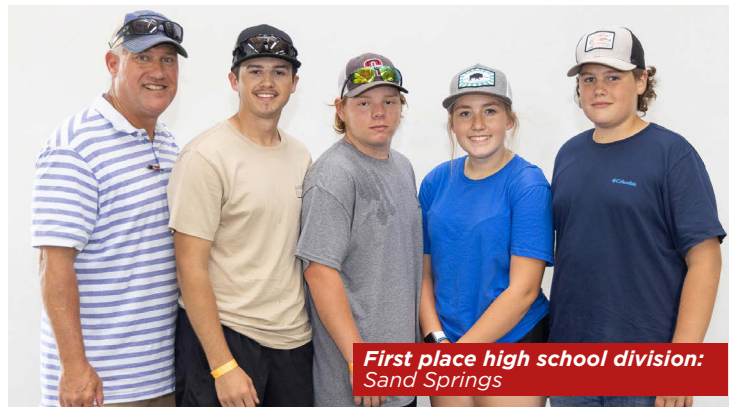


PERSPECTIVE

September 8, 2023



OKFB YF&R Shotgun Shoot raises more than \$15,000 for OKFB Foundation for Ag

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers raised \$15,595 for the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture during the 2023 YF&R Shotgun Shoot Fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 27, at Silverleaf Shotgun Sports near Guthrie.

A total of 34 teams with 136 shooters participated in the sporting-clays-style tournament across 12 stations that tested their skills mimicking real-world hunting scenarios.

Awards were given to top shooters in high school and open divisions.

The Western Oklahoma State College shooting sports team won the open competition, with team member Dillon Lopez earning the competition's top shooter award. The Sand Springs competitive shooting team won the high school division.

The winning team in the open division received \$400 for each shooter, a shotgun shell pouch and OKFB hats. The winning high school division team won shotgun shell pouches and ammunition.

Proceeds from the event were

donated to the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture, which supports Oklahoma's farming and ranching community through philanthropic efforts while providing educational resources and opportunities to increase awareness and knowledge of Oklahoma agriculture.

Title sponsors for the event were Beck's Farm Equipment, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma, Jackson County Farm Bureau, John Vance Fleet Services, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance and Vermeer.



Congresswoman Stephanie Bice (left), who represents Oklahoma's fifth congressional district, visits with Farm Bureau members at the OKFB home office on Tuesday, Aug. 29.



Grady County Farm Bureau board member Ron Justice (left) visits with Congresswoman Stephanie Bice during a congressional update Bice provided to Farm Bureau members.

OKFB members receive congressional update from Congresswoman Stephanie Bice

Farm Bureau members from Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District had the opportunity to hear a congressional update from Rep. Stephanie Bice on Tuesday, Aug. 29 at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau home office in Oklahoma City.

Bice shared with members the latest activity in Washington, D.C. and discussed several of her priority focus areas, including the 2023 farm bill, budget appropriations and the FAA reauthorization.

She also visited with Farm Bureau members about the crisis at the southern

border, including the prevalence of drug abuse and human trafficking. Bice explained the challenges in finding border agents and noted that several states, including Oklahoma, have sent national guard troops in an effort to assist local authorities.

Bice also spoke about her work to reduce overreach in federal rulemaking, including the passage of the REINS Act, which will require major new rules be approved by both the House and Senate.

Bice addressed current proposed regulations on household appliances like gas stoves and ceiling fans, noting the

excessive overreach ultimately leaves Americans with fewer choices.

She also expressed her opposition to eliminating gas- and diesel-powered vehicles, noting the potential effect the move would have on the agriculture industry while voicing her concern about the short lifespan of electric car batteries. Bice stated electric car batteries only last 10-15 years, while the average age of a car in the United States is 12 years.

Bice also touched on foreign policy, biotechnology and domestic energy independence.

OKFB to host one-day farmhand Olympics event at Oklahoma State Fair

Oklahoma Farm Bureau will host an evening of farmhand Olympics on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 6-8 p.m. at the 2023 Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City.

The event is designed to provide fairgoers with a fun, agriculture-based activity to connect with Farm Bureau and Oklahoma agriculture.

OKFB will also host a farmhand Olympics event for contestants participating in the OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers livestock judging contest on Thursday, Sept. 21, after the judging contest concludes.

Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters prepare for events and activities as 2023 school year begins

Collegiate Farm Bureau members at five Oklahoma colleges and universities are kicking off another year of activities and programs.

Members of Oklahoma State University's Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter represented Farm Bureau and their collegiate chapter at the university's Roundup event on Wednesday, August 30.

Schools with active Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters are OSU, Northwestern Oklahoma State, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, Southwestern Oklahoma State and Panhandle State.



OKFB launches customized development program for Oklahoma businesses

Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and Ag Business Accelerators program has launched a new customized development program with six Oklahoma companies in the inaugural cohort.

The customized development program provides tailored resources and mentorship plans in the form of three to four action items for companies that have already completed at least 60% of the work covered by the existing Activate Oklahoma rural development pipeline or Cultivate Oklahoma agricultural innovation pipeline.

The following businesses comprise the inaugural cohort:

Newalla Fish Company of Newalla uses cutting-edge recirculating aquaculture technology to produce superior pond-ready sportfish and organic fish-manure-based biological fertilizer boosters.

Rich Consulting PLLC of Muskogee is a military and United States Department of Defense contractor focusing on service member health, psychological

resiliency and defense readiness.

ISEEYOU360 Inc. of Grove is a targeted safety and security solutions company engaged in the research, design, development, integration and sustainment of advanced-technology products, including mixed-reality goggles for use with unmanned aerial and ground vehicles.

UpTerra of Cordell improves crop health and input efficiency through resonance and water. The UpTerra technology allows plants to use their native intelligence to respond, creating a naturally healthy growing environment with higher yields, more consistency and better crop quality.

Symbiotic Aquaponic LLC of McAlester builds and operates recirculating aquaponics systems to raise fish and produce in controlled environments.

Finally, 33 Processing of Spiro is a bioplastic producer rooted in large-scale hemp agriculture and manufacturing.

The businesses in the program's customized development initiative

receive input, consultation and resources from program partners including AgLaunch, Oklahoma Small Business Development Centers, Oklahoma i2E, Oklahoma CareerTech, Oklahoma State University Food and Agricultural Products Center and the Noble Research Institute.

The customized development program also connects some cohort members with fellow Oklahoma-based innovators to receive mentorship from entrepreneurs who have developed successful businesses in the state.

The Oklahoma Grassroots Rural and Ag Business Accelerators program is a collaborative rural development initiative from Oklahoma Farm Bureau along with national and state-level partners that develops Oklahoma-based innovators creating ideas, technologies and products creating economic opportunities in rural Oklahoma.

To learn more about OKFB's rural development programs and innovation development pipelines, visit okfarmbureau.org/accelerator.

OKFB members begin grassroots policy development process with August Area Meetings

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gathered for a series of 11 August Area Meetings to discuss issues, challenges and opportunities facing agriculture and rural Oklahoma in preparation for the organization's grassroots policy development process.

More than 400 Farm Bureau members and guests attended the series of meetings where top issues surfaced by OKFB members included the upcoming

farm bill, water rights and water infrastructure, the state's marijuana industry, electric vehicle incentives and taxation, foreign ownership of land, EPA pesticide rules, native American tribal jurisdiction and more.

OKFB members also heard organizational updates and reports from district Young Farmers & Ranchers representatives, Women's Leadership Committee district representatives,

various OKFB department staff and organizational leaders.

Farm Bureau members will now take the ideas discussed and write policy resolutions for their county resolutions meetings. Resolutions that are passed by county Farm Bureaus will be presented for consideration at the OKFB state resolutions meeting, which will be held October 24-25 at the Embassy Suites Medical Center in Oklahoma City.



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OKFB Foundation for Agriculture accepting donations for Hawaii wildfire relief

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is accepting donations to assist farmers and ranchers in Hawaii after recent wildfires ravaged parts of Maui and the Big Island.

More than 2,000 structures and thousands of acres have been destroyed in the town of Lahaina as a result of the early August wildfires. However, the devastation spreads beyond Lahaina into other parts of the island of Maui, including the rural town of Kula, where hundreds of acres of pastureland, crops, agricultural structures and equipment have been destroyed.

In an August 18 report, the United States Department of Agriculture estimated almost 7,000 acres of agricultural land had burned on Maui. News reports indicated miles of fences were destroyed along with hay supplies, and the island's critically important water infrastructure was damaged.

Hawaiian agricultural producers also face marketplace problems, as Hawaii's tourism industry is a major market for the island's agricultural products. With tourism lagging due to the fires, the near-term demand for the island's beef and produce is unclear.

The OKFB Foundation for Agriculture has joined forces with the Hawaii Farm Bureau Foundation and Maui County Farm Bureau to help farmers and ranchers in need.

OKFB members and County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to donate to the cause, and the foundation will match donations, up to a total of \$5,000. All donations will be sent to the Hawaii Farm Bureau Foundation.

Donations can be mailed to OKFB Foundation for Agriculture, 2501 N Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. The deadline to donate is Sept. 15.

For more information, contact Holly Carroll at (405) 523-2300.

How to donate to Hawaii wildfire relief

- **Write a check** to the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture and be sure to denote that your donation is for Hawaii fire relief
- **Mail your check** to the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture, 2501 N. Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
- Be sure to donate by **September 15**

