



Wilke named to Leadership Oklahoma Class XXVIII

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Executive Director Monica Wilke has been selected to participate in the next class of Leadership Oklahoma, a statewide organization of leaders who help shape the state's future.

"I am honored to serve with such a respected group of individuals who are all interested in making Oklahoma the best it can be," Wilke said. "I am looking forward to learning about the many aspects of our state and to sharing information about our strong agricultural industry with my peers."

Prior to becoming executive director of the state's largest farm organization in 2009, Wilke served as OKFB's general counsel, director of state and national affairs and a lobbyist for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. She

has been active in several community organizations, including Diamond Hats, Young Professionals of Oklahoma City, Women's Leadership Exchange and the Oklahoma FFA Foundation Board. Wilke earned a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and a juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma School of Law.

A Leadership Oklahoma class is selected each year from a wide geographic base representing diverse backgrounds. Members will meet monthly visiting Seminole, Durant, Lawton/Fort Sill, Oklahoma City, McAlester, Stillwater, Tulsa, Guymon and Enid to discuss the many social, environmental and economic complexities of our state in order to stimulate inquiry, analysis and solutions for the public good.

"Leadership Oklahoma is very excited about the 51 people chosen for this year's program," said Bruce Benbrook, chairman and president, The Stock Exchange Bank in Woodward and chair of the Leadership Oklahoma board of directors. "Class XXVIII is an outstanding blend of leaders from a variety of fields who will contribute a wealth of knowledge to our discussions on important Oklahoma issues."

Other members of Class XXVIII are: Tom Bates, Oklahoma City; Jeb Boatman,

Oklahoma City; Brian Byrnes, Edmond; Kent Carter, Norman; Alan Case, Woodward; Brent Copeland, Lawton; Edward Crews, Talala; Joseph Cunningham, Tulsa; Tom Deighan, Lawton; Adrian DeWendt, Tulsa; Amy Ford, Durant; Jonathan Fowler, Norman; Thad Friedman, Bartlesville; Jim Gebhart, Edmond; Karen Gilbert, Tulsa; Chris Hammes, Oklahoma City; Michelle Hardesty, Tulsa; Robert Hatley, Tulsa; Reginald Hines, Oklahoma City; John Hobbs, Caddo; Becky Hodgen, Enid; Thomas Ivester, Sayre; Donnie Jones, Edmond; Karen Jordan, Lawton; Philip Kaiser, Tulsa; Benjamin Kimbro, Tulsa; Adam Leaming, Newkirk; Robert Lehman III, Tulsa; Brandon Long, Moore; Kevin Matthews, Tulsa; Greg McCortney, Ada; Jennifer Meason, Walters; David Nimmo, Ada; Mark O'Rear, Edmond; Kathleen Patton, Edmond; Zac Perkins, Hooker; Krista Roberts, Enid; Isaac Rocha, Tulsa; John Ryerson, Alva; Debbie Schramm, Edmond; Shelley Shelby, Oklahoma City; Janet Smith, Tulsa; Elaine Stith, Shawnee; Hayley Thompson, Oklahoma City; David Underwood, Edmond; Anita Vanderveer, Edmond; Jill vanEgmond, Edmond; Paul Waugh, Edmond; Sherri Wilt, Bartlesville; and Kenny Wright, Grove.



Monica Wilke

OKFB Women's Leadership Team holds annual summer conference

Oklahoma Farm Bureau women gathered in Midwest City July 11-12 for the group's annual summer conference. The OKFB Women's Leadership Team met to explore growth in the organization, discuss public policy updates and tour the OSU-OKC gardens.

"We want these women to see the impact they can have when they are involved in agriculture and Oklahoma Farm Bureau," said Kitty Beavers, OKFB Women's Leadership Team chairman. "It's so beneficial to get together and brainstorm with women across the state to discuss the ways we can improve our organization. I really appreciate the women who took the time to

come to the conference and help advance our organization for the future."

Marcy Luter from the Meridian Technology Center addressed the Women's Leadership Team on Friday morning and challenged them to move through change, grow membership, and accomplish their goals.

"We have to constantly change to keep up with the people we want to reach as Farm Bureau women," Luter said. "We have to be the leaders and take the job of pulling the organization forward."

(See Women, page 2)



OKFB Women's Leadership Team members tour the John E. Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center and the OSU-OKC Gardens and Farmers Market during the recent summer conference.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Save up to 35 percent off your next vacation to Orlando! Discounts on theme park tickets, vacation homes, and hotels and resorts. Visit www.orlandovacations.com/discounts for more details.

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.



OKFB board member Rodd Moesel and LeeAnna McNally visit with Thomas Coon (left), new vice president, dean and director of Oklahoma State University Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, at a reception, July 8.

OKFB CALENDAR

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

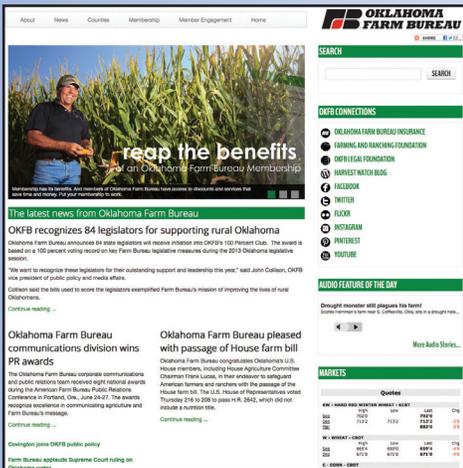
August Area Meetings
Aug. 12-22 • Statewide
See chart on page 3

State Farm Family Application Due
Aug. 15 • Statewide
Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2405

The OKFB YF&R Committee is a proud sponsor of Oklahoma State University's Big 3 Field Days. This year's livestock judging contest was held July 15-17, at the OSU Animal Science Arena in Stillwater.



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.
- **OKFB Harvest Watch Blog** – The annual OKFB Harvest Watch blog season is underway. Visit www.okfarmbureau.org and click on the OKFB Harvest Watch link to follow families from the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

(Women, from page 1)

Friday afternoon consisted of breakout sessions where OKFB women had the opportunity to discuss public policy, identity fraud and tips for container gardening. The group spent Saturday morning touring the John E. Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center and the OSU-OKC Gardens and Farmers Market.



John Collison and LeeAnna McNally review the 2014 legislative session with conference attendees during a breakout session.

www.okfarmbureau.org



2014 August Area Meetings

Aug. 12-22

District 1

Thursday, Aug. 14 • 6:30 p.m.
Big Dan's Steakhouse
Woodward

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District 2

Thursday, Aug. 21 • 12 p.m.
Kiowa Co. FB office
Hobart

••••••••

District 3

Tuesday, Aug. 12 • 6:30 p.m.
Canadian Co. FB Office
El Reno

District 4

Friday, Aug. 22 • 12 p.m.
Casa Roma
Ardmore

••••••••

District 5

Tuesday, Aug. 19 • 12 p.m.
Pete's Place
Krebs

••••~•••

District 6

Monday, Aug. 18 • 11 a.m.
JL's Barbecue
Pryor

District 7

Monday, Aug. 18 • 6:30 p.m.
Garfield Co. Fairgrounds
Enid

••••~•••

District 8

Tuesday, Aug. 19 • 6:30 p.m.
Aldridge Hotel
Ada

••••~•••

District 9

Thursday, Aug. 21 • 6:30 p.m.
Creek Co. Fairgrounds
Kellyville

NRCS chief joins House ag chairman to highlight projects that will protect lives, provide jobs

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that communities across the nation will benefit from a \$262 million investment to rehabilitate dams that provide critical infrastructure and protect public health and safety. Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Jason Weller and U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, were in Oklahoma Friday to recognize the importance of this announcement to agriculture and communities nationwide.

"This investment will protect people and property from floods, help keep our water clean, and ensure that critical structures continue to provide benefits for future generations," Weller said. "Families, businesses and our agriculture economy depend on responsible management of dams and watersheds, and we are continuing to provide that support to these communities."

A number of the projects to be funded are in Oklahoma and Weller noted that the state had the first full watershed plan and structure completed by USDA on private lands in the 1940s. The 2014 Farm Bill, signed into law by President Obama earlier this year, increased the typical annual investment in watershed rehabilitation by almost 21 fold, recognizing the critical role of these structures in flood management,

water supply and agricultural productivity. Last week the President discussed the importance of infrastructure to job creation and commerce, noting that "Funding infrastructure projects helps our families, it fuels our economy and it better positions America for the future."

From the 1940s through the 1970s, local communities using NRCS assistance constructed more than 11,800 dams in 47 states. These watershed management projects provide an estimated \$2.2 billion in annual benefits in reduced flooding and erosion damages, and improved recreation,

(See NRCS, page 4)

Watershed Dam No. 62 in Pery will be included in a USDA-funded rehabilitation partnership project. The project is expected to provide about \$7.5 million in benefits including flood damage reduction, water supply and recreational benefits.

OKFB seeks commodity committee nominations

Commodity committee members, along with other OKFB members, provide key recommendations regarding issues affecting specific commodities in Oklahoma.

Commodity committees include: beef, wheat, animal health, hay and forage, swine, feed grains, cotton and oil seed. Advisory positions (one statewide) include: equine, sheep and goats, labor, horticulture, greenhouse and nursery, and poultry.

If you are interested in serving as a representative on the OKFB commodity committee, contact your county board president.



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STAFF DIRECTORY

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Communications Specialist

Oklahoma Farm Bureau
2501 N. Stiles
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water supplies and wildlife habitat for an estimated 47 million Americans.

Weller said that funding provided through the recent announcement will provide rehabilitation assistance for 150 dams in 26 states. Funds will be used for planning, design or construction. Also, 500 dam sites will be assessed for safety through NRCS' Watershed Rehabilitation Program. The projects were identified based on recent rehabilitation investments and the potential risks to life and property if a dam failure occurred. Overall, an estimated 250 thousand people will benefit as a result of improved flood protection made possible by these rehabilitated dams.

For example, Watershed Dam No. 62 in the Upper Black Bear Creek Watershed of Noble County will be included in a USDA-funded rehabilitation partnership project. Currently awaiting rehabilitation design, the dam provides protection against flood-

ing to about 550 Oklahomans who live and work downstream.

Additionally, the dam protects seven county roads, one state highway, two U.S. highways and an interstate highway that, together, support about 16,200 vehicles daily. Among other critical infrastructure, the dam also protects power lines and railroad tracks. The rehabilitation project is expected to provide about \$7.5 million in benefits including flood damage reduction, water supply and recreational benefits.

"These funds will go a long way towards improving the safety and continued benefits provided by these watershed structures," Weller said. "We will work closely with the local project sponsors to ensure that these dams continue to protect and provide water for communities and agriculture."

For more information, visit the Watershed Rehabilitation website or local USDA service center.



Potato Harvest

A group of OKFB directors, members and staff traveled to Erick July 15, to pick potatoes for a donation to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. The group picked a total of 650 pounds of potatoes to help feed hungry Oklahomans.

Noble County hosts annual ice cream social



Noble County Women's Committee member Paula Cinnamon (left) dishes up a serving of ice cream for Noble County Commissioner Larry Montgomery at the Noble County Ice Cream Social, July 7, in Perry.



OKFB President Tom Buchanan (right) visits with Noble County Farm Bureau members during the annual county event.