

Livestock producers help feed hungry children

Oklahoma livestock producers are joining the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and other groups focused on feeding hungry Oklahoma children with a new project, Beef for Backpacks. This project will use donated cattle to produce beef sticks for the Food Bank's Food for Kids program.

The project was launched during a press conference with Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb at the state capitol, Sept. 25.

The Beef for Backpacks program is a collaboration among the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Beef Council, Oklahoma State University Food and Agricultural Products Center and the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

The Food for Kids program was started by the Food Bank in 2003 when they recognized the need to help supplement children's diets when the school lunch program was unavailable. The program provides chronically hungry children, identified by school personnel, with backpacks filled with non-perishable, kid-friendly food to eat on weekends and school holidays.

The program serves 475 elementary schools in 53 counties across central and western Oklahoma, providing backpacks to more than 13,500 chronically hungry children each week.

"We are excited by the opportunity to provide a nutritious source of protein to the children," said Monica Wilke, executive director of the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation. "We estimate that between 20,000 and 25,000 beef sticks will be needed every month to supply all of the hungry children who currently benefit from the backpack program."

Wilke said the project is a good example of the generosity and efficiency of Oklahoma livestock producers.

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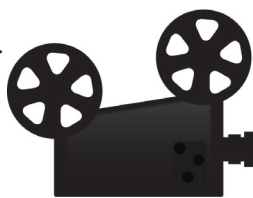
Farming and Ranching Foundation President Tom Buchannan, Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, OFB Executive Director Monica Wilke and Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma Executive Director Rodney Bivens display the beef sticks that will be used in the Food Bank's Food for Kids program.

OFB 71st Annual Meeting is just around the corner

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 71st Annual Meeting is scheduled for Nov. 9-11, at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City. This year's theme is "Projecting Forward... with Excellence."

Farm Bureau members from across the state will meet to conduct annual business activity and vote on policy issues for the next state legislative session. Convention highlights include county and state awards presentations, the election of three district directors and selection of delegates for the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention.

Guest speakers for the annual meeting include U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe and Oklahoma Secretary of State Glenn Coffee. Also, there will be a live auction scheduled



PROJECTING FORWARD ...
WITH EXCELLENCE

2012 OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING - NOV. 9-11 - OKLAHOMA CITY

to provide entertainment on Saturday night.

The OFB trade show will be housed again this year on the first floor of the Cox Convention Center in Exhibit Hall 1. Trade show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 9, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10. Agricultural vendors and

associations along with other retail businesses will be on site.

A tentative schedule of events is available online at okfarmbureau.org. More convention details and a list of OFB's six Farm Family of the Year finalists will be available in the next issue of *Perspective*.

MEMBER BENEFITS

• **ClearValue Hearing** offers members free hearing assessments and discounts on hearing instruments, along with a free, one-year supply of batteries (actual savings 20-25%). To activate your free ClearValue offer, call 888-497-7447 or visit www.clearvaluehearing.com.

OFB highlights a benefit in each issue of *Perspective* as a reminder of the savings available to OFB members. Find a complete list of savings online at okfarmbureau.org.

OFB CALENDAR

State Resolutions Meeting

October 16-17 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Marcia Irvin, (405) 523-2405

OFB Annual Meeting

November 9-11 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Monica Wilke, (405) 523-2303

FBW Rally

Nov. 30 - Dec. 1 • Tulsa
Contact: Marcia Irvin, (405) 523-2405

Adair County hosts annual safety fair

Adair County Farm Bureau sponsored its third annual safety fair at the Adair Park near Stilwell on Sept. 5. More than 700 children from county schools attended the event. Twelve stations were set up for the children to visit and learn about safety.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's safety team provided lessons on four-wheeler safety, bus safety and poison look-alikes and gave tours through the fire safety trailer. Union Pacific Railroad, Mid County Search and Rescue, Adair County Get Lifted, Stilwell Fire Department, Stilwell EMS Ambulance Service, Stilwell Police Department, Cherokee Nation Nursing and Tulsa Air Evac also participated in the event.

In addition to seeing the fire trucks, ambulance, police car and rescue dogs up close and touring the fire safety trailer, students enjoyed watching the Tulsa Air Evac helicopter come in for a landing and take off at the end of the day.

The Adair County Farm Bureau Women's Committee and YF&R provided snow cones for each student, and Stilwell High School Student Council and Service Club members were also on hand to keep the flow of children progressing and help as needed.



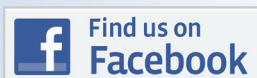
Children prepare to tour the OFB fire safety trailer during the Adair County safety fair. The OFB Safety Services Division uses the trailer to educate students about home evacuation, smoke detectors and what to do in case of a fire.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

Monitor the latest Farm Bureau and agricultural news and information online at okfarmbureau.org.

- Currently online:
- **Agricultural News** – Oklahoma Farm Bureau features a new agriculture-related story every day on its site. Read about both AFBF and state Farm Bureau news by visiting the homepage.
 - **Harvest Watch** – OFB's four farming families are reviewing harvest and planning for other summer activities on the OFB Harvest Watch blog. See our OFB homepage to click on the logo.

www.okfarmbureau.org



Spradling gives farm bill update on OETA



OFB President Mike Spradling answers questions about the need for a new farm bill during the Sept. 21 episode of OETA's Oklahoma News Report. Spradling told anchor Dick Pryor "farmers and ranchers are willing to do their part to balance the budget, but we don't want it to be totally on the back of American agriculture."

OFB leader appointed to state advisory board

Alfalfa County farmer and Oklahoma Farm Bureau leader Roland Pederson, of Burlington, has been appointed to the Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Program Advisory Board. The appointment was made by Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin.

The 10-member advisory board evaluates proposals made to the Agricultural Enhancement and Diversification Program under the direction of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. The Agricultural Enhancement and Diversification Program provide funds for expanding the state's value added processing sector and to encourage farm diversification. Funds, provided on a



Roland Pederson

cost-share basis, must be used for marketing and utilization, cooperative marketing, farm diversification and basic and applied research. All funding proposals must benefit Oklahoma farmers and ranchers.

Pederson represents Oklahoma Farm Bureau on the advisory board. He is treasurer of the OFB Board of Directors and is OFB District 7 Board member which covers seven counties in western and northwestern Oklahoma.

Pederson and his wife, Terry, own and manage a diversified crop and livestock business near Burlington in northwest Oklahoma. The farm business includes wheat, canola, grain sorghum, stocker calves and a commercial cow herd.

(Beef, from page 1)

"I am constantly impressed by the generosity and overwhelming desire of our producers to help others," Wilke said. "For every 100 pounds of beef donated, we'll be able to produce 800 beef sticks to help feed Oklahoma children."

Lt. Gov. Lamb praised farmers and ranchers for their efforts.

"You (livestock producers) are essential to the wellbeing of our state, and your passion to give back to your communities is admirable," Lamb said. "For us to truly make a difference and take necessary steps toward ending hunger, it is imperative for more individuals and Oklahoma companies to dedicate themselves to helping their neighbors, just as you have."

To donate cattle to the Beef for Backpacks program, contact OFB Vice President of Field Services Thad Doye at (405) 523-2307.

Farm Bureau Women reward Rush Springs teachers with luncheon



ABOVE – The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Committee partnered with Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom to provide lunch for more than 40 Rush Springs Elementary teachers and staff members on Sept. 27. The Grady County school brought the most teachers to the Ag in the Classroom conference this past August.

RIGHT – OFB's Marcia Irvin explains the "Pig to Plate" DVD to a Rush Springs teacher. OFW sponsored the production of the educational tool and is supplying copies to each school district in the state.



Burn ban information available on OK Department of Ag website

The recent rains in several areas of Oklahoma mean county burn bans are changing frequently. The most updated burn ban information can be found by visiting <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-information>. Visitors will need to "refresh" the page each time they visit so the most current map will appear.



This site is always current and reflects county commissioner burn bans as soon as Oklahoma Forestry Services is notified. This page also has links for guidelines, copies of burn ban proclamations, county resolutions, guidelines, map showing counties under ban, etc.

For more information, contact Michelle Finch-Walker, Communications Specialist, Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry at 580-236-1021 or michelle.finch@ag.ok.gov.

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Clean Line Energy to hold informational open houses regarding transmission line project for wind energy

Clean Line Energy is planning a series of public open house meetings with Oklahoma community members and landowners to introduce the Plains & Eastern Clean Line. During these meetings, the Clean Line team will discuss potential routing options for the high voltage direct current electric transmission line project and provide the public an opportunity to give feedback.

The Plains & Eastern Clean Line team is hosting the meetings before the start of permitting or any other legally required process. Detailed maps will be available for participants to examine the network of 1 - 3 mile-wide potential routes in their area. The transmission infrastructure will require a typical easement of 150 - 200 feet in width, which will be identified at a later date and will be subject to engineering, environmental studies and regulatory approvals.

“The current network of potential routes is based on our studies and on feedback from meetings and workshops with local and community leaders, conservation organizations, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders,” said Phillip Teel, Clean Line Energy regional outreach manager.

The Plains & Eastern Clean Line will deliver up to 3,500 megawatts of clean power from western Oklahoma, northern Texas and southwestern Kansas to utilities and customers in Tennessee, Arkansas and other markets in the Mid-South and the Southeast. The clean energy will be transported via an approximately 750-mile, overhead, high voltage direct current transmission line. According to Clean Line Energy, the Plains & Eastern Clean Line will make possible approximately \$7 billion worth of investments in new wind energy projects in the Oklahoma Panhandle and surrounding region. In addition to the new wind farm

investments, the Plains & Eastern Clean Line project will cost approximately \$2 billion with around \$1 billion of investment in Oklahoma.

“This new infrastructure will connect some of the nation’s best wind resources in the Oklahoma Panhandle to energy demand centers in the Mid-South and Southeast United States,” Teel said. “Our multi-billion dollar investment will create thousands of jobs in Oklahoma, generate millions of dollars of new tax revenue for state and local government, and result in lease payments to property owners. Manufacturing and service companies in Oklahoma supplying the clean energy industry are likely to see a significant increase in business as a result of the construction of this transmission line.”

More information about the Plains & Eastern Clean Line is available at www.plainsandeasterncleanline.com.

Times and locations for Plains & Eastern Clean Line public open houses

- Oct. 9**
Guymon - Pickle Creek Center, 7-9 a.m.
Beaver County Fairgrounds - Commercial Building, 5-7 p.m.
- Oct. 10**
Woodward Convention Center, 7-9 a.m.
Fairview - Northwest Technology Center, 5-7 p.m.

- Oct. 11**
Enid - Cherokee Strip Conference Center, 7-9 a.m.
Stillwater - Meditations Catering & Banquet Center, 5-7 p.m.
- Oct. 12**
Bristow - Elks Lodge, 7-9 a.m.

- Oct. 15**
Okmulgee County Fairgrounds, 5-7 p.m.
- Oct. 16**
Muskogee Civic Center, Room C, 7-9 a.m.
Sallisaw - Indian Capital Technology Center, 5-7 p.m.