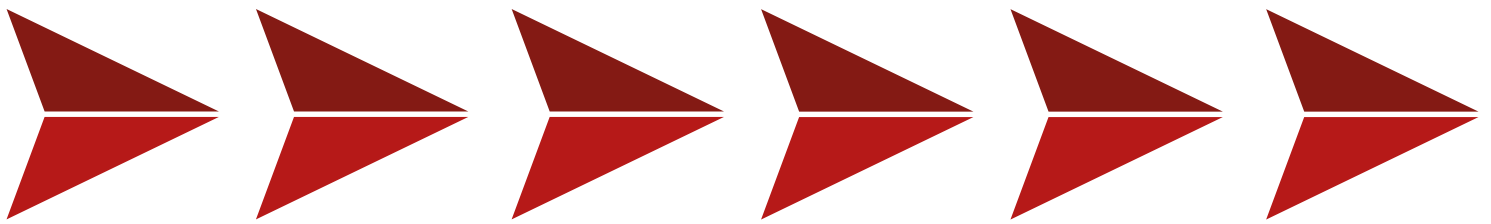


# PERSPECTIVE

November 19, 2021



## OKFB hosts successful 80th annual meeting

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau members from all 77 counties met in Norman Nov. 5-7 for the organization's 80th annual meeting where they elected new leaders, set organizational policy for the coming year, recognized outstanding members with numerous awards and learned from outstanding speakers and presenters.

"We are grateful to gather in-person as a Farm Bureau family once again," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "It gives Farm Bureau members a chance to celebrate, fellowship and learn while growing our grassroots organization."

### **Board members, new leaders elected**

Rodd Moesel was re-elected to serve his third presidential two-year term. Three OKFB members were re-elected to serve on the state board of directors for a three-year term. Monte Tucker of Roger Mills County was re-elected to the board representing District Two, Michael Clark of Le Flore County was elected to represent District Five and Mike Leverett of McClain County was elected to serve District Eight.

The OKFB Women's Leadership Committee delegates re-elected Paula Sawatzky of Custer County to represent District Two on the committee, while Arlene LeMaster of Le Flore County was re-elected to represent District Five and Jan Long of Pontotoc County was re-elected to

represent District Eight.

The OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee elected Logan and Brittany Hukill of Caddo County to serve as committee chairmen for a one-year term. Will and Leslie Lewis of Okmulgee County were elected as vice chairmen and Chris Hoskins of Rogers County will serve as committee secretary. Additional committee members elected this year include Gaven and Taylor Harting, Jackson County, District Two; Cody and Kara Goodknight, Comanche County, District Four; Jared and Bay Engler, McCurtain County, District Five; Jaden Brunner, Woods County, District Seven; LC and Jaclyn Darling, Coal County, District Eight; Austin Jackson, Payne County, At-Large and Newlin Humphrey, Payne County, Collegiate.

### **Members set grassroots policy for 2022**

The annual meeting also served as the culmination of this year's grassroots policy development season. First drafted by members in county Farm Bureaus, a number of proposed policies were considered by the full delegate body during a business session on Saturday. The rapid expansion of the medical marijuana industry, the meat packing industry, private property rights, government efficiencies and H-2A worker concerns were some of the leading issues evaluated by members. The policies

approved by members during the meeting will guide the organization's efforts at the state Capitol over the next year.

### **Members learn from various presenters**

Sen. James Lankford presented an inspirational sermon for Farm Bureau members during the worship service and breakfast on Sunday morning. Members also heard about the future of agriculture and the importance of the grassroots organization from Blayne Arthur, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, on Saturday evening.

Gov. Kevin Stitt gave an update on the work to make Oklahoma a top 10 state in the U.S., while Oklahoma Attorney General John O'Connor gave an update on the top issues facing Oklahomans, especially agriculturalists, on Friday afternoon. Additionally, Dr. Kayse Shrum, Oklahoma State University president, shared her hopes of advancing medical care in rural areas along with the future goals of the university.

Members also had the opportunity to receive continuing education credits for a private pesticide applicators license taught by Dr. Todd Baughman, Dr. John Long and Misha Manuchehri of OSU. Farm Bureau Financial Services Wealth Management Adviser Kara Goodknight provided members information about retirement.

# Meet OKFB's nine Farm and Ranch Families for 2021

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership committee is proud to recognize nine outstanding farm and ranch families from around our state for the 2021 OKFB WLC Farm & Ranch Family recognition program.

Each family works each and every day to grow and raise the food, fiber and fuel our world depends on, carrying on

this ever-important task while caring for the land and the natural resources we all share. At the end of the day, our nine farm and ranch families do all this to enable the next generation of Oklahoma agriculturalists to carry on the tradition of Oklahoma agriculture.



The Wayland Family • District One



The Searcy Family • District Two



The Standridge Family • District Three



The McMillan Family • District Four



The Penze Family • District Five



The Anderson Family • District Six



The Brandon Family • District Seven



The Chapman Family • District Eight



The Fields Family • District Nine

## Tickets available for Evening of Impact Dec. 3

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are invited to attend the first-ever Evening of Impact, a fundraising dinner supporting the OKFB Ag PAC political action committee, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

The fundraising event will start with a reception at 6 p.m., and will be followed by a dinner at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the event are \$250 per person, with proceeds helping fund the Ag PAC in the upcoming election cycle. Mail checks to OKFB Ag PAC, Attn: Steve Thompson, 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Confirmation of receipt will be sent

after the check is received.

Those who are unable to attend but who wish to contribute to the Ag PAC can mail a check with their

contribution of any amount to the address above.

For more information, contact Steve Thompson at (405) 523-2300.

JOIN OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU FOR AN

# EVENING OF IMPACT

FUNDRAISING EVENT

BENEFITING THE



OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU  
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## Okmulgee County recognized with OKFB's highest award

Okmulgee County Farm Bureau was presented with the 2021 Oklahoma Farm Bureau John I. Taylor Award, the organization's highest county honor. This award recognizes the Farm Bureau county with the most effective programs and activities.

Okmulgee 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.

"We have been very fortunate to have an active YF&R and WLC and been active within our community," said Jim Meek, Okmulgee County Farm Bureau president. "We have been working to share agriculture within our community to build a brighter future for those who want to be involved."

Throughout 2021, Okmulgee County Farm Bureau focused on member

engagement in all of their events after a year with no events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The county YF&R hosted a pancake breakfast during the spring livestock show featuring a membership table to promote and grow the organization. Okmulgee County members shared the story of agriculture through sponsoring the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture commodity trailer, invited community leaders and legislators to meetings including their Legislative Forum, and shared agriculture issues and information on their Facebook page.



## Comanche County wins OKFB Lewis H. Munn Award

Comanche County Farm Bureau was honored with Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Lewis H. Munn Award, 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 award focused on efforts within public relations.

"This gives us another challenge to keep moving forward," said Kerry Givens, Comanche County Farm Bureau president. "We are very proud to win this prestigious award."

Comanche County Farm Bureau and the county Women's Leadership Committee teamed up for the Cache Area Summer in the Street Celebration in May to inform and educate the public about the importance of agriculture. Through providing vegetable seeds, the organization informed attendees on how to care for plants while using the event to share Farm Bureau with the community and

recruit potential new members. Also, a county organization made a \$2,500 sponsorship to the Comanche County Junior Livestock Show, allowing 4-H and FFA members to access photos from the show free of charge.

"Comanche County Farm Bureau can do an even better job at public relations within our community by collaborating with organizations and venues in the area," Givens said. "We are trying to bring people in to understand the impact of agriculture across the county."



## County Farm Bureaus honored for excellence

Each year, OKFB recognizes the 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 with a Presidential Star Award.

### Six Star Counties

Caddo County  
Comanche County  
Okmulgee County  
Payne County  
Washita County

### Five Star Counties

Creek County  
Cherokee County  
Garfield County  
Kay County  
Kingfisher County  
LeFlore County  
Major County  
Nowata County  
Okfuskee County  
Ottawa County  
Pontotoc County  
Rogers County  
Washington County  
Woodward County

### Four Star Counties

Alfalfa County  
Custer County  
Grant County  
Lincoln County  
Noble County  
Pottawatomie County  
Seminole County  
Stephens County  
Texas County

### Three Star Counties

Choctaw County  
Cotton County  
Greer County  
Kiowa County  
Latimer County  
Muskogee County  
Sequoyah County  
Tulsa County

For more details on award recipients during OKFB's 80th annual meeting, visit [okfb.news/Awards21](http://okfb.news/Awards21).

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## Thompson named vice president of public policy

Oklahoma Farm Bureau recently named Steve Thompson as the vice president of public policy.

Thompson will lead the OKFB public policy team as they work to implement the organization's grassroots policy in Oklahoma and in Washington, D.C. in his new role.

"I'm grateful for this new leadership role and the opportunity to continue engaging with Farm Bureau members from around the state," Thompson said. "Our Public Policy team is well-positioned to uphold the OKFB tradition of vigorous advocacy for agriculture and rural Oklahoma. Although we face many challenges, I am very optimistic about the organization's ability to positively impact the future of our state."



Steve Thompson

Thompson will also serve as the interim executive director of the Royalty Owner Coalition of Oklahoma, a non-profit corporation established to create a structured, consistent and strong voice for the interests of Oklahoma mineral owners.

## OKFB Foundation for ag, partners donate utility vehicle to Restore Farms

In partnership with BankFirst, Oklahoma AgCredit, CoBank and Oklahoma County Farm Bureau, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture donated a John Deere Gator Utility Vehicle to Restore Farms November 9 at their location in Oklahoma City.

Part of the RestoreOKC initiative, Restore Farms is an urban farm and garden working closely with the residents of northeast Oklahoma City. Featuring a community garden, orchard, greenhouse and livestock, the location serves as a building block of renewed community for residents of all ages.

In addition to the utility vehicle, a \$1,000 donation was made to cover registration and any other costs associated.

To learn more about what Restore Farms does to serve their local community, visit [restorefarms.org](http://restorefarms.org).

