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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

# Perspective

January 20, 2017

## OKFB members travel to Phoenix for AFBF Annual Convention

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gathered in Phoenix last week for the American Farm Bureau Federation 98th Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show.

This year's convention was centered on the idea of uniting members from across the country to celebrate the importance of American agriculture.

Several OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers members made the trip to Phoenix to compete on a national level for YF&R awards. Comanche County's Isaac Fisher competed for the YF&R Achievement Award and Rachel Pickens from Payne County presented her agriculture and Farm Bureau experience as part of the Excellence in Agriculture competition. Jackson County YF&R member Jennifer Howard discussed regulatory issues and big data in agriculture during two discussion meet rounds.

The opening general session kicked off Sunday morning, where OKFB President

Tom Buchanan presented the Oklahoma state flag, AFBF President Zippy Duvall shared Farm Bureau's direction for 2017 and OKFB was recognized for winning five State Excellence awards.

Farm Bureau delegates began shaping the future of agriculture and rural America during the business session Tuesday morning, poring over and discussing policy change proposals with other members from across the country. Delegates covered the full range of agriculture over the day-long session, passing resolutions such as important measures covering regulatory reform, crop insurance, the inclusion of food assistance in the upcoming farm bill, school nutrition, biotechnology, energy and more.

At the closing general session on Monday morning, football stars Peyton and Archie Manning gave the closing address with insight and humor.

**(Continued on page two)**



Above: Oklahoma Farm Bureau delegates discuss policy change proposals with fellow Farm Bureau members from across the nation during the 2017 American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Top right: Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan presents the Oklahoma state flag during the opening session. Middle right: The Oklahoma Wheat Commission serves convention goers fresh-baked cinnamon rolls and bread made with Oklahoma wheat. Bottom right: Farm Bureau members speak with Oklahoma's own Bart Fischer of the House Agriculture Committee during a break-out session about the upcoming farm bill.



# AFBF Convention

(Continued from page one)

The convention featured a variety of workshops on many topics, including a Farm Bill workshop presented by Oklahoma's own Bart Fischer of the House Agriculture Committee. Other workshop topics included immigration, media training, crisis management, GMOs, antibiotics, agricultural literacy, and much more.

Visit [fb.org/newsroom](http://fb.org/newsroom) for more convention details and media.

*Right: Archie and Peyton Manning speak with insight and humor during the closing session. Bottom right: Payne County Farm Bureau member Rachel Pickens presents her agriculture and FB experience as part of the Excellence in Agriculture event. Bottom left: Jackson County's Jennifer Howard discusses regulatory issues and big data in agriculture during two discussion meet rounds.*



## Congressional Action Tour registration open through Feb. 24

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are invited to represent Oklahoma agriculture on Capitol Hill during the OKFB Congressional Action Tour March 28 – April 2, 2017.

The trip allows OKFB members to interact face-to-face with Oklahoma's Congressional delegation and their staff, hear briefings from the American Farm Bureau Federation's government affairs staff, and experience life in the nation's Capitol.

"With the new administration in the White House, farmers and ranchers now can have a seat at the table in discussions on the farm bill, environmental regulations,

trade and more," said Tom Buchanan, OKFB president. "Now more than ever, OKFB must make its priorities clear to lawmakers and government agencies. The Congressional Action Tour allows our members to do just that."

This year's trip also will include a two-day trip to Annapolis, Maryland, featuring a dinner on the Chesapeake Bay and tours of the Historic Naval Academy and the Maryland State House.

Participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. The deadline to register is February 24. For more information, contact Tasha Duncan at 405-530-2681.

### Congressional Action Tour Tentative Itinerary

- March 28: Fly to Washington D.C., Dinners
- March 29: Congressional Meetings, Legislative Reception
- March 30: Congressional Meetings, Legislative Dinners
- March 31: Travel to Annapolis, Maryland, Yacht Cruise with Dinner
- April 1: Historic Naval Academy Tour with lunch, Group Dinner
- April 2: Naval Academy church service, Fly home

*\*Details subject to change*

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

**f** Learn more about 2017 Farm Bureau Policy  
What's in store for Farm Bureau in 2017? Read more details about this year's policy roadmap approved by American Farm Bureau Federation delegates at convention and watch AFBF President Duvall give his comments with the link provided on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Facebook page.

**o** AFBF Convention photos Flickr  
More photos from the American Farm Bureau Federation's 98th Annual Meeting and IDEAg Trade Show have been uploaded to the OKFB Flickr page. From discussion meets to cinnamon rolls to informational workshops, the trip to Phoenix has been captured for you to see. To view, download, print and/or share the photos, go to [flickr.com/photos/okfarmbureau/albums](http://flickr.com/photos/okfarmbureau/albums).



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

# Farm Bureau backs Oklahoma AG Pruitt for EPA

*Courtesy of OKAgPolicy*

Family farmers and ranchers from across the country overwhelmingly supported the confirmation of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as the Environmental Protection Agency administrator at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting this week in Phoenix, Arizona.

Farm Bureau members representing all 50 states and Puerto Rico on Tuesday urged Pruitt's confirmation by adopting a resolution as the organization set its policy for the year.

"We spent eight years with our legal team fighting the EPA when they came against our farmers," said Zippy Duvall, AFBF president. "Now, it looks like we might be helping our EPA hold to what they want to do and that's regulatory reform and taking the burden off of farmers and ranchers and small businesses."

With Pruitt at the helm of the EPA, Duvall said AFBF now can work with the agency rather than against it.

"We really think (Pruitt) understands the lawmaking process, he respects laws that Congress passes and he understands the limits of laws," Duvall said. "He's been a hero for us in working on Waters of the U.S. and we're so excited about him taking that to the EPA. We think he's going to be a great partner with rural America and farmers and ranchers across this country."

During his tenure as the state attorney general, Pruitt led the charge in challenging the Obama administration on EPA regulations including Waters of the U.S. and the Clean Power Plan.

"We believe Scott Pruitt is the guy that can lead this agency back to its intended purpose, and AFBF is really supportive of that," said Tom Buchanan, Oklahoma Farm Bureau president, who has worked with Pruitt to fight burdensome regulations on farmers and ranchers.

Pruitt will ensure the EPA follows the law, instead of creating laws, Buchanan said.

"We believe that we need protection for the environment, but not at the expense of small businessmen, family farmers and ranchers, and landowners," Buchanan said. "Pruitt is exactly the breath of fresh air that we need to pull back the regulatory environment that has really choked America's farmers and ranchers."

Speaking at the OKFB annual meeting in November, Pruitt told Oklahoma farmers and ranchers he was confident that EPA's onerous regulations would be repealed under the Trump administration.

"WOTUS, the Clean Power Plan and immigration orders are all going to go away," Pruitt said. "So in this case, we've won. We won't have to keep litigating."

Pruitt must face a confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works before being confirmed on the Senate floor.

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau honored for excellence

Oklahoma Farm Bureau earned five Awards for Excellence at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 98th Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show held Jan. 6-11 in Phoenix, Arizona. The awards recognized the state's excellence in membership achievement and implementation of outstanding programs serving members in 2016.

"At Oklahoma Farm Bureau, we strive to fulfill the organization's purpose of serving as the voice of rural Oklahomans," said Monica Wilke, OKFB executive director. "These awards represent our

staff's hard work and dedication to serving our members.

The Awards for Excellence were awarded to state Farm Bureaus that demonstrated outstanding achievements in six program areas. Oklahoma Farm Bureau applied for five of the six categories and received all five awards, including Education and Outreach; Leadership Development; Member Services; Policy Development and Implementation; and Public Relations and Communications.

OKFB President Tom Buchanan accepted the awards on behalf of the organization.



## Member Benefits

### Farm Bureau Bank

Want to start this year by getting your finances in order? If you're looking for checking, loans, CDs, money markets or credit cards, Farm Bureau Bank could be the best place to start! Call free at (800) 492-3276 or visit online at [www.farmbureaubank.com](http://www.farmbureaubank.com) to access a broad array of financial services for Farm Bureau members.

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

## Calendar

### State Legislature Convenes

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

### 2017 FUSION Conference

February 10-13 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Contact: Zac Swartz (405) 205-0070

### Farm Bureau Week

February 20-24 • State of Oklahoma  
Contact: Zac Swartz (405) 205-0070



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

STAFF DIRECTORY

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

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## Oklahoma Farm Bureau members host booth at Annual KNID Agrifest

This year's Annual KNID Agrifest was held at the Garfield County Fairgrounds in Enid, Oklahoma, January 13-14.

On Friday, Garfield County Farm Bureau members Gary Johnson, Desdive Milacek and Elmer and Judy Anglin manned the booth. On Saturday, Kenny Ferda from Grant County joined Gary and Desdive to cover the booth throughout the day.

Door prizes were given away to Agrifest attendees who signed up at the booth, and candy was given to kids who attended. Brochures and information on Farm Bureau was available and FB members visited with show attendees about the value of a Farm Bureau membership and the importance of the organization.

The KNID Agrifest displayed more than \$150 million in equipment and agriculture-related products from more than 300 vendors.



Top: Gary Johnson, Desi and Todd speak with Sen. Roland Pederson (an Alfalfa County Farm Bureau member). Above right: Judy Anglin talks to kids at the Agrifest. Above left: Elmer and Judy Anglin share the importance of a Farm Bureau membership with an Agrifest attendee.