

# PERSPECTIVE

April 7, 2023

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau members attend Washington, D.C. Summit to advocate for agriculture

**N**early 60 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members advocated for agriculture and rural Oklahoma in the nation's capital during OKFB's Washington, D.C. Summit March 27-31.

Members had the opportunity to talk with Oklahoma's congressional delegation who are making decisions that impact farmers and ranchers.

"We had a lot of wonderful opportunities to sit down with our senators and representatives and talk face-to-face and ask those hard questions," said Jacob Beck, OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers district three representative. "It has been very eye-opening and reassuring that our delegation is thinking about us in agriculture."

Senators James Lankford and Markwayne Mullin and Congressmen Frank Lucas, Kevin Hern, Stephanie Bice and Josh Brecheen, along with staff from Congressman Tom Cole's office, provided insight into top issues in Washington, D.C. The 2023 farm bill was at the top of OKFB members' minds during their discussions with the congressional delegation.

OKFB members also had the unique opportunity to be led on a private Capitol tour by Senator Lankford.

The group also heard from a variety of industry leaders including European Union Agricultural Counsellor Silke Boger; American Farm Bureau Federation's Andrew Walmsley and Shelby Hagenauer; the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture's Stephanie McBath; the National Governors Association's Tim Carlton and Will Carraco; and CropLife America Federal Relations Director Thomas Mills.

"Being involved in Oklahoma Farm Bureau is something that allows all farmers and ranchers to be heard," Beck said. "The trip was also a good way to see how things are done at the Capitol. We got to see perspectives that you would have never known."



Sen. James Lankford provides a legislative update and answers questions from OKFB members regarding different issues.

"As a young farmer or rancher, Farm Bureau gives you an opening to know how the legislative process works and gives someone the opportunity to reach out and make your voice heard. This has been an opportunity I will never take for granted," Beck said.



OKFB members Hank and Sara Hainzinger Osage County Farm Bureau members visit with Silke Boger.



The nearly 60 OKFB members who attended the 2023 Washington, D.C. Summit pose in front of the Capitol.



# WLC hosts annual Farm City Festival March 21 to connect legislators and staff with agriculture

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee provided meals to more than 400 legislators, staff and visitors at the Oklahoma State Capitol Tuesday, March 21, during the committee's annual Farm City Festival.

The event served as an opportunity for state WLC members and county Farm Bureau women from across the state to connect with legislators and share the importance of agriculture and rural Oklahoma while providing a meal.

"It's very important that the producers come to the Capitol and educate the legislators to let them know how legislation affects people on the farm," said Karen Dodson, OKFB WLC Secretary and family farmer from Caddo County. "We are less than one-and-a-half percent of the population. We are the experts, we are the environmentalists taking care of the land, and they need our input."

WLC members took the opportunity to visit with legislators and public officials as they discussed issues that impact them on their own farms and ranches and thanked elected officials for their service and dedication to the state.

A full meal along with homemade desserts prepared by Farm Bureau members was served by Farm Bureau women from across Oklahoma.



**Women's Leadership Committee county women helped served the meal to the legislators and staff who visited Farm City Festival.**



**WLC member Kelly Blair visits with Sen. Tom Woods and Rep. David Hardin about current agriculture legislation.**



**Karen Dodson OKFB WLC Secretary discusses the importance of being involved at the state Capitol with Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur.**



**OKFB WLC county women had the opportunity to highlight Farm Bureau priorities while serving meals to legislators and staff.**

Homemade bread was prepared by David VonTungeln, district 3 OKFB state director, and served alongside a menu of ham, green beans and potatoes.

The 2023 Farm City Festival marked the event's return to a group gathering

format, with the second floor of the Capitol rotunda serving as the event's location. During Capitol renovations that spanned several legislative sessions, WLC members hand-delivered meals to legislators in their offices.

## Jackson County Farm Bureau donate accurate agriculture books to local schools

**J**ackson County Farm Bureau members delivered bags full of agriculture books to elementary schools in Jackson County on March 20. The books were donated to all elementary schools in the county including Olustee-Eldorado, Duke, Altus Early Childhood Center, Blair and Navajo.



**Jackson County Farm Bureau members Kellie Muller (left) and Taylor Harting (right) donate agriculture books to Duke Elementary School librarian Gloria Huerta.**



**Jackson County Farm Bureau member Kellie Muller (right) shows Olustee-Eldorado school librarian Margarita Fixaco the books included in the donation.**



**Jackson County Farm Bureau member Kellie Muller (left) explains the agriculture books donated to Blair High School principal Andrew McCormick.**

# Bob Howard named 2023 Agriculture Hall of Fame inductee

**B**ob Howard, a longtime Southwest Oklahoma wheat, pasture, and cattle producer, has been named the 2023 recipient of Governor Stitt's Outstanding Achievement in Agriculture Award. Howard is the 26th inductee into the Oklahoma Agriculture Hall of Fame, which is the state's most prestigious agricultural honor.

Howard, who passed away last April at the age of 75, will be honored at the annual Ag Day at the Capitol event in Oklahoma City on Tuesday, April 1. Howard's career was spent bettering Oklahoma's agriculture industry through research and innovation. His partnership with OSU Extension resulted in improvements to wheat and pasture production systems used today.

"We are so proud to call Bob Howard our 2023 Agriculture Hall of Fame inductee," said Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur. "Bob was not only a critical player and innovator in the state's crop commodity industry, but a trusted community member and friend

to many. His impact on Oklahoma's agriculture certainly lives on."

Over the years, numerous county, regional, and state projects were conducted on Howard's farm. One long-term study led Howard to transition several of his fields to a no-till or minimum till operation, which helped control most of the erosion on the property. In 2013, Howard was given OSU's prestigious Master Agronomist award.

Howard was a supporter of agriculture youth development programs. While he served as the FFA instructor at the Navajo School system for only four years, Howard spent a lifetime helping kids in both the FFA and 4-H programs by sharing his knowledge and providing support.

Howard also served in several leadership roles for commodity groups including the Oklahoma Cattleman's Association, the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association, and the Jackson County Farm Bureau Board.



Howard and his wife, Renee, raised three children together: attorney Chrystle Howard (Kruska), Judge Ryan Howard, and Senator Brent Howard.

Howard's family continues to build on his legacy, positively impacting the greater Southwest Oklahoma area for years to come.

## Four ways to stay updated this legislative session:

**1**

### Sign up for Action Alerts

Visit [okfb.news/takeaction](https://okfb.news/takeaction) to sign up.

**2**

### Join our weekly legislative Zoom call

Contact your field representative for details.

**3**

### Schedule a county Capitol visit

Contact your field representative to schedule.

**4**

### Watch Lincoln to Local episodes

Visit [okfb.news/LincolnToLocal23](https://okfb.news/LincolnToLocal23).

## AFBF Urges President Biden to Repeal 2023 WOTUS Rule

**O**n Thursday, March 30, the American Farm Bureau Federation called on President Biden to accept the will of Congress and repeal the 2023 Waters of the U.S. Rule. The House and Senate, in a rare bipartisan vote, passed a Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval of the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers' 2023 WOTUS Rule.

In a letter to President Biden, AFBF President Zippy Duvall wrote, "America's farmers and ranchers need a clear, consistent, and transparent WOTUS rule so they can continue to protect our natural resources, operate with certainty, and create jobs in their communities. Continual revisions, remands, and reintroductions of WOTUS definitions only sow confusion and ultimately dissuade future investment in climate-smart agriculture. However, the new definition of WOTUS exceeds Congressional authority in multiple respects, ignores recent Supreme Court case law interpreting the Clean Water Act, and will be

impossible to implement consistently in the field."

Farmers and ranchers shouldn't need a team of lawyers and consultants to determine how to care for their land. Unfortunately, the vague and conflicting rules complicate an already complex process and will expose farmers to costly fines as well as criminal charges.

The 2023 WOTUS Rule also expands the "significant nexus" test, which, in part, was challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case *Sackett v. EPA*. "Despite requests by Members of Congress, farmers, ranchers and small businesses all across the country to delay any new regulation until that case is decided, EPA and the Corps disregarded this commonsense request and prematurely finalized yet another complex rule that lacks durability," wrote President Duvall. "The Court's decision in *Sackett* could render substantial portions of the final rule non-applicable and irrelevant – and require yet another WOTUS rule."



**PUBLISHED BY  
OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU**

**Postmaster:**

Send address corrections to:

*Perspective*  
P.O. Box 53332,  
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332

**STAFF DIRECTORY**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Thad Doye  
(405) 523-2438

**VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS  
AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Dustin Mielke  
(405) 530-2640

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MEDIA  
RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY  
COMMUNICATIONS**

Rachel Havens  
(405) 523-2346

**COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST**

Rebekah Nash  
(405) 523-2457

**PUBLICATIONS SPECIALIST**

Krista Carroll  
(405) 523-2343

Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
2501 N. Stiles  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3126

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 131  
Okla. City, OK.

## Farm Bureau members visit the state Capitol



Custer County Farm Bureau members visit with Rep. Anthony Moore (right) about current legislation during their visit to the state Capitol.



Payne County Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Program members visit the state Capitol to learn more about the legislative process and advocating for agriculture.



Okmulgee County Farm Bureau members meet with Rep. Chris Banning to discuss current agricultural legislation affecting rural Oklahoma.



Garfield County Farm Bureau member Brady Bond (center) visits with Rep. Carl Newton and heard about current legislation while on his visit to the state Capitol.