

PERSPECTIVE

January 27, 2023



Kerry Givens (right) and OKFB's four other delegates to the 2023 AFBF business session review and consider proposed changes to AFBF policy from around the nation.



OKFB President Rodd Moesel (left) and Major County Farm Bureau member Scott Neufeld discuss a grassroots resolution during the 2023 AFBF business session on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

OKFB members assess farm bill, beef marketing and other issues at 2023 AFBF business session

Five Oklahoma Farm Bureau members helped set national Farm Bureau policy for the coming year during the business session of the American Farm Bureau convention Tuesday, Jan. 10, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The top issues monitored by OKFB delegates included policies addressing national farm programs in preparation for farm bill discussions that the organization anticipates will happen throughout the year. Resolutions passed by delegates updated the organization's policies on several farm program areas, including crop insurance; conservation programs; disaster relief programs; ensuring environmental, social and governance scoring is not tied to farm program eligibility; and a call for increased funding for farm programs.

"The main focal point this year was getting ready for the farm bill that is supposed to happen later this year," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president,

who served as an AFBF voting delegate. "There was a lot of attention paid to many facets from the crop insurance and risk management issues to individual commodity and conservation issues."

Beef cattle and livestock marketing considerations were also a top priority for OKFB delegates along with climate issues, expanding and preserving trade opportunities for American agriculture, and requesting more research into carbon markets.

The AFBF business meeting allowed farmers and ranchers from across the nation to consider, discuss and vote on proposed changes to the organization's grassroots policy. The changes the group adopted came from local Farm Bureau members from across the country, starting at the county Farm Bureau level.

"Part of what makes the national organization work so well is to have input from all over the country," Moesel said. "Of course, we have a responsibility

to make sure Oklahoma farmers and ranchers are represented and that the rest of the country understands the viewpoints from Oklahoma."

Major County farmer and rancher Scott Neufeld was one of the five delegates representing Oklahoma agriculture at the business session. After taking part in this year's policy development process, he said he has confidence in the policies he and fellow Farm Bureau members approved.

"It gives me a lot of confidence to see the thought and the ability for anyone from every state to talk to any issue," Neufeld said. "There's freedom in that. There was a lot of input and a lot of discussion on a number of different items that were contentious, and I think we all came to some good resolution."

The adopted policies will form the framework of the national policy efforts AFBF will undertake for Farm Bureau members in the coming year.



Join Oklahoma Farm Bureau for the 2023 OKFB Leadership Conference to be held Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the Embassy Suites – Downtown Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

Members will hear from lawmakers, state officials and leaders from around the state to hone their leadership skills, hear about the latest Farm Bureau news, and learn about legislative and regulatory issues that affect agriculture. The evening will conclude with a legislative reception and awards dinner.

For more information about the 2023 OKFB Leadership Conference, contact Steve Thompson at (405) 523-2300.

Registration

OKFB members should contact their county Farm Bureau office to register for the event.

Accommodations

Overnight accommodations are available for the conference at a discounted rate. Call the Embassy Suites directly at 1-800-445-8667 before Friday, Jan. 27, to book the special rate.

Schedule

The Leadership Conference schedule will be shared as soon as it is available at okfarmbureau.org.

Join OKFB WLC in Tulsa for conference April 21-22

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee will host their annual conference April 21-22 at POSTOAK Lodge in Tulsa.

All OKFB women are invited to take part in a weekend of fun and fellowship that will include breakout sessions focusing on many aspects of farming and ranching, making blankets for veterans and meals for seniors, and hearing from leaders in agriculture.

The lodge offers cabins for accommodations, and members will have the opportunity to build lifelong connections with ladies across the state by sharing a cabin with fellow Farm Bureau women.

The cost of registration is \$130, and checks can be made out to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee. Register by filling out the form located on the OKFB website at okfb.news/WLCCConf23, and mailing it to OKFB Senior Director of WLC and Safety Marcia Irvin by **March 10**.



OKFB disappointed in poultry case decision

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are disappointed with the conclusion reached by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma Wednesday, Jan. 18, finding in favor of the state of Oklahoma and holding poultry companies liable for high phosphorous levels causing pollution in the Illinois River Watershed.

For decades, Oklahoma poultry farmers have been regulated by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, which requires

nutrient management plans and limits on poultry litter application.

Additionally, in the almost 20 years since this lawsuit was filed, OKFB members have worked with agencies like the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to improve water quality in the Illinois River Watershed using conservation practices like streambank restoration and filter strips. These farmer-led, proactive efforts have contributed to consistent improvement in water quality in the watershed.

Oklahoma's family farmers have a vested interest in protecting the very environment where they and their families live, and they have implemented extensive steps including water testing and moving poultry litter out of the watershed to ensure that our state's natural resources are protected. As proud caretakers of the land, our members are willing to meet and exceed environmental standards as they raise the protein that our state and our world rely upon.

OKFB members celebrate *Mi Familia* at AFBF convention

The 2023 American Farm Bureau convention in Puerto Rico Jan. 6-10 was a great time for Oklahoma Farm Bureau members to gather with fellow farmers and ranchers from around the country to celebrate *Mi Familia* – the Farm Bureau family.

This year's convention was a great one for OKFB members. Check out all the convention highlights for OKFB below:

Young Farmers & Ranchers contestants advance

Several Young Farmers & Ranchers competitive events participants advanced in their competitions at the 2023 AFBF Convention.

Travis and Rylee Schnaithman were among the 10 national finalists for the AFBF YF&R Achievement Award. The Garfield County farmers and ranchers progressed to the interview round of the contest and appeared on stage during the closing general session along with the other nine finalists.

Dillon Johnson advanced to the Sweet 16 round of the AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet. Johnson competed in two opening rounds, then participated in the

Sweet 16 round discussing issues affecting agriculture alongside fellow YF&R members from around the nation.

Rogers County Farm Bureau member Chris Hoskins represented Oklahoma in the AFBF YF&R Excellence in Agriculture competition, where he gave a presentation to a panel of judges about his on- and off-farm activities, Farm Bureau experience and future goals.

Women's Leadership Committee members participate in Women's business session

OKFB Women's Leadership Committee members gathered with Farm Bureau women from across the nation to elect leaders and prepare for the coming year.

OKFB WLC Chair Mignon Bolay served as the credentials committee chair for the AFBF Women's Leadership Meeting, where she gave the credentials report before the group.

Speakers, sessions and trade show

OKFB members attended three general sessions, numerous breakout sessions on a variety of agricultural

topics, and visited vendors and fellow organizations at the trade show.

Keynote speakers at the general sessions included AFBF President Zippy Duvall, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, country music artist "Big Kenny" Alphin, and Life is Good Co-Founder Bert Jacobs.

Additional convention highlights

The convention was full of daily highlights for OKFB members as they enjoyed the convention and San Juan.

OKFB members gathered for a group breakfast on Monday, Jan. 9, to fellowship and visit about Oklahoma's achievements during the convention.

Farm Bureau members took time to enjoy Puerto Rico through a variety of tours in the San Juan area focusing on the culture, history and attractions of the island.

OKFB members were also featured heavily in the AFBF convention video, which highlighted Farm Bureau families from around the nation.

For additional convention news and highlights from AFBF, visit annualconvention.fb.org.



OKFB WLC members participated in the AFBF Women's business session and regional caucus at the 2023 AFBF Convention.



Ottawa County's Dillon Johnson (right) shares an idea during the 2023 AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet Sweet 16 round.



YF&R members Travis Schnaithman (left) and Jared Engler enjoy the OKFB breakfast during the 2023 AFBF Convention.



Kay County's Stacy Simunek (right) visits with AFBF President Zippy Duvall at the 2023 AFBF Convention trade show.

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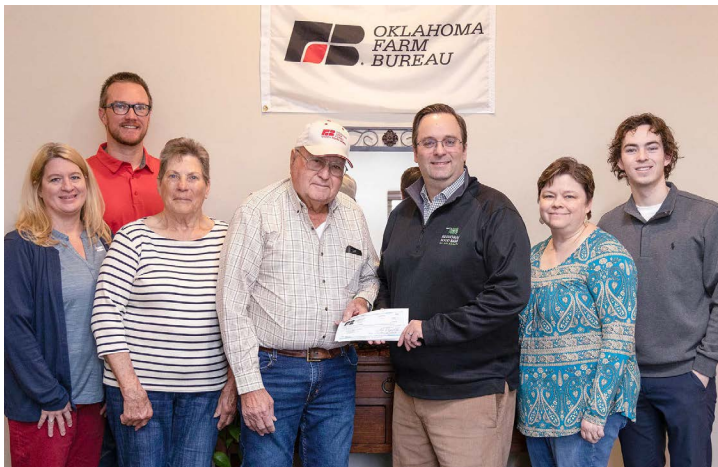
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Oklahoma County Farm Bureau donates \$5,000 to food bank



Oklahoma County Farm Bureau presents a \$5,000 donation to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma Thursday, Jan. 12. Pictured from left to right: Stephanie Visina, Pryce Williams, Alma Bierschenk, Robert Beirschenk, Chan Klingensmith, Jennifer Savage and Garret Christian.

The donation made by Oklahoma County will be matched dollar-for-dollar thanks to a sponsorship from APMEX and the Cresap Family Foundation, increasing the donation's value to \$10,000.

"As a farmer and rancher myself, we are trying to feed the world, and this is another way to give back," said Bob Bierschenk, Oklahoma County Farm Bureau president.

County Farm Bureaus share the grassroots story at annual KNID Agrifest



Joe Peeper, Garfield County Farm Bureau president (left), visits with attendees at the KNID Agrifest on Friday, Jan. 13, at the Chisholm Trail Expo Center in Enid.

Members from local county Farm Bureaus helped man the booth on Friday, Jan. 13, and Saturday, Jan. 14, to share the benefits of a Farm Bureau membership and OKFB's activities with trade show attendees from across the region.

Door prizes including tools, home and farm items, and Farm Bureau goodies were awarded to booth visitors who entered for the drawings. Several new members signed up to join the organization, and connections were made with all who stopped by.