

# Oklahoma Country

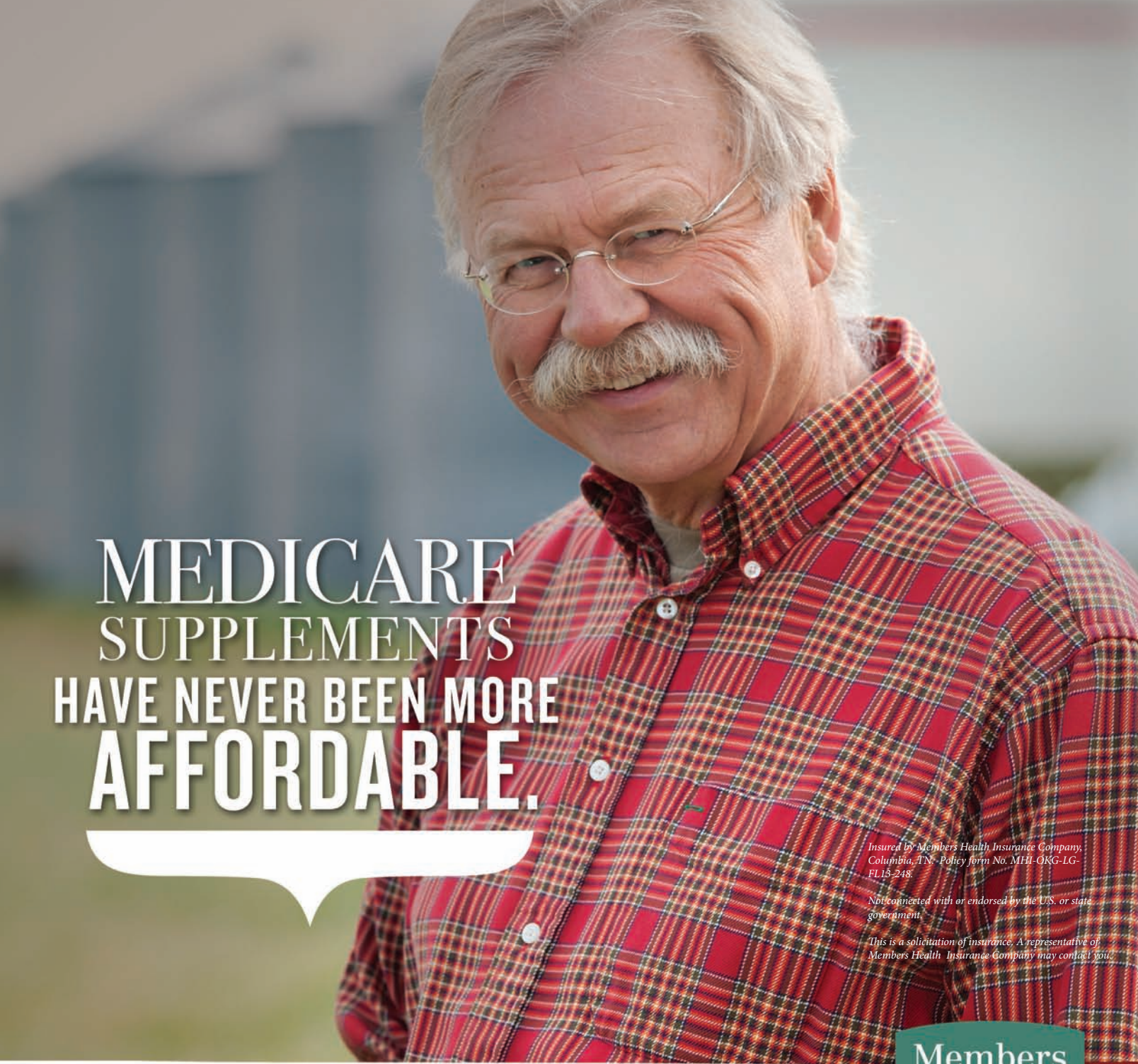
WINTER 2014  
THE MAGAZINE OF  
THE OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU



INSIDE:

**Farm Family of the Year**  
**For the Good of the Land**  
**Consider the Benefits**





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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 Carolyn Bolay before the last day of the month Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 405-523-2320.

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

John and Macy Strom are the 2013 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Farm Family of the Year. They operate Valley View Ranch in the Osage Hills near Hulah.



TOM BUCHANAN  
*President*  
*Oklahoma Farm Bureau*  
*& Affiliated Companies*

## Take time to reflect and then set the bar high

**H**appy New Year, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members! After a successful 2013 legislative session and a productive annual meeting in November, I am looking forward to great things in 2014. It's no secret this time of year is popular for developing new ideas and setting annual goals, but I think it is also important to reflect on the past year's successes as we build momentum for the future. I am especially proud of our efforts to promote and protect agriculture and rural Oklahoma in 2013 and would like to highlight a few.

Our improved communications methods continue to make information more accessible for our members, legislators and the public. This digital edition of *Oklahoma Country* is just one example of our modern approach to distribute information. Our new audio program – *All Around Oklahoma Agriculture* – is available on the OKFB website and gives listeners a chance to hear timely reports from the field as we travel around the state each week visiting with industry officials and OKFB leaders. Our social media presence has also increased tremendously this past year, and I continue to encourage you to take advantage of the news and information shared through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Flickr.

In addition to generating and sharing news, we have also taken great strides to connect with consumers and answer questions about how food is grown and processed. OKFB recently partnered with the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation to unveil an interactive

education trailer that will travel the state highlighting the commodity crops grown in Oklahoma. You can read more about the Grown For You trailer and its many components on page 23.

When it comes to standing up for agriculture and defending your rights at the state Capitol, you can rest assured knowing you have an outstanding team of public policy professionals representing our organization. They are in constant contact with elected officials and key state departments to make your voice heard on issues affecting rural Oklahoma and the agricultural industry. I am proud to say we were especially effective in defeating activist groups this past session, and OKFB stands ready for any new attacks we may encounter in the upcoming year.

**A**s we move into 2014, we have big expectations from our legislators and from you, our members. We hope to offer a state question on the November ballot to enact the Right to Farm Act and will ask the people of Oklahoma to make it our constitutional right to farm and ranch in our state. In America today, we see many different interest groups attempting to exert their money and power to make decisions about the best methods for raising livestock and planting crops, but nobody understands the science of agriculture and what it takes to be successful better than you. We will work passionately this next year to pass this act into law.

No doubt many of you have heard me discuss the water issues we are facing in the state, and it is time to give water the respect it deserves. We, as a state, have been wasting a precious resource, and we need to come up

with a solution to be better stewards. It is time we engage our legislative members and let them know that Oklahoma Farm Bureau is here to help solve this issue. We can no longer afford to just dump water across our borders and waste the billions of dollars in economic value the commodity could generate. I propose we come together to make sure all voices are heard when it comes to Oklahoma's water.

Throughout this next year, members will also have a chance to engage in leadership and educational activities. These events are great opportunities to share ideas and develop our skills as we work together to share the farm story and protect our rural way of life. Whether you help feed legislators at the Capitol during the Farm City Festival in April or you attend your county's annual meeting to propose policy changes in the fall, your input and your service matter.

As we prepare for another great year at Oklahoma Farm Bureau, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on your personal successes from this past year and use them to set new goals as you raise the bar in 2014. I look forward to your involvement as we work to make Oklahoma even better, and I invite you to contact me with your ideas and suggestions.

**Have a safe and prosperous 2014!**



# Feeding and clothing the world ...



## one farmer at a time.

Steve and Mindi Clark work full-time jobs in northwestern Oklahoma. And when they're done, they arrive on the farm and work some more, alongside Steve's family. Their dedication to agriculture and farming is helping the Burlington couple create a bright future in rural Oklahoma. Although the hours are long even before they arrive on the farm, their love for producing food, fuel and fiber drive them, and our state, forward.





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

## The same Oklahoma Farm Bureau you've always trusted ... Now even better

I hope this inaugural digital edition of *Oklahoma Country* finds you happy and healthy in the New Year. Going digital with this publication is another step forward for our great organization. We are continuously looking for new ways to manage our organization to meet our members' needs, and we are doing so responsibly to ensure we stay strong and earn the trust and support of our members.

As I look back at 2013, there is an underlying theme of commitment that makes me both proud to serve this company and eager to see the strides we will make in 2014.

I've mentioned it before, but this past year was extremely hard on our state, as history was made when two F5 tornadoes touched down in central Oklahoma within just a few days of each other. We also were faced with large hailstorms and other severe weather that impacted thousands of our members throughout the state.

These weather events created great hardships for so many Oklahomans. But when these events occur, I'm proud to see the commitment of our agents and our exceptional claims staff to assist their fellow Farm Bureau members when they needed it most. Oklahoma Farm Bureau was there,

helping our members begin the process of rebuilding their lives after the loss.

As Oklahoma's largest domestic insurance carrier, we appreciate the opportunity to be your local source for outstanding products at competitive prices, and we also take great pride in knowing our agents and claims professionals live and work in Oklahoma just like you. And they are ready, on a moment's notice, to help our members when they need us most. Unlike most other insurance companies, we are an Oklahoma company with our only focus on Oklahoma and our members.

As I look forward to 2014, I am excited about our plans for an even stronger Oklahoma Farm Bureau, now with more products and options to help protect our members. You've no doubt seen several new efforts to tell our story and to promote the service and dedication we offer across the state. "*The same Oklahoma Farm Bureau you've always trusted ... Now even better*" is more than just our new slogan, it is our way of emphasizing the commitment we've made to customers since 1946 and our belief in our future. We are always looking for new ways to improve our service in every area

as we work to remain strong in the marketplace.

As an Oklahoma Farm Bureau member, you have access to a wide variety of discounts and services to enhance your life, and we are excited to be able to offer even more options that add significant value to your annual membership. New member benefits on the horizon include Medicare Supplement insurance, home warranty services and increased insurance options.

Through a partnership with Tennessee Farm Bureau's Members Health Insurance, we will also soon be offering our Medicare-eligible members some great options for Medicare Supplement plans. If you are currently on Medicare or approaching 65, I encourage you to turn to page 20 for more information about these products.

As Oklahoma Farm Bureau continues to grow and evolve, we will remain true to our roots, offering quality insurance at affordable rates. I have never felt more encouraged about our direction and firmly believe there has never been a better time to be a member of this great organization.



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

## Planning flower gardens to attract birds, butterflies and beneficial insects

**W**hile we are caught in the grip of winter weather, some homeowners warm their hearts with the thought of spring and blooming plants that brighten the landscape around their home. These winter months are also an excellent time to think about new additions to your flower beds. As you reflect on the many choices of annuals, perennials and shrubs that are available, consider additions to your yard that will provide homes or food sources for butterflies, moths or beneficial insects that help keep the populations of pest insects at a manageable level.

Planning is the most important aspect of preparing flower gardens. It takes time and thought to figure out what you want to plant and where. If you plant a flower or shrub in the wrong location, it not only costs you the expense from the loss of the plant but also the loss of anticipated results. Taking some time in the winter months when you are confined inside is a great time to browse through catalogs or surf the Internet. Don't hesitate to read labels or visit with a knowledgeable person at the nursery. Keep in mind the areas where you want to plant, and consider the light/heat exposure and the needs of the plants that attract you.

Having blooming flowers through all of the growing season is a great way to attract pollinators and beneficial insects. Nearly everyone will have a flower bed that gets a lot of sun, while another bed may be in the shade most of the day. In Oklahoma, the summer temperatures will be hot regardless of whether the flower beds are in the sun or in the shade. Be sure to choose drought hardy plants that will thrive in Oklahoma.

Some examples of sun loving perennials would be Arkansas Bluestar (early spring), Hardy Ice or Penstemon Plant (late spring to early summer), Purple Cone Flower (summer), and plumbago, gaura, hollyhock or Shasta daisy (summer to frost). Some sun loving shrubs

would be Winter Jasmine (midwinter to early spring), Spiraea, Weigela or Forsythia (spring), Lead Plant, Abelia or Lilac (summer into fall).

Examples of shade loving perennials are Hardy Orchid or Siberian bugloss (spring), columbine, coral bells, Heucherella or Solomon's Seal (late spring to early summer), Japanese anemone, ragwort or toad lily (summer into fall). Shade loving shrubs include Aronia species or Viburnum (spring), Purple Beautyberry and Oakleaf Hydrangea (summer into fall).

This is by no means a complete list nor does it include more common plants or the many different varieties that offer varied foliage or color. Don't forget the other additions such as ferns or grasses that can offer contrast even though they don't bloom.

**T**here are several elements that must be considered when planting to attract butterflies and their kin. The first aspect to consider is to plant nectar plants as a food source for the adults. This will attract them to your yard. The plantings should be a mix of annuals and perennials. This mix will provide quick blooms from the annuals and the perennials will provide longer dependable blooms. Plantings should include plants of different heights. This will help your flower garden to look more organized and give yourself and the butterflies a wider visual picture of the blossoms. Nectar plants should be planted in large groups according to color. Some trees and shrubs can also be sources of nectar for butterflies, skippers and moths.

A second component of a successful butterfly garden is to provide food for the larva. These plants are frequently less showy and can be planted in a separate area of the yard. Maybe a back corner so that after the larva have defoliated the plants it doesn't detract from your other flower beds. Don't worry about it being out of the way. The butterflies will find the food

source to lay the eggs and the larva will appreciate a quiet, sheltered site to develop. Many butterflies lay their eggs on native plants, so these can be planted in the larval-food area.

An herb garden is another choice, as many butterfly and skipper larva feed on dill, fennel, parsley and chives. By planting these, you will get some herbs for kitchen use and the larva will get their "baby" food. Butterfly larva also feed on tomatoes, cabbage and broccoli. Consider planting extra of these to share with your colorful friends. Planting clovers are also good choices. If you have the room, you don't have to let them take over your whole yard. Consider planting them in a sunny corner, maybe in front of your butterfly larva feeding garden. That way you won't feel compelled to mow the flowers off while keeping the rest of the yard neat in appearance. 00427124

Some gardeners see butterflies and their relatives as predators of their flowers and gardens, while other folks see butterflies as an additional attraction of color and movement in their flower beds. Butterflies, moths and skippers are of the order Lepidoptera. These insects, as well as bees and some flies, comprise an essential group of nature that pollinates the flowers of plants.

Butterflies require a sunny location, but it must be protected from the strong Oklahoma winds. Windbreaks can be a wall, fence, taller deciduous plants or conifers. A vining plant on a fence can serve as protection as well as a food source. Blocking colder winds helps the adults stay warm and promotes egg development. Another component of your butterfly attraction scheme could be a mud puddle, wet sand, fruit or sap. Butterflies, especially the males require sodium. These sources can help provide for that need and give you an opportunity to observe your visitors and take pictures. You can also place a bowl in a protected place that contains mashed, fermented fruit, yeast and alcohol. A mashed banana and a small amount of stale beer will do the trick. This is called sugaring.


There are many plants that grow well in Oklahoma that will fill your need to attract members of the Lepidopteran order. By planting the kind of plants described and by avoiding pesticides, beneficial insects will share the space as well. To see a list of plants suited for Oklahoma, you can contact your extension office and request Extension Fact Sheet HLA-6430 or go to <http://osufacts.okstate.edu> and download a free copy.





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# Oklahoma Beef Checkoff UPDATE



## Beef Checkoff Makes Significant Changes in Marketing Direction in 2014

Millennials and other beef consumers can now see and hear the tantalizing sights and sounds of “Beef. It’s What’s for Dinner” messages without putting down their mobile devices or leaving the comfort of their keyboards and social-media circles.

That’s thanks to a decision by the 20-producer member Beef Promotion Operating Committee to make a major shift in strategic direction for the checkoff’s promotion and marketing efforts. Beginning in October, digital marketing will lead the way in sharing beef’s message about nutrition, health and research and creating a forum for consumers to publically share and celebrate their love for beef.

In recognition of the importance of marketing via electronic devices — such as smartphones, tablets, cell phones, computers and consoles — the committee approved the shift from an print and radio campaign to digital marketing via multi-media beef messages on email, blogs and social networks.

Research indicates that there are two types of consumers: those who are actively seeking out information, often via Web searches or by opening an email, text message or Web feed and those who prefer to get their messages passively, by using, for example, targeted display advertising on websites and news blogs.

Digital marketing allows us to be extremely selective about who receives our messaging, using technology called ‘geo-targeting.’ Since every online twitch can be tracked, digital marketing experts know a



great deal about you: your favorite food, clothing and widgets, your hobbies, your hometown, your family, your friends.

Using geo-tracking, the checkoff can send marketing messages to a very tight target audience whose preferences, food likes

and lifestyles fit the checkoff’s target audience. In other words, the checkoff can pinpoint exactly who it wants to reach with beef messages.

- For instance, real-time slow cooker beef recipes can be delivered to Millennial moms, in a particular geographic region, who have purchased a crockpot online, who are actively searching for simple weeknight meals at that very moment.
- Or, when a food blogger writes a positive piece about beef, the checkoff can increase the visibility of the story to reach a targeted older Millennial consumer within the online spaces they visit every day. “Beef. It’s What’s for Dinner,” the iconic tagline of more than 20 years, will be reenergized through a new audience and new strategy – the growing and important Millennial, through comprehensive digital engagement.

At plan’s core, is the new consumer target: older millennial parents. Millennials represent the US demographic born between 1980-2000. They are part of the largest and most connected generation ever. By 2020, their spending will hit \$1.4 trillion dollars a year.

- Millennials will make beef-buying decisions for the next 40-plus years.
- As much as it stings to think about it, the much-loved, much catered to (by consumer products) Baby Boomers soon will be a shrinking generation with decreasing influence over others.



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.oklabeef.org/e-newsletter.aspx](http://www.oklabeef.org/e-newsletter.aspx)

- Boomers don't shout each day's activities from the rooftops. Millennials do: They are more likely to share their experiences widely, especially through social networks. We have to put our money where the consumers and influencers are.

The ability to geo-target means that producer and importer investments in the checkoff will be focused tightly on consumers who are most likely to move the needle on beef demand. Social and digital media provide the beef checkoff a clear and focused way to deliver beef-centric information, enabling consumers to select and prepare beef enthusiastically.

Change is always a little intimidating, but the explosion of social and digital media presents great opportunities for us with our powerful target market and our relatively small marketing budget.

## Paying the Beef Checkoff in the Country-A Dollar or a Document

By law, all producers selling cattle or calves, for any reason and regardless of age or sex, must pay \$1-per-head to support beef/veal promotion, research and information through the Beef Promotion and Research Act. Here are some specifics:



- Whoever makes payment to the seller is considered a "Collection Point" or person and must withhold \$1-per-head, remitting those funds to the Qualified State Beef Council (QSBC) where they live. Collection points could include auction markets, feedyards, dealers/order buyers, other producers, auctioneers, clerking services, banks, packers and other entities.
- The buyer is generally responsible for collecting \$1 per head from the seller. By law, both buyer and seller are equally liable to see that \$1-per-head has been collected and paid.
- No producer is exempt from the checkoff. Buyers who resell cattle no more than 10 days from the date of purchase may file a non-producer status form and avoid paying an additional dollar. They are, however, responsible for remitting collected funds and reporting any transaction to the QSBC.

- Remember: A dollar or a document! All selling/purchase transactions must be reported. In each case, either \$1-per-head or non-producer status form document must be collected by the buyer from the seller to show the dollar

To learn more, visit [www.oklabeef.org](http://www.oklabeef.org). Research shows the checkoff returns over \$5.00 in terms of cattle prices that are higher than they would have been without checkoff-funded programs.

## OBC Hosts Oklahoma Beef Quality Summit

The Oklahoma Beef Council hosted 67 participants at the Oklahoma Beef Quality Summit in October including the Oklahoma and Arkansas cattlemen's young leadership groups. The Oklahoma Beef Quality Summit is

a very popular checkoff-funded event. Using the National Beef Quality Audit as the foundation, the Beef Quality Summit course offers all segments of the industry the opportunity to see the causes and results of quality challenges facing the beef industry. Summit attendees evaluate live cattle in an effort to predict quality and yield then follow the cattle through the harvest and grading process. The response from producers and industry professionals attending was overwhelmingly positive.



## Sign-Up to Learn More about Your Beef Checkoff

Would you like to know more about how your beef checkoff is working to grow beef exports around the world or how it is working to educate health professionals and other key influencers as to the important role beef can play in the diet? In six program areas from promotion to consumer information and research to international marketing, the Beef Checkoff is working to protect and grow beef demand. To learn more about state and national beef checkoff activities, sign up for the Oklahoma Beef Council "Dollars and Sense" monthly e-newsletter by visiting [www.oklabeef.org/e-newsletter.aspx](http://www.oklabeef.org/e-newsletter.aspx).



**O**n any given day, the view from John and Macy Strom's ranch in the Osage Hills near Hulah in northeast Oklahoma is beautiful. Today, the view is even better as they were recently named Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Farm Family of the Year. The Stroms were selected based on their involvement in Farm Bureau and the agriculture industry.

"My dad moved here from west Texas in 1952 and started a family partnership with his dad and three siblings," John said.

The 1950's drought convinced them to seek employment elsewhere; everyone except John's dad, Bill Strom.

The elder Strom named it the Valley View Ranch, otherwise known as the "Double V," for the picturesque landscape of the Tallgrass Prairie as it stretches along the Caney River Valley.

"The Double V is also an easy brand to make and identify,"

John said. "It makes a neat, clean brand we can clearly see on the cattle from a distance."

Following Bill's retirement, John bought out his father. Macy and John live in a historic stone house, just south across the river – as the crow flies – from his parents. However,

it takes about 20 minutes to drive the curving, twisting gravel road that pokes along below the Hulah Lake dam and eventually drops you off at the bottom of a hill marked by the tall, graceful entryway declaring you have reached the Double V ranch headquarters.

VV STROM  
**Farm Family**



# RANCH V V

## Family of the Year

By Sam Knipp

*The Valley View Ranch, otherwise known as the "Double V" was named by Bill Strom for the picturesque landscape of the Tallgrass Prairie as it stretches along the Caney River Valley.*

*Inset: Three generations strike a Strom family pose at the headquarters of the Double V ranch west of Copan. From left, John, Macy, Judd, ranch founder Bill Strom and wife Nancy.*







**T**he Stroms run about 650 Angus crossbred cows. Small patches of cultivated ground scattered throughout the valley are planted to cool season annual grasses. The ranch is geared to fall calving with the calves weaned nine months later.

With an eye towards the future, Macy and John recently welcomed their son, Judd, back to ranch.

"I hope he wants to take over the ranch someday," John said. "It would mean everything to me. That's what you work for – to pass this on to the next generation."

"We're three generations working here today, sharing the load," Macy said. "That's what a farm family is – working and staying together, building something for the future."

Macy grew up on a small farm in neighboring Pawhuska and met John during high school.

"During 4-H livestock shows, John showed steers and I showed pigs," Macy said. "I told a girlfriend I was going to marry him, and I didn't even really know him yet!"

Almost 40 years later the Stroms continue to work together.

When they're not working livestock, they are volunteering their time and resources to build their community. John started the Hulah Volunteer Fire Department. Macy dived into Washington County Farm Bureau activities.

"When I learned how Farm Bureau can help improve lives through legislative involvement and other activities, I knew this was the place for me," Macy said. "Farm Bureau stands up for rural Oklahoma and preserves our heritage."

Involvement is nothing new for Macy. She grew up in a politically-active family. Her brother is former state Sen. Joe Sweeden, and her parents were active in local politics.

"My mother was chairman of the Osage County Democratic Party, and I was in teen Democrats throughout high school," Macy said. "We campaigned throughout the county and around the state for various causes. I believe if you want something, there is no better way than to go for it yourself and spread the word. Educate people about what is going on and what needs to go on."

For winning the Farm Family of the Year award, the Stroms received a plaque and an expense-paid trip to the 2014 American Farm Bureau convention, as well as a year's use of a 2014 GMC Sierra, provided by John Vance Auto Group.





*John and Macy Strom take pride in building a ranch that can sustain future generations.*

*The Stroms run about 650 Angus crossbred cows. The ranch is geared to fall calving with the calves weaned nine months later.*

*During fall roundup on the Double V, John Strom records the weights of each calf as it comes off summer pasture. "This is our pay day," John said.*

*Tools of a working cowboy on the Double V ranch include a branded hat and muddy boots!*







Below: Royal-Grow partners (from left) Kelly Mull, Keith Hickson, Heath Tye and Terry Sivadon share a passion for helping their fellow agricultural producers.

Left: Royal-Grow products are more than fertilizers; they use humic acid to reduce the salt index and improve soil quality.





*Fellow firefighters  
join forces  
to improve soil  
and benefit producers.*

*By Macey Hedges*



# FOR THE GOOD OF THE LAND

**F**irefighters are trained to combine knowledge, skills and compassion to serve the people of their communities.

The nature of the job requires trust among peers, and the bonds built with comrades can often expand beyond the firehouse. With more than 60 years of firefighting experience among them, the owners of Brotherhood Distributors have devoted their lives to helping others, and they continue to lend those helping hands as they assist agricultural producers in becoming better stewards of the land.

Fellow firefighters Heath Tye, Keith Hickson, Kelly Mull and Terry Sivadon are passionate about helping citizens in times of need. And as fellow agriculturalists, they are equally as interested in helping farmers and ranchers improve their operations. When the opportunity arose to combine their agricultural backgrounds and their desires to serve, the four eagerly formed Brotherhood Distributors, a multifaceted company home to Royal-Grow liquid fertilizers and soil conditioners.

Tye, who runs cattle on his family's ranch in Delaware County and owns a feed store with his brother and sister-in-law in Kansas, Okla., said he dreamed of being a firefighter from a young age, and now that



*Right: Partner Terry Sivadon has seen significant results using the Royal-Grow products on his grassland near Sapulpa.*

*Below: After nearly three years in production, the Royal-Grow products are available in more than 170 stores in 11 states.*







he's in his eighth year, he is seeing the impact his profession can have on people. He believes the skills he has learned as a firefighter are similar to those he's acquired as an agricultural producer.

"As farmers and ranchers, we play an important role in feeding people, and we are always looking for ways to be more efficient," Tye said. "Just like we train to be better at our jobs as firefighters, I think there is always room to improve in our operations."

When the Royal-Grow partners set out to develop their products, they knew they had to move beyond traditional fertilizers to create something unique.

Hickson, a 15-year veteran firefighter, raises a cow-calf herd near Pawnee. He said the use of nanotechnology – creating products from particles engineered at the level of atoms and molecules – is what sets the Royal-Grow products apart from traditional fertilizers.

"The traditional fertilizer industry has been relatively unchanged in the past 50 to 60 years," Hickson said. "We're using 21st century technology to create products that are a third to half the cost of traditional fertilizers, and we're able to outperform those products even though our cost is that much less expensive."

Hickson explained that when traditional fertilizers were first introduced, they were effective because a lot of the components necessary to grow crops and pastures were used in large amounts, but over time too much salt and other negative components were added to the soil.

"I've heard from a lot of farmers who are concerned about the cropland they've been fertilizing for several decades, and they are looking for ways to regain nutrients and moisture," he said.

Royal-Grow works differently. The company's products not only act as fertilizers but also as soil conditioners, which can improve yields while taking a step in the right direction to improve soil.

"Not only does Royal-Grow have the proper nutrients to effectively grow plants, but with a low salt index – less than 2 percent – it's able to help repair the soil," Hickson said. "In addition, the low amount of salt increases moisture retention and has had a positive impact for our customers during drought conditions."

The partners explained how humic acid – the first compound released from a compost pile – is used to suspend the nutrients in the fertilizers, much like salt's purpose in traditional fertilizers.

The low salt index also makes Royal-Grow products compatible with most herbicides, and the two can be applied together, saving producers both time and money.

"When you consider labor and fuel costs today, the single application can be a big benefit to farmers," Hickson said. "That's what we're trying to do – make things easier and more cost effective for producers."

Royal-Grow products can be applied to everything from natural pastures and row crops to vegetable gardens and residential lawns, and Hickson said they are the best of both worlds between traditional and organic fertilizers.

"We're using conventional fertilizer components to produce the products, but we're suspending them in the organic humic acid," he said.

**A**nother product the company sells – Ultra Sweet – is used to add energy, microbes and enzymes into the soil.

"One of the drought's many negative effects is the loss of microbial activity in the soil," Hickson said. "As producers continue to increase yields, and in some cases decrease the number of acres they're farming, soil science has become an extremely important factor, and



the Ultra Sweet product helps to keep necessary components in balance.”

Tye has been studying the effects of the Royal-Grow products on his land. Since introducing them three years ago, he said his microbial content is nearly to the top of the charts, which has considerably decreased the need for additional fertilizer applications.

“When you get a true balance in your soil, you can use a minute amount of fertilizer,” Tye said.

Tye said he has also seen a significant reduction in weed pressure since using the products and has been able to eliminate herbicides from his spraying program.

“The products I’ve been applying to my land are not only improving the condition of the soil and the nutrients in the grasses, but they’re reducing the amount of time I have traditionally spent spraying,” he said.

And that time is a valuable commodity. As firefighters, each of the partners works a 24-hour shift and then is off for 48 hours. They spend their time away from the firehouse running their farms and ranches and promoting their products.

Sivadon, an agriculturalist from Sapulpa, said it’s not hard to talk to

customers about the products because he and his partners have had such great success with them.

“We may be selling Royal-Grow, but we’re also end-users of the products, and we’re out promoting them to people because we believe in them,” Sivadon said. “We’ve had customers thank us for helping make a difference on their operations, and it means a lot to make a difference for those producers.”

**R**oyal-Grow products are currently available through retailers in 11 states, including Oklahoma, with new distribution chains being added regularly.

The partners often encourage potential customers to do a side-by-side comparison of their products to the traditional fertilizer being used on a piece of land, and they said those who do usually have positive results.

“It’s not always easy to convince producers to try something new, especially if they’ve been doing it the same way with the same results for a long period of time,” Sivadon said. “We just want folks to see that our products can save them time and money, and that we wouldn’t be out here promoting these products if we didn’t think they could benefit our fellow producers. We just want to





help make things easier on those who already work so hard to produce the world's food and fiber."

Mull is a former rodeo contestant and now raises cattle near Sperry. He agreed with Sivadon and said he and his partners understand the pressures producers are facing.

"We know the world's population is predicted to double by 2050, and we know we are all trying to produce more with less," Mull said. "A lot of people think of firefighting as a noble profession, but I look at the farmers and ranchers growing food for the world as very noble, and it's something a lot of people take for granted."

Fighting fires may have brought the Royal-Grow partners together, but their shared passion for agriculture and a desire to improve the industry have given them the opportunity to make a difference for their fellow farmers and ranchers.

"Our training as firefighters taught us how to serve, and we try to use the same mentality with our customers," Mull said.

*Partner Keith Hickson (left) talks about the benefits of his products with Curt Johnston, manager of Farmers Feed & Seed in Sapulpa.*

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# Consider the Benefits

*OKFB Offers Medicare Supplement Plans for Members*

*By Macey Hedges*

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Oklahoma Farm Bureau has joined with a neighbor Farm Bureau company to launch a new member benefit program for over-65 members. Through an agreement with Members Health Insurance Company, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Medicare Supplement plans will be offered to OKFB members beginning in February.

MHI is an affiliate of the health organization that serves members of the Tennessee Farm Bureau, the largest Farm Bureau in the nation.

"With their experience in the Medicare Supplement business and commitment to Farm Bureau, it makes this program worthy of our endorsement," said OKFB President Tom Buchanan. "This is quite simply a win-win situation, and those who stand to gain the most are our senior members. It can save many of them considerable money while also helping us serve our members."

The program is possible partly because supplement plans – which help Medicare beneficiaries pay costs not covered by Medicare – are standardized. The various plans have identical benefits, so the only differences between plans offered by one company and those of another are service and rates.

MHI rates for OKFB members will be so affordable in many cases individuals could save enough in one to two months to pay their annual Farm Bureau membership dues. Because these are "group" rates, non-members may consider joining as a Farm Bureau member for access to the group.

"Our partnership with MHI is a great example of the value-added benefits an OKFB membership provides," said OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke. "We are committed to offering our members a variety of discounts, opportunities and services to save them money and enhance their lives."

Although members must be 65 to take advantage of Medicare and supplement plans, it is not too early to begin researching options.

"Oklahoma members who are on Medicare, or soon will be, really should compare these rates to other Medicare Supplement rates in Oklahoma," said Anthony Kimbrough, CEO of MHI. "All it takes is a quick call to one of our licensed customer service specialists to see how much money you might be able to save. These are the same specialists who we entrust to talk with our Farm Bureau members and prospective members every day."

Talk today with an MHI customer service specialist at 1-888-708-0123 (Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., CST) or visit their website at [mhinsurance.com/OKFB](http://mhinsurance.com/OKFB).



Members

HEALTH  
INSURANCE







## Oklahoma Farm Bureau names 2013 Champion Award recipients

**F**ifteen of the state's top agricultural advocates – including Gov. Mary Fallin – will receive the Oklahoma Farm Bureau 2013 Champion Award during the OKFB Leadership Conference, Feb. 17-18, at the Skirvin Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Board of Directors is recognizing the state leaders and legislators for going above and beyond to protect and improve agriculture and rural Oklahoma during the 2013 legislative session.

"As the state's largest agricultural organization, we are committed to preserving the livelihood and legacy of our fellow farmers and ranchers," OKFB President Tom Buchanan said. "It is an honor to distinguish these state leaders who share our vision and who continue to help make positive strides for Oklahoma agriculture."

In addition to Fallin, the following legislators will be recognized for their outstanding efforts: Sen. Mike Schulz, Altus; Sen. John Sparks, Norman; Sen. Eddie Fields, Wynona; Sen. Bryce Marlatt, Woodward; Sen. Kim David, Porter; Sen. Larry Boggs, Wilburton; Sen. Kyle Loveless, Oklahoma City; Speaker T.W. Shannon, Lawton; Rep. Mike Jackson, Enid; Rep. Dale DeWitt, Braman; Rep. Don Armes, Faxon; Rep. Jerry Shoemaker, Morris; Rep. Steve Martin, Bartlesville; and Rep. Skye McNiel, Bristow.

Nominations for the awards were received from county Farm Bureau boards and the OKFB Board of Directors.



*Top: Agricultural education has never been more important or more mobile. Thanks to a trio of Oklahoma organizations, a mobile agricultural education trailer will soon be traveling the Oklahoma roads.*

*Above: Oklahoma Farm Bureau staff members listen as Frank Hardin, Noble Academy education outreach manager, explains the features of the new Grown for You mobile classroom.*



# Agricultural education travels Oklahoma roads

**A**gricultural education has never been more important. And now, thanks to a trio of Oklahoma institutions, it has never been more mobile either.

This winter, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation's youth education and outreach program - Noble Academy, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, and the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation launched a new mobile agricultural education trailer called the Grown For You mobile classroom to provide students a fun, fast and factual look at Oklahoma agriculture.

Grown For You provides an interactive look into agriculture and highlights the commodity crops grown in Oklahoma.

"This trailer was designed to illustrate the importance of agriculture to society and our state's economy," said Frank Hardin, Noble Academy education outreach manager. "Our goal is to share the importance of agriculture and show the connection between agriculture and our food supply. It is important that our audiences understand that Oklahoma farmers

and ranchers work to feed us all. The product of their labor is grown for all of us."

The Grown For You mobile classroom will deliver its messages to audiences at elementary and intermediate schools, county fairs and other community and special events.

The Grown For You trailer uses videos, presentations and interactive games presented on four 46-inch outdoor TVs. Short videos focus on various commodity crops grown in Oklahoma, while demonstrations bring a hands-on element to audiences. A packed picnic basket teaches students about the obvious – and not so obvious – agricultural origins of items typically found on a picnic, from the beef in a hamburger to the ink on a bag of chips. In the future, a working, hand-operated cotton gin will teach students how cotton is processed to become cloth. My American Farm educational video games, provided by American Farm Bureau and projected on the

trailer's TVs, offer audiences a chance to understand and learn more about agriculture.

"Today's youth are the future – not just for agriculture, but they are future consumers, legislators and professionals," said Holly

Carroll, Oklahoma Farm Bureau vice president of field services and leadership development. "Educating the youth at an early age about the

importance of agriculture is vital to future sustainability."

The Grown For You mobile classroom is

now ready to visit schools and communities. The mobile classroom will be scheduled and operated through Oklahoma Farm Bureau and updated and supported by the Noble Foundation. Anyone interested in bringing the trailer to their area

can call now to get on the schedule. For more information or to schedule a visit, contact Carroll at (405) 523-2307.

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**BEDLAM SERIES:**

*Dave Martin (left), Oklahoma State University deputy athletics director, presents a commemorative jersey to OKFB's John Wiscaver, Monica Wilke and President Tom Buchanan during the 2013 Bedlam football game in Stillwater. OKFB was recognized for its continued support of the Bedlam Series.*





# Oklahoma Farm Bureau hosts sweet potato pick to benefit hungry Oklahomans

In an effort to fight hunger in the state, more than 150 volunteers picked nearly 30,000 pounds of sweet potatoes to donate to Gov. Mary Fallin's fourth annual Feeding Oklahoma Food Drive. Oklahoma Farm Bureau teamed up with the Hydro Sweet Potato Company and Caddo County 4-H to harvest the sweet potatoes near Albert, Okla., Oct. 25.

"The sweet potato pick was a great opportunity for our members to work side-by-side with youth as we help feed those who are less fortunate," OKFB District 7 Director Roland Pederson said. "Oklahoma Farm Bureau is proud of our state's farming and ranching families who work each day to produce a safe and affordable food supply, and we are honored to be able to contribute to the governor's food drive."

In addition to the sweet potato donation, county Farm Bureau offices across Oklahoma once again served as food donation drop off

locations for the food drive, which ran during the month of October and benefited the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma and their partner agencies across the state.

The Feeding Oklahoma Food Drive kicked off Oct. 1, with the goal of raising 1.4 million meals to help feed hungry families, children, seniors and those affected by the tornadoes.

"Time and again, Oklahomans prove to be the most caring and giving individuals in the nation," Fallin said. "Last year, Oklahomans from all 77 counties came together to surpass our goal of 1.2 million meals and donated over 2 million meals during the holiday season. This year, we can do even more for the hungry in our state."

Oklahoma consistently ranks among the top 10 hungriest states in the nation, with more than 675,000 Oklahomans struggling with hunger every day. That number has been on the rise due to the tornado devastation

across the state. The Oklahoma food banks provide enough food to feed more than 150,000 people each week with demand increasing during the holiday season.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau and the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation continue their efforts to help feed Oklahomans through the Farmers Fighting Hunger campaign. Each year, members bring non-perishable food items to the annual Farm Bureau convention in November. Farm Bureau is also a partner in the Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs where nutritional beef and pork sticks are added to hungry children's backpacks for use on weekends and holidays.

*More than 150 volunteers from Caddo County 4-H and FFA, Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Hydro Sweet Potato Company work together to pick nearly 30,000 pounds of sweet potatoes near Albert, Okla., Oct. 25. The potatoes benefited Gov. Fallin's Feeding Oklahoma Food Drive.*







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# TULSA STATE FAIR



*Left: OKFB board members pose with Morgan Craig (center) of Fort Gibson FFA, after purchasing the premium on her Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat at the 2013 Tulsa State Fair on Oct. 4. OKFB donated nearly \$40,000 to purchase premiums for youth from around the state.*

*Above: Oklahoma Farm Bureau District 7 Director Roland Pederson (right) accepts the Frank Sanders Memorial Award after OKFB was recognized as the volume buyer for the 2012 Tulsa State Fair Livestock Premium Auction.*

# TULSA FARM SHOW



*Left: Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese (second from right) stops by the OKFB Grown for You mobile classroom to visit with field representatives Todd Honer (left) and Robin Landrum (second from left) and Payne County YF&R member Tim Taylor (right) during the 2013 Tulsa Farm Show. The annual exhibition gives producers an opportunity to view the latest in agricultural and ranching equipment. Over 300 companies featured a full line of displays, including tractors, sprayers, tillage and harvest equipment, cattle management products, safety and education, and more.*

*Above: OKFB Director Phyllis Holcomb (center) visits with OKFB members Mike Thralls (left) of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and John Williams during the 2013 Tulsa Farm Show.*



# Oklahoma Farm Bureau disappointed with water resources board ruling

Oklahoma Farm Bureau feels private property rights of landowners in five southern counties were restricted on Oct. 28, when seven of nine members on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board voted to reduce the maximum annual yield for landowners overlying the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer from two acre feet of water per year to 0.2 acre feet per year.

"When a landowner purchases property he's virtually purchasing a bundle of sticks or a bundle of private property rights," said LeeAnna Covington, director of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation. "Each time a decision of this magnitude is made, it removes a stick from the originally purchased bundle."

After several years of litigation concerning water usage in the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer, landowners in the area are still unsure how the .2 acre feet measurement was determined.

"I'm disappointed in this decision. When I purchased my property, I never thought this would have occurred," said Pontotoc County Farm Bureau member Charles Morrow. "I don't understand how the .2 acre feet restriction was calculated, and I feel like it's an arbitrary number."

John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy, said what began as a plan to restrict the Oklahoma City metro area's usage of water from the Arbuckle Simpson became an environmentalist overreach to keep private citizens from exercising their personal property rights.

"A decision like this can make a huge difference to farmers and ranchers who have depended on their water rights to raise crops and livestock," Collison said. "With this decision, they are now facing a reduction in their private property rights without compensation."

The OWRB's decision not only impacts agriculture but also mining, oil and gas, and municipalities and their citizens.

"Cities and rural water districts will now have to go out and purchase other water rights to make up for the decision to limit water usage," Collison said. "This will cause an increase in the cost to local citizens and the cost of doing business in the region. We view this decision as a loss for everyone."

If you have further questions surrounding the Arbuckle Simpson MAY decision, please contact Covington at [leeanna.covington@okfb.org](mailto:leeanna.covington@okfb.org).

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau members tailgate in style



More than 225 fans enjoyed great food and fellowship during the OKFB/Chisolm Trail Farm Credit tailgate prior to the Oklahoma State v. Kansas State game in Stillwater, Oct. 5.



Hunter Washburn (left), Oklahoma High School Rodeo Association student vice president, and Tyler Lang (center) present OKFB Executive Director Monica Wilke with a photo of the OKHSRA team as a thank-you for OKFB's sponsorship of Oklahoma's high school rodeo athletes. Washburn is a senior from Shawnee who competes in steer wrestling and team roping. Lang is also a senior from Shawnee, and he competes in team roping and cutting. OKFB is proud to support high school rodeo in Oklahoma!

OKSHRA



# OACD recognizes Craig County Farm Bureau members

Craig County Farm Bureau's Morgan Brothers Farm was awarded the Oklahoma Association of Conservation District's Outstanding District Cooperator award for Area III, Dec. 4, in Vinita. The Morgan family works the land side-by-side near Welch, with matriarch Valeria and her four sons, her grandchildren and now great grandchildren all involved in the operation. The family grows pecans, corn, milo, soybeans and wheat, and they also have a dairy and raise beef cattle.

The family was recognized for their wide variety of conservation practices. The Morgans have participated in EQIP and WRP projects, used cost-share programs through the Craig County Conservation District and frequently sample their soils to ensure optimum nutrient application.

The family's application for Outstanding District Cooperator will next be judged on the state level, with results announced April 1, 2014.



*Oklahoma Conservation Commission Area III Director Scotty Herriman (second from left) presents the Oklahoma Association of Conservation District's Outstanding District Cooperator award for Area III to*

*Morgan Brothers Farm, Dec. 4, in Vinita. Several Morgan Family members were present to accept the award (from left): Harold, Herriman, Melvin, Valeria, Willie, Dex, Dusty, Katrina, V.O. and Konnie.*

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# 2013 OKFB State Convention *Review*

## Buchanan named new Oklahoma Farm Bureau president

**V**oting delegates at the 72nd Oklahoma Farm Bureau Annual Meeting elected Jackson County Farm Bureau member Tom Buchanan to serve as president of the organization, Nov. 16, in Norman. Buchanan has represented District 2 on the OKFB Board of Directors for six years.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau is the voice for rural Oklahoma and agriculture, and that's my passion," Buchanan said. "Through my service at the county level and then as a state director, I feel I have a background with the federation and with the insurance company, and I'm looking forward to serving our members."

Buchanan raises a commercial beef herd and winter wheat on his farm near Altus. He also grows irrigated cotton, when water is available. Buchanan is the manager of the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District, and he serves as vice chairman of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

In addition, two new board members were

elected and three were re-elected to serve three-year terms. Roger Mills County FB member Monte Tucker will represent District 2, and Ottawa County FB member James Fuser will represent District 6.

Tucker and his wife Danielle grow wheat and have a cow-calf herd, a stocker cattle operation and a feedlot on their place near Sweetwater.

Fuser and his wife Candy raise corn, wheat and soybeans on their farm near Afton. They also have a cow-calf herd and a stocker cattle operation.

Rodd Moesel, of Oklahoma City, was re-elected to represent District 3; Roland Pederson, of Burlington, was re-elected to serve District 7 and Phyllis Holcomb, of Kellyville, was re-elected to represent District 9.

The OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers selected Marty and Crystal Williams, of Red Rock, to lead the state YF&R Committee in 2014, and three OKFB Women's Leadership

Team members were re-elected to serve. Sharlene Lambring, of Oklahoma City, will represent District 3; Beverly Delmedico, of Muskogee, will serve District 6 and Lena Henson, of Beggs, will represent District 9.

In other delegate action, resolutions were passed to support more research on effectively using the state's water supply and to examine the state's current landowner's bill of rights.

"We're not sure whether moving water is a possibility, but it makes sense for areas of both excess water and water deficiency to examine the feasibility and to know what the options are," said Jimmy Wayne Kinder, District 4 director and OKFB Resolutions Committee chairman.

"We're blessed to have a thriving oil and gas industry in Oklahoma but we also farm on top of that land, so we think it is important to make sure our surface owners are protected whenever an energy company comes in to drill a well."

*Tom Buchanan*



*James Fuser*



*Monte Tucker*





# Temples receive YF&R Lifetime Legacy Award

**R**aymond and Mary Temple received Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Lifetime Legacy Award. The announcement was made during OKFB's 72nd Annual Convention.

The YF&R Lifetime Legacy Award serves as a living memorial for members by recognizing their life achievements. It is intended to honor an individual or a couple who have spent their lives enriching and inspiring rural Oklahomans' quality of life.

Raymond grew up on a farm in Colorado, and Mary was raised on a cotton farm in Washita County. Together they have built a cow-calf herd and raise stocker cattle and replacement heifers on their farm near Elmore City. The couple also produces hay and grows wheat for grazing their cattle. The Temples have planted turnips in their wheat fields for years and annually invite their neighbors and surrounding towns to pick as many as they want each fall. Their love for agriculture has influenced many, and the couple enjoys helping others succeed in the industry.

The couple has also been involved in their community. Raymond helped develop a rural water district for area neighbors, and he served as president of the Elmore City Board

of Education. In fact, he casted the deciding vote in the decision to allow the high school to begin having a prom – the town's story was the premise for the movie Footloose.

The Temples are lifelong Farm Bureau members. Raymond has served on the Garvin County FB Board of Directors for 16 years. Mary helped re-establish the Garvin County FB Women's Committee. She has been active

in it for 16 years, serving as chairman for 10 years. The two have served on the state resolutions committee and as delegates to the state convention.

*Raymond and Mary Temple of Elmore City, pictured with their family, are recognized as the 2013 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Lifetime Legacy Award winners by District 7 Director Roland Pederson (left) and 2013 YF&R Chairman Mason Bolay (second from left) during the 2013 OKFB Annual Meeting.*



# Sloan honored with OKFB Distinguished Service Award

**C**harles Sloan of Sequoyah County was recognized as the Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Award winner at the OKFB 72nd Annual Convention.

The Distinguished Service Award honors OKFB members who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture and the Farm Bureau organization. Sloan has been serving agriculture for nearly four decades and has been the state director from District 6 for 19 years. He has served as president of the Sequoyah County Farm Bureau for 25 years.

Sloan and his wife Mary are contract famers in the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge, where they raise corn, soybeans, wheat and Japanese millet. Sloan was a charter member of the Oklahoma Soybean Association and later served as a national director on the American Soybean Board.

*District 7 Director Roland Pederson (left) presents Charles Sloan of Vian with Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Award during the 2013 OKFB Annual Meeting.*





## Garvin County Farm Bureau receives top county award

**G**arvin County received the 2013 John I. Taylor Award during the OKFB 72nd Annual Convention.

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

Garvin County is active in all 11 program areas, including membership, program planning, policy development, policy execution, information and public relations, safety, service to



*District 7 Director Roland Pederson (left) presents Garvin County Farm Bureau President Dale Schauer with the OKFB John I. Taylor Award during the 2013 OKFB Annual Meeting.*

members, local affairs, policy education, women's activities and the Young Farmers and Ranchers Program. Garvin County received the most combined total points out of five top finalists.

## Okmulgee County Farm Bureau recognized for local affairs

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau named Okmulgee County the Lewis H. Munn Farm Bureau Builders award winner during the OKFB 72nd Annual Convention.

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

Okmulgee County worked hard to present a day of agriculture education to the local youth through the local multicultural association. By partnering with the Southwest Dairy Growers, the county presented a local program that included using a dairy cow



*Larry Harvey (right) of Okmulgee County accepts the Lewis H. Munn Award from District 7 Director Roland Pederson during the 2013 OKFB Annual Meeting.*

to demonstrate the milking process and provided nutritious ice cream snacks to talk about how milk goes from the cow to their homes. OKFB's "Pig to Plate" video and the "Farmopoly" game were also presented to the association to use in future activities

## Givens inducted into OKFB Eagle Club

**K**erry Givens of Comanche County was recognized as an inductee in the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Eagle Club during the OKFB 72nd Annual Convention.

The distinction was created to recognize the member who recruits the most new members in a year, as membership is a key aspect of the organization. Givens recruited 17 new members in 2013. He received a traveling Golden Eagle trophy and a personalized OKFB jacket.

A Golden Eagle award has been presented to members in the past to recognize volunteer membership recruitment, but the Eagle Club was created to encourage others to follow the tremendous effort of last year's initial recipient, Garvin County



*District 7 Director Roland Pederson (left) presents Kerry Givens of Cache with the 2013 OKFB Eagle Club award at the 2013 OKFB Annual Meeting. Givens was recognized for his outstanding efforts to recruit new OKFB members.*

Farm Bureau member Raymond Temple.

Givens has been an Oklahoma Farm Bureau member since 1983 and serves on the Comanche County Farm Bureau board.



## Comanche County couple wins YF&R Achievement Award

**A**dam and Rachel Bohl of Comanche County are the 2013 recipients of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award.

As OKFB's top YF&R farming and ranching couple, the Bohl family received 80 tractor hours on a John Deere 5055D tractor donated by P&K Equipment, a chainsaw donated by Smith Farm and Garden in Tulsa, a \$250 gift card and an expense paid trip to San Antonio for the American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, where they competed on the national level.

Adam and Rachel grow wheat and cotton on their farm near Chattanooga. When water and forage conditions are favorable, they have a cow-calf operation and run stocker cattle. The Bohls run a custom cotton harvesting business, baling 500-1,000 bales of cotton each year.

The Bohls have been involved in Farm Bureau for 16 years and have been active with the county YF&R committee. Adam is a member of the Chattanooga Volunteer Fire Department, and Rachel serves as a Cloverbuds leader and is active in P.E.O. They have a 14-month-old daughter, Lauren.

OKFB's Young Farmers and Ranchers Program is open to both men and women, ages 18 to 35, who hold a membership in his or her county Farm Bureau.



*Adam and Rachel Bohl and their daughter Lauren (center) receive recognition for winning the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award from District 7 Director Roland Pederson (left) and 2013 YF&R Chairman Mason Bolay.*

## Payne County couple wins YF&R Excellence in Agriculture award

**B**rent and Jenny Hacken were announced the winners of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award during OKFB's 72nd Annual Convention.

The award recognizes successful young adults ages 35 years or younger who are involved in farming but whose primary occupations are not farming or owning an agricultural business. Winners are chosen based on their involvement in agriculture and participation in Oklahoma Farm Bureau and other community organizations.

The couple received a four-wheeler ATV, courtesy of Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma and Chisholm Trail Farm Credit, a \$250 gift certificate and an expense paid trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Jan. 12-15, where they competed for the National YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Brent and Jenny operate a Simmental-influenced cattle seedstock operation near Orlando. They currently have about 30 cows and use an embryo transplant program to produce their calves. Brent is employed as the agricultural education instructor at Morrison High School, and Jenny works as an administrator at RK&R Dozer Service. The couple has two children: Emmie, 4, and Luke, 18 months.



*Brent and Jenny Hacken of Payne County (center) receive the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture award from District 7 Director Roland Pederson and 2013 YF&R Chairman Mason Bolay. Also pictured is John Grunewald (right) with Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma.*



## Schnaithman wins Farm Bureau Discussion Meet

**T**ravis Schnaithman, of Garber, was named the 2013 Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet winner at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau 72nd Annual Meeting.

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

As the state discussion meet winner, Schnaithman received an iPad package and the opportunity to compete in the national discussion meet contest at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention, Jan. 12-15, in San Antonio.

Schnaithman is a fifth-generation farmer on his family's operation in Garfield County. The Schnaithmans raise wheat, canola, alfalfa, soybeans, corn and cattle on their farm.



*2013 YF&R Chairman Mason Bolay (left) and District 7 Director Roland Pederson (right) recognize Travis Schnaithman for winning the 2013 OKFB YF&R Discussion Meet. Schnaithman competed at the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in San Antonio in January.*

## Comanche County honored with top county YF&R award

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau's Comanche County Young Farmers and Ranchers committee is the 2013 recipient of the Charles L. Roff Award, which encourages county YF&R groups to improve their local committees and activity participation while strengthening the Farm Bureau organization.

Comanche County YF&R's highlight activities for the year included sponsoring a farmhand Olympics, assisting at several county livestock shows, hosting speech contests and coordinating the OKFB fire safety trailer at local schools.

Comanche County YF&R received a traveling plaque in recognition for their outstanding committee involvement.



*District 7 Director Roland Pederson (left) and 2013 YF&R Chairman Mason Bolay (right) present Isaac Fisher of Comanche County with the OKFB Charles L. Roff Award at the 2013 OKFB Annual Meeting.*

## Caudill named OKFB Secretary of the Year

**B**etty Caudill of the Latimer County Farm Bureau office was honored as the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Secretary of the Year at the OKFB 72nd Annual Convention.

Caudill has worked in the Latimer County office for nearly 16 years. She and her husband, Jay, reside outside of Wilburton. They have two grown children, Bryan Stacey and Regina Brown, and five grandkids.



*Betty Caudill of the Latimer County Farm Bureau office receives recognition as the 2013 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Secretary of the Year from District 1 Director Alan Jett during the OKFB 72nd Annual Meeting.*



## Brock, Matthys named OKFB Journalists of the Year

John Brock of the *Sapulpa Daily Herald* and Venius Matthys of *The County Times* in Cache were recognized with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Journalist of the Year awards at the OKFB 72nd Annual Meeting.

The newspaper journalists were honored for their contributions made reporting accurately and regularly about agricultural issues and their importance to Oklahoma and the nation.

## 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).

## Pork for Packs

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau names CHAMPION Award winner

Oklahoma Farm Bureau recognized Jim Grego, Sherry Schauer, Sen. Larry Boggs and Syd Morgan as CHAMPION Award winners at the OKFB 72nd Annual Convention.

CHAMPION stands for Contact Helps Achieve More Priority Issue Objectives Now, and the award honors individual members for their efforts to achieve Farm Bureau policy at the state and national levels.

Grego, vice president of the Latimer County Farm Bureau, and Boggs, board member of the Latimer County Farm Bureau received the CHAMPION Award for their work to achieve Farm Bureau policy at the local

level. The received a jacket, plaque and watch.

Schauer, chairman of the Garvin County Leadership Team, received the CHAMPION Award for her efforts to achieve Farm Bureau policy at the national level and was awarded a jacket, plaque and watch.

Morgan, president of the Seminole County Farm Bureau, was recognized for his work to achieve Farm Bureau policy at all levels and was awarded a jacket, plaque, watch and his choice of a trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in San Antonio or the annual OKFB Congressional Action Tour to Washington, D.C., in April.

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# Country Classifieds

## AUTOMOTIVE

2006 Toyota Tacoma, PU Bed with liner, red color, all lights, bumper and bolts included, price \$500, call 918-857-6334, this is a short bed.

2010 GT 500 convertible, Red/white signed by Carroll Shelby, Pics available upon request, 918-616-1304, 3,900 miles, garage kept, \$47,500

For Sale: 6+1 truck transmission, 918-521-9936

2004 Pontiac Grand Prix for sale, maroon, 4 door, 150 thousand miles, runs great, very nice, excellent gift or family car, \$4,000, 580-225-3422

## FARM MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT

For Sale: 6' brush cutter, \$650, 6' box blade \$200, Bale spike, \$175, Steel creep feeder, \$200, 580-279-7934

JD 8640 4wd, w/airseeder HYD, \$12,800, Neville 28 ft grain trailer, almost new, \$18,800, 580-541-2326, Manchester, danwilsonfarm@juno.com

John Deere-1968 4020, New tires, Fresh motor, Good paint, 8' blade, one owner, 580-723-4379

8-N Ford tractor with box blade, good tires, runs good, 918-647-7623

## LIVESTOCK

Brangus bulls and fancy replacement heifers, excellent genetics and gentle dispositions, delivery available, Horsehead Ranch, 918-695-2357

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Angus bulls, 9 to 13 month old, in business for 54 years, Roff, OK, 580-456-7241

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Earn \$75,000/yr Part-Time in the livestock or equipment appraisal business. Agricultural background required. Classroom or home study courses available. 800-488-7570 or visit www.amagappraisers.com**

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SA M1905 Bayonet with Scabbard, Made by Springfield Armory 1910, Marked SA over flaming bomb over 1910 one side, US and serial #436950 on the other. Blade shows some discoloration, Handle EC. Leather over wood scabbard shows considerable wear, \$185 firm, Harrah, 405-659-0305

4x8 tilt bed trailer, \$475, Round dinette and 2 chairs - lite oak, \$295, Car dolly, \$550, Off road scooter, \$300, Tuttle, 405-550-0387

Fun, Freedom and Fulfillment. Earn vacations, make money, network marketing, lifetime residual income, www.vacationssooner.com, more info 580-618-6078  
For Sale: all metal cabletool drill rig with tools (3 sets), \$8,000, Call 918-327-0860

2007 Yamaha V-Stan 1100 Motorcycle, 17,000 miles, Excellent condition, sounds great, \$5,500, OBO or trade - looking for real sweet travel trailer, Ken 580-624-0074

4x5 round bales Bermuda grass hay, call 405-386-7842, \$40 per bale, 140 bales available

Salt Creek Lodge, Hunting, 4-Wheeling on 1,876 acres on Little River, North of Idabel, OK. Lodge, Event Barn, Deer Camp, 34 mi of trails, Come stay and play. Call 580-286-4868 or 580-286-8081

Oak computer cabinet, \$50, Call 405-279-2911

Watkins plant-based home-care and personal products, all-natural herbs and spices, and all-natural pure extracts, plus much more, 580-262-1288

Antique high back saddle - \$400, 1965 Mercedes Benz - \$2,000, Storybook tiny house - \$5,000, Queen bedroom set, 405-598-1202

For Sale: Kolb Cemetery, Spencer, OK, 3 lots together, \$600 each, Call for information, 405-726-8944

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we repair old international chargers, Pioneer Electronics, Waukomis, OK, 580-603-0063 or 580-758-9471

Stanley Home Products - Fuller brush, need extra money, sell our products, buy your own at cost, degreasers, mops, brooms, kitchen line, personal line - vitamins, combs, colognes, 580-497-2249

3500 ft 4 1/2" casing; 40,000 ft 2 3/8 pipe; 3570 ft 2 7/8 pipe; all sizes rods; 1 1/4" fiberglass post, 405-627-3920

Walk behind "Ditch Witch" trencher, #1230, approx 2002 year, starts quickly, priced right \$2,000, Okmulgee, 918-752-9508

I am a college professor researching African American rodeo performers, will appreciate all information, Call Roger 580-327-8520 or rdhardaway@nwsu.edu

VuQube VQ1000-91 Satellite TV, Portable antenna, with remote, works great with Direct TV or Dish Network, 918-486-5531

Yamaha V Star (650), \$3,500, 2011 Chevrolet LT, \$27,500, 2009 Kawasaki Ninja 650R, \$4,600, 580-235-3827

18" gooseneck flat trailer, 7' wide, 2 axels, 16" tires, good tread, new floor, treated, new paint, great shape, \$2,200, 405-238-1745

Also international 2 ton truck with flatbed for salvage, 405-258-6559

WAKO Ground Driven Sprayer with 750 Gal Tank, used very little, also 2 male donkeys, 405-381-4307

Old chopping block from country store, \$200, Call Norma, 405-615-0267

For sale: Excellent prairie hay, 300 square bales, 405-794-4123

Verutex AB 11, professional quality biscuit joiner with biscuits, \$225, OKC, 405-317-5832

OK Chapter of Singles in Agriculture is hosting the Nat'l Convention in Norman, Feb. 13-16, 2014 at Sooner Legends Suites, 405-701-8100. Call for info Elaine 918-825-6131, Pat 918-697-1895, Cara 405-651-2408, Guests Welcome

Ramsey Termite and Pest Control, Call 405-570-1562  
Salvage Propane Tanks for smokers, pipe, fire pits, fuel storage, BLTTanks.com, 405-375-4189

Rebuilt propane tanks, 500 gal, \$525, 250 gal, \$400, other sizes and new available, warranty, BLTTanks.com, 405-375-4189

For sale: .25 solitaire 14K yellow gold engagement ring, round cut, Gave \$499 (have papers), priced

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**Each Farm Bureau member family is limited to ONE free classified ad per issue. This form must be used. No call-in ads will be accepted. The length of the ad can not exceed the number of lines on this form. Ads run only one time. We reserve the right to not publish submitted ads.**

*All information below must be completed.*

*Please type or print legibly.*

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OFB Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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*Deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, Mar. 12, 2014.*



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\$300, 918-967-3737 or 918-618-3506

Quilt, queen size, postage stamp design, hand pieced, hand quilted pillow shams, Call 918-762-3120

Very nice, rare, white Singer Featherweight sewing machine, Nice case and accessories, 405-760-1168  
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Gooseneck flatbed trailer, 25' + 5' dovetail, Two 10K axles, two 10K jacks, DGD cat dozer, TOP, closed cab, window guards, rippers, 580-759-3441

## MOBILE HOMES, RVs

1961 Airstream Trailer, 26 ft., new wiring, tires, top air condition heat, sleeps 4, no dents, everything works, \$10,500, Spiro, OK, 918-721-1580

2006 Fleetwood double wide mobile home, Great condition, 3 bed, 2 bath, \$29,100, 918-422-0031

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Purebred Anatolian pups, raised with sheep, goats, and cattle. We guarantee pups to work, Call or text 405-250-6162

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## REAL ESTATE

Deer-Turkey, 15 1/2 ac, 1 hour east of OKC, Well, Lease or Owner Fin., 405-275-5673

House rental: Newly remodeled, Stucco home, 1 3/4 baths, 2 bedroom, lg kitchen, formal dining room, open spacious living room, utility garage, 4 m. So. Hwy 18 Chandler, 17 acres available, 405-258-1297

Ten acres, fenced for livestock, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1680 sq ft, all electric double wide mobile home, fireplace, water well, large deck, Carport 31 by 22 ft, 2 storage trailers, 6 mi. S of Bokchito, OK, \$123,000, 580-931-8099 or 580-380-9764

For sale: 10 wooded acres, 3bd 1ba brick home, 3 car shop, large storm cellar, beautiful place, private, plenty of deer, deep sand will grow anything, near Antlers, \$165,000, 580-298-5090

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Space for lease for food selling trailer and to display portable buildings in Duncan, OK, also have land available for cell tower sites in Stephens County, 580-255-5335, leave message

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## JALAPEÑO BEEF POPPERS WITH HONEY LIME CREME FRAICHE (YIELDS 42)

Ingredients:

### Poppers

2 pounds Certified Angus Beef® ground chuck

12 ounces shredded cheddar cheese

6 jalapeños, seeded and minced

1 tablespoon salt

1 tablespoon fresh ground black pepper

1 teaspoon whole mustard seeds

12 eggs

1 cup plain bread crumbs

1 cup panko bread crumbs

Frying oil as needed

### Honey Lime Crème Fraiche

8 ounces sour cream

Juice and zest of 1 lime

2 tablespoons honey

2 tablespoons minced cilantro

Serve with Jalapeño Beef Poppers

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Combine all crème fraiche ingredients and mix well. Set aside.

Combine ground beef, cheese, jalapeños, salt, pepper and mustard seeds in a large mixing bowl. Portion by hand into 42 "popper" shape balls, approximately 1-ounce each.

Crack and whisk eggs; put in a shallow dish. Combine bread crumbs and put in a second shallow dish.

Prepare a pot with frying oil; heat to 325° F. Roll poppers in egg mix, 6-8 at a time, roll in bread crumbs; repeat. Deep fry 4 minutes in batches. Allow to dry on paper towels; serve warm with Honey Lime Crème Fraiche for dipping.



## BACON AND SWEET POTATO BISCUITS WITH SMOKY HONEY BUTTER (SERVES 12)

Ingredients:

### Biscuits

2 slices bacon, cut crosswise into 1/4-inch strips

1 medium orange-fleshed sweet potato, OR 2 small sweet potatoes (14-16 ounces total), peeled

2 cups flour

4 teaspoons baking powder

1 tablespoon sugar

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon salt

3/4 teaspoon allspice

8 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes and chilled

1 cup buttermilk, (low-fat is okay)

### Honey Butter

8 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened

2 tablespoons honey

Salt

### Instructions:

Wrap the sweet potato with a damp paper towel and microwave on high until very soft, 3 to 4 minutes. Transfer to a bowl, mash with a potato masher, and set aside to cool. Meanwhile, in a medium skillet over medium heat, cook the bacon until golden and crisp, about 8 minutes. Use a slotted spoon to transfer bacon to a paper towel-lined plate, then set aside to cool. Carefully set aside 2 tablespoons of bacon drippings from the skillet.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a food processor, combine the flour, baking powder, sugar, baking soda, salt, and allspice and pulse a few times. Add the cubed butter and pulse to make a coarse meal with a few pea-sized pieces. Transfer mixture to a large bowl and gently mix in the bacon, buttermilk, and 1 cup of the mashed sweet potato (save any remaining potato for another use).

Transfer mixture to a floured work surface and knead a few times to form a dough. Pat the dough to about 1-inch thick, then gently fold in half. Gently repeat 4 more times. Roll the dough out to 3/4-inch thick, then use a floured 2 1/2-inch biscuit cutter to cut dough into biscuits, arranging them on the prepared baking sheet. Gather the scraps and repeat to make a total of 12 biscuits. Bake until the biscuits are browned and a tester comes out clean, 15 to 18 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine the softened butter, honey, and reserved bacon drippings, mixing until smooth. Add salt to taste.

Serve the biscuits with the honey butter on the side.







## NEWS FROM OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY'S ROBERT M. KERR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CENTER

By Mandy Gross  
FAPC Communications Services Manager

### Agricultural producer appointed to FAPC's advisory board

An agricultural producer is a new addition to an advisory board representing Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center.

Appointed by the vice president, dean and director of OSU's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Scott Dvorak, owner and operator of Dvorak Farms in Perry, Okla., joins the 16-member Industry Advisory Committee to help oversee the center's mission and vision.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to be a part of this committee and to learn more about the advisory board and center," Dvorak said.

Dvorak, an Oklahoma Farm Bureau member, is no stranger to FAPC or being involved in agricultural industry groups. Dvorak is a past attendee of the popular Beef Quality Summit, sponsored by the Oklahoma Beef Council, FAPC and OSU. He also is a member of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Dean's Advisory Council and a past chair of the Oklahoma Beef Council board.

Following Dvorak's appointment to the committee, he visited the center and met with FAPC Director Roy Escoubas, administrators from OSU's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, center faculty and staff, and the current advisory board chair. The visit also included a tour of the FAPC facility.

"I'm glad to be here and be involved in the committee," Dvorak said during the visit. "I'm very passionate about production agriculture and agriculture in general. We think more about the end product now than we used to, and facilities, like FAPC, make that come to reality."

Dvorak Farms is a diversified operation with about 3,400 acres used for raising wheat, corn and soybeans, and operating a 200-head commercial cowherd with breeding program and 500 head of stocker cattle.

With the entry of Dvorak's son, Justin, as a full-time employee of the farm in 2011 following his graduation from OSU, the Dvorak Farm has increased the best practices focus and has increased profitability of the operation.

The farm constantly measures its success by watching the debt-to-asset ratio, the increase in net income and reduction of production expenses. Extensive computerized records have allowed the farm to optimize productivity and profitability as it considers weather conditions, crops, fertilizer applications, livestock and other prevailing conditions.

Also, during Dvorak's visit to FAPC, he met with the chair of FAPC's Industry Advisory Committee, Paul Schatte. One of the main topics during the discussion was the focus on food safety.

With a growing demand for safe, quality food products, food-industry companies are engaging in food-safety programs. With the

support of its Industry Advisory Committee, FAPC recognized the need and established a Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) program to provide services to meet the food safety and security needs of Oklahoma's food industry.

"The Industry Advisory Committee wants FAPC to be in a leading position in the area of food safety," Schatte said.

Being an agricultural producer, Dvorak understands the need.

"Food safety is huge," Dvorak said. "I can produce as much as I want, but it won't do any good without food safety."

Dvorak joined the other advisory board members during their recent biannual meeting on Nov. 7 at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

"Mr. Dvorak has been an aggressively progressive farm and ranch owner and manager, and his very active involvement with trade associations, local civic groups and Oklahoma State University has kept him and the farm at the top of business," Escoubas said. "His extensive knowledge in production agriculture will bring a wealth of information that will help the mission and vision of the center."



Scott Dvorak

*Oklahoma State University is a modern land-grant system of interdisciplinary programs that prepares students for success. OSU is America's Brightest Orange. Through leadership and service, OSU is preparing students for a bright future and building a brighter world for all. As Oklahoma's only university with a statewide presence, OSU improves the lives of people in Oklahoma, the nation and the world through integrated, high-quality teaching, research and outreach. OSU has more than 36,000 students across its five-campus system and more than 24,000 on its combined Stillwater and Tulsa campuses, with students from all 50 states and around 120 nations. Established in 1890, OSU has graduated more than 245,000 students to serve Oklahoma, the nation and the world.*



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**Don Rainwater**  
5710 Willow Dr.  
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**Neil Roberts**  
1400 Charles  
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