

PERSPECTIVE

July 29, 2022



OKFB hosts inaugural Youth Legislative Experience

Nearly 70 FFA and 4-H members descended on the Oklahoma state Capitol for the inaugural Oklahoma Farm Bureau Youth Legislative Experience July 12-13 in Oklahoma City.

The first of its kind for OKFB, the Youth Legislative Experience was an immersive two-day event for high school juniors and seniors to learn about Oklahoma's legislative process and how a bill becomes law through a mock legislature held on the floor of the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Each student arrived at the state Capitol with legislation in-hand that they crafted in the weeks prior to the conference. Delegates presented and lobbied for their bills in one of four committees in hopes of having their legislation heard on the floor.

"I never realized how much effort and work has to be put in just for one bill, even if it fails," said Cora Sullivan, a Lawton FFA member.

Attendees chose from amongst

themselves individuals to serve as Speaker of the House and Floor Leader to run the floor sessions in the House alongside former Rep. Joe Dorman of the Oklahoma Institute of Child Advocacy.

Delegates discussed, debated and voted on legislation involving restrictions of the herbicide 2,4-D, changes to sport hunting seasons, required increases in the number of school therapists, regulation of medical marijuana and more throughout the two general floor sessions.

During the conference, students heard from Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur as well as Kirby Smith, chief of staff for Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell. The two shared the importance of civic engagement and giving agriculture a voice in the policymaking process.

Ryne Crosthwait, a delegate from Payne County 4-H, echoed the importance of advocating for agriculture at the state Capitol.

"(Agriculture) is one of the most

important things we can advocate for, if not the most important thing," Crosthwait said. "Without agriculture, we do not eat."

The Youth Legislative Experience gave many students the opportunity to visit the state Capitol for the first time and see firsthand the opportunities available in policymaking.

"I know a lot of the students were not looking into going into legislation or politics," said Lexie Zuniga of Fairview FFA. "I do think it opened students' eyes to what they can do after high school."

Guest state legislators assisted with the mock legislature and visited with the delegates in attendance, including Rep. Kyle Hilbert, Rep. Brian Hill, Rep. Dick Lowe and Sen. Blake Stephens.

Attendees also enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship at Riversport OKC and completed a community service project at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma where they packed more than 7,300 pounds of food for a total of 6,096 meals.

OKFB Ag PAC issues additional endorsements, financial support for candidates in upcoming elections

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Ag PAC endorsed an additional four candidates and added \$29,900 in financial support for candidates before the Aug. 23 runoff election.

Headlining the field of new endorsees is Markwayne Mullin, a candidate for Sen. Jim Inhofe's unexpired seat in the United States Senate. Mullin faces T.W. Shannon in the primary runoff.

Additional new endorsements by the OKFB Ag PAC include Dell Kerbs for House District 26, Trey Caldwell for House District 63 and Jon Echols for House District 90.

The Ag PAC issued additional financial support to Darcy Jech, who received an Ag PAC endorsement before the June primary election. Jech will face Brady Butler in the Oklahoma Senate District 26 race in the runoff election.

The Ag PAC awarded additional financial support to four previously supported candidates for their respective runoff races, including Todd Russ for state treasurer, Kim David for corporation commissioner, Leslie Osborn for labor commissioner and Collin Duel for House District 31.

The PAC also gave new financial support to four state Senate candidates

and 13 state House of Representatives candidates.

State Senate candidates receiving first-time financial support include Ally Seifried*, SD 2; Tom Woods*, SD 4; Kristen Thompson, SD 22; and John Michael Montgomery, SD 32.

State House candidates receiving first-time financial support include Bob Ed Culver, HD 4; Steve Bashore, HD 7; John Pfeiffer, HD 38; Denise Crosswhite Hader, HD 41; Jay Steagall, HD 43; Kendra Wesson, HD 46; Nick Archer, HD 55; Rande Worthen, HD 64; Eric Roberts, HD 83; Tammy West, HD 84; Cyndi Munson, HD 85; Max Wolfley, HD 95; and Marilyn Stark, HD 100.

The OKFB Ag PAC board will meet after the Aug. 23 primary runoff to discuss additional candidate support before the Nov. 8 general election.

To view the full list of endorsed and supported candidates along with voter resources, visit okfb.news/vote22.

The PAC is funded through voluntary contributions from OKFB members. To make a contribution to the OKFB Ag PAC and strengthen your voice on election day, contact the OKFB Public Policy Department at (405) 523-2300**.

*Candidate appearing in the Aug. 23 primary runoff

New Ag PAC candidate endorsements

Markwayne Mullin

U.S. Senate

Dell Kerbs

Oklahoma House District 26

Trey Caldwell

Oklahoma House District 63

Jon Echols

Oklahoma House District 90

Remember to vote in the Oklahoma primary runoff election

August 23

View OKFB's online voter guide to view all endorsed and supported candidates:

okfb.news/vote22

 **OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU**
AG PAC | POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The OKFB Ag PAC relies on voluntary contributions to support political candidates who understand the role agriculture plays in our daily lives. OKFB members can donate when renewing their membership or at any time by contacting the Public Policy department.

***Contributions or gifts to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Ag PAC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.*

OKFB hosts second-annual media training conference for Oklah

Oklahoma Farm Bureau hosted more than 90 FFA members for a day of media training at OKFB's second-annual FFA Reporters Conference Monday, July 11 at the Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel.

The event equipped FFA chapter reporters and presidents with ideas and skills to effectively communicate about their chapter's activities during the upcoming school year.

The workshops focused on writing, layout and design, photography, social media and messaging with special emphasis on sharing FFA members' activities. Students received real-world training and experience from faculty and

graduate assistants from the Oklahoma State University Ferguson College of Agriculture Agricultural Education, Communications and Leadership department, along with staff from the Oklahoma Pork Council and OKFB.

"Communication is key to everything," said Josh Wilson, Stillwell FFA reporter. "Without communication, how can we get a message across? Taking what I learned today showed me that I can communicate well. If I do not communicate well or as I should in anything I do, then how can I thrive?"

A social media training session taught by Ruth Inman of Agorapulse was offered to FFA advisors to provide them

with skills to help students manage their FFA chapters' social media platforms.

Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur spoke to the group during lunch, encouraging FFA members to stay involved and engaged in Oklahoma agriculture throughout their education and into their careers.

A panel of Oklahoma agricultural leaders including OKFB Vice President Monte Tucker, OPC Executive Director Kylee Deniz and Oklahoma Beef Council Executive Director Heather Buckmaster provided a discussion about the need for accurate agricultural communication and consumer outreach.

Mary Peck with AgYouth Magazine

OKFB chosen as rural State Business Accelerator Program partner

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has been chosen as one of three entities that will manage the new State of Oklahoma Business Accelerator Program.

OKFB was selected to administer the program in rural parts of the state by the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology.

The accelerator program was created to help Oklahoma companies grow while creating jobs in the state. The program has been a priority for Gov. Kevin Stitt and is funded from appropriations made by the state legislature in 2021.

“As Oklahomans we understand the role that main-street businesses play in our small towns and rural communities,” said Rodd Moesel, Oklahoma Farm Bureau president. “Our goal is to spur the growth of Oklahoma agricultural businesses involving food processing and value-added businesses that utilize Oklahoma agricultural products.

“Through this program we hope to help expand and support new agricultural production technologies, equipment and services to address needs in fertilizer and crop inputs, drones and crop scouting, record keeping and management. Additionally, we hope to encourage and support new or expanding manufacturing and service businesses across Oklahoma to help produce jobs and income to stimulate growth in our rural communities.”

OKFB is partnering with AgLaunch, a national nonprofit that operates an agricultural business accelerator centered on farmers and innovation, to create an accelerator program to provide resources for agricultural and rural-based businesses in Oklahoma. The accelerator will provide education, knowledge and experience to help such businesses grow. OKFB’s future efforts will also provide financing options for businesses that successfully complete the accelerator program.

The accelerator for Oklahoma City businesses will be operated by gener8tor, and the Tulsa-based accelerator partner will be announced at a later date.

“We are striving to keep Oklahoma moving forward in technology and economic development,” said Elizabeth Hutt Pollard, Oklahoma Secretary of Science and Innovation. “These accelerators and partnerships with gener8tor and Oklahoma Farm Bureau are a significant investment in our state’s business ecosystem. It is a tremendous step in fostering new innovation, creating jobs for Oklahomans, and diversifying our economy, not just in the metro areas, but across the state.”

OKFB will continue to develop its accelerator program with a full rollout planned in the near future.

Plan to attend your local August Area Meeting

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members will gather to kick off the organization’s policy development season at August Area Meetings during the weeks of Aug. 8 through 18.

Make plans to attend the area meeting of your choice to meet with Farm Bureau members and discuss the issues facing agriculture and rural Oklahoma along with policy solutions.

View the full August Area Meeting schedule online at okfb.news/AAM22

Register for the YF&R Shotgun Shoot Aug. 27

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers will host their annual Shotgun Shoot Saturday, Aug. 27 at Silverleaf Shooting Sports near Guthrie.

Registration for individuals or teams of four is open through Aug. 13. Sponsorships opportunities are also available.

For details, contact Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2300.

Get all the details and register for the shoot online at okfb.news/YFRShoot22

Oklahoma FFA members

and K.C. Sheperd of the Oklahoma Farm Report offered opportunities for FFA members to share their news and activities throughout the year with their respective media outlets.

Oklahoma FFA state officers Emily Beaner and Presley Pullen were on-hand to greet the students and walk them through icebreaker activities.

Door prizes were awarded to Paige Burns of Washington FFA who won a smartphone lavalier microphone kit, Jenna Gore of Kellyville FFA who won a smartphone tripod kit, Tori Simmons of Bluejacket FFA who won a smartphone gimbal and Sierra South of Choctaw FFA who won a video ring light kit.



Keylee Travis, agricultural communications lecturer at the Oklahoma State University Ferguson College of Agriculture, teaches press release writing to FFA members at OKFB’s 2022 FFA Reporters Conference.



Paige Endres, marketing and communications manager for the Oklahoma Pork Council, teaches a graphic design session to FFA members during the 2022 OKFB FFA Reporters Conference.

**PUBLISHED BY
OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU**

Postmaster:

Send address corrections to:

Perspective
P.O. Box 53332,
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332

STAFF DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thad Doye
(405) 523-2438

**VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Dustin Mielke
(405) 530-2640

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS
AND ADVOCACY COMMUNICATIONS**

Rachel Havens
(405) 523-2346

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Rebekah Nash
(405) 523-2457

Oklahoma Farm Bureau
2501 N. Stiles
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3126

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 131
Okla. City, OK.

OKFB WLC participates in state Ag in the Classroom conference July 19



Above: OKFB WLC Chair Mignon Bolay (left) helps facilitate a breakout session at the Oklahoma Agriculture in the Classroom Conference Tuesday, July 19 in Moore. WLC members helped during the event's breakout sessions.

Left: OKFB WLC District 7 Member Terry Pederson discusses OKFB WLC activities at the group's booth during the state Agriculture in the Classroom Conference July 19.

Generation Bridge Summer Series events in full swing

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members ages 35-50 are invited to attend the OKFB Generation Bridge Summer Series with two remaining opportunities for members to gather in August.

The initial Summer Series event took place Thursday, July 28 in Tulsa. Two remaining events are scheduled for Aug. 12 and Aug. 26.

The events are an opportunity for mid-career agriculturalists to gather with Farm Bureau members in their region for an evening of fun, camaraderie and discussion of future Generation Bridge programs.

For details, contact Holly Carroll at (405) 523-2300. **Register for the events online at okfb.news/BridgeSS22.**

Upcoming Summer Series Events

Enid • Friday, August 12

Enid Brewing Company • 6 p.m.

OKC • Friday, August 26

Remington Park