

# PERSPECTIVE

March 22, 2024



Oklahoma Farm Bureau board members traveled to Ellis County Tuesday, March 5, to present one of two donations of \$5,000 in fuel cards to offset truckers' fuel costs to transport donated hay to fire-affected areas of Western Oklahoma. Pictured left to right: Bill Peetoom, Ellis County Farm Bureau president; David VonTungeln, OKFB district three director; Howard Cunningham, Chickasha-area farmer and Farm Bureau member who delivered hay to the area; Randy Holley, hay delivery coordinator; Monte Tucker, OKFB district two director, and Leon Richards, OKFB district one director.

## OKFB donates \$10,000 in fuel cards to support fire relief hay donations

Oklahoma Farm Bureau donated a total of \$10,000 in fuel cards to help offset fuel costs for truck drivers transporting donated hay to areas of Ellis County affected by wildfire.

OKFB board members traveled to Shattuck Tuesday, March 5, to present the first \$5,000 donation of cards and survey fire damage in the area. An additional donation of \$5,000 worth of cards was made the following week to also help offset fuel expenses.

The cards were distributed by Randy Holley, who is helping coordinate hay deliveries to affected farmers and ranchers. Holley said the outpouring of support from people far away as Alabama has been overwhelming in the best way possible.

Ellis County Farm Bureau President Bill Peetoom said the donations will be critical to carry cattle through until grass becomes viable for grazing, which will be months away.

In total, more than 152,000 acres were burned in the late-February fires, according to the Oklahoma Emergency Operations Center.

The OKFB Foundation for Agriculture collected donations to help with fire relief efforts, with the foundation, OKFB and OKFB Insurance each matching up to \$10,000 worth of donations.

Additional fire relief donations will be made by OKFB in the coming weeks and months as OKFB and the foundation work to meet ongoing needs through the recovery process.

## YF&R Day at the Capitol set for April 2 in OKC

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers will host their annual day of legislative advocacy for agriculturalists ages 18-35 and Collegiate Farm Bureau members during OKFB's YF&R Day at the Capitol Tuesday, April 2, in Oklahoma City.

The day will kick off in the morning with a legislative briefing from OKFB public policy staff at the Farm Bureau home office before YF&R and Collegiate Farm Bureau members visit their legislators and other elected officials at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

An evening social event will be available to attendees on Monday, April 1, and a block of hotel rooms will be available at a special nightly rate for members wishing to stay overnight in Oklahoma City Monday, April 1.

Complete information about the event will be available on the OKFB website as soon as details are finalized. For questions, contact Burton Harmon at (405) 523-2300.

### Farm Bureau Cares food donation matching form submissions due March 31

County Farm Bureaus participating in Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Farm Bureau Cares: Community Food Donation Matching program have until **March 31** to submit the online form to have their donation matched up to \$100.

For full program details and the online matching program form, visit [okfb.news/FBCares](https://okfb.news/FBCares).

# Legislative Update: Passing a major deadline, keeping up with water policy

**T**he sixth week of Oklahoma's 2024 legislative session wrapped up with the second major deadline on Thursday, March 14, where bills were required to pass off the floor of their chamber of origin before deadline to remain viable for the rest of the legislative session.

This year, Oklahoma Farm Bureau has focused heavily on bills in two areas: groundwater metering and liability protection for poultry growers.

OKFB has worked diligently with stakeholders on Sen. Brent Howard's groundwater bill since the beginning of session. When originally introduced, Farm Bureau members were concerned that SB 1341 would threaten private property rights, but OKFB relayed the concerns to Howard and has worked

alongside him to amend the bill and remove provisions that threatened private property rights.

OKFB called members to action earlier this session in support of HB 4118 by Rep. David Hardin, which provides liability protection for poultry growers so long as they follow a state-approved nutrient management plan. The legislation has taken a harrowing journey through the legislature thus far, but HB 4118 and its companion bill, SB 1424 by Sen. Brent Howard, have both passed their chambers of origin and each will now move to the opposite chamber for further consideration.

OKFB will continue to advocate for this pair of poultry bills and firmly believes agricultural producers who are

in compliance with the law should be shielded from liability and litigation.

This legislative session marks the end of an era in both chambers as both Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat and House Speaker Charles McCall will term out at the end of session. The House recently elected Rep. Kyle Hilbert, current House Speaker Pro Tempore, as the next speaker designate. Sen. Greg McCortney was chosen last month to succeed Treat as leader of the Senate.

***To stay up to date on OKFB's work at the state Capitol, tune in to the weekly legislative Zoom call every Friday at noon. Contact your field representative to get connected.***

**Reminder: YF&R Scholarships, Capitol Camp, OYLA application deadline is April 1**

Don't forget – applications for OKFB's YF&R and Collegiate Farm Bureau Scholarships, summertime Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture Camp and summertime Capitol Camp are due **April 1**. Get details on each program and find the applications on OKFB's website at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](https://okfarmbureau.org/applications).

## OKFB welcomes two new staff members

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau welcomed two new staff members to the organization in February.

### Chloe Black

Chloe Black joined OKFB as coordinator of collegiate, special projects and YF&R. In her role, Black will work with the Young Farmers & Ranchers program to support events and activities in addition to facilitating and growing Collegiate Farm Bureau programs at colleges and universities around the state. She will also conduct OKFB safety programs, focusing on the southern half of the state.

"Having grown up in a family heavily involved in the agriculture industry, I am excited to pursue a career with Oklahoma Farm Bureau and serve Oklahoma agriculture," Black said. "I am looking forward to meeting young farmers & ranchers in our area and sharing with them the opportunities Farm Bureau offers."

A native of Newcastle, Black grew up as a fourth-generation farmer, and today, she has her own cow/calf herd

of purebred Charolais cattle from which she sells bulls to fellow farmers and ranchers. Black is a graduate of Oklahoma State University where earned her bachelor's degree in animal science.

### Cyndee Love

Cyndee Love was named federation finance assistant for OKFB. In her position, Love will work alongside county Farm Bureaus to maintain sound financial records and create reports and statements to ensure the smooth operation of county Farm Bureaus.

"I am very excited to start my new journey with Oklahoma Farm Bureau," Love said. "I am ecstatic to continue learning every day to help the organization grow."

Having grown up in Chicago, Love now calls Edmond home. She comes to Farm Bureau after working in a supervisory role at a large retail business. Love earned her associate degree in business management in Oklahoma State University Oklahoma City and is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree.



Chloe Black



Cyndee Love



## YF&R, Collegiate Farm Bureau members attend AFBF national YF&R conference in Omaha

**N**early 20 young Oklahoma agriculturalists joined approximately 900 fellow Farm Bureau members from around the nation in Omaha for the 2024 American Farm Bureau National Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference March 8-11.

Members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers program and Collegiate Farm Bureau members from five chapters enjoyed a full slate of speakers, breakout sessions and fellowship with fellow Farm Bureau members from around the country.

Cassidy Cashen of Oklahoma State University represented OKFB in the AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet where she progressed to the Sweet 16 round of competition discussing a variety of agricultural topics with fellow Collegiate Farm Bureau members.

Oklahoma's delegation also expanded their agricultural horizons as they toured area farms and agricultural businesses including pork and poultry farms in addition to a Claas combine assembly plant.



Cassidy Cashen of OSU represented Oklahoma in the AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet in Omaha.



AFBF President Zippy Duvall (center) visited with Oklahoma Collegiate Farm Bureau members.



OKFB YF&R members represented Oklahoma at the 2024 AFBF YF&R Conference.

## County Farm Bureaus kick off 2024 capitol visit season



Rep. Ty Burns (right) gives an update to Noble and Logan County Farm Bureau members on March 5.



Kay County Farm Bureau invited local 4-H and FFA members to attend their county Capitol visit on March 6.



Rep. Kyle Hilbert visits with Creek County Farm Bureau members during their Capitol visit on March 12.



Rep. John Pfeiffer shares a legislative update to Kay County Farm Bureau members and local 4-H and FFA members on March 6.

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

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

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## **AFBF applauds SEC for sparing farms from Wall Street rules**

**T**he Securities and Exchange Commission responded to American Farm Bureau Federation's concerns and affirmed that regulations intended for Wall Street should not extend to America's family farms. The SEC voted March 6 on its final climate disclosure rule and removed the Scope 3 reporting requirement, which would have required public companies to report the greenhouse gas emissions of their supply chain.

Since the rule was first proposed two years ago, AFBF led the charge for the removal of Scope 3. Farm Bureau members sent almost 20,000 messages to the SEC and Capitol Hill, sharing their perspectives of how Scope 3 reporting would affect their farms.

"AFBF thanks SEC Chair Gary Gensler and his staff for their diligence in researching the unintended consequences of an overreaching Scope 3 requirement," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Farmers are committed

to protecting the natural resources they've been entrusted with, and they continue to advance climate-smart agriculture, but they cannot afford to hire compliance officers just to handle SEC reporting requirements. This is especially true for small farms that would have likely been squeezed out of the supply chain.

"Over the past two years, our members have made their voices heard on this issue and several lawmakers and leaders really stepped up. We thank all those who stood with farmers, including Senators Jon Tester, Tammy Baldwin and Kyrsten Sinema, as well as Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, all of whom listened to the concerns of America's farm families and recognized the impact Scope 3 would have had on rural America."

AFBF recognizes the value of data collection and has actively contributed to responsible approaches to such efforts, including as a founding member

of the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium and a leader in Field to Market. Both organizations work to empower farmers when it comes to on-farm data collection.

The proposed Scope 3 requirement, however, would have imposed additional burdens on farmers, who provide almost every raw product that goes into the food supply chain. The onerous reporting requirements could have disqualified small, family-owned farms from doing business with public companies, putting those farms at risk of going out of business.

Now that the SEC has thoughtfully evaluated the issue, AFBF is urging California to follow the SEC's lead by withdrawing its Scope 3 reporting requirement for any company doing business in the state. Farm Bureau, along with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others, recently challenged that state law and its national ramifications.