

## OKFB, ag leaders urge Congress to ratify USMCA

Oklahoma agricultural leaders including Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel discussed the importance of ratifying the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement to Oklahoma farmers and ranchers at an event on May 23 at the organization's office in Oklahoma City.

The event was a stop along the Farmers for Free Trade coalition's Motorcade For Trade, a movement across 11 states in support of the ratifying the USMCA.

The USMCA, which was agreed on between the three countries to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, is currently awaiting approval by Congress. The agreement allows trade to continue to Mexico with no tariffs and provides new market access of dairy and poultry products to Canada.

"We not only have moral reasons to open up these [international] markets but important financial reasons, as well," Moesel said during the event. "A big contribution to our U.S. economy is agricultural exports."

The trade negotiations have caused significant repercussions for Oklahoma farmers and ranchers that rely on international markets. Moesel said the

price of many agricultural commodities is approximately 50 percent less compared to five years ago, while input costs and other expenses have remained the same or increased.

As an Alfalfa County wheat and cattle producer, Farm Bureau member Hope Pjesky said she is dependent on international trade, specifically with Mexico and Canada.

"Mexico is our No. 1 export market for wheat in the United States, and being from Oklahoma, we have an advantage over many other states because of our proximity to Mexico," Pjesky said. "We are able to load entire trainloads of wheat from our local elevators and send them directly to Mexico."

One of the top export markets for beef, Pjesky said a trading relationship with Mexico is also vital to livelihood of Oklahoma beef producers.

Oklahoma Pork Council Executive Director Roy Lee Lindsey shared the importance of trade for the state's pork industry.

"Any time we have a disruption in trade, it causes great disruption in our markets," Lindsey said. "It causes great pain for our

producers."

Lindsey said retaliatory tariffs from Mexico and Canada that were in place cost Oklahoma pork producers \$12 per animal. With Mexico and Canada serving as two of the largest export markets for U.S. pork, Lindsey said the USMCA preserves a zero tariff on pork going into the two countries.

"We need all of our congressional delegation to help us with ratification of USMCA," Lindsey said.

Sen. Casey Murdock, chair of the Senate Agriculture and Wildlife Committee, said the USMCA needs to be ratified by Congress as soon as possible because it helps Oklahoma farmers.

"We (in agriculture) fight Mother Nature every day," Murdock said. "We don't need to fight our Congress on doing what's right for agriculture in this country."

The Farmers for Free Trade Motorcade for Trade tour is making stops across the country to highlight American farmers' reliance on trade with Canada and Mexico. Oklahoma City marked the beginning of the southern leg of the tour. Next, the motorcade will travel to Texas, then New Mexico and Arizona and into California.



Roy Lee Lindsey, executive director for the Oklahoma Pork Council, addresses attendees during the Farmers for Free Trade coalition's Motorcade For Trade event.



Attendees of the event included agricultural leaders from across Oklahoma, Oklahoma based congressional staffers, and Oklahoma City based business representatives that rely on both agriculture and trade with Mexico and Canada.

YF&R SUMMER CONFERENCE 2019

# THE FUTURE IS TODAY

okfb yf&r



## "The Future is Today" with OKFB YF&R Summer Conference

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers will host their annual summer conference July 12-14, 2019 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

OKFB members ages 18 to 35 are invited to attend the three-day event to meet fellow young farmers and ranchers, tour local agricultural facilities, and learn more about YF&R opportunities and programs.

Registration for the conference is \$20 per person. Hotel rooms may be booked at the Hilton Inn in Bartlesville for \$100 per night.

### Friday, July 12

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Woolaroc Museum open to attendees and their families

3 p.m. – Hotel check-in available

3 p.m. -5:30 p.m. – Registration

5:30 p.m. – Family night at Clyde Lake, Woolaroc  
*Sponsored by Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma*

### Saturday, July 13

7 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. – Registration

7:30 a.m. – Depart for ranch tours

12 p.m. – Lunch

2:15 p.m. – Pecan Farm Tour

4 p.m. – Mock Brothers Saddlery and Western Wear

5 p.m. – Return to hotel

7 p.m. – Dinner at Frank Philips Club  
*Featuring Quin Peterson and The Dirt Road Detours*

### Sunday, July 14

8 a.m. – Sunrise service

9 a.m. – Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur

10 a.m. – Farm Data presentation by Clay Burtrum

10:30 a.m. – Noble Research Institute presentation by Josh Anderson

11:30 a.m. – Q&A panel on YF&R awards

12:15 p.m. – Adjourn

Register and reserve your hotel room by June 26 by contacting Zac Swartz at 405-523-2406 or [Zac.Swartz@okfb.org](mailto:Zac.Swartz@okfb.org).

## Calendar

### National Ag in the Classroom Conference

June 18-21 • Little Rock, Arkansas  
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

### Nurse's Scholarship Application Deadline

July 1  
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

### OKFB YF&R State Summer Conference

July 12-14 • Bartlesville  
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

### OSU Big Three Field Days

July 16-18 • OSU, Stillwater  
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

### State High School Discussion Meet

July 16 • OSU, Stillwater  
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

### OKFB Women's Leadership State Committee Meeting

July 22 • OKFB Home Office



The image features a green John Deere 5100E tractor with yellow wheels parked on a brick plaza. In the background is the Oklahoma State Capitol building, a large classical structure with a prominent dome and columns. The sky is clear and blue. A dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the top right of the image, containing white text.

# OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU'S 2019 LEGISLATIVE YEAR-IN-REVIEW

**AS THE FIRST GAVEL DROPPED IN THE OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES** to kick off the first session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature, the chamber was abuzz with a sort of energy that filled the air: optimism. With a new governor, more than 50 new legislators, a budget surplus and a new hope for state government, the 2019 session began with excitement that carried through much of the legislative process. Throughout the session, Oklahoma Farm Bureau continued to work for and defend the priority issues set forth at convention last year including legislation dealing with agriculture, taxes, water and rural health care.

## AGRICULTURE

**T**he prospect of a new crop is always an exciting thing for farmers and ranchers. Oklahoma has seen a tremendous amount of interest in the production of industrial hemp along with marketing options for the crop.

Two bills were signed by Gov. Kevin Stitt this session that seek to help legally transition the production of hemp in Oklahoma from the pilot program established last year to a more permanent program under the regulatory authority of ODAFF. The federal government is expected to provide a full legal framework later this year when the U.S. Department of Agriculture adopts nationwide guidelines as provided by the 2018 farm bill. Both of this year's bills help iron out the legal issues in Oklahoma to prepare producers in the state to produce hemp once USDA rules are finalized.

To avoid misleading or confusing consumers, Farm Bureau members last year adopted policy that supports prohibiting labeling of plant-based or lab-grown food products as meat. A win for agricultural producers, the governor signed legislation this year that prevents food manufacturers from using the term "meat" on food products that are not derived from livestock or poultry.

Across the country, agricultural producers have been threatened by multi-million dollar verdicts in nuisance lawsuits. The dangerous trend in other states led OKFB members to adopt policy supporting laws that protect farmers and production practices from nuisance suits. This year, legislation established a limit on the maximum amount that may be awarded in noneconomic or punitive damages in an agricultural nuisance lawsuit. A priority issue for Farm Bureau members, the legislation was the first agriculture-related legislation authorized by the governor and was signed into law on April 4, 2019.

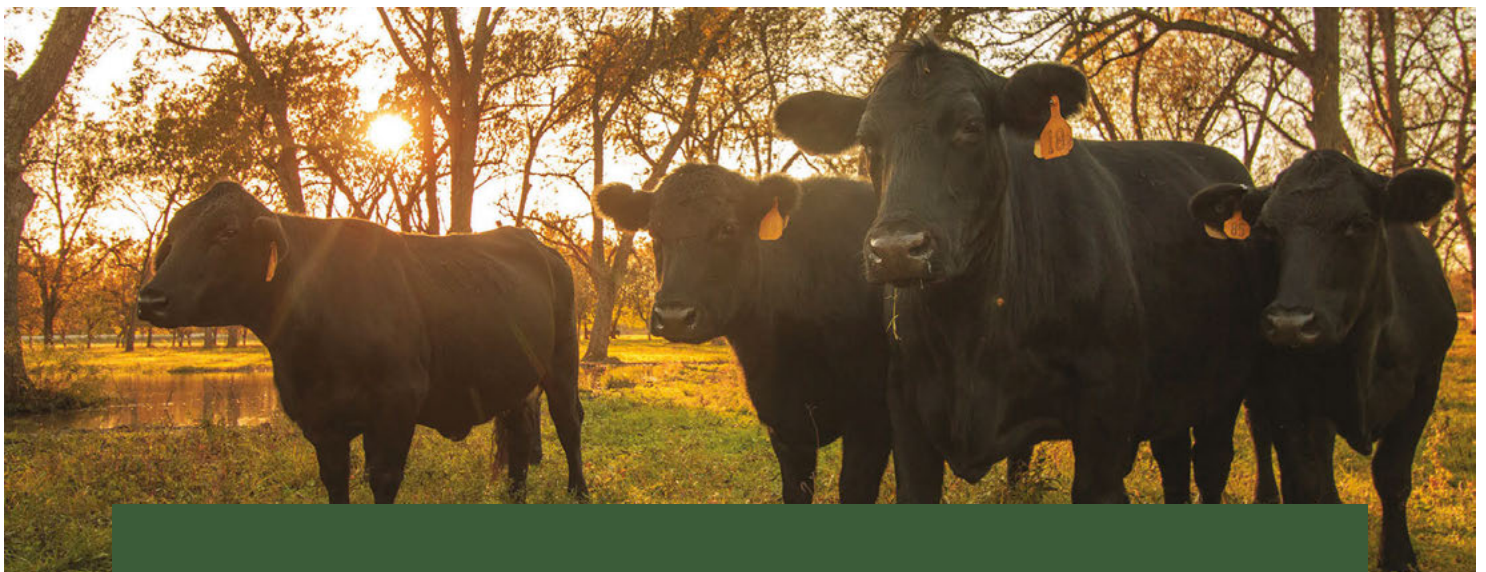
Seeking to improve the livestock industry's ability to prevent and respond to a disease outbreak was a common theme in several bills this year. In fact, animal identification methods and carcass disposal techniques alone were the subject of five pieces of legislation.

Other proposals that were signed into law by the governor included a prohibition on feeding garbage to swine and clarified procedures for the movement of livestock during in an emergency situation.

## WATER

**O**klahoma is a diverse state in many ways, maybe none more so than when it comes to water. Priorities, problems and potential all vary from region to region. This diversity was reflected in water-related legislation in 2019. Southeast Oklahoma groups pushed two bills that would have required the creation of complex new regulatory entities to measure stream flow and set limits on the amount of water that may be used for agricultural, industrial, municipal and recreational purposes. These in-stream flow proposals failed to advance, but are expected to be studied by subject of interim studies by the state Legislature.

Legislation was advanced to enable the creation of groundwater irrigation districts in far northwest Oklahoma to pursue federal conservation grant funding. Two Farm Bureau-supported bills were signed into law that allow Oklahoma to become a member of a tri-state commission on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. The commission will seek to enhance the use of this northeast Oklahoma transportation route that is vital for the movement of many agricultural commodities, fertilizer and chemicals. South central Oklahoma will be affected by a new law that grants a moratorium on new mining operations in the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer.







## TAXES

**A**d valorem taxes continued to be a priority for many state legislators this year. Both the House and Senate proposed legislation to allow cities to create public safety districts funded by ad valorem taxes. OKFB successfully worked with House leadership to prevent a vote on the legislation by the full chamber. Yet both the House and Senate passed versions out of committees remain eligible to be heard next year.

The agriculture sales tax exemption became a focus for some lawmakers again this year. A bill proposed would require a yearly renewal of the agriculture sales tax exemption card, compared to the current three-year renewal. It also would require individuals and farming corporations to provide Schedule F income on income tax returns to obtain a sales tax exemption card. OKFB and other agriculture organizations opposed this legislation and worked with the bill's author to address abuse of the exemption. The bill was not heard on the floor, but is still eligible to be heard next year.

## RURAL HEALTH CARE

**A**s Farm Bureau members know all too well, Oklahoma is facing a health care crisis, especially in rural areas. Numerous pieces of legislation were introduced this year aimed at addressing this issue. Unfortunately none were sent to the governor's desk, but are all still eligible to be heard next year.

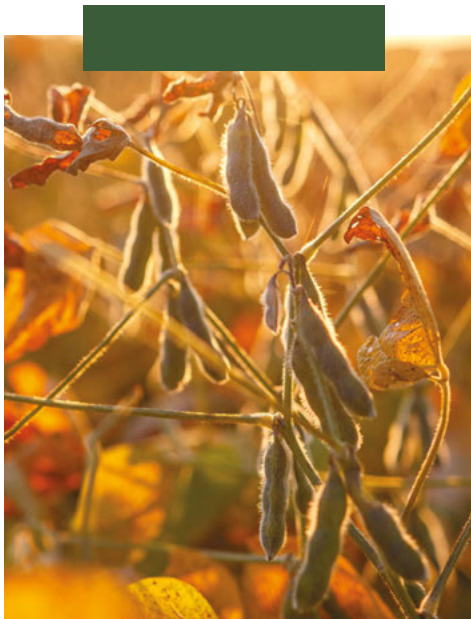
A priority issue for OKFB, legislation this year sought to reduce the supervision requirements for nurse practitioners across the state. After much consideration, the nurse practitioners decided to lay the bill over and continue working on the language over the next year.

Similarly, legislation was introduced to ease the supervision requirements for certified registered nurse anesthetists. CRNAs collaborate with surgeons across Oklahoma every day to bring anesthesia services to Oklahomans. In many parts of rural Oklahoma, they are the only provider of anesthesia services. The legislation faced strong opposition from the Oklahoma State Medical Association, but both sides agreed to meet before next year's session to develop agreeable language for the best interests of the state.

Two bills aimed to incentivize new and existing doctors to establish practices in more rural parts of the state by providing an income tax credit up to \$25,000. OKFB is optimistic the legislation will make its way through the legislative process next year.

Multiple groups are dedicated to combating the rural health care crisis and increasing access in all areas of the state. OKFB will continue to work with these groups to ensure Farm Bureau members have a voice in the conversation.





## THE STATE BUDGET

The final budget approved by the House, Senate and Gov. Stitt saw the highest spending in state history, exceeding \$8 billion. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry saw an increase of \$4 million to its annual budget, including an additional \$1 million for Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and \$900,000 for wildfire mitigation activities and rural fire departments.

Other highlights for Farm Bureau members include:

- \$30 million to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges program, which restores funding raided by the legislature last year to help balance the state budget deficit
- \$500,000 for conservation cost-share projects related to water quality in northeast Oklahoma
- \$1.59 million for flood control structure projects through the Oklahoma Conservation Commission
- \$378,000 for Oklahoma Conservation District programs
- \$90,000 for an additional ODAFF state veterinarian
- \$500,000 for ODAFF wildlife control
- \$200 million placed in the state savings account, also known as the Rainy Day Fund

<div>LEGISLATION</div> <div>MONITORED BY OKFB</div>			
BILL	SUBJECT	OKFB POSITION	STATUS
SB 868	Industrial Hemp	Support	Signed by Governor
HB 2628	Industrial Hemp	Support	Signed by Governor
SB 392	Fake Meat	Support	Signed by Governor
HB 2373	Ag Nuisance Lawsuits	Support	Signed by Governor
SB 556	Animal Identification	Support	Signed by Governor
SB 558	Animal Identification	Support	Signed by Governor
SB 559	Animal Identification	Support	Signed by Governor
SB 546	Carcass Disposal	Support	Signed by Governor
HB 2178	Carcass Disposal	Support	Signed by Governor
HB 2155	Garbage Feeding to Swine	Support	Signed by Governor
HB 2301	Livestock Movement During Emergency	Support	Signed by Governor
HB 1403	Instream Flow	Oppose	Laid Over
SB 865	Instream Flow	Oppose	Laid Over
HB 2263	Groundwater Irrigation Districts	Support	Signed by Governor
HB 2142	McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System	Support	Signed by Governor
HB 2143	McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System	Support	Signed by Governor
HB 2471	Mining Moratorium	Neutral	Signed by Governor
HB 1992	Public Safety Districts	Oppose	Laid Over
SB 471	Public Safety Districts	Oppose	Laid Over
SB 477	Ag Sales Tax Exemption	Oppose	Laid Over
SB 839	Nurse Practitioner Supervision Requirements	Support	Laid Over
SB 801	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Supervision Requirements	Support	Laid Over
SB 890	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Supervision Requirements	Support	Laid Over
HB 2511	Rural Doctor Tax Credit	Support	Laid Over
SB 1078	Rural Doctor Tax Credit	Support	Laid Over

## OKFB members can save on upcoming vacations with TripBeat

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members can now save on getaways with TripBeat, which offers discounted vacation rentals worldwide.

With TripBeat, OKFB members can book stays at locations from intimate studios to spacious two or more bedroom suites at a discounted price. TripBeat has rentals at more than 2,400 destinations in approximately 90 countries.

The new member benefit offers OKFB members seven-night rentals for \$399 in select locations including Lake Ozark, Myrtle Beach, Las Vegas, Gatlinburg, San Diego, New York City and many more around the globe. Members also receive 25% off of preferred weekly and short stays as listed on TripBeat's website. This feature allows members to travel during peak seasons or to locations with high amounts of visitors and limited lodging.

To book your next vacation with TripBeat, go to [www.tripbeat.com/okfb](http://www.tripbeat.com/okfb) or call 844-367-6433.

TripBeat is a member of Wyndham Destinations, offering home-like residences with furnished kitchens, living areas, and balconies or patios. Locations often offer amenities such as a pool, game room, gym and many other options.

For a full list of more than 40 member benefits available to OKFB members, visit [okfarmbureau.org/benefits](http://okfarmbureau.org/benefits).

## Applications for Leopold Conservation Award due July 1

Many Oklahoma farmers, ranchers, and foresters follow responsible stewardship and management practices to ensure the future of their lands.

The Sand County Foundation in conjunction with the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, ITC Holdings

Corp., and Noble Research Institute will award one Oklahoma landowner for their conservation practices. The Leopold Conservation Award recipient will receive an Aldo Leopold crystal and \$10,000 for their conservation efforts.

For more information on the application process, visit [sandcountyfoundation.org](http://sandcountyfoundation.org).



## Applications for WLC Nurse's Scholarship due July 1

To assist Oklahoma Farm Bureau members with the costs associated with nurse's training, three \$500 scholarships are being offered to qualifying students.

The members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee understand the expense that goes into pursuing a career in the nursing field. With the cost of a quality education increasing every year, OKFB WLC members want to be there to help financially.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a Farm Bureau member or a member of a Farm Bureau family
- Be enrolled half-time or more at an accredited college, university, vo-tech or trade school. Please attach proof on enrollment to the application
- Applicants must furnish a copy of high school or college transcript

Applications are located on the OKFB website in the application center and must be submitted by July 1.

For more information, please contact Marcia Irvin at 405-523-2405 or by email at [marcia.irvin@okfb.org](mailto:marcia.irvin@okfb.org).

## Member Benefits

### Air Evac Lifeteam

Emergency Service for rural areas is here. OKFB members get a reduced annual fee for the Air Evac Lifeteam. This group of highly trained pilots, paramedics and registered nurses is standing by 24 hours a day to provide

emergency medical care for critically ill or injured people. In an emergency situation, AEL will fly directly to members' residences, farms, fields or the location of an accident simply by members calling AEL's toll-free number. The service now includes all of Oklahoma.

Applications are available at your county Farm Bureau office. Visit the Air Evac Lifeteam website to learn more about their services.

[www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits](http://www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits)



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## OK Cooperative Extension to host community forums across the state

**T**he Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service is asking for input to continue meeting the needs of Oklahomans long into the future. Local Extension educators across the state will be hosting community forums throughout May and June to serve as an opportunity for community members to voice their opinions and ideas.

"These forums will allow people throughout Oklahoma to share their visions for OSU Extension and help identify the

initiatives in which we can help lead the way," said Damona Doye, associate vice president, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.

Those attending the forums will take part in small-group discussions about ways in which OSU Extension can further strengthen Oklahoma communities, families, farms, youth, leaders and businesses. The feedback received will help initiate future programs and services while

determining priorities of rural Oklahomans.

Each forum will last about three hours, with meals or light refreshments provided to attendees. Those interested in attending should contact their local county OSU Extension office to RSVP.

To find your local OSU Extension office, visit <http://countyext2.okstate.edu/>. Dates, times and locations of upcoming forums may be found at [www.oces.okstate.edu/community-forums](http://www.oces.okstate.edu/community-forums).

## OKFB members making headlines with recent flooding

**I**n recent weeks, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members and OKFB President Rodd Moesel have been making news headlines across the state regarding the recent flooding.

Jim Freudenberger, Logan County Farm Bureau member, and Henry Heinrich, Canadian County Farm Bureau member, had the chance to share their story with viewers across the state.

To see the news clips, visit the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Facebook page.



*Above: Due to heavy flooding, Jim Freudenberger talks with OKCFox about how he lost half his wheat crop days before harvest.*



*Above: Henry Heinrich, owner of Heinrich Farms and an OKFB member, was interviewed by Lili Zheng with KFOR.*