

# PERSPECTIVE

June 4, 2021

## Farm Bureau members gather for congressional town hall with Congressman Lucas



**O**klahoma Farm Bureau members from across western Oklahoma gathered to discuss some of the leading issues facing farmers and ranchers with Rep. Frank Lucas during a meeting held Thursday, May 27 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Agricultural producers in attendance heard Lucas's insight on rural representation in Congress, the ongoing investigation into beef processors, capital gains and estate tax increase proposals, climate policy and more.

The congressman encouraged the group to continue to engage in Farm Bureau on the state and national levels to stand together for agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

The meeting also provided members an opportunity to engage with legislators from the Weatherford area including Sen. Darcy Jech, Sen. Brent Howard and Rep. Anthony Moore. The event was one in OKFB's series of meetings with Oklahoma's congressional delegation. Learn more at [okfb.news/CongressConv21](https://okfb.news/CongressConv21).

## OKFB partners with McAfee & Taft to examine Oklahoma foreign-owned land law

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau and Oklahoma City-based law firm McAfee & Taft have created a video to provide answers on the state's foreign-owned land statutes.

The informational video was produced in response to questions about land ownership the organization received from members across the state.

Cole Marshall, an attorney at McAfee & Taft, explained the basic tenets of Oklahoma's laws on foreign ownership of land in the short video.

Marshall said the Oklahoma Constitution and state statutes prohibit any alien – or person who is not a citizen of the United States – from owning land in the state.

"There's a general prohibition on foreign persons or corporations from other countries owning land in Oklahoma, but they can become residents by taking up

residency for individuals in Oklahoma or by qualifying to do business in Oklahoma," Marshall said.

To qualify to do business in Oklahoma, entities are required to file with the Oklahoma secretary of state and thus become subject to Oklahoma's laws.

As one of a handful of states in the country with restrictions on foreign-owned land, Marshall said Oklahoma, as compared to other states, has historically been more aggressive with respect to foreign ownership of land in the state.

"Oklahoma on the national scale, I would say, is sort of out front, if you will, on these types of rules," Marshall said. "It's largely because Oklahoma is an ag state. These laws were put in place to protect family farmers."

Watch the full video at [okfb.news/landlaw21](https://okfb.news/landlaw21).

# OKFB joins task force to tackle issues from state's medical marijuana industry

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has joined four fellow Oklahoma agriculture groups to form a task force to develop solutions to the issues facing farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses from the exponential growth of the medical marijuana industry across Oklahoma.

The Medical Marijuana Impacts on Oklahoma Production Agriculture Task Force – comprised of American Farmers & Ranchers, Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council and Oklahoma Farm Bureau – was created

to focus on crafting state and federal solutions to the increasing impacts of medical marijuana on production agriculture across Oklahoma.

“Many of our farm and ranch members have shared a variety of challenges that are facing their farms, ranches and communities due to the rapid increase in medical marijuana production in Oklahoma,” said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. “Farm Bureau is pleased to continue working side by side with our fellow agriculture organizations to collaboratively find solutions that benefit farmers, ranchers

and all Oklahomans.”

The task force will review the variety of challenges facing Oklahoma agriculture and work together to provide policy recommendations to state and federal leaders.

The statewide organizations plan to engage the task force with key stakeholders including other state agriculture organizations, utility providers, members of the Legislature and congressional delegation, and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

# OKFB praises Gov. Stitt, Sec. Arthur for voicing concerns of Oklahoma cattle producers

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel issued the following statement after Gov. Kevin Stitt and Agriculture Secretary Blayne Arthur sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland urging the U.S. Department of Justice to continue its investigation into the meatpacking industry and beef supply chain:

“Oklahoma Farm Bureau is grateful to Gov. Kevin Stitt and Ag Secretary

Blayne Arthur for voicing the concerns of Oklahoma cattle producers by urging the Department of Justice to continue investigating the nation's meatpacking industry and beef supply chain.

“Oklahoma's ranching families for months have watched helplessly as the gap between the live cattle prices producers receive and the retail prices of beef consumers pay at the grocery store widened, without an answer as to

why. Oklahoma's farm and ranch families deserve to be fairly compensated for the hard work they invest and the financial risk they assume to safely and efficiently raise food for consumers.

“We're hopeful the action by Gov. Stitt and Sec. Arthur, combined with urging from leaders across the country and the beef industry, will help lead to long-awaited answers Oklahoma's beef producers deserve.”

## Payne County YF&R serves at Our Daily Bread

Payne County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers recently spent time at Our Daily Bread in Stillwater, a food pantry and garden helping those in need. They assisted in picking fresh fruits and vegetables, packing food boxes and loading boxes.



## OKFB hosts Tulsa mayor at home office

Oklahoma Farm Bureau appreciated the opportunity to host Tulsa Mayor GT Bynum at the home office on May 18 to discuss how Farm Bureau and the city can unite to support both rural and urban interests. From rural health care and infrastructure to economic development and broadband, OKFB looks forward to finding ways to partner for the benefit of all Oklahomans.



## Online meeting with Congressman Hern set for June 11

Join Oklahoma Farm Bureau Friday, June 11 at 1:30 p.m., for our fourth congressional conversation with Congressman Kevin Hern from Oklahoma's first congressional district.

Through a series of meetings with Oklahoma's congressional delegation, members have the chance to tune in and learn more about the leading issues facing agriculture and rural Oklahoma in the nation's capital.



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[okfb.news/RepHern21](https://okfb.news/RepHern21)

## Congressional redistricting town hall meeting dates set

Oklahoma Farm Bureau encourages its members to attend congressional redistricting town hall meetings to represent the voices and perspectives of rural Oklahoma.

Five in-person town halls will be hosted in each congressional district, along with two virtual town halls. The meetings provide Oklahomans an opportunity to offer input as House and Senate redistricting committees prepare to draw new congressional district lines.

"Just as we did with legislative redistricting, the legislature is committed to an open and transparent process for congressional redistricting," Sen. Lonnie Paxton, Oklahoma Senate Select Committee on Redistricting Chair, said. "We encourage those interested in the process to join us in-person or virtually to learn more about

congressional redistricting."

By law, state legislators must redraw Oklahoma's legislative and congressional district boundaries to reflect changes in population every 10 years immediately following the decennial census.

While the Oklahoma House and Senate completed state legislative redistricting plans this spring, the congressional redistricting process was postponed due to census data delays from the federal government.

The Legislature plans to reconvene in a special session in the fall to complete congressional redistricting and make any necessary adjustments to current legislative districts upon the release of final Census data.

Anyone unable to attend the meeting may email comments to the House at [redistrictoklahoma2020@okhouse.gov](mailto:redistrictoklahoma2020@okhouse.gov), Senate at [redistricting@oksenate.gov](mailto:redistricting@oksenate.gov), or contact their state representative or state senator.

### Oklahoma Congressional Redistricting Town Hall Meetings

**Oklahoma City**  
Thursday, July 8 | 6 p.m.  
Oklahoma State Capitol

**Enid**  
Tuesday, July 20 | 6 p.m.  
Autry Technology Center

**Tulsa**  
Thursday, July 22 | 6 p.m.  
Tulsa Technology Center

**McAlester**  
Tuesday, July 27 | 6 p.m.  
Kiamichi Technology Center

**Lawton**  
Thursday, July 29 | 6 p.m.  
Lawton City Hall

**Virtual**  
Tuesday, July 13 | 6 p.m.  
Tuesday, August 3 | 6 p.m.

## Stitt's return-to-work initiative could help ag labor shortages

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel released the following statement applauding Gov. Kevin Stitt's announcement of a return-to-work initiative to help address labor shortages in Oklahoma:

"As Oklahoma farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses continue to struggle to

find a reliable workforce, we appreciate Gov. Kevin Stitt's plan to help put Oklahomans back to work. Dependable workers are critical to our agriculture producers as farmers and ranchers grow and raise food, fiber and fuel for our state, our country and our world.

"As we've seen all too often

throughout the pandemic, uncertainty in the agricultural workforce jeopardizes the availability and accessibility of fundamental products we all rely on. We hope this plan is just the first step as we work toward solutions that will provide farmers and ranchers with the help they so desperately need."

After the final gavel drop on the 2021 Legislative session on May 27, OKFB compiled some of the highlights of Farm Bureau's work for farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans this year including legislation on the ag sales tax exemption, ad valorem taxes, private property rights and more. To learn about the important work OKFB has accomplished this Legislative session, go to [okfb.news/oklegwrapup21](https://okfb.news/oklegwrapup21).

Check out the next issue of *Perspective* for the session wrap-up.



**PUBLISHED BY  
OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU**

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## YF&R to host summer conference July 30-31

**F**arm Bureau members ages 18 to 35 are invited to attend the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Summer Conference to be held July 30-31 in Broken Bow.

The two-day conference will offer YF&R members the chance to meet farmers and ranchers from across the state, tour local agricultural facilities and learn more about YF&R leadership opportunities and programs.

Registration for the conference is \$20 to be paid during the conference, which includes meals and lodging. Members will stay in the Beavers Bend Lakeview Lodge in Broken Bow.

To attend, please register no later than July 16 by filling out the online form at [okfb.news/YFRSummer21](http://okfb.news/YFRSummer21).

For more information, please contact Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2300.

Details about the conference will be shared as available.



## OKFB reviews budget highlights with Rep. Hilbert

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau discussed the top provisions in the state budget for agriculture and rural Oklahoma with the House Appropriations and Budget Committee Vice Chair Kyle Hilbert during a recent *Lincoln to Local* episode.

After announcing its more than \$8 billion budget agreement on May 13, Gov. Kevin Stitt' signed the bill on May 24 after the video was published.

The budget includes several benefits for agriculture and rural Oklahoma including dollars for broadband expansion, meat inspectors, Oklahoma State University Extension, county roads and bridges and more.

Learn more about the budget and watch the full video at [okfb.news/budget21](http://okfb.news/budget21).

