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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

# Perspective

March 15, 2019

## Legislative Update: Prioritizing OKFB Tax Policy

The end of February brought the first major legislative deadline this session, as bills were required to pass out of committee to continue in the legislative process. More than 2,800 bills were filed this year, with roughly 1,000 remaining.

Gov. Kevin Stitt signed his first bill into law late February, allowing Oklahomans to carry firearms concealed or unconcealed without permit. Private property owners retain the right to allow or deny concealed carry on their premises.

House and Senate leadership reached an agreement with Gov. Kevin Stitt on state agency reform, a central aspect of his campaign. The legislation, still working through both chambers, would grant the governor five appointments to the five largest state agency boards which include the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs, Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Oklahoma Health Care Authority and Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

Tax policy – specifically regarding ad valorem taxes and the agriculture sales tax exemption – is a key focus for both Oklahoma Farm Bureau and state legislators. Both issues have the potential to be controversial and divide the state Capitol. OKFB members have adopted strong policy in both areas and staff is working diligently with lawmakers daily.

Though the proposals on tax have changed frequently thus far, one theme remains consistent with each version: a clear push to “modernize” Oklahoma tax laws. The pressure likely will not go away on its own, so we must remain vigilant in our efforts to engage in the discussion on behalf of agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

## Members of OK State FFA Officer team visit OKFB home office



Four members of the 2018-2019 Oklahoma State FFA officer team visited Oklahoma Farm Bureau on March 7 where they had the opportunity to learn what opportunities are available through Farm Bureau and how they can become involved. OKFB is proud to support these bright students who will lead our industry both now and in the future.

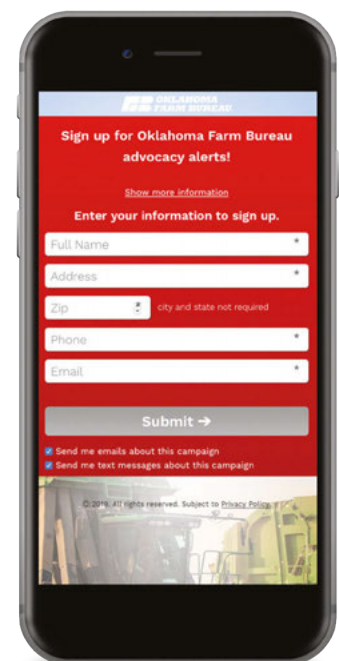
## Text OKFB77 to 52886

Use your voice to advocate for agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

### HOW TO SIGN UP FOR OKFB LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERTS

- Text OKFB77 to 52886.
- You will receive a text response with a link.
- Click on the link, which leads to a form.
- Fill out the form with your information.
- Click “Submit.”
- You’re signed up! You’ll receive action alerts when state legislators need to hear from you.

For questions on OKFB’s action alert system, please contact OKFB Communications at 405-523-2346.



# OKFB offers suggestions on USDA Farm Bill implementation

**O**n behalf of its members, Oklahoma Farm Bureau recently offered suggestions to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on how to improve implementation of new programs and changes to programs within the 2018 farm bill.

The comments specifically targeted programs under the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Services and Risk Management Agency.

OKFB President Rodd Moesel emphasized the need to consider young producers facing high farm loan interest rates, low farm income and trade tariffs when implementing the 2018 farm bill programs.

Jimmy Kinder, an OKFB board member and Cotton County Farm Bureau member, commented on a few program changes including the Grassland Conservation Initiative within the Conservation Stewardship Program and disaster assistance programs such as the Livestock Indemnity Program.

Kinder also said Farm Bureau members appreciate tools to aid producers in making farm bill program decisions, including the online tool by Texas A&M University.

"It is a big help to producers who can be overwhelmed by options, like whether to participate in Agriculture Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage," he said.

Thad Doye, OKFB executive director and

OKFB Insurance crop insurance manager, commented on changes to the forage and grazing coverage under the RMA.

"We are pleased to offer this new RMA product with separate crop insurance policies for crops that are both grazed and mechanically harvested on the same acres during the same growing season," Doye said.

OKFB also highlighted the need for timely development of industrial hemp production rules.

For more information on implementation of the 2018 farm bill, visit [farmers.gov/farmbill](http://farmers.gov/farmbill).



## Comanche County members meet with leaders at state Capitol

**M**embers of Comanche County Farm Bureau traveled to Oklahoma City to speak with their legislators on current bills and to share their story on how legislation will affect them personally in rural Oklahoma.

Before making their way to the Capitol, members met with staff from the OKFB

public policy division to learn the status of bills regarding the agriculture sales tax exemption, rural healthcare and private property rights.

To schedule a Capitol visit for your county, please contact Emmy Karns at (405) 530-2681 or at [emily.karns@okfb.org](mailto:emily.karns@okfb.org).



## Calendar

### Oklahoma Youth Expo

March 13-22 • Oklahoma City

### Congressional Action Tour

April 1-5 • Washington, D.C.

Contact: Emmy Karns 405-530-2681

### Ag Day at the Capitol

April 2 • Oklahoma City

### YF&R Scholarship Deadline

April 2 • Oklahoma City

Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

### Oklahoma State FFA Convention

April 30-May 1 • Oklahoma City

Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

### OKFB Commodity Tour

May 8-10 • Clinton, Woodward area

Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405



# Women's Leadership Committee members host successful Farm City Festival at state Capitol

All nine members of the Women's Leadership Committee walked the halls of the state Capitol where they delivered 290 meals to legislators and their aides in both the House and Senate Feb. 27.

"We are excited to bring them a meal to let them know the importance of agriculture, what we do with our food, get to know them, but most importantly, to thank them for what they do here at the Capitol and back at home," said Mignon Bolay, Women's Committee chair.

To help defray the cost of this event, County Women's Leadership Committees from across the state sent in donations.

For more details on the Farm City Festival, head over to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Facebook page to watch a video with highlights from the event.



Above: Arlene LeMaster (left), Dist. 5, and Sandra Berry (right), Dist. 4, were a part of the assembly line to prepare the 290 lunches distributed during the Farm City Festival.



Above: Senator John Haste (left), representing Tulsa and Wagoner Counties, stands with Jan Long (right), Dist. 8.



Above: Mary Sloan (right), Dist. 6, chats with a legislative assistant about OKFB and specifically what WLC does across Oklahoma.



Above: To make this event possible, County Women's Leadership Committee members from across the state sent in donations.



Above: Rep. Mark McBride (left), representing Cleveland County, shakes hands with Terry Pederson (right), Dist. 7.

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## Final OKFB County Board training opportunities

The final three OKFB County Board training opportunities will be held in District 1 and District 4. You do not need to live in District 1 or District 4 in order to participate. For more information, please contact your district field representative.

### District 4

Monday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.  
Southern Tech, Conference Room B  
2610 Sam Noble Parkway  
Ardmore, OK 73401

### District 1

Tuesday, March, 26, 6 p.m.  
High Plains Vo-Tech  
3921 34th St.  
Woodward, OK 73801

Tuesday, April 2, 6 p.m.  
Texas County Farm Bureau Office  
121 NW 9th St.  
Guymon, OK 73942

## Nine YF&R scholarships available 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 higher learning as a full-time student.

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

## Scholarship 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.

Applications must be **postmarked by April 2, 2019**, and mailed to:  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Attn: Zac Swartz, YF&R Coordinator, 2501 N. Stiles,  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105 or emailed to: [zac.swartz@okfb.org](mailto:zac.swartz@okfb.org).