

# Oklahoma Country

SUMMER 2014  
THE MAGAZINE OF  
THE OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU



**INSIDE:**

**Age is just a number**

**Safe from the storm**

**Voice your opinion**

**Legislative year in review**



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### 10 – Age is just a number

By HANNAH NEMECEK

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By SAMANTHA SMITH

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## Hidden number worth \$50!

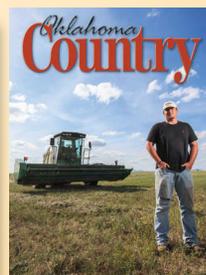
One member family's Oklahoma Farm Bureau membership number is hidden somewhere in this issue of OKLAHOMA COUNTRY, and could earn that member family \$50.

To claim the cash prize, the member family must find its own

hidden membership number and contact Samantha Smith before the last day of the month Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 405-523-2346.

The OKFB membership number hidden somewhere in OKLAHOMA COUNTRY must match the number

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



DUSTIN MIELKE

**Cover Image**  
Comanche County YF&R Chair Isaac Fisher knows farming presents challenges, but he is thankful for the support he has received from the OKFB YF&R program and his peers across the state.



TOM BUCHANAN  
President  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
& Affiliated Companies

## Get involved in the policy development process and let your voice be heard

**S**pring brings hope of what could be and summer brings the reality of what is. This past spring brought some much-needed rain to much of Oklahoma. In southwest Oklahoma, we had the wettest spring in four to five years, and locally we saw May bring 8+ inches. This is the first spring in many years the grass is out growing the cows! Now mind you, my cow numbers are greatly reduced, but it is sure good to see green grass and fat cows. As I write this in early July, I know as you do that summer is coming, and that usually means less rain and hotter temperatures. Lakes and ponds in western Oklahoma are still very low, and producers and communities are continuing with drought plans as summer approaches.

History certainly gives us perspective and we know the future will present challenges to agriculture and rural Oklahoma. It is these challenges that Oklahoma Farm Bureau is ready to face on your behalf. Your membership in Oklahoma Farm Bureau gives you access to first-class advocacy through the OKFB public policy department. In the legislature, at state agencies or anywhere across the state, you are represented and your concerns are voiced by the OKFB public policy staff. And it's the policy positions you, as members, put in the OKFB policy book that make OKFB a strong voice statewide. With clear policy direction, our mission of what to promote and how to protect it are clear.

This past legislative session showed just that when increased taxes on property and minerals were proposed. OKFB members are the largest group of property owners and mineral owners in the state, and because of the policy you have in place, OKFB was able to defeat an increase on property taxes and was

active in the compromise reached on gross production taxes. Our public policy team worked hard on your behalf and in concert with your policy. Turn to page 24 to read the Legislative Year in Review, an overview of OKFB's legislative successes this year.

**A**s we approach the resolutions season, I encourage you to get involved in OKFB's grassroots process and help develop the policy for the coming year. No one knows better than you the current issues impacting you and your profession. Starting at the county level, through the resolutions committee and then the state convention, OKFB's guiding policy will be developed, and the success of OKFB is determined by the willingness of our members to get involved in this process. To the right is a schedule of upcoming August Area Meetings, where our public policy staff will meet with members from each district as we kick off the policy development season. You'll also want to be on the lookout for information about your county's annual meeting coming up in late summer or early fall, where all members are welcome to share resolution ideas.

Just as recent OKFB legislative victories give hope for the future, I know the next legislative session will bring the reality of challenges to agriculture and rural Oklahoma. With your help in developing policy and your support in the halls of the Capitol, OKFB will continue to be the voice you need, when you need it.

### District 1

Thursday, Aug. 14: Woodward  
Big Dan's Steakhouse, 6:30 p.m.

### District 2

Thursday, Aug. 21: Hobart  
Kiowa County FB office, 12 p.m.

### District 3

Tuesday, Aug. 12: El Reno  
Canadian County FB office, 6:30 p.m.

### District 4

Friday, Aug. 22: Ardmore  
Casa Roma, 12 p.m.

### District 5

Tuesday, Aug. 19: Krebs  
Pete's Place, 12 p.m.

### District 6

Monday, Aug. 18: Pryor  
JLs Barbecue, 11 a.m.

### District 7

Monday, Aug. 18: Enid  
Hoover Building at Garfield County  
Fairgrounds, 6:30 p.m.

### District 8

Tuesday, Aug. 19: Ada  
Aldridge Hotel, 6:30 p.m.

### District 9

Thursday, Aug. 21: Kellyville  
Creek County Fairgrounds, 6:30 p.m.

We farm here.



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We are rural Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members live in all 77 counties across our great state. They work both on farms and in towns. They raise their families in rural communities. They create economic value for our state. Together, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members defend private property rights, care for the land and livestock, and make Oklahoma's rural communities vibrant. We are the members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau. We are rural Oklahoma.



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



**RICHARD NEWBERRY**  
*Executive Vice President and General Manager*  
*Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company*

## Refreshing our Brand without Redefining Us

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is at an exciting crossroads in our ability to promote our brand and tell our story. As we face today's world of ever-expanding communication channels, it has never been more important — or more challenging — to promote our brand. Our brand is the “entry point” to who we are. It tells our story. It also reinforces the promise we make to our members and potential new members. Our brand is a reflection of what we stand for and what sets us apart from our competitors.

When a brand has been around as long as OKFB, we cannot continue to promote our brand in the same way and hope to gain the results we need to stay competitive in today's marketplace. Our insurance business is facing aggressive competition, and consumers are bombarded with marketing tactics and have a very limited interest in taking much time to notice.

It would seem that with all the communication options we can use to promote our brand, it has never been easier to reach people. However, today is the most challenging time ever to drive our brand due to the overwhelming amount of marketing options and the amount of money our competitors are spending to promote their brand. We must be smart in what we say, when and where we say it and what channels we use.

OKFB has a great story to tell, from our rich history to our great service. From our position as Oklahoma's largest and strongest domestic insurance company, we are firmly committed to Oklahoma and very proud of our great people and our great brand. We recently changed our tagline to reflect our renewed focus to move OKFB forward to ensure future success.

**“The same Farm Bureau you have always trusted, now even better.”**

It is more than a slogan. It speaks to the foundation of who we are: a trusted company with a commitment to even better outcomes as we move forward.

In order to compete in today's ultra-

competitive marketplace, we simply cannot afford to stay on the sideline and hope our past will ensure future success. We must stay true to who we are but have the courage and foresight to engage all means to promote our brand and tell our story.

So, what are we doing to refresh our brand? Simply put, we are taking many positive actions that include:

- We have a redesigned our website allowing key functions for our members. We have improved the visual appeal, ease of use, functionality, and ability to search from home computers and mobile devices. Most payments can also now be made on our website, and members can also obtain and print insurance verification cards.

- We have incorporated our new marketing tagline, “The same Farm Bureau you have always trusted, now even better,” in all our advertising and increased our advertising efforts to include a significant increase in online digital media.

- We have increased our earned media, or free news coverage, by over 1000 percent in past three years with stories in television, radio and print media.

- We have entered into an exciting new sports marketing partnership with Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma. This new partnership will significantly increase our brand awareness with both universities at every home football and basketball game.

- We are working on a new agency marketing plan to improve our agents' ability to market to both existing and new customers.

These changes, while measured, are all designed to keep OKFB strong and competitive in the future. The ultimate test of our brand refresh will be how our customers perceive our organization not only now, but in the next year, three years and the years to come. We are firmly committed to being “the same Farm Bureau you have always trusted, now even better”.

# Oklahoma Country

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**OKLAHOMA  
FARM BUREAU**





GEORGE DRIEVER  
*Extension Educator, Horticulture / 4-H Youth Development  
 Pottawatomie County OSU Extension Center*

## Container gardening, an easy alternative to growing in the ground

**F**or those of us who like to grow plants, life's circumstances sometimes remove our opportunity to garden in the ground. If you like to grow flowers, vegetables or fruiting shrubs, you can still fulfill that desire to nurture plants. Plants give off oxygen as they grow and add color to our lives. Container gardening is a smaller scale of growing in the ground with a little more convenience.

A benefit of a container garden is the ease of care. Whether it is fertilizing, watering or harvesting, you can have access to a container garden if it rains or shines. Weeding is seldom needed and takes only moments. Watering may have to be done daily, but it gives you a chance to enjoy your efforts. Containers for plants can be placed anywhere you have some space and the sunlight needed to keep each plant healthy and growing. For sun-loving plants or garden vegetables, a south or west facing patio can provide accessibility and enjoyment of your plant friends. If a person lives in an apartment, they can easily provide themselves fresh vegetables, greenery and color on a small balcony.

Almost anything can be used as a container for plants as long as it meets the plants requirements for drainage and the mature size of the plant. An empty, plastic ice cream container can become home for an herb plant. A discarded rain gutter can be attached to a wall or fence and be used to grow lettuce, spinach or radishes. An old, rickety wheelbarrow can be situated in the landscape to grow a flower arrangement or strawberries. Imagination will lead you to see prospects for containers and when you are through with the container, it could be recycled. Young children will see a multitude of opportunities for decorating containers and it can become a project this summer that can turn into quality time with your children while encouraging their creativity.

Each kind of container has its positive and negative aspects. Plastic containers are easy to come by and relatively inexpensive depending on the size. They are light in weight, but the pots will not last long as the sun can make them brittle. There are various formulations of plastic and some are more ultra-violet resistant than others. In general, light color containers tend to heat up less than dark pots and are less likely to cause heat damage to the roots. White, five-gallon buckets make a great container for an individual tomato, pepper or a dozen carrots. Make sure any container has an adequate number of drainage holes for the needs of the plant.

Clay and ceramic pots have the advantage of lasting longer, but they are heavier than plastic pots. They are also more expensive than plastic containers, with the ceramic pots costing more than the clay ones. Clay pots have pores that allow pots to breathe, but also allow for water to evaporate quicker than ceramic pots. Clay pots also can have mineral buildup from water evaporation, and if allowed to thaw and freeze outside, they will begin to flake and fall apart over time. Ceramic pots have been fired and have a glaze at least on the outside and sometimes on the inside. The lighter color pots will help keep the plant roots cooler.

Wooden containers will keep plant roots cool and also allow them to breathe. If they have good drainage, they can last for several years, especially if they are not sitting directly on the ground. A few bricks or a platform with wheels will allow the bottom of the pot to dry out after watering. Although a premade wooden pot might be somewhat expensive depending on the size, the wonderful thing about making containers from wood is that they can be made into a multitude of shapes and sizes. With minimal tools and some scraps of wood, an angular container can be constructed. Herb beds can be constructed

with several compartments or layers. If a person cannot bend over to garden, a raised bed on legs can be made to accommodate the elderly or a person in a wheel chair. If you want a wooden container to last, there is pressure treated wood. Manufacturers of lumber no longer use the arsenic-based products to preserve wood. In addition, there are many non-toxic finishes that can add beauty to your project.

Another interesting option is using cloth containers for growing plants. They come in many sizes from small, one gallon size up to small beds that are several feet long that will make a small vegetable garden. They allow the roots to breathe and have good drainage. The grow bags also air prune the roots which prevents the roots from winding around inside the pot like other containers. The cloth containers can stand alone or they can be placed inside a more attractive container if needed. When finished with the pot for the season, the soil can be dumped out and the pot folded till next spring. There is a company in Oklahoma that manufactures cloth pots, so you can support a state industry.

**W**hen growing plants in containers you have to have some kind of "soil" for the plants. There are many kinds of potting mixes, depending on what you are growing. Potting mixes are soilless. This means that they are a combination of peat moss and well composted shredded wood. The better mixes also have some vermiculite or perlite to allow the potting mix to drain and the plant roots to breathe. Cacti and succulents need a mix with more sand. When purchasing a potting mix, try to choose the best mix you can afford. The less expensive mixes are poorly composted and usually contain no vermiculite or perlite. They will clump when dry and they often will have insect eggs or fungus that will cause problems if they are kept wet. Keep in mind that a large container will require far more bags of potting mix than you think it should take.

If you have a desire to grow something, do it! Start small, make it simple and grow one plant. Don't overwhelm yourself by trying to do too much. The goal is to grow a living plant that will provide you with color or an addition to your plate. So, add a little oxygen to the planet and have fun while doing it.

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 **FARM BUREAU  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

FB10 (4-14)

# Oklahoma Beef Checkoff



# UPDATE

## Beef Remains #1 in Foodservice

Beef experienced significant volume growth in the past year and continues to be a mainstay on the menu, according to the 2013 Usage and Volumetric Assessment of Beef in Foodservice report, proprietary research from the Beef Checkoff Program.

The annual survey of protein purchasing executives showed that beef remains the number one protein in foodservice – in volume, in market share and in the dollars it brings to operations. Specific findings include:

- In the last year, the pounds of beef sold in foodservice increased by 79 million pounds to a total volume of 8 billion pounds.
- Beef represents about one-third (32 percent) of the total protein market share in foodservice.
- 97 percent of restaurant operators feature beef on the menu.
- Volume was up in every major beef category across the board, including steaks, roasts, ribs, ground beef and pre-cooked roast beef.
- Since 2009, beef represents the largest pound increase of any protein, totaling 178 million pounds.
- Beef growth has outpaced growth of the foodservice industry over the past 5 years.

“This research supports what we already know to be true: no other protein can satisfy like beef. Operators understand the value that beef brings to their business and they know beef is – and must continue to be – a mainstay on the menu due to strong consumer demand for beef,” said Sid Viebrock, a beef producer from Washington and chairman of the checkoff’s Value Subcommittee.

In addition to beef’s overall performance in foodservice, the research looked at the sales of specific beef cuts. Traditional steaks such as Sirloin, Top Loin and Ribeye continue to be mainstays on the menu, while emerging cuts like the Petite Tender, Flat Iron Steak, Tri-Tip and Chuck Eye Roast also experienced growth. The detailed findings on these beef categories is available by [clicking here](#).



## FACTSABOUTBEEF.com Debunking Myths



The checkoff’s [FactsAboutBeef.com](http://FactsAboutBeef.com) site is debunking myths about beef every day – about what consumers define as hot-button issues, including animal welfare, antibiotics in cattle, Beef Quality Assurance, beta-agonists, cows and global warming, environment, factory farming, food safety, Meatless Mondays and beef nutrition? That’s right – consumers have questions about where their beef comes from, and FactsAboutBeef is addressing and answering those questions and concerns, stomping out misinformation from consumer media along the way. The site hosts a wide variety of research, expert opinions and beef facts to arm you with the information you need to help you learn about checkoff achievements and help set the story straight out in the country. Use the site to boost your own advocacy efforts by sharing the facts!

## New Beef Checkoff Digital Marketing Campaign Off to a Solid Start

The new digital “Beef. It’s What’s For Dinner” (BIWFD) advertising campaign is off to a tremendous start, with exciting new creative elements and more information to reach the important millennial consumer.



The idea of “social” plays a big role in meal inspiration, instruction and sharing, with more than 300 million social media posts per month. That’s why the millennial influence and explosion of digital media led your beef checkoff to develop five new BIWFD recipe videos on the [BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com](http://BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com) website. These “no-recipe recipe” videos offer millennial consumers – who are just beginning to learn how to cook with beef – easy yet delicious ways to fit beef into their lifestyles. The website also features new tips and techniques for preparing winning beef meals and an update about beef’s “Power of 10” essential nutrients.

Here is a link to the [“Beef. It’s What’s For Dinner.” video playlist](#).

Using digital media means customizing the right information at right time to the right consumers. For the older generation, that

**Farmers and Ranchers- Don't forget to sign up for the Oklahoma Beef Checkoff Update, a monthly e-newsletter providing the latest in checkoff information and news at [www.oklabeeff.org/e-newsletter.aspx](http://www.oklabeeff.org/e-newsletter.aspx)**

may feel like advertisers are intruding on their privacy. On the other hand, research indicates that the millennial generation, which is beef's primary target for the new ad campaign, is asking that the information to be delivered to them, when they want it, how they want it. They actually feel that advertisers are making it more personal.

The integrated media strategy for the campaign, including Facebook and Twitter, generated about 65 million impressions during the campaign's first three weeks. The BIWFD Facebook page now has more than 825,000 "fans," providing a strong community for beef-loving consumers to share recipes and information.

Partnerships with other websites reaching millennials and interested in food have generated about 9 million high-quality impressions. These websites include Parents.com, Allrecipes.com, Myrecipes.com, FoodNetwork.com and others.

On a state level, the Oklahoma Beef Council will be further amplifying the efforts through additional funding of the new digital campaign in Oklahoma and in key "foodie" markets such as San Francisco, Chicago and New York City. Watch for more details about the ad campaign social/digital components in the coming months!

## Oklahoma Leading State in the Nation for MBA Graduates!



It was a wonderful day as the beef checkoff-funded, Master's of Beef Advocacy (MBA) program took center stage at the Oklahoma FFA convention in May. During the fifth general session with thousands of FFA youth in attendance, the Oklahoma Beef Council announced the winners of the state MBA program which the Oklahoma Beef Council and Oklahoma FFA kicked-off in FY 2012 to engage Oklahoma FFA youth in agriculture advocacy. As a result of the state-wide program, 300+ kids received their MBA and the success of the program has lead Oklahoma to be the number one state in MBA graduates.

As a reminder, the MBA program is an online training tool that equips ranchers, farmers and our youth with the information they need to connect with consumers in a positive conversation that

takes many forms. Our goal is to help Oklahoma FFA youth learn how to positively engage in this dialogue with consumers and their peers, whether it's through everyday conversations, community presentations, the media and most especially where they are experts, social media. To get your MBA, visit [www.beef.org/MBA](http://www.beef.org/MBA).

## U.S. Beef Exports Continue Positive Growth



U.S. beef exports continued their positive growth trend in April, increasing by double digits in volume and by an even healthier margin in value, according to statistics released by the USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat

Export Federation (USMEF), contractor to the Beef Checkoff Program.

Higher prices commanded in the global market have driven up per-head export values for U.S. beef, as international customers have, so far, been willing to pay higher prices for larger volumes.

The U.S. exported 218.9 million pounds of beef in April valued at \$537.4 million, increases of 15 and 24 percent, respectively. Year-to-date, beef exports are up 10 percent in volume and 17 percent in value to 829.7 million pounds valued at \$2.05 billion.

"Even with the large volume of Australian beef, we are still seeing demand grow in most of our key markets and remain steady in others," said Philip Seng, USMEF president and CEO. "It is encouraging to see solid growth in sales to markets where the U.S. industry has made the biggest commitment in resources. A good example would be Korea, where export volumes have struggled since 2012 but, as Korea's domestic supply levels of beef normalize, we are seeing a robust rebound in demand for U.S. products."

## Beef Export Notes

Beef exports in April accounted for 14 percent of total U.S. beef production and 11 percent of muscle cuts alone, increases from 12 and 9 percent, respectively, last April. Export value per head of fed slaughter equated to \$262.41 for the month, up from \$207.70 a year ago. Strong beef exports to Asia helped support near-record prices for short plates, short ribs and chuck short ribs.

# AGE IS JUST A NUMBER.

## OR IS IT?

story by hannah nemecek

photos by dustin mielke

For some, age is wisdom. For others, it's inexperience. Another trip around the sun means something different for every individual, but for those in the farming industry, it means a future.

Since 1978, the average age of farmers in the United States has been on the rise and Oklahoma farmers have generally aged along with the national average. However, between 2007 and 2012, Oklahoma's average slowed.

According to the 2012 United States Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture, the average Oklahoma farmer is the same age as the average U.S. farmer. However, from 2007 to 2012, Oklahoma farmers aged by only 0.7 percent, while U.S. farmers aged by 1.2 percent.

Organizations like the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers may have played a role in the age decrease, said Will Hundl, state statistician for the USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service.

"The decline in the age of an Oklahoma farmer is a shining example of what we've done to promote agriculture," Hundl said. "It should make Oklahoma feel very proud."

YF&R, the OKFB engagement program for 18- to 35-year-olds, encourages leadership development, community service and networking among its members.

"Through YF&R, young agricultural producers have the opportunity to attend national conferences and network with people their own age," said Holly Carroll, state YF&R coordinator.

Members can also serve in leadership positions on county or state boards.

"We're priming leaders at a young age to step up and lead our organization in the future," Carroll said.

By cultivating relationships among young farmers, YF&R serves as a source of encouragement.



COMANCHE COUNTY YF&R CHAIR ISAAC FISHER  
HAS FARMED IN CHATTANOOGA HIS ENTIRE LIFE.

# "WE'RE PRIMING LEADERS AT A YOUNG AND LEAD OUR ORGANIZATION IN

— holly carroll, state yf&r coordinator

Comanche County Farm Bureau member Isaac Fisher said being a young farmer definitely has its challenges, but his YF&R involvement has given him the support he needs.

"Encouragement is very important for a young farmer," Fisher said. "Sometimes, you get frustrated. You put in a lot of work and you might not always get something out of it."

Fisher said support is the biggest benefit of YF&R.

"It's really shown me there are people out there who are willing to back a young farmer," Fisher said. "They're willing to support us and give us the resources necessary to make it in the farming industry."

The Comanche County native said he always knew he would come back to the farm.

"It's been a lifelong dream," he said. "Since I was a little kid, it's been my goal to be on the farm."

Fisher grew up on his family's farm in Chattanooga. He earned an agribusiness degree in 2006 from Oklahoma State University and returned to the farm after graduation.

"I didn't know if farming was what I'd be able to do, but it's always been what I've wanted to do," Fisher said. "When I got out of school, I decided I was going to take the risk and come back home to start my own operation."

Fisher farms 1,200 acres of cropland and grassland in southwest Oklahoma. He custom bales about 5,000 acres of hay in the summer and runs a pre-conditioning lot in the fall, all while helping his father farm.

About two years ago, Fisher became involved in the Comanche County Farm Bureau YF&R. He was unfamiliar with Farm Bureau until friends from his county board invited him to join.

"I didn't know what Farm Bureau did for agriculture," Fisher said. "Now that I've been involved, I see how the organization helps protect farmers and rural Oklahoma. It's very important, and I'm glad to be a part of it."

YF&R has allowed Fisher to learn from farmers his age.

"As a young farmer, you have to be creative in finding ways to supplement your income," Fisher said. "If you're not working off the farm, you have to find other sources of income. YF&R has allowed me to meet other young farmers and see how they do it and how they make it work."

The budding farmer said he also has met experienced farmers in his county who have been supportive.

"A lot of farmers have been around for a long time," he said. "They're behind us 100 percent. It's really good to have."

Fisher has enjoyed his involvement so far and looks forward to the future.

"Agriculture is such a big industry in Oklahoma," he said. "I hope to see the farming tradition continue."

He said he hopes younger generations continue to return to the farm.

"A lot of people say, 'Why would you want to do that?' or 'That won't ever work,'" Fisher said. "But just do it. It takes a lot of work and a lot of time, but if you're willing to put in the work, you can do it."

Many young farmers like Fisher return to the farm shortly after college, but Adam and Nicole Martens of Fairview chose a different route.

Both of the Martens grew up in Fairview. Adam was raised on a wheat and cattle operation, but Nicole, the daughter of two educators, had little agricultural experience.

The couple moved to Dallas shortly after graduating from Oklahoma State University. Nicole attended graduate school at Dallas Theological Seminary while Adam worked in medical sales. However, the western Oklahoma natives soon began to miss the rural way of life.

"We hadn't lived in Dallas more than a year before Adam told me we would be moving back," Nicole said. "Too much cement."

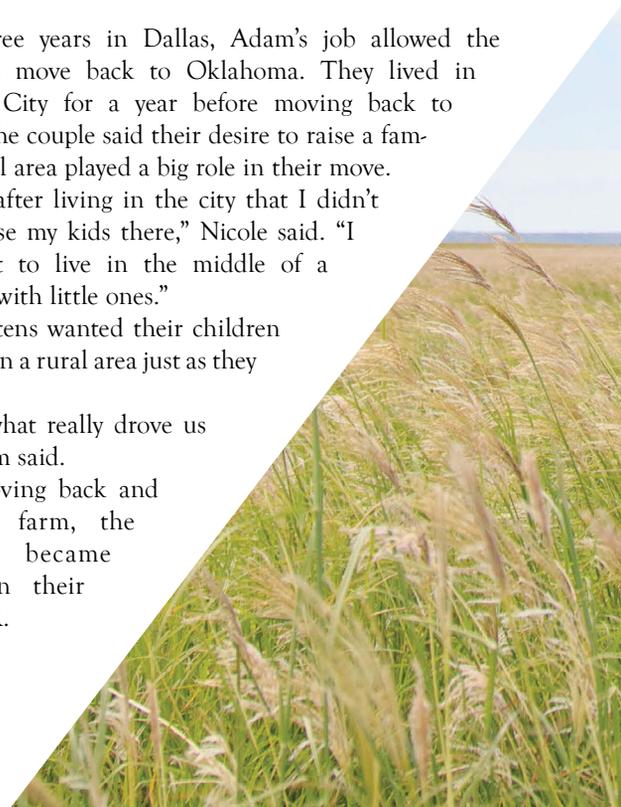
After three years in Dallas, Adam's job allowed the Martens to move back to Oklahoma. They lived in Oklahoma City for a year before moving back to Fairview. The couple said their desire to raise a family in a rural area played a big role in their move.

"I knew after living in the city that I didn't want to raise my kids there," Nicole said. "I didn't want to live in the middle of a metropolis with little ones."

The Martens wanted their children to grow up in a rural area just as they had.

"That's what really drove us back," Adam said.

After moving back and starting a farm, the Martens became involved in their local YF&R.



AGE TO STEP UP  
THE **FUTURE.**"



ADAM AND NICOLE MARTENS ENJOY RAISING THEIR CHILDREN IN THE RURAL COMMUNITY OF FAIRVIEW.



"THERE'S NO OTHER ORGANIZATION OUT THERE FIGHTING FOR THE FARMER LIKE FARM BUREAU."

— adam martens

"We had several people tell us, 'You need to be here,'" Adam said.

"And so we went," Nicole added with a laugh.

The couple said their involvement in YF&R helped them in a variety of ways. Because Nicole did not grow up on a farm, YF&R helped educate her about agriculture. She also learned about legislative issues affecting the industry.

"YF&R has made me a better citizen," Nicole said.

The Martens were involved in Major County Farm Bureau's YF&R before moving on to serve on the state YF&R committee. After a year on the state committee, they were elected as state chairmen.

"Being involved in our county was wonderful," Adam said, "but serving as state chairmen gave us opportunities and experiences we wouldn't have had otherwise."

Throughout their YF&R experiences, the Martens were able to meet and network with other farmers their age. Four years ago, Adam connected with a farmer in eastern Oklahoma who could ship his cattle to graze on the Martens' land.

"If I wasn't involved with Farm Bureau, that wouldn't have happened," Adam said.

Because the Martens returned to the farm in their early 30s, the length of their YF&R experience was limited.

However, during their short involvement, they earned the 2012 OKFB YF&R Achievement Award and had the opportunity to compete against other farmers and ranchers from across the country in the American Farm Bureau Federation Achievement Award Contest.

"It was a little humbling," Adam said. "We felt we had accomplished quite a bit, but some competitors had been farming since they were 18."

After their service as chairmen, the couple was even given the opportunity to serve on the AFBF YF&R committee, but their age kept them from doing so.

However, the couple said they would not change the path that led them back to the farm.

"Being away from the farm for eight years makes you realize what you really want," Adam said. "I wanted to be back here."

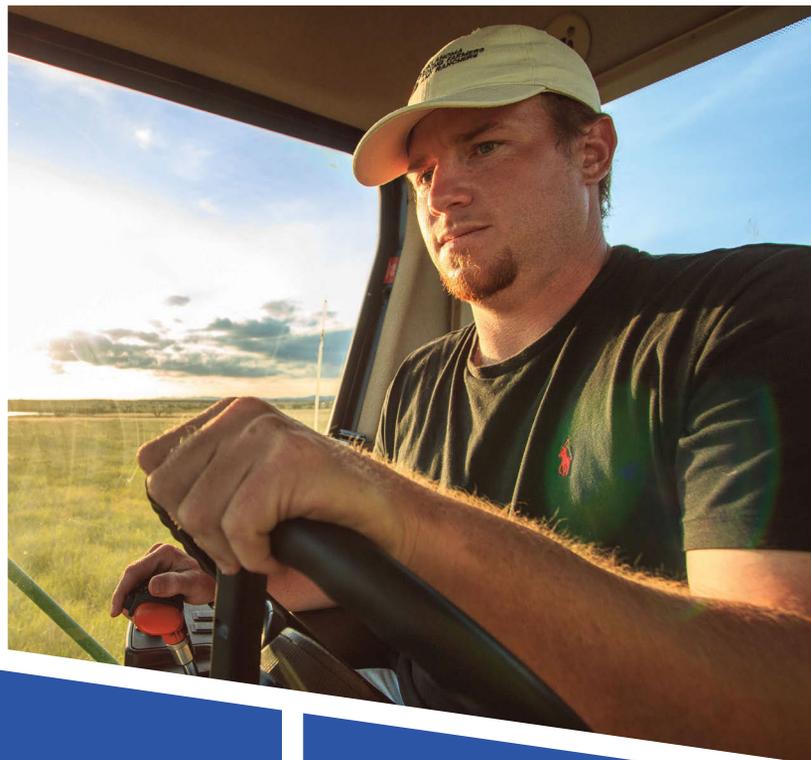
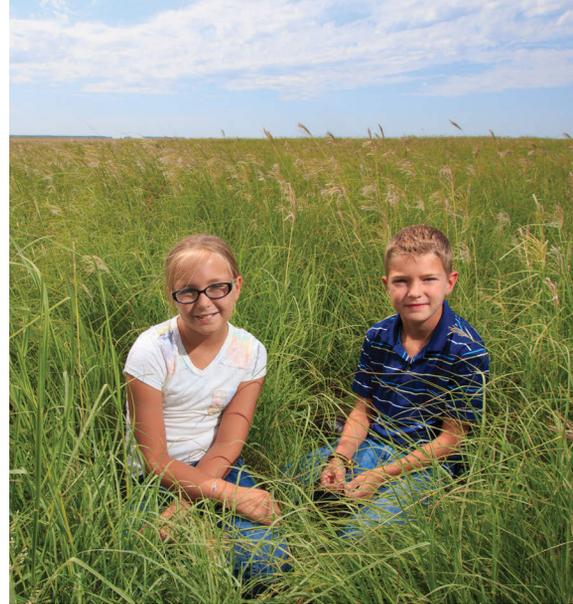
Nicole said she finds much greater satisfaction in the rural lifestyle they live.

"I appreciate what we're doing," Nicole said. "When Adam is gone for 20 hours a day during harvest, I might not always like it, but it's a lot more tolerable when what we're doing is meaningful. We're providing food, fuel and fiber."

The Martens are grateful for the time they were able to spend in YF&R.

"I don't know if I would be less successful in my farming, but without my YF&R experience, I sure wouldn't be as content," Adam said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OKFB YF&R, VISIT [WWW.OKFARBUREAU.ORG/YFR](http://WWW.OKFARBUREAU.ORG/YFR).



5,425

of Oklahoma's principal operators are age 34 & younger

making up

7%

of total producers in Oklahoma.

The number of Oklahoma producers age 65 & older grew by only

2%

since 2007, compared to 3 percent nationally.

Since 2007, the number of producers age

35 to 65

decreased by 2 percent.

— USDA Census of Agriculture 2012, 2007

oklahomafarmbureau  
youngfarmers&ranchers



{ safe from the  
*storm*

Story by Samantha Smith

Photos by Dustin Mielke



## Legislators and Oklahoma Farm Bureau team up to provide safety for rural Oklahoma students.

As Mother Nature's wrath let loose in May 2013, devastation plagued the citizens of Oklahoma's heartland. Homes and businesses were destroyed, material belongings were ripped away, and most unfortunately, too many young lives were lost.

Most Oklahomans can remember exactly where they were when the devastating news of the destruction of the Briarwood and Plaza Towers Elementary Schools hit the airwaves. As families, friends and fellow Oklahomans mourned the loss of seven young children, Reps. Mark McBride and Jon Echols took action to ensure history would not repeat itself.

"Rep. Echols and I were at Plaza Towers Elementary School after the tornado and we wanted to do something immediately," said McBride, state representative for Oklahoma District 53.

# "It's a great partnership between Shelter Oklahoma

Knowing the legislative process would take time, McBride and Echols teamed up to establish Shelter Oklahoma Schools, an organization dedicated to raising funds to aid in the construction of storm shelters in and around Oklahoma schools and communities.

"We've put 11 shelters in schools around the state now," McBride said. "We've sheltered thousands of students plus faculty."

After word spread about Shelter Oklahoma Schools, millions of dollars flowed in from both public and private donors. McBride said the generosity of Oklahomans was exactly what he hoped for.

"We know how Oklahoma people are," he said. "They stepped up to the plate and contributed money."

Oklahoma Farm Bureau was just one of the private donors that gave to the worthy cause. In September 2013, the farm organization's Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation donated \$100,000 to Shelter Oklahoma Schools to be used in the construction of storm shelters specifically in rural schools around the state.

"The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation felt we needed to fulfill our commitment to rural Oklahoma," said Jeremy Rich, president of the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation. "We were established to improve the lives of rural Oklahomans, and the severe storms were just a reminder of how important it is to help others when tragedy strikes.

"We are so thankful for the donations from our generous members, fellow state Farm Bureaus and the other gracious Oklahomans who stepped up and contributed to the fund," he added.

The donation was dispersed between several schools in rural areas of the state including Fairview, Friend, Calumet and Waukomis.

"It's a great partnership between Shelter Oklahoma Schools and Oklahoma Farm Bureau," McBride said. "Farm Bureau has been supportive of our organization and they wanted to see progress in rural Oklahoma as well as the metro."

Speaker of the House and Fairview resident Jeff Hickman said the relationship between Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Shelter Oklahoma Schools is the perfect example of how private dollars are being used to complete these projects in Oklahoma.

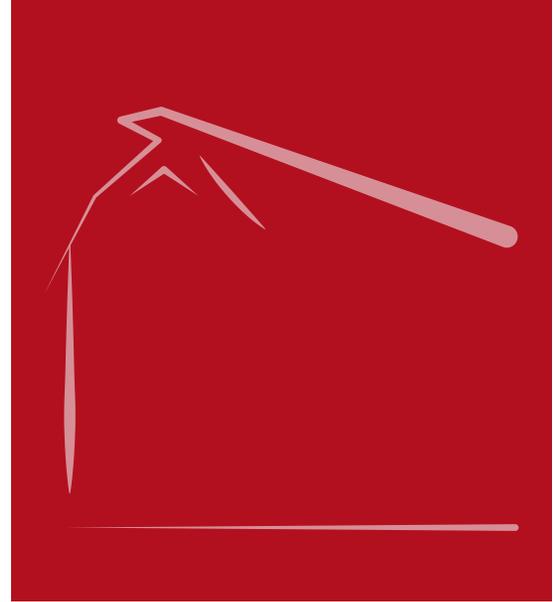
"That's where grant dollars from Shelter Oklahoma Schools comes in," he said. "It's able to make up that difference so the project can be completed sooner rather than later and be available in case the schools need it."

The storm shelter in Fairview was finished in May 2014 after receiving \$350,000 from a local bond issue, \$100,000 from Shelter Oklahoma Schools and around \$50,000 from private donations throughout the community.



# Oklahoma Schools and *Farm Bureau.*"

Rep. Mark McBride



*Above left:* The storm shelter in Fairview was finished in May 2014 due in part to the \$100,000 donation given by Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation.

*Top right:* Rep. Mark McBride, OKFB President Tom Buchanan and Rep. Jon Echols pose for a picture with the citation from the State of Oklahoma thanking the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation for its donation.

*Bottom right:* Speaker of the House Jeff Hickman and McBride present a check from Shelter Oklahoma Schools to Fairview Public Schools for the construction of its storm shelter.

"A lot of different people came together to make this project work," he said. "We sure want to say thank you to the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation for their contribution to Shelter Oklahoma Schools and their participation in this storm shelter project and others around the state, as well, that are so critical to the young people of Oklahoma."

But, like most Oklahomans, the legislators hope the storm shelters never have to be used.

"We hope the storm shelters are never needed," Hickman added, "but as we saw in Moore, there are times when they are. We know we will ultimately have tornadoes in Oklahoma. We don't know when or where, but we want to be as prepared as we can when that time comes."

Other schools, including Friend Public Schools, have taken fundraising efforts into their own hands to supplement the funds given from Shelter Oklahoma Schools. Friend students held a bake sale and raised more than \$27,000 to be added to their fund. It is acts like this that make the storm shelter projects possible, McBride said.

"It just shows Oklahoma people want to take care of themselves," he said.

Storm shelters funded in part by Shelter Oklahoma Schools have been built in 11 schools districts since the organization was founded. However, with more than 625,000 students being educated right in the heart of tornado alley, the need for storm shelters is still apparent, and Shelter Oklahoma Schools is continuing to work to raise funds to aid in the construction of shelters.

The organization has raised more than \$2.2 million in the last year and is hoping to continue raising money to donate toward more storm shelter projects throughout the state.

To apply for assistance from Shelter Oklahoma Schools, schools should contact the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and Shelter Oklahoma Schools. Once approval has been granted and building plans have been checked, construction can begin.

"I believe in safety and security in the public schools," McBride said. "We hope that we can continue to raise private dollars to help facilitate shelters in public schools."

**For a closer look at  
the groundbreaking  
of the storm shelter  
in Fairview, visit the  
Oklahoma Farm  
Bureau YouTube  
channel.**



[www.youtube.com/okfarmbureau](http://www.youtube.com/okfarmbureau)

## about the oklahoma

*farming and ranching foundation*

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation was formed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit to enhance awareness and understanding of agriculture's contribution and importance to the state of Oklahoma. From promoting and assisting beginning farmers and ranchers to educating youth interested in agricultural pursuits, the foundation creates agricultural awareness.

The foundation donates to several worthy causes including Beef for Backpacks, Pork for Packs, Bushels for Books, the Grown for You commodity trailer and Shelter Oklahoma Schools. If you are interested in making a monetary donation to the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, please visit: [www.okfarmingandranchingfoundation.org](http://www.okfarmingandranchingfoundation.org).



A couple is sitting on a large log in a grassy field, looking out at a sunset. The man is wearing a purple t-shirt and the woman is wearing a pink top. The background is filled with trees and a bright sky.

# OKLAHOMA IT'S IN OUR NAME

Far too many insurance companies claim to be local, but Oklahoma Farm Bureau is an Oklahoma company, here to serve Oklahomans. Since 1946, we have been here to protect Oklahoma families when they need us most. Today, with offices in all 77 counties, we offer even more insurance options, including Medicare supplements and financial services.

**WE ARE THE SAME  
FARM BUREAU YOU'VE  
ALWAYS TRUSTED,  
NOW EVEN BETTER.**

 **OKLAHOMA  
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**AUTO | HOME | LIFE | MEDICARE | FINANCIAL**

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# Voice Your

## Clean Water Act

Oklahoma Farm Bureau urges members to comment on the expansion of the Clean Water Act through the proposed Waters of the U.S. rule. The proposed rule would remove the word “navigable” from the Clean Water Act, expanding the EPA’s regulatory reach beyond “navigable” waters, including virtually all land that gets wet or has flow during rainfall. OKFB maintains that Congress clearly intended regulations under the Clean Water Act to focus on navigable waters, not ponds, ditches or puddles that occur on land during a heavy rainstorm. OKFB is calling on the EPA and the Corps to “Ditch the Rule” by voluntarily withdrawing it.

The EPA and the Corps are working together to expand their authority over farming and ranching operations. Adoption of the proposed rule would expand the EPA’s regulatory authority on water to unprecedented levels. Many farming and ranching practices could require government approval through a complex series of federal permitting and regulations.

From American Farm Bureau’s analysis of the proposed rule: “For example, normal farming and conservation activities, such as fencing, brush management and pruning shrubs and trees, were exempted by Congress and have never required permits under the Clean Water Act. EPA and the Corps would now require farmers and ranchers to meet otherwise voluntary Natural Resources Conservation Service standards for these everyday normal farming activities and voluntary conservation practices, or else face Clean Water Act liability. By linking the normal farming exemptions to NRCS standards, the rule would make voluntary

conservation standards subject to EPA enforcement.”

OKFB members’ written comments on this issue are extremely important. A link to the proposed rule comment page is available at [www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org). When you comment, you may wish to personalize your comments in the “editable text” box by:

- Describing some features of your farm — ditches, drainage ways, and grassed waterways — likely to be considered Waters of the U.S. under the EPA and the Corps’ proposed rule.
- Expressing your concern about the EPA and the Corps’ jurisdiction on your farm which could restrict or even prohibit farming or ranching activities in or near ditches, washes or isolated wetlands.
- Expressing your concern that the proposed rule will create roadblocks to ordinary land-use activities, like fencing, spraying for weeds or insects, or discing, and will require you to follow special rules or get permits.

The comment period ends Oct. 20. For additional information about the proposed rule see the OKFB website at [www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org) or contact Marla Peek at [marla.peek@okfb.org](mailto:marla.peek@okfb.org) or (405) 523-2437.



# Our Opinion

## OKFB calls for comments on Clean Water Act expansion and Clean Air Act regulations

### Clean Air Act

The Environmental Protection Agency recently unveiled a draft proposal to cut carbon pollution from the nation's coal-fired power plants, calling for a 35.5 percent reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels for the state of Oklahoma. American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association both oppose the changes to the Clean Air Act, stating this latest greenhouse gas proposal would harm the nation's rural economy if implemented. Farmers would face not just higher prices for electricity, but for any energy-related input such as fertilizer. Rural electric cooperatives that rely on coal plants for inexpensive electricity would be especially hard hit. 00182968

"The greenhouse gas proposal is yet another expensive and expansive overreach by EPA into the daily lives of America's farmers and ranchers," Stallman said. "Our farmers and ranchers need a climate that fosters innovation, not unilateral regulations that cap our future."

The EPA's plan could result in higher electricity costs, power plant closures and the resulting job losses,

challenges to the reliability of the electric grid and stranded assets for co-ops – in many cases – that may have to be paid for by co-op consumer-owners, ranging from small family farms or small businesses to energy-intensive industries.

The proposal is fundamentally flawed because it goes beyond the legal authorities under the Clean Air Act and must be significantly changed. The proposal could result in prematurely closing power plants owned by electric cooperatives – placing even greater financial burdens on co-ops and the consumers who own them. Many of these plants were built when our national policy was encouraging the use of coal as a domestic resource, and co-ops have invested billions since upgrading these plants to meet ongoing regulation standards. Forcing them to prematurely shut down is an unreasonable, unjustifiable and arbitrary outcome.

AFBF and NRECA are asking members to provide comments about how the proposed regulations would negatively affect your access to affordable and reliable energy. Go to [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop) to voice your opposition to the regulations.

The comment process is quick and easy. You may submit the pre-composed message or customize the editable portion to explain to the EPA how increased power costs could affect you and your family.

The comment period ends Oct. 16. For additional information about the proposed rule visit [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop) or contact the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives at (405) 478-1455.





## Legislation OKFB defeated

# T

The 54th legislature began in an unusual way when U.S. Senator Tom Coburn announced he would step down at the end of 2014. This prompted then Speaker of the House of Representatives T.W. Shannon, R-Lawton, to relinquish his position as speaker and to announce his candidacy for the soon-to-be vacant U.S. senate seat. After Shannon stepped down, the Oklahoma House of Representatives elected Jeff Hickman, R-Dacoma, to the speaker's position.

OKFB had great success during the session, both promoting and opposing legislation. OKFB members' phone calls and personal contacts, along with the hard work of OKFB staff, influenced both House and Senate members to vote congruently with Farm Bureau policy. Defeating a potential ad valorem tax increase was particularly difficult because it was supported by Gov. Mary Fallin. The House voted twice on this particular legislation on the same day. The House's first vote easily defeated the tax increase, but when the HJR was brought back up by a reconsideration vote, the resolution was approved. The bill then proceeded to the Senate, which ultimately defeated the bill. In 2014, 20 senators and 23 house members achieved the OKFB 100 percent Club based upon their votes on the HJR 1092 and HB 2562. Overall, it proved to be an excellent year with the legislature for OKFB members.

OKFB opposed and defeated HJR 1092, which would have sent to a vote of the people the ability for schools to increase their bond indebtedness beyond the constitutional cap, with no upper cap, one time for personal safety facilities. OKFB has strong member-driven policy against any increase in ad valorem taxes. This resolution would have set a bad precedent to raise ad valorem taxes. OKFB's members played a vital role in the defeat of HJR 1092.

OKFB opposed and defeated SB 1225, which would have removed the home office tax credit utilized by Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. SB 1225 would have cost the company nearly \$1 million annually. As Oklahoma's largest domestic insurance company, the home office tax credit is used by the company to help fund health, dental and retirement benefits for employees of the affiliated county Farm Bureaus.

OKFB opposed and defeated SB 21, which would have required a farm trailer to be registered, titled and tagged. A farm trailer was defined as any trailer or semi-trailer or combination thereof used primarily for farm use. The legislation would have required a statement of origin, a properly assigned certificate of title, or a sworn statement of ownership. Shop-built trailers would have required a photograph and such other construction documentation as required by the Tax Commission.

OKFB opposed and defeated HB 1327 and SB 1605, which would have weakened the strict trespass law that members worked for so many years to achieve. Currently, a person going onto another person's farming or ranching land must have the permission of the landowner. These two bills would have allowed a person to go onto farming and/or ranching land if he was unable to contact the property owner, or if the property owner was unknown, for the primary and sole purpose of retrieving his animal. In lieu of permission by the property owner, a person could notify the county sheriff who would record his name, driver's license number and location.

OKFB opposed and defeated HB 2764 and SB 1729, which would have removed the use of a carbon monoxide chamber as an acceptable form of euthanasia for unwanted cats and dogs.

OKFB opposed and defeated HB 2595, which would have allowed advertising of incidental sales of raw milk sold directly to consumers on the farm. Also, it would have allowed raw milk to be sold at an outside road stand.



## **Legislation OKFB supported signed by the Governor**

**O**KFB strongly supported HB 2562 by House Speaker Jeff Hickman, R-Dacoma, and Sen. Bryce Marlatt, R-Woodward. HB 2562 provides an incentive on oil and natural gas production from all new wells drilled after July 1, 2015, which makes the effective gross production tax rate two percent for 36 months. After the first 36 months, the gross production tax rate of seven percent applies.

Because of a move by some municipalities to adopt registration fees for property within municipal limits, OKFB supported HB 2620 by Rep. Steve Martin, R-Bartlesville, and Sen. Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City, which creates the Protect Property Rights Act. The measure prohibits registration of real property. The legislation provides for a way to designate an abandoned building as a public nuisance and provides procedures for an abatement process. However, the public nuisance portion of the legislation does not apply to any property zoned and used for agricultural purposes.

Because of the lack of housing in western Oklahoma due to the increase in oil and gas activity, OKFB supported SB 2128, the Oklahoma Affordable Housing Act of 2014. The legislation was initially offered by Rep. Mike Jackson, R-Enid, and Sen. Bryce Marlatt, R-Woodward. However, the final version, SB 2128 was authored by Sen. Clark Jolley, R-Edmond, and Rep. Scott Martin, R-Norman. SB 2128 creates a tax credit to match the federal low income housing credit for qualified projects placed in service after July 1, 2015. The credit is capped at \$4 million annually.

OKFB supported funding for the Emergency Drought Relief Fund, which was adopted in 2013 with an initial appropriation of \$3 million. The legislature voted in 2014 to put \$1.5 million in the continuing fund which will allow the Emergency Drought Commission to spend funds for agricultural related drought response activities, emergency infrastructure conservation measures and any other drought response activities identified by the Commission.

## **Legislation OKFB supported which did not become law**

**O**KFB supported HJR 1006 by Rep. Scott Biggs, R-Chickasha, and Sen. Eddie Fields, R-Wynona, which would have called for a statewide vote on an amendment to the constitution for a Right to Farm. The resolution recognized agriculture as a vital segment of the economy and stated that the rights of farmers and ranchers to engage in farming and ranching practices would forever be guaranteed in Oklahoma. Also, the legislature would not be able to pass a law abridging the right of farmers and ranchers to employ agricultural technology, as well as livestock producing and ranching practices, without a compelling state interest. The resolution stalled because of issues raised by different sources. OKFB has not abandoned the issue and will address it again in the future.

OKFB supported a resolution that would have boosted Oklahoma winery sales. HJR 1035 would have sent a constitutional amendment to a vote of the people. This constitutional amendment would have made it legal for wineries, either within or outside of this state, which are licensed by the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission, to sell and ship wine directly to consumers who have visited the winery. HJR 1035 by House Speaker Jeff Hickman, R-Dacoma, failed to pass; however, Rep. John Enns, R-Waukomis, has requested an interim study on the issue and will likely file a new resolution in 2015.

## OKAgFund endorses candidates in state elections

The OKAgFund, Oklahoma Farm Bureau's political action committee, announced its endorsement of 21 candidates running for election in state Senate and House races.

The OKAgFund is made up of OKFB members from across the state who identify candidates who demonstrate beliefs and actions that are consistent with OKFB policies, regardless of political affiliation.

"Agriculture is one of Oklahoma's top producing industries, and it is essential that our legislators understand and are sympathetic to the issues affecting the state's farmers and ranchers," said John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy and media relations. "The OKAgFund continues to be an effective tool to support the election campaign of agriculture-friendly candidates."

Oklahoma Senate candidates receiving an endorsement from the OKAgFund include Mark Allen, Senate District 4; Curtis McDaniel, Senate District 5; Brian Bingman, Senate District 12; Frank Simpson, Senate District 14; Kim David, Senate District 18; A.J. Griffin, Senate District 20; and Jason Smalley, Senate District 28.

Oklahoma House candidates receiving an endorsement from the OKAgFund include James Lockhart, House District 3; Wade Rousselot, House District 12; George Faught, House District 14; Jerry Shoemake, House

District 16; Josh Cockroft, House District 27; Tom Newell, House District 28; Sean Roberts, House District 36; John Enns, House District 41; Scott Martin, House District 46; Mark McBride, House District 53; Casey Murdock, House District 61; Will Fourkiller, House District 86; and Elise Hall, House District 100.

The OKAgFund also made contributions to several statewide candidates, including Gov. Mary Fallin, Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, Attorney General Scott Pruitt, State Treasurer Ken Miller, Insurance Commissioner John Doak and Corporation Commissioner Todd Hiett.

The OKAgFund contributed to the following Senate campaigns: Josh Brecheen, SD 6; Eddie Fields, SD 10; John Sparks, SD 16; Stephanie Bice, SD 22; Anthony Sykes, SD 24; Rick Brinkley, SD 34; Bill Brown, SD 36; and Ralph Shortey, SD 44.

The OKAgFund also contributed to the following House campaigns: John Bennett, HD 2; Mike Brown, HD 4; Chuck Hoskin, HD 6; Ben Loring, HD 7; Earl Sears, HD 11; Ed Cannaday, HD 15; Donnie Condit, HD 18; Bobby Cleveland, HD 20; Charles McCall, HD 22; Terry O'Donnell, HD 23; Justin Wood, HD 26; Kevin Wallace, HD 32; Dennis Casey, HD 35; Ralph Meade, HD 38; John Pfeiffer, HD 38; Aaron Stiles, HD 45; Pat Ownbey, HD 48; Tommy Hardin, HD 49; Scott Biggs, HD 51; Harold Wright, HD 57; Jeff Hickman, HD 58; Mike Sanders, HD 59; Dan Fisher, HD 60;

Pam Peterson, HD 67; Katie Henke, HD 71; David Derby; HD 74; Dan Kirby, HD 75; Randy Grau, HD 81; Randy McDaniel, HD 83; Jason Nelson, HD 87; Jon Echols, HD 90; Mike Christian, HD 93; Scott Inman, HD 94; Charlie Joyner, HD 95; Michael Rogers, HD 98; and Gary Banz, HD 101.



Jessica Wilcox



Marty Williams



2501 N Stiles • Oklahoma City, OK 73105 • (405) 523-2300

# Major County Farm Bureau member named to Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

**A**griculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the appointment of seven members to serve on the United States Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. The appointees will serve a 3-year term. Among those named to a new three-year term is Major County Farm Bureau member Jessica Wilcox, a farmer and crop insurance agent in Fairview.

"I am pleased that these individuals have agreed to serve on the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee," said Vilsack. "They

bring a great deal of knowledge and experience to this committee."

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, who represent all facets of the grain industry. The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee meets annually to advise USDA on the establishment of programs and services under the United States Grain Standards Act.

The new members are: Scott E. Averhoff, owner/operator, Scott Averhoff dba SARA Farms, Waxahachie, Texas; Marvin R. Paulsen,

professor emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois; Timothy D. Paurus, vice president terminal operations, CHS Inc., Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota; Cesar Ramirez, manager, Gavilon Grain LLC, Progreso, Texas; Todd E. Russom, manager, Anheuser-Busch InBev, St. Louis, Missouri; Jessica L. Wilcox, farmer/crop insurance agent, Wilcox Farms/CGB Diversified Services, Fairview, Oklahoma; and Steven Wirsching, vice president and director, U.S. Wheat Associates, Portland, Oregon.

# YF&R Chairman honored by OSU as 2014 'Master Agronomist'

**M**arty Williams, OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers chairman and Noble County farmer whose expertise has been sought out by government agencies from all over the world, has been named a 2014 Master Agronomist Award recipient by Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The honor is among the most prestigious presented by DASNR, and officially recognizes individuals who have actively participated in agronomic education efforts and contributed valuable public service through their efforts in the disciplines of soil conservation, range management or crop production.

Brian Arnall, OSU Cooperative Extension precision nutrient management specialist, said Williams is always willing to assist OSU researchers and Extension specialists with variety trials and demonstrations.

"He has generously donated land, equipment and his time, energy and effort," Arnall said. "He has met with scientists, students, agricultural producers and government agencies from all over the world to discuss his farming operation."

This past year, Williams met with Chinese Extension specialists who wanted to discuss with him the number of acres,

time and equipment used to meet the needs of his operation.

"They were amazed about the horsepower, size and acres of the operation," said Chad Webb, Noble County Extension director and agricultural educator. "Marty generously took the time to stop equipment so each representative could get inside and check over the equipment working in the field that particular day."

Williams has led classes under the auspices of the OSU Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, wherein he has shared insights about his farming system to future producers and research leaders. He has assisted chemical companies in herbicide studies, as well as OSU scientists studying soil fertility, weed control and variety improvement in crops such as wheat, canola, soybean and grain sorghum.

"Marty is passionate in his conservation practices, using no-till since his operation began," Webb said. "He uses new advances such as the OSU-developed GreenSeeker technology on his sprayer, routinely takes soil samples, uses variable-rate nutrient application technology and employs cover crops in his crop rotations."

Williams is a producer of seed wheat and raises corn, soybean, canola and grain sorghum.

Recognized by DASNR and others in Oklahoma agriculture as an "excellent manager" in fitting and adapting crops to his herbicide application, Williams was one of the first producers to adapt GreenSeeker technology for his personal use and helped demonstrate the technology to government entities in its early stages of development.

"We feel privileged to have had him serve as a presenter and discussion panel member during the 2014 Oklahoma no-till conference, adding value to everyone who attended through the sharing of his insights about what he has found to be successful," said Dave Porter, head of the OSU Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

"Marty Williams is an example of the land-grant university system at work," he added. "Our mission is to help Oklahomans solve issues and concerns of importance to them, their families and communities, thereby helping them improve their quality of life."

Williams is an active member of the Noble County Tractor Association, collecting and restoring antique tractors as a hobby. He also serves as a sales representative for Dyno-Gro, offering corn, soybean and milo, as well as producing hull-less barley for Oklahoma Genetics Inc.

## OKFB recognizes 100 Percent Club

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau board of directors recently announced the 2014 OKFB 100 Percent Club members. The award is based on a 100 percent voting record on key Farm Bureau legislative measures during the 2014 Oklahoma legislative session.

"This honor is given to those legislators who support Farm Bureau's mission to protect personal property rights, keep taxes low and boost agricultural and rural

business," said John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy and media relations. "We greatly appreciate their leadership at the state Capitol this year."

The following 20 senators received the designation: Mark Allen, Don Barrington, Brian Bingman, Larry Boggs, Cliff Branan, Corey Brooks, Bill Brown, Kim David, Eddie Fields, A.J. Griffin, Constance Johnson, Clark Jolley, Ron Justice, Kyle Loveless, Bryce Marlatt, Al McAffrey, Susan Paddack, Mike

Schulz, Ralph Shortey and John Sparks.

In the House, the list includes 23 representatives: John Bennett, Scott Biggs, David Brumbaugh, Donnie Condit, David Derby, Dale DeWitt, John Enns, Kay Floyd, Elise Hall, Mike Jackson, Skye McNeil, Jason Murphey, Tom Newell, Leslie Osborn, David Perryman, Brian Renegar, Sean Roberts, Mike Sanders, Seneca Scott, T.W. Shannon, Jerry Shoemaker, Jason Smalley and Mike Turner.

## New stackable GM bonus cash offered to OKFB members

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is pleased to announce that a new FB Member Advantage! "Bonus Cash" program with General Motors is available to members, effective immediately. While the \$500 discount on the purchase or lease of a new GM car or truck is the same, the ability to stack the offer with one other private offer is new, and demonstrates Farm Bureau's commitment to exceed member expectations.

"Farm Bureau members in Oklahoma are accustomed to having exclusive access to superior, high-quality brands, programs and products," said Tom Buchanan, Oklahoma Farm Bureau president. "GM's generous offer to Farm Bureau members that includes the ability to

stack the current GM 'Bonus Cash' offer with another private offer means our members may now purchase a General Motors vehicle and experience more savings than ever before. This is just one more example of how why it pays to be a member of Farm Bureau."

The new Bonus Cash offer can be stacked with all other offers available to eligible Farm Bureau members, such as Owner Loyalty (discounted employee, dealership employee and supplier pricing is excluded). Additionally, members are eligible 30 days after becoming a member – a reduction from the previous 60-day eligibility requirement. The \$500 "Bonus Cash" offer can be used on the

purchase or lease of all 2013, 2014 and 2015 Chevrolet, Buick and GMC models without exclusions in states that participate in the GM program.

To take advantage of the GM program discounts through FB Member Advantage!, members should log on to [fbverify.com/gm](http://fbverify.com/gm) where eligibility will be confirmed once a member enters his/her membership number and zip code. A certificate will be made available online that must be printed and taken to the dealership of choice for presentation to the sales person. There is no limit to the number of certificates that a member may print or use. Certificates expire after 60 days.



## Discounts on Polaris off-road vehicles offered to OKFB members



Oklahoma Farm Bureau encourages members to take advantage of a new member benefit with Polaris Industries Inc., the leading manufacturer of off-road vehicles.

Through the new program, eligible Farm Bureau members receive a \$300 per unit discount on all Polaris utility and sport vehicles, \$200 per unit on all all-terrain vehicles and \$300 per unit on all GEM electric vehicles. Members are eligible for the discounts 30 days after joining Oklahoma Farm Bureau. Discounts are available for the purchase of specified Polaris off-road vehicles without exclusion in states that participate in the Polaris program.

To take advantage of the Polaris program discounts through FB Member Advantage!, members log on to [fbverify.com/Polaris](http://fbverify.com/Polaris) where eligibility will be confirmed once a membership number and zip code are entered. A certificate will be made available online that must be printed and taken to the dealership of choice for presentation to the sales person. Certificates expire after 60 days.



*State Women's Leadership Team member Lowayne Piercy (left) and Washita County Women's Leadership Team member Charlene Thornbrough talk with Rep. Todd Russ during the Farm City Festival.*



*Custer County Women's Leadership Team Chair Sharla Waltrip visits with Sen. Mark Allen during the Farm City Festival.*

## Rural women leaders feed state legislators

State lawmakers received a “taste of the country” April 15, during the annual Oklahoma Farm Bureau Farm City Festival at the Capitol. The event is sponsored by the OKFB Women’s Leadership Team, consisting of rural women leaders from throughout the state.

The rural leaders used the Capitol’s first floor rotunda area to set out a spread of freshly prepared food, much of it home baked. There were trays of fresh vegetables, sandwiches, cheese and fruit, cookies, cupcakes and brownies.

“We enjoyed feeding our legislators and their staffs with good old homegrown food and we want to show them our appreciation for their hard work,” said Kitty Beavers, chairperson of the OKFB Women’s Leadership Team.

Beavers said the event also provides a unique opportunity to connect with the legislators.

“We host the event at the Capitol so when we go into the legislators offices, they will know where we come from and what we represent,” Beavers said.

More than 500 plates of food were prepared for legislators and their staff members.

“This is an event we look forward to every year,” Rep. Todd Russ said. “We get to hear from rural Oklahoma on some of the issues that might concern them and get their perspective.”

The rural Farm Bureau women leaders have been hosting the Farm City Festival for more than 30 years, and the importance of the event was not lost on Oklahoma’s Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese.

“These rural leaders are who the legislators represent and legislators always appreciate people from their hometown coming to see them at the Capitol,” Reese said.



*Left: YF&R members Chad Selman (left), Clint Wilcox and Travis Schnaithman (right) talk with U.S. Rep. James Lankford during a Congressional Action Tour reception, April 9.*

*Below: Congressional Action Tour participants visit the American Farm Bureau headquarters during their trip, April 8.*



## Farm Bureau leaders lobby in nation's capitol

The new farm bill, tax reform, regulatory overreach and immigration reform were key issues discussed by Oklahoma Farm Bureau leaders during a four-day lobbying effort in Washington, D.C., April 7-10.

During the trip, the farm leaders met with U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe and U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn's Chief of Staff Brian Treat, plus U.S. Reps. Jim Bridenstine, Markwayne Mullin, James Lankford and Frank Lucas, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

Lucas emphasized his committee's efforts to draft a new farm bill that provides a strong safety net for farm income using a combination of crop insurance, a revenue assurance program and price protection.

"We are proud to have Rep. Lucas standing up for our interests in Washington, D.C., and we greatly appreciate the time and effort he committed to the farm bill," OKFB President Tom Buchanan said. "We look forward to working with him and his staff as the new rules are implemented."

Several congressmen applauded OKFB's decision to join Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt's lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for using a "sue and settle" tactic to prematurely list the lesser prairie chicken as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The decision circumvents ESA procedures required by statute and harms landowners and business interests in the state.

Oklahoma farm leaders also received legislative briefings from key staff at the American Farm Bureau office. Farm Bureau makes the annual trip to Washington, D.C., each spring to engage with the nation's leaders and then initiate conversations in their local communities.

"This trip is a key step in our grassroots policy development process, and we are thankful for the opportunity to meet with our state's delegation and AFBF staffers as we take the time to learn about the issues," Buchanan said. "The OKFB leaders who participated in the trip will be great sources of information as our counties begin making policy recommendations later this year."



## OKFB members explore southwest Oklahoma

*Top: Robert Forst of the Stuart Ranch gives a cutting horse demonstration for members on the first day of the annual commodity tour. Located near Waurika, it is the oldest ranch in the state of Oklahoma under continuous family ownership.*

*Middle: Jackson County FB board member Matt Muller explains the different equipment used in the cotton stripping process at his farm during the second day of the tour. Participants also had the chance to tour a cotton gin and storage facility in Altus.*

*Bottom: Members enjoy a scenic view from Mt. Scott inside the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge near Lawton on the final day of the tour. More photos from the three-day event are available on OKFB's Flickr site at [www.flickr.com/okfarmbureau](http://www.flickr.com/okfarmbureau).*





## YF&R members tour northeast Oklahoma agriculture

*Top: Casey Mote shows YF&R members tilapia from the Moore Fish Farm's tanks near Inola as she discusses the process of raising the warm-water-loving fish in Oklahoma. The group learned about how the farm raises and sells tilapia, bluegill, catfish and largemouth bass during the YF&R Spring Tour, April 25-26.*



*Bottom: Dennis Avery discusses identifying the quality of cattle eggs and embryos at DNA Genetics in Rose, April 26, during the YF&R Spring Tour. Avery demonstrated how he flushes a cow to remove embryos and eggs, and the group viewed bovine eggs and semen under microscopes. Find more pictures from the tour at [www.flickr.com/okfarmbureau](http://www.flickr.com/okfarmbureau).*

## Bond joins OKFB field services

**B**rady Bond of Garber is Oklahoma Farm Bureau's new northwest field representative and will serve as a liaison for the counties in his territory and the state Farm Bureau.

"This is an exciting opportunity to promote agriculture and Farm Bureau's mission to protect rural Oklahoma," Bond said. "I'm looking forward to building relationships with the members in this area and helping create an even stronger organization."

Bond graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in agricultural education and taught at Garber High School for three years. He also runs cattle near Garber. Bond can be reached at brady.bond@okfb.org or (580) 542-8189.



Brady Bond

Samantha Smith



## Smith joins OKFB communications team

**B**urlington, Oklahoma, native Samantha Smith joined Oklahoma Farm Bureau as a communications specialist in June.

Smith is an agricultural communications graduate from Oklahoma State University. After interning with the OKFB communications team in the summer of 2013, Smith said the organization was a perfect fit.

"I am so excited to continue my work with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau," Smith said. "I feel very fortunate to be working for an organization that has the interests of rural Oklahomans at heart."

Smith grew up on a primarily wheat-producing farm in Amorita, Oklahoma. Her passion for agriculture stemmed from her first-hand experience on the farm, and she plans to use her skills in communications to further the mission of OKFB.

"I want to advocate for agriculture and the farmers and ranchers in rural Oklahoma," Smith said. "Oklahoma Farm Bureau is allowing me to find creative ways to do that."

## 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'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](mailto:thad.doye@okfb.org).

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## Oklahoma youth attend OKFB leadership conference

*Left: OYLA participants celebrate National Dairy Month by giving away milkshakes and milk mustaches to shoppers at the Yukon Buy For Less as they visited with consumers about the benefits and importance of dairy.*

*Below: OKFB President Tom Buchanan (right) meets with OYLA participants during their tour of the Farm Bureau home office in Oklahoma City.*

Twenty of Oklahoma's top high school seniors spent four days learning about leadership, team building and agriculture at the third annual Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference, June 23-26, in Oklahoma City. OYLA is hosted by Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

"We wanted an event to showcase Oklahoma agriculture to our best and brightest students across the state," said Holly Carroll, OYLA and YF&R coordinator.

The conference was designed to prepare high school students for a future career in agriculture and to advance youth leadership.



The group learned about media training, money-spending habits and agricultural advocacy. They toured places such as Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Devon Energy, the Oklahoma City Stockyards and Whole Foods.

“We found as a state that a lot of times we lose students to a competitor in a neighboring state or they go to what they think is a better job because they don’t know what’s available right here in Oklahoma,” Carroll said. “We wanted to showcase agriculture-related jobs and the things we can offer to keep young adults in our state and keep them involved in Oklahoma Farm Bureau.”

Brooks McKinney, a senior at Spiro High School, said OYLA highlighted the importance of remaining involved in agriculture.

“Even if I didn’t have the opportunity to participate on a farm, I think it’s very important that we are involved in agriculture,” McKinney said. “That’s something this conference teaches us.”

OYLA also encourages service-minded leadership. The students participated in a National Dairy Month service project at a grocery store in Yukon during their time with OKFB. They handed out free samples of dairy products including milkshakes and shared dairy facts with consumers while promoting Oklahoma agriculture.



*State FFA Reporter Joshua Haven (left) and Oklahoma FFA Foundation board member Keith Kising (right) accept an \$11,000 donation from OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke during the state FFA Convention, April 30. Oklahoma Farm Bureau was a Silver Level Sponsor of this year’s state FFA Convention.*

*OKFB President Tom Buchanan (left) helps present a plaque to the 2014 Oklahoma State Star in Agriscience Gatlin Squires of Kingfisher during the state FFA Convention, April 30. Representatives from McDonalds and Atwoods Farm and Ranch are also pictured. OKFB is proud to support Oklahoma’s FFA members.*



# Annual YF&R Golf Classic benefits OKFB Legal Foundation

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers state committee raised more than \$16,000 for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation during the annual YF&R Golf Classic, May 16.

The 12th annual event was held at Choctaw Creek Golf Course where 23 teams competed in a four-man scramble. The golf classic is the largest fundraiser organized for the OKFB Legal Foundation and all proceeds benefit the foundation's efforts to protect the rights of farmers and ranchers and represent them regarding agricultural issues.

"We appreciate the continued support from the YF&R and those who participate in the tournament," OFBLF Director LeeAnna McNally said. "The OKFB Legal Foundation was established to protect private property rights and production agriculture. The funds we receive from the tournament each year help us grow this important mission."

Team results include first place – Kenny Heckart, JC Dunigan and Lee McLaurine from Woodward County; second place – John Wiscaver, Larry Brown, Jeff Chamblin and Tim Cochran from Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance; third place – Adam Martens, Todd McQue, Todd Gilcrest and Chad Nightengale from Wiggins Auctioneers.

To learn more about the OKFB Legal Foundation, please visit [www.ofblegalfoundation.org](http://www.ofblegalfoundation.org).

*Major County Farm Bureau member Adam Martens watches as his putt approaches the hole during the YF&R Golf Tournament, May 16, in Choctaw.*

*Far right: OKFB YF&R state committee members Mary and Derek Crain (right) present the first place trophy to Kenny Heckart, JC Dunigan and Lee McLaurine. The Woodward County Farm Bureau team took home the top team honors beating out 22 other teams with a round of 56.*



## YF&R award scholarships to nine graduating seniors

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee recently awarded nine \$1,000 scholarships, one per each state board district, to graduating high school seniors.

Each recipient is a member of a voting Farm Bureau family and will enroll in a full-time agricultural degree program at an accredited Oklahoma university.

"Oklahoma's agricultural youth are the future of farming and ranching," said Marty Williams, chairman of the YF&R Committee. "We hope this scholarship will encourage students to continue their involvement in agriculture and Oklahoma Farm Bureau."

The scholarship recipients are:

- District One – Bert Blasdel, Harper County
- District Two – Colvin Null, Kiowa County
- District Three – Brittany Krehbiel, Caddo County
- District Four – Ty Landon Fisher, Cotton County
- District Five – Aaron Purkins, Bryan County
- District Six – Jacob Hammons, Adair County
- District Seven – Logan Johns, Kay County
- District Eight – Wyatt Shaw, Pontotoc County
- District Nine – Morgan Vance, Pawnee County



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# OKFB Leadership Team teaches more than 1,200 elementary students about agriculture, gives away bikes



*Left: OKFB's Chris Kidd (right) plays one of the My American Farm online educational games with students from Cleveland Elementary during the Kids, Kows and More Super Ag Day, held May 8-9, at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds.*

*Right: OKFB Women's Leadership Team member Roberta Hughes presents a new bike to Landon, a third grader from Winding Creek Elementary, during the event, May 8.*

*Far right: OKFB Women's Leadership Team chair Kitty Beavers presents a new bike to Carlos, a third grader from Houchin Elementary, during the event, May 9.*

## OKFB Women's Leadership Team holds annual summer conference

Oklahoma Farm Bureau women gathered in Midwest City, July 11-12, for the group's annual summer conference. The OKFB Women's Leadership Team met to explore growth in the organization, discuss public policy updates and tour the OSU-OKC gardens.

"We want these women to see the impact they can have when they are involved in agriculture and Oklahoma Farm Bureau," said Kitty Beavers, OKFB Women's Leadership Team chairman. "It's so beneficial to get together and brainstorm with women across the state to discuss the ways we can improve our organization. I really appreciate the women who took the time to come to the

conference and help advance our organization for the future."

Marcy Luter from the Meridian Technology Center addressed the Women's Leadership Team on Friday morning and challenged them to move through change, grow membership and accomplish their goals.

"We have to constantly change to keep up with the people we want to reach as Farm Bureau women," Luter said. "We have to be the leaders and take the job of pulling the organization forward."

Friday afternoon consisted of breakout sessions where OKFB women had the opportunity to discuss public policy, identity fraud and tips for container gardening.

The group spent Saturday morning touring the John E. Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center and the OSU-OKC Gardens and Farmers Market.

*OKFB's John Collison and LeeAnna McNally discuss the upcoming elections with OKFB Women's Leadership Team members during the annual summer conference in Midwest City.*

*OKFB Women's Leadership Team members explore the John E. Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center during the summer conference. Back row: Karen Krehbiel (left), Caddo County; and Linda Taggart, Caddo County. Middle row: Margaret Ann Kinder (left), state committee member; Kitty Beavers, state committee chair; and Brenda Novotny, Caddo County. Front row: Sandy Berry, Stephens County.*





Grant County Farm Bureau board president Ken Ferda rewards a Grant County citizen for his successful capture and detainment of a property thief.



## Grant County resident receives \$5,000 reward

**U** Grant County man has been given a \$5,000 reward after capturing a property thief on the run. The hero, who wishes to remain nameless, chased the thief 75 miles through several counties, notifying the different county sheriff offices as they entered their county.

The \$5,000 reward is a member benefit provided to OKFB members for information leading to the arrest and felony conviction of persons committing theft, arson or vandalism on members' property.

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# Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation Update

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation's purpose is to provide the ability to enter the legal arena to protect private property rights and production agriculture. OFBLF strives to serve farmers and ranchers by engaging in public interest litigation, researching legal issues affecting family farmers and rural Oklahomans, and educating farmers and ranchers and the public about issues important to agriculture. Below is an update on several cases OFBLF is currently involved in.

On behalf of OFBLF, thank you for support and continued efforts to protect the private property rights of rural Oklahomans.

*LeeAnna K. McNally, Esq.*  
*Director of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation*

## **Oklahoma Farm Bureau v. Dep't of Interior**

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has joined forces with Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, North Dakota, Kansas and Domestic Energy Producers Alliance in a lawsuit regarding the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) entered into a consent decree with like-minded environmental groups to settle a lawsuit over the listing status of 250 species, including the LPC. In these type of scenarios, agencies should not be able to circumvent the legislative or regulatory process. The suit seeks to stop FWS from changing its legal obligations without congressional action or public consideration.

## **Arbuckle Simpson Groundwater Basin**

In October 2013, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) voted to reduce the Maximum Annual Yield (MAY) for landowners overlying the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer from 2 acre feet per year to 0.2 acre feet per year. Shortly thereafter, an Application for Reconsideration of the Final Order was filed by a landowner who owns property overlying the aquifer. The OWRB denied the Application for Reconsideration.

The protection of private property rights in Oklahoma is vitally important to Oklahoma farmers and ranchers. The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation joined forces with the Pontotoc County Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association, Environmental Federation of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Aggregates Association to ensure this precious resource will be protected for the responsible utilization by farmers, ranchers and Oklahoma businesses. Currently, an Administrative Appeal is pending in Oklahoma County District Court.

## **Gulf Restoration Network v. EPA**

In Gulf Restoration Network v. EPA, fourteen state Farm Bureaus, including Oklahoma Farm Bureau, and sixteen national and state organizations were granted permission to intervene in the lawsuit that seeks to impose federal numeric criteria in all states in the Mississippi River Basin. The reason for intervention is to ensure that costly, scientifically indefensible and overly stringent federal numeric criteria aren't imposed by a court on 40 percent of the U.S. land mass.

In September 2013 the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana ordered

the EPA must conduct a necessity determination on whether nutrient limits are required for the area within 180 days. On March 17, 2014, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit granted a motion made by EPA to stay the district court's order until the appellate court rules on the merits of the case. The stay effectively puts a "hold" on a lower court decision calling for a determination. Without the stay, EPA would have been required to comply with the District Court's order. On April 8, 2014, the Appellees, environmental groups, filed their Opening Brief on the issue.

## **Aransas Project v. Shaw**

In Aransas Project v. Shaw, American Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Texas Farm Bureau and many other state Farm Bureaus joined together by filing an amicus curiae brief in support of the State of Texas. This case is important to the agriculture community to ensure the protection of private property rights are not subordinated from the Endangered Species Act.

In March 2013, the District Court for the Southern District of Texas concluded the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when it failed to use its regulatory authority over state surface water flows and diversions to prevent the "take" of 23 endangered whooping cranes. The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has granted an Emergency Stay Pending Appeal drafted by the Texas Attorney General. On June 30, 2014, the Fifth Circuit overturned the Southern District of Texas decision concluding the decision misapplied proximate cause analysis and further, even if proximate cause had been proven, the injunction is an abuse of discretion.

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU  
**LEGAL FOUNDATION** 



By Mandy Gross  
FAPC Communications Services Manager

## FAPC advisory board discusses food safety program during biannual meeting

Food safety was the topic of discussion during a recent advisory board meeting of Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center.

FAPC's Industry Advisory Committee members from across Oklahoma met June 5, at FAPC to discuss how the advisory board could help make OSU and FAPC the leader in food safety.

"With the leadership of the advisory board, there are developing programs that could have a positive effect on Oklahoma, especially in the area of food safety," said Paul Schatte, vice president of Head Country Food Inc. in Ponca City, who presided over the meeting.

The Industry Advisory Committee recognized the need to educate students in food safety and provided just more than \$1 million and is leading an effort to generate \$3.4 million to create a food safety program at OSU.

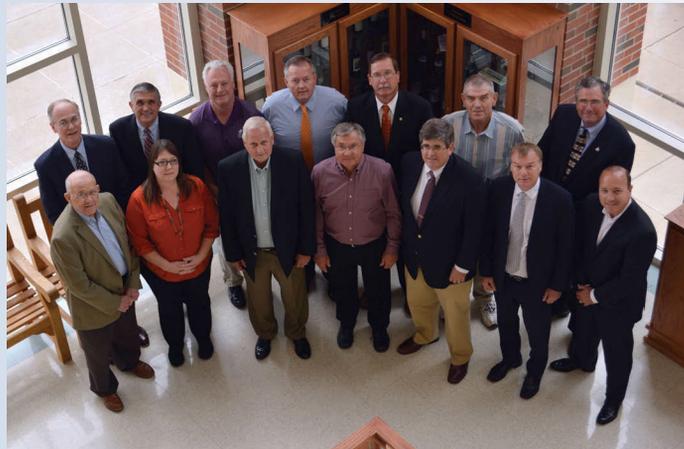
"We are so grateful that FAPC's Industry Advisory Committee is embracing this opportunity to lead this fundraising effort," said Chuck Willoughby, FAPC manager of business and marketing relations. "One hundred percent of the advisory board has committed to support this financial campaign."

As a result of the initial gift, a proposed food safety option is underway for approval and a faculty position in OSU Department of Animal Science will be hired to support the new food safety option.

During the meeting, the committee met with several individuals to discuss the food safety campaign, including Sen. Ron Justice, OSU President Burns Hargis, and members of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, animal science department and OSU Foundation.

With a growing demand for safe, quality food products, the need for food industry companies to engage in food safety programs is more important than ever.

With the support of the advisory board, FAPC implemented a Global Food Safety Initiative program to help meet the food safety and security



**FAPC's Industry Advisory Committee members from across Oklahoma provide just more than \$1 million and are leading an effort to generate \$3.4 million to create a food safety program at OSU.**

leading the food safety campaign effort are Schatte; Nancy Addington, Associated Wholesale Grocers of Oklahoma City; Luis

needs of Oklahoma's food industry. FAPC's GFSI program focuses on direct food industry assistance in the areas of training, auditing, education and in-plant technical assistance for food safety and quality programs.

Schatte said he was pleased with the outcome of the meeting and enjoys working with food industry professionals on the advisory board.

The committee meetings give us an opportunity to discuss important issues and challenges facing FAPC and the food industry," Schatte said. "The meetings are vital in order to keep us informed so we are able to provide the necessary leadership."

The Oklahoma Legislature established the Industry Advisory Committee to serve as an advisory board for FAPC.

"The Industry Advisory Committee offers counsel, makes decisions and takes leadership action to ensure FAPC makes sound short- and long-term plans to accomplish its mission and objectives," said Roy Escoubas, FAPC director. "I am extremely appreciative of the advisory board's dedication and commitment to the food safety campaign."

Members of the committee are Oklahoma agricultural leaders, appointed by the highest positions of the Oklahoma state government and the vice president and dean of OSU's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Members of the advisory board who are

Bogran, Curwood, a Bemis Co. of Pauls Valley; Ed Clements, Clements Foods Co. of Oklahoma City; Gary Crane, Ralph's Packing Co. of Perkins; Scott Dvorak, Dvorak Farms of Perry; John Griffin, Griffin Foods of Muskogee; David Howard, Unitherm Food Systems of Bristow; Virgil Jurgensmeyer, J-M Farms of Miami; Rodger Kerr, Southwest Technology Center of Altus; Tommy Kramer, Durant Industrial Authority of Durant; John Patrick Lopez, Lopez Foods of Oklahoma City; David McLaughlin, AdvancePierre Foods of Oklahoma City; Allen Mills, Reasor's Inc. of Tahlequah; and John Williams, Chef's Requested Foods of Oklahoma City.

The committee meets twice a year to conduct business relating to FAPC, usually in June and November. The June meeting is held at FAPC, while the November meeting is held off-site at the discretion of the committee.

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Old Minneapolis Moline Tractor. Hay flat bed trailer 6.5' x 32'. Small tractor accessories. Western OK 580-928-2795

## LIVESTOCK

Brangus bulls and fancy replacement heifers, excellent genetics and gentle dispositions, delivery available, Horsehead Ranch, 918-695-2357 (Runs continuously until told otherwise.)

Reg. Polled Hereford bulls and heifers, 10 months-15 months old, Remittal Online 122L and PW Victor Boomer P606 genetics, Breeding Reg. Polled Herefords for 47 years, 580-332-2468

Standing AQHA FBS Haida Pep \$750 LFG Freckles Boon x (out of dam by) "Haidas Lil Pep" Intelligent, flashy, stout, cowbred deluxe. Prospects for sale out of own daughters of Pocolena, Peppysan, DryDoc. 580-369-8050

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Double Tough Harlan at stud, linebred Harlan buckskin, AQHA, FQHR, 400 LFG f m/c. 2014 linebred Harlan colts for sale. www.okharlanhorses.com 918-762-3769

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Exceptional Registered Longhorn cattle for sale. Bull, cows, pairs. Sallisaw, OK. 918-855-0704. Visit website: www.lonewolf ranch.net

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Quail, Chukar, Pheasants chicks, eggs, grown, Call 580-795-7089, Madill, Okla., We ship.

For Sale, Blue Ox Tow Bar, \$250, Safety cables for \$50 extra, 14' Vec Bottom Alum. Boat and trailer, no title, 580-513-0298

Antique wooden feed scale and other antiques for sale, call after 5:00 p.m., Enid, Okla., Phone number: 580-554-1114

Quail, Pheasant, Chukar, Wild Turkeys, B&D Game Farm, Call 405-964-5235

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Collector paying cash for antique fishing lures and tackle, also coke machines and signs, Troy - 800-287-3057

# Country Classifieds

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1975 17' Ponn/Toon – 1965 Evinrud Motor, 1066 INT Tractor with duals, less than 1000 hours on motor, 3 windows, A/C, 25,000 BTU, 12,000 BTU, and 10,000 BTU, and an Iron Master wood cook stove, 580-925-2644

Cemetery 2 lots, Memorial Park, Tulsa, OK, Section 14, Lots 694, Space 3-4, cost \$4,000, save \$3,500, 918-451-2636, Nice

Stanley Home Products, Fuller Brush, Degreasers, bath cleaners, brooms, mops, bushes, germicides, vitamins, hair brushes, combs, colognes, lotions, laundry soaps, all house cleaners, personal products, 580-497-2249

Buy, sell, trade old comic books, Sallisaw, Oklahoma, Rick 918-208-6990

Black leather theatre seats with cup holders, \$150, Sherri 405-598-1202

Websites for your farm, ranch or business. Specializing in horses and ag related marketing. [www.bakerequinepromotions.com](http://www.bakerequinepromotions.com)

2 3/8 pipe \$1.10 - \$1.25, 2 7/8 pipe \$1.25 - \$1.35, all sizes sucker rods/corner post pipe, 405-627-3920

8th Annual Ranch Rodeo, Sponsored by Waurika Chamber of Commerce, July 12-13, 2013, Rex Dunn's Coyote Hills Arena

Finish mower – Woods, 6 ft, RD 7200, 3 pt, like new, pd \$2100, will take \$1500, 580-795-5907

For sale: cable tool drill rig – 3 sets of tools, \$9000, call 918-327-0860

6 ft Rhino finish mower, used, one owner, with operators manual with parts listing, plus two sets of used blades, \$650, 918-486-5531, Coweta, OK

Sub-surface royalty interest in (95) acres in Pontotoc County, Section 27. Including royalty check from (6) producing oil wells, 580-332-2468

Minerals for lease in Kiowa, Pottawatomie and Pushmataha and Stephens County in Oklahoma. Land available for cell tower sites in Stephens County, commercial land for lease, HWY 81 and Plato Road, Duncan, OK, 580-255-5335, leave message

6' King Kutter rotary brush cutter \$750, 60 gal air compressor \$300, Troybilt 5550 watt generator with Briggs and Stratton \$500, 580-279-7934

Vehicle sound system with speakers, fits pickup, \$200, OBO; Culligan water softener, complete system, \$300, OBO, 405-262-8499

Fence charger repair, all makes, rebuilt units for sale, we repair old international chargers, Pioneer Electronics, SE of Enid, 580-603-0063 or 580-758-9471

Two Oklahoma First Ladies by Lucelia Wise, 1911-1970 – Central – Edmond – Guthrie, Oklahoma First Ladies Coloring Book, 1911-1979, Bronze Book – 1928, 918-762-3120

To stop this depression, you must learn the truth in this \$5 cash report on healthcare. For more information contact: Boyd Corbett, P.O. Box 39, Bennington, OK 74723

Free DVD – U.N. Agenda 21: How will it affect you? Phone: 405-348-9991 or write: Oklahoma Projects, 415 West 15 #2, Edmond, OK 73013

4x8 trailer, car dolly, off-road scooter, 5K BTU a/c, 1 new, 1 used, Tuttle, 405-550-0387

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# Country Kitchen

## SIRLOIN PEACH SALAD (SERVES 4)



### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds Certified Angus Beef® sirloin steak
- 2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil
- 5 peaches
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced scallions
- 1/2 teaspoon poppy seeds
- 1 package (5-ounces) mixed salad greens
- Salt and pepper to taste



### Instructions:

Rub steak with oil and season with salt and pepper. Place steak on grill over high heat. Grill to desired doneness, turning once. Place steak on cutting board and allow to rest 5 minutes. Slice thinly across the grain.

Cut peaches into thin slices and toss with 2 teaspoons lemon juice.

For dressing, combine yogurt, scallions and poppy seeds in a small bowl. Stir in additional lemon juice as needed to reach a pourable consistency.

To assemble, arrange steak and peach slices on salad greens. Drizzle dressing over top.

## COUNTRY PORK AND NOODLES (SERVES 6)



### Ingredients:

- 2 cups cooked pork loin roast\*, diced (about 1 pound)
- 4 cups chicken broth, divided
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 7 ounces egg noodles
- 1/2 red bell pepper, diced
- 3/4 cup frozen peas, (about 4 ounces)
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 teaspoons butter



### Instructions:

In small bowl thoroughly stir together 1/4 cup broth and cornstarch, set aside. In 4-quart saucepan, bring remaining broth to a boil; add noodles, cook for 5 minutes. Stir in bell pepper, peas and pepper. When noodles are tender, stir in cornstarch mixture. Cook and stir until slightly thickened; stir in pork and butter; heat through.

\*Could also use leftover tenderloin or fresh leg of pork.

storage building, will trade for small country acreage with older home, 405-932-4596

2003 Brookwood 16x81 MH – 3 bedroom, 2 bath, metal roof, solar screens all around, front porch and ramp, back porch, all appliances, must be moved, \$26,500 neg., 580-443-5454 or 940-293-5616

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For Sale: 2005 Mobile Home, 3 br, 2 bath, GE Range, Whirlpool washer/dryer, new 50 gal water heater, excellent condition, \$25,000 OBO, 405-255-4544

## REAL ESTATE

4 bedroom, 3 bath, huge garage/shop, extra 30x30 building on one acre, Edmond schools, \$149,000, 2,560 sq. ft., 405-326-2645

10 acres, 1100 sq. ft., 2 bd, 1 bth home, 2 car carport, tree lined driveway, 30x40 shop, located btw Pauls Valley and Stratford, \$125,000, 580-362-6034

Business and House for sale, 3 bdr, 1 ba, 1 car garage, nice neighborhood, Business 3000 sq. ft., corner lot, busy street, Asian grocery store, call 580-480-0019

160 acre hunting lease, S.E. Lincoln County, 405-567-3685

Two and a half acres, flat, fenced and mostly cleared, Choctaw, SE 15th and Choctaw Rd, \$40,000, Excellent home site, 405-320-3023

2270 acres, 300 cow/calf ranch, 1/2 minerals, large exotic home, good other improvements, \$1250 per acre, Good Earth Land Co., 918-689-3166

10 acres- 5 1/4 mile east of Seminole on Hwy 9, Hwy frontage, has electric poles, water well, concrete slab where shop building was, Call 580-334-0906 or 580-334-9550

60 ac, good pasture land or home site, 5 mi south of Sapulpa, OK, excellent fences, beautiful pond, trees and creek, \$250,000, 918-321-5889

Lot for sale at Flint Ridge Resort, Delaware County, Enjoy all the amenities, \$500 plus closing costs, 405-224-7086

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<b>Carl Windham</b> 10404 N.W. 37th Yukon, OK	<b>Unique Coffeaurs</b> 5900 N.W. 49th Oklahoma City, OK	<b>Clark Graham</b> 213 N.W. 1st Moore, OK	<b>Kenneth Azlin</b> P.O. Box 921 Seminole, OK	<b>Jerry Haynes</b> P.O. Box 208 Cashion, OK	<b>S &amp; J Tire Co.</b> Hwy. 81 El Reno, OK	<b>Mickey Brown</b> 1705 Country Club Newcastle, OK	<b>Dawn Faust</b> 9329 Lyric Lane Midwest City, OK	<b>Richard Boren</b> Rt. 1, Box 151 Geary, OK
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