

PERSPECTIVE

April 22, 2022

OKFB Ag PAC district meetings set to kick off grassroots political action committee work

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is set to host districtwide meetings for the OKFB Ag PAC political action committee throughout the month of May. The meetings are held to gather input from county Farm Bureau members to guide the OKFB Ag PAC's support for candidates in the Nov. 8 election.

Prior to the district meetings, the OKFB public policy team will send each county Farm Bureau a list of candidates for the upcoming election.

Each county Farm Bureau may select one member to represent their county at their respective district meeting. The representative need not be a county president or county board member but must be a voting OKFB member in good standing.

The OKFB Ag PAC was created in 2020 to give farmers and ranchers a voice in state and federal elections. The PAC supports candidates for office who share our rural values and understand the important role agriculture plays in our nation.

Candidate support is guided by recommendations from Farm Bureau members and is decided by the OKFB Ag PAC board, a group of OKFB members from each district.

The PAC is funded through voluntary contributions from OKFB members. To make a contribution to the OKFB Ag PAC and strengthen your voice on election day, contact the OKFB Public Policy Department at (405) 523-2300.*

*Contributions or gifts to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Ag PAC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

District Ag PAC meeting times and locations

District One

Thursday, May 12 • Noon
Fairview Methodist Church
US 270, Slapout

District Five

Tuesday, May 17 • Noon
Pete's Place Restaurant
120 S.W. 8th St., Krebs

District Two

Monday, May 9 • Noon
Kiowa County Farm Bureau
801 S. Broadway Ave., Hobart

District Six

Wednesday, May 11 • Noon
Mayes County Farm Bureau
1521 E. Graham Ave., Pryor

District Three

Monday, May 9 • 6 p.m.
Canadian County Farm Bureau
2020 Sunset Dr., El Reno

District Seven

Thursday, May 12 • 6 p.m.
Garfield County Farm Bureau
408 W. Willow Rd., Enid

District Four

Wednesday, May 13 • Noon
Casa Romo
120 W. Main St., Ardmore

District Eight

Monday, May 16 • 6 p.m.
Seminole County Farm Bureau
1801 W. Wrangler Blvd., Seminole

District Nine

Tuesday, May 17 • 6 p.m.
Freddie's BBQ
9999 SH-66, Sapulpa

Legislative update: Spray drift, unmanufactured farm products, remote meat inspection, candidate filing mark committee week deadline

Tensions were high at 23rd and Lincoln this past week with another committee deadline on Thursday, April 14. All bills that passed the committee opposite their chamber of origin will now advance and can be heard by the full chamber. Conversely, any remaining bills – except those assigned to the House Appropriations and Budget Committee – are now effectively dormant for the rest of the 2022 legislative session, including nearly a dozen bills unexpectedly laid over in the House.

SB 1261 by Sen. Brent Howard and Rep. John Pfeiffer deals with spray drift on medical marijuana and was one of several medical marijuana bills laid over in the House. Though considered dormant for the session, language from the bill may be included in other similar legislation. OKFB will closely monitor any changes on this issue as it has been a top-of-mind issue for many Farm Bureau members.

SB 192 by Sen. Brent Howard removes unmanufactured farm products, such as stored hay and grain, from county assessment. Despite the busy and emotionally charged week, SB 192 passed the House committee and is now available for consideration by the full House.

The House Agriculture Committee once again heard SB 1110 by Sen. David Bullard and Rep. Justin Humphrey which would create a pilot program for virtual meat inspection from the United States Department of Agriculture. SB 1110 was laid over last week due to potential food safety concerns. The bill was modified this week to instead create a remote meat inspection research program for Oklahoma institutes of higher education. SB 1110 narrowly passed the House Agriculture Committee with a vote of 8-6.

The state Capitol saw lots of traffic as the candidate filing period for the upcoming election was April 13-15. OKFB will send a full list of candidates to county Farm Bureaus within the coming weeks to prepare for the OKFB AgPAC district meetings. Information for the meetings is listed on page one.

For an update on weekly happenings at the Capitol and an outlook on what is ahead, be sure to tune in to OKFB's weekly public policy update each Friday at noon via Zoom.

OYLA conference applications now available for high school students

High school students completing their junior year in 2022 are encouraged to apply for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference held June 14-17 in Oklahoma City.

The four-day leadership conference will include leadership classes, 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.

Students will attend sessions at the OKFB home office in Oklahoma City and visit other businesses and organizations around the metro.

Applicants do not need to be Farm Bureau members. All costs are covered by the OKFB YF&R committee.

Applications are available online at okfarmbureau.org/applications. To be considered for the program, applications must be completed and postmarked to Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Attn: Zac Swartz, 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, or emailed to Zac Swartz by **May 16, 2022**. Only one student per school will be accepted.

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

Capitol visits connect county leaders with legislators



Creek County

Sen. James Leewright (left) visits with Creek County Farm Bureau members during their visit to the Oklahoma State Capitol Wednesday, April 13.



McClain County

Sen. Jessica Garvin (left) visits with McClain County Farm Bureau members Johnny Taylor (center) and Steve Mainord Wednesday, April 13 at the state Capitol.



Comanche County

Rep. Toni Hasenbeck hosts Comanche County Farm Bureau members in her office at the state Capitol during the county's Capitol visit on Tuesday, April 12.

OKFB WLC Nurse's scholarship applications due July 1

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee's Nurse's Training Scholarship application is now available.

The WLC awards three \$500 scholarships to Farm Bureau members training to be nurses in an effort to help support medical services in rural areas.

The application form can be found on and downloaded from the OKFB website at okfarmbureau.org/applications.

Applications must be submitted by **July 1**.

For more information on the scholarship, contact Marcia Irvin at (405) 530-2640.



OKFB Foundation for Agriculture collecting donations for rural fire departments

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is now accepting donations for rural fire departments who have been battling the spring 2022 wildfires.

Drought conditions across the state continue to worsen, and in turn, fire danger continues to rise. The foundation knows fire departments are in need of assistance through these trying times and is prepared to provide financial resources for rural fire departments.

Donations received will go directly to rural fire departments that have fought wildfires in their communities.

Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers

are some of the first to step up and volunteer to serve on local departments and are also direct beneficiaries of the departments' efforts.

Donations can be made on the on the donate page of the Oklahoma Foundation for Agriculture website, okfbfoundationforagriculture.org. Checks can also be mailed to OKFB Foundation for Agriculture, ATTN: Holly Carroll, 2501 N Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

For more information, contact Holly Carroll, OKFB Foundation for Agriculture director, at (405) 523-2300.

County Farm Bureaus host legislative events



(L to R) Sen. Roland Pederson, Rep. John Pfeiffer and Rep. Ken Luttrell speak to Farm Bureau members during the District 7 legislative dinner in Blackwell Thursday, April 7.



Rep. Dick Lowe (center) visits with Grady County Farm Bureau members during the county's legislative dinner in Amber Thursday, April 7.



Mayes County Farm Bureau Vice President Roger Moore (left) visits with Rep. Terry O'Donnell during the Rogers & Mayes Counties' legislative dinner on Thursday, April 14 near Pryor.



Rep. Anthony Moore and Sen. Brent Howard visit with Beckham County Farm Bureau members about legislative issues during the county's legislative reception on Thursday, April 14 in Sayre.

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OKFB Foundation for Agriculture's Watermelon Challenge registration now open for second-grade students

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is hosting its second-annual Watermelon Challenge to educate Oklahoma second-grade students and families about the hard work farmers and ranchers undertake to grow food.

During the challenge, students learn about growing food as they grow their very own watermelon seed from start to melon for a chance to win prizes.

Schools participating in the challenge will receive 30 watermelon seed packets, an activity book and lesson resources.

After lessons with their teacher, students and their families are encouraged to plant the watermelon seeds at home.

Watermelon seeds can be planted 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.

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.

OKFB Foundation for Agriculture will select three winners who will each receive a \$100 prize. Submissions should be emailed to Holly Carroll at holly.carroll@aggiving.org.

Teachers can sign up their second-

grade classroom before May 5 by emailing Holly Carroll at holly.carroll@aggiving.org with their school address and contact information. The packets will be sent upon receiving registration information.

The Watermelon Challenge information can also be found on OKFB's website at okfb.news/Melon22.

