

Oklahoma

Country



The Magazine of the
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
© Winter 2017

Passion and commitment

The relentless pursuit of producing the highest quality beef drives our **Farm Family of the Year** to constantly improve their cattle, the land and their practices.

A start with a purpose


Recalling 75 years of OKFB starting at our roots

Bold innovators for the future

A look back at our 75th annual convention

Lincoln to local

Looking to the future of Oklahoma's future



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Oklahoma Country

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Photo by Dustin Mielke

ON THE COVER

Roger and Idella Maschino of Texas County won a year's use of a GMC Sierra 1500 pickup as part of the recognition they received for being named OKFB's Farm Family of the Year.

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.

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

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Passion and commitment

By Andersen Hubbard & Dustin Mielke

Celebrating Roger and Idella Maschino, Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Farm Family of the Year, as they share their passion and commitment for agriculture.



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A start with a purpose

Our first installment in a series of articles looks back at Oklahoma Farm Bureau history and the leaders who laid the foundation of the state's largest general farm organization.

PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING



The endeavor continues

By Tom Buchanan

President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies

As we look forward to a new year full of exciting initiatives and endeavors, I'd be remiss if I didn't share with you what we have come through in the past year.

Although we were disappointed with the results of State Question 777, we did learn it is paramount that we continue to educate and discuss with fellow Oklahomans the amazing story we have to tell about our legacy with the land.

It is because of our family farmers and ranchers that consumers today have the opportunity to choose from an abundance of safe, affordable food. We also have a responsibility to those who do not enjoy the luxury of choice. One in four children in Oklahoma struggle with food insecurity, and we, as OKFB, want to continue to ensure we provide the safest, most affordable food for them.

Our farmers and ranchers also bear the burden of continuing to do more with less, so as the largest agriculture organization in our state, it is our responsibility to continue to fight for their rights.

Our past year also featured positive trends in agriculture production yields. To my surprise, 2016 showed a swift uptick in the rebuilding of our cattle herds. I'm optimistic that 2017 will continue this trend.

One of the most exciting takeaways from 2016 was the nomination of Oklahoma's Attorney General Scott Pruitt to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. Scott has been a wonderful friend to OKFB and I have no doubt he will lead


this agency back to its intended purpose and stop harmful legislation from being placed on the backs of American farmers.

Looking forward in 2017, private property rights will continue to be our main priority. Education and medical care in our rural communities are two other specific issues our members

believe we should be a part of when discussed at 23rd and Lincoln. Just as we witnessed with SQ 777, the disconnect between our urban and rural areas is widening, and as such, it is vital that we look at issues impacting quality of life and daily life for rural Oklahomans. I am confident we can find thoughtful solutions to solve the challenges we are seeing in these two particular areas.

Finally, I'm proud to announce 2017 marks 75 years of improving the lives of rural Oklahomans. We have several exciting initiatives planned to celebrate our 75th anniversary. Please be on the

lookout in *Oklahoma Country* and on OKFB's social media so you, too, can be a part of the celebration!

As always, it is my privilege and honor to serve as president of OKFB, and I look forward to another prosperous and productive year. 

“It is because of our family farmers and ranchers that consumers today have the opportunity to choose from an abundance of safe, affordable food.”

— Tom Buchanan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Buchanan', with a stylized flourish at the end.



INSURANCE MATTERS

Customer service reigns supreme

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

I'm pleased to report that 2016 was a prosperous year at Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company in many ways. It proved to be a year in which we continued to add value to your OKFB membership, looked for new ways to improve upon customer service, and reintroduced various insurance products.

Although there is much to be excited about for 2017, our past year brought some huge successes to OKFB. We have secured our balance sheet with a 90 percent increase in net capital since year-end 2012, while retiring \$15 million of our surplus notes. A.M. Best, a U.S.-based rating agency that focuses on the insurance industry, upgraded OKFB's financial strength rating to a B with a positive outlook.

Our year-end 2016 financials will not be completed until late February, but despite a high frequency of storm activity in 2016, underwriting leverage ratios and overall risk-adjusted capitalization should remain strong. In short, we have found improved ways to bring added risk management to our insurance company so we can protect our members to the highest degree.

Earlier in 2016, we began a rigorous exercise of looking at all aspects of our business model, and in doing so, I'm pleased to announce that for the first time in six years OFBMIC is open in all lines of insurance products, and they are available for sale in all 77 counties. We also brought in an industry expert to help evaluate our products for marketability, potential features,


prices and benefits in comparison with other companies in the industry. This project will continue in 2017 to improve our insurance products while supporting slow-managed, profitable growth.

We also began a large upgrade through our information systems department. We reported to you last year that we now offer an insurance portal where you can view your insurance documents as well as print out your security verification forms.

In 2017, we will continue this upgrade by introducing a new website that, when completed, will allow you to not only receive a quote in real time and reach out to your personal agent, but also purchase coverage, all from your home or office. The final phase of this website will go live in late spring 2017, and I am confident we will continue to set the "gold standard" for customer service, as our own Commissioner Doak has noted on several occasions.

“... I am confident we will continue to set the “gold standard” for customer service, as our own Commissioner Doak has noted on several occasions.

— Gary Buckner

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BRAND NEWS

Let's party like it's our 75th anniversary

By Becky Samples
Vice President of Strategic Corporate Communications
Oklahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies

Hello and Happy New Year! The past year at Oklahoma Farm Bureau has been a whirlwind of activity, and 2017 shows no signs of slowing down.

Our winter 2017 issue of *Oklahoma Country* includes an OKFB convention review that celebrates our members who carry the banner for agriculture. Readers will have the opportunity to meet the Maschino family, OKFB's Farm Family of the Year. Roger and Idella Maschino raise cattle in Texas, Cimarron and Delaware counties. Their all-natural beef can be found in more than 200 restaurants across the country, including fine dining establishments in Washington, D.C. and New York City.

This issue also highlights all our OKFB award recipients from our state convention, including our Distinguished Service Award. This year's recipient was Billy Gibson of Pontotoc County. Billy and his wife, Janet, have been in agriculture for nearly 42 years and have been tirelessly serving Oklahoma Farm Bureau for many years in various leadership positions. Check out our other award recipients, several of whom represented OKFB at a national level at the American Farm Bureau convention in January of this year.

One of our most exciting endeavors at OKFB is our 75th celebration. I have to be honest with you - in some ways I have dreaded our 75th anniversary. Not because it isn't exciting, but for the pure fact that 75 years of history is daunting! As our communications team and I began to spend more time in our storage room, or as I like to call it "the OKFB archives," my dread turned into curiosity. Stacks of periodicals and photos from the 1940s began to serve as a puzzle that we began to piece together to form a timeline of our history. Articles and images of past members began to pile up in our offices, and we began to resemble KilRoy peeking above the stacks. Much like cleaning out your garage and getting lost in old memorabilia, it was easy


to lose a couple hours just reading from our impassioned leaders, oftentimes about issues we continue to fight today.

I can easily say that today I no longer look at those stacks in dread, but with excitement about how we can teach our next generation about the policies and technologies that have carried us 75 years strong representing agriculture.

Throughout the year, we will celebrate this milestone with several events and activities. We will kick it all off with the dedication to our new courtyard located on the southeast corner of our building. We are also in the final stages of publishing a

commemorative pictorial history book that members and history fans alike will surely want to grab a copy. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter so you don't miss highlights and images from our storied past. We hope you enjoy reliving some of our notable memories and meeting those in agriculture who dreamt of an organization that would

work together to loyally support one another through policies, initiatives and service. OKFB is not only successful because of the battles won and fought at 23rd and Lincoln, or the state leaders we help elect, but also because the men and women who humbly came together void of pride or ego, simply to work together to find ways to continue in the legacy that feeds and clothes the world.

We look forward to an exciting year full of celebration and education across the state on the importance of agriculture and the stewards of the land who cultivate it. 

“One of our most exciting endeavors at OKFB this year is our 75th celebration.”

— Becky Samples



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COMMODITY CORNER

Canola

Did you know canola produces about 127 to 160 gallons of oil per acre, compared to 48 gallons per acre for soybeans?

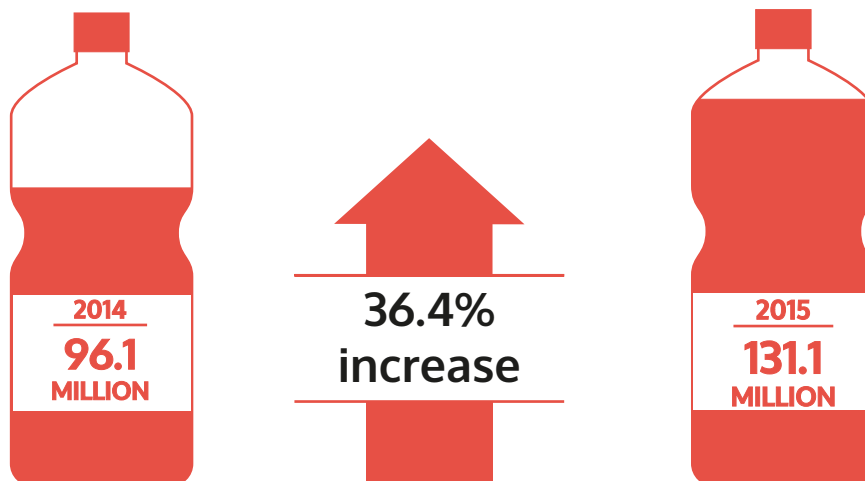
*Tennessee State University

 Oklahoma produced
45% OF ALL CANOLA
produced in the United States in 2015

*USDA NASS

Oklahoma is currently ranked
 **2ND IN THE NATION**
for canola production

*USDA NASS



*USDA NASS

Health Facts

CANOLA OIL PROVIDES HEART-HEALTHY COMPONENTS FOR JUST PENNIES PER SERVING, MAKING IT A SIMPLE, AFFORDABLE INVESTMENT IN ONE'S HEALTH



1. Low in saturated fat → may reduce the risk of coronary heart disease
2. High in monounsaturated fat → lowers "bad" LDL cholesterol & helps control blood sugar
3. High in omega-3 fat → may improve heart health
4. Free of trans fat and cholesterol → may reduce heart disease risk
5. Good source of vitamins E and K → may help protect the heart & maintain normal blood flow
6. Good source of plant sterols → may reduce the risk of heart disease

* U.S. Canola Association

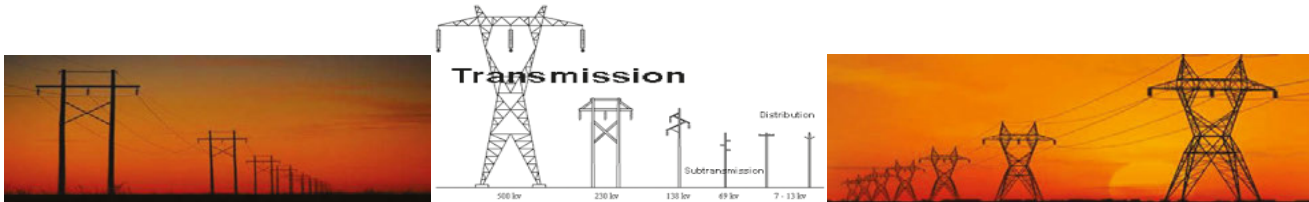
Eager to try cooking with canola oil? Check out the "Lemon Herb Grilled Steak" recipe in the Country Kitchen section on page 50.



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LINCOLN TO LOCAL

Is it OK to be OK?

As the discussion surrounding Oklahoma public education continues, OKFB members can play a role in the future of education.

As a statewide grassroots organization, Oklahoma Farm Bureau families are in every single Oklahoma county. The children and grandchildren of OKFB members attend schools from Guymon to Idabel, Cheyenne to Eufaula, and Hollis to Miami. Members across the state serve as superintendents, principals, counselors and school board members. As the state's largest landowner organization, OKFB members pay taxes that help fund local school districts.

The Oklahoma public education system is failing both students and the state, according to data from the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Oklahoma education ranks in the mid to high 40s in nearly every category, putting the state—and its students—at the back of the pack.

Most of the rhetoric surrounding public education calls for a teacher salary increase. While that may be part of the plan, a teacher salary increase is not *the* plan.

Education affects every single person in the state. A growing, thriving state economy relies upon an educated workforce. Is Oklahoma meeting that demand? Statistics show the opposite.

What should Oklahoma education look like in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years? With no comprehensive plan from the governor or state leaders, should Farm Bureau be at the forefront of the education discussion? Below, find facts about the current condition of Oklahoma public education. Maybe it is time for OKFB members to not only call for a plan from state leaders, but also play a part in drafting the plan.



~43,000 teachers
>686,000 students



1,787 schools
513 districts

Oklahoma spends



1 in 5



Oklahoma school districts has a four-day school week.



82%

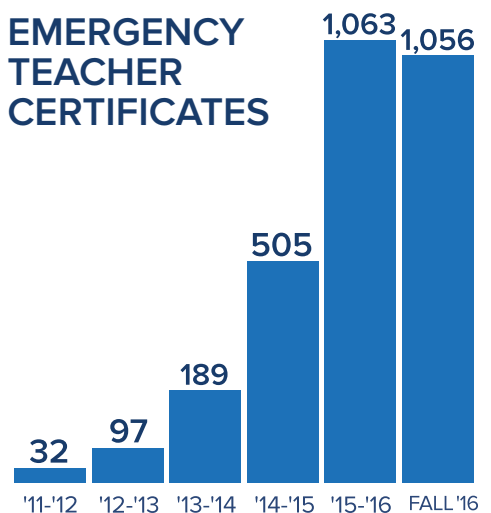
of students graduated high school in 2015.



3 in 10

Oklahomans have a college degree.

EMERGENCY TEACHER CERTIFICATES





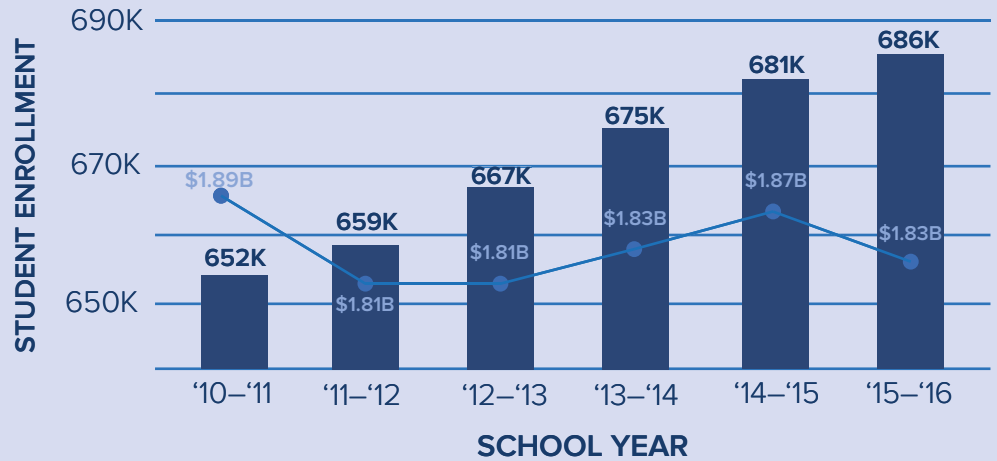
AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY

\$44,921
STATE

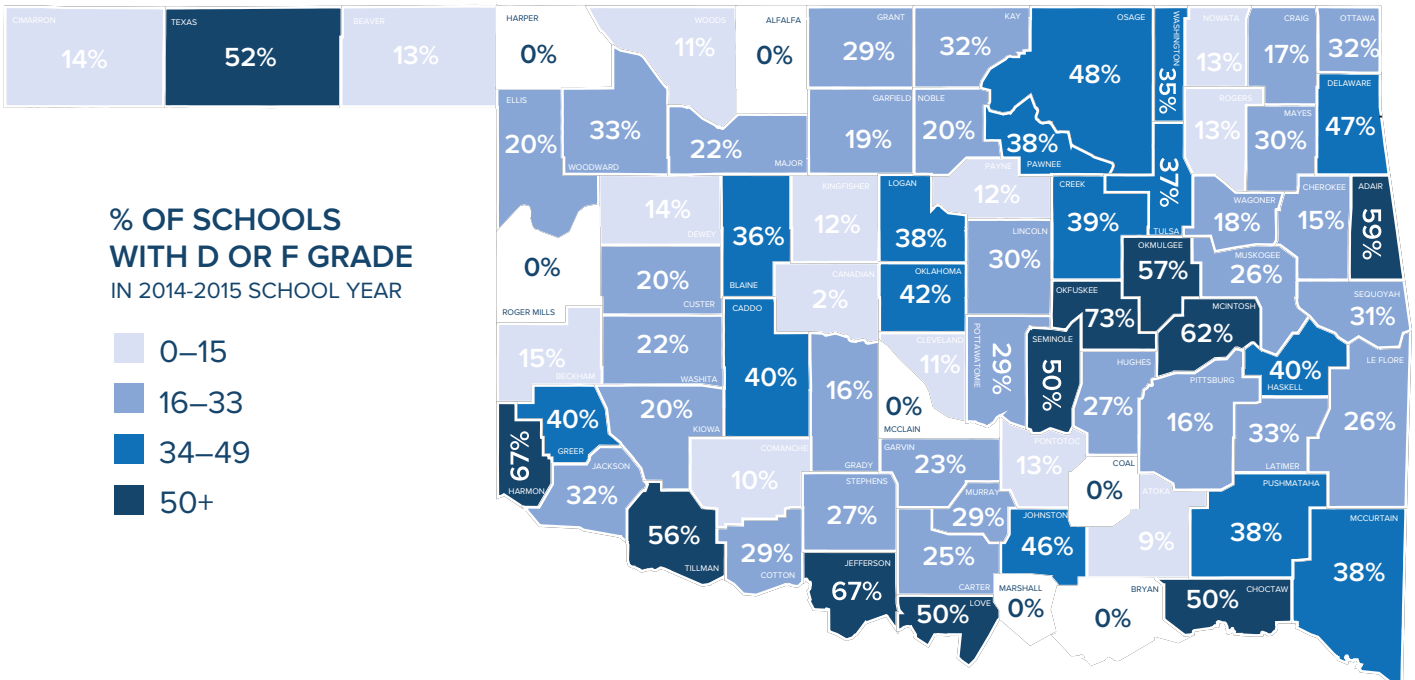
\$48,450
REGIONAL

\$58,064
NATIONAL

TOTAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT




FAILING OKLAHOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Source: Oklahoma State Department of Education

PASSION *AND* C



AS SHADOWS BEGAN TO GROW LONG upon the prairie landscape of the Oklahoma panhandle, a white pickup truck moved slowly through a Cimarron-County pasture, cattle flanking it on every side.

As Idella Maschino piloted the feed truck through the grass and cattle like a canoe through a lake, her husband, Roger, surveyed the cow herd that is the product of years of seemingly unending hours, careful planning and a constant focus on delivering a quality product to American consumers.

The cowboy-hat-wearing couple run their cow-calf operation from Guymon, Okla., the longtime home of Roger's family and just a short drive - by panhandle standards, at least - from Idella's family's farm located in south-eastern Colorado.

The Maschinos have dedicated their lives to careful stewardship of their natural resources and first-rate care for their animals. With the possibility of a drought seemingly always around the corner, the Maschinos' steady hand and careful management have led them through times of difficulty and times of plenty during the couple's 46 years of marriage.

"We have tried to achieve quality - and premiums - for the products that we raise," Roger said. "Part of our job as being farmers and ranchers is not only to feed the United States the most nutritious and safest product in the world, but we are also very instrumental in trying to feed the rest of the world."

This work, effort, and dedication was recognized at Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 2016 annual meeting in Oklahoma City,

where Roger and Idella were named OKFB's 2016 Farm Family of the Year by the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee.

Roger, a lifetime Farm Bureau member and current Texas County Farm Bureau Board member, said receiving the award was, "humbling, but very honoring."

THE MASCHINOS HAVE CARVED out a life for themselves in the Oklahoma panhandle through a relentless pursuit of quality in their animals, starting with careful and measured animal selection. Roger pores over harvest data from his own animals, which has been collected since 1992, and genetic data to make decisions on what animals to keep, which bulls to buy, and how to best manage the herd.

COMMITMENT

≡ OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU'S FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR ≡

RAISES QUALITY CATTLE WITH A STEADFAST LOVE FOR THE LAND, THE ANIMALS AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSUMERS WHO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR.



AS OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU'S FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR, THE MASCHINOS WON A YEAR'S USE OF A GMC SIERRA 1500 PICKUP AND A TRIP TO THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA, IN JANUARY 2017.

STORY BY **ANDERSEN HUBBARD AND DUSTIN MIELKE** PHOTOS BY **DUSTIN MIELKE**



“FARMING AND RANCHING IS CHANGING. WE HAVE GOT TO CHANGE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF OUR CONSUMERS. THEY ARE DEMANDING CHANGE.”

— ROGER MASCHINO

“I CAN REMEMBER MY DAD SAYING, ‘IT’S NOT WHAT YOU MAKE IN FARMING THAT KEEPS YOU FARMING – IT’S WHAT YOU’RE GOING TO MAKE.’”

— IDELLA MASCHINO

Careful animal selection coupled with the Maschino’s participation in an all-natural beef program in partnership with 44 Farms of Cameron, Texas, allows them to earn a premium for their animals. Since 2014, this partnership has opened a new market for the Maschino’s beef, which is featured in more than 200 restaurants across the nation and online at 44steaks.com. The all-natural program allows the couple to raise the quality and type of beef that younger consumers across the country desire.

“The product that we produce is in very high demand, especially for millennials,” Roger said. “They are very conscious of how their food was produced, how it was raised, how it tastes, and cost is not the issue. They want a premium product and a safe product, and that is what we have strived to push for.”

With high quality standards set for their end-product, the Maschinos also have strict standards for their cattle. Roger’s goals for their herd include cows calving within a 60-day window, for all calves to have at least a 12-inch ribeye and to increase the percentage of calves that produce a Prime grade. Of the three sets of calves that have been shipped to 44 farms, two graded 100 percent Choice or higher and the third is being harvested, Roger said.

Problem solving is an integral part of any farm or ranch, and the Maschinos have had their share of issues to overcome during their time in agriculture.

When drought hit the Oklahoma Panhandle several years ago, the Maschinos were faced with a tough decision: either sell the herd or move animals to a location with more available grass.

“Basically we were in a drought out here from 2001 until 2014,” Roger said. “2007, 2013 and 2014 were the worst I’ve ever seen.”

Roger hit the road looking for pasture far and wide, eventually forging a partnership in Oklahoma’s Delaware County, where part of the family’s herd is located today.

While achieving the Maschino’s goals requires time, planning and intensive management, it is all worth it for Roger and Idella.

“You live for it,” Roger said. “You eat, sleep, and breathe it because that’s next year’s crop. Even though it just hit the ground, that’s your income 12 months after that. You guard it with your life.”

ROGER’S LIFELONG LOVE FOR agriculture started at an early age. He owned his first calf when he was 3 years old and took his first job on the farm when he was 12. Roger said he was in FFA throughout high school, where he competed on the livestock judging team,

served as reporter and vice president of his chapter, and received the State Farmer Award.

“You either love it or hate it,” Roger said of his lifetime in agriculture. “If you love it, it isn’t a job. You enjoy it.”

He said he always knew he wanted to be in the livestock industry and own a ranch. He has devoted his life to agriculture on the ranch and off. He worked as a feedlot cattle inspector and loan officer at Production Credit Association for eight years, an ag loan officer for 18 years at a local bank and as an agriculture consultant.

Roger was not the only one who had a job off the farm. Idella taught primary education for 38 years while working on the books for the ranch at night. During her tenure in education, she was awarded teacher of the year and mentored other teachers, yet her heart remained in agriculture.

“This is not a 9-to-5 deal,” Idella said. “It’s hard when you’re not raised on the farm. See, I was raised on the farm, and so was (Roger).”

Idella is still involved with her family’s farm run by her brother and sister in southeast Colorado, where they grow dryland corn and wheat. Quality and doing things right is important for Idella’s family as the wheat they raise includes a hard-white wheat variety, which earns a premium compared to

red wheat varieties. Family is extremely important to her, and helping her family is a way to give back to them, Idella said.

“(My parents) instilled the love of the land to my siblings and to myself,” Idella said, “and we just want to keep farming.”

Together, the couple raised two children on the ranch: son Austin and daughter Fayla. And now their grandson, Dakota, is showing an interest in agriculture, continuing the family tradition of loving and caring for the land.

Roger and Idella are also passing on a love for agriculture to their hired hand, Cody Gates, creating an opportunity for the next generation to make a living caring for the land and the animals.

Gates said he has known Roger and Idella his entire life and grew up with them attending the same church.

“They are like family to me and treat me as so,” Gates said. “Roger is less like the stereotypical boss and much more like a mentor and grandfather to me.”

“I will continue on the solid foundation of their cattle, improving genetics, having more prime beef being harvested and pushing numbers without sacrificing quality,” Gates said. “Working for Roger and Idella has taught me patience and the fact that anything that is successful takes time and work.”

IN THE MIDST of the Maschinos’ busy lives of managing and raising 500 cows, they make giving back to people and the community a priority.

“One of the biggest rewards that we get out of life, and have gotten out of life, is we like to help people,” Roger said. “We’ve done that in a lot of different ways. The Lord gave us the money to do it. He needs the glory, not us.”

The Maschinos said giving back is the biggest award they could receive. They have taught their children to give back as well, and Roger said that is the best legacy that they could leave with their children.

“Life’s not about stuff and things,” Roger said. “It’s the friends that you make, the people you meet and the people that you help. That’s wealth.”

The couple has reaped a lifetime of wealth the land has provided: long hours side-by-side doing the work they love.

The quality that is evident in their cattle, their end product and their lives centers on their faith and their love for agriculture – a love that has been cultivated for generations.

“I can remember my dad saying, ‘It’s not what you make in farming that keeps you farming – it’s what you’re going to make,’” Idella said.

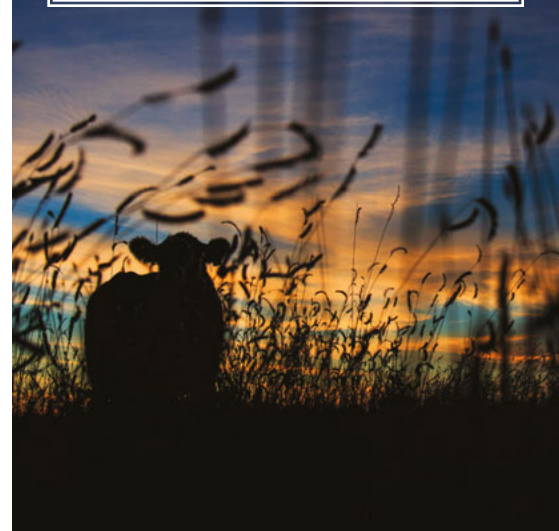
“In the ag environment, whether it be farming or cattle, there’s two things you have to have: passion and commitment,” Roger said. “You either love it or hate it, and if you love it, it doesn’t make any difference how tough things get. You will figure out a way to survive.

“If you have those two things – passion and commitment – it’s hard to do anything else.”

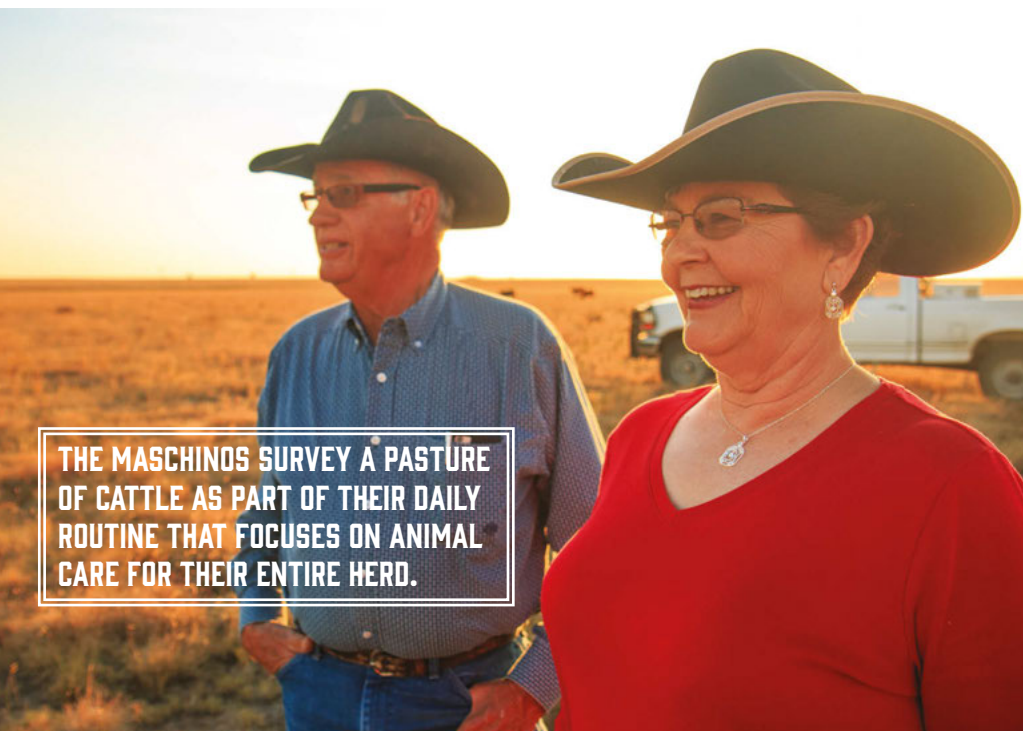
IDELLA MASCHINO PILOTS A FEED TRUCK THROUGH A HERD OF THE FAMILY'S COWS IN CIMARRON COUNTY. ROGER AND IDELLA RAISE CATTLE IN THE PANHANDLE'S TEXAS AND CIMARRON COUNTIES WITH ANOTHER PART OF THEIR CATTLE HERD IN EASTERN OKLAHOMA'S DELAWARE COUNTY THROUGH A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH A FELLOW RANCHER.



THE SETTING SUN ILLUMINATES CLOUDS BEHIND ONE OF THE MASCHINO'S COWS AT THE END OF A LONG DAY ON THE FAMILY'S RANCH.



THE MASCHINOS SURVEY A PASTURE OF CATTLE AS PART OF THEIR DAILY ROUTINE THAT FOCUSES ON ANIMAL CARE FOR THEIR ENTIRE HERD.



FARM FAMILIES OF THE YEAR

DISTRICT TWO THE LANIG FAMILY



JOE AND CATHY LANIG of Roosevelt were named OKFB's District Two Farm Family of the Year. Wheat, cotton, soybeans, canola and cattle can all be found on their Kiowa County farm. The family uses minimum-till techniques, soil sampling and precision farming to use their resources responsibly.

The couple farms alongside their son, Brad, along with his wife, Hillary. Their daughter, Katie, helps out during critical times of the year, such as wheat harvest. Joe and Cathy's three grandchildren also get to spend time on the farm, marking the fifth generation of Lanigs to grow up on and around the farm.

The Lanigs pride themselves on taking care of their land and their animals as a family on land Joe's grandfather

started farming in 1902.

"My grandfather started here, my dad was raised on this farm, I was raised here and my kids were raised here," Joe said. "So that means a lot to me."

The Lanigs built up their farm through hard work and careful management. Today, Joe and Cathy reap the rewards of decades of dedication.

"I enjoy being self-employed and taking care of the crops, cattle and taking care of the land," Joe said.

Cathy works off the farm at AgPreference in Altus as an accounting supervisor, following years of work for an accounting firm.

"It's so satisfying," Cathy said of the family's farm life. "God gave us this land, it's nice to be able to pay him back and take care of it."



THE LANIG FAMILY



THE PARKER FAMILY



THE MORROW FAMILY

DISTRICT SIX THE PARKER FAMILY



JOE AND KELLI PARKER raise cattle, horses and chickens on their Talala-area farm. The couple also grows soybeans and hay, and Joe runs a custom spraying business, providing weed-control services to area farmers and ranchers.

The Parkers raised three children on their farm in Rogers County, and daughter Scotti and her husband, Adam, recently moved back to help farm.

"We couldn't have made it without them," Kelli said. "We appreciate their help on this farm."

The Parkers use a variety of farming practices to care for their land and their livestock. No-till farming practices conserve moisture and help prevent soil erosion. The family also bales and wraps sorghum sudangrass to create a high-

protein feed source for winter months.

The Parkers have served Farm Bureau in a variety of capacities over the years, including state Young Farmers and Ranchers Chairmen, AgFund board members and state resolutions committee members. In fact, Joe has been a Farm Bureau member all his life.

"Dad bought a Farm Bureau membership for me when I was born," Joe said.

Laid on the foundations of generations before them, the Parkers have built up a family farm by taking care of their land and their livestock.

"We're going to treat our animals well because we want to," Kelli said. "God has entrusted us with that. It's a blessing, and we just praise the Lord for the opportunity to do that."

THE OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED FOUR FARM FAMILIES AS OKFB DISTRICT FARM FAMILIES OF THE YEAR AT THE 2016 OKFB ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER. THE MASCHINOS REPRESENTED DISTRICT ONE, AND THESE THREE OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILIES WERE HONORED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURE.

JOEY AND MONICA MORROW of Roff, OKFB's District Eight Farm Family of the Year, run a cow/calf operation and grow wheat, hay and canola on their Pontotoc County farm.

The couple's four boys, Lucas, Jonathan, Andrew and Thomas, work alongside Joey taking care of the family's cattle and crops.

"It's a good environment to raise the kids in," Joey said.

"We get to be able to know them better as they grow up. We get to instill some values in them that they're going to need to get through life."

The Morrrows are transitioning to a no-till management system on their crop land, which Joey said helps improve soil health while providing erosion control.

"Joe loves farming," Monica said. "He has a work ethic that is not the typical work ethic anymore."

Monica also works off the farm as a kindergarten teacher at Latta, where she is the 2016-2017 District Teacher of the Year.

The Morrrows are involved in their local church, where Joey serves as a deacon. Joey also serves as a city council member at Fitzhugh and is a volunteer fire fighter.

Through all the Morrow's work and dedication as a farm family, Joey and Monica hope to provide their boys with an opportunity to continue the family's farming tradition.

"We're very blessed to be here, and we're very thankful for what God has blessed us with," Monica said.

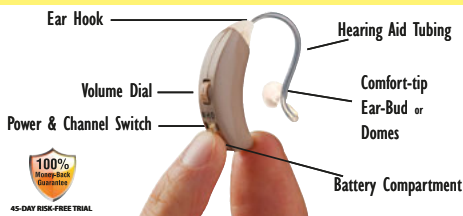
≡ DISTRICT EIGHT ≡ THE MORROW FAMILY



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"I have had this aid two days and all I can say is WOW!"

Terra H., Grove, NJ

FORWARD FOUNDATION

Bushels for Books awards presented at Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 75th annual convention

By Amanda Rosholt

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

Five educators from Oklahoma elementary schools were honored during the Flapjack Fundraiser for the Bushels for Books program at the Cox Convention Center on Saturday, November 12. During the event, the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers awarded five Oklahoma educators with bushel baskets of accurate agriculture books to be used in their classrooms and school libraries.

“We are thrilled to award these outstanding educators with resources to help them include agriculture in their classroom curriculum,” said Jeremy Rich, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching

“We are thrilled to award these outstanding educators with resources to help them include agriculture in their classroom curriculum.”

— Jeremy Rich
Oklahoma Farming and
Ranching president

Foundation president.

Applications were accepted from elementary educators across the state.

The Bushels for Books program takes donated bushels of any commodity crop as well as monetary donations from Oklahoma farmers and provides accurate

agriculture books to Oklahoma elementary schools. For more information on the Bushels for Books program, please visit www.okfarmingandranchingfoundation.org or contact Amanda Rosholt by email at amanda.rosholt@aggiving.org or by phone at (405) 202-1463.



OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson (left) and Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation Director of Fundraising and Public Relations Amanda Rosholt (right) present Nathan Akehurst with bushel baskets of books. Akehurst, fourth-grade teacher at Heritage IGC in Coweta, will use the books in his classroom in conjunction with a classroom vegetable garden as he helps his students learn about agriculture through hands-on experiences.



OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson (left) and Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation Director of Fundraising and Public Relations Amanda Rosholt (right) present Lindsay Headlee with bushel baskets of books. Headlee, librarian for Cherokee Elementary School, believes agriculture is an essential part of our nation's past, present and future. She will make the books available in the school library and will share them with elementary teachers to use in their classroom curriculum.



OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson (left) and Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation Director of Fundraising and Public Relations Amanda Rosholt (right) present Cheryl Hyde with bushel baskets of books. Hyde, title 1 reading specialist for Lexington Elementary, will use the books in her reading classroom and in conjunction with Elementary Ag Day at Lexington Elementary to help both students and teachers learn more about Oklahoma agriculture.



OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson (left) and Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation Director of Fundraising and Public Relations Amanda Rosholt (right) present Shelly Wall with bushel baskets of books. Wall, library media specialist for Will Rogers Elementary in Shawnee, will use the books in the school library to help students to learn the processes of how food gets to their tables and career opportunities available in agriculture.



OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson (left) and Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation Director of Fundraising and Public Relations Amanda Rosholt (right) present Sarah Johnston with bushel baskets of books. Johnston, library media specialist for Ida Freeman Elementary in Edmond, will use the books in both the library and school classrooms to teach students about agricultural machinery, crops and livestock and the impact agriculture has on their everyday lives.


Thank you!

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation's social and educational programs are made possible solely by the generous support of our many donors. A lasting impact is made with a gift of any size. We want to extend a special thank you to our Gold, Platinum and Diamond donors: **Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma, FBL Financial Group, Chain Ranch, and Null Family Farms.**

Oklahoma has a strong agricultural heritage and we believe that is a legacy worth protecting. The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is committed to ensuring that Oklahoma agriculture endures and we sincerely thank you for your continued support.

CONSIDER THE BENEFITS

Keeping your New Year's resolutions

As we enter into a new year, you may have a few new year's resolutions on your list. Oklahoma Farm Bureau wants to help make those resolutions possible! Listed below are a few of the top New Year's Resolutions and how OKFB member benefits can help you achieve your goals. To learn more about membership benefits, visit www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits. 



STAYING HEALTHY

Beltone Hearing Aid Centers & ClearValue Hearing

Having hearing issues? ClearValue Hearing and Beltone Hearing Aid Centers can help with OKFB discounts and free hearing assessments.

Life Line Health Screening

Stay on top of your health with Life Line's proactive health screening to help you avoid potential health issues.

Primary Vision Care Services & QualSight LASIK

Keep your eyes healthy by using these services that offer great rates to OKFB members.

LifeStation Medical Monitoring

Electronic medical monitoring from LifeStation puts medical help just a push of a button away. Use your OKFB membership to receive a discount on the monthly service fee.

MyHealthPass

Avoid the typical doctor's office wait by using MyHealthPass' telehealth service.



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Members Health Insurance Medicare Supplement plans

Save money with health plans and Medicare Supplement plans from MHI.

Farm Bureau Insurance

Visit with a local agent about an entire line of competitively priced insurance products available through OKFB.

Farm Bureau Bank

Farm Bureau Bank offers access to a broad array of financial services for members, including checking, loans, CDs, money markets, credit cards and more!

Global Home, USA

Save money on a variety of home warranty programs to help cover the repair and/or replacement costs of home appliances, major systems such as heating and cooling and more.

TASC AgriPlan Health Reimbursement Plan

Save up to \$5,000 a year with this new OKFB benefit by enabling family farmers and qualified small business owners to deduct more health expenses.

ScriptSave

Save up to 75 percent on your prescriptions at more than 62,000 pharmacies nationwide.



ENJOYING LIFE TO THE FULLEST

Choice Hotels International, InterContinental Hotel Group & Wyndham Hotel Group

Need a place to rest after a fun and relaxing day? Visit these hotels to receive an OKFB discount or special rates.

Alamo Rent-A-Car, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Avis, Hertz Rent-A-Car & National Car Rental

Make your vacations and trips easier and more enjoyable by using your OKFB membership to get a car rental.

Frontier City/Whitewater Bay, Great Wolf Lodge, Orlando Vacations, Silver Dollar City, Branson, Missouri, Six Flags

Want a fun place for the entire family? Check out these destinations that offer special deals for OKFB members.

AT&T Wireless

Share your fun experiences with friends and family the easy way – using the nation's largest network with the fewest dropped calls and your OKFB 10 percent discount.



OKFB helps members combat rising healthcare costs

As healthcare costs continue to skyrocket, our farm families are looking for every opportunity to offset these rising costs. To better serve you and bring increased value to your membership, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau recently partnered with Total Administrative Service Corporation, who specializes in creating tax deductible savings for healthcare insurance and out-of-pocket medical expenses.

TASC is a nationally recognized company and the largest privately held third-party benefits administrator. For more than 40 years, TASC has been helping farm families keep more money in their pockets and give less to the IRS. In 2015, the average tax savings was over \$5,000. The company is headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, with regional offices throughout the United States. TASC does have a regional office in Oklahoma City, which covers the state of Oklahoma.

Healthcare Costs are Rapidly Rising

Everyone feels the pain of the rising cost of medical expenses. Consider these startling facts: According to The Kaiser Family Foundation's Employer

Health Benefits Annual Survey, in 2014 the average annual insurance premium for family coverage was \$16,834; it was \$9,950 in 2004. That's a 69% jump in premium expenses in just over 10 years!

Another survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation uncovered these startling facts: One in five families said that over the previous 12-month period they'd experienced serious financial problems due to family medical bills; 27% put off or postponed getting medical care they needed; and 34% reported skipping dental care or checkups.

TASC has solutions: AgriPlan HRA Plan AgriPlan Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) save substantial tax dollars annually by allowing family farmers to deduct 100 percent of their family's health insurance premiums (including health, dental, vision, long term care and disability) and almost all out-of-pocket medical expenses. Insurance is deductible whether it is from a major carrier, Obama Care or even Medicare. AgriPlan helps ensure that all IRS requirements are met and we offer a 100% audit guarantee (which your accountant will appreciate). The average



savings for this type of plan is over \$5,000 a year!

If you currently spend \$5,000 or more on healthcare insurance and out of pocket medical expenses, you should look into AgriPlan. **This plan is for married couples, unless your only employees are family members.*

Call TASC's toll-free hotline at (855) 591-0562 today! A TASC Microbusiness Specialist will answer all your questions about your eligibility and advise you on how to move forward. You may also email microbusiness@tasconline.com for more information on how this program can work for you.

If you prefer, you might have your tax professional contact Peter LaTona, regional sales director for Oklahoma. To schedule a call, email peter.latona@tasconline.com.

New vision benefit available for Farm Bureau members

Looking for a vision plan that provides outstanding benefits, a large network of Oklahoma independent eye care doctors, unlimited eye exams, both eyeglasses and contact lens provided at wholesale cost, and very affordable premiums?

Primary Vision Care Services is a 24-year-old Oklahoma-based vision care benefit company with more than 350 network providers in Oklahoma. PVCS offers the highest quality benefit available, including eye exams with no copay when needed, not just once every

year or two. PVCS is the only company in the industry that offers care when you need it. Eyeglasses are covered with a wholesale cost copay for as many pairs as desired, not just one pair. Contact lenses are also covered at wholesale cost plus a small fitting fee. You can get glasses AND contacts, not just one or the other.

Getting everything you need in basic eye care is the PVCS vision benefit. PVCS is well respected within the vision care industry. Enrollment begins in the final months of each calendar year. You can access enrollment via the PVCS -Farm

Bureau enrollment link: <https://www.pvcs-usa.com/okfb/> or through the Farm Bureau website in health benefits and using the PVCS link. The home office telephone number for PVCS is (580) 357-6912 and Fax (580) 357-6919.



A START WITH A PURPOSE

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU IS CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SERVING OUR MEMBERS AND OUR STATE. IN THIS FIRST INSTALLMENT IN A SERIES LOOKING BACK THROUGH OFFB HISTORY, WE EXAMINE THE EARLIEST YEARS OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau celebrated our storied organization at our 2016 convention with the statement, “Bold Innovators with the Wisdom to See Beyond Tomorrow.”

This statement could never be more fitting than this year as we commemorate 75 years as Oklahoma Farm Bureau. The dream of a grassroots-led organization serving farmers and ranchers can actually trace its roots back as early as 1919 when two Oklahomans came together to form the Oklahoma State Farm Council, which actually served as a catalyst and foundation for the early formation of the American Farm Bureau.

A little over two decades later, the dream became reality when seven men

were elected to serve on the first Oklahoma Farm Bureau Board of Directors. A formidable task for seven individuals to represent our entire state, these men tirelessly traveled to farms across the state to gain members for the fledgling organization.

Now 75 years later, our organization boast a membership of more than 95,000 Oklahomans of which 26,000 family farmers and ranchers are represented. The dream of serving an organization that educates and protects agriculture is never more vital than it is today. In our next three issues of Oklahoma Country, we will continue to celebrate and share stories of our humble beginnings which drive us today to carry the banner for farmers and ranchers across the state.



1938 | UNOFFICIAL TRIP TO AFBF

Clarence Roberts leads a delegation of observers to the American Farm Bureau convention with hopes of planting the seeds of inspiration to create an Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

1940 | ONE FARMER FEEDS ABOUT 19 PEOPLE

1938

1939

1940

1941

1941 | FIRST OFFICES FOR ORGANIZATION

An organizing committee rents their first office in the Oklahoma City Livestock Exchange Building, later to become the first Oklahoma Farm Bureau office. Rent was \$25 per month.

SEPT. 1, 1939 | START OF WORLD WAR II



Oklahoma Farmers to Set Up State Farm Bureau

FARM BUREAUS now being organized in Oklahoma, county by county, are adding to their number and their membership each week. It is evident that farmers want the farm bureau in Oklahoma and they are setting it up. Meetings already have been called

for it in Oklahoma, the farmers present have decided to organize a farm bureau of their own in their county.

The percentages of those present who have taken out memberships then and there has been surprisingly high. In some meetings it was

duded are Washington county January 14, Okmulgee county January 15, Okfuskee, Tillman and Canadian counties January 16, Ellis county January 19, Dewey county January 20, Roger Mills county January 21

voting-delegates at the organization meeting.

There may be farmers in other counties who would like to know more about the farm bureau. They may want to consider setting up their county farm bureau now, before this state meeting so they can take part in organizing the state farm bureau.

W. J. Cooper, 821 Gray street, Salt Lake City, president of the organization



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:

The original Oklahoma Farm Bureau Board on Feb. 3, 1942: (L to R) Ray Howard, Harper Co.; Buster Brown, Tulsa Co.; Lewis H. Munn, Alfalfa Co.; E.G. Jeffrey, Canadian Co., Treasurer; Frank B. Trimmer, Bryan Co., Vice President; John I. Taylor, Comanche Co., President; Clyde Newberry, Kiowa Co., Secretary.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members attending the American Farm Bureau Convention in 1946 stopped in Salt Lake City during their journey for sightseeing.



On January 21, 1948, the Kingfisher County Coyote Roundup Club held their annual barbecue. Five ladies from the office bought a pelt for the organization, and with other Farm Bureau members and employees chipping in, enough pelts were purchased to make a rug for the home office.

NOV. 4-5, 1942 | FIRST CONVENTION

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gather for their first meeting at the Huckins Hotel in Oklahoma City.

FEB. 2, 1942 | FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

Delegates meet in the Huckins Hotel in Oklahoma City to draft a constitution and bylaws. The first directors are elected.

1942

FEB. 3, 1942 | FORMATION OF OFFB

Charter members meet to form Oklahoma Farm Bureau with a total of 968 members. Membership dues cost \$5. Oklahoma is the 42nd state to join American Farm Bureau.

1942 | LOAF OF BREAD

COSTS 9 CENTS



JOHN I. TAYLOR

FIRST PRESIDENT OF OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU, 1942 - 1953

“There is one other factor in our economy which has been overlooked — lately, at least — and it probably is most important of all.

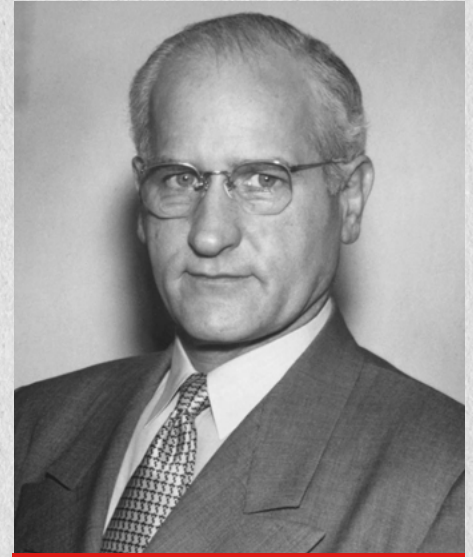
THIS IS INITIATIVE.

It involves attributes of *hard work, thrift, brainwork, planning* and *scheming* to get ahead in the world and being paid for **doing the job better.**

It also involves raising the standards of our profession;

**TO LOVE THE DIRT AS WE LOVE LIFE ITSELF;
TO ANALYZE OUR OWN INDIVIDUAL SITUATIONS;
TO PUT OURSELVES ON THE PLANE WITH OTHER BUSINESSES.**

We must maintain *initiative* if we are to remain free!”



JOHN I. TAYLOR BACKGROUND:

Comanche County Rancher

Born in Pittsburg, KS, 1902

Extensive knowledge of *Robert's Rules of Order* cited as one of his qualifications

Summoned to Washington, D.C., by AFBF President Shuman to serve as an assistant legislative director

DEC. 1942 | FIRST AFBF DELEGATE

John I. Taylor, Oklahoma Farm Bureau President, attends the American Farm Bureau annual meeting as Oklahoma's delegate. Two other board members attend.

1942

1943

1944

1945

19

NOV. 1943 | EARLY RESOLUTIONS

Delegates to the second Oklahoma Farm Bureau annual meeting adopt 31 resolutions.

NOV. 1944 | ASSOCIATED WOMEN

A group of women meet to create the Associated Women of Oklahoma Farm Bureau. The meeting is held one year after an initial discussion meeting was held.



EARLY FARM BUREAU POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions are the basis of our organization's grassroots-led policy formation. At the second-annual Oklahoma Farm Bureau meeting, members approved 31 resolutions to improve agriculture and rural Oklahoma. The subjects of our earliest resolutions included:

- THE WAR EFFORT
- FARM PROGRAMS
- FARM CREDIT
- FARM FREIGHT RATES
- FARM TAXES
- FARM COOPERATIVES
- FARM MARKETING
- FARMERS INSURANCE
- FARMER EDUCATION
- ELECTIONS
- TAG AGENTS

EARLY FARM BUREAU BY THE NUMBERS

- 5** Cost of the first Oklahoma Farm Bureau memberships, in dollars
- 43** Average age of the first Farm Bureau board of directors
- 45** Number of delegates serving in the first Oklahoma Farm Bureau business session
- 968** Farm Bureau members in the first year of Oklahoma Farm Bureau

EARLY COUNTY FARM BUREAU PROGRAMS

Farm Bureau members across the state take action in their local communities through programs and events. Here are some early county efforts aimed at improving Oklahoma.

HARPER COUNTY

Worked to promote the Rural Electrification Administration at a time when one Oklahoma farm in eight had electricity

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Promoted Oklahoma Farm Bureau to farmers by located, securing and shipping in scarce feed and seed for them



KINGFISHER COUNTY

Used Farm Bureau influence to stimulate a cooperative road building program in the county, utilizing county equipment and local funds to put shale on more than 90 miles of country road


PONTOTOC COUNTY

Used an "experimental farm" to demonstrate varieties of field crops, legumes and grasses, tillage methods and results of various applications of fertilizers

1945 | SECOND OKFB OFFICE
Oklahoma Farm Bureau moves to second office at 716 West Grand (later Sheridan Ave.) in Oklahoma City to accommodate expansion.

OCT. 1947 | MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE
Garfield County becomes the first County Farm Bureau to reach 1,000 members.

1948 | FIRST OKFB MAGAZINE
Oklahoma Farm Bureau begins regularly publishing the *Oklahoma Farm Bureau Farmer*, a 24-page magazine.





1949

1946

MAY 1946 | INSURANCE GROWTH
Oklahoma Farm Bureau launches charter policy campaign for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company with 90 agents in 30 counties.

1947 | YOUTH OUTREACH
Oklahoma Farm Bureau Rural Youth Committee meets to create youth organizations.

1949

Digging Deep

One of the Noble Foundation's new research clusters aims to answer pivotal questions about roots.

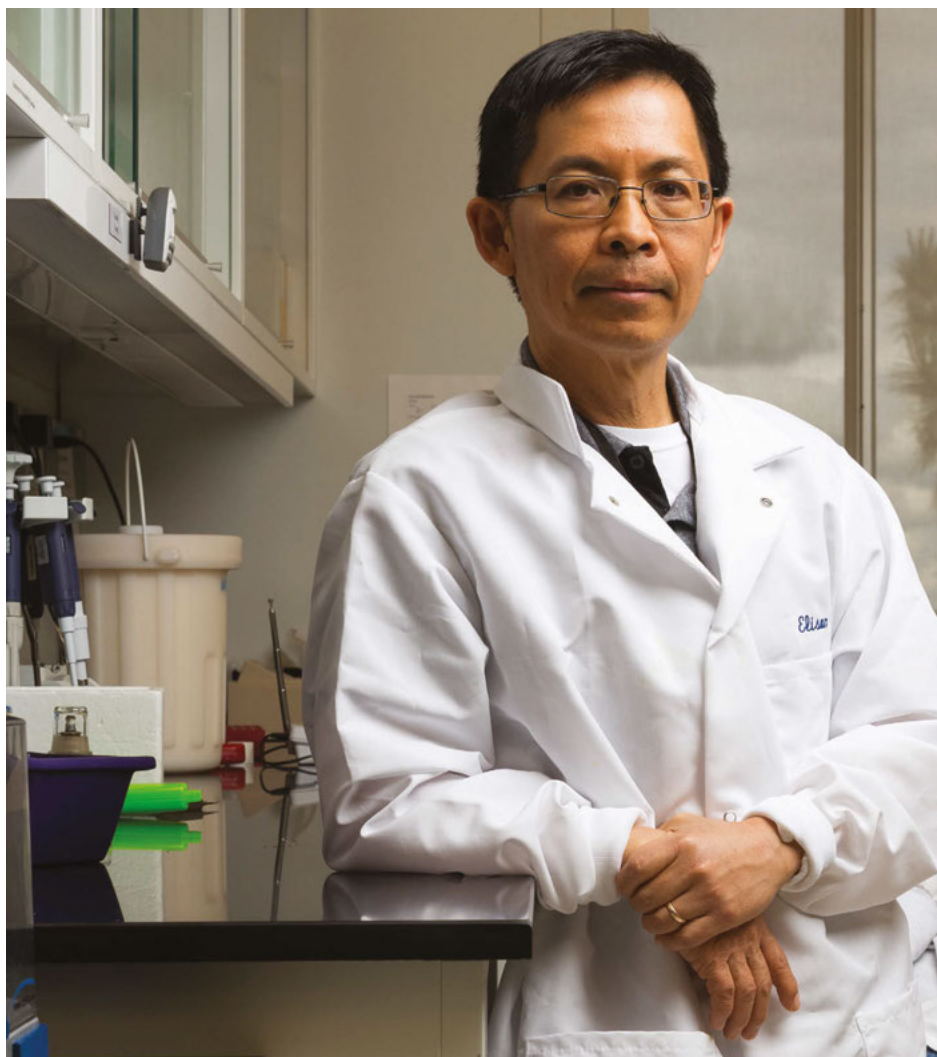
Other than the marshmallow-smothered sweet potatoes served up at Thanksgiving every year, roots don't get much public adoration. They do their jobs with little fanfare, huddled out of sight, while leaves and flowers get the glory. So in the interest of root respect, a few facts:

- The deepest root ever documented (on a wild fig tree in Africa) burrowed 400 feet into the ground.
- Prairie grass has more bulk underground in the roots than above ground in the leaves.
- More than half the surface area of a root is practically invisible, made up of tiny hairs.

As they snake down into the soil, roots anchor the plant and – largely through those root hairs – soak up water and nutrients to send upward. But much about roots remains a mystery. Scientists don't know, for example, exactly why some roots can weather a drought, or survive for months buried in frozen ground, or even manage the hydraulics of channeling sometimes thousands of gallons of water each day against the force of gravity. For that matter, scientists still can't fully explain why roots grow down and not up.

"There are still many unanswered questions," said Elison Blancaflor, Ph.D., of the Plant Biology Division at the Noble Foundation.

That's why Blancaflor is heading up the Plant Growth and Development Research Cluster, which aims to dig deeper into root science. Formed in 2014, the cluster is one of five research clusters that unite the scientific muscle of the Noble Foundation behind a single purpose. (The other research clusters are Low-Input Agriculture, Plant-Microbe Interactions, Breeder's Toolbox and Plant-Animal Interactions.) In addition



"We lack basic information on many aspects of root biology, which is a crucial step for developing crop varieties with more efficient root systems." – Elison Blancaflor, Ph.D.

to Blancaflor, Xuefeng Ma, Ph.D., of the Forage Improvement Division's small grains breeding laboratory, helps steer the cluster. But members of all three operating divisions are involved, including James Rogers, Ph.D., an agronomist in the Agricultural Division's Center for Advanced Agricultural Systems and Technology.

While each division has pursued its

own projects throughout the decades, the clusters create research teams that are greater than the sum of their parts. All of the groups are tackling the most formidable agricultural problems facing farmers and ranchers of the Southern Great Plains and beyond.

The Plant Growth and Development Research Cluster identified roots as one early focus because so much knowledge



is still lacking. The growth of roots in soils, the shape of the individual root cells, the powers of resilience – all these properties involve thousands of intricate, overlapping biological processes that must be tightly regulated throughout the life of the plant, Blancaflor said. Yet, he added, “We lack basic information on many aspects of root biology, which is a crucial step for developing crop varieties with more efficient root systems.”

The project will study root development in vital forage crops, such as tall fescue, alfalfa and winter wheat.

“Hopefully we can find some useful genes that would lead to development of better root architecture – deeper roots, better root mass,” Ma said.

By finding key genes, scientists can then turn to breeding crops that are more resilient.

The job of taking the research findings outside the laboratory will fall to Rogers, who specializes in pasture and range management. In addition to surviving harsh conditions, plants with stronger roots may be better able to withstand grazing pressure. Animals can shear too much off the top of a plant, which weakens its ability to revive.

Better knowledge of roots may also be useful in the effort to enable farmers to move away from tilling their fields, Rogers said. Mechanical plowing exposes the soil, leaving it vulnerable to erosion especially on the wind-whipped plains. Plowing can also create a compact layer of soil below the surface. To break this up, farmers use subsoiler plows to rip through that hard layer. Certain plants can provide the same purpose without leaving a field exposed.

“Roots themselves can till the soil,” Rogers said.

One plant, the Nitro radish, produces a large taproot that punches deep holes

into the ground.

“It’s like a natural subsoiler,” Rogers said.


As research uncovers more secrets about roots, farmers and ranchers may eventually have more choices for plants that act as natural tillers.

For his part, Rogers welcomes the attention to root biology and concedes that he, too, would not have thought as much about roots were it not for the new research cluster.

“I do applied research, so I’m interested in what goes on above the ground, like the levels of moisture, fertilizer and how animals respond to forage quality,” he said. “But sometimes to understand what’s going on above the ground, you need to know what’s happening below.”

Even though the cluster is less than

two years old, Blancaflor and his team have discovered a handful of genes and proteins that play pivotal roles in root architecture, such as the length and shape of the root hair, and zone of growth.

Blancaflor says one big challenge will be translating those findings to tangible benefits: “Can increasing the length, density or longevity of root hairs by changing the expression of specific genes really lead to more efficient roots for water and nutrient acquisition? What roots types are better for the Southern Great Plains – shallow ones so they can better scavenge for immobile nutrients like phosphorus or deeper ones so they can access limited water better? These are some of the questions we are going to answer.” 



“... I’m interested in what goes on above the ground, like the levels of moisture, fertilizer and how animals respond to forage quality. But sometimes to understand what’s going on above the ground, you need to know what’s happening below.”

– James Rogers, Ph.D.



“Hopefully we can find some useful genes that would lead to development of better root architecture – deeper roots, better root mass.”

– Xuefeng Ma, Ph.D.

CONVENTION REVIEW

Farm Family of the Year awarded to Maschino family



Pictured left to right: OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Chairman Kitty Beavers, OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke, Cameron Colter with Vance Auto, and OKFB President Tom Buchanan present the OKFB 2016 Farm Family of the Year award to Idella and Roger Maschino, pictured with their son, Austin, daughter, Fayla, and grandson, Dakota.

Roger and Idella Maschino of Guymon were named the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Farm Family of the Year during OKFB's 75th Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

"It's very humbling, but very honoring," Roger Maschino said shortly after being named farm family of the year. "We're proud to be Americans, and we're proud to be in agriculture, and we just pray that we will be a lighthouse and a good example of American agriculture and Farm Bureau for the state of Oklahoma."

The Maschinos raise cattle in Texas, Cimarron and Delaware counties. The couple is focused on quality animals, which produce quality beef for consumers.

"We have developed our beef to where

our calves are grading 100 percent choice and higher," Roger Maschino said. "They go into an all-natural beef program that is sold through the website 44steaks.com.

"We like quality and our quality is good enough that it is now featured in 200 restaurants across the United States."

Roger and Idella continue to develop their cattle herd by collecting detailed harvest data and careful selection of breeding stock.

Idella, a Colorado native, still holds an interest in her family's farm in southeastern Colorado, where the family raises white wheat, which produces a unique, high-quality flour.

Ranching is a passion for the Maschinos, who raised two children on the family's ranch, and who now work

alongside their grandson, passing along their love for agriculture.

"In the ag environment, whether it be farming or cattle, there's two things that you have to have, and that's passion and commitment," Roger Maschino said. "You either love it or hate it, and if you love it, it doesn't matter how tough things get, you will find a way to survive."

"I remember my dad saying, 'It wasn't what you made in farming that kept you farming. It's what you're going to make,'" Idella said.

The farm family program, sponsored by the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee, recognizes farm and ranch families who embody the best traditions of Oklahoma agriculture and rural life.



OKFB members reaffirm feral hog policy

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau delegate body reaffirmed its backing of feral hog eradication during the organization's annual meeting Saturday, Nov. 12 in Oklahoma City. Members from all 77 county Farm Bureaus gathered to set policy to direct the organization throughout the coming year.

Feral, or wild hogs, are an invasive species found in all 77 counties, costing farmers and ranchers millions of dollars in damage to property, equipment and facilities.

"Feral hogs are still an onerous burden for farmers and ranchers across the state," OKFB President Tom Buchanan said. "We fought for eradication last year and will continue to do so until the invasive species is no longer a problem."

OKFB feral hog policy states, "ODAFF should take action through the administrative rules process to end the transportation of live feral hogs in Oklahoma. We support the eradication of feral hogs as an invasive species. All landowners should be encouraged to eradicate feral hogs on their land by any means possible. We do not support commercial sport hunting of feral hogs."

The delegate body also approved policy to encourage the elimination of unnecessary school administration positions.

"As our state's education crisis continues, rural Oklahoma must have a say in the future of our school systems," Buchanan said. "Today, our members made a progressive step toward improved education for both urban and rural students."

The newly-adopted education policy states, "We support examining the administrative structure of all education - primary, secondary and university - and the elimination of unneeded positions and repeated curriculum...We support allowing schools to share or

co-op the services of a superintendent."

Other new policies include a call to declare the black buzzard as an invasive species, the maintenance of funding for county extension educators, and continued opposition against the Environmental Protection Agency's Waters of the U.S. rule.

All 77 county Farm Bureaus submitted resolutions to the OKFB policy book which were reviewed by a statewide committee and voted on by the delegate body during the annual meeting.



Top: OKFB Resolutions Committee members track policy proposals during the first business session of the OKFB Annual Meeting. Bottom left: Phyllis Holcomb (left), OKFB delegate, discusses a policy change with other delegates and members. Bottom right: OKFB President Tom Buchanan (left) and Vice President Jimmy Wayne Kinder (right) run the business meeting Saturday morning.

Gibson honored with OKFB Distinguished Service Award



Pictured left to right: Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan and OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke present Billy Gibson with the 2016 Distinguished Service to OKFB award. Gibson is joined by his wife, Janet, and family.

Billy Gibson of Pontotoc County was recognized with the Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Award during the OKFB 75th Annual Convention Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

The award honors OKFB members who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture and the Farm Bureau organization.

Gibson has been in agriculture for nearly 42 years and served several terms on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau State Board of Directors as well as on the Pontotoc County Farm Bureau board since 1978. He is active in a cow/calf and stocker/feeder operation in addition

to his contributions within the pecan industry.

He has attended 23 national Farm Bureau conventions and served as a delegate five times. Gibson said Oklahoma Farm Bureau members and staff were at the heart of his dedication to the organization.

“This was quite a surprise,” Gibson said of receiving the honor. “The people I met and got to work with made it worthwhile.”

Gibson is also a member of the Oklahoma Cattleman’s Association and an AFBF Research Foundation Executive Club Member.

Morrow receives OKFB Award



OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke (left) presents Charles Morrow with the 2016 OKFB Golden Eagle Award at the 75th Annual Convention.

Charles Morrow of Pontotoc County Farm Bureau was presented with the Golden Eagle Award Nov. 11 during the Oklahoma Farm Bureau 75th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City.

The Golden Eagle award is presented each year to the individual or county who has worked to recruit the most new members throughout the year. These memberships were not based on insurance services, but instead joined as stand-alone members of the federation.

“I just let them know we’re a farm organization that is involved in legislation and politics to some extent, and that we’re not just an insurance company,” Morrow said when asked about his success in recruiting new members. “I just let them know all the different things we do, because they want to know what membership would do for them.”

As the winner of the Gold Eagle Award, Morrow received a traveling trophy and a personalized jacket.

County Farm Bureaus recognized for excellence

Several county Farm Bureaus were recognized for excellence during the Oklahoma Farm Bureau 75th Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

Each year, OKFB recognizes the county Farm Bureaus that have excelled in program areas such as membership, program planning, policy development, policy execution, information and public affairs, political education, women’s activities and Young Farmers and Ranchers with a Presidential Star Award.

Alfalfa, Garfield, Noble, Payne and Seminole each received the Six Star Award for excelling in six program areas.

Receiving the Five Star Award were: Caddo, Comanche, Kiowa, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Pontotoc and Texas.

Four Star Awards were presented to: Creek, Kingfisher, Major, Muskogee, Nowata and Stephens.

Three Star Awards were presented to: Cherokee, Cotton, Haskell, Kay, Latimer, Pottawatomie, Tulsa,

Washington and Woods.

OKFB also recognized the county Farm Bureaus that reached their membership quotas: Adair, Alfalfa, Beaver, Coal, Cotton, Custer, Delaware, Ellis, Greer, Harmon, Harper, Haskell, Jackson, Jefferson, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Love, McClain, Major, Mayes, Noble, Nowata, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Pawnee, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Seminole and Texas.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members elected to leadership positions during 75th Annual Convention

Several leadership positions, including three state board members, were decided during Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 75th Annual Convention Nov. 11-13 in Oklahoma City.

Rodd Moesel of Canadian County was re-elected to a three-year term on the OKFB board of directors representing District 3. District 3 encompasses Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Grady, Kingfisher, Logan and Oklahoma counties in central Oklahoma.

James Fuser of Ottawa County was also re-elected to serve a three-year term on the board of directors for OKFB representing District 6. Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, McIntosh, Mayes, Muskogee,

Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoia and Wagoner counties in northeastern Oklahoma represent District 6.

Jim Meek of Okmulgee County was elected to serve a three-year term on the OKFB board of directors representing District 9. Meek will take Phyllis Holcomb's place on the board. District 9 includes Creek, Lincoln, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Osage, Pawnee, Payne, Tulsa and Washington counties in north central Oklahoma.

The OKFB Women's Leadership Committee re-elected Kitty Beavers of Stephens County to serve as the chairman for a term of two years. The OKFB WLC also elected two new board members:

Mary Sloan from District 6 and Cindy Schoenecke from District 9. Sharlene Lambring was re-elected to represent District 3. 00432290

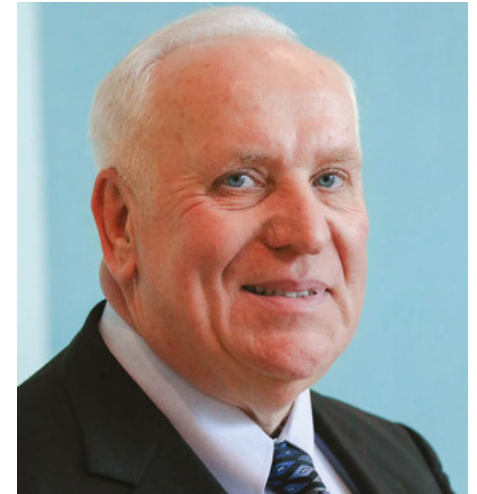
The OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee elected Travis and Rylee Schnaithman of Garfield County to serve as chairman for a one-year term. Members elected Brent and Jennifer Howard from Jackson County, District 2, as vice chairman. Additional new committee members are: Dell Farris of Comanche County, District 3; Baylie Cooper of McIntosh County, District 5; and Rachel Pickens of Payne County, District 8.



Rodd Moesel was re-elected to represent District 3 on the OKFB board of directors.



James Fuser was re-elected to represent District 6 on the OKFB board of directors.



Jim Meek was newly elected to represent District 9 on the OKFB board of directors.



Two new board members were elected to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee: Mary Sloan, District 6 (middle) and Cindy Schoenecke, District 9 (right). Sharlene Lambring (left) was re-elected to represent District 3.



Baylie Cooper of McIntosh County (left), Dell Farris of Comanche County (middle) and Rachel Pickens of Payne County were elected to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

Payne County member wins YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award



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

Rachel Pickens was named the winner of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award on Nov. 11 at OKFB's 75th Annual Convention in Oklahoma City.

The award recognizes successful young adults ages 35 years or younger who are involved in farming, but whose primary

occupations are not farming or owning an agricultural business. Winners are chosen based on their involvement in agriculture and participation in Oklahoma Farm Bureau and other community organizations.

Known as the "Oklahoma Land Lady," Rachel is a successful realtor in

Payne County. In 2010, she opened an agritourism venue, which also serves as an educational field trip destination for approximately 2,000 people per year.

Pickens also helps with the Kicking Childhood Hunger Committee, which is designed to raise money to help with food insecurity in Payne County.

"The committee has helped at our agritourism farm to help connect the general public to the awareness of childhood hunger," she said. "We explain the importance of doing more with less and why we use practices the way we do in agriculture to continue to supply the demand of the growing population."

As the Excellence in Agriculture Award winner, Pickens received a Polaris four-wheeler, courtesy of Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma and Oklahoma AgCredit, and an expense-paid trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting Jan. 6-11 in Phoenix, Arizona, where she competed for the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Pickens will be donating the Polaris four-wheeler to the Kicking Childhood Hunger Committee to auction next year.

"This award is truly an honor because that's another way I can give back to the community," Pickens said.

OKFB YF&R name high school discussion meet winner

Dalton Miller of Blanchard, Oklahoma, was named the winner of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers high school discussion meet held Thursday, Nov. 10, in Oklahoma City.

Luke Muller, Elizabeth Schneider, Cody Courtney and Miranda Gilchrist were the other four finalists.

Miller is a student at Amber-Pocasset High School in Amber, Oklahoma, where he is active in his local FFA chapter.

"I'm so thankful to this great opportunity," Miller said. "I enjoyed discussing agricultural topics with other knowledgeable, educated young people."

Miller said the event was an excellent way to discuss and learn about current agricultural issues.

"This contest allowed me to express my passion for agriculture and to learn more about agricultural policies and the laws that really regulate our industry," Miller said.

Miller received a MacBook Air laptop computer as the winner of the discussion meet. Muller, Schneider, Courtney and Gilchrist all received an iPad Mini as the remaining top four finalists.

The high school discussion meet allows high school students to participate in an event that promotes basic discussion



OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson (left) presents Dalton Miller with the 2016 High School Discussion Meet Award.

skills, develops an understanding of agricultural issues and explores how groups can pool knowledge to solve problems.

YF&R Achievement Award presented to Comanche County member

Isaac Fisher of Comanche County was named the winner of the 2016 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award. He was recognized as OKFB's top young farming and ranching individual at the 75th annual convention on Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

Fisher concentrates on raising stocker cattle and growing wheat and cotton near the southwest Oklahoma town of Chattanooga. He also runs a custom haying business swathing and baling hay for fellow farmers and ranchers in the area.

"It's an honor to even be considered for this award," Fisher said. "To be recognized for the Achievement Award from this organization feels really good."

Fisher serves on the OKFB YF&R state committee, and he is active in his local YF&R committee. He has attended numerous state Farm Bureau events in addition to serving as a local volunteer firefighter.

As the Achievement Award winner,



Pictured left to right: OKFB President Tom Buchanan and OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson present Isaac Fisher with the 2016 OKFB YF&R Achievement Award with YF&R sponsor Reed Boettcher of Great Plains Kubota.

Fisher received a Kubota RTV500 courtesy of Great Plains Kubota and an expense-paid trip to Phoenix for the 2017 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting.

Fisher competed on a national level for the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers

Achievement Award during the AFBF Annual Meeting.

"I'm both excited and nervous about competing on the national level, but I'm looking forward to this opportunity," Fisher said at the OKFB convention.

Comanche County honored with top county YF&R award

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Comanche County Young Farmers and Ranchers committee is the 2016 recipient of the Charles L. Roff Award. The award was presented in Oklahoma City at the OKFB 75th Annual Meeting Nov. 11.

The Charles L. Roff Award encourages county YF&R groups to improve their local committees and activity participation while strengthening the Farm Bureau organization.

The goal of Comanche County YF&R is to keep agriculture alive and encourage younger generations to aspire to be in the agriculture field.

The county's highlight activities for the year included visiting the local farmer's market to answer questions about Oklahoma's Right to Farm and orchestrating a farmhand Olympics, which included live coverage on the local television station. Members of the county YF&R also attended all of the YF&R events throughout the year and held monthly meetings and



OKFB YF&R Chairman Josh Emerson (left) presents the 2016 OKFB YF&R Charles I. Roff Award to John Morris (center) of Comanche County Farm Bureau with OKFB President Tom Buchanan.

activities. In addition, a member of the Comanche County YF&R currently serves on the National Ag Farm Policy Advisory Committee.

The county received a traveling plaque in recognition for their outstanding committee involvement.

Seminole County receives top OKFB county award

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has named Seminole County the John I. Taylor Award winner for 2016. The announcement was made at the OKFB 75th Annual Convention Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

The John I. Taylor Award is named after OKFB's first president and serves as the organization's highest county honor. County winners are required to earn the Four-Star Presidential Award and excel in at least six different program areas.

This past year, members of the Seminole County Farm Bureau excelled in several program areas, including program planning, membership, public policy involvement, local affairs and public relations, safety, and service to members.

One of the county's most outstanding events in 2016 was the capitol tour, during which members and non-members were invited to tour the Oklahoma State Capitol and learn more about the legislative process. Members of the Seminole County Farm Bureau were actively involved in the Women's Leadership Committee, and encouraged participation in Young Farmers and Ranchers events and activities.



Syd Morgan, Seminole County Farm Bureau vice president (left), accepts the 2016 Oklahoma Farm Bureau John I. Taylor Award from OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke during the 75th Annual OKFB Convention Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

Coble named OKFB Journalist of the Year

April Coble of the *Guyton Daily Herald Newspaper* was recognized with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Journalist of the Year award during the OKFB 75th Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

Coble is a reporter for the *Guyton Daily Herald Newspaper* in Guyton, Oklahoma. She also played a critical role in promoting State Question 777. Coble attends several Farm Bureau events as a means to publicize the Texas County advocacy efforts.

This award honors journalists for their contributions through reporting accurately and regularly about Farm Bureau news, agricultural issues and the importance to Oklahoma and the nation.

April Coble of the *Guyton Daily Herald Newspaper* receives the 2016 OKFB Journalist of the Year award.



Howard wins OKFB YF&R Discussion Meet

Jennifer Howard of Jackson County was named the 2016 Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet winner at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau 75th Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

Howard competed against four other participants in three rounds of debate-style discussion where performance was evaluated on the exchange of ideas and information on pre-determined topics. Participants were judged on their ability to offer constructive criticism, cooperation and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions.

“This is a great opportunity to promote this industry that we all love and feel so passionate about,” Howard said. “I’m grateful to the sponsor of the event, P&K Equipment, for their generosity and for making this award possible.”

As the state discussion meet winner, Howard received a John Deere X320 Lawn Mower, presented by P&K Equipment, and an Icehole cooler. She also competed



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

in the national discussion meet contest at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

“I’m definitely very passionate about

agriculture and I’m looking forward to conversations and the topics at the national level,” Howard said.

Beef for Backpacks

The Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs use donated cattle and hogs to produce nutritious beef and pork sticks for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma's Food for Kids program.

For more information on how to donate livestock, contact Thad Doye by phone at (405) 523-2307 or by email at thad.doye@okfb.org.

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Collins named OKFB Secretary of the Year

Cheslea Collins of the Texas County Farm Bureau office was honored as the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Secretary of the Year at the OKFB 75th Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

Collins works in the Texas County Farm Bureau office in Guymon. A lifelong Texas County resident, she raises cattle with her husband and boys in the area.

County secretaries serve as the face of the county Farm Bureau office with not only customers but also with potential new members.

“I do a little bit of everything,” Collins said of her responsibilities in the county office. “I know pretty much every customer’s name when they walk in the door, who they are, where they come from and what they do.”

Collins went above and beyond in her efforts to serve her local community. She and another Farm Bureau member raised \$50,000 in two months to build a playground at a rural school that many Farm Bureau members’ children attend. She has also been instrumental in advocating for agriculture and Farm Bureau programs throughout the county.



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Executive Director Monica Wilke (left) presents the 2016 OKFB Secretary of the Year Award to Cheslea Collins.

“It’s an honor,” Collins said of receiving the award. “I worked hard this year, and I had some goals that I set and we accomplished them. I have the best board members I could ask for who backed me on everything we wanted to do for the county, including open houses and our

local parade. It’s a tremendous honor, and I’m very happy to receive it.”

Collins will receive an expense-paid trip to the 2017 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in Phoenix for being selected as OKFB Secretary of the Year.

Alfalfa County receives Lewis H. Munn award



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Executive Director Monica Wilke (left) presents the 2016 OKFB Lewis H. Munn award to Ryan Pjesky of Alfalfa County.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau presented Alfalfa County with the Lewis H. Munn Farm Bureau Builders Award during the OKFB 75th Annual Convention on Nov. 11 in Oklahoma City.

The award is named after the second president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, and each year a specific area of involvement is judged for the award. This year’s area was local affairs and public relations.

Alfalfa County Farm Bureau coordinated with their county Conservation District to purchase equipment that local farmers can rent to improve their land. This county raffled off a rifle to help raise awareness and funds for State Question 777.

The county also gained publicity through a strong Facebook presence using the social media platform to promote agriculture and Farm Bureau, including holding a photo contest and a “12 Days of Farm Bureau” giveaway encouraging personal interaction with community members.

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ALL AROUND OKLAHOMA

OKFB women attend 2016 WLC Fall Conference

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee hosted their 2016 Fall Conference Oct. 28-29 in Oklahoma City.

Women from across the state attended the two-day event featuring various speakers, workshops, entertainment and more.

During the opening lunch, women heard OKFB President Tom Buchanan speak about State Question 777, Oklahoma's Right to Farm amendment.

Conference workshops featured safety tips concerning an active shooter from OKFB Director of Safety Services Micah Martin, fun pumpkin crafts from Audrey Harmon from Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom, and the "Lions, Tigers & GMOs" presentation from Sarah Weeks, the ag business coordinator from Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee.

Attendees were encouraged to visit the trade show for a fun and unique shopping experience with various items, such as clothing, purses, gifts and more. Women also had bid on several items in a silent auction to benefit the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation.

Before dinner, women heard from Lois Lenkner, author of *Oodles of Tomatoes & One Packed Van*. Lenkner spoke about the inspiration behind the book and more

information about their family farm in Barber County, Kansas. Connie Watts, the illustrator of the book, also attended the conference. Members had the opportunity to purchase books for their own use or for donation to a local school teacher for Ag in the Classroom.

Saturday morning began with a fun

wreath-making session. Finally, members toured the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum and attended an interpretive program provided by the National Park Service Rangers, which discussed the site's significance and the symbolism in the outdoor memorial.



Above: OKFB WLC members visit the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum during the annual fall conference. Bottom right: Members enjoy fall-themed crafts led by Audrey Harmon of Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom. Bottom left: Attendees listen to a presentation highlighting important facts and myths regarding GMOs and other food concerns.





Three Oklahoma Farm Bureau candidates win election

Three candidates with Oklahoma Farm Bureau ties were elected Tuesday to serve in the Oklahoma State Senate. Roland Pederson, longtime OKFB member and former state board member, Lonnie Paxton, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company agent, and Chris Kidd, OKFB vice president of membership and organization, each overwhelmingly won their respective races.

“As Oklahomans become further removed from the farm, we must help elect leaders who value our farmers and ranchers,” said Monica Wilke, OKFB executive director. “We are proud of Roland, Chris and Lonnie, and know they will fight for agriculture at the state Capitol.”

Burlington native Roland Pederson

was elected to serve Senate District 19. A second-generation farmer, Pederson has produced cattle, wheat and alfalfa for the past 40 years.

Lonnie Paxton defeated opponent Larry Wasson in the Senate District 23 race. An insurance agent for 18 years, Paxton also farms and is a small business owner.

Chris Kidd was chosen to serve southwestern Oklahoma’s Senate District 31. Before beginning his eight-year career with OKFB, Kidd taught agricultural education at Waurika High School. The Waurika native also raises cattle with his father on the family’s southern Oklahoma ranch.

All three candidates were supported and endorsed by the OKAgFund, OKFB’s political action committee.

Additional successful OKAgFund-

supported state Senate candidates are Larry Boggs, Senate District 7; Rob Standridge, Senate District 15; Adam Pugh, Senate District 41; and Greg Treat, Senate District 47.

Additional successful OKAgFund-supported state House of Representatives candidates include John Bennett, House District 2; Todd Thomsen, House District 25; Kevin Wallace, House District 32; Sean Roberts, House District 36; Leslie Osborn, House District 47; Scott Biggs, House District 51; Casey Murdock, House District 61; John Michael Montgomery, House District 62; Jeff Coody, House District 63; Scooter Park, House District 65; Scott Inman, House District 94; and Elise Hall, House District 100.

4-H Foundation announces Senator Ron Justice 4-H Presidential Inauguration Endowment

The Oklahoma 4-H Foundation recently announced the Senator Ron Justice 4-H Presidential Inauguration Endowment, named after Sen. Ron Justice, a longtime friend to agriculture and to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

This new fund will allow for Oklahoma 4-H members who are selected through a competitive process to attend Presidential Inaugurations and leadership development activities in Washington D.C.

The Oklahoma 4-H Foundation Board felt it fitting to name this endowment in honor of Sen. Ron Justice and approved matching funds for this endowment at the November 8, 2016, board meeting.

Justice spent 33 years in extension helping to make life better for Oklahoma farmers and ranchers and especially for Oklahoma 4-H members. Justice was elected to the State Senate 12 years ago and has been an unwavering advocate for 4-H members and extension

in Oklahoma.

He was also recently recognized by the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University as a 2016 Distinguished Alumni. Justice has been awarded the OKFB Champion Award in 2013, 2014, and 2015, in addition to being a member of the 100 Percent Club.

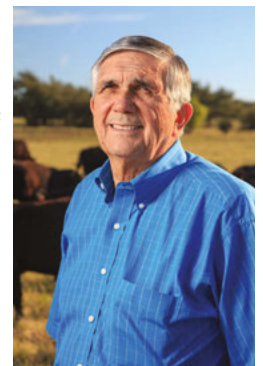
“Sen. Ron Justice has been a true public servant and champion for the Oklahoma 4-H program,” said Oklahoma 4-H Foundation President Jan Kunze. “We could not be more thrilled about this opportunity to recognize Sen. Justice for his decades of service.”

The 4-H Presidential Inauguration Trip is a special session of the Citizenship Washington Focus trip and is open to 4-H’ers ages 14-19. The goal of the trip is for Oklahoma 4-H members to learn the meaning and importance of the democratic process as well as explore the

history of the Presidency, the election process, and the role of the press. Oklahoma 4-H members will discover the intricacies of the executive branch and careers in politics and practice individual roles

in citizenship through service, civic education, and engagement. While on the trip, Oklahoma 4-H members will visit memorials, historical sites and museums and experience the Inauguration Day and related events.

To learn more about the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation or donate online go to 4h.okstate.edu/Foundation.



Sen. Ron Justice

OSU DASNR presents medallion to OKFB for support of endowed professorship



Oklahoma State University Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Vice President Dr. Thomas Coon (right) presents Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan (left) with a commemorative medallion. Dr. Jeff Sallee (center) was the recipient for the OKFB and 4-H Foundation endowed professorship.

During the OKFB state board meeting Thursday, Sept. 29, Oklahoma State University Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Vice President Dr. Thomas Coon presented OKFB President Tom Buchanan with a commemorative medallion for OKFB's support of an endowed professorship, which OKFB sponsored along with the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation.

Dr. Jeff Sallee, Oklahoma Farm Bureau and 4-H Foundation endowed professor, spoke to the board about his role in the new position as he works with 4-H educators developing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs throughout the state to help develop the next generation of leaders in agriculture and industry.



OKFB President Tom Buchanan issues statement on outcome of State Question 777

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan issued the following statement after State Question 777, *Oklahoma's Right to Farm*, did not pass.

"On behalf of the more than 26,000 family farmers and ranchers, Oklahoma Farm Bureau wants to thank the thousands of Oklahomans who voted for State Question 777, *Oklahoma's Right to Farm*. Family farmers and ranchers of Oklahoma work hard to provide the

OKFB receives commemorative plaque from OSU athletics



OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke (left) and OSU Collegiate Farm Bureau President Tyler Schnaithman (center) stand on the football field with Pistol Pete during the OSU vs. Texas game.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau received a commemorative plaque from the Oklahoma State University athletics for being a game day sponsor Oct. 1, 2016, during the Oklahoma State University vs. the University of Texas football game. OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke and OSU Collegiate Farm Bureau President Tyler Schnaithman were on the football field at halftime to accept the plaque.

OKFB women donate meals to students during the Oklahoma State Capitol Trees Decoration

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee provided meals to second-graders from Orvis Risner Elementary School who participated in the annual Oklahoma State Capitol Trees Decoration Nov. 29.

The event invited 26 selected classes from across the state to participate in several activities, including tree decorating, photos with Gov. Mary Fallin and State School Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, a visit from Santa Claus, treats, storybook reading, musical entertainment, and the lighting of the

Capitol Christmas Tree.

The OKFB WLC provided lunchables and other snacks for the second-grade class from Orvis Risner Elementary School in Edmond.

"It was greatly appreciated," said Debra Deskin, the second-grade teacher at Orvis Risner Elementary School, when asked about the WLC's donation. "It is a long day for a bunch of 7-year-olds to be out here at the Capitol, so we really appreciate their generosity."

The class chose to decorate their tree using the theme "Down on the Farm."

Deskin said they used resources from Ag in the Classroom to make some of the farm-related ornaments, such as salt dough tractors and sheep made from show curtain rings and fuzzy yarn.

This donation is part of the WLC's Our Food Link activities for the year, which seeks to connect consumers with the food Oklahoma farmers and ranchers grow and raise. The year-long program is used by county and state Farm Bureaus across the nation to reach consumers of all ages and backgrounds with information about today's agriculture.



Left: Orvis Risner Elementary School second-graders participated in the annual Oklahoma State Capitol Trees Decoration Nov. 29 in Oklahoma City, where the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee provided their meals. Upper right: Margaret Ann Kinder of Cotton County, WLC District 4, hands out lunchables to students. Bottom right: Second-graders enjoy their meal just before the lighting of the Capitol Christmas Tree.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau announces inaugural members of OKFB Caucus

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau is excited to welcome the inaugural members of its OKFB Caucus.

Comprised of Farm Bureau members in the state legislature, the OKFB Caucus is a non-partisan group created to foster fellowship and discussion of agricultural and rural policy issues.

"As Oklahoma continually becomes more urban and less rural, it's important for those who value agriculture and the rural way of life to join forces," said Tom Buchanan, OKFB

president. "This group is designed to ensure farmers and ranchers, and rural Oklahoma, continues to thrive into the future."

The inaugural members are listed below. An asterisk (*) denotes newly-elected legislators.

State House: Rep. Scott Biggs, Rep. Chad Caldwell, Rep. Dennis Casey, Rep. Bobby Cleveland, Rep. Jeff Coody, Rep. John Enns, Rep. Scott Fetgatter*, Rep. Tommy Hardin, Rep. Chuck Hoskin, Rep. Steve Kouplun, Rep. Mark Lawson*, Rep. Ben

Loring, Rep. John Michael Montgomery,, Rep. Charles Ortega, Rep. John Pfeiffer, Rep. Brian Renegar, Rep. Mike Ritze, Rep. Johnny Tadlock, Rep. Steve Vaughn, and Rep. Rick West*.

State Senate: Sen. Mark Allen, Sen. Larry Boggs, Sen. Chris Kidd*, Sen. Kim David, Sen. Eddie Fields, Sen. Greg McCortney*, Sen. Lonnie Paxton*, Sen. Roland Pederson*, Sen. Dewayne Pemberton*, Sen. Mike Schulz, and Sen. Joseph Silk.

OKFB applauds Scott Pruitt's appointment as EPA administrator

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan released the following statement following Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt's appointment as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau congratulates Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt on being named administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Donald Trump administration.

"Pruitt's selection as EPA administrator is a win for farmers and ranchers across the country. As Oklahoma attorney general, Pruitt has been a staunch advocate of agriculture and Oklahoma Farm Bureau. He continuously has defended farmers and ranchers against the EPA and has led the charge in suing the agency over its burdensome regulations such as the Waters of the United States rule and the Clean Power Plan.

"We are confident Pruitt will restore the EPA to its constitutional role, allowing farmers and ranchers to freely produce the safest, most abundant and most affordable food supply in the world."

OKFB encourages members to sign up for action alerts

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has launched a new action alert tool to help members advocate for agriculture and rural Oklahoma at the state Capitol. Members now can sign up to receive an alert when legislators need to be contacted about an issue.

To receive action alerts, sign up online at okagpolicy.org/action-center or text "JOIN" to (405) 400-3011. When members need to contact legislators regarding a specific issue, the member will receive an alert along with information on the issue and how to contact his or her legislator.

"Our success as an organization centers

on member engagement," said John Collison, vice president of public policy. "We encourage all members to sign up and utilize the action alert tool. A phone call from a constituent can make all the difference."

The tool also will provide members the ability to receive a weekly e-newsletter, track legislation, view legislator scorecards, and comment on federal regulations.

For more information, contact the OKFB Public Policy Department at (405) 530-2681.

Nominations for Farm Mom of the Year open Feb. 23

Do you know an outstanding farm mom? Consider nominating her for America's Farmers Farm Mom of the Year and a chance to win \$10,000.

The Farm Mom of the Year program was created by the America's Farmers program to recognize women in agriculture who are balancing their passion for agriculture with a dedication to their family and community. The American Agri-Women will select five regional winners to receive a \$5,000 prize, and the national winner, selected by the public, will receive an additional \$5,000.

To enter your choice for Farm Mom of the Year, you will need to simply explain what makes your nominee exceptional in the following areas: supporting her farm,

supporting her community, supporting agriculture and supporting her family.

America's Farmers is an advocacy program sponsored by Monsanto to celebrate U.S. Farmers through communications, awards and special programs that highlight the importance of modern American agriculture.

Nominations will open on Feb. 23 and close on March 31. Entries will be accepted via the online form or through the mail. The public voting for the National Farm Mom of the Year will run from April 22-May 4.

To learn more about the Farm Mom of the Year contest or to read about past winners, visit americasfarmers.com.

OKFB President Tom Buchanan praises the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act

The U.S. Senate recently gave final approval to the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. The WIIN Act contains the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, which authorizes investment in ports, locks, dams and other water infrastructure improvements across the country. The measure also includes Oklahoma's water rights agreement between the states, Oklahoma City and the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations. Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan praised the legislation in the

following statement.

"As Oklahoma farmers and ranchers, our very livelihood hinges on a clean and accessible supply of water. We not only use it to irrigate our crops and provide for our livestock, but also rely on it to transport our commodities to market. By investing in water infrastructure projects, the WIIN Act helps guarantee we can continue producing and marketing high-quality and affordable food to our nation and to the world.

"This legislation also approves

Oklahoma's historic water rights agreement, providing a pathway for our state to explore and act on methods to provide a safe and plentiful water supply for every single Oklahoman.

"As always, we are thankful for Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe's support of farmers and ranchers. We know this legislation would not be possible without his vision, hard work and leadership."

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan praises Water Resources Development Act of 2016

The U.S. Senate recently passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, which gives support to ports and inland waterways, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, drought technologies and more. The legislation also includes a provision that approves the Oklahoma water rights agreement between the state of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.

“As farmers and ranchers, we know water is vital in maintaining a successful agricultural industry and a prosperous economy. Oklahoma Farm Bureau is committed to developing our state's water to the benefit of all Oklahomans. We support the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 because it will help strengthen Oklahoma's water infrastructure and prepare our state to meet its water needs both now and in the future.

“WRDA gives support and prioritization to our ports and inland waterways, which farmers and ranchers rely on to transport agricultural commodities, provides funds for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, and promotes technologies to mitigate the effects of drought. The measure also gives final Congressional approval to the historic Oklahoma water rights agreement, which allows Oklahoma to move forward in developing our state's water.

“We applaud Sen. Jim Inhofe, chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, and his efforts in passing WRDA 2016.”

Learn more about the WRDA on the U.S. Senate Committee for Environment and Public Works website.



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Save an average of **more than \$5,000 a year** with a Section 105 Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). AgriPlan is an HRA that enables family farmers and other qualified small business owners to deduct 100% of federal, state, and FICA taxes for family health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket medical, dental, and vision expenses. The key benefit is that you can declare family medical costs as business expenses, rather than personal deductions.

Call TASC (Total Administrative Services Corporation) directly at 855-591-0562 or email microbusiness@tasconline.com. Be sure to mention your Farm Bureau membership discount code **OFBA to get a 10% discount** on your AgriPlan! If you prefer, you may have your tax preparer call us directly.



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Primary Vision Care Services (PVCS) is a 24 year old Oklahoma based vision care benefit company with over 350 network providers in Oklahoma. PVCS offers the highest quality benefit available including eye exams with no copay when needed, not just once every year or two. PVCS is the only company in the industry that offers care when you need it. Eyeglasses are covered with a wholesale cost copay for as many pairs as desired, not just one pair. Contact lenses are also covered at wholesale cost plus a small fitting fee. You can get glasses AND contacts, not just one or the other.

Getting everything you need in basic eye care is the PVCS vision benefit. PVCS is well respected within the vision care industry. Enrollment is limited to now through January 15, 2017 for the 2017 year. You can access enrollment via the PVCS -Farm Bureau enrollment link: <https://www.pvcs-usa.com/okfb> or through the Farm Bureau website in health benefits and using the PVCS link. The Home Office telephone number for PVCS is 580-357-6912 and Fax 580-357-6919.

Winter is a great time to prep garden soil for spring

By Trisha Gedon

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service



Now that winter has arrived, gardeners may think it is time to kick up their feet and relax for a while. However, before settling down into the recliner by the fireplace, gardeners may want to think about the soil in their garden and how they can make it even better before the next gardening season begins.

It's no secret that one of the keys to successful gardening is having good soil, said David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension consumer horticulturist.

"Soil rich in nutrients is one of the first steps to having a productive garden," Hillock said. "But how do you know if you've got healthy soil? The best way is through soil testing. The outcome of the testing helps the gardeners know exactly what type and how much fertilizer a planting may require. It's a cost-effective tool for managing your fertilizer program and now is the perfect time to conduct sampling."

It is a good idea to have your soil tested every two or three years to keep a check on nutrient levels. If you are just establishing a garden, yearly testing is recommended as it can take a few years to establish rich, healthy soils in a new garden plot.

When doing a soil test, be sure to obtain a representative sample from the area being tested. To do this, collect a number of samples from across the entire area being tested and combine them into a single, representative sample.

Samples can be taken with a soil probe, spade or hand trowel and should be taken to a depth of 6 inches. Be sure to scrape plant debris from the soil surface before



Photos by Todd Johnson, OSU Agricultural Communications Services

taking the sample.

“Combine as many as 15 to 20 samples in a clean bucket. Make sure the bucket doesn’t contain any residue from cleansers you may have put in the bucket for previous projects,” he said. “Many cleansers contain chemicals that could alter your soil test results.”

Soil sample bags are available at your county OSU Cooperative Extension office, where soil samples also may be submitted. Mix the individual samples together, then fill the sample bag for analysis with a pint of the mixture. The samples are sent to the OSU Soil, Water and Forage Analytical Laboratory for testing. Tests cost \$10 each, and evaluate soil pH, nitrate nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium contents. Test results

include fertilizer recommendations specific to the type of vegetation growing on the site.

Hillock said having your soil tested now gives gardeners the opportunity to incorporate any amendments needed to correct nutritional or pH problems by the time spring arrives.

In addition to soil testing, he also indicates this time of year is a great time to till the soil for next year’s garden, unless soil erosion poses a problem.

“If you raked up and bagged leaves in the fall, spread them on the garden area and till them into the ground,” he said. “Soil really benefits from organic material. Another option is to make compost right in the garden area. Simply spread layers of soil and partially finished

compost with grass clippings and other compostable material. These materials will break down over the winter and be ready to till into the soil in the spring.”

Another benefit of winter tilling is it helps expose insects and other pests that can be problematic in the spring.

If you live in an area in which erosion is a problem, cover your garden with a thick layer of leaves. Over time, the leaves will form a mat that can easily be removed in the spring when it is time to plant.

“Although your gardening activities have definitely slowed down during the winter season, there are still some things you can do to help ensure your gardening efforts in the spring are successful,” Hillock said.

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2002 Forest River Sierra 5th Wheel w/Slideout and Gooseneck Adapter. One Owner. No Smoking or Pets. New AC's, Awning. Everything Works. \$9,800 580-625-4454.

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COUNTRY CLASSIFIEDS

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

All information must be completed.

Name _____

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Please type or print legibly.

Deadline for the next issue is Feb. 28, 2017.



Stallions at stud - barrel, race, cow bloodlines. Buckskins, Blue Roans, Cremello, Balck, Appaloosa, Paint & Pony, etc stallions offered. Many horses for sale. See website at 222.bedonna.com. 580-471-4040.

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Lemon Herb Grilled Steak

From the CanolaInfo Test Kitchen
Courtesy of CanolaInfo.org

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp canola oil
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 tsp liquid honey
- 1 tbsp fresh rosemary
- 1 tsp chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 lb beef flank, inside round
or sirloin steak



Preparation/Cooking

1. Combine canola oil, lemon juice, honey, rosemary, parsley, salt and pepper in resealable plastic bag.
2. Add steak and squeeze bag to coat steak and marinade; seal bag. Let stand for 12 hours or overnight in refrigerator.
3. Remove steak marinade and pat dry; discard marinade.
4. Grill steak over medium heat to desired doneness.

For more great recipes, such as Chicken Parmigiana with Spaghetti Squash or Citrus Chili Pork Roast, visit canolainfo.org/recipes.

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

Happy New Year from Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Oklahoma Farm Bureau hopes you and your family had a wonderful holiday season. As we move into a new year and our 75th anniversary, we would like to share this opportunity to celebrate future holiday seasons with OKFB's 75th commemorative 18x24 print. The print depicts Jolly Saint Nick pulled over to study his maps amongst a herd of curious angus cattle with our OKFB signature reward sign on the fence line. Look for details on how you can purchase your festive print at your local OKFB offices and our website in the near future.



"Unexpected Visitors!"

UPCOMING EVENTS

State Legislature Convenes
Feb. 6 • Oklahoma City

AFBF FUSION Conference
Feb. 10-13 • Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania

Farm Bureau Week
Feb. 20-24

AFBF Advocacy Conference
Feb. 27 - March 3 • Washington, D.C.

State Legislative Leadership Conf.
March 6-7 • Oklahoma City

Oklahoma Youth Expo
March 7-17 • Oklahoma City

National Agriculture Day
March 21

State WLC Meeting
March 27

Congressional Action Tour
Mar. 28 - April 2 • Washington, D.C.

Ag Day at the Capitol
March 29

YF&R District Scholarship Deadline
April 3

Earth Day
April 22

Oklahoma State FFA Convention
May 2-3 • Oklahoma City

OKFB Commodity Tour
May 3-5 • Southcentral Oklahoma

Oklahoma Legislature Adjourns
May 26 • Oklahoma City

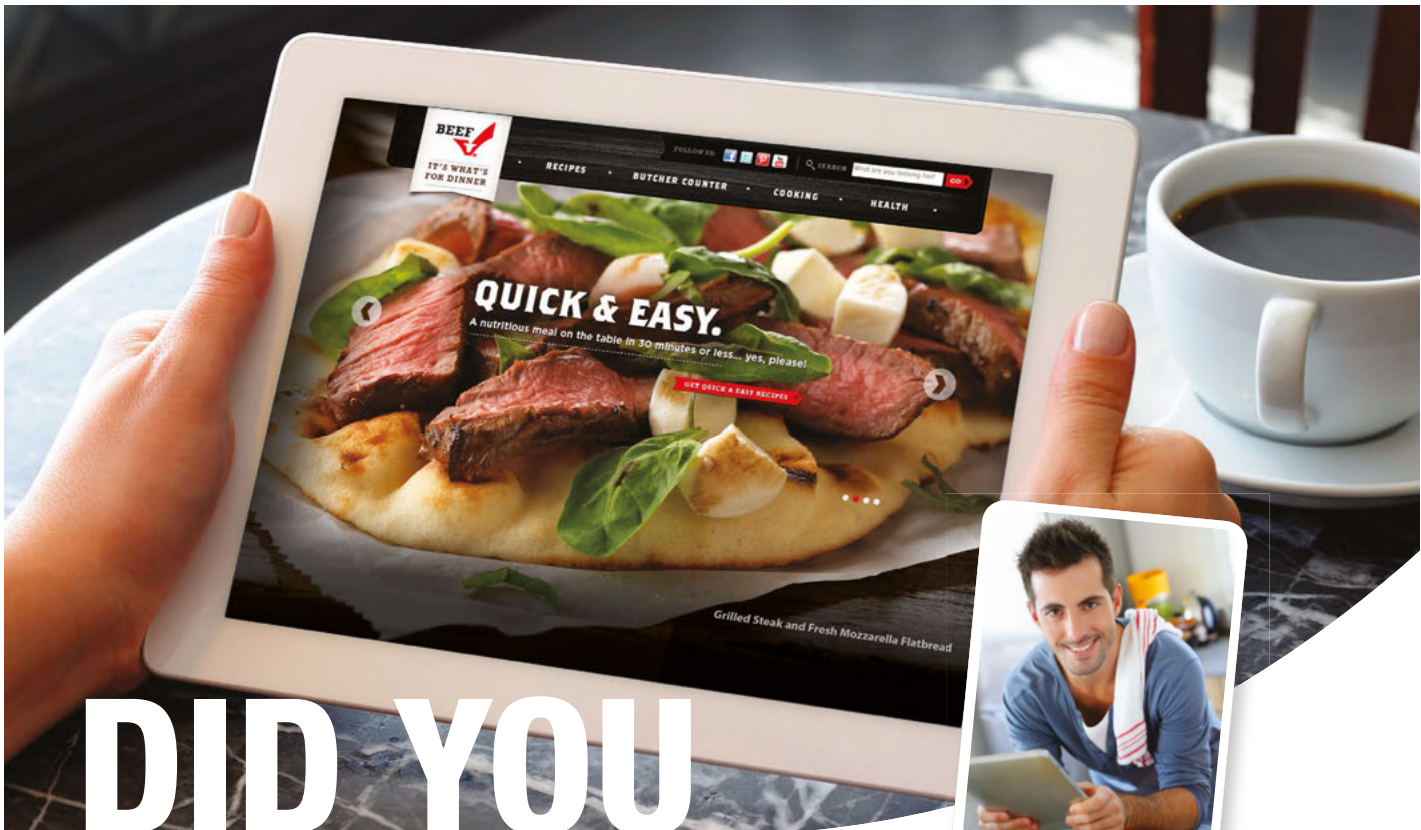
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While you and the Schnaithmans are managing your ranches and farms, your checkoff is reaching this technology-savvy generation of consumers through all types of social and online media.



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