

PERSPECTIVE

May 16, 2025



OKFB WLC holds annual conference for Farm Bureau women in Lawton

More than 100 Oklahoma Farm Bureau women from around the state gathered for a weekend of fellowship, service and learning during the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee's annual statewide conference at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lawton April 25-26.

The conference featured a tour, breakout sessions, community service projects, a silent auction fundraiser and networking opportunities.

The conference kicked off Friday, April 25, with a trip to Medicine Park, where members had lunch at The Old Plantation Restaurant and explored the town. The tour group then traveled into the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge where the group visited the top of Mt.

Scott, The Holy City of the Wichitas and the refuge's visitor center.

Members participated in two community service projects later that evening, filling bags of watermelon seeds for the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture's Watermelon Challenge program and writing thank-you cards to Oklahoma legislators in appreciation of their work to promote and protect rural Oklahoma and the state's agriculture community.

Farm Bureau women had the opportunity to bid on silent auction items donated by county women's committees and others, raising \$2,407 for the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture.

Featured speakers included Vincent Saylor, the incoming chairman for the

Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, who welcomed members to Lawton, and OKFB Executive Director Thad Doye.

Numerous breakout sessions on Saturday, April 26, provided conference attendees with the chance to learn about agriculture, share the farm and ranch story and learn about other topics of interest to the rural-based attendees. Sessions included advocating for agriculture by using social media, agritourism programs, advocacy programs and tax regulations.

The WLC hosts their annual conference as an opportunity for Farm Bureau members to connect and learn together. For more information about OKFB's WLC program, contact Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2300.



OKFB members learn about western Oklahoma agriculture during 2025 OKFB Ag Tour

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members traveled to the plains of western Oklahoma where they learned about the region's diverse agriculture industry during the 2025 OKFB Ag Tour May 6-8 in the Elk City area.

Members started the tour by heading west to Hydro to visit Entz Auction and Realty where they were welcomed with a customized OKFB Ag Tour billboard. Allen and Jackie Entz hosted the group as they learned about the auction business. Members had the opportunity to watch the quarterly equipment auction, which is held on the first Tuesday in May.

The next stop west on Interstate 40 was Cudd Pressure Control, an RPC, Inc., company providing oilfield services based in Elk City. Members learned about coiled tubing, the tubing instillation process and nitrogen pumps. The group also toured one of Cudd's control offices on a semi.

Members next visited Thru Tubing Solutions, an RPC, Inc., company that specializes in downhole oilfield solutions, such as fishing. Vince Morris from TTS gave members a tour of their operation and explained to members how the equipment is used in fishing the wells.

OKFB members visited Smith Farms and heard from Spencer Smith, Beckham County Farm Bureau member, about their family's farming operation. Smith also owns 4 Ag Farming Supplies where

he developed a specialized planter gauge tire that is made to last.

The end of the first day featured one of western Oklahoma's hidden gems, Simon's Catch, where members enjoyed fresh catfish with all the fixings.

Wednesday, May 7, kicked off with Jimmy Taylor, OKFB District Two State Director, as he shared with members about his family's beef cattle operation.

Taylor shared how he has used DNA testing and genomic information to build a quality herd of cattle that produces high-quality beef for consumers.

Members had the opportunity to visit Jimmy Clark on his farm in Sayre where he grows tomatoes and other vegetables in a high tunnel production system.

Clark is known for his radio show "Today in Ag," and his homegrown tomatoes that come from his high tunnel.

Wednesday's lunch featured a taco bar and door prizes at the Elk City Country Club sponsored by Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma.

The afternoon featured a tour of the Route 66 Museum where members saw antique tractors and farm equipment and memorabilia from Beutler Brothers Rodeo Stock Producers.

Members also learned about the North Fork Red River Conservation District's outdoor classroom hosted by Nelda Tucker, Roger Mills County Farm Bureau member.

The Wednesday evening meal was

held at the Activity Barn in Sayre with a barbeque meal sponsored by Beckham County Farm Bureau.

The evening wrapped up at the Red Dirt Shooting Club with dessert sponsored by Roger Mills County Farm Bureau. Roger Mills County Farm Bureau member Monte Tucker gave members the opportunity to shoot trap with the area's award-winning 4-H and FFA shooting team captains.

The final day of the tour began with a stop at Keith's Butcher Shop in Burns Flatt. Members saw inside the smokers filled with hams and bacon, saw beef sticks being packaged and toured the butcher shop's production floor.

Members traveled south to Power Plus Feeders in Hobart where they met with Kirk Duff, a Kiowa County Farm Bureau member. He shared with members how the feeders are contracted with Whole Foods to provide Prime and Choice quality beef from the cattle in their feed lot.

The tour concluded with lunch sponsored by the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture at Lucille's Roadhouse in Clinton.

The OKFB Ag Tour is an annual bus tour for OKFB members that helps expand their agricultural horizons and experience through tours and cultural experiences.

For more information about Ag Tour, please contact Burton Harmon at (405) 523-2300.

Ten Farm Bureau family students awarded \$1,000 OKFB YF&R, collegiate scholarships

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers committee has awarded nine \$1,000 scholarships to one high school senior from each OKFB district and a \$1,000 scholarship to a Collegiate Farm Bureau member.

The scholarships were awarded to students who plan to pursue a degree in an agriculture-related field at an Oklahoma college or university and who desire to contribute to agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

“The Young Farmers and Ranchers committee is proud to support these 10 students in achieving their higher-education goals,” said Jacob Beck, OKFB YF&R chair. “The agriculture industry is in good hands with this outstanding group of young leaders.”

Cora Sullivan was the winner of the Collegiate Farm Bureau scholarship. She is currently studying animal science at Cameron University.

The nine high school scholarship recipients are:

- Heath Laubach, Woodward County
- Brayden Buchwald, Tillman County
- Kynseth Zubrod, Logan County
- Kylie Whitley, Love County
- Kyree Donaldson, McCurtain County
- Lynlee McCurry, Mayes County
- Zander Peeper, Garfield County
- Hudson Andrews, McClain County
- Kale Robison, Payne County

These high school seniors plan to attend Oklahoma State University, Western Oklahoma State College, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M and Murray State College with plans to study ag business, soil science, animal science, agricultural education, biosystems engineering and more.

Congratulations to the 2025 YF&R Scholarship recipients

District 1

Heath Laubach, Woodward County

District 2

Brayden Buchwald, Tillman County

District 3

Kynseth Zubrod, Logan County

District 4

Kylie Whitley, Love County

District 5

Kyree Donaldson, McCurtain County

District 6

Lynlee McCurry, Mayes County

District 7

Zander Peeper, Garfield County

District 8

Hudson Andrews, McClain County

District 9

Kale Robison, Payne County

Collegiate

Cora Sullivan, Cameron University

Rogers County Farm Bureau donates \$10,000 for International Agriculture Leadership Experience

Rogers County Farm Bureau donated \$10,000 to sponsor the first International Agriculture Leadership Experience for the Oologah FFA chapter.

The educational experience is for FFA students in grades 10 through 12 in the upcoming school year.

In June 2026, the students selected through an application and interview process will travel to the Dominican Republic for the nine-day tour.

Students will participate in hands-on learning experiences, a STEM-based tour focused on global agriculture, environment, sustainability and cultural exchange.

Eighteen students will be selected for the program. The students selected will experience a full in-person course during the 2025-2026 school year.

The course provides structured coursework about international agriculture, agribusiness and personal finance.

Students can now apply and begin the interview process. At the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, students can begin planning and fundraising for the trip.

After the trip, students will share their experience to sponsors, community members and younger FFA members.

The sponsorship from Rogers County Farm Bureau will provide each student with \$1,000 to help offset the each student's cost for the trip.

For more information about the program, please contact the Oologah FFA chapter.



**PUBLISHED BY
OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU**

Postmaster:

Send address corrections to:

Perspective
P.O. Box 53332,
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332

STAFF DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thad Doye
(405) 523-2438

**VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Dustin Mielke
(405) 530-2640

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS
AND ADVOCACY COMMUNICATIONS**

Rachel Havens
(405) 523-2346

PUBLICATIONS SPECIALIST

Kate Jackson
(405) 523-2527

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Mickinzi Ferguson
(405) 523-2343

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

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

OKFB to host fifth FFA Communications Conference July 21



Registration is now open for Oklahoma Farm Bureau's fifth-annual FFA Communications Conference on Monday, July 21, in Edmond.

The FFA Communications Conference will equip students with knowledge of basic communications techniques and concepts in areas including writing, photography, social media and more, all taught by leading Oklahoma communications professionals.

The conference will be held in

Edmond at the Hilton Garden Inn. A lunch will be provided, and students will have an opportunity to win prizes that will help them tell their FFA chapter's story throughout the upcoming school year.

Because space is limited, the conference will accept students on a first-come, first-served basis, with a maximum of two students per chapter. The registration cost is \$25 per student.

To sign up, students must register

through their agricultural education instructors, who have received an email with conference registration information. Payment via check or purchase order must be submitted no later than Monday, July 7, to secure your registration. Credit cards cannot be accepted.

For more information about the conference, contact Rachel Havens at (405) 523-2300.