

# PERSPECTIVE

October 23, 2020

## How we are rising to the occasion

### What a year it has been.

It has been a year of the unexpected, a year of the unknown and a year of events that none of us ever thought we would see in our lifetimes.

And yet here Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are: **still planting, still harvesting, still working, still striving, still ranching, still farming.**

In the midst of uncertainty and unease, Oklahoma's farm and ranch families have risen to the occasion to continue the generations-long tradition of growing crops, caring for animals, tending to the land and producing safe and abundant food. This peace of mind and security is a foundation on which our nation is built: that we have the means and the ability to meet the needs of our people.

This year, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members have risen to the occasion not only to continue farming and ranching, but as members of rural communities they have also worked to ensure we make it through today while planning for tomorrow.

As an organization, OKFB has continued its work to support our agricultural families and rural communities. The importance of working together as one voice is evident now more than ever.

While Farm Bureau members may not be gathering at our traditional in-person annual meeting, we are excited to have the opportunity to conduct our organization's business in a safe and responsible way.

Our online business meeting on **Thursday, Nov. 5** will be streamed online for Farm Bureau members to view. Additionally, nine district gatherings will allow Farm Bureau members who prefer to join with others in a safe and healthy way the opportunity to view our business meeting together.

This may not be the meeting we had all hoped for, but it is yet another way our community is rising to the occasion to get

through these times as we press on toward better times.

We hope you can join us **Thursday, Nov. 5** to celebrate a year of agriculture, a year of Farm Bureau and a year of rising to the occasion, no matter the occasion.



For the most up-to-date information regarding the 2020 OKFB Online Business Meeting, visit [okfarmbureau.org/meeting2020](http://okfarmbureau.org/meeting2020).

## OKFB WLC to host online business meeting via Zoom

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee will hold their annual business meeting for the **WLC voting delegates via Zoom on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 12 p.m.**

WLC delegates will conduct

business, including the election of a chairman, during the meeting.

To vote, WLC delegates will need to participate via the Zoom platform on a computer, smartphone or tablet.

County women's delegates will be pre-registered for the meeting, and they

will receive a confirmation email before the event with details on how to connect to the Zoom meeting.

Counties can register their WLC delegates by contacting **Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2405**.

# Details for the upcoming OKFB Online Business Meeting announced

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members will gather at locations in each of the nine OKFB districts to watch our online business meeting together. Patterned after our successful August Area Meetings, safety protocols will be followed to ensure the health and safety of our members.

**OKFB members in districts one, four and seven will meet in-person at 5:30 p.m., prior to the start of the virtual business meeting** to elect district representatives to the organization's board of directors and the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee.

Locations for our online meetings are listed below:

## District One

*Fairview United Methodist Church*  
Hollow E. 0280  
Slapout, OK

## District Two

*Tommy Franks Museum - Stanley Building*  
300 S Washington St.  
Hobart, OK 73651

## District Three

*Redlands Community College*  
1300 S. Country Club Rd.  
El Reno, OK 73036

## District Four

*Southern Technology Center*  
2610 Sam Noble Parkway  
Ardmore, OK 73401

## District Five

*Kiamichi Technology Center*  
301 Kiamichi Dr.  
McAlester, OK 74501

## District Six

*Northeast Tech - Pryor*  
6195 W. HWY 20  
Pryor, OK 74361

## District Seven

*Autry Technology Center*  
1201 W. Willow Rd.  
Enid, OK 73703

## District Eight

*Pontotoc Technology Center*  
601 W. 33rd St.  
Ada, OK 74820

## District Nine

*Location to be announced*

# How to vote in OKFB's online business meeting Nov. 5

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members serving as voting delegates for the 2020 OKFB Online Business Meeting will have several business items to vote on during the online meeting **Thursday, Nov. 5, at 6:30 p.m.**

As of press time, delegates will be asked to cast votes for seven business items, including:

- **Approval of minutes of previous meeting**
- **OFBMIC policyholders meeting**
  - *Approve directors to serve on OFBMIC board*
  - *Receive and file OFBMIC report*
  - *Adjourn OFBMIC policyholders meeting*
- **Approval of Financial Committee Report**
- **Approval of delegates to serve at AFBF 2021 online annual meeting**
- **Vote to adjourn 2020 Online**

## Business Meeting

Delegates will have several options to cast their vote during the business meeting. Delegates can choose to attend one of OKFB's nine in-person gatherings to view the business meeting and cast votes together. At the in-person gatherings, an OKFB staff member will record and submit each vote.

Delegates can also choose to watch the meeting and cast their vote online using their own computer, smartphone or tablet with a broadband internet connection. An online voting system will allow delegates to cast their votes by simply pushing a button when each vote is opened. Each device will be counted as one vote. If a household has multiple members serving as voting delegates, they will each need to be using a separate device for their vote to be properly recorded.

# Current agenda for the 2020 OKFB Online Business Meeting

The most up-to-date agenda available at press time is available below. For updates and information, please visit our 2020 Online Business Meeting web page at [okfarmbureau.org/meeting2020](http://okfarmbureau.org/meeting2020).

## 5:30 p.m.

- Call to order, district one, four, and seven caucus meetings begin

## 6:30 p.m.

- Reconvene for main business session
- Greetings from Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt
- Greetings from AFBF President Zippy Duvall
- Announcement of district caucus meeting results
- Approval of minutes of the previous meeting
- OKFB Foundation for Agriculture update
- OKFB Ag Fund and Ag PAC updates
- OFBMIC policyholders meeting
- Approval of financial report
- OKFB Women's Leadership Committee incoming/outgoing members
- Approval of delegates to serve at AFBF 2021 online annual meeting
- Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee incoming/outgoing members
- Adjourn

County Farm Bureaus that wish to gather their voting delegates in a central location separate from the district in-person gatherings to watch the business meeting and cast votes should contact their field representative for information on how to submit their votes.

**Details on voting during the business session, including information on how to access the**

**Continued on back**



For information on your polling location or to request an absentee ballot, visit [ok.gov/elections](http://ok.gov/elections).

## VOTE: OKFB's guide to the 2020 elections Nov. 3

**A**griculture is the lifeblood of rural communities and the backbone of Oklahoma. Now more than ever, it's important to make sure rural voices are heard in elections this November. The individuals elected to serve in public office play a critical role in day-to-day life on the farm and ranch.

OKFB wants to ensure farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans are armed with the information necessary to choose how to cast their ballots this November and has created a voter guide for members.

### Request an absentee ballot

- Deadline to request: **Oct. 27 at 5 p.m.**
- Absentee ballots may be notarized or the voter may submit a copy of a valid ID
- Ballot must be received by **Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.**

### Early voting

- **Oct. 29 and Oct. 30 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.**
- **Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

### Day-of voting

- **Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

To view OKFB's full voting guide for the 2020 elections, visit [okfarmbureau.org/vote](http://okfarmbureau.org/vote). For more information, contact OKFB public policy staff at (405) 523-2300.

## Fall issue of *Oklahoma Country* now available to view online

**T**he fall issue of *Oklahoma Country* is now available to view online and is being delivered to members across the state.

### A little slice of chaos

For Randy and Tammy Will, there is no greater joy for them than to combine their two greatest passions – conservation and giving back to their community through agriculture education. Through their small slice of chaos, they share the Farm Bureau couple shares how they give back to their community in more ways than one.

### Riding safe

Through the cooperative efforts of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and the Oklahoma 4-H, ATV riders of all ages can participate in a new active-rider course. Located on 25 acres, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau/Oklahoma 4-H ATV Training Facility is a controlled environment where riders learn to navigate through a variety of exercises.



### Community connections

Quietly tucked away in the middle of northeast Oklahoma City's food desert lies a nonprofit community development ministry known as RestoreOKC. A place for residents of all ages, three high-school interns share how their lives have been directly impacted.

## OKFB joins coalition opposing SQ 805

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau has joined a coalition opposing State Question 805, which will be voted on by Oklahomans in the Nov. 3 general election.

SQ 805 seeks to amend the Oklahoma Constitution by preventing a criminal's previous non-violent felony convictions from being used to enhance his or her current sentence for a non-violent felony conviction. The measure would allow convicted felons who repeatedly commit crimes, including livestock theft, property crimes and other agricultural crimes, to be treated as first-time offenders.

With longstanding policy that calls for strong penalties on agricultural crimes, OKFB opposes the measure due to concerns over its potential impact in rural communities across the state, specifically with the theft of livestock and farm or ranch equipment.

"For decades, Farm Bureau members have stood for protecting property rights and promoting public safety," said OKFB President Rodd Moesel. "Unfortunately, those of us in agriculture are all too familiar with cattle theft and other property crimes that can cost our farm families thousands of dollars. A no vote on State Question 805 will protect the safety of our treasured rural communities by ensuring habitual offenders continue to be punished appropriately."

OKFB is joined in the coalition against SQ 805 by other statewide agricultural organizations including Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association.

More information on SQ 805 can be found at [No805.org](http://No805.org).

For more information on SQ 805 and how to vote with OKFB, visit [okfarmbureau.org/vote](http://okfarmbureau.org/vote).

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## OKFB supports ag youth at 2020 Tulsa State Fair premium sale

Oklahoma Farm Bureau helped support the state's agriculture youth by purchasing \$30,000 in premiums at the 2020 Tulsa State Fair Night of Champions Premium Sale.

Farm Bureau partnered with fellow agriculture and rural organizations and individuals to purchase premiums on the animals of 121 students, including the grand champion barrow and grand champion goat.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau is always proud to support our state's incredible 4-H and FFA students at the Tulsa State Fair," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "We know the lessons and life skills these students develop as they raise, care for and show animals will carry on as they lead our industry and our state in the future."

This year, the Tulsa State Fair premium sale was held online and was open from Wednesday, Oct. 7 through Friday, Oct. 9.

## Voting delegates process for online business meeting continued

online voting system, will be mailed directly to each voting delegate along with the minutes of OKFB's previous annual meeting for their review. Delegates are encouraged to read the letter when it arrives and make a voting plan in order to participate in OKFB's 2020 Online Business Meeting.

**Please remember that delegates in OKFB districts one, four and seven will have in-person district caucus meetings beginning at 5:30 p.m. Voting delegates must be present at their in-person district meetings to cast their caucus votes.**

For questions about voting during the annual meeting, contact your field representative, or call **Melisa Neal** at **(405) 523-2475**.

For the most current details regarding delegate information and the 2020 OKFB Online Business Meeting, visit [okfarmbureau.org/meeting2020](https://okfarmbureau.org/meeting2020).