Gov. Stitt, state leaders to speak at OKFB Leadership Conference Feb. 17-18 in Oklahoma City

Gov. Kevin Stitt, Congresswoman Kendra Horn and Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur are three of the headlining state leaders scheduled to speak at the upcoming Oklahoma Farm Bureau Leadership Conference Feb. 17-18 at the Embassy Suites Hotel near downtown Oklahoma City.

The two-day conference also will feature a panel of candidates for Oklahoma’s Fifth Congressional District, along with state and federal agricultural policy updates and organizational updates. Members will have an opportunity to visit with state leaders and lawmakers during a reception Monday evening and at the state Capitol on Tuesday afternoon.

For more information about the conference, please contact OKFB Senior Director of Public Policy Steve Thompson at (405) 523-2300. Below is a tentative agenda for the Leadership Conference.

Monday, Feb. 17

11:30 a.m. Registration
12 p.m. Lunch featuring Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur
12:30 p.m. OKFB Executive Director Thad Doye
1 p.m. Gov. Kevin Stitt
1:30 p.m. Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell
2 p.m. OKFB President Rodd Moesel
2:30 p.m. Promoting the 2020 Census
2:45 p.m. Break
3 p.m. ODAFF Investigative Service Chief Agent Michael Hooper
3:15 p.m. Farm Bill Programs Panel
4 p.m. Adjourn
5 p.m. Reception with state leaders and legislators
6 p.m. Dinner and Awards Program

Tuesday, Feb. 18

6 - 7:45 a.m. Breakfast
8 a.m. Session begins
8:15 a.m. Congresswoman Kendra Horn
9 a.m. 2020 Election Outlook featuring national political strategist Ed Goeas
10 a.m. Oklahoma’s Fifth Congressional District Republican Candidate Panel
11 a.m. OKFB organizational update
12 p.m. Adjourn
12:30 p.m. Lunch and State Capitol visits
As we begin a new year, Oklahoma Farm Bureau has a variety of events and activities for all members in 2020. These events are also available on our website at okfarmbureau.org to reference throughout the year.

**January**
- 17-22 – AFBF Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas

**February**
- 3 – State Legislature convenes
- 17-18 – State Leadership Conference
- 17-18 – YF&R Legislative Day
- 17-21 – Farm Bureau Week
- 25-26 – WLC State Committee meeting
- 26 – WLC Farm City Festival

**March**
- 9-20 – Oklahoma Youth Expo
- 13-16 – AFBF YF&R Conference, Louisville, KY
- 23-27 – Congressional Action Tour, Washington, D.C.
- 24 – National Agriculture Day

**April**
- 2 – YF&R District Scholarship deadline
- 14 – Ag Day at the Capitol
- 28-29 – OK State FFA Convention
- 22 – Earth day

**May**
- 6-8 – OKFB Commodity Tour

**July**
- 1 – Nurse's scholarship app. deadline
- 10-12 – YF&R Summer Conference
- 14-16 – OSU Big Three Field Days
- 14 – YF&R High School Discussion Meet

**August**
- 3 – Farm and Ranch Family application deadline
- 29 – YF&R Shotgun Shoot

**September**
- 17 – YF&R State Fair livestock judging contest
- 29 – YF&R Shotgun Shoot

**October**
- 1 – YF&R Achievement Award deadline
- 1 – YF&R Excellence in Ag Award deadline
- 2-3 – Women’s Leadership Committee Fall Conference
- 9 – Resolutions due to home office
- 9 – Other awards deadline
- 14-15 – State Resolutions meeting

**November**
- 5-8 – OKFB Annual Meeting, Norman

*Dates are subject to change and events may be added throughout the year. Visit okfarmbureau.org for the most up-to-date details.*

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**How do you plan to celebrate Farm Bureau Week this year?**

With Farm Bureau Week quickly approaching, how do you plan to celebrate and promote the grassroots organization in your community Feb. 17-21?

A week-long celebration, Farm Bureau Week is an opportunity for all county Farm Bureaus to not only welcome and interact with community members interested in becoming a Farm Bureau member but also to give back.

When planning your event, there is no set guideline you need to follow. Some county Farm Bureaus may have an annual tradition while others may switch things up every few years. Whether this is the first time you have hosted an event in awhile or you are interested in doing something new this year, we have provided a few ideas to give you a jump start on brainstorming!

- Host a hotdog and hamburger lunch and invite the community
- Host an open house with door prizes and refreshments
- Set up a booth at a local livestock auction or community event to pass out refreshments and share what Farm Bureau is all about
- Host a member appreciation event
- Volunteer at a local food bank or make a donation to a community organization

To make sure both Oklahoma Farm Bureau members and members of your community know about your plans, do not forget to advertise. Options could include placing an ad in your local newspaper, passing out handouts at local coffee shops or gathering places, or even placing an advertisement on the radio.

Farm Bureau Week newspaper ads have been created at the home office that can be easily customized with your county event details. If you would like to have something created for your event, please contact Brianne Schwabauer at (405) 523-2300 or Brianne.Schwabauer@okfb.org.

County Farm Bureau Week activities will be publicized on the OKFB website at okfarmbureau.org. To submit your county’s activities, please contact Hannah Davis at (405) 523-2300 or Hannah.Davis@okfb.org.

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**Calendar**

- **OKFB Campaign Management Seminar**
  - Feb. 6-7 • Oklahoma City
  - Contact: Steve Thompson (405) 523-2300

- **State Leadership Conference**
  - Feb. 17-18 • Oklahoma City
  - Contact: Emmy Karns (405) 523-2300

- **YF&R Legislative Day**
  - Feb. 17 • Oklahoma City
  - Contact: Zac Swartz (405) 523-2300

- **Farm Bureau Week**
  - Feb. 17-21
  - Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2300

- **Farm City Festival**
  - Feb. 26 • Oklahoma City
  - Contact: Marcia Irvin (405) 523-2300

- **AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference**
  - March 13-16 • Louisville, KY
  - Contact: Zac Swartz (405) 523-2300

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Farmers need USMCA now, Moesel tells Fox 25 News

Final approval of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement is desperately needed by farmers across the country, Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel said in a story aired on Fox 25 News Jan. 9.

“All across the country, farmers are stretched to their absolute end,” Moesel said in the story. “Depending on your commodity, you’ve had four or five years of very low prices.”

The trade agreement with Canada and Mexico is now must be approved by the Senate after it was overwhelmingly passed by the House of Representatives in December 2019.

Wheat producers in Oklahoma stand to benefit greatly from the trade deal, Moesel said.

“Canada had graded our wheat very harshly, so it paid our wheat farmers a feed grade price, so for feeding to animals instead of a human food grade,” he said in the story. “So it’s going to be a big help to our grain farmers.”

Moesel also is hopeful that final approval of the USMCA will lead to more progress on trade deals with other countries.

“Getting this deal done hopefully sets the stage to getting full deals done with China and Japan and many of our other trading partners around the world,” Moesel said.

With OK legislative session beginning soon, schedule your county Capitol visits

As Oklahoma’s legislature is set to convene Feb. 3, county Farm Bureaus have the opportunity to schedule a Capitol visit for their members to speak directly with their local legislators.

To kick off your visit, meet with Oklahoma Farm Bureau public policy staff at the home office to learn about what pieces of legislation they are tracking and general policy updates. Then head on over to the Oklahoma state Capitol where public policy staff will guide you through the Capitol to meet with your local legislators to discuss your thoughts on key legislation important to you.

To schedule a state Capitol visit for your county members, contact the public policy department at (405) 523-2300 or speak with your district field representative.

OKFB visits with attendees at KNID Agrifest

County Farm Bureaus across northern Oklahoma sponsored a Farm Bureau booth at the 2020 KNID Agrifest farm show Jan. 10-11 at the Chisholm Trail Expo Center on the Garfield County Fairgrounds in Enid. County Farm Bureau members and OKFB staff visited with Agrifest attendees, sharing information on Farm Bureau programs, events and member benefits.

Top: The KNID Agrifest farm show in Enid Jan. 10-11 allowed long-time members like Elmer Anglin to share about Farm Bureau with the next generation of members. Left: A member of the Garfield County Women’s Committee, Judy Anglin, was able to share with farm show attendees the many ways to be involved. Right: Gary Johnson talks with a farm show attendee about the value of a Farm Bureau membership.

Member Benefits

Buyers Guide

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Buyers Guide is a directory of businesses providing products and services for your rural lifestyle. Browse curated categories to connect with companies that provide a variety of agricultural and professional services to help you. From seed and hay to farm equipment and repairs, the buyers guide is your one-stop directory for your farm and ranch needs.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits
There is still time to register for the OKFB campaign management seminar Feb. 6-7

Oklahoma Farm Bureau will host a campaign management seminar on Feb. 6-7 at the organization's headquarters in Oklahoma City for individuals considering running for public office. Candidates at local and state levels are encouraged to attend the two-day conference.

From social media messaging and time management to fundraising and finance laws, seminar attendees will learn the keys to election success from grassroots campaign experts.

The seminar registration fee is $200 for OKFB members and $250 for non-OKFB members. Fee includes one breakfast, two lunches and a reception. Lodging is not included. Please make checks payable to Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

The registration form must be completed and mailed along with payment to Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Public Policy Division, 2501 N. Stiles Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73105 no later than Jan. 24, 2020.

For more information, contact OKFB Senior Director of Public Policy Steve Thompson at (405) 523-2300.

USDA depredation permits now available

As calving season approaches, Oklahoma cattle producers affected by black vultures are now able to apply for depredation permits. Scott Carlton, Chief of the Migratory Birds Division with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently released a letter to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry notifying them that producers are now able to apply for depredation permits with proof of a history of loss due to black vultures.

Carlton encourages producers to apply for their permits now, prior to calving season, to ensure producers are not affected by any office backlogs while facing the challenges associated with black vultures.

If you are interested in obtaining a permit to protect your calves this season, contact the Oklahoma Wildlife Services at (405) 521-4039.