

PERSPECTIVE

April 19, 2024



OKFB members with Sen. Lankford



Rep. Hern



Ricky Schroeder, House ag committee staff (right)



Sen. Mullin

OKFB members elevate voice of agriculture in nation's capital during Washington, D.C., Summit

More than 50 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members traveled to Washington, D.C., April 8-12 to advocate for agriculture and learn about the latest national issues facing the industry during OKFB's 2024 Washington, D.C., Summit fly-in.

The trip included congressional briefings, industry updates, group activities and time to tour the sights of our nation's capital, allowing OKFB members an opportunity to share their perspectives with officials and industry representatives who influence

legislation, craft laws and oversee regulations impacting agriculture.

Congressional briefings

A series of congressional briefings served as the centerpiece of the 2024 Washington, D.C., Summit, and members had the chance to hear from Sens. James Lankford and Markwayne Mullin on Wednesday, April 10.

Lankford shared with Farm Bureau members his position on immigration and border security, the wars in Ukraine and Israel, and the progress he has

seen on the farm bill. Mullin visited about budgetary appropriations and earmarks, government shutdowns and the challenges that follow, and tribal relations.

OKFB members made their way to Capitol Hill again on Thursday, April 11, to hear from four of Oklahoma's five house members. Rep. Stephanie Bice shared her perspective on inflation, the current administration's executive orders and foreign ownership of land.

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Fellow OKFB member Rep. Frank Lucas explained the challenges and progress on the farm bill, noting his view that perfecting the farm bill should not prevent passing the farm bill.

Rep. Kevin Hern of Tulsa visited with members about stepped-up basis and farm transitions, agricultural labor challenges and the H2A visa program, the Ukrainian war's impact on the nation's wheat supply and more.

Rep. Josh Brecheen walked members through governmental spending and income tax considerations. The newest of Oklahoma's congressional delegation, Brecheen also shared his vision for food assistance reform for the farm bill's nutrition title.

Agriculture industry updates

OKFB members had the opportunity to hear several industry updates including presentations from representatives of American Farm Bureau, the British Embassy and both the U.S. House and Senate agriculture committees on Tuesday, April 9.

AFBF's Dave Salmonson and John Walt Boatwright shared the work the national farm organization is doing to provide relief for labor pressures facing farmers and ranchers, efforts to spur the Biden Administration to work

toward new trade agreements and an update on the Environmental Protection Agency's strategies and maneuvers on restricting pesticide usage related to the Endangered Species Act along with the agency's recent ruling restricting the use of over-the-top dicamba.

Fellow Oklahoman and House agriculture committee staffer Ricky Schroeder and Senate agriculture committee staff member John Newton each provided an update on the ongoing preparatory work for the upcoming farm bill. Each focused on the current baseline budget of \$1.5 trillion, \$1.2 trillion of which is designated for the nutrition title, and the options for securing funding to ensure production agriculture has a reliable safety net.

British Embassy representatives spoke on the processes the British government is undertaking to expand agricultural trade for the island nation as it continues to navigate the effects of Brexit. Embassy officials also discussed the nation's efforts to improve agricultural efficiency while keeping environmental impacts in mind.

On Wednesday, April 10, Farm Bureau members heard from Rodd Snyder, senior advisor for agriculture to the EPA administrator, and Luke Tomanelli, head of North America policy and advocacy for Bayer Crop Science.

Snyder shared with members the EPA's top three agriculture issues, including pesticide policy, water policy and renewable energy. Tomanelli shared his perspective on pesticide labels, challenges with Bayer's recent glyphosate conflicts, the future of dicamba use and the rising concern about PFAS, or, "forever chemicals."

On Friday, April 12, OKFB members traveled to AFBF headquarters to learn about the national legislative and policy issues John Deere, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and AFBF are navigating. Discussion points included the farm bill, national animal identification proposals, animal care issues and more.

Group events

OKFB members also took time to enjoy Washington during the trip. An opening reception with congressional and AFBF staff on Monday evening fostered fellowship, and a dinner cruise on the Potomac River Wednesday night provided members with a unique perspective on our nation's capital with views of monuments, the wharf and other landmarks. A special nighttime monuments tour was led by OKFB President Rodd Moesel where members learned about the monuments and the people and events they memorialize.



Rep. Bice



Rep. Brecheen



Rep. Lucas



John Newton, Senate ag committee staff



Potomac River cruise



Welcome reception

County Farm Bureaus, OKFB donate more than \$12,000 to feed Oklahomans in need through Farm Bureau Cares donation matching program

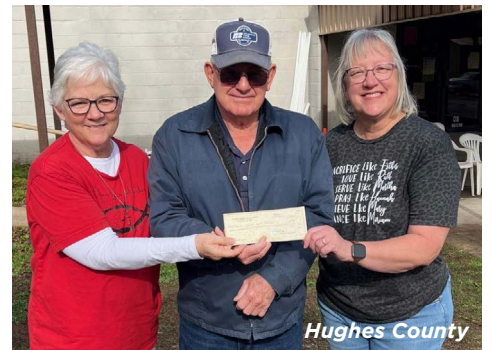
Oklahoma Farm Bureau teamed up with county Farm Bureaus to donate a total of \$12,400 to food pantries and food assistance programs across the state through the 2024 Farm Bureau Cares: Community Food Donation Matching Program.

This year, more than 30 county Farm Bureaus and county Women's Leadership Committees made donations to nutrition assistance programs in their communities, including local community food banks, church meal programs, organizations helping victims of domestic violence and more.

Launched in 2021, the program encourages county Farm Bureaus to make donations of food or money to organizations that help meet the nutritional needs of local residents. OKFB matched county Farm Bureau donations up to \$100, doubling the impact of the grassroots organization.

As agriculturalists, Farm Bureau members know the importance of food security, and the Farm Bureau Cares program gives Oklahoma farmers and ranchers the opportunity to uplift their communities through sharing the products they grow to feed, clothe and fuel their fellow Oklahomans every day.

Thank you to each and every county Farm Bureau that made donations to the program, demonstrating OKFB's support for fellow our Oklahomans.



Comanche County member selected to serve on FCC precision ag task force

Comanche County Farm Bureau member Cody Goodknight has been appointed to serve on the Federal Communication Commission's Precision Ag Connectivity Task Force Working Group on mapping and analyzing connectivity on agricultural lands.

Goodknight, who farms and ranches in the Chattanooga area with his wife, Kara, is one of eight members of the working group and serves alongside telecommunications representatives, U.S. government employees and land-

grant university leaders. Goodknight is the sole farmer member in his specific working group.

Members of the task force play an advisory role in directing FCC's efforts to deploy and enhance broadband internet access to promote precision agriculture practices. The task force is comprised of four working groups focusing on areas of interest to promoting and deploying precision agriculture technologies. The task force was created from a provision in the 2018 farm bill.



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More than \$110,000 collected for wildfire relief in aftermath of springtime Oklahoma fires



The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture collected more than \$110,000 in donations and matching funds to help spur recovery efforts in the aftermath of springtime wildfires in the state.

Donations were collected from late February through March 15.

The foundation, Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance each offered \$10,000 in dollar-for-dollar matching funds.

In total, more than \$80,000 in relief

donations were received, and the full \$30,000 in matching dollars were contributed to the foundation's fire relief fund, resulting in a total of more than \$110,000 available for fire relief efforts to aid in recovery.

Donations were generously given by individuals, fellow agriculture organizations and even county and state Farm Bureaus from around the nation.

Money from the fund will support fire relief efforts, which included two rounds of fuel card donations in early

march beginning just a week after fire swept through Ellis County. The gift card donations helped offset trucking costs associated with transporting donated hay to fire-stricken areas.

The foundation is planning to make donations to fire departments that assisted with the firefighting effort to help them replenish their depleted budgets after prolonged operations. The foundation will continue to monitor ongoing fire relief needs and will help support affected communities recover.