

# Oklahoma

## *Country*



The Magazine of the  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
© Fall 2021 • Vol. 74 No. 4

## Out *of the* ashes

Oklahoma farmers and ranchers **lend a helping hand**  
across state lines in the wake of natural disasters.

### **Planting passion**

A hidden horticultural gem in the Oklahoma hills

### **Fire smart**

OKFB's updated program for teaching fire smarts

### **Pressing onward**

Looking forward to OKFB's 80th annual meeting





# JOIN THE **JOHN DEERE** AG TECH PROGRAM Through Western Equipment



APPLY TODAY at  
**West-Equip.com/Careers**



# Oklahoma Country

Volume 74 No. 4  
Fall 2021  
(ISSN 1544-6476)

---

## EDITORIAL TEAM

### Dustin Mielke

Vice President of Communications and Public Relations

### Brianne Whitcomb

Publications Specialist

### Rebekah Nash

Communications Specialist

---



## ON THE COVER

Montana rancher Clint McRae stands next to hay donated by Oklahoma-based group Ashes to Ashes. McRae's ranch was devastated by wildfires during the summer of 2021. *Photo by Dustin Mielke*

---

## 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 Brianne Whitcomb before the last day of the month, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (405) 523-2325.

The OKFB membership number hidden somewhere in *Oklahoma Country* must match the number on the face of your individual OKFB membership card for you to claim the cash prize. The membership number that appears on your magazine's mailing label is not the hidden number, but also must match the hidden number for you to claim the cash prize.

---

## DIRECT ADVERTISING INQUIRIES TO:

Oklahoma Country  
Attn: Casey McNeal  
(800) 798-2691, ext. 334  
or email [casey@iafalls.com](mailto:casey@iafalls.com)

## ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. Advertisers assume all liability for content of their advertising. Publisher does not guarantee advertiser service or products, and assumes no liability for products or services advertised.

## TO SUBSCRIBE

*Oklahoma Country* subscription rate is \$1 per year for members as part of the dues, and \$15 for non-members.

## WEBSITE

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

---

## OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU DIRECTORS

Rodd Moesel | President  
Gary Crawley | Vice President  
John Grundmann | Secretary  
Monte Tucker | Treasurer  
Leon Richards | Director  
David VonTungeln | Director  
Kerry Givens | Director  
James Fuser | Director  
Stacy Simunek | Director  
Jim Meek | Director  
Thad Doye | Executive Director

---

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



Flickr



YouTube



# IF EVERYONE IS WATCHING, MAYBE EVERYONE WILL DO THE RIGHT THING.



**MOST GROWERS DO THE RIGHT THING.**

## **1-855-DO RIGHT**

**WE'RE ASKING YOU TO REPORT THOSE WHO DON'T.**

**ProtectCoAXium.com**

### **THE COAXIUM GOOD STEWARD PROGRAM**

Growers are a special breed. But there can be bad apples in the most revered groups. We don't want this to be the case when stewarding the CoAXium® Wheat Production System. That's why we ask that:

- The Grower Stewardship Agreement is signed before selling CoAXium seed
- Growers only use the registered Aggressor® herbicide
- And no one ever saves CoAXium seed from one season to the next



© 2021 Albaugh, LLC; CWRP and Limagrain Cereal Seeds, LLC.  
CoAXium® and Cleaner Fields. Higher Yields® are trademarks of Albaugh, LLC; CWRP and Limagrain Cereal Seeds, LLC. Driven by Aggressor® Herbicides and Aggressor® are trademarks of Albaugh, LLC. Refer to the Aggressor® product label for complete directions and instructions. Aggressor® EPA Reg. No. 42750-313 AD030118



# Table of Contents

## Oklahoma Country Fall 2021

### Columns

06 Presidentially Speaking

08 Executive Outlook

### In Every Issue

10 Lincoln to Local

20 Commodity Corner

34 Consider the Benefits

35 Forward Foundation

36 All Around Oklahoma

52 Noble News

54 Country Gardening

56 Country Classifieds



## 22 Planting passion

By Rebekah Nash

Longtime Oklahoma Farm Bureau member Randy Davis shares his passion for growing ornamental and landscaping plants at Greenleaf Nursery, nestled in the hills of eastern Oklahoma.



## 30 Pressing onward

Join fellow OKFB members for a weekend of speakers, events, awards, policy discussion and more at the 80th annual meeting.



## 12 Out of the ashes

By Brianne Whitcomb

A group of Oklahoma and Kansas producers continue to step up when others are in need, sharing the message of hope following natural disasters including fires, floods and droughts.



## 32 Fire smart

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Safety Services works to share the importance of the message "Get out and stay out" with a new fire safety house.





# PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING

## Getting back to what we do best

By Rodd Moesel

President, Oklahoma Farm Bureau & Affiliated Companies

**T**here's nothing quite like getting back together and seeing old friends.

As Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gather for our 80th annual meeting in November, the chance to see fellow farmers and ranchers from around the state is perhaps more exciting than ever before.

We all know the changes that we have made to our daily lives throughout the pandemic, and last year we had to make the tough decision to conduct our business through a live, online meeting, foregoing our traditional yearly gathering and policy development process. While it was a disappointment to miss the chance to connect with old friends while making new ones, we are excited to return to our traditional in-person convention.

Our 2021 annual meeting theme is "Pressing Onward," and we know our Farm Bureau members have done just that throughout the last 18 months. Agriculture once again stood in the face of adversity and pressed onward to feed, fuel and clothe a world amidst uncertainty that current generations have not experienced. Pressing onward is what our members will do in November as grassroots Farm Bureau members come together to set our policy positions, fellowship with fellow agriculturalists and learn about the industry we love.


It is time to press onward with our Farm Bureau grassroots policy process as we address existing and emerging issues and concerns that farmers and ranchers see and experience. What truly makes our organization special is the ability for our voting

members to propose solutions to improve our industry and our lives. The opportunity to present new ideas that make their way from the local farm or ranch level all the way to consideration at our state convention – and perhaps even onto the national level at American Farm Bureau – is what allows OKFB to make agriculture and Oklahoma's future brighter.

This is an exciting process in a normal year, but it only becomes more important and impactful after postponing last year's policy development process. I believe the clarity and perspective the last 12 months have provided will help our members bring visionary new policy changes to be considered by their fellow Farm Bureau members.

Beyond our policy development process, this year's convention will be a great opportunity to gather again with folks throughout our industry who share our same values and love for our state. It is always a special experience to reconnect with old friends and meet new members who come from different walks of life and who are involved in different areas of agriculture. I hope you will enjoy the chance to learn and grow as we all expand our agricultural horizons.

Together, our Farm Bureau members will be pressing onward with one voice as we find new ways to help Farm Bureau, agriculture and our state grow. I look forward to seeing you November 5-7 as

we once again gather to share ideas, grow our knowledge and enjoy the friendships that Farm Bureau has brought us. 

“Together, our Farm Bureau members will be pressing onward with one voice as we find new ways to help Farm Bureau, agriculture and our state grow.”

— Rodd Moesel





**A good story  
sticks with you.  
So do your  
financial  
decisions.**

As you close the books on this year, you know your choices are shaping your financial future. Let us help you make the best decisions for you and your family.

**Contact your agent or advisor to discuss year-end financial strategies that could benefit you now and for years to come.**



Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC,\* 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Advisory services offered through FBL Wealth Management, LLC. \* Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company\*\*/West Des Moines, IA. \*Affiliates. \*Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services. WM030 (8-21)



# EXECUTIVE OUTLOOK

## A shared brand, a shared vision for the future

By Thad Doye and Gary Buckner

Executive Director, Oklahoma Farm Bureau;

Executive Vice President and General Manager, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance

**W**hen someone asks where we work, we are proud to reply, “Oklahoma Farm Bureau.” What we hear next is usually something along the lines of either:

“So you sell insurance?”

“Oh, you work with farmers?”

“What does Farm Bureau do?”

Oklahoma Farm Bureau means a lot of things to a lot of folks around our state. Some people know us for the work we do on behalf of our Farm Bureau members – family farmers and ranchers who dedicate their lives to growing food and caring for the land. Some people recognize our Farm Bureau brand as an insurance company with an office on their local main street, involved in their community and protecting their neighbors.

With a farm organization and an insurance company working side-by-side across our state sharing the brand of “Oklahoma Farm Bureau,” we are proud that Oklahomans recognize us for dedication, service and commitment spanning almost eight decades.

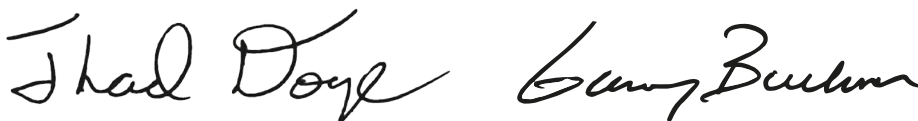
Our Oklahoma Farm Bureau brand has been built through generations by the grassroots farmers and ranchers who founded the OKFB federation in 1942 and continue to direct its work. It has been built by the agents and employees of OKFB Insurance who help our friends and neighbors through good times and bad, from disaster recovery to supporting high school football teams.

And it is up to each and every one of us to continue that brand and ensure it stands for decades as a symbol of Oklahomans helping Oklahomans. From our farm and ranch families who set our legislative policy to our insurance agent force who help our members find the right insurance policy; and from our federation staff who share the farm and ranch story to our insurance employees who ensure our members are covered, everyone involved within our organization and company have a chance to help Farm Bureau grow.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is about more than cows and tractors, and it is about more than insurance policies and coverage. What we all work toward is helping people and serving Oklahomans. Each person at Farm Bureau, from our leaders to our agents to our employees, builds the Farm Bureau brand daily through our words, our efforts and our actions. Each of us plays an important role in not just elevating Oklahoma Farm Bureau to new heights for ourselves, but rather we are building the future for Farm Bureau members.

No matter how you are involved with Farm Bureau or how long you have been around, we hope that the next time someone asks you about your association with Oklahoma Farm Bureau, you take the chance to share your Farm Bureau story and make the brand – our brand – even stronger.

Because when Oklahoma Farm Bureau grows, we all grow – together. 



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETINGS

### OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

To all members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and all affiliated county Farm Bureaus of Oklahoma Farm Bureau: You are hereby notified that Oklahoma Farm Bureau will convene its regular annual meeting of the members and the delegate body on Friday, November 5, 2021 at 1:30 p.m., at Embassy Suites by Hilton Hotel & Convention Center, 2501 Conference Drive, Norman, OK 73069. All affiliated county Farm Bureaus should make certain that your delegates are properly certified in attendance to represent your membership. This meeting will continue until all necessary business is transacted.

– Board of Directors

### OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Policyholders of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company will begin at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, November 6, 2021, during the Oklahoma Farm Bureau annual meeting. A report will be submitted of the activities of the company during the past fiscal year, together with a report of the financial position of the company. Any and all other activities of the company may be presented and considered.

– Board of Directors



## JOINT PRIVACY NOTICE



**This Joint Privacy Notice is provided on behalf of:** Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, AgSecurity Insurance Company, and Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance Agents, Inc. In this *Joint Privacy Notice*, the words we, us, and our refer to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, AgSecurity Insurance Company, and Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance Agents, Inc.

### **Our Commitment to Safeguarding Your Privacy**

This *Joint Privacy Notice* is provided to inform you of our practices and procedures regarding the sharing of nonpublic personal information. Nonpublic personal information means 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, and not publicly available.

We do not engage in the practice of disclosing your nonpublic personal information to nonaffiliated third parties other than, as necessary, to provide quality insurance services. For example, 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 nonpublic personal information to publishing houses, retailers, or coupon companies. Because federal and state laws, regulations, and business practices can change at any time, we may revise this *Joint Privacy Notice* accordingly.

### **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 a policy for you, 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 nonpublic information as confidential. Therefore, we do not disclose any nonpublic personal information 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 providers, consultants and regulatory or

governmental authorities. Furthermore, certain disclosures of information will be made to our personnel authorized to have access to your nonpublic 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 nonpublic 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;
- Nonfinancial 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 nonpublic 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 contract, applicable law, and nondisclosure agreements where appropriate. We maintain physical electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal and state law to guard your nonpublic personal information.

### **Your Opt-Out Right**

We reserve the right to disclose nonpublic personal information to a nonaffiliated third party. However, if you prefer that we do not disclose nonpublic personal 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 nonaffiliates 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 mail or fax the attached Opt-Out Notice to us.

Your opt-out form must reach us within 30 days of your receipt of our *Joint Privacy Notice*. Your opt-out request will take effect on the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 privacy policy and practices in accordance with the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 USC §6801, et seq., and with Oklahoma laws and regulations.

## **OPT-OUT NOTICE**

I prefer that you do not disclose nonpublic personal information about me to nonaffiliated third parties (other than disclosures permitted by law, which include sharing information with our affiliates & nonaffiliates about our transactions or experiences with you for business, administrative, and other legal purposes). In order for an opt-out notice to be valid, all \*required information must be completed.

*Clip & mail this form to:*

**Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance,  
c/o Opt-Out Notice**

**P.O. Box 53332, Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332  
Fax Number: 405-523-2581**

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*City: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_



## Congress should be supporting Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers, not raising their taxes

By Congressman Frank Lucas, OK-03

**A**s a former chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and longest-serving Republican on the House Financial Services Committee, the well-being of Oklahoma's family farms, and the strength of our local economies and the families that support them have always been a top priority. And as a conservative Oklahoman who – like my fellow Oklahomans – cares about how government spending will impact our children's children, I am concerned about Washington's spending.

The federal government's budget for Fiscal Year 2022 is a belt-busting \$6.011 trillion. The American Rescue Plan, passed on a party-line vote using budget reconciliation, spent \$1.9 trillion. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which is awaiting a vote in the U.S. House, would spend another \$500 billion. And now, Washington Democrats are drafting a measure to spend an additional \$3.5 trillion, set to be paid for by tax hikes and ballooning deficit spending.

One measure that would be uniquely detrimental to Oklahoma's farming and ranching families is the elimination of stepped-up basis. Any proposal that includes the removal of stepped-up basis would vastly increase the capital gains tax burden on family-owned farms and agribusinesses. While the overwhelming uproar from farmers and ranchers across the country compelled Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee to drop the tax proposal, the elimination of stepped-up basis still has support in the Senate and remains one of the many tax hikes needed to fund the \$3.5 trillion spending package.

Despite assurances from the Administration that farmers will be protected from any changes to the federal estate tax code, a rushed one-size-fits-all approach to exemptions would be inadequate and flawed. With regular order sidestepped and Republicans relegated to the sidelines, America's farmers and ranchers must continue to be engaged throughout this process.


While the proposal was dropped by the Ways and Means Committee, there will be plenty of opportunities for Democrats to contort a repeal of stepped-up basis and new capital gains

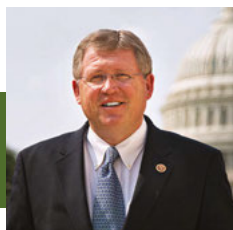
taxes into the massive tax and spending package. The bill still must make its way through the House, where Speaker Pelosi must navigate her narrow eight-seat Democratic majority. This is before the legislation arrives in the Senate, where Senate Budget Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders and Majority Leader Chuck Schumer cannot afford to lose a single Democratic vote.

Unfortunately, the tax headaches don't stop with the Democrats' attempt to eliminate stepped-up basis. The Ways and Means proposal limits 199A small business deductions, changes the Global Intangible Low-Tax Income calculation to favor foreign companies, and includes a laundry list of other tax provisions that will be paid for by small businesses, hard-working families, and the middle class.

U.S. farmers and ranchers should never have their livelihoods threatened due to the partisan political pandering of Washington, D.C. It's been an up-and-down year for producers in Oklahoma already. While wheat harvest in north-central and southwestern Oklahoma produced higher yields and prices for farmers despite a late start because of February's deep freeze, many farmers and ranchers are still dealing with the havoc wrought by extreme weather and the disrupted global food supply chain. All of this is compounding on top of years of low prices.

As the U.S. economy rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic, with the national debt at more than \$28.7 trillion and inflationary risks on the rise, and producers still feeling the impact of a down farm economy, we should not be raising taxes on America's family farms. Instead, we should be supporting the growers of America's food and fiber and ensuring rural America has a bright and prosperous future.

Thank you for the work you and your families put in on your operations day in and day out and thank you for your continued involvement with advocacy groups like the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. Together we will work to ensure measures like the elimination of stepped-up basis are not included in the upcoming tax and spending proposal. 



A farmer and rancher from Cheyenne, Oklahoma, Congressman Frank Lucas represents the state's Third Congressional District across 32 counties in northern and western Oklahoma. Contact Rep. Lucas by visiting [www.lucas.house.gov](http://www.lucas.house.gov).



# SRT-XD SERIES

54", 61", & 72" DECK SIZES

## GET A MOWER TODAY

We still have **several models available!**  
Don't miss your chance to buy one of these  
top-of-the-line mowers. Stop in and see us  
in Guthrie today!

- // Vibration Controlled Decks
- // HD Fusion Welded Frames
- // Parking Brake Pedals
- // 7 Gauge Steel Decks
- // Suspension Springs
- // Rear Radial Tires
- // Adjustable Seat
- // Hydraulic Drive
- // Receiver Hitch
- // Folding ROPS
- // Key Pad



**405.282.1196**

3650 NE Hwy. 33 | Guthrie, OK 73044

[BecksFarmEquipment.com](http://BecksFarmEquipment.com)





# *Out of the* ASHES

As wildfires become a frequent yet unfortunate phenomenon for many states, especially in the West, a group of roughly 20 farmers, ranchers, rural firefighters and truckers have rallied together to help.

STORY BY *Brianne Whitcomb* PHOTOS BY *Dustin Mielke*





*A string of trucks loaded with hay arrive near the southeast Montana town of Lame Deer. Part of a group known as Ashes to Ashes, these Oklahoma and Kansas residents have just traveled more than 900 miles to deliver some much-needed hope to fellow ranchers.*



**I**n the blink of an eye, the sheer power of a wildfire has the ability to change a landscape as it whips across the land turning homes, barns and pastureland into little more than piles of charred remains and ash.

But after the flames are extinguished and everything becomes quiet and still, there is a transition from the visible loss and destruction to the intangible sense of healing for both the people and the land.

For Bernie Smith, a cattle producer near Gate, Oklahoma, and volunteer fire chief in Englewood, Kansas, he experienced the highs and lows emotionally during the March 2017 Starbuck fire that nearly destroyed his way of life.

Eventually known as the Northwest Oklahoma Complex of Fires, consisting of the Starbuck, Selman and 283 fires, a combined 830,000 acres were burned.

In response to the massive loss of grazing lands and hay supplies in the area, loads of hay, fencing and other necessities began arriving from across the country at Smith's home and the homes of other ranchers at all hours of the day and night, oftentimes without the chance to put a name and a face with the much-needed deliveries.

"We had a lot of help come in after the Starbuck fire – a lot of hay, a lot of fencing and people just came out and helped," Smith said, thinking back to the days immediately following the fire.

But even when farmers and ranchers seem to be at their breaking point following something so destructive, Smith will be the first to admit that it is not always easy to be on the receiving end of a donation, even when it is greatly needed.

"Everybody at some time or another needs a little help and there's nothing wrong with taking that help as long as you help others when it's your turn," Smith said, stating a philosophy he has come to share often with others.

Smith, his family and a few neighbors would get their chance to give back just a few months later when the Lodgepole Complex fire started near Jordan, Montana, eventually burning more than 270,000 acres.

Through their trip hauling a gooseneck trailer and a hay trailer filled with round bales, the idea to create Ashes to Ashes was born.

Comprised of a dedicated group of roughly 20 farmers, ranchers, rural firefighters and truckers, Ashes to Ashes focuses

on providing much-needed hay to livestock producers following natural disasters such as damaging wildfires, devastating floods and severe drought.

"What we really try to push is giving hay," Smith said. "Fences are important, but you have to feed (livestock) or you aren't going to need those fences."

With a community of more than 6,000 followers on their Facebook page, every donation given to a rancher in need through

Ashes to Ashes is made possible by multiple people. From those who offer monetary donations covering the cost of hotels and fuel, the truckers who donate their time and trucks, and the farmers and ranchers who donate the hay, each person plays a pivotal role.

"It is a lot of work to put the convoys together, but where there's a will there's a way," Smith said, grinning.

Having been personally affected by wildfires once before, Smith has a unique perspective and drive from within that sets him apart – pushing him to help others even as challenges arise during the coordination process. He knows the feeling of loss, but also the feeling of hope that comes with receiving even just a few bales of hay.

"Those people are just like us, they're just in a different location," Smith said. "They've got their cattle, sheep and horses – and a lot of them live a long way from town. They're good people, they just had a bad run of luck and need someone to assure them that it's all going to be OK."

While the group typically coordinates deliveries to one natural disaster each year, 2021 presented its share of disasters to the country's agriculture community.

Nearly 900 miles away from Gate lies the small town of Lame Deer, Montana, where residents faced their own battle following a dry winter and spring.

Beginning in early August, the Richard Spring fire broke out close to the nearby town of Colstrip, making its way to Lame Deer and burning around 171,000 acres.

"I think overall there was just a lot of drought and little rain, so the hay crops were less than normal anyways and then in about July we started seeing fires popping up left and right," said Sheena Schiffer, a local rancher and member of the Rosebud County Cattlewomen's Association.

In the weeks leading up to the donation, Schiffer was in regular contact with Smith, serving as a local point of contact to help

**"Everybody at  
some time or  
another needs  
a little help and  
there's nothing  
wrong with  
taking that  
help as long as  
you help others  
when it's your  
turn."**

**– Bernie Smith**



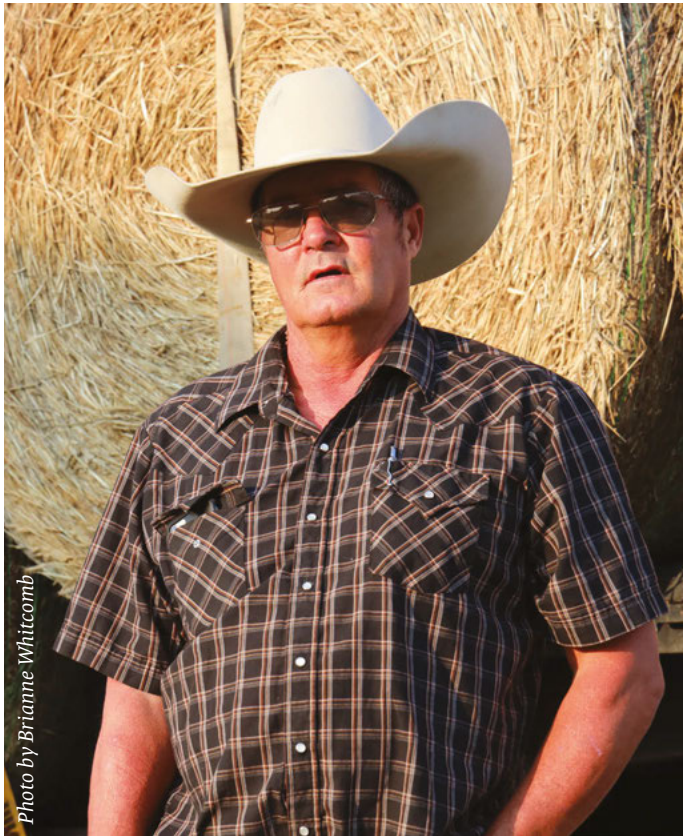


Photo by Brianne Whitcomb



**Top left:** Following his own experience, coordinating hay donations after natural disasters has turned into a labor of love for Bernie Smith. **Top right:** Some of the charred remains of roughly 150 to 200 round bales of hay burned by the Richard Spring fire. **Above:** Blake Smith, Bernie's son, brings in a load of hay to Lame Deer, Montana.



coordinate the hay deliveries. In addition, the Rosebud County Cattlewomen's Association generously made a donation to Ashes to Ashes to help cover costs associated with the trip.

Lame Deer also happens to be the place where fourth-generation cattle rancher Clint McRae continues to work the same southeast Montana ground his great-grandfather settled in the 1880s prior to Montana becoming a state. McRae received 15 round bales courtesy of Ashes to Ashes to help his family's ranch recover from the wildfires.

"We lost probably 98% of our grass, lost most of our fence and about 150 to 200 bales of carryover hay," McRae said. "In 24-hours we lost just about everything we have."

In an effort to keep their operation afloat, the McRae family made the gut-wrenching decision to sell off every cow older than three years old, keeping his yearling and two-year-old heifers to serve as the base to re-grow his herd in the coming years. Two years from now, McRae hopes to take the money he received from the sale of his older cows and replenish his herd.

"We've never had to do anything like this," McRae said. "There's no manual that you pull off the shelf and say, 'This is the situation, this is what you do with a fire.' With a tough winter or a drought situation, you have time to make a decision and know what to do. With the fire, we were out of grass in 24 hours."

McRae estimated that the 15 bales he received from Ashes to Ashes would last 15 days, more or less, for the remainder of his herd.

"We don't get through these things without neighborly help, and these neighbors of mine, we've been helping each other gather cattle, ship, process and

Fourth-generation Montana rancher Clint McRae stands beside the tractor he used to unload the hay donation he received from Ashes to Ashes following the Richard Spring fire.







Top left

### – THE DONATION –

*Clint McRae, a southeast Montana cattle rancher and recipient of 15 bales of hay courtesy of Ashes to Ashes begins unloading the much-needed bales. Losing 98% of his grass and between 150 to 200 bales of carryover hay in the Richard Spring fire, he was placed in a situation unlike he had ever been in before.*

Top right

### – COMMUNITY CONNECTION –

*A member of the Rosebud County Cattlewomen's Association and a local producer herself, Sheena Schiffer served as an invaluable asset in ensuring the delivery process ran smoothly. Remaining in regular contact with Bernie Smith in the weeks prior to the delivery, she worked to ensure the deliveries went to those most in need.*

Bottom left

### – POWER IN NUMBERS –

*The countless producers Ashes to Ashes has helped since it was first established in 2017 would not have been possible without each and every person who has donated. With a Facebook following of more than 6,000 people, they continually answer the call to help when others are in need. Since taking on this project, Bernie Smith has come to realize that many people want to help, they just do not know how. As time continues, he hopes the group will gather even more momentum to continue their efforts.*





that kind of thing, but I think our neighbor base just moved from here to Oklahoma and Kansas with this hay that was delivered.

“Hopefully, someday, if the people who came here today or somebody somewhere else has a tough time, maybe we can pay this forward,” McRae said. “I’d certainly be willing to do that.”

While photos may show patches of fresh grass beginning to emerge, the rain that came immediately following the fires brought its own set of challenges. Receiving roughly an inch of rain in just 30 minutes, it was too much, too fast for their dry soil. At the end of the storm, most of the topsoil was washed away and the much-needed rain did not soak in. Even so, McRae remains optimistic about hope for the future.

“This has been a challenge, but this is tough country,” McRae said. “This area has thrown us wrenches before, and we’ll survive it and we’ll get through it. It’s just going to take us a couple years.”

In the four years since Ashes to Ashes made their inaugural trip to deliver relief supplies, the group has traveled thousands of miles, established friendships across the country and given hope to multiple ranchers from Montana to Oklahoma and from Nebraska to New Mexico.

“I mean, it started with a gooseneck load and a semi load of hay and it’s grown to as many as 18 semi loads of hay,” Smith said, looking back at how far the group has come in such a short time. “That takes a lot of giving by a lot of people, and I’ve never talked to someone who donated that was sad they did.”

What Smith, his family and countless others experienced while battling the Starbuck fire forever shaped who they are.

“We’ve still got some cows with burn scars on them and so do the people,” Smith said, looking out across his land. “You don’t see them, but they have them.”

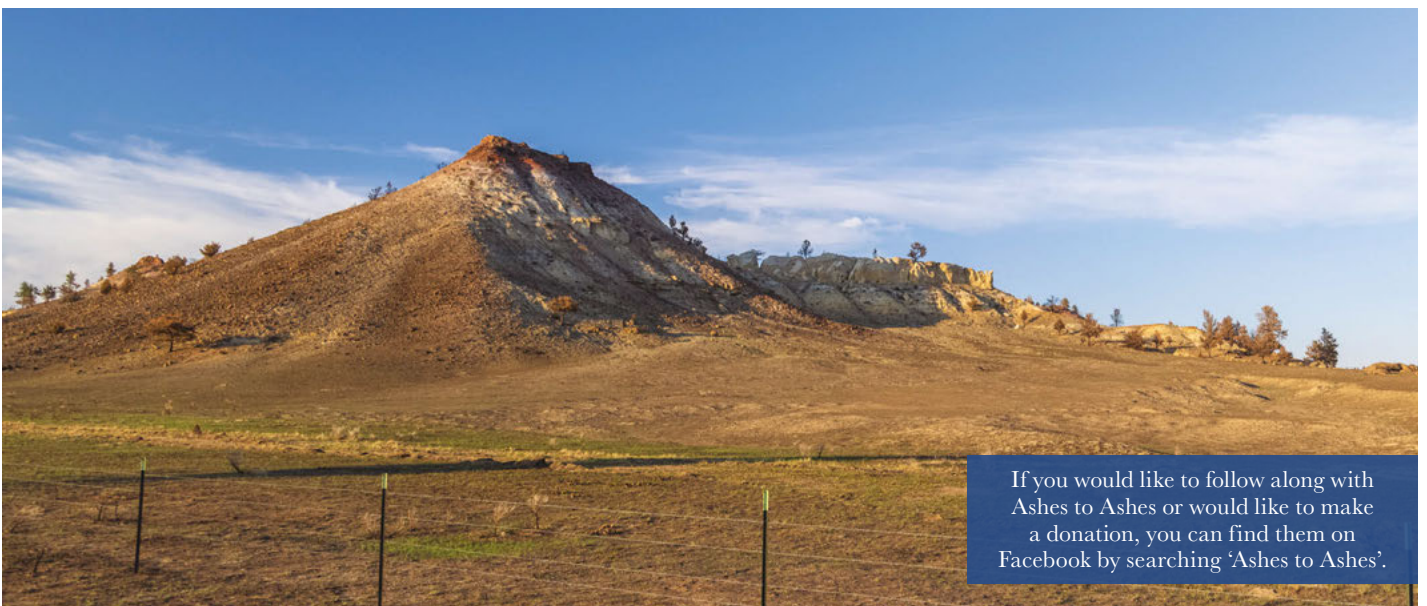
But through that loss, hope has flourished, which they strive to provide to others when needed most. In the meantime, they will remain ready – ready to answer the next call to deliver that much-needed hope to a fellow rancher.

“We’ve all got to help each other to make the whole circle work,” Smith said. “That’s something that our fire didn’t teach us, but reminded us. You have to lean on your neighbors and your friends. That’s what we’re doing with those people, we’re just helping them out because someone helped us.” **RB**





**Top left:** Volunteers with Ashes to Ashes begin to unload part of their trailer load for Clint McRae near Lame Deer, Montana. **Top right:** Ashes to Ashes volunteers drove more than 900 miles to deliver hay to fellow producers in Montana. **Bottom right:** Shortly after the fires ravaged McRae's land, the area received an inch of rain in half an hour, washing away much of the top soil.



If you would like to follow along with Ashes to Ashes or would like to make a donation, you can find them on Facebook by searching 'Ashes to Ashes'.





## Sustainability grows on the American farm

By Kari Barbic  
AFBF Director of Communications

No matter your profession or background, we all have a shared interest in being good stewards of our natural resources and making more sustainable choices. While climate-smart trends and initiatives have increased in popularity in recent years, farmers and ranchers have been “going green” for decades, and for some even longer. Additionally, U.S. agriculture is a global leader in climate-smart practices that enrich the soil, protect our water, absorb carbon and reduce emissions. America’s farmers and ranchers have a great success story to share, and it is a story that keeps getting better.

There is a real hunger not only for sustainably grown food, but also for direct farm-to-table stories. Americans have a high level of trust in farmers and ranchers, to the tune of 87% according to a recent American Farm Bureau public opinion poll. Our surveys have also found that the public ranks farmers high as a trusted resource among professionals for information related to food and climate. However, most misunderstandings about agriculture’s environmental impact come, not surprisingly, from a lack of information. When we share agriculture’s story broadly and farmers and ranchers share their stories specifically, we can move the needle together.

Farmers are rising to the challenge of feeding a growing population all while keeping their slice of emissions relatively small. Just 30 years ago, it would have taken 100 million more acres to produce the same amount of crops today’s farms are yielding. U.S. agriculture now makes up just 10% of overall greenhouse gas emissions, much less than industries like transportation and electricity for example. That number gets more impressive when you take into account our booming population. If you look at agriculture emissions per capita over

the last three decades, America’s farmers and ranchers have actually decreased their emissions on that scale by 15%.

How are farmers today producing more food, fuel and fiber without using more resources or leaving a larger environmental footprint? That success is thanks in large part to innovative practices and advanced technology. For example, farmers are planting cover crops to replenish the soil and cutting back on plowing to keep nutrients in the soil. From better seeds to smarter tractors, farmers are also eagerly adopting new tools to help them farm more efficiently. They are conserving water through modern irrigation systems and using less fertilizer and pesticides with precision tools that help them pinpoint application down to an individual plant’s needs.

And farmers are not just using less either, they are doing more to conserve land and resources and to use clean energy. Farmers and ranchers have nearly tripled renewable energy sources on the farm in recent years with solar panels, windmills, and methane digesters, to name a few. What is more: farmers across the country have enrolled a total of 140 million acres in conservation programs—that is a land mass equal to the size of California and New York combined.

When it comes to conservation and sustainability, farmers and ranchers are literally the boots on the ground leading these efforts. As any farmer knows, there is no such thing as “good enough” on the farm. Every day and every season, farmers and ranchers are looking for ways to do better and help fulfill their mission to produce our nation’s food, fiber, and fuel. This spirit has driven American agriculture to grow sustainably together, and this same spirit will drive this story of growth forward for generations to come. **AFBF**








**TIME ISN'T ALL YOU'LL SAVE.**

With its heavy-duty construction, long service life and minimal maintenance, a Grasshopper zero-turn mower's timesaving performance is only the beginning. You'll enjoy lower operating costs, too.

ASK ABOUT **ZERO%** FINANCING\*

**OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU** **Farm Bureau Members Save 15%**

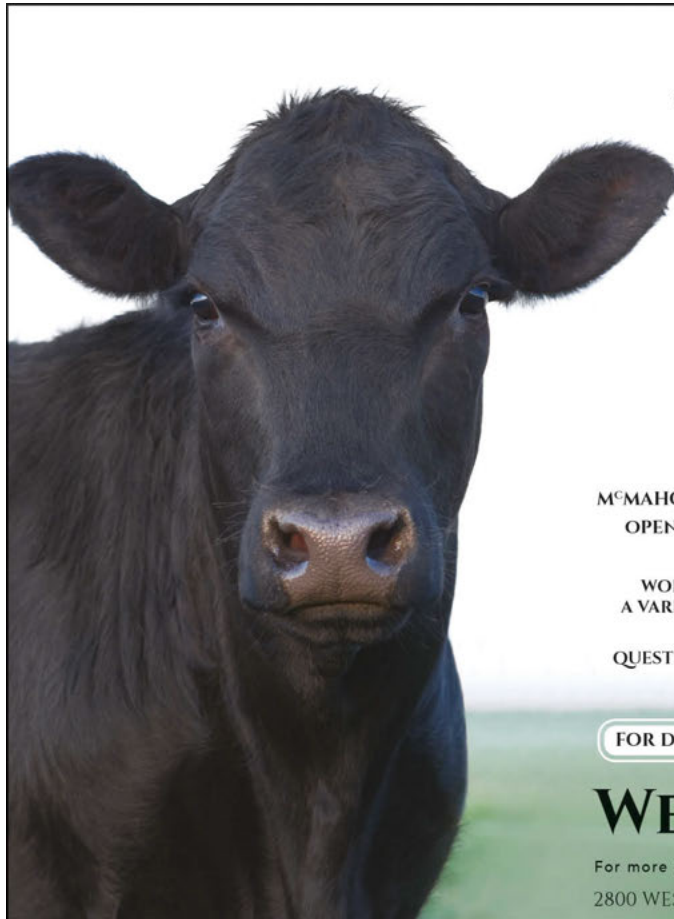


\*WAC. See store associate for details. ©The Grasshopper Company

**OKLAHOMA CITY**  
PIONEER EQUIPMENT  
INC.  
405-745-3036  
[www.pioneerequipmentinc.com](http://www.pioneerequipmentinc.com)

**STILLWATER**  
SAWGRASS EQUIPMENT  
LLC  
405-533-1992  
[www.sawgrassequipment.com](http://www.sawgrassequipment.com)

**STROUD**  
NEWNAM'S OUTDOORS  
& TOOL RENTAL LLC  
918-968-2077  
[www.stroudtire.net](http://www.stroudtire.net)



CAMERON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BIOLOGY & HEALTH SCIENCES

# 34TH BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 17, 2021**

M<sup>C</sup>MAHON CENTENNIAL COMPLEX ON THE CAMPUS OF CAMERON UNIVERSITY  
OPEN TO ALL BEEF CATTLE PRODUCERS IN OKLAHOMA AND NORTH TEXAS.

WORKSHOPS COVERING  
A VARIETY OF TOPICS IN THE  
BEEF INDUSTRY.  
QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION  
BANQUET



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**BLAYNE ARTHUR**  
OKLAHOMA SECRETARY  
OF AGRICULTURE

FOR DETAILS VISIT • [HTTPS://WWW.CAMERON.EDU/BEEF-CATTLE-CONFERENCE](https://www.cameron.edu/beef-cattle-conference)

## WE ARE THE AGGIES.

For more information call (580) 581-2373 or email [agriculture@cameron.edu](mailto:agriculture@cameron.edu)  
2800 WEST GORE BLVD., LAWTON, OK 73505 • [WWW.CAMERON.EDU](http://WWW.CAMERON.EDU)





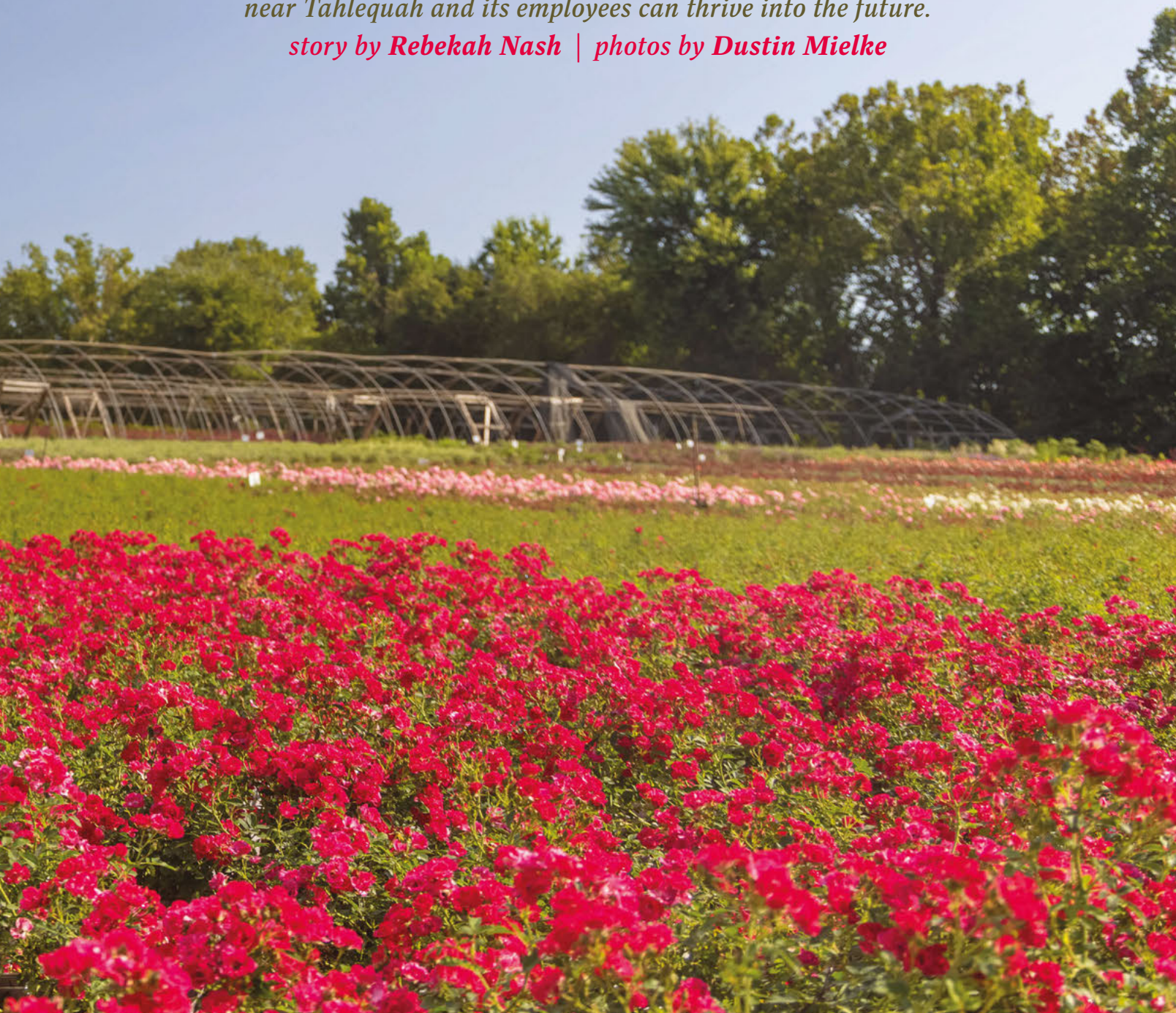




# *Planting Passion*

*One Oklahoma Farm Bureau member works to ensure Greenleaf Nursery near Tahlequah and its employees can thrive into the future.*

*story by **Rebekah Nash** | photos by **Dustin Mielke***







*Rows of plants in the propagation houses wait to be transplanted to grow into larger plants and be shipped to garden centers across the United States.*

Nestled in the rolling hills along the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller, rows of nursery plants line the hillsides, their colorful blooms and blossoms stretching far off into the distance. From shrubs to roses to trees and everything in between, Greenleaf Nursery Company has a history rooted in eastern Oklahoma.

With origins dating back to 1945, Greenleaf Nursery has become a nationally recognized company, but many Oklahomans are unaware of the incredible operation that was founded in Muskogee, Oklahoma, eventually moving a few miles down the road to Park Hill.

Now, with three locations — Park Hill, Oklahoma; El Campo, Texas; and Tarboro, North Carolina — the container plants grown at Greenleaf Nursery are sold to garden centers in numerous states east of the Rocky Mountains.

Just like the company, Randy Davis, Greenleaf Nursery President and Chief Executive Officer - and long-time Farm Bureau member - is deeply rooted in Oklahoma and is passionate about growing plants. His interest in caring for plants first started while in the vegetable garden growing up on his family's farm.

"In the garden, you take those little tomato seeds and plant them, then it grows into a big bush that creates all of the beautiful tomatoes," Davis said. "Or you can slice up a potato and plant it in the ground to get more potatoes. It is something that has always intrigued me, and that's where I fell in love with horticulture."

Davis grew up baling hay with his family during the summers, but decided he wanted to try something different at Greenleaf Nursery, owned by the Nickel family. At the time, the nursery spanned 50 acres, and he continued going back year after year as his love for the industry grew.

As high school graduation quickly approached, many of his supervisors at Greenleaf asked what his plans were for the fall. Davis' father was a superintendent at the local school, and because a university education was not affordable, his plan was to attend a local college and follow in his father's footsteps into education.

"They called me into the office one day and said, 'We are going to make you the recipient of the first Greenleaf scholarship, and we're going to pay your way through school,'" Davis said.

Even though he was granted a scholarship that allowed him to begin studying at Oklahoma State University's horticulture program, Davis was not required to return to Greenleaf after completing his degree.

"When I graduated, they hired me back," Davis said, smiling. "I liked what I did. I liked working here. I liked the people, so I always worked hard to make us successful. They recognized that."

The Nickel family cultivated a culture of recognizing people who had potential and helping them. Davis continues that tradition and provides scholarships to those in whom he sees potential, attempting to hire OSU graduates





whenever possible.

While he may be an OSU supporter and fan, Davis feels the drive to help students pursuing a degree at any college or university. Providing many scholarships for students, Greenleaf also donated \$1 million to build the Greenleaf Nursery Headhouse at the OSU Greenhouse Learning Center – a state-of-the-art greenhouse facility at the Stillwater campus.

Beginning his career at Greenleaf in the propagation hoop houses, Davis grew nearly all the plants on the property from cuttings. Carefully taking a small cutting from a plant with leaves, such as a rose bush, and placing it in soil a whole new plant would grow.

While some nurseries use hydroponics to start plant cuttings, Greenleaf Nursery prefers to start their plants in a ground pine bark and sand mixture, allowing them to develop into high-quality landscape and ornamental plants that are sold to customers around the United States.

Throughout each plant's time tucked in the hills of eastern Oklahoma, the ground pine bark and sand mixture will change ratios as the plant's needs change as they grow.

Nutrient needs are also considered for each plant throughout its lifecycle, and nutrient packets are added as needed. Focusing on nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, Greenleaf works to ensure each and every plant is receiving the proper macro- and micro-nutrients.

*Davis stands among hydrangea plants ready to be shipped to garden centers for customers to purchase.*





*Sprinklers saturate soil across the nursery providing the proper amount of water for each plant.*

**W**ith spring being the busiest season, colorful blooms can be seen as far as the eye can see. From red to blue and from yellow to purple, the colorful flowers, trees and shrubs soon will be in consumers' yards.

Employees pull the plants from the field and take them to the loading area to be prepared for transportation. Each semi trailer will be packed full of flowers, trees and shrubs from floor to ceiling and from the front to the back.

"To drive through the shipping area, you would have to be careful not to get run over because there are so many people and vehicles," Davis said.

On any given day in the spring, more than 20 to 30 semi trailers are loaded on the grounds daily with a wide range of species and varieties of plants. Greenleaf continues to expand its reach as they ship plants across

Oklahoma and the Midwest.

After the bulk of the plants are shipped out, the summer months are spent maintaining the remaining plants from watering to weeding to shearing and everything in between. Field scouts spend the summer carefully inspecting the plants for pests and diseases, ensuring plants are treated properly before being shipped.

Weaving in and out of the rows, workers tend to their duties as the sprinklers around them provide water.

Fall plants, such as chrysanthemums, are shipped out to gardens centers before the season changes. Like the spring, the fall brings more work than summer and winter.

In recent years, Oklahoma has faced its fair share of winter storms, so Greenleaf must prepare for the cold season to ensure plants are not lost.



*Plants are lined up in orderly rows across Greenleaf as they grow.*

Greenleaf Nursery focuses conservation and protecting the environment by using recycled plastic year after year. Using the clear, recycled plastic to cover the hoop houses in the winter, the material rests on the metal framework of the houses and allows the plants to grow while providing protection from the frigid temperatures during the shorter days.

Trapping the heat from the sun as it warms the ground, the hoop houses help prevent frost bite stress on the young plants. As some winter days can get unseasonably warm, workers will often cut vents in the plastic to let cooler air in the houses, as needed.

With 600 acres to cover with plastic in the winter, it is a huge undertaking for the workers to protect all of the plants on the property.

Winter, like summer, is spent





*Chrysanthemums are prepared to be loaded on a semi trailer.*



*A Greenleaf employee works diligently to prune an ornamental tree, ensuring proper shape and growth.*

maintaining the plants through watering and weeding in preparation for the spring season to pick back up.

No matter the season, Greenleaf has to ensure each plant receives the proper amount of water.

A series of canals collect water runoff as the plants are watered. Seven reservoirs are tucked into the valleys or runoff points across the property, holding the excess water.

At each reservoir, water is tested for pesticides and other impurities before use. Underground pipes stretching between each reservoir and across the nursery pump used water to sprinklers that saturate the plants' soil.

Taking care of the land, water and soil is something Greenleaf Nursery prides themselves on, as they produce high quality plants.

"We work to make growing plants

fool-proof for the final consumer," Davis said.

**N**urturing Davis in his early career — just like the plants grown on the property — the Nickel family saw something in Davis and appointed him president more than 20 years ago after spending time out among the nursery in many different positions.

With more than 1,000 employees today, Greenleaf Nursery aims to hire people from the surrounding area to help produce a wide array of decorative and useful plants.

"Most of the people who work here grew up here," Davis said. "So, we feel an obligation and are proud to help people out in this area."

The company offers a competitive wage for their employees, and they make sure workers have opportunities

to grow in their positions.

"We have a lot of people who have been here 20, 30 or even 40 years," Davis said. "So we have a lot of tribal knowledge, and that is really important to us. We do treat our people really good, so they do stay with us and keep that knowledge here with us."

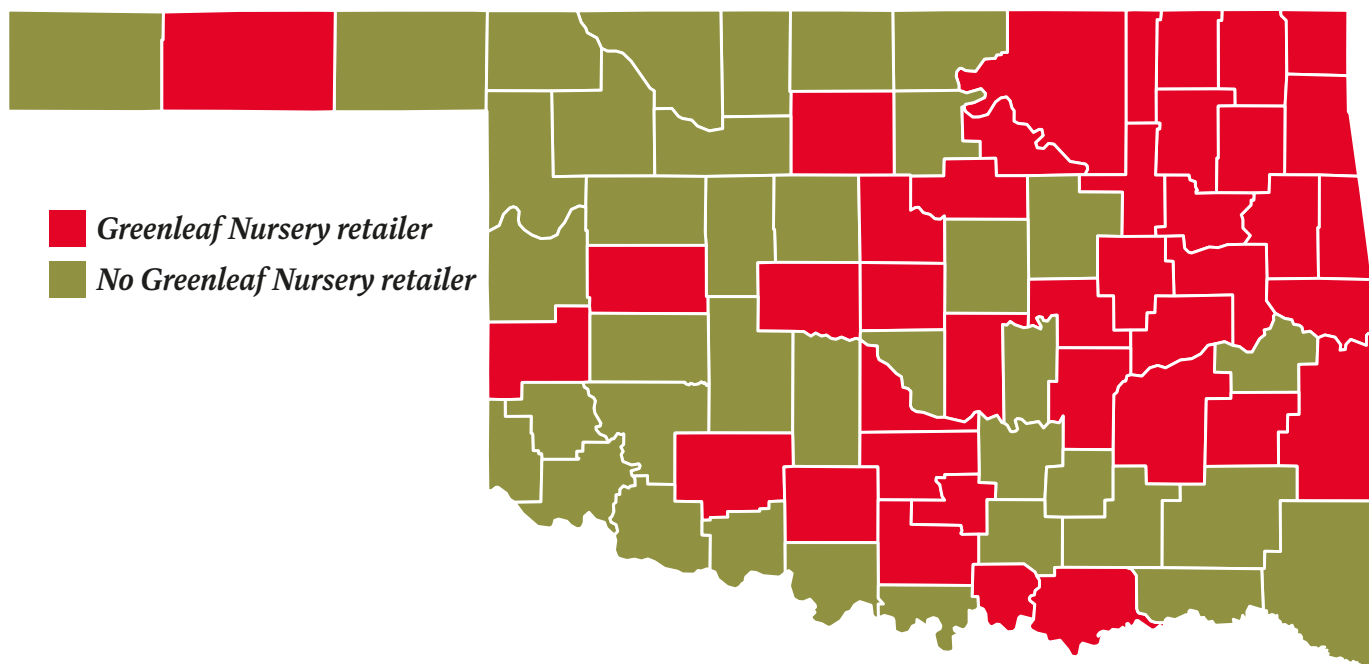
Greenleaf Nursery has employees working across the nursery growing the plants, but there are also people working in areas including finance, logistics and maintenance.

The Nickel family created the framework of the company, including investing in their employees. Davis continues to do the same today to ensure Greenleaf Nursery can thrive long into the future. **FB**





**W**hether you are looking for plants in the spring, fall or anytime in between, Greenleaf Nursery has you covered. Greenleaf-grown plants can be found near you with locations in 39 of Oklahoma's 77 counties. Plant brands sold by Greenleaf include Garden Debut®, First Editions®, Endless Summer®, Proven Winners®, Knock Out Roses®, Southern Living® Plants, Drift® Roses, Encore® Azaleas and so much more. Find colorful flowers, trees and shrubs to spruce up your landscaping at a retailer, nursery or garden center near you by visiting [greenleafnursery.com/Where-To-Buy](http://greenleafnursery.com/Where-To-Buy).





# Do You or You and Your Neighbor Have 300+ Acres of Clean Farm or Pasture Land? Lease Us Your Land!



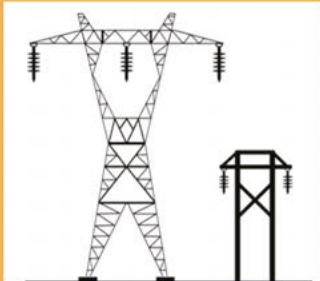
300 acres or more relatively level, clean farm or pastureland with a large transmission line crossing?

Lease Your Land for Solar Power Production

Extraordinary income to the right property owner(s)

If your property qualifies or your property along with neighbors qualify you may potentially receive long term income. (20 – 40-year lease)

\$800 - \$1200 Per acre Per year with incremental increases



## Do You Have Power Lines Like This On Or Adjacent To Your Land?

- Can Not be Subtransmission Lines
- Must be Transmission Power Lines
- Must be 115 Kv to 345 Kv

## Please Note the Four Essential Requirements Below

Transmission lines crossing or within 200 yards of property

300 or more acres (must be in recent cultivation or in pasture or clear open range)

No timberland or clear cuts

State or county maintained road bordering the property

**CALL (828)-817-5400 or (828)-817-9101**  
**Email Us at: [InnovativeSolarFarms@gmail.com](mailto:InnovativeSolarFarms@gmail.com)**

Visit our website at [innovativesolarsystemsllc.com](http://innovativesolarsystemsllc.com) to view recent projects





# PRESSING ONWARD

2021 Annual Meeting

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 80<sup>th</sup> annual meeting

November 5-7 • Norman Embassy Suites & Convention Center

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members will gather together for the organization's 80<sup>th</sup> annual meeting Nov. 5-7 at the Norman Embassy Suites and Convention Center.

OKFB's annual meeting serves as the largest yearly gathering of Farm Bureau members in the state, and features general sessions, Young Farmers & Ranchers competitive events, a Women's Leadership Committee conference, organizational awards, business sessions and the opportunity to connect with like-minded agriculturalists from around Oklahoma.

This year's theme recognizes the contributions OKFB members have made to agriculture and their rural communities by persevering through unprecedented challenges and ever-changing circumstances. Together, OKFB members will be pressing onward at our 2021 meeting as we look for opportunities to improve agriculture and our rural way of life through policy development, engaging speakers and fellowship with like-minded agriculturalists from around the state.

The 2021 annual meeting will feature new programs in addition to our traditional activities and events. New opportunities for OKFB members include:

- **The YF&R High School Discussion Meet**, held on Thursday, provides high school students with the opportunity to discuss agricultural issues in a cooperative panel discussion;
- **County Farm Bureau administrators and secretaries** will meet on Thursday and Friday to sharpen their skills and abilities to assist members and help the organization grow;

- **A private applicators license renewal session** will provide an opportunity for members to earn continuing education credits toward the renewal of their license;
- **The WLC conference and Program of Work luncheon** will provide a place for Farm Bureau women to connect and grow.


The OKFB Expo trade show will be open on Friday and Saturday, featuring a variety of vendors for members to visit, and the silent auction will return as well.

OKFB's grassroots policy positions for the coming year will be discussed and voted upon by members during the Saturday morning and afternoon business sessions.

Saturday afternoon's general session will include the OKFB presidential election where members will select who will lead the organization for the next two years. OKFB members from districts two, five and eight will also caucus to select their representative to serve on the OKFB board of directors, each for a three-year term.

Sunday morning will feature several coffee talk sessions as an opportunity for members to visit with OKFB leaders and staff to discuss ideas and opportunities to help our organization grow.

Check out the next page for the annual meeting schedule as of press time. Please note the schedule is subject to change, and the final schedule will be published in the convention program.

We hope to see you at our 2021 OKFB Annual Meeting as we gather to shape the future of agriculture by pressing onward toward a better tomorrow. 



# FEATURED SPEAKERS



**John O'Connor**

Attorney General, State of Oklahoma

*Friday afternoon opening session*



**Dr. Kayse Shrum**

President, Oklahoma State University

*Friday afternoon opening session*



**James Lankford**

United States Senator

*Sunday worship service*

*\*Speakers scheduled to appear as of press time*

## OKFB 2021 annual meeting schedule at a glance

### Thursday, Nov. 4 • *pre-meeting events*

- 12 p.m. County administrator luncheon
- 1 p.m. County administrator breakout sessions
- 5 p.m. YF&R High School Disc. Meet orientation
- 5:15 p.m. YF&R High School Disc. Meet round one
- 6 p.m. YF&R High School Disc. Meet round two
- 6:45 p.m. YF&R High School Discussion Meet finals

### Friday, Nov. 5

- 8 a.m. Credentials Committee breakfast
- 8 a.m. County administrator breakfast
- 9 a.m. Registration opens
- 9 a.m. OKFB Expo opens/silent auction opens
- 9 a.m. County administrator meeting
- 9 a.m. YF&R Achievement Award interviews
- 9:30 a.m. YF&R Excellence in Agriculture and YF&R Discussion Meet orientation
- 10 a.m. County board member training
- 10 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet round one
- 10:45 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet round two
- 11:30 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet finals luncheon
- 12 p.m. County board member training luncheon
- 12:15 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet finals
- 1:30 p.m. Opening general session
- 3 p.m. Private applicators license CE session
- 3 p.m. Women's Leadership Committee conf.
- 5:30 p.m. OKFB Ag PAC meeting
- 5:30 p.m. YF&R dinner and caucus
- 7:30 p.m. OKFB reception & game night

### Saturday, Nov. 6

- 7:30 a.m. Credentials Committee breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Financial Committee breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Resolutions Committee breakfast
- 8:45 a.m. OFBMC policyholders meeting
- 9 a.m. Registration
- 9 a.m. OKFB Expo opens/silent auction opens
- 9:30 a.m. General session
- 12 p.m. Credentials Committee luncheon meeting  
**(Credentials desk closes at 11:45 a.m.)**
- 12:15 p.m. WLC Program of Work luncheon
- 1 p.m. OKFB district caucuses (districts 2, 5 & 8)
- 1:30 p.m. General session
- 5 p.m. County presidents reception
- 5:30 p.m. OKFB Ag PAC reception
- 7 p.m. Dinner and awards program
- 8:30 p.m. Reception

### Sunday, Nov. 7

- 7:15 a.m. County presidents coffee talk session
- 7:15 a.m. WLC coffee talk session
- 7:15 a.m. Public Policy coffee talk session
- 8 a.m. Worship service & group breakfast

*Please note that the schedule is subject to change. The latest schedule can be found on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau website at [okfb.news/Meeting21](http://okfb.news/Meeting21). The final schedule will be published in the convention program.*



# FIRE SMART



*OKFB's fire safety house shares an important lesson with students across the state — Get out and stay out.*

**C**ooking in the kitchen, lighting candles in the bedroom or starting the fireplace in the living room are all opportunities for a fire to flare up. The smell of smoke and the sound of a fire alarm is never something people want to experience.

With more than 481,000 structure fires across the U.S. in 2019, Oklahoma Farm Bureau has been committed to sharing fire safety with children across the state for more than 30 years through school assemblies, county fairs and so much more.

OKFB recently purchased a new fire safety house to continue meeting the needs of educational programming

geared toward elementary students. Meeting American Disabilities Act regulations, the three-room inflatable fire house allows OKFB to share the importance of fire safety with all students.

During the interactive lesson, Burton Harmon, OKFB Safety and Special Projects Coordinator and volunteer firefighter, shares practical fire safety tips with students including how to exit a home safely, smoke detector awareness, common household hazards and what to do if there is a fire.

Harmon begins the lesson sitting down outside the inflatable house to remind students firefighters are





## Ensuring Oklahoma students are fire smart through interactive training



heroes at the scene to save the day and not to hide or be afraid of the life-saving men and women.

Featuring a kitchen, living room and bedroom in the inflatable classroom, the fire safety house offers several scenarios to teach students about fire safety.

An inflatable stove and refrigerator are located in the kitchen, where Harmon reviews the importance of appliance and fire extinguisher safety.


As students continue into the living room area, tips are discussed on fireplace and candle safety.

A smoke detector lesson is shared in the bedroom, reminding students that it is the nose smelling for smoke

and the mouth letting everyone know there is a fire.

Supporting the theme 'Get out and stay out,' students have the option to practice getting out of a burning house through a window by jumping onto a landing pad to reach safety. Harmon encourages students to practice a home evacuation with their families to ensure everyone remains safe if a fire were to occur.

The inflatable classroom can be set up at a local event or classroom near you, but there must be access to an area of 30 feet by 15 feet for the set up of the classroom.

To schedule a fire safety program, contact Burton Harmon with OKFB Safety Services at (405) 523-2300. 



## OKFB members can save big with Caterpillar discount

When making your next purchase or lease on a piece of large equipment, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members can save money through the Caterpillar member benefit.

**F**or many members, one of the greatest things about their Oklahoma Farm Bureau membership is the countless benefits available to them.

Unlike most members, Grady County Farm Bureau member Brett Myers, a fifth-generation farmer and outside machine sales representative for southwest Oklahoma at Warren Cat®, appreciates the member benefit from a different angle than most.

Working with a variety of customers within his region ranging from the private sector to governmental agencies, Myers works to help his customers however he can, including sharing the benefits they could receive by having a

Farm Bureau membership.


"I actually just sold a machine in Frederick, and the customer needed a loader for his starter yard," Myers said. "He buys yearling cattle, raises them to a certain weight and then sells them. He needed that loader to mix feed with and it changed his time tremendously."

With an OKFB membership, members can save up to \$5,000 on the purchase or lease of eligible Cat® wheel loaders, small and medium dozers, backhoe loaders, compact track loaders, multi terrain loaders, skid steer loaders, telehandlers, mini hydraulic excavators and excavators.

Members also receive an additional \$250 credit towards work tool

attachments purchased with new Cat® machines. Both discounts can be combined with any current retail discount, promotion, rebates or offers available through Caterpillar or its dealers, with the exception of the Cat® NCBA membership incentive.

Visit [okfarmbureau.org/benefits](http://okfarmbureau.org/benefits) and click on the Caterpillar icon to print your Membership Verification Certificate. The certificate must be presented at the time of purchase or lease quote in order to receive the discount.

For questions on how to obtain your certificate, call Holly Carroll at (405) 523-2300 or visit your county Farm Bureau office. 







## Sharing a glimpse of Oklahoma agriculture one watermelon seed at a time

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture works with second-grade students to highlight Oklahoma agriculture through their first-ever watermelon challenge.



**T**hroughout the last 10 years, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has worked diligently year after year to promote Oklahoma agriculture, assist beginning farmers and ranchers and raise general agricultural awareness.


The foundation also strives to share the vast world of agriculture with students and the various opportunities within the industry.

New this spring, the foundation launched their first-ever watermelon challenge by partnering with schools from across the state in an effort to encourage second-grade students to get outside during the summer to grow their very own watermelon.

In total, more than 1,000 watermelon seed packets were delivered to students, along with a packet of information on how to grow their own watermelon, which just so happens to be the state vegetable of Oklahoma.

During the project, participants learned valuable lessons about growing watermelons, including the best time to plant their seeds, soil temperature requirements and the valuable lesson that not every seed planted will germinate.

From planting their seeds to harvesting their watermelons all within 80 days, each student was able to learn just a few of the steps required to grow their food in a fun and hands-on way. Through this challenge, students learned what Oklahoma agriculture producers do each and every day to produce food and fiber that not only helps feed and clothe Oklahomans, but people across the world.

At the conclusion of the watermelon challenge, each participant received a certificate, with three randomly drawn to receive a \$100 prize. 

For more information on how your child can participate next year, contact Holly Carroll at [holly.carroll@agiving.org](mailto:holly.carroll@agiving.org) or (405) 523-2300.

## OKFB members gather for August Area Meetings to discuss agricultural issues and policy ideas



District One – West



District Two



District Six



District Seven



District Eight



District Nine

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from across the state gathered in each of the nine OKFB districts for the organization's annual August Area Meetings, an opportunity to not only fellowship with one another, but to kick off the policy development process for OKFB.

In total, 11 meetings were held across the state, providing an opportunity for members to ask questions and voice concerns pertaining to agriculture and the rural way of life on a local, state and national level.

Common issues addressed during the series of meetings included the growing medical marijuana industry in our state, the latest details regarding the McGirt case, continuing concerns about the ag sales tax exemption and potential changes to Waters of the United States rule.

The meetings also provided OKFB members with updates on Farm Bureau programs including the Women's Leadership Committee, the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, the Ag PAC, and more.





## FFA members develop communications skills at OKFB FFA reporters conference

**N**early 60 FFA members from across the state attended Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 2021 FFA Reporters Conference held Thursday, July 15, at Redlands Community College in El Reno, Oklahoma.

Designed to teach chapter FFA reporters how to promote FFA in their communities, the conference featured a variety of sessions to help students develop skills and knowledge in communications practices including photography and videography, social media, writing, and graphic design.

"As the percentage of Oklahomans involved in agriculture continues to

dwindle, the need grows for a new generation of leaders to help tell the wonderful stories of our industry," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "We're proud to offer these students a chance to learn and grow their communications skills to not only promote FFA and agricultural education, but to also advocate for our state's farmers and ranchers."

Each of the conference workshops were taught by leading Oklahoma agricultural communications professionals from around the state including Chancey Hanson, director of communications for Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association;

Lacey Newlin, field editor for the High Plains Journal; Samantha Siler, director of communications and marketing for the Oklahoma State University Ferguson College of Agriculture; Dr. Ruth Inman, associate professor of agricultural communications and digital media state extension specialist for OSU; and Dustin Mielke, vice president of communications and public relations for OKFB.

Students also had an opportunity to learn about potential degree options and career opportunities available in agricultural communications.





# OKFB YF&R shotgun shoot raises more than \$11,000 for OKFB Foundation for Agriculture

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers hosted their third-annual shotgun shoot at Quail Ridge Sporting Clays in McCloud on August 28. In total, the event raised more than \$11,000.

The funds raised will benefit the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture, which seeks to connect consumers with accurate agriculture information as well as supporting agriculture and rural communities in Oklahoma.

The group hosted 88 shooters on 22 four-person teams who tested their skills at shooting stations mimicing real-life hunting scenarios.

“Our Young Farmers & Ranchers committee is always excited to support agriculture and the work of the foundation, and being able to do it at a shotgun shoot creates a great event that people can enjoy,” said Cody Goodknight, state YF&R chairman. “We appreciate our sponsors and our shooters for coming out and making it a fun day.”

The Travis Rider team placed first, Chelsea FFA placed second and Sand Springs FFA placed third. The high individual award was presented to Curtis Mallory of the Chelsea FFA team. Door prizes were also presented to the youngest

and the oldest shooters, and a raffle for a gun safe was held at the event to raise additional funds for the foundation.

Platinum sponsors of the event included OKFB Insurance, the OKFB Women’s Leadership Committee, Jackson County Farm Bureau, Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau, Rogers County Farm Bureau, Tulsa County Farm Bureau and Woodward County Farm Bureau.

Gold sponsors included the American Agriculture Insurance Company, the Oklahoma Youth Expo, Southwest Center Pivots, Okmulgee County Farm Bureau and Washita County Farm Bureau.



During the YF&R Shotgun Shoot in McCloud, a total of 88 shooters gathered to help raise more than \$11,000 for the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture.



Kay County Farm Bureau member Will Cubbage walks his son, William, through the process of properly loading a shotgun as he prepares for another station.



The Travis Rider Team placed first against the 22 teams in attendance at the OKFB YF&R Shotgun Shoot.



Members of Chelsea FFA look on as a member for their team prepares to shoot.



## OKFB WLC awards three nurse's training scholarships

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee awarded three \$500 scholarships to deserving students from across the state, each pursuing a career in nursing.

Recipients of the 2021 WLC Nurse's Training Scholarship are:

**Trena Coursey**  
Sasakwa

**Macall Myers**  
Norman

**Madison Rowe**  
Tishomingo

"The Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee is so pleased to be able to support these students as they pursue their degrees in nursing," said Mignon Bolay, OKFB WLC chair. "Rural Oklahoma is always in need of quality medical professionals, and we're hopeful these scholarships will help these outstanding students as they prepare to practice their profession in our rural communities."

Scholarships are awarded to those attending an accredited college, university or trade school, and must be an Oklahoma Farm Bureau member or a member of a Farm Bureau-member family.

The WLC recognizes the significant role nurses play in ensuring a high quality of life for all Oklahomans, especially those in rural areas. With the cost of education rising yearly, the committee is proud to support these students in their pursuit of a career in nursing.



## OKFB women meet for 2021 fall conference in Edmond

**M**ore than 70 women gathered for the 2021 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Fall Conference August 27 and 28 at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Edmond.

The two-day conference featured educational sessions, crafts, games and a trade show. Members learned about Oklahoma agritourism, opportunities through Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom, OKFB safety services, sharing the story of agriculture and bridging the gap between generations within the organization.

The women heard from leaders of the organization including OKFB President Rodd Moesel, OKFB District 2 Director Monte Tucker and OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers committee member Brittany Hukill.

Through a silent auction, WLC members raised more than \$1,600 for the OKFB Legal Foundation, which works to serve farmers and ranchers by engaging in public interest litigation, and researching ag and rural legal issues.

Women also created blankets to be donated to the Homeless Alliance of Oklahoma City, and conference attendees collected used eyeglasses to donate to the Lions Club.



# OKFB YF&R hosts state fair livestock judging contest

**M**ore than 1,300 students gathered at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City for the Oklahoma State Fair Livestock Judging Contest, sponsored by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers on September 16.

Students from third through 12th grades in both 4-H and FFA carefully evaluated market and breeding classes of beef cattle, swine, sheep and goats.

Prior to concluding the contest, students in both divisions were asked a series of questions on two of the classes as individuals and as teams.

The high individual and high team members of each division were presented with a jacket and an award. Awards also were presented to the second- and third-place individuals and teams from both of the 4-H and FFA divisions. Ribbons were awarded to the top 10 in each class.

For the complete contest results from the livestock judging contest, visit [judgingcard.com](http://judgingcard.com).

## Junior 4-H

### Individual

1. **Bodie Jeffries**  
Kay County 4-H
2. **Regan Maddox**  
Arapaho-Butler 4-H
3. **Kortney Campbell**  
Alfalfa County 4-H

### Team

1. Kay County 4-H
2. Alfalfa County 4-H
3. Arapaho-Butler 4-H

## Junior FFA

### Individual

1. **Ashlee Purvine**  
Thomas-Fay-Custer FFA
2. **Selah Bentley**  
Laverne FFA
3. **Claire Janssen**  
Amber-Pocasset FFA

### Team

1. Amber-Pocasset FFA
2. Madill FFA
3. Kingfisher FFA

## Senior 4-H

### Individual

1. **Kinley Keyser**  
Central High 4-H
2. **Clarissa Smith**  
Okfuskee 4-H
3. **Macey McEntire**  
Tuttle 4-H

### Team

1. Kay County 4-H
2. El Reno 4-H
3. Tuttle 4-H

## Senior FFA

### Individual

1. **Conner Pell**  
Adair FFA
2. **Colten Ward**  
Cleveland FFA
3. **Connor Williams**  
Coalgate FFA

### Team

1. Adair FFA
2. Lindsay FFA
3. Tuttle FFA





# YF&R members gather in southeast Oklahoma for summer conference

**M**ore than 50 members gathered near Broken Bow for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Summer Conference held July 30-31.

The annual conference served as a valuable opportunity for YF&R members to gather with fellow agricultural producers, experience agriculture in southeastern Oklahoma and learn about opportunities within YF&R and Farm Bureau.

Much of the two-day event was dedicated to tours of various agricultural enterprises across southeast Oklahoma.

Brent Bolen, a poultry, hay and cattle producer, McCurtain County Farm Bureau member and State Board of Agriculture member, shared the variety of ways he integrates each facet of his operation. Don Allen Parsons of DAP Farms shared insight on managing a native pecan grove along with the family's corn, soybeans and cattle operation.

Several of the tours allowed members to learn more about

Oklahoma's forestry industry, a leading economic driver in the southeast region of the state. During a visit to Herron Industries, members viewed various forest plantations and experienced the harvest of some of the operation's 20-year-old trees. The Forest Heritage Center Museum in Beavers Bend State Park provided a history of the forestry industry going back to prehistoric forests. Dioramas and other interactive exhibits gave members perspective of the entire industry.

In an effort to better understand the legislative issues impacting the forestry industry, YF&R members spoke with Rep. Eddy Dempsey and former state representative Don Armes about several legislative topics of concern in the area.

The conference also featured organizational updates from Farm Bureau staff and a fun evening with fellowship and entertainment by the Buffalo Rogers Band.



If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about YF&R and how to become involved, contact your county Farm Bureau or visit [okfarmbureau.org/programs/yfr](https://okfarmbureau.org/programs/yfr).



# District 7 OKFB women gather in Ponca City for district women's luncheon

**F**arm Bureau women from across north central Oklahoma gathered in Ponca City on August 14 for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau District Seven Women's Luncheon, where members participated in a variety of activities and gathered with fellow Farm Bureau women from the district.

The day included a wheat-to-table cinnamon roll baking demonstration from local Oklahoma 4-H members

Colton and Cash Tripp, a craft project led by Cindy Oard of Wonderfully Made Studio, and a lunch featuring locally made foods. 00646820

For more information on how you can become involved in a Women's Leadership Committee in your area, visit [okfarmbureau.org/women](http://okfarmbureau.org/women).



## OKFB members participate in "Read an Accurate Ag Book Week" Sept. 7-10

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau members, staff and Oklahoma's agriculture community came together September 7-10 to read accurate agriculture books to elementary school students across the state in honor of "Read an Accurate Agriculture Book Week."

Hosted by Ag in the Classroom, the week-long event encouraged farmers, ranchers, FFA members and supporters of the agriculture community to get out and read an accurate agriculture book to an elementary class to share the exciting world of agriculture.

In total, more than 30 OKFB members and staff participated in the event in-person or virtually.

For more information on how you can participate in "Read an Accurate Ag Book Week" next year, visit [ok.agclassroom.org](http://ok.agclassroom.org).



Cale Walker, Chickasha



Addy Schneberger, Carnegie



Brenda Neufeld, Fairview



Darla Reuter, El Reno



Rolling over  
your 401(k)?  
**Easy as pie!**



Any way you slice it, you want to make sure your rollover options align with your financial goals. **Let me help you simplify the process.**



**Kara Goodknight**  
502 SW 11th St. | Lawton, OK  
580.215.5650  
karagoodknightok.fbfsadvisors.com

 **FARM BUREAU  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
**WEALTH MANAGEMENT**

Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC,\* 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC.  
Advisory services offered through FBL Wealth Management, LLC.\* Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company\*\*/West Des Moines, IA. \*Affiliates. \*\*Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services. PR-WMA-A (10-20)

## YF&R members receive update on beef cattle markets

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers members from Grant, Kingfisher, Noble and Payne Counties had a unique opportunity to gather in Guthrie on August 16 for an in-depth look at the challenges facing beef cattle markets.

Dr. Derrell Peel of Oklahoma State University offered some helpful insight into the intricacies of the beef supply chain with members.



Left: Dr. Derrell Peel shares with YF&R members some of the complexities of the supply chain and potential reasons for the gap in retail beef. Above: YF&R members from Grant, Kingfisher, Noble and Payne Counties interested in the current state of the beef market gather in Guthrie Aug. 16 for a closer look.

## Creek County Farm Bureau members share challenges in ag with Rep. Kevin Hern

A small group of Creek County Farm Bureau members gathered August 18 in Sapulpa to discuss concerns regarding policy on a federal level with Rep. Kevin Hern.

Topics discussed throughout the evening included proposals to change the capital gains tax policy, including the elimination of the stepped-up basis, and how it would directly impact farms and ranches such as theirs.



Rep. Kevin Hern sits down with members of Creek County Farm Bureau Aug. 18 to listen to some of the challenges they are facing as producers.



Creek County Farm Bureau member Joey Varner, right, shares his perspective on several federal issues of concern.



## Tax proposals risk future of family farms, OKFB tells congress

Oklahoma Farm Bureau, along with 45 state Farm Bureaus, the American Farm Bureau Federation and 280 organizations representing family-owned farms, ranches and agribusinesses, sent a letter to congressional leaders urging them to leave important tax policies in place as they draft legislation implementing President Biden's "Build Back Better" agenda.

The letter addresses four key tax provisions that make it possible for farmers and ranchers to survive and pass their businesses on to the next generation: estate taxes, stepped-up basis, 199A small business deduction and like-kind exchanges.

"The policies Congress enacts now will determine agricultural producers' ability to secure affordable land to start or expand their operations," the letter states. "Regardless of whether a business has already been passed down through multiple generations or is just starting out, the key to their longevity is a continued ability to transition when a family member or business partner dies. For this reason, we firmly believe the current federal estate tax code provisions must be maintained."

These tools are as crucial as ever as the number of farmers and ranchers 65 and older outnumber those 35 and under by a four-to-one margin. More than 370 million acres are expected to change hands in the next two decades.

"As the economic backbone of nearly every county and rural community across the U.S., the importance of American agriculture and related industries cannot be overlooked," the letter continues. "Farmers, ranchers, and family-owned agribusiness operators are responsible for producing the safe, affordable and abundant food, fiber and fuel supplies Americans enjoy every day. As the stewards of nearly 900 million acres of crop and rangeland, farmers and ranchers play an important role in terms of natural resource and land conservation. For agricultural producers, carrying on the legacy of our predecessors and setting the next generation up for success is critically important."

In addition to OKFB, other state-level agricultural organizations that signed the letter include Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Cotton Council and Oklahoma Soybean Association.

To read the full letter, visit [okfb.news/2X7EmkT](https://okfb.news/2X7EmkT).



# OKFB adds Budget Truck Rental and IHG to list of member benefits

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau members can now enjoy a 15% discount on qualifying stays at InterContinental Hotel Group hotels and 20% on Budget Truck Rentals.

The IHG offer applies to stays including Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday nights at hotels including InterContinental®, Crowne Plaza®, Hotel Indigo®, Holiday Inn®, Holiday Inn Express®, Staybridge Suites®, Candlewood Suites®, EVEN™ Hotels and many more.

Reservations must be made at least three days in advance to be eligible for the IHG discount.

With more than 1,000 locations in the U.S., it is easy to reserve your next Budget Truck Rental. Simply call 1-800-566-8422 and provide the Farm Bureau Account number 56000127747 or visit **BudgetTruck.com/FarmBureau** and complete the online reservation form. Click "Find Your Truck" and you will see available vehicles and rates for your desired rental days.

For the full list of OKFB member benefits, visit **okfarmbureau.org/benefits**.

# IHG®

## HOTELS & RESORTS



**Budget®**  
Truck Rental

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## LEGAL NOTICE

If you purchased Super S Supertrac 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid, Super S 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid, Cam2 ProMax 303 Tractor Hydraulic Oil, and/or Cam2 303 Tractor Hydraulic Oil from Tractor Supply Company (including Del's Feed & Farm Supply), Orscheln Farm and Home, Rural King, and/or Atwood Stores between December 1, 2013, and the present, a Class Action Lawsuit and Settlement with the Four Retailer Defendants Could Affect Your Rights

---

**READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS MAY BE  
AFFECTED WHETHER YOU ACT OR DO NOT ACT.**

---

**A federal court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.**

The purpose of this notice is to inform you that a \$7,200,000.00 class-action settlement (the "Proposed Retailer Settlement") has been reached with the four Retailer Defendants in a lawsuit regarding the sale and use of Super S Supertrac 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid, Super S 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid, Cam2 ProMax 303 Tractor Hydraulic Oil, and/or Cam2 303 Tractor Hydraulic Oil ("303 THF Products"). The Proposed Retailer Settlement settles claims against Retailer Defendants Tractor Supply Company, Orscheln Farm and Home LLC, Rural King, and Atwood, together with each of their affiliates, divisions, subsidiaries, and assigns (collectively referred to as "Retailer Defendants") that were asserted in a Multi-District Litigation ("MDL") lawsuit. Plaintiffs believe that the primary claims in the MDL are against Smitty's Supply, Inc. and CAM2 International, LLC (collectively referred to as "Manufacturer Defendants"), and those claims are proceeding in the MDL and have not been settled.

The Proposed Retailer Settlement may affect your rights. For comprehensive information about the lawsuit and settlement, including the longer notice of settlement and the Retailer Settlement Agreement and Release with the precise terms and conditions of the Retailer Settlement, please see [www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com](http://www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com) or call 1-866-742-4955. You may also access the Court docket in this case through the Court's Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system at [www.mow.uscourts.gov/](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/) or by visiting the office of the Office of the Clerk of Court, United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, 400 E. 9th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Court holidays. The MDL lawsuit is titled *In Re: Smitty's/CAM2 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid Marketing, Sales Practices, and Product Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 2936, Case No. 4:20-MD-02936-SRB, pending before the Honorable Judge Stephen R. Bough in the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri. Please do not telephone the Court or the Court Clerk's Office to inquire about the Proposed Settlement or the claim process.

In the MDL lawsuit, Plaintiffs allege (1) that the Manufacturing Defendants' 303 THF Products did not meet the equipment manufacturers' specifications or provide the performance benefits listed on the product labels, (2) that the 303 THF Products were made with inappropriate ingredients, including used transformer oil, used turbine oil, and line flush, and (3) that use of the 303 THF Products in equipment causes damage to various parts of the equipment. Because of the used oil and line flush contained in the 303 THF Products, Plaintiffs allege that those 303 THF Products should not be used as tractor hydraulic fluid and that the fluid should be flushed from equipment systems if one can afford the cost of doing so.

The Manufacturer Defendants have denied the allegations and claims of wrongdoing, and the claims against those Manufacturer Defendants are ongoing. The Retailer Defendants deny any allegations and claims of wrongdoing on their part. The Court has not decided who is right or made a final ruling on Plaintiffs' claims. Plaintiffs and the Retailer Defendants have agreed to the Proposed Settlement as to the Retailer Defendants' liability to avoid the risk and expense of further litigation.

You may be a member of the Retailer Settlement Class if you purchased the above-listed 303 THF Products from December 1, 2013, to the present from Tractor Supply Company (including its Del's Feed and Farm Supply locations), Orscheln Farm and Home, Rural King or Atwood. If you are a member of the Retailer Settlement Class, you may need to submit a Class Membership Form to be eligible for benefits, and you also may be eligible to submit a Repair/Parts/Specific Equipment Damage Claim Form. Please see [www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com](http://www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com) for a copy of the Class Membership Form and Repair/Parts/Specific Equipment Damage Claim Form or call 1-866-742-4955 to request a Class Membership Form and Claim Form be mailed to you. The deadline to file your claim is December 29, 2021. In order to maximize efficiency, proceeds from this Retailer Settlement will be held for distribution at such a point in time after monies, if any, have been received in settlement or judgment for the Litigation Class claims against the Manufacturer Defendants. Please be patient and check the website for updates.

If you do not want to be legally bound by the Proposed Retailer Settlement, you must exclude yourself by December 29, 2021. If you do not exclude yourself, you will release any claims you may have against the Retailer Defendants, as more fully described in the Retailer Settlement Agreement. You may object to the Proposed Retailer Settlement by December 29, 2021. The Long Form Notice, available at [www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com](http://www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com) or upon request, explains how to exclude yourself or object.

The Court will decide whether to approve the Proposed Retailer Settlement at the Final Fairness Hearing on January 6, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. Class Counsel also will ask that the Court award up to \$2,300,000.00 in attorneys' fees, \$300,000.00 in expenses, and an incentive payment of \$500 for each of the class representatives. The amounts awarded for attorneys' fees, expenses, and incentive awards come out of the Retailer Settlement Class Fund. This date for the hearing may change; see [www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com](http://www.303tractorhydraulicfluidsettlement.com)



BY ORDER OF U.S. DISTRICT COURT





# INCREASE YOUR FARM INCOME

## LEASE HUNTING RIGHTS

EARN ANNUAL PAYMENTS THAT GROW \$5 MILLION LIABILITY COVERAGE PROVIDED

CONTACT BASE CAMP LEASING FOR A FREE QUOTE

(866) 309-1507 | BASECAMPLEASING.COM

Trusted By Farmers For Over 20 years

# Have A Conflict? We Can Help



## No-Cost Mediation Services Provided For:

- Farm Credit & Loan Servicing
- Rural Development & FSA Programs
- Loan Delinquency
- Foreclosures
- Farm Program Compliance And Eligibility Issues
- Family Farm Transitions
- Conservation Contracts
- Neighbor Disputes

[www.ok.gov/mediation](http://www.ok.gov/mediation)  
1(800)248-5465  
[mediation@ag.ok.gov](mailto:mediation@ag.ok.gov)

Oklahoma  
Agriculture  
Mediation  
Program

## Oklahoma teachers win \$100 AFBF resources grant

Two Oklahoma teachers were recently awarded the Christina Lilja Resource Grant from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

LaDonna Forester of Colbert Public Schools and Kynda James of Elk City Public Schools, along with 49 other educators from across the country, were chosen to receive the \$100 grants to purchase agriculture literacy resources for their students.

With more than 600 educators applying this year, the purpose of the grant is to allow teachers the ability to purchase accurate agricultural materials to help students learn about the importance of agriculture.

Kindergarten through 12th grade teachers are eligible to apply for the annual grant program.

For more information on this award and other opportunities through the AFBF foundation, visit [agfoundation.org](http://agfoundation.org).





# OKFB welcomes \$30 million grants for rural broadband

Oklahoma Farm Bureau commends the U.S. Department of Agriculture's recent announcement to invest more than \$30 million in broadband infrastructure in rural Oklahoma, a priority issue for the organization.

A part of the USDA's ReConnect Program, the grants will provide internet connections to 1,528 households including 3,897 people and 383 farms in Oklahoma.

"The USDA's recent announcement to send more federal dollars to rural Oklahoma for broadband expansion is welcome news for Farm Bureau members," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "While tremendous efforts are underway in our state to bring high-speed internet to all Oklahomans, we know it's a costly endeavor that cannot be done without significant federal investment. Fast, reliable and affordable internet is critical in ensuring our farmers, ranchers and rural communities can continue to compete in a growing world, so investments like these are imperative to our state's work to bring all Oklahomans online."

Texhoma Fiber LLC will receive a \$2.6 million grant to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to allow 353 households, 890 people, three educational facilities, two essential community facilities, two health care facilities, 60 businesses and a farm internet connectivity.

A \$2.2 million grant provided to Southern Plains Cable LLC will be used to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises and hybrid-fiber-coax network to 123 households, 293 people, an essential community facility, seven farms and five businesses.


The ReConnect program will provide \$1.8 million to Terral Telephone Company to deploy fiber to the premises for 105 households, 255 people, two educational facilities, three essential community facilities, a health care facility, 11 businesses and 74 farms.

Oklahoma Western Telephone company will use a \$23.3 million ReConnect grant to deploy a fiber-

to-the-premises network for 947 households, 2,459 people, an educational facility, two essential community facilities, 17 businesses and 301 farms.

"Generations ago, the federal government recognized that without affordable access to electricity, Americans couldn't fully participate in modern society and the modern

economy," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. "Broadband internet is the new electricity. It is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, to participate equally in school learning and health care, and to stay connected."

To learn more about the program, visit [usda.gov/reconnect](https://usda.gov/reconnect). 



### EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

The Farm Bureau protects the future of your farm and your neighbors' farms all year long. Today, membership can save you up to \$500 on new Case IH tractors and equipment!\*

## SAVE \$200

on Farmall® compact A & C series, Farmall utility A series, Farmall 100A series, Farmall utility C series, Farmall utility U series, Farmall V series, and Farmall N series tractors as well as round & small square balers, disc mower conditioners and sickle mower conditioners.

## SAVE \$500

on Vestrum® and Maxxum® series tractors as well as large square balers and self-propelled windrowers.



**Print your certificate today!†**  
Visit <http://www.okfarmbureau.org/>

**CHICKASHA**  
BOB LOWE FARM MACHINERY INC.  
405-224-6500  
[www.lowefarm.com](http://www.lowefarm.com)

**CLINTON**  
ROTHER BROS. INC.  
580-323-1981  
[www.rotherbros.com](http://www.rotherbros.com)

**FAIRVIEW**  
ROTHER BROS. INC.  
580-227-2547  
[www.rotherbros.com](http://www.rotherbros.com)

**KINGFISHER**  
ROTHER BROS. INC.  
405-375-5349  
[www.rotherbros.com](http://www.rotherbros.com)

**KREMLIN**  
ZALOUDEK MACHINERY CO.  
580-874-2211  
[www.fwzsaloudek.com](http://www.fwzsaloudek.com)



\* Offer available through 12/31/2021. This offer may be combined with other offers, but is not valid on prior purchases. A valid Farm Bureau® Membership Certificate is required, which may be obtained at [www.fb.org/about/join](http://www.fb.org/about/join). See your participating Case IH dealer for details and eligibility requirements. Not available in all states. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice.

† A current Farm Bureau membership verification certificate must be presented to the Case IH dealer in advance of product delivery to receive the incentive discount.

Farm Bureau and the FB State Logo are registered service marks owned by the American Farm Bureau Federation, and are used by CNH America LLC under license from the American Farm Bureau Federation.


©2021 CNH Industrial America LLC. All rights reserved. Case IH is a trademark registered in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates. [www.caseih.com](http://www.caseih.com)

Farm Bureau members receive

# \$500 BONUS CASH\*

We are proud to offer exclusive savings to Farm Bureau® members and be the official truck of the Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers.

ON ELIGIBLE NEW MAVERICK, RANGER, F-150 OR SUPER DUTY®



FORD SUPER DUTY®    FORD F-150    FORD RANGER®    FORD MAVERICK

BUILT *Ford* PROUD


Computer-generated image with available features shown.

**Don't miss out on this offer.**  
**Visit [FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com](http://FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com) today!**

\*Farm Bureau Bonus Cash is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. \$500 Bonus Cash on the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2020/2021/2022 Ford Maverick, Ranger, F-150 or Super Duty®. This incentive is not available on F-150 Lightning, F-150 Raptor, F-600, F-650 and F-750 Super Duty®. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase or lease and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by January 3, 2022. Visit [FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com](http://FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com) or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Note to dealer: Claim in VINCENT using #37860.

**FARM BUREAU ADVANTAGE**  
How We're Driving Change.

Official National Sponsor:




**Y&R**  
 FARM BUREAU  
 YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

**BARTLESVILLE**  
 DOENGES FORD  
 918-333-0900  
[www.doengeschoice.com](http://www.doengeschoice.com)

**SAYRE**  
 DOUG GRAY FORD INC.  
 580-928-3369  
[www.douggraymotors.com](http://www.douggraymotors.com)

**ENID**  
 STEVENS FORD  
 580-237-3040  
[www.stevensfordenid.com](http://www.stevensfordenid.com)

**WEATHERFORD**  
 CUMMINS FORD  
 800-581-3673  
[cumminsfordweatherford.com](http://cumminsfordweatherford.com)



## Conserve Energy with Mastic Vinyl Siding & Windows



**Farm Bureau members will receive a 33 1/3% discount off nationally published retail prices.**

**M. Rhodes Company, LLC**  
 Since 1937

**Call 405-721-2807 for an estimate.**

**Grower Direct**



Grow half-dollar size **Muscadines** and **Blackberries**. We also offer over 200 varieties of Fruit and Nut Trees plus Vine and Berry Plants.

**Ison's Nursery** Since 1934



**Free Catalog**

**PO Box 190**  
**Brooks, GA 30205**  
**1-800-733-0324 • [isons.com](http://isons.com)**





## LOOKING TO GET LESS MAIL? OKFB INSURANCE CAN HELP!

Mail can really start to pile up and it can be tedious to go through. To help, we can now send you email notices instead! You can choose to opt-in and receive emails for:

1. Changes made to your policy
2. Notice of renewal
3. Billing statement

**CONTACT YOUR AGENT TO HELP YOU  
MAKE THE CHANGE!**

### REVISITING COVERAGE LIMITS

As Oklahomans, we at OKFB Insurance pride ourselves in providing you with the best customer service in the state. Due to possible increases in the cost of goods, services, and construction, policyholders are encouraged to review coverage limits on their policy(ies). If you haven't already done so, reach out to your agent if you believe that your coverage limits may need to be increased.



**okfbinsurance.com**

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company/Oklahoma City, OK. +Affiliates

# Peace of mind for life.

Life insurance can help provide security and peace of mind. Call today to see how we can help secure your family's financial future.



**ADA**  
BOBBY FENNELL  
580-332-6583



**ADA**  
CHEYENNE  
CHRISTIAN  
580-332-6583



**ADA**  
DUSTIN BRECHEEN  
580-332-6583



**ALVA**  
KENNETH BYRD  
580-327-3432



**ANADARKO**  
GINA MOONEY  
405-247-6669



**ANTLERS**  
MYRL REDMAN  
580-298-5531



**ARDMORE**  
FREDDY TAYAR II  
580-223-3809



**ARNETT**  
ANNIE SCONYERS  
580-938-2532



**BARTLESVILLE**  
LA JUANA DUNCAN  
918-336-1355



**BRISTOW**  
CASH HENDRICK  
918-367-5575



**BRISTOW**  
JACOB HARTIN  
918-367-5575



**BROKEN BOW**  
BOBBY KELLY  
580-584-3976



**CARNEGIE**  
GARY BREWSTER  
580-654-2510



**CLAREMORE**  
DAVID MARLETT  
918-341-5112



**CLINTON**  
NANCY ROPER  
580-323-1270



**CLINTON**  
STEVE WEICHEL  
580-323-1270



**COALGATE**  
KEVIN HANEY  
580-927-2324



**CORDELL**  
KRISTI REGIER  
580-832-3640



**DUNCAN**  
BILL BUNN JR  
580-255-8086



**DUNCAN**  
CHUCK SIESS  
580-255-8086



**EDMOND**  
SHELLY  
BURROUGHS  
405-525-2607



**EL RENO**  
DAVID WATSON  
405-262-1295



**ENID**  
MARK MARTIN  
580-237-1181



**FREDERICK**  
CLAY HART  
580-335-3911



**GROVE**  
ROBERT HOKIT  
918-786-2926



**HINTON**  
ALTON WEATHERS  
405-542-3191



**HUGO**  
COREY FECHTER  
580-326-3309



**KINGFISHER**  
DOUG HAUSER  
405-375-4421



**LAWTON**  
ANNELISE  
CARPENTER  
580-353-5173



**LAWTON**  
DODGE POOL IV  
580-353-5173

Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA. Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company/Oklahoma City, OK. PR-LI-A (7-20)



# Peace of mind for life.

Life insurance can help provide security and peace of mind. Call today to see how we can help secure your family's financial future.



**MADILL**  
DYLAN SHEFFIELD  
580-795-3418



**MARIETTA**  
SAM BARRICK  
580-276-3246



**MEDFORD**  
MARCIE LUSK  
580-789-4606



**MUSKOGEE**  
SCOTT ABBOTT  
918-682-2091



**MUSKOGEE**  
TANNER JONES  
918-682-2091



**OKLAHOMA CITY**  
DARRELL DAVID  
405-912-5021



**OKLAHOMA CITY**  
TRAVIS HAMMER  
405-912-5021



**OKMULGEE**  
JIM HALL JR  
918-756-7284



**PONCA CITY**  
DARREN DYER  
580-762-5497



**PRYOR**  
MAX WHIPPLE  
918-825-1122



**SALLISAW**  
ANGIE BRINLEE  
918-775-5585



**SEMINOLE**  
JOE SEMTNER  
405-382-0304



**SHAWNEE**  
LARRY BROWN  
405-273-4261



**SKIATOOK**  
BOBBY JOHNSON  
918-396-3149



**SNYDER**  
GREG HOLT  
580-569-2228



**STILLWATER**  
CHAD LEONARD  
405-372-2450



**STILWELL**  
RICK ROBERTS  
918-696-7227



**TAHLEQUAH**  
BILLY GIBSON  
918-456-8841



**TISHOMINGO**  
DEAN WILES  
580-371-2488



**TISHOMINGO**  
JOE HARTIN  
580-371-2488



**TULSA**  
JEFF PARSONS  
918-369-9990



**TULSA**  
JUDGE HARTIN  
918-369-9990



**VINITA**  
BRIAN KELLY  
918-256-5531



**WAGONER**  
CHRISTIE YODER  
918-485-5538



**WALTERS**  
JEFF BAUMANN  
580-875-3290



**WAURIKA**  
TERRI SHEFFIELD  
580-228-2941



**WILBURTON**  
BRYCE LIVINGSTON  
918-465-2453



**WOODWARD**  
KENNY HECKART  
580-256-3806



**YUKON**  
LINDSEY WALLER  
405-577-5015



**YUKON**  
STEVEN SMITH  
405-577-5015



Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA. Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company/Oklahoma City, OK. PR-LI-A (7-20)

## The regenerative ranching journey

By Courtney Leeper

Noble Research Institute writer

**B**ruce Reynolds has written software code for companies like IBM, Hewlett Packard and QuikTrip during a career that has taken him to seven different states from Oklahoma to Connecticut. But today, what he wants to do most is invest in insurance. The best kind, he says — soil organic matter.

“I’ve always known I wanted to farm,” said Reynolds, who purchased the home his grandfather built and 75 acres near Davis, Oklahoma, about 10 years ago. “There has always been that part of me that wants to take care of the earth.”

The return to his home state has set Reynolds on a path to regenerating the land’s health. Today, he manages 5,000 acres of native grasses and cereal rye pasture for cattle as well as alfalfa and sudan for high-quality hay. But the journey has not always been easy.

When Reynolds leased one plot of land nestled into the Arbuckle Mountains six years ago, it was covered in eastern redcedars and ashe junipers. You could not even see a clear path through the invasive trees, he said. He learned about the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s EQIP program, which would help him clear the land in exchange for turning it into a

safe haven for monarch butterflies.

“I didn’t factor in how slow the process would be,” Reynolds said.

He came in with a dozer and a Bobcat one spring, then he let the land rest for a year before prescribed burning it the following spring. After another full year of rest, the land was finally ready to be included in his cattle grazing rotation. His goal is to burn a particular area every three years. He has accomplished this with the prescribed burn association he helped start in his area with assistance from Russell Stevens, a Noble Research Institute consultant.

To help the monarchs, Reynolds does not spray pesticides in designated areas and plants cover crops selected with the goal of providing blooms throughout the year. His wife, Julie, also manages 40 bee hives on the properties.

“I’m trying to get this place as biodiverse as I can through fire and grazing,” he said. “I’m sorely afraid two or three generations from now we won’t see the earth as we know it today.”

Reynolds focuses on proper grazing management and on keeping the ground covered with a living root in it as much as he can. Eight years ago, he

completely converted to no-till and started incorporating cover crops. While the cover crops have been beneficial for the pollinators, he said he has had trouble with establishment.

“I give myself a ‘D’ grade with cover crops,” Reynolds said. “I can’t seem to consistently get a good stand, so I’m always talking to different people about what I could be trying. And I tell myself, ‘I’m going to do better next year.’”

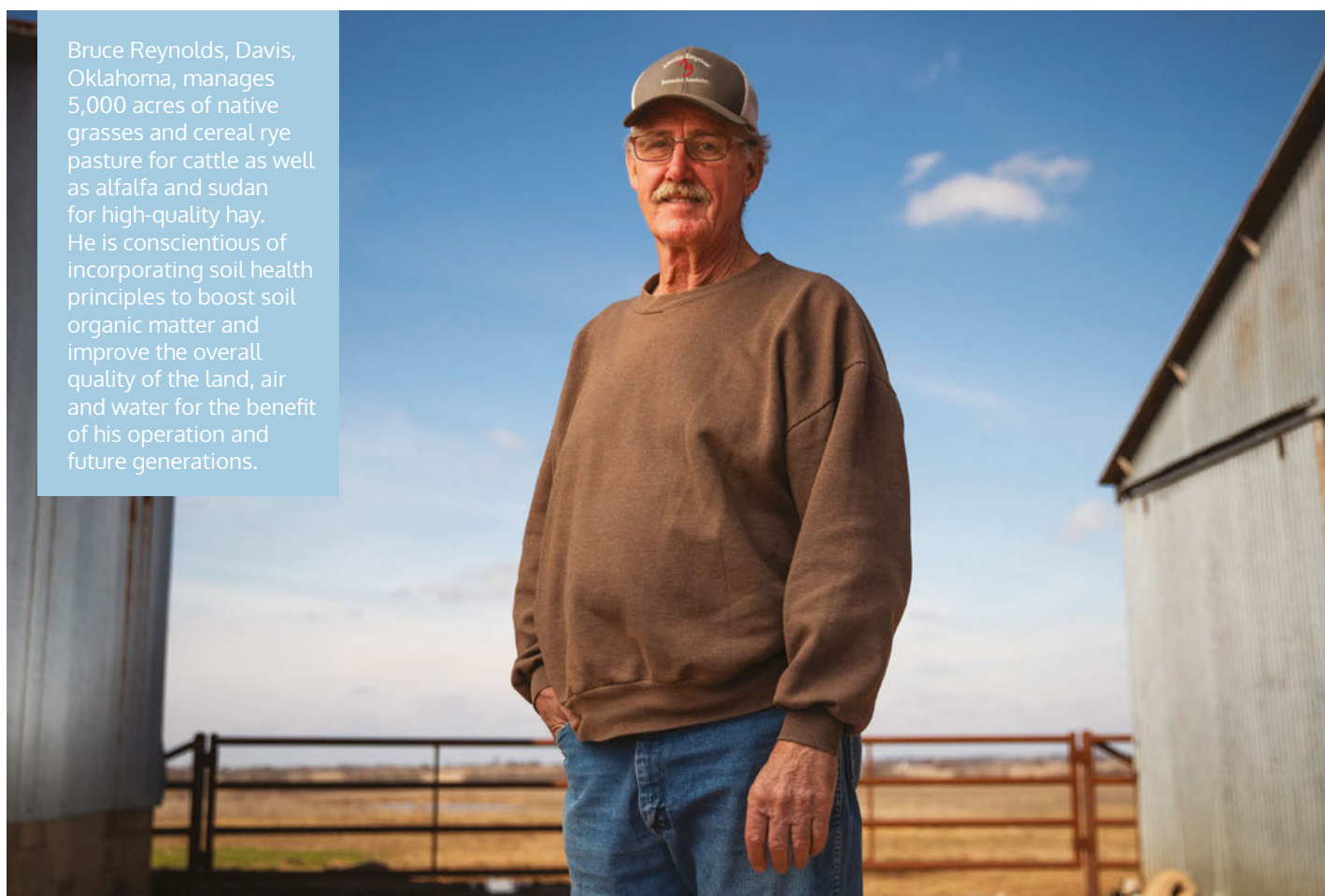
Still, his combination of cover crops, no-till and other regenerative practices, has resulted in a 2-4% increase of soil organic matter in some of his fields. It is a huge win considering a 1% increase can help soil hold about 20,000 gallons of additional water per acre. His pastures are producing more forage, which has meant he has been able to add cows to the herd while decreasing the amount of hay he feeds — using it only to supplement his fall-calving herd.

For now, Reynolds continues to use his programming skills to pay what bills the operation cannot yet sustain. He has a part-time employee who feeds cattle when he travels for business and buys breeding stock from a family in Gainesville, Texas, rather than raising his own — another goal





Bruce Reynolds, Davis, Oklahoma, manages 5,000 acres of native grasses and cereal rye pasture for cattle as well as alfalfa and sudan for high-quality hay. He is conscientious of incorporating soil health principles to boost soil organic matter and improve the overall quality of the land, air and water for the benefit of his operation and future generations.



for later down the road. He has also looked into composting as a fertilizer source and retaining ownership of his cattle through the feedyard.

Reynolds' desire to take care of natural resources drives much of his decision-making, but he knows it has to work financially in order to be truly sustainable.


"It takes time and patience," Reynolds said. "You can have all the know-how and

want-to, but we're learning to work with Mother Nature, and that takes rethinking practices and being willing to try new things. At the end of the day, though, I do this because I enjoy it and because it's the right thing to do."

#### [Join the Regenerative Journey](#)

Farmers and ranchers across the U.S. are finding regenerative agriculture to help them both improve profitability and

their ability to leave the land better than they found it for future generations. Noble Research Institute has announced it will focus all its programs on helping grazing animal producers on the regenerative ranching journey. To learn more or get started, go to [www.noble.org](http://www.noble.org).

Find more advice and stories from regenerative ranchers in Oklahoma by going to [bit.ly/regenerative-journey](http://bit.ly/regenerative-journey). 

## The benefits of planting wildflowers in the fall

By Trisha Gedon  
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

**D**riving across Oklahoma in the summer months, there are often patches of brightly colored wildflowers dotted along the highway in a variety of eye-catching colors and textures. From the side of a road to a backyard landscape, wildflower gardens can make a great addition to any landscape – provided the right steps are taken in its establishment.

Many gardeners work diligently to incorporate practices that benefit the environment around them, and in some ways, wildflower gardens are more environmentally friendly than traditional gardens, said David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Extension consumer horticulturist.

“Although most plants will survive for a time in any given environment without human intervention, wildflowers will need the right conditions to perform in the desired way,” Hillock said. “Fertilizers and other amendments may be needed when the environmental conditions are not ideal. Once established, wildflowers should grow well because they are accustomed to the soils and growing conditions of the local climate.”

When planting a wildflower garden, the cooler temperatures in the late fall are ideal, but as with any gardening project, site selection is vital. Before starting, consider factors such as sun and wind exposure, drainage, site topography, site access for maintenance and available irrigation. Hillock said if you have several options for a site, the desired plant species or aesthetic can dictate where the wildflower garden should be located.

Clearing any vegetation from the selected site is important, and while time consuming, it will provide your seeds with the best opportunity to thrive. Also, incorporating a non-selective post-emergent herbicide is an effective way to kill perennial weedy plants growing in the area, and multiple treatments may be necessary. After tilling, the area should be left relatively undisturbed for enough time to see new weed growth easily, which should then be treated.

“Another option for clearing vegetation is through solarizing,

as long as the existing vegetation is of manageable size,” Hillock said. “Solarizing is done using clear plastic sheeting and the sun’s heat to basically cook the plants and seeds. The heat of solarizing soil also can be used to reduce the amount of viable weed seeds, but will not completely eliminate them. Using black plastic or other opaque material blocks sunlight and stops photosynthesis, thereby killing plants.”

Tilling is another option to get rid of unwanted vegetation, although not as reliable as other methods. The process of tilling will kill and help in the removal of some perennial weeds with stubborn root systems, but it can help multiply others by dividing rhizomes and other plant parts that serve as propagules for new plants. In addition, this method can also kick up dormant seeds from below the soil surface.

Unlike traditional garden beds, soil amendments typically are not needed because the plant species are generally adapted to poor soil conditions.

For gardening enthusiasts who plan to install a wildflower bed, it is important for them to understand seed dormancy. Many native species have evolved to only germinate when conditions are just right, such as after a heavy rain or a fire event. Typically, seeds need a cold and wet period to break dormancy, also known as stratification. Dormancy can be broken artificially by placing seeds in a moist growing medium in the refrigerator for about four to eight weeks.

“Some seed companies sell seeds that have already been put through this process,” Hillock said. “However, others do not do this because untreated seeds have a longer shelf life. In Oklahoma, it is recommended to plant seeds in the late fall to ensure they go through a natural stratification or other dormancy breaking process. In areas that receive more snow, a post-frost/snowfall planting is ideal. Another benefit is a late-fall planting will not interfere with more pressing spring garden tasks.”


Successful seed sowing will lead to a full garden with a balance





of the selected species throughout the space. If the space is large, separate the area into equal parts. Combine your seeds and mix well, and then divide the seeds into equal parts – the same number as the garden space is divided. Next, add moistened filler material, such as sawdust, compost, peat moss, sand or rice hulls to each section of seed. Add three parts filler material to each section of seed to create a broadcast mix. Broadcast the mix over each area and lightly tamp the seed with your feet or other tools to ensure good seed-soil contact without burying the seeds too deep.

Remember, wildflower gardens are not set-it-and-forget-it efforts. Once the seeds are planted, keep an eye out for cool-season weeds. Once the garden starts growing next spring, it will need maintenance just like a normal garden, depending on the overall aesthetic and purpose of the garden.

“Wildflower gardens are gaining popularity among gardeners seeking ways to enhance native ecosystems in urban areas while also seeking to reduce the resources needed to keep their gardens beautiful. This type of gardening lends itself to bringing a part of Oklahoma’s natural heritage into the backyard and demonstrating the diversity of the Oklahoma flora,” Hillock said. 

Because of their ability to easily adapt to poor soil conditions, wildflowers have gained popularity among Oklahomans in recent years for use in a variety of landscapes.



# COUNTRY CLASSIFIEDS

## MISCELLANEOUS

Four plots at Valley of the Shepherds, Hillcrest. Ardmore, OK \$750 each. (580) 445-5603.

Forestry mulching/land clearing. Can clear trees and briars to increase pasture so you can increase production. Call Jess at (918) 777-8660.

Patio experts. Award winning pergolas, decks, landscaping, cedar fence and pavers. (405) 834-3411.

Capodimonte porcelain, made in Italy. 11 pieces, some large. \$400 for all. (918) 247-6387.

Paint a barn quilt. Classes in Wagoner, OK. Custom and mobile. Quality, exterior boards to adorn your barn. (918) 289-1438.

Trailer meat smoker made by Oklahoma Joe. Cooks up to 100 lbs. Propane start, garage kept. \$4,000 firm. (918) 344-1268.

Two spaces in Floral Haven Cemetery – together in veteran's section. Located in Broken Arrow, OK. \$5,000 for both. (918) 698-5428.

Steel wood stove, \$250. Three wheel three-speed bicycle, new. (405) 386-4416.

Two large IGLOO dog houses. Used, but good condition. \$40 each. Will sell separately. (405) 919-4496.

Chandler Senior Citizens Building available for rent – evening and weekends. \$150 with \$50 deposit. Office hours 9:30-12:30. (405) 258-2400.

Fence charger repair, all brands. Warranty work for all Woodstream products. Bob Hunter, Pioneer Electronics. Waukomis, OK. (580) 603-0063.

Workshop shelves. 30"x24"x15". \$200 firm. (580) 819-1621.

## FARM MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT

1949 Massey pony tractor. Restored and ready to show or parade. Set of NOS Massey Ferguson garden tractor hubcaps and restore tractors of several brands. (580) 854-6549.

John Deere, five-foot round baler, swather, rake. Pecan equipment – sprayer, weevil traps, leaf rake, shaker and harvester. (405) 867-5368.

XL box blade hose cylinder drag type – make offer. Two used chainsaws, good shape – \$25 each. Eight-hole 265x75x16 tire, new mounted – \$100. Craftsman air compressor, five hp., 25 gallon – \$35. (405) 213-6448.

Chrome exhaust off Peterbilt. Cummins 335 Bi6 truck engine. 10-speed fuller roadrunner. (405) 386-4416.

John Deere 347 Square Bailer (mid 90s). Ready to go. 1033 bale accumulator. (405) 659-8783.

Two implement six whole wheels, 35x11x18. 20 ply aircraft tires. (405) 831-7524.

Great Plains no-till drill, 30 ft. Cat Challenger 65C ag track tractor. Perkins. (405) 714-3422.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

OKFB Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Please type or print legibly.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2021.  
The spring issue will publish in mid-January 2022.*





## LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Angus bulls – ready for service. In Angus business 65 years, same location. (580) 320-3977.

Beefmaster bulls and females. Performance and EPD information on all cattle. Breeding foundation Beefmasters for over 35 years. Simon Creek Beefmasters. (580) 668-2523.

Registered Polled Hereford cow herd. 51-year lifetime membership breeder. Famous genetic bloodlines. Bulls and heifers. (580) 332-2468.

Limousin bulls – best choice for crossbreeding on Angus, Hereford or Brangus based cows. Get low birth weights with 10% increase in weaning weights. More profit. (580) 759-6038.

## AUTOMOTIVE

1964 1 1/2 ton cab and chassis, 235 motor, title. 1955 Chrysler V8 auto, PS, PB, air, good car to restore. (918) 533-3871.

## WANTED

Metal frame that surrounds old grain storage silo. Frame only. (580) 618-0290.

All kinds of railroad items, Oklahoma cotton bale tags and cotton signs, Oklahoma trailer advertisement reflectors, bullet pencils and Ada pottery. (580) 399-8866.

## REAL ESTATE

280 acres, 2-bedroom farmhouse in Greer County. Well, septic, barns, grain bin, creek, borders river. Hunters' paradise. \$1,550/acre. (405) 659-5681.





# *THE* LAND + DOCTORS

**REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION**

**[WWW.LANDDOCTORS.COM](http://WWW.LANDDOCTORS.COM)**





# A UNIQUE BROKER FOR YOUR LEGACY RANCH



**KELLY HURT**  
**OWNER BROKER**  
**(580)-421-7512**  
**KELLY@LANDDOCTORS.COM**

- Grew up on family farm with beef, timber, dairy and row crop operations
- B.S. Geology
- Ph.D. Environmental Science/Forestry
- Raising a fifth generation of family on the same farm
- Founder of Land Doctors Real Estate and Construction



**CHRISSY BANKS**  
**SALES ASSOCIATE**  
**(765)-220-2489**  
**CHRISSY@LANDDOCTORS.COM**

- Grew up on a 2500-acre corn, soybean and wheat farm
- B.S. Ag Economics/Farm Management,
- Has owned and operated farms with cattle, horse, crop and agritourism operations.
- Current owner of Banks Valley Guest Ranch and Banks Registered Polled Herefords

**Because of our backgrounds, we are sensitive to the fact that there is emotion involved in the sale of ranches that have been in the same family for multiple generations. We take a high level of care and responsibility in the sale of these legacy properties. Contact us today to schedule a free consultation or visit [www.LandDoctors.com](http://www.LandDoctors.com) to see the Land Doctors difference for yourself.**



**Nicely done, beef.**

**You've proven that meat  
substitutes are just that.  
Substitutes.**



3140 W Britton Rd Suite B  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

**BEEF.**  
IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER.®