

PERSPECTIVE

January 12, 2024



Rep. Frank Lucas speaks to Oklahoma Farm Bureau members during the organization's 2023 Washington, D.C., Summit on Thursday, March 30.



Rep. Frank Lucas is a frequent guest at OKFB events and programs where he shares congressional updates and perspectives with Farm Bureau members.

Lucas honored with AFBF Distinguished Service Award

Rep. Frank Lucas of Oklahoma is the recipient of the American Farm Bureau Federation's 2024 Distinguished Service Award.

Lucas will be recognized during the upcoming 2024 American Farm Bureau Convention, Jan. 19-24, held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The award is among the highest honors presented by AFBF.

Lucas is a fifth-generation Oklahoman and farmer who has been a defender of agriculture for more than 40 years. With a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University, he successfully brought the perspective of the American farmer with him to Capitol Hill. Elected to Congress in 1994, he is recognized as the longest-serving member on the House Agriculture Committee and served as chairman of the committee from 2011

to 2015, playing an instrumental role in the 2014 farm bill. Prior to serving in Congress, Lucas served in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives where he focused on prominent agriculture issues.

Lucas commended AFBF for the important role the organization plays in informing farmers about congressional happenings and making sure they can voice their opinions and needs. A lifelong Farm Bureau member, Lucas shared what receiving this award means to him.

"It's like having your family say you've done a really good job for them," Lucas said. "There's nothing more important than having your family acknowledge that your hard work has been for a purpose and accomplished things. I appreciate my Farm Bureau family acknowledging my 29 years of constantly working on their behalf. It's very kind of them."

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel shared the value Lucas' background brings to Capitol Hill, noting not many in his role go home on the weekends to complete a list of farm chores and move cattle.

"He's so rare because he is a real farmer and rancher," Moesel said. "There are very few of those left in Congress. He really understands our issues and is able to take those messages to Congress."

Lucas was nominated by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau for the DSA, and a national Farm Bureau committee selected Lucas as the recipient.

AFBF established the Distinguished Service Award in 1928 to honor individuals who have devoted their careers to serving the national interest of American agriculture.

Comanche County hosts legislative dinner to kick off legislative season

Comanche County Farm Bureau kicked off the Farm Bureau legislative season with their annual legislative dinner in Lawton on Thursday, Dec. 28.

The county hosted more than 60 guests at the event with five state legislators sharing their goals and plans for the 2024 legislative season with Farm Bureau members and guests. Legislators in attendance included Rep. Trey Caldwell, Rep. Toni Hasenbeck, Rep. Rande Worthen, Rep. Daniel Pae and Sen. Dusty Deevers.

Steve Carson, field representative for U.S. Sen. James Lankford, provided a congressional update.

OKFB's Steve Thompson, vice president of public policy, and Kinsey Westwood, senior public policy consultant, shared the organization's priority issues with a 2024 legislative session preview.



Rep. Toni Hasenbeck



Rep. Daniel Pae



Sen. Dusty Deevers



Rep. Trey Caldwell



Rep. Rande Worthen



Steve Carson

Stowers presented with OKFB Distinguished Service award



Terry Stowers was recently presented with Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service to OKFB Award by OKFB President Rodd Moesel.

Stowers was unable to attend the 2023 OKFB annual meeting in November when the award was announced.

The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture and the Farm Bureau organization.

Stowers earned the award for the two decades he spent advocating for the rights of individual and family mineral owners in Oklahoma through the Coalition of Oklahoma Surface and Mineral Owners.

OKFB partnered with several other agriculture organizations to establish the Royalty Owner Coalition of Oklahoma in 2021 to continue Stowers' work after he announced his retirement. ROCO provides a structured and strong voice for the interests of Oklahoma mineral owners.

OKFB Leadership Conference to be held Feb. 13 in OKC

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are invited to attend the 2024 OKFB Leadership Conference in Oklahoma City on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

Details and registration information will be posted to the OKFB website, okfarmbureau.org, as soon as information is available.

AFBF PAL program application window now open

American Farm Bureau is accepting nominations for their Partners in Advocacy Leadership program for active and engaged Farm Bureau members ages 30-45.

OKFB can nominate participants, and interested members can contact their OKFB field representative.

2024 OKFB wall calendars now available to county Farm Bureaus

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 2024 wall calendars are being delivered to county Farm Bureaus by OKFB field representatives.

The calendars feature agricultural photography from around the state along with OKFB's event and program dates for the coming year.

Pfeiffer appointed to Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board

Logan County Farm Bureau member Gaye Pfeiffer has been appointed to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board.

Pfeiffer's appointment was announced January 2 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She was one of 26 members appointed to serve on the board. Twenty-five members will serve three-year terms and one member will serve a one-year term. The term of board members appointed to three-year terms starts February 2024 and ends February 2027.

Pfeiffer and her husband, John, raise Angus cattle along with their two adult sons on their family farm and ranch near Mulhall. The Pfeiffer family also raises hair sheep and their son, Andy, raises show pigs.

Cheryl DeVuyst of Morrison was the other Oklahoman selected for the board.



Gaye Pfeiffer (left), and her Husband, John, on their Logan County farm

The board is authorized by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 and is composed of 99 members representing 34 states and five units. Members must be beef producers or importers of beef and beef products nominated by certified producer organizations.

Okmulgee County Farm Bureau to be recognized at AFBF convention

Okmulgee County Farm Bureau is one of 24 county Farm Bureaus that American Farm Bureau Federation will honor at its 105th convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 19-24.

The selected winners participated in the County Activities of Excellence program and demonstrated a commitment to offering quality programming to their counties.

Okmulgee County is being recognized for hosting their County Ag Tour in 2023. The tour exposed participants to various commodities grown in the county.

Okmulgee County members will host a booth in the AFBF convention trade show and share their program and experience with fellow Farm Bureau members from around the nation.

Mark your calendars with OKFB's 2024 programs and events

Be sure to make plans to attend Oklahoma Farm Bureau events and programs throughout 2024. Below you will find dates for many of our planned events, but be sure to check out our website for even more event dates.

January

19-24
American Farm Bureau
Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah

February

13
State Leadership Conference, OKC
19-23
Farm Bureau Week

March

8-11
AFBF YF&R Leadership
Conference, Omaha, Nebraska
27
Farm City Festival, OKC

April

1
Deadline for Capitol Camp, OYLA
and YF&R Scholarship applications
2
YF&R Legislative Day, OKC

April (continued)

8-12
OKFB Washington, D.C., Summit
16
Ag Day at the Capitol, OKC
19-20
State WLC Conference, OKC

May

6-9
OKFB Ag Tour, Louisiana
28-31
Oklahoma Youth Leading
Agriculture Conference

July

10
WLC Nurse's Scholarship Deadline
26-28
State YF&R Conf., Broken Arrow

August

9
YF&R Shotgun Shoot Fundraiser

September

3-6
Read an Accurate Ag Book Week
19
YF&R State Fair Livestock
Judging Contest

October

7
County Farm Bureau Awards
submission deadline
22-23
State Resolutions Meeting, OKC

November

8-10
OKFB Annual Meeting, Omni
Hotel, OKC

Find even more events and dates
on the calendar page of the OKFB
website at:

okfarmbureau.org

**PUBLISHED BY
OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU**

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Harmon named senior director of Young Farmers & Ranchers

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has named Burton Harmon as the organization's senior director of Young Farmers and Ranchers.

In his new position, Harmon will work alongside OKFB's grassroots-elected YF&R Committee to coordinate programs and events for Oklahoma agriculturalists ages 18-35 to help young Farm Bureau members develop their leadership, advocacy and business skills.

Harmon has worked alongside YF&R members for decades going back to his time on the state YF&R committee as a Farm Bureau member. He also worked alongside county YF&R committees as a north central field representative.

"I am excited to work with our future

agricultural leaders through Farm Bureau's YF&R Program," Harmon said. "I loved my time serving on the state committee as a Farm Bureau member, and I am proud to have the opportunity to work with YF&R members to help them grow and develop their skills and abilities to benefit agriculture and Farm Bureau."

Harmon most recently served as OKFB's safety and special projects coordinator, and he will continue to offer OKFB's safety programs as time allows.

Burton and his wife, Audrey, live in Morrison where they are active in their local community and have five children, KayLee, Alburto, Benjamin, Aaron and Jared.



Follow OKFB online for AFBF convention coverage



Farm Bureau members from around the nation will gather in Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 19-24 for the 2024 American Farm Bureau Convention.

Be sure to check out OKFB's website and social media channels for the latest Farm Bureau news and updates throughout the entire convention!