

# PERSPECTIVE

February 20, 2026



## OKFB WLC shares agriculture story with lawmakers during annual Farm City Festival

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee served nearly 600 meals during their annual Farm City Festival at the Oklahoma state Capitol, Thursday, Feb. 12.

WLC members shared the agriculture story with legislators during the group’s annual event that connects Farm Bureau women from around the state with state legislators and their staff.

“It is an honor to serve our state lawmakers and their staff at Farm City Festival,” said Mignon Bolay, OKFB WLC chair. “We are thankful for their

support of rural Oklahoma and the agriculture industry, and we appreciate the opportunity to share the story of our state’s hardworking farmers and ranchers with them every year.”

WLC members hosted a lunch in the second-floor rotunda of the Capitol for legislators, their staff and Capitol employees to thank them for supporting policies that enable Oklahoma farmers and ranchers to continue providing food, fuel and fiber for a growing world.

The meal featured made-in-Oklahoma foods, which included dozens of home-

baked desserts provided by county Farm Bureau members and nearly 60 loaves of bread baked fresh by OKFB Vice President David VonTungeln.

The meal was served to legislators, staff and guests by members of the state WLC committee along with 40 county WLC members from around the state.

The Farm Bureau women took the opportunity to visit with legislators as they came through the serving line and shared the important role agriculture plays in Oklahoma and how Farm Bureau supports family farmers and ranchers.

### Stay involved with OKFB throughout Oklahoma’s 2026 legislative session

#### Watch Lincoln to Local

Catch OKFB’s legislative video series on YouTube, Facebook or on our site.

[okfb.news/lincoln2local](http://okfb.news/lincoln2local)

#### Friday Zoom calls

Join OKFB’s public policy staff for weekly legislative updates on Zoom.

**Contact your field rep for connection instructions**

#### County legislative visits

Take part in the policy development process with a Capitol visit.

**Contact your field rep to set a county Capitol visit date**

# Farm Bureau encouraged by Oklahoma attorney general's settlement with Tyson, Cargill in poultry case

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Stacy Simunek issued the following statement after Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond announced a settlement between the State of Oklahoma, Tyson and Cargill on Thursday, Feb. 13, in the decades-long State of Oklahoma v. Tyson Foods, Inc., et al., lawsuit regarding the application of chicken litter in the Illinois River Watershed.

“Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are encouraged by the State of Oklahoma’s settlement with Tyson Foods and Cargill to bring an end to the decades-long uncertainty our family poultry producers have faced due to the ongoing lawsuit over poultry litter in the Illinois River Watershed.

“Family farmers stood to lose the most from this long-running litigation as they did everything asked of them to care for their animals while taking on voluntary environmental stewardship efforts to protect our land, water and shared natural resources.

“We appreciate Oklahoma Attorney General Drummond’s good-faith efforts to negotiate a reasonable settlement with Tyson and Cargill that provides a path forward for our state’s family poultry producers to continue their ever-important work of responsibly producing food for our fellow Oklahomans while caring for the land that in many cases has been in the same family for decades.

“Our members still have questions and concerns about the settlement’s agreement to a court-appointed Special Master, which would create a burdensome regulatory structure in our state. However, we appreciate the cooperation between the attorney general and the poultry companies to provide certainty to our agricultural producers.”

## Details on the settlement

According to Attorney General Gentner Drummond, the settlement terms are:

- Tyson will pay \$19 million for remediation and conservation of the Illinois River Watershed
- Cargill, Inc., and Cargill Turkey Production will pay \$6.5 million

### Both companies will:

- Progressively increase the amount of poultry litter removed from the Illinois River Watershed
- Pay into a fund for a Special Master to monitor compliance and bear all costs associated with litter removal
- Pay into a fund for remediation of the Illinois River Watershed
- Voluntarily dismiss their respective appeals of the Dec. 19 judgment
- In exchange, the State releases all claims against both companies

## Bushels for Books free accurate ag book program applications open through June 10

Oklahoma educators can apply now through June 10 for a chance to receive a package of accurate agriculture books through Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s Bushels for Books program.

The program is a collaborative effort between the OKFB Women’s Leadership Committee and the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture to provide access to accurate agriculture information in schools.

The program awards Pre-K to eighth-grade teachers with books that target their class’ grade level and subject, and school librarians can apply for books that span multiple grade levels.

All books are grade-level appropriate and will be chosen from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture’s agriculture book database.

The online application can be completed on the OKFB website at [okfb.news/BushelForBooks26](http://okfb.news/BushelForBooks26)

## Rural Oklahoma innovators can now apply for 2026 Farm Bureau business accelerators programs

Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and Ag Business Accelerators program is accepting applications from rural Oklahoma innovators seeking resources to bring their ideas and products to market.

Oklahoma innovators located in rural communities with a population of 50,000 or less can apply now through April 3 to participate in OKFB’s free business accelerators program.

The program offers two unique innovation pipelines tailored to meet the needs of rural Oklahoma innovators. The program’s AgCelerate Oklahoma agricultural innovation pipeline is for innovators who have a new idea or an exciting update to an existing concept that has a direct application in production agriculture. The Activate Oklahoma rural innovation pipeline is open to any rural Oklahoma innovator with a new idea or product that they would like to bring to market that has applications in any industry.

Each pipeline uses a customized curriculum to connect rural Oklahoma innovators with the vast array of business resources offered by our state’s business development ecosystem. Programming features interactive workshops, an intensive business bootcamp, mentorship connections and product pitch development. Graduation from the program qualifies businesses to be considered for equity investment by a group of accelerators program partners.

Programming for each of the two accelerator pipelines begins in May, and successful participants will graduate from the program in October. Program sessions are held in a hybrid format, allowing participants to attend sessions either in-person or virtually. Program participants must attend all provided training sessions to graduate from the program.

Apply online now through April 3 at [okfarmbureau.org/acceleratorapp](http://okfarmbureau.org/acceleratorapp).

# 2026 legislative session underway with burn bans, state veterinarian requirements at the forefront

The Oklahoma state Capitol is already abuzz with activity as legislators wrapped up the second week of the 2026 Oklahoma legislative session just before Valentine's Day.

The second general session of the 60th Oklahoma Legislature kicked off with Gov. Kevin Stitt's final state of the state address on Monday, Feb. 2, where he discussed his accomplishments throughout his two terms in office and his vision for his final year.

One area of note for Farm Bureau members was Stitt's call to cut property taxes in the state. While Oklahoma Farm Bureau has long supported protecting healthy property tax levels, OKFB does not believe an all-out elimination is the answer and will continue to monitor the conversation around property taxes this session.

One bill that passed the House Agriculture Committee early in the second week of session was HB 3406 by Rep. Mike Kelley. The bill seeks to change how county commissioners initiate burn bans and gives commissioners confidence to only place burn bans when absolutely necessary. The bill also poses to change the standard burn ban

duration from 14 days to eight days. This measure would help keep the options for prescribed burns open to landowners and would prevent unnecessarily lengthy burn bans.

HB 3977 by Rep. Trey Caldwell also passed out of committee last week. The bill would require the Oklahoma state veterinarian to hold a valid veterinarian's license as well as require him or her to have experience in food-animal veterinary practice. This would ensure future state veterinarians are equipped to handle disease outbreaks and quarantine procedures that can happen with livestock.

A few bills of note also passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee, including SB 2112 by Sen. Casey Murdock, which would modify the designation of open pasture roads. The measure would allow livestock to freely traverse the pasture on both sides of the designated road and would enact a process for landowners to work with their county commissioners to designate new open pasture roads.

OKFB also kept an eye on SB 2121 by Sen. Spencer Kern, which would prevent the production, distribution and sale

of lab-grown protein products. OKFB previously worked to remove the term "meat" from these lab-grown products during the 2025 legislative session in accordance with OKFB policy. The OKFB policy book does not contain specific language in regard to a complete ban, but the public policy team will continue to monitor SB 2121's progression throughout the legislative session.

The House of Representatives has a new member representing House District 35 after a special election held Tuesday, Feb. 10. Dillon Travis was elected to fill the vacant seat, and he will join his colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee. Travis will represent parts of Creek, Noble, Osage, Pawnee, Payne Counties. OKFB supported Travis throughout his campaign and looks forward to working with him on agriculture and rural issues facing the state of Oklahoma.

To stay up to date on what OKFB is doing at the state Capitol during legislative session, be sure to tune in to OKFB's weekly public policy update each Friday at noon via Zoom. Contact your field representative for more information on how to get connected.

## OKFB offers summer events, scholarships for ag students

### Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference

**May 26-29 • OKC**

*Open to incoming high school seniors*

*Cost: \$100 per student*

OKFB's Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture Conference is a four-day event for incoming high school seniors that helps them develop their leadership skills, build connections and explore Oklahoma's agriculture industry.

**Apply online at**

**[okfb.news/OYLAApp26](https://okfb.news/OYLAApp26)**

*Applications due April 17*

### OKFB Capitol Camp

**September 2-3 • OKC**

*Open to incoming high school juniors and seniors*

*Cost: \$50 per student*

Capitol Camp immerses students in a comprehensive two-day mock legislative experience at the Oklahoma state Capitol to learn how state government works and how they can be involved in government and lawmaking.

**Apply online at**

**[okfb.news/CapitolCampApp26](https://okfb.news/CapitolCampApp26)**

*Applications due July 31*

### Oklahoma Farm Bureau scholarships

**YF&R scholarship**

Awards nine \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors from Farm Bureau member families studying ag in Oklahoma.

**Apply online at**

**[okfb.news/YFRHSScholarship26](https://okfb.news/YFRHSScholarship26)**

*Applications due March 15*

**Collegiate Farm Bureau scholarship**

Offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a Collegiate Farm Bureau member.

**Apply online at**

**[okfb.news/CollegiateScholarship26](https://okfb.news/CollegiateScholarship26)**

*Applications due March 15*

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## Counties celebrate Farm Bureau Week

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members celebrated Farm Bureau Week by promoting the organization with a wide array of events and activities. From hamburger feeds to Ag Olympics events and from donations at local food banks to meeting with local government officials, counties around the state shared the Farm Bureau story in their local communities. Thanks to everyone who participated!



## OKFB Ag Tour trip to Indiana registration opens March 2

Farm Bureau members will have the opportunity to learn about agriculture in the state of Indiana during Oklahoma Farm Bureau's annual Ag Tour April 27-30 in The Hoosier State.

OKFB members will travel by bus from Oklahoma to Indiana and will visit farms, businesses and travel destinations across Indiana as they learn about the state's agriculture, industry and history.

Spots for the tour are limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis via an online registration process. Members will be able to sign up for the tour online on OKFB's website beginning **Monday, March 2, at 9 a.m.**

The registration form, along with trip cost and more details will be available online beginning March 2 at [okfb.news/agtour26](http://okfb.news/agtour26).