

Oklahoma Country

Winter 2023
The magazine of
Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Something greater

Celebrating Oklahoma Farm Bureau's nine
Farm & Ranch Family Recognition recipients
who create a **brighter future** for the world

Success through service

Meet OKFB's new district
six director, Roger Moore

Production to consumption

Highlights from OKFB's
2022 annual meeting



Oklahoma Country

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ON THE COVER

Photo by Dustin Mielke

The Glazier family of Kingfisher County were named the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Farm & Ranch Family for district three. The Glaziers farm and ranch near Loyal.

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ABOUT OKLAHOMA COUNTRY MAGAZINE

Oklahoma Country magazine is the official magazine of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, mailed to Farm Bureau members four times a year. *Oklahoma Country* magazine shares the story of Oklahoma agriculture and our rural communities through the eyes of Farm Bureau members, programs and activities.

ABOUT OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is Oklahoma's largest general farm organization, dedicated to supporting the agriculture community to improve the lives of Oklahomans. As a grassroots, member-led organization, OKFB gives a voice to family farmers and ranchers through advocacy, outreach, leadership development and supporting the future of agriculture.

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Rodd Moesel

*President
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
& Affiliated Companies*

Building bigger and better opportunities with the Farm Bureau family

They say that if you want something done, find a busy person.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is certainly blessed to have a plethora of hardworking leaders, members and staff who have made countless new ideas, dreams and goals come true for our organization during the past few years. In fact, the sheer amount of innovative projects and programs our organization has accomplished and coordinated is simply dizzying.

I am excited to see such dedicated leadership in our counties, and we look forward to even more involvement by county Farm Bureaus in their local communities. Supported by our dedicated field staff, 2023 promises to be a year of growth for our county Farm Bureaus.

Perhaps our biggest endeavor for 2023 is our rural economic development initiative. Our goal is to connect investment dollars with Oklahoma's rural entrepreneurs, providing funding, business development resources and technical assistance for these local innovators.

We aim to support and help build local Oklahoma businesses doing great things in our rural communities, and as a result, create new jobs, new opportunities and new excitement around our state. We all have seen the downward trend in rural populations, and Farm Bureau wants to create new opportunities to ensure our state's best and brightest have ample options to stay in Oklahoma and help our state grow.

Along with our national partner, AgLaunch, we will launch a rural-focused business accelerator to provide resources for rural Oklahoma businesses who are ready to take their ideas to the next level.

An effort this big does not happen overnight, and we know that once we begin working with our first set of businesses it is likely that it will take four to five years to see the fruits of our labor. However, we all know that our organization, with more than 80 years of history in Oklahoma, is here to support Oklahoma for the long haul.

That is precisely the reason why Farm Bureau continues to support Oklahoma's agriculture community with innovative programs, events and activities. Throughout the last eight decades, OKFB members have put in countless hours to provide bigger and better opportunities for the next generations of Oklahomans.

I feel like we are just getting started.

As our society has emerged from the pandemic, our organization has created new events, re-vamped existing programs and re-worked longstanding opportunities for Farm Bureau members and our agricultural community to learn, grow and share their voices as agricultural advocates.

We are proud to continue these new programs, many of which help build leaders and spread the work of Farm Bureau. From our award-winning ATV safety facility partnership with Oklahoma State University Extension to our FFA Reporters Conference and Capitol Camp events for high school students, we are excited to build upon these recent successes to support our organization's mission.

We have also seen our county Farm Bureaus find new ways to engage in their local communities. We are proud that our counties stepped up to the plate to help feed hungry Oklahomans early last year with more than \$14,000 in donations to community food banks and nutrition assistance programs. Not only that, but last fall our county Farm Bureaus partnered with OKFB and OKFB Insurance to support local volunteer fire departments with more than \$60,000 in donations. All of this is on top of the longstanding efforts our county Farm Bureau leaders undertake locally from scholarships to supporting youth livestock shows to helping 4-H and FFA programs.



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Something Greater

Stories by
Rebekah Nash

Photos by
Dustin Mielke

Farming and ranching is not for the faint of heart. From long hours spent in the combine to the unpredictability of Oklahoma's weather, it is a full-time job filled with both the greatest reward and the deepest heartbreak.

But more than anything, farming and ranching is a family business. From multigenerational farms with decades - or centuries - of history to first-time landowners taking a daring leap of faith, families are the backbone of each and every operation.

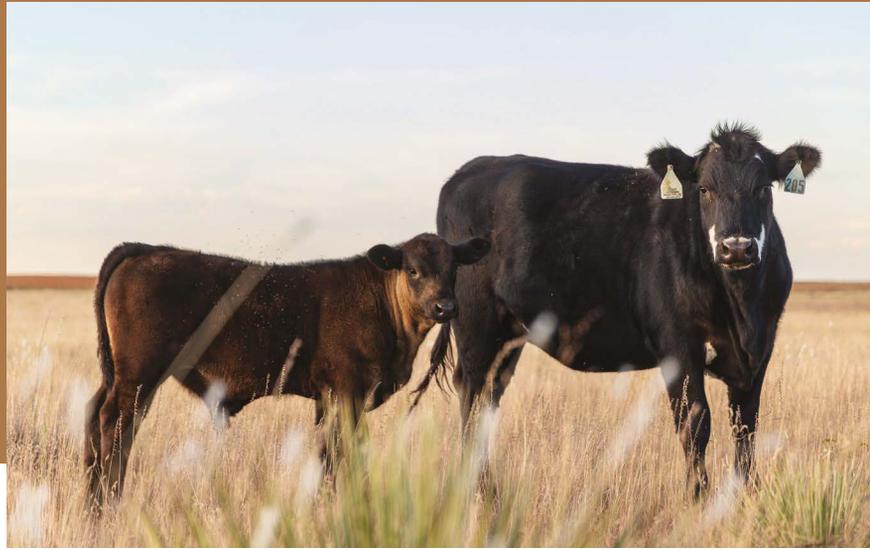
Every year, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee recognizes an outstanding farming and ranching family from each OKFB district who upholds the best traditions and values of Oklahoma agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

This year's honorees may come from every corner of the state, but they are united in the task of raising food and fiber for our state and beyond. These families are no strangers to challenges, but know what they do is about more than agriculture - it is about being part of something greater.

Join us in celebrating the nine families selected for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee's Farm and Ranch Family Recognition of 2022.









“Everyone likes to help each other out here, and that’s just something we want to be a part of.”

Stuart Hutchison

To some, the Oklahoma panhandle seems to be vast and uninhabited, but for the Hutchison family of Cimarron County, it is much more – it is a community.

Stuart and Jamie Hutchison, along with their three sons – Kyle, Kole and Kameron – grow wheat, milo and sorghum, raise cow/calf pairs and produce vegetables in the small community of Wheelless.

“I think this area is special because of the community,” Jamie said. “Everyone wants to help everybody.”

The family found a way to contribute even more to the community with rows and rows of vegetables in their one-acre vegetable garden.

“It is an acre garden, and we raise a variety of different vegetables,” Stuart said. “We pick them every day, and it normally takes us two to three hours.”

From tomatoes to bell peppers and from pumpkins to okra and more, the garden can yield enough vegetables not only for the Hutchison family but also for the customers who visit the Boise City Farmer’s Market.

“I really like to raise plants,” Stuart said. “I like to do it for the community. I like to see the people getting excited to see the produce.”

The garden has allowed Stuart and Jamie to not only connect with local customers, but also with people from Colorado, New Mexico and Texas who

travel to Boise City to purchase produce.

“They kind of depend on us (for the produce),” Jamie said. “Some of them have chosen not to raise a garden themselves because they know we have one. It is kind of a nice feeling to have so many people depend on us to bring it to town.”

In addition to the hard work of growing the garden, Stuart and Jamie take pride in the cattle they raise with their cow/calf pairs and herd bulls.

“Our goal is to raise a quality beef product to take to town that someone is proud to buy,” Stuart said.

The Hutchisons work together to care for their animals, plant and harvest crops and tend to the growing garden. Even though Kyle, Kole and Kameron are busy with school and jobs, they are still heavily involved in the day-to-day tasks.

For miles in the distance, one can see the work farmers and ranchers like the Hutchisons do to grow the food, fiber and fuel to power Oklahoma.

The tight-knit community of Cimarron County requires everyone to be involved in some way. Stuart and Jamie not only provide food for their neighbors, but they are also involved in the local school board and with a host of other roles and responsibilities. Stuart also serves as a newly elected county commissioner.

“Everyone likes to help each other out here, and that’s just something we want to be a part of,” Stuart said.

The Hutchisons

District One

The Howards

District Two

"It is just in your blood. I am proud that I married a farmer now. It has been a good life."

Renee Howard

Tucked behind the massive rock formations of central Jackson County, six generations are tending to the land while juggling family life, careers and a growing family.

"I grew up in a farm family," said Renee Howard. "My dad did a lot of custom hay baling and swathing, and I swore I would never marry a farmer."

Renee found herself marrying an agricultural instructor, who was teaching at the nearby school.

"I met Bob and married him, and he was an agricultural teacher at the time," Renee said. "I thought a teacher would be good. He taught for those first two years, and then he decided it was time to farm."

Renee was still not sure she wanted to become a farmer's wife, but she stepped into the role and worked the land alongside Bob.

Bob passed away in April 2022, leaving Renee and their children - Chrystle, Ryan and Brent - to care for the wheat, hay and cattle the family is known for in the community of Navajo.

"We were so fortunate that the boys came back to the farm," Renee said. "It's a family farm, and everyone participates."

Ryan and Brent are both practicing attorneys, but they, alongside their young families, tend to the farm and ranch after work hours with help from Renee. Her grandchildren - Samantha, Alexandra and Estelle - are learning the ropes of farm and ranch life while helping in the evenings and on the weekends.

Even though Chrystle and her family

have moved north to Enid, they still find time in their busy schedules to help on the operation when needed.

"I think the thing that has kept us going is the work ethic," Renee said. "Bob was pretty much a workaholic, and from sunup to dark, he was working. He taught the boys that. Whenever they are able to leave their jobs after the work is done, they are out here helping."

From working cows to harvesting wheat, the family carries on the exceptional work ethic instilled in them from generations past. Keeping the legacy and integrity of the farm and ranch is something Renee instilled in her family from the very beginning.

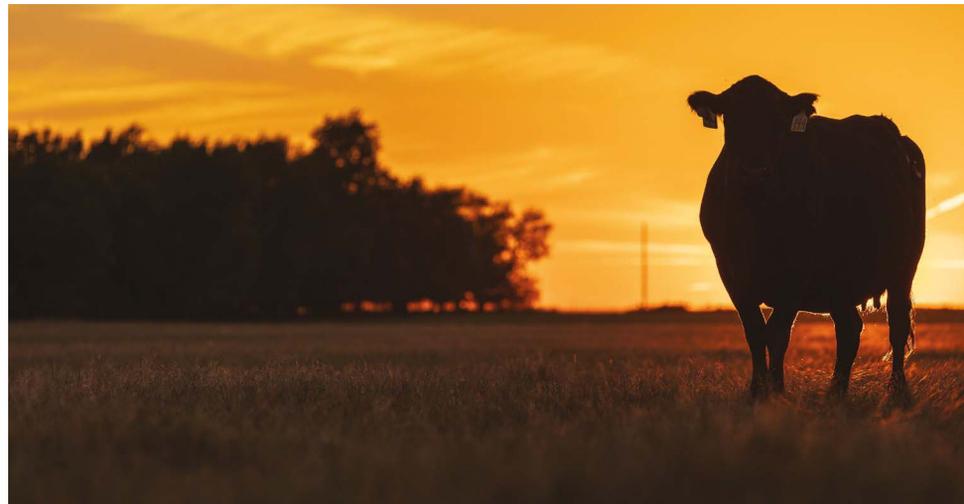
"They learned about what they need to do and know that the cattle come first," Renee said. "Now, to watch the grand kids grow up here and see them doing the same things, it is good to see that."

Family is at the center of everything on the Howard farm and ranch. On any given day, the granddaughters can be seen helping round up cattle on the UTV while a tractor is off in the distance working the land.

Even though Renee did not see herself becoming a farmer and rancher, she stepped into the role with grace and continues to press on in the way of life she has come to know: providing food and fiber for those in her community.

"It is just in your blood," Renee said. "I am proud that I married a farmer now. It has been a good life."







“To me, there is no better place to raise a family than right here on the farm.”

Kyle Glazier

Sustainability is a common word that can mean a lot of different things to many people. To Kyle and Sheri Glazier of Kingfisher County, sustainability is something they take into heavy consideration each and every day.

“Sustainability to me is leaving it better than you found it, taking care of the land and soil while still providing for our family,” Kyle said.

Growing a variety of crops – sesame, milo, alfalfa, hay, wheat and cover crops – depending on the year and environmental conditions is just one of the many ways the family is being stewards of the land.

“We really take pride in the way we care for the land and the care we give our animals from start to finish,” Sheri said. “Our cattle and crops all have to be integrated together. If a crop is not complimentary to cattle, then we are really going to reconsider it.

“I think it is definitely how we have somewhat pivoted our approach to how we think about using the land, the crops that we are choosing while also keeping cattle in mind, too.”

Kyle and Sheri take pride in the ways they overcome and adapt to all of the changing tides that come their way. Diversification is a practice they especially embrace.

“We also have our own beef brand – Glazier Farms Beef,” Sheri said. “We take pride in all of the work that we do. It has been really fulfilling to close that gap for a lot of people. I want people to be confident in the beef that they feed their

family, whether it is ours or from the grocery store.”

Packing the orders at the kitchen table with their children, Kol and Gentri, has become a way for the family to connect with their customers while making food production come full circle.

While the custom beef brand puts a face to where the food is coming from, Sheri also shares the value of incorporating beef and proteins into a diet with her business – Dirt Road Dietitian, LLC.

“The people that I am working with – I ultimately want them to know all of the work we do behind the scenes and put a face to the food that comes to the table,” Sheri said. “We really feel like we can never stop learning. We can never stop learning from consumers, and we can never stop learning how to better the land that we are caring for, the children we are raising and everything that comes with a business.”

At Glazier Farms, there are many outlets of diversification and stewardship of the land, but family continues to be at the center of everything.

Whether in feed truck or on the tractor, Kol and Gentri are always soaking up everything there is to know about the agricultural way of life.

“To me, there is no better place to raise a family than right here on the farm,” Kyle said. “No matter what we are doing, we are doing it as a family. We are constantly helping each other out.”

The Glaziers

District Three

The Nipps

District Four

“I think at some point we will be held accountable for the way we took care of God's land – the same way we will be for the way we treated other men.”

Curtiss Nipp

Agriculture from the outside may seem like just a career, but to lifelong farmers and ranchers like Curtiss and Brenda Nipp of Love County, it is a way of life.

“I am the third generation to live here on this place,” Curtiss said. “It is kind of like agriculture is a part of us, not because it is just something you want to do.”

Generations of Oklahomans have worked to care for the land in the best way they know how, and Curtiss works to better the soil daily because generations before him instilled that trait in him.

“We believe in being land stewards,” Curtiss said. “A few people out there will tell you they are not farmers, they are ranchers. The bottom line is if you are not a grass farmer you will not last long in the cattle business.”

To any rancher, grass is a necessity to feed their animals, and Curtiss especially focuses on growing good pasture for his cattle.

“We not only want our pastures to look good, but we also want them to produce and cattle to do good on them,” he said.

The Nipps raise purebred Charolais cattle to sell to cattlemen across the U.S. during their one to two sales each year. To further their family business, a barn with a sale arena was built on the property for customers to better understand how the animals they purchase are raised.

“It seems that the buyers feel like they

are a part of the whole operation,” Curtiss said. “Within the past twelve months, we have sent bulls from Idaho in the west to Virginia in the east and into Florida as well.”

When it comes to sale day, the entire Nipp family comes together to ensure the process is as smooth as it can be for the people traveling to the ranch.

“It kind of brings us all together when we have the sales,” Brenda said. “Everyone has to pitch in, and everyone plays a part.”

Long before and after each sale, Curtiss and Brenda spend hours in the pasture not only looking at the cattle and grass, but also to admire the hard work they have put into the ranch.

“I think the thing the whole family enjoys more than anything about the cattle business and being involved in agriculture is the bond it puts you back with our Maker and mother earth herself,” Curtiss said. “You get to see the fruits of your labor on a daily basis, and sometimes you have to face up to your failures.”

The sun lowering toward the horizon with good grass and cattle in the distance is something the Nipps do not take for granted. They are proud of the work they accomplished to care for the land and their animals.

“I think at some point we will be held accountable for the way we took care of God's land – the same way we will be for the way we treated other men,” Curtiss said of his agriculture career.





"If you did not enjoy it, you would not do it. It is a lot of hours. It is a lot of hard work, but it is something that you really cannot explain."

Joe Mac McAlester

Over the years, society tends to evolve and continue to get better and more efficient. Just like the rest of society, farmers and ranchers strive to evolve and make things better.

Joe Mac and Heidi McAlester have a stocker operation in addition to their cow/calf pairs near Wilburton. They purchase undervalued stocker cattle to add value before they reach their market weight.

"With the livestock, I enjoy the whole process of bringing them in, seeing the beginning product, cleaning them up, growing the cattle and finally seeing the cattle go on and be valuable for the next consumer," Joe Mac said.

Joe Mac's approach of adding value to livestock through hard work may not be for all producers, but he has the mindset that one needs to always be learning. Caring for cattle is just what he needs to continually grow.

"You are always learning," Joe Mac said. "There have been lots of things I have done that have not worked, but there are things that have. If we continue to learn and not get closed-minded on certain practices or certain things, then we are going to be successful at some point."

Joe Mac and Heidi also work to instill their values into their children - Laney and Cash - even while working cattle.

"We all work very hard," Heidi said. "We all work together and are actually pretty cohesive."

Keeping everyone involved while

working or feeding cattle is important to the McAlesters because Joe Mac and Heidi feel there is always a teachable moment for the kids to take the lessons with them for their entire lives.

"Working with the kids is invaluable," Joe Mac said. "Being able to be out here with them and teach them lessons is something I find very appealing about our lifestyle, and we are very lucky to be able to do that."

"Working in the real estate industry, we have so many people that want that back that have gotten away from the land, and they are wanting to get back to the land," Joe Mac said.

The McAlesters are thankful to be the third generation to live on the same land and are proud to feed Oklahomans and the world. Yet, Joe Mac hopes his children continue expanding upon their knowledge of agriculture.

"Hopefully, the next generation will show interest in it and continue it," Joe Mac said.

Joe Mac's grandparents started farming in the 1940s, and while it could have been easy to become stagnant and not improve their ranch, they worked to be innovative and discover new practices.

"I feel if we can try our best to continue on and find better ways to make things work it gets better, and I just enjoy it" Joe Mac said. "If you did not enjoy it, you would not do it. It is a lot of hours. It is a lot of hard work, but it something that you really cannot explain."

The McAlesters

District Five

“In agriculture, there is nothing more noble out there than taking care of animals, producing food, doing it the right way, making things better for the world and teaching the community what you are doing.”

Josh Emerson

District Six

The Emersons

Farming and ranching is often a profession that is taken for granted. Whether a person has 50 acres or 10,000 acres, every farmer and rancher makes a difference in feeding the world.

“In agriculture, there is nothing more noble out there than taking care of animals, producing food, doing it the right way, making things better for the world and teaching the community what you are doing,” said Josh Emerson. “I do not think there is anything better than that.”

Josh and Kim Emerson, along with their children – Julie and Jax – own and operate a registered Simmental, Red Angus, SimAngus and commercial cow/calf enterprise while also growing hay for their animals and other customers in McIntosh County.

“I am a banker by day, and on the weekends, I get to have what I call my ‘serenity now’ moment,” Kim said. “I get to come home and relax with the kids and Josh, and I get to go out and see baby calves born, cattle worked or a calf grow to a steer or heifer that we get to keep or sell at market.”

Having an additional “job” each night and weekend may not be everyone’s favorite way to relax, but Kim enjoys every second of it because she gets to spend it with her family while doing what she is passionate about.

Hard work, dedication and long hours are invested into each animal before it goes to market on every ranch

including the Emerson ranch.

“It is just an overall wonderful feeling that we get to see one grow up, and we know that the beef is good quality and going to help someone not be hungry out there,” Kim said.

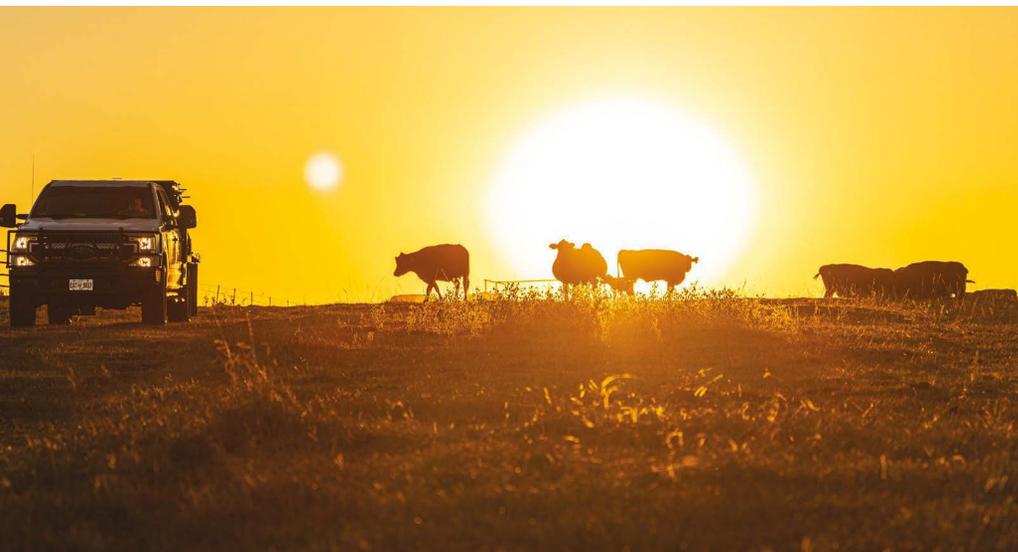
While Josh and Kim are working on the ranch, their children find themselves learning about the intricacies of the industry or just being kids and running across the hay bales playing tag.

“The stories and the memories that they will have of getting them to see what the good Lord gave us,” Kim said, “I think it is something they will never forget, just the things they get to see on a daily basis, and hopefully they grow, mature and love it as much as we do.”

During tough years and especially during a drought, farmers and ranchers are tested to think outside the box. Feed supplies have been difficult and expensive to acquire, but the Emersons look to an option off the beaten path to feed their cattle.

Their access to the Arkansas River allows the family to purchase feed at a fraction of the cost, saving the Emersons money in tough times.

“The reason I try to keep our ranch growing, improving and maximizing its potential is not just profit, it is in our DNA to do that,” Josh said. “It is a farmer and rancher’s DNA to make things better, to figure out why something is not working and to how to make it better. I think it is just bred into us.”





"Our business is really set on service, and that was our focus when we started."

Rhonda Regier

Farmers and ranchers look to their neighbors and local businesses to provide essential services and supplies for their basic needs as they operate their farms and ranches.

Nearly seven years ago, Steve and Rhonda Regier opened the doors to their agricultural feed store in Major County for their neighbors near and far to purchase necessary items for their farms and ranches.

"Our business is really set on service, and that was our focus when we started," Rhonda said. "We have a feed store - a Purina farm and ranch feed store and general store - and we started that about six and a half years ago."

Providing their community with goods and services is something the Regiers place a heavy focus on both through their business and in their personal lives.

"The feed store is kind of a place a lot of people end up coming to hang out," Rhonda said. "We ended up starting a farmer's market this summer because I had the facility, and I had the location."

Fifty-pound feed bags and hay bales are flung into truck beds and trailers while creep feeders are hooked up to tow hitches for customers to care for their livestock. Inside the store, general animal husbandry items can be found.

Steve and Rhonda also have a herd of 150 commercial Angus cow/calf pairs with a few head of stocker cattle kept for their butcher beef business.

"We diversify," Rhonda said. "We sell a lot of butcher beef. We end up keeping a

lot of our own calves and feed them out further along for butcher calves or the heifer pairs, and that has kind of been our niche."

From hay pastures to feed from the store, the Regier's cattle receive some of the best nutrition possible.

"We give them the best food year-round to raise the highest quality animal," Steve said.

Steve and Rhonda keep busy and work hard on the feed store, cattle operation and lawn care business that their children - Scott, Dan and Mark - started when they were young.

"Because we work hard, our boys saw how hard we work, and we expected the same out of them," Rhonda said. "So, we made them start a lawn care business. Because of watching us and seeing us, they learned to work hard and learned to give back."

Owning a small business can be hard, but Steve and Rhonda approach it in a healthy way.

"Our focus is not necessarily on ourselves," Rhonda said. "My theory is God gave us the money. If we need more, He will provide more. We are going to take care of what He gives us, and we are going to take care of our animals and the livestock and give them the best possible conditions to flourish. We are going to take care of our employees and customers at the store, and we are going to give them the best service, the best part of us and our best attitude."

The Regiers

• District Seven

The Riches

District Eight

“I do not think it would be worth doing if family was not involved. We just would not do it. It is a way of life.”

Dale Rich

Moving from Iowa to Oklahoma for a career is not the typical story for farmers and ranchers in the state, but Dale and Deb Rich have found a way to make their dreams come to life in Okfuskee County.

“Agriculture is a dream for me because I was not born into it,” Dale said. “I did not have the opportunity to start in agriculture. I thought I wanted it, and to be involved in agriculture and once I got into it, I realized how great it is.”

With Deb growing up on a farm in Iowa, the Riches knew they wanted to be involved in agriculture in some capacity, even if it was just a hobby.

“We got married and moved to Oklahoma,” Deb said. “We traveled literally around the world, and we ended back in Tulsa. We had an opportunity to buy a place in Okemah, and we originally did it just to have a place to get away and get back to the country. We started with 10 Angus cows just to have a hobby. Our hobby gradually grew and grew.”

The hobby progressively became more of a priority for them, but there was one thing holding them back: their careers.

“Deb and I grew up in and around agriculture, but we could not do it at first,” Dale said. “We had to go to work, but it got to where we started being able to leave the job in Tulsa and spend more and more time raising cattle.”

Now, the Rich family with the help of their children – Davilyn and Buck – have been able to grow their ranch to something more than what they thought was possible.

“The thing I like to do more than anything else is just look at the cattle,” Dale said. “I can remember what they were 20 years ago. You can see what you have accomplished. You can see the benefits and improvements.”

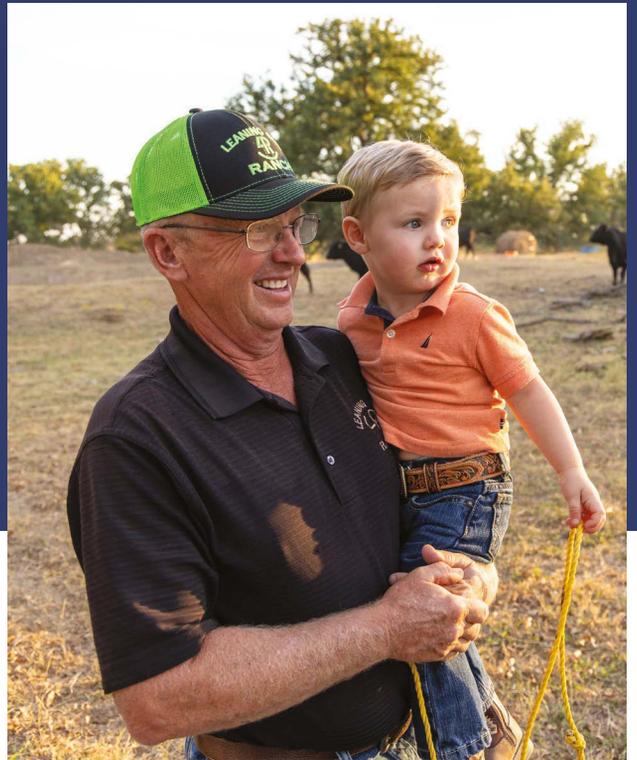
Like any farmer or rancher, Dale and Deb make it a priority to raise the best Angus-based cattle for the end consumers. Dale and Buck work together to improve the genetics of their herd with the help of artificial insemination to select specific characteristics.

The family has even started to raise a few Wagyu-influenced cattle for butcher.

“It is really fun to do it as a family and to grow it to have a business together,” Deb said.

Even the youngest of the Rich family, Tate, enjoys working with the cattle on any given day whether he is feeding or just checking on the animals.

“I do not think it would be worth doing if family was not involved,” Dale said. “We just would not do it. It is a way of life. It is something we absolutely enjoy, and now that Buck and Tate just eat this stuff up, you can see how they have picked up so many things that you have done. They will take it so much further than we can.”





"It makes me happy that we are able to carry it on, to be out here in the country, to take care of the land and pass it on to future generations in a better way than what we found it."

Jane Imgarten

Generations of the Imgarten family have been farmers and ranchers, and Tom and Jane Imgarten of Pawnee County are no different.

"I put my first wheat crop in at 14 years old, and it got completely hailed out," Tom said. "Fifty-four years later, here I am still doing it."

Tom and Jane have faced many difficulties from droughts to flooding and from high commodity prices to high input prices during their time operating the farm and ranch. Raising cattle and growing wheat, soybeans and alfalfa is the lifeblood of the family and is what continues to drive them to carry on the selfless tradition.

"My dad was born on this place, and it is actually my grandad's place," Tom said. "My whole family has been farmers and ranchers all of their lives."

The rows of crops and cattle in the pasture is just a small aspect of why the family carries on the work from generations past.

"To be with the cows and take care of them, it is so relaxing," Jane said. "I am not saying you do not have bad days - you know you are helping feed the world at the end of the day."

The Imgartens have a commercial cow/calf and stocker operation near Red Rock, but their pieces of land are spread out over many miles from one side to the other adding another layer of complexity to their farm and ranch.

The passion for agriculture has been instilled in Tom and Jane's children, Jerri

and Wilton, as well.

"We farm alongside our son, Wilton," Jane said. "It makes me happy that we are able to carry it on, to be out here in the country, to take care of the land and to pass it on to future generations in a better way than what we found it."

Wilton and his wife, Becca, with their children - Kinsley and Landon - work with Tom and Jane to ensure the farm and ranch can be passed on for generations to come.

"It is the togetherness and carrying on the tradition, and you can always depend on your family," Jane said. "Family is very important."

Spending many hours a day together on the family's operation requires the cooperation of everyone involved, and the family does just that.

Tom and Jane's grandchildren have the opportunity to grow up learning about agriculture while building a lifelong bond that many people do not get the chance to enjoy. From riding in the feed truck with their grandmother to sowing seeds into the ground with their father, Kinsley and Landon are learning the life lessons of farming and ranching beginning at a young age.

One day, Tom and Jane hope to pass on their farm and ranch to their children and their grandchildren, just like their families did for them.

"Family means everything, and I sure hope they are proud of it," Tom said. 

The Imgartens District Nine

SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE



MAYES COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBER ROGER MOORE STEPS INTO A NEW ROLE OF SERVICE AS *DISTRICT SIX FARM BUREAU DIRECTOR*

*By REBEKAH NASH
PHOTOS BY DUSTIN MIELKE*

Success takes many forms in life. For farmers and ranchers, it can be measured in acres, yields, herd size or income.

However, the true measure of success for a family farm or ranch is measured in years.

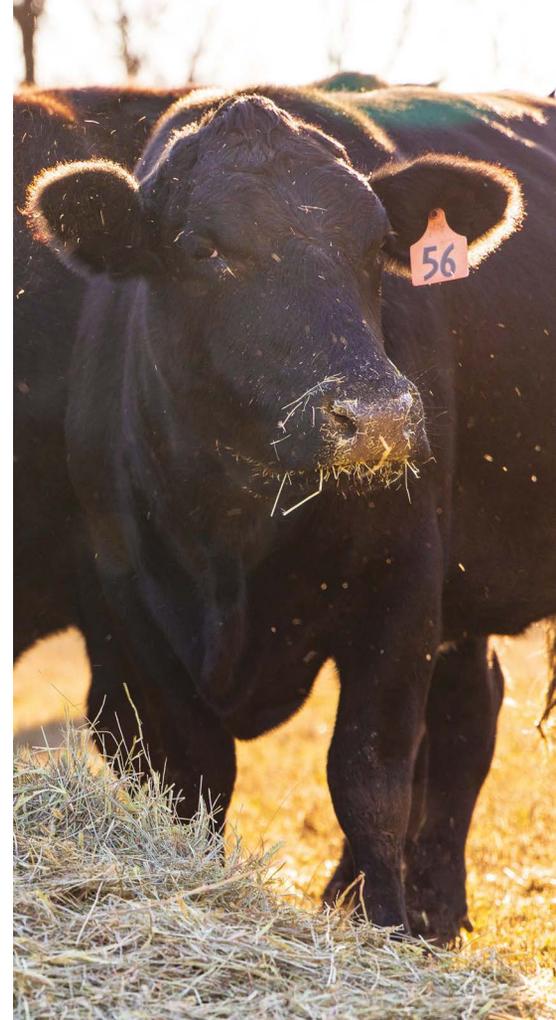
Roger Moore, a Mayes County Farm Bureau member who has spent countless hours serving Farm Bureau in his local community, works alongside family every day as he aims to pass on his family farm and ranch to his children and generations beyond.

That same mindset permeates Oklahoma Farm Bureau, where grassroots members – farmers and ranchers – work to support agriculture for the benefit of generations to come.

In that spirit of progress through generations, Moore – a lifelong farmer and rancher – stepped into the role of OKFB district six director in November at the 2022 OKFB annual meeting.

“I think it is a worthy endeavor to give up my time for an organization like this one,” Moore said of becoming the OKFB district six director.

Moore was introduced to the state’s largest general farm organization from a young age – the same way he got his start in agriculture.



WHEAT, CORN AND SOYBEANS

ARE THE MAIN CROPS THE MOORE FAMILY GROWS IN A ROTATION ON THEIR FARM. THE FAMILY'S CROPPING PLAN IS CLOSELY INTEGRATED WITH THEIR CATTLE HERD, KEEPING THE FARM TIGHTLY ALIGNED.

"I was born and raised on a farm, and my dad was active in FFA," Moore said of his agriculture background. "So I got involved in 4-H and FFA. I got my first calf when I was 13 years old, and I've had some ever since. I'll have cows as long as I can take care of them."

With an expansive cow/calf herd, hay business and row crop rotations of wheat, corn and soybeans, he finds himself immersed in agriculture each and every day. In addition to the farm and ranch duties, Moore helps run his family's wedding venue, which is located directly on the family operation.

"We try to integrate the cattle and the row crops together," Moore

said. "We will turn cows in on corn stalks, or we will have cattle graze on wheat if it comes up soon enough. Between the crops and the cattle, the crops seem to come in the summertime when the cows are kind of on their own."

"We take care of the cattle mostly in the wintertime. It works out that you stay busy year-round."

Even while there is no shortage of work to be done on his family farm, Moore has increasingly become more involved in the organization he joined at the age of 18 years old.

"The reason I became a Farm Bureau member in the beginning was of course to buy insurance, but I quickly realized Farm Bureau does a

A COW-CALF HERD

ALONG WITH STOCKER CATTLE GRAZE ON THE MOORE FAMILY'S FARM AND RANCH LOCATED BETWEEN CLAREMORE AND PRYOR.

lot to help farmers, ranchers and rural communities," Moore said.

Moore recalled the impact his Farm Bureau experiences had on him spanning his time serving on the Mayes County Farm Bureau board of directors to being involved in the Young Farmers and Ranchers program, and from sharing his voice on agricultural issues to making lifelong connections with the like-minded people of the organization.

"So now, when someone asks why they should be a member, the first thing I will think of is – 'I see you have a new tractor,'" Moore said as if he were to be encouraging a neighbor to become a Farm Bureau member. "Do you enjoy not paying

“TO ME, THE VALUES OF FARM BUREAU ARE HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND LOYALTY. WHEN SOMEONE IS A FARM BUREAU MEMBER, THEY ARE A PART OF A GROUP OF MEN AND WOMEN THAT ARE PRETTY AWESOME.

WE HAVE FARM BUREAU VALUES.”



SELLING HAY

TO FELLOW FARMERS, RANCHERS AND RURAL RESIDENTS HELPS THE MOORE FAMILY FURTHER DIVERSIFY THEIR FARM. IN ADDITION TO THE CROPS AND CATTLE THE FAMILY RAISES, THE MOORES OWN AND OPERATE A WEDDING AND EVENT VENUE LOCATED ON A PICTURESQUE HILLSIDE ON THE FAMILY'S FARM, WHICH DRAWS IN NEWLYWEDS AND GROUPS FROM NEARBY TOWNS, COUNTIES AND EVEN STATES.

sales tax on that tractor? You have Farm Bureau to thank for that. They were instrumental in getting sales tax exemption for farmers and ranchers. Now, they have to stay on top of that, so we do not lose our agricultural exemption.”

With years of experience in agriculture and as a Farm Bureau member and county leader, Moore's decision to step into the role of OKFB state board member representing fellow farmers and ranchers in his district was centered on service.

“The reason I wanted to be on the state board is it is a voluntary position,” Moore said. “I believe in Farm Bureau and believe in their goals, and I felt like I could be

involved more and give back to farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahoma. You cannot beat an Oklahoma farmer or rancher.”

Moore knows that Farm Bureau members uphold a high standard of morals and values, which are the very fabric of the Oklahoma Standard.

“To me, the values of Farm Bureau are honesty, integrity and loyalty,” Moore said. “When someone is a Farm Bureau member, they are a part of a group of men and women that are pretty awesome. We have Farm Bureau values.”

With hopes to continue sharing the Farm Bureau values, Moore has set his sights on building upon the existing programs within the

organization and even creating new programs to benefit agriculture.

Moore has a passion for both agriculture and Farm Bureau, and he strives to share both with members of all ages in his new leadership role with hopes to carry the tradition of passing the torch to the next generation.

“I love agriculture,” Moore said. “I love feeding cows, baling hay, planting and harvesting crops – just every aspect of farming and ranching. When you see a new calf born in the springtime, it is like you are starting over. I guess I am pretty optimistic. I have had some fairly tough years, but I always just look to the next one. It is going to be better.” **FB**



Back Row (left to right) | Stacy Simunek, district seven director; Mike Leverett, district eight director; Leon Richards, district one director; Monte Tucker, district two director and vice president; Rodd Moesel, president; David VonTungeln, district three director and secretary; Roger Moore, district six director; Kerry Givens, district four director.

Front Row (left to right) | Alisen and Jared Anderson, Young Farmers & Ranchers chairmen; Jim Meek, district nine director and treasurer; Mike Clark, district five director; Mignon Bolay, Women's Leadership Committee chair.

Meet the Oklahoma Farm Bureau state board

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members not only have a seat at the table in deciding the organization's policies, but they also have a representative serving their interests on the OKFB state board.

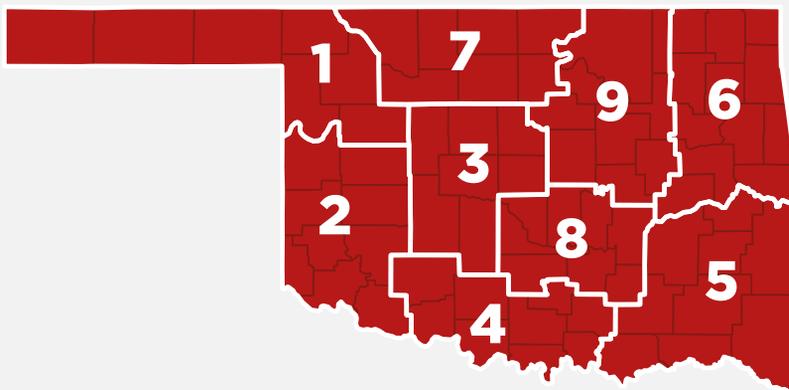
OKFB voting delegates from each of the nine Farm Bureau districts elect a fellow agriculturalist to serve as their voice on the OKFB state board of directors.

Both the OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and the Women's Leadership Committee are represented on the state board, with each committee's chairmen attending board meetings.

As a group, the board provides direction and leadership for the state's largest general farm organization, bringing local voices from county Farm Bureau members in their district to the board's decision-making process.

This direct link between local farmers and ranchers and the organization's leadership team is one more way that OKFB's grassroots structure serves the needs of Oklahomans.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau districts



Oklahoma Farm Bureau has nine regional districts around the state, and each district is represented by a director on the OKFB state board. In addition to determining state board representation, OKFB holds district-level events and activities for members in their local region.



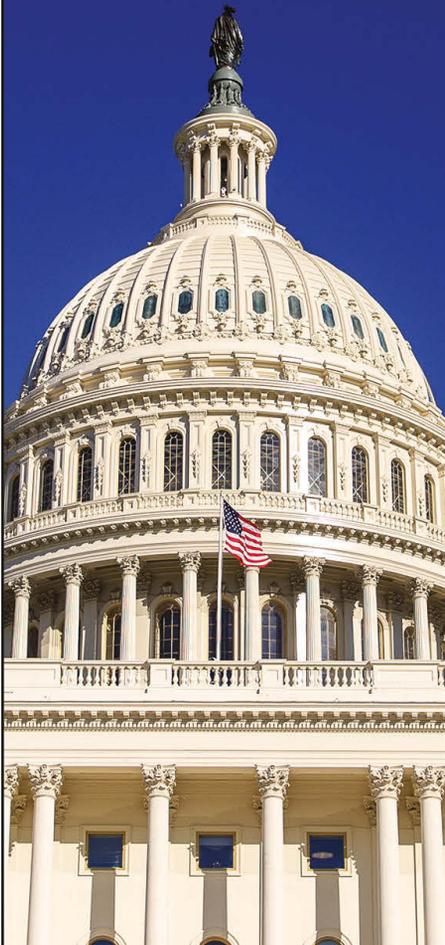
Congressional Action Tour

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Oklahoma Farm Bureau **PRIORITY ISSUES**

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- » We support expanded high-speed internet and wireless phone service in rural areas of the state
- » We support increased access to quality and affordable healthcare for rural Oklahomans
- » We support funding for improved maintenance to roads and bridges in rural Oklahoma
- » We support increased resources for rural fire departments and the ODAFF Forestry Services Division to better manage wildland fire across the state

OKLAHOMA'S FUTURE

- » We support state initiative petition reform
- » We support increased funding for Oklahoma State University Extension, Ag Research and College of Veterinary Medicine
- » We support the continuation and development of the Oklahoma Emergency Drought Commission

LANDOWNER ADVOCACY

- » We oppose new or increased ad valorem taxes
- » We strongly oppose all forms of county zoning authority
- » We support a landowner's right to protect their livestock and property from wildlife depredation

MARIJUANA

- » We oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana
- » We support the continued enforcement and compliance efforts of the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority
- » We support increased transparency regarding medical marijuana businesses



As another legislative session kicks off in the coming weeks, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members have set the organization's 2023 legislative priorities to guide Farm Bureau's work at the state Capitol.

This year's top priorities are broken down into four primary focus areas, including rural infrastructure, Oklahoma's future, landowner advocacy and marijuana.

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

High-speed broadband internet and wireless cell phone service has become a necessity in modern society but is hard to come by in many parts of rural Oklahoma. The expansion of these services is integral to the continued vibrance of rural communities in Oklahoma.

Access to quality and affordable healthcare is crucial for all Oklahomans, especially those in rural areas. Whether it is the preservation of rural hospitals or the expansion of rural telehealth services, OKFB has long supported the advancement of rural healthcare.

OKFB supports **funding for improved maintenance to roads and bridges** in Oklahoma to ensure residents can safely travel to and from their homes and companies can conduct business and transport products.

Oklahoma is no stranger to wildfire, and OKFB supports **increased resources for rural fire departments and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry's Forestry Services Division** to manage wildfire across the state.



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

OKLAHOMA'S FUTURE

Farm Bureau members take pride in engaging in civic efforts and participating in local, state and national elections. In recent years, OKFB members have become increasingly concerned with the requirements for a proposal to appear on a statewide ballot and strongly support **state initiative petition reform** to ensure the integrity of the petition process is upheld.

OKFB has long supported the efforts of land-grant universities and advocates for **increased funding for Oklahoma State University Extension, agricultural research and the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine.**

With Oklahoma's unpredictable weather patterns, assistance in years of drought is invaluable for farmers and ranchers. Farm Bureau members appreciate the state legislature's recognition of this important issue and support the **continuation and development of the Oklahoma Emergency Drought Commission.**

LANDOWNER ADVOCACY

Farm Bureau members **oppose all forms of county zoning authority and oppose new or increased ad valorem taxes** as property taxes unfairly burden farmers and ranchers who often have a large amount of land and capital that does not always generate a profit.

OKFB also supports **landowners' rights to protect livestock and property from wildlife depredation.** Current laws make it

difficult or impossible for farmers and ranchers to take action to protect their animals and property from invasive and dangerous species of wildlife like the black-headed vulture.

MARIJUANA

Oklahoma's marijuana industry took the state by storm after medical marijuana usage was legalized in 2018. The industry has had an unprecedented impact on rural Oklahoma as marijuana grow facilities emerged by the thousands, placing a significant strain on rural Oklahoma's utility providers and causing uncertainty with neighboring agricultural operations when it comes to basic practices like herbicide application.

As a special election approaches in March 2023 to potentially legalize **recreational marijuana** use, OKFB stands strongly opposed. Farm Bureau members support the **continued enforcement and compliance efforts of the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority** and support **increased transparency in medical marijuana businesses.**

To stay up-to-date with OKFB's work at the state Capitol in 2023, be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@okfarmbureau) and check out our weekly legislative updates at okfarmbureau.org.



Above | U.S. Sen. James Lankford (right) shared insight from his time serving in Washington, D.C., with Farm Bureau members during a Q&A session hosted by OKFB President Rodd Mosel at OKFB's Evening of Impact in Oklahoma City Friday, Dec. 2.



Above | Farm Bureau members visit with Sen. James Lankford and his wife, Cindy, at OKFB's Evening of Impact fundraiser.

Lankford highlights OKFB's second-annual Evening of Impact fundraiser

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gathered for an evening of fellowship to support the OKFB Ag PAC

Senator James Lankford was featured as the keynote presenter at Oklahoma Farm Bureau's second-annual Evening of Impact fundraising event on Friday, Dec. 2 at the Petroleum Club in Oklahoma City.

Sen. Lankford shared with more than 70 Farm Bureau members and guests his experience in agriculture and his time in Washington, D.C., through an informal Q&A with OKFB President Rodd Moesel.

Throughout the Q&A, Lankford gave his thoughts on international trade, the state of Oklahoma's marijuana industry, the 2024 presidential election and more.

Members in attendance also had the opportunity to hear from Pat McFerron of Cole Hargrave Snodgrass and Associates during dinner as he recapped highlights and trends from

the November 2022 general election.

The night concluded with an auction featuring two bar stools signed by Gov. Kevin Stitt.

Proceeds from the 2022 Evening of Impact will benefit the OKFB Ag PAC, which supports state and federal candidates for office who share Farm Bureau members' values and who understand the important role agriculture plays in our state and nation.

The OKFB Ag PAC is supported solely by individual contributions, which come primarily from Farm Bureau members who elect to make voluntary contributions when renewing their membership dues. Members can also make donations in any amount at any time by mailing a check to the Ag PAC at 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.*

OKFB Ag PAC achieves 93% success rate in 2022 elections

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Ag PAC, OKFB's grassroots-driven political action committee, achieved a 93% success rate of candidates supported in the 2022 election cycle.

The Ag PAC awarded \$97,300 in financial support from primary elections to the November general election, providing funds to 64 candidates. The Ag PAC gave

endorsements, the highest level of support possible, to 19 candidates running for office.

The 2022 election season was the first full cycle in which the Ag PAC gave support to congressional candidates running to represent Oklahomans in Washington, D.C.

The Ag PAC is supported solely by individual donations given throughout

the year and voluntary contributions OKFB members give when renewing their Farm Bureau membership.*

Candidate financial support and endorsements are decided upon by the Ag PAC board, which is comprised of Farm Bureau members from each region of the state. The board gathers input from local Farm Bureau members to determine support levels.

*Contributions or gifts to the OKFB Ag PAC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

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Oklahoma congressional delegation receives AFBF Friend of Farm Bureau awards

All seven members of Oklahoma's delegation in the 117th United States Congress were honored with the American Farm Bureau Federation's 2022 Friend of Farm Bureau award for their service to agriculture, farmers and ranchers.

Senators James Lankford and Jim Inhofe alongside Rep. Kevin Hern, Rep. Markwayne Mullin, Rep. Frank Lucas, Rep. Tom Cole and Rep. Stephanie Bice received the award after the AFBF board of directors approved the nominations from Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

"The state of Oklahoma is fortunate to have a stellar group of senators and representatives in Washington, D.C.," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "Farm Bureau members greatly appreciate the work they put in to protect and promote agriculture and rural Oklahoma in the halls of Congress, and we are proud to recognize them with this prestigious award."

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Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gathered to celebrate and grow together during the grassroots organization's 81st annual meeting in Norman

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from around the state convened in Norman Nov. 11-13 for the organization's 81st annual meeting where they elected new leaders, set organizational policy for the coming year, recognized outstanding members with awards and learned from several speakers and presenters.

"When you get Farm Bureau folks together, they just love the chance to fellowship with one another and share stories from their activities in their parts of the state," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "It has been a trying year with drought and commodity pricing swings, but everybody loves the time together and the chance to fellowship with each other."

Members set 2023 grassroots policy

OKFB voting delegates considered more than 80 proposed policy resolutions during two business sessions on Saturday, Nov. 12. The resolutions were first drafted by members in county Farm Bureaus and advanced through the state resolutions committee in October.

Delegates evaluated several issues, including ad valorem taxes, rural fire support, school vouchers, marijuana regulations, political campaign funding and more. The policies approved by members during the annual meeting will guide OKFB's efforts at the state Capitol over the next year.

Speakers and presenters featured

OKFB members heard from Senator-elect

Markwayne Mullin, Oklahoma State Superintendent-elect Ryan Walters, Oklahoma State Treasurer-elect Todd Russ, American Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President Joby Young and OKFB President Rodd Moesel during the three-day event.

Convention attendees had the opportunity to attend several leadership development sessions, including presentations on micro-volunteering, financial practices, strategic planning, new county board member training and a panel discussion with several current county Farm Bureau presidents.

Members also were able to earn a continuing education credit toward their private applicators license with a session covering drones in agriculture.

LeAnn Hart shared an inspiring message and musical selection at the worship service and breakfast on Sunday morning.

Members also enjoyed a festive Derby night Friday evening where they placed bets on pre-recorded horse races to benefit OKFB's foundations and danced into the evening with music from Oklahoma musician Kyle Rainer.

Leaders elected

Roger Moore of Mayes County was elected to serve as the new OKFB district six director, serving in northeastern Oklahoma, filling the seat of retiring board member James Fuser. David VonTungeln of Canadian County was re-elected to serve a three-year term as district three director in central Oklahoma.





Above | American Farm Bureau Executive Vice President Joby Young speaks to OKFB members at the 81st annual OKFB convention.



Above | U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin, who had recently been elected to serve in the U.S. Senate, shares his rural background and the importance of rural Oklahoma values with OKFB members.

Jim Meek of Okmulgee County was re-elected to a three-year term as director of district nine, which includes counties surrounding the Tulsa area.

The OKFB Women’s Leadership Committee re-elected Mignon Bolay of Noble County to serve a two-year term as chair. Karen Dodson of Caddo County, Kelly Blair of Cherokee County and Cindy Schoenecke of Lincoln County were re-elected to serve three-year terms as representatives for districts three, six and nine, respectively. Cyndi Mackey of LeFlore County was elected to a two-year term representing district five. Arlene LeMaster of LeFlore County will serve as an ex-officio member on the committee for two years.

The OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee chose newly elected at-large member Alisen Anderson and her husband, Jared, to serve a year-long term as YF&R committee chair. The committee also elected Katie Richards to serve as the representative for district one, Jacob and Cassidy Beck for district three, Dillon Johnson for district six, Tim Taylor for district nine and Megan Hankins for the Collegiate Farm Bureau representative.

Awards presented

County Farm Bureaus and Farm Bureau members earned numerous awards for their achievements in Farm Bureau and agriculture. Learn about all our award winners on the following pages.



Above | OKFB voting delegates discuss and vote on proposed changes to the organization’s grassroots policy at the 81st annual OKFB meeting.



Above | OKFB state board members David VonTungeln (left) and Jim Meek (center) were re-elected to serve a three-year term, and Rogers County Farm Bureau member Roger Moore (right) was elected to serve his first term.



Above | Payne County Farm Bureau President Nancy German (right) accepts the John I. Taylor award from OKFB President Rodd Moesel.



Above | Okmulgee County Farm Bureau President Jim Meek (right) accepts the Lewis H. Munn award from OKFB President Rodd Moesel.

Payne County named top county Farm Bureau

Payne County Farm Bureau was presented with the 2022 Oklahoma Farm Bureau John I. Taylor Award during the organization’s 81st annual meeting in Norman.

Named after OKFB’s first president, the award serves as the organization’s highest county honor, recognizing the county Farm Bureau with the most effective programs and activities during the past year.

Payne County was honored for excelling in the program areas of public policy, service to members, public relations, membership, Women’s Leadership Committee and Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

“This award puts into perspective all of the hard work that we have done over the past year,” said Nancy German, Payne County Farm Bureau president. “It is not about us as a board – it is what we can do to share agriculture in the community.”

Payne County Farm Bureau was active throughout 2022, hosting a youth cattle clinic, sponsoring the bucket calf show at the Payne County Fair, offering a youth firearm safety program, collecting coats and Christmas gifts for Payne County residents, hosting a tractor driving contest and more.

Okmulgee County wins Lewis H. Munn award

Okmulgee County Farm Bureau was honored with Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s Lewis H. Munn Award during the organization’s 81st annual meeting in Norman.

Also known as the Farm Bureau Builders Award, the award is presented each year to the county that conducts the strongest program in a chosen area. This year, the program area was member recruitment.

Okmulgee County Farm Bureau hosted the first-ever Okmulgee County Agriculture Tour in late September. During the tour, participants of all ages visited the operations of three Okmulgee County Farm Bureau member families as well as a local meat processing facility.

“This award is very special to our county,” said Jim Meek, Okmulgee County Farm Bureau president. “It represents the work of our hard-working members. We are proud that we are able to promote agriculture, Farm Bureau, Okmulgee County and eastern Oklahoma to make it better.”

The Lewis H. Munn award is named after the second president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, whose philosophy centered on building strong county programs.

County Farm Bureau staff recognized with awards

Oklahoma Farm Bureau presented District Administrator of the Year awards to one county Farm Bureau administrator from each OKFB district at the organization’s 81st annual meeting in Norman. The award recognizes the efforts each administrator invests in their county Farm Bureau organization, conducting the daily operations of the county Farm Bureau and meeting the needs of members.

The 2022 District Administrator of the Year

recipients are: Cheslea Collins, Texas County, district one; Julie Kliever, Washita County, district two; Ashley Eden, Caddo County, district three; Jill Graham, Comanche County, district four; Racheal Hampton, Atoka County, district five; Anita Barnett, McIntosh County, district six; Natalie Dotson, Garfield County, district seven; Carolyn Taron, Pottawatomie County, district eight; and Judy Montgomery, Okfuskee County, district nine.



Payne, Rogers County Farm Bureaus recognized with first-ever County Excellence Awards

Oklahoma Farm Bureau presented the organization's first-ever OKFB County Excellence Awards to Payne and Rogers County Farm Bureaus at the organization's 81st annual meeting in Norman.

Modeled after the American Farm Bureau Federation's County Activities of Excellence Award, this award recognizes county Farm Bureaus with the most outstanding or unique local program, activity or event.

Payne County hosted Payne County Palooza, a cattle clinic for students to learn basic cattle management practices as well as skills for the show ring. Participants visited several interactive stations, including stations on calving, ear tagging, administering vaccinations and more. Students also had the chance to practice their showmanship skills with their own cattle or provided animals.

Rogers County Farm Bureau hosted a steer and hog feed-out contest for Rogers County students from Pre-K through high school. Participants chose to feed either a steer or hog for 120-160 days, then the animals were processed and judged on both carcass merit and a daily rate of gain. At the conclusion of the contest, each student had the chance to learn from the judges how their animal's carcass was evaluated. Awards were given to the top-five individuals in each contest, as well as for rate of gain, carcass merit, largest ribeye and loineye bonus.

The award is given to one small and one large county Farm Bureau based on the county's membership.



Left | Rogers County Farm Bureau President Joe Parker (right) accepts the OKFB County Excellence award for a large-membership county from OKFB President Rodd Moesel. Rogers County earned the award for hosting a hog and steer feed-out contest in which contestants were judged on rate of gain and overall carcass quality.



Right | Payne County Farm Bureau President Nancy German (right) accepts the OKFB County Excellence award for a small-membership county from OKFB President Rodd Moesel. Payne County won the award for their Palooza event, a cattle clinic that helped teach lifelong lessons to students from around the county.

County Farm Bureaus recognized for excellence with star awards

County Farm Bureaus were recognized for their efforts to further agriculture and rural Oklahoma with presidential star awards.

The awards recognize county Farm Bureaus that have excelled in program areas such as membership, public policy, local affairs, service to members, Women's Leadership Committee and Young Farmers and Ranchers.

A star is given to a county for each program area in which it excelled, with a maximum of six stars possible.

Counties earning star awards received plaques at the OKFB annual meeting.

Six-Star Presidential Award recipients

Cherokee, Comanche, Creek, Kay, Mayes, Okmulgee, Ottawa, Payne, Rogers and Woodward

Five-Star Presidential Award recipients

Garfield, Grant, Jackson, Kingfisher, LeFlore, Major, Noble, Okfuskee, Texas and Washita

Four-Star Presidential Award recipients

Alfalfa, Caddo, Custer, Kiowa, Lincoln, Love, McIntosh, Muskogee, Nowata, Oklahoma, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Seminole, Sequoyah, Washington and Woods

Three-Star Presidential Award recipients

Choctaw, Cleveland, Greer, Haskell, Latimer, Logan, Pawnee, Stevens and Tulsa

OKFB names YF&R Discussion Meet winners



Above | OKFB President Rodd Moesel (left) and OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers coordinator Zac Swartz (right) present Dillon Johnson his award as the 2022 OKFB YF&R Discussion Meet winner.



Above | OKFB President Rodd Moesel (left) and OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers coordinator Zac Swartz (right) present Taylor Fent her award as the 2022 OKFB Collegiate Discussion Meet winner.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers named the winners of three discussion meet competitive events on Saturday, Nov. 12 during the organization's 81st annual meeting in Norman.

Dillon Johnson of Ottawa County Farm Bureau was named the winner of the 2022 YF&R Discussion Meet, and Taylor Fent of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College was named the 2022 Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet winner.

Kennedy Clark of Minco FFA won the High School Discussion Meet, which was held Thursday, Nov. 10.

YF&R competitors participated in three rounds of panel-style discussion where each competitor's performance was evaluated on the exchange of ideas and information on predetermined topics. Participants were judged on their ability to offer constructive

input, cooperation and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions.

As the YF&R Discussion Meet winner, Johnson received a John Deere lawnmower, sponsored by P&K Equipment. Johnson also has the opportunity to compete in the national discussion meet contest at the 2023 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting Jan. 6-11 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The collegiate winner received an expense-paid trip to the 2023 AFBF FUSION Conference March 3-6 in Jacksonville, Florida.

As the high school winner, Kennedy Clark received a \$1,500 scholarship. Carter Caves of Amber-Pocasset FFA placed second to receive a \$1,000 scholarship, Kalen Groves of Beggs FFA received a \$500 scholarship for placing third, and Caylee McPhearson of Minco FFA received a \$250 scholarship for placing fourth.

Calvert recognized with OKFB Golden Eagle Award

Jake Calvert of Cleveland County was honored with Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Golden Eagle Award on Saturday, Nov. 12 at the organization's 81st annual meeting in Norman.

The Golden Eagle award is presented to the individual or county who has worked to recruit the most new members throughout the year. These memberships were not based on insurance services, but instead joined as stand-alone members of the federation.

"Membership is not a hard thing to promote when you believe in the program you're promoting," Calvert said. "To me, especially being from what you might call a more urban county, involving the farmers and ranchers in this county that might not otherwise know



Above | OKFB President Rodd Moesel (left) presents Cleveland County Farm Bureau Member Jake Calvert with the 2022 Golden Eagle Award for recruiting the most new members to join Oklahoma Farm Bureau during the past year.

that they have the representation and the voice in Farm Bureau – it makes it easy."

For his efforts, Calvert was rewarded with a jacket and trophy.



Garfield County Farm Bureau members awarded YF&R Achievement Award

Travis and Rylee Schnaithman were honored with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award at OKFB's 81st annual meeting.

The YF&R Achievement Award recognizes Young Farmers and Ranchers who have excelled in their farming or ranching operation and have honed their leadership abilities through Farm Bureau and other activities and organizations.

"It's quite an honor, and I feel very humbled," said Travis Schnaithman. "This is something where I've watched previous winners in past years and thought, 'I'd like to be like them and have operations on the same caliber as them.'"

The Schnaithmans are part of a multigenerational centennial farm in Garfield County where they farm alongside Travis's father and brother. The Schnaithmans grow wheat, corn and soybeans in addition to their cow-calf operation.

As Achievement Award winners, the Schnaithmans received a John Deere Gator courtesy of Hilliary Communications. The Schnaithmans also will receive an



Above | Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel (left) presents Travis Schnaithman, along with sons Mack and McCoy, of Garfield County with the 2022 OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award. Also pictured is JJ Francois (right), assistant vice president of external affairs for Hilliary Communications, who sponsored the award.

expense-paid trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the 2023 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in January. The Schnaithmans will compete on a national level for the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award during the AFBF Annual Meeting.

Rogers County members win YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award

Chris and Ashley Hoskins of Rogers County were honored with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award at the organization's 81st annual meeting.

The award is presented to young farmers and ranchers who do not derive a majority of their income from a farming or ranching operation while excelling in agriculture and Farm Bureau involvement.

"This is really an honor for our family to be recognized," said Chris Hoskins. "It is great to have an impact and a voice in the community."

Hoskins works in the construction industry as an operations manager, where he bids and schedules jobs and coordinates employee, supply and equipment schedules. He and his wife own a cow-calf operation in Rogers County, where they sell replacement heifers and offer freezer beef to local buyers.

"To be recognized even if you are not a full-time farmer or rancher means a lot to me," Hoskins said.

Hoskins serves on both his county and the state YF&R committees. He also serves as chairman of the Rogers County Feeding Contest.



Above | Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel (left) presents Rogers County Farm Bureau members Chris and Ashley Hoskins with the 2022 OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award. Also pictured are Patrick Zeka (second from right), president and chief executive officer of Oklahoma AgCredit, and John Grunewald (right), chief executive officer of Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma, sponsors of the excellence in agriculture award.

The Hoskins family received a Polaris ATV, courtesy of Ag Credit and Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma. They also won a trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting Jan. 6-11 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where they will compete for the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Inhofe honored with OKFB distinguished service award

Sen. Jim Inhofe was recognized with the Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Award during the 2022 OKFB annual meeting.

The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to advance agriculture and support the efforts of Farm Bureau.

Inhofe earned the award for his dedication to agriculture and rural Oklahoma throughout his nearly three decades in

the U.S. Senate and more than 50 years in public office.

"Sen. Jim Inhofe has been a steadfast partner to Farm Bureau members and a strong supporter of agriculture during his time in public office," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "He will leave enormous shoes to fill when he retires from the U.S. Senate at the end of the year, and OKFB members sincerely thank him for his tireless work to protect and preserve agriculture and our rural way of life."



Above | Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee hosted a record 1,694 students at their annual State Fair Livestock Judging Contest held Sept. 15 in Oklahoma City.

OKFB YF&R hosts record-breaking State Fair Livestock Judging Contest

A record 1,694 FFA and 4-H members participated in the 2022 Oklahoma State Fair Livestock Judging Contest at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds Sept. 15 in Oklahoma City.

The contest, sponsored by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers committee, kicked off the 2022 Oklahoma State Fair festivities.

Students had the opportunity to evaluate several species of livestock, including market and breeding classes of beef, sheep and swine. In addition to the animal evaluation, participants answered questions in two classes.

The top three individuals in the junior 4-H division were Owen Adams, Amber-Pocasset 4-H; Kuper Schneberger, Carnegie 4-H; and Jordyn Smith, Kay County 4-H. The top three teams were Mulhall 4-H, Amber-Pocasset 4-H and Wagoner 4-H.

The top three individuals in the junior FFA division were B. Pearson, El Reno FFA; Tassi Fadely, Stillwater FFA; and Marli Williams, Tecumseh FFA. The top three junior FFA teams were Stillwater FFA, El Reno FFA and Thomas-Fay-Custer FFA.

The top three individuals in the senior 4-H division were Destyn Emerson, Tuttle 4-H; Brody Scroggins, Tuttle 4-H; and Kobi Scroggins, Tuttle 4-H. The top three teams were Tuttle 4-H (Team 1), Tuttle 4-H (Team 2) and Kay County 4-H.

The top three individuals in the senior FFA division were Maysen Garrett, Guthrie FFA; Braeden Hopkins, Keys FFA; and Tommy Glover, Elgin FFA. The top three senior FFA teams were Keys FFA, Elgin FFA and Tuttle FFA.

Jackets and banners were awarded to the winners at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau booth at the Tulsa State Fair in early October.

See the full list of results for the 2022 State Fair Livestock Judging Contest online at okfb.news/LJCResults22.



Above | Students judge a class of swine at the 2022 OKFB YF&R State Fair Livestock Judging Contest. Students judged several classes of livestock and answered questions in two classes.



Above | Students judge a class of goats at the 2022 OKFB YF&R State Fair Livestock Judging Contest.



Above | Custer County Farm Bureau donated money to Arapaho, Butler, Custer City and Thomas volunteer fire departments.



Above | Washington County Farm Bureau President Macy Strom (right) presents a check to the Copan fire department.



Above | Comanche County Farm Bureau donated a total of \$20,000 to fire departments that serve the county.



Above | Washita County Farm Bureau donated funds to the Washita County Fire Association.

Farm Bureau donates more than \$60,000 to rural fire departments in battle against ongoing drought

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Fire Department Matching Program donated a total of \$61,300 to rural fire departments around Oklahoma.

The program – a collaboration between OKFB, the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture and OKFB Insurance – matched donations made by county Farm Bureaus to local fire departments up to \$450.

“Oklahoma farmers and ranchers – many of whom are volunteer firefighters themselves – understand the importance of rural fire departments during an intense drought,” said David VonTungeln, president of the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture. “We hope the funds donated

will provide some relief to our local firefighters in the form of food, water or supplies.”

Forty-seven county Farm Bureaus participated in the program, donating varying amounts to their local fire departments. Comanche County Farm Bureau led the charge with a total donation of \$20,000. A full list of participating counties is below.

Even after fall rains, much of Oklahoma still faces varying levels of drought, increasing the chances for wildfires to spark and calling local fire departments into action. To see the Oklahoma Mesonet drought monitor map, visit okfb.news/DroughtMap.

Counties participating in the Fire Department Matching Program

- Beaver
- Dewey
- Jackson
- Major
- Oklahoma
- Rogers
- Blaine
- Ellis
- Kay
- Marshall
- Okmulgee
- Roger Mills
- Caddo
- Garfield
- Kingfisher
- McCurtain
- Osage
- Texas
- Choctaw
- Grant
- Kiowa
- McIntosh
- Ottawa
- Tillman
- Comanche
- Greer
- Latimer
- Murray
- Pawnee
- Washington
- Craig
- Harper
- LeFlore
- Noble
- Payne
- Washita
- Creek
- Haskell
- Lincoln
- Nowata
- Pottawatomie
- Washita
- Custer
- Hughes
- Logan
- Okfuskee
- Pushmataha

Second-grade students awarded prizes for completing OKFB Foundation for Agriculture Watermelon Challenge

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture awarded three elementary school students with cash prizes for completing the foundation's annual Watermelon Challenge.

The three winning students selected through a random drawing from the pool of participants were Ronnie L., Cordell Elementary; Audrey B., Washington Elementary; and Wyatt B., Frontier Elementary.

The second-grade students, along with many others across the state, each planted, grew and harvested their own watermelons.

The challenge gives students an opportunity to see a plant grow from a seed into a final food product as they learn the hard work and dedication required in agriculture.

The OKFB Foundation for Agriculture's Watermelon Challenge is held every year for second-grade classrooms. Teachers who sign up receive a complete kit for their classrooms, including 30 watermelon seed packets, activity books and lesson plan resources.

For more information on the Watermelon Challenge or any other OKFB Foundation for Agriculture programs, contact Holly Carroll at holly.carroll@agging.org.





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Tim Moss

*Vici Public Schools
Vici*

Danette Funkhouser

*Navajo Public Schools
Altus*

Connie Goodwin

*Fort Cobb-Broxton Elementary
Fort Cobb*

Jodi Scott

*Oklahoma Christian Academy
Edmond*

Nellie Garone

*Ravia School
Ravia*

Sandra Crow

*Flower Mound Public Schools
Lawton*

Ronna Dunigan

*Shady Point Public Schools
Shady Point*

Whitney Crase

*Poteau Public Schools
Poteau*

Susana Jackman

*Oklahoma School for the Blind
Muskogee*

Stephanie Heinrich

*Deer Creek-Lamont Elementary
Deer Creek*

Donna Slater

*Byng Elementary
Ada*

Susan Moffat

*Lexington Public Schools
Lexington*

Jennifer Crosthwait

*Skyline Elementary
Stillwater*

Accurate ag books awarded to 13 teachers through OKFB's Bushels for Books program

Thirteen Oklahoma teachers each received a basket of accurate agriculture books through Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Bushels for Books program.

The program is a collaboration between the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture and the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee. Pre-K through eighth-grade teachers across the state applied to receive a basket of books for their classrooms with winners selected by the WLC state committee.

"As the world becomes more urban, it is important for people to know what it takes to produce the food, fuel and fiber we rely on every day," said Mignon Bolay, OKFB WLC chair. "We hope these books help students learn how their food gets from the farm to the grocery store, and ultimately to their plates."

Each basket included books selected from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's accurate agriculture book database.

"It is vitally important that our young people understand where their food comes from," said David VonTungeln, OKFB Foundation for Agriculture president. "These accurate agriculture books provide a glimpse into the everyday lives of our nation's family farmers and ranchers."



Stephanie Heinrich
Deer Creek-Lamont Elementary



Whitney Crase
Poteau

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Bice visits Oklahoma, Logan County Farm Bureau members

Congresswoman Stephanie Bice met with Farm Bureau members at two county Farm Bureau events in October.

Bice attended Oklahoma County Farm Bureau's annual meeting on Monday, Oct. 3, where she shared with members the policy issues she is working on in Washington, D.C.

Bice also met with Logan County Farm Bureau members – part of her new district borders that take effect in January 2023 – on Friday, Oct. 14. The group discussed the impact of rising agricultural input prices, the importance of energy independence and more.

OKFB hosts special member seminar at Tulsa Farm Show



Oklahoma Farm Bureau hosted a members-only seminar on Friday, Dec. 9 at the 2022 Tulsa Farm Show.

The special lunchtime event on Friday featured presentations from Oklahoma State University Extension specialists. Earl Ward, northeast area livestock specialist, shared strategies for ensuring proper livestock nutrition with short hay

supplies. Scott Clawson, northeast area agriculture economics specialist, discussed business and management decisions agriculture producers should take into account after dealing with drought throughout 2022.

A lunch was provided for members, and door prizes were given away to those attending the event.

OKFB supports agriculture youth as a supporter at the Tulsa State Fair Night of Champions

Oklahoma Farm Bureau was once again a proud supporter of agriculture youth at the Tulsa State Fair Night of Champions.

OKFB provided more than \$25,000 in scholarship funds to 4-H and FFA members who "Made the stage" at the state fair as a Frank Sanders Grand Champion Partner.



Dodson graduates from AFBF Women's Communications Boot Camp

OKFB Women's Leadership Committee District Three Member and Secretary Karen Dodson graduated from the American Farm Bureau Women's Communications Boot camp in November.

The intensive four-day course completed by Dodson and 14 other agricultural leaders featured hands-on sessions related to public speaking, working with the media and messaging. Graduates will use their training in a variety of ways such as participating in local media opportunities to strategically support Farm Bureau's policy work, sharing information with elected officials and joining social media campaigns that spotlight modern agriculture.

OKFB Foundation for Agriculture makes 2022 hunger challenge donations to Oklahoma food banks



The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture recently made its yearly FFA Hunger Challenge donations to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma in Tulsa.

The funds were raised in cooperation with Oklahoma FFA members and chapters to help provide food assistance to Oklahomans who face food insecurity. The donations were made in August to capitalize on donation matching funds.

The cash donations are in addition to the ongoing donations of pork and beef sticks through the foundation's Pork for Packs and Beef for Backpacks programs, which process donated animals into protein sticks that are included in backpack programs at the food banks. The pork and beef sticks serve as a reliable source of protein supplied by the Oklahoma agriculture community for Oklahoma children who receive the backpacks.

Pontotoc County Farm Bureau member shares black vulture troubles in interim study at state Capitol



Pontotoc County Farm Bureau member Chuck Roberts testified as part of an interim study on black vultures on Monday, Oct. 10 at the state Capitol in Oklahoma City.

Roberts shared with state legislators the negative impact black vultures have on his cattle operation in Fitzhugh. The interim study was led by Sen. Blake Stephens and included testimony from livestock producers and industry experts.

Check out 2023 OKFB events online

Plan to join Oklahoma Farm Bureau at our many events taking place throughout 2023. Find our event calendar on the OKFB website at okfb.news/calendar.

OKFB WLC, ODAFF announce inaugural statewide school garden contest winners

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee are excited to announce the results of the first-annual school garden contest for Oklahoma.

School gardens entered in the contest came in many shapes and sizes: from outdoor raised beds to in-ground farms and greenhouses. The contest was sponsored by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee.

The contest winners for 2022 are:

Best overall school garden

Union Public Rosa Parks Elementary, Tulsa
Principal: Heather Federline
Awarded \$1000

Best harvest partnership school garden

Little Axe Elementary, Norman
Teacher: Kim Hollars
Awarded \$500

Best education-based school garden

Red Bud Farm School, Oklahoma City
Teacher: Erin Dulle
Awarded \$500

Best Community Collaboration School Garden

Cleveland Elementary, Oklahoma City
Teacher: Sarah Mossman
Awarded \$500

Best start-up school garden proposal

Terra Verde Discovery School
Teacher: Emily Garman
Awarded \$500

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House plants look great and have health benefits

By *Trisha Gedon*

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

Simply because it's the middle of winter doesn't mean gardeners have no opportunity to get a little dirt under their fingernails. While traditional gardening in the landscape is on hiatus, gardeners can still keep their thumbs green with houseplants.

David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Extension consumer horticulturist, said houseplants not only look good in a home's décor, but they also have some health benefits.

"Colorful blooms on plants can lift your mood during this cold season," Hillock said. "Research has shown that rooms with plants have less dust and mold than rooms without any foliage. Leaves and other parts of the plant act as natural filters to catch allergens and other airborne particles. This is great for people with asthma."

With the furnace blasting or the fireplace blazing, the air can become quite dry in a home. Houseplants can boost the relative humidity.

Plants can also help people get more restful sleep because they take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. The oxygen generated from a few plants in the bedroom may help people sleep more soundly. In addition, Hillock said plants can have a calming effect on people.

"Houseplants can have a positive effect on mental and emotional health. Taking care of a living plant has been shown to lower anxiety and improve attention," he said. "In some cases, research shows taking care of plants can lessen the severity of depression. Also, plants may help people recover from trauma, as well as help those with dementia or who live in long-term care facilities."

When it comes to growing plants indoors, gardeners will notice a few differences.

"First, don't get alarmed if you don't observe rapid growth or you notice the loss of some leaves," Hillock said. "Many indoor plants go into what is called a resting stage, which means they exhibit reduced growth and possibly the loss of leaves. This occurs as a result of the shorter days and less natural light streaming through the windows."

To maximize natural light, place plants in rooms with east- or south-facing windows. Give the windows a good cleaning both inside and outside to maximize light availability. Photosynthesis slows this time of year and plants do not require as much water and little to no fertilizer.

Plants tend to prefer relatively the same temperature all the time, typically between 65-75 degrees Fahrenheit and humidity at about 50-60%. Cold drafts or the warm air from the heating system vents or fireplace can cause issues with houseplants.

Plants are a great way to add a bit of nature to your home and offer a wide variety of colors, texture and form to the space. Studies have revealed that rooms with plants in them are perceived to be more comfortable than rooms without plants.

"Even though gardeners aren't outdoors in the landscape tending to their gardens, they can still enjoy all of the benefits of plants while indoors," Hillock said. "Remember, it won't be long until it's time to get seeds started and soil prepared for spring gardening."



David Hillock photo

Above | *Holiday cactus, also known as schlumbergera, is a genus of the cactaceae family and is native to Brazil.*



David Hillock photo

Above | *The ZZ plant, or zamioculcas zamiifolia, is a good choice because it is tolerant to both bright and low light and different levels of watering.*



David Hillock photo

Above | *Peace lilies are a popular houseplant because they are easy to grow.*



There is nothing quite like the quietness of gentle snowfall to draw you into the wonder and stillness of winter.

Winter storms in Oklahoma bring with them many concerns, especially for farmers and ranchers who work through weather of all kinds.

But even in the midst of breaking ice, putting out extra hay and making additional rounds to check livestock, there are small yet wondrous moments that remind us that agriculture is a business of miracles: the miracle of life, the miracle of rebirth, the miracle of growth.

In moments such as this, like when this cow and her calf nuzzled together as snow gently fell during the winter of 2020, we are reminded that this business of miracles – no matter how tough it can be sometimes – still has joys, triumphs and moments that leave us filled with awe and wonder.



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When the snow flies and temperatures drop, Oklahoma farmers and ranchers simply put on another layer and continue doing what they do best. As caretakers of livestock and natural resources, Farm Bureau members are invested in ensuring their animals are thriving, no matter the conditions. Because when you care this much about the work you do and the impact you make, you weather the storm.



www.okfarmbureau.org/join

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Featured: Scott Neufeld, farmer, rancher and Major County Farm Bureau member