

# Oklahoma *Country*



The Magazine of the  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
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## Helping Lighten *the* load

Oklahoma farmers and ranchers share the importance of Oklahoma's **agriculture sales tax exemption** and its impact in today's farm economy.

### Sticking with it

A young farmer sees a future in pecans


### Seeing green

A new member benefit with John Deere

### Forward foundation

Amazon brings something to smile about





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# Oklahoma Country

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## ON THE COVER

Cody Goodknight, a Chattanooga farmer and rancher, purchases feed and supplies for his family's farm and ranch at his local co-op using the state sales tax exemption on farm inputs.

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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 Hannah Davis before the last day of the month, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (405) 523-2346.

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

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By Dustin Mielke

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## PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING

### New staff, new opportunities to work together

By Rodd Moesel

President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies

**O**n our farms and ranches, we always need someone taking care of the day-to-day jobs and tasks that keep our livelihoods moving forward. For many of us, this is likely ourselves doing the daily chores. Sometimes we rely on family, hired help or neighbors to keep our operations afloat when we have other matters to tend to, like Farm Bureau meetings, activities and events.

At Oklahoma Farm Bureau, our staff members tend to the daily operations of our farm organization, ensuring your voice is heard and rural Oklahoma is represented day in and day out.

We are excited to have some new additions to our OKFB staff who I hope you will get to meet in the coming days and months. Through the years, we have been blessed to have high-caliber people who love agriculture serve our organization, and our new hires continue that tradition.

Our field staff has added three new members, growing to a full staff of six field representatives, each of whom has a territory of 12 to 14 counties. Our field staff is charged with working alongside our county leaders and members to ensure Farm Bureau is on the

right track in our rural communities. Our field representatives live in our local communities, and they share the passion that we all have for seeing rural Oklahoma and OKFB thrive.

Whether you've known your field representative for decades or you're just getting introduced, I encourage our members to reach out to our field staff and help them learn about our counties and our members. Lean on your field representatives for information and resources while you work with them to find new ways to bring the Farm Bureau message to our friends and neighbors across your county. Our field representatives are our partners in building our organization locally, and they will be your resource for bolstering our county Farm Bureau activities as they serve as your pipeline for information to and from our home office in Oklahoma City.

I'm also excited about the staff in our public policy department. Many of you who have been around OKFB the past decade or more know former Sen. Ron Justice has been a lifelong supporter of agriculture and a tireless advocate for and champion of rural causes. Ron's recent selection as vice president of public policy is an exciting step forward for OKFB in our public policy efforts.

We have also brought two young men into the public policy department who are excited and passionate about our agriculture industry and making sure Farm Bureau's voice is heard at the state Capitol. Zac Swartz, who has served OKFB well in several capacities through the past few years, and Bray Haven, a new hire with a long list of agriculture achievements and accomplishments, will work alongside Ron to ensure our state legislators and Congressional delegation know what OKFB

members need from their elected officials.

Our public policy department's task of sharing the farm and ranch story with lawmakers and their colleagues at the Capitol hinges on your involvement. It is not enough for me to merely talk about

“Together, we will build stronger county Farm Bureaus, stronger rural communities, and a stronger organization.”

— Rodd Moesel

our staff, it is imperative for all of us to support them and help them through Capitol visits, phone calls, county legislative events and other activities to let your legislators know that you stand with OKFB as we take your message to 23rd and Lincoln.

Together, hand-in-hand with our staff, we can build a stronger rural Oklahoma. However, like all things in Farm Bureau, it starts with our grassroots members. Our staff is here to serve you, and they need to know what your desires are and what you need to succeed. Together, we will build stronger county Farm Bureaus, stronger rural communities, and a stronger organization.



# Growing Food Expanding Minds



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

## For farmers

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

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

For details on how to donate to the program, contact Chris Kidd at [chris.kidd@aggiving.org](mailto:chris.kidd@aggiving.org).

## For educators

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

Applications are due September 14 and can be found at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications).

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

# Bushels for Books

Providing accurate agriculture books to educate today's youth

Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
  
Women's Leadership Committee

Oklahoma  
Farming and  
Ranching  
Foundation



## EXECUTIVE OUTLOOK

### Feeding Oklahomans, one backpack at a time

By Thad Doye

Executive Director, Oklahoma Farm Bureau

**S**pringtime is always a busy season in agriculture. If you're like me, it is time to start making plans and preparing equipment for planting season and other fieldwork. Maybe it's the joy that spring calving season brings. And the warmer temperatures sure do make farmers and ranchers anxious to put winter coats away and be out in the pickup with the windows rolled down.

Whatever your springtime routine may be, one of my hallmarks of spring has become hauling pigs. While I'm not necessarily a pig farmer, I've been given the opportunity over the last few years to collect animal donations made to the Oklahoma Farming & Ranching Foundation's Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs.

As we have partnered with the Oklahoma FFA Association over the last few years for the FFA Hunger Challenge, many of our state's youth involved in agricultural education and livestock shows have stepped up to donate their show animals at the end of their livestock showing season to help feed hungry children through this worthy cause.

For those who donate animals, I've had the opportunity to gather their donated animals and transport them across our state. And I can tell you that these young leaders are proud to make a difference through the Backpacks programs.

The Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs, which

the foundation coordinates with help from the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma and our commodity organization partners, provides protein sticks for hungry children through the food banks' Food for Kids backpack programs.

This past year, the Oklahoma FFA state officer team set a goal of providing one million protein sticks through animals donated by agriculture students. And I'm proud to say we met and surpassed that goal for the 2017 - 2018 school year. Producing one million sticks is no small feat, and it makes a huge impact on children around our state. But our agriculture community

in Oklahoma knows and understands the importance of food. After all, our industry is in the business of feeding the world, and the backpack program is just one way that agriculture is stepping up to help.

As my springtime hog-hauling season

winds down after thousands of miles and countless stops, I'm reflecting not on the miles I've driven or the animals donated, but the children and families we have helped through this grassroots-driven opportunity. It's just one of many reasons that I'm proud to be a part of Oklahoma agriculture.

“Our industry is in the business of feeding the world, and the backpack program is just one way that agriculture is stepping up to help.”

— Thad Doye

*Thad Doye*



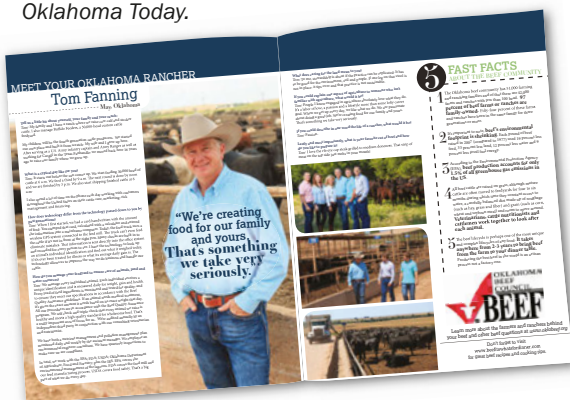
# OKLAHOMA BEEF CHECKOFF ANNUAL REPORT



## OKLAHOMA PROGRAMS

### INTRODUCING YOUR OKLAHOMA RANCHER

The Oklahoma Beef Council (OBC) conducted a state wide, consumer trust print campaign showcasing Oklahoma farming and ranching families to Oklahoma consumers. The campaign educated consumers about the care with which we raise beef.. The campaign reached a print circulation of 815,000 and a total readership of 2 million people in publications like *Oklahoma Living*, *Tulsa People*, and *Oklahoma Today*.



### CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF BEEF ADVOCATES WITH FFA

Empowering the next generation of Oklahoma agriculture youth to be advocates for the beef industry lead the OBC to continue it successful partnership with Oklahoma FFA

through the integration of the Masters of Beef Advocacy (MBA) program into the classroom. More than 500 students across the state received their MBA in 2017, which catapulted Oklahoma into the #1 slot in the nation for MBA graduates.



### COOKING IT UP IN THE CLASSROOM

The "Beef for the Classroom" program ensured 3,950 school children received hands-on cooking education. Since program's inception, it has reached more than 55,000 Oklahoma youth.

### ON THE ROAD

The OBC continues to be the major underwriter of the "On the Road With Ag in the Classroom," a three-day summer, professional development opportunity for Oklahoma teachers to improve agriculture literacy through a tour of farms and ranches. While on the tour, teachers learn how to incorporate lessons and resources to use in their classrooms during the school year. According to post-evaluation surveys, the tour significantly improved teachers' perceptions of farmers and ranchers as a result of attending the tour.



# OKLAHOMA BEEF CHECKOFF ANNUAL REPORT



## “BEEF AS A FIRST FOOD”



OBC annually hosts a speaker to the Oklahoma Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the state's largest group of nutrition health professionals, on a variety of topics. In 2017, the OBC featured Jill Castle, M.S., R.D.N. speaking on “Feeding Baby and Toddler: Using a Nutrient Adequacy Approach” with an emphasis on beef as a first food.

As a key partner of the Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians (OKAFP,) the OBC featured a nutrition beef ad in the OKAFP publication and engaged with physicians at their annual trade show. In addition, the OBC hosted Dr. Michelle May, M.D. as a speaker at the 2017 OKAFP Scientific Assembly, where her message of diet and health spoke to the concept that all foods fit, including beef, just in moderation.

## REACHING NUTRITION INFLUENCERS

The OBC provided in-depth education to 124 dietitians and dietetic interns through ranch tours, media training, nutrition education and sharing the latest on beef nutrition research. Survey results show dramatic increases in favorability to beef and the willingness to recommend beef, as often as other proteins, after each event.

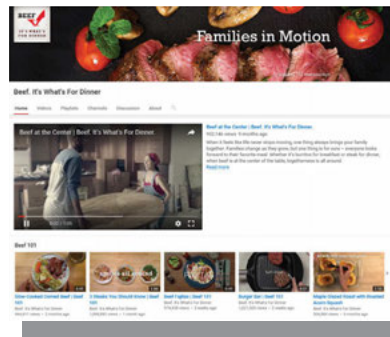
## ONE SAMPLE AT A TIME



Through eight consumer events, the OBC provided beef recipes, information and sampling to Oklahoma consumers including the Oklahoma City Home and Garden Show, the Oklahoma Memorial Marathon Expo and the Oklahoma State Fair. At the Oklahoma State Fair, more than 2,000 attendees received 13,000 beef samples and 20,000 recipe brochures, while watching 40 beef demonstrations.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE NUMBERS

The OBC was the main sponsor of the Top 5 States Beef Media Campaign targeting millennial consumers in California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Florida and New York. The campaign used internet search advertising on Google to drive consumers to BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com and advertised on the popular YouTube video site to promote checkoff-funded beef videos. The overall campaign delivered more than 9.7 million positive impressions for beef. It drove 87,000 consumers to the “Beef. It's What's for Dinner” website and generated 1.78 million video views of the various “Beef. It's What's For Dinner” 101 cooking videos.



## CONNECTING WITH CHEFS

Beef took center stage at the American Culinary Federation (ACF) 2017 National Convention, held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Fla. The Beef Checkoff, represented by beef councils from Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Iowa and South Dakota, sponsored the event with a foodservice tour, a hands-on workshop and an educational breakout session for top culinary professionals in America.

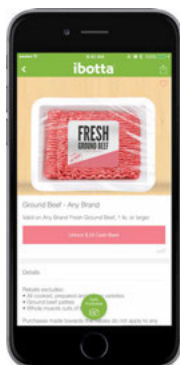
## OKLAHOMA BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE

The goal of the Beef Quality Assurance program is to provide producers with the education and training needed to help ensure cattle are reared responsibly and to enhance consumer trust in how beef is produced. To accomplish this, the OBC funds a grant through Oklahoma State University to support BQA meetings, promote engagement with the BQA program and highlight online training opportunities. In 2017, 481 producers received their Beef Quality Assurance certification.

## AROUND THE NATION AND AROUND THE WORLD

Through investing in the Federation of State Beef Councils, Oklahoma checkoff dollars helped amplify marketing and education efforts in key population areas of the East and West Coasts and around the world.





## IBOTTA CAMPAIGN DRIVES BEEF SALES

Nationwide retail sales of fresh beef got a boost as a result of a Federation partnership with the mobile rebates app "ibotta." The partnership also significantly increased consumer engagements with beef through videos, recipes and messages on the app. There were about 1.45 million consumer engagements, with beef rebates unlocked after consumers got the videos, recipes and messages. About 1.45 million consumers engaged with the app, getting beef rebates unlocked after they viewed

videos, recipes and messages. The four-week campaign resulted in more than 631,000 pounds of ground beef sold.



## TAKING THE BULL BY THE HORNS IN SOUTH KOREA

U.S. beef rapidly built momentum in South Korea in 2017 and received a further

boost as Costco officially converted its imported chilled beef selection from Australian beef to 100 percent U.S. product. The move followed a multi-year effort by US Meat Export Federation, funded in part by the Beef Checkoff and the Federation of State Beef Councils, to persuade store managers that sales of U.S. beef — a popular item at Costco — would match or exceed Australian beef sales due to revived consumer confidence in the safety of U.S. beef. In total, Costco's move represented an opportunity for about 33 million pounds of additional beef sales.

For a full review of national and international Beef Checkoff programs, please visit [www.oklabeeff.org/annualreports.aspx](http://www.oklabeeff.org/annualreports.aspx).



## OVERSIGHT

The OBC (OBC) Board of Directors is comprised of beef and dairy producer volunteers who all pay the Beef Checkoff. To ensure the integrity of the Beef Checkoff in Oklahoma, the OBC takes the following steps:

- Undergoes annual independent audits with a regional accounting firm
- Institutes an Audit/Risk committee with an independent advisor to the committee with significant audit experience
- Contracts with a third-party accounting firm with circulating accountants for all accounting services
- Uses a five-step review process for monthly financials

## FINANCIALS

### OBC FY 2017 REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

#### REVENUES

Gross assessment revenue .....	\$4,362,787
Less remittance to:	
State of origin .....	(581,690)
Cattlemen's Beef Board .....	(1,890,313)
<b>Net assessment revenue.....</b>	<b>1,890,784</b>
Other revenue.....	49,919
<b>Total revenue less remittances .....</b>	<b>1,940,703</b>

#### EXPENSES

International marketing & development.....	346,103
Domestic marketing, education & research.....	376,202
High population/low cattle programs .....	80,495
Oklahoma industry information .....	143,315
Oklahoma promotions & consumer information .....	169,028
Producer communications .....	108,899
Oklahoma research.....	29,734
Oklahoma compliance .....	155,361
Administration .....	297,727
<b>Total expenses .....</b>	<b>1,706,864</b>

Oklahoma Beef Council  
3140 W. Britton Rd., Suite B  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
405-840-3777  
[www.oklabeeff.org](http://www.oklabeeff.org)



## Oklahoma trees

As Americans celebrate the impact trees make during Arbor Day in April, we take a look at the ways that trees impact Oklahoma, and particularly, our state's agriculture and natural resources industries. Whether decorative, fruit-bearing, lumber-yielding or beyond, trees make an impact in our state that contribute to our everyday lives.

The forestry industry contributed  
**\$4.5 BILLION**  
to Oklahoma's economy in 2015.

Forestry supports  
**18,000**  
jobs for Oklahomans.



Pecan trees require  
**7 to 10 YEARS**  
before fully producing nuts.

Oklahoma pecan farmers produced  
**13 MILLION**  
pounds of pecans in 2015.



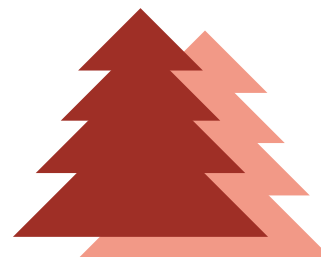
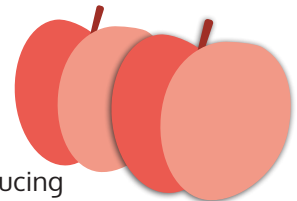
Forests comprise  
**12.4 MILLION**  
of Oklahoma's 43.6 million acres.

Oklahoma had

**161**

peach farms producing

**651 ACRES** of peaches in 2012.



Oklahoma-grown  
Christmas trees require  
**5 to 9  
YEARS**

before they are ready to decorate homes.

SOURCES: OSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, USDA CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE,  
USDA NASS, OKLAHOMA FORESTRY SERVICES, US PECANS.



## Beef for Backpacks

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

**For more information on how to donate livestock,** contact Thad Doye by phone at (405) 523-2438 or by email at [thad.doye@okfb.org](mailto:thad.doye@okfb.org).

## Pork for Packs



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30x50x12 Enclosed w/15x50 Shed.....	\$14,900	40x80x14 Fully Enclosed.....	\$19,700
30x60x10 Fully Enclosed.....	\$11,800	40x100x14 Fully Enclosed.....	\$23,900
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## Four reasons America needs a strong farm bill

Though few realize it, urban, suburban and rural Americans alike rely on a fully-funded, timely and effective farm bill.

**N**o matter if the road leading to your house is paved or gravel, or if you live in an urban core or out in the suburbs, the farm bill impacts your life both directly and indirectly. From farmers to office workers to school children – and everyone in between – the legislation plays a significant role in the daily lives of Americans.

A comprehensive legislative package typically renewed by congress every four years, time is drawing near for the next farm bill to be discussed, shaped and passed. As talks about the farm bill heat up, understanding the impact this legislation has on each and every American is vital.

### 1. When farmers succeed, everyone succeeds

Agriculture is the backbone of the American economy. Farmers and ranchers today harness our natural resources and combine them with technology and personal care to grow more food than ever before. Without access to this nutritious and affordable food, nothing else matters.

But without a doubt, farming is a risky business. The entire livelihoods of Oklahoma farmers are at the mercy of weather including drought, wildfires, floods, tornados and hail. Increasing Oklahoma farmers' risk is the fact that the U.S. farm economy is at a 12-year low, with low commodity prices, declining farm income and rising farm loan debt.

To continue producing safe, healthy and affordable food in our state, Oklahoma farmers use critical farm payment programs

from the farm bill, which provide a cushion when faced with poor yields or low prices. Farmers also rely on the farm bill's federal crop insurance and disaster assistance programs to protect themselves and their families when adversity strikes.

The farm bill not only helps farmers mitigate risk, but it also helps farmers grow and compete both at home and internationally. Beginning farmers, racial and ethnic minority farmers and women producers can receive specialty loans to start, improve and expand farms of their own. Young people, including 4-H and FFA members, also receive financial assistance for educational agricultural projects through programs within the farm bill.

International trade is crucial to U.S. farmers and ranchers, as more than 20 percent of total agricultural production is exported according to the United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. Farmers must have access to overseas markets, especially during a challenging farm economy. The Market Access Program authorized by the farm bill helps U.S. farmers compete on a global scale by promoting American agricultural commodities overseas.

### 2. Provide healthy and affordable food to all Americans

Americans as a whole spend only 10 percent of their income on food – the lowest in the world – thanks in part to the farm programs in the farm bill.

Nutrition programs made up nearly 80 percent of the 2014







farm bill. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP, provides healthy and affordable food to low-income families throughout the country. Nutrition programs are critical in Oklahoma, as one in six people in our state struggles with food insecurity. Nearly 875,000 Oklahomans received SNAP benefits in 2016, according to Feeding America.

The farm bill also provides funding for farm-to-school programs, which helps schools feed students fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers. An estimated 62 percent of public school students in Oklahoma participate in free and reduced school meal programs, which are funded in part by the nutrition title of the farm bill.

### 3. Strengthen rural economies

Despite our state's abundant and prolific agricultural production, only 33.8 percent of Oklahoma's population live in rural areas. Farm bill programs help bolster rural economies to ensure a vibrant quality of life for those who enjoy Oklahoma's rural way of life.

Programs authorized by the farm bill help rural families secure home loans, assist in expanding rural broadband internet access, and aide rural communities in building and maintaining water infrastructure.

Land-grant institutions, like Oklahoma State University and Langston University, play a vital role in improving Oklahoma's rural economies. Through grants funded by the farm bill, land-grant institutions can continue cutting-edge research programs


to enhance agricultural production and expand knowledge for both agricultural producers and consumers.

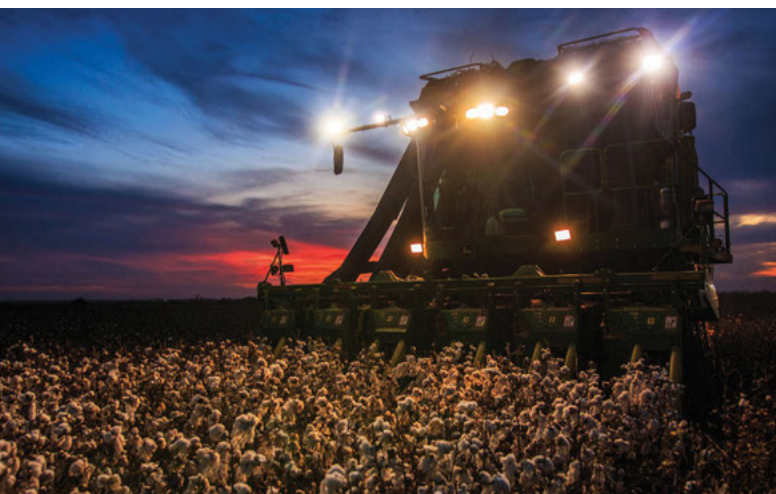
### 4. Preserve natural resources

Safeguarding land, water and environment for the next generation is a top priority for farmers and ranchers. They work hard to preserve and improve their land to ensure it continues to produce in to the future.

Programs within the farm bill help farmers continue investing in land. To aid farmers as they enrich soil health and conserve our water resources, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides farmers with financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices. The Conservation Reserve Program offers farmers with a yearly payment for removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production.

The Rural Energy for America Program assists agricultural producers and rural small businesses in installing renewable energy systems like wind generation, solar generation, biomass and more. It also provides funding for farmers and small businesses to purchase, install or construct energy-efficient improvements.

With a wide array of programs that benefit a wide swath of our nation's agricultural producers and consumers, a strong farm bill helps ensure a vibrant future for our country, no matter your ZIP code or area code. 





HELPING

LIGHT

THE





# TEN LOAD

**THOUGH THE BURDEN OF INPUT COSTS WEIGHS HEAVILY ON THE AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY, OKLAHOMA FARMERS AND RANCHERS REST A LITTLE EASIER WITH HELP FROM A SALES TAX EXEMPTION.**

*STORY BY HANNAH DAVIS // PHOTOS BY DUSTIN MIELKE*

## **CODY GOODKNIGHT BACKS HIS FLATBED FEED TRUCK**

up to the loading ramp at the co-op in Chattanooga, Oklahoma. After saying a quick “hello” to the co-op manager, he proceeds to the warehouse to browse through an array of sacks, tubs and bins to purchase feed and supplies for his family farm.

The southwestern Oklahoma farmer feels the weight of the 50-pound feed bags as he slings each over his shoulder. As Goodknight loads bags of cattle feed one-by-one, the cost of farming and ranching begins piling up before him.

The fifth-generation farmer heads back to his family farm with a bed full of feed and supplies, the cost of which is a reminder of the vast expense required to operate a modern farm and ranch.

Growing crops and raising cattle in a partnership with his father, Goodknight is navigating the highs and lows of farming, just as generations before him learned to not just make a living from the land but thrive in Oklahoma agriculture. Armed with technology and advances in agriculture that prior generations never could have imagined, the modern Goodknight farm requires ever-increasing outlays of financial resources just to fill the planters, diesel tanks and feed bunks that fuel the family farm.

Thankfully, Oklahoma farmers and ranchers like Goodknight are blessed with a hard-won sales tax exemption on farm inputs to help lighten the load of input costs.

“The sales tax exemption is extremely important for farmers,” he said. “It allows us to buy large inputs for our business without paying sales tax.”

An agriculture sales tax exemption was one of the first policy priorities of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. Members began pushing for state lawmakers to pass sales tax exemptions on various farm inputs in 1943, just months after the organization was formed.

Though sales tax exemptions were granted separately for feed, seed, fertilizer and machinery over the years, a blanket sales tax exemption for all agriculture production inputs was passed by the Oklahoma Legislature in 1978 after a more than 30-year battle at the state Capitol.



**THE AG SALES TAX EXEMPTION IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, CRITICAL PART OF THE AG BUSINESS.**

**JOE MAYER**  
GUYMON FARMER



Today, the Oklahoma agriculture sales tax exemption remains a critical business tool for the state's farmers and ranchers. Nearly all input items used in production agriculture are exempt from sales tax including seed, feed, fertilizer, livestock pharmaceuticals and farm machinery.

To qualify for the exemption, Oklahoma farmers and ranchers must list personal property used in their farm and ranch operation with county assessors. After verifying the individual is eligible to receive the exemption, the Oklahoma Tax Commission issues a three-year permit.


And that permit today is more important to farmers and ranchers than ever before.

### **RUNNING A FARM IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT**

is no easy task. U.S. farm income is expected to hit a 12-year low in 2018, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers always have dealt with threats from Oklahoma's unpredictable weather, but input costs have steadily been on the rise over the past several decades while agriculture commodity prices have remained stagnant.

Growing food and fiber requires a large amount of working capital and capital investments including land, equipment and even seed, for which many farmers rely on farm loans to obtain. Without a profitable crop, they cannot make their payments. And when farmers across the country struggle to pay their farm





# THE SALES TAX EXEMPTION IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR OUR BUSINESS TO REMAIN VIALE AND PROVIDE FOOD AND FIBER FOR THE NATION AT A REASONABLE PRICE.

**CODY GOODKNIGHT**  
CHATTANOOGA FARMER

loans, banks begin to tighten access to farm credit.

“The farm economy has been in bad shape for the last several years,” Goodknight said. “With commodity prices being relatively stagnant for the last 50 years, our input prices have more than tripled throughout that time.”

To produce a cotton crop, Goodknight purchases hundreds of bags of cottonseed that costs \$400 to \$500 per bag.

“That’s a risky expense for us, without any guarantee that the seed we put into the ground will make a crop,” he said. “Even if it does make a crop, we’re not guaranteed a profitable crop.”

The southwest Oklahoma farmer estimated inputs on his farm can cost between \$400,000 to \$500,000 each year. Paying sales tax could result in thousands of dollars of additional expense for his family.

A farmer and rancher for more than four decades, Joe Mayer has felt the weight of rising input costs firsthand over his tenure in agriculture.

“The cost of doing business in agriculture has gone up dramatically,” Mayer said. “The seed is better than we used to have, but it costs a lot more. The genetics on these cattle have improved dramatically, but they cost more. Feed has gone up tremendously, diesel – you name it – the inflation in agriculture has been severe.”

Mayer and his family own and operate a farm and ranch that includes land first homesteaded by his great-grandfather in

1883 near Guymon, Oklahoma.

When he first began farming, he remembers purchasing a tractor for his farm for \$3,000. A tractor today that would be used for similar work would cost upwards of \$120,000 – used.

“The ag sales tax exemption is an extremely important, critical part of the ag business,” he said.

The feed bill for his cattle alone can cost up to \$800,000 per year, Mayer said.

“(Paying sales tax) would become a major problem, because farmers aren’t actually making any money as it is,” he said. “Throwing a sales tax at farmers right now would have terrible consequences.”

With rising production expenses and commodity prices that have not kept up with the pace, profit margins in the farming industry have become smaller than ever before.

“Back when I started, your profit margin was considerably better than it is today,” Mayer said. “Some days when you’re feeding cattle, the market will crash on you and you’re losing money. You go over the course of the year feeding steers and your profit margin may be \$20 to \$30 a head, if you’re lucky.”

Mayer said a few years ago, he lost \$150 per head of cattle.

“It’s just a tougher environment to do business in than it used to be,” he said.

Oklahoma farmers and ranchers purchase their inputs much like a wholesaler, adding value to those inputs, and selling the



final product at retail. However, farmers' inputs are purchased at prices more like that of retail, and market prices vary widely, resulting in an unsure price when selling.

"We buy feed for our cattle by the truckload," Goodknight said. "They are not retail inputs that individuals might buy at a grocery store or another retailer; they're wholesale inputs we use for production on our farm."

Agriculture is similar to the manufacturing industry that also enjoys a sales tax exemption on inputs, Mayer said.

"The food we produce is taxed at the grocery store but they don't get a tax at every step through the line," he said. "Agriculture ought to be treated equal to all other manufacturing concerns."

Mayer said the state's farm economy would suffer without the exemption, especially because farmers in surrounding states including Kansas, Missouri and Texas also enjoy an exemption.

"We've got to have the sales tax exemption or you're going to make Oklahoma agriculture uncompetitive with the rest of the world," he said. "What's the benefit of that?"

### **WHEN PURCHASING INPUTS, OKLAHOMA FARMERS**

and ranchers are required to provide retailers with a permit card issued by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to claim the sales tax exemption.

Goodknight said he is required to sign his name when he purchases farm inputs with the exemption, pledging he will use the items only for agriculture production use.

Farmers and ranchers are held accountable for their use

of the exemption. Any person with a permit who misuses the exemption is subject to a \$500 penalty per from the tax commission per instance.

Facing numerous state budget shortfalls over the past several years, the Oklahoma Legislature has considered modifications to the agriculture sales tax exemption to help fund government.

"The exemptions are one of the ways we can try to find revenue, because it's a 51-vote measure," Sen. Eddie Fields said. "It's easier to obtain a simple majority versus a three-quarters majority vote in the House and Senate."

Fields is a third-generation cattle rancher and businessman from Osage County. Representing Senate District 10 in northeast Oklahoma, the state senator serves as vice chair of the Senate appropriations committee.

Due to State Question 640 passed by Oklahoma voters in 1992, revenue-raising measures require a supermajority – 75 percent – vote of the Legislature to pass.

Recently, the Legislature has explored modifying the agriculture sales tax exemption to prevent misuse. Because the permit is intended for agriculture production inputs alone, Fields said state lawmakers want to weed out those who have obtained the exemption and use it incorrectly.

"99.5 percent of our ag producers are going to say, 'No, I can't use my card for this purchase,'" Fields said. "But you're always going to have a bad apple or two out there."

Instead of relying on retailers to use the exemption correctly, the state senator encourages farmers and ranchers to have a working knowledge of exempt inputs.



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**JOE MAYER**  
GUYMON FARMER


“Know the definitions, whether its fuel, seed, fertilizer, vet supplies, chemicals,” he said. “There’s a list of inputs (at the tax commission). Get them and know them by heart.”

The tax commission provides a list of agriculture production inputs eligible for the exemption on its website. As a general rule, the input qualifies for the exemption if used only for agriculture production.

“I think anybody that’s been involved in agriculture for very long probably has a pretty darn good awareness of what qualifies and what doesn’t,” Mayer said. “If you’re abusing the sales tax exemption, it will get reported and will only give steam to the opposing side.”

Goodknight said he encourages farmers to preserve the integrity of the system by using it correctly.

“Maintaining the exemption status for our day-to-day inputs for our business is extremely important,” he said. “We are always willing to pay our fair share in income taxes and property taxes just as every other Oklahoma citizen, but the sales tax exemption is extremely important for our business to remain viable and provide food and fiber for the nation at a reasonable price.”

And on the Goodknight farm, that’s exactly what Cody and his family do, feed bag by feed bag, seed by seed, and animal by animal, helped in part by an agriculture sales tax exemption that OKFB members fought for decade by decade. 

**TO FIND A FULL LIST OF SALES TAX EXEMPT FARM INPUTS, VISIT [WWW.OK.GOV/TAX](http://WWW.OK.GOV/TAX).**



**“MAINTAINING THE EXEMPTION STATUS FOR OUR DAY-TO-DAY INPUTS FOR OUR BUSINESS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.”**

**CODY GOODKNIGHT**  
CHATTANOOGA FARMER

# WHAT QUALIFIES AS SALES-TAX EXEMPT?

WHEN USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, FEED, SEED, PLANTS, PESTICIDES, FERTILIZERS, PHARMACEUTICALS AND FARM MACHINERY ARE TAX EXEMPT.

## EXAMPLES OF EXEMPT ITEMS\*

WATER TANKS  
WELDING MACHINES  
BREEDING SUPPLIES  
DRUGS FOR DISEASE OR BACTERIA CONTROL  
SUPPLIES FOR ADMINISTERING DRUGS  
VACCINES FOR PREVENTIVE DISEASE  
BOTTLES & NIPPLES FOR FEEDING CALVES  
FARM TRACTORS  
COMBINES  
HAY BALERS, MOWERS, RAKES & LOADERS  
CULTIVATORS  
HARROWS, DISKS, PLANTERS & DRILLS  
WINDMILLS  
SPRAY MACHINES  
GRAIN GRINDERS  
FARM EQUIPMENT REPAIR PARTS  
DIESEL & SPECIAL FUELS (FOR AGRICULTURAL USE)  
STOCK TANKS  
GRAIN STORAGE BINS  
STOCK TRAILERS  
WIRE FENCING & FENCE POSTS  
AIR CONDITIONERS  
FEED RACKS & BINS  
FARM WAGONS, PLOWS & TRUCK UNLOADERS  
ALL FARM ANIMALS FOR PRODUCTION  
CATTLE CHUTES  
HAY WIRE OR TWINE  
EAR TAGS & NECK TAGS

## EXAMPLES OF TAXABLE ITEMS\*

PARTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES (EVEN WITH A FARM TAG)  
GARDEN & LAWN EQUIPMENT  
PERSONAL APPAREL  
PETS & PET SUPPLIES  
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS FOR PERSONAL USE  
HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES

*\*EXAMPLES ARE NOT EXHAUSTIVE. FOR A COMPLETE LIST, CONTACT THE OKLAHOMA TAX COMMISSION.*



# INSURING YOUR FUTURE

## How to recover from identity theft

Take these steps to get your life back and have peace of mind.

By Farm Bureau Financial Services

Identity theft is frustrating, shocking and scary, and it happens in different ways. Data breaches, card skimmers, hackers and more are to blame. Even if you are extremely careful with your personal info it can still happen, but that does not mean you have to sit back and do nothing. Here's what to do if your identity gets stolen and tips to protect yourself.

### Talk to your bank

The first step when fixing identity theft is to call the banks or businesses where you hold the accounts that have fraudulent charges and report the incident. Let them know which charges are not yours, and work with them to get those charges reversed. Ask the companies to either close or freeze your accounts.

### Change your sensitive info

Next, change passwords, security questions/answers and PINs associated with the accounts where fraud has occurred. If you use the same information with other unaffected accounts, make changes there too. This will help prevent the same thieves from striking again.

### Get a recovery plan

Visit [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov) to report the in-

cident to the Federal Trade Commission. Create an account and get an identity theft recovery plan tailored to your specific situation. Your recovery plan will detail steps required for different types of identity theft, like how to handle fraud on your utility accounts, if someone has rented an apartment in your name, or if your child's identity has been stolen. This report with the FTC also helps you prove to the businesses where you have your accounts that you are a victim, and it guarantees you certain rights.

### Investigate your credit report

Get in touch with one of the three credit bureaus to initiate an initial fraud alert or all three to initiate a credit freeze, depending on your situation. An initial fraud alert is free and makes it so a business must verify your identity before it issues credit. The initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for at minimum 90 days and can be renewed after 90 days.

If you believe your identity has been compromised, a freeze on your credit allows you to restrict access to your credit report, which makes it difficult for thieves to open new accounts with your personal information. Pull a fresh credit report from the bureaus and check

it thoroughly. Dispute any accounts you didn't open or any erroneous information. Your recovery plan will walk you through these steps.

### Contact debt collectors

If debt collectors are calling or sending notices in the mail, reach out within 30 days of receipt and report the fraud.

### Be diligent

Going forward, keep a close eye on your accounts. Search for charges or withdrawals you did not make, unusual balances or anything else that seems amiss. Check your credit report monthly. Inspect it for any new accounts that you did not open. Look for other signs like missed bills or letters. If an account has been compromised, thieves may have changed the address or contact on the account. If you believe you should have received correspondence, contact the company and verify the information on file.

### Retrace your steps

Consider how the identity theft might have occurred. Did you lose your wallet? Do you think someone scammed you over the phone? Have other people in your





## How to Recover from **Identity Theft**

Take these steps to get your life back and have peace of mind.

### Talk to your bank



Identify fraudulent charges



Close/freeze accounts

### Change your sensitive info



Passwords



Security questions/answers



PINs

area reported problems after visiting a certain business? Depending on your circumstances, you may want to file a police report with local authorities.

### Stay ahead of thieves

Because identity theft is a rising concern throughout the country, it is important to take steps to protect yourself. For added protection and to reduce your risk for identity theft with quick detection and rapid response, ask your local Farm Bureau agent about adding our Identity Services and Fraud Expense Coverage to your Farm Bureau homeowners, farm/ranch, and other property or liability insurance policy. With this coverage, you won't be alone in resolving a situation involving identity theft. If your identity gets stolen, experienced fraud specialists will work on your behalf to help resolve the situation. **FB**



Get a recovery plan on **IdentityTheft.gov**

### Monitor accounts and credit



Comb through charges and withdrawals



Check credit report monthly



Look for new accounts you didn't open

Place a **fraud alert** on your credit report



FARM BUREAU  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Visit [fbfs.com/learning-center-home](https://fbfs.com/learning-center-home) for more information.



# Sticking *with it*

*Chad Selman  
sets his sights  
on the future  
as he builds  
his family's  
farm around  
pecans and  
cattle.*

*Story and photos by Dustin Mielke*





**S**ticks are a constant harvest-time hazard for Chad Selman. It is not any special kind of stick, just a garden-variety tree limb waiting in the tall, brown grass of a pecan orchard. The kind that lies in wait for an unsuspecting tire, ready to free the air from captivity, causing the sort of breakdown that occurs daily for Selman's harvest crew.

The crew of 10 works in the crisp air of late fall and winter days, harvesting pecans in a 60-mile radius in an area north of Tulsa where suburban sprawl meets fields and pastures.

Activity is everywhere in the orchard during pecan harvest: a tractor with an attachment that hugs the giant pecan trees and shakes the nuts high up in the canopy, sparking a veritable rainfall of pecans on the ground; harvesters that comb through the grass, picking up the pecans and spewing leaves and limbs out the back; a sorting machine that begins the separation of nuts from small twigs, fragments of branches and other debris.

And then there's Selman, hopping on and off pieces of

equipment, directing the crew as they work through the orchard and overseeing the daily workings of his pecan harvesting business, an enterprise he has closely nurtured as part of his life in farming and ranching in Tulsa and neighboring counties. The harvest crew is pretty hard to miss as the entire convoy moves from orchard to orchard.

"We have a lot of convoys going down the road with about six or seven tractors and pickups and trailers and everything else," Selman said. "Everybody knows who we are, and when we're driving down the road we get some good waves as people are coming by."

The young farmer has grown his family's operation in the last decade since returning to the farm, expanding and improving the already-thriving enterprise to include a pecan brokerage business and a cattle herd that grazes the grass growing below the canopies of pecan trees.

But just as the errant sticks during harvest cause unforeseen problems, Selman's work to help improve his family's farm – and the pecan industry he loves – hasn't been without problems or setbacks.



## A solid start

**S**elman has had no doubt most of his life about which path he wanted to follow.

“Ever since I could remember, I knew what I wanted to do,” Selman said of farming. “I’ve followed that path and came back to work on the farm. Since I was four or five years old, and even when I was going to college, I knew I was going to come back and work on the farm.”

Today, Selman has an expansive farm where he, his wife, Katrina, and their two young daughters, Lily and Daisy, grow pecans, raise cattle, produce grass hay, run a custom pecan harvesting business, and broker local pecans to shellers across the country.

While it has taken time and effort, Selman’s dedication to growing and improving the farm helped his agricultural dreams take off.

When Selman returned to the family’s farm just east of Skiatook after college, he worked alongside his father as he managed the operation while starting his own farming enterprises. One area of agriculture he wanted to bring to the family’s land was a cow herd.

“I needed something different to do besides pecans,” Selman said of his cattle herd. “A little bit of diversification is always good.”

Starting with 12 cows, Selman grew and expanded his herd by keeping his heifers and closely managing his animals. Today, about 110 head of cattle graze the acres under pecan trees that Selman owns and rents.

“I started keeping my heifers – I kept my heifers ever year,” Selman said.

“I kept growing my herd up to the 110 cows that we have today, and I think my herd is better for it because I was able to keep my own and go through the cows I really like and don’t like.”

The cattle have provided an opportunity to use the

Chad Selman pilots a pecan harvester through an orchard, picking up pecans shaken from tree branches.

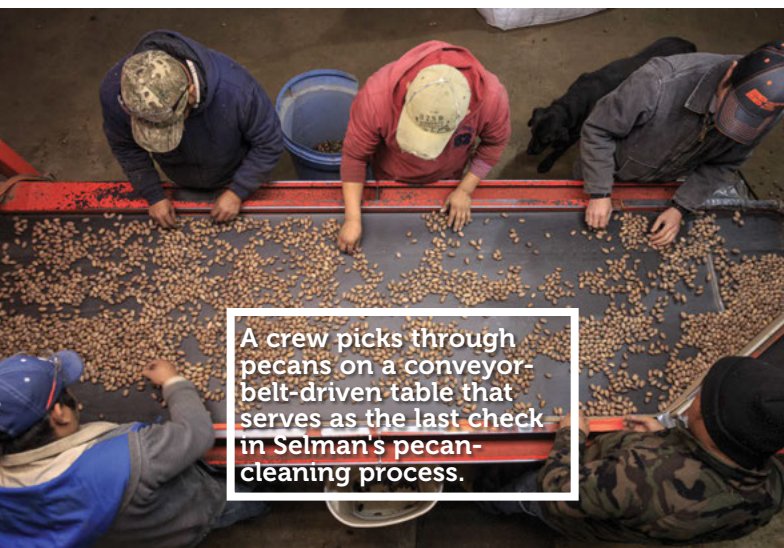


Selman looks at pecans harvested from in an orchard near Collinsville. Selman harvests pecans in a 60-mile radius from his farm near Skiatook.



grass that flourishes in pecan orchards. In addition to grazing cattle on the grass, Selman also purchased equipment to mow and bale the grass hay, some of which he uses himself and some of which he sells. He also takes on custom haying jobs with the haying equipment he purchased for his own cattle operation. The cattle have provided Selman with an opportunity to utilize the grass that would otherwise go unused.

The pecan side of the business includes orchards that Selman owns or leases. In addition to the harvesting side of his business, Selman handles, sorts and stores pecans on the family’s farm before selling the nuts to shellers.



A crew picks through pecans on a conveyor-belt-driven table that serves as the last check in Selman’s pecan-cleaning process.



A pecan tree shaker hugs a tree and rattles loose pecans from high up in the tree’s canopy.



*"Since I was four or five years old, and even when I was going to college, I knew I was going to come back and work on the farm."*



Shortly after returning to the family farm full-time, Selman's orchards were decimated by a harvest-time ice storm in 2007. The storm resulted in damage to 90% of the family's pecan trees, not only immediately halting harvest, but also requiring extensive work to clear the orchards of downed limbs and branches from the storm.

Even with the branches cleared, it took the family's pecan trees three years to produce a crop that could be harvested. Even today, Selman estimates it could take up to five more years for some orchards to produce what he considers a regular crop. Some orchards will never fully recover.

During the years following the ice storm, Selman fanned out the custom pecan harvesting side of his business, taking on acres outside of the main 2007 ice zone as he expanded his harvesting radius up to 80 miles. This allowed him to continue using his investments in pecan harvesting and cleaning equipment, helping overcome the effects of the storm.

Getting through the years directly following the storm required Selman to make adjustments on his farm, but it also provided him with lessons that he took to heart as the family farm transitioned to being fully under Chad's management.

Chad Selman holds a sample of pecans in his cold-storage building. The facility allows Selman better opportunities to market his pecans at the most opportune time.



Pecans pour into a bin on Chad Selman's farm where they will go through the cleaning and bulk packing process before being stored.





Cattle on Chad Selman's farm anxiously wait for feed to be put out in a pecan orchard. Selman built his cattle herd from the ground up, using them to graze the grass that grows abundantly underneath pecan trees.

## Growing into opportunity

**I**n 2013, the Selman family developed a transition plan that allowed his father to begin the process of retiring from the family's pecan business while providing Chad with the opportunity to fully take on managing the farm.

Selman set his eyes on some big goals to continue growing the family's business.

The Selman family had always bought small amounts of pecans from area farmers and re-sold them, capitalizing on the family's cold storage facility, which can hold up to 1.8 million pounds of pecans at 28 degrees, preserving the freshness of the nuts as they await shipment.

Several years ago, Selman saw an opportunity to increase the amount of pecans he could locally source and resell to pecan shellers around the country. Within a few years, Selman became one of Oklahoma's largest pecan buyers, purchasing a sizeable portion of Oklahoma's pecan crop, which he pools together and sells to large buyers of pecans across the nation.

Selman says the pecans he sells to shellers in Georgia, Texas or New Mexico could end up in food products across the nation and across the world.

"They could end up in Walmart, or they could end up in the northeastern part of the United States, or they could end up in China," Selman said of his crop.

In fact, Selman sees a growing market in China for the pecans he grows and harvests north of Tulsa. With an increasing interest from China in pecan meats, the native pecans that Selman primarily grows and harvests will fit the demands of Chinese consumers quite nicely.

"It had been in the past that China has only bought these big, large nuts in the shell," Selman said. "Recently – in the past few years or so – there has been an increased demand for the pecan meats for confectionery purposes. Native pecans have a much better flavor than the improved varieties because of their increased oil content, so it's better to use a native (pecan) in confectionery purposes than an improved (variety)."

Selman has seen the potential for the pecan industry's growth first-hand as a member of the American Pecan Council. The council was founded in 2016 under a marketing order of the United States Department of Agriculture, created to promote the use of pecans.

Selman serves on the council as an alternate on the board in the accumulator position. Selman's passion for the industry is contagious, and he said his time on the council has bolstered his excitement.

"With this marketing order, I see a really bright future for the pecan industry," Selman said. "I went on a tour





Chad Selman and his wife, Katrina, are raising their daughters, Lily and Daisy, on the Tulsa-County farm where Chad grew up.

with the American Pecan Council, and after I got done with that tour for a couple days, I couldn't have been more excited. It's probably the most excited I've ever been about our pecan industry since I can remember."

### ***Trees for the future***

**I**f there is any question about Selman's excitement and dedication to the pecan business, one needs to simply consider a simple fact: he plants pecan trees.

In fact, Selman has planted more than 3,000 pecan trees. But it is the furthest thing from a get-rich-quick scheme when you consider the amount of care and work it takes to get a tree to its first harvest.

"We're planting new trees every year," Selman said. "It takes a long time for those trees to really come into production – up to 15 or 20 years. So whenever they get there you have so much pride in it because you've done so much work to them and for them. You treat them like babies."

Beyond the rows of trees he plants, Selman has his eyes set on growing his harvesting crews and the brokerage side of his business. He is also improving his ponds with concrete ramps and fencing, which allows cattle to drink

as needed while improving the water quality of his ponds. Selman is also working on installing a sub-surface drip irrigation system in a newly planted orchard, providing optimal growing conditions for young trees.

For all his efforts, Selman was recognized as Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 2017 Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award winner, an honor that allowed him to showcase his hard work in American Farm Bureau's YF&R Achievement Award Contest in early 2018. Selman has also taken time to serve as president of his local Farm Service Agency board and in numerous other capacities in Farm Bureau and beyond.

In just a little over a decade of full-time farming since his return to the family's operation after college, Selman has seen the farm through a devastating ice storm into new opportunities in the growing pecan industry. And if you think things look good now on the family's farm, Selman has his eyes set on growing through new opportunities, even though there are setbacks from time to time.

"I guess what keeps me going is just being able to see the successful times in the agriculture industry – and I try to forget about the bad times," Selman said. "I think that's the farmers' motto: we'll get them next year." **FB**

## Foundation supporters have a new reason to smile with Amazon program

**T**he past year has been an exciting one for the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation. From wildfire relief to partnering with our state's food banks and agriculture youth, foundation programs have helped improve Oklahoma from our state's rural areas to its urban cores.

Without the support of our foundation and program donors, however, the impact we are making through these programs would not be possible. With the help of our financial supporters who partner with us in programs, we are proud of the strides we have made. We deeply appreciate the donors who have given generously through the years, in amounts both large and small, that have made the foundation's efforts flourish.

That is why we are excited to invite Farm Bureau members and friends to support the foundation through the AmazonSmile program. It is a simple way to support our projects and initiatives as you shop online.

Simply visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select the Oklahoma Farming & Ranching Foundation as your charity of choice. You can also visit the foundation's website at [OKFarmingAndRanchingFoundation.org](https://OKFarmingAndRanchingFoundation.org) and click our special AmazonSmile link available on our home page or on our donate page.

For each eligible purchase made through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) with the foundation set as your chosen charity,

“From wildfire relief to partnering with our state's food banks and agricultural youth, foundation programs have helped improve Oklahoma from our rural areas to our urban cores.”

we will receive 0.5 percent of the value of your eligible purchase amount as a donation. To participate, be sure to start your Amazon shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to ensure your donation is received.


While each individual purchase may be modest, the sum of all Farm Bureau members purchasing through the AmazonSmile program can have a lasting impact on our foundation's reach.

This is a perfect way for everyone to donate to the foundation. We truly appreciate our founding donors and those who continue to give generously, but we also appreciate anyone who can help us make a difference through a financial gift of any amount or type.

If you'd like to go beyond AmazonSmile to support the foundation, our website is capable of receiving payments through PayPal. Checks can also be mailed to the foundation if you'd rather give that way. Oklahoma Farm Bureau members have

the option to give an optional contribution to the foundation when they renew their OKFB membership each year. We always appreciate donations of animals for our Beef for Backpacks and Pork for Packs programs. For larger monetary or in-kind donations, whether you would like to support annually or one-time, contact the foundation's Chris Kidd to discuss funding opportunities.

The foundation has some exciting stories and new projects that we will be sharing throughout the year, and with your financial contributions to the foundation, we can partner together to increase our impact for agriculture and our rural communities.

We hope you'll join us in supporting the foundation with this new opportunity through Amazon Smile, or in one of the many other ways you can partner with us financially to move our foundation forward. 

To learn more about opportunities to financially support the Oklahoma Farming & Ranching Foundation, contact Chris Kidd at [chris.kidd@aggiving.org](mailto:chris.kidd@aggiving.org) or visit the foundation's website at [OKFarmingAndRanchingFoundation.org](https://OKFarmingAndRanchingFoundation.org).





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John Deere now offers special rewards and discounts to Oklahoma Farm Bureau members through its GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program.


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- GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards benefits are only available at John Deere dealerships. Purchases from other stores will count towards GreenFleet status, but are not eligible for a GreenFleet discount.
- There is no minimum length of Farm Bureau membership to receive the GreenFleet benefit.
- Members need to sign up once for the GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program, then renew or reactivate their membership approximately every two years.
- GreenFleet members can manage their account at [MyJohnDeere.Deere.com](http://MyJohnDeere.Deere.com).
- For full GreenFleet Terms & Conditions, visit [JohnDeere.com/GreenFleet](http://JohnDeere.com/GreenFleet).

# ALL AROUND OKLAHOMA

## OKFB names Doye executive director

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau board of directors announced Thad Doye has been selected to serve as the farm organization's new executive director.

Doye will lead OKFB's staff, overseeing the day-to-day operations of Oklahoma's largest general farm organization.

"We are excited to have a lifelong Oklahoma farmer and rancher serving Oklahoma Farm Bureau as our executive director," OKFB President Rodd Moesel said. "Thad brings with him decades of experience in agriculture, Farm Bureau, and a servant's heart that we know will help him build and grow our organization to better serve our state's farming and ranching families."

Doye was chosen by the OKFB board after a comprehensive national search.

"Oklahoma agriculture and Oklahoma Farm Bureau have some exciting opportunities ahead, but we also realize we face some challenges," Doye said. "Farm Bureau members created this organization to help improve agriculture and rural Oklahoma, and I will work with OKFB staff and Farm Bureau leaders to

ensure our organization is making the future brighter for our state."

A native of Lawton, Doye began his career at OKFB in 1998 as a field representative before being named vice president of field services and later moving to the position of crop insurance manager for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance. Doye was selected as OKFB's interim executive director in July 2017.

For the past several years, Doye has helped build the Oklahoma Farming & Ranching Foundation's Pork for Packs and Beef for Backpacks programs by transporting donated animals that are processed into protein sticks for hungry Oklahoma children in cooperation with local food banks.

Before joining the OKFB staff, Doye served as a grassroots OKFB leader as vice president of the organization's state Young Farmers & Ranchers committee and as president of the Comanche County YF&R committee. Doye was also a member of class 13 of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program. He received an agriculture business degree



Thad Doye  
OKFB Executive Director

from Cameron University in Lawton.

Doye, and his wife, Marla, raised three children – Christann (Dilks), Chasen and Cortlin – on the family's Comanche County farm where they grow wheat and cover crops and raise cattle.



## WLC feeds legislators at state Capitol during annual Farm City Festival

Left: OKFB Women's Leadership Committee member Cindy Schoenecke (right) delivers a barbecue sandwich, baked beans and coleslaw lunch to Rep. George Faught at the state Capitol for Farm City Festival on March 27. The annual event provides Farm Bureau women an opportunity to visit their legislators and remind them of the importance of agriculture and rural Oklahoma. WLC members prepared and hand-delivered the meals to lawmakers at the state Capitol.





## OKFB sponsors ag youth at 2018 OYE Sale of Champions

Oklahoma Farm Bureau helped support the state's agriculture youth by purchasing more than \$43,000 in premiums at the 2018 Oklahoma Youth Expo Sale of Champions held March 16 in Oklahoma City.

Before the sale, OKFB was honored as the 2017 volume buyer for purchasing the most premiums at the 2017 sale.

Farm Bureau purchased premiums on 19 animals in this year's sale, and partnered with fellow agriculture and rural organizations to purchase additional premium for 41 animals.

"We're honored to help support these bright 4-H and FFA members at



OKFB purchased the chalice for the grand champion steer, shown by Tenley Mefford of Tillman County 4-H, at the 2018 OYE Sale of Champions March 16 in Oklahoma City.

the Oklahoma Youth Expo," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "The skills and lessons learned in the show ring are preparing these students to become the future leaders of our state."

OKFB also purchased the chalice for

the grand champion steer, shown by Tenley Mefford of Tillman County 4-H.

The 2018 premium raised a record \$1.3 million for students across the state, with the grand champion steer topping the sale with a record \$115,000.

## Gov. Mary Fallin declares Feb. 19-23 "Oklahoma Farm Bureau Week" in Oklahoma

As county Farm Bureaus across the state celebrated the grassroots agriculture organization in February, Gov. Mary Fallin proclaimed Feb. 19 through Feb. 23 "Oklahoma Farm Bureau Week."

Fallin praised Farm Bureau for its dedication to agriculture, the base for Oklahoma's economic prosperity.

"Farm Bureau has maintained a rich legacy of protecting farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans over the past 75 years," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "We're proud to share our efforts to bolster the agriculture industry with our friends, neighbors and communities this week and throughout the year."

Observed annually, county Farm Bureaus celebrate by promoting OKFB in communities throughout Oklahoma.



Gov. Mary Fallin (left) presents a proclamation to Thad Doye, then-interim OKFB executive director, declaring Feb. 19-23 "Oklahoma Farm Bureau Week" in Oklahoma.

## Berry, Patton join OKFB as field representatives

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau recently hired Haley Berry and Caylie Patton as field representatives.

In their new roles, the two will serve as liaisons between county Farm Bureaus and the state Farm Bureau.

Berry will serve Beckham, Caddo, Cotton, Comanche, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Jefferson, Kiowa, Stephens, Tillman and Washita counties as the southwestern field representative.

“Growing up was nothing but faith, family, food and Farm Bureau,” Berry said. “I now look forward to serving as a voice for our members.”

A native of Central High, Oklahoma, Berry was raised on a cattle ranch. Her family also owns a livestock auction in Clinton, Oklahoma.

As the south central field representative, Patton will serve Farm Bureau members in Carter, Garvin, Grady, Johnston, Love, McClain, Marshall, Murray, Okfuskee, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie and Seminole counties.

“Oklahoma farmers and ranchers give so much to Oklahoma,” Patton said. “I’m



Haley Berry  
Southwestern Field Representative

excited to be a part of an organization that goes to work every day to protect agriculture and ensure farmers and ranchers continue to help Oklahoma thrive.”



Caylie Patton  
South Central Field Representative

Patton previously served as a legislative correspondent for Sen. James Lankford in Washington, D.C. The Tecumseh native earned a degree in communications from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

## Caddo County celebrates OKFB Week by giving back to community

**I**n celebration of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Week in February, Caddo County Farm Bureau donated more than \$12,000 to senior nutrition centers, 4-H and FFA programs, and rural fire departments throughout the county.

Senior nutrition centers in Anadarko, Apache, Binger, Carnegie, Cement, Cyril, Fort Cobb and Hinton each received \$500 to help fund nutrition programs in the county. The centers provide meals for senior citizens free-of-charge.

“We try to support the community in any way that we can,” said Wayne Taggart, Caddo County Farm Bureau president. “Our rural communities are



Caddo County Farm Bureau President Wayne Taggart (far left) and member Lance Shenold (far right) present \$500 checks to eight senior nutrition centers throughout the county in celebration of OKFB Week.

really the ones that feed the nation. By giving back to our local communities, we can tie together those that produce the food and those that eat the food.”

Outside of funding from the county, the senior nutrition centers rely on fundraisers and donations from the community.

“People like Farm Bureau donating \$500, you can’t beat that,” said Ron Roberts of the Apache Senior Nutrition Center.

Each 4-H and FFA chapter in the county also received \$100 from Caddo County Farm Bureau, while each county rural fire department received \$250.





Sen. Jim Inhofe speaks to OKFB members during a Farm Bureau visit to Washington, D.C. A longtime friend of American farmers and ranchers, Inhofe was presented with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award during the 2018 AFBF Annual Convention in January.

## AFBF presents Sen. Jim Inhofe with Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award

**T**he American Farm Bureau Federation presented its highest honor, the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, to Sen. Jim Inhofe during AFBF's 2018 Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show in January.

AFBF established the Distinguished Service Award in 1928 to honor individuals who have devoted their careers to serving the national interest of American agriculture.

Sen. Inhofe is a longtime friend of America's farm and ranch families and an eight-time recipient of AFBF's Friend of Farm Bureau award. His commitment to protecting landowners' property rights, preserving our natural resources, and reining in federal regulatory overreach has brought relief to farmers and ranchers across our nation.

From the start of his public service

career, Inhofe's primary goal has been to shrink the federal government, after seeing firsthand how over-regulation was stifling our free enterprise system.

"I spent 20 years as a builder and a developer. I was out doing what Americans are supposed to be doing: expanding the tax base, making money, losing money," Inhofe said. "All those years the chief opposition I had was federal over-regulation."

Inhofe was first elected to Congress in 1986, and has served in the Senate since 1994. As a member and past chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Inhofe has been a staunch advocate for farmers and ranchers through his work to stop unreasonable regulations, rebuild the nation's crumbling infrastructure, protect investments in ag research and

innovation, and promote policies that help create jobs and economic prosperity. He led the legislative charge to put a stop to the Waters of the U.S. rule, and has been a leading voice on Capitol Hill for bringing a common-sense, science-based approach to the regulatory process.

"He's a guy you want on your side," Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel said of Inhofe. "There is no better bulldog, there is no better warrior fighting for your issues, and we are blessed that most of the time he and Farm Bureau are on the very same side."

Oklahoma Farm Bureau nominated Sen. Inhofe to receive the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award, and a national Farm Bureau committee named the winners.



## Group of 30 OKFB YF&R members attend AFBF YF&R conference in Reno

Top: Thirty OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers members pose for a picture during the American Farm Bureau Federation YF&R Conference Feb. 16-19 in Reno, Nevada. Bottom Left: Northeastern A&M College Collegiate Farm Bureau member Austin Jackson (second from left) represents OKFB in the AFBF YF&R collegiate discussion meet. Bottom Right: Kade Killough (center), a Collegiate Farm Bureau member from Oklahoma State University, competes in the AFBF YF&R collegiate discussion meet.



## Ron Justice named OKFB vice president of public policy

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has named Ron Justice as the organization's vice president of public policy.

In his new role, Justice will direct the advocacy of Farm Bureau member policy at the state Capitol and throughout Oklahoma.

"From his time as an extension agent to serving in the state Senate, Ron has always been a staunch advocate for agriculture and rural Oklahoma," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "We're honored to have him take the helm of our policy efforts, and look forward to all he will accomplish for our farmers and ranchers."

Raised on a farm in Blaine County, Justice served the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service for 33 years before being elected to the Oklahoma Senate.

"Upholding the issues that are

important to the people that live and work in rural Oklahoma has been a long-standing passion of mine," Justice said. "I'm eager to work hand-in-hand with Farm Bureau members to bolster our state's agriculture community."

Justice was first elected to the state Senate in 2004 and served parts of Canadian, Grady and Kingfisher counties for 12 years. He served in many leadership roles as a state senator, including as vice chairman of agriculture and rural development, vice chairman of appropriations and chairman of the Republican Rural Caucus. He received the OKFB Champion Award in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and was a member of the OKFB 100 Percent Club.

A resident of Chickasha, Oklahoma, Justice holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in agricultural education from Oklahoma State University.



Ron Justice  
OKFB Vice President of Public Policy





## OKFB hosts gubernatorial candidate panel

OKFB members hear from Drew Edmondson, Gary Jones, Todd Lamb, Gary Richardson and Kevin Stitt during a gubernatorial candidate panel at the 2018 OKFB Leadership Conference held March 5. The candidates shared their views on agriculture and rural policy issues. Visit [facebook.com/okfarmbureau](https://facebook.com/okfarmbureau) to watch a full video of the panel.

## Eleven state legislators receive 2017 Champion Award at 2018 OKFB Leadership Conference



**E**leven state legislators were honored with the 2017 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Champion Award during the OKFB Leadership Conference March 5 in Oklahoma City.

The award was presented to state lawmakers who went above and beyond to uphold agriculture and rural Oklahoma in 2017.

“As a grassroots farm organization, we exist to fight for the betterment of agriculture and rural Oklahoma,” said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. “We are proud to honor these 11 individuals who have worked tirelessly to support family farmers and ranchers across the state.”

The 2017 OKFB Champion Award recipients include Senate President Pro Tem Mike Schulz, Sen. Larry Boggs, Sen. Casey Murdock, Sen. Lonnie Paxton, Sen. Roland Pederson, Sen. Roger Thompson, Sen. Greg Treat, Rep. Scooter Park, Rep. John Pfeiffer, Rep. Mike Sanders and Rep. Kevin Wallace.

Award recipients received a plaque in recognition of their service to agriculture and rural Oklahoma. Champions are nominated by county Farm Bureaus and the OKFB board of directors.

OKFB honors eleven state legislators with the 2017 OKFB Champion Award for their work to support and defend agriculture and rural Oklahoma in 2017. The award recipients were presented with a plaque from OKFB District Five Director and Vice President Gary Crawley during the 2018 OKFB Leadership Conference on March 5 in Oklahoma City. Top Row (L-R): Sen. Larry Boggs, R-Wilburton; Sen. Lonnie Paxton, R-Tuttle. Second Row (L-R): Sen. Roland Pederson, R-Burlington; Sen. Roger Thompson, R-Okemah; Third Row (L-R): Sen. Casey Murdock, R-Felt; Rep. Scooter Park, R-Devol. Bottom Row: Rep. John Pfeiffer, R-Mulhall. Not pictured; Senate President Pro Tem Mike Schulz, R-Altus; Sen. Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City; Rep. Mike Sanders, R-Kingfisher; and Rep. Kevin Wallace, R-Wellston.

# Payne County member named to AFBF YF&R Committee

**R**achel Pickens of Payne County Farm Bureau recently was appointed to serve on the 2018 American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

The committee helps evaluate and update the YF&R long-term plan, assists with executing YF&R competitive events at the AFBF Annual Convention, provides programming advice for the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference, serves on one of four subcommittees, serves as a contact for state YF&R programs, and takes part in numerous committee meetings.

“Through her involvement in Farm Bureau, our state and her local community, Rachel has demonstrated a passion for sharing the story of agriculture and our organization,” said Rodd Moesel, Oklahoma Farm Bureau president. “She works tirelessly to develop her own leadership skills while taking the time to commit herself to helping others grow as well.”

The Payne County member has been involved in Farm Bureau in a number

of capacities, serving as county YF&R vice chairman and on the OKFB YF&R Committee, as well as competing in the AFBF YF&R Discussion meet and the Excellence in Agriculture event.

“Being appointed to the AFBF YF&R Committee is an honor which I believe should not be taken lightly,” Pickens said. “I hope to serve the organization by helping future members across the country transition from 4-H and FFA into the YF&R program, assisting in providing resources for YF&R members in developing their operations, and utilizing younger members to lead our organization with marketing, communication and public awareness.”

Also known as the “Oklahoma Land Lady,” Pickens began her career in college as the auction coordinator of Pickens Auctions, marketing and selling more than 30,000 acres, and showcasing premier properties and pristine ranches.

She currently lives on a ranch in Stillwater, Oklahoma, where she owns Rockin’ Star Farm, an agritourism venue.



Rachel Pickens, a Payne County Farm Bureau member, was recently selected to serve on the 2018 AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

## Haven, Swartz join OKFB Public Policy Division



Bray Haven  
Associate Director of Public Policy



Zac Swartz  
Associate Director of Public Policy

**B**ray Haven and Zac Swartz recently joined the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Public Policy Division as associate directors of public policy. The two will help advocate for Farm Bureau policy at the state Capitol.

“Bray and Zac certainly will be an asset to Farm Bureau members across the state as they help serve as the voice for agriculture and rural Oklahoma,” said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. “We’re excited to see all that the Public Policy team will accomplish this year for our members.”

Haven is a longtime Farm Bureau member who grew up in Cheyenne. He earned a bachelor’s degree in agribusiness from Oklahoma State University in 2017 before joining the Oklahoma Oil and Gas Association as a field representative.

A native of Sulphur, Swartz has served in a variety of capacities since he joined OKFB in 2015. He will continue in his role as YF&R coordinator.





Top Left: A farmer listens to presenters discuss ELD and hours of service requirements during the agriculture transportation meeting on Feb. 26 in Okmulgee. Top Right: Oklahoma Highway Patrol State Trooper Todd Blaylock shares information on agricultural transportation regulations at a meeting of farmers and ranchers. Bottom Right: A farmer takes notes on ELD requirements.

## Okmulgee County Farm Bureau, OKFB host informational agriculture transportation meeting

**M**ore than 50 farmers, ranchers and agribusinessmen attended an educational meeting on the electronic logging device and hours of service mandate held Feb. 26 at the Okmulgee County Fairgrounds in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Hosted by Okmulgee County Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, the Okmulgee County Fair Board and Okmulgee County Extension, the meeting covered the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's electronic logging device mandate and hours of service

requirements for agriculture.

Representatives from the FMCSA and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Troop S led the meeting and answered questions.

Most farmers and ranchers should be exempt from the ELD mandate because they can claim covered farm vehicle status, but drivers who haul livestock, live fish and insects are likely to fall under the requirements. 02436775

Drivers who have to use ELDs would be limited to current hours of service rules, which restrict a driver to only 14 "on duty" hours in a day, with no more than

11 active driving hours. Once a driver hits those maximum hour allotments, he or she must stop and rest for 10 consecutive hours, which would be problematic when transporting livestock and other live animals.

In a recent spending bill passed by Congress, agricultural haulers received a reprieve from the ELD mandate through Sept. 30. Currently, haulers have a 90-day waiver through June 18. Many think the HOS rule is unrealistic for hauling live animals, recreational horses or perishable commodities.

To learn more about agriculture transportation rules and regulations, visit [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov) or [www.ok.gov/ohpcmv](http://www.ok.gov/ohpcmv). Watch a full video of the agriculture transportation meeting on the OKFB Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/okfarmbureau](http://www.facebook.com/okfarmbureau).

# OKFB members named to national beef board

**T**wo Oklahoma Farm Bureau members were selected as two of 27 new members appointed to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue on Dec. 20.

Roger Mills County Farm Bureau member Jimmy Taylor of Cheyenne and Grady County Farm Bureau member Blayne Arthur were selected to each serve a three-year term on the board, which is composed of 99 members. Taylor was nominated by OKFB.

Taylor and his wife, Tracy, have a cow-calf operation located between Elk City and Cheyenne in western Oklahoma.

"The goal of our operation is to make the best steak possible," Taylor said during an OKFB interview. "We raise every animal as if it was going to be served on our own table."

Blayne Arthur of Stillwater was also selected to represent Oklahoma on the board. Arthur and her husband, Jerrod, raise show cattle and help agriculture students learn animal-handling and



Left: Grady County Farm Bureau member Blayne Arthur (second from right) is chosen to serve on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board by USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue. Right: Roger Mills County Farm Bureau member Jimmy Taylor is appointed to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board.



showing techniques. Arthur also has a fourth-generation wheat and alfalfa hay operation she owns with her sisters.

"The Cattlemen's Beef Board works to build demand for beef by helping to maintain and expand markets

through their research, promotion, and information sharing efforts," Perdue said. "Their work represents all segments of the beef industry, and I know that the agricultural sector will be well served by them."



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**Oklahoma FFA State Convention**  
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**16th Annual YF&R Golf Classic**  
May 4  
Guthrie

**On the Road with  
Ag in the Classroom**  
June 12-14  
Oklahoma

**YF&R State Leadership Conference**  
July 13-15  
Altus

**Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom  
Conference**  
July 16

**OSU Big Three Field Days**  
July 17-19  
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**YF&R High School Discussion Meet**  
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## Q: Were farming practices of the early and mid-1900s more eco-friendly than modern agriculture?

Ask the expert: James Locke serves as a soils and crops consultant for the Noble Research Institute and is certified as a crop adviser by the American Society of Agronomy.



Modern farmers and ranchers work to improve soil health and reduce erosion potential by implementing reduced or no-tillage farming practices, adding cover crops, and increasing crop rotation. Agriculture's progress benefits both mankind and the environment.

**A:** In some ways “yes,” and in other ways “no.”

On the one hand, agricultural producers in the early and mid-1900s used fewer synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. They utilized more green manure crops (which we call cover crops today) to provide nitrogen fixation and weed suppression, which provided greater plant diversity. Most operations were diversified to

include an animal component to provide meat, milk and eggs.

On the other hand, while fewer pesticides were used, those pesticides were not well tested or regulated. They were often very toxic, and most are no longer on the market.

Perhaps the most significant difference was the lack of conservation tillage used. In that era, clean tillage was widely

believed to be the only way to farm. The resulting bare soil and destruction of soil structure allowed significant soil erosion.

Also, little crop rotation was practiced. Farmers typically planted a primary cash crop on the same ground year after year, often without replacing the nutrients removed. These practices greatly exacerbated the effects of drought in the 1930s and made the Dust Bowl much worse.





“According to the 1920 Census of Agriculture, more than 6.4 million farms used 503 million acres to provide food and fiber for about 106 million Americans, plus exports. In comparison, today’s modern agriculture has become more efficient at producing food and fiber. As of the 2012 Census of Agriculture, 2.1 million farms use almost 390 million acres to provide food and fiber for 313 million Americans, plus exports. This is a 73.82 percent reduction in land use per person.

— James Locke


Since the early and mid-1900s, agricultural research has yielded many innovations that have improved crop yields and mitigated impacts on the environment. We use more pesticides today, but these pesticides are extensively tested before release and must be approved by both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state departments of agriculture.

Most farmers now follow Integrated Pest Management principles, which consider economic thresholds and biological or cultural options along with pesticides.

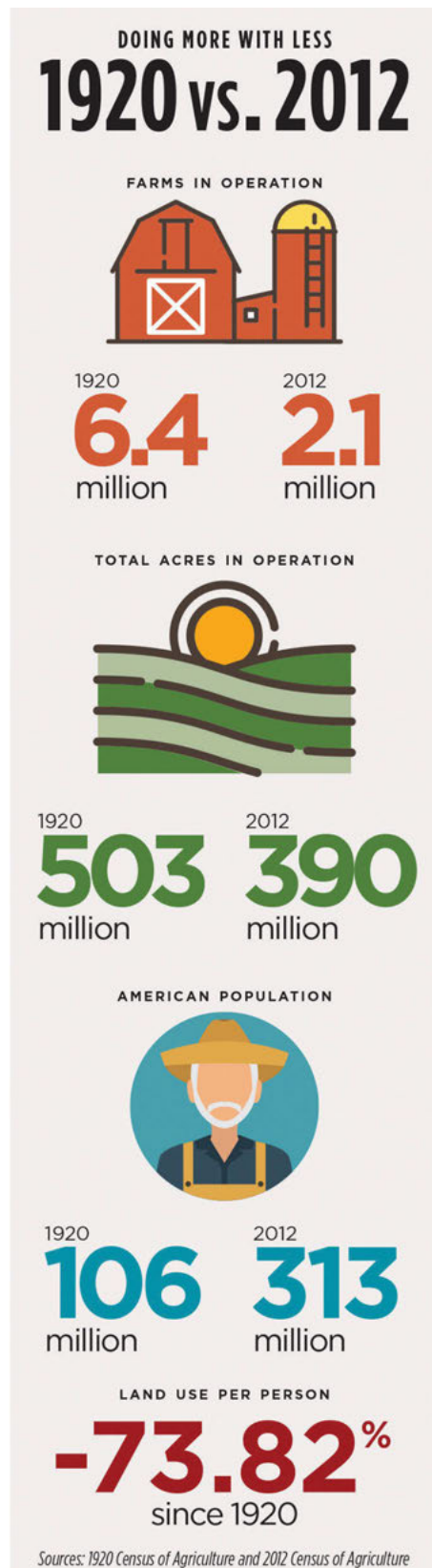
We use more synthetic fertilizers and have more concentrated use of animal manures today, but we have improved our efficiency by following the “4R” approach of using the “right place, right rate, right source and right time” for nutrient inputs. Many farmers are working to improve soil health and reduce erosion

potential by implementing reduced or no-tillage farming practices, adding cover crops and increasing crop rotation.

Protecting pollinator health has become a new focus for production agriculture. While efforts have paid dividends, there is still room for improvement. Nutrient runoff into water bodies, erosion, pesticide resistance and off-target drift are areas in need of improvement.

While modern agriculture must always continue to find new methods for improvement, the progress we have made in the face of ever-diminishing land, labor and water resources benefits both mankind and the environment. 

Learn more about James Locke at [www.noble.org/staff/james-locke](http://www.noble.org/staff/james-locke)



# COUNTRY GARDENING

## Grow more in less space with vertical gardening

By Trisha Gedon

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

**A** lush landscape full of colorful flowers and tasty fruits and vegetables is every gardener's dream. Many people may envision a vast space covering the landscape.

However, for those gardeners thinking outside of the traditional gardening box and wanting to do something a little different, or for those who may be pressed for a lot of outdoor space, they may consider vertical gardening.

Growing plants vertically really expands the possibilities for garden spaces, said David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension consumer horticulturist.

"Vertical gardening is a great way to take advantage of empty vertical space such as walls or fences," Hillock said. "They can be free standing, as well. It's also a unique way to add visual interest to your space. Vertical gardening has potential benefits for senior citizens, energy savings and local water systems.

"In addition, those who may live in apartments with only a balcony for outside space or in a home with limited yard space, can enjoy the benefits of vertical gardening."

Vertical gardens often are referred to as green walls, but they differ from green facades such as ivy walls. When considering a support surface for a vertical garden, think about what you want to grow, whether it be flowers, vegetables or a combination of both. Then, let your imagination go wild.

Obvious choices include fences, trellises, pergolas, posts, poles with strings or nets, trees or cages, but also consider things such as old ladders, bicycles, old wagon wheels, wooden pallets or containers attached to an existing fence. An inexpensive plastic shoe storage system hung on the fence or wall with the pockets full of soil is a great way to vertically grow herbs.

Hillock said choosing the right plants for a vertical garden is essential. While there are many plants that can be trained to grow vertically, not every plant is a good choice.

"Whenever a plant can grow and thrive by crawling up or hanging down, it's a good choice," he said. "Pole beans, some peas, tomatoes and most varieties of cucumbers can easily be grown vertically with the necessary support. Melons,

gourds, squashes and pumpkins like upward growth, but remember, some will need more support than others due to the weight of the fruit or vegetable."

One other thing gardeners need to take into account when gardening vertically is some plants entwine themselves onto the support, while others will need to be tied. Plants grown in a vertical garden are more exposed to the sun and air, so they are going to dry out faster. Frequent watering is essential. In some cases, drip and micro irrigation alternatives can be combined very effectively to ensure adequate moisture.

Also, if combining vertical gardening with traditional gardening, make sure to position the vertical structure so that it does not shade sun-loving plants. It is a good idea to plant shade-loving plants near your vertical structures.

If the area in which a vertical garden is planted is prone to wind, consider wind break protection and sturdier supports. Just as with traditional gardening, vertical gardening containers should drain well to encourage good root system development and help avoid root rot.

Growing vegetables vertically has the








potential to greatly expand a gardener's food production by increasing yields per square foot. Although it may take a little extra time to get everything set up, vertical growing can decrease fruit problems and make watering, harvesting and spraying easier. Depending on placement of these structures, vertical gardens can act as a cooling barrier between the sunlight and the residence.

Hillock said vertical gardening offers great benefits for those who may be somewhat limited in mobility.

"Since a green wall would eliminate most bending and extensive work, vertical gardening is a great option for senior citizens or those with mobility or other physical limitations," he said. "They can simply walk to their garden and harvest their vegetables and herbs much easier than is possible with a traditional vegetable or herb bed.

"Gardening can be a creative outlet for many people and vertical gardening is just another way to be creative in the landscape and get the most out of your outdoor space." 



# COUNTRY CLASSIFIEDS

## AUTOMOTIVE

1988 Ford Bronco. \$5,000. 1972 IHC pickup 1310, \$7,500. 2009 Harley 1200 trike, \$6,500. 1968 White truck, needs some repair, \$1,000. 405-386-4416.

1998 Toyota 4Runner, \$4,500. 2006 Dodge Dakota four-door 4x4, \$6,900. Both in great shape. 918-559-9317.

1951 Mercury Coupe custom show winner. 918-962-2064.

## FARM MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT

14' flat bed trailer, 7'7" wide, bull dog hitch, tandem heavy duty axles. \$500. 918-759-1111.

Nut Hustler pecan cleaner, 1970s, works good, always inside. \$3,500. 918-366-2403, 599-2508, weekdays.

Round bales of hay. 4'x6', weed sprayed, protein tested, stored in barn. Delivery available. 918-232-5763.

John Deere headers. 925 – Rigid, \$4,000. 912 pickup header, \$5,000. 580-492-5125.

2 11Lx15 tires. 31 "Tall-11" wide heavy duty tire wheel assembly. Standard 6 hole ag pattern. 20 ply, hardly used. \$350 for pair.

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

Fence charger repair. All brands. Warranty service for Woodstream and Parmak. Pioneer Electronics. 580-603-0053. Waukomis, OK.

New Holland Turbo 80 Combine. Has a very good 3208 Caterpillar engine. It has very good 28Lx26 RI tires and 11X16 tires. Asking \$1,500. 918-676-5140.

Must Sell. 1949-50 Ford tractor in good condition. Kept in covered building. To see, call 580-332-0957 or 580-399-7171.

Antique two-row Bermuda spriger. 1994 48' Fruehauf semi flat bed. 405-452-3094.

2015 Grassworks weed wiper for Johnson grass control. 15' unit w/ boom-mix foam marking system. Only used one season. Excellent condition. 580-763-4465. Leave message.

2014 6x12 stock trailer, bought new. Pulled four times. \$3,750 OBO. 580-745-4822.

## LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Double tough Harlan at stud, linebred Harlan buckskin, Harlan colts for sale. 918-762-3769. [www.okharlanhorses.com](http://www.okharlanhorses.com).

Registered Polled Hereford bulls. 10-15 months old. Remitall Online 122L and PW Victor Boomer P606 genetics. 580-332-2468.

Angus bulls – low birthweight, fertility tested, wormed and shots up to date. Seyler Farms, Greenfield, OK. Call Sandy, 580-614-1150.

Give your heifers a break. Use a Texas Longhorn bull their first time out. Easy calving and live calf puts more dinero in your pocket. Call Steve Douglas, 580-220-1477.

Get your order in by April for laying hens. Hatched 3-27-17. 405-527-7881 or 200-9554.

Serviceable age Angus or Maine bulls. Havew FT. 4 male donkeys. Several John Wayne pictures in frames. 405-381-4307.

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Five registered two-year-old Beefmaster bulls. Gentle, low birth weights, excellent weight gains passed on to calves. H/3 Beefmasters, Atoka, OK. 580-889-6065 or 889-1306.



## COUNTRY CLASSIFIEDS

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*Deadline for the next issue is June 7, 2018.  
The summer issue will publish in mid-July 2018.*





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Red Angus performance tested bulls in mid April. Small group of mature reg. cows available now. 580-641-3770 or 580-641-1122.

Reds in the Heartland Red Angus sale. April 7, 2018 at OKC West, El Reno, OK. Performance-tested bulls, registered and commercial females. For info, call Eric 580-658-0606 or Farah 580-641-3770.

Four bred Shorthorn females, one breeding age bull. Stephens County Fairgrounds. April 7, 1 p.m. For questions, call 580-497-7366.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Louis L'Amour books. Leatherette edition, about 70 titles. \$10 each or \$450 for all. 405-880-4873.

Wood pellet stove. Harmon PF 43. Like new, \$1,500. Also with 30 bags pellets. 918-696-2105.

1,500 new burlap bags, size 24"x40". \$1.75 each. Discount for large lots. 580-276-0106. Marietta.

Large heating stove with blower. Thermostat controlled. Like new, used two weeks. Sears heater. \$900, will take \$700. 580-334-7169.

Must sell. Deceased parents coin collection. Ind. 1-cent, Buf. 5-cent, Morgan, Poace, Ike \$1, Ken. 50-cent and others. Call for list.

Discounted to sell. 405-519-0934.

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## REAL ESTATE

Half-acre lake lot, Arrowhead Estates, Lake Eufaula. Corner lot, paved road, Hunter Court (on a dead end). No improvements. Lake view, not lake front. 580-399-2611.

Two lots, Sequoyah County Mountain Ridge. Lots 9 and 10, Block 4. \$100. 303-986-1207.

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140 acres near Sparks. A great place for you to raise your goats. Rent free first year. 405-259-9507.

Lakeview home on 1.75 acres on Lake Tenkiller. 3 BR/2B, 2,100 sq. ft. Plus, 40x60 all steel building w/ office and all utilities. \$329,000. Also priced separately, 2-stall steel dock within walking distance. 918-708-5794.

House and land, Pecola, Oklahoma. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Floors tile, wood, carpet. 479-522-2729.

## WANTED

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

Help wanted. U2 Ranch, Meers, OK. Livestock experience helpful. This is hard work in extreme conditions. Contact Matt Estep, 580-704-9434.

Wanted: Pictures of the old Econtuchka Grocery Store and N. Canadian River bridge. 405-379-5661. Leave message.



## *Smokey Spiced Pecans*

Courtesy of The American Pecan Council




### Ingredients

1 large egg white, beaten  
2 cups raw Oklahoma pecan halves  
2 tablespoons light brown sugar  
2 teaspoons chipotle chili powder  
2 teaspoons smoked paprika  
3/4 teaspoon salt

### Preparation

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk beaten egg with a fork until frothy. Add pecans and stir until coated. Sprinkle pecans with brown sugar, chili powder and smoked paprika. Stir to coat evenly. Spread pecans in an even layer on the prepared baking sheet.

Bake pecans for 40 minutes, stirring halfway through. Allow pecans to cool completely. Store in an airtight container for up to four days. Makes two cups. 

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





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