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Oklahoma Farm Bureau Perspective

Oct. 16, 2015

Rep. Frank Lucas to speak at OKFB convention opening session

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is pleased to welcome U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas to its 2015 Annual Meeting as he speaks during the opening session on Friday, Nov. 13 at 1:30 p.m.

With more than 20 years of experience in Congress, Lucas will discuss current issues in Washington, D.C., that affect agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

Lucas is a fifth-generation Oklahoman whose family has farmed in Oklahoma for

more than 100 years. He graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in agricultural economics.

First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, Lucas currently represents Oklahoma's Third Congressional District, which includes all or portions of 32 counties in northern and western Oklahoma. His district is nearly half of Oklahoma's land mass and is one of the largest agricultural regions in the nation.

Throughout his service in Congress, Lucas has remained a friend of agriculture and Oklahoma Farm Bureau. He continually fights for American farmers and Oklahoma values.

OKFB looks forward to hearing from Lucas and invites all members to join at the 2015 opening session.

For more information about convention, visit our website at www.okfarmbureau.org

County Farm Bureaus donate to State Question 777 campaign



Top Left: Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau presents OKFB Vice President of Public Policy John Collison with a \$10,000 donation to the State Question 777 campaign at its annual meeting on Oct. 5. Top Right: Wayne Taggart, Caddo County Farm Bureau president, presents OKFB President Tom Buchanan with a \$3,000 check for the SQ777 campaign on behalf of Caddo County Farm Bureau. Bottom Left: Okmulgee County Farm Bureau also presents a check for \$10,000 to OKFB President Tom Buchanan and OKFB District 9 Director Phyllis Holcomb at its annual meeting on Sept. 26.

All funds donated to the SQ777, or Right to Farm, campaign will help create awareness in Oklahoma of the need for constitutional protection of farming and ranching.

OKFB public policy helps FFA member prepare for national contest



Left: Adrienne Blakey (far left) and her mother, Holly Blakey, visit with John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy, about food insecurity and the U.S. food supply on Sept. 28 at the home office.

Adrienne is the Oklahoma FFA Association state-winning prepared public speaker. She will represent Oklahoma in the national prepared public speaking contest during National FFA Convention at the end of this month. Adrienne's prepared speech discusses the importance of preserving the safety and security of the U.S. food supply. OKFB wishes Adrienne the best of luck!

Lorrie Morgan, Susie McEntire to perform at OKFB convention

Two well-known celebrities are set to perform during the 2015 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on Nov. 13-15 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Country music singer Lorrie Morgan will entertain OKFB members following the 2015 OKFB convention banquet on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.

A singer, songwriter, worldwide entertainer and producer, Morgan has sold more than six million records and has attained 14 top ten hits, 12 recorded albums and four Female Vocalist of the Year awards.

At the age of 24, Morgan became the youngest person ever to become a member of the Grand Ole Opry. She has written more than 15 of her own songs over the

course of her career.

Morgan will perform on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., following the OKFB banquet. Members can purchase banquet tickets for \$32 in the trade show area of the convention center.

Susie McEntire, country gospel singer, will speak and sing during the OKFB convention memorial service and vespers program on Nov. 15.

McEntire, the younger sister of country music singer Reba McEntire, was raised on an Oklahoma ranch. She began singing as a teenager with her siblings, Pake and Reba. After graduating from Oklahoma State University, McEntire continued singing with her country superstar sister.

The two sisters performed concerts


for sold-out crowds and made television appearances on various programs such as "Hee Haw" and "The Grand Ole Opry." After several years, Susie decided to begin singing gospel music.

Over the years, Susie has garnered much acclaim from peers and fans alike with numerous awards and nominations from TNN, GMA and CCMA. She also has been named Artist of the Year several times and scored four No. 1 singles in the field of Positive Country Music.

McEntire will speak and sing during the worship and memorial service on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 9:15 a.m.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

 **OKFB Agriculture First radio program ends**
After nearly two decades and more than 4,200 radio shows, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Agriculture First radio program has come to an end. Check out our tribute to the program and its rich history of stories about agriculture and rural life on our website.

 **Tom Buchanan issues statement on court's block of WOTUS rule**
On Oct. 9, a federal court judge issued a temporary stay blocking the EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule. Tom Buchanan issued a release applauding the court's decision and the hard work of Sen. Jim Inhofe. Find the link to our full release and more information on our Facebook page.



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Now is the time to engage in federal issues



By LeeAnna McNally
OKFB Director of National Affairs

By now we've all seen the clever headlines from newspapers across the country: "EPA's Water Rule is Plugged" and "Sixth Circuit Provides Short-Term Clarity on WOTUS Rule."

On Oct. 9, 2015, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 decision, issued an injunction on the Environmental Protection Agency's final Waters of the United States rule. While this is great news for the agriculture community across the country, the injunction is only temporary. The court's decision is not a permanent solution to the complex problems the final rule presents to farmers and ranchers across the United States.

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals expressed great concerns about the burden the final WOTUS rule will put on

private parties and the public. Oklahoma Farm Bureau is proud of Sen. Jim Inhofe, chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and the EPW Committee who have continued to bring to light the importance of this issue by holding several hearings and asking the pressing questions to federal agencies that support this rule.

Farm Bureaus across the country are rallying support for a legislative solution to the implications of the WOTUS rule. The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to nullify the rule, however the Senate has yet to vote. There is a sense of urgency amongst farmers and ranchers across the

country. While the agriculture community is pleased with the recent decision, they know a lasting solution is necessary to assure private property rights are taken care of in years to come.

We at Oklahoma Farm Bureau are thankful to the membership for submitting written comments on this issue and being engaged in this important process. As we begin to see more federal agency overreach, there is not a more

opportune time to stay engaged on issues that directly impact the rural way of life.

For more information on the final WOTUS rule, please feel free to contact us at 405-523-2681.

“There is not a more opportune time to stay engaged on issues that directly impact the rural way of life.”

— LeeAnna McNally



Wilke honored as one of Journal Record's '50 Making a Difference'

Left: Monica Wilke (third from right), executive director of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies, is honored as one of The Journal Record's "50 Making a Difference" at an Oct. 1 gala. Wilke was joined at the gala by her husband and parents, as well as OKFB President Tom Buchanan and Brenda Mahan, and OKFB General Counsel Ericka McPherson and her husband Cody.

Member Benefits

Storm Safe Shelters

Storm Safe Shelters has been providing Oklahomans with safe havens during severe storms since 1987. OKFB members receive a \$100 discount on the purchase of a qualifying Storm Safe in-ground shelter. Call Chris at 405-204-9223 or visit the website at www.StormSafeShelters.com

To learn more, visit the benefits page on our website or contact Jennie Bruning at 405-523-2300.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

State Resolutions Committee Meeting

Oct. 20-21

Contact: Tasha Duncan 405-530-2681

OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Fall Rally

Oct. 30-31

Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

OKFB Annual Meeting

Nov. 13-15

Contact: Melisa Neal 405-523-2475

Published by Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Postmaster: Send address corrections to:
Perspective, P.O. B. 53332, OKC, OK 73152-3332

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Noble County Farm Bureau hosts annual meeting



Top Left: Blayne Arthur, ODAFF deputy commissioner, speaks to Noble County Farm Bureau members about federal and state regulatory issues. Top Right: Members enjoy barbecue and homemade sides at the meeting. Bottom Left: Morgan Williams plays with a toy tractor during the meeting. Bottom Right: Mason Bolay, state YF&R committee member, discusses policy as the county approves its suggested resolutions for the OKFB policy book.