

# PERSPECTIVE

May 22, 2020

## Legislative update: A busy and eventful final week

**D**espite the assurances of legislative leaders that only a limited number of bills would be considered, the activity inside the state Capitol resumed at a rapid pace last week. The House and Senate addressed over 400 measures during a two-week return to session.

Most of the attention centered on a flurry of significant actions that took place on May 13. Gov. Kevin Stitt vetoed the entire \$7.8 billion general appropriations bill and three other funding measures, but the state Legislature successfully overrode those vetoes before the end of the day.

A large amount of agricultural legislation was advanced for floor consideration, despite the lack of a committee process for bills in the opposite chamber of origin. Measures that weakened food safety standards for meat inspection and homemade foods intended for retail sale were approved, as was a bill that strengthened consumer protection by creating legal definitions for beef and pork.

Other topics that completed the irregular fast-track process included farmers market operations, state hemp regulation and the initiative petition process. Legislators adjourned on



May 15 for what is expected to be the last time this year, but procedurally left the door open for a return any time until May 29 if they should choose to conduct any other veto override votes.

OKFB will provide a detailed overview of this year's unusual legislative session in the coming weeks after all executive action is complete.

## Farm Bureau members appointed to state board of ag, conservation commission



**Brent Bolen**

*State Board of Agriculture*



**Clay Burtrum**

*State Board of Agriculture*



**Gary Crawley**

*Oklahoma Conservation Commission*

*Story continues on back page.*



# 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## Eight high school seniors awarded \$1,000 YF&R scholarship

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers committee has awarded eight high school seniors a \$1,000 college scholarship.

Each year the OKFB YF&R committee presents \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a degree in agriculture at an Oklahoma accredited institution of higher learning and is available to all members of Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

“Each of these scholarship recipients represents the bright future of Oklahoma agriculture and our rural communities,” said Nocona Cook, OKFB YF&R chairman. “The YF&R committee could not be more proud to support these students as they blaze their own path in agriculture.”

The eight scholarship recipients are **Tori Booker, Jackson County; Erin Slagell, Blaine County; Faith Howe, Murray County; Callie Clifton, Choctaw County; Courtney Jinkens, Rogers County; Tabor Budy, Woods County; Colt Jones, Garvin County; and Jaden Brunner, Payne County.**

The eight scholarship recipients have a wide variety of career aspirations and have chosen degrees across the agriculture industry including plant and soil science, agribusiness, agricultural economics, agricultural communications and animal science biotechnology.

Students plan to study at higher-education institutions across the state including Oklahoma State University, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Northeastern A&M College and Eastern Oklahoma State College.

## Renew your OKFB membership today with online renewal

Renewing your Oklahoma Farm Bureau membership is now even easier! Existing members can renew their Oklahoma Farm Bureau membership today through our new online portal, or continue to renew in-person or by mail.

To renew your membership online for the first time, you will need to do the following:

- To log in to your online membership profile, you will need to have an email address on file with Oklahoma Farm Bureau.
- To verify or set up your email address for the first time, please contact your county Farm Bureau office to add or verify an email address associated with your membership.
- Once you have an email address associated with your membership, visit our online membership portal login page, and click the “Forgot Password” link. Follow the directions to reset your password.
- You will receive an email message containing instructions and a link to reset your password. Please note that for security purposes, the link contained in the email address will expire in 20 minutes.
- If you have questions on renewing your membership online, please contact your county Farm Bureau office.

To learn more about renewing your membership online, visit [okfb.news/renewal20](http://okfb.news/renewal20).

## Free garden seed available to members at county offices



County Farm Bureau offices across the state are now offering free fruit, vegetable and flower seeds to the public.

The various packets of garden seeds provide individuals and families an opportunity to experience agriculture first hand.

The seeds were donated to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture by the Kaleo Foundation, an Oklahoma City-based nonprofit that works to meet the critical needs of children, families and the elderly with food and educational assistance through local churches and volunteers.

Please contact the county Farm Bureau office in your community to learn how to pick up free garden seeds.

# 2020 Census: An update on rural response rates

The 2020 Census kicked off in mid-March as the U.S. Census Bureau works to count every person living in the United States and its five territories.

Census response rates can have a significant impact on rural communities as each person counted in the census brings an estimated \$16,750 to their community over the next 10 years. The population counts also determine government representation as they are used in drawing congressional and state legislative districts.

With all that weighs on the results of the 2020 Census, it seems surprising that response rates would be low in rural areas. But one reason may be because some rural Oklahomans have not yet received a census ID in the mail.

In areas where the majority of households do not receive mail at their home, known as “update leave” areas by the U.S. Census Bureau, census packets with a census ID number are delivered in-person by census workers rather

than through the mail. Census workers confirm or update a household’s physical location address and then leave a census questionnaire packet in these areas.

The U.S. Census Bureau began delivering census packets to update leave areas on March 15, but operations were suspended on March 18 due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Previously, the Census Bureau said operations in update leave areas would resume on June 13. However on May 4, the Census Bureau announced it would resume operations in some areas – including Tulsa, Oklahoma and Cleveland Counties.

Once a census packet has been delivered, households should respond to the 2020 Census as soon as possible using the included census ID number. Households can respond online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov), by phone at 844-330-2020 or by completing and returning the paper form by mail.

## What should I do if I haven’t received a census packet?

Households that have not yet received a census ID in the mail may self-respond without a census ID by phone or online at [My2020Census.gov](https://My2020Census.gov) if they have a city-style or 911 address.

Those who have not yet received a census ID and do not have a city-style address are encouraged to wait for a census packet to be delivered by a Census worker.

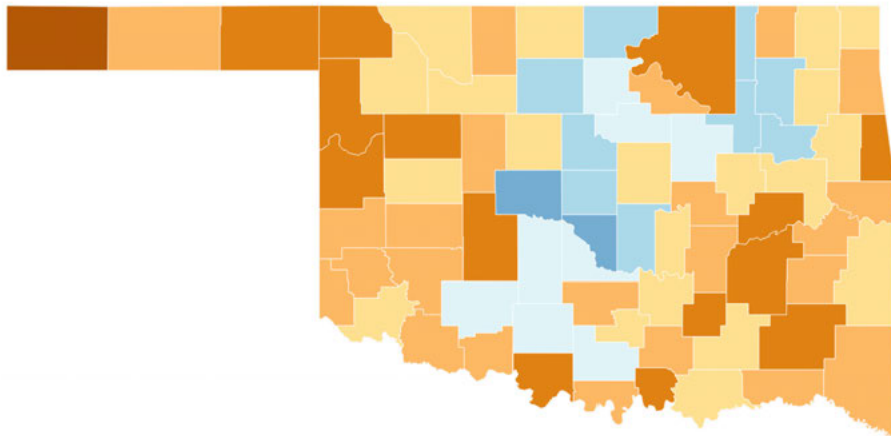
Census Bureau operations in update leave areas will run through July 9. If a household has not received a census ID by that date – whether in the mail or in-person – contact the phone questionnaire assistance line at 1-844-330-2020 to request a census packet from a Census worker.

## Top 10 Oklahoma counties for response rate (as of May 16)

1. Canadian County, 65.8%
2. Cleveland County, 63.8%
3. Rogers County, 63.1%
4. Washington County, 61.7%
5. Wagoner County, 61.6%
6. Tulsa County, 60.6%
7. Garfield County, 59.7%
8. Oklahoma County, 59.3%
9. Logan County, 59.3%
10. Kay County, 58.7%

## Bottom 10 Oklahoma counties for response rate (as of May 16)

1. Ellis County, 27.0%
2. Roger Mills County, 26.5%
3. Pushmataha County, 25.1%
4. Adair County, 23.4%
5. McIntosh County, 23.0%
6. Harper County, 22.6%
7. Dewey County, 21.7%
8. Marshall County, 21.3%
9. Beaver County, 19.6%
10. Cimarron County, 11.1%



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Response rates as of May 16. For more information regarding the 2020 Census, please visit [2020Census.gov](https://2020Census.gov).

## OKFB WLC nurse’s scholarship due July 1

The members of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee understand the importance of the nursing profession and how any and all financial support contributes to a student’s future.

To assist Farm Bureau members with the costs associated with nurse’s training, OKFB WLC is offering three \$500 scholarships to qualifying students.

**All applications must be submitted by July 1.**

To complete the online scholarship application, visit [okfb.news/nurse20](https://okfb.news/nurse20).

**Applicants must be Farm Bureau members or a member of a Farm Bureau family.**

**Applicants must be enrolled half-time or more in a nurse’s training at an accredited college, university, vo-tech or trade school. Please attach proof of enrollment with the application.**

**Applicants must furnish a copy of their high school or college transcript.**

For more information, please contact Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2300.

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## Farm Bureau members appointed to state board of ag, conservation commission (*continued from cover*)

Three Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from across the state have been confirmed to boards that oversee agriculture and conservation in the state.

Brent Bolen, Clay Burtrum and Gary Crawley were appointed to positions by Gov. Kevin Stitt and confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate.

“At Oklahoma Farm Bureau, we’re proud to have members who are leaders across all sectors of the agricultural industry,” said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. “Each of these members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in agriculture to their positions that will serve farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans well.”

Brent Bolen, McCurtain County Farm Bureau vice president, will serve the southeast area of the state on the State Board of Agriculture. Bolen is a poultry, cattle and hay producer near Idabel. He also has served on the Oklahoma Agriculture Advisory Committee and is president of the Idabel Public Schools Board of Education.

Burtrum, a Payne County Farm Bureau member, will

represent northeast Oklahoma on the State Board of Agriculture. A commercial cow-calf producer from Stillwater, he has experience working with one of the nation’s largest feed yards and now owns and operates an agriculture accounting and consulting firm. He has served in leadership roles with the Oklahoma Beef Council, Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association and National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.

OKFB District Five Director Gary Crawley of Savanna also was confirmed as a member of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. Crawley will serve a five-year term representing Area V which includes 18 conservation districts across southeast Oklahoma. He is the second generation on his family’s cattle operation in Pittsburg County.

Other OKFB members confirmed to positions include Jackson County Farm Bureau member Mike Schulz, named a member of the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority, and Roger Mills County Farm Bureau President Joshua Haven as a member of the Oklahoma Mining Commission.

Following a brief stop in the production of Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s *Perspective*, the mailing and delivery of *Perspective* will resume as normal. If you have been receiving the weekly email *OKFB News*, that will continue to be delivered as well. For the most up to date information on OKFB activities, please visit Oklahoma Farm Bureau on Facebook and Twitter or on our website at [okfarmbureau.org](http://okfarmbureau.org).