

Oklahoma



The Magazine of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Volume 68 No. 3

Country



a backup plant

Oklahoma farmers diversify operations
and spread risk with summer-planted crops.

The Water Problem

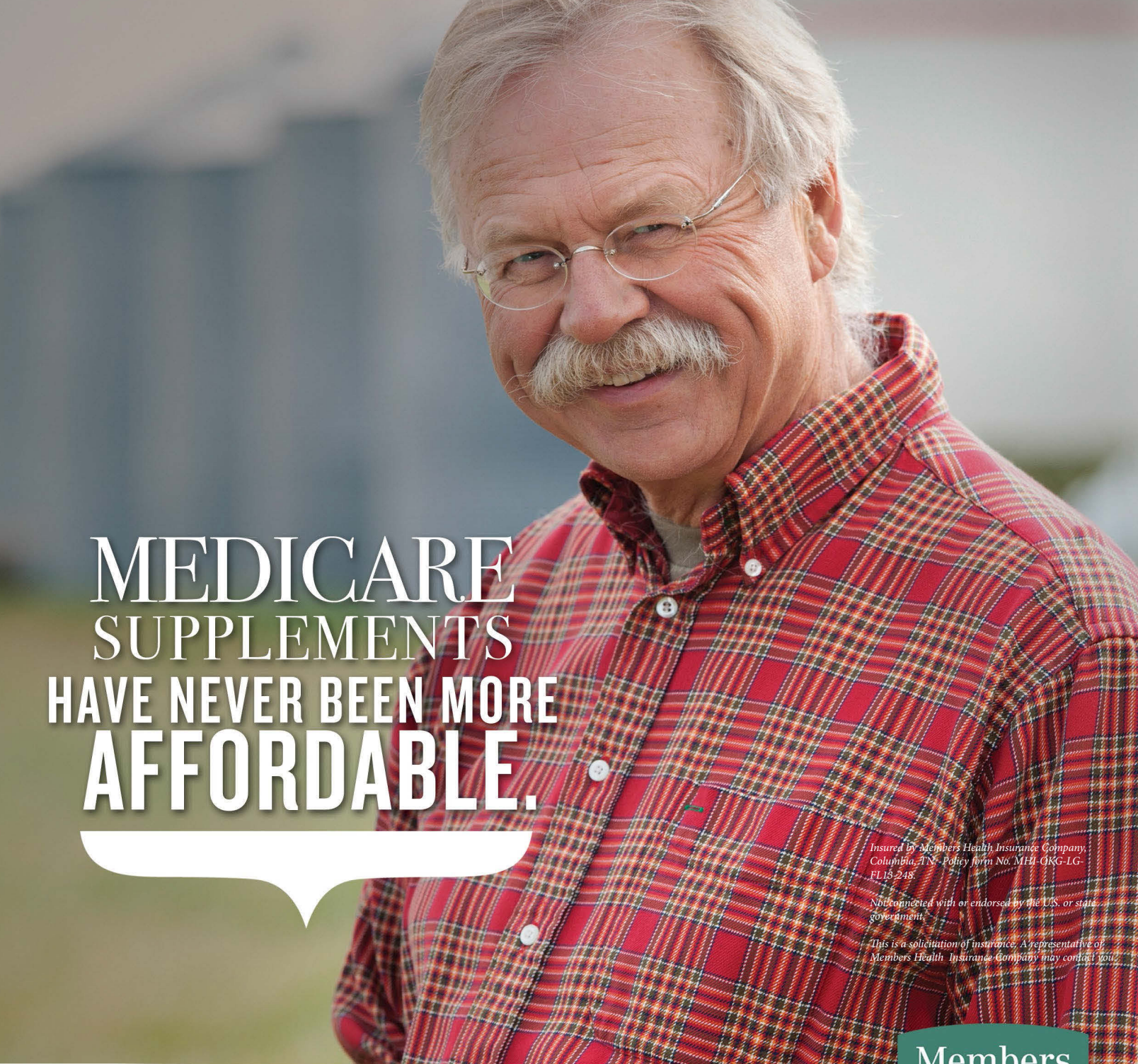
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Oklahoma *Country*

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ON THE COVER

Steve Clark grew up producing wheat, but with help from the weather and technological advancements, he supplements his operation with other crops. Learn more about him and other farmers on page 16.

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

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The Water Problem

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Over the past few years, Oklahoma experienced a significant drought only to face its wettest month on record in May. Is this feast or famine preventable?

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Convention Preview

The 2015 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Convention is just around the corner in November. Learn about highlights, see the schedule and more.



PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING

Securing the future of agriculture

By Tom Buchanan

President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies

In five days, I traveled 3,200 miles for August Area Meetings. From Guymon to McAlester, Hobart to Pryor, Ada to Enid, and points in between, the opportunity for the staff of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and myself to meet you and your fellow members was informative and confidence building. Regardless of the area, the most popular topics of conversation were recent activity of the legislature, along with feral hogs, wind power, and present and future state budget deficits.

However, the top two issues discussed at length across the state were water and the Right to Farm and Ranch. Remaining watchful of legislative action is a constant of your Public Policy Division, and continuing to lead the discussion in Oklahoma on water as you have directed will be a focus moving forward in the future.

The immediate laser focus of OKFB between now and November 2016, will be passing State Question 777, or the Right to Farm. For the next 12 months, "Yes on 777" will be our mantra.

As I am learning, we are now in the beginnings of a statewide campaign to educate and convince our fellow Oklahomans of the importance of agriculture to the entire state and why we deserve constitutional protection. The simple answer is the growing influence of environmental activists whose intent is to dramatically alter the second leading economic impact of Oklahoma, today's farming and ranching practices. Allowing you to continue producing the safest, most abundant supply of food and fiber to feed and clothe a growing world population should convince fellow Oklahomans to vote Yes on 777.

Along with securing the future of Oklahoma agriculture, SQ777 more importantly grants constitutional protection to consumers, as Right to Farm will guarantee consumer choice of food and fiber. The measure also will help protect an abundant, affordable choice for those consumers at every economic level.

As the grassroots process of resolutions start, please remember to use the policy development guide as you draft policy. This is the process that separates OKFB from the crowd, as individual members can and do influence and direct policy for the future. Policy development is one of the crowning jewels and the cornerstone of your organization. I look forward to being involved in the process from the county level

through resolutions committee, and of course the action of the delegate body at state convention as you finalize the 2016 policy book.

By the way, as I traveled the state from corner to corner the blessing of abundant rainfall was very apparent. As

we can all remember spring and early summer were trying with high water, but we are now seeing the benefits of rain, as the state is green from top to bottom. I hope you have a great late summer and fall, I'll see you at county annual meetings or the state convention in November and remember Yes on 777!

“Allowing you to continue producing the safest, most abundant supply of food and fiber to feed and clothe a growing world population should convince fellow Oklahomans to vote Yes on 777.”

— Tom Buchanan

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for a retirement that's financially secure.





INSURANCE MATTERS

Oklahomans serving Oklahomans

By Richard Newberry

General Manager, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company

We are Oklahomans serving Oklahomans. What other insurance company in our state can say that? It's in our name. We are your neighbor down the street, fellow church member, little league coach and FFA supporter. We are over 800 strong, working OKFB partners in your local communities. We couldn't be your professional Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance agent if we weren't a fellow Oklahoman first.

We are the first to respond after that storm, car accident, wildfire or disaster because we know exactly where the friends we serve live and thrive. It's no coincidence we are located in all 77 counties. When our competitors are handing out water bottles, we are handing out checks. Why? We know when we watch the news and see a neighborhood devastated by storms, that's your neighborhood. We don't sit idly by the phone waiting to hear from a claims department located in another state. We get in our car and drive to your home to help you begin the arduous task of healing from a disaster. We are swift to respond, because OFBMIC has nine claims offices located conveniently around the state to provide unprecedented response service.

When a large-scale disaster strikes Oklahoma, we can't always be everywhere at once, but our Oklahoma Strong spirit can. In the event of an unfortunate loss, we have real people who answer your calls 24/7 via our toll free phone number. Just dial 1-877-OFB-CLAIMS. Your call will never be forwarded to an afterhours recording or message service. Real people will be there to help you with your real needs. We also have staff available to serve you 24/7, in the event your home becomes unlivable due to a covered loss.

OFBMIC agents are mobile and so is your life. We have created an online portal that allows you to check membership status, print documents related to policies, including declarations, invoices, security verification forms, and more.

Members may view policy details, payment history and claims history. With the OKFB Insured Portal, users also can make premium payments with a debit, checking or savings account by visiting www.okfarminsurance.com and clicking, "Login to my Insurance." If you are not a registered user, click on the link, "Sign up for a New Account," and have one

of these items on hand: zip code, premium amount, phone number, last billed amount, date of birth, or driver's license. OFBMIC has been protecting

“We are proud to serve the needs of all Oklahomans because this is our home, too.”

— Richard Newberry

the livelihood of Oklahomans for over 60 years, and we will continue to be the voice of agriculture and to protect your interests for years to come. Although our mission is protecting the lives of rural Oklahomans, we are proud to serve the needs of all Oklahomans because this is our home, too!



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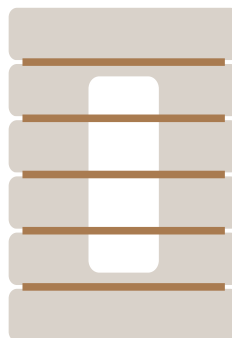
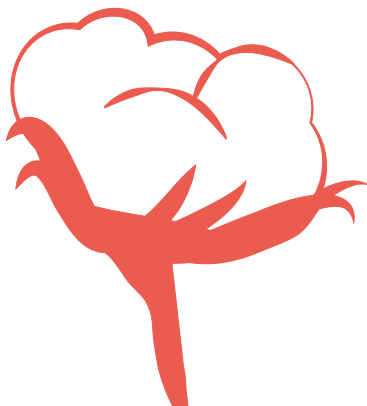
COTTON

Did you know cotton is one of Oklahoma's top 10 agricultural commodities? Most of the state's cotton is used for apparel.

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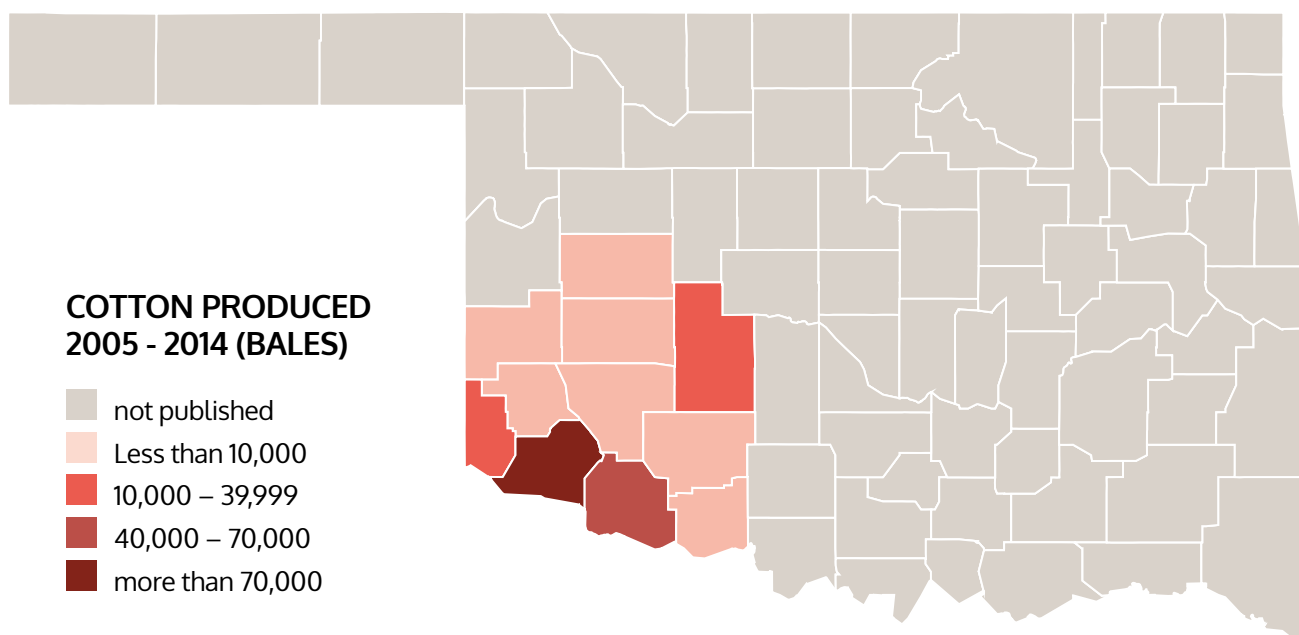
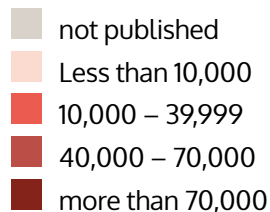
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ONE 480-POUND BALE CONTAINS
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COTTON PRODUCED 2005 - 2014 (BALES)



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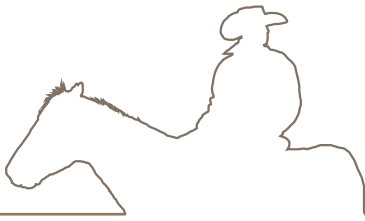
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Everything you need to know about Right to Farm

What is State Question 777?

State Question 777, also known as Right to Farm, is a culmination of several years of hard work from our Oklahoma Farm Bureau members, leaders and staff. About three years ago, members wanted to create constitutional protection for farmers and ranchers in the state of Oklahoma — so we made it a legislative priority.

During the 2015 legislative session, the Oklahoma legislature passed HJR 1012 that will send the constitutional amendment to a vote of the people in November 2016. Called State Question 777, the amendment will guarantee the rights to engage in farming and ranching including the right to make use of agricultural technology, livestock procedures and ranching practices. If passed, the amendment also will prevent any new law from interfering with these rights without a “compelling state interest.”

What is a compelling state interest?

The “compelling state interest” language in the amendment allows Oklahoma lawmakers to write a law interfering with these rights only if it will affect the health, safety and/or welfare of the general public. Essentially, lawmakers will not be able to limit these rights without tangible proof of need.

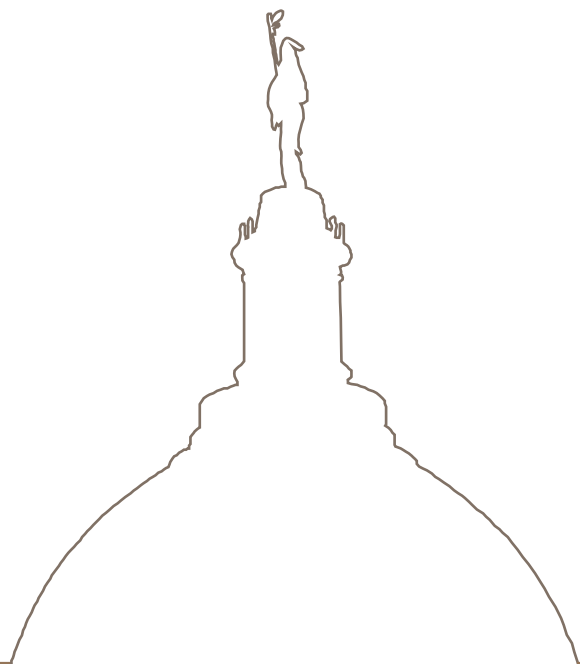
The language also gives the amendment the power of the highest level of judicial scrutiny. A law must pass the test of the Oklahoma state court to impede the rights of agriculturalists.

Oklahoma is a primarily rural state. Why do we need to protect farmers and ranchers?

Each and every day anti-agriculture groups like the Humane Society of the United States, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the Sierra Club and more are advocating to completely eliminate the agricultural industry. HSUS has spent millions of dollars to target everything from egg farming in California to deer hunting in North Dakota. They oppose the Right to Farm because they oppose farmers, ranchers, hunters and all meat eaters. We want to pass the Right to Farm amendment now, before these radical groups have a chance attack Oklahoma agriculturalists. We want to ensure our kids and grandkids continue to enjoy the same farms and ranches — and rights — as we do today. We are asking Oklahoma voters to support the family farmers and ranchers who work hard each day to feed and clothe the world.

What will Right to Farm do?

Right to Farm will give Oklahoma farmers and ranchers another tool in their toolbox to defend themselves from unnecessary laws and regulations. By guarding against overly restrictive laws and regulations that limit the ability of farmers and ranchers to decide the best production methods, Right to Farm will ensure consumers continue to have the power to choose the food and fiber best for them. If the amendment is passed, Oklahoma courts ultimately will determine the scope of Right to Farm. However, the amendment gives farmers and ranchers a degree of protection they currently lack and need for the future.



with John Collison,
OKFB Vice President of Public Policy and Media Relations

What will change if Right to Farm passes?

Right to Farm will create additional constitutional protection for farmers and ranchers, giving them a defense against future laws that could jeopardize their ability to farm or ranch. The amendment will not give farmers and ranchers a blank check. All rights still will be subject to reasonable regulation.

You've sold me. How do I get involved?

If you believe in the importance of protecting our state's agricultural heritage, today is the day to get on board with the campaign. The most vital aspect of the campaign at this point is fundraising. At OKFB, we've challenged each of our county Farm Bureaus to donate \$10,000, and several have already contributed. We also need funds from individuals. In a campaign such as this, it is imperative to raise money early. If the anti-agriculture groups see we are serious about this campaign, they will back off and realize Oklahoma is not worth their time.

We also need your presence and influence in your community. It's important that you share SQ777 with your friends and family. Our well-trained staff is prepared to speak at any of your community gatherings such as churches, civic organizations and youth organizations. Although it will not be voted on for another year, it is crucial we begin now. Agriculture always has been important to our state — let's stand together to make sure it stays that way!

To get involved, contact:

Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Public Policy Department
405.530.2681

or visit the Right to Farm website at:
www.OklahomaRightToFarm.com



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@YesOn777

OSU students team up to tell true story of agriculture

By Amanda Rosholt

Director of Fundraising and Public Relations for the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation

Behind every successful agricultural operation are people who have a unique story. Seed manufacturers, producers, veterinarians and everyone in between provide opportunities to learn more about production agriculture and rural life.

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is proud to help tell the stories of the families involved in agriculture in our state. We are honored to support and encourage the next generation of individuals who will work to share our message and advocate for agriculture.

We are excited for the opportunity to work with students from Oklahoma State University, and one of the best agricultural communications departments in the country, to expand the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation's Producer Perspective series.

"This partnership makes perfect sense," said Shelly Sitton, professor of agricultural communications and academic advisor in the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Leadership at OSU.

"Our students are gaining real-world experience, writing feature stories about the outstanding individuals involved in Oklahoma agriculture," she said.

While outside groups are focused on telling the general public what they think is wrong in production agriculture, the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is focused on sharing what we're doing right. And it is effective. Research shows that consumers trust farmers and ranchers. In fact, consumers ranked farmers as the most trusted source of information for agricultural food production according to a 2014 study conducted by Bayer CropScience.

About half of the population around the world today lives in cities. Fast forward to 2050 and it is estimated that 80 percent

“Giving urban populations an opportunity to meet the individuals who are producing their food, fuel and fiber is essential to keeping them connected to agriculture.”

— Amanda Rosholt

of people will live in urban areas. Giving urban populations an opportunity to meet the individuals who are producing their food, fuel and fiber through stories like these is essential to keeping them connected to agriculture.

Many consumers desire the benefits of modern agriculture, but they are apprehensive about the technology it involves. Farmers and ranchers are the key to bridging that gap. More than half of American consumers say they would like to talk to a farmer, even though over 90 percent of them have no connection with agriculture or farming.

Consumers have a desire to learn more from the producers themselves and this series gives them an opportunity to do so. Follow the Producer Perspective series on the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation website, www.OkFarmingAndRanchingFoundation.org and help share the stories on social media. Together, we will continue to make an impact.



Comanche County Farm Bureau board of directors continue to support the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation through a monetary donation in August.

Comanche County Farm Bureau continues support of Foundation

The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is honored to recognize Comanche County Farm Bureau for its continued support. Through the vision and leadership of former President Don Hankins, Comanche County joined the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation as a founding member in 2011.

Recently, the Comanche County Farm Bureau board of directors voted to continue its strong support of the Foundation with a platinum level donation. Current President Kerry Givens serves on the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation board of directors as a representative for Comanche County.

“Comanche County Farm Bureau is committed to moving agriculture forward,” Givens said. “Supporting the Oklahoma

Farming and Ranching Foundation gives us an opportunity to ensure that our children and grandchildren will enjoy the same farming and ranching opportunities we are blessed with today.”

Other members of the Comanche County Farm Bureau board of directors are: Damon Doye, vice president (Lawton); Benny Taylor, secretary (Elgin); Don Fischer, treasurer (Chattanooga); Wayne Kiser, director (Elgin); Edward Bard, director (Lawton); Stuart Henderson, director (Lawton); Adam Bohl, director (Chattanooga); and Russell Kirz, director (Lawton.)

This is a huge financial commitment for a county, and the Foundation is so appreciative of its continued support to protect and promote production agriculture in Oklahoma.





A BACKUP PLANT

STORY BY HANNAH NEMECEK

PHOTOS BY DUSTIN MIELKE

Adam Bohl stands in his dryland cotton field in late August. He walks down the rows, pointing out various shades of pink flowers that will soon become bolls of cotton. As he picks up a boll shed from its plant, he talks about years when his rows were lined with fallen bolls. But this year, although hesitant, he seems positive.

A fifth-generation farmer, Bohl said his family has produced cotton since the 1960s and 1970s. His parents' families were instrumental in constructing the Tri-County Gin just outside of his hometown of Chattanooga, Oklahoma.

While cotton has played a large role in the Bohl family farm, wheat is still its primary crop. This year, however, the

wheat crop was less than ideal. On average, his wheat yielded 15 bushels per acre.

"Our wheat was one of the biggest letdowns I've had in several years," he said. "It looked like a very good crop early on, but it just wasn't there at harvest."

Traditionally, wheat is Oklahoma's No. 1 commodity. But when it fails, Oklahoma farmers have other options to fall back on — summer-planted crops like cotton, corn and milo.

Bohl's wheat was disappointing, but the summer rains provided hope for a promising cotton crop this fall.

"We're either going to have slightly above average or potentially one of the best crops in history," Bohl said.



"I WOULDN'T
WANT TO DO
ANYTHING ELSE."
- STEVE CLARK

Like all farmers in the world, Bohl is reliant upon the weather. Without rain at just the right time, his crops will suffer.

"We're very dependent on Mother Nature," he said.

But the Comanche County Farm Bureau board member also has help from a technological advancement – genetically modified cotton.

"I know GMOs sound scary to a lot of people," he said. "In reality, all they're doing is taking a year to do what would've been 10 years."

This year, Bohl said his Roundup-ready cotton "made all the difference."

His fields were too wet to plow, so weeds stood in the field as he planted the crop. Because it was Roundup-ready, Bohl was able to spray the crop with herbicide without harming it.

"The Roundup-ready cotton has allowed us to better farm a larger area than we could have previously," he said.

Bohl said his cotton also is bred with bollworm resistance, which prevents the need to spray for insecticide.

A prosperous cotton crop is important, Bohl said. An average year versus a good year could mean a difference of \$200 per acre, compared to only \$30 to \$40 with wheat, he said.

In a year with an unsuccessful wheat crop, a good cotton crop can help make up the difference.

"It's very nice to have the potential [for a good crop] right now," he said.

Just ask Steve Clark, Alfalfa County Farm Bureau YF&R chairman, who planted around 500 acres of corn and yielded

between 110- and 130-bushels per acre.

Like most Oklahoma wheat farmers, Clark's wheat crop was discouraging this year.

"The wheat just didn't yield what we were hoping it would," Clark said.

But the wet spring and summer provided a successful corn harvest and helped supplement his farm's income.

Clark farms around 3,000 acres with his father and grandfather in Burlington, Oklahoma. The family operation is mostly wheat and cattle, but also includes corn, milo, alfalfa, beans and even sesame.

Corn is a high-risk crop, but Clark said it has done well over the last few years. Because of the high cost of seed and other inputs, he takes quite a gamble in producing corn.

A variety of technologies help Clark produce a successful crop including no-till, auto steer, grid sampling and seed technology.

"When I was younger, we were conventional farmers," he said. "We would plow, chisel and disk. Then we got a hold of the no-till bug."

Clark said his genetically modified corn variety is bred for drought tolerance and helps him easily produce 100- to 120-bushel per acre yields. He also said it contributes to safer and better overall crop.

"The (genetically modified) plant is healthier and has a better end product to use," he said.

Producing a good corn crop is even more important for Clark, as his farm is vertically integrated. Most of the grain he



"IT'S CRAZY THE
RISK WE PUT ON
THE TABLE TO
FEED AND CLOTHE
THE WORLD."

- ZAC HARRIS

produces feeds his cattle throughout the winter.

"Because we have to use corn in our rations every year, the corn we can raise is very beneficial," Clark said. "If it's a drier year and it doesn't yield quite what we hope it will, we would have to buy the corn somewhere else and have it shipped here."

When his corn and other summer-planted crops do well, it lessens the burden of a failed wheat crop.

"Wheat is traditionally the major crop in this area," Clark said. "But when you get summer rains, we've had a lot better luck with summer crops. They're a great addition."

Zac Harris also appreciates the success of his summer-planted crops, especially after a poor wheat harvest.

"All in all, the wheat was a disappointment," Harris said, as he stood in his milo field mid-harvest.

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers chairman farms with his father near Hobart, Oklahoma.

Harris said his family farm has always produced more wheat than any other crop. But he remembers helping his dad harvest cotton growing up.

"When I was little, I would sleep in the hallway so my dad would have to walk over me and wouldn't leave me," he said, laughing. "I was helping my dad all the time."

Since returning to the farm after graduating from Oklahoma State University, the young farmer has tried a variety of crops and diversified his operation. This year in addition to wheat, he planted alfalfa and milo.

"We've always had a different crop so we're not putting all our eggs in one basket," Harris said. "It spreads our risk. We're not solely dependent on one crop and one time of year."

For Harris, a good milo crop helps offset his disappointing wheat crop.

"Milo seems to be, at least for us, the new king around here," he said. "I only wish I had another 1,000 or 2,000 acres, the way the summer's been with rainfall."

While rainfall is one of the biggest factors in a successful crop, Harris said technologies also aid in his ability to produce a crop.

"We are primarily no-till now," he said. "We're able to farm more acres than we were in the past with the same amount of time and labor."

No-till reduces the amount of inputs on each field, allowing Harris to farm more acres in a shorter period of time.

Harris also uses specific varieties of milo bred for drought-resistance, which can be helpful when Oklahoma experiences long lapses of rainfall.

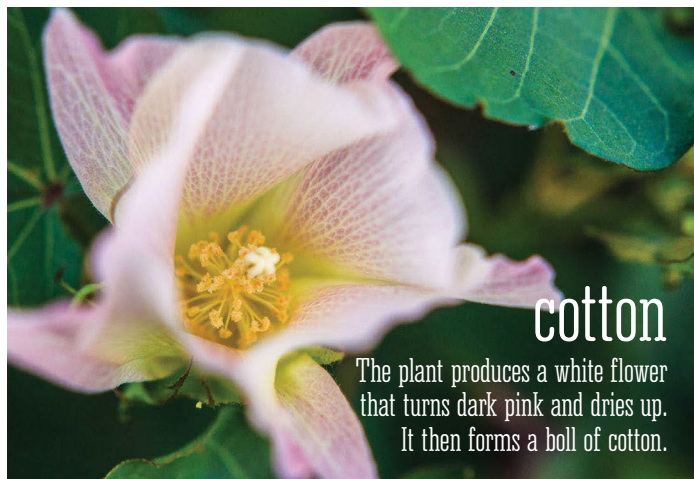
"Crops nowadays are bred for higher yields, more drought tolerance and more adaptability in any region," he said.

Technology has increased efficiency and profitability, but farmers always will be forced to take risks.

"There's so much volatility in our livelihood anymore," Harris said. "It's just crazy the risk we sometimes put on the table to feed and clothe the world."

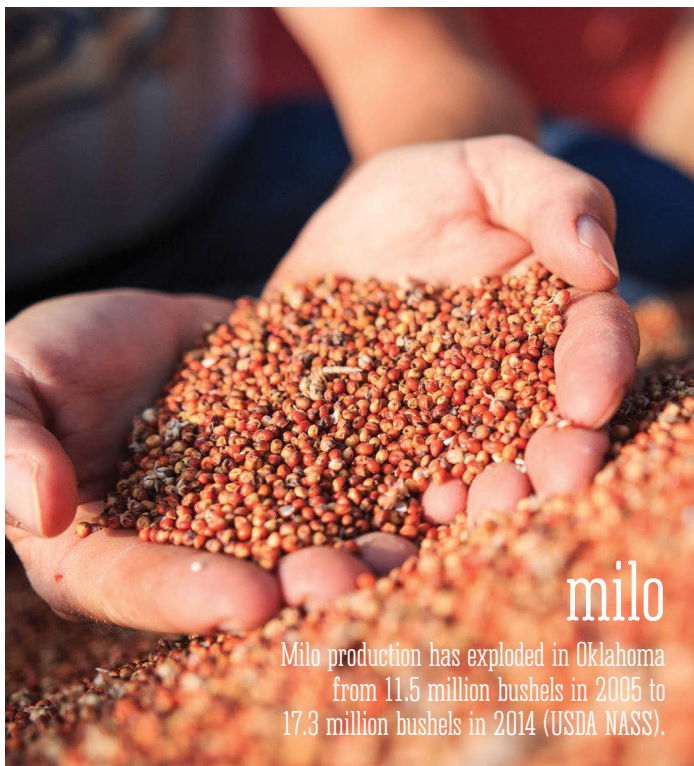
Oklahoma farmers will face challenges when producing a crop, but with help from the weather and technological advancements, they can continue to do what they love – maintain a safe, abundant and affordable food supply.

"You just take advantage of a wet spring and summer and raise some really good crops," Clark said. "I wouldn't want to do anything else." **FB**



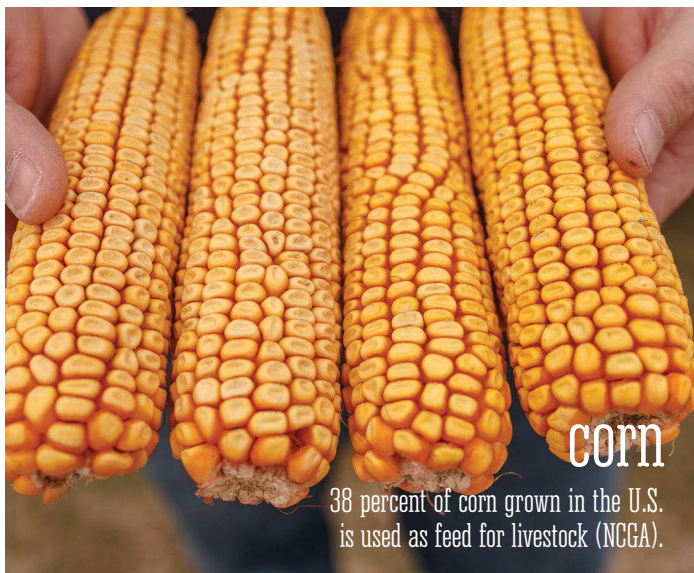
cotton

The plant produces a white flower that turns dark pink and dries up. It then forms a boll of cotton.



milo

Milo production has exploded in Oklahoma from 11.5 million bushels in 2005 to 17.3 million bushels in 2014 (USDA NASS).



corn

38 percent of corn grown in the U.S. is used as feed for livestock (NCGA).

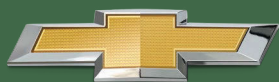
FARM BUREAU® YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS PROGRAM

YF&R SHAPES THE FUTURE

The YF&R program helps young members shape the future of agriculture, as well as their individual futures, with leadership development and personal growth opportunities. Through three competitions, members are able to showcase their leadership experience, communication skills and successful farm plans as they compete against the best of the best Farm Bureau has to offer.



As part of the YF&R competitions, winners in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag areas will receive their choice of a **2016 Chevrolet Silverado** or **GMC Sierra truck**, courtesy of Chevrolet. Three national finalists in each competition will receive a **Case IH Farmall tractor**, courtesy of Case IH, as well as a **\$2,500 cash prize** and **\$500 in STIHL** merchandise.



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For more information about YF&R competitive events contact your state Farm Bureau or contact AFBF at yfr@fb.org or 202-406-3600.

CONVENTION PREVIEW

A heritage worth preserving, a future worth protecting

2015 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Convention



Oklahoma Farm Bureau convention to be held Nov. 13 – 15 in Oklahoma City

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from across the state will meet at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City Nov. 13-15 for OKFB's 74th annual meeting.

This year's convention theme of "A Heritage Worth Preserving, A Future Worth Protecting" focuses on the importance of fighting for agriculture and rural Oklahoma. The annual event serves as a premier opportunity for Oklahoma farmers and ranchers to gather together and make their voices heard as they set organizational policy and give direction for the upcoming state legislative session.

The meeting also includes presentation of numerous OKFB awards, the election of three district directors, a trade show, general sessions and selection of delegates for the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in 2016.

New this year, the OKFB awards program will take place

during the first general session on Friday afternoon, giving convention attendees an evening to spend in Oklahoma City. Convention goers also can learn about the State Question 777 campaign at the Right to Farm Ice Cream Social held Friday afternoon.

Lorrie Morgan, country music singer and songwriter, will entertain members on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. following the annual OKFB banquet. Tickets are \$32 and will be available for purchase in the trade show area of the convention center.

The Residence Inn Marriott is still taking reservations and may be contacted at 405-601-1700. For more information, contact Melisa Neal at 405-523-2475.

The tentative convention schedule and information is included on the following page. For the latest convention information, please visit www.okfarmbureau.org.



CONVENTION SCHEDULE

*Schedule is current as of press time. Updated schedules will be posted online at okfarmbureau.org.
The final schedule will be distributed at convention.*

Friday, November 13

8 a.m.	Credentials Committee Breakfast
9 a.m.	Registration Opens
10 a.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Round 1
10 a.m.	YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Judging
10 a.m.	Trade Show Opens
10:45 a.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Round 2
11:15 a.m.	State Board Meeting and Luncheon
11:30 a.m.	Women's Leadership Committee Luncheon
11:30 a.m.	YF&R Discussion Meet Finals and Luncheon
1:30 p.m.	Opening Session – Awards Program
4:30 p.m.	Right to Farm Ice Cream Social
5 p.m.	OKAgFund Meeting
5 p.m.	YF&R Dinner and Caucus
5 p.m.	Commodity Meeting

Saturday, November 14

7:30 a.m.	Flapjack Fundraiser
7:30 a.m.	Credentials Committee Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Financial Review Committee Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Resolutions Committee Breakfast
8 a.m.	Registration Opens
8 a.m.	Trade Show Opens
8:45 a.m.	OFBMIC Policyholders Meeting
9:30 a.m.	General Session
12 p.m.	Credentials Committee Meeting
12:30 p.m.	Women's Leadership Committee Gavel Club Luncheon
1:30 p.m.	District Caucuses (Districts 2, 4 and 8)
2:15 p.m.	General Session
6 p.m.	OKAgFund Reception
7 p.m.	Dinner and Entertainment featuring Lorrie Morgan*

**Tickets are \$32 and can be purchased in the trade show area.*

Sunday, November 15

7:30 a.m.	County Presidents Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Women's Leadership Committee Chairman's Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast of Champions
9:15 a.m.	Memorial and Worship Service



THE WATER PROBLEM

STORY BY HANNAH NEMECEK
PHOTOS BY DUSTIN MIELKE

FARMERS AND RANCHERS ALL HAVE A COMMON FRIEND — AND SOMETIMES ENEMY — CALLED RAIN. CROPS AND LIVESTOCK CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT IT. WHAT IF PRODUCERS NEVER HAD TO WORRY ABOUT HAVING ENOUGH WATER?

On average, 36 million acre-feet of water flow out of the state of Oklahoma each year, according to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. That's more than 11 trillion gallons of water and nearly 18 times the amount of water used annually in Oklahoma.

At the same time, the past few years were marked by a devastating drought in Oklahoma. Farmers, ranchers and landowners across the state suffered catastrophic losses, all because of a lack of water.

Then came May, Oklahoma's wettest month on record. At one point, the Tulsa Port of Catoosa released nearly 8 trillion gallons in two months — equivalent to 11 days of water usage by the entire U.S. population.

What if that water could be captured? What if technology existed to trap water and store it for later use?

It does.

Rather than waiting for the rain to fall, Oklahomans can take action into their own hands when planning for future water needs.

In its 2012 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, the OWRB analyzed the costs of water transfer in Oklahoma.

Construction of a water transport system from eastern Oklahoma to western Oklahoma would cost around \$13 billion to \$14 billion. Additionally, maintenance of such a system is estimated to cost around \$550,000 per year.

Despite the enormous costs, the board learned transporting water smaller distances is a feasible option. According to the OCWP, "Smaller scale regional conveyance systems may be viable options for eliminating projected water shortages and should be investigated."

The City of Oklahoma City is an example.

Although water transfer seems like an enormous process, Oklahoma City has moved water for more than half a century.

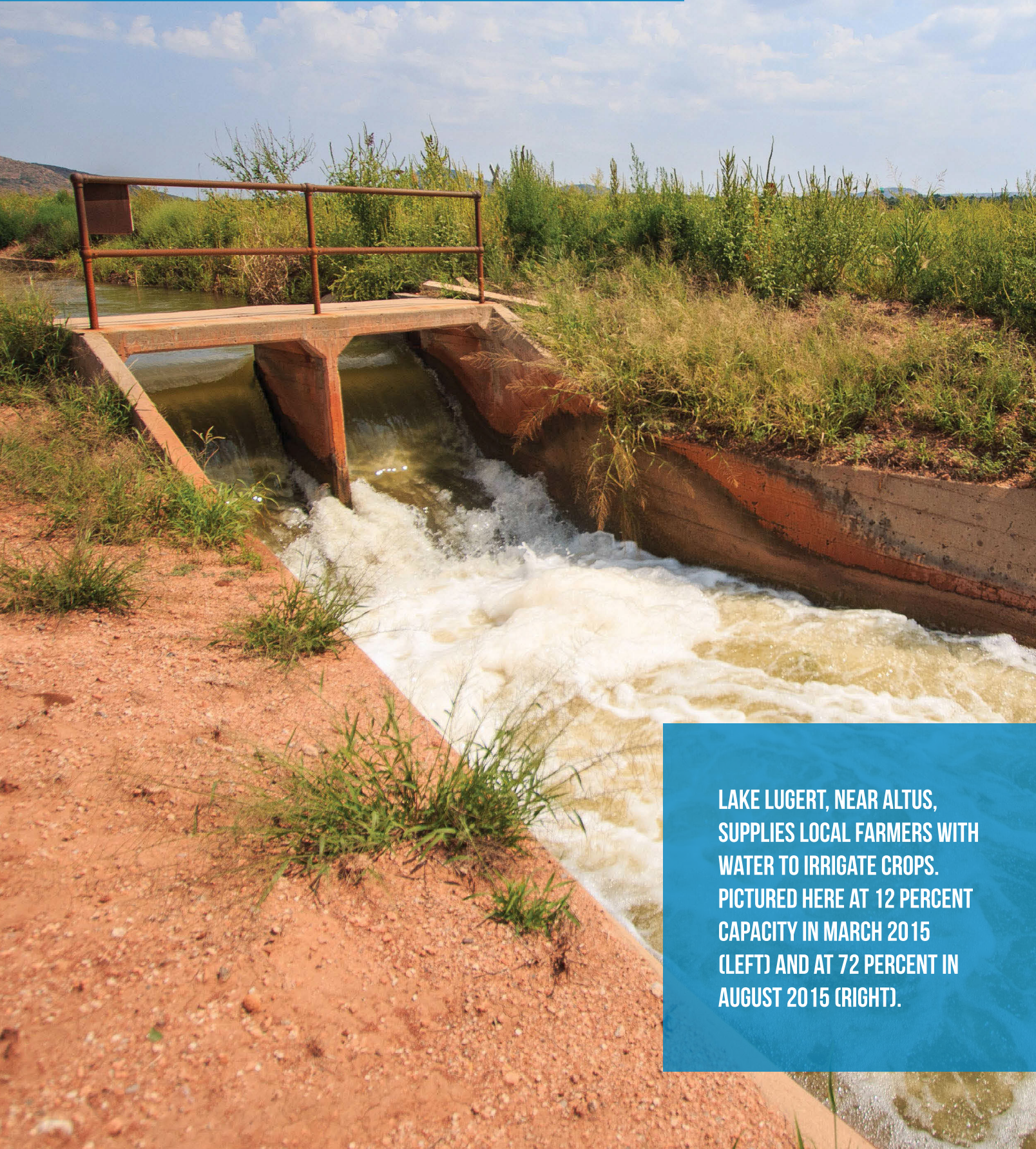
Jim Couch, city manager of the City of Oklahoma City, said it is just a matter of engineering.

"It's engineering," Couch said. "It's not all that complicated."

The City of Oklahoma City has transferred water from southeast Oklahoma since the early 1960s.

"Originally, it comes from Lake Atoka," he said. "We pump that water 100 miles up the hill to Lake Draper."

WATER GUSHES OUT OF A LUGERT-ALTUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT SPILLWAY IN AUGUST 2015 IN SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA. FARMERS IN THE AREA HAVE NOT USED WATER FROM LAKE LUGERT SINCE 2010.



LAKE LUGERT, NEAR ALTUS, SUPPLIES LOCAL FARMERS WITH WATER TO IRRIGATE CROPS. PICTURED HERE AT 12 PERCENT CAPACITY IN MARCH 2015 (LEFT) AND AT 72 PERCENT IN AUGUST 2015 (RIGHT).

Once the water reaches Lake Draper near Moore, Oklahoma, it is treated and enters the city's water system.

The four-year water project that built Lake Atoka, Lake Draper, the 100-mile pipeline and six pump stations began in 1959, Couch said.

About 20 years ago, Couch said the city supplemented Lake Atoka with water from McGee Creek, just outside of Atoka.

The City of Oklahoma City provides water not only for its residents, but also for residents in surrounding communities including Edmond, Norman, Moore, Yukon, Piedmont, Warr Acres, Mustang, Shawnee, Newcastle, Tuttle and others. It also helps provide water to rural water districts.

"No matter how well we do with water, and we've done very well with water, there's never enough," Couch said. "Just like you can never have enough police officers. You can always do more with more resources. It's always a concern."

To add to its current supply, the city also is building another pipeline parallel to the existing pipeline, Couch said.

So is the city of Oklahoma City taking southeast Oklahoma's water?

"We never take anyone's water," Couch said. "Water is owned by the state of Oklahoma and is appropriated to users that can use it for beneficial use."

The city maintains appropriative rights from the OWRB dating back around 55 years, Couch said.

The water, however, is not cheap.

"Southeast water is more expensive," Couch said. "It's an expensive process to get that water."

The energy cost alone for the six pumping stations along the 100-mile, 60-inch pipeline is estimated to be anywhere from 18 to 22 cents per thousand gallons. The city is able to afford the project because of its large rate base.

Although water transfer is an available option for providing farmers and ranchers with water in the future, a project of this kind would be a massive and expensive undertaking.

"It's really a matter of economics," Couch said. "It's very costly what you have to pay for and what you have to do. What we charge for water, you know \$2 per thousand gallons, is not a range of water costs most people would be able to pay. There are

some economic considerations that need to be brought into play."

Transferring water is possible, but alone it will not solve the whole problem. Once the water is transferred and stored in aboveground reservoirs, it remains subject to evaporation.

"In Oklahoma, we lose as much or more water from our reservoirs through just natural evaporation than we do actual consumption of water, particularly the further west you go," said JD Strong, OWRB executive director.

Oklahoma sits on top of numerous aquifers, which are basically underground water storage containers. Many farmers and ranchers, particularly in western Oklahoma, draw water from these aquifers for crops and livestock. Water stored underground in an aquifer is protected from both contamination and evaporation.

"We've got big, vast underground lakes that we have the ability to store water in until we need it," Strong said.

Aquifers naturally restore themselves at a slow rate, typically only inches per year, although the rate of recharge varies depending on the aquifer.

Using technology known as artificial recharge, water can be injected into an aquifer and stored for later use.

"Instead of simply waiting for natural rainfall to recharge those aquifers at a really slow rate, we can augment that by also capturing any excess water we have right now and injecting it into those underground reservoirs for when we need it," Strong said.

Before being injected into the ground, the water must be partially treated. Essentially, the water pumped into the ground should be at least a little better than the raw water in the aquifer, Strong said.

"Artificial recharge is being done a lot in western United States and we hope we'll see it in Oklahoma," he said.

An aquifer recharge project around Hollis, Oklahoma, is the only one of its kind in the state at this point. Established in the 1980s, Strong said the small-scale project helps recharge the Blaine aquifer.

"It's not even close to the scale we need to see, but it demonstrates that it can be done here," Strong said.



Rather than injection, the Hollis project utilizes gravity flow by capturing rainwater and letting it flow down into the aquifer.

Strong said Wichita, Kansas, also has a large project that captures high flows of water from the Arkansas River, partially treats it, and pumps it underground for future use.

Although expensive, Strong said aquifer recharge projects are viable in Oklahoma. The OWRB is willing to assist individuals looking to establish a project, he said.

“We’re willing to hold people’s hands and help them out all that we can,” he said. “We hope to see a heck of a lot more (aquifer recharge) in Oklahoma, for sure.”

In its 2012 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Report, the OWRB recommended three sites in Oklahoma for artificial recharge including Ada, Eakly and Woodward. The board also identified two alternative sites near Durant and Enid.

Strong said regions across Oklahoma should band together to attack such large, long-term water projects.


“If you’ve got more communities pitching in, then you can afford to do a much larger water project than if you just had cities, towns or rural water districts off trying to do all these things on their own,” Strong said.

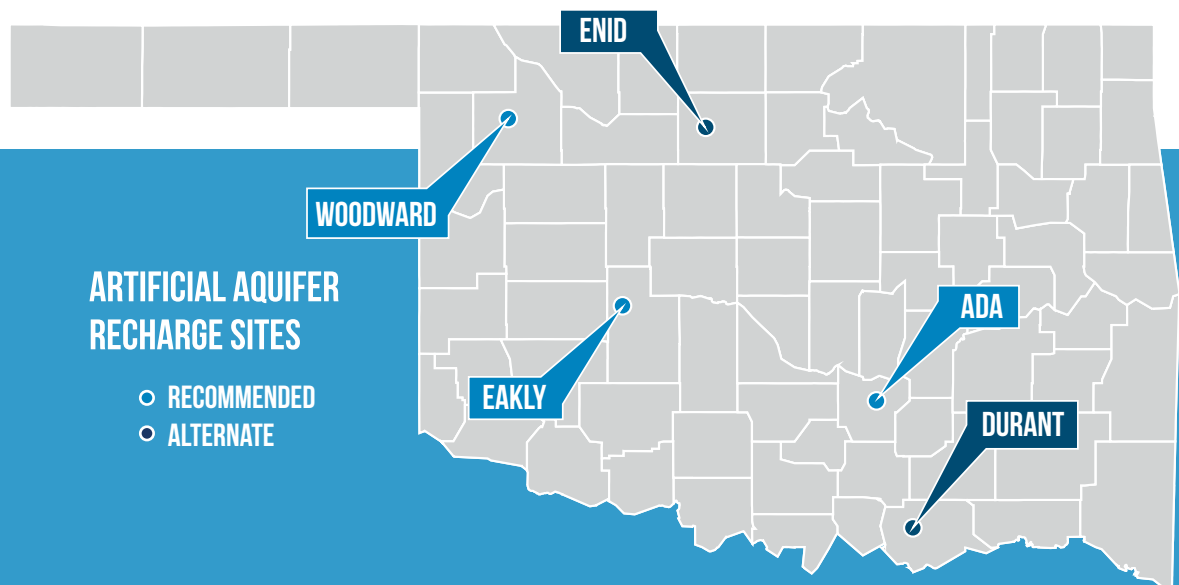
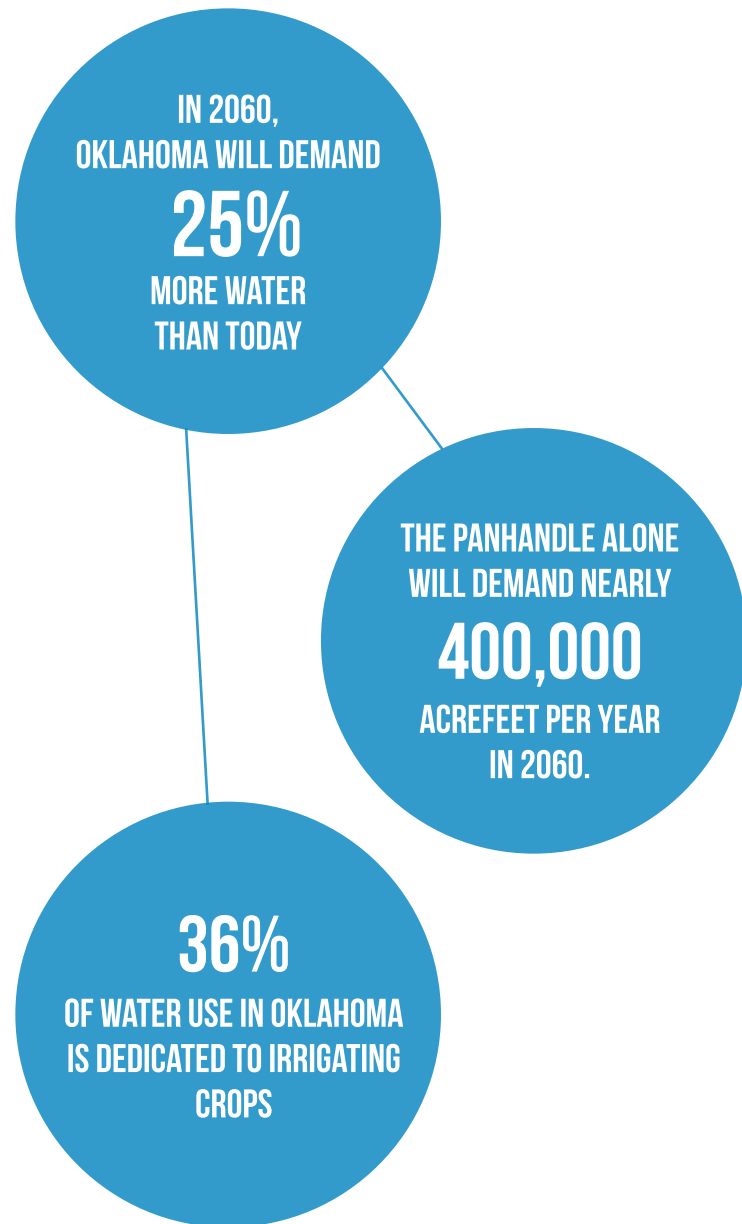
While Oklahoma has several options to consider in planning for future water needs, there is no one solution. Individuals and organizations from various backgrounds, industries and perspectives must join together to ensure Oklahomans never has to live without an abundant water supply.

As Nobel Prize-winning author John Steinbeck said, “It never failed that during the dry years, the people forgot about the rich years, and during the wet years they lost memory of the dry years. It was always that way.”

“When the rain comes, it is easy to forget about the devastating years without it,” said John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy. “But drought is cyclical. It will come again. The question is not if, but when?”

Oklahoma farmers and ranchers should not have to worry about water.

“The technologies exist,” Collison said. “It’s time to find a way to make them happen in Oklahoma.” 





A FARMER USES A CENTER PIVOT
TO IRRIGATE A CORN FIELD NEAR
HOOKER, OKLAHOMA.

Winter beauty abounds in Oklahoma landscapes

By Trisha Gedon
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

As Oklahomans enjoy crisp fall days, they may begin noticing the bright colorful flowers of summer are being replaced by the rich red, yellow and orange leaves; a real indicator winter is on the way.

Fortunately for gardening enthusiasts, vibrant colors in the landscape do not have to fade when winter rolls around.

David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension consumer horticulturist, said Oklahoma is a wonderful place to enjoy colorful landscapes all year long.

“Granted, you won’t be seeing brightly colored tulips or delicate roses in the middle of winter, but there are plenty of other options available that can add color and visual interest in the winter,” Hillock said. “But first, it’s important to think about what truly constitutes beauty in the landscape.”

Aside from the obvious of beautiful flowers, there are other attributes that add to a beautiful landscape. And one thing to keep in mind is beauty is in the eye of the beholder. While flowers are easy on the eyes, consider bark colors, shapes and patterns; leaf shape or structure; or showy fruit or seed heads when thinking about beauty.

Something else to consider is some plants known for their winter beauty may not be the best species if selections were based on the typical reason to include it in the landscape.

For example, the London planetree will not be found on a list of top trees for Oklahoma, but the bark can be stunning. These trees must be sited carefully for gardeners to enjoy their beauty while tolerating their dropping branches and large leaves.

Other trees with decorative bark and twigs include the heritage river birch, winged elm, lacebark elm, Japanese kerria, Harry Lauder’s walkingstick and the yellowtwig dogwood.

For visual interest later in the season, consider witchhazel, which is fragrant November through March; or winter jasmine, which responds to the slightest degree of warmer weather.

Hillock said other good choices include winter honeysuckle and pansies.

“Winter honeysuckle opens in January, typically peaks in February and often is still flowering through mid-March,” he said. “Although it may not be the showiest of flowers, it definitely is among the most fragrant.”

Do not overlook the use of evergreen and semi-evergreen plants. Be sure to include broadleaf types such as Aucuba, Mahonia and Viburnum.

“When considering your winter landscape, don’t forget about ornamental grasses and sedges. These grasses offer interesting vertical texture, as well as flowering heads that change in color as they mature,” Hillock said.

Gardeners who simply want some quick, easy color in the landscape, can plant pansies. They are available in several colors and can be planted now. These flowers definitely add visual interest to any landscape. Kale and cabbage also are good choices to plant in October. As an added bonus, many annuals and perennials are still blooming from the summer, so it can be relatively easy to achieve a lot of color in the landscape during October.



River birch bark



Tulips




The holly plant is an excellent addition to a landscape as its fruit may be red, orange, yellow or black throughout the winter. Other plants, such as buckthorn, black chokeberry, euonymus and the Kentucky coffeetree all have beautifully colored or interesting fruit that appears throughout the winter.

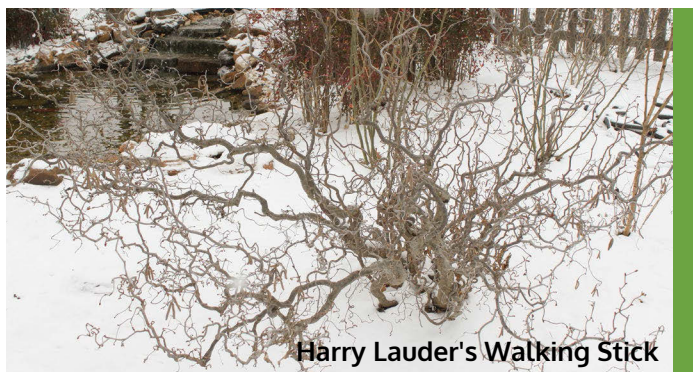
Hillock said in order to get a jump start on spring color, now is a great time to plant bulbs such as tulips. Keep in mind the heat of the summer, not the cold of winter, kills bulbs.

Continue planting spring bulbs in November, as well as kale, pansies and cabbage. As the leaves begin to fall and Thanksgiving plans are being made, it is the time when attractive bark and fruits will become more apparent.

December can be a challenging time for gardeners, but there is still time to plant spring bulbs. Witchhazel and winter jasmine may also be in bloom by then.

If Oklahoma experiences a warm week in January, the warmth will trigger winter honeysuckle. Gardeners who planted pansies in the fall are establishing themselves for an exquisite show by early to mid-February.

“As we turn the corner into winter and later head into spring, keep a close eye on your flowering bulbs. They should bloom well into May,” Hillock said. “Also, flowering shrubs and trees will begin to shake off that winter chill and begin to bloom. So don’t worry about not having an interesting landscape through the fall and winter months. There will be plenty of things to catch your eye.” 



Harry Lauder's Walking Stick



Ilex decidua

ALL AROUND OKLAHOMA



Comanche County Farm Bureau board members present OKFB District 4 Director Jimmy Wayne Kinder (third from left) with a \$10,000 donation to the State Question 777 campaign. Two other county Farm Bureaus donated including Cotton County and Stephens County.

Three county Farm Bureaus donate to State Question 777 campaign

Comanche County Farm Bureau, Cotton County Farm Bureau and Stephens County Farm Bureau each recently donated \$10,000 to the State Question 777 campaign. The Cotton County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee also contributed \$500 to the campaign.

At August Area Meetings during the middle of August, county Farm Bureaus across Oklahoma were challenged to donate \$10,000 to the SQ777 campaign. Although it will not appear on the ballot until November 2016, it is important to raise money early as out-of-state interests such as the Humane Society of the United

States, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and other anti-agriculture activists will pour money into Oklahoma to prevent the measure from passing.

"We are proud of the Comanche County, Cotton County and Stephens County Farm Bureaus for investing in the future of agriculture in Oklahoma," said John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy and media relations. "To be successful, the State Question 777 campaign must have support from Farm Bureau members and agriculturalists across the state."

SQ 777, or the Right to Farm, is a state constitutional amendment to

protect Oklahoma's family farmers and ranchers from unreasonable government interference and attacks by out-of-state interests. If approved by voters, farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma will have additional constitutional protections they currently lack and need.

To learn more about the SQ 777 campaign, visit www.OklahomaRightToFarm.com, like Yes on 777 on Facebook and follow @Yeson777 on Twitter.



Wilke selected for Woman of the Year program

Monica Wilke, executive director of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies, was selected as one of The Journal Record's "50 Making a Difference" for 2015 in August. Part of The Journal Record's Woman of the Year program, the award recognizes Oklahoma women excelling in professional leadership and community activities.

Wilke received her honor at a gala event at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City in early October.

Wilke is a member of several legal and community organizations. She has served as president of the Oklahoma Diamond Hats, a women's leadership group that provides scholarships to agriculture youth, and she received that organization's highest honor of

Agriculture Woman of the Year for 2010.

She also serves her community through membership in the Junior League of Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma FFA Foundation Board and Women's Leadership Exchange.

Agriculture and rural Oklahoma have been a part of Wilke's life since she was a child. Having grown up on a farm in the southwestern Oklahoma town of Grandfield, she was actively involved in 4-H and FFA.

Wilke attributes most of her success to having grown up in a rural Oklahoma town where agriculture was "the way of life".



Monica Wilke



OKFB staff, leaders attend Lucas portrait unveiling

OKFB staff and leaders celebrate Congressman Frank Lucas' portrait unveiling in the U.S. House Agriculture Committee meeting room on June 23. The portrait will be displayed to honor Lucas' service as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Pictured from left: John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy and media relations; Lucas; LeeAnna McNally, OKFB director of national affairs; and Rodd Moesel, OKFB district 3 director.



District 1



District 2



District 7



District 9

August Area Meetings begin grassroots policy development process

In mid-August, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members met across the state to engage in the first step of the organization's grassroots policy development process — August Area Meetings.

At the meetings, members heard from various Farm Bureau leaders about this year's legislative session, and voiced concerns and ideas about issues in agriculture.

Popular topics included water, feral hogs, GMO labeling and State Question

777, or Right to Farm.

Members now will take policy ideas discussed at August Area Meetings to county resolution meetings. Once drafted, potential policies approved by the counties will be sent to the state resolutions meeting in October, where approved resolutions will be put before the delegates at OKFB's annual meeting in November.

"The dedication of our members allows Oklahoma Farm Bureau to be a continual

leader in agricultural policy," said John Collison, OKFB vice president of public policy and media relations.

OKFB would like to thank its members for their active involvement in the grassroots development process.

To get involved with the policy development process, contact a local county Farm Bureau office or call the OKFB Public Policy Division at 405-523-2300.



District 5



District 6



District 4



District 3

“The dedication of our members allows Oklahoma Farm Bureau to be a continual leader in agricultural policy.”

— John Collison



District 8

OKFB women donate to State Question 777 campaign



OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Chairman Kitty Beavers (left) and WLC Coordinator Marcia Irvin (right) present a \$10,000 check to OKFB President Tom Buchanan for the State Question 777 campaign. OKFB WLC was one of the first groups to donate to the campaign.

Save on IHG, AT&T, Cat equipment and USAPetMeds

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is proud to announce two new member benefit offers that add to a long list of exclusive savings for OKFB members.

InterContinental Hotel Group and AT&T are now offering special discounts for all OKFB members.

IHG, a new member benefit partner, offers a 10 percent discount at more than 1,400 participating IHG brand hotels including InterContinental®, Crowne Plaza®, Hotel Indigo®, Holiday Inn®, Holiday Inn Express®, Staybridge Suites®, Candlewood Suites®, EVEN™ Hotels and HUALUXE® Hotels and Resorts.

IHG's nine hotel brands include some of the best-known and most popular in the world with a portfolio covering everything from luxurious upscale hotels in the world's major cities and resorts to reliable family-oriented hotels offering great service and value. IHG has more guest rooms than any other hotel

company in the world.

OKFB members can sign up and save on AT&T wireless phone coverage that blankets Oklahoma with blazing 4G LTE speed. Save up to 10 percent on qualifying services from AT&T wireless. When visiting a local AT&T store, provide proof of eligibility with an OKFB membership card.

OKFB members also can save up to \$2,000 when buying or leasing a qualifying Cat® Backhoe Loader, Wheel Loader, Mini Hydraulic Excavator, Multi Terrain Loader, Skid Steer Loader, Compact Track Loader, Telehandler or Small Dozer. The discount can be combined with any current retail discounts, promotions, rebates or offers available through Caterpillar or its dealers, with the exception of other membership purchase incentives (excluding the NCBA membership incentive).

Visit fbadvantage.com/cat to print your Membership Verification Certificate. Must present certificate at time of purchase or lease quote to receive the discount.

Also, enjoy savings on expenses for the animals under your care using USAPetMeds, a comprehensive online mail order that features pet and livestock specialty foods, animal grooming supplies, animal supplements and an online pharmacy that focuses solely on prescriptions for animals.

Save an average of 55 percent on generics and 15 percent on brand-name drugs using the new OKFB drug savings card. The free card is accepted at over 80 percent of pharmacies nationwide and does not expire.

For more information about OKFB's member benefit programs, contact Jennie Bruning by calling the home office at 405-523-2300.

OKFB communications win national awards



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Corporate Communications Division won top communications awards at the American Farm Bureau Federation's Strategic Policy, Advocacy, Resources and Communications Conference June 16-18 in Charlotte, North Carolina. OKFB brought home the most awards, following Iowa and Texas.

Dustin Mielke, director of corporate communications, won Best Single Photo and Best Graphic Design. Sam Knipp, director of corporate communications, brought home the award for Best Audio News Story.

The communications professionals competed against state Farm Bureaus across the country, many of which are much larger than OKFB.

OFBMIC offers online access to policy holders

In a fast-paced, need-it-now world, consumers are becoming more independent and need important records and information at a click of the mouse or swipe of a smartphone. Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. now offers its members the OKFB Insured Portal.

The online tool allows members to check membership status and print documents related to policies including declarations, invoices, security verification forms and more. Members also may view policy details, payment history and claims history. Users also can make premium payments with a debit, checking, or savings account.

To access the tool, visit www.okfarminsurance.com and click, "Login to my Insurance."

Need technical support? Call the OKFB Help Desk at 405-530-2600 or email support@okfb.org.

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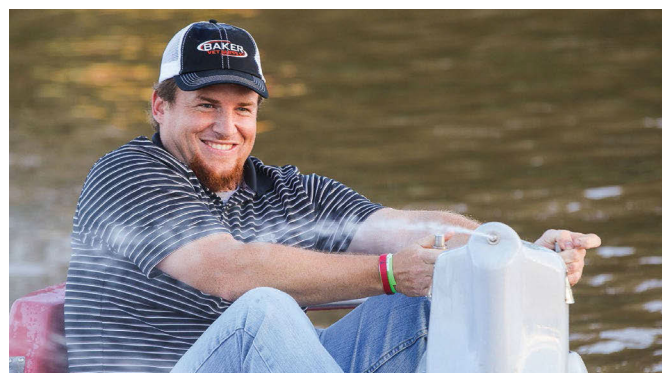
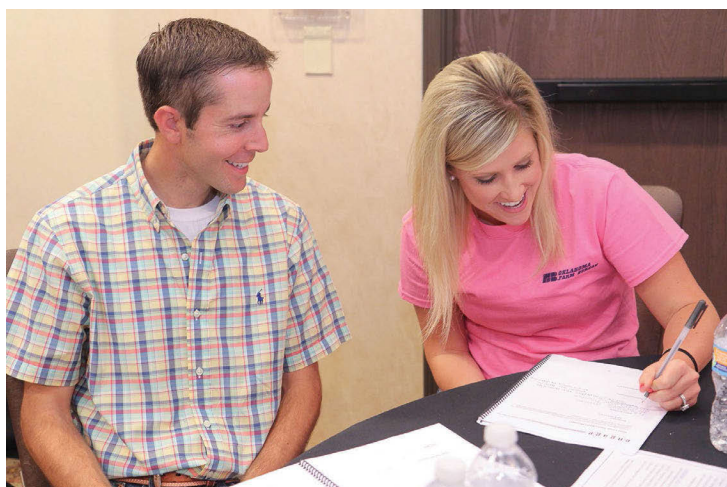
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Top left: Children of YF&R members view Boone Pickens Stadium from a club suite during a tour of OSU Athletic facilities. Bottom left: YF&R committee members Travis and Riley Schnaithman attend a conference workshop. Top right: YF&R attendees learn about OSU's FAPC during a tour. Bottom right: YF&R committee member Isaac Fisher plays on a bumper boat at White Barn Estates in Stillwater.

YF&R members flock to Stillwater for annual meeting

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers held its annual conference July 10-11 in Stillwater, where more than 50 young agriculturalists gathered to learn about agriculture, expand their leadership capabilities and make connections.

The group of young leaders from around the state heard from a variety of presenters on a wide range of agricultural topics during the two-day event.

Jane McGuire with the Center for Food Integrity presented CFI's Engage training, where attendees learned to how to tell their agriculture story by using shared values to connect and transparently discuss consumers' food concerns. During the session, participants spent time developing agricultural messages and sharing ideas with fellow young

agriculturalists.

Daniel Bays, California Farm Bureau YF&R state committee member, shared his experience working on his family's Central Valley farm raising almonds, walnuts, tomatoes, cantaloupe and more. Bays shared the advances California agriculture has made when it comes to conserving water, ensuring maximum efficiency and minimal waste. Bays also discussed the increasing regulatory landscape California farmers and ranchers face on a daily basis.

John Collison, OKFB's vice president of public policy, shared with the group the importance of the upcoming state constitutional amendment SQ 777 and how agriculture can help ensure its passage. Representatives from SST Software in Stillwater showed the group

SST's latest mobile app and how it can be used in the field for farm management.

The conference was bookended by tours. YF&R members opened the conference at Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Products Center, where they learned about FAPC's mission to help Oklahoma individuals and companies develop, process, package and market new food products and much more. The conference concluded after a tour of Oklahoma State University's Athletic facilities.

OKFB's YF&R program is open to Farm Bureau members ages 18-35 who are interested in education, leadership and personal growth in agriculture.

To view more photos from the conference, visit OKFB's flickr page.



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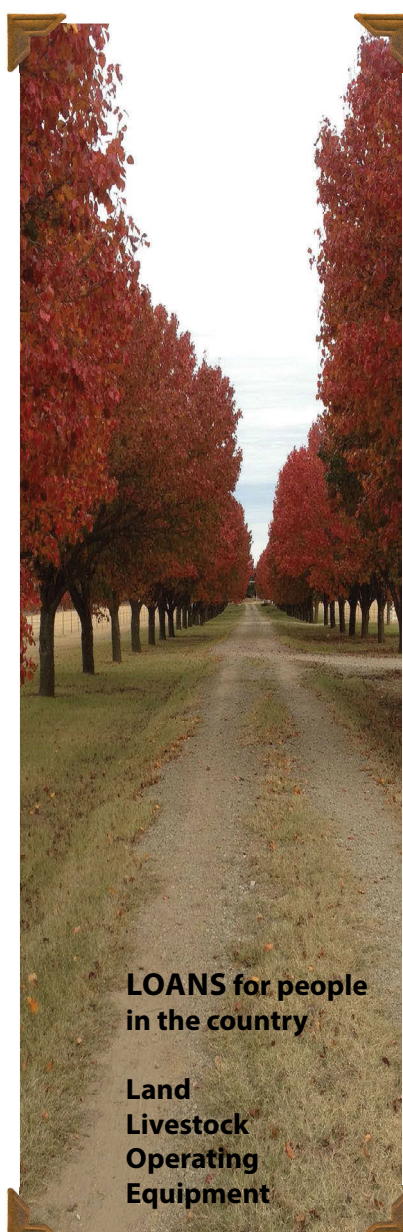
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Gage Milliman
Field Services



Tasha Duncan
Public Policy



Micah Martin
Safety Services

Milliman, Duncan join OKFB, Martin named director of safety services

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Federation is excited to welcome new faces into three different roles.

Gage Milliman recently joined the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Field Services Division as the northeast field representative. Milliman started with OKFB on July 31.

In his position, Milliman will assist 13 Farm Bureau county offices in northeast Oklahoma including Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Muskogee, Nowata, Okmulgee, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa and Wagoner counties.

"I have always had a passion for agriculture," Milliman said. "I have been a Farm Bureau member and county board member for several years. I like what Farm Bureau does for farmers and ranchers and am looking forward to being a part of that success."

A native of Newton, Illinois, Milliman received a bachelor's degree in animal science from Southern Illinois University. For the past nine years, he has worked for Oklahoma State University Extension.

Milliman grew up on a corn, soybean,

wheat and hay farm in south central Illinois. He currently raises Charolais cattle with his wife, Trista, and son, Henry.

He enjoys raising cattle, riding horses, baseball and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Tasha Duncan, a native of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, recently joined the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Public Policy Division as a public policy coordinator.

Duncan is responsible for Public Policy Division scheduling, state Capitol visit scheduling, event planning, ethics reporting and more. She also will work very closely with public policy staff to ensure they suit the needs of OKFB members.

"Farm Bureau seems like a wonderful place to go to work every day," Duncan said. "I am very excited to begin working toward our goals with such a fabulous group of people."

Duncan said the OKFB staff has already made her feel welcome.

She received her associate's degree in graphic design and photography from Oklahoma City Community College.

In her free time, Duncan said she enjoys photography, traveling, the outdoors, baking and spending time with her husband, Trevor.

Micah Martin, former safety specialist, was recently promoted to OKFB director of safety services.

As a safety specialist, Martin spent most of his time on the road conducting various safety workshops. He is now transitioning from an educational role to a leadership role, he said.

"I hope to continue to make Oklahoma Farm Bureau a leader in the safety field," he said.

In his new position, Martin said he will focus on improving safety policies and educational equipment.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau is privileged to have the talents and efforts of Gage, Tasha and Micah," said Monica Wilke, OKFB executive director. "I know all three will work hard to make sure our members' needs are met."

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) 523-2307 or by email at thad.doye@okfb.org.

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Farm Bureau President Tom Buchanan issues statement on EPA WOTUS rules

Tom Buchanan, Oklahoma Farm Bureau president and Altus farmer, issued this statement following the ruling by a federal judge in North Dakota that blocked the implementation of the EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule, which went to effect Aug. 28.

"As federal courts wrangle with the EPA over which states should be included in the Waters of the U.S. rules, it's becoming more obvious the EPA is a federal agency that feels responsibility to no one.

"In late May, Congress told the EPA not to implement WOTUS. The EPA thumbed its nose at Congress and pushed ahead on WOTUS, saying it would begin enforcement on Aug. 28.

"Even when a federal judge in North Dakota said WOTUS should not be implemented, the EPA said it would continue in those states outside the

judge's jurisdiction. Now, it has basically told a federal judge he cannot stop them.

"The WOTUS rule extends federal jurisdiction and regulates land use far beyond what Congress authorized in the Clean Water Act. It creates increased legal risk and uncertainty for farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma and nationwide.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau supports the position of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, who believes the rule cannot be lawful in some states and unlawful in others. 009678341

"We also support Pruitt in pursuing all available legal opportunities to stop the implementation of the rule.

"As stewards of the land, our state's farmers and ranchers work daily to protect the environment and care for our natural resources, just as we have done for generations.



Tom Buchanan

"We are grateful for Pruitt's continual fight to protect agriculture and rural Oklahoma."

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OKFB women attend Women in Ag conference

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee member Mignon Bolay visits with an attendee of the Oklahoma Women in Ag and Small Business Conference held Aug. 6 and 7. As they passed out gifts and Farm Bureau information, the WLC members explained the committee's efforts to promote agriculture and rural Oklahoma.



Notice of Annual Meetings

Oklahoma Farm Bureau

To all county Farm Bureaus of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau: You are hereby notified that Oklahoma Farm Bureau will convene in annual session Friday, Nov. 13, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. This is the annual meeting of the delegate body. See that your delegates are properly certified and in attendance to represent your membership. This meeting will continue until all business is transacted.

— Board of Directors

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.

Notice is hereby given of the annual meeting of the Policyholders of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company to be held at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015 at 8:45 a.m. at which time a report of the activities of our company during the past fiscal year will be submitted together with a report of the financial position of the company; at which time any and all other activities of the company may be presented and considered.

— Board of Directors

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JOINT PRIVACY NOTICE



AG SECURITY INSURANCE COMPANY

On Behalf Of: Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company and AgSecurity Insurance Company. When you see the words we, us, or our within this *Joint Privacy Notice*, you should understand that those words include Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company and AgSecurity Insurance Company.

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 non-public personal information. Non-public 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 non-public 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 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 non-public 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 reinsurers, 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 non-public 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;
- Non financial 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 maintain the confidentiality of that 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 non-public personal information to 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 non-public personal information.

Your Opt-Out Right

We reserve the right to disclose non-public personal information about our customers to a nonaffiliated third party. However, if you prefer that we not disclose non-public 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 includes sharing information with our affiliates and non-affiliates about our transactions

or experiences with you for business, administrative and other legal purposes).

If you wish to opt out of disclosures to nonaffiliated third parties, you may choose one of the following options:

1. Complete the opt-out form on our website located at okfarminsurance.com OR
2. Mail or Fax the attached opt-out form to us.
Fax # 405-523-2581.

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 *Joint 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 regulator.

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.

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Strawberry DNA Awesome

Noble Academy brings agricultural education alive by providing this step-by-step experiment about the building block of life.

Education has been a cornerstone of the Noble Foundation since its inception. Founder Lloyd Noble established his organization in the post-Dust Bowl era to educate farmers and ranchers on methodologies for safeguarding the soil to prevent future calamity.

In the fall of 2012, the Noble Foundation centralized its outreach and educational activities toward delivering agriculture- and science-based education for all students, from middle school through college, by creating Noble Academy.

"We want to demonstrate the importance of agriculture to society and the need for research to advance the industry," said Frank Hardin, Noble Academy manager. "We also strive to communicate the wide range of career opportunities in agriculture to students."

Noble Academy began working with Oklahoma teachers and education-related associations to expand its efforts to provide lessons to students through in-class demonstrations. These hands-on demonstrations are designed to fit into a teacher's lesson plans and are a simple but effective way to bring science and agricultural education together in the classroom.

"That's the trick to teaching, providing students with experiences," Hardin said. "That's the methodology behind Noble Academy – give students tangible learning moments at the intersection of agriculture and science."

One of these experiential lessons is strawberry DNA extraction. DNA is the blueprint for life. Understanding it is the gateway to understanding life and how organisms function. Hardin uses strawberries because it has eight copies of each chromosome, making it well suited for the experiment.

"They've studied DNA, but they've never actually experienced it," Hardin said. "By studying and understanding DNA, we can use this information to select for, breed, and produce plants that may ultimately improve food production and help us feed a growing population."

On the next page is a step-by-step instruction for conducting an in-classroom strawberry DNA extraction.

To watch the companion video, go to bit.ly/strawberry-dna.





MATERIALS

- 1 strawberry
- 50 mL tube
- Pipette
- Woolite laundry detergent (5 mL)
- Water (45 mL)
- 2 tsp of salt
- Ethanol (25mL) or ice-cold rubbing alcohol
- 1 sandwich-sized zip-close bag
- 1 coffee filter
- Funnel
- Inoculating loop (or popsicle stick)
- Collection cup

PROCEDURE

Step 1: Make lysis buffer.

- Using the empty 50 mL tube, add 5 mL of Woolite (detergent) and 45 mL of water.
- Mix gently by inverting the tube.
- Add the salt to the Woolite-water solution and mix gently.
- You have made a lysis buffer.

Step 2: Make strawberry lysate.

- Place the strawberry in the zip-close bag.
- Remove all air from the bag and seal.
- Mash the strawberry in the zip-close bag to a pulp.
- Open the bag and add all (50 mL) of the lysis buffer.
- Remove the air, seal the bag and mix the strawberry pulp with the added lysis buffer.
- You have made a strawberry lysate, which is lysed strawberry cells, or cells that have been “broken open.”

Step 3: Filter the strawberry lysate.

- Fold the coffee filter in half.
- Fold the coffee filter in half again, making a triangle.
- Looking at the rounded edge of the triangle, there should be four sheets of paper. Pull one sheet away from the other three sheets and open it up to form a cone. Confirm that the filter will not leak.
- Place the filter into the funnel, and place the funnel into the collection cup.
- Pour the strawberry lysate from the zip-close bag into the filter.
- Collect the filtrate in the collection cup. To speed up the process, pick up the filter from the top and gently squeeze the bottom of the filter.
- You have produced filtrate, which includes the strawberry DNA.

Step 4: Visualize your strawberry DNA.

- Remove the funnel from the collection cup.
- Add 25 mL of ethanol slowly to the collection cup with a plastic pipette. Introduce the ethanol using the side of the cup.
- Recognize that at the interface (between the ethanol and strawberry lysate layer), the DNA will begin to precipitate out of the strawberry lysate and will appear as a bubbly, cloudy residue. As the DNA begins to condense in the ethanol layer, it will become milky white and slimy to the touch. A “precipitate” is an insoluble compound that occurs as a result of a precipitation reaction.
- Collect the strawberry DNA using the inoculating loop.



COUNTRY CLASSIFIEDS

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Work house utility vehicle. Excellent condition. Windshell. Powered dump bed. \$4,500. 405-449-7791.

1993 Ford F150 short-bed pickup. Not running. Clear title and tag. \$700 OBO. You fix. 405-386-4416 or 405-609-9242.

1995 Holiday Rambler Fifth Wheel. 32' alumilite slide-out. 405-356-4881 or 405-323-7620.

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Mini donkeys for sale. Spotted baby and mother, \$400. Spotted 1- and 3-year-old jenny, \$300 each. Two mini spotted jacks, \$100 each. 405-452-3844.

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1920s Khroler living room set, coach and two chairs, \$500. Phonograph cabinet, \$10. Rolltop desk, \$300. 580-706-0418.

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COUNTRY CLASSIFIEDS

Each OKFB member family is limited to one free classified ad per issue. No call-in ads will be accepted. The length of the ad cannot exceed the number of lines on this form. Ads run one time. We reserve the right not to publish submitted ads. Return to Country Classifieds, 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

All information must be completed.

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Please type or print legibly.

Deadline for the next issue is Dec. 31, 2015.



Electronics. Call Bob, 580-603-0063 or 580-758-9471.

Range Motel, rooms by the day, week or month rates. For travelers, workers. 404 N. Rangeline, Tecumseh, OK. 405-598-2133.

Whirlpool bath tub, \$50 OBO. Clothes, some still have tags. Back-to-school men's, women's, boys', girls', 25 cents each. 405-598-1202.

Char-Broil infrared grill. Very clean. \$85. 918-487-9803.

Used oilfield pipe, 2 3/8, 4 1/2. All sizes sucker rods. 1 1/4 fiberglass post. Miscellaneous large pipe. 405-627-3920.

Stanley Home Products for sale. Fuller brush, full line of kitchen products, skin products, cleaning and personal items. Sales people needed. 580-497-2249.

Farm fresh Wagyu beef for sale. Frozen, grass fed. 580-484-0352.

Heifers for sale. Bra cross and a few blks. Some mixed cows also. 489 New Holland swather, very good condition. 405-258-6559.

REAL ESTATE

Cherokee County 60 acres. Private, heavily-wooded. Ideal hunting property near Spring Creek, Peggs, OK. 918-791-4354.

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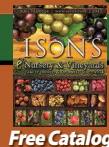
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Orange-Spice Pumpkin Bread

From the kitchen of: Linda Taggart, Caddo County

Ingredients


For the bread:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon allspice
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
10 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
1/2 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
1 cup granulated sugar
2 teaspoons finely chopped orange zest
3 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup pumpkin puree

For the glaze:

3/4 cup water
Zest of one orange
2 tablespoons finely chopped, peeled fresh ginger
1/2 cup granulated sugar

Preparation/Cooking

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a pumpkin loaf pan. To make the bread, over a sheet of waxed paper sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, ginger, nutmeg, allspice and cinnamon. Set aside. With an electric mixer, beat together the butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar and orange zest on medium speed until well blended, about 2 minutes. Add eggs and pumpkin puree and beat until incorporated. Fold in the flour mixture in two additions until just smooth. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake 55 minutes, or until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Let cool for 15 minutes. To make glaze, whisk together water, orange zest and ginger over medium heat; bring to simmer, cover and cook for 3 minutes. Pour mixture through fine-mesh sieve. Pour 1/2 cup of mixture into clean saucepan and whisk in granulated sugar. Bring to simmer and cook for 2 minutes to thicken slightly. Remove loaf from pan, turn over and brush with warm glaze. Let cool slightly and serve. 

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.Nemecsek@okfb.org or mail a hard copy to Oklahoma Country Recipes, 2501 N. Stiles Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

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