

PERSPECTIVE

January 29, 2021

REMINDER: OKFB YF&R scholarship opportunities now available

Deadline: March 1

Oklahoma high school seniors and Collegiate Farm Bureau members now have their chance to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers.

Nine \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors and one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a Collegiate Farm Bureau member.

For more information on the YF&R scholarship opportunities, visit okfarmbureau.org/applications.

Stay informed this session with help of OKFB's advocacy guide

With the constant changes of the legislative session, it can be difficult to stay current on the issues you are concerned about most.

With the 2021 advocacy guide, members can find details about OKFB's new weekly Zoom call with OKFB's public policy staff to keep our members informed about the session, information on how to sign up for action alerts, tips on how to interact with your legislator, details on OKFB's priority issues this session and so much more.

To view the advocacy guide, visit okfarmbureau.org/advocate21.

LEADERSHIP WEEK

FEBRUARY 1-5, 2021

OKFB Leadership Week scheduled for Feb. 1-5

As we prepare once again for a different legislative session than in previous years, we know that Oklahoma's producers are accustomed to working through their fair share of challenges. From severe weather and fires to uncertain markets, the resiliency they have shown is no match to a second untraditional session.

With the help of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, OKFB's Leadership Week Feb. 1-5 will serve as a way to help prepare members even more with updates and tips in order to remain active, vocal and engage in the legislative process all from the convenience of their home, the cab of their truck or while out in the field.

Videos featuring a variety of guest speakers covering state and national agricultural issues will be posted to the OKFB Facebook page and our website throughout the week at 1 p.m., beginning Monday, Feb. 1.

For the latest information regarding Leadership Week, including how you can sign up for Action Alerts or find out who your legislators are, visit our website at okfarmbureau.org/leadershipweek2021.

OKFB Leadership Week schedule

Monday, Feb. 1

State of the State review

Read how Farm Bureau grassroots policy aligns with Gov. Stitt's goals as outlined in his State of the State Address.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

State legislative preview

Senate Pro Tempore Greg Treat and Speaker of the House Charles McCall will provide a glimpse into the upcoming legislative session.

Wednesday, Feb. 3

Ad valorem discussion

Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt and Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum will share their perspective on ad valorem taxes.

Thursday, Feb. 4

Congressional update with Rep. Lucas

Receive an update on national affairs affecting producers and our rural communities from Rep. Frank Lucas.

Friday, Feb. 5

Advocating with Farm Bureau

OKFB President Rodd Moesel shares ways that members can engage in OKFB's legislative efforts.

Four ways to be involved in the legislative process this year

Although the global pandemic may pose some challenges to the way Oklahoma Farm Bureau typically engages with the state legislature, OKFB members still can – and should – play an important part in our work to speak for farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans at the state Capitol this year.

Though working with state lawmakers this year is likely to look different than normal, members can remain active and involved in the policymaking process by using some of agriculture's trademark innovation and creativity. Below are four ideas for safely and effectively advocating for agriculture in the upcoming legislative session.

1. Sign up for Action Alerts

OKFB members can sign up to receive legislative action alerts through text message updates. When you sign up, OKFB will send you alerts when your voice is needed the most, empowering you to reach out to your senator or representative about the issue. Sign up by texting “**OKFB77**” to **52886** or on our website at okfb.news/takeaction.

2. Visit your legislators safely from home

Farm Bureau members typically visit with their legislators

at the state Capitol or at events in their districts, but this year county Farm Bureaus are encouraged to schedule video calls with senators and representatives. Contact the public policy team or your field representative for assistance with coordinating these calls.

3. Participate in OKFB's weekly Zoom calls

To keep members informed on Farm Bureau's efforts at the state Capitol, OKFB's public policy team will host weekly Farm Bureau member-only Zoom calls **every Friday at noon** to allow members to learn about the legislative process, ask questions and voice concerns. For more details on joining the call, contact your OKFB field representative.

4. Follow along on our platforms

A vast array of updates will be available on our website and social media. Weekly Lincoln to Local videos will be posted to social media along with other legislative content. Detailed legislative updates will be posted each week to OKFB's website at okfarmbureau.org. In addition to our online platforms, legislative information will be included in upcoming issues of *Perspective*.

Applications for second round of PPP loans now open through March 31

Oklahoma farmers and ranchers may now benefit from a second round of Paycheck Protection Program loans with new improvements specifically for agriculture producers.

Approved by Congress in its recent COVID-19 relief package, the expanded PPP will provide \$284 billion in funding for a second round of loans available through **March 31, 2021**.

The loan application deadline for the second round of PPP loans is March 31, 2021, or until funds are exhausted. Businesses with no more than 300 employees that received loans last year are eligible for this second round of PPP loans, but at a reduced loan cap of \$2 million. Interested producers can visit the Small Business Administration website to begin preparing their application at okfb.news/ppp2.

Five ways to participate in Farm Bureau Week Feb. 15-19

With Farm Bureau Week quickly approaching on Feb. 15-19, the week serves as the perfect way to celebrate and promote the grassroots organization throughout your local community.

Even though events may still look a little different than normal, county Farm Bureaus are encouraged to highlight Farm Bureau's efforts while promoting the benefits of being a member of the largest general farm organization.

Below are five ways your county Farm Bureau can celebrate Farm Bureau Week within your community.

Sign a proclamation

Contact your county commissioner to sign a proclamation declaring Feb. 15-19 Farm Bureau Week in your county.

Host giveaways

Host various giveaways to engage members in your county on your county Facebook page. Have members share, comment or like the post with the giveaway information, and choose a winner from the participants. Also, keep an eye out on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Facebook page for your chance to win one of our three giveaways.

Place an ad in your paper

Place a customized ad in your local newspaper to highlight your county organization or events you are holding. To request an ad, contact Brianne Schwabauer at brianne.schwabauer@okfb.org.

Make a donation

Host a donation drive for a cause within your community, or consider donating to FFA chapters, 4-H clubs, food pantries, volunteer fire departments or other organizations.

Pick up the tab

Offer to pay for meals at a local restaurant, coffee shop or donut shop during Farm Bureau Week to share Farm Bureau in your community.

*Does your county plan on hosting an event for Farm Bureau Week? To have your county's event highlighted on the OKFB website, contact Rebekah Nash at **(405) 523-2300** or at rebekah.nash@okfb.org.*

USDA expands CFAP eligibility, updates payment calculations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. The new assistance includes expanded eligibility for certain commodities and producers established in the recently passed relief package, as well as updated payments for producers who were eligible under previous iterations of the program.

Producers may submit new applications or modify existing applications through the USDA Farm Service Agency between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26, 2021.

Expanded CFAP 2 eligibility

Contract producers of swine, broilers, laying hens, chicken eggs and turkeys who suffered a drop in revenue in 2020 as compared to their 2019 revenue because of the pandemic now are eligible for assistance. Producers could receive up to 80% of their revenue loss, subject to the availability of funds. Producers of pullets and turfgrass sod also are now available for CFAP payments.

Updated CFAP 2 payment calculations

Along with the expanded assistance, FSA also adjusted the CFAP 2 payment calculation for sales commodities to use the producer's eligible 2019 calendar year sales, and 2019 crop insurance indemnities, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program—Plus payments, multiplied by the applicable payment rate for all sales commodities. CFAP 2 sales commodities include specialty crops, aquaculture, tobacco, specialty livestock, nursery crops and floriculture. Producers who applied during the sign-up period that closed Dec. 11, 2020, can modify an existing CFAP 2 application between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26, 2021.

FSA also adjusted the CFAP 2 payment calculation for certain row crops, addressing an issue that existed for producers who had crop insurance coverage but did not have a 2020 Actual Production History-approved yield. Now, when APH is not available, FSA will use 100% of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County benchmark yield to calculate payments instead of the 85% that earlier CFAP 2 calculations required. The change only includes producers with crop insurance coverage who grow barley, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, upland cotton and wheat. Producers who applied during the sign-up period that closed Dec. 11, 2020, may modify an existing CFAP 2 application between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26, 2021.

CFAP 1 'Top-up' payments for swine

FSA is providing an additional CFAP 1 inventory payment for swine to help producers who face continuing market disruptions from changes in U.S. meat consumption due to the pandemic. Swine producers with approved CFAP 1 applications will soon automatically receive a "top-up" payment of \$17 per head increasing the total CFAP 1 inventory payment to \$34 per head.

How to apply

Newly eligible producers who need to submit a CFAP 2 application or producers who need to modify an existing one can do so between Jan. 19 and Feb. 26, 2021, by contacting their local USDA Service Center. New applicants can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling (877) 508-8364. Additional information can be found on USDA's CFAP website.



Latest issue of Oklahoma Country to reach mailboxes soon

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members throughout the state will begin receiving the newest issue of the organization's quarterly publication – Oklahoma Country – in the coming days.

Inside, members will find a variety of stories including:

- An opportunity to get to know the nine farm and ranch families honored by the Women's Leadership Committee
- Meet the newest members to OKFB's board of directors
- Catch up on the award recipients from the annual business meeting
- Tips on how you can remain active this legislative session
- Details on Roadside Assistance
- Get to know more about the U.S. Department of Agriculture

All of OKFB's publications are easily accessible at any time by visiting okfarmbureau.org/publications.

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OALE members visit OKFB

Members of the Oklahoma Agriculture Leadership Encounter, a program of the Oklahoma Youth Expo, visited to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau office to learn more about what Oklahoma Farm Bureau does for producers and rural Oklahomans.

Designed to expand students' knowledge and understanding of agriculture within Oklahoma, members of OALE class XVIII will be introduced to the legislative process and how it affects the agricultural sector, in addition to visiting several agriculturally based businesses and organizations to become the future leaders of our state.

OKFB announces priority issues for 2021 legislative session

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has announced the organization's priority issues for the 2021 state legislative session as set forth by its grassroots farm and ranch members.

The top issues for Farm Bureau members across all 77 counties include expanding rural broadband, protecting landowners from property tax increases, safeguarding the state agriculture sales tax exemption, increasing access to quality health care in rural communities, securing improved funding for roads and bridges, and ensuring support for Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.

"After a challenging year for Oklahoma agriculture producers, Oklahoma Farm Bureau is eager to bring the voice of our members to the state Capitol as we work to find solutions to many of the issues facing our farmers, ranchers and rural communities," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president.

Read an in-depth look at OKFB's 2021 priority issues by visiting okfb.news/priorities21.

For more details about this legislative session, visit okfarmbureau.org/advocate21.