

PERSPECTIVE

May 1, 2026



OKFB WLC holds annual conference for Farm Bureau women in Norman

More than 120 Oklahoma Farm Bureau women from around the state gathered for a weekend of fellowship, service and learning during the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee's annual statewide conference April 24-25 at the Embassy Suites in Norman.

The conference featured group tours, breakout sessions, a silent auction and networking opportunities.

The conference kicked off Friday, April 24, with a trip to Selah, an urbanism community in Norman, where members had lunch at Pryor's Pizza Kitchen and toured Evergreen Academy, a learner-driven, self-paced education academy that breaks away from

traditional school models.

The group then split into two, with one group touring the Oklahoma Mesonet, a world-class network of environmental monitoring stations in Norman, while the other group toured Sweet Pea Farm, a you-pick flower farm in Norman.

Friday evening featured breakout sessions on fraud and scam awareness, Ag in the Classroom courses and OKFB's Farm in a Bag program.

Numerous breakout sessions on Saturday, April 25, provided conference attendees with the chance to learn about maximizing profitability in their operations, using social media to promote agriculture, prioritizing

wellness and work-life balance, and building confidence, leading teams and making an impact in agriculture.

Guest speakers throughout the weekend included OKFB President Stacy Simunek, Charles Rohla with the Noble Foundation, Afton Jameson with the Canadian County Technology Center, Jona Kay Squires with Mid-America Technology Center, and Audrey King with Oklahoma State University.

Farm Bureau women also had the opportunity to bid on silent auction items donated by county women's committees and others, raising \$3,145 for the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture's large-animal veterinarian scholarship program.

Ten Oklahoma students awarded \$1,000 YF&R scholarships

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers committee has awarded nine \$1,000 scholarships to one high school senior from each OKFB district and a \$1,000 scholarship to a Collegiate Farm Bureau member.

The scholarships were awarded to students who plan to pursue a degree in an agriculture-related field at an Oklahoma college or university and who desire to contribute to agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

“Supporting scholarships today means

strengthening agriculture tomorrow,” said Allison Theis, OKFB YF&R chair. “When we invest in our youth, we invest in the future of our communities and our industry. We are incredibly proud of the young individuals selected and look forward to their bright future.”

All 10 YF&R scholarship winners are listed below.

Avery Gardner, the winner of the Collegiate Farm Bureau scholarship, is studying animal science at Cameron University in Lawton.

The winners of the high school scholarship have a wide range of education plans. The students plan to attend a wide range of Oklahoma colleges and universities including Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, Northern Oklahoma College, Connors State College and High Plains Career Tech with plans to study ag business, soil science, animal science, agricultural education, diesel mechanics, carpentry and welding, and more.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers 2026 Scholarship winners

High school scholarship winners

District 1

Bryan Holt • Ellis County

District 2

Ella Hart • Greer County

District 3

Avery Fisher, Blaine County

District 4

Rance Howard • Jefferson County

District 5

Jacob Eastwood • Choctaw County

District 6

Mylie Hance • Ottawa County

District 7

Ember Sandoval • Woods County

District 8

Noah Price • McClain County

District 9

Teagan Neal • Creek County

Collegiate Farm Bureau scholarship winner

Avery Gardner • Cameron University

Alfalfa County Farm Bureau wins Q1 OKFB Rural Growth Challenge

Alfalfa County Farm Bureau won the inaugural Oklahoma Farm Bureau rural economic development department’s Rural Growth Challenge for submitting the most small business leads in the first quarter of 2026.

As winners of the challenge, the Alfalfa County Farm Bureau board will receive a free group dinner courtesy of the rural economic development department along with a \$250 check to provide funds to a local FFA chapter or 4-H club of their choosing.

The Rural Growth challenge rewards county Farm Bureaus with quarterly prizes and recognition throughout 2026 for gathering and submitting the names and basic details of businesses in their own local communities that could use business support services or have an innovative idea or product they would like to bring to market.

County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to continue to submit qualified small business leads from rural Oklahoma communities with a population of 50,000 or less for their own chance to win prizes and recognition.

County Farm Bureau members can submit their leads one of three ways: by completing the online form available at okfb.news/rgchallenge, sharing a lead with their OKFB field representative or by emailing leads directly to OKFB’s economic development team using links in program update emails that have been sent directly to the inboxes of county Farm Bureau leaders.

Submitted leads will be used by OKFB’s rural economic development department to identify rural small businesses that could benefit from OKFB’s wide array of economic development programs.

YF&R summer conference to be held July 17-19

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers members from around the state will gather July 17-19 in southwest Oklahoma for their annual summer conference.

The conference is open to OKFB members ages 18-35 and Collegiate Farm Bureau members and will include tours around southwest Oklahoma, keynote speakers and organizational updates.

Registration for the program will be available on OKFB’s website beginning in early May and will close June 1.

The conference requires a \$50 deposit to secure a spot for individual YF&R members, couples or families. Registration is free for Collegiate Farm Bureau members.

Full details will be posted to OKFB’s website at okfarmbureau.org.

Legislative update: 2026 legislative session nears the finish line after final major committee deadline

The end of the 2026 Oklahoma legislative session is on the horizon as lawmakers enter the last few weeks of work at the state Capitol.

With the sine die deadline just under a month away, bills are making their way through the legislative process on the opposite side of the rotunda from which they began.

After the last major committee deadline passed on Thursday, April 23, only bills that advanced from their opposite-chamber committee remain alive for consideration on the floor, and of the hundreds of bills Oklahoma Farm Bureau was tracking at the beginning of session, several remain viable.

One such bill is SB 2112 by Sen. Casey Murdock and Rep. Rande Worthen, which would modify the designation of open pasture roads. OKFB has kept a close eye on the bill throughout session, and it is open for consideration on the house floor after passing the House Judiciary and Public Safety Oversight Committee last week.

Similarly, SB 1944 by Sen. Casey Murdock, which deals with workers' compensation for agricultural employees, is also available for consideration on the house floor after passing the same committee.

SB 2159, authored by Sen. Roland Pederson, is also awaiting a house vote. The measure would designate wheat as the official crop of the state of Oklahoma.

Conversely, HB 3405 by Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky and Sen. Roland Pederson will not advance any further after failing to be heard in the Senate Agriculture Committee before last week's deadline. The bill would have labeled poison hemlock and kudzu as noxious weeds.

The trio of groundwater bills OKFB has been monitoring has been reduced to two as HB 4459 was not heard in the Senate Energy Committee before the deadline. However, SB 1928 and SB 259 both remain eligible to be heard on the house floor.

While these bills and others were making the dash to the finish line, Gov. Kevin Stitt saw several of his appointees to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry board and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission board approved in their respective Senate committees. These nominees now move to the Senate floor for final confirmation.

Many of the bills in this article are slated to be heard before this issue of Perspective is delivered. Visit okfb.news/49c1lyo to view the most up-to-date version of this legislative update after press time.



Sen. Chuck Hall visits with Payne County Farm Bureau members in the rotunda of the Oklahoma State Capitol April 22.



Members of Noble County Farm Bureau get a legislative update from Rep. Dillon Travis during the county's April 15 Capitol visit.



Lincoln County Farm Bureau members visit with Sen. Grant Green at the Oklahoma State Capitol on April 14.



Canadian County Farm Bureau member Henry Heinrich visits with Rep. Mike Kelley at the Oklahoma State Capitol on April 14.

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OKFB Ag Fund district meetings to be held week of May 18

Designated county Farm Bureau members will gather for Oklahoma Farm Bureau's district Ag Fund meetings as the organization prepares to engage in the 2026 Oklahoma election cycle with the member-led political action committee.

District Ag Fund meetings will be held the week of May 18-22 in each of the nine OKFB districts. The full list of Ag Fund meeting dates and locations are listed to the right. Each county Farm Bureau is allowed to send a single delegate to represent their county. County delegates will provide input during each district meeting that will be used by the state Ag Fund board to make the final decisions on which political candidates to support. A meal will be provided at each district meeting.

The state Ag Fund board, which is an elected group of OKFB members who represent their respective Farm Bureau districts, will discuss input gathered from the district Ag Fund meetings during the May 27 state Ag Fund board meeting to make final decisions on candidates to support or endorse.

The first election of the 2026 cycle is the Oklahoma primary election on June 16. The state Ag Fund board will meet again after the primary election to decide further support for the state runoff primary election, which is set for August 25.

OKFB's Ag Fund PAC is a state-level PAC funded and led by OKFB members to make financial contributions and endorsements to support political candidates seeking statewide and legislative elected office in Oklahoma who understand the importance of agriculture and our state's rural communities.

For questions about OKFB's district Ag Fund meetings, contact your OKFB field representative.

Contribute to the Ag Fund PAC

The OKFB Ag Fund is funded by voluntary contributions made by OKFB members. If you would like to make a personal donation (donations cannot be made by a business and cannot be funds from county Farm Bureaus), contact OKFB's Gage Milliman at (405) 523-2300.

District Ag Fund meetings

District 1 • May 18, 12 noon
Laverne • Fairview Church, 28010 NS CR 165

District 2 • May 18, 6 p.m.
Hobart • Kiowa County FB Office

District 3 • May 22, 6 p.m.
El Reno • Canadian County FB Office

District 4 • May 22, 12 noon
Ardmore • Café Alley, 126 A St NE

District 5 • May 20, 12 noon
Krebs • Pete's Place Restaurant

District 6 • May 21, 12 noon
Pryor • Mayes County FB Office

District 7 • May 21, 6 p.m.
Enid • Garfield County FB Office

District 8 • May 19, 6 p.m.
Seminole • Seminole County FB Office

District 9 • May 19, 12 noon
Tulsa • Tulsa County FB Office

A meal will be provided at each meeting