

PERSPECTIVE

September 25, 2020



In-Person Convention **CANCELED**

Join us for our virtual business session

OKFB cancels in-person convention, will host virtual business meeting

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau board of directors has voted to cancel the organization's in-person 2020 annual meeting and host a virtual business meeting.

With the health and safety of Farm Bureau leaders, members and staff in mind, the virtual business meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

"The Farm Bureau convention is always a highlight of the year for our organization and members," OKFB President Rodd Moesel said. "But as we considered the safety and health of our members and staff, the increasing uncertainty of hosting large group meetings and the ever-changing realities of life in a global pandemic, we feel it is in the best interest of our organization to proceed with caution and care for our Farm Bureau family."

Each Farm Bureau district will host an optional in-person gathering for members to participate in the virtual business meeting together in a safe and socially-distant manner. The meeting also will be streamed online for members who choose not to attend the in-person district gatherings.

Districts 1, 4 and 7 also will host in-person caucuses on

Thursday, Nov. 5 at 5:30 p.m. prior to the district gatherings to elect representatives to serve on the OKFB board of directors. Locations for the in-person district gatherings and caucuses will be announced as soon as they are available.

The board of directors also voted to postpone the organization's policy resolutions process until 2021. The OKFB policy book will remain unchanged through the next year.

"We believe our policy is strong and the core beliefs of our members are still addressed in the policy book," Moesel said. "After polling members across the state, our board is confident that our policy will meet the needs of our organization for the coming year."

County Farm Bureau members are encouraged to continue submitting policy ideas to the home office to inform board members and staff of the wishes and ideas of members. The state board of directors also is able to provide direction to staff in enacting grassroots policy.

Full details of the virtual business meeting will be shared with members as they are made available.

OKFB launches federal PAC, endorses congressional candidates

Oklahoma Farm Bureau launched the Ag PAC, the organization's new federal political action committee, by endorsing six candidates for Congress in the Nov. 3 general election.

The OKFB Ag PAC chose to endorse Sen. Jim Inhofe, as well as Rep. Kevin Hern, 1st Congressional District; Rep. Markwayne Mullin, 2nd Congressional District; Rep. Frank Lucas, 3rd Congressional District; Rep. Tom Cole, 4th Congressional District; and Stephanie Bice, 5th Congressional District.

The endorsements were voted upon by the Ag PAC board, which is comprised of farmers and ranchers in each Farm Bureau district. The board members gathered input from OKFB grassroots farm and ranch members in their districts to help guide their decisions.

"The purpose of our PAC is to support the election of candidates that are going to be helpful in furthering the goals and objectives of Oklahoma farmers and ranchers," said Keeff Felty, OKFB Ag PAC chair and Jackson County farmer. "We as a committee believe the candidates the Ag PAC has endorsed have the best interests of agriculture and rural Oklahoma in mind."

The Ag PAC was launched in 2020 to provide the organization's farm and ranch members a voice in federal elections. The PAC is supported by voluntary contributions from OKFB members.

The OKFB Ag Fund, the organization's state-level political action committee, will continue to support candidates in state races during the Nov. 3 general election.



OKFB participates in 2020 Census challenge video

Time is running out to complete your 2020 Census! With less than a week left until the Census deadline, OKFB joined in on a fun census challenge to help encourage fellow rural Oklahomans to participate in the census. Share with your friends and neighbors to help us make sure rural Oklahoma counts.

In the video, OKFB President Rodd Moesel challenged Rep. Frank Lucas, Oklahoma State University Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Vice President Tom Coon and Oklahoma National Stockyards Company President Kelli Payne, who each responded with their own video challenging three more individuals to participate.

To view the video, visit Oklahoma Farm Bureau on Facebook.

The deadline to complete the 2020 Census is Sept. 30. Visit 2020census.gov to complete yours today.

OKFB praises USDA's additional coronavirus assistance for farmers and ranchers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released the details for its second round of relief payments for farmers and ranchers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19.

Producers may apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2, or CFAP2, at USDA's Farm Service Agency county offices beginning Monday, Sept. 21 through Dec. 11, 2020.

The new round of payments will support field crops – including all classes of wheat – along with livestock, specialty crops, dairy, aquaculture and many additional commodities. Find a full list of eligible commodities and more details on the USDA website.

"We at Oklahoma Farm Bureau appreciate the administration's efforts to support our nation's farmers and ranchers through a second round of coronavirus relief payments, and are especially pleased to see hard red winter wheat has been included," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "While the global pandemic continues to cause great uncertainty for our state's agriculture community, the assurance of additional relief brings Oklahoma farmers and ranchers a much-needed sense of confidence and certainty to allow them to continue producing a stable food supply for our nation and our world."

Farmers and ranchers can learn more about CFAP2 and how to apply at farmers.gov/cfap.



Trump, Biden outline ag and rural priorities in AFBF survey

A new look into the priorities for rural America of President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden is revealed in responses to a questionnaire distributed by the American Farm Bureau Federation. AFBF asked the Republican and Democratic candidates to respond with their stances on topics directly affecting America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities, including trade, labor, regulatory reform and sustainability.

"The views of Farm Bureau members are as diverse as the food that is grown in this country, but we share the same goal of choosing leadership that will help America thrive," AFBF President Zippy Duvall said. "We are at a crucial time for agriculture as we navigate the challenges of a global pandemic, trade wars and depressed markets. It is important for our members to understand where the presidential candidates stand on issues important to rural America."

President Trump's responses focus largely on his first-term accomplishments. He pledges a science-based approach to regulation going forward. He commits to addressing the "rural/urban divide" and emphasizes support for voluntary conservation programs.

Former Vice President Biden's responses focus heavily on environmental sustainability and improving prosperity in rural communities. He, too, pledges to rely on experts

and scientists when it comes to policies and regulation. He commits to "rebuilding the middle class" and working with farmers to achieve net-zero emissions.

The survey includes 12 questions covering food system resiliency post-pandemic, rural life and health, biotechnology, clean water, the Endangered Species Act, energy, taxes, farm policy programs and more.

The answers are presented as they were received, unedited, to give members an unfiltered look at each candidate's platform. AFBF has invited candidates from both parties to respond to election questionnaires for more than 40 years. The survey is available now on [FB.org/election2020](https://fb.org/election2020).



Breaking down CFAP 2.0

On September 18, the Trump administration announced details of the new \$14-billion-dollar Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, or CFAP2, that will provide direct payments to farmers and ranchers to partially offset COVID-19-related losses for producers. This follows an estimated \$10 billion in support provided to cattle, hog, dairy, non-specialty crop, specialty crop and other producers to offset COVID-19 related losses experienced through mid-April 2020. Sign-up for

CFAP2 runs Sept. 21 through Dec. 11 through USDA's Farm Service Agency county offices.

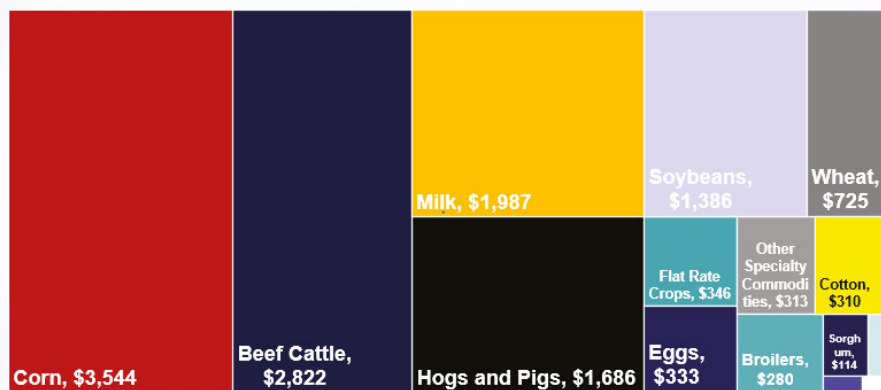
CFAP2 payments will be broken into three categories: price trigger commodities, flat-rate commodities and sales commodities. In order to qualify for a payment under the price trigger commodity category, the commodity must have suffered a 5%-or-greater national price decline based on a comparison of the average prices for the weeks of Jan. 13-17, 2020, and July

27-31, 2020. Flat-rate crops either do not meet the 5%-or-greater national price decline trigger noted above or do not have data available to calculate a price change. These row crops without price information will be eligible for a \$15-per-acre base payment. Sales commodities include specialty crops, aquaculture and other commodities not included in the price trigger and flat-rate categories. For sales commodities, payment calculations will be based on a producer's 2019 sales.

Of the \$14 billion dollars in CFAP2 support, USDA's cost-benefit analysis estimates corn producers will receive \$3.5 billion, or 25% of the total CFAP2 resources. Following corn, beef cattle producers are expected to receive \$2.8 billion, or 20% of CFAP2 funding. Dairy farmers are expected to receive \$2 billion, or 14% of the available support. Hog producers are estimated to receive \$1.7 billion or 12% of CFAP2. Soybean producers are estimated to receive \$1.4 billion, or 10% of the funds. Wheat, flat-rate crops, eggs and other commodities are expected to receive \$2.5 billion, or 18% of the CFAP2 support, Figure 1.

To read AFBF's full explanation regarding CFAP 2.0, visit okfb.news/CFAP20.

Figure 1. Estimated CFAP2 Outlays By Commodity Category



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Three opportunities to make a difference when renewing your membership

When renewing membership dues, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members have the opportunity to contribute optional dues to three important programs that work to improve the quality of life in Oklahoma, provide a voice for OKFB members and defend fellow Oklahomans from overregulation.

Optional dues go above and beyond your membership dues by allowing your organization to do even more work across our state – and beyond – to help our fellow Oklahomans and ensure our rural way of life continues for generations to come.

A suggested optional dues amount will appear on your membership billing statement, but OKFB members can contribute any amount they choose to these important programs.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture

The OKFB Foundation for Agriculture connects consumers with accurate agriculture information and helps sustain rural communities through a variety of programs. From helping place accurate agriculture books in schools to helping Oklahomans recover in times of disaster, contributions to the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture help create a brighter future for our state.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation

The OKFB Legal Foundation helps support Oklahoma Farm Bureau members and rural Oklahomans by entering the

legal arena to defend private property rights and regulatory overreach. The Legal Foundation also monitors litigation and regulation to ensure that farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans are not overly burdened with undue laws and regulations.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Ag PAC

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's political action committee is member-driven, supporting candidates for public office who understand the important contributions agriculture and rural communities make to our state. County Farm Bureau members who are familiar with their local communities and political races review candidates and decide whom to support.

Please consider contributing to these impactful programs when you renew your OKFB membership. When we join together, Farm Bureau members can provide an even louder voice for agriculture and all Oklahomans.

