

# PERSPECTIVE

February 10, 2023

## OKFB highlights legislative focus areas for 2023 session

**E**very year, the first full week in February brings about a new legislative session in Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau public policy team has been working diligently to pore over thousands of submitted bills for the coming year.

The OKFB Board of Directors released the organization's legislative priorities in January after Farm Bureau members set grassroots policy for 2023 during the 2022 OKFB Annual Meeting last November. These priorities include top issues such as rural infrastructure, landowner advocacy, marijuana and issues concerning Oklahoma's future – many of which can be found in legislation available for consideration at the state Capitol this year.

### Expanded county government and ad valorem taxes

After a review of submitted bills, one theme that often rises to the top each year is legislation relating to ad valorem taxes and the expansion of county government. Counties and municipalities often look to ad valorem taxes as a way to generate income, but Farm Bureau members have long opposed new or increased ad valorem taxes as farmers and ranchers are often unfairly impacted by property taxes when they possess a large amount of capital that does not always generate a profit.

Similarly, expanding county zoning authority and hazard mitigation districts is something Farm Bureau members oppose for many of the same reasons. With bills filed on both subjects, the OKFB public policy team will maintain an active role in the conversation at the Capitol.

### Marijuana

A number of bills have been filed on marijuana regulation and usage in Oklahoma. OKFB members support the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority's enforcement and compliance efforts as well as increased transparency in marijuana businesses.

Additionally, with a referendum vote on State Question 820 in early March to potentially legalize the recreational use of marijuana, Farm Bureau members stand strongly opposed with firm policy against the content of the state question.

### Animal care standards

OKFB is keeping a close eye on several bills relating to animal care standards, including changing housing practices in the hog industry and establishing certain rights for pets. The hog housing legislation comes in response to California's Proposition 12, which expands the required space for breeding hogs and places restrictions on the pork that can be sold in California.

### OSU Veterinary Medicine

OKFB was pleased to see legislation filed in support of Oklahoma State University's veterinary medicine program. With a shortage of large-animal veterinarians in rural Oklahoma, Farm Bureau members strongly support the land-grant institution's endeavors to grow and improve Oklahoma's only college of veterinary medicine.

## Four ways to stay involved in the legislative process:

- 1 Sign up for Action Alerts**  
 By signing up, you are opting to receive text message updates from Farm Bureau for policy initiatives. Learn more about the OKFB Action Alert system at [okfb.news/takeaction](https://okfb.news/takeaction). OKFB will send alerts only when your voice is needed most.
- 2 Tune in to our weekly legislative Zoom calls**  
 Tune in every Friday at noon during legislative session to hear weekly updates on what OKFB is doing at the state Capitol. Contact your field representative for information on how to get connected.
- 3 Watch Lincoln to Local and legislative updates**  
 Be sure to follow OKFB on Facebook and Twitter (@okfarmbureau) to watch Lincoln to Local, OKFB's bi-weekly video series during session. A weekly written legislative update will also be posted to our website every Friday at [okfarmbureau.org](https://okfarmbureau.org).
- 4 Schedule County Capitol visits**  
 Contact your field representative to inquire about scheduling a visit to the state Capitol with your county. Visiting counties have the opportunity to speak with their legislators on important issues and policies for agriculture and rural Oklahoma.



**Watch OKFB's 2023 legislative preview**

Find the full preview video at: [okfb.news/Preview23](https://okfb.news/Preview23)

# Registration now open for OKFB Washington, D.C., Summit



**J**oin your fellow Oklahoma Farm Bureau members in Washington, D.C., March 27-31 for the 2022 OKFB Washington, D.C. Summit, formerly known as the OKFB Congressional Action Tour.

While in D.C., Farm Bureau members will have the opportunity to visit with elected officials and industry experts to discuss issues affecting agriculture and rural America.

To register for the trip or to receive more information, contact your field representative or Caylie Holman at [caylie.holman@okfb.org](mailto:caylie.holman@okfb.org).

## Summit Schedule\*

### Monday, March 27

- Travel day
- Dinner at Carmine's Italian Restaurant

### Tuesday, March 28

- Morning – industry meetings at the hotel
- Afternoon – free time
- Evening – Congressional reception

### Wednesday, March 29

- Briefings on Capitol Hill
- Possible private Capitol tour

### Thursday, March 30

- Morning – free time
- Afternoon – meetings
- Possible private Capitol tour

### Friday, March 31

- Travel day

*\*This is a tentative schedule at press time. Schedule is subject to change.*

## Carroll joins communications department as publications specialist



Carroll will coordinate several of the organization's publications and communications platforms, including *Oklahoma Country* magazine, *Perspective* newsletter, email newsletters and numerous other communications products.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau places value in Oklahoma agriculturists and works to share the stories of farming and ranching families," Carroll said. "I have the same respect for those families, and I am excited to work alongside a great team to highlight the extent of Oklahoma agriculture."

Carroll joins OKFB as a recent graduate of Oklahoma State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in agricultural communications.

Carroll was raised on a cattle ranch near the southern Oklahoma town of Tishomingo and was involved in agriculture through 4-H and FFA, including serving as the southeast area vice president for the Oklahoma FFA Association from 2019 to 2020.

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau recently hired Krista Carroll as publications specialist in the organization's communications and public relations department.

## OKFB co-hosts Ag & Oil Legislative Boot Camp

**F**reshman and sophomore legislators spent Jan. 24 visiting with industry representatives for the Ag & Oil Legislative Boot Camp in Oklahoma City.

Legislators in attendance had the opportunity to learn more about the agriculture and oil and gas industries and heard from Attorney General Gentner Drummond, Oklahoma State University agricultural economics professor Shannon Ferrell and a number of other speakers throughout the day.



**Legislators gain new agricultural knowledge and hear from industry leaders at the 2023 Ag & Oil Boot Camp in Oklahoma City.**



# OKFB Generation Bridge conference brings together mid-career Farm Bureau members to learn and grow



Kellie Muller of Jackson County explains generational farm transition best practices.



Networking with other attendees is a critical aspect of the Generation Bridge conference.



Throughout the conference attendees heard from industry leaders across the agricultural sector.



OKFB Vice President of Public Policy Steve Thompson (center) explains 2023 legislative priorities to OKFB members.

**N**early 40 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members ages 35-55 gathered in Oklahoma City for the OKFB Generation Bridge conference Jan. 27-28 in Edmond.

The group kicked off the event at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau/Oklahoma 4-H ATV Safety Facility near Guthrie on Friday, Jan. 27, where they learned about

the facility and its training programs and heard from Heather Buckmaster with the Oklahoma Beef Council.

Members heard from a variety of speakers on Saturday morning, including a legislative update from OKFB's Steve Thompson, agritourism opportunities with ODAFF's Micaela

Halverson, a cattle marketing update with OSU Extension's Scott Clawson, a mental health discussion with OKFB's Burton Harmon and an interactive Q&A on growing and transitioning a family farm between generations with Jackson County Farm Bureau members Matt and Kellie Muller.

## Upcoming OKFB Events & Reminders

### Sign up for WLC Conference

Join fellow OKFB women during the Women's Leadership Committee Conference April 21-22 at POSTOAK Lodge in Tulsa. Find the form on the OKFB website at: [okfb.news/WLCCConf23](https://okfb.news/WLCCConf23)

### 2023 Leadership Conference

Join Oklahoma Farm Bureau for the 2023 OKFB Leadership Conference Tuesday, Feb. 21. For more information about the 2023 OKFB Leadership Conference, contact Steve Thompson at **(405) 523-2300**.

### Farm Bureau Week

Celebrate Oklahoma Farm Bureau Week **Feb. 20-24**. New OKFB members can register at their local county office and receive waived state dues. For more information visit your local county office.

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## Collegiate Farm Bureau and high school YF&R scholarship applications now available

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee is now accepting applications for their annual \$1,000 scholarship awarded to nine high school seniors and one Collegiate Farm Bureau member pursuing an agriculture degree.

Scholarships will be awarded to one high school student in every OKFB district and one college or university student with an active Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter.

Applications must be postmarked by **Feb. 24** to be considered.

Both the YF&R high school scholarship application and the Collegiate Farm Bureau scholarship application can be found at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications).

For more information, contact OKFB Assistant Director of Public Policy and Young Farmers & Ranchers Coordinator Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2300.

### Collegiate Farm Bureau scholarship requirements:

- Must be enrolled full-time in an agriculture program at an accredited Oklahoma college or university with a Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter
- Must be a Farm Bureau member. Membership must remain in good standing for the duration of the scholarship
- Collegiate Farm Bureau members from out of state can apply with a valid Farm Bureau membership
- Children of paid employees of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies are not eligible

### High school OKFB scholarship 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 Farm Bureau family in (father, mother or legal guardian memberships qualify; grandparents', siblings' or other relatives' memberships may not be used). Membership must be in good standing
- Children of paid employees of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies are not eligible

Find the scholarship applications on the OKFB website at: [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications)