

PERSPECTIVE

July 30, 2021

FFA members develop communications skills at OKFB FFA Reporters Conference



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

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

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

incredible farmers and ranchers."

Conference workshops were taught by leading agricultural communications professionals including Chancey Hanson, director of communications for Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association; Lacey Newlin, field editor for the High Plains Journal; Samantha Siler, director of communications and marketing for the Oklahoma State University Ferguson College of Agriculture; Dr. Ruth Inman, associate professor of agricultural communications and digital media state extension specialist for OSU; and Dustin Mielke, vice president of communications and public relations for Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

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

OKFB Foundation for Agriculture to award \$16,000 in educational grants



The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has announced three new grant programs to help share the story of agriculture in communities across the state.

Offering more than \$16,000, the mini grant program, the Growing with the Foundation grant program and the Community Harvest grant program were created to help Oklahomans of all ages experience agriculture.

“Over the past several years, we’ve continued to see consumers become increasingly interested in their food and the people who grow and raise it,” said David VonTungeln, OKFB Foundation for Agriculture president. “We’re hopeful these grants will help our fellow Oklahomans gain a deeper appreciation for the hard work of our state’s farmers and ranchers.”

MINI GRANT PROGRAM

Designed for 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, teachers and county Farm Bureaus, this \$500 grant was created to establish educational programs for school-aged children or adults to improve agriculture literacy. The promotion of agriculture within your community can include supporting an Ag in the Classroom event, hosting an interactive booth at a farmer’s market, and much more. The mini grant is offered twice a year in March and September for a total of 10 grants awarded each year.

Applications for the first cycle must be submitted by Sept. 1.

GROWING WITH THE FOUNDATION GRANT

Introduce students to the world of horticulture by applying for the Growing with the Foundation Grant Program. The recipient will receive a \$5,000 grant to help in purchasing supplies for a school greenhouse, with five additional schools receiving classroom floral and vegetable grow kits valued at \$500. By learning to grow their own food, students will be able to see sustainable models that they can implement in their homes and neighborhood. Applications for this grant program must be submitted by October 1. **Applications for this grant program must be submitted by Oct. 1.**

COMMUNITY HARVEST GRANT

Youth organizations across the state looking to fight hunger are encouraged to apply for the Community Harvest Grant Program. Individual 4-H chapters and FFA clubs may apply for up to \$1,000 to support a service-learning project focused on developing and implementing sustainable food production that addresses hunger in the community. Projects can include developing a community garden, creating a school pantry, hosting a class for the community and much more. **Applications must be submitted by Nov. 1.**

For more information about the grants, visit okfb.news/foundgrants21 or contact Holly Carroll at holly.carroll@agging.org or at (405) 523-2300.

Share agriculture with students during ‘Read an Accurate Agriculture Book Week’

With Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom’s ‘Read an Accurate Ag Book Week’ Sept. 6-10, Oklahoma Farm Bureau encourages its members to participate in the upcoming event.

An opportunity to help further share the agriculture story with the youngest Oklahomans, members have the chance to make a difference by building working relationships with local teachers and reading to their classes.

In honor of ‘Read an Accurate Agriculture Book Week’, the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture will be providing a select amount of accurate agriculture books to those interested in participating the week of Sept. 6-10.

Those interested in entering to receive a book must complete the online form by **Aug. 9**. To apply today, visit okfb.news/AgBookWeek21.

Books will be selected from the accurate agriculture book list provided by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

For more information, please contact Brianne Whitcomb at brianne.whitcomb@okfb.org or (405) 523-2300.



REMINDER: OKFB August Area Meetings to begin soon

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are encouraged to attend one of the organization's 11 August Area Meetings held across the state beginning August 9.

Signifying the beginning of the organization's grassroots policy

development process, the meetings provide members a chance to discuss the top agriculture and rural issues on the horizon as they prepare to draft OKFB policy for the next year.

In addition to enhancing OKFB's policy priorities, members will have

a chance to learn about the work the organization continues to do for and on behalf of farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans across the state.

Below find the date and time for your district's meeting. For more information, visit okfb.news/aam21.

2021 AUGUST AREA MEETINGS

District One • West

August 16 at 6 p.m.

Gibson Baptist Assembly
E0260 Rd.
Hardesty, OK 73944

District One • East

August 17 at 6 p.m.

Building 801
801 Main St.
Woodward, OK 73801

District Two

August 24 at 6 p.m.

General Tommy Franks Museum,
Stanley Building
300 S. Washington
Hobart, OK 73651

District Three

August 23 at 6 p.m.

Redlands Community College
1300 S. Country Club Rd.
El Reno, OK 73036

District Four • West

August 12 at 6 p.m.

Comanche County Farm Bureau
502 SW 11th
Lawton, OK 73501

District Four • East

August 10 at 6 p.m.

Casa Romo
120 W. Main St.
Ardmore, OK 73401

District Five

August 26 at 6 p.m.

Kiamichi Technology Center
301 Kiamichi Dr.
McAlester, OK 74501

District Six

August 31 at 6 p.m.

Moore Farm's Event Barn
9353 W. 500 Rd.
Pryor, OK 74361

District Seven

August 9 at 6 p.m.

Crosspoint Church
2500 N. Van Buren St.
Enid, OK 73703

District Eight

August 30 at 6 p.m.

Pontotoc Technology Center
601 W. 33rd St.
Ada, OK 74820

District Nine

August 19 at 6 p.m.

Creek County Fairgrounds
17808 OK-66
Kellyville, OK 74039

For the most up-to-date details about the upcoming August Area Meetings, visit okfb.news/aam21.

OKFB WLC volunteers at AITC Summer Conference

As supporters of Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom throughout the year, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee was excited to once again provide support at the AITC Summer Conference, held July 21 in Edmond.

Committee members assisted speakers with presentations centered around agriculture at the AITC Summer Conference, where teachers received valuable resources for integrating agriculture education into their classrooms. Teachers also had a chance to learn more about OKFB and apply to receive a bushel basket of accurate agriculture books through the Bushels for Books program.

To learn more about the OKFB WLC Committee, visit okfarmbureau.org/programs/wlc.



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Ottawa, Noble County Farm Bureaus host ice cream socials



Ottawa and Noble County Farm Bureaus each recently hosted ice cream socials for members across their respective counties.

An opportunity for members to receive the latest news on the organization's advocacy efforts, legislative news and upcoming events, the events also served as a chance

for members to fellowship with one another once again.

Speakers at Ottawa County's ice cream social included Sen. Michael Bergstrom, Rep. Steve Bashore and District Three Ottawa County Commissioner Russell Earls, who each provided updates on the work they continue to do for farmers, ranchers

and rural Oklahomans.

Those in attendance of Noble County's ice cream social received a legislative update from Caylie Holman, OKFB assistant director of public policy, and were served ice cream by members of the Noble County Women's Leadership Committee.

Do you have an exciting county event coming up? We want to hear about it! Send photos and a brief explanation of your event to Rebekah Nash at rebekah.nash@okfb.org.