

PERSPECTIVE

August 14, 2020

REMINDER: District Six members to elect new state director

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from District Six will caucus on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 4:30 p.m. to elect a district director to fill the OKFB state board to fill the currently vacant position.

The caucus will be held at Moore Farms Event Barn near Pryor prior to the District Six August Area Meeting.

District Six includes Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, McIntosh, Mayes, Muskogee, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoyah and Wagoner counties.

For questions regarding the district six caucus, contact OKFB Northeast Field Representative Gage Milliman at (918) 559-2208.



REMINDER: Join OKFB YF&R in second annual shotgun shoot Aug. 29

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers will host their second annual shotgun shoot Aug. 29 at Quail Ridge Hunting and Sporting Clays in McLoud.

The cost to enter a team of four is \$375 and an individual entry is \$100. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

For more information regarding the YF&R shotgun shoot, contact Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2300.

August Area Meetings continue in OKFB districts across the state



District One



District One



District Nine



District Nine

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from several districts have already gathered for their August Area Meetings, signifying the kickoff of the 2020 OKFB grassroots policy development process.

Topics of concern voiced by members have included the \$10 million of CARES Act money for small processors and the U.S. Supreme Court ruling of in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*.

“I think it’s important to be involved in your community with Farm Bureau and other civic organizations,” said Kenneth Fisher, a Creek County Farm Bureau member. “(Farm Bureau) supports me and my interests at the state level and the national level. We are stronger together.”

Remaining August Area Meetings include:

District Two*

Aug. 17 at 6 p.m.

General Tommy Franks - Stanley Building
300 S. Washington St.
Hobart

District Six

Aug. 18 at 6 p.m.

Moore Farm’s Event Barn
9353 W. 500 Rd.
Pryor

District Five*

Aug. 20 at 6 p.m.

Eastern Oklahoma State College -
McAlester
1802 College Ave.
McAlester

District Three

Aug. 25 at 6 p.m.

Redlands Community College
Conference Center
1300 S. Country Club Rd.
El Reno

Virtual (open to all members)

Aug. 27 at 7 p.m.

For details regarding the virtual August Area Meeting, visit okfb.news/aam20.

Register now for WLC Fall Conference Sept. 25-26 in Edmond

Oklahoma Farm Bureau women from across the state are invited to attend the 2020 Women's Leadership Committee Fall Conference to be held Sept. 25-26 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Edmond.

Free to all OKFB women, the conference will feature speakers, breakout sessions, a trade show, a community service project, and lots of fun and fellowship.

Each attendee is encouraged to donate a minimum of one item toward the silent auction benefiting the OKFB Legal Foundation, which works to serve farmers and ranchers through engaging in public interest litigation, researching legal issues affecting family farmers and rural Oklahomans, and educating farmers and ranchers and the public about issues important to agriculture.

To register for the conference, participants must complete the registration form no later than **Sept. 10, 2020**. Registration forms can be found at okfb.news/women20. Hotel rooms are available at the Hilton Garden Inn Edmond for \$109 per night and may be reserved by contacting the hotel at (405) 285-0900.

For more information, contact Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2300.

Tillman County WLC hosts annual Shred-Away Day

Members of the Tillman County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee hosted their annual Shred-Away Day Aug. 7 at the county office. The annual event serves as an opportunity

for county members to properly dispose of documents such as old bank and credit card statements, canceled checks and other important documents containing sensitive information.



Tillman County Farm Bureau WLC member Dana Atkins helps a member properly dispose of her confidential documents.



Pictured left to right are Tillman County Secretary Frances Rammage, Women's Leadership Committee Chair Micah Treadwell, Dana Atkins, Shred-Away Representative Beau Meshell, and Kay Atkins.

Custer County opens new satellite office in Weatherford

Custer County Farm Bureau officially opened the doors of its new satellite office in Weatherford on July 29.

Now located at 1402 N. Washington, across the street from Weatherford High School, the new office will replace the old location at 510 E. Main.

After breaking ground on the site Sept. 10, 2019, the Custer County Farm Bureau board members and insurance agents worked closely to create a space to better serve their members and the community. The new larger office space and parking lot features a designated board meeting room and covered outdoor area that can be used several ways, Custer County Farm Bureau President Lawrence Sawatzky said.

"We have always had an office here in Weatherford, but with this new building, we hope to better serve our community through a variety of ways including defensive driving courses

and hosting county member events," Sawatzky said. "In the past, we have done great things, but I want to keep pushing us to do better for our members."



AFBF Foundation, Ford to provide ag education grants

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and Ford Motor Company are teaming up to put agriculture education resources in the hands of teachers and students across the country.

Ford Motor Company is sponsoring the distribution of 285 kits, each containing one copy of the Foundation's 2020 Book of the Year, "Full of Beans," an educator guide and a classroom set (30-pack) of Soybeans Ag Mags.

Educators passionate about helping learners understand agriculture are encouraged to apply by Aug. 24. Grant winners will be randomly selected from the pool of applicants, and resource kits

will be sent to the selected educators.

"We are hopeful that these resources will help students better understand how agriculture is part of their daily lives," said Christopher Brown, affinity marketing manager, Ford Motor Company. "Ford is progressing toward a goal of using recycled and renewable plastics in vehicles globally, with an increasing range of sustainable materials, and we hope this book will highlight some of those innovations," Brown said.

The book delves into Henry Ford's soybean car invention. The accompanying ag mag explores how soybeans grow and are used in many

products, and the educator guide was developed using national learning standards, according to Daniel Meloy, executive director of the Foundation.

To apply for the grant today, visit okfb.news/fullofbeans.



OKFB applauds USDA's \$29 million investment in high-speed broadband in rural Oklahoma

Oklahoma Farm Bureau welcomes the USDA's recent investment of more than \$29 million toward expanding broadband service in unserved and underserved rural areas in Oklahoma.

The investment is part of the \$100 million in grant funding made available for the ReConnect Pilot Program through the CARES Act.

"Though rural Oklahomans have suffered from a lack of reliable broadband access for years, the ongoing global pandemic has heightened the inequalities that exist in internet connectivity among rural, suburban and urban Oklahomans as much of the world has moved online for distance learning, telecommuting and health care services," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "Expanding access to high-speed internet throughout rural areas

of our state has been a priority for Oklahoma Farm Bureau members for many years. Today's announcement by the USDA is a great step toward bringing more rural residents online, and we look forward to seeing more investments of this nature in the future."

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative will receive a \$24.2 million grant to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises, or FTTP, network to connect 4,480 people, 595 farms, 44 businesses and two fire stations to high-speed broadband internet in Blaine, Dewey, Ellis and Kingfisher counties.

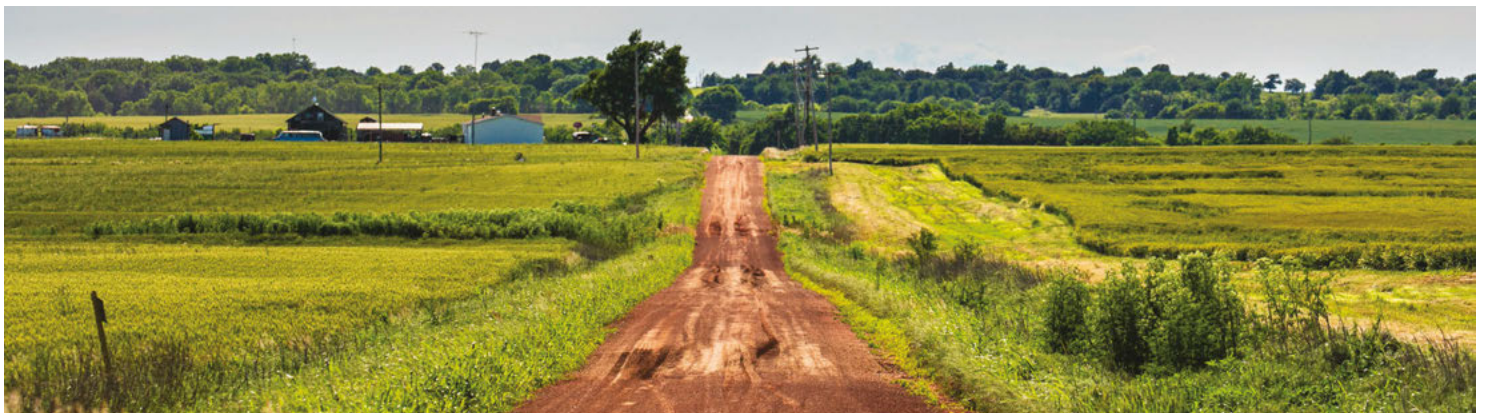
A \$5.4 million grant will be provided to Cimarron Telephone Company to deploy a FTTP network to connect 746 people, 107 farms and three businesses to high-speed broadband internet in Pawnee and Osage counties.

"I am so proud of our rural

communities who have been working day in and day out, just like they always do, producing the food and fiber America depends on," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue in a USDA release. "We need them more than ever during these trying times, and expanding access to this critical infrastructure will help ensure rural America prospers for years to come."

USDA received 11 Round Two ReConnect Program applications that are eligible for the \$100 million Congress allocated to the program through the CARES Act. More investments made possible with these resources will be announced in the coming weeks.

Learn more about the USDA ReConnect program at usda.gov/reconnect.



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Deadline to complete 2020 Census now Sept. 30

Rural Oklahomans now have less than two months left to be counted in the 2020 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau will end self-response and field operations on Sept. 30, a month earlier than the previous Oct. 31 deadline, according to a recent statement.

The new deadline is a part of an effort to “accelerate the completion of data collection and apportionment counts by our statutory deadline of December 31, 2020, as required by law and directed by the Secretary of Commerce,” U.S. Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham said in the statement. The census effort originally was scheduled to be completed on July 31 before the global pandemic caused a postponed deadline of Oct. 31.

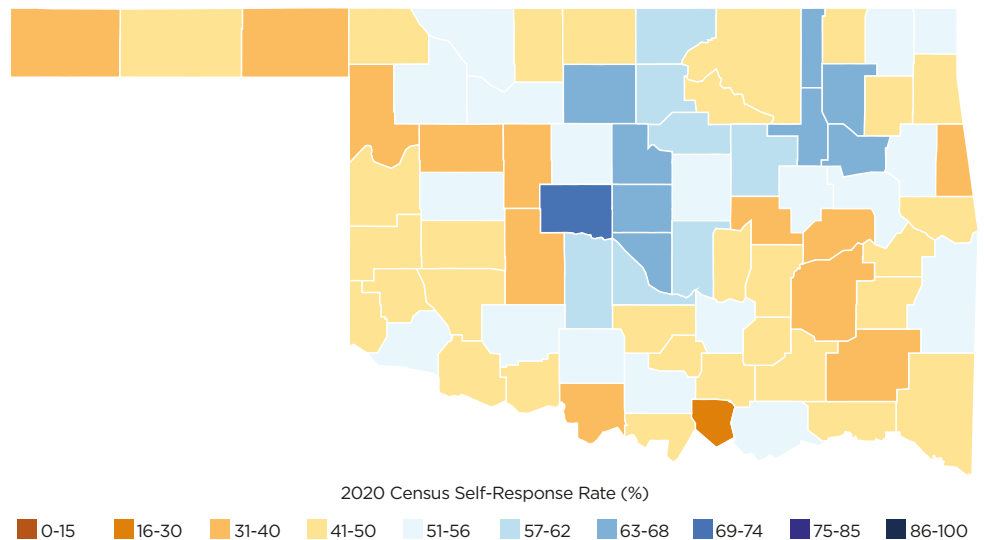
Nearly 58% of Oklahomans have completed the 2020 Census as of Aug. 6, compared to the national rate of 63.3%.

The census can play a critical role in securing growth and prosperity for rural communities across the state. Census data is used to allocate \$675 billion in

federal funding to communities for critical services including hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and many other resources. Responses to the census also will determine the number of seats Oklahoma receives in the U.S. House and will be given to the

state Legislature to use in redrawing legislative district lines.

Complete your 2020 Census today by visiting 2020Census.gov or calling 1-844-330-2020. Learn more about the impact of the 2020 Census on rural Oklahoma at okfarmbureau.org/census.



*2020 Census response rates as of Aug. 6, 2020.