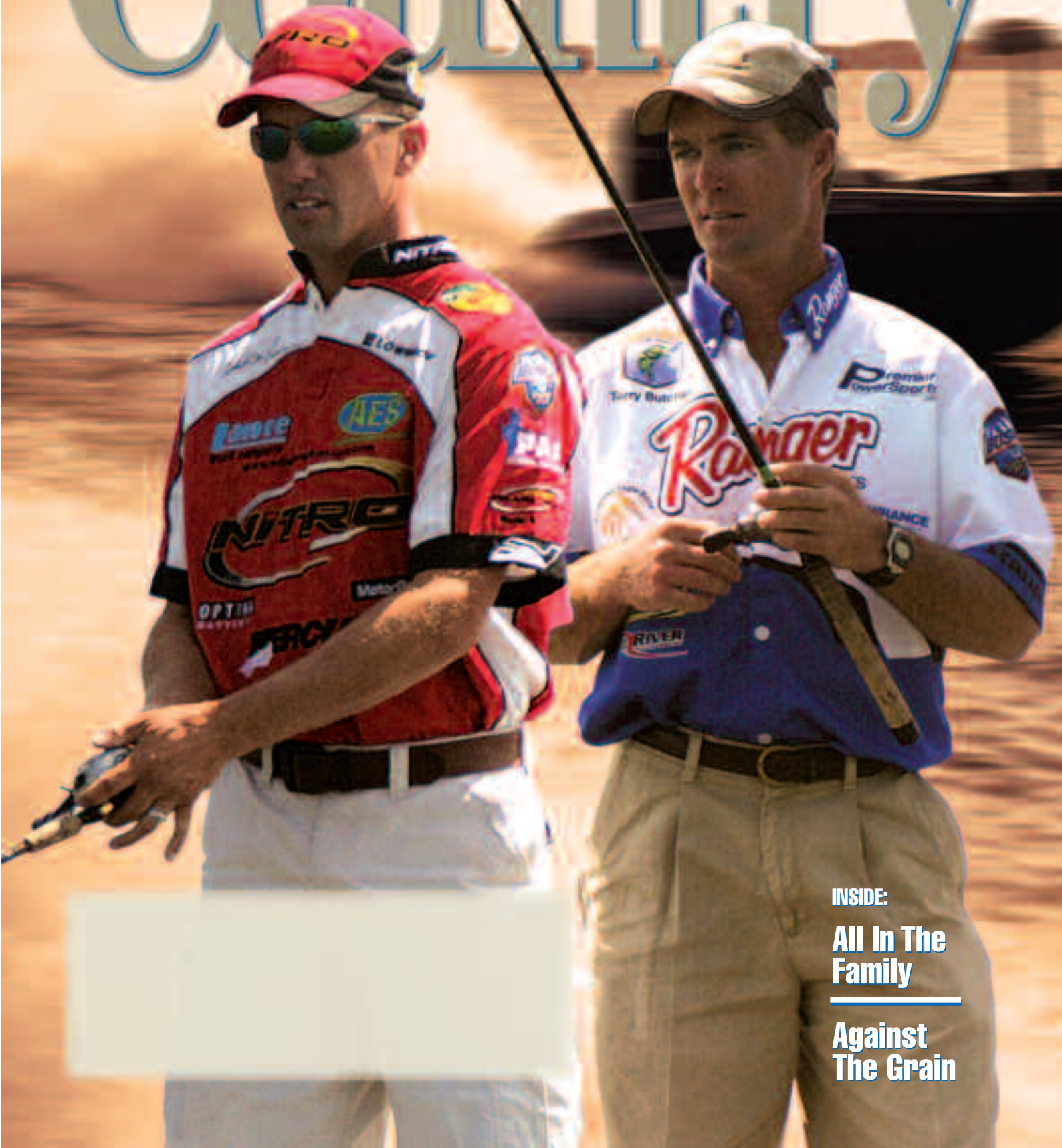


Oklahoma Country

FALL 2006
THE MAGAZINE OF
THE OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU



INSIDE:

**All In The
Family**

**Against
The Grain**



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BY RUTH BOBBITT



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Hidden number worth \$100!

One member family's Oklahoma Farm Bureau membership number is hidden somewhere in this issue of *OKLAHOMA COUNTRY*, and could earn that member family \$100 since the prize wasn't claimed in the last issue.

To claim the cash prize, the member family must find its own hidden membership number and contact Mike Nichols before the last day of the month Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to

4 p.m. at 405-523-2300.

The OFB membership number hidden somewhere in *OKLAHOMA COUNTRY* must match the number on the face of your individual OFB 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 must match the hidden number for you to claim the cash prize.

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Cover Image

Edwin Evers and Terry Butcher Jr., are the only brothers-in-law competing on the professional Bassmasters fishing tour.



BY STEVE KOUPLEN
*President,
Oklahoma Farm Bureau*

To say that the summer of '06 will be unforgettable is probably as much of an understatement as one can make.

We faced one of the worst droughts that most of us can remember.

We suffered not only with a lack of rainfall, but with extremely hot conditions as well as problems associated with wildfires.

So, we gladly say goodbye to the summer of '06 and hope and pray for kinder and more favorable conditions this fall and winter.

In looking toward the future, and hopefully more moisture, it points out to us how our conservation efforts have paid off. It also points out how important water is – not only to us involved in agriculture – but to our urban cousins who depend on it as well.

This year the fall season also demands our attention as to the issue of local, state and national elections. Many issues that affect agriculture have been discussed with the candidates and many counties have been active in meet the candidate forums to help educate both the candidate and the voter.

Please remember your vote counts and, regardless of whom you vote for, VOTE! One of the biggest threats we face as an organization, as a state and as a country is apathy. Good people invest their time, their assets, and their dreams for the future in these campaigns and we, as voters, must do our part.

While we are dealing with issues, probably the most important issue facing agriculture is the farm bill. This issue causes most producers concern because they fear seeing their support payments reduced dramatically without access to foreign markets for their products.

Along with the farm bill, much is being discussed about disaster assistance to the many parts of the country that have suffered as we have with drought. Fuel, fertilizer and input costs have risen dramatically in conjunction with crop losses that go as high as complete losses so assistance is needed and can be justified.

So, we as Farm Bureau members will have plenty of issues to discuss at our annual meeting in Tulsa Nov. 10-12. Along with taking care of business, we will have opportunities to resume friendships as well as enjoy awards and entertainment programs.

I look forward to seeing you there and let's all make an effort to get informed and out to vote on Nov. 7.

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BY MATT WILSON
*Executive Director
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 & Affiliated Companies*

*My father taught us
 all we needed to know
 about faith and hard work
 by the simple eloquence
 of his example.*

On July 19th of this summer, I lost a friend who meant a lot to me. It was my father, Joseph Mathias Wilson Sr. As I pondered a subject for my column for this issue, I kept wanting to write a tribute to him.

To become a father is not difficult, but to be a father is. Joseph Mathias Wilson Sr. was the master of that difficult task – he was a father.

He was quite a character, and could have made it as a stand-up comedian. He was an athlete. If there had been a professional fast pitch softball league back in his day, my father would have been behind the plate playing catcher.

He was a hard worker, a handsome man, a fair man, an honest man – you get the picture, the perfect father! He lost his father when he was very young, so he really didn't have a father role model – and thus wasn't one who mentored with a lot of advice.

He taught my brother and I by example. He didn't tell us how to live. He lived and let us watch. We were taught all we needed to know about faith and hard work by the simple eloquence of his example.

He was an early riser who worked very hard, who never complained and was always looking for a better, more efficient way to do things. He had a lot of talent, but was so humble very few people ever knew of his

many abilities.

A lifelong Kentuckian, he had an indirect Oklahoma influence. His grandfather, the original Mathias Wilson, moved his family to Oklahoma in 1904 to Morris, a small Okmulgee County town. There he opened a livery stable and a hotel to cater to the needs of the thousands of people who located in or near the Glenpool oil fields.

He brought his wife, Amanda, and his four sons – Grover Cleveland Wilson, Oliver Wendall Wilson, Mathias Jr., and George Washington Wilson – with him. Perhaps it was in Oklahoma that my ancestors learned their values and work ethic.

They returned to Kentucky in 1918 because Amanda had tuberculosis.

Children blessed with a loving, caring father should consider themselves fortunate. I was, and I am.

A father is the biggest source of a strength for his children. We view them as all powerful, possessors of knowledge and the head of our family. Even in adulthood, we look up to them for experience and honest advice that is always in our best interest.

For the great figure in my life that I knew as my father, I am extremely grateful.

I hope I can be the example for my sons that he was for me.

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BY JOE BENTON
OSU Extension Director
Pottawatomie County

Fall Planting of Trees

The fall is a very desirable time of year to plant many trees in Oklahoma. Research shows that container-grown shade and ornamental trees planted in the fall may be twice the size of spring-planted shade trees when measured the following fall, if both are treated the same.

Before planting, a few decisions need to be made. First, make sure your tree variety selection does well in Oklahoma. There are a number of trees sold that live with few problems early in their life, but have numerous shortcomings as they grow older. Do some research, such as soil and moisture needs, cold and heat tolerance. Know the mature size of the tree. I have been called all too often by homeowners that have planted a tree too close to the house or other structures and must cut it down in its prime. Overhead telephone and electric lines must be accounted for when considering mature height. No one wants to see a nice mature tree cut back severely, so don't plant a large tree in those areas.

Often I am asked to recommend a fast growing tree and there are a number on the market. Remember though, fast-growing trees are normally weak wooded trees. These often will have broken limbs after

wind and ice storms as they mature. Slower growing trees are stronger wooded and can handle Oklahoma's sometimes adverse weather conditions better.

If you are looking for fall color in a tree,

purchasing that tree in the fall will give you an idea of what its fall color will look like in the future. Remember though, moisture, temperature and general health of the tree will also play a big part in fall leaf color.

Soil drainage or percolation is the greatest limitation to successful transplants in soils beyond climatic adaptation. A poorly drained clay soil is either too wet or too dry for all but the toughest type trees. Many soils have been abused during the construction process of new homes. Nice, loamy soils have often been compacted during construction. The foundation is also a favorite burial ground for building debris. Probe the bed 12 to 18 inches deep for building debris and remove it. Soil drainage, compaction, and building debris problems must be solved before planting is done.

We have now gone through the process of having the right tree for the right spot. Correct planting and early care of the new tree will help determine future health and longevity of your planting.

Recent research results have shown us some changes in what we once thought about trees and their growth previously. We now know that 85 percent of a tree's roots are in the top 24 inches of the soil. Knowing this helps us by properly planting the tree.

A planting hole should be two to three times the width of the root-ball and the same depth of the bottom of the

root-ball. When done, we want to replant the tree at the same grade or depth that it was in the container. Beyond the actual hole, loosen the soil a number of inches deep and a couple feet out to help with root penetration, then

backfill the hole with the original soil. There is no need to add anything, including fertilizer, to your hole. Fertilizer is better applied after your tree has had a chance to get established. Build a shallow water basin with excess soil around the perimeter of the tree. This basin will hold water and allow it to soak in around the roots. The ridge of the basin should be a foot or farther from the tree trunk, depending upon the size of the tree and its root system when planted.

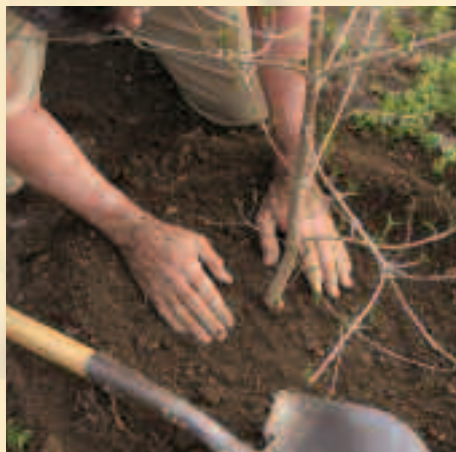
Atall tree might need staking. Don't bind the tree too tightly around the trunk as it could damage the bark. Try not to stake a tree for more than the first year. You want the tree to stand on its own as soon as possible. Applying mulch two to three inches deep around the tree will help retain moisture and curb some competition from grass. Do keep mulch from right up against the trunk of the tree, disease and insects can hide from sight in this area.

Using a tree wrap on young trees can prevent winter damage. Put your wrap around the trunk in late November and remember to take off in March. Do not allow the wrap to stay on the tree through the summer.

Now that you've planted this young tree, don't forget it. Through the winter, if we are not receiving moisture, a good deep soaking weekly is recommended. Moisture should reach eight to 12 inches deep and go out to where you think the root system has extended.

When temperatures heat up next summer, weekly watering using this method is recommended. Irrigation should continue until plants are well established two to three years depending upon how well the tree is doing. Remember deep waterings when needed are better than frequent shallow irrigation.

Proper care and planting of new trees can lead to a wonderful part of the landscape to be enjoyed by all for generations.



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GO IN THE HORSE TRAILER.**