



WWW.OKFARMBUREAU.ORG

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

April 27, 2018



Left: OKFB members pose for a photo near the U.S. Capitol during the 2018 Congressional Action Tour in Washington, D.C. April 16-20. Members visited with Oklahoma’s senators and congressmen, as well as officials at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Top Right: OKFB District One Director Alan Jett (center) and District Six Director James Fuser (right) visit with Rep. Steve Russell (left) on Capitol Hill about Farm Bureau policy. Bottom: Cotton County Farm Bureau member Margaret Ann Kinder (right) visits with Rep. Tom Cole following a briefing on Capitol Hill during the OKFB Congressional Action Tour.

OKFB members visit Capitol Hill, federal agencies on Congressional Action Tour April 16-20

More than 30 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members advocated for agriculture and rural Oklahoma in the nation’s capital during the organization’s Congressional Action Tour April 16-20.

“It’s very important for Oklahoma farmers to develop relationships with our congressmen and senators,” said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. “Our Farm Bureau staff talk to these leaders on our behalf, which is a big help to us as farmers and ranchers. But it’s even more important when congressmen and senators hear

directly from real folks who are actually producing agricultural commodities.”

The 2018 farm bill, international trade and wildfire relief programs were some of the top concerns of Farm Bureau members as they spoke with Oklahoma’s congressmen and senators.

Members also visited officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to learn more about and share input on agriculture and environmental regulations.

Despite the work it takes to leave the farm

and travel to Washington, D.C., American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall said a personal visit by Farm Bureau members to Congress is powerful.

“We are very appreciative of (members) coming to town and always assure them that whatever they think they should be at home doing, that they’re doing the right thing,” Duvall said. “What they’re going to do today is very important to their communities, their families and their farms.”

OKFB member honored with Oklahoma Leopold Conservation Award

Jimmy and Ginger Emmons of Emmons Farm have been selected as the recipients of the first Oklahoma Leopold Conservation Award®.

The prestigious award, given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation by American ranchers, farmers and foresters in 13 states.

In Oklahoma, the award is presented by Sand County Foundation, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, ITC Holdings Corp. and The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation.

Emmons Farm is located in Leedey, and is owned and managed by the Jimmy and Ginger Emmons family. The farm was converted to no-till in 1995, and Jimmy later went a few steps further and adopted crop rotations, cover crops and planned grazing management to decrease soil erosion from water and wind, and increase water infiltration of the soil. In addition to conventional soil testing, Jimmy uses specialized soil and plant tissue testing to determine soil fertility. This helps him reduce fertilizer application rates by crediting the system for nutrients supplied by soil microbes.

Jimmy was one of the first farmers in his area to experiment with pollinator strips and companion crops. Both have helped create habitat for beneficial insects, which help control crop pests without the need for additional insecticide. Although his initial experimental plots had slightly less yield than average for the area, his net profit was greater since the yield decrease and cover crop costs were less than what the insecticide expense would have been.



Jimmy (second from left) and Ginger Emmons and their grandson, Owen, pose with OKFB Executive Director Thad Doye (far left) and OKFB President Rodd Moesel (far right) at the OKFB home office on April 12 after receiving the prestigious Oklahoma Leopold Conservation Award.

In his influential 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage. He wrote it was “an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity.”

The Emmonses were presented with a \$10,000 award, and a crystal depicting Aldo Leopold, at the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry in Oklahoma City on April 12.

“The Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation is thrilled to celebrate the Emmons family as the first recipients of the Leopold Conservation Award,” said Chris Kidd, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching

Foundation’s Director of Fundraising and Public Relations. “The Emmons embody Aldo Leopold’s land ethic, and all Oklahomans benefit for their outstanding stewardship.”

Sand County Foundation, the nation’s leading voice for conservation on private land, created the Leopold Conservation Award to inspire American landowners by recognizing exceptional ranchers, farmers and foresters.

For more information about the Leopold Conservation Award and Sand County Foundation, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

 Voice your opinions and concerns on agriculture trade

Farm Bureau members are invited to encourage the U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate a better deal on behalf of America’s farmers and ranchers during a public comment period on trade dispute with China. OKFB members may use the American Farm Bureau Federation platform on the OKFB website to submit comments through May 11.

 Miss the Congressional Action Tour? Catch up with our video interviews

During the 2018 OKFB Congressional Action Tour last week, OKFB caught up with several members of Oklahoma’s congressional delegation, along with OKFB President Rodd Moesel, to discuss the leading concerns of Farm Bureau members. Find the videos on Facebook at facebook.com/OKAgPolicy.



facebook



twitter



pinterest



instagram



flickr



soundcloud



youtube



website

www.okfarmbureau.org



Donate to our 2018 Wildfire Relief Efforts

details at www.OKFarmingAndRanchingFoundation.org

Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation now accepting donations for 2018 wildfire relief efforts

As the wildfires in western Oklahoma near containment, the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation remains committed to helping those devastated by the fires. The foundation is grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support from generous individuals across the state and nation. Those still wishing to aid those

affected by the wildfires may still donate to the foundation. All wildfire relief donations collected by the foundation will be used to assist those impacted by the fires.

To donate, mail checks to the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation, 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. The foundation also can accept donations

via PayPal on the foundation's website at OKFarmingAndRanchingFoundation.org. When donating, please designate the funds are for wildfire relief.

Please also join the foundation in continuing to pray for the firefighters, farmers, ranchers and rural residents who have been affected by the fires.

Nine students receive \$1,000 YF&R college scholarships

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers committee has awarded nine high school seniors, one from each OKFB district, with a \$1,000 college scholarship.

"Our scholarship recipients give us great hope for agriculture's future in every part of this state," said Brent Howard, OKFB YF&R chairman. "As fellow young farmers and ranchers, the OKFB YF&R committee is proud to support these young scholars as they develop into leaders in the agriculture industry."

The nine scholarship recipients are Lexi

Vanderwork, Woodward County, District One; Kole Lindenfelser, Roger Mills County, District Two; Tyler Wilkinson, Canadian County, District Three; Alisa Northcutt, Johnston County, District Four; Toby Bowles, Bryan County, District Five; Kaylyn Branen, Rogers County, District Six; Paden Day, Noble County, District Seven; Tanner Wofford, Hughes County, District Eight; and Taylor Cartmell, Payne County, District Nine.

The nine scholarship recipients have a wide variety of career aspirations and have chosen degrees across the agriculture

industry including animal science, agribusiness, agricultural communications, natural resource ecology and management and biochemistry and molecular biology.

The OKFB YF&R committee each year presents \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a degree in agriculture at an Oklahoma accredited institution of higher learning. The scholarship program is open to members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau. To learn more about the program, contact YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at 405-523-2300.

Member Benefits

TSC Security

TSC Security, Inc. will install a home security system at no cost in any Oklahoma Farm Bureau member's home in exchange for a three-year monitoring service agreement. Members can also receive \$200 to use toward the purchase of additional equipment. TSC Security's monitored solutions provide Farm Bureau members with peace-of-mind. Call 866-321-4177 or visit the TSC website at www.totalsecurity.biz.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

16th Annual OKFB YF&R Golf Classic

May 4 • Guthrie

Contact: Zac Swartz 405-205-0070

Ag Day at the Capitol (rescheduled)

May 9 • Oklahoma City

Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

On the Road with Ag in the Classroom

June 12-14 • Oklahoma

Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

Published by Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Postmaster: Send address corrections to:
Perspective, P.O. B. 53332,
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332

Oklahoma Farm Bureau
2501 N. Stiles
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3126

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 131
Okla. City, OK.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Executive Director

Thad Doye 405-523-2438

Senior Director of
Corporate Communications

Dustin Mielke 405-530-2640

Senior Director of
Policy Communications

Hannah Davis 405-523-2346

OKFB hosts biennial conference for county Farm Bureau secretaries



County Farm Bureau secretaries met in Oklahoma City April 12-13 for the OKFB County Secretary's Conference. The county Farm Bureau staff members from across the state had the opportunity to learn about the exciting things going on at OKFB, as well as enjoy food and fun with fellow county secretaries.

Join OKFB at the home office for a cookout during the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon on Sunday, April 29

All Oklahoma Farm Bureau members, agents, employees, CSRs and county secretaries participating in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon on April 29 are invited to attend an appreciation cookout at the OKFB home office located at 2501 N. Stiles Ave. in Oklahoma City. The brunch cookout is in appreciation of the hard work of marathon volunteers and race participants. All friends and families are invited to attend, as well. Festivities will begin at 8:30 a.m., where volunteers will serve food and drinks on the OKFB west lawn until 11 a.m. No RSVP is needed.