

PERSPECTIVE

February 21, 2025



OKFB WLC hosts annual Farm City Festival at the Oklahoma State Capitol Thursday, Feb. 13

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Served more than 400 meals during their annual Farm City Festival at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Thursday, Feb. 13.

WLC members shared the agriculture story with legislators during the group's annual event that connects Farm Bureau women with state legislators, their staff and capitol employees.

"We are proud to feed Oklahoma's legislators as Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers," said Mignon Bolay, OKFB WLC chair. "This is the largest group we

have ever served, and we are very proud of that."

WLC members hosted the lunch in the second-floor rotunda of the Capitol for legislators, their staff and Capitol employees to thank them for supporting policies that enable Oklahoma farmers and ranchers to continue providing food, fuel and fiber for a growing world.

The meal featured made-in-Oklahoma foods, which included home-baked desserts provided by county Farm Bureau members. OKFB Vice President David VonTungeln baked fresh bread that was served with each meal.

The meal was served to legislators, staff and guests by nine members of the state WLC committee along with 35 county WLC members from around the state. The Farm Bureau women took the opportunity to visit with legislators and share the importance of the role agriculture plays in Oklahoma and how Farm Bureau supports family farmers and ranchers.

"It's so important for us to do this," Bolay said. "It's a way for our women to say, 'Thank you,' and let them know we are helping feed the world."



Watch our Farm City Festival video to see all the action from the event and hear from Oklahoma Legislators and OKFB WLC Chair Mignon Bolay at okfb.news/FCF25.



Five rural Oklahoma innovators share their ideas at OKFB accelerators Demo Day

Five rural Oklahoma innovators presented their innovations and ideas to a gathering of investment partners and Farm Bureau guests at OKFB's Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and Ag Business Accelerators Demo Day Wednesday, Feb. 5, in OKC.

Demo Day was the culmination of the accelerator program's Activate Oklahoma rural innovation pipeline for the Fall 2024 program cohort, featuring rural Oklahoma businesses located in Minco, Fairview, Wagoner and other local communities.

Activate Oklahoma participants had five minutes to present their innovative ideas to attendees during the program. The innovators each hosted a booth where they showcased their ideas and visited one-on-one with potential investors, Farm Bureau members and members of the news media.

"I am thrilled that I decided to jump into Activate Oklahoma," said entrepreneur and cattle producer Rachael Cooper with Well Fed, who presented during Demo Day. "I now feel like I really have the tools necessary to take the next step."

Cooper presented her innovative cattle feed calculator, which she said can save cattle producers money on feed, during demo day.

Also presenting innovations at Demo Day were A2Ag of Fairview, which integrates drone technology with targeted herbicide application to eradicate invasive eastern red cedar trees; Blackjack Legacy of Minco, which connects Oklahoma cattle producers with consumers through a school-based fundraising program; CASSIE, which has developed a cutting-edge air filtration system; and Invision Smart Window,

which has created a unique color-changing window technology that helps protect users from UV radiation.

The five businesses will now be considered for possible capital investment by investment partners who attended Demo Day.

"While we recognize that Activate Oklahoma can't solve all the rural development issues in rural Oklahoma, the program is an excellent opportunity to help make a dent," said OKFB President Rodd Moesel. "It sets an example and encourages more people to realize they can dream up businesses in rural Oklahoma."

A graduation ceremony was held for the graduates at the conclusion of Demo Day, marking their completion of the Activate Oklahoma program's comprehensive, hands-on business curriculum.

King joins OKFB as executive assistant

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has named Brittney King to the position of executive assistant in the organization's executive offices.

King will help plan events for OKFB and assist staff with a wide variety of coordination efforts. She will also assist the OKFB president and executive director with planning, coordination and scheduling to help support the mission of the farm organization.

"I am excited to take on this new role and work with Oklahoma Farm Bureau

leaders and members," King said. "Having worked with the organization since 2018, I am looking forward to being even more deeply connected to our members, our programs and the agriculture community."

King joined OKFB and Affiliated Companies in 2018 as the mail room manager and a switchboard operator.

King is a native of Harrah and currently lives in Edmond with her children who range in age from high school to elementary school.



Brittney King

Legislative update: OKFB priority bills work their way through committees

Oklahoma's legislative session is well underway, and week two was filled with committee meetings in both the House and the Senate.

OKFB's priority legislation is working through the process. SB 352 passed through committee. HB 2155 passed out of the House Utilities Committee and is now headed to the House Energy and Natural Resources Oversight Committee on its way to the House floor.

The new legislature features new leaders with Rep. Kyle Hilbert serving as Speaker of the House and Sen. Lonnie Paxton serving as Senate Pro Tem.

Along with newly elected leaders, new committees have also been assigned in the House and the Senate. Notable assignments include Sen. Casey Murdoch chairing the Senate's Agriculture and Wildlife Committee and Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky chairing the House Agriculture Committee.

HB 2752 SB 352

**Author: Rep. Trey Caldwell/
Sen. Todd Gollihare**

Expands prohibitions on wind turbine construction via eminent domain to include solar, hydrogen and various related infrastructure and requires utilities seeking to use eminent domain for certain projects to receive approval from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

HB 2756 SB 279

**Author: Rep. Trey Caldwell/
Sen. Grant Green**

Requires transmission developers to apply for and obtain certificates of authority for each electric transmission authority they operate and provide certain details and disclosures related to such facilities.

HB 1166

Author: Rep. Mike Kelley

Clarifies that municipalities may not annex land without consent from the owners of a majority of the acres to be annexed.

HB 2155

Author: Rep. Mike Dobrinski

Creates the Renewable Energy Facility Act which establishes certain standards and permitting requirements for new construction of renewable energy facilities.

Legislative Session: How to get involved

Join our weekly legislative Zoom updates — contact your field representative for details — and watch OKFB'S Lincoln to Local video series for even more legislative information at okfb.news/Lincolntolocal25

OKFB 2025 rural business accelerator applications open through April 4

Applications for OKFB's 2025 Oklahoma Grassroots Rural & Ag Business Accelerators program year are now open until April 4.

The Activate Oklahoma rural innovation pipeline provides resources and assistance for businesses with a general innovation or product while, the AgCelerate Oklahoma agricultural innovation pipeline is for innovators with innovations and technologies with an on-farm or production operation.

Each pipeline provides innovators with multiple training sessions and boot camps that begin in April and run through September. Additional training will follow the boot camps to provide a well-rounded experience for innovators.

Graduates of both Activate Oklahoma and AgCelerate Oklahoma will have the opportunity to pitch their ideas for a

chance to receive equity investment from the program's partnering organizations. Both pipelines also prepare innovators for additional funding opportunities such as grants, loans and creative funding mechanisms.

There is no cost to participate in either innovation pipeline, and candidates chosen must attend all provided training sessions.

Successful applicants must have significant business operations in Oklahoma and be located in a community with a population of 50,000 or less.

Applications for both the Activate and AgCelerate pipelines are available on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Website at okfarmbureau.org/AcceleratorApp. Chosen applicants will be interviewed as part of the final selection process.



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OKFB members to advocate for agriculture in Washington, D.C., April 7-10 during annual congressional fly-in

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members will travel to Washington, D.C., to advocate for agriculture in the nation's capital April 7-10 during the organization's annual Washington, D.C., Summit.

The trip will feature visits with Oklahoma's congressional delegation, industry briefings and national policy updates to share Oklahoma agricultural perspectives with national leaders and industry representatives.

Farm Bureaus around the country and the agriculture industry are working together on a wide variety of issues and bills including the farm bill, labor availability, agricultural market access and more, making it a critical time for Farm Bureau members to make their grassroots voices heard.

The trip will also feature an opportunity for members to visit the International Spy Museum, and a special tour, reception and dinner is planned at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

OKFB members can register to attend through March 15 using the form [okfb.news/DCsummit25](#).

The cost for Farm Bureau members to attend is \$1,500 for a single-occupancy room or \$2,000 for a double-occupancy room. Hotel accommodations will be provided at the Intercontinental Hotel on The Wharf. The trip cost includes hotel stays, admission to the International Spy Museum and the group tour and dinner at Mount Vernon.

OKFB members can book their own air travel, or they can book airfare through OKFB on a direct Southwest airlines flight leaving Oklahoma City on April 7 at 11:40 a.m. and departing Washington, D.C., at 3:35 p.m. on April 11. The number of seats available through OKFB is limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis until the block is full. The cost per traveler is \$887.38. The deadline to book air travel through OKFB is March 7 or as long as seats are available. Members who register after

OKFB's group air travel block is full will be responsible for booking their own air travel.

To book your flight through OKFB register using the form [okfb.news/DCsummit25](#).

Make plans to join to OKFB in Washington D.C.!

Trip dates

Monday, April 7 — Thursday, April 10

Trip cost

\$1,500 for a single-occupancy room and \$2,000 for a double-occupancy room. Airfare not included.

Airfare options

OKFB members can book their own airfare or book through OKFB at a rate of \$887.38 per person. These tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline to book airfare with OKFB is March 7.

Register online

Register online by March 15 at [okfb.news/DCsummit25](#)