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Country

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YES  **on**
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Oklahoma Country

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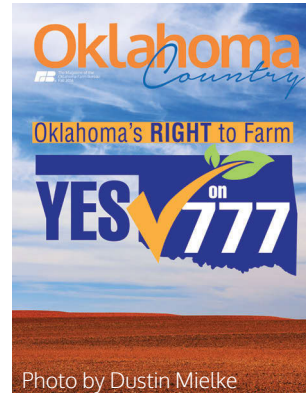
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ON THE COVER

Oklahoma farmers and ranchers who participated in the OKFB grassroots policy development process voted to make passage of the Right to Farm in Oklahoma a top priority. Now Oklahoma voters will have the chance to give our state's farmers and ranchers that right on Nov. 8 in the general election.

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 Clarissa Walton before the last day of the month, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 405-523-2530.

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Table of Contents

Oklahoma Country

Fall 2016

Columns

06 Presidentially Speaking

08 Executive Outlook

In Every Issue

10 Commodity Corner

30 Noble News

12 Lincoln to Local

32 All Around Oklahoma

20 Forward Foundation

46 Country Gardening

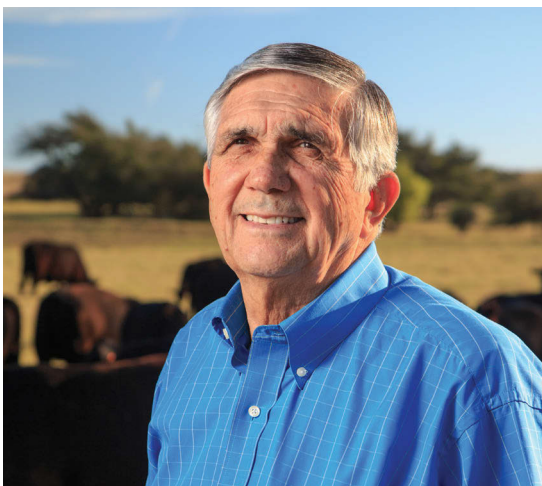
22 Consider the Benefits

48 Country Classifieds

28 Convention Preview

50 Country Kitchen Recipes

Features



14

A longtime friend of agriculture

By Clarissa Walton

Senator Ron Justice explains how he used his 33 years in cooperative extension to help pave the way for constructive agricultural legislation in the Oklahoma State Capitol.



24

Straight to the source

Four Oklahoma family farmers and ranchers explain why they are voting Yes on State Question 777, and why all Oklahomans should support Oklahoma's Right to Farm.



PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING

Vote "yes"

By Tom Buchanan

President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies

As the president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, I represent family farmers and ranchers who make up our grassroots organization, and we have an amazing story to tell. Consumers today enjoy historic levels of food choices because of the hard work of Oklahoma farmers and ranchers. Regardless of the story, consumers never before have seen the abundance, quality and affordability of food available across the nation today.

Yet over the past several years, Oklahoma farmers and ranchers have witnessed other states pass burdensome and unnecessary laws that prohibit the use of certain agricultural production practices. Pushed by large, national activist groups, the legislation has not been based on research and science, but rather has played on the fear and emotion of voters. By removing production practices, these measures also have taken food off of tables.

Land grant universities, including Oklahoma State University, Kansas State University, Texas A&M University and others, have fine tuned the production practices used today. Any new technology also is highly vetted by the appropriate government authority, such as the United States Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and many others.

We always welcome sound and reasonable laws and regulations that protect both our farms and consumers; but

rest assured: when proven production methods are regulated without fact-based reasoning, consumers are left with the short end of the stick.

While the opposition to Right to Farm tries to confuse you with unfounded half-truths and lies, I encourage you to ask

yourself, "Who knows how to produce the food you have come to rely on?" Your family farm and ranch neighbors, or anti-agriculture activist groups whose aim is to completely eliminate animal agriculture?

Right to Farm gives equal protection to all types of Oklahoma agriculture. From big to small, from the traditional wheat farmer in western Oklahoma to the farmer growing food for the farmers markets across the state, we want to make sure that all consumers have the choice that best fits their

family's needs in cost and food choice so they can exercise their right to "vote" with their dollar at the grocery store.

If you believe in a safe, abundant and affordable food supply backed by research, science and data all while allowing Oklahomans the ability to pass reasonable regulations that protect the health, safety, and welfare of your family, I ask you to vote yes on State Question 777 on Nov. 8. **RF**

“We always welcome sound and reasonable laws and regulations that protect both our farms and consumers; but rest assured: when proven production methods are regulated without fact-based reasoning, consumers are left with the short end of the stick.”

— Tom Buchanan

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EXECUTIVE OUTLOOK

The battle for agriculture

By Monica Wilke

Executive Director, Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies

It's that time of year again. The leaves are beginning to turn, the air is crisp, and the lights of Friday night football can be seen throughout our communities. To many people, these sights and sounds mean fall is upon us. At Oklahoma Farm Bureau, fall means something much more significant than the changing of a season. It's that time of year when our members and leadership gather and work together to set policy that will continue to protect and serve the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers across the state for years to come.

August Area Meetings kick off the grassroots policy development process when members from all nine OKFB districts gather to discuss real issues that plague our farming and ranching communities. After August Area Meetings, members are able to take action on these problems by drafting resolutions to be voted on by delegate members at the OKFB state convention.


As a truly grassroots organization, our members are our core. During this particular election year, the power of our members has never been so evident. State Question 777, the Right to Farm, began at the very heart of our organization: our members. As our membership grew over the past 75 years, it allowed our organization to add important benefits such as Oklahoma Mutual Insurance Company and other affiliated companies.

Our army may have diversified, but our duty to our rural roots has not. Over the past several years, we have witnessed outside activist groups threaten farmers and ranchers across the nation with harmful legislation. Even in our own legislature, we

have fought bills that would have devastated our agricultural community.

Oklahoma is deeply rooted in agriculture. In 1907, Oklahoma had more than 62,000 farms. Today, we have nearly 78,000 farms, more than 98 percent of which are family owned and operated. But these family farmers and ranchers only make up 2 percent of our Oklahoma population. With those numbers, it is evident that our agricultural community is no longer a legacy we can take for granted.

Today, Oklahoma farmers and ranchers continually are challenged to do more with less. Oklahoma's Right to Farm is a necessary protection to ensure we can continue to meet food, fiber and fuel demands - especially as the world's population is projected to exceed nine billion by 2050. Also, as fewer people return to their rural roots, our legislature will contain fewer lawmakers who understand what it takes to provide the safest, healthiest and most affordable food for our state and nation.

As Oklahoma Farm Bureau members, I urge you to stand with us in our battle to protect this legacy that we know as agriculture. Vote yes on SQ 777 on Nov. 8. 

“As a truly grassroots organization, our members are our core.”

— Monica Wilke



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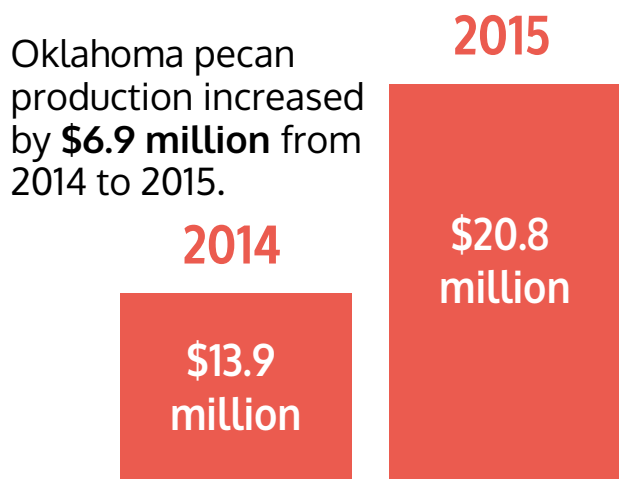
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COMMODITY CORNER

Pecans

Did you know Oklahoma ranked fifth in the nation for pecan production with 13 million pounds produced in 2015? That's enough to make **26 million pecan pies!**



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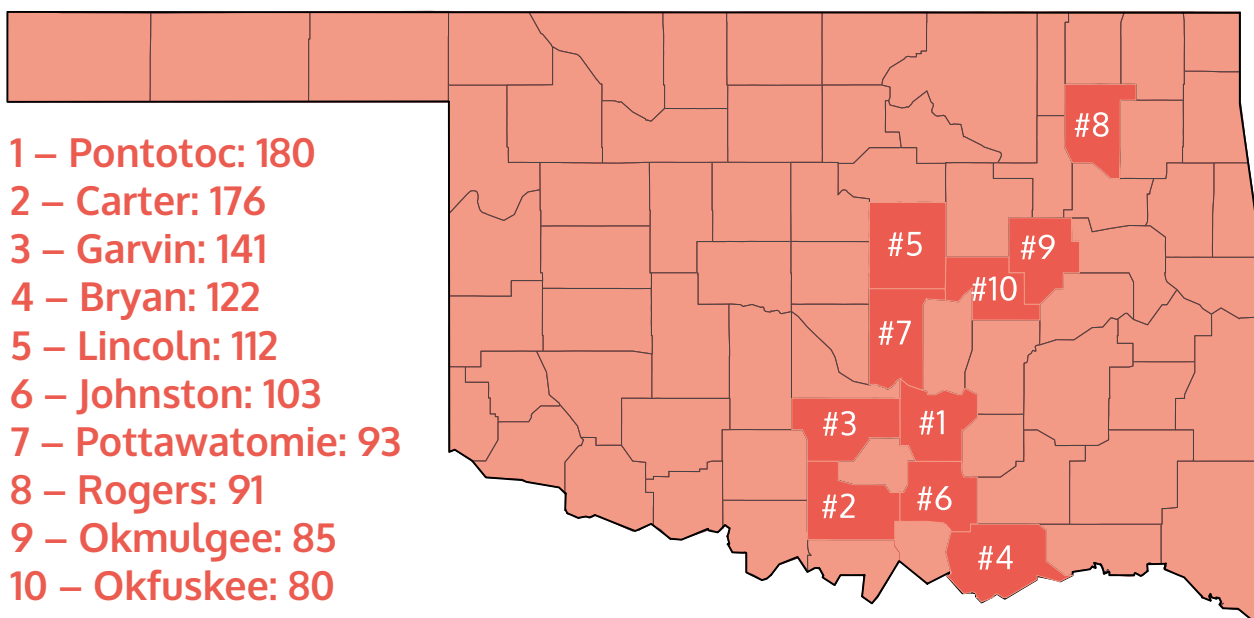
1,000

varieties of pecans,

including many named after Native American Indian tribes, such as

Cheyenne Mohawk
Choctaw **Sioux**
Shawnee

Is your county ranked in the top 10 by number of pecan farms?



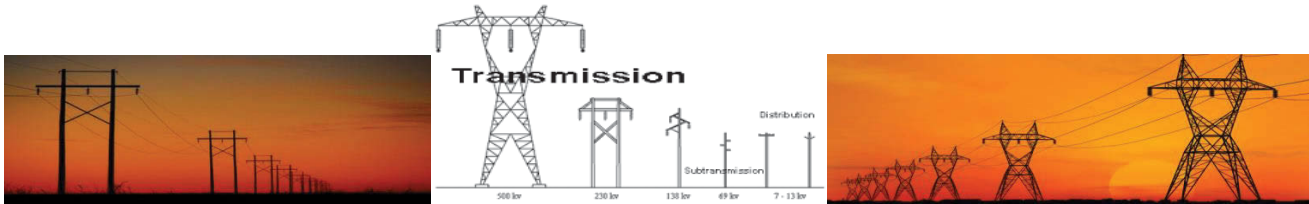
Looking for a new way to cook with pecans? Check out the "Pecan Crusted Pork Tenderloin" recipe in the Country Kitchen section on page 50.



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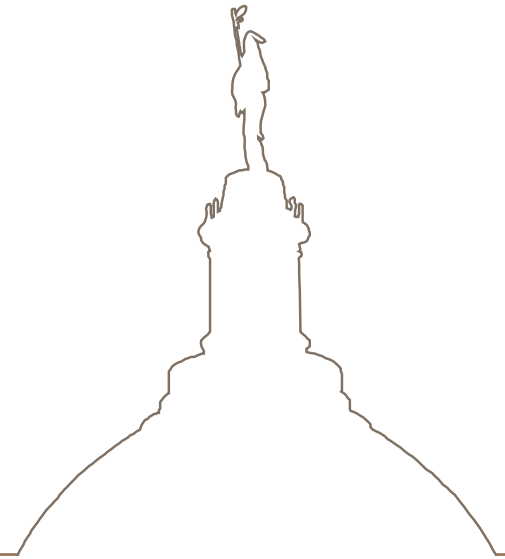
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We're an army, and it is time for battle



John Collison,
OKFB Vice President of Public Policy



As farmers and ranchers, we make up less than 2 percent of Oklahoma's population. We may be small, but we are mighty. We're an army – an infantry of real Oklahomans, real farmers and ranchers, real people.

Never before has Oklahoma agriculture united behind a cause as it has for State Question 777, or the Right to Farm. We have a multitude of family farmers and ranchers who make up Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Pork Council, American Farmers and Ranchers, Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council and many others who support this amendment.

Our \$40 billion industry is vital to the economy of Oklahoma; it provides safe, affordable food for our state and our nation.

But the opposition tells lies about who we are as farmers and ranchers. They tell the folks in Oklahoma City and Tulsa that we are "Big Ag." They believe we can't be trusted to take care of our land and water. They claim we support cockfighting and puppy mills.


We're an army and it's time for battle. It's time to rise up and fight for our farms and our livelihoods.

From now until Nov. 9, we cannot stop talking about SQ 777.

Let's share it with our family members, our friends, our Sunday school classes, our community groups and even strangers we meet at the grocery store. Let's put Yes on 777

signs in our yards and along our fences for all to see. Better yet, let's put signs in the yards of our city friends. Share how SQ 777 will protect you and your farm on Facebook and Twitter.

What is the future of your family farm worth to you? We face opposition groups with deep pockets that will pay big money to tell lies about us on the radio, on TV and on social media. We have to combat their lies, but it will take money. To donate to the campaign, visit www.OklahomaRightToFarm.com or contact the OKFB Public Policy department.

The future of our farms and our livelihoods depend on the outcome of SQ 777. This is our race, our campaign, and our fight. But we have something the opposition doesn't have: a legion of Oklahoma farmers and ranchers to fight in the battle. 

Will you join us?

To get involved, contact:

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A longtime.

friend of a cow

Justice stands in the middle of a herd of black Angus cattle only a few miles from his home in Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Agriculture looms large in the Oklahoma state Capitol in the form of a mural above the state house chambers on the fifth floor of the building's soaring rotunda. A cowboy herding calves upon a galloping horse, a pioneer woman toiling in territorial days and a tractor plowing straight furrows all depict the many contributions agriculture has made to the state for generations.

While Oklahoma agriculture hangs over the capitol rotunda in the form of artist Frank Dodd's mural, its significance is easily moved to the back burner once policymaking focuses in on individual state issues with laser-like precision. As Oklahoma's



agriculture

story by clarissa walton | photos by dustin mielke

With Oklahoma's population becoming more urban, agriculture can easily be forgotten at the Oklahoma state Capitol. Oklahoma farmers and ranchers can thank legislators like Sen. Ron Justice for fighting on their behalf on the legislative floor.

population shifts to urban centers, our state's rural legislators work not only to protect the industry that feeds and clothes Oklahoma, but also to inform fellow legislators about the importance of farming and ranching, ensuring agriculture stays in the forefront of key decision-makers' minds.

For the past 12 years, Sen. Ron Justice of Chickasha has been one of the state's leading agricultural ambassadors, taking food and fiber production from the farm to the state Capitol and beyond.

The importance of learning

For anyone familiar with Oklahoma agriculture, and particularly agricultural policy, Sen. Justice's name is nearly

synonymous with farming and ranching. Throughout his term in the legislature, he used his background of 33 years in agricultural extension to help make a positive difference for farmers and ranchers across the state.

Justice's mindfulness of agriculture and farming grew with him during his early days on his family's farm.

"Because of the circumstances and the amount of land my dad had and finances at the time, I didn't feel like I could afford to do that," he said of returning to the family farm. "So if I couldn't do it, the next best thing was to help and work with producers."

After receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees at Oklahoma State

University, Justice jumped into the cooperative extension trenches and began helping farmers by providing research-based information to help improve their production practices.

Justice said his time in extension proved to be a rewarding experience because of farmers' passion and respect for their livestock, land and reputation.

"They care more about the land they live on than anyone else because they know that's where they're going to have to make their living," he said. "Most of them are concerned about passing it on to their family, too, so they have a real passion for taking care of the land and producing a quality product."

While Americans have come to

demand new technology to improve their daily lives, Justice has found many people who aren't quite sure about the use of technology on the farm.

"I've visited with a lot of people who just don't understand the scope of some of the new technology, whether it's for livestock production or something else," Justice said. "Most of that technology is for the well-being of the animals because the better we care for the animals, the better they're going to produce and better for the profit margins."

While every other industry is encouraged to benefit from the technology boom, agriculture is often viewed with suspicion for integrating technology that would seem to be a natural fit for any small business looking to improve productivity.

"The interesting thing is we think it's important for small businesses to be innovative, and yet there's a lot of people who don't think farms should be, and I don't understand that," Justice said. "They expect that with all other kinds of businesses, but with farms, they think it should be reversed."

A career in legislation

After retiring from his career in extension, Justice said he was surprised when he was first asked to run for Senate.

"I thought it was kind of crazy because I had never considered getting involved in politics at all," Justice said. "But after I



had some people come talk about it and encourage me to run, and after I did go ahead and run and take that step, the thing I realized was it was very similar to what I was doing in extension.

"As an extension agent, I tried to react to the concerns and problems people had on their farms, and I tried to provide up-to-date information to help meet their needs," he continued. "When I worked with committees and different groups in the legislature, I did pretty much the same thing. I responded to people who had concerns and felt like they needed some things changed, as far as the law."

Although Justice has been involved in agriculture his entire life, it was his legislative experience that elevated his passion for agricultural issues.

"I think I've become more passionate than I was before," Justice said. "Through this process, I've begun to understand how much misunderstanding there is among people. It's really a concern to me how people misunderstand the issues. I feel like it's really important that we have a better understanding."

Justice said the amount of agricultural knowledge in the legislature has declined since he was first elected.

"Not as a slap in the face to our legislators, but if we look at the general population, I think we would have to admit that we have less agricultural information for the general public, and if we have less for the general public, that means we have less for the legislators," Justice said.

Telling the story of agriculture

Legislators are not the only people who are misinformed about food and fiber production, Justice said. Consumers are so far removed from any type of agriculture that farmers and ranchers

struggle to relate to consumers and share the reasoning behind their production methods.

Years ago, a conversation impressed upon Justice the real breakdown in

communication between agriculture and consumers.

It happened during an interview when Justice was talking to a reporter who brought his wife along to the interview.

The reporter had an agricultural background, but his wife

was from an urban area in New York.

Justice and the reporter spoke critically about people in urban areas, like New York and California.

"Pretty soon, the reporter's wife said, 'Wait a minute. What are you talking about? I'm from New York, and we're not stupid. We are ignorant because we don't understand,'" Justice said.

"Then the reporter's wife asked, 'Do you know what your problem is?'" Justice continued. "Obviously we didn't, so she said, 'The problem is that you talk to each other, because you understand each other. You don't try to talk to us in New York, because you think we don't understand. You need to be writing to where we understand what the issues are.'"

Justice said he remembered the woman's words and realized he had never thought about it quite like that.

"I got to looking at articles I wrote, and realized I used a lot of terminology that many people in the city might not understand, because I didn't want the farmers to think that I didn't understand what they were talking about," he said. "We tend to talk to each other, and so all of us and our friends in production agriculture are going to have to try to remember that we need to get our message across to those who don't understand our terminology."

While it can be easy to stand on the sidelines and make little effort to be heard, it is imperative that farmers and ranchers make it a priority to communicate to the general public, Justice said.

Not as a slap in the face to our legislators, but if we look at the general population, I think we would have to admit that we have less agricultural information for the general public, and if we have less for the general public, that means we have less for the legislators.

– Sen. Ron Justice

Sen. Ron Justice leads a show steer during the 2014 Oklahoma Youth Expo Legislative Show in Oklahoma City.



Sen. Ron Justice (middle) speaks with OKFB President Tom Buchanan (left) during the 2014 legislative welcome-back reception.

“I think it’s going to be so important that those of us involved in production agriculture continue to step up and stay united,” Justice said. “We have to continue to project our message in a better way, because we do have a message, and it’s a good message.”

One of the first steps needed, according to Justice, is for agriculture to present a unified front. Whether a farmer raises cattle, grows genetically modified corn or has a simple backyard garden, they are producing agricultural products. To better share the farm story with consumers, Justice said the industry must find a collective way to better communicate across the various segments of agriculture.

“It’s important that those who are involved in production agriculture of all kinds continue to voice their concerns and share their interests because that group is getting smaller and smaller all the time,” he said. “If production agriculture doesn’t work together, it’s going to get harder and harder to get our message across about what we really are doing and what our interests are.”

“The fact is, in agriculture, what involves one segment of agriculture affects the other segments of agriculture,” Justice said. “We better start

working together as a total industry, not just one segment. When we do that, we’ll improve a lot because that helps us understand what the needs of others are within our industry, and we wind up being stronger overall.”

An initiative for farming and ranching

While fewer members of the general public have direct knowledge of agriculture and how food is produced, there is no shortage of opinions from outside sources.

“We’ve always had the special interest groups that approach things negatively and try to find fault,” Justice said. “It always bothered me to see when they were putting a negative twist on an aspect of agriculture and confusing people. It’s real easy to confuse people.”

Justice, like many legislators, is more interested in the opinions and concerns of Oklahoma residents combined with the science behind agricultural practices.

“I want to hear from the people who are affected within our state,” Justice said. “With many of the animal issues we’ve dealt with, the critical voices came from out of state, which were by far the larger number.”

As a way to prevent those outside interest groups from imposing unneeded and burdensome legislation, a constitutional amendment was proposed to protect agricultural producers and consumers: State Question 777, also known as the Right to Farm.

Some critics of the amendment claim Oklahoma does not need SQ 777 because the state is not targeted by special interest groups whose interests

run counter to agriculture. However, with his experience in the legislature, Justice said Oklahoma needs to be concerned.

“Why we need the right to farm is because those people who are interfering with our rights in Oklahoma are from other places like California and New York,” he said. “SQ 777 was created so we can determine our own future and not let

“**If we don’t work together, as production agriculture people, it’s going to get harder and harder to get our message across about what we really are doing and what our interests are.**

– Sen. Ron Justice



OKFB Vice President Jimmy Wayne Kinder (left) presents Sen. Ron Justice with his 2015 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Champion Award during the 2016 OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference March 7 in Oklahoma City.

some other state come in and tell us what we should be doing.”

Many organizations opposing right to farm claim SQ 777 would only benefit large farmers. However, Justice said additional regulations would greatly reduce the profits and viability of smaller farms.

“If SQ 777 does not pass, we know there’s going to be more and more regulation,” Justice said. “And if there’s more regulation, the large corporate farms can actually afford to do some of those things, like control dust and spend extra dollars doing things they might have to do. But if the small farmers have to do that, they cannot afford to do it, and it will actually drive them

out of business.”

Unlike small businesses, most farmers do not have the option to increase their final sales price to make up for costly regulations.

“Farmers tend to be more of price-takers,” Justice said. “As a producer, you tend to buy your inputs at retail and sell your end-products at wholesale. We don’t have a way to pass along the cost of additional regulations.”

Justice said SQ 777 will impact people beyond the farm or ranch, reaching all the way to dinner tables in the homes of Oklahomans.

“We tend to look at (SQ 777) as a right to farm, but it’s far more than that,” Justice said. “This is really the right for us

to choose what food we want, and I think that’s an important part of it.”

Putting people first

While Justice can easily be touted as a champion for Oklahoma agriculture, he would rather dwell on the success of his relationships with the farmers and ranchers who he met during his time in extension.

“I’ve worked in extension for 33 years, and what I’ve been able to learn is from those farmers who I visited with over the years and the things they shared with me,” Justice said. “The neat thing about it is the many times I’ve been involved in a discussion, and I would think about those guys telling me about something. They weren’t trying to convince me at that time; I was just working with them. To be able to draw on those experiences, that’s what’s really been beneficial to me. I consider it a privilege to have those conversations.

“If I’ve had any success, the passion really comes from those guys who I’ve had the opportunity to get acquainted with over the years, I’ve been really blessed,” Justice said. “I’ve had the opportunity to meet a lot of neat people to talk to and learn from.” **FB**

“We tend to look at (SQ 777) as a right to farm, but it’s far more than that. This is really the right for us to choose what food we want, and I think that’s an important part of it.”

– Sen. Ron Justice

Justice was elected to District 23 of the Oklahoma Senate in 2004, which includes Canadian and Grady counties. He was re-elected two times, serving a total of 12 years. During his time in the Senate, he served as the Vice-Chairman of Appropriations, Chairman of Appropriations Subcommittee on National Resources and Regulatory Services, and Vice-Chairman of Agriculture and Rural Development. Justice also served on the Tourism and Wildlife Committee, and the Energy and Rules Committee. He was also the Chairman of the Republican Rural Caucus. Justice was awarded the 2013 Outstanding Legislator Award by the Oklahoma Pork Council, the OKFB Meritorious Service Award in 2008, and the OKFB Champion Award in 2013, 2014 and 2015. He is also a member of the OKFB 100 Percent Club. He is a member of the Chickasha Lions Club, the Grady County Cattle Producers, Mineral Owners Association, and the Alfalfa Hay Association. In addition, he has spent time with the Chickasha Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations as well as Epsilon Sigma Phi. Justice and his wife Darlene live in Chickasha and are members of Sharon Baptist Church in Chickasha. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

The 2016 OKFB 100 Percent Club

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau 100 Percent Club award is based upon a 100 percent voting record on key Farm Bureau legislative measures during the 2016 Oklahoma legislative session.

Oklahoma House

Gary Banz
John Bennett
Scott Biggs
Lisa Billy
David Brumbaugh
Chad Caldwell
Kevin Calvey
Ed Cannaday
Dennis Casey
Mike Christian
Bobby Cleveland
Josh Crockroff
Donnie Condit
Ann Coody
Jeff Coody
Doug Cox
Lee Denney
Travis Dunlap
Jon Echols
John Enns
George Faught
Dan Fisher
William Fourkiller
Elise Hall
Tommy Hardin
Katie Henke
Jeffrey Hickman
Chuck Hoskin
Scott Inman
Dennis Johnson
John Paul Jordan
Chris Kannady
Dan Kirby
James Leewright
Mark Lepak
Scott Martin
Mark McBride
Charles McCall
Randy McDaniel
Jerry McPeak
John Montgomery
Lewis Moore
Glen Mulready
Casey Murdock
Jason Murphey
Jason Nelson
Tom Newell
Jadine Nollan
Terry O'Donnell
Charles Ortega
Leslie Osborn
Pat Ownbey
Scooter Park
David Perryman
John Pfeiffer
Mike Ritze
Dustin Roberts
Sean Roberts
Michael Rogers

Todd Russ
Mike Sanders
Earl Sears
Ben Sherrer
Jerry Shoemake
Todd Thomsen
Steve Vaughan
Ken Walker
Weldon Watson
Justin Wood
Harold Wright

Oklahoma Senate

Mark Allen
Patrick Anderson
Don Barrington
Randy Bass
Stephanie Bice
Brian Bingman
Larry Boggs
Josh Brecheen
Corey Brooks
Bill Brown
Brian Crain
Nathan Dahm
Kim David
J.J. Dossett
Eddie Fields
Kay Floyd
John Ford
Jack Fry
AJ Griffin
Jim Halligan
David Holt
Darcy Jech
Clark Jolley
Ron Justice
Kyle Loveless
Bryce Marlatt
Kevin Matthews
Mike Mazzei
Dan Newberry
Susan Paddock
Anastasia Pittman
Marty Quinn
Mike Schulz
Ron Sharp
Wayne Shaw
Ralph Shortey
Joseph Silk
Frank Simpson
Jason Smalley
John Sparks
Rob Standridge
Gary Stanislawski
Anthony Sykes
Roger Thompson
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Charles Wyrick
Ervin Yen

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Analysis of SQ 777 – Oklahoma's "Right to Farm"

By Amanda Rosholt

Director of Fundraising and Public Relations for the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation

What is "Right to Farm," State Question 777?

State Question 777 is a proposed amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution that will protect farming and ranching practices for farmers large and small across our state, giving consumers more choices and more affordable food options.

Any related laws, statutes and ordinances enacted prior to Dec. 31, 2014, are upheld. Oklahomans will have an opportunity to vote on the amendment at the general election on Nov. 8, 2016.

Who supports SQ 777?

Oklahomans across our state in rural and urban areas support SQ 777, including Oklahoma family farmers and ranchers, who make up 98 percent of Oklahoma's farms, as well as numerous agricultural groups, including Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Pork Council, Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council, The Poultry Federation, American Farmers and Ranchers, Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association, Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association, Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association, Oklahoma Cotton Council and the Oklahoma Sorghum Association.

Where else has Right to Farm been passed? What was the effect?

Right to Farm has been passed in Missouri and North Dakota. In each of these states, the amendment has provided extra protection for the rights of farmers and ranchers. These farmers and ranchers continue to use responsible farming and ranching practices and remain dedicated to the welfare of their animals and the environment.

What does the amendment say?

The full text states:

"To protect agriculture as a vital sector of Oklahoma's economy, which provides food, energy, health benefits, and security and is the foundation and stabilizing force of Oklahoma's economy, the rights of citizens and lawful residents of Oklahoma to engage in farming and ranching practices shall be forever guaranteed in this state. The Legislature shall pass no law which abridges the right of citizens and lawful residents of Oklahoma to employ agricultural technology and livestock production and ranching practices without a compelling state interest.

"Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify any provision of common law or statutes relating to trespass, eminent domain, dominance of mineral interests, easements, rights of way or any other property rights. Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify or affect any statute or ordinance enacted by the Legislature or any political subdivision prior to December 31, 2014."

What is "compelling state interest?" Why is that language included?

The Right to Farm amendment will protect agriculture, but not to the detriment of Oklahoma's water quality, animal welfare or public safety. The "compelling state interest" language is a safeguard to protect the health, safety and welfare of Oklahoma citizens. Laws and regulations that are necessary and are already in place to protect the health, safety and welfare of Oklahoma citizens, animal welfare, water quality, etc., will not be affected by SQ 777.

For the full text of the analysis, visit the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation's website at okfarmingandranchingfoundation.org.

Provide Food Choice



SQ 777 will protect your right to choose the food you feel is appropriate for your family with access to affordable, local food options, which are vital to the 17 percent of Oklahomans struggling with food insecurity. Those choices are available when farmers and ranchers are afforded the freedom to make production decisions based on a variety of variables, such as natural resources, landscape and weather patterns.

Secure Private Property Rights



SQ 777 will help protect all Oklahoman's private property rights, prohibiting unnecessary and burdensome laws and regulations that would dictate how personal property can or cannot be used to produce food and fiber products in the state.

Protect Animal Welfare



Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers are dedicated to the health and welfare of the animals under their care. As such, farmers and ranchers implement animal husbandry's best practices based on extensive research. To ensure all Oklahomans are caring for animals appropriately, the state has enacted strong animal welfare laws that will not be changed or impacted by SQ 777.

Sustain Oklahoma's Agricultural Legacy



Today, Oklahoma is home to 78,000 farms, more than 98 percent of which are family-owned and operated. To sustain and grow Oklahoma's agriculture industry, the state must encourage young people to get involved. SQ 777 will foster an environment where young, beginning and small farmers and ranchers have an opportunity to succeed.

Encourage Environmental Stewardship



Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers have and will continue to make great strides in conserving the state's natural resources. Advances in technology allow them to harvest more bountiful commodity crops and produce more meat, milk, eggs and produce while using less water, reducing soil erosion and using fewer chemical inputs. SQ 777 will allow Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers to continue to improve on voluntary conservation practices.

Strengthen Oklahoma's Economy



Agriculture directly provided more than 200,000 jobs with a total economic impact of \$39.6 billion in 2013. In 2015, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce identified agriculture and bioscience as the fourth strongest economic industry in the state with regard to growth potential, wages, wealth generation and other defining criteria.

Ensure Food Safety




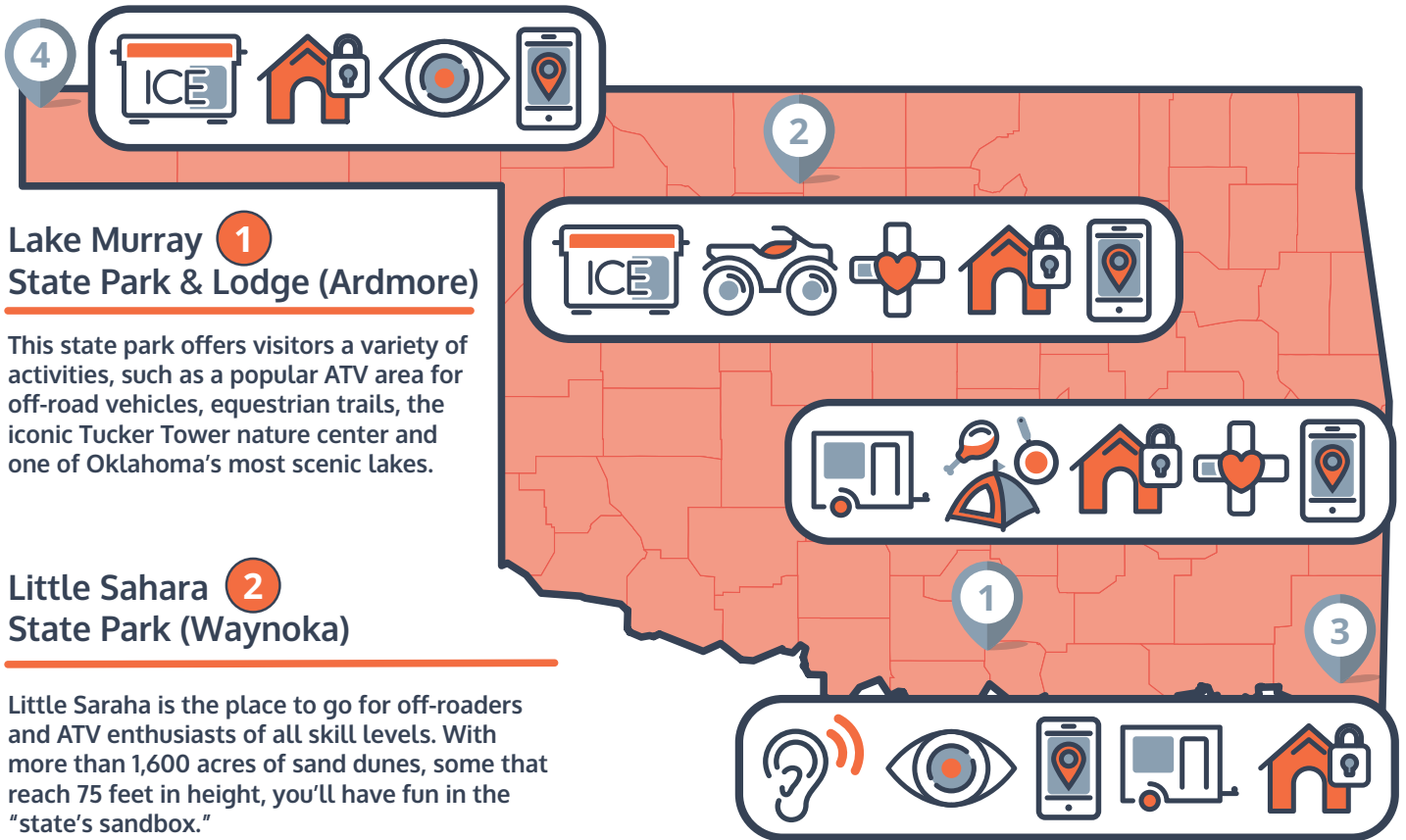
The formulation and application of any crop protection product must be approved by the EPA, which places priority on protecting our people and environment. The USDA is responsible for testing crops to ensure they meet regulatory requirements and the FDA has authority to enforce penalties for noncompliance. With SQ 777, farmers and ranchers will continue to be required to comply with EPA, FDA and USDA regulations.

CONSIDER THE BENEFITS



Outdoor Adventures

As the weather begins to cool down for fall, you may be planning an outdoor adventure. Whether your idea of experiencing nature is hiking in the mountains, fishing by the lake or off-roading in sand dunes, Oklahoma Farm Bureau member benefits can help make your experience more enjoyable. Check out the four unique locations below to find outdoor activities to keep you and your family engaged in adventure, along with OKFB member benefits to help save you money. To learn more about membership benefits, visit www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits. 



Lake Murray ¹ State Park & Lodge (Ardmore)

This state park offers visitors a variety of activities, such as a popular ATV area for off-road vehicles, equestrian trails, the iconic Tucker Tower nature center and one of Oklahoma's most scenic lakes.

Little Sahara ² State Park (Waynoka)

Little Sahara is the place to go for off-roaders and ATV enthusiasts of all skill levels. With more than 1,600 acres of sand dunes, some that reach 75 feet in height, you'll have fun in the "state's sandbox."

Beavers Bend & Hochatown ³ State Park (Broken Box)

Visit one of the most popular and scenic areas in the state! With towering pines and clear waterways, you'll enjoy spectacular views while hiking, horseback riding, fishing, playing golf, biking or boating.

Black Mesa State Park & ⁴ Nature Preserve (Kenton)

Looking for an awe-inspiring view in Oklahoma? Hike to the top of Black Mesa, the highest point in Oklahoma, to view the landscape from a new height, while experiencing nature with a wide variety of wildlife, such as golden eagles, pinyon jays, bighorn sheep and antelope.



ICEHOLE Coolers

Nothing is better than a nice cold drink after a long day of hiking, hunting or fishing. ICEHOLE coolers provide maximum insulation to keep your drinks colder and your food fresher. As an OKFB member, you can receive a 10 percent discount on all ICEHOLE cooler products.



Sam's Club

Need food for the trip? How about a new tent? Welcome to the one-stop shop for all your outdoor needs. Sam's Club offers OKFB members special offers when they either sign up or renew.



TSC Security

Keep your peace of mind while you're away by installing a TSC Security home security system. OKFB members receive installation at no cost in exchange for a three-year monitoring service agreement, plus \$200 to use toward the purchase of additional equipment.



AT&T

Do you need to keep in contact with the outside world, even from the middle of nowhere? Time to check out the nation's largest network with the fewest dropped calls. AT&T offers a 10 percent discount on qualifying services for OKFB members.



QualSight LASIK

Do you want to ensure you can view nature at its best? Experience nature in a new way through QualSight LASIK vision correction! As an OKFB member, you can receive preferred pricing at 40-50 percent below the national average.



ClearValue Hearing & Beltone Hearing Aid Centers

Do you have trouble hearing the majestic sounds of nature? ClearValue Hearing and Beltone Hearing Aid Centers can help with special OKFB discounts and free hearing assessments.



Polaris

Looking for a more exciting adventure? As the leading manufacturer of off-road vehicles, Polaris Industries Inc. offers OKFB members discounts on UTVs, ATVs and GEM electric vehicles that you can use to help satisfy your need for adventure and fun.



Air Evac Lifeteam

Uneasy about inevitable accidents on an outdoor expedition? Consider the OKFB reduced annual fee for the Air Evac Lifeteam. This group of highly trained pilots, paramedics and registered nurses is standing by 24 hours a day to provide emergency medical care for critically ill or injured people.



Cimarron Trailers

Looking for an outdoor adventure on horseback, but need a new trailer? Cimarron Trailers offers two discounts to OKFB members, based on the model that is purchased.

STRAIGHT *to the* S



WILL CABBAGE

PAWHUSKA



JESSICA WILCOX

FAIRVIEW

I'm a beef cattle producer raising registered Black Angus cattle in northeast Osage County. The bulls we sell to other cattle ranchers produce hundreds of calves born each and every year that go on to become the beef in stores and restaurants we all enjoy.

Right to Farm is important to me because controlling input costs is as vital to our business as it is any other. Science overwhelmingly supports agriculture innovations like genetically modified crops that become feed for our cattle, herbicides and fertilizer that help me grow more hay on fewer acres with much less water, and confined animal feeding that uses less labor and fewer land resources to feed livestock. Land market forces for decades have relentlessly required agriculture to produce more food on less ground. We have met that task and increased efficiencies all along the way. None of this would be possible without science.

But many outside extremists refuse to accept these facts, and they desire to see undue restrictions placed on a variety of agriculture practices. What's their real agenda with these radical ideas? It is to drive up the cost of production, forcing some to abandon raising livestock and therefore driving up costs for consumers, with the ultimate goal of making people eat less meat.

I simply wish for the public to understand that modern agriculture producers have everyone's best interests at heart and mind.

Oklahoma must combat the radical groups who are leading consumers to believe incredibly dishonest stories and lies about some incredibly hard-working and honest professionals: farmers and ranchers. ✓

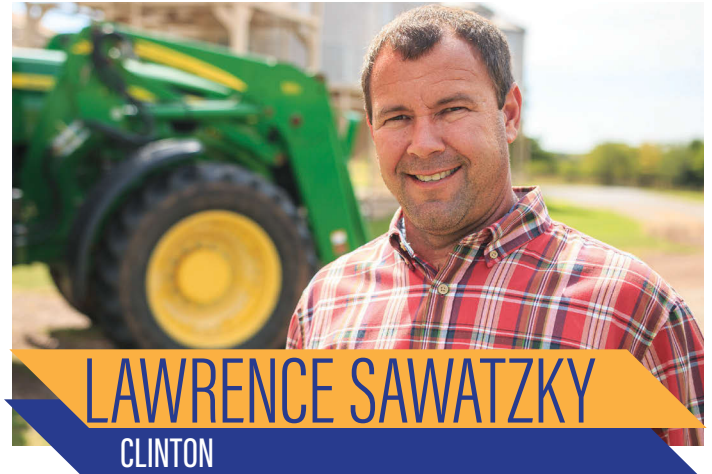
This November, we have to chance to stand up to out-of-state interests and vote to keep food grown here in Oklahoma both abundant and affordable. We use many new technologies on our farm here in Major County to keep our operation sustainable for us and for future generations. These new technologies, which include precision farming, no till, and nitrogen usage efficiency, help us be more efficient and ultimately grow more food at a lower cost. We are proud to grow the best product possible for everyone. "Everyone" includes the single mom who's on a budget, the senior citizen on a fixed income, our fellow farmers who are dealing with the worst farm economy in decades, and every person in between.

As a consumer myself, I like the idea that the steak I just ordered might have come from one of our steers, or that the flour in the bread I just baked might be ground from wheat that we grew here in Major County. My family back in Muskogee County, where I grew up, takes great pride in growing nutritious and delicious sweet corn and melons for our local communities.

The ultimate goal of SQ 777 is to maintain food choices for all income levels. Right to Farm will allow our fellow grocery store patrons to decide for themselves where the lines of cost, utility, and flashy packaging intersect to create a buying impulse. Maybe it's a lean chicken breast, or maybe it's a well marbled ribeye, or maybe it's a package of tofu that catches the eye of the lady in front of me as we brave the grocery store before a long weekend. Whatever the choice, and whatever is on the menu, the passage of SQ 777 will keep it affordable and abundant for her, myself, and our families. ✓

SOURCE

We asked four Oklahoma family farmers and ranchers to explain why they are voting **Yes on State Question 777**, and why all Oklahomans should support **Oklahoma's Right to Farm**.



I'm a fourth-generation farmer, and State Question 777 will help protect me and my farm's future. The increasing gap between farmers and consumers creates a lack of knowledge of what modern farming practices are and why we use these practices.

Our farm is a no-till farm, meaning we do not plow our land like we did when I was younger. We use this new way of farming to improve our farmland. Chemicals are used responsibly to remove unwanted plants, allowing us to use less diesel than traditional farming, all while conserving moisture in our soil, preventing erosion.

Our family grows feed corn, wheat, sorghum, and occasionally soybeans. Most of these crops are genetically modified, or GMO, crops, which means my family has been able to be more efficient than ever, conserving our valuable natural resources while increasing our yields to help feed an ever-growing world. If outside groups come into our state and force me to grow non-GMO crops, it would require me to farm in a less efficient way.

On our farm, we also have an animal feeding operation where we raise pigs. Using modern agriculture technology, farmers breed animals that produce more meat than ever before while using less land area. We can also better control animal waste and care for the overall well being of the animals. If out-of-state groups had their way, we would not be able to raise animals this way, which could lead to increased impact to land and water. A yes vote for SQ 777 would stop this from happening. With the shrinking number of farmers in America today, the Right to Farm is even more important today than ever before to protect Oklahoma farmers and ranchers. ✓

I am a farmer from Clinton, Oklahoma. My wife, son and I raise cattle and grow wheat for grazing, hay and grain. We love what we do and we enjoy providing food for people across our state and beyond.

Farmers are no stranger to uncertainty and risk. We deal with the volatile Oklahoma weather each and every day. Sometimes it rains and sometimes we end up in a drought; we cannot change what the weather does. Another problem we deal with is that the average person is further removed from the farm with each generation. The majority do not realize what it takes to run a farm day to day. They are unaware of the long hours, the hard work and the financial risk farmers take on daily.

With all these uncertainties, SQ 777 will help give us the stability we need for today and for future generations of farmers. My family, along with family farms across Oklahoma, needs assurance that no matter what size they are or what they grow or raise, they can continue to operate well into the future. With SQ 777, farmers will be able to continue to provide the safest and most affordable food to consumers.

I personally ask you to vote YES on SQ 777 to give us security for the future in this ever-changing world. ✓

Oklahoma's **RIGHT** to Farm



SQ 777 will be on the November 8th general election ballot in Oklahoma.

Learn more at www.OklahomaRightToFarm.com



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CONVENTION PREVIEW

Oklahoma Farm Bureau convention to be held Nov. 11 – 13 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from across the state will meet at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City Nov. 11-13 for OKFB's 75th annual meeting. This year's theme is "Bold Innovators with the Wisdom to See Beyond Tomorrow."

"This year's theme represents the very reason Oklahoma Farm Bureau was founded," said Monica Wilke, OKFB executive director. "Wise men and women came together to cultivate an organization that would help protect and unify farmers and ranchers across Oklahoma for generations to come."

This theme is even more relevant as we enter into our 75th-anniversary celebration."

The annual event allows Oklahoma farmers and ranchers to gather together to participate in setting organizational policy by voting on policy issues for the next state legislative session. Convention highlights include numerous OKFB awards, the election of three district directors, a trade show, general sessions, breakout sessions and selection of delegates for the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in 2017. 

“This year's theme represents the very reason Oklahoma Farm Bureau was founded. Wise men and women came together to cultivate an organization that would help protect and unify farmers and ranchers across Oklahoma for generations to come.”

— Monica Wilke
OKFB Executive Director



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NOVEMBER 11-13

BOLD INNOVATORS WITH THE WISDOM TO SEE BEYOND TOMORROW

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU 2016 CONVENTION
COX CONVENTION CENTER OKLAHOMA CITY



CONVENTION SCHEDULE

*Schedule is current as of press time. Updated schedules will be posted online at okfarmbureau.org.
The final schedule will be distributed at convention.*

Friday, November 11

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

Saturday, November 12

7:30 a.m.	Flapjack Fundraiser
7:30 a.m.	Credentials Committee Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Financial Review Committee Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Resolutions Committee Breakfast
8 a.m.	Registration Opens
8 a.m.	Trade Show Opens
8:45 a.m.	OFBMIC Policyholders Meeting
9:30 a.m.	General Session
12 p.m.	Credentials Committee Meeting
12:30 p.m.	Women's Leadership Committee Gavel Club Luncheon
1:30 p.m.	District Caucuses (Districts 3, 6 and 9)
2:15 p.m.	General Session
5:30 p.m.	OKAgFund Reception
7 p.m.	Dinner and Entertainment featuring Moe Bandy

**Tickets are \$32 and can be purchased in the trade show area.*

Sunday, November 13

7:30 a.m.	County Presidents Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Women's Leadership Committee Chairman's Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast of Champions
9:15 a.m.	Memorial and Worship Service



Noble Academy Science Exploration Trunk program takes hands-on science, agriculture lessons into Oklahoma schools

Agricultural education is on the go once again. Only this time, it's going through the mail.

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation's Noble Academy has been taking hands-on science and agriculture demonstrations into classrooms across southern Oklahoma for the past three years. Now, the Noble Academy's Science Exploration Trunk program will provide some of these demonstrations to classrooms across the state.

"Educators are tasked with teaching the next generation within the confines of limited budgets and time," said Frank Hardin, Ph.D., Noble Academy educational outreach manager. "The Noble Foundation is going to provide science teachers and agricultural educators with a new tool that will give students a chance to experience agricultural science while also directly correlating to the national STEM requirements."

The trunk program consists of a shippable container that comes complete with all the resources and materials to lead two hands-on activities: the Carbon Cycle and CSI in a Wheat Field. The activities integrate into and support existing science curriculum and are aligned with Oklahoma education standards. The Carbon Cycle lesson introduces students to the importance of carbon to life. Students will observe the density of CO₂ and learn how it affects pH, and how water temperature affects how much CO₂ it is able to hold. The CSI in a Wheat Field

lesson teaches students about the importance of soil health and soil testing. The activities are for middle school and high school students.


The trunk-based lessons provide a basis for students and educators to better understand the development of scientific research. These activities are designed to pique students' interest in science and share the positive role of science and agriculture in society.

The trunk program is free for educators to use in their classrooms once they have attended a training workshop. The workshops familiarize teachers with the trunks and guide them on how to easily use and present the activities.

Educators can check a trunk out for one week at a time. Training workshops for 2016 have ended, but training opportunities for 2017 will be posted on the Noble Academy website.

"Workshops can be hosted here at the Noble Foundation for those who are willing to travel," Hardin said. "Schools and organizations can also schedule to host their own workshop at a location convenient for them. We can travel anywhere in the state. Each trunk takes approximately one hour to learn, so the training workshops don't take too much time."

The Science Exploration Trunk program was developed and is managed by the Noble Foundation's Noble Academy youth outreach education program. Financial support for the program is provided by Devon Energy Corporation, Oklahoma FFA Foundation and the Noble Foundation. The program and its activities further support the development of student-led, science-based FFA agriscience fair projects. For program guidelines, trunk request forms and training opportunities, please visit www.noble.org/noble-academy/trunk-program/.

"These trunks help provide another resource for our educators who are looking to engage their students in hands-on lessons, which is an essential part of learning," Hardin said. "Additionally, these lessons spark students' imaginations. Science isn't scary. It's all around us. These activities help students see the critical involvement of science in our everyday life." 

“Educators are tasked with teaching the next generation within the confines of limited budgets and time.”

— Frank Hardin, Ph.D.
Noble Academy's educational outreach manager



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OKFB hosts “Get on Tap with 777”

Food, fun and camaraderie flowed in Bricktown as Oklahoma Farm Bureau hosted “Get on Tap with 777,” an event that showed Oklahoma City residents the need for the Right to Farm in Oklahoma.

More than 100 guests attended the gathering at TapWerks Ale House Thursday, June 30, for food, drink and education about SQ 777. OKFB President Tom Buchanan, along with OKFB staff, visited with attendees and shared their personal stories about Right to Farm’s

benefit to Oklahoma and why they are voting “yes.”

Mark Yates, OKFB director of field operations, addressed the group, sharing the need for Right to Farm to protect our state’s agriculture industry, along with rebuttals of some commonly-told myths surrounding SQ 777. With guests partaking of food and beverages, Yates made a strong case for the need for agriculture before the group of urban residents, stressing the importance of

protecting family farms.

Guests were invited to take their photo in a photo booth, and SQ 777 brochures, buttons and bumper stickers were available for participants to show their support for Right to Farm.

Plans for more open-forum events are in the works. Check OKFB’s social media accounts for details on upcoming SQ 777 gatherings and events.



Top left: Attendees were greeted by the SQ 777 truck at the entrance of the TapWerks Ale House. Top right: Attendees and OKFB President Tom Buchanan (right) take a picture in the photo booth with the #YesOn777 sign. Above: Participants were given SQ 777 information and resources, including Yes on 777 buttons. Left: Mark Yates addresses the group to dispel common myths about Right to Farm.



OKFB women make donation to OKC Ronald McDonald House for Our Food Link program

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee donated a basket of snacks and gift cards to the Ronald McDonald House in Oklahoma City on Wednesday, July 14, as part of the group's ongoing commitment to connecting consumers with farmers and ranchers through the Our Food Link program.

The gift basket included gift cards to local grocery stores along with a wide variety of snack foods for families as they travel between the house and area hospitals.

In addition to the state WLC donation, Oklahoma County Farm Bureau Women's Committee donated \$100 to the house, which was presented by Oklahoma County Farm Bureau Women's Chairman Sharlene Lambring, who also serves as the state WLC secretary representing OKFB district three.

"The Ronald McDonald House is one of the more important charities in Oklahoma City and the surrounding area because of the work they do to take care of parents while their children are receiving medical care," Lambring said. "We love this opportunity to make a donation to such a meaningful group and provide these families with a variety of food and snack options."

Susan Adams, president and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oklahoma City, said the donation helps the house provide families with accommodations without the need to ask for a nightly donation.

"It does make sure there are nutritious meals and snacks that they can take to the hospital with them so that they are defraying their non-medical out of pocket costs," Adams said.

The OKFB WLC made a similar donation in March to the Tulsa Ronald



The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee presented a gift basket of snacks and gift cards to the Oklahoma City Ronald McDonald House on Wednesday, July 14, to provide snacks and nutritious meals to families staying at the house while their children receive medical care. Left to Right: Marcia Irvin, OKFB WLC Coordinator; Susan Adams, president and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oklahoma City; Sharlene Lambring, OKFB WLC secretary; and Casidy McMeans, Oklahoma City Ronald McDonald House manager.

McDonald House for families with children receiving medical care in the Tulsa area.

Farm Bureau women have been donating to the Ronald McDonald houses in Oklahoma City and Tulsa for years, helping provide the families of children needing medical attention with plentiful and nutritious food options during their stay at the houses.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities

provide a "home away from home" for families with children receiving medical care at local hospitals, providing peace of mind as families navigate medical appointments, decisions and procedures.

Our Food Link is a year-round program that county and state Farm Bureaus across the nation use to reach consumers of all ages and backgrounds with information about today's agriculture.

Members kick off policy development season at August Area Meetings

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gathered together at OKFB's August Area Meetings to participate in the first step of the organization's grassroots policy development process.

At the meetings, members heard from various Farm Bureau leaders about this year's legislative session and voiced concerns and ideas about various agricultural issues.

This year's August Area Meetings covered many current topics, including State Question 777, the 2016 state legislative session, upcoming elections, possible OKFB policy changes, feral hogs, ad valorem taxes, water and other important policy issues.

OKFB would like to thank its members for their active involvement in the grassroots development process.

Active member engagement in policy development is what makes OKFB the leader in agricultural policy in the state.

To get involved with the policy development process, contact your local county Farm Bureau office or call the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Public Policy Division at (405) 523-2300.





District 3



District 9



District 6



District 7



District 5



District 1

Oklahoma Agri-Women announce support for SQ 777

Oklahoma Agri-Women has officially announced support for State Question 777, Oklahoma's Right to Farm. The group made its announcement after gathering for an educational seminar presented by the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, where they learned more about SQ 777 and received presentation and media training.

"Our members are college students, wives, mothers, consumers and agricultural producers," said Kristi Bishop, Oklahoma Agri-Women president. "We recognize the importance of passing SQ 777 to protect farmers, ranchers and consumers in our state."

"We understand that passing SQ 777 will ensure that farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma can continue to provide safe, healthy and affordable food choices for all Oklahomans," she added.

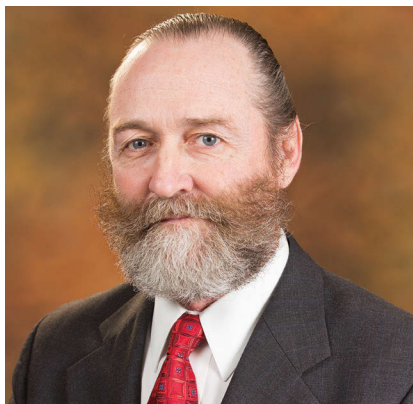
About Oklahoma Agri-Women

Oklahoma Agri-Women unites women's agricultural organizations and individuals to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture. The group is a state affiliate of American Agri-Women, the nation's largest coalition of farm, ranch and agribusiness women. For more information, visit www.okagriwomen.com.



Oklahoma Agri-Women members show their support of SQ 777 by attending a Right to Farm discussion hosted by the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation.


Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan issues statement on water rights settlement



Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan issued the following statement in response to the agreement reached by the state of Oklahoma and the tribes over water rights in Oklahoma.

"As evidenced by this major water rights agreement, strong partnerships are critical to ensuring the agriculture industry can continue to be a substantial and productive part of the Oklahoma economy in the decades ahead.

"Water is our state's most important commodity and the lifeblood of



Notice of Annual Meetings

Oklahoma Farm Bureau

To all county Farm Bureaus of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau: You are hereby notified that Oklahoma Farm Bureau will convene in annual session Friday, Nov. 11, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. This is the annual meeting of the delegate body. See that your delegates are properly certified and in attendance to represent your membership. This meeting will continue until all business is transacted.

– Board of Directors

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.

Notice is hereby given of the annual meeting of the Policyholders of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company to be held at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016, at 8:45 a.m. at which time a report of the activities of our company during the past fiscal year will be submitted together with a report of the financial position of the company; at which time any and all other activities of the company may be presented and considered.

– Board of Directors

OKFB YF&R members visit Enid during annual conference

More than 50 young agriculturalists gathered in Enid for the two-day Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers conference July 8-9.

The annual conference brought together young farmers, ranchers and agribusiness people ages 18-35 as attendees toured agricultural businesses, heard presentations from speakers and made connections with like-minded agriculturalists.

“Our YF&R members really enjoyed the opportunity to meet with friends and learn about agriculture in the Enid area,” said Josh Emerson, OKFB YF&R state chairman. “It’s always eye-opening to tour businesses and learn about new agriculture technologies and trends.”

The Friday tours included the ADM flour mill in Enid, Equity Marketing Alliance and Chisholm Trail Grain Terminal near Medford. YF&R members learned first-hand how the agricultural products they grow are handled, processed and marketed.

The group had supper at Simpson’s Old Time Museum in Enid, the home of Skeleton Creek Productions movie studio, where they viewed frontier artifacts and walked through movie sets used by the production company. 00052446

During Saturday morning’s session, YF&R members learned about a variety of opportunities to help them protect the

future of agriculture and increase their efficiency on their farms and ranches.

OKFB YF&R committee member Travis Schnaithman helped guide members on advocating for SQ 777, the Right to Farm, in their local communities.

Speakers shared agricultural information with YF&R members on a variety of topics, including Machinery Link’s sharing platform, the Vet Gun

pneumatic fly treatment system and how the FDA’s veterinary feed directive will impact livestock care.

OKFB’s YF&R program is for young agriculturalists ages 18-35 who are involved in production agriculture or agribusinesses, and helps them connect with like-minded individuals as they shape the future of agriculture and Farm Bureau.



Top: OKFB YF&R members tour the under-construction Chisholm Trail Grain Terminal near Medford, Oklahoma, which will be a shuttle train loading facility. Above: YF&R members enjoy the opportunity to try a hands-on demonstration of the Vet Gun, a pneumatic paintball-like system for administering fly treatment for livestock. Upper left: OKFB YF&R committee member Travis Schnaithman shared the latest information on SQ 777. Bottom left: Members tour Simpson’s Old Time Museum in Enid, home of Skeleton Creek Productions, which houses several movie sets among a myriad of Western artifacts.

Oklahoma youth attend OKFB leadership conference

Nineteen of Oklahoma's top 20 high school seniors spent three days learning about leadership, team building and agriculture at the fifth-annual Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference, June 15-17, in Oklahoma City. OYLA is hosted by Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

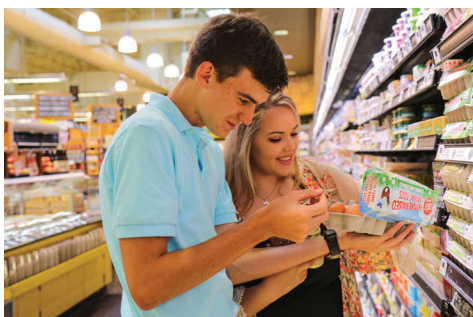
"OYLA invites the best and brightest students from across the state to attend the event and learn more about the agricultural opportunities that are available right here in Oklahoma," said Monica Wilke, OKFB executive director.

The conference was designed to prepare high school students for a future career in agriculture and to advance youth leadership. The group learned about effective habits of leaders, communications training, tips for college and the importance of rural doctors. They toured places such as Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Whole Foods, Lopez Food Industry and Express Ranch.

"It's important that our students realize the opportunities we offer in Oklahoma that could influence them to remain in our state and remain active advocates for Oklahoma Farm Bureau," Wilke said.

OYLA also encourages service-minded leadership. The students participated in a Kids Against Hunger food-packing event sponsored by the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation.

"We are so grateful to the OYLA students for their help in packing 3,000 meals for hungry Oklahomans," said Jeramy Rich, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation president. "Oklahoma farmers and ranchers truly are feeding the hungry, starting right here at home."



Above: Nineteen Oklahoma high school seniors met in Oklahoma City for the OYLA conference. Far left: The youth toured Whole Foods and had the opportunity to sample many different kinds of food, including cotton candy grapes. Left: Brandon Baumgarten teaches students about effective communication in interviews, public speaking and social media.

OKFB YF&R sponsor awards at Big 3 Field Days

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers provided plaques and trophies for the top competitors in Oklahoma State University's Big 3 Field Days July 19-21 in Stillwater.

More than 1,500 young livestock judges from across Oklahoma gathered for the event. Participants judged sheep on Tuesday, beef on Wednesday and swine on Thursday. OKFB YF&R provided plaques and trophies for the top contestants in the individual, team and sweepstakes livestock judging competitions.



Big 3 Field Days participants prepare for the final day of the three-day contest.

OKFB Safety Services Division now certified for Alive at 25 program

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Safety Services Division attended a two-day course through the Oklahoma Safety Council July 28-29 to become certified to teach the Alive at 25 program.

Alive at 25 is a course developed by the National Safety Council that focuses on young adults between the ages of 15-24.

Designed as an early intervention program, the Alive at 25 program instructs young drivers on how to prevent traffic violations, collisions and fatalities. The program focuses on topics including

speeding, distractions, aggressive driving, seat belts, impaired driving and other life-or-death issues common for teen drivers.

According to the Oklahoma Safety Council, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 16 and 24. This group of young drivers also represents the largest group of problem drivers on the road.

OKFB's Safety Services Division travels around the state to educate people of all ages through a wide variety of programs,

such as fire safety, farm safety, school bus safety, bike safety, drunken driving prevention and defensive driving.

Click on the "Engagement" tab on the OKFB website to learn how to request an OKFB Safety Services program for your local community, school or gathering. For more information, call the OKFB home office phone number at (405) 523-2300 or call Safety Director Micah Martin at (405) 641-5151.

OKFB YF&R host Oklahoma State Fair judging contest

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers committee hosted more than 1,300 Oklahoma agriculture students at the group's annual Oklahoma State Fair livestock judging contest held September 15 at the state fairgrounds in Oklahoma City.

"Our YF&R committee is proud to put on this judging contest for 4-H and FFA members to help develop their livestock judging skills," said Josh Emerson, OKFB YF&R state chairman. "We really believe the skills students can learn from livestock judging, things like decision-making and justifying their choices, will help them later in life no matter if they go on to work on a farm or in an industry not related to agriculture."

The top award winners were:

Junior 4-H Individual

First: Hattie Steichen of Kay County;
Second: Preston Francis of Washington

County; Third: Austin Reed of Alva

Junior 4-H Team

First: Kay County 4-H Team 3; Second:
Amber-Pocasset 4-H Team 1; Third:
Washington County 4-H Team 1

Senior 4-H Individual

First: Mackinzi Overman of Kay County;
Second: Will Shelby of Marshall County;
Third: Maverick Williams of Stephens
County

Senior 4-H Team

First: Stephens County 4-H Team 1;
Second: Kay County 4-H; Third: Alex 4-H

Junior FFA Individual

First: Braden Burns of Kingfisher; Second:
Peyton Burns of Kingfisher; Third:
Victoria Gerken of Kingfisher

Junior FFA Team

First: Kingfisher FFA; Second: Sentinel
FFA; Third: Adair FFA

Senior FFA Individual

First: Trent Kitchell of Hartshorne;

Second: Braeton Kimble of Weatherford;

Third: Caden Church of Sentinel

Senior FFA Team

First: Weatherford FFA Team 1; Second:
Prague FFA; Third: Yukon FFA



Livestock judging contestants evaluate a class of hogs during the Oklahoma State Fair contest hosted by the OKFB YF&R.

Beavers given Oklahoma AITC ag advocacy award

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee State Chairman Kitty Beavers of Stephens County was awarded Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom's agriculture advocate award during the annual Oklahoma AITC conference July 18 in Oklahoma City.

"We wanted to recognize her for her efforts to promote agriculture, and specifically ag in the classroom, around the state," said Audrey Harmon with Oklahoma AITC. "Her enthusiasm for agriculture and her excitement to share what she does with the teachers means they always enjoy getting to visit with her."

Beavers, who raises Angus cattle, wheat and hay near the southern Oklahoma town of Duncan with her husband, Charlie, said while winning the advocate award was a complete surprise, it's her passion for agriculture that keeps her

involved with AITC programs and events across the state.

"Agriculture is one of the most important things that we can teach our young people," Beavers said. "Our teachers are the ones who take agriculture directly to the students in the classroom."

Harmon cited Beavers' willingness to jump in and help with any needs the AITC program encounters as a major reason for receiving the recognition.

Harmon also praised the entire OKFB WLC for their assistance throughout the year with the Oklahoma AITC program by helping bring agriculture lessons and concepts to Oklahoma teachers, including at the state AITC conference, where WLC members served as room moderators and help facilitate activities for conference attendees.

Oklahoma AITC helps Oklahoma



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee State Chairman Kitty Beavers addresses the audience at the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom conference.

students learn about the state's food and fiber industry by providing resources for Oklahoma teachers. Oklahoma Farm Bureau is a major supporter of the program.

OKFB women attend National Ag in the Classroom conf.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee members attended the National Ag in the Classroom Organization Conference June 20-24 in Litchfield Park, Arizona.

During the conference, where the theme was "Blooming in the Desert," WLC members and more than 400 educators from around the country learned how to use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, science, social studies and more. NAITCO, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute for Food & Agriculture and Arizona Foundation for Agricultural Literacy, held three days of workshops that showed kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers how to use agriculture to teach core subject areas.

In addition, conference participants went on traveling workshops of nearby farms and university research facilities to learn about fruit, vegetable and nursery production, among other stops.

The conference also honored several national teacher award winners and a national Ag Advocate winner for the innovative ways they use agriculture in their classroom curriculum.

The OKFB WLC sponsored conference registration for the 2016 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year Amber Bales.

NAITCO is a non-profit organization representing most of the state agriculture in the classroom programs

around the country. Its mission is to educate K-12 teachers and students about the importance of agriculture by providing them with materials, awards programs and a national conference that demonstrate how agriculture can be used to effectively teach core subject areas.



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee members prepare for their first traveling workshop during the 2016 National Ag in the Classroom Conference.

JOINT PRIVACY NOTICE



OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

AG SECURITY INSURANCE COMPANY

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This *Joint Privacy Notice* is being provided to you to inform you of our practices and procedures regarding the sharing of non-public personal information. Non-public personal information is personally identifiable financial information about you, your family, or your household that we may obtain directly from you, that we may obtain as a result of our business dealings with you, or that we may obtain from any other source.

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During the course of reviewing your application for insurance coverage and deciding whether or not to underwrite the insurance policy for which you have applied, and, if we issue you a policy, during the course of providing services to you as required by the policy, we collect and evaluate information from the following sources:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How We Maintain The Confidentiality & Security Of Your Information

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

Your Opt-Out Right

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

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

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

Your opt-out form must reach us within 30 days of your receipt of our privacy notice. Your opt-out request will take effect on the 7th day following receipt of your request, to allow for notification to all applicable affiliated or nonaffiliated third parties. If you share your account with another person, either of you may opt-out of disclosures (other than disclosures permitted by law) for both of you. Please indicate on the Opt-Out Notice form if you are opting out for one or both of you.

Conclusion

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

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OPT-OUT NOTICE

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

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

*Name: _____

*Phone Number: _____

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*Email: _____

*Policy Number: _____

*Membership Number: _____

Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, OKFB Legal Foundation host shotgun shoot fundraiser

Shooters gathered at Quail Ridge Sporting Clays for a shotgun shoot fundraiser hosted by the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation on Friday, August 26, 2016, in McLoud.

“Our first event was a tremendous success,” said LeeAnna McNally, director of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation. “We look forward to making the shotgun shoot fundraiser an annual event.”

Proceeds from the shoot will benefit both foundations as they carry out their respective missions to promote and protect agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

“We owe a big thank-you to our sponsors and participants,” added Amanda Rosholt, director of the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation. “Their continued support makes it possible for us to share the importance of Oklahoma agriculture with new audiences.”



Above: Carson Miller of Altus was the winner of the event, with 47 hits out of 50. Upper right: A participant fires during the contest. Right: A special thank you to the event sponsors: Diamond sponsor OG&E, Platinum sponsor McAfee and Taft, and Gold sponsors Banc First, Oklahoma Oil and Gas Association, Devon, SAGAC Public Affairs, Hilton Garden Inn Bricktown, and South Avenue LLC.



Agric-Bioformatics looking for beta testers for new web-based platform

Sean Akadiri, founder of Agric-Bioformatics, invites Oklahoma Farm Bureau members to apply for a free beta trial for AgBoost™, a new cloud-based platform designed to provide genetics, nutrition and health data for cattle producers.

AgBoost™ offers several useful features including genetic profiles and assessment, breeding suggestions, valuation and forecasting, lineage tracking, and nutritional recommendation. Oklahoma Farm Bureau has supported the development of the Agric-Bioformatics and AgBoost™ from the ground floor.

“Farm Bureau members have always been on the cutting edge of agriculture technology, and this program is the latest cutting edge,” said Todd Honer, OKFB director of commodities. “This is first program of its kind to use actual genetic makeup instead of statistical analysis,

like EPDs, to evaluate your cattle herd.”

The beta version will allow the user to keep inventory, store performance data, sort and rank, cull, and choose replacement heifers based on genomic information. The data will be presented to the user in a simple to interpret visual format. Best of all, Agric-Bioformatics will cover the cost to obtain genomic data of the user’s cattle and users can use AgBoost™ for free throughout the beta period.

To receive the free beta trial, register for the program and fill out the online application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AgBoost>. Once a producer is accepted by the program, an Agric-Bioformatics representative will be in contact.

A kit will be sent for the producer to collect hair samples with prepaid, return-labeled box, which will then be sent directly to the lab.



When testing is complete, the producer will be notified, and results can be viewed online with AgBoost™ platform.

The beta tester will be able to enter performance data and keep animal inventory on AgBoost™ platform while waiting for the genomic test results.

At the end of the beta trial period, producers will be asked to take a quick survey to give feedback.

For more information about Agric-Bioformatics or AgBoost™, visit their website at www.agricbioformatics.com.

OKFB mourns loss of two former board members

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is extending its sympathies to the families of two former OKFB state board members and longtime OKFB members, Ervin Mitchell and Charles Sloan, who both recently passed away.

“These two men worked tirelessly to make Oklahoma a better place to live,” said OKFB President Tom Buchanan. “They represented the interests of their areas in Oklahoma for Farm Bureau and many other groups and organizations. While they will both be missed, we know their contributions will continue to move our state forward.”

Mitchell was a lifelong Balke resident who farmed with his son and grandson in Beaver County. The family farm produces wheat, corn and grain sorghum, along with some cattle.

Mitchell worked in agriculture for nearly 70 years and served on the state Farm Bureau board of directors for nine years.

Mitchell was honored with OKFB’s Distinguished Service to Agriculture award in November 2015 in recognition of his

numerous contributions to agriculture in the state of Oklahoma.

Mitchell served as president of the Oklahoma State School Boards Association, president of the National Conservation District for two years, and served 21 years on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

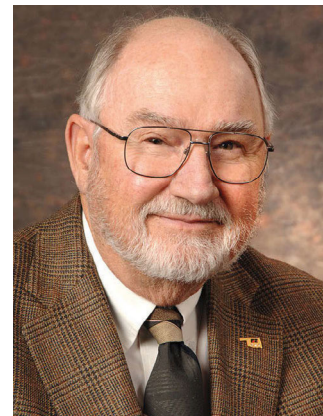
Sloan farmed near Vian since 1977, producing corn and soybeans along with some vegetable crops.

Sloan was a Farm Bureau member for more than 50 years, and served as Sequoyah County Farm Bureau president for many years.

Sloan served on the state Farm Bureau board of directors for 17 years. He was first elected to the OKFB state board in 1990 and served continuously through 2001 when he termed out. After being out for a term, he was re-elected to the district six director’s position in 2004



Ervin Mitchell



Charles Sloan

and served until 2013.

Sloan was honored with OKFB’s Distinguished Service to Agriculture award in November 2013 in recognition of his 25 years of serving Farm Bureau.

Sloan was also a former Oklahoma Soybean Association president and served as a national director of the American Soybean Association. Sloan was an active member of the Vian Methodist Church.



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OKAgPolicy launches daily e-newsletter

Interested in the latest agricultural news and information? OKAgPolicy, Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s policy news service, has launched OKAgPolicy Today, a morning email containing the day’s top agriculture and policy news stories.

Delivered to inboxes each weekday morning, OKAgPolicy Today contains major headlines in agriculture and rural policy, energy, natural resources, trade, food and nutrition, and much more.

To sign up for the morning e-newsletter, visit okagpolicy.org/okagpolicy-today. For updated headlines throughout the day, follow @okagpolicy on Twitter and like OKAgPolicy on Facebook. Also, find previous e-newsletters on the OKAgPolicy site at okagpolicy.org.

ODAFF, OSU launches new program to recognize Significant Women in Oklahoma Agriculture

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry, in collaboration with Oklahoma State University, recently launched a new program, Significant Women in Oklahoma Agriculture, at the Statewide Women in Ag and Small Business Conference.

The initiative is designed to honor and recognize the numerous women in agriculture across all 77 counties of the state from all aspects and areas of the industry, ranging from producers to educators, leaders to entrepreneurs, veterinarians to board members and many more.

“Our hope is to tell the stories of the countless women who give selflessly to

this industry but don’t always receive an award,” said Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese. “We want to find the hidden inspirational women and give them the recognition they deserve. Giving one woman of the year award is great, but it leaves out so many other worthy women.”

One honoree will be selected each week and recognized on ODAFF’s social media platforms with a detailed biography and her “ag story.” Additionally, a press release acknowledging her selection will be submitted to area newspapers.

The benefit of using social media for recognition is that it is accessible to most everyone and allows the archives to be

accessed long after they were published.

“We encourage everyone to submit a nomination,” said Secretary Reese, “whether that is nominating yourself or someone you know.”

The nomination form can be found by visiting okwomeninagandsmallbusiness.com and clicking on the Significant Women in Ag nomination link.

All nominations must be submitted online before February 1, 2017.

After all nominations have been submitted, a selection committee will begin the process of recognizing Oklahoma’s Significant Women in Agriculture.

OKFB WLC attend Women in Ag and Small Business Conference

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee members attended the Oklahoma Statewide Women in Ag and Small Business Conference held Aug. 4-5 at Moore-Norman Technology Center’s South Penn campus in Moore.

OKFB WLC members spoke with attendees at their booth located in the mini-mall showcasing Oklahoma businesses and made-in-Oklahoma products. OKFB WLC was a silver-level sponsor for the event.

The conference was packed with concurrent sessions on a variety of topics, including agriculture, alternative enterprises, business finance, and beginning farmers. Keynote speakers included Dr. Temple Grandin, Kim Bremmer of Ag Inspirations, and Michelle Miller, known on social media as The Farm Babe.

For more information about the Oklahoma Women in Ag and Small Business, visit their website at www.okwomeninagandsmallbusiness.com.



Top: Juanita Bolay, Noble County Farm Bureau member, visits with Marcia Irvin, OKFB WLC coordinator.

Above: Paula Sawatzky, District 2 OKFB WLC member, shares information about OKFB and the WLC with Women in Ag conference attendees.

Left: OKFB WLC Coordinator Marcia Irvin and Paula Sawatzky visit with attendees at the WLC booth.

OKFB praises passage of GMO labeling bill



The U.S. House gave final approval to S. 764 on July 14, which creates a national standard for disclosure of genetically modified food ingredients. U.S. President Obama signed the bill on July 29. Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan issued the following statement in response.

“For decades, genetically modified crops have helped farmers produce an abundance of high-quality and affordable food, while also decreasing agriculture’s impact on the environment. A consistent national labeling standard not only allows farmers to continue embracing GMO technology but also gives consumers access to information about their food.

“Although Oklahoma Farm Bureau policy does not support a mandatory label, individual state labeling laws would only confuse consumers and increase food prices. This legislation, which prevents a patchwork of state-by-state labeling laws, benefits farmers, businesses, consumers and the overall American economy.

“We appreciate the support of Oklahoma Reps. Tom Cole, Frank Lucas, Markwayne Mullin and Steve Russell, as well as Sens. Jim Inhofe and James Lankford.”

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Fall is the time to plant trees and shrubs

By Trisha Gedon, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service



PhotobyDavidHillock,OSUCooperativeExtension.

As the weather begins to cool off and we anticipate the arrival of fall, some people may have their eye on the gridiron and football season. Gardeners, however, find this time of year provides optimum conditions for plant growth.

With a better likelihood for fall rains, coupled with warm soil temperatures, the fall season makes for great root development of many landscape plants, said David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension consumer horticulturist.

“Trees and shrubs add so much visual interest to a landscape,” Hillock said. “In addition, a good landscape can increase the value of your real estate. And as an added bonus, trees have a great impact on the living environment. For homeowners who are looking to improve and expand their landscapes, now is the perfect time to add to your landscape.”

When the air begins to cool down and the days get shorter, root growth becomes a priority for plants as opposed to shoot growth. Roots will continue to grow in the soil as long as the soil temperature is above 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Planting in the fall will give trees and shrubs a head start on next year’s growing season.

One downside, however, of planting in the fall, is your local garden center or nursery is probably reducing their inventory for winter, so your selections may be limited. The upside, though, is you often can find good end-of-the-year deals.

“When it comes time to choose what trees to plant, research suggests early fall planting is best for container-grown shrubs, balled and burlapped shade and ornamental trees as well as pines,” he said. “Save the bare-root plants and broadleaf evergreens for spring planting.

“While you’re at the garden center, be sure to check out cool season plants, such



as pansies, garden mums and flowering kale and cabbage,” he continued. “These plants can add splashes of color in your fall and winter landscape.”

Hillock said trees and shrubs planted in the fall have an opportunity for the root system to become established before the onset of summer heat.

Once you’ve selected your trees, avoiding any unnecessary damage and stress prior to planting will help ensure better success. Keep the root ball moist and handle the plant by the container, not by the trunk or stems. It’s critical to keep the roots moist until planting. Gardeners also will need to be careful not to break the root ball when planting, as this can be fatal to young trees and shrubs, especially pines.

When preparing the planting hole, it’s better to dig the hole much wider than normally done. If you’re planting shrubs, consider digging an entire bed as opposed to individual holes. When preparing individual holes for trees, the hole should be two or three times the size of the root ball and no deeper than the root ball itself.

Something to keep in mind when planting in clay or poorly drained soils is digging the hole less deep so the top of the root ball is about 1 inch to 2 inches above grade. Then, when backfilling, make sure to bring the soil up to the top edge of the root ball so roots aren’t exposed.

After the tree or shrub is planted, cover the area with mulch, but do not mound the mulch up against the trunk. This will help cut down on rodent damage during the winter months. Keep a 4-foot to 6-foot grass-free circle around young trees and shrubs for the first two or three years as this will reduce plant competition for water and nutrients.

“While you may be tempted to fertilize

your newly planted trees and shrubs, resist the urge. New plantings have limited capacity to use fertilizer until they become established,” Hillock said. “Excessive fertilizer in the root zone can be damaging, so don’t add it to the hole itself or to the backfill. Ideally, young trees and shrubs may be fertilized from March through July.”

It’s important for newly planted trees and shrubs to be thoroughly watered at the time of planting. Unfortunately, natural rainfall simply isn’t adequate to meet the moisture requirements.

Generally, young plantings need the equivalent of an inch of rain per week. New plantings may need to be watered two or three times per week, especially if the weather is especially warm and windy, because their root systems can’t take up the amount of water needed to replenish the water lost through leaves.

“If you select young trees such as ash, birch, linden or maple with green or tender bark, you’ll need to wrap them by late October. This will help keep wildlife from snacking on the bark,” Hillock said. “The wrap also will help reflect the sun, which can either scald the trunk or make it susceptible to southwest injury during the winter.”

Be sure to remember to remove the wrap next spring because the trees and shrubs will be growing. Wraps that are either too tight or left on during the growth process may result in constriction to the

trunk. Tree wraps should be applied from the base up to the first branch.

Gardeners may feel staking young trees is necessary, but should do it sparingly and as briefly as possible. Prolonged staking can have negative effects on a young tree’s development. In some cases, staking materials end up causing injury or girdling.

“You really should stake trees only when they’re top heavy or the trees are in a windswept area,” he said. “If you find staking is necessary, use a minimalistic approach. Leave the tree as much freedom to move as possible. As the tree flexes, it develops greater strength faster and the trunk broadens when sway is allowed.”

Staking materials should be broad, smooth and somewhat elastic to help avoid injury. Make sure to avoid driving stakes into the root ball of the tree. Generally, support stakes and guy wires should be removed after one growing season.

Hillock said following these guidelines will help ensure homeowners have success when planting trees.


“Strong, healthy trees are a definite asset to your home. Not only are they aesthetically pleasing, trees and shrubs can actually help keep a few dollars in your pocket,” he said. “Trees can play a role in shading your house from the heat of the sun, and properly placed trees and shrubs can help block a biting winter wind.” 



Photo by David Hillock, OSU Cooperative Extension.

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Oklahoma's RIGHT to Farm



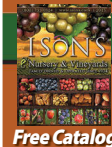
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Preparation/Cooking

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4. Dust bacon with pecan meal and pepper.
5. Wrap pork in the dusted bacon.
6. Roast pork in oven on a foil covered sheet pan, until bacon is fully cooked and pork reaches an internal temperature of 135°F.



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