OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU
PERSPECTIVE
September 18, 2026

OKFB hosts annual Capitol Camp for 4-H, FFA members

More than 130 Oklahoma 4-H and FFA members gathered at the Oklahoma State Capitol Sept. 2-3 for Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 2026 Capitol Camp mock legislative experience.

Capitol Camp is an immersive two-day experience for high school juniors and seniors to learn about Oklahoma's legislative process, including the path bills take to become law and how to use parliamentary procedure to guide debate and decision-making.

During the two-day event, students participated in a mock legislature held on the floors of both the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma State Senate.

The event kicked off with attendees electing their peers for the roles of speaker of the House, House floor leader, Senate president pro tempore and Senate floor leader.

Prior to Capitol Camp, students wrote legislation on issues that are important to them. In total, 85 bills were presented, with topics ranging from food labeling and water pollution to H-2A work programs and agricultural literacy in schools. Bills were first heard and discussed in committees before moving to the House and Senate floors for debate and a final vote.

During day two, bills that had already passed the House and Senate switched chambers to be heard and voted on by the opposite mock legislative body. Once a bill passed through both chambers, it moved to the governor, who either signed the bill into law or vetoed and sent it back for a veto override.

Students had a special visit from Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur, who shared insights on Oklahoma agriculture and her role at the state Capitol.

In addition to the mock legislative activities, Capitol Camp attendees participated in a community service project at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma the evening of Sept. 2, and wrapped up the night with fellowship at the Dust Bowl bowling alley.

"This is truly an opportunity of a lifetime," said McKinna Turner of Owasso FFA. "I would encourage anybody to go ahead and sign up, because regardless if you enjoy learning about legislation and policy, you're going to meet new people and have a great time while doing it."

OKFB Ag Fund endorses additional candidates ahead of Nov. 3 general election

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Ag Fund political action committee has endorsed an additional 38 candidates before the Nov. 3 general election.

Headlining the field of new endorsees is gubernatorial candidate Mike Mazzei, who also received financial support from the OKFB Ag Fund.

Additional newly endorsed candidates running for statewide office include T.W. Shannon for Lieutenant Governor, Kevin West for Labor Commissioner and Bob Sullivan for Insurance Commissioner.

The full list of new endorsees appearing on the Nov. 6 ballot is shown to the right. They join an existing list of candidates who previously received endorsements or financial support from the OKFB Ag Fund.

Candidates receiving new or additional financial support from the Ag Fund have an asterisk (*) displayed after their name.

The Ag Fund is a member-led PAC that collects input from local Farm Bureau members around the state to determine which candidates should be endorsed or financially supported. Every Ag Fund decision is made by the state Ag Fund committee, which is comprised of Farm Bureau members representing all nine OKFB districts, ensuring rural voices from around the state are considered.

To view a complete list of OKFB Ag Fund-endorsed candidates and additional voter resources, visit OKFB's 2026 online voter guide at okfb.news/vote26.

Support the OKFB Ag Fund

The OKFB Ag Fund political action committee is supported solely from voluntary contributions from OKFB members.

The impact the Ag Fund is able to make in Oklahoma political races is directly related to the amount of funds Farm Bureau members give, allowing the Ag Fund to support candidates who understand the importance of agriculture and our rural communities.

Donations must be made in the form of a personal check and be accompanied by certain donor information.

If you would like to contribute to the OKFB Ag Fund, contact OKFB's Gage Milliman at (405) 523-2300.

Newly endorsed candidates for statewide office

Mike Mazzei*
Governor

T.W. Shannon
Lieutenant Governor

Kevin West
Labor Commissioner

Bob Sullivan
Insurance Commissioner

Newly endorsed state senate candidates

Candidates are listed by district along with the counties containing their districts

Tyler Herring
SD 18 • Canadian, Oklahoma

Jon Painter
SD 24 • Cleveland, Grady

Curtis Erwin
SD 32 • Comanche

Newly endorsed state house candidates

Candidates are listed by district along with the counties containing their districts

Rick West
HD 3 • LeFlore

Scotty Stokes
HD 9 • Rogers, Tulsa

Mark Chapman
HD 12 • Wagoner

David Nelson
HD 16 • Muskogee, Okmulgee, Tulsa

Derrick R. Hildebrant
HD 23 • Rogers, Tulsa, Wagoner

Chris Banning
HD 24 • Creek, Okmulgee, Tulsa

Mark Lawson
HD 30 • Creek, Tulsa

Trish Ranson
HD 34 • Payne

Denise Crosswhite Hader
HD 41 • Canadian, Kingfisher, Logan, Oklahoma

Annie Menz
HD 45 • Cleveland

Josh Cantrell
HD 49 • Carter, Love, Marshall

Jason Blair
HD 53 • Cleveland

Dick Lowe
HD 56 • Caddo, Canadian, Grady

Daniel Pae
HD 62 • Comanche

Louis Jackson
HD 64 • Comanche

Clay Staires
HD 66 • Osage, Tulsa

Mike Lay
HD 68 • Creek, Tulsa

Sheila Dills
HD 69 • Tulsa

Kevin Norwood
HD 74 • Rogers, Tulsa

TJ Marti
HD 75 • Tulsa

Ross Ford
HD 76 • Tulsa

Melissa Provenzano
HD 79 • Tulsa

Stan May
HD 80 • Tulsa

Nicole Miller
HD 82 • Oklahoma

Eric Roberts
HD 83 • Oklahoma

Tammy West*
HD 84 • Oklahoma

Ellyn Hefner
HD 87 • Oklahoma

Emily Gise
HD 90 • Cleveland, Oklahoma

Max Wolfley
HD 95 • Cleveland, Oklahoma

Gabe Woolley
HD 98 • Tulsa, Wagoner

Marilyn Stark
HD 100 • Oklahoma

**Received financial support from the OFKB Ag Fund after the August runoff election*

See the full list of candidates endorsed by the OKFB Ag Fund on the OKFB website at
okfb.news/vote26

OKFB to host high school discussion meet Oct. 5 in El Reno

Oklahoma Farm Bureau invites Oklahoma high school students to sharpen their discussion skills at the 2026 OKFB High School Discussion Meet Monday, Oct. 5, at Redlands Community College in El Reno.

Competitors will discuss agricultural ideas and policies in a round-table discussion format, working cooperatively to share their experiences and ideas to discover solutions and opportunities for agriculture.

The event will begin on Oct. 5 with an orientation at 4:30 p.m., and the competition will begin at 5 p.m.

Contestants will compete in two open rounds of discussion with three to five students per room. The top four students from the first two rounds will advance to the final round at the end of the evening.

At the beginning of each round, students will be asked a question from a list provided by American Farm Bureau as the topic for their discussion.

The judges will evaluate the competitors based on their participation, knowledge of agricultural issues and their ability to work collaboratively toward a solution.

The winners will be announced at the conclusion of the discussion meet, and cash prizes will be presented to the top four competitors on stage at the OKFB annual meeting in Oklahoma City Friday, Nov. 6. The prize amounts are $750 for first place, $500 for second place, $300 for third place and $150 for fourth place.

Registration is open now through Thursday, Oct. 1.

Students can sign up to participate in the high school discussion meet and view the questions that will be used during the contest on OKFB's website at **okfb.news/highschooldiscussionmeet**.

Two OKFB members selected for AFBF Women's Communications Boot Camp

American Farm Bureau has selected two Oklahoma Farm Bureau members to participate in the organization's 25th Women's Communications Boot Camp class.

LeFlore County member and OKFB Women's Leadership Committee District 5 Committee Member Cyndi Mackey was selected along with Cotton County member and OKFB WLC District 4 Committee Member Jacey Fye as members of the 15-person class.

The 15 participants from around the country were selected to participate in the boot camp through a competitive application process.

The AFBF Women's Communications Boot Camp provides intensive, hands-on training to help Farm Bureau members develop the skills needed to communicate about agriculture and Farm Bureau.

The members will also enhance their leadership and advocacy skills to prepare them to address Farm Bureau priority issues.

The boot camp will be held Oct. 26-29 at the AFBF office in Washington, D.C.

2026 YF&R achievement, excellence award applications now open through Oct. 15

Applications for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award and Excellence in Agriculture Award are now open through Thursday, Oct. 15.

The YF&R Achievement Award recognizes YF&R members who have excelled in their farm or ranch and have honed their leadership abilities through Farm Bureau programs and activities. Participants are involved in production agriculture with most of their income subject to normal production risks.

Applicants are evaluated on their excellence in management, growth and scope of their operation and self-initiative displayed throughout the farm or ranch.

The YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes YF&R members who have a passion for agriculture but have not earned the majority of their income from an owned agriculture enterprise in the last three years.

Judges evaluate applicants based on their understanding of agricultural issues, leadership experiences and achievement and their ability to communicate their agricultural story.

Award winners will be announced at the 2026 OKFB convention in Oklahoma City in November. Winners will represent Oklahoma and compete at the 2028 American Farm Bureau Convention in Oklahoma City.

Applicants for both awards must be between the ages of 18-35 to compete.

To apply, YF&R members can complete the online application form available on the OKFB website at **okfb.news/yfr26awardapp**.

Applications for both awards are due Thursday, Oct. 15.

Apply by Oct. 15 for the OKFB YF&R Achievement Award and Excellence in Agriculture Award

okfb.news/yfr26awardapp

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WLC members gather in Woodward and Perry for Regional Women's Day events; three events still upcoming

Oklahoma Farm Bureau women gathered in Woodward on Saturday, Aug. 29, and in Perry on Thursday, Sept. 10, for the first two OKFB Women's Leadership Committee's Regional Women's Day events.

The events allow Farm Bureau women an opportunity to gather and develop their leadership skills and agricultural knowledge while discussing opportunities to grow and develop their local county women's committees.

Three more events are planned through October, and details are listed below. Members still have time to RSVP for the District 3 and Districts 2, 4 and 8 events. RSVPs can be submitted online at **okfb.news/rwd2026rsvp**.

Upcoming Regional Women's Day events • RSVP online at okfb.news/rwd2026rsvp

District 5 • Spiro
Saturday, September 19
10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
MackMazing Acres
RSVP deadline passed September 7

District 3 • El Reno
Friday, September 25
1 - 3:30 p.m.
Canadian Valley Tech Center
RSVP by September 21

Districts 2, 4 & 8 • Duncan
Friday, October 16
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Simmons Center Wild Horse Suite
RSVP by October 2