

PERSPECTIVE

July 17, 2020



OKFB to offer virtual August Area Meeting

In addition to in-person August Area Meetings this year, Oklahoma Farm Bureau will offer a virtual meeting option for members who are unable to attend their district meeting.

At the meeting, members will have an opportunity to consider some of the leading issues facing agriculture and rural Oklahoma as they prepare to develop organizational policy for 2021.

The virtual August Area Meeting will take place Thursday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. Further information about the virtual meeting will be posted on the OKFB website. Find dates and details for the other August Area Meetings on our website at okfb.news/aam20.

OKFB issues statement on SCOTUS decision in McGirt case

In a 5 to 4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday, July 9 ruled that Congress never officially terminated the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reservation in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*.

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation participated in an amicus curiae in support of the state of Oklahoma's position, expressing concerns that the existence of reservations could impact regulations, taxation and property rights for non-tribal members.

"Though Oklahoma Farm Bureau is concerned by the potential implications of the court's ruling on landowners throughout eastern Oklahoma, we are hopeful and confident that Oklahoma and its tribes can successfully form a jurisdictional framework that protects and supports the economy, public



safety and private property rights for all Oklahomans," OKFB President Rodd Moesel said in a statement. "We appreciate the efforts of Attorney General Mike Hunter and Solicitor General Mithun Mansinghani on behalf of Oklahoma, and

remain committed to working alongside state and tribal leaders to forge a better path forward for the future of our state."

For more information about the case, please contact OKFB Public Policy at (405) 523-2300.



OKFB supports legislation providing assistance to livestock producers

Members of Oklahoma's congressional delegation recently introduced two pieces of legislation to assist livestock producers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Congressman Frank Lucas introduced the Requiring Assistance to Meat Processors for Upgrading Plants Act, or the RAMP-UP Act, that would establish a program to provide existing meat and poultry processors with grants to make facility upgrades, move to federal inspection status, and be able to sell their products across state lines.

“Over the past few months, the coronavirus pandemic has revealed both the significance and limitations of existing processing facilities that help transform our high-quality livestock and poultry from the farm into products at the grocery store,” Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel said. “Oklahoma Farm Bureau is grateful to Rep. Frank Lucas for his efforts on the RAMP-UP Act. By opening the door for more processing facilities to receive federal inspection status, the legislation will help ensure a market for our producers’ meat and poultry products and secure a safe and stable food supply for consumers.”

Sen. Jim Inhofe introduced the Responding to Epidemic Losses and Investing in the Economic Future for Producers Act of 2020. The legislation, also known as the RELIEF for Producers Act of 2020, would provide relief to livestock and poultry producers faced with euthanizing animals due to COVID-19, provide resources for animal health laboratories to develop solutions to defend against emerging animal diseases, and give additional authority to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture through the existing Commodity Credit Corporation to deal with future public health emergencies.

“Oklahoma Farm Bureau appreciates Sen. Jim Inhofe’s work to address the critical challenges facing our livestock producers by introducing the RELIEF for Producers Act of 2020,” Moesel said. “This legislation will provide relief to Oklahoma poultry and hog farmers who have experienced massive supply chain disruptions and historic losses during the coronavirus outbreak. Though the pandemic is far from over, the bill also will better prepare our livestock industry for future public health emergencies by increasing resources for animal health laboratories and expanding the authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation.”

Comanche County OKFB member shares benefits of USMCA with KSWO

Adam Bohl, a fifth-generation Chattanooga farmer and Comanche County Farm Bureau member, recently explained the impact of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement on farmers and ranchers in a story with KSWO 7 News in Lawton.

The trade deal, which went into effect on July 1, is expected to increase U.S. agricultural exports by \$2 billion.

“Some of the improvements are Canada and Mexico will treat all imports from the U.S., and grade them on the same scale system as they would domestically,” Bohl said in the story. “Canada previously had graded imported wheat differently than they did domestically.”

Find a link to the full story on OKFB’s website.



YF&R members gather in OKC for summer conference

More than 60 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members, ages 18-35, gathered for the annual Young Farmers and Ranchers summer conference held July 10-12 in Oklahoma City.

“This year’s summer conference was a great way for our YF&R members to gather and connect, especially during a challenging time for all of us,” said Nocona Cook, OKFB YF&R chair. “The conference allowed us to learn more about the issues facing agriculture and how we can be involved and prepared to lead our industry into the future.”

Conference participants had the opportunity to tour local agricultural facilities in the Oklahoma City metro area. American Plant Products and Services, owned by OKFB President Rodd Moesel, serves as a wholesale plant product

company that provides greenhouse construction as well as horticulture necessities to universities and commercial entities nationwide.

Members also toured the Oklahoma National Stockyards with general manager Kelli Payne. She informed the members about the stockyards’ history, her extensive interest and involvement in the cattle industry, and the recent impact of COVID-19 on the cattle market.

The attendees also heard from a variety of speakers during the conference. Michael Kelsey from the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association and Roy Lee Lindsey from the Oklahoma Pork Council discussed current issues in agriculture including how the state’s pork and beef sectors have been affected by the global pandemic. Oklahoma’s State Veterinarian Dr. Rod Hall

gave an update on active animal viruses in the state as well as what the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry is doing to prepare for the future.

In addition to the information shared with members about Oklahoma agriculture, attendees also heard from author and motivational speaker V. J. Smith about the importance of gratitude. The conference closed Sunday morning with a message from Brad Clay, a minister and founder of Final Descent Outdoors.

The conference served as a way for young farmers and ranchers across the state to connect with fellow agriculturalists while learning more about the opportunities available in Farm Bureau and YF&R.



Top: More than 60 YF&R members from across the state gather in Oklahoma City July 10-12 for the conference. **Bottom left:** OKFB President Rodd Moesel (right) shares about his horticulture business, American Plant Products and Services, during a tour. **Bottom right:** Michael Kelsey (right) of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association participates in a panel discussion about current issues in agriculture with OKFB Senior Director of Public Policy Steve Thompson (middle) and Roy Lee Lindsey of the Oklahoma Pork Council.

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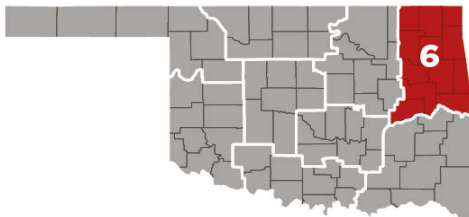
District 6 members to elect new state director

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from district six will caucus on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 4:30 p.m. to elect a district director to the OKFB state board to fill the currently vacant position.

The caucus will be held at Moore Farms Event Barn near Pryor prior to the district six August Area Meeting.

District six includes Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, McIntosh, Mayes, Muskogee, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoyah and Wagoner counties.

For questions regarding the district six caucus, contact OKFB Northeast Field Representative Gage Milliman at (918) 559-2208.



Join OKFB YF&R in second annual shotgun shoot

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers will host a shotgun shoot Aug. 29 at Quail Ridge Hunting and Sporting Clays in McCloud, Oklahoma.

The cost to enter a team of four is \$375 and an individual entry is \$100.

For those interested in becoming a sponsor, there are two levels. The platinum level is \$750 and includes two four-person teams and a logo on the event sign. The gold level includes one four-person team and a logo on the event sign. All sponsor information must be submitted no later than August 7.

On the day of the event, registration will begin at 8 a.m., followed by shooting at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided to event participants and will be served at 11:30 a.m. Prizes and door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the event. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

For more information regarding the YF&R shotgun shoot, contact Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2300. The latest details will be announced on the OKFB website.

