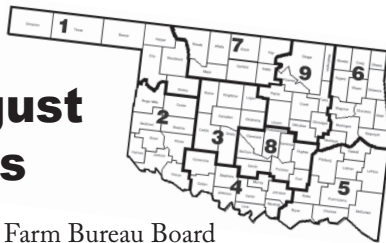


## FB Board approves August area meetings



Members of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Board of Directors recently approved the 2011 August area meeting schedule. The annual gatherings of Farm Bureau members set the tone for FB public policy development and encourage membership involvement at the local level. Specific meeting times will be released at a later date, but the tentative schedule with locations is listed below. Check future issues of *Perspective* for more details.

**District 1** – Monday, Aug. 22 in Guymon (Hunny's BBQ) or Tuesday, Aug. 23 in Woodward (Northwest Inn)

**District 2** – Monday, Aug. 15 in Altus (Hobart Career-Tech)

**District 3** – Monday, Aug. 1 in El Reno (Canadian Co. FB office)

**District 4** – Tuesday, Aug. 16 in Ardmore (Cattle Rustlers) or Wednesday, Aug. 17 in Duncan (Stephens Co. FB office)

**District 5** – Thursday, Aug. 25 in McAlester (Expo Center)

**District 6** – Thursday, Aug. 11 (a.m.) in Vinita (Cowboy Junction) or Thursday, Aug. 11 (p.m.) in Muskogee (Muskogee Co. FB office)

**District 7** – Thursday, Aug. 4 in Enid (Cherokee Strip Convention Center)

**District 8** – Tuesday, Aug. 2 in Ada (Aldrige Hotel)

**District 9** – Thursday, Aug. 18 in Sapulpa (Creek Co. Fairgrounds)

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau hosts annual safety seminar

By Kirk Kimmelshue, OFB Summer Intern

Oklahoma Farm Bureau held its 43rd annual Summer Safety Seminar June 6-8, at the Tatanka Ranch in Stroud. Hosted by Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Safety Services division, the summer camp teaches young people ages 13 to 17 about the importance of rural safety, youth leadership and teamwork.



Aiming to protect and educate rural youth, this year's seminar adapted its agenda to address both common and new issues that they encounter by including texting and driving and other changes in vehicle and equipment safety.

"Our main mission is to teach the kids about rural

**(See Safety, page 2)**

Left – An OFB Safety Seminar participant prepares to ride the zip line at the Camp Redlands ropes course near Stillwater.

## Oklahoma wheat harvest nears completion

Oklahoma's wheat harvest is making its way north while producers in the southern part of the state now are finished cutting their fields. Hobart farmer Zac Harris (right) says his yields varied from 12 bushels to the acre to as high as 38. In a dusty, drought-stricken year, he says he's happy just to see those numbers.

Meanwhile, yields are much higher in northern Oklahoma where wheat fields caught more critical rains. Farmer Chuck Tollie in the northwestern area of Deer Creek cut wheat last week that he says averaged 35 to 40 bushels to the acre. Oklahoma's harvest is expected to conclude within the next week.



## MEMBER BENEFITS

- **Qualsight** – Offers members 40 to 50% savings off the national retail price for LASIK eye surgery. Call 877-507-4448.
- **TSC Security, Inc.** – Offers members a free, no obligation hearing evaluation plus a 15% discount on hearing aid purchases at all eight Oklahoma locations. Call 800-BELTONE.

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

## Changes coming to this year's farm family application

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Farm Family of the Year application is now available and applicants should take note of a few changes.



This year, OFB's Farm Family of the Year will be selected from a group of nine district finalists instead of those on a county level.

According to the State Women's Committee, county applicants can still compete on a local level but only one representative

from each district will compete at the OFB Convention in November.

Each district representative must submit their application to the OFB office in Oklahoma City by August 15. The overall winner selected at state convention will receive a plaque, air fare, hotel accommodations and free registration to the American Farm Bureau Federation convention this January in Hawaii. Applications are available online on Oklahoma Farm Bureau's website or call Marcia Irvin for more information at (405) 523-2405.

## OFB CALENDAR

**National Ag in the Classroom Meeting**  
June 22-23, 2011 • Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Contact: Marcia Irvin, (405) 523-2405

**FBW Summer Conference**  
July 8-9, 2011 • Bartlesville  
Contact: Marcia Irvin, (405) 523-2405

**OSU Big Three Field Days**  
July 19-21, 2011 • Stillwater  
Contact: Chris Kidd, (580) 228-4001



The Beach family of Jackson County was recognized as the 2010 Oklahoma Farm Family of the Year.

Farm families are selected from those who best represent farming and ranching and the spirit of Oklahoma agriculture. They are announced every November during OFB's State Convention.

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Monitor the latest Farm Bureau and agricultural news and information online at [www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org).

Currently online:

- **AFBF News** – In addition to the latest local and state Farm Bureau news, learn more about what issues the American Farm Bureau Federation supports by visiting our homepage daily.
- **OFB Calendar** – Summers are a busy time for Farm Bureau, and OFB's corporate communications staff is preparing to take to the road and cover all of the annual OFB summer events. Visit the online calendar to stay informed on the organization's schedule.

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



### (Safety, continued from page 1)

safety but we also want to discuss issues that young people face now more than ever," said Oklahoma Farm Bureau Safety Services Director Justin Grego. "New safety issues that exist, including the risks of texting while driving or while operating farm equipment, are major ideas that we address with everyone that attends our event."

In addition to safety protocol that surrounds new technology, youth at the camp participated in activities and simulations related to team building, leadership, ATV and farm equipment safety, DUI prevention and electrical safety. Participants also had the chance to experience a ropes course at Camp Redlands near Stillwater.

"With the leadership skills we've learned this week and the safety tips we've been taught, we can all take information back to our peers at our home counties," said first-time camp attendee Jack Hudgins of Adair County.

A total of 29 students attended the three-day event.

# New FB-supported law keeps government in check

The state capitol is quiet right now due to legislators adjourning the 2011 state session last month, but that does not mean the public policy process is finished for the season.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau uses the long days of summer to meet with members on a local level and listen to their public policy concerns. Consequently, members inspired one new law in particular this year that aimed to hold state government more accountable.

House Bill 1044 was signed into law by Gov. Mary Fallin in April in an effort to reform the Administrative Procedures Act. Authored by Rep. George Faught and Sen. Anthony Sykes, the bill requires any agency rule that increases or establishes a fee or comes from a board that gets their jurisdiction from Title 59 regarding professions and occupations to be approved by the legislature before the end of each session.

Prior to HB 1044, state agencies could propose rule changes to the legislature and if lawmakers never took action on a rule change, the rule would automatically receive approval. The only way a rule could not be accepted is if it was disapproved. However, HB 1044 changes that procedure and forces rule changes that create or increase a fee or affect a profession or occupation to first gain state legislative approval.

"We just can't continue to have government agencies make their own rules and no one approve them," said the bill's author, State Rep. George Faught.

Several organizations and groups, including the State Chamber and mem-

bers of the medical profession, rallied with Oklahoma Farm Bureau this year in support of HB 1044. Faught said that before the new bill, agencies and boards could propose rules that became law without any oversight.

"Any time there's a brand new fee or doubling of a fee, for example, there needs to be someone accountable for that," he said."

OFB's reasons for supporting HB 1044 were heightened in 2010 when a water permit fee of \$50 was proposed for each well not intended for domestic consumption.

Oklahoma farmers and ranchers did not agree with such a drastic change and felt helpless when state legislators failed to make a decision – the fee change was never brought to the table for discussion and as a result automatically approved.

In 2011, the OFB public policy team worked to change the \$50 water permit fee to \$25 with the passing of SB 248, but OFB Vice President of Public Policy Tyler Norvell said similar rule changes would

continue to slip through the legislature if not for HB 1044.

"Amending the Administrative Procedures Act to require approval of agency rules has been a long-time priority issue for Oklahoma Farm Bureau," he said. "Over the years, our members have seen the power



Governor Mary Fallin signs her name in approval of House Bill 1044 during a ceremonial signing of the measure June 8 at the state capitol. Pictured left to right are Pat Hall, OFB Director of Research and Policy Development Kinsey Money, OFB Vice President of Public Policy Tyler Norvell, Sen. Anthony Sykes, Gov. Mary Fallin, a HB 1044 lobbyist, and Rep. George Faught.

many state agencies have to make rules that have a huge impact on their bottom line with minimum input from elected officials."

Norvell said OFB will continue to support APA amendments that require all rules to first receive legislative approval. HB 1044 goes into effect this November.

## Details announced on Production Advantage workshop

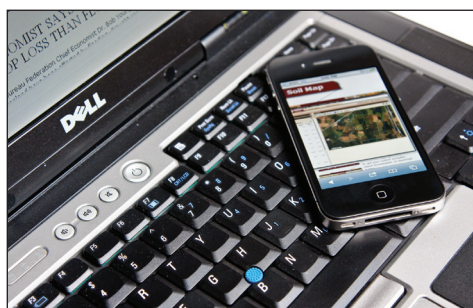
The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Field Services division is planning to host a computer technology workshop July 28-29, in Oklahoma City.

The seminar is geared toward FB members wanting to improve their agricultural

marketing and computer skills. Workshop topics include navigating the OFB website, creating your own webpage, using Excel spreadsheets, accessing grain and livestock markets online and marketing training.

Members also will have the opportunity to learn the basics of EZ Ranch or Quickbooks software, view commodities information online and use additional online resources in a way that will improve the overall efficiency and production of their operations.

Contact Burton Harmon at (405) 205-0074 for more information or call Kelli Beall at (405) 523-2470 to make reservations for the free workshop.



## Botanic Garden hosts grand opening

The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University plans to hold its grand opening Saturday, June 18, in Stillwater.

OSU Horticulture and Landscape Architecture department head Dale Maronek said a master plan for the garden was developed in 2004 with a focus on the university's land grant mission.

"The new entrance off the main road will provide a new gateway to our community," Maronek said. "It serves as an educational and recreational resource to the community."

The free event will be held in conjunction with the 10th Annual GardenFest in Stillwater from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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## STAFF DIRECTORY

**Gail Banzet**, 523-2346

Perspective/Online News Editor

**Sam Knipp**, 523-2347

Vice President of Communications/PR

**Tyler Norvell**, 523-2402

Vice President of Public Policy

**Marla Peek**, 523-2437

Director of Regulatory Affairs

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## Producers encouraged to participate in National Beef Quality Audit

Organizers of the 2011 National Beef Quality Audit are asking beef producers to take a few minutes and complete a short survey at [www.cattlesurvey.com](http://www.cattlesurvey.com).

The 2011 NBQA, led by scientists from Colorado State University and Texas A&M University, is designed to collect and analyze information from cooler audits in the packing sector, face-to-face interviews with beef supply chain partners and for the first time surveys from feeders, stockers, cow-calf operators, and seedstock producers.

According to the Executive Director of Producer Education at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Tom Field, producer input is wanted to strengthen the measurement of quality-based practices implemented on farms and ranches that support consumer confidence in beef products and production systems.

The checkoff-funded National Beef Quality Audit has provided important

benchmarks for the U.S. beef industry since 1991. Field, who also is a contractor for the Beef Checkoff Program, said the audit has been conducted approximately every four years with the historic focus centered on quantifying the performance of beef carcasses for a number of value enhancing characteristics. Information provided through the survey has assisted in identifying challenges and opportunities for cattle producers.

"We hope to quantify the current adoption level of quality driven management practices by the industry and develop a benchmark against which to measure future performance," Field said. "Our goal is to provide a foundation from which to direct future educational initiatives to improve the competitiveness of beef and beef by-products. By collecting input from cattle producers, we will help consumers and decision influencers better understand beef

production and the commitment of cattlemen to producing safe and wholesome beef products."

The 10-minute survey will be available at a variety of state, regional and national industry meetings and conventions throughout the year, but it also is currently online at [www.cattlesurvey.com](http://www.cattlesurvey.com).

## Resources available to help plan county meetings

As the summer heats up, county Farm Bureau offices across Oklahoma are looking ahead to their annual meetings scheduled for this fall. OFB Vice President of Field Services Thad Doye said district board members and field services representatives are readily available resources county offices can use to help plan their meetings.

"That's a field rep's job - to take care of county offices first and foremost," Doye said.

Annual county meetings usually held in September and October are an opportunity for FB members to gather and take care of several business items.

"They approve the county's financial status, county activities for the previous year and resolutions for state convention," Doye said.

Most meetings also include a dinner and guest speaker who addresses an agricultural topic. Doye said board members and field reps can help schedule speakers, assist with bylaw update procedures and format annual meeting agendas.

Attendance at annual meetings varies depending on the county and year but Doye said all counties have an opportunity to increase meeting attendance.

"We'd always want to see more involvement so people know what's going on in Farm Bureau," he said.

Contact your local county Farm Bureau office for annual meeting dates and times.

