

PERSPECTIVE

May 15, 2026



Ron Justice named 2026 Oklahoma Agriculture Hall of Fame inductee

Grady County Farm Bureau member Ron Justice became the 29th inductee into the Oklahoma Agriculture Hall of Fame as he received Gov. Stitt's Outstanding Achievement in Agriculture Award on April 29.

Justice is a former Oklahoma State Senator and past OKFB Vice President of Public Policy who has built a strong reputation for his dedication to agriculture, rural development and public service.

Justice spent 33 years in various roles in Oklahoma State University Extension at the county level, where he worked to promote agriculture best practices.

He continued his public service as Oklahoma state senator for district 23. During his 12-year tenure, he held key positions including vice chairman of appropriations and vice chairman of agriculture and rural development. He also advocated for Oklahoma's rural communities and agriculture as the chair of the republican rural Caucus.

"Ron Justice has spent his life serving as an advocate for Oklahoma agriculture," said Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur. "The work he put into our state throughout his career has helped put agriculture on the path we are on today. We are thankful for his

years of service to the state and to the agriculture community."

After his legislative career, he served Farm Bureau members as an employee in OKFB's public policy department.

"Ron Justice is a true servant leader who has dedicated his life to supporting farmers, ranchers and our agricultural community, and rural Oklahoma is a better place because of his steadfast commitment," said Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Stacy Simunek. "From his long career in extension to his storied service in the Oklahoma Senate to his time as a staff member at Farm Bureau and beyond, Ron is the definition of statesman, and Oklahoma Farm Bureau is proud to call him a friend."

His service also extends to state-level leadership roles, including membership on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the USDA Farm Service Agency State Committee and past service on the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation Board.

Justice has been actively involved in numerous agricultural and community organizations, including the Grady County Farm Bureau board.

Watch the video honoring Ron Justice:
okfb.news/aghof26

Meyer named 2026 Oklahoma AITC teacher of the year

Jennifer Meyer of Shawnee was honored as the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year during the 2026 Oklahoma Ag Day at the Capitol April 29.

Meyer is a first-grade teacher at Grove Elementary School District in Shawnee. She has been teaching for 14 years, and has taught at her current school for five years.

"I strive to make every day the best day ever for my students, and AITC resources make it easy to plan hands-on, high-impact lessons," Meyer said.

Meyer incorporated "Fun Ag Fridays" into her first-grade classroom. Every Friday, she focuses on teaching her students a cross-curricular lesson built around an agricultural topic.

Meyer will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the National Ag in the Classroom Conference this June in Rhode Island.

Sponsors of the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year include the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee and the Oklahoma Soybean Board.



OKFB members stand in front of an Apache sprayer during the 2026 OKFB Ag Tour to Indiana. The group toured the Equipment Technologies factory and got to see sprayers being built and visited the company's parts facility in Mooresville, IN.



Indiana Farm Bureau President Randy Kron (left) visits with OKFB members at his southern Indiana farm during the 2026 OKFB Ag Tour. Kron and his wife, Joyce, hosted OKFB members for a meal and a discussion of Indiana agriculture.

OKFB members visit Indiana during 2026 OKFB Ag Tour

Nearly 50 Oklahoma Farm Bureau members traveled to the Hoosier state April 27-30 to learn about Indiana agriculture with OKFB's 2026 Ag Tour.

Indiana was selected as the destination for the 2026 tour after past OKFB President Rodd Moesel made a friendly wager with Indiana Farm Bureau President Randy Kron during the 2025 NBA Finals as the Oklahoma City Thunder took on the Indiana Pacers. OKC won the series, and as part of the wager, Indiana Farm Bureau agreed to host OKFB members on a tour to learn about agriculture in the state.

OKFB members traveled to the Indianapolis area Monday, April 27, and began touring agricultural business and Indiana attractions on Tuesday, April 28, with a stop at Beck's Hybrids headquarters near Atlanta, IN. Members learned about the family-owned farm

and seed company that grew from an 80-acre farm to the third-largest seed company in the country.

Members also visited the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum where they learned about the track's history and the racing culture the facility has fostered throughout generations. Members even had the chance to watch Indy cars take the first practice laps of the season.

Wednesday, April 29, began with a tour of Equipment Technologies where Apache Sprayers are manufactured. Members toured the full production and parts facilities and saw equipment being assembled and learned about the process that brings the equipment to life.

The next tour stop featured Ivy Tech Community College's Terre Haute lab campus where the college trains the next generation of agricultural mechanics, welders, HVAC professionals and other

tradespeople. OKFB members also visited with Indiana farmers during the stop to learn more about production agriculture in the state.

Members then traveled south to the farm of Indiana Farm Bureau President Randy Kron, where the group enjoyed a meal as the final settling of the bet between the OKFB and IFB presidents.

Kron and his wife, Joyce, shared the family's agriculture history and information about the state's Farm Bureau programs and advocacy efforts.

OKFB members then traveled to the French Lick area where they stayed the night at the historic West Baden Springs Hotel before returning to Oklahoma on Thursday, April 30.

OKFB's Ag Tour is a yearly trip for Farm Bureau members to learn about agriculture. The tour alternates between trips to various parts of Oklahoma.

OKFB supports FFA members at 100th state FFA convention



OKFB hosted a booth at the FFA Expo trade show where they connected with students and handed out stickers and t-shirts.



OKFB was recognized as a platinum-level FFA sponsor at the opening general FFA convention session on May 5 in Tulsa.

Legislative update: As the legislature gets ready to adjourn for 2026, OKFB tracks one last bill

Whispers of an early adjournment for the 2026 Oklahoma legislature started swirling at the midpoint of session, and as of early May, the state legislature was largely moving toward an early close of business.

A May 7 deadline required all bills to be passed off the floor of their opposing chamber, and the Oklahoma house worked late into the day to vote on numerous bills facing the May 7 cutoff.

Water bills get whittled down to one

As of May 8, a single water bill was the last piece of legislation Oklahoma Farm Bureau was actively engaged with that was still available for consideration.

SB 259 was the final water policy bill that remained active out of the trio of bills OKFB tracked through most of session. SB 259 passed off the house floor before the May 7 deadline, but due to amendments it received, it needed approval from the Senate.

OKFB worked with Rep. Newton late in the session to shape the bill into a final version that OKFB could support. The latest round of amendments focused the bill towards groundwater permit enforcement, providing nearly \$1 million of funding for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to work through backlogged permits while also ensuring groundwater permit compliance.

Bills defeated before the deadline

Three bills that OKFB opposed did not pass out of their opposing chamber for further consideration.

SB 133 and SB 2157 aimed to

designate new scenic rivers in southeast Oklahoma. OKFB has policy against naming any new scenic rivers in the state, and neither bill saw the floor of its opposing chamber before the deadline.

SB 2143 was a bill OKFB worked on through session that would have allowed county assessors to use drone or satellite imagery to determine valuations on structures for tax purposes. OKFB worked with bill authors to clarify the bill to ensure that valuations would be based off a physical, in-person inspection, but that language was not adopted. The final bill language did not pass the house floor.

A trio of bills await the governor

As of the first week of May, OKFB continued to watch three bills that awaited action by Gov. Kevin Stitt.

SB 1944 by Sen. Murdock and Rep. Travis adjusted provisions for agricultural employees' workers' compensation.

SB 2212 by Sen. Murdock and Rep. Worthen opened enrollment for new open-pasture roads to be designated. Open pasture roads are public roads that pass through open rangeland with no fences along the roadside.

HB 3977 by Sen. Woods and Rep. Caldwell requires the State Veterinarian of Oklahoma to have experience in caring for food animals. OKFB supported the bill to ensure future state veterinarians have direct experience working with livestock and agricultural producers.

Gov. Stitt can elect to sign these bills into law, veto them, or not take any

action, at which point they would go to the Oklahoma Secretary of State to be enshrined into law without a signature since the bills passed before the final five days of the legislative session.

Bills signed into law, enacted

OKFB saw numerous bills supported by the organization pass into law.

HB 4054 by Sen. Hall and Rep. Trey Caldwell authorized a \$40 million loan to Oklahoma State University to create a new Agronomy Discovery Center for research, extension and education.

HB 3464 by Sen. Paxton and Rep. Boles introduced new standards and regulations for renewable energy facilities in the state.

HB 2134 by Sen. Murdock and Rep. Worthen created procedures for emergency workers to follow to ensure the humane treatment of livestock and poultry involved in vehicular accidents.

SB 2159 by Sen. Pederson and Rep. Travis designates wheat as the official crop of Oklahoma. The bill originated with the Burlington FFA chapter, whose members were on hand to watch the bill be approved on the house floor.

Awaiting the end of session

As of press time, OKFB was waiting for the final round of activity in the legislature in anticipation of an early adjournment. The technical sine die is slated for May 29, but with an early end of session possible, OKFB will continue to monitor legislative activity and the governor's final decisions as the 2026 session comes to a close.

OKFB opposes SQ 832, which will appear on June 16 primary ballot

Oklahoma Farm Bureau is opposing proposed State Question 832, which will appear on the June 16, 2026, Oklahoma primary election ballot.

SQ 832 seeks to raise the state's minimum wage from the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour to \$12 per hour in 2027 with yearly increases until 2030, at which point the state minimum wage automatically increase beyond \$15 per hour according with the increases tied to the federal CPI-W price index.

SQ 832 would also eliminate long-standing agricultural exemptions that exempt farmers and ranchers from paying overtime wages and youth worker regulations. Removal of these exemptions would place greater burdens on family agriculture.

Learn more about the potential negative impacts of SQ 832 on OKFB's website at okfarmbureau.org/sq832, and make plans to vote NO on SQ 832 on June 16.

The threat SQ 832 poses

Removes agricultural exemptions on overtime pay and youth workers.

Removes state control and gives it to a federal price index.

Threatens small businesses with dramatic labor cost increases.

Increases costs for consumers hurting the most vulnerable.

Vote NO on SQ 832 • June 16

**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

Mickinzi Ferguson
(405) 523-2343

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

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

OKFB YF&R to host summer conference in southwest Oklahoma July 17-19; registration open through May 29

Oklahoma Farm Bureau will host its annual Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference July 17-19 in the Altus area to expand the horizons of young agriculturalists.

The three-day event will feature tours of southwest Oklahoma agricultural operations and facilities, organizational updates and the opportunity to connect with fellow young agriculturalists from around the state.

Quartz Mountain State Park Lodge near Lone Wolf will serve as the conference hotel.

The conference will start Friday, July 17, with a welcome reception and dinner.

Saturday, July 18, will feature a wide variety of agricultural tours in the Altus area including a tour of the Lake Altus-

Lugert dam, a visit to Muller Farms to discuss cotton production and tour irrigation facilities, a stop at a local cotton gin and a tour of the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association warehouse.

Sunday, July 19, will feature a send-off breakfast with organizational updates from Farm Bureau.

The conference is open to OKFB members ages 18-35 and Collegiate Farm Bureau members. OKFB YF&R members can hold their registration with a \$50 payment, which will be refunded at the conference. Collegiate Farm Bureau members can attend for free.

Registration is available online using the form available on OKFB's website at okfb.news/yfrconf26 and closes Friday, May 29.

USDA names two OKFB members to National Peanut Board positions

Two Oklahoma Farm Bureau members were named to three-year positions on the National Peanut Board by the USDA.

Beckham County Farm Bureau member Mark DeLeon of Erick was appointed as a member of the board, and Grady County Farm Bureau member Arthur Kell, Jr., of Chickasha was appointed as an alternate.

Each member's three-year term runs through December 31, 2028.

The National Peanut Board is comprised of 12 producer members and their alternates. Eleven members and alternates represent the primary peanut-producing states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. An at-large member and an alternate represent the minor peanut-producing states.

Register online for the 2026 YF&R summer conference now through **Friday, May 29**, on OKFB's website:

okfb.news/yfrconf26