

# OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

Dec. 8, 2017

## Nine OKFB farm and ranch families honored by Women's Leadership Committee at annual meeting in November

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee presented its District Farm and Ranch Family Recognition awards at the organization's annual meeting Nov. 10 in Norman, Oklahoma.

The program honors a farm and ranch family in each OKFB district who uphold the best traditions of Oklahoma agriculture and rural Oklahoma as they raise food and fiber for our state and beyond.

"Our Women's Leadership Committee is proud to honor these families who have dedicated themselves to growing food for our world," said Kitty Beavers, OKFB WLC Chairman. "Farming and ranching is an important way of life for our state, and these families deserve recognition for contributing to rural Oklahoma as they instill in their children the values of hard work and dedication that is needed throughout our state."



Read more about the 2017 OKFB WLC Farm and Ranch Families by visiting the "News" page at [www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org), and find videos with each family on the OKFB Facebook and Twitter pages.



**Scott Eisenhauer**, general manager of P&K equipment (left), and **OKFB President Tom Buchanan** (center) present the 2017 OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet Award to **Brent Howard** of Altus along with **OKFB YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz** during the awards program at the 76th OKFB Annual Meeting in Norman Nov. 10. Howard won the award following three rounds of discussion during the organization's annual meeting.

## Jackson County's Brent Howard wins OKFB YF&R Discussion Meet

**B**rent Howard of Jackson County was named the 2017 Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet winner at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Nov. 10 in Norman, Oklahoma.

Howard competed against four other participants in three rounds of debate-style discussion where performance was evaluated on the exchange of ideas and information on pre-determined topics. Participants were judged on their ability to offer constructive criticism, cooperation and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions.

"The discussion meet is just great in the aspect of it really gets you thinking about questions that are current events and currently major issues affecting farming

and a lot of times affecting the younger generation," Howard said. "It's really nice to have an opportunity to have input as we affect policy for the state level."

An attorney specializing in tax and estate planning, Howard also assists with his family farm northeast of Altus, Oklahoma.

As the state discussion meet winner, Howard received a John Deere Z345R Lawn Mower, presented by P&K Equipment and the opportunity to compete in the national discussion meet contest at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting Jan. 5-10 in Nashville, Tennessee.

"I'm really excited to go represent Oklahoma (at AFBF) as best as I can," Howard said.

## Comanche County honored as OKFB's top county YF&R committee

**T**he Comanche County Young Farmers and Ranchers committee was presented with the 2017 Charles L. Roff Award at the 2017 OKFB Annual Meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, Nov. 10.

The Charles L. Roff Award encourages county YF&R groups to improve their local committees and activity participation while strengthening the organization.

"It's a real honor," said John Morris, Comanche County Farm Bureau YF&R chairman. "We work really hard and communicating with area young farmers and ranchers to get us together to help improve each others farming operations."

Comanche County YF&R hosted its annual farmhand olympics, where students

from around the county attend and compete in various agricultural events.

"You just see smiles on kids faces when they come through and do the events each year," Morris said. "It's a lot of fun to watch. I think that's our biggest event."

Just beginning their careers in production agriculture, the young Farm Bureau members also spent time learning from local experienced farmers and ranchers.

"We've toured a lot of farms and ranches around the area trying to expand our knowledge and see how people got to where they are today," Morris said.

The county received a traveling plaque in recognition for their outstanding committee involvement.



(L to R): **OKFB President Tom Buchanan** and **AFBF President Zippy Duvall** present the **Charles L. Roff award** to **Comanche County YF&R Chair John Morris** along with **OKFB Interim Executive Director Thad Doye** during the awards program at the 76th OKFB Annual Meeting Nov. 10.

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

### Meet the 2017 OKFB WLC District Farm and Ranch Families

Farm and ranch families are the heart and lifeblood of Oklahoma Farm Bureau. As featured on the cover, the OKFB WLC honored nine of them with the District Farm and Ranch Family Recognition program at this year's annual meeting. Learn more about each family by viewing our video features on the OKFB Facebook and Twitter pages.



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Follow OKAgPolicy on Twitter for updates on leading OKFB policy issues

As the state Legislature prepares for a second special session and the regular session, and Congress advances tax reform, the 2018 farm bill and more, OKFB continues to work on behalf of its members at the state Capitol and in Washington, D.C. Keep up with the latest policy decisions that affect you the most by following OKAgPolicy on Twitter.

[www.okfarmbureau.org](http://www.okfarmbureau.org)

# Alfalfa County honored with Lewis H. Munn award

Oklahoma Farm Bureau presented Alfalfa County with the Lewis H. Munn Farm Bureau Builders Award during the 2017 OKFB Annual Meeting on Nov. 10 in Norman, Oklahoma.

The award is named after the second president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, and presented to the county which best serves its members.



(L to R): OKFB President Tom Buchanan and AFBF President Zippy Duvall present the Lewis H. Munn Award to Alfalfa County President Ryan Pjesky along with OKFB Interim Executive Director Thad Doye Nov. 10.

## WLC, OKF&R Foundation present bushel baskets of agriculture books to teachers

Six Oklahoma teachers were presented with a basket of agriculture books during the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Nov. 11 in Norman, Oklahoma.

The OKFB Women's Leadership Committee partnered with the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation to sponsor this year's Bushels for Books program, which donates a bushel basket of accurate agriculture books to teachers and schools across the state.

"The Foundation is dedicated to educating others about our state's farming and ranching community," said Jeramy Rich, president of the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation. "We're proud to support teachers across the state in educating the future of Oklahoma."

Applications were accepted from teachers across the state, and winners were chosen by the WLC state board. The books cover various agriculture topics.

"As farmers and ranchers, we long for today's students to be informed and excited about agriculture," said Kitty Beavers, OKFB WLC chairman. "We hope that providing these books to teachers and students will play a small part in fulfilling that goal."

Educators receiving books included Kala Butler, Lone Star Public Schools; Vanessa Champion, Big Pasture Public Schools; Cheyenne Dickerson, Waurika Elementary School; Lana Farney, Muldrow Public Schools; Kim Holman, Asher Public Schools; and Debbie Shelton, Ponca City Public Schools.

The Bushels for Books program takes donated bushels of any commodity crop and monetary donations from Oklahoma farmers to provide the agriculture books to Oklahoma elementary schools. For more information on the program, please visit [www.okfarmingandranchingfoundation.org](http://www.okfarmingandranchingfoundation.org).

## Love County's Nancy Minyard named OKFB Secretary of the Year

Nancy Minyard of Love County Farm Bureau was honored as the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Secretary of the Year at the 2017 OKFB Annual Meeting Nov. 10 in Norman, Oklahoma. County secretaries serve as the face of the county Farm Bureau office not only with customers but also with potential new members.

Serving Love County members for more than 27 years, Minyard followed in the footsteps of her grandmother who also worked as the county secretary for 21 years.

As the winner, Minyard will receive a trip to the 2017 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in January in Nashville, Tennessee.

Finalists for the award included Joy Fitts, Beaver County; LaManda Bailey, Roger Mills County; Shirlene Joyce, Grady County; Debora Johnson, Haskell County; Marissa Haney, Cherokee County; Katie Perks, Woods County; Lisa Talley, Coal County; and Scarlett Strawn, Okfuskee County.



OKFB President Tom Buchanan (left) presents the 2017 OKFB Secretary of the Year Award to Nancy Minyard of Love County during the 76th OKFB annual meeting in Norman.

## Member Benefits

### Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Traveling to visit family and friends this holiday season? Save on rental cars with your OKFB membership! When you're ready to go, Enterprise makes it easy with everyday low rates on good cars, plus your OKFB member discount. With the largest fleet in North America and a wide variety of vehicles, Enterprise has you covered. To reserve a car, visit the Member Benefits page of the OKFB website listed below.

[www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits](http://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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## USDOT temporarily waives electronic logging device mandate for agriculture

The U.S. Department of Transportation has granted a 90-day waiver from the requirement that agricultural and livestock haulers install electronic logging devices in their vehicles. Over those 90 days the department plans to look closely at agriculture's request for an exemption while developing additional guidance for agricultural haulers.

Most farmers and ranchers should be exempt from the ELD mandate because they can claim covered farm vehicle status, but drivers who haul livestock, live fish and insects are likely to fall under the requirements.

In September, the American Farm Bureau Federation and seven livestock organizations petitioned DOT for a waiver and exemption from the Dec. 18 ELD implementation deadline. In their request, the groups explained their two biggest concerns about the requirement: livestock haulers' readiness to comply and the effect on the transported

animals' well-being.

Drivers who have to use ELDs would be limited to current hours of service rules, which restrict a driver to only 14 "on duty" hours, with no more than 11 active driving hours. Once a driver hits those maximum hour allotments, he must stop and rest for 10 consecutive hours, which would be problematic when transporting livestock and other live animals.

In their petition, the groups also asked DOT to address the incompatibilities between the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's hours of service rules and the structure and realities of the U.S. livestock sector.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau submitted comments to the FMCSA last week regarding the ELD mandate, requesting the USDOT evaluate the rule's affect on the wellbeing of animals. OFBF also asked that livestock haulers be given adequate time to bring their operations into compliance with the new rule.

## American Farm Bureau President Duvall commends Senate action on tax reform

Farmers and ranchers have long called for a fair tax code that recognizes our hard work as well as the unique challenges we face in growing our nation's food, fiber and fuel. The Senate's passage of tax reform legislation today puts us within reach of that goal.

"We applaud the Senate's commitment to key tax provisions farm and ranch businesses depend on, such as immediate expensing, business interest deduction and cash accounting. While we also had hoped to see the estate tax finally put to death, increasing the exemption should bring relief for many farm and ranch families looking to preserve their agricultural legacy."

"Farm Bureau looks forward to the Senate and House reconciling the differences between their respective versions in conference to achieve a final tax reform package that addresses the needs and concerns of farmers and ranchers and boosts economic growth in rural America."