

PERSPECTIVE

July 16, 2021

OKFB YF&R shotgun shoot sponsorship opportunities available

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers is set to host their third annual shotgun shoot Aug. 28 at Quail Ridge Hunting and Sporting Clays in McCloud, Oklahoma. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

Those interested in becoming a sponsor must submit their logo and payment **no later than Aug. 5.**

For more information regarding registration and sponsorships, contact Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2300.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum - \$750

Includes two four-person teams, a logo on the event sign and station sponsorship

Gold - \$500

Includes one four-person team and station sponsorship

Nominations for the 2021 Leopold Conservation Award now open



Agriculturalists who are voluntarily improving soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitats are able to be nominated for the Leopold Conservation Award. Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner, or landowners may nominate themselves. Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of

agricultural and conservation leaders.

The \$10,000 award is presented annually through cooperative efforts between Sand County Foundation in partnership with American Farmland Trust, and state partners: ITC Great Plains, Noble Research Institute, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The application deadline is **Aug. 15.** Applications can be emailed to award@sandcountyfoundation.org or postmarked by Aug. 15, and mailed to:

**Leopold Conservation Award
c/o Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Foundation for Agriculture
2501 N. Stiles
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

The application along with more information can be found at sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA.

Register now for the OKFB WLC fall conference Aug. 27-28 in Edmond

For a time of fellowship, breakout speakers and community service, sign up for the Women's Leadership Committee fall conference. The conference is free to all OKFB WLC members and is set to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Edmond. There will be a silent auction and all women are encouraged to donate an item.

Registration must be completed by July 27. Rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn Edmond may be reserved at (405) 285-0900. Those booked before **July 27** will receive a discount.

To register for the conference, visit okfb.news/WLCConf21.

Summer issue of Oklahoma Country to reach mailboxes soon

The summer issue of *Oklahoma Country* is complete and will reach mailboxes soon.

Highlighting the conservation efforts of members across the state, features within this issue include a pollinator garden established to support monarch butterflies and other pollinators, the recipient of the 2020 Oklahoma Leopold Conservation award and details of the many wins this legislative session on behalf of members.



OKFB reviews upcoming Sen. Inhofe legislation protecting GPS on farms and ranches

Oklahoma Farm Bureau discussed Sen. Jim Inhofe's bill protecting farmers and ranchers' ability to use critical GPS and precision agriculture technologies with the senator's chief of staff Luke Holland during a recent video.

The Recognizing and Ensuring Taxpayer Access to Infrastructure Necessary for GPS and Satellite Communications Act would protect producers from paying for interference of and damage to GPS devices because of Ligado Networks' satellite usage.

"Farm Bureau members know the importance of GPS to precision agriculture," Holland said. "It improves your ability to enhance yields for crops. The huge machines operated are navigated by GPS to ensure precision agriculture can happen."

The Federal Communications Commission in 2020 allowed the private satellite communications company Ligado Network to use a broadband spectrum closely related to GPS bands to provide 5G services to its customers.

The bill sponsored by Sens. Inhofe, Mike Rounds and Tammy Duckworth will protect those in the private sector whose equipment becomes damaged by requiring Ligado to pay the federal government repair costs. Without the bill, those in the private sector using the

GPS devices would have to pay the costs with a potential lack of service.

"GPS is so foundational to the economy now, so it is important that we protect it," Holland said.

Watch the full federal issues update at okfb.news/InhofeUpdate21.



Rural Oklahoma lacks broadband access according to *The Oklahoman*

The pandemic showcased the "digital divide" between those with access to reliable Internet and those without. *The Oklahoman* recently released an article over the critical state of access to broadband resources in rural Oklahoma.

Thirty nine Oklahoma counties reported less than 13% of households with high-speed access. Broadband affects many aspects of every day life in rural Oklahoma including telehealth,

education systems and infrastructure.

Thirty million Americans live in areas that lack broadband infrastructure with acceptable speeds. In Oklahoma, 24% of residents don't have adequate broadband infrastructure and more than half live in areas that have only one Internet provider. This is significantly lower than urban areas.

Read the full-length article covering the divide at okfb.news/3yQjsEg.

Conservation Resource Program enrollment open

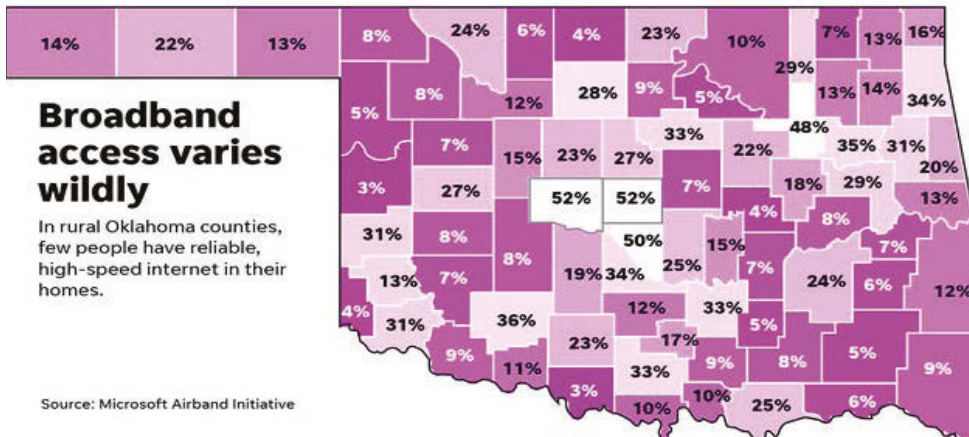
The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Conservation Resource Program is now accepting new enrollments and re-enrollments to the federal program until **Aug. 20**.

With the goal of adding four million more acres, CRP is one of the largest voluntary conservation programs. Producers electing to participate must take the enrolled grassland out of operation, except for use of grazing.

By enrolling in the 10 to 15-year agreement, producers are able to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce the loss of wildlife habitat on the land enrolled.

Those enrolled in the program will benefit from annual rental payments and cost share assistance.

To aid in conservation efforts across the U.S., contact your local FSA agent to learn more about CRP.



OKFB members share perspectives of agriculture with consumers

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members Tyler Schnaithman and Isaac Fisher recently showcased their farms with News 9 and KOSU respectively.

With the recent rains that slammed Oklahoma, producers like Schnaithman faced many delays with wheat harvest – remaining in the field much later than preferred. Even with the challenges producers have faced, the above-average

ields have been a welcome change.

For Fisher, he continues to face challenges in his wheat and milo fields near Chattanooga due to the continuing feral hog problem.

“It’s kind of defeating,” said Fisher. “I mean, you drive around and you know the potential that (the) field has after you’ve put so much time and money into producing a crop.”



Tyler Schnaithman in the cab during the last push for the above-average yield wheat harvest in Garfield County.



Isaac Fisher has ongoing issues with feral swine rooting up crops in his Chattanooga wheat and milo fields.

New county secretaries and administrators learn more about OKFB

In an effort to better serve members, 10 new county secretaries and administrators from across the state gathered at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau home office July 12.

New county staff members had the opportunity to learn more about the organization as they met with OKFB home office staff. During the training, home office staff spoke and discussed the various resources available, social media guidelines, membership marketing and general OKFB knowledge.



REMINDER: Opportunity to participate in upcoming congressional town hall meetings

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are encouraged to participate in the upcoming congressional town halls to represent the voice and perspective of rural Oklahoma.

By law, legislators must redraw Oklahoma’s congressional district boundaries to reflect changes in population every 10 years.

While the Oklahoma House and Senate completed state legislative redistricting plans this spring, the congressional redistricting process was postponed due to data delays. The Legislature plans to reconvene after final Census data is released.

If unable to attend, comments may be emailed to redistrictoklahoma2020@okhouse.gov or redistricting@oksenate.gov.

Virtual

Tuesday, Aug. 3, 6 p.m.

okhouse.gov/Publications/VirtualMeets.aspx

Tulsa

Thursday, July 22, 6 p.m.

Tulsa Technology Center
Riverside Campus
801 E 91st St.

McAlester

Tuesday, July 27, 6 p.m.

Kiamichi Technology Center
301 Kiamichi Dr.

Enid

Tuesday, July 20, 6 p.m.

Autry Technology Center
1201 W Willow Rd.

Lawton

Thursday, July 29, 6 p.m.

Lawton City Hall
212 SW 9th St.

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Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference registration open until July 26

Oklahoma women are encouraged to attend the Oklahoma Women in Agriculture and Small Business conference Aug. 5-6 in Oklahoma City.

The conference will consist of general sessions over risk management education in the areas of production, marketing, financial, legal and human risks inherent to women's operations.

Keynote speakers during the event are to include Kelli Payne, Brian Whitacre, Michele Payn and Amanda Radke.

Based on area of interest, there will be four different options of the main conference available. Agricultural production, alternative enterprises, business and finance and beginning farmers are the four pathways. Each luncheon attendee will receive a free copy of Michele Payn's book *Take Food Bullying By the Horns*.

The statewide Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference is possible thanks to funds from Reinvesting in Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, along

with private sponsorships.

There will be opportunities for informal networking with other women, a conference evening reception and time with like-minded women in the

agriculture industry.

Registration for the event closes on **July 26**. For more information, visit extension.okstate.edu/events/women-in-ag/index.html.



SAVE THE DATE
**WOMEN IN
AGRICULTURE AND
SMALL BUSINESS
CONFERENCE**

August 5-6, 2021 | Oklahoma City

extension.okstate.edu/events/Women-in-Ag

OSU EXTENSION