



WWW.OKFARMBUREAU.ORG

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

Aug. 16, 2019

August area meetings have kicked off across the state

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from several districts have already gathered for their annual August Area Meeting, signifying the kickoff of the OKFB grassroots policy development.

Topics such as taxes, rural healthcare, international trade and rural broadband have all been of great concern to members so far.

“We learn a lot,” said Mary Chris Barth, Beaver County Farm Bureau president. “It’s a good time to renew friendships from across the state and move forward as we support agriculture.”

The remaining meetings include:

District 3

August 22 | 6 p.m.

Canadian County Farm Bureau office
El Reno

District 4

August 20 | 6 p.m.

Casa Roma
Ardmore

District 5

August 27 | 6 p.m.

Kiamichi Technology Center
McAlester

District 7

August 19 | 6 p.m.

Stride Bank Center
Enid

District 9

August 29 | 6 p.m.

Creek County Fairgrounds
Kellyville



Above: District 1 board member Alan Jett addresses OKFB members attending the District 1 August Area Meeting in Woodward August 6.



Above: Albert Littau, Beaver County Farm Bureau member, takes the opportunity to ask a question during the District 1 August Area Meeting in Guymon.



Left: Harold and Karen Isaac, Texas County Farm Bureau members, catch up with fellow Texas County Farm Bureau member Roger Fischer. Besides serving as the kickoff for OKFB grassroots policy, it serves as an opportunity for members to reconnect with one another.



Left: Robert Travis and Tommy Snider, both Custer County Farm Bureau members, attended the District 2 meeting in Hobart where a variety of topics were discussed including the ad valorem tax, international trade and rural broadband.

OKFB selects Steve Thompson to lead public policy efforts

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has named Steve Thompson as the farm organization's senior director of public policy.

In his new role, Thompson will lead OKFB's public policy team as they work to implement Farm Bureau's grassroots policy goals at both the state Capitol and in Washington, D.C.

"Steve has a heart for serving Oklahoma's agriculture community, and his depth and breadth of experience working on agriculture issues make him an ideal leader for our policy efforts," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "With Steve at the helm of our public policy department, we are excited to continue serving our members' interests in the policy arena."

Thompson, who was raised on a Lincoln County farm his family settled in the land run of 1891, joined OKFB's public policy department in February as an assistant director of public policy.

"I'm excited to build upon the relationships and accomplishments that

Sen. Ron Justice earned for Farm Bureau members as our policy department continues to advocate for Oklahoma agriculture," Thompson said. "Oklahoma Farm Bureau is known for active engagement and respectful advocacy on behalf of our members. The policy team will continue to work hard every day as we strive to uphold this tradition."

Prior to joining OKFB, Thompson served as director of government relations and ag programs for American Farmers and Ranchers. Thompson also worked for nine years at the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, first as legislative liaison, then as associate commissioner. He studied agricultural education and agricultural economics at Oklahoma State University.

Thompson also serves as a livestock show superintendent at the Oklahoma Youth Expo and Tulsa State Fair. He received the okPork Ambassador Award from the Oklahoma Pork Council in 2019, the Honorary State FFA Degree in 2018 and

the Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association in 2007. He and his wife Jana have one son, Will, and they reside in Yukon.



JOIN US!

For the inaugural

YF&R

SHOTGUN SHOOT

Sept. 21, 2019 | Quail Ridge – McLoud, Oklahoma

Proceeds will benefit the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

Questions? Contact Zac Swartz at 405-523-2300 or Zac.Swartz@okfb.org.

Calendar

YF&R State Fair Livestock Judging

Sept. 12 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

OKFB YF&R Shotgun Shoot

Sept. 21 • McLoud
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2406

OKFB WLC Fall Conference

Sept. 27-28 • Edmond
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

Register now for the OKFB Women's Fall Leadership Conference to be held Sept. 27-28

Join Oklahoma Farm Bureau women from across the state at the 2019 Women's Fall Conference in Edmond, Oklahoma at the Hilton Garden Inn & Edmond Conference Center September 27th to 28th.

The conference will feature motivational speakers, leadership training and the sharing of ideas for the Program of Work. Fun and fellowship will set the mood for the conference, which includes outstanding speakers and presentations geared to empower members to take an active role in promoting agriculture for future generations of Oklahomans.

We ask that each participant donate a minimum of one item towards the silent auction benefiting Bushels for Books, a program coordinated by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee to provide accurate agriculture books to elementary students across the state. The books distributed will cover a variety of agricultural topics that are appropriate for the grade level receiving the books.

Registration forms for the event can be found online at okfb.news/wlcfallcon19. The event is free to all Oklahoma Farm Bureau women.

For more information, contact Marcia Irvin at 405-523-2405 or Marcia.Irvin@okfb.org.

Carroll returns to OKFB as membership, foundation for ag director

Oklahoma Farm Bureau has named Holly Carroll director of membership and OKFB Foundation for Agriculture.

In her new position, Carroll will work to promote membership and the benefits available to Oklahoma Farm Bureau members. She will continue to oversee the programs and day-to-day activities of the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture, under the direction of the foundation board.

"I am excited to come back to serve the agriculture industry, which is where my passion lies," Carroll said. "The Farm Bureau family has always held a special place in my heart, and I am excited to help Farm Bureau members as we educate consumers and promote our organization."

Carroll hopes to increase educational activities for the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture while increasing funding for current and future programs.

Carroll began working as director for the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture in January, helping promote and implement foundation programs. She started her career as an agricultural educator before joining OKFB in 2009 and working in the field services department. After initially leaving

OKFB in 2016, Carroll returned to the classroom to teach.

Carroll grew up on a beef and tobacco farm in central Kentucky. She served as Kentucky's state FFA president and graduated from Western Kentucky University before moving to Oklahoma. She lives in Cashion with her husband, Chris, and children, Maggie and Reed.



Continued standstill with trade between U.S. and China featured on Fox 25



As the trade war between the United States and China continues, KOKH FOX 25 News, Oklahoma sat down with Oklahoma Farm Bureau president Rodd Moesel Aug. 7 to better understand how Oklahoma farmers and ranchers are being impacted in a variety of ways.

"We need solutions and we need them soon," said Moesel.

For the full interview with KOKH Fox 25 News, visit okfb.news/2YUnhKd.

Member Benefits

Life Line Health Screenings

Stay on top of your health with Life Line's proactive health screenings. Life Line's special OKFB-member package includes 5 hospital-grade tests for \$135. The screening package is:

- Carotid Artery/Stroke

- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)
- Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Osteoporosis

Life Line's board-certified physicians carefully review your results. Then you

and your doctor will have the information you need to work together towards improving your health.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Published by Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Postmaster: Send address corrections to:
Perspective, P.O. B. 53332,
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3332

STAFF DIRECTORY

Executive Director

Thad Doye

405-523-2438

Vice President of Communications and Public Relations

Dustin Mielke

405-530-2640

Director of Media Relations

Hannah Davis

405-523-2346

Publications Coordinator

Brianne Schwabauer

405-523-2325

Oklahoma Farm Bureau
2501 N. Stiles
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3126

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 131
Okla. City, OK.

Chance to win \$145,000 in AFBF Ag Innovation Challenge for startup food and ag entrepreneurs

The American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, has opened online applications for the 2020 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. In its sixth year, the Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge is a national business competition for U.S. food and agriculture startups. Entrepreneurs will compete for \$145,000 in startup funds.

Startup funds for the Challenge are provided by sponsors Farm Credit, John Deere, Bayer Crop Science, Farm Bureau Bank, Country Financial and Farm Bureau Financial Services.

To apply for the Challenge, competitors can apply online at fb.org/aginnovationchallenge by midnight Eastern Standard Time on September 30, 2019.

"It takes faith, courage and creativity to start a business," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Rural entrepreneurs face a number of additional challenges compared to their urban counterparts. These include limited access to broadband, high transportation costs and a lack of access to business networks. We're very interested to

see how entrepreneurs working in food and agriculture will use startup funds provided by the Challenge to take their businesses to the next level."

Ten semi-finalist teams will be announced on November 5 and awarded \$10,000 each. All 10 semi-finalist teams will travel to AFBF's Annual Convention, in Austin, Texas, in January 2020, with all expenses paid, to compete in a live competition to be the Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year. The 10 teams will compete in Austin to advance to the final round where four teams will receive an additional \$5,000 and compete live on stage in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives. The final four teams will compete to win:

- Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year award and \$15,000 (chosen by judges), for a total of \$30,000
- People's Choice award and \$10,000 (chosen by public vote), for a total of \$25,000

Entrepreneurs and startups with businesses in the following categories are

encouraged to apply:

- Farm, ranch, greenhouse, aquaponics
- Input product or crop variety
- Method or tool for growing, monitoring or harvesting crops or livestock
- Production support services
- Retail, agritourism or farm-to-table business
- Food/beverage/textile product or ingredient
- Method of production, preparation or packaging of food/beverage/textile products or ingredients
- Value-added processing including yogurts, cheeses and processed meats, wineries, breweries, cideries and distilleries

Entrepreneurs must be Farm Bureau members to qualify as a top-10 semi-finalist. Applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can join a state Farm Bureau of their choice. Detailed eligibility guidelines, the competition timeline, videos and profiles of past Challenge winners are available at fb.org/aginnovationchallenge.