

PERSPECTIVE

April 18, 2025



(L to R) Rep. Bice, Rep. Hern and Rep. Lucas cover the ongoing trade and tariff discussion and how it impacts the economy.



Sen. Lankford discussed the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act with members and the impact it has on farmers and ranchers.

OKFB members take on Washington, D.C., for the organization's annual D.C. Summit

More than 60 OKFB members and guests traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for Oklahoma agriculture during OKFB's annual Washington D.C. Summit April 7-11.

Members kicked off the trip at the International Spy Museum with a reception in the "Bond in Motion" exhibit featuring vehicles from several Bond movies as they visited with Oklahoma's

congressional staff and guests.

Tuesday morning kicked off industry briefings with T.W. Shannon, director of rural prosperity at the United States Department of Agriculture, who discussed the changes in the USDA since Brooke Rollins became secretary of agriculture.

Members also heard from Emma Alexander, field representative for Sen. Markwayne Mullin; Victoria Tran,

principal deputy assistant administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's office of international and tribal affairs; Sam Kieffer, vice president of public policy for American Farm Bureau, who shared updates of the ongoing trade and tariff discussions; and Samantha Ayoub, associate economist with AFBF, who shared updates on the

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expiring 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

South Carolina Farm Bureau Executive Director Gary Spires shared with members how South Carolina Farm Bureau created a land trust for farmers and ranchers to allow their land to be protected from urban development.

Members also took a deep dive into ongoing trade and tariff news with Dave Salmonson, senior director of government affairs with AFBF.

OKFB members headed to Capitol Hill on Wednesday afternoon to visit with Oklahoma's congressional delegation including Rep. Stephanie Bice, Rep. Josh Brecheen, Rep. Frank Lucas, Rep. Kevin Hern and Sen. James Lankford.

Topics that Oklahoma's congressional delegation discussed with members included the importance of trade, with a focus on agricultural trade, even as President Trump put a 90-day hold on tariffs his administration had levied on goods from many countries around

the globe. The group also discussed the budget continuing resolution to extend the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act for five years to protect farmers and ranchers from increased taxes on inputs.

Thursday morning featured a group breakfast at Founding Farmers in Washington D.C., a farm-to-table restaurant, and the trip concluded with a rooftop tour of the AFBF office where AFBF President Zippy Duvall addressed OKFB members and thanked them for taking the time to bring their agricultural stories to Washington, D.C.

OKFB's Washington, D.C., Summit serves as the organization's annual fly-in held each spring to provide OKFB members with the opportunity to share their agricultural perspectives with

Oklahoma's congressional delegation while learning more about agricultural issues working through congress and regulatory agencies.



OKFB President Rodd Moesel (left) visits with T.W. Shanon about his new role for the USDA.



Members had the opportunity to pose on James Bond's snowmobile during the Monday night reception.



AFBF President Zippy Duvall shares updates from AFBF's work on Capitol Hill.



Rep. Brecheen shares the importance of the national budget with members.



OKFB members Bill and Faye Peetoom share their perspective with Rep. Brecheen.

Creek, Grady, Logan, McClain, Okmulgee County Farm Bureaus take to Capitol to visit with legislators

In the second week of county Farm Bureau Capitol visits during the 2025 Oklahoma Legislative Session, five OKFB county Farm Bureaus took to the Capitol to meet with their legislators.

Members of each of the five county Farm Bureaus visited with their legislators in the beginning of April.

Creek County Farm Bureau members visited with Sen. Todd Gollihare, Rep. Ty Burns, Rep. Chris Benning and Speaker of the House Rep. Kyle Hilbert.

Grady County Farm Bureau members met with Senate Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton, Sen. Kendal Sacchieri, Rep. Brad Boles and Rep. Dick Lowe.

Logan County Farm Bureau members spoke with Rep. John Pfeiffer and Rep. Chuck Hall.

McClain County Farm Bureau members visited with Sen. Kendal



Creek County Farm Bureau

Sacchieri, Rep. Cynthia Roe and Rep. Jonathan Wilk.

Okmulgee County Farm Bureau members met with Sen. David Bullard, Rep. Scott Fetgatter and Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell.

County Farm Bureau Capitol visits



McClain County Farm Bureau

give members the opportunity to meet with legislators from their area and discuss rural issues that are directly affecting their way of life.

Contact your Field Representative to schedule a Capitol visit before legislative session ends.



More than 60 young agriculturalists visit capitol for OKFB YF&R and Collegiate Farm Bureau legislative event

More than 60 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers and Collegiate Farm Bureau members took to the Oklahoma Capitol Tuesday, April 1, to advocate for agriculture and learn about the lawmaking process during the group's YF&R and Collegiate Farm Bureau Day at the Capitol.

Members kicked off the event by attending an evening of fellowship at Top Golf in Oklahoma City Monday nights, where they heard from guest

speaker HJ Reed as he discussed the fundamentals of the legislative process to prepare for the following day's event. Attendees then participated in an evening of playing golf and card games with fellow members.

The legislative day began on Tuesday with briefings from OKFB's public policy staff at the OKFB home office, where they shared information about OKFB priority legislation working its way through the legislative process.

Members attended the Capitol and visited with their lawmakers and elected officials to discuss OKFB's priority issues, along with other issues the grassroots Farm Bureau members are facing within their communities.

OKFB members closed out the event with a luncheon at the Oklahoma History Center, where OKFB policy staff shared current initiatives in OKFB's policy book and priority legislation and also had the opportunity to tour the museum.

2025 Ag Tour registration still available

OKFB members can set out to tour western Oklahoma May 6-8 during the 2025 Ag Tour. **Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis with a limit of 50 Farm Bureau members.**

The tour will provide a look into western Oklahoma agriculture, industry and attractions throughout the three-day event.

Registration is available online at okfb.news/AgTour25.

Nurse's Training Scholarship applications due July 10

Oklahoma nursing students can apply for the, WLC Nurse's Training Scholarship. Applications are due **Thursday, July 10.**

The annual scholarship program awards three \$500 scholarships to students studying in a nursing program at an accredited college, university, vo-tech or trade school.

The application is available online at okfarmbureau.org/applications.

Bushels for Books applications due June 10

Oklahoma educators can apply for the WLC and OKFB Foundation for Agriculture's Bushels for Books program. Applications are due **Tuesday, June 10.**

The program provides teachers with grade-level-appropriate accurate-agriculture books for their class.

The application and more details are available online at okfarmbureau.org/applications.

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OKFB Foundation for Agriculture 2025 Watermelon Challenge sign-ups open through May 5

Second-grade teachers can now enroll their classrooms in a watermelon-growing contest through the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's fourth-annual Watermelon Challenge.

During the challenge, students will grow their very own watermelons with seeds provided by the foundation for a chance to win prizes. The Watermelon Challenge illustrates the hard work and effort Oklahoma farmers and ranchers face when growing and raising food.

Schools participating in the challenge will receive watermelon seed packets, an activity book and resources with lessons for each student in their classroom. After teachers work through the provided lessons, students and their families are encouraged to plant the watermelon seeds at home.

Watermelon seeds can be planted from late-April to mid-May, but the soil temperature must be 70 degrees for the seeds to germinate. To find soil



temperatures in your area, visit the Oklahoma Mesonet system's website.

Oklahoma's state vegetable requires a long growing season of 80 days. After students harvest the melon, they will need to submit a photo of themselves holding it to complete the challenge.

Teachers can sign up their second-grade classroom before May 5 through the online form available at okfb.news/MelonSignup25.

The packets will be sent upon receiving registration information.

The OKFB Foundation for Agriculture will recognize three winners from among students who successfully grow watermelons each with a \$100 prize. Photo submissions of students' fully grown watermelon should be emailed to Holly Carroll in August to be considered for prizes.