

# PERSPECTIVE

November 15, 2024



Rep. Frank Lucas



Sen. James Lankford



Cierra Collins, Frederick FFA



Rep. Kevin Hern



Blake and Jenna Bolerjack



Sec. Blayne Arthur

## OKFB hosts successful 83rd annual meeting in OKC

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from across the state gathered Nov. 8-10 at the Omni Hotel in Oklahoma City for the organization’s 83rd annual meeting where they elected new leaders, set organizational policy for the coming year, recognized outstanding members and learned from speakers.

“We had a really wonderful convention this year,” said OKFB President Rodd Moesel. “Everybody enjoyed the chance to fellowship and visit with one another and address the issues of the day during the resolutions sessions. A lot of times in agriculture, we are out on the farm or ranch and

don’t get to see each other as much. There is a lot of learning that occurs in the networking between one another at convention and a lot of reassurance that although there may be challenges, many are facing the same things.”

### Leaders elected

OKFB members elected several new and returning leaders throughout the weekend, including two new members to serve on OKFB’s board of directors.

Jimmy Taylor of Roger Mills County was elected to serve as the new District 2 director, Gary Crawley of Pittsburg County will return to the OKFB board of

directors as District 5 director, and Mike Leverett of McClain County was re-elected to serve another three-year term as District 8 director. Meet the new and returning board members on the back page of this issue of *Perspective*.

Jill Derusha of Greer County was elected to represent District 2 on the OKFB Women’s Leadership Committee.

OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers re-elected Jacob and Chastity Beck of Logan County to serve a one-year term as YF&R chair. Additional members re-elected include Jaclyn Darling of

*Continued on next page ...*

Coal County, District 8; and Tommy and Chalayna Salisbury of Tulsa County, at-large. Lincoln and Gracee Muller of Jackson County were elected to represent District 2; Jake and Jonessa Cantrell of Haskell County were elected to represent District 5; and Teegin Crosthwait of Oklahoma State University was elected to serve as the Collegiate Farm Bureau representative.

### Members set 2025 grassroots policy

Farm Bureau voting delegates considered more than 100 grassroots policy resolutions throughout two business sessions, including resolutions on property rights, eminent domain, renewable energy, conservation, labor and more.

OKFB voting delegates considered several clarifications to the organization's policy on water usage and management after extensive water policy discussions throughout 2024.

The policy resolutions presented on the floor in Oklahoma City began as county-submitted positions and advanced through the state resolutions process in October. The policies adopted by OKFB members during the annual meeting will help to guide the work of the organization at the state Capitol for years to come.

### Members and counties recognized

OKFB presented numerous awards to Farm Bureau members and recognized achievements of county Farm Bureaus.

Comanche County Farm Bureau was

honored as the top county Farm Bureau with the John I. Taylor Award, and Payne County was recognized for its programs with the Lewis H. Munn Award.

Chasen Doye of Comanche County received the YF&R Achievement Award, and Jacob and Chastity Beck of Logan County received the YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Okmulgee County was presented with the Charles L. Roff Award for the most outstanding county YF&R committee, and Southwestern Oklahoma State University was honored as the top Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter with the YF&R Moesel Award.

Mayes and Okmulgee County Farm Bureaus were recognized for an outstanding county activity with County Excellence Awards, and 46 county Farm Bureaus were presented with OKFB Presidential Star Awards.

Austin Jackson of Payne County was named the YF&R Discussion Meet winner, Ashlee Purvine of Northern Oklahoma College was the Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet winner, and Heath Laubauch of Woodward FFA was recognized as the High School Discussion Meet winner.

Congressman Frank Lucas received the Distinguished Service to OKFB Award for his decades-long service to agriculture in the United States House of Representatives.

The OKFB WLC recognized nine outstanding farm and ranch families from around the state with the annual OKFB District Farm and Ranch Family

Recognition awards. This year's honorees were Braden and Maria Naylor, Beaver County, District 1; Derek and Paige Jacobs, Tillman County, District 2; Shawn and Debbie Cox, Blaine County, District 3; Weston and Lacie Hoodenpyle, Cotton County, District 4; David and Haley McClendon, Pittsburg County, District 5; Charles and Ellen Coblentz, Mayes County, District 6; Steve and Denise Kienholz, Noble County, District 7; Jake and Samantha Calvert, Cleveland County, District 8; and Mike and Lotsee Spradling, Tulsa County, District 9.

### Speakers, presenters featured

Farm Bureau members heard from Congressman Kevin Hern, Congressman Frank Lucas, Gov. Kevin Stitt, Texas A&M's Bart Fischer, and American Farm Bureau's Jessica Cabrera throughout the weekend. Sen. James Lankford shared a Sunday morning Worship service message for OKFB members, and convention attendees enjoyed music from Blake and Jenna Bolerjack during the service.

Members also had the opportunity to attend one of three breakout sessions on Friday, Nov. 8, including a session on the Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and Ag Business Accelerators program, a session featuring landowners' rights in wind and solar leases, and a Cultivating Healthy Minds workshop on mental well-being.

To learn more about the 2024 OKFB Annual Meeting, visit OKFB's convention web page at [okfb.news/Meeting24](https://okfb.news/Meeting24).

## Payne County Farm Bureau takes home Lewis H. Munn award

**P**ayne County Farm Bureau was honored with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Lewis H. Munn Award on Saturday, Nov. 9, during the organization's 83rd annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

Also known as the Farm Bureau Builders Award, the award is presented each year to the county that conducts the strongest program in a chosen area. This year, the program area was membership growth and development.

Payne County Farm Bureau hosted a block party in June 2024 for more than 1,500 community members to learn about Farm Bureau and the agriculture industry. The block party included educational booths about Farm Bureau membership and programs, Ag in the Classroom, a farmhand Olympics competition and more.

"It is an honor for our county to win this award," said Nancy German, Payne County Farm Bureau president. "It is not a one-man effort – we have a wonderful board and a great group of members. For us, it is about sharing agriculture and trying to build community support."

The Lewis H. Munn award is named after the second president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, whose philosophy centered on building strong county programs.



Payne County Farm Bureau President Nancy German (left) accepts the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Lewis H. Munn Award from OKFB President Rodd Moesel during the awards session at the 2024 OKFB annual meeting in Oklahoma City Saturday, Nov. 9. Payne County Farm Bureau earned the award for outstanding efforts in the area of membership growth and development.



## Comanche County named top county Farm Bureau

Comanche County Farm Bureau was presented with the 2024 Oklahoma Farm Bureau John I. Taylor Award on Saturday, Nov. 9, during the organization’s 83rd annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

Named after OKFB’s first president, the award serves as the organization’s highest county honor, recognizing the county Farm Bureau with the most effective programs and activities.

Comanche County was honored for excelling in the program areas of public policy, service to members, public relations, membership, Women’s Leadership Committee and Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

“The opportunity for our county to win this award means a lot to us,” said Isaac Fisher, Comanche County Farm Bureau vice president. “It shows the hard work of our staff, our board of directors and all of the members in our county who work so hard throughout the year to promote agriculture.”

Comanche County Farm Bureau sponsored Farm Field Days in September 2024, an agricultural education event for area fifth-grade students developed by a Comanche County Farm Bureau member. The event featured 12 educational stations highlighting farming equipment, large animal veterinary care, aquaculture, horticulture and more. More than 1,400 students attended the multi-day event.

Comanche County also hosted a number of events and activities throughout the year, including a membership booth at a local junior livestock show, a Q&A meeting for county sheriff candidates, a farmhand Olympics event for students in Comanche County, bus and fire safety events for local schools and more.

## Lucas honored with Distinguished Service to OKFB Award



Rep. Frank Lucas (right) accepts the 2024 OKFB Distinguished Service to OKFB Award at the 2024 OKFB awards banquet.

Congressman Frank Lucas was recognized with the Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Award on Saturday, Nov. 9, during the organization’s 83rd annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture and the Farm Bureau organization.

Lucas is a fifth-generation Oklahoman and farmer who has been a defender of agriculture for more than 40 years.

“Farm Bureau is a large family, and we operate like that in all 77 county organizations,” Lucas said. “I represent 32 counties in Congress – people I depend on, people who are responsible.



Rep. Frank Lucas thanks OKFB members and shares his experience in Congress working on agricultural policy.

When your family pays you this kind of compliment, it is just outstanding.”

Elected to Congress in 1994, he is recognized as the longest-serving member on the House Agriculture Committee and served as chairman of the committee from 2011 to 2015, playing an instrumental role in the 2014 farm bill. Prior to serving in Congress, Lucas served in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives where he focused on prominent agriculture issues.

Also announced during Lucas’ recognition was the kickoff of an endowed chair at Oklahoma State University in honor of Lucas with OKFB making the first contribution to the fundraising campaign.

## County Farm Bureaus honored with Presidential Star Awards

Several county Farm Bureaus were recognized for their efforts to further agriculture and rural Oklahoma on Saturday, Nov. 9, during Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s 83rd annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

Each year, OKFB recognizes the county Farm Bureaus that have excelled in program areas such as membership, public policy, local affairs, service to members, Women’s Leadership Committee and Young Farmers and Ranchers with a Presidential Star Award.

The Six-Star Presidential Award was presented to Cherokee, Comanche, Mayes, Okmulgee, and Payne County Farm Bureaus for excelling in six program areas.

Caddo, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, LeFlore, Major, Ottawa, Rogers, Texas, and Washington County Farm Bureaus each received the Five-Star Presidential Award for excelling in five program areas.

Four-Star Presidential Awards were presented to Alfalfa, Canadian, Creek, Hughes, Lincoln, Logan, Love, McClain, Muskogee, Noble, Okfuskee, Pottawatomie, Seminole, Tulsa, Washita, and Woodward County Farm Bureaus.

Atoka, Beaver, Choctaw, Custer, Haskell, Jackson, Kiowa, McIntosh, Nowata, Oklahoma, Pawnee, Pontotoc, Stephens, and Woods County Farm Bureaus were awarded the Three-Star Presidential Award.

**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

**PUBLICATIONS SPECIALIST**

**Kate Jackson**  
(405) 523-2527

**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 members elect Taylor, Crawley, Leverett to state board

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members elected two new state board members and re-elected a third on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the organization's 83rd annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

Jimmy Taylor of Roger Mills County was elected to serve as the new District 2 director. He will serve a three-year term representing Beckham, Custer, Greer, Harmon, Kiowa, Jackson, Roger Mills, Tillman and Washita counties.

Taylor and his wife, Tracy, own a cow-calf operation where they raise 600 angus cows on 12,000 acres in Cheyenne.

As the grandson of OKFB's first president, Taylor is no stranger to Farm Bureau and has been involved in the organization since 1982 when he was first elected to his county board.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau is very important to Oklahoma agriculture and to my operation," Taylor said. "I have diversified experience in different areas, and I wanted the opportunity to give back to the industry and to Farm Bureau."

Gary Crawley of Pittsburg County will

return to the OKFB board of directors after being elected to serve a three-year term as District 5 director. He will represent Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Haskell, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain, Pittsburg and Pushmataha counties.

"I previously served nine years on the state board, and I really enjoyed it," Crawley said. "We were in a position where we got a lot of things accomplished, and I just feel like I've got a little bit more to do."

Crawley and his wife, Wilma, run a cow-calf operation near Savannah.

Crawley also serves on the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

Mike Leverett was re-elected to serve another three-year term representing Farm Bureau members in District 8. Leverett will represent He will represent Cleveland, Coal, Garvin, Hughes, McClain, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie and Seminole counties.

Leverett and his wife, Jennifer, run a cow/calf operation near Lexington where they focus on conservation efforts to produce hay and care for pastureland that supports their herd.



Dist. 2 • Jimmy Taylor



Dist. 5 • Gary Crawley



Dist. 8 • Mike Leverett