INSIDE:

A Resting Place For The Weary Where The Eagles Soar
Some are lucky enough to inherit a Grasshopper®. Those who can’t wait, buy their own. Stop by your dealer to start your Grasshopper True ZeroTurn™ mower legacy. You’ll be amazed how much better your relatives will treat you when they think they’ve got a shot at your Grasshopper. Call (620) 345-8621.

GRASSHOPPERMOWER.COM

YOUR NEXT MOWER

NOT ALL HEIRLOOMS ARE STORED IN HOPE CHESTS.
Cover Image
A breathtaking vista awaits guests who travel to Rockland Inn, which is located about 12 miles outside of Wilburton.

Features

8 – A Resting Place For the Weary

The curtain comes up this fall on Oklahoma’s newest bed & breakfast. The magnificent facility in southeastern Oklahoma’s Kiamichi Country promises sophisticated amenities set in surroundings so picturesque that even eagles make an annual trek here to hatch and raise their eaglets.

By Mike Nichols

Columns
2 – Presidentially Speaking
4 – Executive Outlook
6 – Country Gardening

Departments
22 – All Around Oklahoma
38 – Country Classifieds
40 – Country Kitchen

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 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.
Fall has arrived and as I begin writing my last article for you as your president, I look forward to the events that will transpire at our annual meeting in Oklahoma City at the Cox Convention Center.

Members from all 77 counties will converge to accomplish tasks ranging from policy development, awards and recognition, Young Farmers and Ranchers events, Women’s Committee events, election of state directors and state president, vespers program, information break-outs, guest speakers and many more.

Our Saturday night banquet will be highlighted with the appearance of Ronnie Milsap as our entertainment. A number of elected officials and other guests will be present to enjoy a great night of fun and fellowship.

This entire convention will be squeezed into three action-packed days.

When I look back at my experiences with other organizations and compare ours to theirs, I am extremely proud of the fact that even though other organizations will use the term “grassroots organization,” we definitely are one. Our policies come from each and every county in the state. This difference is one that worked yesterday, works today and will work tomorrow.

Grassroots participation by you – our members – makes our organization. Keep up the good work and again thank you for the privilege to serve you for the last eight years as your president. The friendships and acquaintances will never be forgotten.

“Thank you for the privilege to serve you for the last eight years as your president.”

Steve Kouplen
President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau
As Oklahoma Pork producers ...

We support our local communities by giving to youth organizations as well as protecting our natural resources. We’re proud to be Oklahoma Pork Producers and support our great state.
The future of our organization depends on its voting delegates

Our 66th annual meeting is on the horizon. It’s just a few days before delegates representing our 77 member county Farm Bureaus converge on Oklahoma City’s Cox Convention Center to conduct the business of the state’s largest and most influential farm organization.

Our members and the delegates they pick to represent them at the annual meeting chart the course for this organization by adopting policy to guide us in the future and selecting our leaders.

Members originate recommendations for our policies, and members – through the delegates they pick – ultimately set the policies and direction for their organization.

With the strength of more than 166,000 member families behind them and clear instructions from those members, Oklahoma Farm Bureau staff and our volunteer leaders have accomplished remarkable results.

Whether it is one of the organization’s earliest accomplishments (state sales tax exemptions for machinery, feed, seed and fertilizer) or one of the latest (trespass law reform), Farm Bureau uses a proven system that gets results.

That’s one very important reason the annual meeting is so crucial to this organization. Another key to the success of our organization is the leaders delegates select during the annual meeting.

Young Farmers and Ranchers and Farm Bureau Women will caucus to select leaders of their groups. This year, delegates from districts three, six and nine will caucus to pick directors to represent them on the state board of directors.

The entire delegate body will select a new president for Oklahoma Farm Bureau at the 66th annual meeting. Bylaws established and adopted by delegates at previous annual meetings prohibit President Steve Kouplen from seeking another term.

Our members owe a debt of gratitude to all our elected leaders – their service to the organization they believe in encompasses many sacrifices on each one’s part.

Our members owe a debt of gratitude to all our elected leaders – their service to the organization they believe in encompasses many sacrifices on each one’s part.
Joint Privacy Notice

Our Commitment To Safeguarding Your Privacy

This Joint Privacy Notice is being provided to you to inform you of our practices and procedures regarding the sharing of nonpublic personal information. Nonpublic personal information is personally identifiable financial information about you, your family, or your household that we may obtain directly from you, that we may obtain as a result of our business dealings with you, or that we may obtain from any other source.

We do not engage in the practice of disclosing your nonpublic personal information to nonaffiliated third parties other than, as necessary, to provide quality insurance services to our customers. For instance, we do not sell your name, address or telephone number to telemarketers or to direct mail solicitors. We do not engage in "list-selling," and we do not offer your personal information to publishing houses, retailers, or coupon companies.

During the continuation of our customer relationship with you, we will also provide you with a copy of this Joint Privacy Notice at least once during each calendar year as part of a regular mailing, such as within a billing or a renewal notice or with a policy and at any time that you request in writing a copy of this Joint Privacy Notice. Further, because of federal and state laws, regulations and business practices can change at any time, we may revise this Joint Privacy Notice accordingly. Once you cease to be a policyholder, we will stop sending you annual privacy notices.

Information We May Collect & Use

During the course of reviewing your application for insurance coverage and deciding whether or not to underwrite the insurance policy, for which you have applied, and, if we issue you a policy, during the course of providing services to you as required by the policy, we collect and evaluate information from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications or other forms;
- Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates or others;
- Information we receive from consumer reporting agencies; and
- Information we receive from state or federal agencies.

It is important for us to collect and use this information to properly provide, administer and perform services on your behalf. We could not provide optimum service to you without collecting and using this information.

Information We May Disclose

We regard all of your personal information as confidential. Therefore, we do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about our customers or former customers to anyone except as permitted by law. In the course of conducting our business dealings, we may disclose to other parties certain information we have about you. These disclosures are only made in accordance with applicable laws, and may include disclosures to insurers, administrators, service providers, consultants and regulatory or governmental authorities. Furthermore, certain disclosures of information will be made to your Farm Bureau personnel authorized to have access to your personal information for the purpose of administering your business and providing services to you.

We may disclose the following categories of information to companies that perform services on our behalf or to other financial institutions with which we have joint marketing agreements:

- Information we received from you on applications or other forms, such as your name, address, Social Security number, county Farm Bureau membership number, assets, income and beneficiaries;
- Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates or others, such as your policy coverage, premium, loss history and payment history; and
- Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency, such as your creditworthiness and credit history.

We may disclose nonpublic personal information about you to the following types of third parties:

- Financial service providers, such as life insurers, automobile insurers, mortgage bankers, securities broker-dealers, and insurance agents;
- Nonfinancial companies, such as retailers, direct marketers, airlines, and publishers; and
- Others, such as nonprofit organizations.

These entities with which we share personal information are required to treat your information with confidentiality. Information we do not authorize these parties to use or disclose your personal information for any purpose other than for the express purpose of performing work on our behalf or as required or permitted by law.

How We Maintain The Confidentiality & Security Of Your Information

We carefully restrict access to nonpublic personal information about our employees, our independent contractor insurance agents, our service contract providers, and our affiliates and subsidiaries. The right of our employees, our independent contractor insurance agents, our service contract providers, and our affiliates and subsidiaries to further disclose and use the information is limited by our employee handbook, agent’s manual, applicable law, and nondisclosure agreements where appropriate. We maintain physical electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal and state law to guard your nonpublic personal information.

Your Opt-Out Right

We reserve the right to disclose nonpublic personal information about our customers to nonaffiliated third party. However, if you prefer that we do not disclose nonpublic personal financial information about you to nonaffiliated third parties, you may opt out of those disclosures, that is, you may direct us not to make those disclosures (information sharing which is permitted by law) to nonaffiliated third parties, you may choose one of the following options:

1. Complete the opt-out form on our web-site located at okfaminurance.com or
2. Mail or Fax the attached opt-out form to us.

Fax: 405-523-2851.

Your opt-out form must reach us within 30 days of your receipt of our privacy notice. Your opt-out request will take effect on the 7th day following receipt of your request, to allow for notification to all applicable affiliated or nonaffiliated third parties.

If you share your account with another person, either of you may opt-out of disclosures other than disclosures permitted by law for both of you. Please indicate on the Opt-Out Notice form if you are opting-out for one or both of you.

Conclusion

If you have any questions or comments concerning this Privacy Notice or our privacy standards and procedures, please write us at Post Office Box 53332, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152-3332.

Our functional regulator is the State of Oklahoma, Department of Insurance. If we cannot resolve your concerns or answer your questions, feel free to contact our regulatory body.

This Joint Privacy Notice describes our company’s privacy policy and practices in accordance with the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 USC §6801, and with various state-specific privacy/financial information laws and regulations in the states in which our company does business.

Copyright © 2007 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Companies
2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

OPT-OUT NOTICE

I prefer that you do not disclose nonpublic personal financial information about me to nonaffiliated third parties, (other than disclosures permitted by law, which include sharing information with our affiliates & nonaffiliates about our transactions or experiences with you for business, administrative and other legal purposes).

In order for an opt-out notice to be valid, all required information must be completed.

Clip & mail this form to:
OFRMC, c/o Opt-Out Notice
P.O. Box 53332 • Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332

*Name: ________________________________
*Address: ________________________________
*City: ____________________
*Phone Number: ________________________________
*Email: ________________________________
*Policy Number: ________________________________
*Membership Number: ________________________________

Oklahoma Country • Fall 2007 • 5
Preparing the garden for winter

Many of us gardeners have mixed feelings about this time of year — sad to see another garden year draw to a close, but at the same time relieved to get a break from the chores of weeding, watering, pruning and more weeding. But before you hibernate, there are still a few more chores to take care of outdoors.

Winter mulch isn’t necessary for all garden plants, but it can mean survival for some less hardy plants. Winter mulch has a different purpose than summer mulch. The main benefits of winter cover are to protect against wide temperature fluctuations in the soil and to prevent extreme cold temperatures from harming plants.

Soil tends to heave when subjected to wide temperature changes, pushing plant roots up out of the ground. Heaving is most harmful to relatively shallow-rooted plants, such as strawberries and newly planted specimens of any kind that have not yet had a chance to develop solid footing. Winter mulch also prevents extreme cold damage to above-ground plant parts.

In most cases, 2 to 4 inches of mulch, such as straw, pine needles, hay or bark chips, give adequate protection. For some plants, such as roses, more elaborate protection is needed.

Timing is critical when applying winter mulch. It’s best to wait until after temperatures are consistently below freezing to apply the mulch. Normally, this is well into November or early December. Applying too early can smother the plant and encourage disease development.

Winterizing your landscape plants is just as important as winterizing your car. Those bright, sunny days of winter may be a welcome sight to us humans, but they can spell trouble for some landscape plants. Direct sunshine on young thin-barked trees warms the bark considerably. But when the sun goes down, air temperatures drop rapidly, and that can result in the tree’s bark splitting. Other types of winter injury are also common, including breakage from heavy snow and ice, severe drying and animal feeding damage. However, you can help protect your plants by properly preparing them for the winter season.

Shading young, thin-barked trees on the south and west sides will help prevent bark splits from temperature extremes. This splitting is called southwest injury. The bark tends to split vertically on the sunny side of the tree, because as the temperatures drop rapidly at sundown, the outer bark cools down and contracts faster than the inner bark. Thus, the outer bark must split to accommodate what’s below. Wrapping the trunks with commercial tree wrap provides some protection.

You can’t do very much about excessively low temperatures. But you should be sure that the plants chosen for the landscape are hardy to our average winter conditions and otherwise adapted to the individual site conditions.

All plants, but especially evergreens, are susceptible to drying out over winter. The above-ground parts, such as twigs and evergreen leaves, are very much alive and are continuously losing water through a process called transpiration. The result is drying leaves, buds and twigs. Sunny, windy conditions cause water to be lost from the tops more rapidly, further aggravating the situation. Broad-leaved evergreens are particularly susceptible since they have a greater leaf surface to lose water from.

Making sure the plants have a sufficient supply of soil moisture before the ground freezes, on a regular basis, will help create healthier specimens to fight the winter battle. Water thoroughly, every seven to 10 days, if fall rains are not sufficient. Shading susceptible plants from winter sun and wind also can be helpful. Plant highly susceptible plants, such as rhododendrons, on the north side of the house or a hedge to avoid strong winter sun.

Don’t forget that trees and shrubs do not die in the winter. If the winter is dry, remember to water every couple of weeks. Their root system is still picking up moisture even if the plant has no leaves.

Multi-stemmed shrubs seem to be particularly prone to damage from heavy snow and ice loads. The intense weight of snow and ice bends branches to the ground, breaking the bark and cutting off circulation of the food manufactured by the leaves to the roots. Starving roots eventually die, which leaves the tops without a supply of water, and eventually the whole plant will die. The process could take several years.

To prevent damage from heavy loads, support multi-stemmed plants by bundling the stems together using burlap, canvas or chicken wire. Simply binding stems together with cord will do in a pinch. Be sure to carefully remove heavy snow as soon as possible, but don’t try to remove ice. More damage to the bark probably will occur than if the ice is allowed to melt on its own.

Picking up old leaves and twigs will help prevent disease next spring. Fungal disease spores that were present last spring and summer often reside in the left over leaf material. Good cleanup will help control or at least hopefully postpone its start next spring.

Now you’ve earned that trip to the Bahamas!
Larry and Karla Boggs and their grandson, Brandon, stand in front of the huge maple entry doors at Rockland Inn. Guests will be welcomed just inside here when the retreat opens this fall.

A resting place for the weary

Where the
It has required about six year's worth of perseverance, but the dream is poised to become reality this fall when the huge maple doors swing open wide to formally introduce Rockland Inn in Kiamichi Country.

Sitting on a stage painted by Mother Nature with a magnificent backdrop of tree-covered mountains reflecting in the blue waters of a tranquil 40-acre lake, it promises sophisticated amenities in an out-of-the-way milieu.

This dream-about-to-come-true was once but an image shared by owners Karla and Larry Boggs. This fall, the curtain comes up on their vision.

“I’d always thought the property was so beautiful,” says Karla, who spent some of her adolescent years here watching her late father steward this land with diverse enterprises ranging from commercial minnow production to a 2,000-head herd of sheep-for-wool.

“I kept saying the place is too pretty and needs to be shared.”

Eagles Soar

Kiamichi Country’s newest bed & breakfast prepares to welcome guests.

By Mike Nichols