

Oklahoma

Country

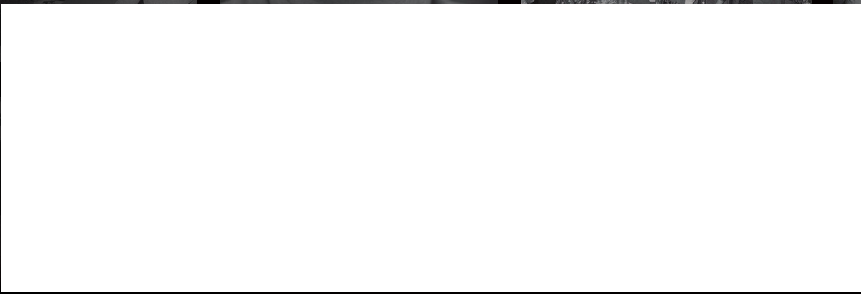


The Magazine of the
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
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**OKLAHOMA
FARM BUREAU**



75 YEARS STRONG



Building the future
Farm Bureau grows into the 21st century

Still standing strong
The family side of Farm Bureau history

Hope on four legs
Wildfire recovery comes in many forms



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Oklahoma Country

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ON THE COVER

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2017, looking back upon the members and leaders who have created and sustained an organization that is 75 years strong.

HIDDEN NUMBER WORTH \$50

One member family's Oklahoma Farm Bureau membership number is hidden somewhere in this issue of *Oklahoma Country* and could earn that member family \$50. To claim the cash prize, the member family must find its own hidden membership number and contact Hannah Nemecek before the last day of the month, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (405) 523-2346.

The OKFB membership number hidden somewhere in *Oklahoma Country* must match the number on the face of your individual OKFB membership card for you to claim the cash prize. The membership number that appears on your magazine's mailing label is not the hidden number, but also must match the hidden number for you to claim the cash prize.

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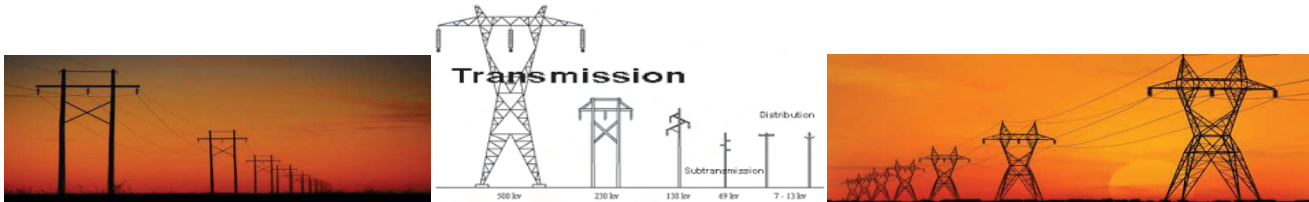
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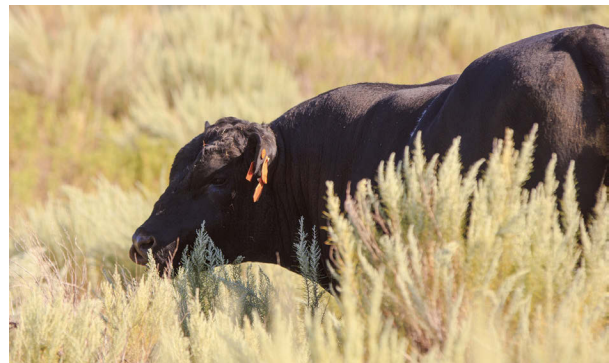


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By Dustin Mielke

Looking back through 75 years of Oklahoma Farm Bureau from the perspective of members who dedicated themselves to agriculture's cause.



PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING

A proud history and a bright future

By Tom Buchanan

President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 75th-anniversary celebration has been a great time to look back at all of our accomplishments, achievements and progress since 1942. We are proud to have so many triumphs under our belt, each of which was a hard-fought victory won by family farmers and ranchers to advance Oklahoma agriculture.

As we hold our final celebration event at our state convention in November, it will be a chance to not only recall the past, but also an opportunity to look toward the future and ask ourselves what can our organization do - and who can we be for our organization - as we move forward.

OKFB has always been driven by our members. From the handful of agriculturalists who formed our organization to today, OKFB is strong because of what farmers and ranchers do each and every day in their communities and beyond.

Throughout our diamond-anniversary year, we have uncovered stories from our archives of Farm Bureau members throughout the decades who have dedicated themselves and sacrificed their time and resources to help build OKFB, and in turn, protect our agricultural heritage. Those of us who have been around Farm Bureau for any length of time know neighbors and friends from across the state who have given of themselves to improve our rural way of life.

It is with this history in mind that we know our future is dependent upon our members and the dreams and hopes they have for tomorrow. Our grassroots organization ensures their


voices will be heard and rural Oklahoma will be represented. Whether in our counties, around our state or to our nation, our message can move the needle when we all pull together.

What can Farm Bureau be? What can our organization do? History has shown that we have power when we speak with one voice. We can move agriculture forward when we all pull in the

same direction. Our future will be bright when we all stand up and speak out for the way of life we all hold dear.

We should each be asking ourselves where we can help guide Farm Bureau, and what our organization can achieve. And in the cooperative spirit that OKFB embodies, let us come together and share our vision for the future and work together to strengthen our organization. As Farm Bureau, we can face the challenges that will certainly arise while seizing each opportunity to preserve and protect our rural way of life.

So as we prepare to celebrate 75 years of OKFB in Norman this November, let us gather not only

to recall with fondness the foundation that has been laid by previous generations, but let us also look forward with vision to what our organization can accomplish as we celebrate a heritage that is 75 years strong. 

“ We can move agriculture forward when we all pull in the same direction. Our future will be bright when we all stand up and speak out for the way of life we all hold dear.”

— Tom Buchanan



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EXECUTIVE OUTLOOK

Proud to be a part of our Farm Bureau family

By Thad Doye

Interim Executive Director, Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is a way of life for many of our members. Our state's farmers and ranchers throughout decades have poured their valuable time, effort and considerable amounts of love into building OKFB and making it our state's leading farm organization.

It is an organization that I am proud to have been involved with on many levels throughout my time in agriculture.

I am a farmer from the southwest Oklahoma town of Walters where I farm alongside my father, father-in-law and son raising a variety of crops and cattle. I understand what our state's farmers and ranchers go through to grow food in a state where the weather can destroy an entire year's worth of work in minutes. But I know the dedication agriculturalists have: it is not just a job, it is a way of life many of us cannot imagine existing without.

I am proud to have served OKFB as a member of the Young Farmers & Ranchers. I had the opportunity to serve with some of our state's brightest young leaders on our state YF&R committee. While my fellow committee members' time in YF&R may be part of OKFB's history, their leadership and dedication continue on in our organization, in our industry and in their communities as they dedicate themselves to ensure that agriculture's voice is heard.

Some of you may have first met me as a member of the OKFB field staff. As a Farm Bureau staff member, I loved the opportunity meeting with our OKFB leaders, helping them as they guided their organization on a path that would help our industry grow. As both a field representative and vice president of field services, I know listening to our Farm Bureau members' voices and then making sure their voice is amplified is the key to OKFB's success.

Before being named interim executive director, I most recently served OKFB as crop insurance manager. This

opportunity gave me the chance to work with our farm and ranch members day in and day out, helping them plan for the future by being a partner with them in their success and their challenges.


I also have had the opportunity to work with the Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs through the

Oklahoma Farming & Ranching Foundation, helping coordinate and transport donations to help provide protein sticks for hungry Oklahoma children. Agriculture is a caring industry, and through my involvement with the packs programs, I have seen our community caringly reach out to those who need assistance.

In each of my capacities within Farm Bureau and agriculture, I have seen the need for agriculture to have one, unified voice. A voice that starts with individual members coming together as a county to have a local presence

to raise agricultural awareness. Those 77 counties create what for the past 75 years has been an agricultural organization that works cooperatively to create a brighter future for Oklahoma, our nation and our world.

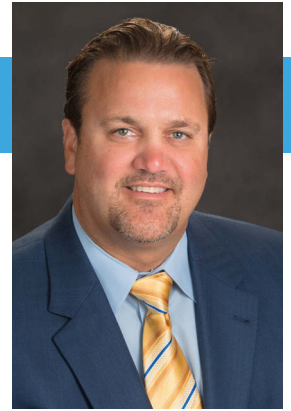
As we prepare to celebrate our diamond anniversary at our annual state convention in November, I am as proud today as I have ever been to do my part to ensure that our grassroots-led, rural-minded organization will continue to thrive.

And as long as farmers and ranchers come together to speak with one voice, work together to shape agriculture, and dedicate themselves to growing food and caring for the land, our past 75 years of OKFB is just the beginning of what we can accomplish together. 

“In each of my capacities within Farm Bureau and agriculture, I have seen the need for agriculture to have one, unified voice. A voice that starts with individual members coming together as a county to have a local presence to raise agricultural awareness.”

— Thad Doye

INSURANCE MATTERS



Service before self

By Gary Buckner
Executive Vice President and General Manager,
Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company

As executive vice president and general manager, I often write merely about insurance issues, reporting about our gains and losses. Although I'm excited to continue to report about important strides and improvements we are constantly making at Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, today I get to share with you another reason why I'm truly proud to work for such a great company: service before self.

This past month southeastern Texas was hit with what is being reported as the worst natural disaster in state history. The storm will have economic and socioeconomic impacts for many months to come and tertiary effects will be felt for several years. As we watched the news and heard initial reports of loss of life, homes and livelihood, we couldn't help but remember our own time of disaster during the wildfires this past spring. We remembered the caravans of trucks carrying hay, feed and fencing materials that even today are still funneling into the state. We knew that in the haze of the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, this was our opportunity to step in and help our neighbors just as they recently so selflessly had done.

One story in particular made its way back to Oklahoma. Love

County Farm Bureau agent Sam Barrick took his personal air boat down to the Houston area, and for three days he worked around the clock to help rescue flood victims and transport them to safety. He estimated he made more than 150 trips,

traversing the flood waters with two to 10 people aboard his boat. I know there are countless other stories like Sam's that represent the type of people who choose to serve at OFBMIC. It is this same spirit of service that is evident when taking care of our members and policyholders.

“As we celebrate 75 years of OKFB, and more than 70 years of OFBMIC, it is an honor working for a company that still believes in continuing to be a part of the legacy of Oklahomans protecting Oklahomans.”

— Gary Buckner

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Buckner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



What did Oklahoma agriculture look like in 1942?

Oklahoma agriculture looked very different in 1942 when Oklahoma Farm Bureau got its start. Below, we have highlighted a few samples comparing Oklahoma agriculture today to 75 years ago.

1942 VS TODAY

194
acres



438
acres

46
years



58
years

12.8
million
acres



8.2
million
acres

175,000



78,000

\$26
per acre



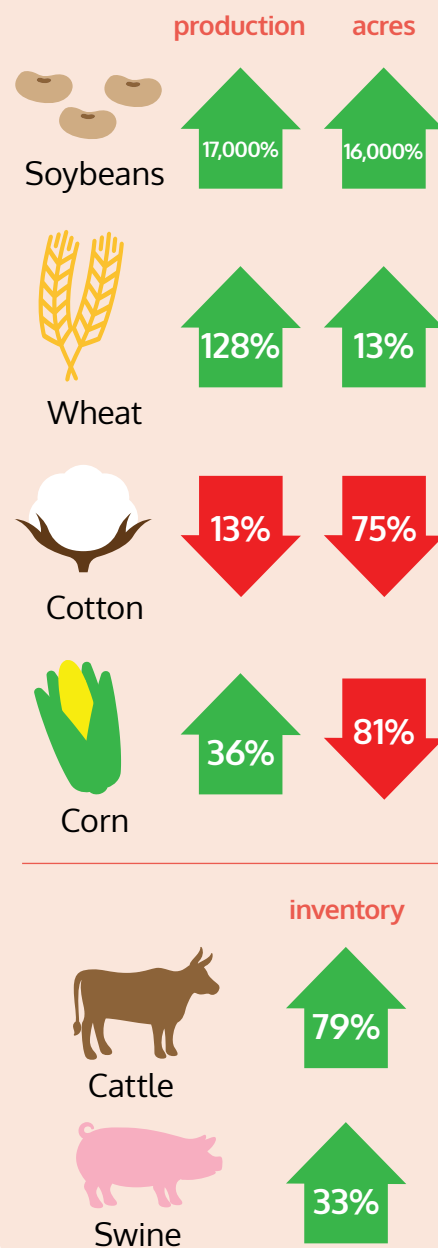
\$1,900
per acre

\$250
million



\$7.1
billion

COMMODITY CHANGES



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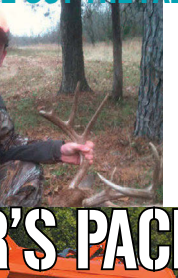
Great Plains MFG 1006NT
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The work has only just begun

As OKFB celebrates 75 years of policy achievements, the organization must continue to defend the protections agriculture and rural Oklahoma enjoy today.

In 1942, a group of farmers and ranchers recognized the need for an organization that would fight for the rights of an ever-declining population: agriculturalists and rural Oklahomans. They realized the power of the collective voice, and knew that many united voices were stronger than one. Thus, Oklahoma Farm Bureau was created to provide farmers and ranchers an opportunity to unite to solve problems and fight to protect the rural way of life.

Over the past 75 years, OKFB members have battled for many of the protections enjoyed by farmers and ranchers today. The organization has accomplished great things in its rich history, but the work is far from finished. In reminiscing on the past seven and a half decades, OKFB finds many of its proud achievements must increasingly be defended.

North American Free Trade Agreement

OKFB members played a crucial role in supporting a historic trade deal between the United States, Canada and Mexico. Signed in 1994, NAFTA removed barriers to agricultural trade between the three countries. Since its inception, NAFTA has increased U.S. agricultural exports to the two countries from \$8.9 billion in 1993 to \$38.1 billion in 2016.

While farmers and ranchers have enjoyed access to these foreign markets for 23 years, the election of one president threatens to upend the deal. Negotiators from the three countries have been meeting throughout the year to modernize the agreement. OKFB, alongside the American Farm Bureau Federation, is pushing to ensure any modernization of the agreement continues to expand market access for U.S. farmers and ranchers.

Agricultural sales tax exemptions

Oklahoma farmers and ranchers today reap the benefits of sales tax exemptions on all farm inputs like feed, seed, fertilizer and

farm machinery, allowing producers to reinvest that money into their businesses. But Oklahoma agriculture has not always enjoyed the exemptions.

From the beginning of the grassroots organization, winning the agriculture sales tax exemptions was a priority for OKFB members. In fact, an exemption on sales tax from feed, seed and fertilizer was the organization's first legislative effort. But the blanket exemption was not won until 1978, following a difficult 30-year battle at the state Capitol. The agricultural sales tax exemptions remains a strong asset today, providing Oklahoma farmers and ranchers millions of dollars in savings each year.

Yet the exemption is not permanent law. As the state repeatedly faces budget problems, coupled with the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling on exemptions this summer, tax credits and exemptions could increasingly rise to lawmakers' attention. With a Legislature largely unfamiliar with production agriculture, OKFB members must continually remind state lawmakers of the necessity of the sales tax exemptions.

Ad valorem taxes

With tens of thousands of farm and ranch members across the state, OKFB represents a large portion of Oklahoma's landowners. Members always have believed in an equal ad valorem tax system. From a supermajority vote requirement for bond issues to accurate land use valuation, OKFB avidly has fought to secure a fair ad valorem tax system.

But recently, municipalities have called for a re-evaluation of city funding sources. Historically, Oklahoma cities and towns have relied strictly on sales tax revenue. This year, however, municipalities ardently lobbied for access to ad valorem to fund public safety. Though the measure stalled in the Senate, the issue will not soon go away. As an organization that considers ad valorem a tax that unduly burdens farmers and ranchers, OKFB must continue fighting for equality in ad valorem tax issues.




Water

An absolute necessity for growing crops and raising livestock, water is the lifeblood of Oklahoma agriculture. From its inception, OKFB has been a staunch advocate for developing and expanding the state's water resources.

Beginning in 1949, just seven years after the organization's founding, members recommended a study on the state's water resources and began working toward a statewide water development plan for the future. Yet not until the early 1980s - thanks in part to OKFB - did the state Legislature adopt a statewide water plan to help solve critical water problems and prepare for long-term water management.

OKFB always has played a key and active role in fighting for water rights for farmers and ranchers. During the historic drought that plagued the state from 2011 through 2015, Oklahoma agriculture and the state as a whole was reminded of the gravity of having enough water.

Water and its development will be an increasingly important issue for not only agriculture, but the entire state. OKFB always will work to ensure farmers and ranchers have an abundant supply of water into the future.

As the state's leading farm organization, OKFB will continue to fight to preserve and protect the rural way of life. Farm Bureau has stood strong for 75 years because its policy comes straight from the farmer. As OKFB enters its next 75 years, it will continue the fight to preserve the livelihoods of the state's farmers and ranchers for generations to come. 

Want to learn more about OKFB's policy achievements over the past 75 years? View our timeline at 75.okfarmbureau.org.

Join us in working for agriculture and rural Oklahoma!

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BUILDING **OUR** FUTURE

BY CLARISSA WALTON

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU FROM THE 1990S INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

On the heels of a decade filled with legislative wins, Oklahoma Farm Bureau began the 1990s with new vigor. Humbled by the dedication and support of its members for 50 years, the organization embraced the magnitude and importance of its presence both in the legislature and in the public view.

MEMBERS FIRST

The early 1990s brought milestones for Oklahoma Farm Bureau as the organization focused on member benefits and programs to enhance the value of becoming an OKFB member, in an effort to encourage active participation at the county, state and national levels.


In 1992, members received newly-designed FB membership cards that could be used for benefits through exclusive arrangements with a wide variety of businesses throughout Oklahoma, including restaurants, tire and service centers, pharmaceutical networks, entertainment, eyewear, motels, rental cars, parking, tax preparation, pest control and more.

In addition to these member benefits, OKFB also focused on new programs and activities through its departments and organizations. The OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers began regularly holding livestock judging and speech contests. Farm Bureau Safety Services added a fire safety trailer to their curriculum to show youth how to safely escape a burning building.

In 1998, OKFB launched the “Members First” campaign designed to instill in the members confidence in the direction of the organization and to focus on providing the highest quality of programs and service to members. With the campaign came several efforts to provide better insurance products, open additional claim offices, increase advertising and public relations, and offer loans to help county Farm Bureaus improve their image with a face lift to facilities, new buildings, signage and parking. These efforts led to OKFB’s cost-share satellite office program, which offered counties financial assistance to open new satellite offices to better reach their members. In September 1998, Adair County became the state’s first to use the program to build a new satellite office.


Growth of the organization was evident with the first all-county membership gain recorded in 1992, and OKFB membership reached 100,000 for the first time in 1993. With 10 consecutive years of growth in 1999, OKFB won the first of many American Farm Bureau Federation President’s Awards with gold stars in all 12 program areas.

1990 | OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU 75 YEARS (1942-2017)

1991 | OKFB'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY


1991 | STATE FAIR LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST BEGINS
 OKFB YF&R holds their first statewide livestock judging contest at the Oklahoma State Fair.

1992 | FIRST ALL-COUNTY MEMBERSHIP GAIN
 For the first time in OKFB history, each Farm Bureau county reports membership growth for the year.

1993 | MERKLIN ELECTED PRESIDENT
 Merklin, a Woodward County farmer-rancher, is elected fifth OKFB president.


1994



Oklahoma Farm Bureau President James Lockett (right) took to the airwaves for this 1993 KTOK radio show with host Carol Arnold to explain OKFB's position on the NAFTA trade deal.



The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Committee hosted this 1994 Farm City Festival at the state Capitol where they served food to legislators and shared agricultural and rural issues.

CONTINUING THE FIGHT

As OKFB focused on membership and community efforts, the organization continued to advocate for Oklahoma farmers and ranchers at the state Capitol.

"The strength of our organization lies within our educated and active membership," wrote OKFB President Jack Givens in the March 1998 issue of the *OFB Journal*. "At a time when agricultural issues are grabbing headlines, it is important for lawmakers to hear our voices out of the many that are competing for their attention."

Sustained legislative efforts to defend agriculture from out-of-state interests and unfair taxation yielded continued protections for farmers and ranchers growing food for a country and a world that was growing more and more removed from the farm and ranch.

Trade also continued to be a major issue. In the 1990s, Farm Bureau championed the North American Free Trade Agreement, focusing on its positive impact for agriculture. The measure was implemented in 1994 in hopes to remove barriers to agricultural trade among the United States, Canada and Mexico.

OKFB also helped fight another burdensome tax for farmers, ranchers and landowners as they sought to raise the state estate tax exemption level. In 1996, state estate tax exemption was raised to \$700,000, providing farm and ranch families with fewer worries when handing down agricultural assets in an industry where land and machinery costs are ever rising. In the new century, OKFB worked to raise awareness of the need to repeal the federal estate tax, helping raise the exemption level several times in cooperation with AFBF.

Entering another political arena, OKFB also began its involvement with an important part of lawmaking: state questions.

In 1989, the organization heralded the success of recalling State Question 614, which contained controversial changes in the state's property tax system, including 100 percent assessment rates. However, the fight was not over. During the following years, OKFB led the charge in overhauling *ad valorem* tax law to help remove burdensome property taxes from farmers and ranchers. *Ad valorem* tax reform became a reality in 1996 following the defeat of State Question 669 and the subsequent passage of state questions 675, 676 and 677.

1994 | FIRST FIRE SAFETY TRAILER

OKFB Safety Services obtains its first fire safety training trailer to help grade-school students learn how to prevent household fires and escape a smoke-filled house.

1998 | COUNTY OFFICE COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Adair County Farm Bureau becomes the first county to use the Farm Bureau cost-share satellite office program to better reach their members with modern facilities.



1996

1997 | GIVENS ELECTED PRESIDENT

Mangum farmer-rancher Jack Givens is elected as the sixth OKFB president.



1998

1999 | KOUPLEN ELECTED PRESIDENT

Steve Kouplen, an Okmulgee County rancher from Beggs, is elected seventh president of OKFB.



RESIDENT
County
as the

In 2010, OKFB spearheaded the effort to defeat State Question 744, which would have required the state to spend the average amount of the surrounding states per pupil in common education each year without any regard for other state needs.

SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE

At the turn of the century, OKFB began advocating for agriculture in new ways through new programs.

In 2001, the Oklahoma Agricultural Legal Foundation, later renamed to the OKFB Legal Foundation, was created for the purpose of entering the legal arena to protect private property rights and production agriculture. The foundation continues to serve farmers and ranchers through engaging in public interest litigation, researching legal issues affecting family farmers and rural Oklahomans, and educating farmers and ranchers and the public about issues important to agriculture. The legal foundation is funded primarily through voluntary contributions of Farm Bureau members and through fundraising events.

The legal foundation's first major win came in 2002 when it obtained a favorable outcome for a state rancher in a skirmish with a railroad over livestock fences. The foundation got involved when Noble County Farm Bureau Director Bill Hafner shared his concerns about a possible liability when his cattle got off his property onto highways due to dilapidated fences on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way going through his property. The new fence and its construction were eventually paid for by the railroad after the foundation intervened, demanding the railroad obey state laws regarding construction and maintenance of fencing along rights of way.

At the 2002 OKFB convention, delegates established

the OKAgFund, a political action committee to support candidates for state office, with Farm Bureau members choosing whom to support. In 2004, the OKAgFund reported a 97 percent success rate in backing candidates for public office during primary elections.

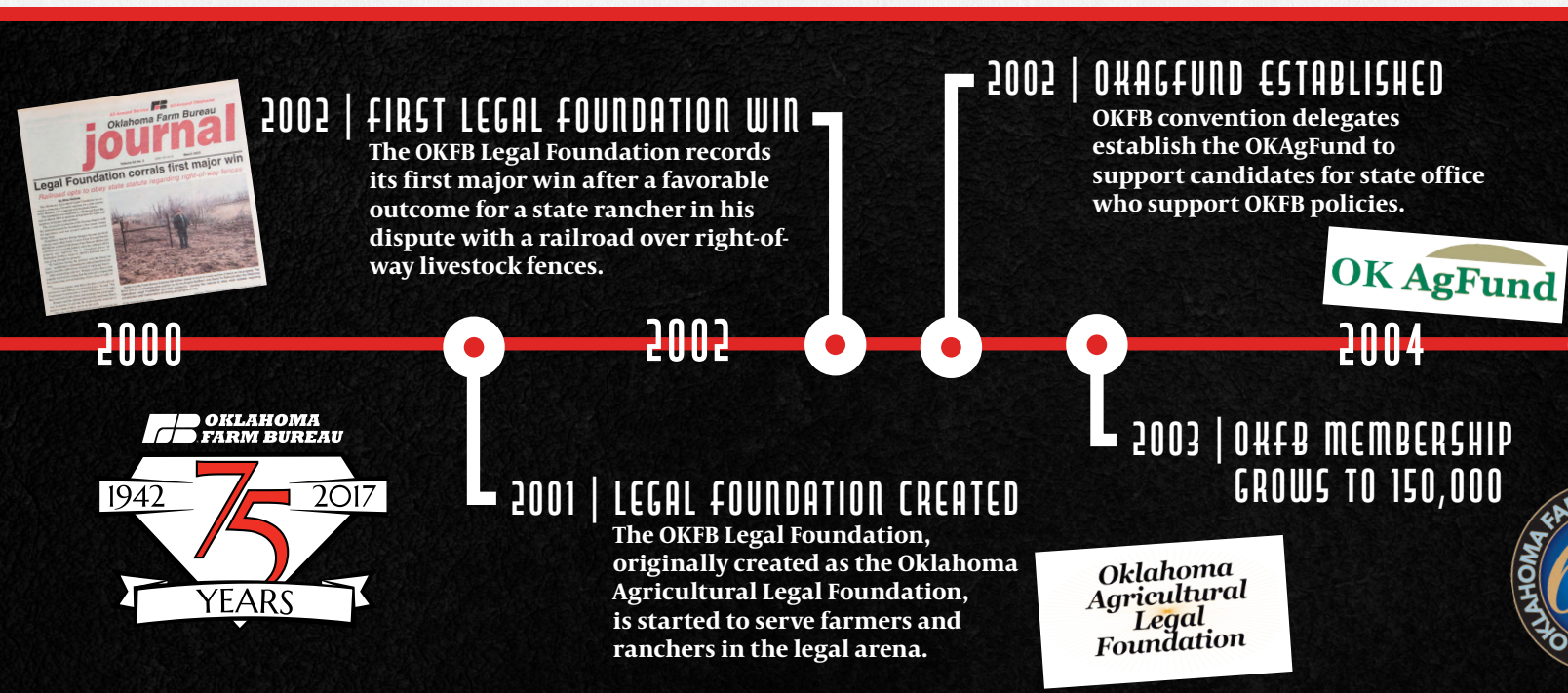
In 2011, the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation was born, designed to connect consumers with accurate agricultural information while supporting farming, ranching and rural Oklahoma. The foundation enhances awareness and understanding of agriculture's contribution and importance to the state of Oklahoma. From promoting and assisting beginning farmers and ranchers to educating youth interested in agricultural pursuits, the foundation creates agricultural awareness. Through the foundation, the Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs have provided hungry children across Oklahoma with an invaluable protein source.

LOOKING FORWARD

"With all the turmoil and uncertainty in the world, and the precarious position of agriculture at a crisis, farmers need more than ever the reliable information, the deep thinking, and the sound policies that will stabilize our course," wrote OKFB President Lewis H. Munn in the 1953 *Oklahoma Farm Bureau Farmer*. "Farm Bureau provides the machinery for this and more."

Although written more than 60 years ago, Munn's words still ring true today as the farmers and ranchers across the nation struggle for their voice to be heard.

As the organization prepares to continue the fight for Oklahoma agriculture, it is important to look back on the past 75 years to celebrate not only the victories, but also the challenges, that led OKFB leaders and members to build an organization that is determined to achieve a better way of life for the state's farmers and ranchers.





County educational activities, like this Major County farm safety demonstration, were important opportunities for Farm Bureau members to be promote agriculture locally.



Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Eldon Merklin (signing) had the honor to be the first person to sign a 1994 petition that would give taxpayers control over ad valorem tax levels.

1991 OKFB RESOLUTIONS PREAMBLE

“Dreams were embodied by 350 persons gathered in Oklahoma City on Feb. 3, 1942. They represented 1,011 charter members, whose early-day efforts and sacrifices laid the foundation for today’s Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

“Those founders had dreams for their organization, but knew there would be no quick-fixes to the problems faced in 1942. There are no quick-fixes now, either; but Oklahoma Farm Bureau was started with the intent of being dedicated to the long term.

“Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s charter leaders nurtured the dream.

“They took the words spoken by AFBF Secretary R.W. Blackburn on Feb. 3, 1942, to heart: ‘Only through cooperative efforts can farmers possibly meet the challenge of agriculture today.’

“Membership grew, a professional staff was employed and services to and for members followed for Oklahoma Farm Bureau.


“Constant improvement. That was the key to success for Farm Bureau back then, and today, Farm Bureau and its members are partners, working hand-in-hand “Building On The Dream.

“Dreams can only direct thinking, govern lives and forge history. Dreams can generate thinking, stir emotion, impel human action, facilitate change and shape and shake the future.

“We’re partners in the dream, working together for improvement. It’s up to us. And it depends on us each caring about what’s happening, keeping in contact and taking responsible actions.

“The sky’s the limit when you’re building on the dream.

“The policies that follow represent the dreams of Oklahoma Farm Bureau today.

“Join us in the pursuit of the dream.” 

2004 | OKAGFUND RECORDS 97% SUCCESS RATE

The OKAg Fund reported a 97% success rate in backing candidates for public office during primary elections.

2006 | REWARD SIGN PROGRAM AMOUNT BUMPED

OKFB increases the cash reward to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of thieves, arsonists and vandals.



2006

2006 | OFB MIC CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company looks back on 60 years of providing insurance services to Farm Bureau members.



2008

2007 | SPRADLING ELECTED PRESIDENT

Tulsa County farmer-rancher Mike Spradling is elected OKFB president, the eighth person to serve in that capacity.



INSURING YOUR FUTURE

How much life insurance do you need? Six factors you need to consider

By Farm Bureau Financial Services

There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all life insurance policy. You might need more – or less – life insurance than your neighbor down the road, depending on factors ranging from income and debt to family size.

Of the 60 percent of Americans who have life insurance, one in four felt they needed more coverage, according to a 2016 survey by the Insurance Barometer.

Before shopping for a policy – or purchasing additional life insurance protection – it is important to understand the factors that affect how much life insurance you need. So, how do you determine how much life insurance you need? Here are six things to consider:

Income

The amount on your tax return plays a significant role in your life insurance calculations. The more you earn, the more coverage you need. Your Farm Bureau agent can help you determine how much life insurance you may need.

Debts

The proceeds from a life insurance policy need to take care of all of your debts, including mortgage balances, car loans, student loans, credit card balances or other debts that would be a burden to your family and will need to be paid in full. More debt necessitates more life insurance.

Savings

Review your existing assets. If you have significant savings and investments that can be used to cover burial/estate expenses, pay off debts and provide a financial cushion for your family, you'll need less life insurance than someone with few assets.

Existing coverage


Do you have life insurance coverage through an employer? One 2016 survey found 19 percent of policyholders had life insurance through work. Depending on the amount of that coverage, having your own personally-owned policy may be a good idea.

Family size

The more dependents you have, the more life insurance you need. In addition to thinking about the number of children depending on you for coverage, take their ages into consideration as well. You'll need more life insurance to protect young children through adulthood than you would for college graduates with their own income.

Future needs

Life insurance helps protect your family, and that means purchasing enough coverage for their future needs, including educational expenses. When calculating your life insurance needs, determine how much it will cost to send your children to college.

To determine how much life insurance you need, our calculator found on FBFS.com is a good place to start. And you'll want to make an appointment with your Farm Bureau agent for a detailed analysis of your life insurance needs. 

Source: 2016 Barometer Insurance Study, Ashley Durham, LIMRA, LLC Global

6 Things That Affect How Much **Life Insurance** You Need

Before shopping for a policy – or purchasing additional life insurance protection – it’s important to understand the factors that affect how much life insurance you need. Here are six things to consider:

1. **Income**

This is simple. The more you earn, the more coverage you need.

2. **Debts**

Add up all of your debts, including mortgage balances, car loans, student loans and other debts that will need to be paid in full.

3. **Savings**

If you have significant savings and investments that can be used to cover costs and provide financial stability for your family, you might need less life insurance coverage.



4. **Existing coverage**

Do you have life insurance coverage through an employer? It may be a good idea to have your own personally owned policy in addition to your employer’s coverage – in case you change jobs or need more coverage.

5. **Family size**

The more dependents you have, the more life insurance you need. Younger children will need to be taken care of for a longer period than older children, so take their ages into account as well.



6. **Future Needs**

Purchase enough coverage to take care of your family’s future needs, including educational expenses.



Visit fbfs.com/learning-center-home for more information.

Oklahoma ag groups partner to promote relief for hurricane victims

Farmers and ranchers have always kept a wary eye to the skies. Thick, soupy, gray clouds that offer a much-needed shower or rain can also create damaging winds that can scatter homes and livelihoods in a matter of mere minutes. No matter how predictable or unpredictable the weather can be, one truth remains: it cannot be controlled. This is a fact of life for the agricultural community, yet in times of tragedy it is what binds farmers and ranchers together with a swift response of hope and kindness.

Even with careful tracking, Hurricane Harvey wreaked havoc on southeastern Texas. Families were displaced, homes and livelihoods were left in shambles and there were those who even paid the ultimate price. For the agricultural community of Texas, early estimates according to economists are reporting devastating blows to farmers and ranchers. What looked to be one of Texas' best yields of cotton in recent years sat several feet under water or drenched with irreparable damage. What crops that were harvested now face threat of contamination due to the flood waters. Agricultural economists also reported the 54 counties

in the disaster zone contain 1.2 million beef cows, or more than one-fourth of the state's cow herd. Although it is difficult to estimate the damage to the beef industry along with the other livestock and crop sectors in the state, it will be of historic proportions.

With a year that has included wildfires, tornadoes, and now Hurricane Harvey, farmers and ranchers have pressed on with quiet resilience.


Rescue efforts began shortly after it was deemed safe. State organizations and volunteers navigated the flood waters looking for survivors both human and animal. Livestock recovery teams set up temporary shelters for displaced or lost livestock and helped local farmers and ranchers move cattle from the flood waters to higher ground. Supplies continue to head south and volunteer organizations work around the clock to pick up the pieces left by Mother Nature.

Just as Oklahoma saw unprecedented damage due to wildfires earlier this spring, the state's agricultural community witnessed an outpouring of relief efforts from all across the country.

When Hurricane Harvey hit, Oklaho-

ma's farming and ranching organizations banded together in a sign of solidarity and support for the hurricane victims.

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is leading a partnership with Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Beef Council, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Pork Council, American Farmers & Ranchers, Oklahoma Wheat Commission and the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association to collect donations to help fund relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. All funds collected from their members and the public will directly benefit farmers, ranchers and agricultural communities and state agriculture groups in south Texas.

Although recovery will be long and arduous, every bit of help will be felt by those who need it most. Members of the public are encouraged to mail donations in the form of checks made payable to the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation to 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK, 73105, with "Hurricane Harvey Relief" written in the memo line. Gifts of any size are tax deductible as charitable donations to a 501(c)(3) corporation, pursuant to IRS guidelines. 

“

Oklahoma's agricultural community always comes together during times of disaster. Just as the Texas agricultural community supported us during the historic wildfires northwest Oklahomans experienced earlier this year, we hope to help our neighbors on their long road to recovery.

— *Jeremy Rich, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation president*



“

In times of tragedy, farmers and ranchers are the first to reach out a helping hand. As those who have faced the devastation of natural disasters, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members have witnessed firsthand the support of the agricultural community. We are proud to partner with the Foundation and Oklahoma agriculture organizations to help bring relief to our fellow farmers and ranchers in south Texas.

— *Tom Buchanan, Oklahoma Farm Bureau president*



“ We are fortunate in Oklahoma to see the amazing generosity of the agriculture community when they sprang into action this past spring to help our ranchers in Northwest Oklahoma during the wildfires. It’s our time to pay it forward.

– Heather Buckmaster, Oklahoma Beef Council executive director

“ On behalf of Oklahoma’s pork producers, we want the people of southeast Texas to know they are in our thoughts and prayers. Oklahoma’s agriculture organizations are taking this time of crisis to unify our efforts and help our neighbors to the south. We encourage all Oklahomans who want to help to consider giving to the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation.



– Roy Lee Lindsey, Oklahoma Pork Council executive director



“ AFR has a long tradition of helping agriculture producers and rural residents survive life’s storms. An organization of farmers and ranchers, we understand the heartbreak when disaster strikes. We also understand the strong determination to put the pieces back together. We stand united with other Oklahoma agriculture groups in our desire to help Texas producers in any way possible.

– Terry Detrick, American Farmers & Ranchers president

“ The Oklahoma Wheat Commission and many other commodity groups and agricultural organizations in the state feel this is our time to serve by helping the hurricane victims. Time after time, we have seen support from our neighbors from all over the United States during tornado relief and wildfire disaster clean-up efforts. We are fully aware several farm families in southern Texas have had significant losses, and we feel this is our time to give back.



Mike Schulte, Oklahoma Wheat Commission executive director



“ On behalf of the Oklahoma wheat producers, we are pleased to be able to assist our neighbors to the south during their time of need and to participate in a unified effort on behalf of Oklahoma agriculture. We encourage all Oklahomans involved in agriculture to consider giving to this very worthwhile effort...the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation.

Joe Neal Hampton, Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association



Jim Hadwiger
Alfalfa County Farm Bureau Member

Still standing S



Jim Freudenberger
Logan County Farm Bureau Member

Melvin & Helen Keller

Tulsa County Farm Bureau Members



Strong

Three Farm Bureau families share how they helped build Oklahoma's largest general farm organization from the grassroots up.

by Dustin Mielke

From humble beginnings

Jim Hadwiger grew up a mere six miles away from Oklahoma Farm Bureau's second president, Lewis Munn.

Hadwiger, an Alfalfa County farmer who took over the family farm from his father, remembers stories about Munn from the early days of the farm organization.

"Lewis would get behind on his farming," Hadwiger said of the early Farm Bureau leader's dedication. "I mean the neighbors thought he wasn't getting the farming all done because he was out working for Farm Bureau."

The success OKFB has seen over the past 75 years has been earned by Farm Bureau members who poured hours of labor, love and life into the organization. Farmers and ranchers throughout the decades have dedicated themselves to building an organization that speaks up for rural Oklahoma and gives a voice to those who help feed the world.

Countless families and individuals have dedicated themselves to Farm Bureau, each with their own backgrounds, hopes and dreams. However, their reasons for being involved often share a common thread: a desire to improve rural Oklahoma and the people who call its dirt roads, fields and pastures home.

Hadwiger was inspired to dedicate himself to OKFB after attending a state convention in the late 1950s where he heard the organization's first president, John I. Taylor, address the assembly.

"I heard the first president talk, John I. Taylor, and the things he told us to do and what he said, I thought 'This is the kind of organization that I want to belong to,'" Hadwiger said. "He was saying that we need people to take care of farmers. He was just a gentleman."

From there, Hadwiger became a junior county board member, attending meetings and learning the inner workings of Alfalfa County Farm Bureau. His experience serving alongside his county's charter members would propel him to leadership positions in Farm Bureau throughout his life.

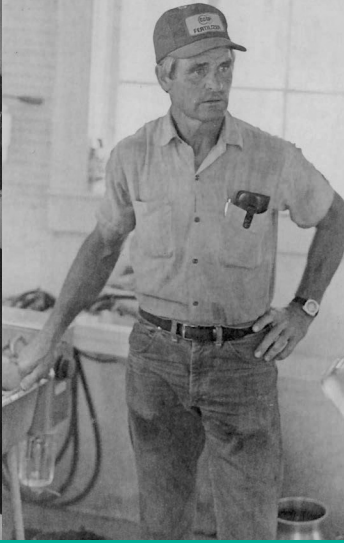
In the early days of county activities, Hadwiger recalls being called upon to serve Farm Bureau.

"One of the (county) presidents would call me and say, 'We have a meeting to go to and you got to go,'" Hadwiger said. "I said, 'I'm real busy,' and he said, 'That's what I'm looking for: a guy who's busy.'"

Helen and Melvin Keller of Tulsa County became involved in Farm Bureau activities thanks to Melvin's dad, who was an early member of the farm organization. The Kellers became members themselves after they were married in 1945. As dairy farmers, the work was never over and vacations were scarce, but they still found time to help build Farm Bureau.

"We found the right kinds of friends in Farm Bureau," Melvin Keller said, "and we've enjoyed it very much."

The couple were actively involved in the Tulsa County Junior



Left: Helen Keller poses with the 1952 OKFB Charles L. Roff award that Tulsa County Junior Farm Bureau won when Helen Keller was county JFB president. Right: Melvin Keller on the family's dairy farm.

Jim Hadwiger (left) serves as an American Farm Bureau delegate representing Oklahoma alongside Ralph Dickson (center) and Wayne Booth at the 1988 AFBF convention in New Orleans.

Farm Bureau in the 1950s, helping the fledgling organization grow in Tulsa County and beyond. Helen helped raise funds for a variety of causes, including sending shoes to a German family to assist in war recovery efforts.

"We had a great junior Farm Bureau," Helen Keller said. "We had 50 members. That was our entertainment in those days: getting together with that bunch."

Jim Freudenberger of Logan County recalls attending local chili and oyster feeds as some of the earliest Farm Bureau activities he remembers from his high school days in the early 1950s.

During college, Freudenberger bought his first Farm Bureau insurance policy, and upon graduation he became active in his county's JFB program, helping put on watermelon feeds, farmhand olympics and tractor driving contests.

Freudenberger remembers an early selling point for winning farmers over as Farm Bureau members was OKFB's success in repealing the fuel tax on gasoline for farm use during a time when most farm tractors were gasoline-powered.

"I can remember one of the big things back at that time was they got the tax off of farm fuel – Farm Bureau did," Freudenberger said. "And that was a big selling point for trying to sell memberships, where you had some relief on taxes on gasoline."

Starting out in Farm Bureau, each of these members laid the foundation to help their counties grow as they contributed to their local communities. Like OKFB itself, what started in hometowns around the state was paving the way for each of these members to help build Farm Bureau.

Championing the Cause

When Freudenberger returned from three years of service in the U.S. Army in 1964, he picked right up where he left off as a Logan County Farm Bureau member.

He jumped right back into JFB, and he was soon elected to his county Farm Bureau board of directors. He went on to serve as secretary/treasurer of Logan County Farm Bureau and was later elected president.

By way of quick math, Freudenberger said he spent more than 50 years on his county Farm Bureau board during his time in the organization.

Through those years, Freudenberger took advantage of the opportunities in OKFB, including a state convention attendance record he's proud to share.

"I've gone to so many state annual meetings," Freudenberger said. "I think I've only missed one in the last 50 years."

"I've met a lot of people and enjoyed meeting these people."

Freudenberger said Farm Bureau's grassroots structure allows the organization to be the voice of farmers and ranchers like himself.

"I think you have people from the (grassroots), and they're more aware of what the problems might be because they're actively involved," Freudenberger said of Farm Bureau's structure. "They're right where the action is taking place, so they have a better idea of what needs to be done."

His involvement in county-level Farm Bureau activities eventually led to his election to the OKFB state board of directors in the late 1980s.

"The fellows that I served with, I thought they were really good people," Freudenberger said of his time on the state board. "They had the interest of Farm Bureau at heart, and tried to do what was best for the organization."

Serving alongside Freudenberger on the state board in the late 1980s and early 90s was Hadwiger, who also had served his county as a board member. Hadwiger said his time as a state board member allowed him to travel around his district and see the myriad of activities various county Farm Bureaus held. It also proved to him the importance of working cooperatively to achieve a common goal.

"If the counties don't stay together and work on the same things, you're not going to get anything done," Hadwiger said. "You've got to play for one team."

Besides his Alfalfa County farm, Hadwiger also ran a farm store for a few years where he sold OKFB's Safemark line of products, including tires, to local farmers. Alfalfa County Farm Bureau believed in the Safemark program enough that they purchased a



Jim and Kaye Freudenberger (right) visit with Oklahoma State Rep. Charles O. Morgan (left) during a 1979 Logan County legislative visit to Oklahoma City. Also pictured are Bill and Ruth Kinney.



Both Jim Hadwiger and Jim Freudenberger served on the 1994 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Board. Hadwiger is seated on the right, and Freudenberger is seated next to him.

tire-changing station for a local shop so Safemark tires could be installed on farm equipment.

Hadwiger cherishes every relationship he's made through Farm Bureau, whether it came from visiting with neighbors during local membership drives or during national trips in his time on the OKFB state board.

"I've had so many friends in Farm Bureau," Hadwiger said. "I've known and been friends with every one of the (OKFB) presidents, and they've all been gentlemen."

After Melvin and Helen Keller's time in Tulsa County's JFB program, Helen dedicated 21 years of her effort to the OKFB State Women's Committee, a program she loved that was filled with people she came to know well.

"I am just so grateful to have known the people that I've known, especially the committees I was on," Helen Keller said. "We formed a bond that has not been broken. We meet every year for our reunion, and it's wonderful."

Even as a dairy farmer with cows to milk daily, Melvin served as a Tulsa County board member from the 1950s until 2017, serving in every position on the board except secretary. He even spent some time selling Farm Bureau insurance as an agent in the county.

From the early years of traveling to nearby counties to set up JFB committees for fellow young agriculturalists through the awards they received and the committees they served on into recent times where they worked tirelessly behind the scenes for Farm Bureau, the Kellers have loved every minute of their involvement.

"We have wonderful memories," Helen Keller said. "It just brings tears to your eyes, the things we did."

Time well spent

Hadwiger grew up hearing stories about the early days of OKFB and the dedication it took to get the organization built from the ground up.

"I was told by Lewis Munn about the days when they started Farm Bureau," Hadwiger said. "They'd get on a bus and go to some town and see who had stamps for gasoline because it was during the war.

They'd haul them around the county to get new members to get started, then they'd get on the bus and go to the next county and do the same thing.

"So you think about all they did to get this started. We need to keep it going."

After years of dedication, each of these Farm Bureau members is proud of their time in the organization, but more so, they are proud of the organization they helped build.

"Farm Bureau has been a strong leader on many issues, and we try to put out a good front," Freudenberger said.

"I feel very fortunate that we got in on the ground floor, helped it grow, watched it grow, and benefited from a lot of things that happened because of Farm Bureau," Melvin Keller said.

"I've enjoyed going to the meetings and seeing all the people," Helen Keller said. "We did go to (this year's) area meeting, and it was just like going home."


Through all the meetings, events and activities, Hadwiger points to a shared vision and a shared faith as a reason for OKFB's success through the years.

"The best part, I think, doesn't have anything to do with the farming," Hadwiger said. "Practically all of the people are Christians. A farmer has to have a little religion to stay at it.

"A lot of the people I've met have been real good Christians. And I think that's one of the important things."

And as he thinks about the past 75 years of OKFB and the decades to come, Freudenberger recalls a request from a past OKFB president during a meeting as Farm Bureau members looked toward the future.

"I always remember Mr. Lockett, when he was president," Freudenberger said. "We had a meeting one time, and he told us to dream; he said to dream about what you thought Farm Bureau would do."

And it is the dreams of Farm Bureau members from across the state who have served through the decades that have guided OKFB through the past and will guide the organization into the future. 

CONSIDER THE BENEFITS



What did common items cost in 1942?

Ever wonder what everyday items cost when Oklahoma Farm Bureau got its start in 1942? Here's a few comparisons on some items you might buy today.

	1942	VS	NOW
tractor	 <p>\$710 * Case Model VA in 1942</p>		<p>Need a new tractor? With your OKFB membership, you can receive a special discount on your next Case IH purchase.</p> <p>\$90,000 * approximate base price of Case IH Farmall 130A</p>
washing machine	 <p>\$249</p>		<p>Sears Commercial offers OKFB members special discount pricing on everyday products for the home, including laundry appliances.</p> <p>\$750 * average front-load washing machine</p>
hotel room	 <p>\$6</p>		<p>Save money on your next hotel room! Choice Hotels, InterContinental Hotel Group and Wyndham Hotel Group offer discounts to OKFB members.</p> <p>\$130</p>
hearing aid	 <p>\$60</p>		<p>Do you have trouble hearing? You can receive free hearing assessments and discounts from Beltone Hearing Aid Centers or ClearValue Hearing.</p> <p>\$2,300</p>
okfb membership	 <p>\$5</p>		<p>Your OKFB membership offers you numerous other benefits exclusive to our members. Join or renew your membership today!</p> <p>\$35* *Average price. Dues vary by county.</p>

For details on these member benefits and more, visit okfarmbureau.org/benefits.



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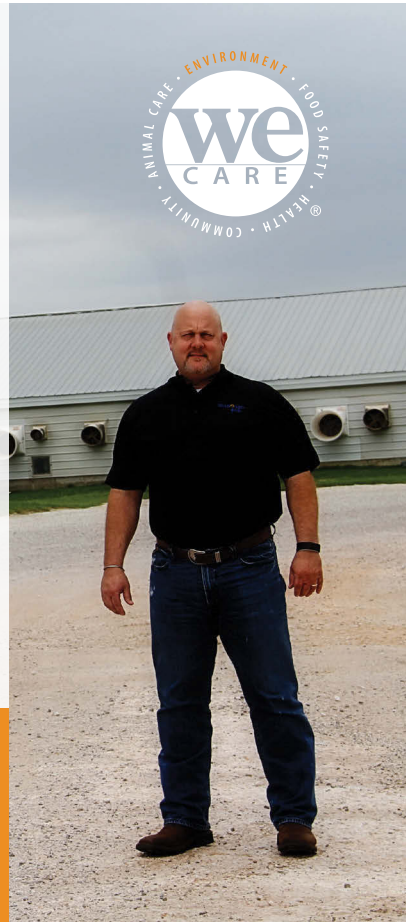
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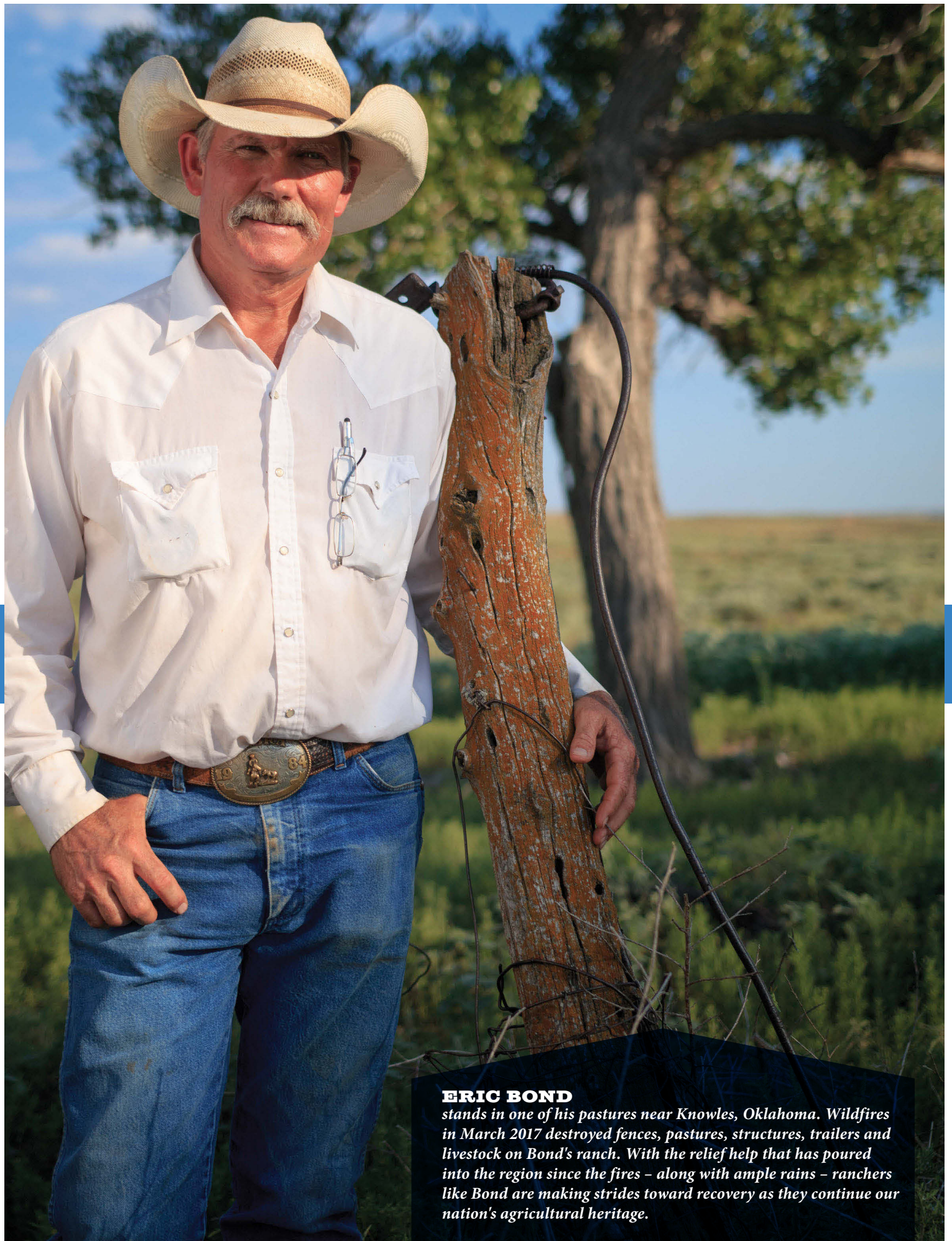
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ERIC BOND

stands in one of his pastures near Knowles, Oklahoma. Wildfires in March 2017 destroyed fences, pastures, structures, trailers and livestock on Bond's ranch. With the relief help that has poured into the region since the fires – along with ample rains – ranchers like Bond are making strides toward recovery as they continue our nation's agricultural heritage.



HOPE

ON FOUR LEGS

AS OKLAHOMA RANCHERS RECOVER FROM SPRING WILDFIRES, ONE ORGANIZATION STAYS TRUE TO ITS MISSION BY SPREADING HOPE WITH LIVESTOCK.

**STORY AND PHOTOS
BY DUSTIN MIELKE**

Eric Bond was on his normal, morning routine on his family ranch near Knowles, Oklahoma, headed out to feed his horses. His usual first stop would be the barn to grab a feed bucket.

However, on this morning in March 2017, the Farm Bureau member's barn was gone; the structure had been lost to catastrophic wildfires that ravaged the Oklahoma panhandle, along with the Texas panhandle and southwest Kansas. It took a minute for it all to sink in.

"I walked outside and headed for the barn that I used to go to get my feed, and I thought, 'Well I don't have a bucket in there any more,'" Bond said. "I thought, 'Well I had one in the trailer'. And then it dawned on me that the trailer burned up, too, and I thought, 'I don't even have a bucket.'

"We ended up losing about 4,000 acres and about 31 miles of fence, along with some cattle. Almost burned the house down. It burned down four buildings around it and all our trailers and most of the equipment.

"We still had a window to look out of, so we're in good shape."

The relief response that first appeared at Bond's ranch in the form of a donated feed bucket and tools turned into an outpouring of support for a region that was facing a road to recovery that included rebuilding miles and miles of fences, replacing buildings, regrowing herds of livestock and rebuilding what generations before had achieved.

"The help has been tremendous that has come in here," Bond said. "God has blessed us in so many ways. There are so

many neat people that we have met. It's been a tragedy, but almost a blessing at the same time."

Five months after the pastures of Beaver and Harper Counties had been charred black, green had once again returned to the rolling hills of the panhandle, thanks to the blessing of good rains. Light clouds hung in a blue afternoon sky and cattle dotted the landscape.

Arriving in Bond's pasture was a pickup pulling a livestock trailer with a new addition to Bond's herd: a donated bull to help springboard the rebuilding of his cattle herd.

Coordinated, donated and delivered by the Cattle for Christ organization, the bull was intended by the group to bring more than just good genetics to Bond's



“IT’S NOT THE ROAD ANY OF US WOULD HAVE PICKED, OBVIOUSLY, BUT THAT’S WHERE WE’RE AT. AND THE BLESSINGS THAT HAVE COME FROM THAT HAVE BEEN TREMENDOUS.”

- Eric Bond



BERNIE SMITH
estimates that around 90 percent of his family's ranchland burned in the March fires. Smith said timely spring rains have helped speed up recovery efforts.



TWO BULLS
donated by Cattle for Christ enjoy a bale of hay upon their arrival at Bernie Smith's ranch north of Gate.



CATTLE FOR CHRIST
representatives left to right: Greg Cowan, Rancher Eric Bond, Glenn Crumpler and Darrell Buxton.

herd. It was donated to help provide something every rancher needs, regardless of whether or not they have been affected by a natural disaster.

"I look at it as an opportunity to spread hope," said Greg Cowan with Cattle for Christ. "We take good quality bulls and you have the hope of a good calf crop, hope of progeny that you can keep and throw back into your herd and build your herd."

"In doing so – in sharing God's love and giving these bulls to help these people – we're sharing Christ's love. And that's what it's all about. It's not about us, it's not about the deed that we're doing. It's about the truth: the truth of the Gospel."

Cattle for Christ donated a total of 11 high-quality bulls in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas to ranchers affected by wildfires. Cattle for Christ founder Glenn Crumpler said the donations were an extension of the work that the organization does around the world to help spread the Gospel through love.

"We're just doing what we can to help," Crumpler said. "We wanted to come and give them the best we have. And that's what we have done: we've given the best

we've had, like God did for us."

Beaver County rancher and Oklahoma Farm Bureau Member Bernie Smith received a donation of two bulls from Cattle for Christ. Smith said his family's losses from the fire included livestock, fences and 90 percent of the ranch's grass that fuels not only their cattle but also their livelihood.

"It took us a while to get the cows moved to where they had something to eat," Smith said. "Then we started in on fences, and that's going to be an ongoing project probably for a couple years. And now we're starting to rebuild the herd. Our grass is not as good as we would like it to be, but it is what it is, and we're as glad it's as good as it is."

Smith said the donated bulls will help rebuild the family's herd much faster than they had originally anticipated, speeding up the process by years.

And even though there is still work ahead to make a full recovery, Smith said the experience of loss and the following outpouring of support has made him look for opportunities to help others.

"Thanks America for helping us out," Smith said. "It's well appreciated, and in return, we will help someone else out."


"God is good," Bond said about the recovery effort. "He's sent all kinds of help in all kinds of forms. It's been a humbling experience."

"It's not the road any of us would have picked, obviously, but that's where we're at. And the blessings that have come from that have been tremendous."

After months of work rebuilding and after hundreds of volunteers descended upon the region to help put lives and livelihoods back together, watching the bulls donated by Cattle for Christ lumber out of a livestock trailer and into pastures and pens, it was a milestone to enjoy.

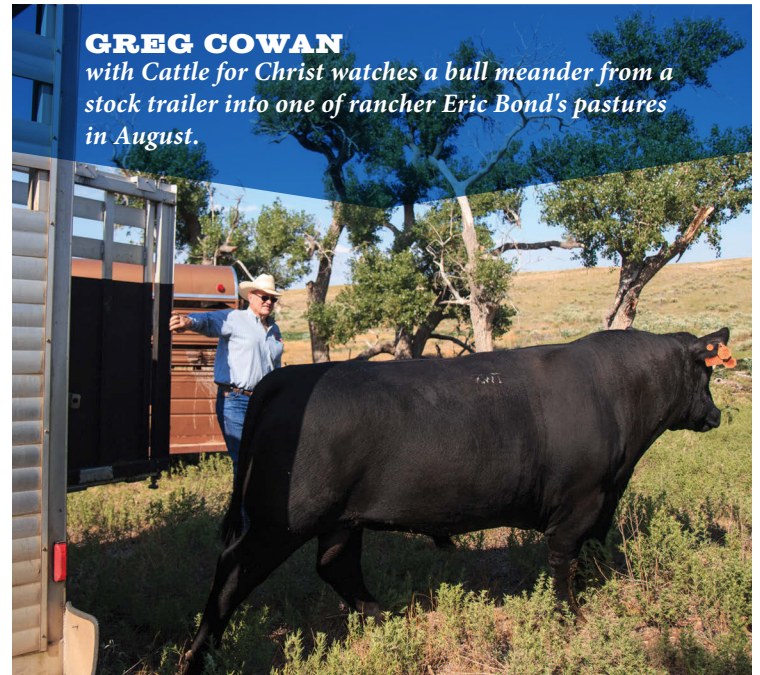
While rebuilding generations' worth of work will take more than one summer or even one year, watching the faces of Bond and Smith as they took in the sight of new animals – new bloodlines – on their ranches, it was easy to see hope shining through.

To learn more about Cattle for Christ, visit their website at CattleForChrist.com, or visit them on Facebook and Instagram.

Watch our video on the bull donation at Eric Bond's ranch. Find the video at youtube.com/okfarmbureau. 



GLENN CRUMPLER
(right) visits with Farm Bureau member and rancher Bernie Smith (left) about ranching in the aftermath of fires that ravaged the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles as well as western Kansas.



GREG COWAN
with Cattle for Christ watches a bull meander from a stock trailer into one of rancher Eric Bond's pastures in August.

NOVEMBER 10 – 12



EMBASSY SUITES, NORMAN

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from across the state will meet at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Norman Nov. 10-12 for OKFB's 76th annual meeting.

This year's theme is "75 Years Strong" in celebration of the accomplishments and success of the organization's past 75 years protecting and unifying Oklahoma farmers and ranchers.

The OKFB awards program will take place on Friday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. The featured entertainment

is scheduled for Nov. 11 following the annual OKFB banquet at 7 p.m.

This year's break-out sessions will feature important agricultural topics including rural education, rural health, and oil and gas.

The tentative convention schedule is below and information will be updated as changes are released. Additional details will also be announced soon. The final schedule will be distributed at convention.

FRIDAY, NOV. 10

- 8 a.m. Credentials Committee Breakfast
- 9 a.m. Registration Opens
- 9:30 a.m. YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Judging
- 10 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet Round 1
- 10 a.m. Trade Show Opens
- 10:45 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet Round 2
- 11:15 a.m. State Board Meeting and Luncheon
- 11:30 a.m. Women's Leadership Committee Luncheon
- 11:30 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet Finals and Luncheon
- 1:30 p.m. Opening Session
- 3:15 p.m. First Break-out Session
- 4:30 p.m. Second Break-out Session
- 5:30 p.m. OKAgFund Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. YF&R Dinner and Caucus
- 7 p.m. Awards Program
- 8:15 p.m. Cupcake/Cookie Social - Meet the Candidate

SATURDAY, NOV. 11

- 7:30 a.m. Flapjack Fundraiser
- 7:30 a.m. Credentials Committee Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Financial Review Committee Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Resolutions Committee Breakfast
- 8 a.m. Registration Opens
- 8 a.m. Trade Show Opens
- 8:45 a.m. OFBMIC Policyholders Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. General Session
- 12 p.m. Credentials Committee Meeting
- 12:30 p.m. WLC Gavel Club Luncheon
- 1:30 p.m. District Caucuses (Districts 1, 4 and 7)
- 2:15 p.m. General Session
- 5:30 p.m. OKAgFund Reception
- 7 p.m. Dinner and Entertainment

SUNDAY, NOV. 12

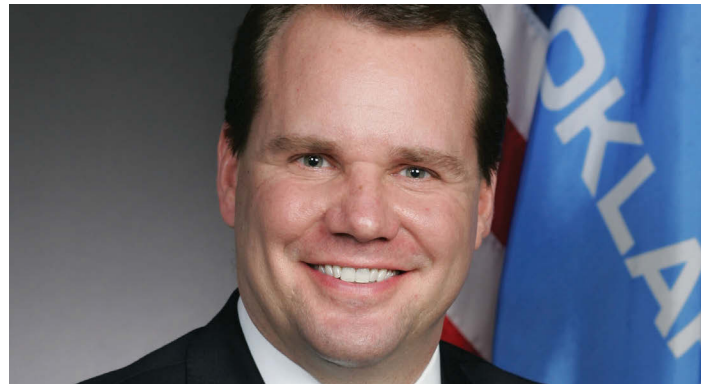
- 7:30 a.m. County Presidents Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. WLC Chairman's Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Public Policy Breakfast of Champions
- 9:15 a.m. Memorial and Worship Service

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



BILL BUCKNER

*President and CEO, Noble Research Institute
Opening session speaker*



LT. GOV. TODD LAMB

*Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma
Opening session welcome speaker*



ZIPPY DUVALL

*American Farm Bureau President
Saturday morning speaker*



CRYSTAL GAYLE

*Country music legend
Convention banquet entertainment*

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

PLATINUM



GOLD



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Please Note: Convention sponsors listed are current as of press time. The full list of convention sponsors will be included in the convention program and materials.

Today's knowledge, tomorrow's growth

Life springs forth from a small seed. Tucked beneath a bed of soil, a tiny root extends from the seed and seeks out moisture and nutrients from the earth. Then its shoot slowly emerges, basking in the sun for the first time.

From the soil rises a green sprout of life. Its cells duplicate and expand; leaves form, flowers bud and fruit is born.

Rows and rows of these leafy life forms fill the Noble Research Institute greenhouse, the “acre under glass.” In 2016, thousands of plants – alfalfa, clover, tall fescue, even young pecan trees – grew under the controlled environmental conditions the greenhouse provides.

Others faced the sometimes harsh Oklahoma sun in small plots on the Noble Research Institute Headquarters Farm or in larger fields at the Pasture Demonstration Farm. Native species populate acres upon acres at the Coffey Ranch. The 14,000 acres of research and demonstration land, divided among seven farms and ranches, are covered with plant life, primarily forages consumed by cattle.

Each plant holds a special purpose. For covering the soil, keeping it cool and protected against erosion. For providing nourishment to cattle. For supporting wildlife. Or for feeding humans, as is the case with the pecan and fruit trees and the gardens in the Noble Learning Center.

Each plant also plays a special role in a greater study to learn more. These studies span from gaining knowledge at the basic level about how plants function to the applied, which look at how well cattle perform on different plant systems. But at any point on the spectrum, the underlying goal is to generate knowledge and tools that benefit farmers and ranchers, consumers and the world.

Rooted in knowledge

First to emerge from an awakened seed is the radicle, a tiny root that grows downward seeking water and nutrients from the soil. As the meristem cells at the tip



Noble Foundation researchers gather wheat and rye samples for root architecture studies led by Elison Blancaflor, Ph.D. (far right). They will examine roots from plants grown in both tilled and no-till conditions.

of this root divide and elongate, the root grows deeper into the ground, as far as 15 feet in the case of alfalfa, one of several plants Elison Blancaflor, Ph.D., studies as part of collaborative research with other Noble Research Institute scientists. When this root is fully grown, it's called the tap root. It anchors the plant to the soil and takes in water and nutrients. Eventually, it produces offshoots, or lateral roots, which take in more soil resources.

Zoom into the cellular level of these roots, and you'll find where Blancaflor spends most of his time studying. He and his team look at the roles different cell components play in shaping this whole network of roots.

In 2016, Blancaflor and his team discovered genes that control the length

and shape of root hairs in the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Root hairs extend from the outermost root cells and absorb nutrients and minerals.

The knowledge from model plants could be applied to breeding forage crop cultivars that better acquire nutrients and water. This is an area Blancaflor and other Noble Research Institute researchers, including small grains breeder Xuefeng Ma, Ph.D., and forage agronomist James Rogers, Ph.D., are pursuing.

“Roots are crucial for plant growth and development,” Blancaflor said. “Roots help plants acquire nutrients and water, so improving their architecture could reduce the need for costly inputs and help in drought. But first, we have to understand how root cells work so that we can



tap into their natural abilities to produce healthy and strong root systems.”

Genome decoded

Dig even deeper into a cell, into its nucleus, and you’ll find DNA: the genetic instructions that tells an organism how to grow, develop and carry out its daily functions.

DNA is arranged into genes, and a genome includes a complete set of genes. This is the blueprint for life.

Scientists are interested in uncovering these blueprints. With it, they can tweak the instructions to build even better plants that provide advantages to the environment, animals and humans.

In 2011, Noble Research Institute scientists, including Maria Monteros, Ph.D., and Michael Udvardi, Ph.D., joined colleagues from the University of Minnesota and the National Center for Genome Resources to begin sequencing the alfalfa genome. Alfalfa ranks fourth in value among crops grown in the U.S. (after corn, soybeans and wheat) at \$8 billion annually. This legume (a type of plant that does not require nitrogen fertilizer because of interactions with a specific bacteria in the soil that allows it to obtain nitrogen from the atmosphere) is commonly grown as a food source for livestock, especially dairy cattle.

“The alfalfa breeding community had been clamoring for the alfalfa genome,” said Monteros, who leads the Noble Research Institute’s legume breeding laboratory, “and it proved to be a complex plant genome to sequence.”

On July 13, 2016, the researchers revealed their findings about the alfalfa genome at the North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference in Madison,

Wisconsin. The blueprint was finally clear enough for plant breeders to start using it.

With it, breeders have a tool to improve alfalfa’s ability to survive drought and tolerate disease. They could boost yields, extend its growing season in different climates, or help it better adapt to different soil types and conditions.

Continuing tradition

Plant breeders turn the knowledge gained by scientists who study what is happening inside the plant at the genetic level into new plant cultivars for farmers and ranchers.


By the end of 2016, Ma, the Noble Research Institute’s newest plant breeder, completed his first year as only the sixth researcher in the last 60 years to lead the small grains breeding program.

Small grains breeding is unique at the Noble Research Institute in that it focuses on improving small grains (like wheat, rye, triticale and oats) for cattle forage, or, in the case of dual-purpose winter wheat, both forage and grain production. The breeding program aims to provide cultivars suited for the Southern Great Plains to produce forage from October to March, a time during which warm-season grasses don’t grow. The program contributes to Forage 365, a flagship activity that seeks to extend the grazing season and reduce dependency on hay in those colder months.

In his first year, Ma worked toward expanding the program. He inherited a rye breeding program, which has produced popular varieties including Elbon and Bonel. But he plans to double its capabilities, and he and his team are

looking at new breeding methods that would accelerate the breeding cycle. They have also been collecting more plant materials to diversify the wheat, triticale and oat breeding programs.

Building a better plant requires many plant materials (seeds and the genetic information found in them) just as building a house requires many bricks, Ma said. Every year, they save seeds from a few, select plants that show promise for meeting farmers’ needs, whether it is better drought or cold tolerance or higher-yielding, higher-quality forage production. The next year, they plant those seeds, and the cycle continues 10 to 12 years, until they are released as new cultivars.

“When I came here, that wheel was turning,” Ma said, “but we are working to make the wheel bigger and faster so that we can better meet the needs of small grains growers.” 



Xuefeng Ma, Ph.D., leads the Noble Foundation’s 65-year-old small grains breeding program.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau policy development process begins with statewide August Area Meetings

Hundreds of Oklahoma Farm Bureau members across the state recently began the organization's grassroots policy development process with its annual August Area Meetings.

Meetings were held in each of OKFB's nine districts to begin discussions on potential additions or revisions to organization policy.

As the state continues to grapple with budget shortfalls, many Farm Bureau members voiced concern over the potential for various tax increases. The state Legislature's consideration of a fuel tax increase, along with its willingness to evaluate tax exemptions and credits, were both causes of worry for the organization's farm and ranch members.

A measure granting Oklahoma municipalities access to property taxes hit a snag in the state Legislature this year, but still remains active for consideration in next year's session. Current OKFB policy strongly opposes

any increase in property taxes.

Concern over the state of rural healthcare also was a common concern among members, as many rural Oklahomans continue to face a shortage of healthcare providers.



District 2 – Blair



District 6 – Pryor



District 5 – Krebs



District 1 – Guymon



District 1 – Woodward



District 8 – Purcell



District 4 – Duncan



District 7 – Enid



District 3 – Okarche



District 9 – Tulsa

OKFB names Doye interim executive director



Thad Doye

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau has named life-long farmer and rancher Thad Doye interim executive director.

A veteran of Farm Bureau, Doye has been associated in various aspects of the organization most of his life. His involvement began when he served as Comanche County Young Farmers and Ranchers chairman. He later became vice president of the state YF&R Committee. He received the State YF&R Outstanding Young Farm Family Award in 1995.

The Lawton native's career with Oklahoma Farm Bureau began as a field service representative in June 1998. He completed a fellowship with the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program, then became vice president of field services.

Doye will continue to serve as the crop insurance specialist for Oklahoma Farm

Bureau. He also works with the Oklahoma Food Bank and Farming & Ranching Foundation through the Pork for Packs and Beef for Backpacks Program. He holds a degree in agriculture business from Cameron University.

"Being chosen for this position is a great honor," Doye said. "I'm looking forward to working closely with the many people in the Oklahoma Farm Bureau family."

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan noted Doye's experience with Farm Bureau.

"Thad has served our organization well through various positions," Buchanan said. "Through his many years of service, he has an intimate understanding of our 75-year-old organization. He is well suited to meet our mission of improving the lives of rural Oklahomans."

OKFB President Buchanan leads roundtable discussion with EPA Administrator Pruitt

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan led a roundtable discussion as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt addressed comments and questions from a wide array of Oklahoma agriculture interests on July 28 in Oklahoma City.

The event, held at the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, allowed members and staff from agricultural and commodity organizations a chance to voice their opinions on the proposed rollback of the 2015 Waters of the United States rule and give input about water policies that would provide a platform for agriculture to grow into the future.

"Our goal, and our objective, and our responsibility is to make sure that as we develop a new definition of what a water of the United States is, that it provides objective criteria that farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma know where federal jurisdiction begins and ends," Pruitt said.

Pruitt held similar discussion in other locations including Utah, Minnesota and Guymon, Oklahoma.

OKFB Vice President Jimmy Wayne



Left: OKFB President Tom Buchanan speaks about Oklahoma agriculture's interests during a roundtable discussion addressing the proposed repeal of 2015 WOTUS rule. Right: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses comments and questions on the proposed rollback of the 2015 WOTUS rule. Right:

Kinder offered comments on how the WOTUS rules impeded his ability to properly install on-farm fuel storage due to uncertainty and ambiguity.

Other comments from the group focused on the work that Oklahoma agriculture is already doing to improve water quality, including nutrient management and rural water development.



"We're going to respect private property rights," Pruitt said. "We know that farmers and ranchers are the first environmentalists, and they care about their land and they're going to be partners in the process, not adversaries."

Read more about the effort to repeal the 2015 WOTUS rule and take action at the American Farm Bureau Federation's website at fb.org.

JOINT PRIVACY NOTICE



AG SECURITY INSURANCE COMPANY

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- Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates or others;
- Information we receive from consumer reporting agencies; and
- Information we receive from state or federal agencies.

It is important for us to collect and use this information to properly provide, administer and perform services on your behalf. We could not provide optimum service to you without collecting and using this information.

Information We May Disclose

We regard all of your personal information as confidential. Therefore, we do not disclose any non-public personal information about our customers or former customers to anyone except as permitted by law.

In the course of conducting our business dealings, we may disclose to other parties certain information we have about you. These disclosures are only made in accordance with applicable laws, and may include disclosures to reinsurers, administrators, service providers, consultants and regulatory or governmental authorities. Furthermore, certain disclosures of information will be made to your Farm Bureau personnel authorized to have access to your personal information for the purpose of administering your business and providing services to you. We may disclose the following categories of information to companies that perform services on our behalf or to other financial institutions with which we have joint marketing agreements:

- Information we received from you on applications or other forms, such as your name, address, Social Security number, county Farm Bureau membership number, assets, income and beneficiaries;
- Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates or others, such as your policy coverage, premium, loss history and payment history; and
- Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency, such as your creditworthiness and credit history.

We may disclose non-public personal information about you to the following types of third parties:

- Financial service providers, such as life insurers, automobile insurers, mortgage bankers, securities broker-dealers, and insurance agents;
- Non financial companies, such as retailers, direct marketers, airlines, and publishers; and
- Others, such as nonprofit organizations.

These entities with which we share personal information are required to maintain the confidentiality of that information. We do not authorize these parties to use or disclose your personal information for any purpose other than for the express purpose of performing work on our behalf or as required or permitted by law.

How We Maintain The Confidentiality & Security Of Your Information

We carefully restrict access to non-public personal information to our employees, our independent contractor insurance agents, our service contract providers, and our affiliates and subsidiaries. The right of our employees, our independent contractor insurance agents, our service contract providers, and our affiliates and subsidiaries to further disclose and use the information is limited by our employee handbook, agent's manual, applicable law, and nondisclosure agreements where appropriate. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal and state law to guard your non-public personal information.

Your Opt-Out Right

We reserve the right to disclose non-public personal information about our customers to a nonaffiliated third party. However, if you prefer that we not disclose non-public personal financial information about you to nonaffiliated third parties, you may opt out of those disclosures, that is, you may direct us not to make those disclosures (information sharing which is permitted by law includes sharing information with our affiliates and non-affiliates about our transactions or experiences with you for business, administrative and other legal purposes).

If you wish to opt out of disclosures to nonaffiliated third parties, you may choose one of the following options:

1. Complete the opt-out form on our website located at okfarminsurance.com OR
2. Mail or Fax the attached opt-out form to us. Fax # 405-523-2581.

Your opt-out form must reach us within 30 days of your receipt of our privacy notice. Your opt-out request will take effect on the 7th day following receipt of your request, to allow for notification to all applicable affiliated or nonaffiliated third parties.

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Conclusion

If you have any questions or comments concerning this Joint Privacy Notice or our privacy standards and procedures, please write us at Post Office Box 53332, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152-3332. Our functional regulator is the State of Oklahoma, Department of Insurance. If we cannot resolve your concerns or answer your questions, feel free to contact our regulator. This Joint Privacy Notice describes our company's privacy policy and practices in accordance with the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 USC §6801, and with various state-specific privacy/financial information laws and regulations in the states in which our company does business.

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I prefer that you do not disclose nonpublic personal financial information about me to nonaffiliated third parties, (other than disclosures permitted by law, which include sharing information with our affiliates & nonaffiliates about our transactions or experiences with you for business, administrative and other legal purposes). In order for an opt-out notice to be valid, all *required information must be completed.

Clip & mail this form to:
General Counsel, c/o Opt-Out Notice
P.O.B. 53332 • Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332

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*Policy Number: _____

*Membership Number: _____

OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers members visit Ardmore area for annual conference

More than 30 young agriculturalists gathered in the Ardmore area for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers summer conference held July 13-15.

The event brought together YF&R members from around the state for two days of tours, agricultural information and fun with fellow agriculturalists.

“We had a great time at this year’s YF&R summer conference,” said Travis Schnaithman, OKFB YF&R state chairman. “Our members enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about agriculture and agribusiness in southern Oklahoma while expanding our perspectives.”

The conference kicked off on Thursday, July 13, with a cookout sponsored by Oklahoma AgCredit along with volleyball and plenty of time to visit and connect with each other.

Tours on Friday gave summer conference attendees access to several agriculture businesses in the Ardmore area: Mid-American Steel and Wire in Madill where scrap metal is transformed into barbed wire and other fencing materials; the Tishomingo National

Fish Hatchery; and the Noble Research Institute, where YF&R members learned about a wide variety of the institute’s agricultural research programs.

YF&R members also heard from American Farm Bureau YF&R committee members Chandler and Jenna Bowers of Texas as they presented their agriculture story to the group. The Bowers, who attended the entire summer conference, grow a variety of crops on their farm in the Texas Panhandle near Pampa.

A variety of speakers capped off the conference on Saturday morning,

providing an opportunity for members to learn how to build and grow their farms, ranches, businesses and themselves. Greg Gunn presented how YF&R members could live with a vision and purpose to establish a healthy work-life balance. Brady Sidwell of Sidwell Strategies shared information on marketing commodities using futures and options. YF&R State Committee Member Brent Howard shared insight into farm succession planning. Attendees also learned about a variety of USDA loan programs to help them grow their farms and ranches.



Top: Members tour the Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery as part of the Friday tour. Above: The group poses for a photo after touring Mid-American Steel and Wire in Madill.



Above left: Conference attendees kick off the summer conference with volleyball and a cookout. Top right: Greg Gunn speaks to OKFB YF&R members about the power of purpose at the OKFB YF&R summer conference. Above right: American Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers committee members Chandler and Jenna Bowers share their agriculture story with OKFB YF&R members. Below left: Brady Sidwell of Sidwell Strategies (left) spoke to OKFB YF&R members about commodity markets and marketing strategies. Below right: OKFB YF&R members tour the Noble Research Institute greenhouses.



Above: OKFB YF&R members learn about USDA FSA loan programs to help them expand their farming and ranching operations. Right: OKFB YF&R members learn about a variety of programs and projects at the Noble Research Institute.

State legislators honored as members of OKFB's 100 Percent Club

More than 80 members of the Oklahoma Legislature were named members of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau 100 Percent Club for a 100-percent voting record with the organization during the 2017 legislative session.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau is thankful to have excellent representation as we continue to fight for our members at the state Capitol," said Tom Buchanan, OKFB president. "We applaud these lawmakers for their efforts to protect agriculture and rural Oklahoma."

Legislators were scored on three measures including SB 147, SB 326 and SB 593. Authored by Senate Pro Tem Mike Schulz and Rep. Casey Murdock, SB 147 allows municipalities to waive the three-mile setback for concentrated animal feeding operations. SB 326 by Sen. Eddie Fields and Rep. John Pfeiffer prohibits the importation and possession of exotic swine in Oklahoma. SB 593 encourages wind energy development by removing a loophole allowing individuals to register for construction of a private airport to prevent the development of wind turbines.

Members of the House of Representatives also were scored on HB 1374, a bill allowing municipalities to increase ad valorem taxes to fund public safety districts, upon voter approval. Although it included an exemption for agriculture land, OKFB opposed the bill as defenders of low ad valorem taxes in Oklahoma. Senators were not scored on

the bill, as it did not receive a floor vote.

Senators with a 100-percent voting record with OKFB include Mark Allen, Randy Bass, Stephanie Bice, Larry Boggs, Josh Brecheen, Bill Brown, Julie Daniels, Kim David, Tom Dugger, Eddie Fields, Kay Floyd, Jack Fry, AJ Griffin, David Holt, Darcy Jech, Chris Kidd, James Leewright, Bryce Marlatt, Kevin Matthews, Greg McCortney, Dan Newberry, Lonnie Paxton, Roland Pederson, Anastasia Pittman, Adam Pugh, Dave Rader, Mike Schulz, Ron Sharp, Wayne Shaw, Frank Simpson, Jason Smalley, John Sparks, Rob Standridge, Gary Stanislawski, Anthony Sykes, Roger Thompson, Greg Treat and Ervin Yen.

Representative receiving the award include Greg Babinec, Rhonda Baker, Scott Biggs, Kevin Calvey, Dennis Casey, Bobby Cleveland, Josh Cockroft, Jeff Coody, Tim Downing, Travis Dunlap, Jon Echols, George Faught, Scott Fetgatter, Avery Frix, Tom Gann, Kyle Hilbert, Justin Humphrey, Dell Kerbs, Ben Loring, Jason Lowe, Kevin McDugle, Lewis Moore, Casey Murdock, Jason Murphey, Carl Newton, Terry O'Donnell, Charles Ortega, Scooter Park, John Pfeiffer, Mike Ritze, Sean Roberts, Michael Rogers, Todd Russ, Mike Sanders, Earl Sears, Chuck Strohm, Tess Teague, Steve Vaughan, Kevin Wallace, Josh West, Rick West, Rande Worthen, and Harold Wright.



Notice of Annual Meetings

Oklahoma Farm Bureau

To all county Farm Bureaus of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau: You are hereby notified that Oklahoma Farm Bureau will convene in annual session Friday, Nov. 10, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Norman. This is the annual meeting of the delegate body. See that your delegates are properly certified and in attendance to represent your membership. This meeting will continue until all business is transacted.

— Board of Directors

To all Oklahoma Farm Bureau members: You are hereby notified that Oklahoma Farm Bureau will convene for its annual meeting/business delegate session on Nov. 11, 2017 to discuss and vote upon a proposed Bylaw amendment to address the following resolution passed on the floor at the November 2016 Annual Meeting. "ARTICLE

TWO: Membership, Section I –

Qualifications, as follows: WHEREAS, in addition to voting and associate memberships, the following membership categories will also be recognized as follows:

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP. Youth who are interested in agriculture and are in the age range of 14-21 years, may apply for a special student membership. Student memberships would be on an annual basis. The dues level for student memberships will be set by the Board of Directors, with all proceeds being divided equally between Oklahoma Farm Bureau and the county Farm Bureau. Student members shall not have the right to vote or hold office.

AGRICULTURE ALLIANCE MEMBERS. Agriculturally-related associations, business and/or corporations, both incorporated and unincorporated, and agriculturally-related cooperatives interested in the preservation, advancement and profitability of agriculture may make application to become an agricultural alliance member, and, if accepted, shall upon execution of a membership agreement, be entitled to all the rights and privileges of an agriculture alliance membership. Agriculture alliance members shall not have the right to vote or hold office. Dues for agricultural alliance members shall be set annually by the Board of Directors, and shall be payable directly to Oklahoma Farm Bureau. Additionally, a nine-member exploratory board, one from each state board member district, shall be formed for this bylaw change."

— Board of Directors



Notice of Annual Meetings

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.

Notice is hereby given of the annual meeting of the Policyholders of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company to be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Norman on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017, at 8:45 a.m. at which time a report of the activities of our company during the past fiscal year will be submitted together with a report of the financial position of the company; at which time any and all other activities of the company may be presented and considered.

— Board of Directors

OKFB launches 75th anniversary website

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is proud to announce the launch of the organization's 75th-anniversary website filled with fun and historical information about the people, places and programs that formed Oklahoma's largest farm organization.

The website showcases information gathered throughout 2017 as staff pored through the OKFB archives of newsletters, photos and correspondence to unearth treasures of information on

the organization's past.

Here are a few features of the new site:

- Photo gallery with more than 80 images
- Farm Bureau history articles documenting each decade
- Blog detailing unique moments in OKFB history
- Timelines of policy achievements, key moments, and insurance history
- A preview of OKFB's 75th history book
- Features for each OKFB president

- News and upcoming events

This website is a constant work in progress, and it will be updated as additional information, stories and photos are discovered. Please be sure to check back for updates and additions throughout the rest of the year.

Visit the 75th-anniversary website at 75.okfarmbureau.org. If you have questions, or if you would like to submit an OKFB story, let us know by completing the form the Share Your Story page.

2017 OKFB WLC Nurse's Scholarship winners announced

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee selected three students to receive \$500 scholarships to study nursing.

The annual scholarship program awards three \$500 scholarships to students studying nursing at an accredited college, university, vo-tech or trade school. Applicants must be Oklahoma Farm Bureau members or a

member of a Farm Bureau member family.

The three students receiving 2017 OKFB WLC Nurse's Scholarships are: Mary K. Bell, Creek County; Jordan Lingo, Canadian County; and Justine Redcay, Haskell County.

The WLC understands the important role nurses and healthcare professionals play in ensuring a high quality of life for all residents across the state,

especially rural residents. With the cost of education increasing yearly, the committee is proud to help students pursue dreams of a career in nursing.

This year, OKFB WLC members held a silent auction and raised \$750 to benefit the OKFB WLC Nurse's Scholarship Fund during their annual Fall Conference Sept. 15-16. Conference attendees and leaders donated items for the silent auction.



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Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation helps fight childhood hunger with donation to food banks

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation recently donated \$27,395.55 to fight childhood hunger statewide. The donation benefits the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma's Food for Kids Program, which includes the Backpack Program.

Earlier this year, Oklahoma FFA members were encouraged to donate livestock shown at the Oklahoma Youth Expo to the Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs. These programs provide protein sticks for the Food for Kids Backpack Program statewide. FFA chapter members were also asked to add 25 cents to each fundraising package they sold for their chapter and contribute that 25 cents to fight childhood hunger in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation collected the proceeds and also facilitated the donation of livestock to the Oklahoma Food Banks.

In total, \$22,464.35 benefited the Regional Food Bank's Food for Kids program and was matched to help even more chronically hungry kids, thanks to the Food for Kids Match. As a result, children will be supported through the Food for Kids program for an entire school year in central and western Oklahoma. 00388476 The other \$4,931.20



Chris Kidd, director of fundraising and public relations of the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation (third from right), presents a check for \$27,395.55 to benefit the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma's Food for Kids Program, which includes the Backpack Program.

of the donation benefits the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma's Food for Kids program.

"To know that the efforts of so many FFA members across the state is helping other children is very rewarding," said Chris Kidd, director of fundraising and

public relations of the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation. "To know that this donation will be matched just makes it better. There isn't a better youth organization in our state than the FFA."

More than 450 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members ask EPA to ditch WOTUS rule

More than 450 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members recently urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to repeal the 2015 Waters of the U.S. rule.

County Farm Bureaus collected more than 300 signatures over a two-week period, while other members submitted written comments at the organization's annual August Area Meetings.

Finalized in June 2015, the WOTUS rule has been despised by farmers, ranchers and landowners across the country. The rule vastly expanded the definition of "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act, granting the EPA and the Corps regulatory authority over

virtually all waters including any place rainwater collects such as farm ponds, ditches and puddles.

"Waters of the U.S. has been a blatant power grab by the federal government that flies in the face of personal property rights," said Marc Harder, landowner and Canadian County Farm Bureau member.

Under direction of a presidential executive order, the EPA and the Corps now are conducting a two-step rulemaking process to repeal and revise the rule.

Many Farm Bureau members expressed their opposition to the rule because of its potential to inhibit the production of safe and affordable food.

"The only way agriculture can stay in existence and feed our country is for each producer to have the right to control their ground and ag practices," said Kathy Boyd, a farmer and Texas County Farm Bureau member.

Farm Bureau members also believe farmers and ranchers are the greatest stewards of the environment and should be trusted by the government.

"The environment is no more valuable to anyone than to agriculturalists," said Alfalfa County Farm Bureau member Terry Pederson, a farmer and rancher. "It is the basis of the progress, profitability and self-sufficiency of production agriculture."

OKFB Legal Foundation and Oklahoma Farming & Ranching Foundation host annual shotgun shoot

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation and the Oklahoma Farming & Ranching Foundation held their second-annual shotgun shoot fundraiser Friday, Aug. 25, at Quail Ridge Shooting Sports near McLoud.

Nine four-person teams turned out for the event as shooters tested their shooting skills on a 10-station course.

The first-place team included shooters Carson Miller, Hunter Pence, Jerimy Pence and Baylee Pence from the Altus area. The group won a four-person waterfowl hunt courtesy of Stuart Ranch of Waurika. Jerimy Pence and Hunter Pence also were recognized as the high individuals of the event.

The second-place team included Dan Patton, Mike Maxwell, Victor Long and Steve Edwards. The third-place team included Travis Rider, David Massey, Todd DeSmet and Scott Langley.

A variety of Oklahoma businesses and organizations sponsored the event. The sponsors were: The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, The Oklahoma Pork Council, BancFirst, American Agricultural Insurance Company,



Four shooters from the Altus area are awarded first place at this year's shotgun shoot. Left to right are Carson Miller, Hunter Pence, Jerimy Pence and Baylee Pence.

Wilshire Gun and the Oklahoma Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Lunch was cooked by Love County Farm Bureau Insurance agent Sam Barrick, and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee provided and served home-cooked desserts and home-made ice cream.

The fundraising event will support

the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation's mission of protecting private property rights and production agriculture in the legal arena, as well as the mission of the Oklahoma Farming & Ranching Foundation to educate consumers about Oklahoma agriculture and the importance of the industry to our everyday lives.

OKFB YF&R names high school discussion meet winner

Emile Mittelstaed of Amber-Pocasset was named the winner of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers high school discussion meet held Tuesday, July 18 in Stillwater.

Held in conjunction with Oklahoma State University's Big Three Field Days, the event attracted 15 competitors from across the state. The high school discussion meet allows students to participate in an event that promotes basic discussion skills and develops an understanding of agricultural issues.

Tess Haddock of Glencoe and Emily Kennedy of Edmond received second and third place, respectively. Elizabeth Schneider of Seiling was the fourth finalist in the contest.

"Our Young Farmers and Ranchers committee was extremely impressed by the quality of these high school students and their thoughtful discussion," said Travis Schnaithman, OKFB YF&R



Left: Emile Mittelstaed (speaking) discusses food labeling and consumer confidence with the other three qualifying contestants in the final round of the OKFB YF&R High School Discussion Meet. Right: OKFB YF&R Chairman Travis Schnaithman (right) presents Emile Mittelstaed with a \$1,500 scholarship for placing first in the discussion meet.

chairman. "We are proud to host this contest each year, which promotes real-world skills that these students can take home and use in their daily lives and well into their future."

Mittelstaed received a \$1,500 college scholarship as the winner of the discussion meet. Haddock and Kennedy

also received college scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

"I learned that other people have really valuable experiences than can have an impact," Mittelstaed said. "With young people working together with an organization like Farm Bureau, a lot can be accomplished."



The white-tailed deer population in Oklahoma has increased from about 40,000 in the 1960s to around 500,000 today.
Photo courtesy of Agricultural Communications Services.

Deer proofing can help preserve your landscape

By Trisha Gedon
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

When the crisp fall air arrives, many people find themselves spending more time outdoors. Not only do Oklahomans enjoy fall activities such as high school and college football, roasting hotdogs over a firepit or evening walks around the neighborhood, many begin to add more color to the landscape with a variety of fall plants.

However, some of this landscape

material is not only attractive to humans, but to wildlife as well – especially white-tailed deer. When the weather begins to cool down, wildlife may be looking for a food source as natural vegetation begins to die back, said David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension consumer horticulturist.

“As deer begin to move into an area, homeowners initially enjoy seeing them

in their landscape. In fact, some may even encourage deer to come into their yards,” Hillock said. “However, their attitude likely changes once their trees and shrubs begin to show damage and fall gardens become more difficult to grow because of continued browsing by the wildlife. Deer, especially, can be the culprit for uprooted plants, stripped branches on trees and shrubs, and



damaged bark on trees.”

One of the best ways to avoid, or at least reduce potential damage, is to make your landscape less attractive to deer by installing deer-resistant plants. These plants are unappetizing to these curious critters, which allows homeowners to create a stunning landscape display that will allow the leaves and flowers to reach their full potential.

Like humans, deer consume a wide variety of plants to meet their nutritional needs. They have a varied diet that includes many broadleaf herbaceous and woody plants. They are not considered grazers, like cattle, but more along the lines of browsing animals. Their preferred diet includes shrubs, young trees and vines.

“One reason deer damage is so noticeable is because they have no upper incisors,” Hillock said. “They feed by tearing vegetation with their lower incisors and upper palate.

“Deer damage is easily identified by the jagged remains of browsed plant material. Annuals are often pulled completely out of the ground.”

Eating plants is not the only way deer can cause damage in the landscape. Damage also may occur in the fall when bucks begin rubbing antlers on small trees or other young landscape plants.

Hillock said the problem of damage control is not an easy one to solve. Some of the deer-resistant garden plants include cantaloupe, cucumber, eggplant, watermelon, tomato, onion and hot peppers. Annual herbaceous flowers which deer tend to leave alone include amaranth, cosmos, French marigold, heliotrope, lantana, periwinkle, salvia, signet marigold, snapdragon and zinnia, to name a few.

When choosing herbaceous perennial flowers, consider bee balm, flax, foxglove, lamb's ears, lavender, primrose, ragwort, rosemary, sage, thyme, toad lily, iris, goldenrod and shasta daisy, among others.

Safe bets among woody plants include buckthorn, Chinese junipers, dogwoods, Chinese holly, honey locust, Japanese flowering cherry, various pines, American holly, ginkgo, sumac, yucca, loblolly pine, dwarf Alberta spruce, boxelder and common boxwood.

“Aside from installing plants, shrubs and trees deer don't like, there are other methods to keeping them out of your landscape,” Hillock said. “Probably the most effective way is physical exclusion. However, this may not always be possible. Deer can easily jump over many decorative fences. Unfortunately, electric fences or an eight-foot deer fence may not blend in with your landscape. Also, fencing can be quite expensive if you have a large yard.”

If your property butts up to a wooded area, Hillock suggests installing the fence along the tree line.

To help protect the tender bark of young trees, homeowners may want to consider using wire cages around the trunks. Be sure to support the cages



Male white-tailed deer frequently rub trees both before and during the rutting period. They normally choose small saplings that have a thin bark layer. This is problematic for ornamentals in lawns and for Christmas tree production.

Photo courtesy of Agricultural Communications Services.

securely by using metal posts.

There are a number of scare tactics homeowners can use to frighten deer away from the landscape. Dogs are quite effective at repelling deer. Homeowners also may consider installing an invisible dog fence. Invisible dog fences (underground containment systems) can be used so dogs can see and harass deer. However, frequent barking may become more of a nuisance than the deer.


“Products that make a lot of noise, such as propane gas exploders, or something like a strobe light or even a radio, can scare the deer away,” Hillock said.

“Unfortunately, using loud noises are not only disturbing to deer, but also to the homeowner and neighbors. Thus, it is not typically useful for the home gardener.

“Another device is a motion-activated sprinkler in the garden that's triggered when deer enter the space. While scare tactics aren't necessarily long-lasting, they may be useful long enough for you to harvest your garden crop before the deer do it for you.”

Repellents are another option. Those that have demonstrated the best results are thiram-based contact repellents such as Chaperone and Spotrete-F, along with repellents made with putrescent egg solids.

While repellents can reduce damage, they won't eliminate it. If food sources are scarce, deer will eat about anything. Effectiveness of repellents will vary with deer density, palatability, availability of alternate food sources and the season. Many repellents don't weather well and need to be reapplied following a rain.

“Your best bet is to combine judicious selection of plants with other control methods,” Hillock said. “This should provide the rural or suburban homeowner with some realistic means of damage reduction. Keep in mind, however, it's a good idea to begin control measures before significant damage occurs.” 

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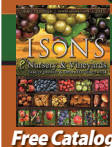
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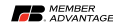
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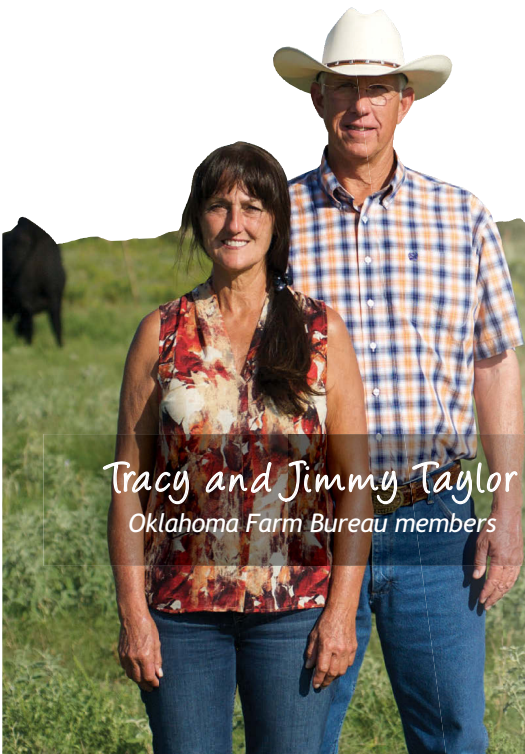
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