agriculture awarded a historic, \$4.3 million grant to Noble and five other institutions to develop resources for pecans and study some of the toughest problems facing pecans.

Answering the Fungus Question

Along with new ways to tackle pecan scab, Noble Foundation scientists are discovering other ways to keep trees productive and healthy for decades by investigating pecan root structure, biology and genetics.

These scientific efforts have already led to at least one surprising discovery about the pecan scab culprit. Traditional wisdom maintains that the fungus reproduces asexually – meaning it grows from genetically identical spores dispersed by the wind and rain.

Yet a team led by Carolyn Young, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Forage Improvement Division, has found evidence that the fungus can also reproduce sexually in laboratory experiments, recombining its genetic



A close up of a pecan leaf reveals a small piece of the intricate nature of researchers' work to better understand the plant.



material with other scab isolates. The next step is to determine if and when this occurs in the wild.

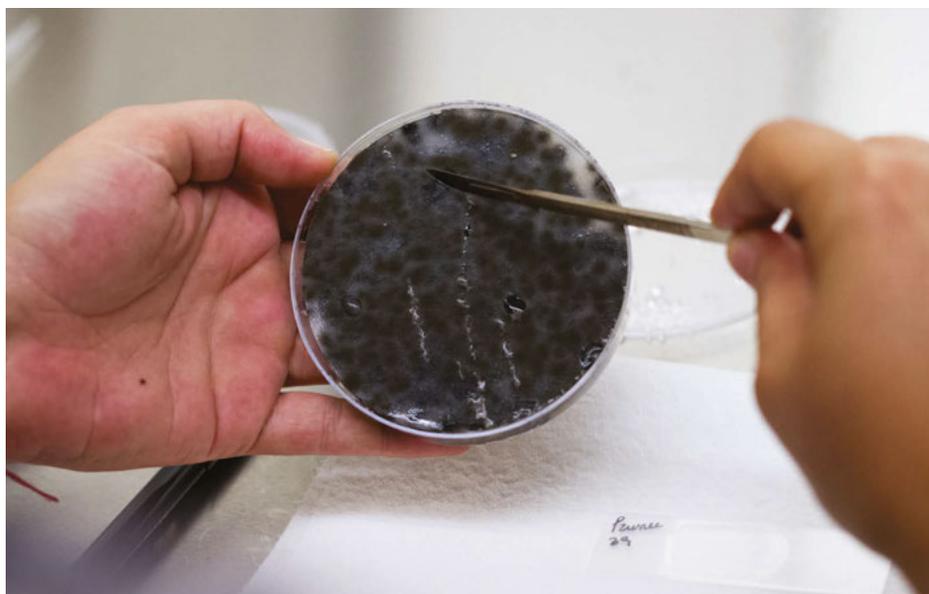
Once confirmed, this research will help explain why pecan scab has preferences for certain types of pecans and how fungicide resistance can spread. “Everybody we talk to says it’s an asexual fungus,” Young said. “But one of the fundamental assumptions may not be true. This impacts our understanding of the pathogen’s biology and may influence how we manage the disease.”

Fingerprinting Pecans

Some varieties of trees are naturally less vulnerable to scab. It’s just a matter of identifying them. The laboratory of Maria Monteros, Ph.D., an associate professor who leads a genomics laboratory in the Forage Improvement Division, is working to establish a genetic profile or “DNA fingerprint” unique to each variety. Currently, she says, growers tend to identify varieties based on observations of the nut characteristics including size and shape. But visual identification can be challenging, given that the water or nutrient availability, or the presence of disease, can change the appearance of the nuts. Also, young trees don’t produce nuts at all for several years.

A more precise – and objective – way to identify a tree is through its DNA. As of now, Monteros is building a genetic catalog of about 60 different tree samples.

“The focus of this work is to provide growers with a tool to determine which trees they have in their orchard,” she explained. “If certain trees are susceptible to pecan scab, knowing this information would help develop orchard management practices. Also, if a grower has a tree that was exceptionally productive, and wanted to get more of them, we could develop a genetic fingerprint of that tree.”



Pecan scab fungus grows in a petri dish for research purposes.

The concept of DNA fingerprinting has already been applied to other crops, she said, including coffee. In that case, coffee grains are visually difficult to distinguish, but those with better flavor are in higher demand and often get a price premium. Her team is also working on identifying DNA segments that provide resistance to pecan scab disease.

In addition to genetic exploration, the laboratory of Elison Blancaflor, Ph.D., a professor in the Plant Biology Division, is starting to look at ways by which microscopy equipment at the Noble Foundation can provide insight into root development in pecans, an area where very little is known. Propagation of elite pecan varieties requires grafting of the upper part of a tree to a compatible rootstock. Blancaflor and Rohla want to understand how the root system of pecans contribute to healthy and more robust rootstocks.

Other questions about fundamental pecan biology also remain. Rohla is exploring why all trees cycle in unison

between low and high production on the same years. A heavy production followed by lighter bearing the following year is a hallmark of the crop’s natural rhythm. But quantity sacrifices quality.

“Whenever we have a big crop, it takes so many nutrients from the tree resulting in poor quality,” Rohla said. “The following year the crop is smaller as a result of the stress the tree endured the year before.”

That makes sense, but what’s not known is why each tree, no matter what cycle it begins with, eventually produces in sync with every other tree. If production years were mixed, farmers could have more predictable prices – especially as worldwide demand rises.

“Because they are native to North America, most countries don’t even know what a pecan is,” Rohla said.

They soon will. And as more parts of the world discover health benefits and tastiness of the pecan, Noble researchers will continue to support a food with roots deeper than America itself. 

OKFB members travel to Phoenix for American Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Convention

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gathered in Phoenix in January for the American Farm Bureau Federation 98th Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show.

This year's convention was centered on the idea of uniting members from across the country to celebrate the importance of American agriculture.

Several OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers members made the trip to Phoenix to compete on a national level for YF&R awards. Comanche County's Isaac Fisher competed for the YF&R Achievement Award and Rachel Pickens from Payne County presented her agriculture and Farm Bureau experience as part of the Excellence in Agriculture competition. Jackson County YF&R member Jennifer Howard discussed

regulatory issues and big data in agriculture during two discussion meet rounds.

The opening general session kicked off Sunday morning, where OKFB President Tom Buchanan presented the Oklahoma state flag, AFBF President Zippy Duvall shared Farm Bureau's direction for 2017 and OKFB was recognized for winning five State Excellence awards.

Farm Bureau delegates began shaping the future of agriculture and rural America during the business session Tuesday morning, poring over and discussing policy change proposals with other members from across the country. Delegates covered the full range of agriculture over the day-long session, passing resolutions such as important measures covering regulatory reform,

crop insurance, the inclusion of food assistance in the upcoming farm bill, school nutrition, biotechnology, energy and more.

At the closing general session on Monday morning, football stars Peyton and Archie Manning gave the closing address with insight and humor.

The convention featured a variety of workshops on many topics, including a Farm Bill workshop presented by Oklahoma's own Bart Fischer of the House Agriculture Committee. Other workshop topics included immigration, media training, crisis management, GMOs, antibiotics, agricultural literacy, and much more.

Visit fb.org/newsroom for more convention details and media. For more photos, visit the OKFB Flickr page.



Above left: Oklahoma Farm Bureau delegates discuss policy change proposals with fellow Farm Bureau members from across the nation during the 2017 American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Top right: The Oklahoma Wheat Commission serves convention goers fresh-baked cinnamon rolls and bread made with Oklahoma wheat. Above right: Farm Bureau members speak with Oklahoma's own Bart Fischer of the House Agriculture Committee during a break-out session about the upcoming farm bill.



Above left: OKFB President Tom Buchanan presents the Oklahoma state flag during the opening session. Top left: AFBF President Zippy Duvall gives his annual address to Farm Bureau members. Top right: Archie and Peyton Manning speak with insight and humor during the closing session. Above right: OKFB Women's Leadership Committee members prepare for the AFBF women's business session. Below left: Jennifer Howard discusses regulatory issues and big data in agriculture during two discussion meet rounds. Below right: Rachel Pickens presents her agriculture and FB experience as part of the Excellence in Agriculture event.



County Farm Bureaus host various activities during Farm Bureau Week

County Farm Bureaus celebrated Farm Bureau Week Feb. 20-24, 2017, with a variety of fun activities and delicious food throughout the week.

This week allowed Farm Bureau members to host different activities and events to help promote Farm Bureau within their communities. It was also

a great opportunity for county Farm Bureaus to gain members and become active in the community. Many county offices hosted open houses to allow those interested in Farm Bureau to stop by and learn more about the organization.

To see more fun pictures and news, visit the OKFB Facebook page.



Noble County Farm Bureau had a great turnout for their hamburger and hot dog feed.



At Noble County Farm Bureau's hamburger and hot dog feed, Vance Chevrolet brought several Chevy trucks for display that Farm Bureau members can receive a discount on.



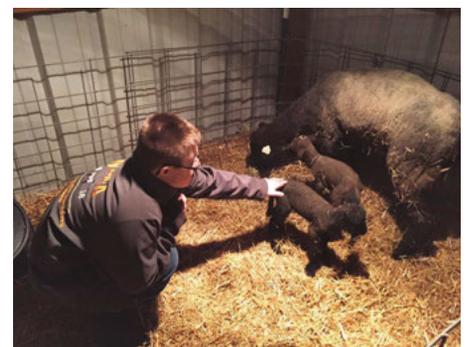
Jefferson County Farm Bureau had a large crowd for their open house with a great meal.



Cotton County Farm Bureau held an open house with a free meal and door prizes.



Stephens County Farm Bureau made a donation to a local school, Comanche Elementary School, in honor of Farm Bureau Week. The donation will help teachers buy supplies.



This photo, submitted by Shelly Sitton, was the winner of Payne County Farm Bureau's Facebook photo contest.

OKFB members hear from state leaders during legislative leadership conference

Farm Bureau leaders from across the state gathered to discuss policy for agriculture and rural Oklahoma during the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legislative Leadership Conference in Oklahoma City March 6-7.

The two-day conference gave Farm Bureau members an opportunity to learn about statewide policy issues and visit with state leaders and legislators.

Nine individuals named OKFB Champions were honored during a reception with Farm Bureau members and more than 40 other state leaders and legislators. OKFB Champion Award recipients included former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, Senate Pro Tem Mike Schulz, House Speaker Charles McCall, House Speaker Pro Tem Harold Wright, Sen. Don Barrington, Sen. A.J. Griffin, Sen. James Leewright, Sen. Bryce Marlatt and Rep. Casey Murdock.

County Farm Bureau members received an update on the state of the organization from OKFB President Tom Buchanan and Executive Director Monica Wilke, who both highlighted Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.'s continued success including its recent credit rating boost. Both Wilke and Buchanan shared the organization's continued commitment to serving as the voice of agriculture and rural Oklahoma at 23rd and Lincoln.

Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, a potential candidate in Oklahoma's 2018 gubernatorial race, shared his vision for Oklahoma with OKFB members. A proponent of small business, Lamb recently resigned from Gov. Mary Fallin's Cabinet due to her plan to raise taxes.

"To have a thriving, growing state, you must have a thriving, growing 77-county economy," Lamb said, speaking to the importance of preserving and improving rural Oklahoma.

Lamb also said he supports communities collaborating to prepare for future water needs.

"I'm pro-water," Lamb said, responding to a question about moving and selling Oklahoma water.

House Speaker Charles McCall gave an update from the Oklahoma Legislature, calling the state budget the biggest



Above left: Members listen in on the House floor from the gallery at the Oklahoma State Capitol as part of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 2017 Legislative Leadership Conference.

Above right: Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, a potential candidate in Oklahoma's 2018 gubernatorial race, shares his vision for Oklahoma with OKFB members during the OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference.

priority at the state Capitol this year.

Representing a rural seat, McCall said policy at the state Capitol must promote rural Oklahoma, not only urban Oklahoma.

With Oklahoma public education policy currently debated statewide, Farm Bureau members also heard from key statewide leaders in education. State Schools Superintendent Joy Hofmeister told Farm Bureau members about the work of the State Department of Education, including a new system of accountability for public schools.

"For Oklahoma to flourish, education must flourish," Hofmeister said.

Hofmeister also emphasized the importance of the home and family, referencing the vast number of Oklahoma students with single parents or incarcerated parents.

"We must continue to invest our finances and our time in Oklahoma education," she said.

Oklahoma State University President Burns Hargis spoke about the impacts of cuts to higher education by the Oklahoma state legislature.

"Our work at Oklahoma State is critical to Oklahoma and critical to agriculture," Hargis said.

Dr. Thomas Coon, vice president and dean of OSU Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, discussed the role of his division in serving Oklahomans through education, research and extension.

Highlighting last year's budget cuts to higher education, Coon said DASNR's budget has decreased by \$10 million during his three-year tenure. With cooperative extension agents a priority issue for OKFB, Coon asked the members to share OSU DASNR's impact on their livelihoods—whether through education, research or cooperative extension—with state representatives and senators.

Donelle Harder, former communications director for Sen. Jim Inhofe, taught members the importance of utilizing social media to influence state and federal lawmakers, policy makers, journalists and other leaders. Members were encouraged to utilize Twitter and Facebook to engage in policy discussions.

Farm Bureau members ended the conference with a visit to the Oklahoma State Capitol and a dedication ceremony of the OKFB 75th Anniversary Commemorative Courtyard.

OKFB Women's Leadership Committee to host Youth Safety Day June 2

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee will hold their annual Youth Safety Day on Friday, June 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the OKFB home office in Oklahoma City.

The 2017 Youth Safety Day will host students grades 5-9 from across the state of Oklahoma and offer a wide variety of safety lessons related to everyday life demonstrated by OKFB Safety Services personnel and other guests. Participants will learn about rollover prevention from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, tractor safety, the life-saving flight crews of Air Evac Lifeteam, ATV safety and much more.

Safety day will begin with registration 9 a.m. with safety lessons starting at 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

Applications must be received by Wednesday, May 24, and are available on our applications center page on the OKFB website.

The OKFB WLC hosts a youth safety day each year to share safety lessons with students promoting safe habits on farms, ranches and at home.

Join the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee for their annual

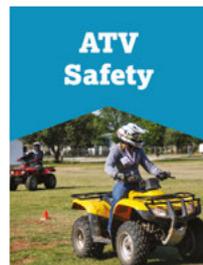
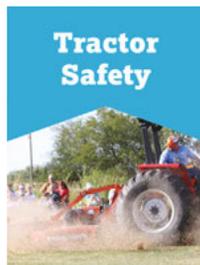
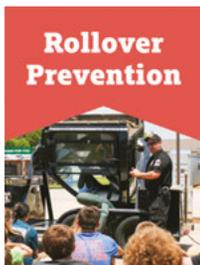
	Friday, June 2 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
	OKFB Home Office • 2501 N Stiles Ave • OKC
for students grades 5-9	applications due May 24

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee welcomes **students in grades 5-9** for as they host their annual safety day **Friday, June 2!**

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. with safety day activities ending at 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Applications must be returned to the OKFB home office by **May 24.**

Safety lessons will include



OKFB members host booth at Annual KNID Agrifest

This year's Annual KNID Agrifest was held at the Garfield County Fairgrounds in Enid on January 13-14.

On Friday, Garfield County Farm Bureau members Gary Johnson, Desdive Milacek and Elmer and Judy Anglin manned the booth. On Saturday, Kenny Ferda from Grant County joined Gary and Desdive to cover the booth throughout the day.

Door prizes were given away to Agrifest attendees who signed up at the booth, and candy was given to kids who attended. Brochures and information on Farm Bureau was available and FB members visited with show attendees about the value of a Farm Bureau membership and the importance of the organization.

The KNID Agrifest displayed more than \$150 million in equipment and agriculture-related products from more than 300 vendors.



Gary Johnson, Desi and Todd speak with Sen. Roland Pederson (an Alfalfa County Farm Bureau member) during the Annual KNID Agrifest.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau hosts Legislative Welcome Back reception



Above left: Sen. Roland Pederson (right), OKFB member and former board member, visits with OKFB state director James Fuser during the OKFB 2017 Legislative Welcome Back reception Feb. 7 at the OKFB home office. Above right: OKFB President Tom Buchanan (right) visits with freshman Sen. Adam Pugh at the reception.

Meet the newest Oklahoma Farm Bureau board member, Jim Meek

Jim Meek of Okmulgee County was elected to serve his first term on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Board representing District 9 during the 2016 OKFB Annual Meeting Nov. 11-13 in Oklahoma City.

Meek has been a Farm Bureau member since 1976 and has served on the Okmulgee County Board for about 10 years.

“I gave it a lot of thought and thought it would be a good way to give back to the community, give back to the young people and get involved again,” Meek said of his decision to join the county board.

Meek currently serves as the vice president of the Okmulgee County Board. After encouragement from several OKFB members, Meek decided to run for a position on the State Board.

“After a lot of thought, particularly after SQ 777, I realized a lot of our smaller communities don’t understand agriculture as much they need to,” Meek said, speaking of his decision to run for the state board. “I thought possibly by serving on the board, that would give me a venue that I could talk and visit with people to get them to understand the

importance of agriculture, both as an industry and a way of life. I hope that, through my place on the board, I can help the members and the company all be efficient at promoting agriculture.”

Meek and his wife, Glenda, have raised cattle for about 35 years. They have around 90 head of commercial cattle year-round on their ranch in Okmulgee, Okla., selling their calves to stocker operations.

When Meek graduated Oklahoma State University with an agricultural education degree, he began his career in education in Keota, Okla., in Haskell County, where he taught for three years. He then started teaching at Stigler, Okla., where he led a successful agriculture program with an emphasis on leadership. Students were involved in livestock showing, several different contests and classroom activities.

After nine years in Stigler, Meek was selected as the southeast district supervisor of agricultural education where he worked for the next 25 years. At one point, Meek was the supervisor for 96 schools with 96 FFA programs in the southeast quarter of the state. He was

heavily involved in developing leadership activities for young people for both the district and the state level.

After leaving his job as district supervisor, Meek began working for CareerTech Skills Centers, which provides vocational and life skills training to inmates and juvenile offenders.

“I was still involved in agriculture because we had floriculture programs and meat-processing programs,” Meek said of his work at CareerTech. “I didn’t set those up, but I helped set up the training programs that were associated with those.”

Meek retired from education after 38 years to focus on his cattle operation.

“It was a real important part of my life,” Meek said about his dedication to agricultural education.



Jim Meek, District 9 Board Member

OKFB commodity tour to visit central Oklahoma

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members will travel to the Heart of the Arbuckles in central Oklahoma during OKFB's annual commodity tour May 3-5.

The three-day tour will feature history, way of life, customs, industry and commodities of the south-central area. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit a variety of farms and agribusinesses, including Valley View Pecans, Big Creek Event, the Noble Foundation, OK Wire Products, a crawfish farm and much more.

The latest tour schedule is provided, and updated schedules will be available on the OKFB website as tour details become finalized.

Buses will load for the tour at the OKFB home office in Oklahoma City. Tour attendees will stay two nights in a Sulphur-area hotel. Meals will be provided during the tour.

For more information or if you have questions, contact Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2405 or mirvin@okfb.org.



OKFB Commodity Tour – Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, May 3

- 7:30 a.m. Load buses at home office
- 9 a.m. Valley View Pecans – John Grundmann
- 11 a.m. Tour Leroy O'Dell Farm
- 12 p.m. Lunch sponsored by O'Dells
- 1:30 p.m. Tour Brett O'Dell Farm
- 2 p.m. Big Creek Event – Darrin Bond
Visit Sulphur area – Artesian Hotel and surrounding shopping
- 6 p.m. Dinner at Rusty Nail Winery sponsored by Murray County
Hotel at Chickasaw Retreat Center

Thursday, May 4

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel
- 9 a.m. OK Wire Products
- 12:30 p.m. Noble Foundation
- 12:45 p.m. Welcome/Lunch at Red River
- 1 p.m. Future of Sustainable Beef – Chad Ellis
- 1:40 p.m. Systems Based Beef Management – Hugh, Evan & Jon
- 2:30 p.m. CAAST/Integrity Beef Herd – Evan & Hugh
- 3 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Growsafe Systems – Evan
- 4:10 p.m. Forage Improvements & Adaptations – Hugh
- 5 p.m. Depart Red River
- 5:30 p.m. Crawfish Farm
- 6:30 p.m. Crawfish boil dinner sponsored by Sam Barrick
Hotel at Chickasaw Retreat Center

Friday, May 5

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel
- 8 a.m. Drive thru Chickasaw National Recreation Area & watch movie
- 10 a.m. Chickasaw Cultural Center
- 12 p.m. Lunch at Chickasaw Cultural Center
Head back to OKC

Blaine County Farm Bureau awards three scholarships

The Blaine County Farm Bureau recently awarded three \$2,000 scholarships to local high school seniors who plan to pursue a higher education degree in agriculture after graduation.

After reviewing several outstanding applications, the Blaine County Farm Bureau board awarded three scholarships to Koby Smith of Okeene, Dalton Cash of Fay, and Garrett Parker of Watonga.

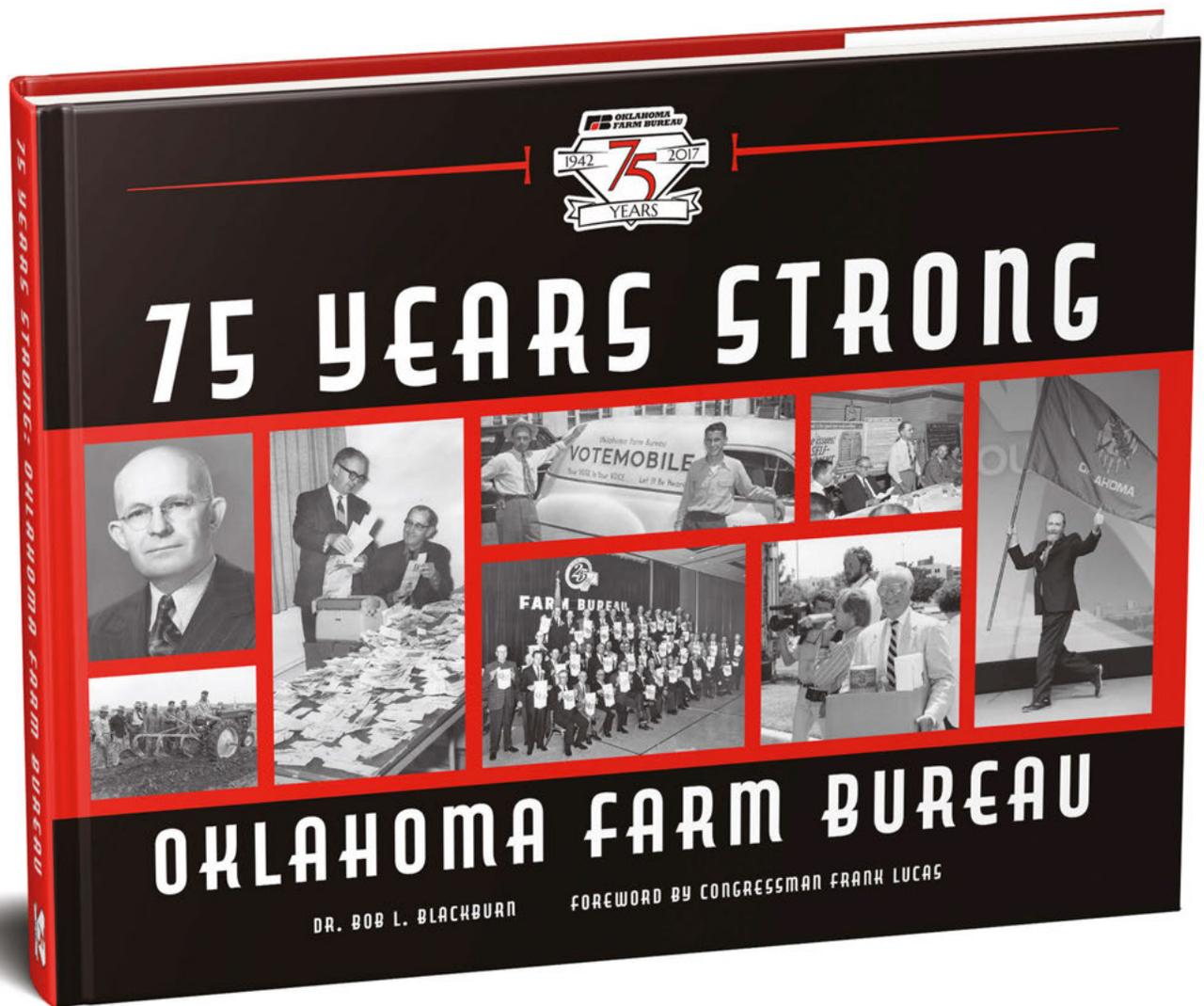
For the past three years, Blaine County Farm Bureau in Watonga has awarded scholarships each year to two qualified students. With a number of commendable applications for this year's scholarship, the board made the decision to award one additional scholarship this year with the hope of supporting another student's dream to pursue an agricultural career.

The Blaine County Farm Bureau

scholarship was created in an effort to provide financial assistance to local students who have a passion for agriculture. Qualified students must be a graduating high school senior attending Watonga, Geary, Okeene or Canton public schools, must have a 2.5 GPA or better, and must enroll full-time in an agriculture program at an accredited Oklahoma institution of high learning.

Special notice for Creek County Farm Bureau members

Creek County Farm Bureau will hold a special meeting to vote on a dues increase July 10 at 7 p.m. at the county office located at 109 S. Main in Bristow. All Creek County members are invited to attend.



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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU'S 75TH-ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOK

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*Purchase and pricing information
to be announced at okfarmbureau.org*

Two Oklahoma Farm bureau members selected for national policy committee



Roger Maschino



Adam Bohl

Two Oklahoma Farm Bureau members, Roger Maschino of Guymon and Adam Bohl of Chattanooga, was appointed to serve on the American Farm Bureau Federation Issues Advisory Council in Washington, D.C.

Nominated by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau and appointed by AFBF President Zippy Duvall, both members traveled to D.C. in February to meet with fellow AFBF members before visiting with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Maschino, selected for a two-year term, serves on the council's market structures committee which focuses on agricultural marketing, bargaining, check-off programs, and commodities and futures markets.

"Being selected for the council is a humbling honor," Maschino said. "It's

exciting to think I may have a small voice in directing the future of agriculture in the United States."

The Texas County farmer and rancher serves as the market structures chairman on the OKFB Commodity Committee. He and his family are active members of the Texas County Farm Bureau, and received the OKFB Farm Family of the Year award in November 2016.

Bohl began his third year on the council's farm policy committee, which concentrates on AFBF priorities for the 2018 farm bill.

"Being asked to represent Oklahoma Farm Bureau and my fellow agriculture producers in this state is definitely an honor," Bohl said. "It is very important to have farmers and ranchers who are willing to take our information

and experiences and make sure our representatives in Washington understand the importance of our issues."

A Comanche County farmer, Bohl also serves as the farm policy chairman on the OKFB Commodity Committee. He is an active member of the Comanche County Farm Bureau and the Comanche County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

"The Issues Advisory Council is an excellent opportunity for Oklahoma farmers and ranchers to have their priorities made known in Washington," said Todd Honer, OKFB commodity coordinator. "We know Roger and Adam will represent us well on the national level."

Oklahoma Farm Bureau honored for excellence

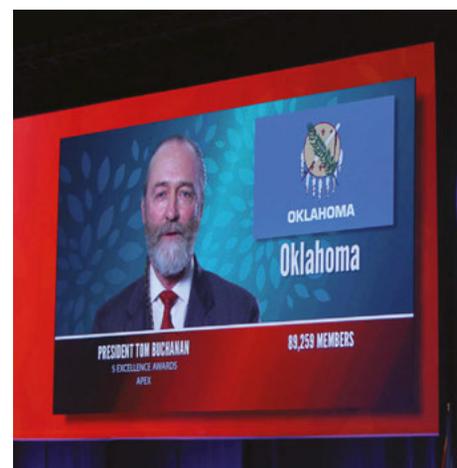
Oklahoma Farm Bureau earned five Awards for Excellence at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 98th Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show held Jan. 6-11 in Phoenix, Arizona. The awards recognized the state's excellence in membership achievement and implementation of outstanding programs serving members in 2016.

"At Oklahoma Farm Bureau, we strive to fulfill the organization's purpose of serving as the voice of rural Oklahomans," said Monica Wilke, OKFB executive director. "These awards represent our staff's hard work and

dedication to serving our members.

The Awards for Excellence were awarded to state Farm Bureaus that demonstrated outstanding achievements in six program areas. Oklahoma Farm Bureau applied for five of the six categories and received all five awards, including Education and Outreach; Leadership Development; Member Services; Policy Development and Implementation; and Public Relations and Communications.

OKFB President Tom Buchanan accepted the awards on behalf of the organization.



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OKFB YF&R Golf Classic to be held May 12

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers will hold their 15th annual YF&R Golf Classic Friday, May 12 at SilverHorn Golf Club in Oklahoma City.

The annual scramble-style tournament opens with check-in at 11:30 a.m., and golfers will tee off at 1 p.m. Several prizes will be awarded, and lunch will be provided. All proceeds from the event will be given to benefit the OKFB Legal Foundation.

Registration is being accepted now

through May 5 for teams and individuals. The cost is \$350 per team of four golfers or \$90 per individual. Mulligans can be purchased for \$10 each, with a limit of three per person. Tournament costs must be paid in advance.

Hole sponsorships are also available to companies, organizations and groups at three different levels:

- Platinum hole sponsorships at a cost of \$1,000 include green fees for four players, a meal and door prizes, two free mulligan per player and a

- sponsored hole named for your team.
- Gold sponsorships at a cost of \$750 include green fees for four players, a meal and door prizes, one free mulligans per player and a sponsored hole named for your team.
- Silver sponsorships at a cost of \$500 include green fees for four players, a meal and door prizes and a sponsored hole named for your team.

To register for the YF&R Golf Classic, or for questions, call Zac Swartz at (405) 205-0070.

Pottawatomie, Seminole County Farm Bureaus host candidate forum



Attendees listen to Billy Choate of Seminole speak during Pottawatomie and Seminole County Farm Bureaus' public forum with ten candidates seeking House District 28.

The Pottawatomie and Seminole County Farm Bureaus hosted a public forum with the ten candidates seeking House District 28 Thursday, Feb. 16 at the Seminole County Farm Bureau office.

Open to the public, the forum allowed House District 28 voters to meet the candidates and hear about their legislative priorities.

The special election will be held to replace Rep. Tom Newell who recently resigned.

Republican candidates include Billy Choate, Seminole; Daniel Matthews, Meeker; Zack Taylor, Seminole; and Mike Matlock, Prague. Democrat candidates include Steve Barnes, Wewoka; Jason Leonard, Seminole; Yasminda Choate, Saskwa; Blake Cummings, Maud; and Marilyn Rainwater, Seminole. One candidate, Cody Presley of Wewoka, is running as a Libertarian.

The primary election was held March 7, and the election will be held May 9.

OKFB praises executive order on WOTUS rule

President Donald Trump issued an executive order calling on the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to overhaul the Obama administration's overreaching Waters of the U.S. rule. OKFB President Tom Buchanan issued the following statement praising President Trump's actions.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau is delighted today by President Trump's executive order to overhaul the EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule, which is a perfect example of regulatory overreach by a rogue federal agency.

"The WOTUS rule, which defined the waters protected under the Clean Water Act, would have vastly expanded EPA jurisdiction by giving the agency authority over creek beds, ponds and even ditches. Farmers and ranchers across the country, along with Farm Bureau and hundreds of other agricultural organizations, opposed the rule because it would have unnecessarily stifled the production of safe and affordable food.

"Under the prior administration, the EPA ignored the concerns of the agricultural industry and even used taxpayer funds to lobby in support of its own rules. We look forward to working alongside the new EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt as he reviews the rule. We trust Pruitt will work to protect the environment, while also preserving private property rights. We especially want to thank Sen. Jim Inhofe for his tireless work to ensure reasonable regulations."

Wichert wins Volunteer of the Year Award

Long-time Major County Farm Bureau member and past Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee chairperson Clara Wichert was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award from the Fairview Chamber of Commerce during the Taste of Fairview event Jan. 23.

During the awards presentation, Wichert was commended for her extensive volunteer work for the Ag in the Classroom program, her leadership with OKFB, and other service activities.

Wichert has received many awards for her contributions to agriculture, including the OKFB Distinguished Service award and the National Ag in the Classroom Ag Advocate award. She developed an ag literacy program in the Fairview school district several years ago and has been involved with Ag in the Classroom since the first organizational meeting in 1981.

In addition, Wichert recently received the 2016-2017 Mentor of the Year from Mission Mentors, a mentoring program for the benefit of Fairview Public Schools in which one-on-one relationships are built between an adult volunteer and a student. Wichert has been with Mission Mentors from the 2010 beginning of the program.

The Taste of Fairview event encourages residents to spend the evening sampling various tastings from restaurants, caterers, and vendors.

Oklahoma County Farm Bureau donates \$1,000 to Urban Harvest



Dennis Lambring (middle), Oklahoma County Farm Bureau treasurer, presents a \$1,000 check to Urban Harvest. Photo courtesy of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma County Farm Bureau recently donated \$1,000 to Urban Harvest, a sustainable gardening program of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

Dennis Lambring, Oklahoma County Farm Bureau treasurer, visited the Regional Food Bank January 17 in Oklahoma City to deliver the donation.

The Urban Harvest program includes three acres of organic gardens at the Regional Food Bank's headquarters in southwest Oklahoma City. The program teaches children from low-income backgrounds about nutrition and gardening. 09680343 The four central goals of the Urban Harvest program include agricultural education, fresh food production, community outreach and ecological conservation. The fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables produced year-round are distributed to low-

income senior and childhood nutritional programs. Oklahoma County Farm Bureau has supported these programs for the last four years.

In an effort to include more outreach, Urban Harvest also provides assistance to partner gardens with educational information and donations of seedlings. In addition, the program engages children with limited resources in the food cycle and growing process on-site at five after-school snack sites and 32 Kids Cafés, an afterschool and summer program that provides food, mentoring, tutoring, and a variety of other activities to approximately 6,000 at-risk children in central and western Oklahoma.

To learn more about the Regional Food Bank or the Urban Harvest program, visit regionalfoodbank.org.

Alfalfa County Farm Bureau awards books to local schools through Bushels for Books program

Alfalfa County Farm Bureau presented two local schools with baskets of accurate agriculture books last week through the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation and Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Bushels for Books program.

Shane Feely, Burlington principal, and Amanda Jones, Timberlake librarian, accepted the books for their schools.

"We believe in the importance of teaching students about Oklahoma agriculture," said Elizabeth Shepard, Alfalfa County Farm Bureau secretary. "Alfalfa County Farm Bureau is proud to support our local schools and provide them with these resources to include agriculture in their classroom curriculum."

Through the Bushels for Books Program, applications were accepted from

elementary educators across the state. Five finalists were chosen to receive the statewide award during the Oklahoma Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting. Following those awards, applications were distributed to county farm bureau offices for an opportunity to sponsor local schools. Lindsay Headlee, librarian for Cherokee Elementary was selected as one of the five statewide award winners.

OKFB selects favorite photos from 2016



Ron Justice stands in a Chickasha-area pasture during an Oklahoma Country magazine photo shoot.



Storm clouds build in the distance during wheat harvest near Calumet, Oklahoma.



Roger and Idella Maschino, OKFB Farm Family of the Year, survey a pasture of cattle in Cimarron County, Oklahoma.



A grain cart unloads corn into a truck as combines roll through golden rows of corn in the Oklahoma panhandle.

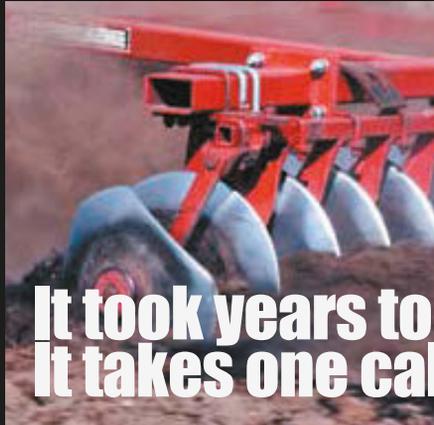
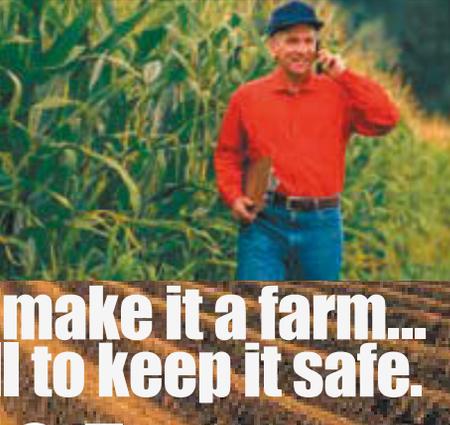


Spraying fungicide on wheat near Garber, Oklahoma.



Sheep move in for the evening near Hydro, Oklahoma.

View the entire Oklahoma Farm Bureau 2016 favorite photos album on the OKFB Flickr page at flickr.com/okfarmbureau/albums.

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Pruitt brings new day for farmers and ranchers, OKFB president says

The U.S. Senate voted 52-46 in favor of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Oklahoma Farm Bureau President



Tom Buchanan issued the following statement congratulating Pruitt on his new role.

“Today is a new day for farmers and ranchers across the country. We now have an Environmental Protection Agency administrator who will work alongside us, rather than against us, in protecting the environment as we produce an abundance of safe and affordable food.

“In the past, the EPA has disregarded its constitutional role, and given itself authority far beyond Congressional intent. The agency’s onerous regulations have hindered economic growth and placed undue burdens on U.S. farmers and ranchers.

“Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt has proved time and time again his ardent commitment to following the rule of law. As a longtime friend of family farmers and ranchers, Pruitt will ensure the EPA preserves our environment while remaining within its constitutional jurisdiction.

“Oklahoma Farm Bureau congratulates Pruitt on his prestigious new role and looks forward to working with the EPA under his leadership. We also would like to thank Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Barrasso, along with Sen. Jim Inhofe and Sen. James Lankford for their undeniable support of Pruitt.”



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Six steps to a successful vegetable garden

By Trisha Gedon

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

A thick slice of tomato, picked fresh from the vine, is a great addition to almost any sandwich. Throw on a leaf or two of garden-fresh lettuce and you've got yourself a winning combination.

But before you get to enjoy that wonderful taste sensation, there is some work that needs to be done in the garden to help ensure gardeners can grow the tastiest vegetables possible.

The first thing you need to do is choose the site, said David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension consumer horticulturist.

"You may not have a lot of options in your landscape, but with a few soil modifications, you should be just fine," Hillock said. "Choose a site that is well drained, gets full sunlight and is away from trees and large shrubs. If you've got

smaller shrubs in your yard, these can be used for a windbreak. Just make sure they aren't too tall to block the sun."

As any gardener knows, water is one of the foundation blocks of successful gardening. Make sure the site you select is close to a water source.

Once you've got the site picked out, sit down and think about what you want to grow. Be sure to consider the length of



time from planting to harvest and group like crops together. Remember to plan appropriate spacing between rows so there will be plenty of room to access the plants for harvest. Some gardeners may want to consider putting in raised beds so plant access is easier.

“Once you’ve decided where to put your garden and what to plant in it, it’s time to prep your soil. It’s always good to add organic matter to your soil,” he said. “If you’ve got clay soil, add 3 to 4 inches of organic matter and incorporate it into the soil. Well-prepared soils will help your seeds germinate quicker, it’s easier to set your plants and it reduces the work of planting and caring for your crops.”

Gardeners may want to consider getting a soil test done to determine the nutrient content and pH. This will help you figure out what kind of fertilizer requirements you might have.

Contact your local OSU Cooperative Extension office for assistance with soil testing.

Hillock said he knows gardeners can get a little anxious when spring gardening season rolls around, but stresses the importance of proper planting at the proper time.

“This is the fourth step in vegetable garden planning. Gardening can take a lot of work, so you don’t want to jeopardize your efforts by planting at the wrong time,” he said. “Proper spacing, plant depth and moisture all play key roles in successful gardening. If you’re setting transplants, make sure to handle them carefully, set them at the proper depth, use a starter solution and protect the plants from unexpected cold and wind.”

Water is a key element for successful gardening and is step number five in this six-step process. Oklahoma heat and high winds can quickly dry out your vegetable

beds, so proper watering is essential. Apply 1 to 2 inches at each watering. It is a good idea to make use of mulches in an effort to make the watering process more efficient. Mulch helps keep the soil from drying out so quickly, as well as controls weeds and helps with erosion.

“Some things are beyond our control, but we do have an upper hand when it comes to controlling pests in the garden. The first thing gardeners should do while still in the planning process, is to select resistant varieties,” Hillock said. “It can be pretty discouraging to nurture along those blossoming zucchini plants, only later to discover they’re infected with squash bugs.”

He also suggests buying treated seeds or treat your own, as well as using a spray program.

Contact your local OSU Cooperative Extension office for more information, or visit osufacts.okstate.edu and search for HLA-6004 Oklahoma Garden Planning Guide.

A well-planned, properly managed garden can provide your family with an abundance of

flavorful, high quality fresh vegetables from spring through fall.

“There’s nothing quite like the taste of fresh produce right off the vine or plant,” Hillock said. “The flavor of peak freshness makes the planning, watering, weeding and general care of the garden more than worth the effort.” 

“There's nothing quite like the taste of fresh produce right off the vine or plant.”

— David Hillock
OSU Cooperative Extension
consumer horticulturist



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Chicken and Rice

From the kitchen of Linda Taggart, Caddo County

Ingredients

1/2 cup butter
1 cup rice
1 teaspoon onion flakes
1 teaspoon salt
1 can golden mushroom soup
1 cup water
3 chicken breasts, cut in half
(alternative option: 6 to 8 pork chops)

Preparation/Cooking

Melt butter in 9" x 13" dish.

Stir in rice, onion flakes, salt, soup, and water. Place chicken over top.

Bake uncovered for 1 1/4 hour at 350 degrees.

Treasure Bars

From the kitchen of Lena Henson, Okmulgee County

Ingredients

1 cup sugar
1 cup white Karo syrup
1 1/2 cups crunchy peanut butter
2 tablespoons margarine
6 cups Special K cereal
1 1/2 cups chocolate morsels
1 1/2 cups butterscotch morsels

Preparation/Cooking

Mix sugar, white Karo syrup and margarine to boil. Take off heat. Add peanut butter and mix.

Pour mixture over Special K cereal. Put in an 11 x 17 sheet cake pan and cool.

Melt chocolate and butterscotch morsels in microwave for two minutes. Stir and pour over the top of Special K mixture. Cool and cut.

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 Clarissa.Walton@okfb.org or mail a hard copy to Oklahoma Country Recipes, 2501 N. Stiles Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

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May 2-3 • Oklahoma City

OKFB Commodity Tour
May 3-5 • Southcentral Oklahoma

OKFB YF&R Golf Tournament
May 12 • Silverhorn Golf Club

Oklahoma Legislature Adjourns
May 26 • Oklahoma City

OKFB Youth Safety Day
June 2 • OKFB Home Office

On the Road with Ag
in the Classroom
June 13-15 • State of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Youth Leading
Agriculture Conference
June 14-16 • Oklahoma City

State Ag in the Classroom
Conference
July 6 • Moore/Norman

OKFB YF&R State Leadership
Conference
July 13-15

Nurse's Scholarship App Deadline
July 15

OSU Big Three Field Days
July 18-20 • Stillwater

State Farm & Ranch Family
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August 25

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