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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

March 2, 2018

Ron Justice named OKFB's vice president of public policy



Ron Justice will direct the policy efforts of the state's leading agriculture organization.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has named Ron Justice vice president of public policy.

In his new role, Justice will direct the advocacy of Farm Bureau member policy at the state Capitol and throughout Oklahoma.

"From his time as an extension agent to serving in the state Senate, Ron has always been a staunch advocate for agriculture and rural Oklahoma," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "We're honored to have him take the helm of our policy efforts, and look forward to all he will accomplish for our farmers and ranchers."

Raised on a farm in Blaine County, Justice served the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service for 33 years before being elected to the Oklahoma Senate.

"Upholding the issues that are important to the people that live and work in rural Oklahoma has been a long-standing

passion of mine," Justice said. "I'm eager to work hand-in-hand with Farm Bureau members to bolster our state's agriculture community."

Justice was first elected to the state Senate in 2004 and served parts of Canadian, Grady and Kingfisher counties for 12 years. He served in many leadership roles as a state senator, including as vice chairman of agriculture and rural development, vice chairman of appropriations and chairman of the Republican Rural Caucus. He received the OKFB Champion Award in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and was a member of the OKFB 100 Percent Club.

A resident of Chickasha, Oklahoma, Justice holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in agricultural education from Oklahoma State University.

OKFB to host gubernatorial candidate panel at Leadership Conference

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members will hear from candidates seeking to serve as the next governor of Oklahoma during the organization's leadership conference held March 5 and 6 at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City.

At least four candidates will share their vision and goals for the state during the forum held March 5 at 3:30 p.m. Candidates also will have an opportunity to offer their views on agriculture and rural issues.

Republican candidates participating in the forum include Todd Lamb, Gary Jones and Gary Richardson. Drew Edmondson, a Democrat candidate, also will join the panel.

All declared candidates for the 2018 gubernatorial election were invited to participate in the Farm Bureau panel.

"This year's gubernatorial election represents a significant moment for the future of the state of Oklahoma," said Rodd



Moesel, OKFB president. "We're excited to provide Farm Bureau members an opportunity to thoroughly vet candidates that will represent the best interests of the agriculture community and rural

Oklahoma."

Find a full agenda and more information about the 2018 OKFB Leadership Conference at www.okfarmbureau.org.

OKFB announces John Deere member benefit

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members now receive discounts, special low-rate financing and other benefits from John Deere through special access to its GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program. Sign up for the John Deere GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program using a valid member ID and ZIP code for membership verification, and become a Platinum 2 level by visiting JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau.

As Platinum 2 status members, OKFB members are eligible for discounts on the following categories of equipment: \$350-\$3,200 off commercial mowing; \$100-\$250 off residential mowing; \$200-\$350 off utility vehicles; \$200-\$350 off tractors; \$500-\$3,700 off golf and sports turf; and 17 percent off MSRP – commercial worksite.

Members also can combine GreenFleet equipment savings with national offers, receive special parts savings, receive 10 percent off home and workshop products, and receive 10 percent off apparel and accessories at JohnDeereStore.com.

No matter your need, John Deere has the equipment to get the job done. Visit your local dealer for demos, quotes and more. Learn more about the John Deere benefit by visiting okfarmbureau.org/benefits.

Group of 30 OKFB members attend AFBF YF&R conference in Reno



Top: A group of 30 Oklahoma Young Farmers and Ranchers members pose for a photo during the AFBF YF&R Conference Feb. 16-19 in Reno, Nevada. Bottom Left: Austin Jackson from Northeastern A&M College competes in the AFBF YF&R discussion meet. Bottom Right: Kade Killough of Oklahoma State University represents OKFB in the discussion meet.



Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

 Miss the electronic logging device informational meeting?

Representatives from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol spoke to farmers, ranchers and agribusiness owners at an informational meeting in Okmulgee earlier this week. If you were unable to attend, look for full video coverage of the event on the OKFB Facebook page.

 What's going on at 23rd and Lincoln?

Want to stay informed on the latest issues at the state Capitol? OKFB staff makes sure to update members of the latest legislation and policy affecting agriculture and rural Oklahoma. Make sure to check out Lincoln to Local, a weekly video wrap-up of Farm Bureau's efforts at the state Capitol, on the OKAgPolicy Facebook page each week.



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Legislative Update: Ag sales tax exemption, trailer tags on OKFB's radar

From the OKFB Public Policy staff

With nearly 2,000 bills introduced in this session alone, and another approximately 2,000 that carried over from last session, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Public Policy team has its hands full.

Budget shortfalls have become a reoccurring theme at the state Capitol, leading legislators to explore tax exemptions and credits as a potential fix. Several measures have surfaced that propose changes to the way the agriculture sales tax exemption is claimed, as well as the way it is obtained. The OKFB Public Policy team continues to educate legislators on the importance of the state agriculture sales tax exemption.

Legislators have proposed shortening the agriculture sales tax exemption permit renewal period and requiring proof of farm income before exemption. Some measures have even mentioned photo ID cards.

The potential changes to the agriculture sales tax exemption are attempting to address fraud within the exemption. The proposed measures would make the process burdensome for those already following the law, rather than eliminating fraud and abuse. The Oklahoma Tax Commission already has authority to crack down on

fraud; legislative action is not needed.

Farm Bureau members are encouraged to call their legislators and emphasize why the agriculture sales tax exemption is a critical resource for Oklahoma family farmers and ranchers. Legislators – especially those friendly with the agriculture community – have mentioned the need to clean up fraud to avoid future conversations around the exemption. Self accountability amongst our members and others throughout the agriculture community is essential.

Mandatory tagging and registration of trailers is another policy issue on the horizon. Farm Bureau policy is very clear: OKFB members do not believe trailer tagging and registration is wanted or needed. OKFB policy supports an optional lifetime tag for \$10 or \$20. Though these bills move have yet to move through committee, members need to be aware the issue is being heavily talked about at 23rd and Lincoln.

One of OKFB's priority bills this year is to work on a process that would require consent and compensation for oil and gas companies to use the right-of-way that counties have an easement on. We continue to discuss this issue with oil and



gas companies and will work to protect our private property rights.

As Farm Bureau continues to fight for rural Oklahoma at the state Capitol, members are encouraged to get involved by scheduling a Capitol visit, hosting legislators at a county Farm Bureau event, or simply engaging with legislators through a phone call or email.

YF&R Legislative Day to be held March 4-5

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members ages 18 to 35 are invited to attend the Young Farmers and Ranchers Legislative Day held March 4 and 5 in Oklahoma City. The event is an opportunity for YF&R members to learn about Farm Bureau policy and promote agriculture and rural Oklahoma at the state Capitol. Members will enjoy an evening at Top Golf on March 4 at 6 p.m., followed by a morning at the state Capitol on March 5. Participants also are encouraged to attend the OKFB Leadership Conference, which kicks off March 5 at 12 p.m. Hotel rooms are available for \$99 per night at the Courtyard Marriott Oklahoma City North, located at 13511 Highland Park Boulevard. For more information, contact OKFB YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at 405-523-2300.

Member Benefits

John Deere

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members receive special access to the John Deere GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards program, providing members with a free two-year Platinum 2 membership. It's easy to become a GreenFleet member, too! To join and to learn about the discounts and benefits of membership, visit JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

YF&R Legislative Day

March 4-5 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-205-0070

OKFB Leadership Conference

March 5-6 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Tasha Duncan 405-530-2681

Oklahoma Youth Expo

March 6-16 • Oklahoma City

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Berry, Patton join OKFB field services team

Oklahoma Farm Bureau recently named Haley Berry and Caylie Patton as field representatives.

In their new roles, the two will serve as liaisons between county Farm Bureaus and the state Farm Bureau.

Berry will serve Beckham, Caddo, Cotton, Comanche, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Jefferson, Kiowa, Stephens, Tillman and Washita counties as the southwestern field representative.

“Growing up was nothing but faith, family, food and Farm Bureau,” Berry said. “I now look forward to serving as a voice for our members.”

A native of Central High, Oklahoma, Berry was raised on a cattle ranch. Her family also owns a livestock auction in Clinton, Oklahoma.

Berry is earning a degree in journalism and media production from Cameron University.

As the south central field representative, Patton will serve Farm Bureau members in Carter, Garvin, Grady, Johnston, Love, McClain, Marshall, Murray, Okfuskee, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie and Seminole counties.



Caylie Patton
South Central Field Representative

“Oklahoma farmers and ranchers give so much to Oklahoma,” Patton said. “I’m excited to be a part of an organization that goes to work every day to protect agriculture and ensure farmers and ranchers continue to help Oklahoma thrive.”



Haley Berry
Southwestern Field Representative

Patton previously served as a legislative correspondent for Sen. James Lankford in Washington, D.C.

The Tecumseh native earned a degree in communications from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.