

# PERSPECTIVE

March 25, 2022

## OKFB WLC shares Oklahoma agriculture with legislators at Farm City Festival

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee visited with legislators and served lunch to more than 250 people at the state Capitol Wednesday, March 9, during the 2022 Farm City Festival.

Farm City Festival is one of the most anticipated events of the year for the WLC committee. It is an opportunity for the women of Farm Bureau to connect and share Oklahoma agriculture with elected officials.

"Our main purpose is to just to come and thank them and let them know how much we appreciate what they do for us," said Mignon Bolay, OKFB WLC chair.

WLC members used the opportunity to hand out accurate agriculture fact booklets to legislators and legislative staff to connect the meal with agricultural products grown on Oklahoma farms and ranches.



**Rep. Brian Hill poses for a photo with WLC members (L to R) Karen Dodson, Robin Bryant and Mignon Bolay during Farm City Festival on Wednesday, March 9, at the Oklahoma state Capitol.**



**OKFB WLC District 6 Committee Member Kelly Blair shares accurate agriculture information with Sen. Frank Simpson.**



**Sen. Michael Bergstrom gets a plate of food while visiting with WLC members during Farm City Festival. The committee provided meals and accurate agriculture information to more than 250 people during the event.**



**Watch the Farm City Festival video on YouTube**

See how the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee shared the agriculture story with legislators during their 2022 Farm City Festival.

Watch the video at  
**[okfb.news/FCF22Video](https://okfb.news/FCF22Video)**





## Community Food Assistance Matching Program

### Matching funds available in April to county Farm Bureaus who donate to community nutrition programs

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau will host the second-annual Community Food Assistance Matching Program April 1-30 to connect county Farm Bureaus with their community.

The program provides matching funds up to \$100 for county Farm Bureaus that donate to a local food assistance program.

County Farm Bureaus can receive matching funds for donating to local food banks, food pantries, meals on wheels and other food assistance programs with a food donation, food drive or monetary donation.

Farmers and ranchers across Oklahoma create food, fiber and fuel for people in their communities, and OKFB members understand the importance of giving back to their communities.

County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to reach out to their local food assistance

program to see what items are needed most to make the county's donation impact even greater.

OKFB will match any donation up to \$100 to the food assistance program of choice. OKFB will send a separate check to the chosen program.

To receive the matching funds from OKFB, county Farm Bureaus must host the food drive or make a monetary donation, present the donation to the food assistance program of choice, and fill out the reimbursement form found on the OKFB website. Donations and the form must be completed by May 1 to receive OKFB's match.

The Community Food Assistance Matching Program reimbursement form can be found at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications).

For more information or questions, contact Rebekah Nash at (405) 523-2300.

### How your county Farm Bureau can receive matching funds

- 1** Decide as a county board to decide if you will host a food drive, shop for food or give a monetary donation.
- 2** Contact your field representative to share your plans for your donation presentation.
- 3** Present donation to your program of choice and take photos to submit to OKFB.
- 4** Complete the matching reimbursement form at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications) and return it to the address listed on the form.
- 5** OKFB will send a matching check of up to \$100 to your selected program.

## Morrison educator named AITC Teacher of the Year

**T**eresa Brunner, a teacher at Morrison Elementary School, has been named the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year.

"When you see Teresa in her classroom, it is obvious she has a passion for teaching her young students about agriculture," said Emily Ague, State AITC Coordinator. "Her students are excited and eager to learn."

Brunner has taught at Morrison Public Schools for 24 years. In that time, she has attended workshops, "On the Road with Ag in the Classroom" road trips, and has attended and presented at the State and National AITC Conferences.

"Agriculture is so ingrained in me that I wouldn't know of any other way to teach," said Brunner. "Every year I strive to include more Ag in the Classroom lessons and resources and am hoping I am not only educating the children in my classroom, but also their families."

Brunner was honored at the annual Oklahoma Ag Day celebration, Thursday, March 24 at the state Capitol. Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year sponsors include Oklahoma Ag Credit, Oklahoma Beef Council, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee, and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry.



## WLC conference registration now open, deadline to sign up is April 8

Registration is now open through April 8 for the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Conference April 22-23 at the NCED Hotel and Conference Center in Norman.

All Oklahoma Farm Bureau women are invited to attend the event, which will feature numerous breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics, keynote speakers, community service projects and fellowship with like-minded rural women from across the state.

Breakout sessions topics include:

- Wealth management and estate planning
- Overview of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
- Food preservation techniques
- Agriculture-related tools available through the Oklahoma Mesonet
- Time management tips
- Gardening with raised beds
- Week-long meal planning
- The Homemade Food Freedom Act and home kitchens
- PTO safety tips
- Ideas and products for supplementing your income

Child care will be available for infants to 10-year-old children, for which those interested in using this service must complete the proper registration form.

Each participant is asked to donate one item toward the silent auction benefiting the OKFB WLC Nurse's Scholarship, which assists Farm Bureau members with the costs associated with nurse's training.

Attendees may book a room at the NCED by calling the hotel at (405) 447-9000, and mention Oklahoma Farm Bureau to receive a discounted rate of \$97 per night.

Registration can be submitted either by completing the online form, available at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications), or by mailing the print version of the form, available in PDF format on the applications page on the OKFB website, to OKFB WLC Director Marcia Irvin at:

Oklahoma Farm Bureau

ATTN: Marcia Irvin

2501 N Stiles

Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

The registration deadline is April 8.

For more information, contact Marcia Irvin by phone at (405) 523-2300 or by email at [marcia.irvin@okfb.org](mailto:marcia.irvin@okfb.org).

## WLC conference schedule overview

### Friday, April 22

<b>2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Babysitting opens</b>
<b>3 p.m.</b>	<b>Registration opens</b>
	Silent auction
	Community service
<b>6 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
	Speaker: Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur
	Gather and Graze
<b>9 p.m.</b>	<b>Babysitting closes</b>

### Saturday, April 23

<b>7 a.m.</b>	<b>Breakfast buffet at hotel</b>
<b>7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration opens</b>
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Babysitting opens</b>
<b>9 a.m.</b>	<b>Breakout sessions</b>
<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Breakout sessions</b>
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
	Silent Auction closes
<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Breakout sessions</b>
<b>2 p.m.</b>	<b>Breakout sessions</b>
<b>3 p.m.</b>	<b>Closing session</b>

View the full schedule online at:  
[okfb.news/WLCCConf22](http://okfb.news/WLCCConf22)

## Legislative Update: Spring break, OYE legislative show, bills to watch

It was a short week at the state Capitol with legislators working two days before adjourning for spring break. With the next major committee deadline on Thursday, March 24, OKFB expects things to be in full-swing after the break.

The Oklahoma Youth Expo Legislative Showmanship competition – held Tuesday, March 15 – highlighted the shortened work week. More than 100 legislators gathered at State Fair Park in Oklahoma City to experience livestock showing firsthand, guided by young showmen from their home districts. The legislative show gives state lawmakers the opportunity to connect with Oklahoma's agriculture youth through an immersive, hands-on experience.

A few notable bills did see

some movement before the early adjournment, including SB 1624 by Sen. Adam Pugh. This bill would move jurisdiction of the school lunch program from the Oklahoma State Department of Education to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. The bill passed the Senate with a vote of 30-14 and moves to the House for consideration.

HB 2179 by Rep. Scott Fetgatter would implement a tiered licensing structure for medical marijuana grow operations based on the type of facility. Changes to licensing fees would also be made based on the facility's square footage. HB 2179 passed the House and is headed to the Senate.

HB 4281 by Rep. Chris Sneed would

allow any person to use enhanced night vision equipment to hunt coyotes but prevents using a vehicle-mounted spotlight or other powerful light at night. It passed the House with an 85-1 vote and now moves on to the Senate.

For an update on weekly happenings at the Capitol and an outlook on what is ahead, be sure to tune in to Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Weekly public policy update each Friday at noon via Zoom.

### Plan a Capitol visit

To schedule a legislative visit to the Oklahoma Capitol for members of your county Farm Bureau, contact your field representative or the OKFB Public Policy department at (405) 523-2300.



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## Ottawa County Farm Bureau launches YF&R program

Ottawa County Farm Bureau hosted its Young Farmers & Ranchers kickoff event Thursday, March 10, at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College.

More than 20 Ottawa County Farm Bureau members ages 18-35 gathered to learn about opportunities YF&R

provides, including conferences, service programs and competitive events.

The group heard from District Six OKFB YF&R committee member Chris Hoskins as he shared ideas and programs as Ottawa County members build their new committee.

If your county Farm Bureau would like to start or re-vamp its YF&R program, contact YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2300.

Learn more about OKFB's YF&R program online at [okfarmbureau.org/yfr](http://okfarmbureau.org/yfr).



District Six state YF&R committee member Chris Hoskins (left) shares ideas on YF&R programs and events during the Ottawa County Farm Bureau YF&R kickoff meeting.



Ottawa County Farm Bureau member Dillon Johnson welcomes young agriculturalists to the Ottawa County Farm Bureau YF&R kickoff meeting on March 10 in Miami.