

PERSPECTIVE

August 13, 2021



YF&R members gather in southeast Oklahoma for summer conference July 30-31

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

The conference provided a chance for members to gather with fellow agricultural producers, experience agriculture in southeastern Oklahoma and learn about opportunities with YF&R and Farm Bureau.

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

A poultry, hay and cattle producer, McCurtain County Farm Bureau member and State Board of

Agriculture member Brent Bolen shared with members the variety of ways he integrates each facet of his operation. Don Allen Parsons of DAP Farms shared insight on managing a native pecan grove along with the family's corn, soybean and cattle operation.

Several of the tours allowed members to learn about the forestry industry, a leading economic driver in the southeast region of the state. During a visit to Herron Industries, members visited various forest plantations and witnessed the harvest of several of the operation's 20-year-old trees. The Forest Heritage Center Museum in Beavers Bend State Park provided history of the forestry industry going

back to prehistoric forests. Dioramas and other interactive exhibits provided members perspective of the entire industry.

Attendees gained a broader understanding of legislative issues impacting the forestry industry during presentations by Rep. Eddy Dempsey and former state representative Don Armes on legislative topics.

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

To learn more about the opportunities within the OKFB YF&R program, visit okfarmbureau.org/yfr.

OKFB's grassroots policy development officially underway

With the first week of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's August Area Meetings completed, the grassroots policy development process is underway for the year.

As members continue to gather throughout the month of August, issues on the minds of members such as the McGirt case, rural infrastructure and many others facing members will be discussed as counties begin to prepare for the resolutions process later this year.

As a grassroots organization, the policies that are brought forth and voted into the policy book by members during the annual meeting will serve as a guideline for how OKFB public policy staff will represent members throughout the legislative session.

These gatherings also serve as an opportunity for members to receive updates on the latest details from the organization and how it serves farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans throughout the year.

REMAINING 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 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 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 remaining August Area Meetings, visit okfb.news/aam21.

OKFB offers discounted membership through August

Do you have a family friend or neighbor that would like to become an Oklahoma Farm Bureau member but is not sure it is for them? OKFB is excited to now offer memberships at a discounted rate for the 2021 membership year.

From now through Aug. 31, 2021, encourage them to visit their local county Farm Bureau office to learn more about the grassroots organization and to take advantage of this special offer. Discounted memberships are only available through county Farm Bureau offices and are not available online.

Benefits of an OKFB membership

As the state's largest general farm organization, OKFB serves members with a variety of backgrounds, whether you farm, ranch, live in a rural community or hope to preserve and protect Oklahoma agriculture and our rural way of life. As part of the Farm Bureau family, you can share any of the countless OKFB benefits with friends and family.



Savings and discounts

Discounts on vehicles and hotels to savings on farm equipment and vacation attractions, every Farm Bureau membership comes with a world of savings.

Advocacy

From the steps of the state Capitol all the way to the halls of Congress, Oklahoma Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process provides its members with an opportunity to make a difference in the policy issues

that impact not only agriculture, but rural Oklahoma.

Leadership development

Developing leaders across Oklahoma's agriculture community is cornerstone to Farm Bureau. From Women's Leadership Committee to Young Farmers & Ranchers and from agriculture youth to Collegiate Farm Bureau, OKFB offers members a variety of opportunities to improve their leadership skills and network with fellow leaders in the industry.

OKFB WLC awards three nurse's training scholarships

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee recently awarded three \$500 scholarships to deserving students from across the state, each pursuing a career in nursing.

Recipients of the 2021 WLC Nurse's Training Scholarship are **Trena Coursey**, Sasakwa; **Macall Myers**, Norman; and **Madison Rowe**, Tishomingo.

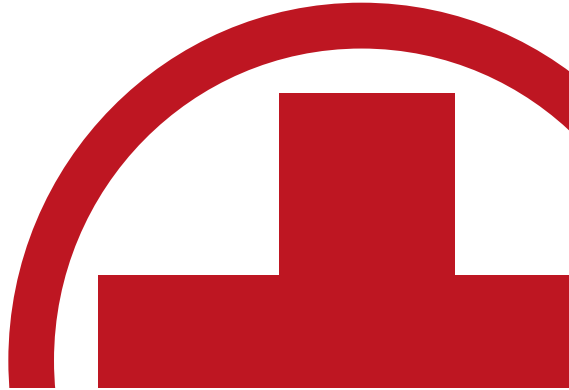
"The Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee is so pleased to be able to support these students as they pursue their degrees in nursing," said Mignon Bolay, OKFB WLC chair. "Rural Oklahoma is always in need of quality medical professionals, and we're hopeful these scholarships will help these outstanding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

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

The WLC recognizes the significant

role nurses play in ensuring a high quality of life for all Oklahomans, especially those in rural areas. With the cost of education rising yearly, the committee is proud to provide three students with scholarships to aid in their pursuit of a career in nursing.

CONGRATULATIONS NURSE'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Trena Coursey
Sasakwa
Macall Myers
Norman
Madison Rowe
Tishomingo



OKFB proud to support Women in Agriculture event

Women from across the state with a variety of agricultural backgrounds gathered for the Oklahoma Women in Agriculture and Small Business conference in Oklahoma City Aug. 5-6, sponsored in part by Oklahoma Farm Bureau, the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture and the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee.

The two-day event hosted by the Oklahoma State Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources featured a variety of breakout sessions led by industry professionals, engaging speakers and an opportunity to network with fellow women involved in agriculture.

During the first day, attendees had the chance to hear from Michele Payn, an expert in helping people connect their food to the farm and starting meaningful conversations between producers and consumers. At the conclusion of the session, each attendee left with their own copy of her latest book, courtesy of Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

Members of the OKFB WLC and other many other Farm Bureau women attended the event to further their knowledge while sharing the story of Farm Bureau.



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OKFB Foundation for Ag mini grants due Sept. 1

Do you know of a group interested in creating an educational program for school-aged children or adults to improve their agricultural literacy?

Specifically designed for 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, teachers and county Farm Bureaus, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture will award five \$500 mini grants to help promote agriculture within local communities across the state. Events can include supporting an Ag in the Classroom event, hosting an interactive booth at a farmer's market, and much more.

Grant applications are due **Wednesday, Sep. 1**. For more information, visit okfb.news/foundgrants21.

Two Oklahoma teachers win \$100 AFBF resources grant

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

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

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



5 | \$500 MINI GRANTS
AVAILABLE
DUE SEPT. 1

AGRICULTURE

**OKLAHOMA TEACHERS EARN
\$100 GRANTS**

