

PERSPECTIVE

December 4, 2020



2021 OKFB YF&R scholarship application now open

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee is now accepting applications for its annual \$1,000 scholarships for high school seniors who will pursue a higher degree in agriculture after graduation.

Nine \$1,000 scholarships, one from each OKFB district, will be awarded to high school seniors pursuing a career in agriculture at an Oklahoma institution of high learning as a full-time student.

Applications must be postmarked no later than **March 1, 2021**. Applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be a graduating high school senior.
- Must enroll full time in an agriculture program at an accredited Oklahoma college, university or technical school.
- Must be a member of a Farm Bureau family (father, mother or legal guardian memberships qualify; grandparents', siblings' or other relatives' memberships may not be used). Membership must remain in good standing for the duration of the scholarship.

- Children of paid employees of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies are not eligible.

Applicants must also provide the following materials along with the scholarship application:

- A copy of the applicant's official high school transcript.
- A copy of the applicant's resume with activities and honors listed.
- Two character reference letters.
- Three essays (500 words maximum for each essay), double-spaced, typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font.
 - **No. 1:** Explain your preferred career and describe why you have chosen it.
 - **No. 2:** How can Farm Bureau encourage young people to engage in agriculture?
 - **No. 3:** Explain how receiving this scholarship will help you achieve your educational goals.

The application can be found on the OKFB website at okfarmbureau.org/applications. For more information, contact OKFB YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2300.

Money named OKFB Journalist of the Year

Jack Money of The Oklahoman recently was honored with Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 2020 Journalist of the Year Award

The award honors journalists for their contributions through reporting accurately and regularly about agricultural and rural issues.

"It was quite the unexpected honor and I'm most appreciative for it," Money said of being named the award winner. "I hope I'm around to keep an eye on your all's world as we go into 2021."

Money was chosen for the award after his coverage of various issues facing the agriculture community over the last year including depressed commodity prices, farm bankruptcies and disruptions from COVID-19.

Several of his stories on the agriculture industry were featured on the front page of The Oklahoman, giving consumers throughout the state a glimpse into the difficulties facing farmers and ranchers.

With more than 30 years of experience in journalism, Money worked for The Oklahoman beginning in 1988 through January 2009. He took a job in media relations for an oil and gas company for around six years before returning to The Oklahoman in 2016.

Upon his return, Money quickly realized a need for coverage of the agriculture industry in the state's largest daily newspaper. The veteran writer successfully pitched to his editor the idea of incorporating production agriculture into his reporting.

Though he now focuses primarily on the energy industry, Money said he

Continued on next page

OKFB members encouraged to participate in legislative redistricting town halls

Oklahoma Farm Bureau encourages its members to attend one of the Oklahoma Legislature's redistricting town hall meetings to be held across the state in the coming weeks.

Every 10 years, the state Legislature is constitutionally required to redraw legislative and congressional district boundaries using the latest U.S. Census data.

Farm Bureau members, who worked diligently over the past year to promote census participation in rural areas across the state, now have the opportunity to share their perspectives on the redrawing of legislative and congressional district lines.

"The redistricting process only happens every 10 years, which means it's important that rural perspectives be represented," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "These redistricting town halls hosted by the state Legislature are an excellent opportunity for Farm Bureau members to make their voices and concerns heard as lawmakers begin to redraw legislative and congressional district lines."

At each meeting, presenters will give an overview of the legislative redistricting process and cover redistricting principles. The public will have the chance to comment on the redistricting of legislative districts and congressional districts.

Both chambers of the state Legislature will host their own series of public meetings, but will collaborate to share input from constituents across the state.

Sen. Lonnie Paxton of Tuttle serves as chair of the Oklahoma Senate Select Committee on Redistricting, while Rep. Ryan Martinez of Edmond will lead the House Redistricting Committee.

Redistricting town halls will be livestreamed as facility abilities allow, archived and posted online. Each town hall will follow the pandemic protection protocols of the facility hosting the meeting. Below, find the locations and dates for the town hall meetings.

Oklahoma Senate Redistricting Town Hall Meetings

Ada

Dec. 8 • 6 p.m.
Pontotoc Technology Center - Seminar Center

Chickasha

Dec. 10 • 6 p.m.
Grady County Fairgrounds - Community Building

Clinton

Jan. 19 • 6 p.m.
Frisco Conference Center

Durant

Jan. 12 • 6 p.m.
Durant High School - Auditorium

Enid

Jan. 21 • 6 p.m.
Autry Technology Center - Lectorium

Oklahoma City

Jan. 6 • 1:30 p.m.
Oklahoma State Capitol - Room 535

Owasso

Jan. 28 • 6 p.m.
Tulsa Technology Center - Sycamore Room

Ponca City

Jan. 14 • 6 p.m.
The Summit Conference Center

Pryor

Dec. 17 • 6 p.m.
Northeast Tech

Oklahoma House Redistricting Town Hall Meetings

Ardmore

Jan. 12 • 6 p.m.
Southern Technology Center

Chandler

Jan. 6 • 5:30 p.m.
Route 66 Interpretive Center

Lane

Jan. 5 • 6:30 p.m.
Bill Coben Community Center

Lawton

Jan. 11 • 7 p.m.
Comanche County Farm Bureau

McAlester

Dec. 16 • 6:30 p.m.
J.I. Stipe Center

Oklahoma City

Dec. 9 • 5:30 p.m.
Oklahoma State Capitol - Room 206

Tahlequah

Jan. 7 • 7 p.m.
Northeastern State University - Webb Auditorium

Tulsa

Dec. 10 • 7 p.m.
Tulsa Technology Center - Riverside Campus Auditorium

Woodward

Jan. 13 • 6 p.m.
High Plains Technology Center

Money named OKFB Journalist of the Year (continued)

still monitors activity in the Oklahoma agriculture industry because of its significance in the state.

"It's probably the oldest industry in the state and it still has a big ultimate

impact on how well Oklahoma's economy does, particularly in rural parts of the state," he said. "That's why, to me, I feel like keeping an eye on (the agriculture industry) is so important because when

agriculture's doing well, rural Oklahoma is doing well. And when agriculture is hurting, then so is rural Oklahoma."



How to help make the season bright

By Ray Atkinson, American Farm Bureau

Anyone who has spent any time around farmers knows that they are strong, independent and courageous, often in the face of overwhelming odds. Year after year, farmers and ranchers deal with a wide range of issues over which they have no control, including droughts, floods and storms, market disruption from trade disputes, labor shortages, low commodity price and the list goes on. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic multiplied the impact of all of these issues and added to the already high stress levels farmers are carrying.

Despite these continuing pressures that build throughout the year, we look forward to the holidays as a time to unwind, relax and spend time with family and friends. There is a certain comfort in tradition, seeing loved ones again and being around the table to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal or Christmas celebration together. But the holidays will look different for many of us this year, with smaller family gatherings, and in many cases, no family gatherings or virtual get-togethers instead, due to the impacts of the pandemic.

While we may not be physically close to the people we care about this year, we can still share connections and look out for each other. There are a lot of things we can do to help others who may be experiencing feelings of isolation, loss or loneliness this time of year. It is also important to recognize those feelings in ourselves, and to understand that sometimes it is OK not to be OK. Here are some ways we can refocus our thoughts and have a positive impact on those around us.

Take time to be thankful.

It may be hard to see it sometimes, but there is always something to be thankful for. When it feels like everything is going wrong, take time to consciously focus on the things that are going right. You may be having a particularly bad day, and when that happens it's human nature to focus on the one negative thing that is gnawing at you. Turn it around by

focusing on all the good things in your life, the things you are grateful for, and you can make a positive change.

Kindle the spirit of the holidays by helping others.

There is a story about a man who was helping others in his community who had lost their homes to raging wildfires in the West. While he was out helping with disaster assistance, his own house burned down. The next day he was back out there still helping his neighbors. When asked why, he said, "Because they still need help." No matter what we are going through, there are always others who are hurting. It can be uplifting to focus on others and try to find ways to heal their pain.

Recognize signs of trouble in people you care about, and be there for them.

You may notice that a neighbor's farm suddenly does not look as kept up as it usually does, or their livestock do not seem to be cared for as well as usual. Many of the typical warning signs of stress involve changes in routines, like friends not meeting at the coffee shop or the feed mill, or not being in church. But with the pandemic putting a stop to a lot of these activities, the warning signs may be harder to spot now. Think about keeping in touch by scheduling a phone call or video call with the people you care about on a regular basis. If they miss a call, check in with them. It is surprising how much this can mean to friends or family members who may be experiencing physical separation as a result of the pandemic.

No matter what we may be going through, it's good to let our friends and loved ones know we care, and there's hope. Just being there for someone we care about may make all the difference this holiday season.

To learn how to spot the warning signs of stress, start a conversation with someone you care about, manage farm stress, get help, and more, visit [FarmStateOfMind.org](https://www.farmstateofmind.org).

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Start your holiday list using OKFB's member benefits

As we inch closer to the holidays, one of the most common questions you may be hearing is, 'What is on your list this year?' Or you may even be the one asking the infamous question to those in your family.

If you are the one still trying to piece together your holiday list or the one trying to find the perfect gift for the individual who has everything, make sure to check out Oklahoma Farm Bureau's list of member benefits. As an OKFB member, you are entitled to an array of discounts from vehicles and farm equipment to travel and work wear brands that save you money.

For the full list of member benefits, visit okfarmbureau.org/benefits.

Dell

Skip the long lines and go directly to the source! OKFB members receive exclusive monthly offers, the best price guarantee on consumer PCs from Dell, up to **30% off Dell PCs, electronics and accessories**, and free enrollment in Dell rewards. Visit okfarmbureau.org/benefits and click on the Dell tab to take advantage of these exclusive offers.

Dungarees

For the hardworking men, women, kids or four-legged friends in your life, visit Dungarees for **15% premium work wear brands** such as Ariat®, Carhartt®, CAT®, Wolverine®, and YETI®. Members receive a **10% discount on orders under \$200, 15% discount on orders over \$200 and free shipping on all orders over \$55** (in the contiguous U.S. only). Use the code **"OKFRB"** on the last page of checkout.

Ford

If you are on the hunt for a new vehicle before the end of the year, make sure to check out your local Ford dealership. Now through Jan. 4, 2021, OKFB members can receive **\$1,000 Bonus Cash on the purchase or lease of most Ford vehicles**. Visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com for your savings certificate.

Grainger

For those interested in tools and equipment, make sure to visit Grainger. To take advantage of member specific pricing, visit okfarmbureau.org/benefits and click on the Grainger tab.

Medicine Park Aquarium & Natural Sciences Center

On the hunt for some local fun for the whole family? Head down to the Medicine Park Aquarium & Natural Sciences Center filled with more than 90 native and non-native fish, reptile, amphibian and mammal species on exhibit to learn more about the conservation efforts in place. The location also features a six acre botanical garden that includes many plants native to the area. OKFB members receive **10% off admission or 10% off your family or individual annual membership**. Just present your membership card and save!

Office Depot

In need of new supplies? OKFB members can now receive savings of up to **80% on office and school supplies** from Office Depot. You can shop online or go to the nearest Office Depot location to take advantage of these special discounted prices on products and services. Visit okfarmbureau.org/benefits and click on the Office Depot link to receive your discount card or shop online with special pricing already visible.