

# PERSPECTIVE

May 3, 2024



## OKFB WLC holds annual conference for Farm Bureau women in Oklahoma City

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 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 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 to 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.

## Legislative update: rounding the corner to the homestretch of the 2024 legislative session

The last full week of April marked the final deadline week of the legislative session before sine die.

Just 598 bills and joint resolutions remain alive, including those pending action by Gov. Kevin Stitt. Included in that number are HB 4118 and SB 1424 by Rep. David Hardin and Sen. Brent Howard.

HB 4118 passed the Senate with title off, meaning it must now go to a conference committee and be signed out before it can be heard on the floor again. The bill limits civil liability of poultry growers and applicators if they follow their state-approved nutrient management plan. Thanks to all of our members that called and asked their Senator to support the bill.

SB 1424 changes the fine structure for violations. It passed the House and will

have to return to the Senate for approval of House amendments before it can be sent to the governor.

Disappointingly, HB 3194 found its way out of the Senate and on the governor's desk after the bill author unexpectedly put title back on and passed it off the floor during negotiations. The bill would require the installation of metering devices on all permitted groundwater wells in Oklahoma. Farm Bureau and other stakeholders have requested a veto of the bill.

Public policy and field staff have enjoyed having our counties visit us at the Capitol this session. If your county Farm Bureau has not made a visit to the Capitol yet, please schedule with your field rep as soon as possible. It makes a big impact.



## Three ways to keep up with Farm Bureau in the final month of Oklahoma's legislative session

### 1 Sign up for OKFB's action alert system

OKFB's action alert system connects our grassroots members with their legislators when critical legislation is up for consideration.

Sign up for action alerts online at [okfb.news/takeaction](https://okfb.news/takeaction).

### 2 Tune into Friday Zoom legislative updates

Each Friday during legislative session, our Public Policy team leads a discussion with OKFB members covering the issues OKFB is tackling.

Contact your field representative for Zoom connection information.

### 3 Check out Lincoln to Local video updates

Our Lincoln to Local legislative video series covers the latest action at the legislature that impacts agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

Watch our 2024 Lincoln to Local videos online at [okfb.news/L2L24](https://okfb.news/L2L24).

## Elevate FFA Communications Conference planned for July 23

Oklahoma Farm Bureau will host its fourth-annual FFA Communications Conference for Oklahoma FFA members Tuesday, July 23, at the Hilton Garden Inn Edmond Conference Center in Edmond.

The one-day Elevate conference provides communications training for Oklahoma FFA members to share the FFA story. The conference will feature keynote speakers and presenters along with communications training

in areas including writing and visual communication, which will be led by Oklahoma agriculture industry professionals.

The cost per student is \$25, and each FFA chapter may register up to two students.

Registration will be available online at [okfb.news/elevate24](https://okfb.news/elevate24).

For questions about the conference, contact the OKFB communications department at (405) 523-2300.



## OKFB taps six Oklahoma businesses for 2024 Activate Oklahoma rural development cohort

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has named six rural Oklahoma businesses to the 2024 Activate Oklahoma cohort, part of the organization's Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and 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.

The members of the 2024 Activate Oklahoma cohort are:

- **Grillblazer of Choteau**, a company specializing in cooking torches
- **Allied Innovation Partners of Cashion**, a 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 of Corn**, which has developed fall-alert devices
  - **The Diabetes Revolution of Salina**, which provides personalized diabetes and weight-loss care
- One cohort member prefers to remain anonymous.

The Activate Oklahoma pipeline connects innovative rural Oklahoma businesses with numerous resources and assistance with curriculum supported by Oklahoma Small Business Development Center. The Activate Oklahoma track is designed for any rural-based business with an innovation or product that will bring economic opportunities to Oklahoma's rural communities.

The six businesses, all hailing from rural Oklahoma communities with a population of 50,000 people or less, will complete a vigorous bootcamp training and other business-focused programs in the coming months.

## Rural business owners census survey now open through May 31

A coalition of rural-focused entrepreneurship resource providers, including Oklahoma Farm Bureau, is seeking input from founders and CEOs of rural-Oklahoma-based businesses through a web-based rural business owners census.

The census was created to assess the resources that rural Oklahoma startups need to achieve success. Survey results will help the coalition support the state's rural entrepreneurial ecosystem for both current and future generations of Oklahoma businesses.

The online survey is designed to take less than 10 minutes to complete. The survey is open now through Friday, May 31.

Rural Oklahoma company founders can complete the rural business owners census online at:

[okfb.news/rbc24](https://okfb.news/rbc24)

## Okmulgee and Lincoln County Farm Bureau members visit state Capitol



Lincoln County members stand with House Speaker Charles McCall Wednesday, April 24.



Sen. Roger Thompson (right) visits with Okmulgee County Farm Bureau members.



Rep. Scott Fetgatter shares an update during Okmulgee County's Capitol visit.

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

The Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture voted to approve Kaput Feral Hog Bait as a state restricted-use pesticide Wednesday, April 24.

Kaput Feral Hog Bait 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](https://ag.ok.gov/pesticides).

**PUBLISHED BY  
OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU**

**Postmaster:**

Send address corrections to:

*Perspective*  
P.O. Box 53332,  
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332

**STAFF DIRECTORY**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Thad Doye**  
(405) 523-2438

**VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**Dustin Mielke**  
(405) 530-2640

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS  
AND ADVOCACY COMMUNICATIONS**

**Rachel Havens**  
(405) 523-2346

Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
2501 N. Stiles  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3126

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 131  
Okla. City, OK.

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

**M**embers 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.

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 visitors about the many programs OKFB hosts throughout the state along with the wide variety of benefits an OKFB membership offers.



**Left: OKFB WLC Chair Mignon Bolay (second 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.**

**Right: OKFB WLC District Four Committee Member Jacey Fye visits with attendees visiting the OKFB booth 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.**

