

PERSPECTIVE

March 13, 2020

Woodward County Farm Bureau celebrates 55 years serving members and the community in same location

Woodward County Farm Bureau recently celebrated 55 years of serving the community at their location on East Oklahoma Ave.

One of the first newly built county offices, they originally opened their doors March 4, 1965. Today, the organization now serves around 1,000 farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans.

Legislative Update: Major cuts to proposed legislation following first major deadline



As cattle graze on one of Oklahoma's many flood-control dams, HB 3298 would authorize a \$17,500,000 bond to be used for construction, repair and rehabilitation of flood-control dams through local conservation districts.

UPCOMING EVENTS March - June

Oklahoma Youth Expo
March 10-20

Congressional Action Tour
March 23-27

National Agriculture Day
March 24

YF&R District Scholarship Deadline
April 2

Ag Day at the Capitol
April 14

Oklahoma FFA State Convention
April 28-29

OKFB Ag Tour
(formerly Commodity Tour)
May 6-8

On the Road with Ag in the Classroom
June 9-11

National Ag in the Classroom Conference
June 23-26

The 2020 state legislative session has passed the first major deadline and reduced the number of eligible bills and resolutions from 4,500 down to a little over 1,000. These remaining measures now move on from topical committees to their respective chambers for possible floor consideration. The public policy division is actively working on a wide variety of items that could have an impact on all 77 counties. Below are a few items of interest that have emerged as serious issues during the early weeks of March.

HB 3298 by Rep. Carl Newton of Cherokee and Sen. Darcy Jech of Kingfisher authorizes a \$17,500,000 bond for the construction, repair and rehabilitation of flood-control dams through local conservation districts with debt retirement payments to be made by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

HB 3826 by Speaker Charles McCall of Atoka and Sen. Greg Treat of Edmond increases the required voter information that is to be listed for initiative petitions, with at least three identification points to be verified and matched to the voter information on file by the Secretary of State.

SB 1714 by Sen. Adam Pugh of Edmond removes the \$20,000 annual gross sales

limit on home food establishments and exempts the sale of certain types of food from licensing requirements of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry, instead requiring potentially hazardous food to carry a warning label.

SB 1746 by Sen. Casey Murdock of Felt allows a landowner, lessee or their designated agent, with a valid permit, to hunt coyotes at night, but prohibits the hunting of coyotes by spotlight.

SB 1875 by Sen. Dave Rader of Tulsa and Rep. Terry O'Donnell of Catoosa declares that the operators of oil and gas wells are the sole owners of all produced water and that these operators shall be entitled to all proceeds from the sale of the produced water.

OKFB WLC shares Oklahoma agriculture at state Capitol during Farm City Festival Feb. 26

Members of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee gathered together from across the state to prepare 320 hot lunches that were hand-delivered to state legislators and their administrators for the WLC's Farm City Festival Feb. 26.

"We all know the importance of legislation, and this is just an opportunity for us to say 'thank you,'" said Mignon Bolay, OKFB Women's Leadership chair.

A chance to share information about the importance of Oklahoma agriculture, the event is made possible with monetary donations from county Women's Leadership Committees from across the state.

Women interested in joining their county Women's Leadership Committee should contact their local Farm Bureau office. If your county does not have an existing program, please contact Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2300 for more information.



Mignon Bolay, WLC Chair, and Jan Long, District Eight WLC member, help assemble the 320 meals that were delivered to the state Capitol for Farm City Festival Feb. 26.



District Three WLC member Karen Krehbiel Dodson delivers lunch to Sen. Roland Pederson during Farm City Festival Feb. 26. As WLC members walked the halls of the state Capitol, they each had the opportunity to discuss Oklahoma agriculture with a broader audience.



Terry Pederson, District Seven WLC member, takes a moment to share some facts about Oklahoma agriculture with a legislative assistant. Each lunch was accompanied by a handout with key statistics regarding the importance of agriculture and rural communities.

Five Collegiate Farm Bureau members named NEO A&M Top 10 Freshman

Recognized for their civic engagement and academic excellence, five Oklahoma Farm Bureau Collegiate Farm Bureau members at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M were named Top 10 Freshman at the college's 11th Annual Top 10 Freshman ceremony Jan. 30.

The five Collegiate Farm Bureau members recognized for their efforts include **Georgia Agan**, Venedy, Illinois; **Owen Coon**, Wingate, Indiana; **Mattie Haynes**, Jay, Oklahoma; **Katie Krehbiel**, Inman, Kansas; and **Roy Stovall**, Wyandotte, Oklahoma.

"It is inspiring to see these high-achieving students give passionate evidence of the impact our staff and faculty have in the lives of each student," said Dr. Kyle Stafford, NEO President.

Now in their sophomore year of school, the students were selected by a committee consisting of President's Partners representatives, faculty, and student activities representatives. Each student was presented with a scholarship and the opportunity to participate in several leadership development activities.

Jackson County member named secretary of NAWG

During the annual meeting of the National Association of Wheat Growers Feb. 27-29 in San Antonio, Texas, Jackson County Farm Bureau member Keeff Felty was elected to serve as the association's secretary.

Consisting of 20 state associations, the NAWG is the main representative of wheat producers across the country and in Washington, D.C., working closely with state association representatives, NAWG grower leaders, members of Congress, Congressional staff members, administration officials and the public.

Comanche County Farm Bureau receives regulatory and legislative updates during Capitol visit

Members of Comanche County Farm Bureau traveled to Oklahoma City March 3 where they received regulatory and legislative updates while visiting the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the state Capitol.

While visiting ODAFF, members had the chance to speak with Dr. Rod Hall, state veterinarian, and JanLee Rowlett, legislative liaison, where they were able to ask questions about what concerns them most as producers.

For more information or to schedule a county Farm Bureau Capitol visit, contact the OKFB Public Policy Division at (405) 523-2300 or visit with your area field representative.



JanLee Rowlett, legislative liaison for Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, shares with members her roll during the legislative session.



Rep. Rande Worthen took a moment off the floor of the State House to speak with Comanche County members directly and answer questions on upcoming legislation.



Comanche County Farm Bureau president Kerry Givens speaks with Rep. Daniel Pae and Rep. Toni Hasenbeck while at the state Capitol during their visit.

OKFB now accepting applications for youth leadership conference May 26-29



The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee is now accepting applications for its Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture program **May 26-29, 2020** in Oklahoma City.

OYLA is a unique three-day summer leadership conference designed for high school students completing their senior year in 2020.

The conference will include special leadership classes, exciting speakers, team building and visits to agriculture-related industries. Selected students

should be among the top, well rounded students in their class, and should have an interest in furthering their education at the post-secondary level.

OYLA participants will stay in Oklahoma City with conference activities located at the OKFB home office and around the Oklahoma City metro area.

All costs for the conference are covered by the OKFB YF&R Committee. **Applicants are not required to be Farm Bureau members.**

Applications for the conference are available at county Farm Bureau offices

or may be downloaded at **www.okfarmbureau.org/applications**.

To be considered for the program, applications must be completed and postmarked to Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Attn: Zac Swartz, YF&R Coordinator, 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 or emailed to Zac Swartz by **May 1, 2020**. Only one student per school will be accepted.

For more information, contact OKFB YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2300.

**PUBLISHED BY
OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU**

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Sharing our agricultural bounty with all Oklahomans

Pork for Packs provides a **reliable protein source** for hungry children around our state. We collect donated pigs, along with monetary donations, and create pork sticks that are included in children's backpacks as part of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma backpack programs.

Together, the Oklahoma agriculture community is working to ensure all Oklahoma children have the nutrition they need.

**HOW TO DONATE YOUR
ANIMAL TO PORK FOR PACKS**

- 1** Bring the animal you wish to donate to the Oklahoma Youth Expo
- 2** Register with the Oklahoma Regional Food Banks at their table in **Barn 6**
- 3** Walk your animal to the designated drop-off point

All donations to Pork for Packs are tax deductible, and **your FFA chapter gets credit for animals donated.**