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# Oklahoma Farm Bureau *Perspective*

June 12, 2015



## Farm Bureau recognizes legislators for supporting rural Oklahoma

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau board of directors has announced the members of the 2015 OKFB 100 Percent Club. Presented to 71 Oklahoma legislators, the award is based upon a 100 percent voting record on key Farm Bureau legislative measures during the 2015 Oklahoma legislative session.

“The members of the 100 Percent Club helped support Farm Bureau’s mission to protect personal property rights, keep taxes low, and boost agricultural and rural business,” said John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy and media relations. “Oklahoma Farm Bureau sincerely

appreciates the leadership of this group at the state Capitol this year.”

Thirty-five senators received the award including: Patrick Anderson, Don Barrington, Stephanie Bice, Brian Bingman, Rick Brinkley, Corey Brooks, Bill Brown, Kim David, Eddie Fields, John Ford, Jack Fry, A.J. Griffin, David Holt, Darcy Jech, Clark Jolley, Ron Justice, Kyle Loveless, Bryce Marlatt, Mike Mazzei, Dan Newberry, Susan Paddack, Anastasia Pittman, Marty Quinn, Mike Schulz, Ron Sharp, Ralph Shortey, Frank Simpson, Jason Smalley, John Sparks, Rob Standridge, Gary Stanislowski, Anthony Sykes, Roger Thompson,

Greg Treat and Ervin Yen.

OKFB honored 36 representatives including: Gary Banz, John Bennett, Scott Biggs, Kevin Calvey, Mike Christian, Josh Cockroft, Doug Cox, David Dank, Lee Denney, John Echols, John Enns, Katie Henke, Jeffrey Hickman, Dennis Johnson, John Jordan, Chris Kannady, James Leewright, Mark McBride, Charles McCall, Randy McDaniel, Casey Murdock, Jason Nelson, Tom Newell, Jadine Nollan, Terry O’Donnell, Charles Ortega, Leslie Osborn, Pam Peterson, John Pfeiffer, Sean Roberts, Mike Sanders, Earl Sears, Weldon Watson, Justin Wood and Harold Wright.



# OKFB Women's Leadership Committee hosts Youth Safety Day

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee hosted its first Safety Day on June 4 at the OKFB home office in Oklahoma City.

At the event, 12- to 17-year-old youth from around the state learned ATV safety, fire safety, vehicle rollover awareness, DUI prevention, poison control and more.

"We want our children, our young people, and even parents to be aware of safety," said Kitty Beavers, chair of the OKFB

Women's Leadership Committee.

Throughout the day, students cycled through stations focused on safety in various situations. At each booth, students had the opportunity to learn the appropriate safety techniques through hands-on activities and experiences.

In the past, Safety Day was a three-day event hosted by the OKFB Safety Division at off-site locations, but it lost much of its popularity because of the students' busy

summer schedules, Beavers said.

Realizing the importance of the event, the WLC took over Safety Day with hopes to see it grow and bring more safety awareness to rural Oklahoma families.

The WLC hoped to see an attendance of at least 50 students, but exceeded its goal with more than 60 registered participants. The participating students were selected through an application process.



*Left: Students observe a vehicle rollover simulation put on by the Oklahoma City Police Department.*

*Bottom Left: Students learn electrical safety precautions through a working model from OG&E.*

*Bottom Right: Zac Swartz, OKFB safety specialist, assists with a go-kart driving activity to show students the dangers of cell phone use while driving.*



## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



### EPA releases WOTUS rules

The Environmental Protection Agency has released its new Waters of the U.S. rules, despite Congressional action to repeal it. OKFB President Tom Buchanan and Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt voiced their concerns to OKFB's Sam Knipp. To listen, visit the OKFB SoundCloud page at [soundcloud.com/okfarmbureau](http://soundcloud.com/okfarmbureau).



### June is National Safety Month

Join Oklahoma Farm Bureau as we focus on safety in the month of June. Throughout the month, we will post several safety tips and reminders from some of our member benefits partners. To learn more about keeping your family safe, visit [www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org). Stay safe and enjoy your summer!



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

# Cohen joins OKFB staff as communications summer intern

**P**eter Cohen, agricultural communications senior at Oklahoma State University, recently joined Oklahoma Farm Bureau as the 2015 communications summer intern.

His drive to learn more about today's agricultural sector, and desire to gain skills needed to translate that knowledge to others motivated him to pursue the internship, Cohen said.

"Though I don't come from a farming background, I have been around agriculture a fair amount throughout my life," Cohen said. "Experiencing both lifestyles has illustrated the lack of understanding rural and urban Americans have of each other. I would like to help fix that."

Growing up living in many different places through his father's career in the military, Cohen experienced numerous cultures in the United States and abroad.

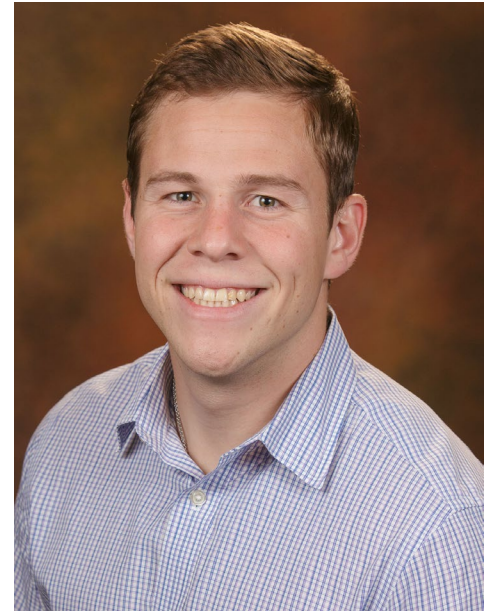
His first involvement in agriculture came when his family finally settled down in Claremore, Okla.

"When I got to Claremore, many of my new friends were involved in FFA," Cohen said. "I wanted to fit in so I joined, too."

Building relationships through FFA led him to study agricultural communications, Cohen said.

The OKFB communications internship covers all aspects of the profession. Each participant receives the opportunity to develop skills in writing, graphic design, radio broadcasting, photography and videography.

"The agriculture industry is constantly changing, and because of this people need to be informed," Cohen said. "I hope to learn what it takes to do just that here at Farm Bureau."



*Peter Cohen*

# OYLA participants selected for June 10–12 conference

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau has selected 17 incoming high school seniors as the next class of the organization's Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference held June 10-12 in Oklahoma City.

The OYLA conference is a three-day gathering of some of Oklahoma agriculture's top youth. Conference participants are selected through an application process.

Participants for the 2015 OYLA conference are: Marisa Burke, Harper County; Braden Egger, Pottawatomie County; Shelby Schulte, Comanche County;

Sadie Higgins, Caddo County; Sydney Cannon, McClain County; Lauren Lacy, Oklahoma County; Jaryn Frey, Kingfisher County; Sarah Gruntmeir, Kingfisher County; Lexi Newman, Stephens County; Victoria Chapman, Carter County; Ross Priddy, Johnston County; LeighAnn Alexander, LeFlore County; Chelsea Allen, Rogers County; Grant Wilber, Alfalfa County; Kailee Fitzpatrick, Grady County; Alexis Musshafen, Grady County; and Jill Coats, Seminole County.

The program, sponsored by OKFB's Young Farmers and Ranchers, provides

opportunities for participants to hone their teamwork abilities, leadership skills and agricultural knowledge. Students also learn about college life and how to prepare for the next step in their education.

Highlights for the 2015 conference include presentations on OKFB, agriculture in the classroom, communications training, a presentation by Oklahoma State University's Jayson Lusk, a tour of Whole Foods in Oklahoma City and a team building exercise at The Escape OKC.

## Member Benefits

### ICEHOLE Coolers

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members receive a 10 percent discount on all ICEHOLE cooler products. Built for the outdoor enthusiast, ICEHOLE high-performance coolers are designed with the environment in mind.

To learn more about this offer and other savings available to OKFB members, visit the Oklahoma Farm Bureau website.

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

## Calendar

### Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture Conference

June 10 – 12 – Oklahoma City Area  
Contact: Holly Carroll 405-523-2307

### National Ag in the Classroom Meeting

June 16 – 20 – Louisville, KY  
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

### On the Road with Ag in the Classroom

June 23 – 26  
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405



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## Protecting production agriculture with a common voice



By Amanda Rosholt  
Director of Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation provides an opportunity for producers across the state, from a variety of backgrounds, to join together in promoting the importance of production agriculture.

The truth is, the farmers and ranchers that make up Oklahoma's strong agriculture industry are as diverse as our food supply. From diversified operations covering thousands of acres to backyard gardens and everything in between, Oklahoma's farms and ranches produce food and fiber for the world.

The business and livelihood of farming and ranching is so much more than the individual choices each producer makes.

It is a collective devotion to the soil, water, natural resources and livestock in their care. It is a desire to serve their families and others with their bounty. It is a legacy for future generations of producers.

Providing consumers with a variety of affordable choices requires freedom for producers. Freedom to choose the best production practices for their operation. Freedom to care for their animals when they are ill. Freedom to choose the best available seed to plant according to local pest and weather patterns.

Farmers and ranchers educate themselves on production techniques and practices by visiting with scientists, conservationists, veterinarians, other producers and through in-the-field experience passed down through generations. Not every operation is

ran the same, but we all have an end goal in common – to profitably produce safe and affordable food, fuel and fiber for ourselves and others.

Extreme animal rights groups and environmentalists are focused on eliminating those freedoms for production agriculture and their sights are set on Oklahoma. It is essential for producers from every commodity group and every geographic region to form a common voice.

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is poised to be that voice – to tell the story of food and fiber production from the true experts: the farmers and ranchers who have devoted their lives to producing it. Get involved today!



Washita County Farm Bureau hosted its annual youth day camp May 26 with more than 40 kids ages 9 and up in attendance. Held at Camp Sprinklake near Cordell, Okla., the students were taught about agriculture and safety through various activities. The students also heard from various community members including Washita County Farm Bureau President Larry Peck.