



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

ov. 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 Stitt1:30 p.m. Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell

2 p.m. OKFB President Rodd Moesel2:30 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

Mark your calendar with OKFB's 2020 events

A s 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.

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

W ith 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.

Calendar

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

State Leadership ConferenceFeb. 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

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.

OKFB visits with attendees at KNID Agrifest

ounty 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

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

A s 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.

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

Published by Oklahoma Farm Bureau Postmaster: Send address corrections to: Perspective, P.O. B. 53332, Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332 Oklahoma Farm Bureau 2501 N. Stiles Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3126

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There is still time to register for the OKFB campaign management seminar Feb. 6-7

Alahoma 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

A s 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.