

PERSPECTIVE

November 6, 2020



YF&R elect new leaders, host discussion meet at annual caucus

Cody and Kara Goodknight of Comanche County Farm Bureau were chosen to serve as chairs of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers committee by delegates to the OKFB YF&R caucus held Saturday, Oct. 24 in Oklahoma City.

“We are honored to have the opportunity to serve as chairs of the YF&R committee this year,” Cody Goodknight said. “We greatly enjoy networking with other agriculturalists around our state and country and are excited about the activities Farm Bureau has planned for next year.”

Other members elected to serve on the committee include **Chism and Heather Sander** of Dewey County, district one; **Dustin Ratliff** of Noble County, district seven; **John and Myiul Morris** of Cotton County, at-large; and **River Mitchell** of Comanche County, at-large.

Jenny Haken of Payne County Farm Bureau was named the winner of the 2020 YF&R Discussion Meet, held in conjunction with the YF&R caucus. Discussion meet participants competed in debate-style discussion and were evaluated on their ability to offer constructive criticism, cooperation and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions.

As the state discussion meet winner, Haken received a John Deere X330 Lawn Tractor, sponsored by P&K Equipment. She also has the opportunity to compete in the American Farm Bureau YF&R virtual Discussion Meet in January.

The YF&R committee opted to host the small in-person caucus and discussion meet following the cancellation of this year’s in-person OKFB convention.

OKFB praises USDA’s \$26.4 million investment in rural broadband

Oklahoma Farm Bureau applauds the Oct. 29 announcement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to invest \$26.4 million to provide broadband service in unserved and underserved areas in rural Oklahoma.

The investment, part of the \$550 million Congress allocated to the second round of the ReConnect Program, will grant internet access to 5,996 people and 228 farms across Atoka, Comanche, Haskell and Muskogee counties.

“OKFB appreciates the USDA’s additional \$26.4 million investment in rural communities to provide broadband access in four Oklahoma counties,” said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. “Reliable internet access is no longer a luxury but a necessity for day-to-day life in 2020. Expanding broadband throughout our rural communities has been a priority for Farm Bureau members for years, so we’re hopeful this investment is one of many to come as we work to bring all rural Oklahomans online.”

Cross Cable Television LLC will receive a \$15.8 million ReConnect grant to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to connect 2,815 people, 125 farms, nine businesses, one educational facility and a fire department to high-speed broadband internet in Haskell and Muskogee counties.

A \$6.9 million ReConnect grant will be provided to Pine Telephone Company Inc. to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to connect an estimated 2,099 people, 82 farms, 30 businesses, two fire stations, a post office and a public school to high-speed broadband internet in

Continued on back page.

WLC recognizes nine OKFB farm and ranch families

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee has selected its nine OKFB families to receive the 2020 District Farm and Ranch Family Recognition Awards.

The program recognizes one farm and ranch family from each of OKFB's nine districts who uphold the best traditions

within Oklahoma agriculture and our rural communities as they raise food and fiber for citizens throughout our state and nation.

"Farm and ranch families are the very backbone of Oklahoma agriculture and our state's rural communities as a whole," said Mignon Bolay, OKFB WLC

Chair. "The OKFB Women's Leadership Committee is proud to honor these nine families who exemplify the very best of our industry as they work to feed, clothe and fuel our nation and our world."

Below, find a list of the 2020 OKFB WLC Farm and Ranch Family Recognition winners.



The Smith Family

Dist. 1 • Beaver County



The Peeler Family

Dist. 2 • Greer County



The Ellison Family

Dist. 3 • Canadian County



The Lake Family

Dist. 4 • Carter County



The O'Hern Family

Dist. 5 • Atoka County



The Barnes Family

Dist. 6 • Cherokee County



The Budy Family

Dist. 7 • Woods County



The Darling Family

Dist. 8 • Coal County



The Pittman Family

Dist. 9 • Okmulgee County

OKFB members receive \$1,000 bonus cash on eligible Ford, Lincoln vehicles



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For the full list of benefits available to OKFB members, visit okfarmbureau.org/benefits.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members can now receive \$1,000 Bonus Cash on the purchase or lease of most eligible Ford and Lincoln vehicles, and \$500 Bonus Cash on Ford F-150 and Super Duty vehicles through **Jan. 4, 2021**.

To be eligible for the offer, members must be eligible members for at least 30 consecutive days and must show proof of membership.

Offer is not available on Mustang Shelby GT350®, Mustang Shelby GT350R®, Mustang Shelby GT500®, Mustang Mach 1, Mustang Mach-E, Bronco, Bronco Sport, Ford GT and F-150 Raptor. Limit one \$1,000 Bonus Cash offer per vehicle purchase or lease.

To take advantage of the offer, visit **FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com**. See your Ford dealer for complete details and qualifications.

For more information on the Ford Farm Bureau member benefit, please contact Holly Carroll at (405) 523-2300.

**Farm Bureau Bonus Cash is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. \$1,000 Bonus Cash on most eligible new 2020/2021 Ford vehicles, and \$500 Bonus Cash on eligible new F-150 and Super Duty. This incentive is not available on Ford Mustang Shelby GT350®, Mustang Shelby® GT350R, Mustang Shelby® GT500®, Mustang Mach 1, Mustang Mach-E, Bronco, Bronco Sport, Ford GT and F-150 Raptor. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by January 4, 2021. Visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Note to dealer: Claim in VINCENT using #37408.*

OK producers continue to face challenges in 2020 with recent ice storm

Countless Oklahoma producers were recently affected by the ice storm that slammed a large portion of the state, wrecking havoc on crops.

Jackson County Farm Bureau member Matt Muller shared photos of his fields following the recent ice storm, similar to most other producers affected.

Already dealing with a drought over the past several months, Matt's grain sorghum and cotton crops were completely covered with ice.

While he is hopeful the yield loss remains around 100 to 150 pounds per acre, he said that number could easily double if the area sees any high winds over the next couple of weeks. He is also facing the potential for fewer dollars at harvest due to a loss in quality.

No one ever said farming and ranching was easy, but we are thankful for all our Oklahoma producers.



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2021 American Farm Bureau Convention goes virtual

American Farm Bureau has made the difficult decision to convert the 2021 American Farm Bureau Convention from an in-person to a virtual event. Due to the cancellation of all events through January 31, 2021, at the San Diego Convention Center, as well as out of an abundance of caution during this ongoing pandemic, AFBF felt it was the right decision to make at this time.

The top priority at every Farm Bureau gathering is the safety of attendees and staff. Although members may be saddened to not meet in person for this convention, AFBF is eager to bring this event safely to farm and ranch homes across the country and excited to offer the same, top-level content members have come to expect from the in-person events. While a virtual event cannot replace the personal meetings and conversations members value, the health of the entire Farm Bureau family comes first.

The 102nd American Farm Bureau Virtual Convention will be held January 10-13, 2021, and bring together farmers, ranchers and industry experts to discuss the top issues facing agriculture. AFBF is excited to “open the doors” to this virtual convention with free registration and will provide further details in the coming weeks regarding workshop topics, speakers and registration.

For the latest details on the 2021 AFBF Convention, visit annualconvention.fb.org.

OKFB praises USDA's \$26.4 million investment in rural broadband *continued*

Atoka County.

Medicine Park Telephone Company will use a \$3.7 million ReConnect loan to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to connect 1,082 people, 21 farms and 16 businesses to high-speed broadband internet in Comanche County.

“Access to a high-speed internet connection is a cornerstone of prosperity, and unfortunately many of America’s rural communities lack access to this critical infrastructure,” USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Bette Brand said. “Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, USDA is committed to leveraging all available resources and being a strong partner to rural communities in deploying high-speed broadband e-Connectivity to the people, businesses and community facilities that don’t have access yet. Connecting America’s rural communities to this essential infrastructure is one of USDA’s top priorities, because we know that when rural America thrives, all of America thrives.”

To learn more about the ReConnect grant program, visit www.usda.gov/reconnect.