

PERSPECTIVE

February 14, 2020

Apply for AFBF Women's Communications Boot Camp summer session

Deadline: March 28

The American Farm Bureau Federation will host two sessions of Women's Communications Boot Camp in 2020 - June 9-12 and Oct. 13-16. The training is open to all female members interested in building skills needed to communicate about agriculture and for Farm Bureau.

Applications will be accepted through March 28 and must be submitted electronically.

For those interested in applying, the online application can be found at okfb.news/afbfbootcamp20.

A new look for Perspective in 2020

One of the many benefits available to Oklahoma Farm Bureau members is receiving *Perspective* and *Oklahoma Country*.

Throughout the next few issues of *Perspective*, we will be testing new layout styles to find the best way to keep OKFB members informed on the latest organizational activities and news impacting farmers, ranchers and all rural Oklahomans.

REMINDER: Farm City Festival to be held Feb. 26

One of the Women's Leadership Committee's most popular activities, members will deliver lunch to legislators at the Capitol and take time to educate them on Oklahoma agriculture.

For more information, contact Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2300.

Legislative session is off to the races



As the second session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature began on Monday, Feb. 3, state legislators wasted no time getting to work on more than 4,500 pieces of legislation.

The session began with Gov. Kevin Stitt's State of the State in which he highlighted opportunities to improve rural health care as well as rural roads and bridges, two areas of importance to Farm Bureau members.

A number of bills from last year were carried over into this session and are on the fast track to the floor, including legislation on some of OKFB's priority issues. Farm Bureau staff continue to work with state legislators on issues such as ad valorem tax increases and groundwater rights to ensure the voices of Farm Bureau members are heard in the state Capitol.

Stay in the know throughout session with OKFB legislative updates

As the 2020 legislative session progresses, hear directly from Oklahoma Farm Bureau public policy staff and legislators alike as they summarize what has happened throughout the week at the Capitol.

Highlighting issues on the minds of OKFB members, such as county zoning authority, rural healthcare, property taxes and much more, they will keep you up-to-date on the matters affecting rural Oklahomans. Regular video updates can be found on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Facebook and Twitter pages.

4 ways to stay involved this legislative session

As an Oklahoma Farm Bureau member, you can have the opportunity to help shape the policy that affects the agriculture industry and rural Oklahoma. Over the next four months, OKFB staff will represent you at the state Capitol by advocating for your grassroots policy. Here are four ways you can become active this session.

1. Sign up for OKFB legislative action alerts

We know you're busy on your farm or ranch each and every day, so we've made it simple for you to lend your voice to the conversation at the state Capitol. By signing up for OKFB action alerts, you can receive a notification when your legislator needs to hear from you on a specific issue. Visit okfb.news/action to sign up today.

2. Attend a county Farm Bureau legislative event

During the legislative session, many county Farm Bureaus host legislators in their districts at a breakfast, dinner or reception. These events provide an easy way to visit directly with your state lawmaker, learn what's going on at the state Capitol, and voice any concerns you may have. Contact your county Farm Bureau office to find more details on county legislative events.

3. Schedule a visit to the state Capitol

Taking time away from the farm or ranch isn't always easy, but it's definitely worth it when you can speak for farmers and ranchers. Find a group of fellow Farm Bureau members and schedule a day to visit your state representative and senator in their offices at the state Capitol. OKFB staff will provide a briefing at the home office along with some tips for visiting with your legislators before guiding you to the state Capitol. Contact the OKFB Public Policy Division at (405) 523-2300 to schedule your visit.

4. Follow OKFB updates online

As the legislative session continues, OKFB will post updates on the organization's efforts at the state Capitol on its Facebook and Twitter profiles and at okfarmbureau.org.

OKFB encourages rural Oklahomans to participate in 2020 Census

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is urging rural residents across the state to complete the 2020 Census to ensure a complete and accurate count of rural Oklahoma.

Invitations to participate will begin arriving at households across the state in mid-March. The census may be completed online at 2020Census.gov, by phone or by mail.

"Because we're committed to ensuring the rural way of life continues to thrive for generations to come, Oklahoma Farm Bureau is calling on all our rural friends and neighbors to participate in the 2020 Census," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "Completing the census questionnaire is a quick and easy way to help our rural communities receive the representation they deserve."

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau is required by the U.S. Constitution to count the country's population. The data from the census helps determine how billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed to states and communities over the next 10 years. Census data also is used to draw state legislative and congressional district lines.

To learn more about the 2020 Census, please visit okfarmbureau.org/census.

Candidates prepare with campaign management seminar

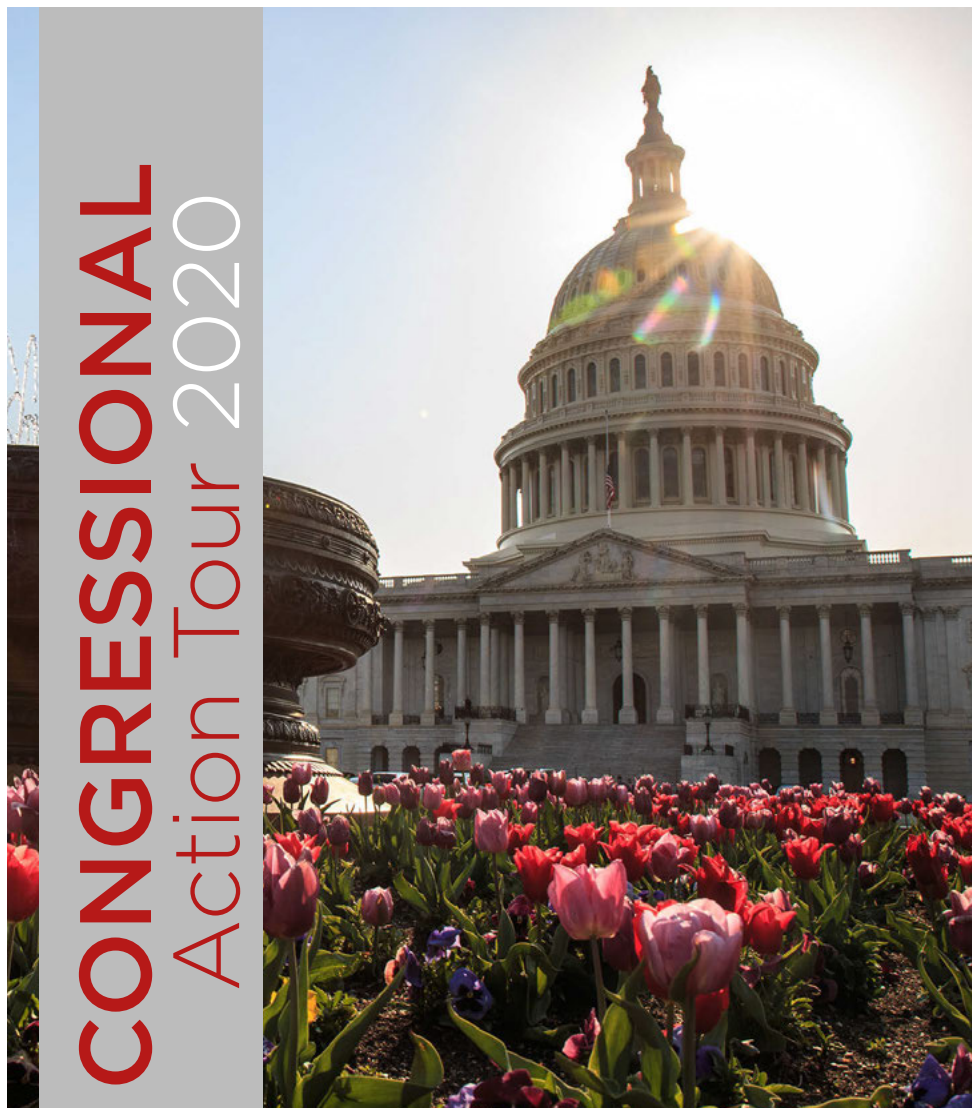


The Oklahoma Farm Bureau campaign management seminar held Feb. 6-7 welcomed potential candidates from across the state. From hopeful school board members

to potential legislators, the seminar featured a variety of topics presented by political experts with a wide array of knowledge and experience. Topics covered included successful

campaign management, message building, grassroots engagement, social media tips and techniques, fundraising and more.

2020 OKFB Congressional Action Tour registration open through Feb. 28



Make plans to join fellow Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from across the state at the 2020 Congressional Action Tour in Washington, D.C., March 23-27.

This unique opportunity provides Oklahoma farmers and ranchers with the chance to speak directly with Oklahoma's Congressional delegation and other leaders about the issues concerning them most.

Attendees will stay at the Trump International Hotel, located near the National Mall. The package price for members will include round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations and one group dinner the first night.

Registration forms and full payment must be received no later than February 28 to reserve your spot. Registration forms can be found online at okfb.news/DC20.

For more information, please contact Melisa Neal at (405) 523-2475 or Melisa.Neal@okfb.org.

For the most up to date details regarding the 2020 Congressional Action Tour, visit okfb.news/DC20.

YF&R now accepting applications for \$1,000 scholarships

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee is now accepting applications for its annual scholarships for high school seniors who will pursue a higher degree in agriculture after graduation.

Nine \$1,000 scholarships, one from each OKFB district, will be awarded to high school seniors pursuing a career in agriculture at an Oklahoma institution of high learning as a full-time student.

Applications must be postmarked no later than **April 2, 2020**. Applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- **Must be a graduating high school senior.**
- **Must enroll full time in an agriculture program at an**

accredited Oklahoma institution of high learning.

- **Must be a member of a Farm Bureau family (father, mother or legal guardian memberships qualify; grandparents', siblings' or other relatives' memberships may not be used). Membership must remain in good standing for the duration of the scholarship.**
- **Children of paid employees of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies are not eligible**

Applicants must also provide the following materials along with the scholarship application:

- **A copy of the applicant's official high school transcript.**
- **A copy of the applicant's resume**

with activities and honors listed.

- **Two character reference letters.**
- **Three essays (500 words maximum), double-spaced, typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font.**
 1. **Explain your preferred career and explain why you have chosen it.**
 2. **How can Farm Bureau encourage young people to engage in agriculture?**
 3. **Explain how receiving this scholarship will help you achieve your educational goals.**

The application can be found on the OKFB website at okfarmbureau.org/applications.

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Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau helps preserve local history through donation



Members of the Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau board presented a \$2,500 check for the Pottawatomie County Museum to Ken Landry, Director of the Pottawatomie County Museum, Friday, Feb. 7.

“We’ve been trying different ways to show our support within the community and we felt this is a place that everyone can enjoy,” said Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau president John Grundmann.

Located in Shawnee, the Pottawatomie County Museum houses donated historical items from throughout the county dating back to the early 1890s. With limited space available to the museum in their current location, the donation will go towards the museum’s new building campaign. Planned to open later this year, the new building will feature a theater and meeting space.

OKFB board member discusses new Navigable Waters Protection rule

Oklahoma Farm Bureau board member Jimmy Kinder spoke with KSWO 7 News Feb. 7 regarding the EPA’s new Navigable Waters Protection rule. This new ruling will help farmers and ranchers clearly understand how to protect their water resources and follow government regulations.

“The thought was for farmers is that the EPA and the Corp of Engineers could come out and regulate us even though I’m actually 20 miles from a navigable stream, with the theory that a drop of water coming off the rim of my hat could actually roll down to the red river,” said Kinder.

To watch the story, visit okfb.news/3bqXuwQ.

