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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

Feb. 1, 2019

OKFB members help set American Farm Bureau's 2019 policy

Five Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gathered with fellow farmers and ranchers at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 100th Annual Convention on Tuesday, Jan. 15 to adopt policies that will guide the organization's work during its centennial year on key topics such as cell-cultured food products, trade, rural broadband access and rural mental health programs.

Gary Crawley of Pittsburg County, Alan Jett of Beaver County, David VonTungeln of Canadian County, Mary Sloan of Sequoyah County and Brent Haken of Payne County represented Oklahoma as delegates.

"As our organization has done for the last 100 years, grassroots delegates from across the nation came together to express a unified voice on issues vital to the success of our farms, ranches and rural communities," American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said. "We continue to face a challenging farm economy and we stand ready to work with Congress and the Trump administration to address the issues important to our farm and ranch families."

Cell-based Food

A number of OKFB-member resolutions were adopted by the delegate body including policy that calls for accurate labeling of cell-based food products, also referred to as "fake meat."

"'Fake meat' was a big concern for members in Oklahoma," Crawley said. "We're really honored that we were able to get some of our language added into national policy. We want consumers to know what they're actually eating. We want them to be able to distinguish between the products they're receiving."

Delegates affirmed that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is best equipped to be the primary regulator of new cell-based products as they

encouraged USDA to utilize the Food and Drug Administration's expertise in food safety. The policy also calls for complete and accurate product labels to ensure that consumers have all the pertinent information they need.

Government Shutdown

Due to the uncertainty it has caused farmers and ranchers, Farm Bureau members also urged the administration and Congress to "work earnestly and cooperatively" to end the government shutdown as quickly as possible. The current shutdown means farmers and ranchers are experiencing delays in securing loans and crop insurance as well as disaster and trade assistance. The impasse has also delayed implementation of important provisions of the farm bill.

Trade

Delegates voted to favor negotiations to resolve trade disputes, rather than the use of tariffs or withdrawal from agreements.

They also voted to support the United States' entry into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Rural Broadband

Delegates supported improved broadband coverage maps through better data and third-party provider verification. AFBF will work with the Federal Communications Commission to address map inaccuracies.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Delegates supported increased funding for programs and facilities for the treatment of substance abuse and mental health issues. Delegates also voted to support funding for the Farm and Ranch Assistance Network, which was included in the 2018 farm bill. AFBF will urge appropriations committees to fund this program, which is critical to address the mental health issues faced by many farmers, ranchers and other rural Americans.



Above: (Left to Right) Alan Jett of Beaver County, David VonTungeln of Canadian County, Mary Sloan of Sequoyah County, Brent Haken of Payne County and Gary Crawley of Pittsburg County represented Oklahoma Farm Bureau as they assisted in the adoption of policies that will guide American Farm Bureau throughout the year.

OKFB Leadership Conference tentative schedule announced

Monday, February 18

11:30 p.m.	Registration
12 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 p.m.	Welcome <i>Thad Doye, OKFB Executive Director</i>
1:30 p.m.	State of Oklahoma Farm Bureau <i>Rodd Moesel, OKFB President</i>
1:45 p.m.	Speakers
2:45 p.m.	Break
3 p.m.	Legislative Leaders Panel
4 p.m.	Adjourn
5 p.m.	Legislative Reception
5:45 p.m.	Dinner and Entertainment
6:30 p.m.	2018 Champion Awards Ceremony and 100 Percent Club Recognition

Tuesday, February 19

6 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.	Breakfast – complementary at hotel
8 a.m.	Call to Order
8:15 a.m.	Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture update
8:30 a.m.	Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation update
8:45 a.m.	Speaker
9:30 a.m.	Speaker
10 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m.	Speaker
11 a.m.	OKFB Legislative Action Alerts
11:15 a.m.	OKFB Legislative Update
11:30 a.m.	Adjourn
12 p.m.	Lunch
Afternoon	Legislative visits at state Capitol

OKFB honored for excellence

Oklahoma Farm Bureau was honored with four Awards of Excellence at the AFBF 100th Annual Convention held Jan. 11-16 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The awards recognize excellence in implementation of outstanding member programs and membership achievement in 2018.

The Awards of Excellence are awarded to state Farm Bureaus who demonstrate outstanding achievements in four areas. OKFB earned awards in all four categories including Advocacy; Engagement and Outreach; Leadership and Business Development; and Membership Value.

“Every day, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members and staff work for the betterment of agriculture and rural Oklahoma,” said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. “These awards are simply a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the Farm Bureau family.”

Former OKFB President Jim Lockett passes

Oklahoma Farm Bureau extends its sympathies to the family of former Osage County rancher and Oklahoma Farm Bureau president James L. Lockett on December 13, 2018, at the age of 88.

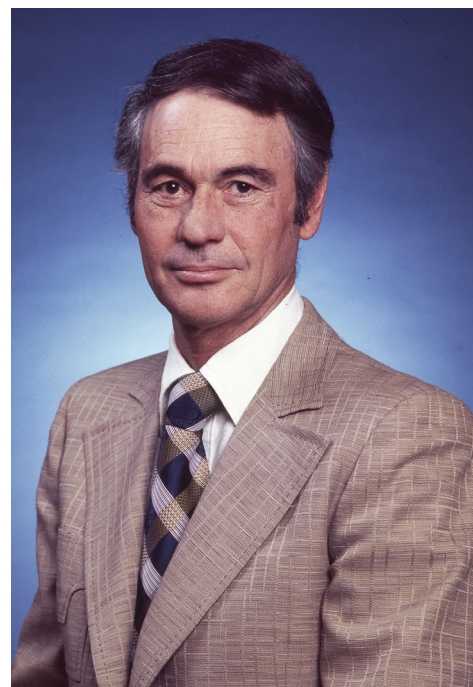
Lockett, fourth president of OKFB, served from 1977-1993 and guided the organization through several farm crises while supporting farmers and ranchers through a variety of legislative battles at the Capitol. During his presidency, Lockett strongly believed the organization provided farmers and ranchers across the state with a voice and encouraged them to be a part of the grassroots policymaking process.

A business administration graduate of Oklahoma A&M University and member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, Lockett served in the U.S. Air Force prior to returning to his Osage County roots where he maintained his 4,000-acre cattle ranch.

Before Lockett served as president of the organization, he was elected to the Osage County Farm Bureau Board in 1967, elected Osage County president in 1972 and shortly after was elected to the OKFB Board in 1975 to serve as vice president.

Lockett is survived by his wife, Ann,

sister, children, grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.



Above: Former Osage County rancher and OKFB president James L. Lockett served the organization from 1977-1993.

Calendar

YF&R Legislative Day

Feb. 18 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

OKFB Leadership Conference

Feb. 18-19 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Emmy Karns 405-523-2681

State WLC Committee Meeting

Feb. 26 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

WLC Farm City Festival

Feb. 27 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

AFBF Convention photos available

For more photos from the 2019 American Farm Bureau Convention, head to our Flickr account at www.okfb.news/afbf19.

OKFB Washington D.C. trip registration open through Feb. 26

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are invited to advocate for farmers and ranchers on Capitol Hill during the 2019 Congressional Action Tour April 1-5 in Washington, D.C.

The annual trip provides members a unique opportunity to promote the concerns and needs of agriculture and rural Oklahoma as they meet directly with lawmakers and federal agency leaders in our nation's Capitol.

OKFB has reserved hotel rooms for the trip at the Holiday Inn Capitol at a cost of \$350 per night, for a total of \$1,400. Members are responsible for

booking their own travel arrangements. For questions in booking airfare, please contact OKFB Public Policy Coordinator Emmy Karns at (405) 530-2681.

To register, please submit a completed registration form and full payment to the OKFB home office by Tuesday, Feb. 26. Registration forms can be found at www.okfarmbureau.org/applications.

For more information about the OKFB Congressional Action Tour, please contact OKFB Public Policy Coordinator Emmy Karns at (405) 530-2681. A full itinerary will be sent to all registered attendees prior to the trip.

Moesel re-elected to AFBF board

Delegates at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 100th Annual Convention re-elected Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel to serve a two-year term on the AFBF board of directors.

Moesel will represent AFBF's southern region which includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.



YF&R to award nine \$1,000 college scholarships to high school seniors

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee is now accepting applications for its annual \$1,000 scholarships for high school seniors who will pursue a higher degree in agriculture after graduation.

Nine \$1,000 scholarships, one from each OKFB state board district, will be awarded to high school seniors pursuing a career in agriculture at an Oklahoma institution of high learning as a full-time student.

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 2, 2019. Applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be a graduating high school senior.
- Must enroll full time in an agriculture program at an accredited Oklahoma college, university or technical school.

- Must be a member of a Farm Bureau family (father, mother or legal guardian memberships qualify; grandparents', siblings' or other relatives' memberships may not be used). Membership must remain in good standing for the duration of the scholarship.
- Children of paid employees of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies are not eligible.

Applicants must also provide the following materials along with the scholarship application:

- A copy of the applicant's official high school transcript.
- A copy of the applicant's résumé with activities and honors listed.
- Three essays (500 words maximum),

double-spaced and typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font.

- No. 1: Explain your preferred career and describe why you have chosen it.
- No. 2: How can Farm Bureau encourage young people to engage in agriculture?
- No. 3: Explain how receiving this scholarship would help you achieve your educational goals.

- Two character references.

The application can be found on the OKFB website at okfarmbureau.org/applications. More information is available by contacting YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2406 or zac.swartz@okfb.org.

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Oklahoma County donates to Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

Oklahoma County Farm Bureau donated \$2,000 to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to help support the food bank's Seeds of Hope program.

The program provides Oklahomans on a limited income with seeds to plant and produce their own healthy fruits and vegetables. RFBO creates seed packets with a variety of fruit and vegetable options for spring and summer gardens.

"Farmers feed the world," said Sharlene Lambring, Oklahoma County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee chair. "Oklahoma County Farm Bureau is thrilled to be just a little part of that, making sure that no Oklahoman goes hungry."

As a member of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee, Lambring also made a personal contribution to the food bank.



On behalf of Oklahoma County Farm Bureau, Dennis (second from left) and Sharlene Lambring (second from right) present a \$2,000 donation to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. The contribution benefitted the food bank's Seeds of Hope program which provides Oklahomans in need with seeds to produce healthy fruits and vegetables at home. As a member of the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee, Sharlene Lambring also made a personal donation to the food bank.

Reminder: YF&R members to visit state Capitol Feb. 18

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers members will head to the Oklahoma State Capitol on the morning of Monday, Feb. 18, for their annual legislative day event.