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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

# Perspective

July 6, 2018



*Above: OKAgFund Board Chairman Coy Farmer (right) directs the committee with Keff Felty looking on as they consider and vote on giving financial assistance to political candidates.*



*Above: Lee Vanderwork of Dewey County, OKAgFund District One representative, discusses possible candidates during the committee's June 28 meeting.*

## OKAgFund expands candidate support in preparation for August runoff

The OKAgFund board met Thursday, June 28, to give an additional \$41,250 in financial support to political candidates running in statewide, state Senate and state House races ahead of the August 28 runoff primary election. The OKAgFund is the political action committee of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

The OKAgFund board, a grassroots committee of OKFB members from around the state, increased financial support for 15 candidates, gave first-time financial support to 18 candidates and gave one new OKAgFund endorsement, building upon the financial support and endorsements awarded in May.

The OKAgFund board will meet in August to discuss contributions and endorsements for the general election.

"We saw a tremendous turnout of urban voters in Oklahoma's June 26 primary election, which highlights the importance of the decisions we make on the OKAgFund board," said Coy Farmer, OKAgFund chairman. "Rural Oklahoma is an important

part of our state's economy and heritage, and we are proud to give our support to political candidates who will help ensure rural Oklahoma and agriculture thrive."

In the June 26 primary races, the OKAgFund was more than 90% successful in backing candidates who won their primary election or made it to the next round of voting.

The board endorsed corporation commissioner candidate Bob Anthony, who joins 19 previously-endorsed candidates approved by voters in the June 26 primary.

The OKAgFund identifies candidates who demonstrate beliefs and actions that are consistent with OKFB's policies, regardless of political affiliation. While the OKAgFund contributes financially to several state campaigns, an endorsement is the highest level of support the committee gives to select candidates.

The OKAgFund is supported by voluntary contributions from OKFB members across the state as an optional portion of their membership dues.



*Above: Caddo County's Wayne Taggart leads discussion during the OKAgFund Board Meeting June 28.*

## OKFB praises House passage of 2018 farm bill

The U.S. House of Representatives on June 21 passed the 2018 farm bill, also known as the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H.R. 2). Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel issued the following statement in response:

“Oklahoma Farm Bureau is pleased the U.S. House has passed the 2018 farm bill, a critical piece of legislation that ensures Oklahoma farmers and ranchers can continue to produce food and fiber for the nation with confidence.

“Over the past five years, Oklahoma farmers and ranchers have faced one of the most challenging farm economies in history. Programs within the farm bill bring certainty to agricultural producers facing threats from low commodity prices, increasing input costs and devastating weather.

“We’re thankful for the support of Rep. Tom Cole, Rep. Frank Lucas, Rep. Markwayne Mullin and Rep. Steve Russell who voted in favor of the measure. As the U.S. Senate begins to consider the bill, we look forward to working with Sen. Jim Inhofe and Sen. James Lankford to secure a final farm bill that brings stability to farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahoma.”

## OKFB, AFBF laud passage of Senate farm bill

The U.S. Senate passed S. 3042, The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, on Thursday, June 28, by a vote of 86-11.

Farm organizations, including Oklahoma Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau, quickly thanked Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts of Kansas and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow of Michigan for their bipartisan leadership in getting the Senate farm bill passed.



Rodd Moesel

“Oklahoma Farm Bureau members today are thankful the Senate understood the urgent need to support those who produce our nation’s food, fiber and fuel. Any further delay in the 2018 farm bill would be a disservice to America’s farmers and ranchers facing a farm economy in crisis.

“Encompassing crop insurance, farm programs, conservation, research, extension and nutrition, the farm bill serves as a vital tool for our farmers and ranchers in preserving the greatest food supply in the world as well as a source of food security for American consumers.

“We are grateful for all the senators who voted to advance the 2018 farm bill. Today’s act is a victory for American

agriculture, but we understand much work remains as the bill moves to conference committee. We look forward to completion of a farm bill for farmers, ranchers, rural Americans and all consumers before the end of September.” – *OKFB President Rodd Moesel*

“The Senate pushed the farm bill one big step closer to the finish line today and it could not have come at a better time. America’s farmers and ranchers continue to face a challenging agricultural economy, a shaky outlook for our export markets and a dire ag labor shortage. It was time for some good news and the Senate delivered it in bipartisan fashion.

“Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow worked with other members of the Senate Agriculture Committee to deliver a bill that will continue to provide the risk management tools that America’s farmers need more than ever before.

And the fact that Leader McConnell agreed this should be a legislative priority helped move this very important bill forward in the Senate.

“Of course, no bill is ever perfect, but this bipartisan effort gives us a solid framework for progress. We do have concerns about some of the provisions that were added to the bill that make it harder for farmers to manage risk, but we are confident that those issues can be satisfactorily addressed by the House/Senate conference committee. We look forward to working with conferees from both houses to get the best possible farm bill done for rural America.” – *AFBF President Zippy Duvall*



Zippy Duvall

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Rodd Moesel speaks to Fox 25 on trade

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel recently spoke to KOKH Fox 25 TV in Oklahoma City about the impact of trade tariffs on Oklahoma farmers. See Rodd’s thoughts and comments about the ongoing trade disputes in the video shared on OKFB’s Facebook page.



Get farm bill updates from AFBF

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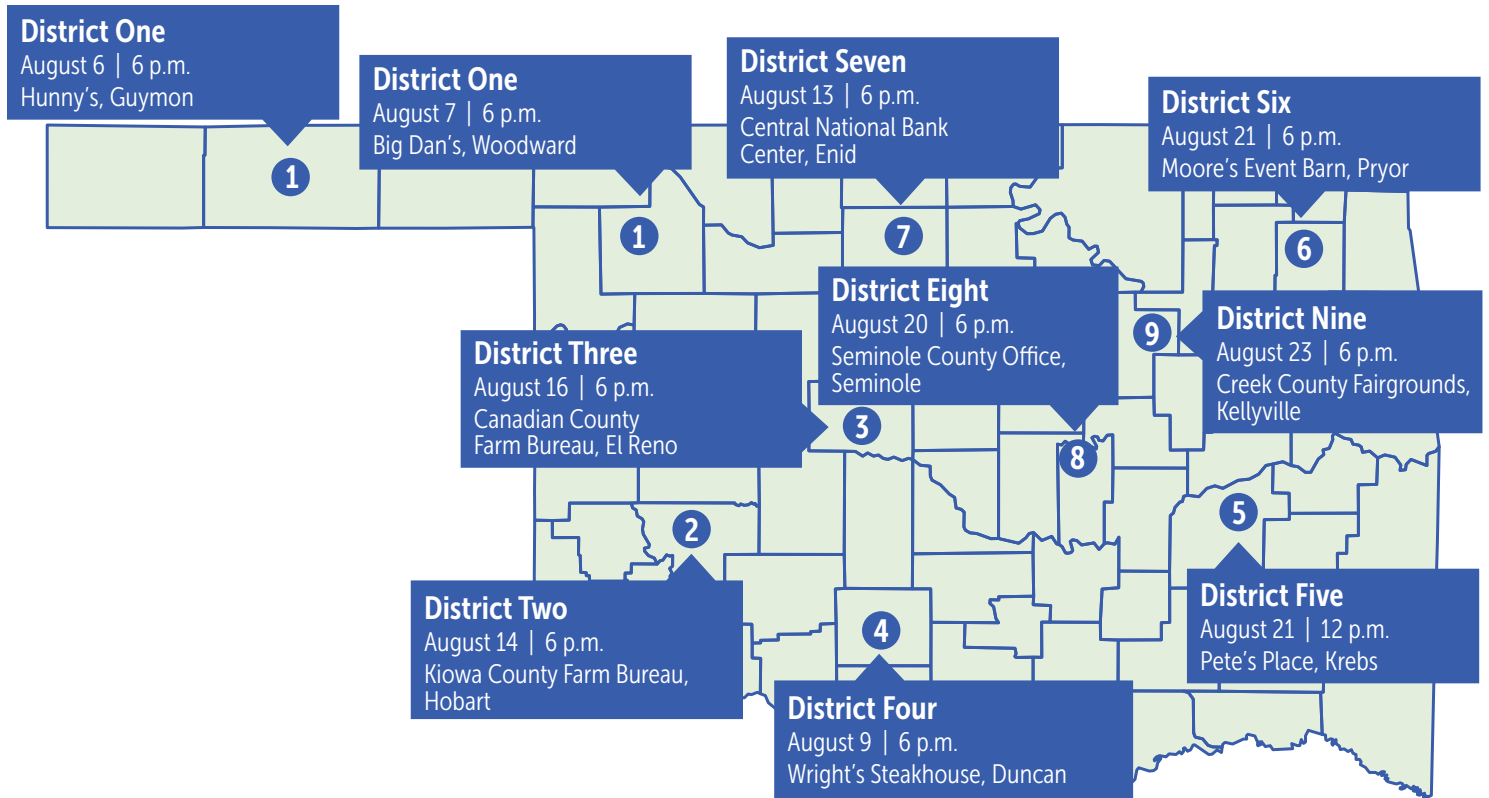
[www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org)

# Join OKFB for our 2018 August Area Meetings

**M**ark your calendars to join your Farm Bureau friends and neighbors at your local August Area Meeting. The meetings provide a kickoff for our grassroots policy

development as well as an opportunity to learn about the latest activities OKFB is undertaking. Plan to attend your district meeting, and be sure to invite your fellow

Farm Bureau members to join us as OKFB members continue the great tradition of providing a grassroots voice for Oklahoma agriculture and rural Oklahoma.



**OKFB WLC attend national Ag in the Classroom conference in Portland, Maine**

*OKFB WLC members toured various Maine ag attractions, including a mussel farm.*



*OKFB WLC members visit with AFBF WLC Chair Sherry Saylor at the AITC conference.*

## Member Benefits

### Grasshopper Mowers

Is keeping up with summer mowing turning into more of a chore than you would like? Grasshopper mowers gives OKFB members a 15 percent discount on all Grasshopper makes and models of American-made mowers, plus a 15 percent discount on implements and accessories when you buy a mower. Find your local dealer at [www.grasshopperdealers.com](http://www.grasshopperdealers.com)

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

## Calendar

### Oklahoma Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

July 13 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

### YF&R Summer Conference

July 13-15 • Altus  
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-205-0070

### YF&R High School Discussion Meet

July 17 • Stillwater  
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-205-0070

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## AFBF: Grilling for July 4<sup>th</sup> more affordable this year

A cookout of Americans' favorite foods for the Fourth of July, including hot dogs, cheeseburgers, pork spare ribs, potato salad, baked beans, lemonade and chocolate milk, will cost slightly less this year, coming in at less than \$6 per person, says the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Farm Bureau's informal survey reveals the average cost of a summer cookout for 10 people is \$55.07, or \$5.51 per person. The cost for the cookout is down slightly (less than 1 percent) from last year.

"This is a very tough time for farmers and ranchers due to low prices across the board. It is appropriate that this very painful situation hitting farmers be reflected at the retail level as well," said AFBF Director of Market Intelligence Dr. John Newton. "We are seeing record meat and dairy production in 2018 so that has also influenced retail prices and so, for consumers, this year's Fourth of July cookout costs will be slightly less than last year's."

AFBF's summer cookout menu for 10 people consists of hot dogs and buns, cheeseburgers and buns, pork spare ribs, deli potato salad, baked beans, corn chips, lemonade, chocolate milk, ketchup, mustard

and watermelon for dessert.

"Milk production in 2018 is projected at a record 218 billion pounds, contributing to lower retail milk prices," Newton said. While fluid milk prices have declined, tighter stocks of American cheese contributed to slightly higher cheese prices, he added.

Competition in the meat case continues to benefit consumers through lower retail prices, making grilling for July Fourth even more affordable for consumers this year, according to Newton.

The summer cookout survey is part of the Farm Bureau marketbasket series, which also includes the popular annual Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Survey and two additional surveys of common food staples Americans use to prepare meals at home.

As retail grocery prices have increased gradually over time, the share of the average food dollar that America's farm and ranch families receive has dropped.

"Through the mid-1970s, farmers received about one-third of consumer food expenditures for food eaten at home and away from home. Today, farmers receive approximately 14.8 cents of every

food marketing dollar, according to the Agriculture Department's revised Food Dollar Series. However, after accounting for the costs of production, U.S. farmers net 7.8 cents per food dollar," Newton said.

Using the "food at home and away from home" percentage across-the-board, the farmer's share of this \$55.07 marketbasket would be \$8.15.

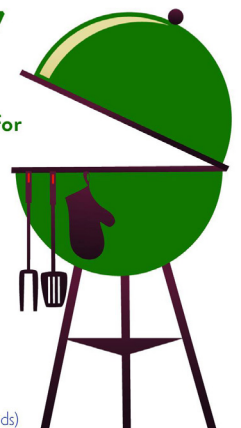
### American Farm Bureau Federation® 2018 Summer Cookout

**TOTAL \$55.07**

Down less than 1%  
compared to a year ago.

#### Summer cookout Menu for 10 people:

- 8 hot dogs (1-pound) and buns
- 8 ¼-pound hamburgers (2 pounds pre-cooked weight) and buns w/cheese slices
- Pork spare ribs (4 pounds)
- Ketchup and mustard
- Deli potato salad (3 pounds)
- Baked beans (28 ounces)
- Corn chips (15 ounces)
- Lemonade, 2 quarts
- Chocolate milk, 2 quarts
- Watermelon for dessert (4 pounds)



Source/Graphic: American Farm Bureau Federation® newroom.fb.org