

PERSPECTIVE

February 28, 2020

Farm Bureaus gear up for Agricultural Safety Awareness Program Week

Farm Bureaus across the nation are mobilizing for **Agricultural Safety Awareness Program Week**, which takes place March 1-7. U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health Centers will join Farm Bureau in promoting the week with its theme "20:20 Vision on Ag Safety."

Farm Bureau and U.S. Ag Centers will focus on a different safety area each day of ASAP Week:

- Monday, March 2
 - **Mental health**
- Tuesday, March 3
 - **Transportation safety**
- Wednesday, March 4
 - **Weather disasters**
- Thursday, March 5
 - **Confined spaces**
- Friday, March 6
 - **Farmer Wellness**

To learn more about Agricultural Safety Awareness Program week, visit okfb.news/agsafety20.

UPCOMING EVENTS March - April

- Oklahoma Youth Expo**
 - March 10-20, 2020
- Congressional Action Tour**
 - March 23-27, 2020
- National Agriculture Day**
 - March 24, 2020
- YF&R District Scholarship Deadline**
 - April 2, 2020
- Ag Day at the Capitol**
 - April 14, 2020

Legislative Update: 2020 legislative session now in high gear



The 2020 legislative session quickly hit high gear and is now running at a rapid pace. As February comes to a close, Oklahoma Farm Bureau is engaged in a large number of critical pieces of legislation. Below is a snapshot of a few of the bills that are beginning to advance through the process.

HB 1992 would create the Oklahoma Public Safety Protection District Act, which allows municipalities to propose a new form of property tax to fund police, fire and emergency medical services. OKFB successfully worked with other stakeholders to include an amendment that increases the vote threshold for approval from 50% to 60%. HB 1992 now moves on to the Senate committee process for further consideration.

HB 2883 would create a commonsense exemption from fishing license requirements for anyone fishing in ponds on private property, whether on their own land or with permission. Most would probably assume this was already allowed, so OKFB is working with the author to ensure private property rights are clarified. HB 2883 passed out of the House Wildlife Committee and will advance to the House floor.

HB 3294 would create a small income tax credit for beginning farmers and ranchers. Modern agriculture is a capital-intensive industry, with

significant barriers to entry. This legislation will help focus attention on those hurdles, in hopes the tax credit amount can be increased in the future. HB 3294 passed its initial subcommittee and now moves to the full House Appropriations and Budget Committee.

HB 3823 would create a \$25,000 income tax credit for medical doctors who locate in a rural area of the state. Access to quality healthcare in rural Oklahoma has been an OKFB priority issue in recent years, and we will continue to work toward productive solutions. This proposal advanced for several months in 2019 before being sidelined over concerns about certain qualification details. HB 3823 was unanimously passed out of the House Rules Committee and is headed to the House floor next.

For more information on these bills or anything else at the state Capitol, please contact the OKFB Public Policy Division or your area field representative.

OKFB Leadership Conference draws large crowd with list of prominent speakers

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from across the state traveled to Oklahoma City Feb. 17-18 to attend the annual OKFB Leadership Conference.

Members had the opportunity to hear from an array of speakers throughout the two-day event including Gov. Kevin Stitt, Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur, Rep. Kendra Horn, Republican candidates for Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District and national pollster Ed Goetas.

Industry speakers at the event included Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Investigative Services Chief Agent Michael Hooper and USDA experts Jim Bellmon, Gary O'Neill and Scott Biggs.

Members concluded the event by visiting their local legislators at the state Capitol to share their concerns about bills that will be heard this session.



Gov. Kevin Stitt speaks to members at the OKFB Leadership Conference Feb. 17 in Oklahoma City and shares his executive order to reduce state regulations.



OKFB members were able to ask questions throughout the event and share their concerns.



Rep. John Pfeiffer visits with Kay County Farm Bureau member Darlene Engelking during a visit at the state Capitol.



Rep. Kendra Horn shares her efforts to help rural Oklahomans.



Cherokee County Farm Bureau members Kelly Blair and Allen Campbell visit with Rep. Matt Meredith to learn about legislation this session.

County Farm Bureaus across the state celebrate Farm Bureau Week Feb. 17-21

In honor of Farm Bureau Week Feb. 17-21, more than a dozen county Farm Bureaus gathered together within their communities to celebrate and promote

the grassroots organization.

Events hosted included a lunch for members, charitable donations, grand prize drawings, a coloring contest, and

distributing free coffee and donuts. In addition, several counties met with local officials to proclaim "Farm Bureau Week" within their county.



Blaine County



Okfuskee County



Payne County

Six legislators honored with 2019 OKFB Champion Award

Six of Oklahoma's top advocates for agriculture and rural Oklahoma were presented with the 2019 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Champion Award during the organization's leadership conference held Feb. 17-18 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City.

The award is presented to state lawmakers who went above and beyond to represent farmers and ranchers in the 2019 legislative session.

"Oklahoma farmers and ranchers have the crucial job of feeding and clothing our country and our world, so it's vital that the decisions made at the state Capitol preserve our ability to grow food and fiber," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "We are thankful for the opportunity to honor these outstanding legislators who worked tirelessly on behalf of agriculture and rural Oklahoma."

The 2019 Champion Award recipients included House Speaker Charles McCall, Rep. Dell Kerbs, Rep. John Pfeiffer, Sen. Casey Murdock, Sen. Roland Pederson and Sen. Roger Thompson.

Champions are nominated by county Farm Bureau members and the OKFB board of directors. Award recipients received a plaque in recognition of their service to agriculture and rural Oklahoma.



Rep. Dell Kerbs



Rep. John Pfeiffer



Sen. Casey Murdock



Sen. Roland Pederson



Sen. Roger Thompson



House Speaker Charles McCall

OKFB YF&R gather for YF&R Legislative Day in OKC

More than thirty Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers and Collegiate Farm Bureau members ages 18-35 gathered Feb. 16-18 to meet fellow agriculturalists from

across the state, speak with their local legislators and participate in the OKFB Leadership Conference.

YF&R and Collegiate Farm Bureau members started the three-day event by

with an evening at Dust Bowl Lanes and Lounge in Oklahoma City. The group then spent the next two days advocating for Oklahoma agriculture with their local legislators and politicians.



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4 ways county Farm Bureaus can promote the 2020 Census in their local community

With Census Day just around the corner on **April 1**, county Farm Bureaus across the state have the opportunity to make a difference within their community. With **\$675 billion distributed annually** based on census data, help ensure your rural community receives the funding it deserves.

A variety of materials are available to be customized for your county Farm Bureau by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Communications and Public Relations Division. Materials are also available for download at okfarmbureau.org/census-2020-resources. For questions or more information, please contact Hannah Davis at (405) 523-2300.

1. Print materials

Posters
Newspaper ads
Handouts

2. Social media graphics

Facebook and Twitter graphics are available to be used by county Farm Bureau social media accounts, each with their own corresponding post.

3. Radio ad

County Farm Bureaus wishing to purchase a local radio ad may contact the OKFB home office for a **customized county Farm Bureau radio ad**.

4. Press release & letter to the Editor

Drafts of a press release and letter to the editor are each available to be downloaded that are easy to edit with your county Farm Bureau details.

How the 2020 Census will impact rural Oklahoma

In just a few weeks, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin sending invitations for households to participate in its 2020 Census count of every person living in the United States. The census is a critical opportunity for rural Oklahomans to step up and be counted to ensure the future growth and prosperity of rural communities.

- The census is your opportunity to stand with rural Oklahoma.
- The census helps bring funding to rural communities.
- The census influences our representation in Congress and the state Legislature.
- It's quick and easy to complete.
- It's safe and secure.

**For more information
about the 2020 Census, visit
okfarmbureau.org/census.**