

PERSPECTIVE

December 13, 2024



OKFB, ag groups request to submit amicus curiae brief in poultry case

Oklahoma Farm Bureau teamed up with four fellow agricultural organizations to support poultry farmers in a case before the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

OKFB joined the Poultry Federation, American Farmers and Ranchers, the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and the Oklahoma Pork Council to request to submit an amicus curiae – or “friend of the court” – brief in support of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry’s appeal of a lawsuit brought by the Spring Creek Coalition against the agency for its regulation of poultry growers.

In June 2024, the judge in Delaware County District Court issued an order supporting the coalition’s demands and took matters a step further, prohibiting ODAFF from granting the annual licenses to new or existing poultry feeding operations in the state until ODAFF implements a set of notice requirements and other obligations set forth by the court. The requirements

exceed the authority the legislature has granted to the agency.

OKFB and the other agriculture groups believe the judge in this case acted not only as the judicial branch, but all three branches of government – dictating legislation and administrative rulemaking from the bench.

The group believes the decision was a gross misappropriation of the three unique branches of government, and believes the policymaking process should be exclusive to the legislative branch.

In the brief, the group urged the Oklahoma Supreme Court to consider the lower court’s overreach as well as the impact it will have on the hundreds of Oklahoma’s registered poultry feeding operations, the more than 26,000 jobs it creates and the families and communities they support.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court will now consider whether to take up the case, send it to the Court of Civil Appeals or take other action.

Cotton County Farm Bureau member appointed to USDA agricultural air quality research task force

Cotton County Farm Bureau member Jimmy Kinder has been appointed to serve on the USDA’s Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality Research.

The task force promotes USDA research efforts and identifies cost-effective ways to improve air quality throughout agricultural production.

Kinder farms and ranches in Cotton County with his wife Margaret Ann. He previously served as the Oklahoma Farm Bureau District 4 director and is currently the vice president of Cotton County Farm Bureau.

Aside from his roles at Farm Bureau, Kinder has served as a member of the Soil Health Institute, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality board, Cotton County Rural Water District board and has served as the Cotton County Farm Services Agency chairman.

He is one of 27 members who will have the opportunity to provide recommendations and discuss the correlation of agricultural production and air quality.

Women's Leadership Committee honors teachers for Ag in the Classroom participation

The OKFB Women's Leadership Committee spent two days honoring teachers at the Oklahoma Christian Academy and Gore Public Schools for their attendance during the 2024 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Conference.

WLC members prepared lunch for

about 50 Pre-K through fifth-grade teachers and staff on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Oklahoma Christian Academy and about 30 Pre-K through fifth-grade teachers and staff on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at Gore Public Schools.

"Our WLC works with Ag in the Classroom on several events, including

this one where we go to the school and feed the teachers," said Mignon Bolay, WLC chair. "This is one of our favorite events we have to fellowship with teachers about what the Women's Leadership Committee can help them with in the future."



OKFB WIC Marcia Irvin and Mignon Bolay and Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Annie Davis and Emily Ague honor the Oklahoma Christian Academy teachers and staff for their Oklahoma State Ag in the Classroom Conference attendance.



From (L to R) Annie Davis, Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom professional development coach; Emily Ague Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom, professional development coach; Melody Blosser, Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom, professional development coordinator; and Marcia Irvin, WLC coordinator.

Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and Ag Business Accelerators program launches rural development masterclass series

The Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and Ag Business Accelerators program has launched In the Weeds, a rural development masterclass program for entrepreneurs and business owners across Oklahoma.

In the Weeds is designed for rural entrepreneurs looking to hone and refine their businesses, their innovation pitches and learn more about the numerous Oklahoma-based business resources at their fingertips.

"The Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and Ag Business Accelerators program is honored to be one of the U.S. Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative Technical Assistance providers," said Amarie Bartel, OKFB rural economic development coordinator. "Through this program, our team is catalyzed to share more state and federal capital opportunities for rural small businesses. In the Weeds allows us to meet rural small business owners where they are

with a wealth of funding opportunities – and the tools to attain said opportunities – to close financial gaps."

A series of four classes held across the state in eight rural locations throughout 2025 will provide rural entrepreneurs with cutting-edge business resources and the opportunity to develop skills, learn about opportunities and develop business connections with Oklahoma-based program partners.

In the Weeds will feature four unique sessions, including:

Venture Forward: How to Pitch

- Fairview and Pryor: January 8
- Alva and Drumright: January 29
- Duncan and Wilburton: February 19
- Elk City and Ada: March 12

Crafting your Business Blueprint with LivePlan

- Fairview and Pryor: April 2
- Alva and Drumright: April 23
- Duncan and Wilburton: May 14

- Elk City and Ada: June 4

Unlocking Lending Opportunities with TEDC: Interactive SBCI Loan Application Workshop

- Fairview and Pryor: June 25
- Alva and Drumright: July 16
- Duncan and Wilburton: August 6
- Elk City and Ada: August 27

Custom Solutions for Market-Specific Needs

- Fairview and Pryor: September 17
- Alva and Drumright: October 8
- Duncan and Wilburton: October 29
- Elk City and Ada: November 19

Participants may attend the program most convenient for them. All classes will be held from 5:30 – 7 p.m. and are free of charge. Dinner will be provided.

To learn more about the In the Weeds program and register for a masterclass, visit okfb.news/intheweeds.

Overreaching Department of Labor ruled halted nationwide

American Farm Bureau Federation and other industry coalition members achieved a crucial win Monday, Nov. 25, that will help farmers across the country. AFBF and its partners were granted a preliminary injunction by the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi barring the Department of Labor from enforcing its Worker Protection Rule extending unionization rights to H-2A visaholders.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented

on Tuesday, Nov. 26, on the litigation and the district court's nationwide injunction barring DOL's rule:

"Farmers appreciate the dedicated men and women who choose to work on their farms, and they take seriously the responsibility of ensuring a safe workplace. Farm Bureau agrees that workers should be treated fairly and respectfully. We also believe fairness to farmers is important and the DOL rule was overly broad to the point of being unlawful.

"We appreciate that the court recognized the overreach of the rule. We urge the DOL to go back to the drawing board and engage with H-2A employers to better understand the impact more regulations will have on the men and women who work to ensure America's families have food on the table."

Two other courts previously blocked the rule in several states and for certain groups, but AFBF's lawsuit was the first to stop key aspects of the rule for all farmers nationwide.

Animal Disease Traceability Rule Changes: What You Need To Know

840 TAGS are specifically for U.S. Origin Animals

Accepted tags before Nov. 5, 2024
NUES9 Metal BRITE Silver & Orange Bangs Tags



Accepted tags after Nov. 5, 2024
Visually & electronically readable 840 EID tags



White/Yellow = General ID

Orange = Bangs

Animal disease traceability rule changes: what producers need to know

November 5, 2024, marked the implementation date for the updated federal animal disease traceability regulations requiring electronic identification tags in certain classes of cattle and bison crossing state lines.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service implemented the new rule to better pinpoint and respond to animal disease outbreaks in hopes to limit both the spread of disease and the economic impacts of disease on livestock producers.

It is important for producers to know that the classes of cattle required to be identified have not changed. The rule applies to all dairy cattle, sexually intact beef cattle and bison over 18 months of age, and all exhibition and rodeo stock

moving interstate. The rule does not apply to stocker or feeder cattle.

In accordance with the new rule, any animal tagged after Nov. 5 will need an 840 electronic identification tag. The ear tags must be visually and electronically readable for official use. Cattle already identified with a sliver Brite metal tag or orange bangs metal tag prior to Nov. 5 will not need to be retagged with an electronic tag.

Producers can obtain 840 EID tags through the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. The tags are free of charge, but the producer must cover the cost of shipping.

Other options to obtain 840 EID tags include:

- Direct from the manufacturer (i.e. Allflex, DataMars and Y-TEX)
- Your current vet supply distributor

- Shearwell Data – Animal ID and management systems
- All Data Tags

A premises ID is required to order 840 EID tags regardless of source. A PIN application is available on the Animal Industry State Veterinarian page. The 840 tags are specifically for use in animals of U.S. origin. Other country code specific EIDs should not be removed or replaced.

Additionally, 900 series tags are not considered official unless they were applied before 2015 (i.e. the animal must be 9 years of age or older) or the tags are lime green or blue in color with "IMP" and the U.S. shield printed on the tag. These tags are only to be used in imported or non-U.S. origin cattle and bison who lost their original country of origin ear tag.

For questions or more information about the ADT program, contact ODAFF's **Rod Hall, state veterinarian**, at **(405) 522-0270** or **rod.hall@ag.ok.gov**.

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Beneficial Ownership Information filing halted by federal court, AFBF issues statement

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented Friday, Dec. 6, on a nationwide injunction ordered by the federal court in the Eastern District of Texas halting enforcement of the Beneficial Ownership Information filing requirements under the Corporate Transparency Act.

The previous deadline to file Beneficial Ownership Information was Jan. 1, 2025. More than 230,000 farmers are required to file, but government data indicates less than 11% of all eligible businesses nationwide have done so.

The CTA required business to

register any “beneficial owner” of a company in an effort to combat money laundering. Many farms are structured as c-corporation, s-corporation, or limited liability company, which are now required to be register if they employ fewer than 20 employees or receive under \$5 million in cash receipts.

“Farmers and ranchers across the country have faced great uncertainty since the passage of the Corporate Transparency Act in early 2021 and as the Beneficial Ownership Information regulations have been written.

“Questions are swirling about who is

required to file and who will have access to the confidential data being collected.

“Farm Bureau has long fought against the mandated disclosure of farmers’ private business information to the federal government in a number of different scenarios. For a second time this year a federal court has ruled the CTA oversteps the Constitution on that front. We appreciate the temporary reprieve provided by the injunction and hope Congress can take a cue from the courts in the coming weeks to provide a more permanent resolution to this problematic policy.”