

Oklahoma

Country

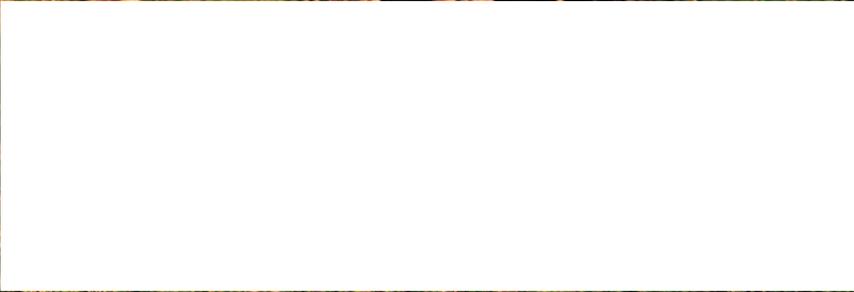


The Magazine of the
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
© Summer 2018 • Vol. 71 No. 3



Part of a thinning herd

In an area of Oklahoma rich with dairy heritage, one farm family *continues the tradition* of producing milk through trying times for their industry.



All in

Caring for the land brings rewards and awards

Feeding the future

Oklahoma agriculture fights childhood hunger

Deeply rooted

Leading OKFB and agriculture forward



Relax: freedom
of choice and
peace of mind.

No networks, no referrals, and no hidden costs? Yes! Which means you can keep your doctors or choose a new one. With our Medicare Supplements, you have lots of choices. And with eight affordable plans, you owe it to yourself to see how you can save. Just visit mhinsurance.com and compare rates. Or better yet, call us, and let us help you find the plan that best fits your needs.

Members

HEALTH
INSURANCE

We make Medicare
Supplements easy.

**HAVE QUESTIONS? TALK TO A
MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT EXPERT.
CALL 1-888-708-0123
OR VISIT MHINSURANCE.COM.**



 Like us: Members Health Insurance

MH-OKG-CERTA-FL13-239, MH-OKG-CERTB-FL13-240,
MH-OKG-CERTC-FL13-241, MH-OKG-CERTD-FL13-242,
MH-OKG-CERTF-FL13-243, MH-OKG-CERTG-FL13-244,
MH-OKG-CERTM-FL13-245, MH-OKG-CERTN-FL13-246

Insured by Members Health Insurance Company, Columbia, TN. Not connected with or endorsed by the U.S. or state government. This is a solicitation of insurance and a representative of Members Health Insurance Company may contact you. Benefits are not provided for expenses incurred while coverage under the group policy/certificate is not in force, expenses payable by Medicare, non-Medicare eligible expenses or any Medicare deductible or copayment/coinsurance or other expenses not covered under the group policy/certificate.

Oklahoma Country

Volume 71 No. 3
Summer 2018
(ISSN 1544-6476)

EDITORIAL TEAM

Dustin Mielke

Senior Director of Corporate Communications

Hannah Davis

Senior Director of Policy Communications



ON THE COVER

Holstein heifers enjoy a late spring evening in a pasture on the Coblenz dairy farm in Mayes County.

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 Davis 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.

Oklahoma Country is published four times per year in January, April, July and October by Oklahoma Farm Bureau, 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3126, Telephone: (405) 523-2300.

Postmaster: Send address corrections to:
Oklahoma Country, P.O.B. 53332, Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332.

DIRECT ADVERTISING INQUIRIES TO:

Oklahoma Country
Attn: Casey McNeal
(800) 798-2691, ext. 334
or email casey@iafalls.com

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. Advertisers assume all liability for content of their advertising. Publisher does not guarantee advertiser service or products, and assumes no liability for products or services advertised.

TO SUBSCRIBE

Oklahoma Country subscription rate is \$1 per year for members as part of the dues, and \$15 for non-members.

WEBSITE

www.okfarmbureau.org

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU DIRECTORS

Rodd Moesel | President
Gary Crawley | Vice President
Monte Tucker | Treasurer
Keith Kisling | Secretary
Alan Jett | Director
David VonTungeln | Director
Jimmy Wayne Kinder | Director
James Fuser | Director
John Grundmann | Director
Jim Meek | Director
Thad Doye | Executive Director

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



Pinterest



Flickr



SoundCloud



YouTube



Life Insurance That Can Do More

Foundations Indexed Universal Life is more than just a life insurance policy with a death benefit. With the ability to take advantage of market gains and built-in protection from market losses, it can be the foundation of your financial future.

Contact your agent to see how we can protect your world today.



Table of Contents

Oklahoma Country

Summer 2018

Columns

- 06 Presidentially Speaking
- 08 Insurance Matters

In Every Issue

- 10 Commodity Corner
- 12 Lincoln to Local
- 28 Forward Foundation
- 34 Consider the Benefits
- 36 All Around Oklahoma
- 44 Noble News
- 46 Country Gardening
- 48 Country Classifieds
- 50 Country Kitchen



All in

By Dustin Mielke

Jimmy and Ginger Emmons are recognized for environmental stewardship with the Leopold Conservation Award.



Part of a thinning herd

By Dustin Mielke

The Coblenz family builds on decades in the dairy industry as they provide consumers with quality milk.



Feeding the future

By Hannah Davis

A partnership within the agriculture community helps provide backpacks of nutritious food to hungry Oklahoma children.



Deeply rooted

By Hannah Davis

With a rich legacy in farming and Farm Bureau, Thad Doye looks to ensure a bright future for agriculture as OKFB's executive director.



PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING

A little effort, enormous returns

By Rodd Moesel

President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies

Working together is a surefire way to accomplish great things. With everyone sharing just a few of their own resources or skills, the combined benefit can create an impact that changes lives.

That is one of the ideas our Oklahoma Farm Bureau founders clung to as they established our organization, and today, Farm Bureau members still come together to work cooperatively to shape the future of our state.

One small way that each Farm Bureau member can help our organization, but one that creates a significant impact, is contributing to the voluntary dues we collect each membership year. You may have noticed a small, optional dues amount on the bottom of your membership statement for three of our associated entities: The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, the OKAgFund, and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation.

Each year, we ask our members to contribute just a small amount of money to fund these worthy causes. The impact these funds make when pooled together, though, is anything but trivial.

This year saw massive wildfires once again sweep through large swaths of western Oklahoma. A tragedy that resulted in losses that will affect our fellow rural Oklahomans for years to come, the support our state and our industry poured out for those impacted was inspirational.

Our Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, which is supported daily by your voluntary dues, accepted and distributed donations to help aid in the recovery efforts. As an Oklahoma-based foundation, we understand the effects of natural disasters are not just felt for a few days or weeks after the event, and we have the unique opportunity to provide relief both immediately and in the months to come – efforts that you can learn more about in this magazine.

In an election year, making our rural voices heard is as important as ever. And once again, our OKAgFund political

action committee is ensuring our current and upcoming elected officials understand the role agriculture and rural Oklahoma play in our state.

With funds from voluntary OKFB member dues, our county Farm Bureau leaders meet to decide which political candidates best understand and will best represent the issues that rural Oklahomans view as most important. With these recommendations, the state OKAgFund board meets to distribute these funds to candidates who will help us fight for rural and agricultural interests in our state. The amount of interest we have seen in the OKAgFund coming from political

candidates is a clear indicator that the collective voice of OKFB members heard through the fund has an undeniable impact.

In agriculture, we know that even if we are given immense blessings from mother nature and a positive operating environment from our elected officials, we still face challenges to production agriculture in the courtroom. In these cases, our Legal Foundation steps up to support rural Oklahomans.

Though you may not always see the Legal Foundation's efforts in the forefront of Farm Bureau news, the work that is done in the background to give a voice to farmers and ranchers when they face legal challenges can provide far more than just a glimmer of hope in very serious situations. From offering supporting documentation in cases of interest to Farm Bureau members to entering the legal arena alongside our members, our Legal Foundation tirelessly works to defend our rights and our livelihoods.

So when you renew your OKFB membership, I hope you'll join me in supporting our state's future with a just a few dollars that can make a difference. After all, it's in the grassroots nature of our organization to come together, combine our efforts and make our voices heard.

“After all, it's in the grassroots nature of our organization to come together, combine our efforts, and make our voices heard.”

— Rodd Moesel

PARTNER WITH P&K.

QUALITY SOLUTIONS. BEST PRICES. TOP-NOTCH SERVICE.

DID YOU KNOW?

FARM BUREAU MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR EXTRA SAVINGS WITH A FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR JOHN DEERE'S **GREENFLEET PLATINUM LEVEL 2 REWARDS.**

VALUABLE EQUIPMENT DISCOUNTS
EXCLUSIVE MONTHLY EMAIL OFFERS
10% OFF WORKSHOP PRODUCTS



SIGN UP TODAY & LOCK IN YOUR REWARDS:
[DEERE.COM/FARMBUREAU](https://www.deere.com/farmbureau)



AT P&K, WE'VE GOT THE
KEY TO SAVINGS.



P&K EQUIPMENT IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH OKLAHOMA'S FARM BUREAU MEMBERS.



VISIT US ONLINE:
[PKEQUIPMENT.COM](https://www.pkequipment.com)



AROUND HERE, JOHN DEERE STARTS WITH P&K.

NOW WITH 13 LOCATIONS IN OKLAHOMA & ARKANSAS



INSURANCE MATTERS

Keep it local

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

As summer is upon us, I'm pleased to report that storm season has been unusually stable, which is a welcome change from previous years. Thus far the company has produced a net operating gain of \$5 million with a company surplus setting in at \$117.5 million, which is up from this time last year. A quiet storm season coupled with net gains allows us to stabilize our coffers, thus allowing us to continue to protect and support our members.

Foremost, solvent growth allows our claims department to spring into action during storm disasters. As the largest domestic insurance company in Oklahoma with a legacy that spans more than 70 years, I'd like to think we encouraged the notion of "Keep it Local" long before it became what it is known as today. With 10 regional claims offices, you can be assured that in your time of need, we can keep it local when you need it most. We also operate a 24/7 claims hotline that allows us to

“Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance is proud to support the interests of our members and the legacy of keeping it local.”

— Gary Buckner

efficiently respond by connecting you with a nearby adjuster. Whether you are member who volunteers in your local community or an agent or a claims representative serving the needs of our policyholders, we all play an important role in our communities. Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance is proud to support the interests of our members and the legacy of keeping it local.

Oklahoma Farm
Bureau Insurance
offers a full line of
products including

Home, Auto, Life*,

Commercial,
as well as

Farm & Ranch.

Now that's "Huge."



Learn more at
okfbinsurance.com

*Registered Representative/Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC, + 5400 University Avenue, West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877.860.2904, Member SIPC. Life insurance and annuity products offered through Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company+. Property-casualty insurance products offered through Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. +Affiliates



Four reasons to visit farmers markets this summer

Enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables all summer long by shopping at your local farmers market.

Meet local farmers

Shopping at a farmers market allows you to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and other homegrown foods directly from the farmer. He or she usually can offer tips on preparing the fresh food and even recommend new items.

Eat fresh fruits and vegetables

Because the food from your local farmers market is grown locally and most likely is picked within a few days of your purchase, the fruits and vegetables you find are packed with nutrients.

Learn about Oklahoma agriculture

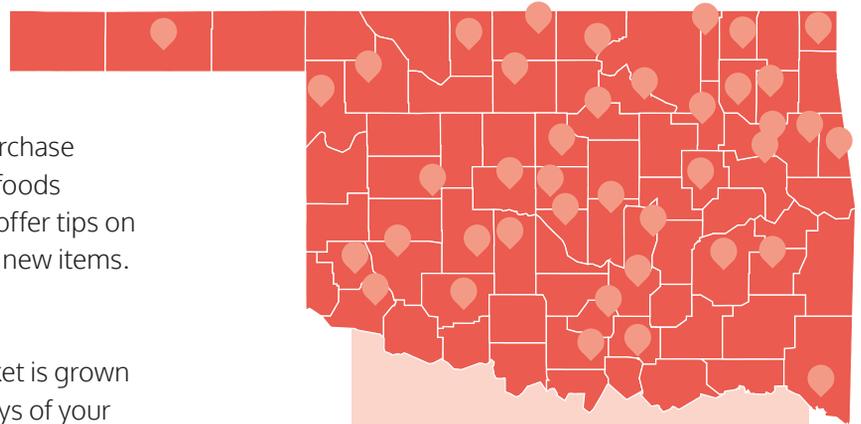
Oklahoma farmers produce a wide variety of foods including berries, sweet corn, peppers, peaches, herbs and more. A farmers market is a great place to discover a wide variety of Oklahoma-grown foods.

Support your local community

Most produce sold at farmers markets are grown and raised within 100 miles, which means the farm supports local jobs and likely spends money in the local economy.

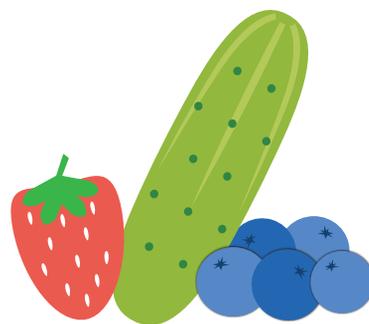
Sign up for a Community Supported Agriculture program

Community supported agriculture programs provide you with fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers all summer long! A farmer offers a certain number of shares or subscriptions to the public, usually consisting of a box of vegetables. By purchasing a share, consumers receive a basket of seasonal produce each week throughout the season. Visit www.OklahomaAgritourism.com to find a CSA program near you.



Oklahoma Farmers Markets

From big cities to small towns, farmers markets are located in every corner of our state. To find one closest to you, visit www.OKgrown.com.



Pick your own fruits and veggies!

Experience the rural way of life firsthand by picking fresh fruits and vegetables right on the farm! Summer crops in Oklahoma include peaches, blackberries, blueberries, strawberries, herbs, vegetables and more. Find a U-Pick farm near you by visiting www.OklahomaAgritourism.com.

JOIN US!

2018 OKFB ANNUAL MEETING

November 16-18, 2018 || Norman, Oklahoma



**OKLAHOMA
FARM BUREAU**

PIRTEK Franchise Opportunity

Oklahoma City is a Top Market for Expansion

PIRTEK USA offers one of the few industrial franchise business opportunities available. Wherever there's industry, there's plenty of demand for onsite hydraulic and industrial hose replacement services by PIRTEK. Countless pieces of equipment operate via hydraulics or pneumatics, and their hoses require regular replacement. Franchise owners can reap the benefits of that ongoing need.

Top 5 Industries that Benefit from PIRTEK's Services:

- Construction
- Equipment Rental & Leasing Services
- Agriculture
- Transportation & Logistics
- Aviation & Aerospace

"Our customers don't just come to us for parts and installation. They're buying our experience, expertise and reputation for high quality service."

—FRANCHISEE

Inquire at pirtekusa.com for information or call 888-774-7835.



*WE HAVE MOVED UP 95 PLACES
TO #78 ON ENTREPRENEUR'S
2018 TOP 500 LIST!*

Entrepreneur

FRANCHISE

500

RANKED

— 2018 —

2018 legislative victories

As a grassroots farm organization, Oklahoma Farm Bureau this year helped pass and defeat legislation to protect and preserve the rural way of life.

The 2018 Oklahoma legislative session was unusual, to say the least. Legislators convened for the regular session while still in a second special session to fix the previous year's budget. State lawmakers passed the state's largest tax increase in more than three decades to support teacher pay increases and education funding. After a two-week teacher walkout, the Legislature adjourned three weeks before its constitutional requirement. Despite the chaos at the state Capitol, Oklahoma Farm Bureau achieved several accomplishments for its members.

Ad valorem taxes

Farmers and ranchers own a larger share of land than our urban neighbors, meaning any small increase in property taxes has a greater impact. Thus, OKFB has longstanding policy opposing ad valorem, or property, tax increases.

This year at 23rd and Lincoln, the expansion of ad valorem taxes continued to be a leading issue in the minds of lawmakers searching for opportunities to find revenue. A bill resurfaced from 2017 that would have allowed cities and towns to, upon vote of the people, create public safety districts that increase property taxes to pay for police and fire services, including equipment and salaries.

While OKFB members are some of the strongest supporters of public safety, the organization's policy stands strongly against increases in ad valorem taxes. Thanks to the support of OKFB member and Senate President Pro Tem Mike Schulz, the bill was stalled on the Senate floor and not allowed to advance.

Though the battle was won again this year, the legislation likely will emerge again next year as cities increasingly look to escape the burden of relying on sales tax revenue alone.

State lawmakers also passed legislation sending to a vote of the people a measure that would provide school districts the option to expand the use of ad valorem dollars. Called State Question 801 on the November ballot, the measure, if passed, would amend the Oklahoma Constitution to allow school districts to decide whether to use building funds for operational expenses, including teacher salaries. The measure does not affect the constitutional limit of 5 mills, nor the 60 percent threshold to raise the millage, but rather solely allows the use of those funds for operations in addition to the building fund.

Agriculture sales tax exemption

In Oklahoma, agricultural producers receive an exemption from sales tax on all farm inputs including feed, seed, fertilizer and

supplies. OKFB members fought a 30-year battle beginning in the 1940s to obtain the blanket sales tax exemption, which is vital to the success of today's farmers and ranchers.

Facing a demand for teacher salary increases and school funding, several legislators pushed to examine all sales tax exemptions. One piece of legislation targeted the agriculture sales tax exemption, requiring producers to obtain a permit yearly, rather than every three years. The measure also would have required farmers and ranchers to prove agricultural income on tax returns to obtain a sales tax exemption permit.

OKFB, along with other leading agricultural organizations, fought ardently against the bill, which failed in a Senate committee. As legislators seek efficiencies in all forms of government, sales tax exemptions will continue to be a part of the conversation. OKFB will continue the fight to protect the sales tax exemption that is critical to the future of family farms in Oklahoma.

Capital gains taxes

Capital gains taxes unfairly target individuals – including farmers and ranchers – who sell large amounts of capital. Farming and ranching is a capital-intensive business requiring large amounts of capital including land and farm equipment.

State lawmakers this year, in an attempt to fund schools and increase teacher salaries, proposed a bill that would have eliminated Oklahoma's capital gains tax deduction. Currently, Oklahoma allows a deduction from state adjusted gross income for qualifying gains resulting from the sale of certain capital.

The bill would have essentially imposed a capital gains tax, which would have disproportionately impacted Oklahoma agriculture and jeopardized the livelihoods of family farmers and ranchers.

OKFB was successful in educating legislators on the unfairness of a capital gains tax on farmers and ranchers. After more than seven attempts to bring the legislation to the House floor, the bill finally died. However, the capital gains tax deduction likely will continue to be explored into the future.

Industrial hemp

The Oklahoma Legislature overwhelmingly approved legislation to create a pilot program for growing and producing industrial hemp in Oklahoma. The bill allows universities, or farmers contracting with universities, to cultivate certified hemp seed for research and development for industrial uses like paper



or livestock feed. OKFB policy strongly supported the bill. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry will manage the program. To grow industrial hemp under the program, farmers are required to follow provisions and requirements from both universities and ODAFF. Before growing hemp or contracting with a corporation to grow hemp, OKFB recommends farmers research the program, and consult with an USDA Farm Service Agency agent and an attorney.

Trailer tags

For years, the Oklahoma Legislature has considered making the registration and tagging of trailers mandatory, and this year was no different.

The House and the Senate each had a respective trailer tag bill, but both were stalled in committee. OKFB member policy opposes mandatory registration and tagging of agriculture trailers and other agriculture equipment, but supports an optional lifetime tag for trailers at \$10 or \$20.

In a search for more infrastructure funding, specifically for roads and bridges, trailer tags and taxation of electric vehicles seem to have become front and center in the discussions. Some legislators – even those from rural areas – believe trailer tagging is a necessity to prevent theft and to remain equal with surround states' laws.

The bill author attempted to exempt seasonal agricultural trailers, such as fertilizer trailers or hay buggies, and instead targeted the most common trailers on the road – either personal or cattle trailers. Under the bill, the trailer tag would have been

renewable every three years. A portion of the revenue generated from the tags would have been used for roads and bridges and also for extension. Because Oklahoma is one of only four or five states without mandatory trailer tags, many legislators believe the policy is inevitable.

Drones

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, commonly known as drones, are one of the latest technologies utilized by farmers and ranchers. As drone use continues to grow across industries, many legislators are considering options for regulating the technology.

Issues surrounding drone usage, most of which center around private property rights, begin with the Federal Aviation Administration and trickle down to state and local government. The protection of private property rights is a cornerstone policy for OKFB.

Though many drone bills were introduced, the measure that received the most movement would have prohibited unmanned aircrafts from flying over private agricultural property and created a misdemeanor penalty, along with a fine of no more than \$500 or no more than one year in county jail. The bill provided several exceptions including drones operated by federal, state or local governments, law enforcement, public utilities, or oil and gas companies in certain instances.

The measure passed the House, but did not move in the Senate. But as use of the technology continues to rise, the state Legislature is not finished considering such regulation. 



ALL IN

Jimmy and Ginger Emmons dedicate themselves and their farm to environmental stewardship, earning recognition as the winners of Oklahoma's inaugural *Leopold Conservation Award*.

*Story and photos by
Dustin Mielke*

Jimmy Emmons holds a mixture of cover crop seed he is planting into pastures burned by springtime wildfires.

ON THE VAST EXPANSE OF WIND-SWEPT PRAIRIE ACROSS WESTERN OKLAHOMA,

the rains do not always come at the ideal time. And when precipitation finally does arrive, the rainfall is not always gentle or soft.

Jimmy Emmons knows this full well, with both direct experience through decades of farming near the town of Leedey as well as through stories handed down through the generations of farmers and ranchers in the Emmons family.

“Originally, my granddad came to our home place in 1926,” Jimmy said. “When the Hammond Flood occurred in 1934 they had like 14 or 15 inches of rain, and it washed a lot of the topsoil away on the river bottom, and it actually washed a creek down through the field that night.

“Ever since then, our family has been concerned about conservation and erosion and trying to do the right things to the land.”

Caring for their fields and pastures through environmental stewardship and conservation efforts is central to the way Jimmy and his wife, Ginger, manage their farm and ranch. From cover crops to pollinator strips to companion crops, the family uses a wide array of conservation practices to improve the land they depend on – and live on – each and every day.

For their efforts, the Emmons family was the recipient of the inaugural Leopold Conservation Award in Oklahoma, presented by the Sand County Foundation.

The prestigious award, given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation by American ranchers, farmers and foresters in 13 states, according to the Sand County Foundation.

Jimmy has met several Leopold Award winners from other states as he has traveled the country to learn about conservation practices and spread the word himself about environmental stewardship, which he said makes winning the award even more special.

“To be the inaugural winners, Ginger and I are just so humbled, and I’m proud and happy to be involved with this,” said. “It’s probably the most prestigious conservation award in the country.”

The Emmonses grow a wide array of crops, including wheat, soybeans, canola, sesame, alfalfa, grain sorghum, sunflowers and cowpeas alongside their cattle herd.

The central goal of the Emmonses’ farming system is to replicate the natural ecological system of the great plains while raising cash crops.

“The whole concept of soil health is mimicking mother



ABOVE Jimmy and Ginger Emmons of Leedey received the first Leopold Conservation Award given in Oklahoma from the Sand County Foundation.

BELOW Jimmy Emmons holds a mung bean plant, which he uses in his cover crop mix to build soil health and prevent wind and water erosion.





ABOVE Jimmy and Ginger Emmons promote advanced conservation practices by working with a variety of organizations and groups to showcase their success using methods such as cover and companion cropping. Whether it is a speaking engagement or demonstration plots, the Emmonses are proud of the strides they have made in caring for the land.

nature,” Jimmy said. “The native prairie had much diversity of plants in it, much diversity in animals and wildlife. That’s what we’re trying to emulate in our farming ground.”

To accomplish that goal, the family implements a variety of conservation programs, which include no-till crop production, the use of cover crops and companion crops, and the planting of pollinator strips in fields.

The Emmonses first tried no-till farming practices in the mid-90s, and the first years were filled with trial and error and starts and stops as they learned how to implement no-till on their land. Today, however, it is a system to which they are dedicated.

“Eight years ago, we made the commitment that we’re all in,” Jimmy Emmons said. “We’re 100 percent no-till, 100 percent cover crops.”

Along with no-till, the family implemented a cover-cropping system with the goal of having plants growing in their fields 365 days a year – an idea that Jimmy admits is quite aggressive, considering the arid climate in which they farm.

“First of all, we went into soil health and a cover-crop system about seven years ago,” Jimmy said. “We keep our land covered, keep the wind from blowing it away and keep rainfall – if we ever get it – from washing it away.”

The family’s cover crop mix can include anywhere from a dozen to more than 30 plant varieties, and even allows for summer foraging opportunities for their cattle. The system, combined with no-till, increased their soil health while cutting down on fuel expenses. In fact, Jimmy says through

the last seven years of using no-till and cover crops, their farm’s fuel bill is only 17 percent of what it used to be.

Three years ago, the Emmons family added companion crops into their grain sorghum and sunflower fields. The companion crops, which include mung beans, buckwheat and flax, cut down on the population of devastating sugarcane aphids in their grain sorghum by attracting beneficial insects.

“It’s said that for every pest we have, there’s 1,700 insects that will consume or devour them, so it’s like having an army through your field, waiting to defend your crop,” Jimmy said.

There is a lot of time spent researching the best crops to use as companions, a process that Jimmy compares to a very familiar relationship.

“I compare them to being married,” Jimmy said. “Companionship means not to be dominant. So a companion is supposed to help one another instead of hindering one another. Selection of companions is important so they don’t overtake your cash crop.”

The family also harnesses the power of beneficial insects by planting pollinator strips in certain fields to aid several of their crops in the pollination process.

“Pollinators play a huge role in improving crops,” Jimmy said. “It’s been proven to provide about a 20 percent bump in yield in soybeans, and a lot of other crops just need bees to pollinate them.”

The strips are also important to monarch butterflies.

For all the effort, research, planning and implementation of conservation practices the Emmons family undertakes, the

About the Leopold Conservation Award

Sand County Foundation, the nation’s leading voice for conservation on private land, created the Leopold Conservation Award to inspire conservation on private land. In Oklahoma, the award is presented by Sand County Foundation, Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Association. For more information about the Leopold Conservation Award and Sand County Foundation, visit www.LeopoldConservationAward.org



“THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF SOIL HEALTH IS MIMICKING MOTHER NATURE. THE NATIVE PRAIRIE HAD MUCH DIVERSITY OF PLANTS IN IT, MUCH DIVERSITY IN ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE. THAT’S WHAT WE’RE TRYING TO EMULATE IN OUR FARMING GROUND.”

-JIMMY EMMONS

RIGHT Jimmy Emmons examines a field of cover crops that includes 14 varieties of plants to benefit the soil and provide summer grazing for their cattle herd.



specter of drought that is ever-looming, if not ever-present, in western Oklahoma can derail even the best-laid plans.

Extreme drought conditions led to catastrophic wildfires that swept through Dewey County and beyond in early 2018, devastating farms, families and communities. The Emmonses lost 3,000 acres of grass to the fire, which left 23 miles of fence on the family’s farm in need of repair or replacing.

Even with fire-related losses and the ongoing drought, the family is continuing their tradition of conservation efforts, and Jimmy knows that when rains return, their fields and pastures will be ready to drink in the moisture.

“I know it helps lessen the impact of drought and lessen the impact of heavy rains just because our infiltration and being able to store the water below the ground where we need it,” he said. “When we do get the rain, we’re ready to store it instead of letting it run off.”

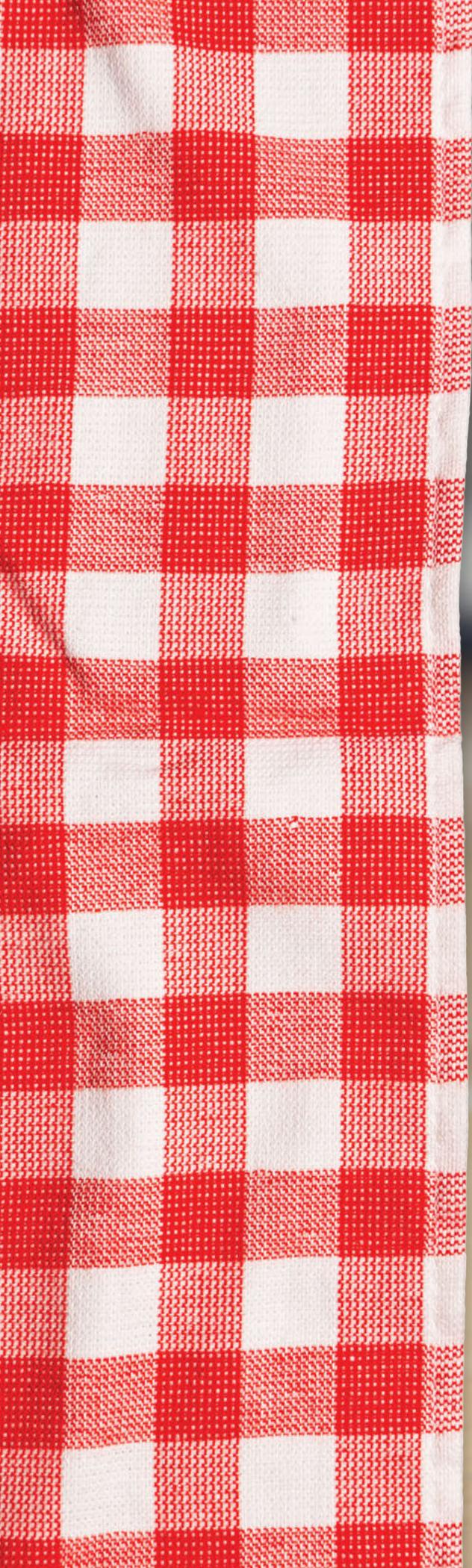
The Emmonses’ contributions to conservation do not end at the family’s driveway. Jimmy is president of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, and he travels around the state and the nation speaking to fellow farmers and ranchers about the benefits of soil health and environmental stewardship.

It is a passion and a family tradition that he thinks he might be able to pass along to his five-year-old grandson, who has taken a keen interest in the family farm.

“Hopefully our legacy of the land to our kids and grandkids will pay off down the road,” Jimmy said. “And I believe it will.” **IF**

The Emmons family grows a diverse array of crops, including rye, which is sold for seed to fellow farmers in Nebraska, earning the family a premium compared to traditional hard red winter wheat.





feeding
THE future

Photo courtesy of REED



Every Friday afternoon, Sharbee Horne walks the empty hallways of Morrison Elementary School while her students are busy learning. She is armed with a load of backpacks full of nutritious food.

She caringly leaves a few at the doors of the younger students' classrooms before placing some in the individual lockers of older students.

As the school counselor, Horne knows the students receiving these backpacks face the troubling possibility of going home on Friday without any hope for food until they return to school the next week.

"Kids shouldn't have to worry about where their next meal is going to come from," Horne said.

Yet unfortunately, a staggering 35,000 children across Oklahoma face chronic hunger. That's enough students to fill both the BOK Center in Tulsa and the Chesapeake Energy Arena in Oklahoma City – two of the state's largest entertainment venues – with hungry children.

But thanks to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma Food for Kids backpack program, those students receive food, and a little bit of comfort and reassurance, for the weekend every Friday during the school year.

The backpack program provides chronically hungry students throughout the state with packs full of nutritious, kid-friendly food to eat over the weekend. Oklahoma food banks deliver the backpacks each week at no cost to the schools or the children. Students with limited access to food

are identified for the program by school personnel, with parental consent.

Each child receiving a backpack each week finds a beef or pork protein stick, which are provided by the Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs program.

Created by the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, the Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs program is a collaboration of agricultural organizations and businesses including Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Beef Council, Oklahoma State University Food and Agricultural Products Center, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Pork Council, Ralph's Meat Company and Chickasha Meats.

The program, which adds a vital protein source to the backpacks of hungry children, relies on donated cattle and hogs to create the beef and pork protein sticks. Many of the animals are provided by Oklahoma FFA members through the state's youth livestock programs.

To create a sustainable supply of donated animals, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma partnered with the Oklahoma FFA Association in 2013 to create the FFA Hunger Challenge, which encouraged each FFA chapter in Oklahoma to donate at least one animal to the Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs program.

In the first year, 250 animals were donated. Since then, the program has grown by leaps and bounds.

"As agriculturalists, feeding the world starts with feeding our own right here at

By HANNAH DAVIS

home," said Ridge Howell, 2017-2018 Oklahoma FFA state president. "(The partnership with the food banks) was a perfect fit because we're trying to teach students – future agriculturalists – how to solve some of the world's problems and trying to be better than we have in the past. It starts with trying to solve the issues that are right here at home."

Howell said his state FFA officer team promoted the FFA Hunger Challenge throughout the school year with a goal of creating 1 million protein sticks.

Oklahoma FFA members this year went above and beyond the challenge with 231 FFA chapters donating more than 650 animals to help create 1,055,437 protein sticks.

"It takes a tremendous amount of time, money and hard work to raise livestock," said Katie Fitzgerald, chief executive officer of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. "We are grateful for the sacrifices these students are making to help fight childhood hunger throughout Oklahoma."

To help pay for the processing of the sticks, FFA members also had an opportunity to donate one dollar from each fundraising item sold through a program called Change Makes Sense.

"In FFA, we pride ourselves on the idea of

living to serve," Howell said. "Because the program is completely through donations, there's a really good chance the students that donate to the program will never meet the children they're impacting. I think that truly exemplifies what FFA, when we talk about living to serve, is really about. And we're doing that by trying to eliminate malnourishment in our own state."

With years of experience as an educator, Brent Haken sees firsthand the impact of hunger in his students. He serves as

"WE'RE ALREADY FEEDING THE WORLD. WHY SHOULD WE NOT FEED OUR OWN?"

Thad Doye

principal of Morrison High School and Middle School, but also has experience as an elementary school assistant principal and as an agricultural education instructor.

"If a child's not getting fed, then that's No. 1," said Haken, who also is a farmer and a Payne County Farm Bureau member. "They're not thinking about what they can learn, they're thinking about eating and where their next meal is coming from."

Adequate nutrition plays a significant role in a child's development. Even short-term nutrition deficiencies can negatively

affect a child's health, behavior and ability to concentrate.

"(Nutrition) is a basic need and if you don't have that basic need met, then there's no way you can live up to your full potential," Horne said.

She said she knows some students seem to struggle with behavioral problems, but in all reality, they're simply hungry.

"It may not necessarily be because they're having a behavior problem, but maybe they're hungry and so they're distracted," she said. "It's hard to focus when your belly's not full."

Though she said she hopes her students experience a safe and stable environment at home, Horne said the teachers and administrators do their best to create a healthy routine and environment at the school.

"While we can't control outside factors – we can't control necessarily what home is like, or what the weekend was like – when the kids come to school and we have regular routines and we have good meals provided, that's all part of nourishing them as people and helping them feel what it is like to be in good, healthy, normal routines," Horne said. "I think that's critical."

Haken said the backpack program plays a role in his goal of helping students achieve success in the future.

"What we see, more than anything, is that the student no longer has to worry about where his or her food is coming from," Haken said. "They have an opportunity they wouldn't necessarily have without the program."



PHOTO COURTESY OF RFGO



EVERY CHILD IN THE FOOD FOR KIDS BACKPACK PROGRAM RECEIVES A PROTEIN STICK IN THEIR BACKPACK

MORE THAN 35,000 CHRONICALLY HUNGRY OKLAHOMA CHILDREN RECEIVE BACKPACKS FULL OF NUTRITIOUS, KID-FRIENDLY FOOD EVERY WEEK THROUGH THE FOOD FOR KIDS BACKPACK PROGRAM.

"What we do with the Beef for Backpacks program is just a small part of what educating a child to be a successful adult is about. It's more than just feeding them; it's about showing them that you don't have to be like this forever."

When children are adequately nourished, he said, they can focus instead on learning and growing.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Executive Director Thad Doye has been involved in the Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs program from the beginning, where he leads the transportation of the donated animals from homes, schools and livestock shows to harvesting facilities.

Doye said the partnership between the agricultural community and the food banks is a natural fit.

"We're already feeding the world," he said. "Why should we not feed our own?"

As a Farm Bureau member, Haken said he is proud of the work the agricultural community is doing to help feed hungry children throughout the state.

"I'm a firm believer that everyone who can help needs to help," Haken said. "We're the ones who grow and produce the food, so we're the ones who can give it. We have to provide what we can to those who have needs; it's our job."

The need is still great to help feed hungry children across the state. For more information on donating livestock to the Beef for Backpacks or Pork for Packs program, contact Thad Doye at 405-523-2300. 



PHOTO COURTESY OF REED

MORRISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR SHARBEE HORNE SAID THE FOOD FOR KIDS BACKPACK PROGRAM OFFERS HUNGRY STUDENTS A BIT OF SECURITY AND PEACE OF MIND.



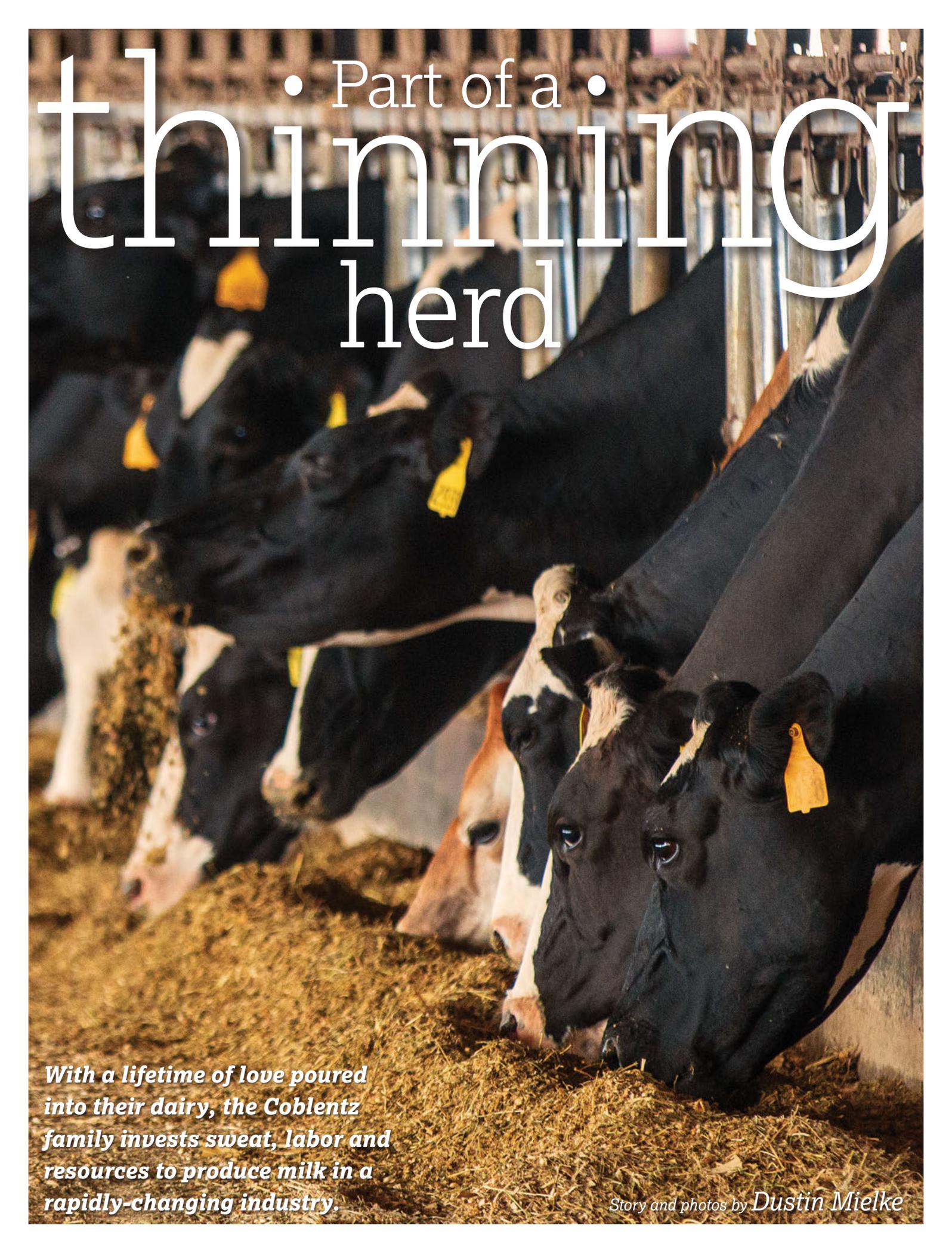
THE FOOD FOR KIDS BACKPACK PROGRAM HELPS HUNGRY STUDENTS IN HIS DISTRICT SUCCEED IN THE FUTURE, MORRISON HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL BRENT HAKEN SAID.



BACKPACK PROGRAM FINDS A BEEF OR PORK EACH WEEK DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.



OKFB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THAD DOYE LOADS HOGS DONATED AT THE OKLAHOMA YOUTH EXPO JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW FOR THE PORK FOR PACKS PROGRAM.



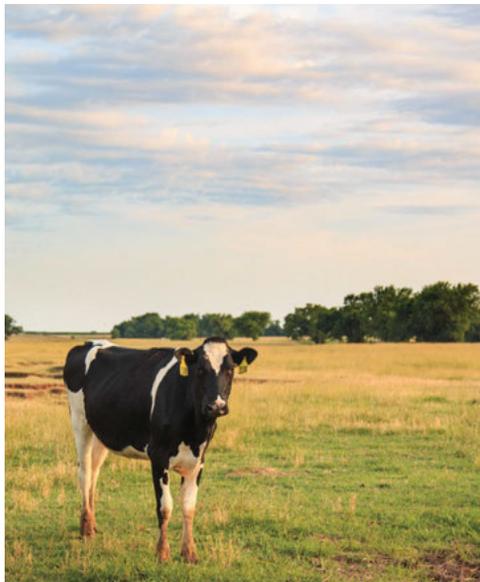
• Part of a • thinning herd

With a lifetime of love poured into their dairy, the Coblenz family invests sweat, labor and resources to produce milk in a rapidly-changing industry.

Story and photos by Dustin Mielke



Charles H. Coblentz has milked cows all his life.



"I actually had an uncle that I helped milk cows for \$1.25 a milking, six evenings after school, and I made \$7.50 a week milking six evenings," Charles said.

Saving up his money from his six-day-a-week after-school job, he began his own dairy herd with a single calf he purchased with his earnings.

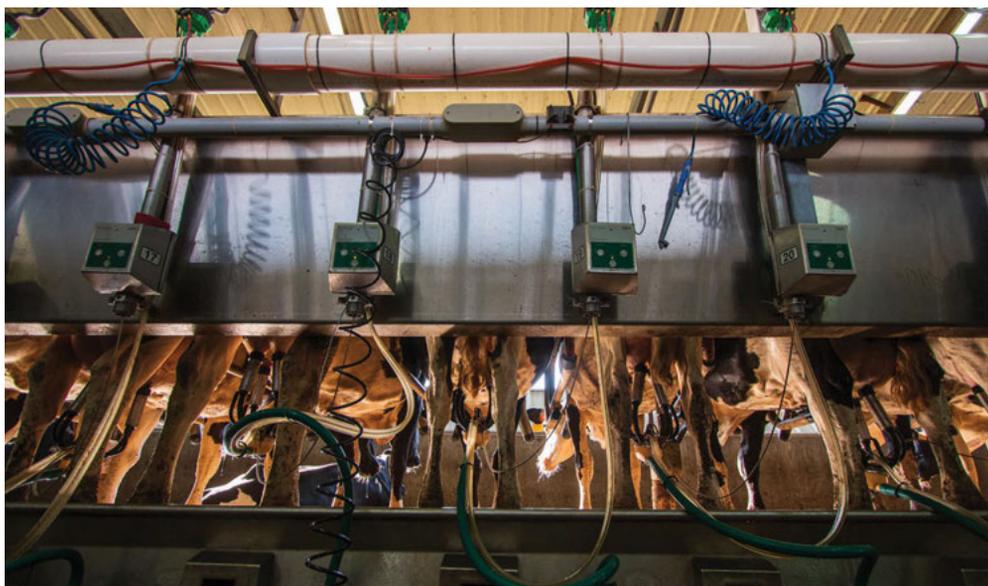
"I started raising calves, and my first heifer calved when I was a junior in high school," Charles said. "I started selling milk in 10-gallon cans my senior year, put it in a bulk tank, and I just started one cow at a time."

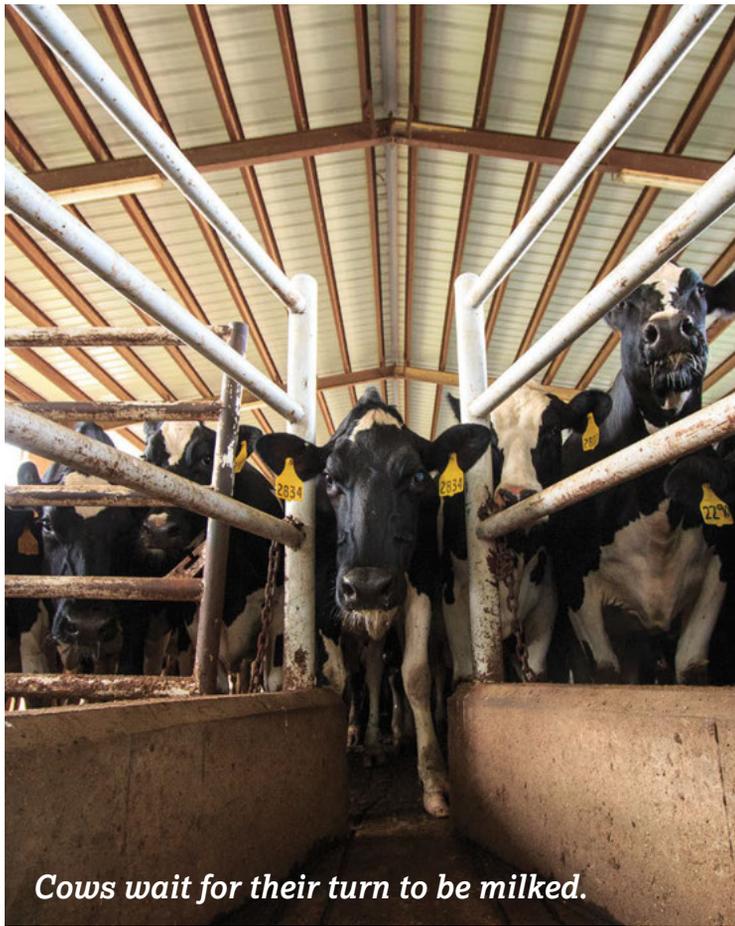
To say Charles has witnessed changes in the dairy business would be an understatement. Growing up in Mayes County, Oklahoma, a part of the state with a rich dairy heritage, he has raised a family and built a diversified farm, all while running a dairy and improving his dairy cow herd.

Starting with a single animal, he eventually moved to a milking barn built in the 1950s, which he upgraded several times to improve efficiency.

Seven years ago, the Coblentz family built a new milking facility from the ground up, where they milk more than 400 cows twice a day. The new dairy barn can milk 60 cows at a time with modern comforts and conveniences for both bovine and human.

"I was basically tired of the hours I was putting in," Charles said of his reason for building the new facility.





Cows wait for their turn to be milked.

“I wanted to build this big barn and milk the same number of cows and make a chore out of it instead of a job.”

Each and every day you can find Charles milking cows, working with the family’s Holstein-based dairy herd, and overseeing the day-to-day activities of the dairy.

“I oversee the milking still,” Charles said. “A lot of owners don’t, but I hit the barn twice a day.”

Charles and his wife, Ellen, work alongside their three sons, Adam, Anthony and Charlie, on the family’s widely diversified farm near Chouteau.

The Mayes County Farm Bureau members raise corn and alfalfa hay to use as feed for the dairy herd in addition to crops such as wheat, soybeans, corn, barley and grain sorghum. The family also sells seed and fertilizer and has a custom application business serving fellow farmers in the surrounding area. Rounding it all out, the family raises beef cattle with a cow/calf herd and taking on stocker cattle each year.

With a wide array of animals, crops and enterprises to keep up with, Charles employs a handful of workers to aid in caring for the dairy herd and to help with milking.

Every 48 hours, the family’s dairy

herd produces enough milk to fill a semi-truck tanker, which delivers the fresh-from-the-farm milk to a fluid plant in Arkansas where it is prepared and packaged for consumers. The family markets their milk through the Dairy Farmers of America dairy marketing cooperative. In fact, Charles serves as a councilman for DFA for district 56, which covers northeast Oklahoma and most of Arkansas.

Charles said he thinks every day about the people who will consume the milk they produce, which is why the family and their employees take a great deal of care as they tend to the cows and constantly clean and maintain their facilities.

“That is a constant thought every milking, and watching to make sure the cows are prepared, dried, milkers put on, and when we remove the milkers, we treat the cattle with iodine to protect the udders,” Charles said.

The family also adheres to the DFA’s Gold Standard, a program that has requirements for animal care, employee training and milk quality. From lighted dairy barns with curtains and fans for maintaining airflow to ensuring each employee is well-versed in the best animal care practices, the family strives to provide a comfortable and healthy

environment for their animals.

For all the care, effort and hard work the Coblentz family pours into their dairy operation – as well as into their entire farm – Charles admits it is a challenging time to be a dairy farmer.

“The dairy industry is changing fast,” Charles said. “It seems like the smaller guys are getting out, and the larger dairies keep getting bigger and bigger. It is hard for guys to make a profit.”

The family is one of a handful of dairies left in Mayes County. In the 1964 United States Department of Agriculture’s census, 220 farms in the county reported selling milk or cream. Almost 50 years later in 2012, fewer than 30 such farms were left.

And that number continues to decline. Just a few months ago, a neighboring farm liquidated their dairy herd, making the Coblentz family’s farm an increasingly rare one in Oklahoma.

“I’m considered a small dairy with milking close to 500 cows,” Charles said. “This is a little dairy on the average now. I may have a big barn, but I am considered a little dairy.”

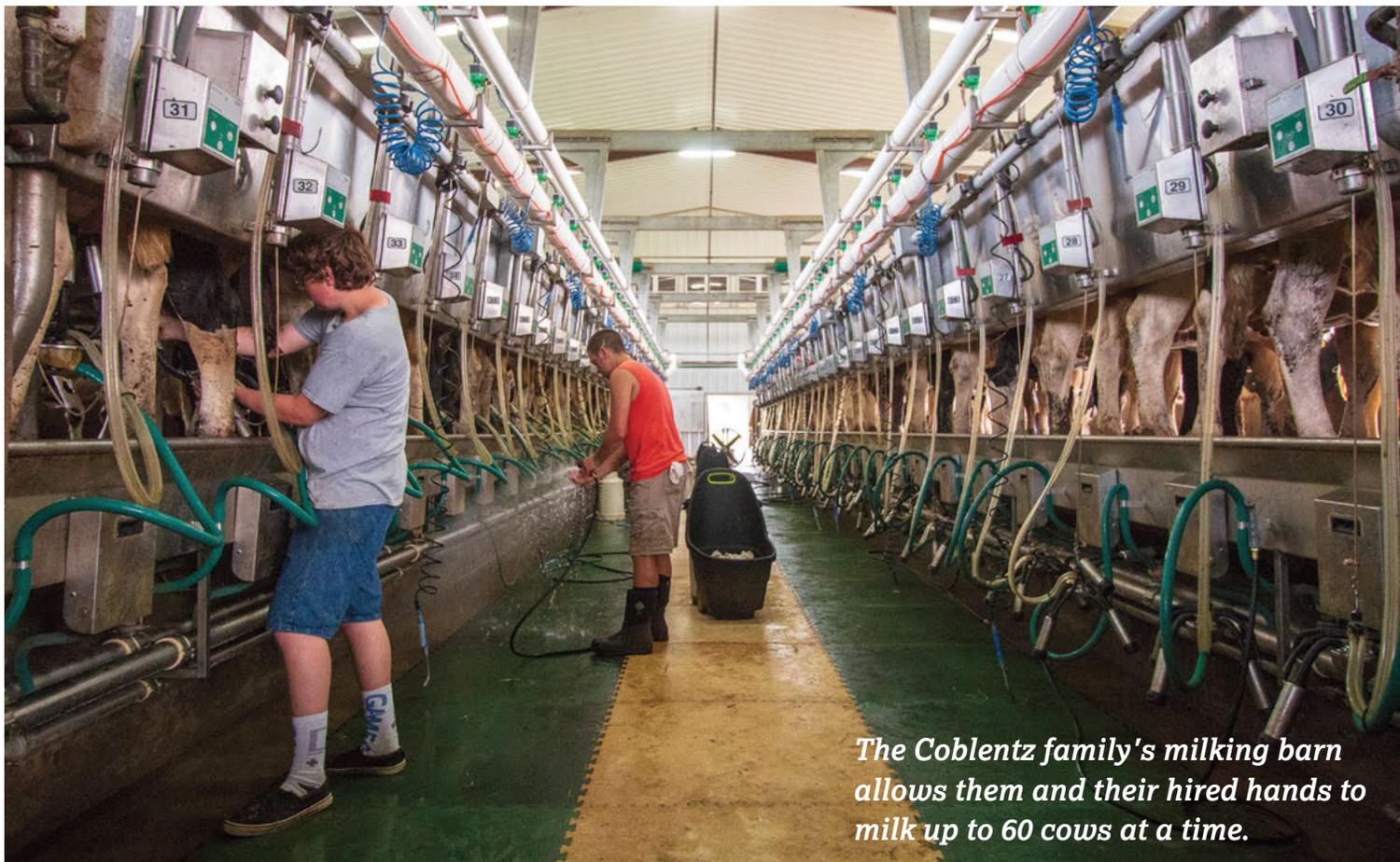
While Charles has seen cycles of high and low prices come and go throughout his lifetime in the dairy



Charles and Ellen Coblentz



Heifers await the feed truck in one of the family's Mayes County pastures.



The Coblenz family's milking barn allows them and their hired hands to milk up to 60 cows at a time.

business, he said the current low-price cycle, due to a surplus of milk, seems to be a bit different this time around.

"There's times we have made good money, but it's not a year-in, year-out deal – it comes and goes," Charles said. "It seems like these cycles are taking longer to overcome the surplus."

With a wide array of diversity on the family farm, Charles said that his sons don't necessarily have the same sort of nostalgia about the dairy side of the business that he has.

"They don't think the dairy is bringing enough money in for what it costs to operate," Charles said. "And they're probably right."

"The outlook for the industry is the same as it has been for the last 20 years: to get bigger and make more milk," son Anthony said. "The family dairy farm has to get bigger, or they have to do something else."

If a family dairy should be able to make a profit by milking cows, the Coblenz family should definitely be in the running. Growing all the feed their dairy cattle need puts them in a position where they do not require many additional feed inputs. However, with low milk prices and constant labor demands, it has put a squeeze on their ability to turn a profit.



Charles treats udders after milking to ensure both a healthy animal and safe milk.



The family's Holstein-based herd is fed twice a day and has individual stalls where they can choose to lay down.

"If anyone can produce milk cheap, we should be the ones doing it, and it's still not pretty," Charles said.

"The dairy is less than 25 percent of our operation, but it may take up to 50 percent of the money to operate."

And unlike the family's cash crops where production of a single crop can be changed year-to-year, son Anthony said the constant nature of milking cows does not allow for quick changes in production.

"The one aspect of dairy that is the downside is that we have to market all the time, but that's also been its positive through the years: it's a consistent paycheck that can make ends meet," Anthony said.

Considering the low prices, the long hours and the uncertainty of the dairy portion of their farm, Charles' optimism may best be exemplified by the fact that he's planning to expand his milk output, gearing up for another run in the facet of agriculture in which he has been involved his whole life.

And looking further into the future of the dairy business, Charles sees the possibility of the family's farm modernizing with the same technology used across a variety of industries throughout the world: automation. Namely, robotic milking machines.

"The robotic milking is probably where we will end up at if we stay with the dairy," Charles said. "Even though we have this huge investment with this barn, we could start converting things to robots and cut the labor out."

But for now, Charles is still out amongst the family's dairy cows, milking twice a day and ensuring they stay fed, healthy and happy.

While he may sell milk by the tanker-truck-load rather than by the bucket these days, Charles still takes pleasure in the simple joy of milking cows.

"It's been all my life. I enjoy seeing good cows being milked, producing and taking care of them. It's something to get up for every day, and it's just a way of life." 

Ellen prepares to feed calves.



The Coblentz family milks more than 400 cows two times each day.



Anthony Coblentz



A calf awaits its turn to be fed.

HERE'S WHY THE FARM BILL MATTERS

CONSERVATION

The farm bill helps Oklahoma farmers – like the Emmonses – voluntarily implement innovative farming practices to conserve and protect our natural resources, our farmland and our forests. Over the past 30 years, programs in the farm bill have helped foster healthy soils and cleaner water and air.



NUTRITION

With one in four Oklahoma children lacking access to nutritious food, the farm bill helps fund nutrition programs to keep families across Oklahoma fed. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, and school lunch programs are funded by the farm bill.



COMMODITY PROGRAMS

When farmers and ranchers face depressed commodity prices, low farm income and increasing input costs, commodity programs within the farm bill – like the Marginal Protection Program for dairy farmers like the Coblenz family – help create a safety net for agricultural producers.



THE FARM BILL ENSURES OUR NATION CONTINUES TO ENJOY THE MOST AFFORDABLE,
HIGHEST-QUALITY AND MOST ABUNDANT FOOD SUPPLY IN THE WORLD.

Proving Oklahoma's generosity is unmatched

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is partnering with our state's agriculture youth to provide relief to our neighbors affected by wildfire.

Springtime brought with it a situation that is unfortunately familiar to Oklahomans: massive wildfires in western Oklahoma.

Even as fires burned and grasslands smoldered, our state lived up to The Oklahoma Standard as people and organizations rushed to the aid of our affected rural residents.

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation was proud to be one of the groups that worked quickly to call attention to the situation and collect funds to help provide hope and a road to recovery. Of course, people far and wide quickly responded with generous financial contributions.

Through experiences with natural disasters, the foundation board understood the need to provide immediate relief to help fire victims get back on their feet and back to their livelihoods as soon as possible. The board also recognized the need for long-term resources in our rural communities to help better prevent and control wildfires.

To accomplish both these goals, the board first partnered with the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association by donating \$40,000 to the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Foundation to provide fencing and other farm and ranch supplies to agriculture producers affected by the wildfires.

With early May estimates from Oklahoma State University that losses to the cattle industry alone could be \$26 million, the impact on the agriculture community is immense, underscoring the need for the funds to replace fencing, facilities and to purchase feed and supplies.

The foundation board also decided to contribute \$500 to each family of 4-H

and FFA members that lost homes to wildfires. The foundation plans to work with the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, Oklahoma State University Extension and the Oklahoma FFA Foundation to identify and distribute funds to affected families.

To increase long-term fire-fighting abilities and readiness, the foundation board created a program that matches donations up to \$1,000 from each 4-H club and FFA chapter that raises money to be donated to Oklahoma rural volunteer fire departments located in areas affected by wildfire. The foundation board also issued a challenge to County Farm Bureaus to contribute their own matching funds to further support Oklahoma 4-H and FFA members' efforts.

Already, FFA and 4-H members have held numerous fundraisers to help these rural volunteer fire departments. Serving as merely two examples of our agriculture students' selflessness, Caney Valley FFA from Ramona held a pie auction that raised \$3,810, and Navajo FFA raised a total of \$18,000 for a variety of fire-related relief efforts.

"The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation board wanted to find a variety of ways to help with immediate fire

relief needs," foundation President David VonTungeln said. "While our matching program allows us to partner with our state's agriculture youth to maximize assistance to rural volunteer fire departments, our donation to 4-H and FFA families as well as to the Cattlemen's Foundation allows us to help our rural neighbors with getting back on their feet as soon as possible."

The foundation will continue to accept donations for fire relief efforts. Donations can be made by mailing checks to the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. The foundation also can accept donations via PayPal on the foundation's website at OKFarmingAndRanchingFoundation.org. When donating, please designate that the funds are for wildfire relief.

"Agriculture is such a tight-knit community, and we appreciate the efforts everyone across the nation has made to helping people affected by the wildfires," VonTungeln said. "We recognize the long-term effects wildfire has, and the foundation will continue accepting donations and looking for more ways to help fire victims." 

“Agriculture is such a tight-knit community, and we appreciate the efforts everyone across the nation has made to helping people affected by the wildfires.”

— David VonTungeln

Growing Expanding Food Minds



The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee has joined forces with the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation to connect agriculture producers with school children to provide accurate agriculture books for schools across our state.

For farmers

Farmers can expand agriculture education in Oklahoma schools by simply donating bushels of harvested crops to Bushels for Books or by making a cash donation to the program.

Donated crops and cash donations made to the foundation for the Bushels for Books program will be used to purchase bushel baskets of accurate agricultural books to be placed in Oklahoma schools.

For details on how to donate to the program, contact Chris Kidd at chris.kidd@agsgiving.org.

For educators

Educators can apply to receive a bushel baskets of grade-level-specific accurate agriculture books chosen by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee, or a school librarian can submit an application for a basket of books that span multiple grade levels.

Applications are due September 14 and can be found at okfarmbureau.org/applications.

The books will be awarded at the Flapjack Fundraiser at the 2018 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Convention in Norman on November 17. Winners must attend the event.

Bushels for Books

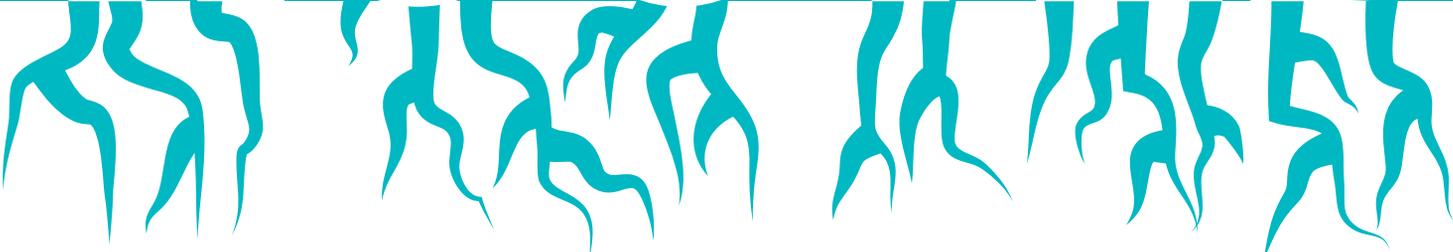
Providing accurate agriculture books to educate today's youth

Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Women's Leadership Committee

Oklahoma
Farming
and
Ranching
Foundation

DEEPLY ROOTED



BY HANNAH DAVIS
PHOTOS BY DUSTIN MIELKE

Deeply rooted in agriculture, in Oklahoma Farm Bureau and in service to others, Thad Doye seeks to take the grassroots organization to new heights as its executive director.

For Thad Doye, Oklahoma Farm Bureau is more than just an organization. It's a way of life.

As a fourth-generation family farmer, a third-generation Farm Bureau member and a 20-year OKFB employee, Thad is firmly planted in the agricultural community and in Farm Bureau.

His grandfather, Fred Doye, was a charter member of Comanche County Farm Bureau, and his parents, Damon and Georgia Doye, have served the county and state Farm Bureau for decades. In fact, some of Thad's first memories are playing under the table at the county Farm Bureau meeting.

"There's never been a moment in my life without Farm Bureau," Thad said. "I was always the ornery kid crawling under the table; that's how long I've been going to Farm Bureau meetings."

The lifelong member was named executive director of the state's largest agricultural organization in March.

As a farmer himself, Thad brings with him a unique perspective to his role as leader of the state's leading farm organization. He grew up on a farm homesteaded near the time of Oklahoma's statehood. He and his son still raise cattle and grow wheat outside of Lawton.

With a humble and servant-hearted nature, Thad said at first he hesitated to apply for the position. But his son-in-law, Shane, who also is a farmer and a Farm Bureau member, reminded him of the opportunity to serve and make a difference in the industry he loves.

"As I was applying for the job, Shane told me, 'We need someone like you that can think like us and think about the things we need in the future for agriculture. You're so involved, and you understand the things agriculture is going through. You'd be in a position where you can change the industry for the better,'" he said.

Thad said he also was encouraged toward the position by his father, Damon Doye.



“I really felt that – for the benefit of Oklahoma Farm Bureau – that he had the experience to lead the organization where it would really represent the farmers and ranchers of Oklahoma,” Damon Doye said. “He understands the problems that (farmers) have. In other words, he has lived it, so he knows how we feel. He’s also forward-thinking and can see the future of the organization is going to be different than the past.”

Thad’s passion for the future of agriculture in Oklahoma guides him in his new role as executive director.

“I want to do right for Farm Bureau and do right for agriculture,” Thad said. “I kind of got myself in a unique place to do that for rural Oklahoma. Agriculture needs people to be involved. It’s my job to go motivate them to figure out what they want Farm Bureau to do for them. And we get to represent agriculture, so it’s a cool job.”

From the wide-open plains of the panhandle to the trees and hills of southeast Oklahoma, Thad deeply longs for the organization to meet the needs of all of agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

“I truly want to represent all of agriculture,” he said. “The more involvement we have from farmers and ranchers, the better we’re able to serve the needs of all Oklahoma agriculture.”

And his father agreed.

“Farm Bureau members all over the state have known him,” Damon said. “He’s got a strong desire to represent them all. He’s not pushing Thad, he’s pushing Farm Bureau and its ideals.”

In his new role, Thad is inspired by the service and involvement of his parents.

“As the son of dedicated people, I want to try to follow

in their footsteps and do what is good, what is right for agriculture, and what is right for society,” he said.

With his family’s rich history in Farm Bureau, Thad personally became actively involved in the grassroots organization as a young college student when he was encouraged to be involved with the Young Farmers and Ranchers program.

“The opportunities through YF&R just seemed like a natural fit to where I wanted to be,” he said.

After his involvement with the county YF&R, Thad was serving on the state YF&R committee by the time he was 21 years old. As a young member, he served two terms on the state committee and eventually was honored with the OKFB YF&R Achievement Award.

Joe Parker, a Rogers County Farm Bureau member, served alongside Thad on the state YF&R committee.

“I think he has the utmost integrity and he fits the job to a T,” Parker said. “Thad has farmed his entire life. Once you’ve been raised in it, I think you certainly have a better perspective of what’s affecting rural Oklahomans.”

Early on in his Farm Bureau involvement, Thad recognized the power of the county Farm Bureau. He and his fellow county Farm Bureau members always had a relationship with their state senators and representatives. When a new senator was elected from urban Lawton, Comanche County Farm Bureau members invited the new legislator to a cookout on the farm to meet him and share with him the needs of farmers and ranchers.

“We invited him out to get to know him, and from then on he was very pro-agriculture,” Thad said. “And, he came to our house for a cookout every year after that.”

After farming full time for nearly a decade, Thad en-



Despite his busy schedule, Thad remains active on his family’s farm.



In his new role as executive director, Thad is an inspiration to serve Farm Bureau.

countered an opportunity to work for Farm Bureau when the organization had an opening for a field representative in southwest Oklahoma. He interviewed for the job to serve county Farm Bureaus and members and was hired two weeks later.

“Truly, it was fun,” he said of his job as a field representative. “I really got to do what I wanted to do and that was promote agriculture and be involved in agriculture – as a job. It was a dream job.”

To him, working for Farm Bureau was just being involved in the organization at a different level.

“I’ve been going to Farm Bureau meetings all my life, so it was just a natural fit,” Thad said. “Instead of just being involved in one county, I was involved in 13 as a field representative.”

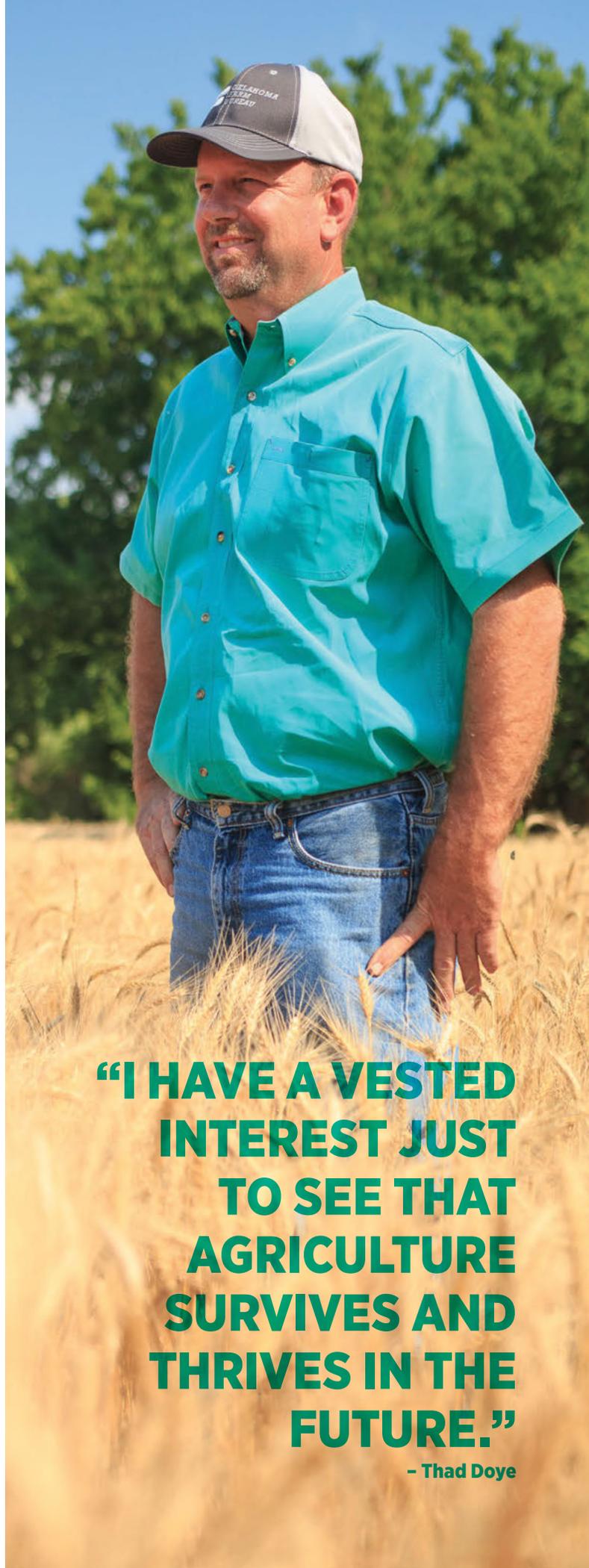
Though the southwest Oklahoma native now keeps a very busy schedule, Thad is first and foremost a farmer. He remains actively engaged in his family’s farm, even while employed full-time at Farm Bureau. In fact, he recently took a week of vacation to harvest his family’s wheat crop.

And at his home on the farm still remains his favorite place to be.

“Truly, when I get home and want to unwind, I go walk through my cows at my house,” he said.

At the end of the day, Thad said his role at Farm Bureau isn’t just a part of his career; it’s personal.

“I want to make sure my son can flourish as the fifth-generation of Doyes on our farmland,” he said. “I have a vested interest just to see that agriculture survives and thrives in the future.” 



**“I HAVE A VESTED
INTEREST JUST
TO SEE THAT
AGRICULTURE
SURVIVES AND
THRIVES IN THE
FUTURE.”**

- Thad Doye



**Director, Thad gleans
Bureau from his father, Damon.**

CONSIDER THE BENEFITS

AgBoost helps producers breed what they really need

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members now can receive special offers and discounts from Oklahoma-based genetic technology company AgBoost.

If you could breed for what you really need, what would you want?”

The founder of AgBoost posed that question to ranchers all over the state of Oklahoma. What did he hear? About 56 different answers.

More marbling. Higher average daily gain. Higher pregnancy rate was a common answer, but the list went on and on.

It takes three to four years to determine the quality of a calf for breeding purposes. In the meantime, producers spend an average of about \$2,000 maintaining the animals until they can determine if it has poor breeding characteristics.

“It’s a frustrating problem,” said a producer who stopped by the AgBoost booth at a farm expo. “I kept a calf in my inventory for four years, tried to breed her over and over before I gave up and sold her. I’ve been doing this for 40 years. Sometimes I’m right. When I’m not, it costs me.”

AgBoost shows ranchers the genetic profile – more than a dozen maternal, carcass and performance traits – of each animal. Producers can see data for a single animal or the entire herd, compare two or more animals and make better breeding decisions – all in an easy-to-read, interactive format on the desktop, phone or in the field.

AgBoost’s animal management functions allow producers to

track birth, breeding, vaccination and other key dates.

“We didn’t invent genetic testing,” says AgBoost founder Sean Akadiri. “We just make the results comparable and measurable in ways that weren’t possible before. Our small- and medium-sized operators produce 80 percent of the beef in this country. Many of those are family operations. With the growing beef demand, I wanted to create a tool for them that powers their operation to be more efficient and more profitable.”

The process is easy. Simply order a collection kit and send

AgBoost a hair sample. Get special members-only deals by entering the Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s code on the AgBoost site when you’re completing your member profile.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members can manage the first 25 animals for free on AgBoost, receive two free DNA tests when ordering 10 or more tests, and receive discounts on other premium services.

Compare the profiles of all your animals, clearly see where your herd is strongest and breed what you really need.

AgBoost is an Oklahoma technology business. The platform is used by the Noble Research Institute, OSU Extension Center and hundreds of ranchers in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Nebraska. The company is a proud partner of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau and is offering exclusive deals for members. 

“We didn’t invent genetic testing. We just make the results comparable and measurable in ways that weren’t possible before.”

— Sean Akadiri



AgBoost provides farmers and ranchers with animal genetic information at their fingertips. Oklahoma Farm Bureau members receive special discounts on AgBoost. Learn more at www.ag-boost.com.

Two OKFB members honored with Governor's Agriculture Awards

Gov. Mary Fallin presented two Oklahoma Farm Bureau members with her Governor's Agriculture Awards May 9 during a ceremony hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry at the state Capitol.

Keith Kisling of Burlington received the Governor's Outstanding Achievement in Agriculture Award. This is the highest award given by the Governor to honor distinguished Oklahoma agriculture producers. The prestigious award honors leaders in the agriculture industry who exemplify personal values, performance, and achievement.

"This is a Kisling Farms' award in my opinion," he said. "I'm glad for the honor and it is really a big honor, but I couldn't be up there if it wasn't for my family."

As full-time farmers and ranchers, Kisling and his wife, Marlene, have built

a thriving agricultural operation growing wheat, wheat pasture, cattle, irrigated corn, soybeans, alfalfa hay, grass hay and sorghum. The couple also operated a feedlot for stocker cattle.

In addition to his roles in production agriculture, Kisling has and continues to champion the ag industry not only locally and statewide, but nationally and internationally.

An Alfalfa County Farm Bureau member, Kisling has served on the OKFB board of directors since 2014 and served for four years as Oklahoma's representative on the American Farm Bureau Federation wheat committee. In 2006, the Kisling family was chosen OKFB Farm Family of the Year, and Keith received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from OKFB.

"The Farm Bureau has meant so much

to me," the Burlington farmer said. "I owe a lot of thanks to them."

Jimmy Kinder of Walters, received Gov. Fallin's Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Award. The award recognizes Oklahoma agriculturalists who are leaders in developing and adopting outstanding environmentally innovative agricultural practices.

"I am overwhelmed to be the recipient of Gov. Fallin's Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Award," he said. "To me, this award recognizes a family tradition of over four generations to feed consumers from the land that God allows us to manage."

Kinder is a fourth-generation farmer and rancher from Cotton County and an early innovator in Oklahoma agriculture. His family farms wheat, canola, sesame, and grain sorghum. They also grow grass and run stocker cattle.

Kinder has implemented the agricultural production methods of no-till cropping, crop rotation, cover crops and stocker cattle grazing. His agricultural production system offers superior economic, agronomic, environmental and social benefits.

A member of the Cotton County Farm Bureau, Kinder has served the organization at every level, serving as the Cotton County Farm Bureau president from 1990-2011 before becoming a state board member. He has served on the OKFB board of directors since 2011, with part of that time as vice president.

Randy Gilbert of Tecumseh received the Governor's Outstanding Public Service in Agriculture Award and the Governor's Outstanding Legacy in Agriculture Award was presented posthumously to Larry Watkins of Stillwater.



Gov. Mary Fallin (third from left) presents Governor's Agriculture Awards to Jimmy Kinder (far left) and Keith Kisling (center) during a May 9 ceremony at the state Capitol.



Jackson County member named to state water board

Matt Muller, a farmer and Jackson County Farm Bureau member, has been chosen by Gov. Mary Fallin to serve a seven-year term on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

Representing all geographic areas of the state and diverse groups of water users, the OWRB board of directors define policy and conduct the state's water business.

"A plentiful water supply is absolutely critical to the success of Oklahoma agriculture," said Rodd Moesel, Oklahoma Farm Bureau president. "As a family farmer with direct experience in conserving and using water, Matt will serve the OWRB well as it decides how to best steward our state's most important natural resource."

A fourth-generation farmer, Muller grows cotton, wheat, grain sorghum, mungbeans and Bermudagrass hay on his family's farm near Martha, Oklahoma. Farming in often drought-stricken

southwestern Oklahoma, Muller has relied largely on innovative water conservation methods.

Muller irrigates crops with water supplied by the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District and available wells. He has installed subsurface drip irrigation systems to conserve water resources, and he uses a rainwater collection system to further maximize efficient natural resource use.

The southwestern Oklahoma farmer serves on the Jackson County Farm Bureau board of directors and has served as a delegate to numerous AFBF annual meetings and numerous state Farm Bureau committees.

He and his wife, Kellie, served as the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers chairmen in 2003-2004, and received the 2006 American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award, the only Oklahomans to ever win the award. The



Jackson County Farm Bureau member Matt Muller has been appointed to a seven-year term on the OWRB by Gov. Mary Fallin.

family was named OKFB's 2015 Farm Family of the Year.

The Mullers' four children, Taylor, Levi, Luke and Lincoln, also work with the couple on the family farm.

Nine students receive \$1,000 YF&R scholarships

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers committee has awarded nine Oklahoma high school seniors with a \$1,000 college scholarship.

"Our scholarship recipients give us great hope for agriculture's future in every part of this state," said Brent Howard, OKFB YF&R chairman. "As fellow young farmers and ranchers, the OKFB YF&R committee is proud to support these young scholars as they develop into leaders in the ag industry."

Students receiving the scholarships include Lexi Vanderwork, Woodward County, District One; Arthur "Kole" Lindenfelser, Roger Mills County, District

Two; Tyler Wilkinson, Canadian County, District Three; Alisa Northcutt, Johnston County, District Four; Toby Bowles, Bryan County, District Five; Kaylyn Branen, Rogers County, District Six; Paden James Day, Noble County, District Seven; Tanner Wofford, Hughes County, District Eight; and Taylor Cartmell, Payne County, District Nine.

The nine scholarship recipients have a wide variety of career aspirations and haven chosen degrees across the agriculture industry including animal science, agribusiness, agricultural communications, natural resource ecology and management, and

biochemistry and molecular biology.

Students plan to study at higher-education institutions across the state including Oklahoma State University, Connors State College, Eastern Oklahoma State College and Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

The OKFB YF&R committee each year presents \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a degree in agriculture at an Oklahoma accredited institution of higher learning. The scholarship program is open to members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau. To learn more about the program, contact YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at 405-523-2300.

OKFB members visit Capitol Hill, federal agencies on Congressional Action Tour April 16-20

More than 30 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members advocated for agriculture and rural Oklahoma in the nation's capital during the organization's Congressional Action Tour April 16-20.

"It's very important for Oklahoma farmers to develop relationships with our congressmen and senators," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "Our Farm Bureau staff talk to these leaders on our behalf, which is a big help to us as farmers and ranchers. But it's even more important when congressmen and senators hear directly from real folks

who are actually producing agricultural commodities."

The 2018 farm bill, international trade and wildfire relief programs were some of the top concerns of Farm Bureau members as they spoke with Oklahoma's congressmen and senators.

Members also visited with officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to learn more about and share input on various agriculture and environmental regulations.

Despite the work it takes to leave the

farm and travel to Washington, D.C., American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall said a personal visit by Farm Bureau members to Congress is powerful.

"We are very appreciative of (our members) coming to town and always assure them that whatever they think they should be at home doing, that they're doing the right thing," Duvall said during an interview at the AFBF headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"What they're going to do today is very important to their communities, their families and their farms."



Top Left: A group of more than 30 OKFB members and staff pose for a photo in front of the U.S. Capitol during the organization's Congressional Action Tour in April. Top Right: OKFB President Rodd Moesel (far left) and OKFB Vice President of Public Policy Ron Justice (center) visit with Sen. Jim Inhofe during the trip. Bottom Left: OKFB member Margaret Ann Kinder (right) talks with Rep. Tom Cole. Bottom Right: Rep. Steve Russell (far left) discusses policy with OKFB state board members Alan Jett (center) and James Fuser.

OKFB remembers former state board member Joe Mayer

Oklahoma agriculture lost a long-time leader in cattle production and ag policy with the passing of State Board of Agriculture member and former Oklahoma Farm Bureau state board member Joe Mayer of Guymon.

Mayer suffered a heart attack and was taken to a hospital in Amarillo, Texas. He passed away on May 27 at age 68.

Gov. Mary Fallin recently had appointed and the Oklahoma Senate had confirmed the appointment of Mayer to serve a four-year term as a member of the State Board of Agriculture.

A second-generation Farm Bureau member, Mayer was actively involved in the farm organization for more than four decades. He represented District One on the OKFB board of directors from 1993 until 2002 and also served on the Texas County Farm Bureau board of directors.

Mayer grew up on the cattle ranch his great grandfather established in the Oklahoma Panhandle in 1883. The ranch has grown into a 35,000-acre beef and small grain operation, which has received national and international recognition for innovation and willingness to embrace new technologies. His work to improve his Angus herd through careful breeding and record keeping and DNA testing for specific traits earned him the Certified Angus Beef® Commercial Producer of the Year Award in 2013.

Mayer was a recipient of the Governor's



Former OKFB board member and Texas County Farm Bureau member Joe Mayer passed away in late May. Mayer was a long-time leader in cattle production and ag policy.

Outstanding Achievement in Agriculture award, which is the Oklahoma Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Mayer served on Governor Frank Keating's transition team and numerous other state and county task forces and commissions. He also had served as director or chairman of many state and federal committees devoted to agriculture

and private property rights. He served on the USDA FSA Committee at the pleasure of both Presidents George W. Bush and George H.W. Bush.

Mayer and his wife Mary Anne have three children, Paul, Katie and Margie, who all still work for the family farm and ranch business.



Penny Raspotnik-Jones

Raspotnik-Jones joins field services

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has hired Penny Raspotnik-Jones as its southeastern field representative.

In her position, Raspotnik-Jones will work as a liaison between county Farm Bureaus and the state Farm Bureau. She will serve members in Atoka, Bryan, Coal, Choctaw, Haskell, Hughes, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, McIntosh, Pittsburg and Pushmataha Counties.

A cattle rancher from Hartshorne, Oklahoma, Raspotnik-Jones and her family raise registered and commercial Angus cattle.

"As a third-generation rancher, I am passionate about agriculture," she said. "If

I can help another agriculture producer in my Farm Bureau role, then I feel that I have accomplished something truly important."

Raspotnik-Jones earned a master's in agricultural education and a bachelor's in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University.

Before joining OKFB, she spent 10 years as an agricultural economics and horticulture professor at Eastern Oklahoma State College.

Her husband, Tim, is employed with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.



The 2018 OKFB YF&R committee raises more than \$6,000 for the OKFB Legal Foundation and wildfire relief efforts in western Oklahoma at the 16th Annual YF&R Golf Classic held May 4 at the Cedar Valley Golf Club in Guthrie, Okla.

YF&R raise more than \$6,000 at annual golf tournament

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers raised more than \$6,000 at their annual golf tournament to help both fire relief efforts for rural Oklahomans and support the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation.

The tournament was held Friday, May 4, at Cedar Valley Golf Club in Guthrie. Fifteen teams competed in the scramble-style tournament, which is coordinated by the OKFB YF&R state committee.

The Cleveland County Farm Bureau team won first place with Kent Washburn, Marty Fuller, Jim Packer and Freddy Wisdom. Oklahoma AgCredit came in second with team members Kyle

Fir, Butch McComas, Steven Davenport and Marty Meyor. The third-place team was the Alfalfa County Farm Bureau team with Terry Ryel, Curtis McMahan, Chad Kisling and Eric Smith. The top three teams had their choice of gift cards and tickets to either University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University football games. The prize for longest drive was given to Amy Wilson.

“Our young farmers and ranchers are proud to help our state’s agriculture industry through this tournament,” OKFB YF&R State Chairman Brent Howard said. “With the help of our great sponsors, we are honored to help raise funds to assist

our rural neighbors who were affected by wildfires. We also appreciate the work the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation does to support farmers and ranchers in their legal battles, so it was important to our committee to donate tournament proceeds to the foundation as well.”

Title sponsors for the tournament were BancFirst, Caddy County Farm Bureau, John Vance Auto Group, McAfee & Taft, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance, Oklahoma Youth Expo, Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau, Rachel Pickens Realtor, Servicemaster of Stillwater, The Oklahoma Pork Council and Woodward County Farm Bureau.

OKFB to host policy meetings in August

Each year, Oklahoma Farm Bureau kicks off its policy development season with August Area Meetings, where members discuss current and upcoming agriculture and rural policy issues. Dates for the area meetings are listed below. Full details will be posted to the OKFB website as they become available.

District One

August 6
6 p.m.
Guymon

August 7
6 p.m.
Woodward

District Two

August 14
6 p.m.

District Three

August 16
6 p.m.

District Four

August 9
6 p.m.

District Five

August 21
12 p.m.

District Six

August 21
6 p.m.

District Seven

August 13
6 p.m.

District Eight

August 20
6 p.m.

District Nine

August 23
6 p.m.

**It took years to make it a farm...
It takes one call to keep it safe.**

Call 811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.

The soil on your farm or ranch is rich with nutrients and minerals... AND underground pipelines. CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG, in order to notify utility companies who will be affected by the excavation. The company will respond to your call and mark their facilities in your work area. This is a **FREE** service. No one digs more dirt than America's Farmers and Ranchers. No matter if you're deep tilling, drain tiling, ditch cleaning or moving heavy loads. Understanding what's below ground will help you DIG SAFELY

CGA
Common Ground Alliance
www.commongroundalliance.com
www.call811.com

KINDER MORGAN
www.kindermorgan.com/public_awareness

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG, EVERY TIME!!!

TIME ISN'T ALL YOU'LL SAVE.

With its heavy-duty construction, long service life and minimal maintenance, a Grasshopper zero-turn mower's timesaving performance is only the beginning. You'll enjoy lower operating costs, too.

GRASSHOPPER
IT'S SO MUCH MOWER®

ASK ABOUT **ZERO%** FINANCING*

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU
Farm Bureau Members Save 15%

*WAC. See store associate for details. ©The Grasshopper Company

CLAREMORE
TURF LAND EQUIPMENT
918-341-3313
www.turflandequipment.com

DURANT
DURANT POWER EQUIPMENT INC.
580-924-4550
SEE US ON FACEBOOK

HYDRO
R & M AUTO LLC
405-663-2793
randmauto88@yahoo.com

STILLWATER
SAWGRASS EQUIPMENT LLC
405-533-1992
www.sawgrassequipment.com

STROUD
NEWNAMS OUTDOORS & TOOL RENTAL LLC
918-968-2077
SEE US ON FACEBOOK

Logan County members celebrate Certified Angus Beef anniversary with barn painting

Logan County Farm Bureau members John and Gaye Pfeiffer hosted ranchers, community leaders, state agricultural organizations, family and friends at the family's ranch near Mulhall, Oklahoma, on April 27 to commemorate a barn painting celebrating the Certified Angus Beef® brand's 40th anniversary.

The Pfeiffers' barn was chosen as one of 40 barns across the country to be painted with the brand's logo as a part of its anniversary celebration.

John Pfeiffer - Logan County Farm Bureau president, vice president and vice chairman of the American Angus Association and former president of the Certified Angus Beef board of directors - is the fourth generation to raise cattle in Logan County on land originally homesteaded the day after the historic land run.

The day also was commemorated with a proclamation from Gov. Mary Fallin, who declared April 27, 2018 "Pfeiffer Family 'Brand the Barn' and Certified Angus Beef® Celebration Day."

The Pfeiffer family produces Certified Angus Beef® brand beef, which is required to meet 10 quality standards.

"On the average, we can expect about

an increase of \$30 per calf for those that meet the Certified Angus Beef® brand specifications," John Pfeiffer said. "It's been very instrumental in providing extra margins for cattlemen that try to breed and produce for the brand."

Pfeiffer said Oklahoma consumers can find Certified Angus Beef® products

at licensed retailers across the state including Crest Foods and Reasor's stores.

The Certified Angus Beef® brand was established in 1978 by the American Angus Association with a mission of supporting Angus farming families by driving demand for their cattle via a brand of consistently premium beef.



Friends, family and agricultural leaders help John and Gaye Pfeiffer commemorate a barn painting celebrating the Certified Angus Beef brand's 40th anniversary at their farm in Mulhall, Okla., on April 27.



OKFB discusses rural opioid crisis with USDA Rural Development, state ag leaders

OKFB District Three Director David VonTunglen discusses opioid misuse in rural Oklahoma with USDA Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Ann Hazlett after a June 6 roundtable at the Central Valley Technology Center in El Reno, Oklahoma. VonTunglen, along with other state ag leaders, shared potential solutions for prevention, treatment and recovery of opioid addiction in rural areas.

OKFB Women's Leadership Committee to host fall conference Sept. 28-29 in Edmond

Oklahoma Farm Bureau women are invited to gather for the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Fall Conference to be held Sept. 28-29 at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Edmond, Oklahoma.

The two-day conference will feature special speakers, educational breakout sessions, a trade show, entertainment,

fellowship and more.

Find a tentative agenda and the registration form on the OKFB website at okfarmbureau.org/applications.

To attend the conference, complete and return the registration form to WLC Coordinator Marcia Irvin no later than Aug. 27.

Hotel rooms are available at the Hilton

Garden Inn through Aug. 27. To make a reservation, call 405-285-0900 and mention OKFB Women's Leadership Conference. 00556608

For more information, please contact WLC Coordinator Marcia Irvin at 405-523-2405 or 405-323-7602.



UPCOMING EVENTS

August Area Meetings
August 6-24

Farm & Ranch Family Recognition Award Applications Due
August 15

YF&R State Fair Livestock Judging
September 13

OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Fall Conference
September 28-29

YF&R Achievement Award and Excellence in Agriculture Award Deadline
October 1

OKFB Annual Meeting Awards Deadline
October 15

State Resolutions Meeting
October 17-18

OKFB Annual Meeting
November 16-18

Conserve Energy with Mastic Vinyl Siding & Windows



Farm Bureau members will receive a 33 1/3% discount off nationally published retail prices.

M. Rhodes Company, LLC
Since 1937

Call 405-721-2807 for an estimate.

The EASY DR® Way to TRIM and MOW!



The ORIGINAL Trimmer on Wheels!

Starting at just **\$349⁹⁹**

The DR® TRIMMER MOWER gives you 5X the power and NONE of the backstrain of handheld trimmers!

TRIMS & MOWS thick grass and weeds without bogging down—the only trimmer guaranteed not to wrap!

ROLLS LIGHT AS A FEATHER on big, easy-rolling wheels!

THICKEST, LONGEST-LASTING cutting cord (up to 225 mil) takes seconds to change.



NEW TOW-BEHIND MODELS FOR TRACTORS AND ATVS!!

FREE SHIPPING
6 MONTH TRIAL

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY
Call or go online for details.

Call for FREE DVD and Catalog!

TOLL FREE **888-212-0629**

DRtrimmers.com



18FESX © 2018

From ranch to restaurant

A two-year national project brings together representatives from each step in the beef value chain to communicate and collectively seek progress for the first time.

Squabbles in the backseat momentarily pause as a McDonald's paper sack is passed through the driver's window. Steam rises from the crinkling bag, filling the car with a savory aroma. Hamburgers are handed out, and bites are taken before the young family journeys on to piano lessons and sports practices.

It takes mere minutes to comfort a stomach's grumbles and continue on with life. In the moment, to quench hunger and enjoy flavor are primary concerns.

But once the rumble quiets, the minds of many eaters continue to roar. They question how their buying decisions affect the health of their families and the planet.

A hamburger wrapper holds the culmination of the entire beef industry's efforts. There are ranchers, feeders, packers, processors and retailers who, together yet separately, move beef from pasture to plate. Each faces their own trials and triumphs. Each lives their own

story of constant improvement, of doing more with less.

When a calf leaves a ranch, the rancher's story ends while the feeder's story is just beginning. When the feeder's story comes to a close, the packer's starts, and so on. Oftentimes, the lines of communication from stage to stage remain silent, and two years worth of effort goes unknown by the time a hamburger reaches the drive through.

“What's left is disconnect between





segments of industry and between producers and consumers,” said Chad Ellis, the Noble Research Institute’s industry relations and stewardship manager. “But really, each party strives to do its best. We all want to make tomorrow better than today, and we can do a better job of making progress if we work together to improve and to communicate our larger beef story.”

This is the aim of a two-year national industrywide pilot project focused on identifying ways to improve sustainability across the beef value chain.

Sharing the beef story

About 2,300 head of cattle reached Beef Marketing Group’s feedyard in central Kansas in December 2017.

A crew of cowboys settled the calves into their new home for the next six months. There, the calves will lounge around, eating a well-balanced diet formulated specifically to help them develop the intramuscular fat most Americans consider an essential part of a good steak. Or juicy hamburger.

This is daily work for BMG, a network of feedyards that works with local farmers and ranchers to maximize efficiency. But the cattle are part of the national beef sustainability pilot project, which began in 2017.

“Many times in our business we look at our role as feeding cattle or as raising calves and we don’t look at it in a way that is connected all the way to the consumer,” said John Butler, chief executive officer of BMG. “We really have a responsibility to do that.”

BMG and the other project partners, McDonald’s USA, Tyson Foods, the Noble Research Institute and Golden State Foods, are members of the U.S.

Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, a national coalition that first convened in 2015. For the first time, through the USRSB, producer groups, processors, retailers, allied industry and civil society have come together to discuss what they do and why along with what sustainability means to them and how they seek improvement.

“It’s an important conversation and one that needs to include voices from throughout the beef industry, especially those of producers,” said Ellis, who also serves as the Noble Research Institute’s USRSB representative. “If we don’t get involved, someone else will define sustainability for us.”

The group identified six indicators of sustainability: animal health and well-being, efficiency and yield, water resources, land resources, air and greenhouse gas emissions, and employee safety and well-being. Then each sector identified ways it can measure how it keeps these resources healthy. This self-direction, Ellis said, will be what makes the effort successful.

Now, through the pilot project, they are testing out these metrics and sharing information throughout the chain in ways that have never been done.

For example, producer Meredith Ellis

Ulibarri, one of the Integrity Beef Alliance ranchers who raised participating calves from birth, is looking forward

to receiving information from the processor, Tyson Foods, about which calves produced the most desirable yield and quality meat. This information will help her family make better breeding and management decisions for their cow herd.

Eventually Golden State Foods will turn

some of the meat into a portion of the 100 percent beef patties served by McDonald’s.

Full results are expected to be available in fall 2018.

“Being able to communicate up and down the supply chain is something we’ve never been able to do,” Ulibarri said. “Plus it will help us better communicate with consumers. I hear misconceptions people have about how we raise cattle, and I see their surprise when they learn about the ranch and realize it’s not what they thought. It’s a paradise here, and I see my job as caretaker of the land and animals. Being able to tell our story on such a huge platform as McDonald’s opens up a lot of opportunity. Only good can come from it, from my perspective.”

“We all want to make tomorrow better than today, and we can do a better job of making progress if we work together to improve and to communicate our larger beef story.”

— Chad Ellis

COUNTRY GARDENING



Edible landscaping is more than tomatoes and zucchini

By Trisha Gedon
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

When homeowners think about edibles in the landscape, they're most likely considering tomatoes, okra and zucchini – you know, the typical things found in many home gardens. Did you know you can incorporate edible plants into the conventional landscape and create a sustainable and productive living space?

Edible landscaping is a creative way to combine the traditional vegetable garden and the visually pleasing garden into one seamless space, said David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension consumer horticulturist.

“Creating an edible landscape will involve replacing ornamental trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals with plants that are not only ornamental, but also can be used for food,” Hillock said. “One of the great things about edible landscapes is you don't need acres of land

to do this. Edible landscaping is adaptable to any scale, including a small patio or a few acres.”

Edible landscaping uses the same design elements as traditional landscaping. Gardeners will need to decide a style – whether formal or informal – on which to focus. They'll also need to consider the hardscape, shape, texture of the plants and plant repetition to make the landscape a cohesive element of the home.

Hillock suggests filling an annual bed with leafy salad greens and peppers instead of the traditional bed of vinca. Bold foliage plants such as watermelon, okra, cabbage and lettuce can take the place of hydrangea, caladium and begonia. Lacy foliage can come from carrots, fennel, dill, asparagus and kale.

“For those who like hedges to mark property lines or separate the yard into

different areas, try planting a hedge of blueberry bushes as opposed to a holly hedge,” he said. “If you want to have varying heights amongst the plants, consider planting green beans. If borders are your thing, use rosemary in place of boxwood as a way to border garden pathways.”

One thing gardeners will have to consider is putting the edible landscape in a productive location that receives six to eight hours of full sun. Also, most fruits and vegetables prefer well-drained soil with a pH of 6.0-7.0. You may want to conduct a soil test to check pH and soil nutrient levels before planting. Amending the soil with organic matter will help boost production.

When deciding on what to plant where, remember plants that need to be harvested frequently, such as lettuce or beans, should be placed in the front of the



Left: The berries from the Aronia plant can be eaten raw off the plant, but are more frequently processed into wine, jam, syrup, juice, soft spreads, tea, salsa and extracts. It is considered cold hardy and heat tolerant and grows well in the landscape. Middle: Edible landscapes also can help beautify commercial property. Right: With glossy green leaves and bright orange-red flowers that appear on the tips of its stems from early summer through fall, the dwarf pomegranate is a great container plant. It flowers abundantly through the hot days of July and August. The small fruit can hang on the plant for several weeks, which adds to its ornamental appeal.

bed. Plants with less-frequent harvesting needs, such as asparagus or garlic, can be placed toward the back of the area.

Hillock said in an effort to maximize production, research your plants before you buy them.

“Many fruit trees and shrubs have varieties that will ripen at different points within the growing season,” he said. “Consider plants that can be harvested early, mid and later in season. By choosing a variety of apple tree that ripens early and another that ripens later, you’ll have a steady supply of apples throughout the season.”

Another tactic is to spread out the harvest throughout the season. Planting three small crops of carrots about a month apart will give you plenty of carrots all season long. If you plant them all at the same time, it’s likely you’ll have an overabundance of carrots at the same

time, which could result in waste.

Intercropping is another method to maximize production, especially in a small space. Choose a crop with a long growing season, giving each plant the spacing it will need later. At the same time, plant another crop around it that has a much shorter season. By the time the long-season crop is big enough to fill all the space, the short-season crop will be harvested and out of the way. A great example of this is intercropping lettuce and tomatoes.

Homeowners who love the look of fruit trees, but are limited on space, can try dwarf, semi-dwarf and columnar varieties that fit well in small spaces. Two varieties are needed for good fruit production, so add different varieties throughout the landscape.

“If you like grassy foliage, this look can be achieved by using lemon grass, corn,

garlic and onion,” Hillock said. “Edible groundcovers can include strawberries, sweet potatoes, thyme and oregano. As an added bonus, these herbs will leave a lovely scent throughout the garden.”

While many people think a visually appealing landscape is just something nice to look at, homeowners can definitely get double-duty out of the landscape.

“With a little bit of research, homeowners and gardening enthusiasts can recreate some of the desirable characteristics found in the ornamental garden using edible plants,” Hillock said. “Flower color, textured foliage, foliage color and fall color can be found in the edible plant realm. Get creative, try new things and enjoy the fruits – and vegetables – of your labor.” 

COUNTRY CLASSIFIEDS

AUTOMOTIVE

1998 GMC Yukon 4x4, \$3,000. 1975 Chevrolet Nova, \$2,500. 2001 BMW 2-door, \$4,500. 918-559-9317. Leave message.

1988 Ford Bronco, \$5,000. 1972 International pickup 1310, \$7,500. 1968 white truck, needs some repair, \$1,000. 405-386-4416.

FARM MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT

Structural pipe, sucker rods, casing, 1 1/4" fiberglass posts; also buying for collector silver dollars. 405-627-3920

Cherokee Tomahawk four-horse slant trailer. Like brand new. Air conditioner in tack room. \$14,000. 918-486-7630

211L x 15 tires, 31" tall, 11" wide heavy duty tire wheel assembly. Standard 6-hole ag pattern. 20 ply. Hardly used. \$350 per pair. 405-831-7524.

Fence charger repair. All brands. Warranty service for Woodstream and Parmak. Pioneer Electronics. Waukomis, OK. 580-603-0063.

Two JD 8350 drills, 16x8 single disk and hitch, \$850. Land Pride 15' mower, RCM 5015, \$6,600. Clark fork lift, overhauled, \$2,850. 580-541-2326. Manchester.

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Angus bulls, service age. Angus business 68 years, same location. 580-456-7241.

Registered black angus bulls for sale. \$1,900 to \$2,500. Game Creek Ranch. 405-412-5650.

Serviceable age Angus or Maine bull. Have fertility tested. 4 male donkeys. Several John Wayne pictures in frames. 405-381-4307.

Beefmaster bulls and females. EPDs and performance information available. Practical cattle with proven performance. Simon Creek Beefmasters. 580-668-2523.

Black Angus bulls. Low birthweight, 19 months old, fertility tested. Seyler Farms, Greenfield, OK. Call Sandy, 580-614-1150.

Registered Polled Hereford bulls. 12-18 months old. Remitall Online 112H and PW Victor Boomer P606. 49 years breeding Polled Herefords. 580-332-2468.

Texas Longhorn bulls, work good with first calf heifers. "Hard to put gain on a dead calf." These buckaroos are ready to go. Steve Douglas, 580-223-2919 or 580-220-1477.

Hereford bulls. Pasture raised, line one breeding. Good dispositions and pigment. www.fastherefords.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

BedlamBulldogsOfOklahoma.com. Three litters coming this spring/summer. English Bulldog puppies. 918-273-1027.

Murray Select M200-46 riding mower, \$700. Push mower, Briggs & Stratton eng. 540CC 20.0 gr HP, \$100. Can send pics. 580-763-4465. Leave message.

White baby bed with dresser, changing table. \$200. New mattress. 405-990-9933.

REAL ESTATE

Lot #2, Harbor point for sale. 0.675 acre, \$12,500. Lake Eufaula. For info, call 918-721-8384.

Mountain land for sale. Leflore County, OK. 1 acre to 1,600 acres. Prices starting at \$1,000 per acre. Call Ronny at 918-649-5758.

WANTED

Wanted: Railroad items from the (MV) Midland Valley, (KO&G) Kansas, Oklahoma & the Gulf, the Frisco, the (OC&AA) Oklahoma City, Ada and Atoka Railroads, and the Oklahoma Railway Company. Also crocks from Ada Pottery Company. 580-399-8866.



COUNTRY CLASSIFIEDS

Each OKFB member family is limited to one free classified ad per issue. No call-in ads will be accepted. The length of the ad cannot exceed the number of lines on this form. Ads run one time. We reserve the right not to publish submitted ads. Return to Country Classifieds, 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

All information must be completed.

Name _____

OKFB Membership Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please type or print legibly.

*Deadline for the next issue is Sept. 3, 2018.
The summer issue will publish in mid-October 2018.*

County Farm Bureau MEETING NOTICES

The following county Farm Bureaus will meet to vote on member dues increases in July. All members of the respective counties are invited to attend the meeting.

Alfalfa County Farm Bureau

July 17 | 6 p.m.
113 S. Grand
Cherokee, OK 73728

Canadian County Farm Bureau

July 23 | 6 p.m.
2020 Sunset Dr.
El Reno, OK 73036

Custer County Farm Bureau

July 30 | 6 p.m.
2700 W. Modelle Ave.
Clinton, OK 73601

Harper County Farm Bureau

July 26 | 7 p.m.
303 NW 1st
Buffalo, OK 73834



**CASH PAID
FOR OLD
GUITARS
AND
AMPLIFIERS**

**Tom Oakley
615-630-5283**

TFOGuitars@yahoo.com

Grower Direct



Grow half-dollar size
**Muscadines
and Blackberries.**
We also offer over
200 varieties of Fruit
and Nut Trees plus Vine
and Berry Plants.



Ison's Nursery Since 1934

PO Box 190

Brooks, GA 30205

Free Catalog

1-800-733-0324 • isons.com

**A NONSTOP WORKHORSE
FOR A NONSTOP WORLD.**

A NEW WORLD DEMANDS NEW HOLLAND.
The T4 is versatile enough to meet challenges head on, or from any other angle. With an array of attachments, it can handle everything from small chores to heavy-duty tasks. The exclusive VisionView™ cab provides climate-controlled comfort and improved visibility for working in any conditions. This farmhand of the future packs large tractor power in a small tractor body, making it a reliable workhorse for years to come. Learn more at EquippedForANewWorld.com

NEW HOLLAND
AGRICULTURE
EQUIPPED FOR A NEW WORLD™

©2016 CNH Industrial America LLC. All rights reserved. "New Holland" is a trademark registered in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates. "Equipped For A New World" is a trademark in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates.

BARTLESVILLE
JENSEN TRACTOR
RANCH INC.
918-333-4777
jensentractorranch.com

EDMOND
CENTRAL NEW
HOLLAND INC.
405-341-7829
centralnewholland.net

OKLAHOMA CITY
CENTRAL NEW
HOLLAND INC.
866-328-3206
centralnewholland.net



Farm Fresh Corn Salad

Courtesy of the Made in Oklahoma Coalition

Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil
4 cups fresh corn cobs
1 tablespoon Daddy Hinkle's seasoning
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 zucchini squash, chopped
1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and chopped
1 red bell pepper, chopped
1/4 cup chopped cilantro
1/4 cup fresh lime juice
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 avocados, diced

Preparation

Heat olive oil in large saute pan over medium-high heat. Add corn, Daddy Hinkle's seasoning and pepper. Cook for about eight minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from heat, and let cool.

In a large bowl, combine corn, squash, jalapeño, bell pepper, cilantro, lime juice, olive oil and salt. Cover and chill 30 minutes. Stir in avocado just before serving. 



If you are a Farm Bureau member and want to see your recipes featured in *Oklahoma Country*, send a full list of ingredients along with preparation and cooking instructions to Hannah.Davis@okfb.org or mail a hard copy to Oklahoma Country Recipes, 2501 N. Stiles Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.



FARM BUREAU[®]
MEMBERS SAVE
GET 15% OFF MSRP
 ON 
 *ASK FOR DETAILS!

AVAILABLE ON
ALL MODELS
IMPLEMENTS
& ACCESSORIES
 WITH PURCHASE OF NEW TRACTOR & DECK

PLUS
FREIGHT CREDIT
 FOR SHIPMENT TO DEALER LOCATION
& FREE SETUP
PLUS
 OPTION TO APPLY FOR
ZERO% FINANCING
 OR OTHER LOW INTEREST, LOW PAYMENT FINANCING



Commercial-grade gas & diesel engines | 41", 44" & 48" Cutting Decks | 52", 61" & 72" DuraMax[®] Decks
 PowerFold[®] Electric Deck Lift [optional] | Suspension Seats standard on all models
 PowerVac[™] Collection Systems [optional] | Optional Implements for year-round productivity

MEMBERSHIP PROOF REQUIRED | APPLY TODAY AT WWW.OKFARMBUREAU.ORG



844-OK-GRHPR

Farm Bureau discount valid when purchasing new, unregistered Grasshopper tractor and mowing deck. No other sales programs may be combined with this offer. Freight credit of published shipping costs from factory or factory branches to selling dealer location. Financing available at participating dealers. See dealer for available financing offers and to apply for qualification. Proof of active Oklahoma Farm Bureau membership required at time of sale. See dealer for complete details.

GRASSHOPPERMOWER.COM

A top-down view of a wooden tray containing a large portion of sliced prime beef steak, cooked to a medium-rare doneness. The steak is arranged in neat rows. Surrounding the steak are various vegetables, including sliced zucchini, yellow and red bell peppers, and mushrooms. In the upper left corner, a small bowl of white rice is visible. A carving knife with a wooden handle and a metal blade is positioned on the left side of the tray. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wooden table.

Nicely done, beef.

**You provide the benefits
of a protein bar.
Without tasting like one.**

OKLAHOMA
BEEF
COUNCIL
BEEF
Funded by Beef Farmers and Ranchers

Nothing packs a protein punch like a slice of prime perfection. Browse recipes, cuts and cooking tips for this protein like no other at BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com.

BEEF
IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER.®