



WWW.OKFARBUREAU.ORG

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

January 6, 2017

Three OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers members to compete nationally at the AFBF Annual Convention

Three Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers members will gather in Phoenix Jan. 6-11 to compete nationally during the American Farm Bureau Federation's 98th Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show.

Isaac Fisher, Comanche County, will compete for the YF&R Achievement Award. Fisher concentrates on raising stocker cattle and growing wheat and cotton near the southwest Oklahoma town of Chattanooga. He also runs a custom haying business swathing and baling hay for fellow farmers and ranchers in the area.

Rachel Pickens, Payne County, will represent OKFB YF&R in the competition for the YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award. Known as the "Oklahoma Land Lady," Rachel is a successful realtor in Payne County. In 2010, she opened an agritourism

venue, which also serves as an educational field trip destination for approximately 2,000 people per year. Pickens also helps with the Kicking Childhood Hunger Committee, which is designed to raise money to help with food insecurity in Payne County.

Jennifer Howard, Jackson County, will discuss a variety of agricultural issues during the AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet. Howard and her husband, Brent, are active in OKFB YF&R and are serving their second year of their three-year term as state vice chairs. Howard works for Dow AgroSciences as an ActiveSense pilot specialist in the Urban Pest Management business.

The American Farm Bureau Federation is the country's largest general farm organization and prides itself in being the unified national voice of agriculture. Each January, members gather for the annual convention.

This year, the 98th Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation, held Jan. 6-11, will be in Phoenix, Arizona. The convention is a time to gather with members from all across the country as well as have the opportunity to learn and promote the future of agriculture. The convention offers outstanding speakers and general sessions, the chance to recognize leaders in agriculture, and programs for young farms and ranchers. With hundreds of exhibitors, the IDEAg Trade Show is also an exciting part of the annual convention. IDEAg's trade show gives members the opportunity to learn about the newest innovations, invest in their businesses, have the infrastructure to be successful, and engage others in agriculture. For more information about the AFBF Annual Convention, visit annualconvention.fb.org.



Left to right: Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan and OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Chairman Josh Emerson present Isaac Fisher with the 2016 OKFB YF&R Achievement Award with YF&R sponsor Reed Boettcher of Great Plains Kubota.



Left to right: Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan and OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson present Rachel Pickens with the 2016 OKFB YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award along with sponsors Kristin Zollinger of Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma and Ryan Luter of Oklahoma Ag Credit.



Left to right: Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan and OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Chairman Josh Emerson present Jennifer Howard with the 2016 OKFB YF&R Discussion Meet Award along with sponsor Scott Eisenhauer of P&K Equipment.

2017 AFBF Annual Convention to be held Jan. 6-11

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members will travel to Phoenix for the 2017 American Farm Bureau Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show. The event will feature the General Session address by Peyton and Archie Manning, the inaugural FarmTo5K race, the Rural Entrepreneur Challenge, and much more! Keep up-to-date with the latest details and news at annualconvention.fb.org.

OKFB state board members host roundtable luncheon



Several OKFB state board members hosted a roundtable luncheon Dec. 22 with members of Sen. Jim Inhofe's state and Washington, D.C. staff. The group discussed the upcoming 2018 farm bill, along with Farm Bureau's priorities in the coming year.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

 OKFB President Tom Buchanan speaks about Scott Pruitt with Ron Hays

Did you hear Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan speak with Ron Hays about the selection of Scott Pruitt for EPA administrator? Read why Buchanan says Pruitt is "the right guy at the right time" for agriculture by finding the link on the OKFB Facebook page.

 Follow #RandomPhotoFriday on Twitter

Do you love seeing our photography? Every Friday, we will post a photo featuring Oklahoma agriculture as we travel across the state to capture the stories of our members. Make sure to follow along on the OKFB Twitter page and look for the hashtag #RandomPhotoFriday!



facebook



twitter



pinterest



instagram



flickr



wordpress



soundcloud



youtube



website

www.okfarmbureau.org

Farmers united in our resolve for reform in 2017

By Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau President

As I look back on 2016, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunity to work alongside you and serve as your American Farm Bureau president. I am proud of the work our nation's farmers and ranchers do, day in and day out. I am equally proud of how our state and national Farm Bureau staff work just as tirelessly to ensure farmers and ranchers can continue to feed and fuel our country and the world for generations to come.

When I addressed you for the first time as your American Farm Bureau president in Orlando last January, I committed to working with you all to solve the problems facing agriculture—and that's just what we're doing.

This year, I've had the privilege of visiting 33 states—and counting—across our great country to meet with Farm Bureau members face-to-face. Each region, every state and all types of agriculture have unique challenges. I have been heartened by one common thread; a reminder of just how critical the reforms Farm Bureau is fighting for are to rural families and farm businesses.

Looking ahead to 2017, we see a clear need for regulatory and tax reform that frees farmers and ranchers to keep their businesses running and gives them flexibility to invest in their local economies. We need to put a stop to regulatory overreach that threatens to put a choke hold on farmers. We need greater access to markets around the world and a stable, legal workforce to ensure we continue leading the world in agricultural production. But none of these reforms will happen if we don't unite around the table and speak up.

As I've traveled our great country, I've been reminded time and again of how much we can accomplish when we learn from our differences and work together.

America's farmers and ranchers aren't defined by our struggles. We're defined by what we do best: we lead and feed and fuel the world.

We didn't take up the work of farming and ranching because we expected it to be easy. While agriculture is our business, it is also our calling. We are called to take up this work out of love for our family and our

neighbors. It's a mission we take seriously because we believe we've been given a unique task to care for the land and animals entrusted to us by our Creator. We have a responsibility to consumers as we grow the highest quality food, fiber and fuel while protecting our precious natural resources. We must continue to earn consumer trust as we strive for continuous improvement in everything we do.

The great story of American agriculture is one of hard work, ingenuity and passion, and it's a story best told by the folks who live it. Farmers and ranchers made their voices heard in 2016, but we need to keep telling our stories if we want to be at the heart of shaping the policies that will impact our businesses and way of life. The close of one year ushers in new goals for the next, and I am confident that working together through Farm Bureau offers us that common platform for progress. During this new year, I will continue to learn about your challenges and your triumphs, and like 2016, I look forward to hearing many of your stories face-to-face.

Alfalfa County Farm Bureau awards books to local schools

Alfalfa County Farm Bureau presented two local schools with baskets of accurate agriculture books last week through the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation and Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Bushels for Books program.

Shane Feely, Burlington principal, and Amanda Jones, Timberlake librarian, accepted the books for their schools.

"We believe in the importance of teaching students about Oklahoma agriculture," said Elizabeth Shepard, Alfalfa County Farm Bureau secretary. "Alfalfa County Farm Bureau is proud to support our local schools and provide them with these resources to include agriculture in their classroom curriculum."

Through the Bushels for Books Program, applications were accepted from elementary

educators across the state. Five finalists were chosen to receive the statewide award during the Oklahoma Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting. Following those awards, applications were distributed to county farm bureau offices for an opportunity to sponsor local schools. Lindsay Headlee, librarian for Cherokee Elementary was selected as one of the five statewide award winners.

Member Benefits

Enroll in new vision benefit by Jan. 15

Looking for a vision plan that provides outstanding benefits, a large network of Oklahoma independent eye care doctors, unlimited eye exams, both eyeglasses and contact lens provided at wholesale cost, and very affordable premiums? Check out Primary Vision Care Services, one of OKFB's newest member benefits! However, enrollment for the 2017 year ends Jan. 15, so make sure to visit the OKFB website to learn more today!

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show

January 6-11 • Phoenix, Arizona
Contact: Melisa Neal (405) 523-2475

State Legislature Convenes

February 6 • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Contact: John Collison (405) 523-2539

2017 FUSION Conference

February 10-13 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

STAFF DIRECTORY

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

- Executive Director
Monica Wilke 405-523-2303
- VP of Strategic Corporate Communications
Becky Samples 405-523-2528
- VP of Public Policy
John Collison 405-523-2539
- Director of Corporate Communications
Dustin Mielke 405-530-2640
- Director of Public Policy Communications
Hannah Nemecek 405-523-2346
- Communication Specialist
Clarissa Walton 405-523-2530
- Brand Specialist
Jeff Canton 405-523-2465

Oklahoma Farm Bureau
 2501 N. Stiles
 Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3126

Non-Profit
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 131
 Okla. City, OK.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau selects favorite photos from 2016



Spraying fungicide on wheat near Garber, Oklahoma.



Storm clouds build in the distance during wheat harvest near Calumet.



A grain cart unloads corn into a truck as combines roll through golden rows of corn in the Oklahoma panhandle.



Roger and Idella Maschino, OKFB Farm Family of the Year, survey a pasture of cattle in Cimarron County, Oklahoma.

View the entire Oklahoma Farm Bureau 2016 favorite photos album on the OKFB Flickr page at flickr.com/okfarmbureau/albums.