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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

Dec. 22, 2017

Three OKFB YF&R members to compete at AFBF Annual Meeting

Three members of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers program will represent Oklahoma in national YF&R competitive events at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting Jan. 5-10 in Nashville, Tennessee.

The winner of this year's Oklahoma YF&R Achievement Award, Chad Selman of Tulsa County, will compete to win the AFBF YF&R Achievement Award. The award recognizes young farmers and ranchers who have excelled in their farm or ranch and have honed their leadership abilities to superiority. Participants are involved in production agriculture with a majority of their income subject to production risks.

The 2018 YF&R Achievement Award winner will receive their choice of a brand new 2018 Ford truck, sponsored by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance.

Brent Howard of Jackson County Farm Bureau will compete in the AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet, after winning the state competition at the annual meeting in November. The discussion meet event simulates a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. Participants build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

The winner of the AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet will receive their choice of a brand new 2018 Ford truck, sponsored by Farm Bureau Financial Services.

Stephens County Farm Bureau's Dell Farris will represent Oklahoma in the AFBF YF&R Excellence in Agriculture award competitive event. He was named the 2017 OKFB YF&R Excellence in Agriculture winner at the OKFB Annual Meeting in November. The award spotlights young Farm Bureau members who are agricultural enthusiasts but do not earn a majority of



OKFB President Tom Buchanan presents the 2017 OKFB YF&R Achievement Award to Chad Selman (far right) and his wife Katrina during the organization's annual meeting in November. Selman will compete for the national award in Nashville in January.

their income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in the past three years. Competitors are evaluated on their understanding of agricultural issues, leadership experiences and achievement, and their ability to communicate their agricultural story.

The winner of the Excellence in Agriculture award also will receive their choice of a brand new 2018 Ford truck, sponsored by Country Financial.

The third place finalists in each of the three AFBF YF&R competitive events will receive \$2,000 worth of Stanley Black & Decker merchandise including PROTO, DeWalt, Stanley, Lenox and Irwin products, all courtesy of Black & Decker.

Second, third and fourth places finalists of the three events will receive a range of Case IH products, thanks to Case IH.

Learn more about AFBF YF&R at fb.org/programs/young-farmers-and-ranchers/.



Brent Howard (third from left) will compete in the AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet in January.



Dell Farris (right) will represent Oklahoma in AFBF YF&R Excellence in Ag contest in January.

Payne County member appointed to serve on AFBF YF&R committee

Rachel Pickens of Payne County Farm Bureau recently was selected to serve on the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

The committee helps evaluate and update the YF&R long-term plan, assists with executing YF&R competitive events at the AFBF Annual Convention, provides programming advice for the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference, serves on one of four subcommittees, serves as a contact for state YF&R programs, and takes part in numerous committee meetings.

“Through her involvement in Farm Bureau, our state and her local community, Rachel has demonstrated a passion for sharing the story of agriculture and our organization,” said Rodd Moesel, Oklahoma Farm Bureau president. “She works tirelessly to develop her own leadership skills while taking the time to commit herself to helping others grow as well.”

The Stillwater resident has been involved in Farm Bureau in a number of capacities, serving as Payne County Farm Bureau YF&R vice chairman and on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau YF&R Committee, as well as competing on the national level in the AFBF YF&R Discussion meet and Excellence in Agriculture events.

“Being appointed to the AFBF YF&R Committee is an honor which I believe should not be taken lightly,” Pickens said. “With this honor comes the expectation to achieve a greater good for the organization and its members when considering long term and visionary goals.

“I hope to serve the organization by helping future members across the country transition from 4-H and FFA into the YF&R program, assisting in providing resources for YF&R members in developing their operations, utilizing younger members to lead our organization with marketing, communication and public awareness.”

Also known as the “Oklahoma Land Lady,” Pickens began her career in college as the auction coordinator of Pickens Auctions, marketing and selling more than 30,000 acres, and showcasing premier properties and pristine ranches. She currently lives on a ranch in Stillwater, Oklahoma, where she owns Rockin’ Star Farm, an agritourism venue.

In addition to her Farm Bureau involvement, Pickens is an active member of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association, the National Cattlewomen’s Association, the Diamond Hats Club, the Oklahoma Agritourism Association and the National



Rachel Pickens of Payne County Farm Bureau

FFA Alumni Association. She also serves on the Oklahoma Realtor’s Land Institute board of directors.

To learn more about the YF&R program, visit www.fb.org/programs/young-farmers-and-ranchers/.

Save the date! OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference to be held March 5-6 in Oklahoma City

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are encouraged to attend the 2018 OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference held March 5-6 in Oklahoma City. Members will learn about prominent issues facing agriculture in rural Oklahoma, visit with state legislators, and much more. Stay tuned for more information on the event.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



It’s time for the 2018 farm bill

As Congress begins to the process of drafting farm bill for 2018, the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture published a video highlighting the importance of the measure. Find the video on the OKFB Facebook page. The committee also launched a farm bill page on its website featuring facts, video interviews and more to ensure the legislation is passed on time. Visit www.agriculture.house.gov/farmbill to learn more.



Hear the stories that make up OKFB’s 75-year legacy

As Oklahoma Farm Bureau this year celebrates 75 years of service to agriculture and rural Oklahoma, the organization proudly shares the stories of our members who make up our organization’s rich heritage. Learn about the significance of the farm organization by watching the 75 Years Strong video on our Facebook page.



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OKFB visits with members, public at 2018 Tulsa Farm Show



Left: Members visit with OKFB's Todd Honer at the grassroots organization's booth during the Tulsa Farm Show on Dec. 7 at the River Spirit Expo. Right: OKFB's Gage Milliman shares an update on the organization's work with Mayes County Farm Bureau member Charlie Coblentz during the Tulsa Farm Show Dec. 7.

Legislative Update: The second special session and beyond

By LeeAnna McNally, OKFB Public Policy

The second special session of the Oklahoma Legislature is officially underway, as legislators again returned to the state Capitol on Monday, Dec. 18.

Three days prior to the session, Gov. Mary Fallin issued an Executive Order calling legislators to address funding issues for the Oklahoma Health Care Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Of course, this action comes after her Nov. 17 partial veto of the budget bill passed during the first special session. Fallin, in her veto message, emphasized a need for a permanent revenue solution.

However, the partial veto left many

rural Oklahomans questioning the substantial diversion of funds from the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges program. Monies continue to be drawn from this fund to supplement other budgetary items, which could mean delayed infrastructure projects across the state.

After her partial veto in November, Fallin issued three Executive Orders aimed at government efficiency. Two of the orders dealt with administrative consolidation for higher education and public school districts while the third addressed government agencies to cut spending on “swag” items such as coffee cups and bumper stickers.

As we look toward the 2018 legislative

session – a little over six weeks away – please be in contact with your legislators about the importance of protecting Oklahoma farmers and ranchers on issues such as the agriculture sales tax exemption, private property rights and property taxes.

A number of bills have been introduced to expand the scope of ad valorem taxes. Keeping ad valorem taxes low for farmers and ranchers – our state's second leading economic driver – is a cornerstone Farm Bureau issue.

As always, we diligently will fight to protect our grassroots farm and ranch members who produce food and fiber for the world.

Member Benefits

Great Wolf Lodge

Want to find an escape from the winter cold? Book a trip for your family to a fantastic Great Wolf Lodge water park resort! Visit locations in Grapevine, Texas, or Kansas City, Kansas, and save 20 percent with your OKFB membership. Use the code OKFB105A when making reservations. Visit www.greatwolf.com for more information, or call 866-925-9653.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show

Jan. 5-10 • Nashville, Tennessee
Contact: Melisa Neal 405-523-2475

State Legislature convenes

Feb. 5 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Tasha Duncan 405-523-2539

OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference

Mar. 5-6 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Tasha Duncan 405-523-2539

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