

# Oklahoma Country

Summer 2024  
The magazine of  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau

## Surviving *the* storm

One Farm Bureau family navigates loss and shares their journey as they build **mental well-being awareness** in the agriculture community.

### **Agriculture in numbers**

*Examining Oklahoma agriculture through the latest census of agriculture*

### **Balance through conservation**

*The Williams family of Noble County is recognized for their stewardship*

### **Capitol conquests**

*Recapping OKFB's 2024 legislative wins for agriculture and rural Oklahoma*

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# Oklahoma Country

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Photo by Dustin Mielke

Canadian County Farm Bureau member Whitney Lawson stands on her family farm that was settled in the Land Run of 1889.

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## ABOUT OKLAHOMA COUNTRY MAGAZINE

*Oklahoma Country* magazine is the official magazine of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, mailed to Farm Bureau members four times a year. *Oklahoma Country* magazine shares the story of Oklahoma agriculture and our rural communities through the eyes of Farm Bureau members, programs and activities.

## ABOUT OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is Oklahoma's largest general farm organization, dedicated to supporting the agriculture community to improve the lives of Oklahomans. As a grassroots, member-led organization, OKFB gives a voice to family farmers and ranchers through advocacy, outreach, leadership development and supporting the future of agriculture.

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**Rodd Moesel**

*President  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
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**“Oklahoma Farm Bureau has been making summer memories already this year, and we have even more happening over the next several months as we work to promote agriculture and build our organization.”**

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## The heat is on and summer is in full swing at Farm Bureau

**F**rom warmer weather to longer days to trips across the state and beyond, summertime in Oklahoma is chock full of fun, excitement and action.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has been making summer memories already this year, and we have even more happening over the next several months as we work to promote agriculture and build our organization.

Summer for many families is synonymous with summer camps, and OKFB is proud to host a wide array of leadership experiences for Oklahoma agriculture youth.

I’ve been very excited to be involved with OKFB’s summer youth activities as we work to help our state’s students learn about agriculture and the issues that are important to rural Oklahoma. Our Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture Conference was an action-packed four-day event in June for 20 outstanding high school seniors to learn more about the industry we love.

I was able to personally attend most of our 2024 Capitol Camp event that took place in the Oklahoma House of Representatives chambers in June, which is always an amazing event. It was energizing for me to see how passionate the 4-H and FFA members were about issues that they care about as they discussed and debated bills throughout the two-day mock legislative experience.

We were also proud to host a group of FFA students at our annual FFA Communications Conference in July where students learned how they can elevate FFA and agriculture through captivating workshops that helped them hone their communications skills.

OKFB is also proud to continue our partnership with Oklahoma State University Extension and Oklahoma 4-H through the ATV Safety Facility in Guthrie. We know that warmer weather for many Oklahomans involves hitting the fields, pastures and trails on ATVs, and OKFB is committed to teaching safe riding habits to both students and adults.

With school out, our Women’s Leadership Committee has been plugged in with numerous Oklahoma teachers through the state’s Ag in the Classroom program, helping Oklahoma educators learn how they can share agriculture in their classrooms. Our Young Farmers and Ranchers summer conference in Tulsa in late July is also a great event for young agriculturalists to gather and grow together in agriculture while having a lot of fun along the way.

Our WLC and YF&R have once again joined forces to host a series of webinars through their Cultivating Healthy Minds program. The online events will be held in August, September and October, and each will focus on mental well-being to encourage rural Oklahomans to have conversations about mental well-being in our local communities.

It is hard to believe that our Oklahoma Grassroots Rural & Ag Business Accelerators program is halfway into another year helping rural Oklahoma innovators along the path to bringing their ideas to life. With our Activate Oklahoma and AgCelerate Oklahoma bootcamps completed, our new crop of entrepreneurs is now in the mentorship phase of their experience, and we even have our fall Activate Oklahoma cohort applications open through August 2 for the next round of rural innovators to participate.

Of course, we cannot say summer is finished at Farm Bureau until we’ve held our annual August Area Meetings. I’m as excited as ever to gather with OKFB members during the series of 11 meetings where we will discuss the issues our members are facing and craft policy solutions to help rural Oklahoma prosper. I hope you will take time to participate in our grassroots policy development process through the area meetings, your local county Farm Bureau meetings and beyond.

Through this full-on flurry of activity, I am proud to say that OKFB is paving the way to a brighter future for our state.

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**Gary Buckner**

*Executive Vice President  
and General Manager  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
Insurance*

## Working hard through the hard times

**I**t is hard to believe that we are already in the middle of another Oklahoma summer.

While it feels as if 2024 has sailed by, it certainly has not been smooth sailing. The first half of the year was full of turbulence and challenges for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance.

Although it may be a distant memory now, the beginning of the year kicked off with a wind and hazardous freeze event in January, which was followed by catastrophic wildfires in February. As we came out of winter and into spring, Oklahoma made national news twice in March for exceptional severe weather events, first with the Marietta and Sulphur tornado and hail event, then with the Barnsdale tornado event.

As of June, our state saw 104 tornadoes in 2024 along with hail, high winds and flooding rainfall. There is no doubt that our insurance company was thrown many curveballs in the first half of the year.

As our insurance company rose to meet the needs of our members who experienced damage and losses this spring, I am proud of our claims staff who, as always, rose to the occasion to help our insureds with world-class service for which our company is known.

As we continue to handle storm losses, I am pleased to share that with our solid reinsurance program and the emphasis we have placed on our property quota to keep our premium-to-surplus leverage in line, our storm losses are not as bad as they would have been without our mitigation strategies in place.

Finding reinsurance is difficult across our industry as reinsurers are pulling out of

the Midwest. Our own reinsurance expense increased 35 percent, on average. While this number is indeed high, it is much lower than what other insurance companies are experiencing, and we are grateful for our reinsurance program.

Through the month of May, OKFB Insurance experienced an underwriting loss of \$28.5 million and a net operating loss of \$25 million, while our surplus through April was \$122 million.

**On the positive side of things, I am proud to share that our new business sales are very brisk, and our policy retention is at an all-time high.**

Anyone who has an insurance policy – regardless of the carrier – can tell you that rates have gone up across the board. OKFB Insurance has not been immune to the inflation-driven pricing struggles facing the entire insurance industry, and we have been faced with increasing our rates – and future rate increases will be coming.

Why are rates as high as they are? Simply put, it is the law of supply and demand. The insurance market is a difficult place to be right now. Many companies have either gone insolvent, stopped writing business or began the process of non-renewing certain policies.

OKFB Insurance is extremely fortunate to be in a place where we not only have a great product to sell, but also we are experiencing growth. As a company, we need to protect that privilege with everything we have.

Our insurance employees throughout our company and across the state will continue to stay focused on who we are, what we stand for and take care of our fellow Oklahomans.



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*Whitney Lawson*



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# SURVIVING

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*the*

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# STORM

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*One Farm Bureau family's  
story of overcoming tragedy  
and beginning a new chapter  
with honest conversations  
about mental well-being*

*Story and photos by Dustin Mielke*


**W**ith cows to milk, fields to work, hay to bale and chores to be done as a family, Whitney Lawson loved growing up on her family's farm.

As a child, Whitney was the fifth generation to live on her family's bustling Canadian County farm, which was settled in the land run of 1889 near the central Oklahoma town of Yukon. From a young age, she would accompany her father, Paul, around the family farm helping with the daily work required to keep the 400-cow dairy, field crop and angus beef cattle enterprises of the operation each moving forward.

The farm was a family affair that included Whitney's parents, Paul and Shan, along with her sister; her grandfather and grandmother; her aunt, uncle and cousins; and two other families who lived on the farm full-time. Everyone pitched in, helped out and worked together.

"I loved my dad, we were very close," Whitney said. "I knew even as a little girl that he was very smart and people were drawn to him and looked to him to take the lead. He had a subtle sense of humor and a strong commitment to his faith."

Whitney said her dad was not only a hardworking farmer who studied every facet of the operation, but he was also an agricultural innovator who took time to help fellow farmers and ranchers both in their local, tight-knit agricultural community and around the state.



*“He really was a man that was committed to growing the business and growing the community. When he took his own life, it was a total shock.”*

“My dad was very involved in helping other farmers be profitable and successful,” Whitney said. “He had a real passion for the community and was very extroverted.”

A graduate of Oklahoma State University with a degree in agriculture, Paul’s passion for continuous learning – and sharing that knowledge with others – was shared with Whitney, who earned a master’s degree in business, and her sister, who earned her medical degree and is now a dermatologist.

Whitney said her dad partnered with OSU extension to help conduct a program where he would travel to meet fellow farmers and analyze their records and financial information to help them find solutions to optimize their farms.

An active Farm Bureau family, Paul and Shan helped with local Farm Bureau events with Paul serving as a county Farm Bureau board member in addition to their involvement with the Associated Milk Producers cooperative.

Whitney said Paul’s innovations on the farm drove him to update equipment that could help the family be more productive. Paul was also a pilot who used his airplane to pick up milking machine parts with increased speed, limiting downtime on the farm.

Fellow Canadian County farmer and Farm

Bureau member Henry Heinrich knew Paul, and the pair participated in Farm Bureau events together, including a memorable Young Farmers and Ranchers conference across the state to which Paul flew them.

“He was always helpful and upbeat, and he was just a good neighbor and a good friend,” Heinrich said. “He was one of those guys you could count on.”

“We had an amazing life on the farm,” Whitney said of her early years spent following her dad around the milking barn, the fields and even to the sale barn where Whitney recalls attending cattle sales in pajamas and boots alongside her father.

“He was very innovative, he was ahead of his time, and he was a helper.”

**W**ith the farm booming, the family active and engaged in the agriculture community and Paul busy helping fellow farmers while keeping his own operation growing, the Lawsons ushered in the 1990s as a busy and dedicated farm family.

The family’s future, however, was indelibly changed when Whitney was 11 years old.

On Sept. 8, 1990, Paul Lawson died of suicide at the age of 36.

His death came as a shock to his family, the local community and fellow farmers.

*Whitney and her father, Paul.*



*Paul Lawson (right) stands alongside his uncle Ralph Lawson (left) and grandfather Floyd Lawson.*



*Paul and his mother, Jean Claire Lawson*



*Family photos courtesy of Whitney Lawson*

“It was really such a surprise to the community,” Whitney said. “You would hear – and I still hear people to say to this day – ‘I just never would have expected a guy like Paul. Paul seemed so happy, Paul was so involved, Paul was so visible.’”

“He really was a man that was committed to growing the business and growing the community. When he took his own life, it was a total shock.”

“It hit me pretty hard,” Heinrich said of Paul’s death.

“I never would have imagined that he would resort to that. He always seemed upbeat, but it just struck me that if it can happen to him, it can happen to anybody. I told people back when it happened that of all the people that I knew, he would be one of the last people I could ever imagine would take their own life.”

Whitney said that after her dad’s death, life on the farm changed drastically.

“This place just went quiet,” she said. “It went quiet.”

“That was the year that turned the farm upside down. Everything changed after that.”

With Paul gone, the amount of work required to milk the family’s 400 cows while keeping up with the crops and beef cattle was overwhelming. Whitney recalls constant discussion between the family members of

what to do with the farm and how the Lawsons could keep up the operation without Paul’s hard work and innovation.

Whitney’s grandfather quickly sold the dairy herd and auctioned off much of the farm equipment. The cropland was leased to neighbors, and after a few years of working to keep up with what remained of the operation, Whitney’s grandfather retired.

Not long after Paul’s death, Shan made what Whitney referred to as a “bold move” to leave life on the farm and move the girls and herself to Oklahoma City to help the family move forward from the tragedy.

“When I think about the healthy steps we’ve

*The Lawson family, circa 1984*





*Whitney and her mom, Shan, and dad, Paul, on Whitney's fifth birthday.*



*Family photos courtesy of Whitney Lawson*

taken as a family to move forward, it all traces back to my mother's bold move to remove us from the situation," Whitney said. "We really needed a shift in this family to address what was really happening in this family."

With so many emotions and changes the family has faced from the days immediately following Paul's death through to today, Whitney said she has leaned on a particular insight her mother taught her:

"My mom shared something with me early when I was a young girl that someone had said to her, which is, 'When someone takes their own life, they take all the answers with them.'"

**I**n the years since Paul's death, much has changed in agriculture from integrating technology to improved crops and ever-progressing cattle genetics.

However, the factors that impact the mental health of farm and ranch families are as challenging as ever. From economic pressures to unfavorable weather and from shifting markets to the stresses of running a multigenerational family business, farmers and ranchers still face stresses and challenges each and every day that can put a strain on their mental health and well-being.

The Lawson family has navigated the loss of



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***“You can feel connected and intertwined with the land and farming as a passion and as part of your soul, but you do not need to be held to the way that things have always been done. You need to be willing to forge your own path and make changes.”***

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a father and a husband step-by-step through the past several decades, and they have found themselves serving as a resource, a listening ear and a source of support for other families who have members struggling with mental health and wellness.

Shan, who had earned her master’s degree in social work before Paul’s death, went through grief counseling training and worked more than 35 years as a counselor helping other families achieve a healthier mental well-being.

Whitney said that experiencing the tragedy of her father’s death has impacted her personal approach to mental health, which she said has made her more willing to share her emotions with family and others.

“I practiced being vulnerable from an early age – before the word ‘vulnerable’ became popular,” Whitney said.

“I think being forthright about my experience and not being ashamed of it has really opened a lot of doors for folks to talk to me about feelings and concerns they might not otherwise talk about.”

When Whitney talks to fellow agriculturalists about mental health, she said she shares the need to be open and honest with family members while creating a safe space where everyone can admit that not everything is perfect.

“I think as an agriculture community and the way we are all raised and steeped in our way of life, we just have an extraordinary hurdle to overcome when it comes to taking care of ourselves, both physically and mentally,” Whitney said. “We tend to work ourselves to death and push our bodies beyond their limits.”

She said farm and ranch families need to recognize when they are also pushing their mental health to the limits, even though agriculturalists may not be accustomed to recognizing and acknowledging sources of stress and other factors that can negatively impact mental well-being.

“I would encourage people to treat their mind the same way as we should our bodies in that we all need to take breaks and we need to give our bodies rest,” she said. “We need to cultivate a similar mental health routine. We have to own the fact that we are a unique group.”

Whitney encourages anyone facing challenges to their mental health to take the first step and reach out to someone even to simply talk through what they are facing.

“Everyone has a resource who feels like a good first step,” she said. “Maybe it’s a minister, maybe it’s a local counselor or maybe it’s just someone with a different perspective.”



As the fifth generation to grow up on the family farm, Whitney is acutely aware of the pressure that is imparted – whether explicitly stated or not – from generation to generation to keep the family farm going. She said that while she feels a deep connection to the farm where four generations before her built a legacy, she and her family have learned to openly discuss the expectations that exist just

below the surface along with the desires and needs that each family member brings to the table.

“You can feel connected and intertwined with the land and farming as a passion and as part of your soul, but you do not need to be held to the way that things have always been done,” Whitney said.

“You need to be willing to forge your own path and make changes.”

The Lawsons live out this openness through a pact that Whitney said she and her sister maintain to check each other and make sure they are taking on the management and operation of the family farm as something they want to do rather than going through the motions trying to live up to long-held expectations.

As the family continues to navigate life

without Paul, Whitney encourages other farm families to take a proactive approach to discussing mental well-being, even if it does not come naturally.

“Please do not let tragedy come to your doorstep to wake up,” Whitney said. “Be the instrument of change and talk about things before they become big things.”

“You can have the push, the shove or the two-by-four. My family got the two-by-four. And I don’t want that for anybody else.”

**T**he Lawson’s family farm looks quite different today than it did back in 1990, but a flurry of activity and energy has returned to the centennial farm located just southwest of Yukon.

Whitney has returned to the farm after a decades-long career in the pharmaceutical industry, fulfilling a lifelong dream to care for the land that has been in the family for generations.

She and her crews have worked to remove overgrown trees, trim back brush and grass and even remodel the farmhouse. The pastures out back are home to Whitney’s growing herd of American quarter horses, which are trained for their athletic abilities in barrel-racing competitions and ranch work.

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***“Please do not let tragedy come to your doorstep to wake up. Be the instrument of change and talk about things before they become big things.”***

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“I am passionate about the land, and I believe God has entrusted us with this land,” Whitney said. “I feel called to be a steward of the land and the animals, and I think it’s an amazing way of life. It’s in my soul.”

However, Whitney also recognizes that not everyone in her family feels the way she does about agriculture. And that’s OK.


Whitney said her family communicates openly about the farm and its management. Expectations are clearly laid out with openness and transparency. The family collectively shares an understanding that members can use their land as they deem best. Whitney said it is all part of forging a healthy path forward as a family.

“This is my happy place, and this is my safe space, and I’ve worked really hard to associate it with moving forward,” Whitney said. “This is a way forward for me and my family.”

As a survivor of a family member’s suicide, Whitney said she is still navigating the loss of her father.

“It never stops hurting,” Whitney said. “The best thing a person can do when interacting with a suicide survivor is not to make it weird, and to treat it like any other loss. And avoid the temptation to jump to conclusions because you never know what’s going on behind closed doors.”

As she watched the horses roaming the back pastures and new coats of paint being applied to the farm’s outbuildings on a bright, sunny morning in June, Whitney was witnessing the future of the family farm taking shape. She said that while she endeavors to raise quality equine athletes and care for the natural resources entrusted to her, her hopes for the farm all circle back to helping people

“I want this to be a place that makes people feel good,” Whitney said. “I want this to be a place of community gathering, and hopefully even a source of education at some point. But I mostly want this to be a place that celebrates the beauty of nature, God’s gifts, community and friendships. This is just a place that I hope people want to be.” 

## Looking for help?

*If you or a loved one is experiencing thoughts of suicide, call the **national Suicide and Crisis Hotline** by dialing **988**. The lifeline is a network of local crisis centers that provide free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

*If you would like to find a local counselor, counseling services, or other mental health information, American Farm Bureau has a directory of mental health resources on their **Farm State of Mind** website at [www.fb.org/initiative/farm-state-of-mind](http://www.fb.org/initiative/farm-state-of-mind).*

*Farm State of Mind also features resources for rural and agricultural community members who would like to learn how to assist others facing mental well-being crises.*

## OKFB's Cultivating Healthy Minds program

*Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Cultivating Healthy Minds program provides mental health resources through a series of live webinars to help Oklahoma agriculturalists learn how to have discussions about mental well-being in their local communities.*

*Launched in 2023, OKFB will once again host three webinars in the months of August, September and October featuring personal testimonials and professional presenters discussing mental health and well-being topics targeted toward the agriculture community. The 2024 program will culminate with an in-person discussion at the OKFB annual meeting in November in Oklahoma City.*

*To learn more about the upcoming webinars, visit OKFB's website at [okfarmbureau.org](http://okfarmbureau.org). To access recordings of last year's webinars along with additional resources, visit the OKFB website at [okfb.news/CHM23](http://okfb.news/CHM23).*

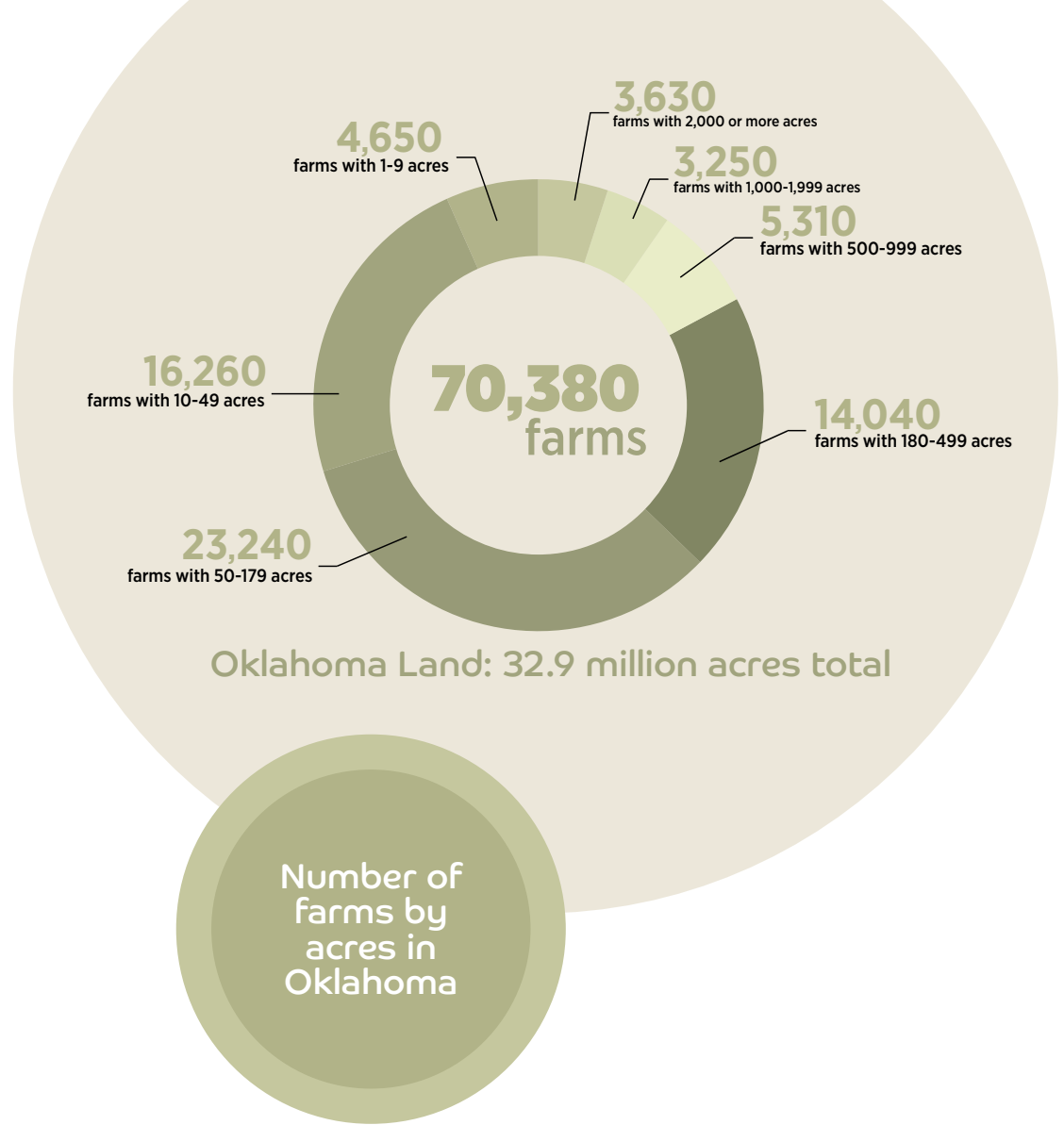


Story by Mickinzi Ferguson  
Photos by Dustin Mielke

# AGRICULTURE IN NUMBERS

A look into the 2022 U.S. Census of Agriculture





The 2022 U.S. Census of Agriculture, which was released in early 2024, provides insight into trends in Oklahoma agriculture.

Earlier this year, the United States Department of Agriculture released the 2022 Census of Agriculture, a nationwide count of farms and ranches and those who operate them. This data is released every five years and focuses on land usage, ownership, production practices, incomes and expenses. The census counts all farms and ranches that raise or sell \$1,000 or more of products in the census year.

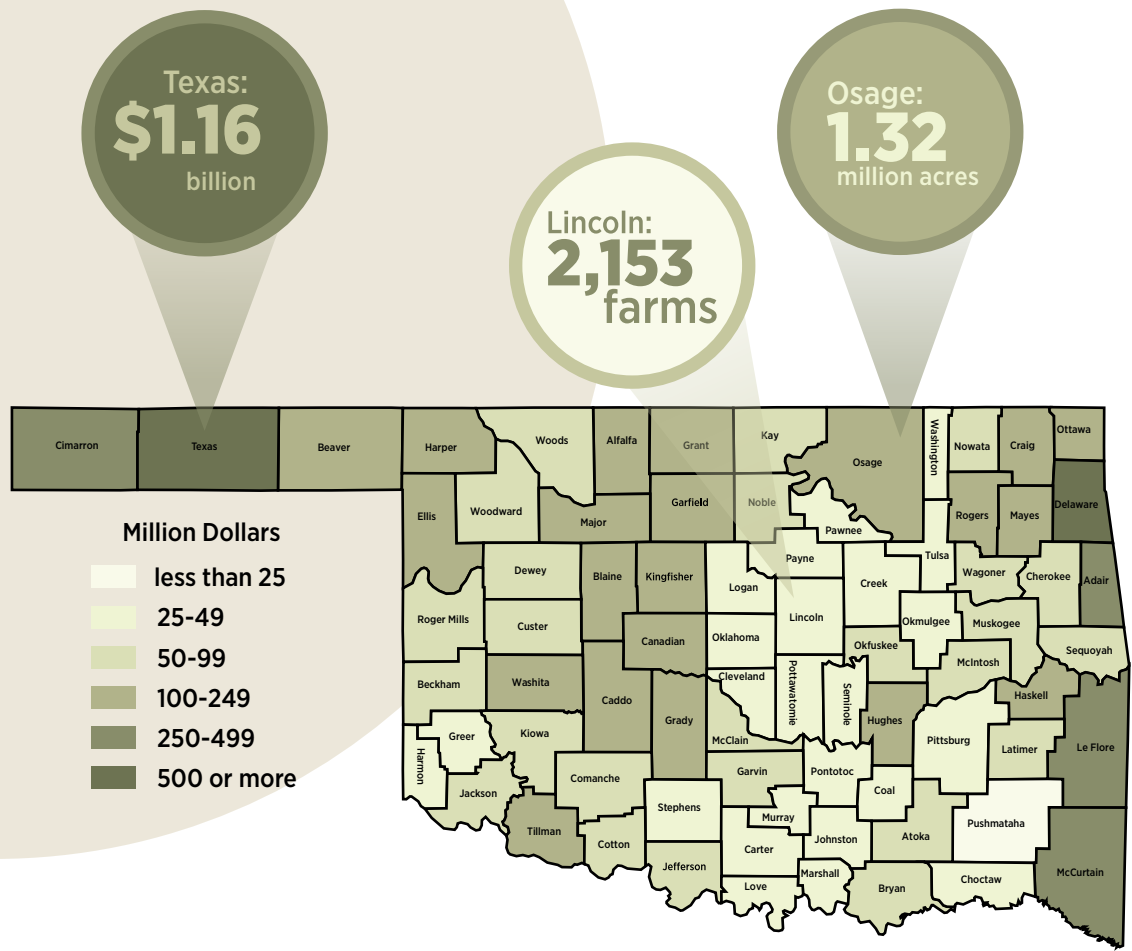
Troy Marshall, Oklahoma state statistician for the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, shared his insights to the data collected respective to Oklahoma. He noted it is essential to understand how the 2022

drought influenced the data collected during this census.

Amy Hagerman, Oklahoma State University agricultural economics associate professor, said that 64% of Oklahoma showed extreme or exceptional drought (D3 or D4) according to the data collected by the National Center for Environmental Information. The southern plains were already experiencing an 81.7% drought area by the beginning of 2022. By March 2022, the drought area had expanded to 90.1% and peaked July 26 at an area of 97.5%.

Marshall also emphasized that the data collected on crops is based on the acres or amount harvested and not by what was planted in 2022.

## Value of agricultural products by county



### Land

Oklahoma had a 10.4% decrease in total number of farms from 78,531 in 2017 to 70,378 in 2022. Total land in farms also had a 3.7% decrease in 2022 from 34.2 million to 32.9 million acres. The top counties in total land in farms include:

1. Osage County: 1.31 million acres
2. Texas County: 1.26 million acres
3. Cimarron County: 1.15 million acres
4. Beaver County: 1.15 million acres
5. Woods County: 820,627 acres

Although farm numbers and total acres have decreased, the average farm size experienced a slight increase of 7.4% in 2022 from 435 acres to 467 acres. The highest number of farms by acre has seen a consistent increase since 2002. Farms with 50-179 acres remained the largest contributor to number of Oklahoma farms at 23.34%. This equals a total of 2.5 million acres.

Oklahoma farms account for 3.7% of the total number of farms in the United States. The top Oklahoma counties in farm numbers rank as:

1. Lincoln County: 2,153 farms
2. Creek County: 1,655 farms
3. Rogers County: 1,653 farms
4. LeFlore County: 1,589 farms
5. Grady County: 1,567 farms

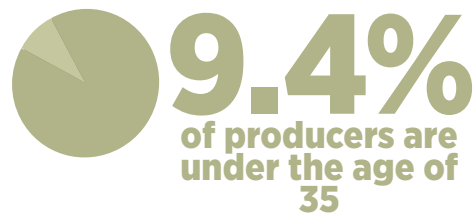
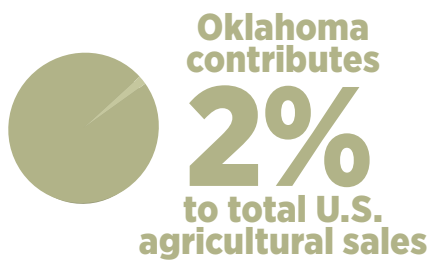
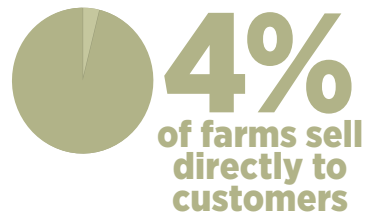
The top use of Oklahoma land in farms is ranked as:

1. Pastureland: 18.7 million acres
2. Cropland: 10.89 million acres
3. Woodland: 2.53 million acres
4. Other: 731,086 acres

### Economics

Oklahoma produced \$8.5 billion in total agricultural product sales, contributing to 2% of total U.S. agricultural sales. Comparing agricultural sectors in the state, livestock accounts for 81% of agricultural products, by value, with crops accounting for 19%.

Livestock, poultry, and products had an increase of 16.8% in total sales from \$5.94 billion in 2017 to \$6.95 billion in 2022, ranking 12th in the U.S.



Oklahoma ranks sixth in the U.S. for cattle and calf sales at \$3.93 billion – a 5.6% increase from the 2017 sale number of \$3.73 billion. Ranking ninth in hogs and pigs at \$1.09 billion, Oklahoma had a 6.5% increase from 2017, which recorded \$1.03 billion in sales. Oklahoma ranks 19th in poultry and eggs with \$1.59 billion in sales.

Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops, experienced a 4.7% increase from \$1.51 billion in 2017 to \$1.58 billion in total sales in 2022, ranking 24th in the U.S. Oklahoma ranks 12th in the U.S. in cotton and cottonseed sales at \$141 million, which is a 51.9% decrease from the 2017 market value of \$299.5 million. Ranking 27th in grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas at \$914 million, Oklahoma had an increase of 15.7% from \$789 million in 2017. Oklahoma ranks 27th in other crops and hay at \$210 million with a 3.7% increase from the 2017 market value of \$202 million.

The top total value of agricultural production by county includes Texas County

with \$1.16 million, Delaware County with \$509,000, Cimarron County with \$354,000, LeFlore County with \$309,000, and Adair County with \$278,000.

### Livestock Inventory

The number of farms with cattle and calves decreased 17% from 52,048 farms in 2017 to 43,223 farms in 2022. Inventory of cattle and calves also decreased by 11.4% from 5.09 million head in 2017 to 4.51 million head in 2022. Farms with 20-99 head per farm remained the highest contributor to the total number of cattle and calf farms at 11,878.

The number of hog farms encountered a slight decrease of 2% from 2,264 farms in 2017 to 2,219 farms in 2022. Inventory of hogs and pigs had a minimal decrease of 0.35% from 2.16 million head in 2017 to 2.15 million head in 2022. There are 1,984 farms with 1-24 head of pigs and hogs, which remains as the highest contributor to the total number of pig and hog farm count.

Cattle & calf inventory has decreased 11.7% since 2017.



Inventory of broilers and other meat-type chickens had an increase of 14.6% from 36.1 million head in 2017 to 41.3 million head in 2022. Total number of farms also had an increase of 9.3% from 1,231 farms in 2017 to 1,346 farms in 2022.

### Crop Inventory

Oklahoma's top crops in acres include 2.77 million acres of forage, 2.57 million acres of wheat for grain, 400,675 acres of soybeans, 275,503 acres of cotton and 242,644 acres of grain sorghum.

Land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop farms experienced a slight decrease of 2.5% from 2.8 million acres in 2017 to 2.78 million acres in 2022. However, total tons (dry equivalent) experienced a large decrease of 24.8% from 4.9 million tons in 2017 to 3.7 million tons in 2022.

Total wheat acres faced a decrease of 15.6% from 3 million acres in 2017 to 2.6 million acres in 2022. Consequently, there was a 34.1% decrease in total bushels produced from 100.7 million bushels in 2017 to 66.4 million bushels in 2022.

Total soybeans acres decreased 37.3% from 638,816 acres in 2017 to 400,675 acres in 2022. Total bushels produced experienced a significant decrease of 69.5% from 19.1 million bushels in 2017 to 5.8 million bushels in 2022.

Total cotton acres decreased 50.1% from 552,521 acres in 2017 to 275,503 acres in 2022. Total bales of cotton produced decreased 64.1% from 951,980 bushels in 2017 to 341,726 bushels in 2022.

Total grain sorghum acres decreased 21.8% from 310,316 acres in 2017 to 242,644 acres in 2022. As a result, there was a 67.1% decrease in total bushels produced from 16.6 million bushels in 2017 to 5.5 million bushels in 2022.

Total corn acres experienced a 25.1% decrease from 301,070 acres in 2017 to 225,365 acres in 2022, resulting in a 46% decrease in total bushels produced from 42.7 million bushels in 2017 to 23.1 million bushels in 2022.

Total peanut acres encountered a decrease of 17.9% from 19,871 acres in 2017 to 16,318 in 2022. Subsequently, the total number of bushels produced decreased by 20.7% from 77.2 million bushels in 2017 to 61.2 million bushels in 2022.



Oklahoma produced \$8.5 billion in agricultural product sales in 2022.

### Producer Demographics

The average age of agricultural producers in 2022 was 57.7 years old. Only 11,722 were younger than the age of 35-years-old; 66,405 were 35 – 64-years-old and 46,618 were 65 years old or older, a 6.7% increase from 2017.

Young producers under the age of 35 account for 9.4% of total Oklahoma producers at 11,722 out of 124,743 total producers. They operate 8,663 of the 70,378 total Oklahoma farms, with an average farm size of 454 acres.

### Other Data

The number of agri-tourism farms experienced a decrease of 3.3% from 761 farms in 2017 to 736 farms in 2022. Despite the decrease, agri-tourism income increased by 41.4% from \$6.5 million in 2017 to \$11.1 million in 2022.

No-till farms in 2022 increased by 18.9% at 5,682 farms and 2.2 million acres from 7,778 farms and 2.1 million acres in 2017. Reduced-till farms had a 14.5% increase with 3,935 farms and 1.7 million acres in 2022 from 3,437 farms and 1.5 million acres in 2017. Cover-crop farms slightly increased 8.9% with 2,439 farms

and 410,540 acres in 2022 from 2,238 farms and 342,564 acres in 2017. **FB**

All census data can be found in the 2022 U.S. Census of Agriculture or at [okfb.news/agcensus22](https://okfb.news/agcensus22)



More reports on the 2022 drought in Oklahoma and surrounding states can be found at [okfb.news/drought22](https://okfb.news/drought22)



Achieve  
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# ving Balance through conservation

Noble County Farm Bureau member Marty Williams has set the standard for conservation and received the 2023 Sand County Leopold Conservation Award.

Story by Kate Jackson / Photos by Dustin Mielke

**F**or Marty and Crystal Williams, the concept of conservation has been a balancing act for their family.

The Noble County Farm Bureau members, along with their three children, Ava, Morgan, and Ridge, have found the balance between soil health and life, applying the principles of conservation to both farm and family.

Stewardship for the Williams family not only means no-till farming and cover crops, but also conserving and cherishing the time spent together, and it was this unique perspective that led Marty and his family to be named the Sand County Foundation Oklahoma Leopold Conservation Award winners for 2023.

Marty and Crystal began their farming career in 2004 shortly after they got married. In the small community of Red Rock, Oklahoma, their farm consists of several thousand acres of, which 80% is no-till cropland, and the remaining is grassland pasture for cattle.

Marty has a diversified crop rotation of soybeans, wheat, canola, sesame, sorghum, corn, barley, and oats. Cover crops also play a crucial role on the Williamses' operation for ground cover and to provide grazing forage for their cattle.

For the Williams family, crop rotation is a key player in maintaining soil health. Rotating crops provides a variety of nutrients to the soil that feed the microbiology and contribute to the soil's water retention.

"My rotations are motivated by my willingness to try new crops," Marty said. "I want to increase profitability of the farm and sometimes specialty crops do that. I planted canola this year on land that needed to rotate away from wheat due to weed issues."

Farming in Oklahoma can be tricky due to ever-changing weather patterns, but



*(From left to right) Ava, Marty, Ridge, Crystal, and Morgan Williams are proud recipients of the 2023 Sand County Foundation Leopold Conservation Award.*

Marty has found he can use crop rotations to his advantage. Certain crops require him to spend less time in the field, giving him more time at home with his family, he said.

One practice Marty employs to continue his on-farm conservation legacy and conserve time with his family is converting cropland to native grass. He has teamed up with the Noble County Natural Resources Conservation Service to convert unused cropland to native grass pasture. With the native grass plantings, Marty can plant and wait until the land is ready for cattle to

graze, giving him more time to spend at home with his family.

Along with the native grass NRCS program, Marty has also converted a piece of land back to a natural wetland, which brings new opportunities for the Williams family to pursue. Wetlands are important to wildlife conservation as well as soil protection, and the wetland provides an opportunity for Marty and his family to spend time hunting together.

“Conservation to me is seeing clear water run off my fields,” said Marty. “I also want to leave the land better than I found it.”

No-till farming is one way Marty strives to conserve the soil without disrupting the microorganisms beneath the surface. The no-till residue that remains on top of the soil from past crops serves as an armor to prevent water evaporation.

Tillage can be integrated into soil health practices with the use of cattle, Marty said. For his operation, cover crops are more than just a means to protect the soil; Marty uses cattle to graze out the cover crops when possible to till the ground without the use of conventional tillage.

Sustainability is a soil health



“trigger word” that can mean different things to different people, Marty said. For him, sustainability means that he is making the land profitable.

Marty said he wants to be a conservationist of the land while maintaining a sustainable business model – a balancing act between conserving the land and generating an income to support his family.

Despite all of the conservation practices Marty uses on his land, flexibility is the key to the Williams family’s operation.

“There is always something you can


change and adjust,” Marty said. “That was a mental thing for me to get past. When a crop fails, it’s not the end of the world. Just adjust, or if you can’t plant this, change your mind and plant something else.”

Being able to adapt his rotation to any circumstance goes along with making time for his family.

“I’m trying to take a lot more time off,” Marty said. “My attitude towards working all the time is that it is okay to stop and go to my kids’ events.”

The Sand County Foundation Leopold Award is awarded to a good steward of the land each year. The

award is based on voluntary conservation efforts that benefit the land, wildlife, and people.

“It was really cool that we got nominated for the Sand County Leopold Conservation Award,” Marty said. “To win it was surreal because I’ve seen a lot of people who have won whom I really respected and thought highly of their conservation practices. I don’t feel like I do anything special, but what I do was recognized, and that was neat.” 

### See more online

Watch Marty’s Leopold Award highlight video at: [okfb.news/Leopold24](https://okfb.news/Leopold24)

# Capitol Conquests

*A recap of Oklahoma's 2024 legislative session*

**T**hursday, May 30, marked the end of the 2024 Oklahoma legislative session as state lawmakers adjourned sine die at the state Capitol in Oklahoma City.

A legislative session that began with thousands of bills available for consideration became a two-issue session for Oklahoma Farm Bureau when the focus turned to poultry growers and groundwater permitting right out of the gate.

## **Poultry grower nutrient management plans**

SB 1424 by Sen. Brent Howard and Rep. John Pfeiffer became a prominent conversation at the state Capitol at the beginning of

February and crossed the finish line just before session ended in May. The bill protects poultry growers who are following a state-approved nutrient management plan from unnecessary litigation. It also increases fines for violating a nutrient management plan from \$200 per violation to \$10,000 per violation, per day.

The bill was a hard-earned victory for poultry growers and agriculturalists alike, and OKFB is proud to have helped lead the

charge in conversations throughout the legislative session. Farm Bureau members' swift response to OKFB's action alerts helped get the measure to the governor's desk.

## **Groundwater metering**

Oklahoma Farm Bureau worked throughout the 2024 legislative session to gather input from our farm and ranch family members, rural Oklahomans and key stakeholders about several bills introduced in the Oklahoma legislature that focused on water policy, and specifically, groundwater metering.

This year, HB 3194 by Rep. Carl Newton and Sen. Brent Howard sought to require all groundwater permit-holders to have meters or alternative measuring systems and would have implemented a five-year maximum annual yield allocation.

OKFB was actively engaged in conversations with lawmakers and other stakeholders to find a reasonable and workable solution to ensure responsible water usage across the state, but when the measure unexpectedly passed the House and landed on the governor's desk at the last minute, OKFB played an integral role in getting the legislation vetoed.

OKFB is committed to responsible water use and conservation practices, and we look forward to working on this shared goal with the legislature in the future.

## 4-H activities

As long-standing supporters of agriculture youth, OKFB members understand the key role that organizations like 4-H and FFA play in the lives of young people.

Until this year, 4-H activities, unlike FFA, were not guaranteed excused absences for students missing school. Thanks to HB 1006 by Rep. Rick West and Sen. Casey Murdock, 4-H activities are now recognized as excused absences beginning at the end of August.

OKFB would like to extend a special thanks to Sen. Adam Pugh, who played a crucial role in getting this measure through the Senate.

## Farm permit driver's licenses

The state legislature decided in 2023 to allow those as young as 14 to apply for a farm permit driver's license, a move that was applauded by OKFB. This year, the legislature added to this measure with SB 1766 by Sen. Chuck Hall and Rep. Dell Kerbs, which allows individuals seeking a farm permit license to enroll in driver's education courses.

The measure takes effect this November, and OKFB is hopeful the legislation will help many farm and ranch families across the state.

## Rural Oklahoma

Another notable piece of legislation that passed in late May was HB 1105 by House Speaker Charles McCall and Sen. Julie Daniels. HB 1105 increases the window of time to file objections to an initiative petition from 10 to 90 days, which creates a less expensive and more realistic protest time frame while still allowing Oklahomans an avenue to put measures on the ballot.

Initiative petition reform in the state of Oklahoma has long been a priority issue for Farm Bureau members, making HB 1105 a welcome start to a complex process.

Sen. Brent Howard and Rep. Charles McCall took steps against foreign ownership of land in Oklahoma with SB 1705. The measure prohibits foreign government adversaries designated as hostile from owning land in Oklahoma. The bill, which takes effect November 1, authorizes certain designees to execute affidavits when registering deeds with the county clerk and clarifies when an affidavit is required.

Two bills were passed and signed into law that allocate funds to help rural Oklahoma, including HB 2889, which appropriates \$20 million to help with water improvements in Texas County, and HB 2937, which appropriates \$10 million to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to establish a grant program and match tribal investment in rural water infrastructure projects.

OKFB also tracked SB 453, which would have increased compensation and retirement benefits for volunteer firefighters, but it was vetoed by Gov. Stitt.

## Eminent domain

OKFB members have long considered private property rights to be a priority issue, and those rights are rarely more threatened than through matters of eminent domain.

During the 2024 legislative session, OKFB saw two bills relating to eminent domain, including HB 3159 by Rep. Eric Roberts and Sen. Todd Gollihare. HB 3159 gives landowners who had property taken via eminent domain the right of first refusal if the land is later sold by the acquiring entity, unless the land is transferred to another state agency.

OKFB also monitored HB 2191 by Rep. Kevin West and Sen. Todd Gollihare, which would have stipulated that land can only be taken by eminent domain in the state for a public use and outlines what is not public use, including an increase in tax base, tax revenues, employment and general economic health. The bill died during legislative session.


## Livestock

OKFB was pleased to see several bills involving livestock advance to the governor, including HB 3196 by Rep. Carl Newton and Sen. Darcy Jech, which removes the maximum number of students accepted into the rural Oklahoma veterinary training program and gives funding preference to students with a focus in large animals. Increasing funding for rural veterinary programs and incentivizing large-animal veterinarians has been a priority issue for Farm Bureau members for many years.

HB 2986 by Rep. John Kane and Sen. Jerry Alvord allows landowners with land on either side of roads that qualify as "open pasture roads" to request the county commissioner erect cattle crossing signage to alert drivers of the presence of cattle on open pasture roads. Through this legislation, neither the property owner nor the livestock owner can be held liable for damages related to collisions with livestock on open pasture roads.

Gov. Stitt also signed HB 3756, which removes the provisions in the Swine Feeding Operations Act that require the implementation of a points system in order to assess points prior to suspension, revocation or non-renewal of a license.

Although official business has come to a close at the state Capitol, OKFB members now turn to policy development season, where Farm Bureau members will begin developing ideas and resolutions for new OKFB policy to benefit agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

For more information on the upcoming policy development season, contact the OKFB public policy department at (405) 523-2300. 

*For a full list of bills monitored by Farm Bureau during the 2024 legislative session, visit [okfb.news/LegReview24](https://okfb.news/LegReview24).*



**Addyson Schneberger**



*Schneberger and her fellow students enjoyed their time at OKFB's Capitol Camp. They were able to experience Oklahoma's legislative process first-hand in the Oklahoma House of Representatives chamber.*

# Speaking for rural Oklahoma

**Addyson Schneberger, Hydro-Eakly FFA member, shares her experience advocating for rural Oklahoma issues at OKFB's third-annual Capitol Camp legislative experience.**

**By Kate Jackson**

**A**ddyson Schneberger walked into the Oklahoma state Capitol with her bill in hand, ready to make her voice heard during Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 2024 Capitol Camp.

Schneberger, a Hydro-Eakly FFA member, was one of around 60 students who attended OKFB's Capitol Camp June 12-13 in Oklahoma City.

Capitol Camp is a two-day hands-on legislative experience for high school juniors and seniors.

"I had been to Capitol Camp for the two previous years," Schneberger said. "I was excited to be back for my third year, and this year I was able to play a different role in the mock legislation process."

Once settled in at the Oklahoma State Capitol, Schneberger was ready for the legislative action. Her first order of business was to run for speaker of the house. As one of four students who campaigned for the role of speaker, Schneberger was elected by her peers to serve in the position.

Once the students had elected their leaders and learned how their work would progress over the next day and a half, participants headed to committee rooms across the Capitol to begin working through the student-submitted bills.

"We first started out in committee, and my bill was lucky enough to be heard and to be passed through for consideration on the house floor," Schneberger said.

The students led committee meetings to present their bills, which were either voted down or passed on to be heard on the house floor. During committee work, students presented the bills they authored and advocated for each bill's passage. Students thoroughly discussed, amended and voted on each proposed bill.

Schneberger's bill stemmed from an idea inspired by her grandmother, who is the executive director for the Southwestern Oklahoma Development Authority.

The bill aimed to create a transportation program for rural Oklahoma communities specifically for senior citizens in rural areas who do not have a reliable means of transportation to attend medical and other appointments. Schneberger said in many rural communities across the state, specifically in the southwestern part, reliable transit is not readily available.

As she guided her bill through the Capitol Camp process, Schneberger was able to share rural Oklahoma perspectives, such as her grandmother's, throughout the event.

2024 was the second year that Schneberger served in a leadership position during the event, and she said each experience helped her understand how the Oklahoma legislature works.

"Last year I was selected to be the floor leader, which was a great


experience," Schneberger said.

"This year I had the opportunity of being speaker of the house, where I was able to call upon representatives to speak, manage questions and moderate debates on each bill that made it on the floor."

During the two-day camp, she, along with other students, had the opportunity to make connections with Oklahoma house members who attended the Capitol Camp committee meetings. Representatives Nick Archer, Steve Bashore, Brian Hill, Dell Kerbs and Anthony Moore were on hand to help guide students throughout their committee work, sharing their real-world experience as house members.

"I am very grateful for the experience and the opportunity that the Oklahoma Farm Bureau gave me with Capitol Camp," said Schneberger.

"That is one of my favorite things I get to do in the summer.

"I absolutely think that I will be at the state Capitol in the future one way or another. Capitol Camp has really opened my eyes about how I can advocate for agriculture. I know how important agriculture is for our state as a whole." 

*Learn more about Capitol Camp from Addyson and fellow camp attendees in our video at [okfb.news/ccvideo24](https://okfb.news/ccvideo24)*

# AGRICULTURE IN THE HEART OF *Cajun Country*



FROM RICE FIELDS TO SUGARCANE PROCESSING TO THE CULTURE OF THE BAYOU, OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU MEMBERS EXPERIENCE LOUISIANA AGRICULTURE DURING THE 2024 OKFB AG TOUR.

**Above /** OKFB MEMBERS STAND IN A FIELD OF SUGAR CANE ON THE FARM OF VERMILION PARISH COUNTY FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT BRYAN SIMON NEAR ABBEVILLE, LOUISIANA. THE GROUP LEARNED ABOUT THE GROWING SEASON AND SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR SUGAR CANE.

From rice fields dotted by crawfish traps to the roaring sound of airboats skirting across marshlands, more than 60 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members experienced the spicy, savory and sweet Louisiana agriculture industry in and around Vermilion Parish during the 2024 OKFB Ag Tour.

The tour featured two full days of stops and visits to farms, agribusinesses and cultural destinations in southwest Louisiana near Lafayette from May 6-9.

OKFB members arrived on Monday, May 6, with a welcome dinner and meeting with Vermilion Parish Farm Bureau members and leaders at the parish Farm Bureau office. The local Farm Bureau planned the tour stops for OKFB members with numerous visits at local Farm Bureau members' farms and ranches.

The first full day of visits kicked off on Tuesday, May 7, with a tour of the

LSU AgCenter H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station. OKFB members learned about the class-leading rice breeding program the station has developed over decades, which has resulted in 64 varieties of rice bred for farmers. OKFB members also received an overview of the Louisiana rice industry, which covers 415,000 acres of farmland in the state. The group toured the research farm where they saw rice in various stages of growth along with crawfish ponds where the station studies diversified rice and crawfish production programs, a production system reminiscent of integrated cattle and wheat production in Oklahoma.

Tuesday afternoon featured tours of local farms including a stop at a sugar cane field farmed by Vermilion Parish County Farm Bureau President Bryan Simon who showed OKFB members farm equipment used in sugar cane production along with an overview of

the crop's growing season. Louisiana farmers harvested just under half a million acres of sugarcane in 2022.

OKFB members heard from rancher Raymond Fontenot of Crescent Bar F who raises grass-finished beef that he sells directly to area chefs for use in their restaurants. The Duhon family showed OKFB members the heart of their haying operation where they take round hay bales and re-bale and bundle them into small square bales for sale around the region.

The evening featured a tour of L'Terre at Live Oak Plantation, a 6000-acre farm that encompasses managed marshlands, rice and crawfish fields, cattle and hay production. OKFB members traversed the marshlands from atop airboats and had the opportunity to see the alligators that call L'Terre home.

After a crawfish boil dinner, Farm Bureau members learned about alligator farming and conservation,





*Above / CRAWFISH BOIL AT LIVE OAK PLANTATION.*



*Above / SUGAR CANE HARVESTING EQUIPMENT AT LASUCA SUGAR.*



*Above / AIRBOAT TOURS OF MANAGED LOUISIANA MARSHLAND.*



*Above / CRAWFISH AT THE LSU AGCENTER H. ROUSE CAFFEY RICE RESEARCH STATION.*

which work hand-in-hand to preserve a wild population in the area while raising alligators commercially for a wide variety of beneficial purposes. The state of Louisiana sponsors an alligator egg collection program and partners with farmers to raise alligators and release a percentage of the animals back into their native habitat to ensure a stable wild population.

Wednesday, May 8, kicked off at Avery Island at the Tabasco Factory Tour and Museum where OKFB members learned about the history of Tabasco, the peppers that are raised for the internationally known hot sauce and the personal details of the McIlhenny family, who has been at the helm of the company for generations.

The next stop took members to the Louisiana Sugar Cane Cooperative, or LASUCA, in St. Martinville. Members learned how sugar cane that is grown around the region is milled into sugar

for consumers around the country and beyond. Even with drought conditions that persisted during the last growing season, LASUCA produced 450 million pounds of sugar from the 58,000 loads of sugarcane the plant received last year. John Hebert, LASUCA ag division manager, showed OKFB members sugar cane harvesting equipment and discussed the cooperative's custom harvesting operation and shared that once sugar cane harvest begins in late fall, harvesters run – rain or shine – to keep the coop's mill running throughout the season.

OKFB members visited the Houmas House Plantation on the banks of the Mississippi River near the town of Darrow where they toured the historic home and gardens. A tour guide walked members through the home and shared information about the property's history, its residents and the role the plantation played throughout the area's history.

The 2024 Ag Tour culminated in a visit to the Louisiana Farm Bureau headquarters in Baton Rouge where LAFB staff and leaders hosted a dinner and took OKFB members on a tour of the organization's new building. State board members Allen McClain and Richard Fortenot along with LAFB Assistant to the President Kyle McCann welcomed members to the office and shared how their organization represents Louisiana farmers and ranchers.

Throughout the tour, OKFB members sampled a wide variety of local cajun and regional food at several meals featuring crawfish, oysters, shrimp, crab and more. **FB**

*See more online*

*Watch our highlight video of the 2024 OKFB Ag Tour online at:*

**okfb.news/louisiana24**



**Above |** Attendees at the 2024 Women's Leadership Committee conference packed bags of toiletry supplies for families staying at the Oklahoma City Ronald McDonald House. The charity organization, which provides housing and support for families of children receiving medical care at hospitals around the nation, is the focus of charity efforts made by Farm Bureau women around the nation, in partnership with American Farm Bureau.



**Above |** Francie Tolle shares her experiences in agriculture, including her current work with USDA's Risk Management Agency, during the 2024 OKFB WLC conference.

## Farm Bureau women from around the state gather for fun and fellowship during annual OKFB WLC conference

*More than 100 OKFB women attended the conference packed with breakout sessions, keynote speakers, a service project and a tour of the Oklahoma City National Memorial.*

Oklahoma Farm Bureau women from around the state joined together for a weekend of fellowship, service and learning during the 2024 OKFB Women's Leadership Committee's annual statewide conference at the Embassy Suites Downtown Medical Center in Oklahoma City April 19-20.

The conference featured breakout sessions, community service projects, a silent auction fundraiser and networking opportunities for the more than 100 Farm Bureau members who attended.

The conference kicked off Friday, April 19, with two community service projects. Members assembled bags of toiletry supplies for families staying

at the Oklahoma City Ronald McDonald House, which serves as a home for families of children receiving medical treatment at Oklahoma City-area hospitals. The committee presented Susan Adams, president and chief executive officer of the Oklahoma City Ronald McDonald House, with bags of toiletries for house guests.

Members also wrote letters to veterans, providing a point of connection for service members.

Farm Bureau women had the opportunity to bid on silent auction items donated by county women's committees and others in an effort to raise funds for the Bushels for Books program. The program, a

collaboration between the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture and the OKFB WLC, provides collections of accurate agriculture books to classrooms around the state through an application process.

Featured speakers included former Oklahoma Highway Patrolman Charlie Hanger of Perry, who arrested convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. Hanger shared his story during the Friday night dinner gathering, which marked the 29th anniversary of the bombing. OKFB President Rodd Moesel led a tour of the Oklahoma City Memorial for the conference attendees after dinner.

Fellow OKFB member, farmer and USDA Risk Management Agency



**Above** | OKFB WLC members presents Susan Adams of the Oklahoma City Ronald McDonald House with toiletry bags assembled by WLC members as part of a service project during the conference.



**Above** | Sheri Glazier shares tips on preparing beef during a breakout session.



**Above** | WLC Chair Mignon Bolay greets members at the annual WLC conference.

Product Administration and Standards Administrator Francie Tolle shared her Farm Bureau and agriculture story with the group at lunch on Saturday.

Numerous breakout sessions on Saturday, April 20, provided conference attendees with opportunities to learn about agriculture, sharing the farm and ranch story and other topics of interest with the rural-based attendees. Sessions included Agriculture in the Classroom lessons; farm transition strategies; adding wildflowers to gardens and landscaping; WLC program idea sharing; food preparation techniques, choosing ideal beef cuts; and more.

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**Above |** A portion of OKFB's delegation to the Washington, D.C., Summit, poses on the rooftop of the American Farm Bureau offices after hearing industry updates from several agriculture groups and officials.

## OKFB members elevate voice of agriculture in nation's capital during OKFB's Washington, D.C., Summit

**M**ore than 50 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members traveled to Washington, D.C., April 8-12 to advocate for agriculture and learn about the latest national issues facing the industry during OKFB's 2024 Washington, D.C., Summit fly-in.

The trip included congressional briefings, industry updates, group activities and time to tour the sights of our nation's capital, allowing OKFB members an opportunity to share their perspectives with officials and industry representatives who influence legislation, craft laws and oversee regulations impacting agriculture.

### **Congressional briefings**

A series of congressional briefings served as the centerpiece of the 2024 Washington, D.C., Summit, and members had the chance to hear from Sens. James Lankford and Markwayne Mullin on Wednesday, April 10.

Lankford shared with Farm Bureau members his position on immigration and border security, the wars in Ukraine and Israel, and the progress he has seen on the farm bill. Mullin visited about budgetary appropriations and earmarks, government shutdowns and the challenges that follow, and tribal relations.

OKFB members made their way to

Capitol Hill again on Thursday, April 11, to hear from four of Oklahoma's five house members. Rep. Stephanie Bice shared her perspective on inflation, the current administration's executive orders and foreign ownership of land.

Fellow OKFB member Rep. Frank Lucas explained the challenges and progress on the farm bill, noting his view that perfecting the farm bill should not become a hindrance to passing the farm bill.

Rep. Kevin Hern of Tulsa visited with members about the impacts of stepped-up basis on farm transitions, agricultural labor challenges and the H2A visa program, the Ukrainian war's impact on the nation's wheat supply and more.

Rep. Josh Brecheen walked members through governmental spending and income tax considerations. The newest of Oklahoma's congressional delegation, Brecheen also shared his vision for food assistance reform for the farm bill's nutrition title.

### **Agriculture industry updates**

OKFB members had the opportunity to hear several industry updates including presentations from representatives of American Farm Bureau, the British Embassy and both the U.S. House and Senate agriculture

committees on Tuesday, April 9.

AFBF's Dave Salmonson and John Walt Boatwright shared the work the national farm organization is doing to provide relief for labor pressures facing farmers and ranchers, efforts to spur the Biden Administration to work toward new trade agreements, and an update on the Environmental Protection Agency's strategies and maneuvers on restricting pesticide usage related to the Endangered Species Act along with the agency's recent ruling restricting the use of over-the-top dicamba.

Fellow Oklahoman and House agriculture committee staffer Ricky Schroeder and Senate agriculture committee staff member John Newton each provided an update on the ongoing preparatory work for the upcoming farm bill. Each focused on the current baseline budget of \$1.5 trillion, \$1.2 trillion of which is designated for the nutrition title, and the options for securing funding to ensure production agriculture has a reliable safety net.

British Embassy representatives spoke on the processes the British government is undertaking to expand agricultural trade for the island nation as it continues to navigate the effects of Brexit. Embassy officials also discussed the nation's efforts to improve agricultural efficiency while



Sen. Mullin



Rep. Blice



Rep. Hern



Sen. Lankford



Rep. Brecheen



Rep. Lucas

**See more online:** Watch our Facebook video of our Washington, D.C., trip, including insight from OKFB member Tommy Salisbury, to see and learn more about OKFB's time in the capital at [okfb.news/summitrecap24](https://okfb.news/summitrecap24)

focusing on minimizing environmental impacts.

On Wednesday, April 10, Farm Bureau members heard from Rodd Snyder, senior adviser for agriculture to the EPA administrator, and Luke Tomanelli, head of North America policy and advocacy for Bayer Crop Science.

Snyder shared with members the EPA's top three agriculture issues, including pesticide policy, water policy and renewable energy. Tomanelli shared his perspective on pesticide labels, challenges with Bayer's recent glyphosate conflicts, the future of dicamba use and the rising concern about PFAS, or, "forever chemicals."

On Friday, April 12, OKFB members traveled to AFBF headquarters to learn about the national legislative and policy issues John Deere, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and AFBF are navigating. Discussion points included the farm bill, national animal identification proposals, animal care issues and more.

**Group events**

OKFB members also took time to enjoy Washington during the trip. An opening reception with congressional and AFBF staff on Monday evening fostered fellowship, and a dinner

cruise on the Potomac River Wednesday night provided members with a unique perspective on our nation's capital with views of monuments, the wharf and other landmarks. A special nighttime

monuments tour was led by OKFB President Rodd Moesel where members learned about the monuments and the people and events they memorialize.



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**Above |** Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference participants pose for a photo at the OKFB home office at the conclusion of the four-day event.



**Above |** OYLA students toured several agricultural businesses, including Whitmore Farms near Coyle.

## OKFB YF&R hosts twenty high school students for annual Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference

**T**wenty high school seniors from across the state recently participated in Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference May 28-31 in Oklahoma City.

OYLA is a four-day annual event hosted by the OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers to prepare high school students for a future career in agriculture and to advance their leadership skills.

The 20 students who attended were Bridger Arrington, Mullhall; Brance Barnett, Dill City; Bailey Beggs, Foss; Paisley Beshear, Cameron; Kaylee Blagden, Mullhall; Sydney Coleman, Checotah; Coy Davidson, Lawton; LeAundre Delonia, Okmulgee; Amos Grimes, Meeker; Kalen Groves, Beggs; Jocelyn James, Ada; Kaylee Junghanns, Medford; Haley Kretchmar, Purcell; Heath Laubach,

Woodward; Wesley Lester, Muskogee; Lynlee McCurry, Locust Grove; Tobie Mitchell, Marlow; Addyson Schneberger, Carnegie; Allison Tillinghast, Collinsville; and Paisley White, Fairview.

Throughout the week, the group had the opportunity to tour local agricultural enterprises including Lopez Foods, Whitmore Farms, the Oklahoma City Zoo, the Oklahoma State University Student Farm and the Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Products Center. Students also volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, learned about agricultural policy and how bills get placed into law, and discovered how to share agriculture with their communities with the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom program.

“What I’ve enjoyed most is being around kids that have the same

interests as I do and enjoy being around the agriculture industry, but who are also leaders in their communities and chapters,” said Addyson Schneberger, OYLA participant.

OKFB President Rodd Moesel visited with students about Farm Bureau’s policy work for rural Oklahoma and agriculture.

Participants of the conference were selected through an application process. The students selected represent some of Oklahoma’s most promising high school agriculturalists.

The students attending the conference plan to pursue a wide variety of agricultural degrees after high school, including agribusiness, agricultural communications, animal science and plant and soil sciences.

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# OKFB sets 2024 August Area Meetings to kick off grassroots policy development season

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau will kick off its 2024 grassroots policy development season with the organization's annual August Area Meetings, which will be held across the state throughout the month between August 1 and August 29.

Eleven meetings will be held across OKFB's nine districts for OKFB members to discuss the issues, challenges and opportunities facing farmers, ranchers, the agricultural industry and rural Oklahoma.

The discussions will serve as a springboard for OKFB members to create and draft resolutions to update the organization's policy positions. The resolutions will be considered through OKFB's grassroots policy development process beginning at the county Farm Bureau level.

The meetings also provide an opportunity for OKFB members to learn about the wide-ranging work of the state's largest general farm organization, including updates on programs from the Women's Leadership Committee to the Young Farmers and Ranchers and from rural development initiatives to organizational outreach programs. OKFB staff will also be on-hand to share updates and answer questions about the organization's activities.

Each meeting will begin at 6 p.m., and a meal will be provided.

See the full meeting list to the right, and make plans to attend the August Area Meeting that is closest to you.

## August Area Meetings

### District 1 West - Guymon

**Tuesday, August 6 • 6 p.m.**  
Hunny's  
103 N. Main, Guymon

### District 1 East - Woodward

**Thursday, August 8 • 6 p.m.**  
Red Prairie Steakhouse  
3113 Williams, Woodward

### District 2 - Hobart

**Thursday, August 15 • 6 p.m.**  
Western Tech Center  
1000 S. Bailey St., Hobart

### District 3 - El Reno

**Monday, August 12 • 6 p.m.**  
Redlands Community College  
1300 S. Country Club Rd., El Reno

### District 4 East - Ardmore

**Monday, August 26 • 6 p.m.**  
Murray Event Center  
106 E. Main St., Ardmore

### District 4 West - Lawton

**Tuesday, August 27 • 6 p.m.**  
Comanche County Farm Bureau  
502 SW 11th St., Lawton

### District 5 - McAlester

**Monday, August 19 • 6 p.m.**  
Southeast Expo Center  
4500 West US - 270, McAlester

### District 6 - Pryor

**Tuesday, August 13 • 6 p.m.**  
Moore Farms Event Barn  
9353 W. 500 Rd., Pryor

### District 7 - Enid

**Thursday, August 1 • 6 p.m.**  
Crosspoint Church  
2500 N Van Buren St., Enid

### District 8 - Byars

**Thursday, August 29 • 6 p.m.**  
Odell Farms  
17261 US Hwy. 177, Byars

### District 9 - Kellyville

**Thursday, August 22 • 6 p.m.**  
Creek County Fairgrounds  
17808 OK-66, Kellyville

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# OKFB YF&R awards ten \$1,000 scholarships to high school, college students

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers committee recently awarded nine \$1,000 scholarships to one high school senior from each OKFB district and a \$1,000 scholarship to a Collegiate Farm Bureau member.

The scholarships were awarded to students who plan to pursue a degree in an agriculture-related field at an Oklahoma college or university and who desire to contribute to agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

“The future of the agriculture industry depends on strong young leaders,” said Jacob Beck, OKFB YF&R chair. “We are proud to help support these 10 students in their endeavors as they further their education and pave the way as leaders both in the agriculture industry and beyond.”

All nine high school students plan to attend Oklahoma State University with a variety of study areas, including animal science, agribusiness, plant and soil sciences, agricultural communications and more.

Bruce Trammell was the winner of the Collegiate Farm Bureau scholarship. He is studying agricultural leadership at Oklahoma State University.

The scholarship winners are listed on the right.

## District 1

**Ashlee Purvine**  
*Dewey County*

## District 2

**Rylan Harris**  
*Kiowa County*

## District 3

**Casyn Larman**  
*Logan County*

## District 4

**Cora Sullivan**  
*Comanche County*

## District 5

**Colten DeLozier**  
*McCurtain County*

## District 6

**Courtney Blagg**  
*Rogers County*

## District 7

**Connor Mack**  
*Garfield County*

## District 8

**Lauren Earp**  
*Garvin County*

## District 9

**Caden Messenger**  
*Washington County*

## Collegiate

**Bruce Trammell**  
*Oklahoma State University*

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# OKFB welcomes four new staff members in communications, rural development departments

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau recently welcomed four new employees to the organization: Mickinzi Ferguson and Kate Jackson in communications and public relations, and Sidany Hilburn and Sadie Heap in economic development.



## Mickinzi Ferguson

Communications specialist

Originally from Walkersville, MD, Ferguson graduated from Oklahoma State University in May with dual degrees in agricultural communications and animal science.

She will help share the Farm Bureau and Oklahoma agriculture story by creating content across social media, web, photography, video, writing and more.

“Coming from a family deeply rooted in agriculture for generations and the Farm Bureau organization, I am grateful to share the stories of our farmers, ranchers, and producers in the state of Oklahoma,” Ferguson said. “I look forward to learning more about Oklahoma agriculture and meeting OKFB members around the state.”



## Kate Jackson

Publications specialist

Jackson grew up on a southwestern Oklahoma farm near Mountain View, OK, as part of a Farm Bureau family. Jackson recently graduated from OSU with a degree in agricultural communications.

In her role, she will produce the organization’s *Perspective Newsletter* and quarterly *Oklahoma Country* magazine. She will also create a variety of communications products for OKFB including written articles, photography, video assets and design projects.

“Growing up on a farm in rural Oklahoma gave me my passion for agriculture and a passion to tell agriculture’s story,” Jackson said. “I am excited to join Oklahoma Farm Bureau, which is a dream come true for me.”



## Sidany Hilburn

Community information and engagement specialist

A native of Quapaw, Hilburn grew up on a cow/calf operation. She most recently earned her master’s degree in agricultural economics from OSU.

Hilburn will work with rural entrepreneurs in eastern Oklahoma as a community information and engagement specialist working with OKFB’s Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and Ag Business Accelerators program.

“I have always felt strongly committed to the agricultural industry,” Hilburn said. “I feel so blessed that my position at Oklahoma Farm Bureau will allow me the opportunity to honor that commitment and support farmers, ranchers, and the rural communities that sustain them.”



## Sadie Heap

Community information and engagement specialist

Heap grew up on a family farm and ranch near the southwestern Oklahoma town of Frederick and is a recent graduate of OSU where she earned her bachelor’s degree in agricultural business.

Heap will work with OKFB’s rural development initiatives as a community information and engagement specialist. She will focus on sharing and promoting OKFB’s rural development efforts in the western part of the state.

“The most exciting part about my position is working with and learning from entrepreneurs in the state of Oklahoma,” Heap said. “I am extremely excited to be involved in this work and look forward to meeting new people across Oklahoma.”

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## Comanche County member tapped for FCC precision ag task force

Comanche County Farm Bureau member Cody Goodnight has been appointed to serve on the Federal Communication Commission's Precision Ag Connectivity Task Force Working Group on mapping and analyzing connectivity on agricultural lands.



Cody Goodnight

Goodnight, who farms and ranches in the Chattanooga area with his wife, Kara, is one of eight members of the working group and serves alongside telecommunications representatives, U.S. government employees and land-grant university leaders. Goodnight is the sole farmer member in his specific working group.

Members of the task force play an advisory role in

directing FCC's efforts to deploy and enhance broadband internet access to promote precision agriculture practices. The task force is comprised of four working groups focusing on areas of interest to promoting and deploying precision agriculture technologies. The task force was created from a provision in the 2018 farm bill.

## Kaput feral hog bait approved as state restricted-use pesticide

The Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture has approved Kaput Feral Hog Bait as a state restricted-use pesticide.

Kaput can be applied by those who are licensed in one of the three following categories: Bird and Vertebrate Animal Pests, Agricultural Plant, or private applicator.

Feral swine are a non-native invasive species in Oklahoma that are detrimental to the state's natural resources, agriculture production, and are a disease risk.

For more information on pesticides in Oklahoma visit [ag.ok.gov/pesticides](http://ag.ok.gov/pesticides).

## OKFB wins AFBF communications awards

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau communications and public relations department was presented with three American Farm Bureau 2024 Communications Awards during the 2024 AFBF Communications Conference in Waco, TX, May 15.

The awards were earned for outstanding communications work supporting agriculture and Farm Bureau's grassroots advocacy efforts.

OKFB was recognized with awards for the best social media video, best media relations event and best public relations campaign, competing against state Farm Bureaus in OKFB's national membership category.

## OKFB participates in annual Ag Day at the Capitol event

Members of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee represented Oklahoma Farm Bureau during the annual Ag Day at the Capitol event on Tuesday, April 16. The event serves as a showcase of Oklahoma's agriculture industry for legislators, Capitol staff and visitors.

WLC members participated in the 2024 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom contest awards where students and teachers were recognized for student-submitted posters. The OKFB WLC presented gift cards to winning teachers.



Above: OKFB WLC Chair Mignon Bolay (third from left) and members of the Oklahoma agriculture community recognize 2024 Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year Jackie McGolden during Ag Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, April 16.

Jackie McGolden of Fairview Public Schools was honored during the awards as the 2024 Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year. McGolden has taught at Fairview Public Schools for 25 years and has been a teacher for 38 years.

State WLC members also hosted a booth in the Capitol rotunda where they visited with attendees about the many programs OKFB hosts throughout the state along with the wide variety of benefits an OKFB membership offers.



Above: OKFB WLC District Four Committee Member Jacey Fye visits with attendees during the 2024 Oklahoma Ag Day at the Capitol. The OKFB WLC hosted a booth during the event where they shared OKFB's numerous programs and activities.

## Two OKFB members reappointed to State Board of Agriculture by Gov. Stitt

The Oklahoma State Senate approved and confirmed the reappointment of Brent Bolen and Clay Burtrum as members of the State Board of Agriculture Wednesday, May 29.

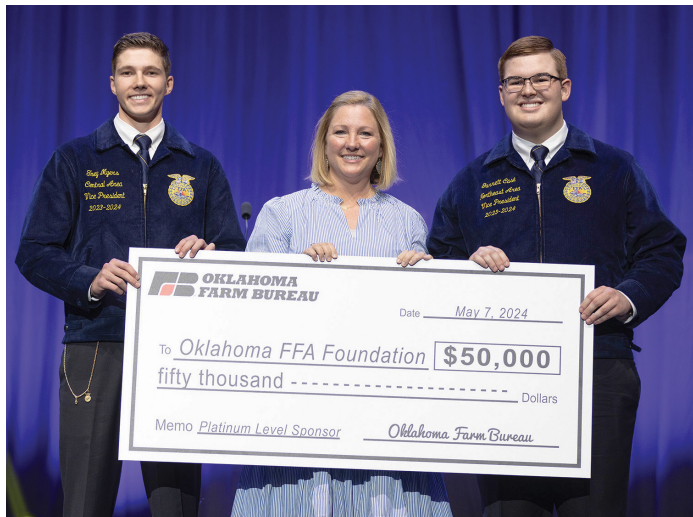
Bolen and Burtrum have served on the State Board of Agriculture since 2020 following an appointment by Gov. Kevin Stitt and confirmation by the Oklahoma Senate.

Bolen, who resides in Idabel and is a McCurtain County Farm Bureau member, represents southeast Oklahoma. He and his family are chicken, cattle and hay producers in McCurtain County. Bolen is a strong advocate for Oklahoma producers and has served on the Oklahoma Agriculture Advisory Committee, as Vice President of the McCurtain County Farm Bureau and as president of the Idabel School Board.

Burtrum, a Payne County Farm Bureau member, represents northeast Oklahoma and operates a cow/calf and beef stocker operation in Payne and Pawnee counties. He also co-owns a managerial accounting firm serving the needs of farmers, ranchers, and rural businesses. Burtrum has served as chairman of the Oklahoma Beef Council and has been a district director of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association.

They will each serve a new four-year term on the board.

## OKFB connects with FFA members during 2024 Oklahoma FFA Convention in Tulsa



Above: OKFB Director of Membership and OKFB Foundation for Agriculture Holly Carroll (center) presents OKFB's platinum sponsorship recognition during the Tuesday general session of the 2024 Oklahoma FFA Convention in Tulsa. OKFB also hosted a booth at the Oklahoma FFA Expo where leaders and staff connected with FFA members and shared OKFB's numerous ag youth programs with convention attendees.

## OKFB Selects rural, ag innovators for accelerators program

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has selected 11 rural Oklahoma innovators to participate in the Oklahoma Grassroots Rural & Ag Business Accelerators program.

The accelerators program is a collaborative rural development initiative from OKFB along with national and state-level partners that develops Oklahoma-based innovators creating ideas, technologies and products creating economic opportunities in rural Oklahoma.

### AgCelerate Oklahoma

The AgCelerate Oklahoma agricultural innovation pipeline focuses on innovations and technologies that have an on-farm or production agriculture application that will diversify opportunities for farmers with a farmer-focused and farmer-led development program.

Members of the 2024 AgCelerate Oklahoma cohort are:

- **BioAdvantage Recycling Company** of Shawnee, which removes and repurposes waste products from processed cattle
- **E2C Cattle Company** of Wagoner, which has created a nutritional supplementation calculator for beef cattle
- **Advanced Avigation** of Fairview, a company that uses drone sensors to detect and treat invasive plant species
- **Burgess Aerospace Innovations** of Stillwater, which has created an AI-powered aerial drone technology to provide real-time data to livestock owners
- **Blackjack Legacy** of Minco, which promotes and markets superior beef products.

### Activate Oklahoma

The Activate Oklahoma pipeline connects innovative rural Oklahoma businesses with numerous Oklahoma-based resources and assistance to help develop innovations or products that will bring economic opportunities to rural Oklahoma communities.

Members of the Spring 2024 Activate Oklahoma cohort are:

- **Grillblazer**, a company specializing in cooking torches from Chouteau
- **Allied Innovation Partners**, a Cashion-based business that blends e-commerce with traditional commodity exchanges
- **Perfect Pose** of Altus, a company that helps hunters capture quality photos of trophy animals
- **Bay Block** from Corn, which has developed fall-alert devices
- **The Diabetes Revolution** of Salina, which provides personalized diabetes and weight-loss care
- *One cohort member preferred to remain anonymous*

Cohort members of both AgCelerate Oklahoma and Activate Oklahoma participated a specialized a week-long innovation bootcamp tailored to their pipeline where they received specialized business training while developing their innovation pitches. Members of each cohort then began working one-on-one with personalized business mentors.

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## Fighting weeds one herbicide at a time

By **Trisha Gedon**

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

**G**ardeners may often feel like superheroes when picking home-grown vegetables or mowing a lush lawn. However, superheroes always have an archnemesis. In the gardening world, that archnemesis is the weed.

Along with irrigating, staying on top of the weed population is a constant chore, said David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Extension consumer horticulturist.

“Ideally, it would be great if we could do this by hand – either pulling the weeds or digging them up,” Hillock said “Using mulch is another way to help control the weed population.”

“There are times, however, when we have to reach for an herbicide. The problem is when going to the gardening store, the shelves are loaded with many different options, making it difficult to pick the right one.”

Many brand-name herbicides offer multiple products. Herbicides are described as broad spectrum, which means being able to control most weeds, including grassy weeds and broadleaved weeds. Herbicides are also described as being able to kill the roots, shoots and leaves.

“Selection of an herbicide depends on your need,” Hillock said. “Read the label and look for words such as pre-emergence, which means the product must be applied prior to the weed seeds germinating. Others are designed for post-emergence. It all depends on what you need to accomplish.”

The label is a great source of information and lists the active ingredient(s) in the product, as well as its concentration of the components responsible for killing the weeds.

Hillock noted that many herbicides can be used safely in lawns and gardens, as well as for total vegetation control in non-crop areas such as patios, driveways and sidewalks. Some are fast-acting and resistant to washing off from leaves, while others are long-lasting in the soil to give gardeners extended residual control.

“As you browse the shelves you’ll notice

some products are sold in a ready-to-use formula,” he said. “Gardeners also have the option to purchase some herbicides in concentrate that they can mix with water.”

As with any product on the market, a bright, flashy label on the container is designed to catch a consumer’s eye. Colorful images of dying weeds are appealing and are a market tactic used by herbicide companies.

Keep in mind that different types of injury is a possibility on desirable landscape trees and shrubs if herbicides drift away from the intended target. This is one reason why reading the label is imperative.

“Before applying any herbicide, be sure to dress appropriately,” Hillock said. “Rubber gloves will prevent dermal contact. Goggles will help prevent the product from getting in your eyes. Wear rubber boots to help eliminate contact when walking through sprayed areas.

“Appropriate protective gear can greatly reduce the potential for pesticide exposure and potential health impacts. However, using protective clothing will not eliminate risk.”

Other application factors include:

- Apply at the correct time for the appropriate stage of growth of the weeds. (pre-emergence/ post-emergence)
- Applying at the wrong time to mature weeds is both ineffective and a waste of money.
- Make sure the product is site specific, such as a vegetable garden, a lawn or a landscape bed.
- Know the precautions and potential hazards of the selected herbicide.
- Clean up, store or dispose of the container and spray equipment properly.

“Gardeners spend hours to make their gardens and landscapes look their best,” Hillock said. “Arming yourself with the best herbicide for the situation will help eliminate that archnemesis known as the weed.”



**Above** | Selecting the right herbicide can be confusing with all of the different options available at the garden store. It’s important to know what kind of weeds need to be eliminated. Read the label thoroughly to ensure you’re making the right decision. (Photo by David Hillock)



**Above** | Weeds in the garden and landscape are not only unsightly, but they use valuable nutrients intended for other plants. Selecting the right herbicide will help eliminate weeds. (Photo by David Hillock)

# Plan to attend your annual county Farm Bureau meeting

**E**ach year, county Farm Bureaus around the state hold their annual meetings to gather as local Farm Bureau members, conduct the business of their county organization and fellowship with one another as they celebrate the work and achievements of the past year.

Listed below are meeting dates for county Farm Bureaus across the state. Counties that will vote on changes to their bylaws are denoted with an asterisk (\*). The list below

includes county annual meetings for which a date, time and location was available by our press deadline. If you do not see your county Farm Bureau listed below, contact your county office directly for meeting information.

If you have questions about your annual county Farm Bureau meeting or the activities of your local Farm Bureau, contact your county Farm Bureau office. For a directory of county offices, visit [okfarmbureau.org/counties](http://okfarmbureau.org/counties).

## **Alfalfa County Farm Bureau**

October 7 • 6 p.m.  
Alfalfa Co. Fairgrounds • Cherokee

## **Atoka County Farm Bureau\***

October 1 • 6:30 p.m.  
Choctaw Community Mtg. Rm. • Atoka

## **Beckham County Farm Bureau**

September 26 • 6 p.m.  
Broadway Center • Sayre

## **Caddo County Farm Bureau**

October 8 • 5 p.m.  
County FB Office • Anadarko

## **Cherokee County Farm Bureau**

September 10 • 6 p.m.  
Tahlequah Community Bldg. • Tahlequah

## **Cimarron County Farm Bureau**

September 18 • 7 p.m.  
Senior Citizens Center • Boise City

## **Coal County Farm Bureau\***

September 25 • 11 a.m.  
Coalgate Methodist Church • Coalgate

## **Comanche County Farm Bureau**

September 24 • 6 p.m.  
Great Plains Coliseum Annex • Lawton

## **Craig County Farm Bureau**

October 1 • 6 p.m.  
Piquet's Prime Time • Vinita

## **Creek County Farm Bureau\***

September 19 • 6 p.m.  
Crossroads Diner • Bristow

## **Custer County Farm Bureau\***

September 10 • 6 p.m.  
Custer County Fairgrounds • Clinton

## **Ellis County Farm Bureau**

September 24 • 6 p.m.  
County FB Office • Arnett

## **Garfield County Farm Bureau\***

October 7 • 6:30 p.m.  
Chisolm Trail Expo Pavilion • Enid

## **Garvin County Farm Bureau**

September 26 • 12:30 p.m.  
County Office • Pauls Valley

## **Grant County Farm Bureau**

September 17 • 6 p.m.  
St. Mary's • Medford

## **Haskell County Farm Bureau**

September 19 • 6 p.m.  
County FB Office • Stigler

## **Hughes County Farm Bureau**

September 12 • 6:30 p.m.  
Hughes Co. Expo • Holdenville

## **Jackson County Farm Bureau**

September 3 • 6:30 p.m.  
Southwest Tech Center • Altus

## **Jefferson County Farm Bureau\***

October 8 • 7 p.m.  
Circle D Cafe • Waurika

## **Kay County Farm Bureau\***

October 10 • 6 p.m.  
Kay Electric Coop • Blackwell

## **Kingfisher County Farm Bureau\***

October 7 • 6 p.m.  
First Christian Church • Hennessey

## **Latimer County Farm Bureau**

September 12 • 6:30 p.m.  
County FB Office • Wilburton

## **LeFlore County Farm Bureau**

October 7 • 6 p.m.  
TBD

## **Lincoln County Farm Bureau**

October 8 • 7 p.m.  
County FB Office • Chandler

## **Logan County Farm Bureau\***

September 16 • 6:30 p.m.  
County FB Office • Guthrie

## **Love County Farm Bureau**

September 21 • 6:30 p.m.  
Marietta Schools Cafeteria • Marietta

## **McClain County Farm Bureau**

October 1 • 6 p.m.  
McClain Co. Expo Center • Purcell

## **McIntosh County Farm Bureau**

September 19 • 6:30 p.m.  
Checotah Community Ctr. • Checotah

## **Murray County Farm Bureau**

October 10 • 11 a.m.  
County FB Office • Davis

## **Muskogee County Farm Bureau**

September 10 • 6:30 p.m.  
County FB Office • Muskogee

## **Noble County Farm Bureau\***

October 14 • 6 p.m.  
Noble Co. Fairgrounds Women's Bldg. • Perry

## **Nowata County Farm Bureau**

September 24 • 6:30 p.m.  
Nowata Co. Fair Building • Nowata

## **Oklahoma County Farm Bureau\***

October 7 • 6 p.m.  
OK County OSU Extension Center • OKC

## **Okmulgee County Farm Bureau**

September 23 • 6:30 p.m.  
Green Country Tech Ctr. • Okmulgee

## **Osage County Farm Bureau**

October 1 • 6 p.m.  
Hominy Elementary • Hominy

## **Ottawa County Farm Bureau**

September 19 • 6 p.m.  
County FB Office • Miami

## **Payne County Farm Bureau\***

September 19 • 5:30 p.m.  
Payne Co. Expo Center • Stillwater

## **Pittsburg County Farm Bureau**

September 11 • 10 a.m.  
County FB Office • McAlester

## **Pushmataha County Farm Bureau\***

September 20 • 6 p.m.  
First Baptist Church • Antlers

## **Roger Mills County Farm Bureau**

October 3 • 6:30 p.m.  
Methodist Church • Cheyenne

## **Rogers County Farm Bureau**

September 24 • 6:30 p.m.  
Claremore Conf. Ctr. • Claremore

## **Stephens County Farm Bureau**

September 19 • 6 p.m.  
Stephens Co. Fairgrounds • Duncan

## **Texas County Farm Bureau**

September 9 • 6 p.m.  
Hunny's • Guymon

## **Tillman County Farm Bureau**

September 16 • 7 p.m.  
BancFirst Convention Ctr. • Frederick

## **Tulsa County Farm Bureau**

October 1 • 6:30 p.m.  
County FB Office • Tulsa

## **Wagoner County Farm Bureau**

September 26 • 6:30 p.m.  
Wagoner Civic Center • Wagoner

## **Washington County Farm Bureau**

September 19 • 6 p.m.  
Washington Co. Fairgrounds • Dewey

## **Washita County Farm Bureau**

September 5 • 6 p.m.  
County FB Office • Cordell

*\*To all members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and all affiliated county Farm Bureaus of Oklahoma Farm Bureau: You are hereby notified that changes to the Bylaws have been proposed for all County Farm Bureau with an \* beside them listed below. You should make certain that you attend your County Farm Bureau meeting(s) to represent your membership as to the proposed changes.*

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