

PERSPECTIVE

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OKFB members “Step Up, Drive Forward” at the 2025 AFBF convention in San Antonio

More than 60 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members traveled to San Antonio for four days of action-packed sessions, competitions, networking and more during the 2025 American Farm Bureau convention Jan. 25-28.

The event kicked off with the annual meeting of AFBF Women where OKFB Women’s Leadership Committee members represented Oklahoma in the business session. WLC members also attended the AFBF Women’s regional caucuses and a meet-and-greet breakfast with fellow Farm Bureau women from around the nation.

OKFB’s Young Farmers and Ranchers members represented Oklahoma in three AFBF YF&R competitive events held during convention. Jacob Beck of Logan County competed in two rounds of the YF&R Discussion Meet and Jaclyn Darling of Coal County shared her agriculture story with judges as part of the Excellence in Agriculture competition. Garrett Haskins of Kay County represented Oklahoma in the YF&R Achievement Award competition, which recognizes agriculturalists ages 18-35 who earn the majority of their income from production agriculture.

OKFB members attended the three convention general sessions where

they heard from AFBF President Zippy Duvall and several keynote speakers and Farm Bureau guests. Numerous awards were presented during the general session, including AFBF’s State Awards of Excellence. OKFB won awards for outstanding activities and programs in all four SAE program areas.

Members had the opportunity to attend the trade show where both Rogers County Farm Bureau and LeFlore County Farm Bureau hosted booths to showcase their award-winning programs as part of AFBF’s County Activities of Excellence Awards.

Numerous breakout sessions were offered to Farm Bureau members including updates on the farm bill, tips for sharing the agriculture story with consumers, member engagement and more.

Whitney Lawson, Canadian County Farm Bureau member, was featured as a panel participant in the “What Farmers Think About Stress and Mental Health” breakout session on Sunday, Jan. 26. During the session, Lawson and two fellow Farm Bureau members shared their stories and discussed their mental well-being journey to help share the importance of recognizing and addressing mental health in the

agriculture community.

OKFB members gathered for a group breakfast on Monday, Jan. 27, to celebrate the contestants and convention participants while sharing convention updates and details on OKFB’s activities and programs.

The meeting concluded with the convention business session where farmers and ranchers from around the nation considered and voted on grassroots policy proposals to set the organization’s policy for the coming year. OKFB’s five delegates represented Oklahoma agriculture during the discussions, which hit upon topics ranging from agricultural labor to tax policy and from alternative energy production to trade.

During the business meetings, OKFB President Rodd Moesel was re-elected to a two-year term on the AFBF board of directors.

For more information on the 2025 AFBF convention, visit annualconvention.fb.org.

For more information on OKFB’s CAE winners, SAE awards and the business session, check out the articles on the following pages.

OKFB delegates help set AFBF policy for 2025 during the annual business session in San Antonio



Five delegates from Oklahoma Farm Bureau helped set grassroots policy at the 2025 American Farm Bureau convention in San Antonio that will guide the policy efforts of the nation's leading farm organization for the coming year.

Farmers and ranchers from around the nation gathered on Tuesday, Jan. 28, to consider, discuss and vote upon proposed changes to the AFBF policy created and submitted by grassroots Farm Bureau members.

Oklahoma was represented in the business meeting by Rodd Moesel, OKFB president; Roger Moore, district six director; Mike Clark, LeFlore County, Cyndi Mackey, Women's Leadership Committee district five member; and Jacob Beck, Young Farmers and Ranchers chairman.

Grassroots policy topics addressed by delegates included trade, agricultural labor, tax policy, animal ID, energy policy and more.

OKFB President Rodd Moesel said the new presidential administration along with new leadership in the U.S. House and Senate makes this a critical time to set strong policy to guide the work of Farm Bureau for the coming year.

"There's a lot of change that is

happening, and we are all trying to figure out how to work our way through this change," Moesel said. "Our industry, in particular, is very dependent upon trade. Most of our commodities rely not only on selling to the United States, but also selling to our world."

"Farm Bureau demonstrated what truly makes it the voice of American agriculture," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Delegates from each state Farm Bureau and Puerto Rico directly addressed the challenges and opportunities facing farmers and ranchers. The policies they set today give us a roadmap to work with the new administration and Congress to address the needs of rural America. It includes the passage of a new farm bill, enacting regulatory reform, and creating new markets for the men and women who are dedicated to keeping America's pantries stocked."

Delegates also adopted policy supporting the development and sale of domestically sourced sustainable aviation fuel, including expanding the list of acceptable conservation practices for feedstock eligibility.

They strengthened policy on alternative energy production, including increasing the responsibility of energy

companies to manage land used for development, and prioritizing energy production on land not suitable for agriculture.

Recognizing the challenges of maintaining a strong agriculture workforce, delegates voted to stabilize labor costs to avoid drastic swings that put the economic sustainability of farms at risk. They also recommended the AFBF board study potential alternatives to the current Adverse Effect Wage Rate methodology used for the H-2A program. On trade, delegates added policy in support of a United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement review process to encourage new opportunities while protecting U.S. agriculture from unfair competition.

Policy on rural broadband was revised to support requiring companies that win broadband loans or grants to quickly complete projects in underserved rural areas. Delegates also directed AFBF to press more forcefully for reform of the current requirements for small-scale meat, dairy and value-added processing facilities.

OKFB President Rodd Moesel was also re-elected to a two-year term on the AFBF board of directors during regional caucuses held on Jan. 28.

LeFlore, Rogers County farm Bureaus recognized with national awards at 2025 AFBF convention



AFBF President Zippy Duvall presents LeFlore County Farm Bureau (left) and Rogers County Farm Bureau (right) with County Activities of Excellence Awards at the 2025 annual AFBF convention in San Antonio.

○klahoma’s LeFlore County Farm Bureau and Rogers County Farm Bureau were each recognized with County Activities of Excellence Awards at the 2025 American Farm Bureau convention in San Antonio in January.

The counties were two of 24 counties recognized by AFBF for their commitment to offering quality programming to their counties to promote Farm Bureau and support their local agriculture communities.

“It’s a pleasure to recognize these outstanding volunteer-driven programs,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “The county leaders responsible for these award-winning programs are committed to supporting rural communities and helping their urban neighbors better understand agriculture.”

LeFlore County Farm Bureau was recognized for their Women’s Leadership Committee’s involvement in the local All for One special needs livestock show held during the local fair. The event gave more than 80 special needs students the opportunity to

experience showing animals in the ring.

“It gave the students a chance to be acknowledged and celebrated, and it was just truly amazing,” said Susan Schaufelberger, LeFlore County WLC member.

“For anyone who likes to volunteer their time, it is just very rewarding,” Schaufelberger said. “You get those rewards back ten-fold, sometimes touching someone’s life who may never have access to a farm, a ranch or anything agricultural.”

Rogers County Farm Bureau earned a CAE award for their steer and hog feed-out contest, which gave area students an opportunity to feed a steer or hog to be scored solely for carcass merit and rate of gain.

Rogers County member Chris Hoskins said the event teaches students real-world skills required to raise quality animals that will provide healthy and nutritious protein to consumers in the same way that farmers and ranchers in their area work every day.

“I think it’s an important program that lets kids go from start to finish,”

Hoskins said. “At the end of it they have a product they can feed their families with or sell and help feed people in their communities with.”

Hoskins also had the opportunity to share details about the event to an audience of Farm Bureau members on the Cultivation Center Stage in the AFBF trade show.

“I was honored to be one of the counties they brought on stage,” Hoskins said of the opportunity to share their program. “We got to have a mic and be in front of everyone, and we had several people come up to us afterwards and say, ‘Hey, we need something like this.’”

“There’s a lot of great programs here – programs like ours, programs for bringing people outside of agriculture into it and telling our agricultural story.”

To learn more about OKFB’s Counties Activities of Excellence Award winners and watch their award videos visit okfb.news/CAEWinner25.

OKFB earns four AFBF State Awards of Excellence

○klahoma Farm Bureau was recognized for outstanding programs and achievement in 2024 with four American Farm Bureau State Awards of Excellence.

The awards were announced at the

2025 AFBF convention in San Antonio where Farm Bureau achievements from the previous year were celebrated.

OKFB earned SAE awards in all four program areas, which included: Advocacy, Coalitions & Partnerships,

Engagement & Outreach and Leadership & Business Development.

OKFB was also recognized for contributions to the AFBF Foundation for Agriculture with the foundation’s scholar award and apex award.

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OKFB members learn about water policy during OKFB water working group meeting

A select group of Oklahoma Farm Bureau members joined together for the organization's inaugural Oklahoma Water Working Group meeting Jan. 21-22 in Oklahoma City.

Fifteen OKFB members representing all nine OKFB districts gathered to hear from guest speakers, learn about legal and regulatory frameworks, and discuss upcoming policy action surrounding water rights.

Members started the morning hearing from Drew Kershen, Earl Sneed Centennial Professor Emeritus at University of Oklahoma College of Law, who conducted a Water Law 101 session on the basics of Oklahoma water law.

Julie Cunningham, executive director of the Oklahoma Water Resource Board, presented to the group the OWRB's water rights administration updates and held a question-and-answer session with

OKFB members on agency's work.

Members closed out the meeting with a general discussion amongst themselves on current and upcoming water right issues.

The Oklahoma Water Right Group was created by the OKFB Board of Directors and aids in providing input to the board regarding water rights issues in the areas of regulation and policy.