

# PERSPECTIVE

June 2, 2023

## Supreme court WOTUS decision a step in the right direction for Oklahoma agriculture

**T**he U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of landowner rights in their *Sackett v. EPA* ruling over the scope of the EPA's regulatory authority on what waters constitute a Waters of the United States.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are encouraged that today's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court recognizes the need to consider landowners when the federal government makes rules regarding water use," said Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel. "We are pleased the ruling places limits on the EPA's administrative reach regarding Waters of the U.S., which we hope will ensure more reasonable and realistic rules and actions by the agency in the future."

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation joined with 20 other state Farm Bureaus to file an amicus curiae – or "friend of the court" – brief in the *Sackett v. EPA* case review. The court's majority decision referenced the brief, recognizing the ability of states to regulate water within their boundaries.

Opponents of federal government overreach argued the over-regulation stems from "the absence of a clear and definitive test" to determine what constitutes a WOTUS. The court ruled in favor of the Sacketts, stating the Clean Water Act does not allow the agency to regulate wetlands that are isolated from other bodies of water, protecting the private property rights of landowners.

"Farmers and ranchers are the original stewards of the land, and they have a generations-long commitment to the responsible use of our natural resources, including water," Moesel said. "Oklahoma agriculture producers need to be regarded as trusted partners in ensuring environmental quality, and we hope today's ruling is the first step to creating a national framework that will consider our industry's commitment to responsible water use and water quality to empower our farmers and ranchers to continue raising food, fiber and fuel."

This ruling does away with the

"significant nexus" test, which agriculture groups argued was a confusing and burdensome method to determine what constitutes a WOTUS.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall also commented on the decision:

"AFBF appreciates the Supreme Court justices for their careful consideration of the implications of *Sackett v. EPA*. The EPA clearly overstepped its authority under the Clean Water Act by restricting private property owners from developing their land despite being far from the nearest navigable water.

"The justices respect private property rights. It's now time for the Biden administration to do the same and rewrite the Waters of the United States Rule. Farmers and ranchers share the goal of protecting the resources they're entrusted with, but they deserve a rule that provides clarity and doesn't require a team of attorneys to properly care for their land."

## Legislative update: groundwater permit protests, OSU veterinary medicine authority

**T**he first regular session of the 59th Oklahoma Legislature wrapped up on Friday, May 26, after a busy week that saw more than 225 bills acted upon, including several items of interest to Oklahoma Farm Bureau members.

HB 2053 by Rep. David Hardin and Sen. Brent Howard passed the House of Representatives on Monday, May 22, by a vote of 75-16 and the Senate on Thursday, May 25, by a vote of 40-2. This measure will help protect agriculture

producers' groundwater permits against frivolous protests from environmental and animal rights activists. The final votes were positively influenced by the many calls and emails from OKFB members following an action alert request for support.

On Thursday, May 25, both chambers of the legislature successfully completed veto override votes on 13 bills, including a top priority of OKFB, creating the Oklahoma State University Veterinary Medicine Authority. This administrative

change will allow OSU to receive \$14 million in annual operational funding and \$79 million in one-time capital improvement funding that was approved as part of the larger budget agreement passed on the last day of session.

Other state budget highlights revealed during the last week included \$37 million for the Emergency Drought Commission, \$9 million for rural firefighting resources and \$3 million for cedar tree removal projects in the North Canadian watershed.

## Upcoming YF&R Deadlines

### Register for the 2023 YF&R Summer Conference

**Dates: July 28-30**

Registration will open soon! Watch for the registration form on [okfarmbureau.org](https://okfarmbureau.org).

### 2024 YF&R Achievement Award and YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award applications

**Due: July 14**

Find the applications on our website at:  
[okfarmbureau.org/applications](https://okfarmbureau.org/applications).

### 2025 YF&R Achievement Award and YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award applications

**Due: Oct. 10**

Find the applications on our website at:  
[okfarmbureau.org/applications](https://okfarmbureau.org/applications).

## OKFB rural and ag business accelerator pipelines receive 43 applications from Oklahoma innovators

**T**he Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and Ag Business Accelerators application period has closed, and Oklahoma Farm Bureau, in conjunction with national and state-level partners, is proud to announce the two pipelines have received 43 total applications.

Applications are currently in the review process. Selected participants for the Cultivate Oklahoma agricultural innovation pipeline and the Activate Oklahoma rural innovation pipeline will be notified no later than June 9. Each pipeline features a bootcamp-style program, which will kick off in late June.

Graduates of the Activate Oklahoma pipeline qualify for an opportunity to

pitch their innovation, technology or venture to a panel of investment capital partners for a chance to receive equity investment in their enterprise. Ventures that complete Cultivate Oklahoma have the opportunity to be selected by a panel of Oklahoma farmers and their peers in the farmer network to participate in the national AgLaunch365 accelerator, where they could receive pre-seed-stage equity investment.



## Carson and Schaufele join OKFB as summer interns

**T**wo Oklahoma State University students joined Oklahoma Farm Bureau in May as summer interns.

Liberty Carson and Caden Schaufele will assist with OKFB programs and participate in activities and events throughout the coming months.

Carson is an animal science and agribusiness junior at OSU. Carson will primarily work with the public policy department and the Young Farmers and Ranchers. She will assist with planning and coordinating summer youth events, learn about OKFB's grassroots advocacy efforts and more.

"I chose this internship because I have seen the impact Oklahoma Farm Bureau advocacy efforts make in our state for Oklahoma agriculturists," Carson said. "I wanted to be part of the legislative work Oklahoma Farm Bureau does. As a member of the agriculture community, there isn't a better advocate for rural Oklahoma and agriculture than Oklahoma Farm Bureau."

Carson, originally from Yukon, is a sixth-generation agriculturist with a background in cattle and wheat production. Carson was active in 4-H and FFA, and exhibited livestock from a young age, which helped develop her passion for agriculture.

Carson will graduate in spring 2025 from OSU, and plans to obtain her MBA from OSU. After completion of the master's program, she hopes to work

in public policy within the agriculture sector, specifically in livestock policy.

Schaufele is an agribusiness and pre-law senior at OSU, and during his internship, he will assist in the public policy department and help with OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers programs.

"I have seen the impactful role Oklahoma Farm Bureau plays to advocate for rural communities and farming communities like where I grew up," Schaufele said. "I like the state policy process and ensuring the voices of agriculturists are heard at the state Capitol and shared with our legislative leaders."

Schaufele grew up in Hobart on his family's cow-calf and row crop operation. He was active in FFA, where he served as the 2020-2021 southwest area vice president. He served as a legislative page in the Oklahoma Senate his senior year of high school, which inspired his interest in state policy and politics. After completing a rural economic development course this past semester, he found an interest in rural policy advocacy focusing on issues like ensuring rural broadband access and the medical marijuana industry's impact on rural communities.

Schaufele will graduate in Spring 2024 from OSU and hopes to work in the rural or agriculture policy field within the state of Oklahoma.



## Bushels for Books applications due June 15

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee and Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's Bushels for Books application is now available.

The program provides accurate agriculture books to schools across the state. Pre-K to eighth-grade teachers can submit an application for their grade level or a school librarian can submit an application for books that span multiple grade levels.

All books available are grade level appropriate and will be chosen from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's agriculture book database.

The 2023 application can be found on the OKFB website at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications). All applicants will receive one book upon submission of the application.

Applications must be submitted by June 15, 2023, to Oklahoma Farm Bureau, attn: Marcia Irvin, 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Alternatively,

the application can be submitted by email to [marcia.irvin@okfb.org](mailto:marcia.irvin@okfb.org) by June 15. For more information, contact OKFB

Senior Director of Women's Leadership Committee and Safety Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2300.



### Bushels for Books

Providing accurate agriculture books to educate today's youth



## New Right to Repair MOUs Bring Industry Coverage to 70%

The American Farm Bureau Federation signed two more memoranda of understanding with two agricultural equipment manufacturers, AGCO and Kubota, providing farmers and ranchers the right to repair their own farm equipment. The MOUs, which were negotiated independently with each manufacturer, follow similar agreements AFBF entered into with John Deere and CNH Industrial Brands earlier this year. Combined, the four MOUs cover roughly 70% of the agricultural machinery sold in the United States.

"The American Farm Bureau Federation is pleased to announce new agreements with AGCO and Kubota," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Farmers and ranchers urged us to find a private sector-solution to the challenges of repairing their own equipment. These agreements represent ongoing efforts to ensure farmers have access to the tools necessary to keep their equipment

running, and to keep food on the table for families across America."

AGCO Vice President of Customer Support Barry O'Shea said, "AGCO's farmer-first focus guides us in everything we do, and we support farmers' ability to repair the equipment they own. We are dedicated to being their most trusted partner for smart farming solutions, and this MOU with Farm Bureau is an outcome of that commitment. We appreciated the American Farm Bureau's diligence, and we will continue delivering tools farmers can use to diagnose, maintain, and repair their AGCO machinery."

Todd Stucke, Senior Vice President of Marketing for Kubota Tractor Corporation, said, "Kubota is pleased to join the AFBF in signing a memorandum of understanding to ensure our customers are empowered with the information and tools needed to safely maintain, diagnose and make repairs

on their own equipment. Through our network of over 1,100 dealers, Kubota makes available the shop tools, parts, guides and manuals to owners who choose to work directly on their machines. We strive to ensure that our equipment is manufactured to the highest engineering standards to maximize performance for our customers, and this agreement is a good step toward further protecting their safety while operating, maintaining and repairing it."

The MOUs respect the intellectual property rights of the manufacturers while setting a framework for farmers and independent repair facilities in all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico to access AGCO and Kubota manuals, tools, product guides and information to self-diagnose and self-repair machines, as well as support from the manufacturers to directly purchase or lease diagnostic tools and order products and parts.

Do you have big summer plans? Be sure to check out our OKFB member benefits to save on your plans on our website at: [okfb.news/memberbenefits](http://okfb.news/memberbenefits).



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## Students selected to attend OYLA conference

**T**wenty incoming high school seniors were selected to attend the 2023 Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference June 13-16 in Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference is hosted by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers committee to instill leadership skills and provide attendees with a deeper look into Oklahoma agriculture.

The conference features a variety speakers, team-building opportunities and media communications training. Selected students will also complete a community service project at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and visit different agricultural businesses around the Oklahoma City metro.

The students selected for the 2023 conference are:

- **Aubrey Koehn, Canadian County**
- **Cora Sullivan, Comanche County**
- **Ashlee Purvine, Dewey County**
- **Jaci Gholson, Jefferson County**
- **Patience Green, Johnston County**
- **Rhianna Ross, Johnston County**
- **Rylan Harris, Kiowa County**
- **Berklee Gossen, Lincoln County**
- **Cooper Kline, Lincoln County**
- **Presley Strickland, McClain County**
- **Courtney Blagg, Rogers County**
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- **Erin Stevenson, Payne County**
- **Jake Odom, Payne County**
- **Ryne Crosthwait, Payne County**
- **Blake Weeks, Pottawatomie County**
- **Trenton Briley, Rogers County**
- **Kendall Guinn, Wagoner County**
- **Madison Church, Washita County**
- **Meliah Sutton, Washita County**

Selected students are those at the top of their class with the intention to pursue a post-secondary education, especially in the agricultural industry. Students plan to attend multiple universities including Black Hawk College, Murray State College, Oklahoma State University, Redlands Community College and Rogers State University.

The participants plan to pursue degrees in a variety of industries including agricultural business, agricultural communications, agricultural education, agricultural leadership, animal science, applied exercise science, crop production management, elementary education, entomology, political science, recreational therapy and veterinary technology.