

PERSPECTIVE

September 20, 2024



GrillBlazer



Allied Innovation Partners



Aegis Production Services



Bay Block



Diabetes Revolution



Perfect Pose

OKFB's Oklahoma Grassroots Rural & Ag Business Accelerators program hosts 2024 Demo Day Sept. 11

Six rural entrepreneurs graduated during the Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and Ag Business Accelerators Activate Oklahoma Demo Day Wednesday, Sept. 11, in Oklahoma City.

Demo Day showcased the new class of founders as they presented their pitches to other cohort members, guests and program partners. Each of the founders also received a graduation certificate for participating in the program.

The following graduates for this year's cohort are:

Aegis Production Services, which developed a system that uses thermal and flash distillation to treat water.

Perfect Pose of Altus, which invented a device that helps hunters achieve the perfect photo of their trophy animal.

The Diabetes Revolution of Salina,

which provides personalized diabetes and weight loss care using nutrition and technology to help clients reverse their diagnosis with a goal of reducing reliance upon medications.

GrillBlazer of Chouteau, which provides the quickest, easiest, safest and most effective cooking torches on the market with the GrillGun and Su-VGun.

Allied Innovation Partners of Cashion, is a new type of market that blends e-commerce with traditional commodity exchanges.

Bay Block of Corn, which created a Bluetooth fall protection device that alerts a list of contacts in the event of a fall when someone is tethered into a safety harness.

After the graduation ceremony, guests who attended Demo Day had the

opportunity vote for the People's Choice Award, which was awarded to Aegis Production Services.

Activate Oklahoma is a rural innovation pipeline that connects rural entrepreneurs and innovators with resources from Oklahoma's world-class business development community.

This program also connects current cohort members with alumni to provide mentorship during the program.

During the program participants also receive input, consultation and resources from program partners including AgLaunch, Oklahoma Small Business Development Centers, Oklahoma i2E, Oklahoma CareerTech, Oklahoma State University Food and Agricultural Products Center and the Noble Research Institute.

OKFB continues Cultivating Healthy Minds series with Monica McConkey from Eyes on the Horizon Consulting



Oklahoma Farm Bureau members and guests continued their mental wellbeing journey with the second Cultivating Healthy Minds session Friday, Sept. 6.

The session, focused on managing relationships, featured Monica McConkey, founder of Eyes on the Horizon Consulting.

McConkey was raised on a farm and now has served 25 years working in the rural behavioral health field. She created Eyes on the Horizon Consulting in 2016 where she has been serving rural families in Minnesota.

During the session, McConkey defined many relationships in the lives of farmers and ranchers and explained the factors that could make them unhealthy, including frequent disrespect, lack of trust, poor communication, negativity, manipulation and lack of support.

She explained how unhealthy relationships can impact our lives, whether it be mentally, emotionally,

physically or spiritually.

McConkey also emphasized how boundaries can play an important role in all relationships, whether they are healthy or unhealthy.

She explained why setting boundaries may be difficult for some people, including fearing coming off mean or rude, being a people pleaser, being anxious about future interactions after the boundary has been set, or simply having no idea where to start.

Much like the impacts of an unhealthy relationship, setting boundaries can have a similar impact, but for the better.

McConkey gave examples of what setting boundaries could look like with example words to use and explained the differences between an emotional, mental, physical or spiritual boundary.

At the end of the webinar, she gave an analogy of a school bus to illustrate healthy boundaries.

McConkey encouraged Farm Bureau members, the bus drivers, to keep their

close, healthy relationships in the front of the bus, their just-okay relationships in the middle, and their unhealthy relationships in the back.

In addition to McConkey's keynote presentation, the second session also featured a testimonial speaker, Gaye Pfeiffer, a Logan County Farm Bureau member. She spoke about her family's tragic automobile accident in the early 1990s and how community support can make a difference in a their family's mental wellbeing.

Pfeiffer mentioned the extraordinary amount of care and help her family received after the accident from family, friends and neighbors in their small community. She also spoke about the importance of leaning on your community and support system in times of tragedy.

To watch the recording of the second webinar or learn more about the Cultivating Healthy Minds program visit okfb.news/chm24.

Register for our third Cultivating Healthy Minds session featuring Dr. Shannon Ferrell

Cultivating Healthy Minds
Session Three:

Tackling Trauma

Friday, October 4 at noon

Register online today:

[okfb.news/
chm24session2](https://okfb.news/chm24session2)



Dr. Shannon Ferrell

1 Re-watch our second webinar
okfb.news/chm24
Available on YouTube

2 Find resources online
okfb.news/chm24
Links from Monica

3 Register for upcoming sessions
okfb.news/chm24
Sessions 3 and 4

OKFB hosts 2024 Farmhand Olympics during Oklahoma State Fair



Oklahoma Farm Bureau hosted the 2024 Farmhand Olympics Saturday, Sept. 14, during the Oklahoma State Fair.

More than 50 attendees participated in activities that paid tribute to real-life farm chores.

The event gave children and adults an

opportunity to have fun with a host of agriculture-based activities to connect Farm Bureau and rural Oklahoma agriculture.

This year's events included hay bale toss, egg gathering, calf roping, balloon pig herding, calf ear tagging and corn shucking.

Collegiate YF&R Discussion Meet registration now open



Oklahoma Farm Bureau is set to host the Collegiate and Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meets Nov. 7 and 8 during the OKFB convention in Oklahoma City.

The collegiate discussion meet will be held Thursday, Nov. 7, at 5 p.m. at the Omni Hotel. The Collegiate Discussion Meet is for members of an Oklahoma Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter. The collegiate winner will compete at the 2025 American Farm Bureau Fusion Conference.

The YF&R Discussion meet will be held Friday, Nov. 8, at 8 a.m. at the Omni Hotel. The Oklahoma Farm Bureau YF&R Discussion meet is for Farm Bureau members ages 18-35. The state YF&R discussion meet winner will compete at the 2026 American Farm Bureau Annual Conference.

Applications must be submitted by October 25.

For more information about registration, visit okfb.news/yfrdiscussionmeets.

YF&R Achievement and Excellence award applications due Oct. 10

YF&R Achievement Award

The YF&R Achievement Award recognizes YF&R members who have excelled in their farm or ranch, and have taken an active role in Farm Bureau programs and activities. Participants are involved in production agriculture with a majority of their income subject to normal production risks.

Who should apply:

Agriculturalists ages 18-35 who earn the majority of their income from production agriculture.

How to apply:

Download the achievement award application on the OKFB website at okfarmbureau.org/applications.

YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award

The YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes YF&R members who have a passion for agriculture, but who do not earn a majority of their income from an owned agriculture enterprise.

Who should apply:

Agriculturalists ages 18-35 who have a passion for agriculture but do not earn the majority of their income from production agriculture.

How to apply:

Download the achievement award application on the OKFB website at okfarmbureau.org/applications.

For questions or more information, contact Burton Harmon at (405) 523-2300.

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OKFB hosts second private property rights meeting in Craig County Sept. 4



OKFB president Rodd Moesel (left) and policy staff share OKFB's perspective on county zoning during OKFB's community meeting in Vinita Wednesday, Sept. 4.



Nearly 200 people attended OKFB's meeting in the Vinita sharing their concerns and asking questions about county zoning and how a zoning proposal could impact agriculture and rural land owners.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau hosted a discussion on private property rights Wednesday, Sept. 4, at the Craig County Fairgrounds in Vinita.

Nearly 200 community members from the region attended the meeting where OKFB leaders and staff led a conversation about county zoning and how a zoning proposal that will be on the general election ballot in November in Craig County could impact agriculture and rural landowners.

Questions and comments were fielded from the audience and OKFB's policy against county zoning was discussed.

To learn more about private property rights visit:
**okfb.news/
privatepropertyrights**