

PERSPECTIVE

April 4, 2025



OKFB supports ag youth with more than \$70,000 in sponsorships at OYE

Oklahoma Farm Bureau continued the organization's tradition of supporting Oklahoma's agricultural youth by purchasing premiums at the 2025 Oklahoma Youth Expo Sale of Champions Friday, March 21, in Oklahoma City, in addition to overall sponsorships of Oklahoma's largest youth livestock show.

OKFB's financial support of OYE in 2025 totaled more than \$70,000.

OKFB purchased more than \$43,000 worth of premiums at the sale,

supporting 64 4-H and FFA members who showcased their livestock at the premium sale.

At the beginning of the sale, OKFB was recognized as the purchaser of the most animals at the 2024 sale with the OYE volume buyer award, which OKFB president Rodd Moesel accepted.

In addition to the support of students' livestock projects at the sale, OKFB supported OYE as a platinum sponsor, including sponsorship of the ag mechanics and engineering contest.

OKFB also purchased the chalice for the OYE grand champion steer, which was exhibited by Madilyn Norvell of the Amber-Pocasset FFA chapter.

Beyond monetary sponsorships, the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture hosted a hog carcass contest and collected more than 175 donated pigs for the foundation's Pork for Packs program, which provides protein sticks to hungry Oklahoma children in collaboration with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

Legislators, celebrities and special guests participate in Legislative Showmanship during OYE



Oklahoma legislators, celebrities and special guests stepped into the show ring with Oklahoma Youth Expo exhibitors for the OYE and Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry's Legislative Showmanship.

Numerous rural legislators who participated include, Rep. John Pfeiffer, Rep. Anthony Moore, Senate Pro Tem Lonnie Paxton, Speaker of the House

Kyle Hilbert and Rep. Brian Hill.

Legislators were paired up with a 4-H or FFA member to compete for top showman recognition.

Through the event legislators gain the hands-on experience of showing an animal in the show ring as 4-H and FFA members had the opportunity to coach the legislator they were paired with.

Grant, Tulsa County Farm Bureaus kick off OKFB's County Capitol visit season

County Farm Bureau State Capitol visits have kicked off for the 2025 Legislative Session with Grant and Tulsa County Farm Bureaus.

Grant and Tulsa County Farm Bureau members visited the Capitol to speak with their legislators in mid-March.

Grant County Farm Bureau members visited with Rep. John Pfeiffer and Sen. Roland Pederson.

Tulsa County Farm Bureau members met with Rep. John Kane, Sen. Todd Gollihare and Sen. Aaron Reinhardt.

County Farm Bureau Capitol visits 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.



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.

OYLA applications due April 15

OKFB's Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference is a four-day summer leadership experience **May 27-30**, for high school students completing their junior year in 2025.

Students will experience leadership classes, speakers, team building, fellowship and industry tours.

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

Tune in to Lincoln to Local

To follow along with the 2025 legislative session in Oklahoma go online to watch or listen to our Lincoln to Local legislative video series.

The series covers the latest action at the legislature that impacts agriculture and rural Oklahoma and discusses OKFB's policy efforts at the Capitol.

Check out Lincoln to Local at okfb.news/L2L25.

OKFB 2025 Ag Tour to visit to western Oklahoma May 6-8

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 2025 Ag Tour will visit agricultural enterprises and local businesses across western Oklahoma May 6-8.

The annual tour will provide OKFB members with a look into western Oklahoma agriculture, industry and attractions over the course of three days' worth of tours and visits in the Elk City area. The tour will depart from and return to the OKFB home office in Oklahoma City.

Highlights of the 2025 Ag Tour will include stops at Entz Auction, Cudd Energy Services, the Taylor Ranch, the National Route 66 Museum, Keith's Butcher Shop, a shooting range, a feed lot and more. A full itinerary will be provided to tour registrants.

The cost of the tour is \$450 for a single registration and \$600 for a couple, and includes bus transportation, two nights of hotel stays, meals and any applicable site entry fees.

The tour is limited to 50 Farm Bureau members, and registration is on a first-



come, first-served basis. Registration is available online at okfb.news/AgTour25, and spots will only be reserved once the full tour payment is received. Payment checks must be mailed to the OKFB home office to save a tour spot, and invoices for

payment will be provided to members when registering.

For questions about the tour, contact Marcia Irvin by phone at (405) 523-2300 or online using our contact form at okfb.news/AgTour25.

Register Today!

To register for the OKFB Ag Tour use the online form at okfb.news/AgTour25. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis with a limit of 50 Farm Bureau members. For more questions contact Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2300.

Cole secures \$230 million in economic assistance for farmers in Oklahoma

Congressman Tom Cole has secured a total of \$10 billion for economic assistance for farmers through his recent legislation, the American Relief Act of 2025.

An estimated total of more than \$230 million of that dollar amount will go to farmers and producers in Oklahoma specifically.

The Emergency Commodity Assistance Program is a one-time payment to farmers administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency.

The formula for ECAP has been laid out by congress in the American Relief Act. The per-acre payments were set as either a percentage of estimated losses per-acre for each commodity or as a percentage of the commodity's reference price.

Eligible commodities will receive a prescribed per-acre payment on

all planted acres and on 50% of acres prevented from being planted. Acres planted for harvest, grazing, haying, silage or other similar purposes in the 2024 crop year qualify.

The initial round of payments will only pay 85% of the per-acre payment to ensure that enough funding is available for all farmers who sign up.

"As a lifelong Oklahoman, I know firsthand just how important our farmers, ranchers and producers are," Cole said. "The agriculture industry does drive our state's economy, farmers are essential to not only Oklahoma, but to the entire country. Therefore, today, I am proud to announce that I have secured over \$230 million in economic assistance for farmers in the state of Oklahoma which will bridge the gap until a new Farm Bill is passed through Congress."

Producers must submit ECAP

applications to their local FSA county office by Friday, August 15, 2025.

Farmers who reported eligible commodities as planted acres or prevent plant acres to FSA as of March 10 will be mailed a pre-filled ECAP application. After verifying and completing the ECAP application, farmers should submit it to their local FSA county office either in person, electronically via Box or One-span, fax or online with a login.gov account.

Each farmer will submit one application, even if they have acres in multiples counties or states.

For eligibility, farmers must be actively engaged in farming, have an interest in input expenses for a covered commodity and, reported eligible planted and prevent plant acres to FSA.

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Applications for OKFB WLC Nurse's Scholarship are now open until July 10



Applications for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee's Nurses Scholarship is open now until 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. Applicants must be Oklahoma Farm Bureau members or a member of a Farm Bureau family.

The WLC understands the important role nurses and health care professionals play in ensuring a high quality life for all residents across our state, and especially rural residents. With the cost of education increasing yearly, the committee is proud to award three students with scholarship funds to help pursue their dreams in nursing.

Applicants can apply for the scholarship by completing the online

form available on the OKFB website at okfb.news/NursesApp25. The application includes contact information and several open-ended questions, and a proof of enrollment and transcript must also be submitted in either PDF or jpeg format. Applications must be submitted online by Thursday, July 10.

For questions about the Nurse's Scholarship program, contact Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2300.