

## Rural Fire Assistance Program in jeopardy

Rural fire departments across Oklahoma and the nation will be devastated by an agreement between the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency which stops making available excess DoD vehicles that are critical to rural fire departments' ability to fight wildland fires.

Through two long-standing federal excess property programs, Federal Excess Personal Property and Firefighter Property program, Oklahoma Forestry Services has been able to assist rural fire departments by providing no-cost military trucks that are then re-manufactured into wildland engines and water tenders through its Rural Fire Assistance Program. Without access to the vehicles and other equipment, many rural fire departments will find it difficult to operate, as commercial trucks are cost prohibitive for most departments. Currently there are 8,812 vehicle and pieces of equipment, valued at over \$150 million, being utilized by Oklahoma's rural fire departments.

The stoppage decision by the US Army Tank-Automotive Command (TACOM) is based in an old agreement between the DoD and EPA aimed at reducing emissions. Under the agreement, vehicles not meeting EPA emission standards would be destroyed instead of sold. It is unclear why the agreement is being enforced at this time.

"This action will ultimately result in increased exposure of communities to loss of life and property associated with wildfire, as well as increased fire suppression costs," said George Geissler, state forester and director, Oklahoma Forestry Services. "The greenhouse gas emissions associated with the vehicles are marginal at best compared to emissions of an uncontrolled wildfire."

Local fire departments are the first to respond to most wildfires. In many states, including Oklahoma, local departments are first on the scene for more than 75 percent of all wildfires. Quick initial response protects lives, property and reduces fire suppression costs for local, state and federal entities.

Oklahoma Forestry Services is working with state and federal officials, the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service to gather more information and seek a long term solution to resolve the issue and make this equipment available.

Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry, is committed to conserving, enhancing and protecting the forest resources of Oklahoma for present and future generations. To learn more visit [www.forestry.ok.gov](http://www.forestry.ok.gov) or call (405) 522-6158.

## OKFB Commodity Committee holds meeting in OKC

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Commodity Committee held an organizational meeting on July 7 at the home office in Oklahoma City. Members from across the state gathered to learn more about the role of Farm Bureau commodity committees and to discuss ideas for the future of the OKFB Commodity Committee.

"We are laying the foundation and groundwork for future commodity committees in Oklahoma," said Todd Honer, OKFB director of commodities and safety services. "Getting input from members across the state is going to help us at Oklahoma Farm Bureau better prepare for the future of our state's commodities."

Program topics included overviews on how commodity committees are utilized in other states and on the national level. Members also had the chance to learn more about how unmanned aerial systems are improving precision agriculture.

Members heard from speakers including Gino Hodges, unmanned aerial systems professional at Hodges Aviation; Sean Akadiri, president and CEO of Agric-Bioformatics; Ned Meister, Texas Farm Bureau commodity staff member; and John Anderson, American Farm Bureau Federation livestock economist.

## Fallin visits Jackson County



Gov. Mary Fallin traveled to the Jackson County Farm Bureau office in Altus on Monday, June 30, to hear the ideas for the area's water plan and discuss possible solutions with southwest Oklahoma citizens.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

• *Avis* offers Oklahoma Farm Bureau members savings up to 25% along with other valuable offers.

Visit [www.avis.com/okfb](http://www.avis.com/okfb) for more details and to book reservations.

OKFB highlights a benefit in each issue of *Perspective* as a reminder of the savings available to OKFB members. Find a complete list of savings online at [www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits](http://www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits).

## OKFB CALENDAR

**OKFB Women's Leadership Team Nursing Scholarship Deadline**  
July 15 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

**OSU Big 3 Field Days**  
July 15-17 • Stillwater  
Contact: Holly Carroll (405) 530-2681

**District Farm Family Application Due**  
Aug. 1 • Statewide  
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

## Grant County resident receives \$5,000 reward

A Grant County man has been given a \$5,000 reward after capturing a property thief on the run. The hero, who wishes to remain nameless, chased the thief 75 miles through several counties, notifying the different county sheriff offices as they entered their county.

The \$5,000 reward is a member benefit provided to OKFB members for information leading to the arrest and felony conviction of persons committing theft, arson or vandalism on members' property.



Grant County Farm Bureau board president Ken Ferda rewards a Grant County citizen for his successful capture and detainment of a property thief.

## Wilcox named to Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the appointment of seven members to serve on the United States Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. Among those named to a new three-year term is Major County Farm Bureau member Jessica Wilcox, a farmer and crop insurance agent from Fairview.

"I am pleased that these individuals have agreed to serve on the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee," said Vilsack.

"They bring a great deal of knowledge and experience to this committee."

The other new members of the committee are: Scott E. Averhoff, owner/operator, Scott



Jessica Wilcox

Averhoff, Waxahachie, Texas; Marvin R. Paulsen, professor emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois; Timothy D. Paurus, vice president terminal operations, CHS Inc., Inver Grove Heights, Minn.; Cesar Ramirez, manager, Gavilon Grain LLC, Progreso, Texas; Todd E. Russom, manager, Anheuser-Busch InBev, St. Louis, Missouri; and Steven Wirsching, vice president and director, U.S. Wheat Associates, Portland, Oregon.

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, who represent all facets of the grain industry. The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee meets annually to advise the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the establishment of programs and services under the United States Grain Standards Act.

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

The screenshot shows the Oklahoma Farm Bureau website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'About', 'News', 'Courses', 'Membership', 'Member Engagement', and 'Home'. Below that is a search bar and a 'OKFB CONNECTIONS' section with links to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance, Farming and Business Publications, and Harvest Watch Blog. There are also social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. A 'MARKETS' section displays a table of commodity prices.

Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
WHEAT	BUSH	2.12	0.01
CORN	BUSH	1.85	0.02
SOYBEANS	BUSH	10.15	0.05
CRACKED CORN	TON	215.00	0.00
WHEAT	TON	42.50	0.00
CORN	TON	37.00	0.00
SOYBEANS	TON	34.50	0.00

Monitor the latest Farm Bureau and agricultural news and information online at [okfarmbureau.org](http://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.
- **OKFB Harvest Watch Blog** – The annual OKFB Harvest Watch blog season is underway. Visit [www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org) and click on the OKFB Harvest Watch link to follow families from the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

[www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org)





# 2014 August Area Meetings Aug. 12-22

## **District 1**

Thursday, Aug. 14  
6:30 p.m. in Woodward

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## **District 2**

Thursday, Aug. 21  
12 p.m. in Hobart

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## **District 3**

Tuesday, Aug. 12  
6:30 p.m. in El Reno

## **District 4**

Friday, Aug. 22  
12 p.m. in Ardmore

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## **District 5**

Tuesday, Aug. 19  
12 p.m. in Krebs

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## **District 6**

Monday, Aug. 18  
11 a.m. in Pryor

## **District 7**

Monday, Aug. 18  
6:30 p.m. in Enid

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## **District 8**

Tuesday, Aug. 19  
6:30 p.m. in Ada

.....

## **District 9**

Thursday, Aug. 21  
6:30 p.m. at Creek County  
Fairgrounds

## Youth attend leadership conference at OKFB

Twenty of Oklahoma's top high school seniors spent four days learning about leadership, team building and agriculture at the third annual Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference, June 23-26, in Oklahoma City. OYLA is hosted by Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

"We wanted an event to showcase Oklahoma agriculture to our best and brightest students across the state," said Holly Carroll, OYLA and YF&R coordi-

nator at Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

The conference was designed to prepare high school students for a future career in agriculture and to advance youth leadership. The group learned about media training, money-spending habits and agricultural advocacy. They toured places such as Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Devon Energy, the Oklahoma City Stockyards and Whole Foods.

"We found as a state that a lot of times we lose those students to a competitor

in a neighboring state or they go to what they think is a better job because they don't know what's available right here in Oklahoma," Carroll said. "We wanted to showcase agriculture-related jobs and the things we can offer to keep young adults in our state and keep them involved in Oklahoma Farm Bureau."

Brooks McKinney, a senior at Spiro High School, said OYLA highlighted the importance of remaining involved in agriculture.

"Even if I didn't have the opportunity to participate on a farm, I think it's very important that we are involved in agriculture," McKinney said. "That's something this conference teaches us."

OYLA also encourages service-minded leadership. The students participated in a National Dairy Month service project at a grocery store in Yukon during their time with OKFB. They handed out free samples of dairy products including milkshakes and shared dairy facts with consumers while promoting Oklahoma agriculture.

Twenty Oklahoma high school students attended the Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture Conference held in Oklahoma City, June 23-26. The conference topics ranged from preparing for college to leadership and agricultural advocacy.



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## Oklahoma Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference Aug. 7-8

Oklahoma's Statewide Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference will take place Aug. 7-8 at the Moore-Norman Technology Center.

"The focus of the two-day conference is to assist women and producers to successfully manage risk for their agricultural enterprises or small businesses," said Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension farm management specialist.

Cost is \$50 per participant if registering by Aug. 1 and \$60 thereafter. Registration includes two breakfasts, two lunches, all refreshment breaks, conference materials and an optional post-conference training Aug. 8 from 2-5 p.m. on farm transitions and estate planning.

Registration forms and additional information are available at <http://www.OKWomeninAgandSmallBusiness.com> on the Internet, or by calling the OSU Department of Agricultural Economics at (405) 744-9826.

The Moore-Norman Technology Center is located at 13301 S. Pennsylvania Ave. in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

A number of concurrent sessions will be offered during the conference. Sessions will focus on a variety of high-profile topics about agriculture, alternative enterprises and business and finance. Participants will be able to attend sessions of most interest and value to them.

"The conference is a great resource to learn the latest information on topics that empower women to solve issues and concerns of importance to them, their families

and communities," Doye said. "A particular strength of the conference is the ability of participants to personalize their experience."

Keynote speakers are Jane Jenkins-Herlong, a professional speaker, Amazon "best-selling" author and humorist, and Matt Rush, a fourth-generation farmer and cattle rancher and professional speaker who conducts leadership and motivational seminars.

"Opportunities for informal networking between participants and interaction with conference experts often lead to personal and professional inspiration, ideas and solutions, as do the informational booths and women-owned businesses featured in the mini-mall," Doye said.

The two-day event is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and numerous sponsors who have helped keep costs low to participants.

Post-conference training features will include the Farm Transition workshop, led by OSU agricultural economists Rodney Jones and Shannon Ferrell. The workshop is for family farmers and ranchers interested in learning about the components of a successful farm transition. The workshop is free for conference participants.

"The Statewide Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference really is the place to be in August," Doye said. "Think of it as one-stop shopping to build awareness and skills."

## Meetings set to discuss Clean Line Energy

Clean Line Energy is planning a series of office hour meetings to allow Oklahoma community members and landowners to learn more and ask questions about the Plains & Eastern Clean Line. They will also have the opportunity to meet with project representatives. The Plains & Eastern Clean Line is an electric transmission line project that will deliver low-cost renewable energy from the Oklahoma Panhandle to Arkansas, Tennessee and other markets.

The project represents an approximately \$2 billion investment. Plains & Eastern Clean Line will increase revenue for all counties and communities hosting the transmission line for decades.

Clean Line Energy invites you to join them for any of the following meetings or to contact them via phone, (877) 573-2851, or email [info@plainsandeastern-cleanline.com](mailto:info@plainsandeastern-cleanline.com). More information is also available on their website [www.plainsandeasterncleanline.com](http://www.plainsandeasterncleanline.com).

**Tuesday, July 29**  
**Mooreland Community Center**  
12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, July 30**  
**Laverne Chamber of Commerce**  
12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Thursday, July 31**  
**Mulhall Family Center**  
12 p.m. - 6 p.m.