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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

# Perspective

Dec. 6, 2019

## OKFB YF&R members to participate in AFBF competitive events

**F**ive members of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers program will represent Oklahoma in national YF&R competitive events at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting & IDEAg Trade Show held Jan. 17-22 in Austin, Texas.

The YF&R program helps young Farm Bureau members shape their futures and American agriculture through leadership development and personal growth opportunities. Three competitions enable members to showcase their leadership experience, communication skills and successful business plans as they compete against the best of the best from each state Farm Bureau.

The winners of this year's OKFB YF&R Achievement Award, Cody and Kara Goodknight of Comanche County will compete for 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 normal production risks.

Nowata County Farm Bureau's Justin and Chrissy Maxey will represent Oklahoma in the AFBF YF&R Excellence in Agriculture award competition. The couple was named the 2019 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 have not earned a majority of their income from an owned production agriculture enterprise in the past three years.

Chism Sander of Dewey 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 of the participants. Participants build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

As part of the YF&R competitions, the top four competitors in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence

in Agriculture areas will receive the prizes listed below.

**WINNER – FIRST PLACE:** A new Ford vehicle, up to a value of \$35,000, and paid registration to the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, courtesy of Ford.

**RUNNER-UP – SECOND PLACE:** A Case IH Farmall 50A, courtesy of Case IH.

**THIRD PLACE:** A Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet and Top Chest and \$500 Case IH parts card, courtesy of Case IH plus \$2,200 worth of Stanley Black & Decker merchandise (PROTO, DeWalt, Stanley, Lenox & Irwin), courtesy of Stanley Black & Decker.

**FOURTH PLACE:** A Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet and Top Chest and a \$500 Case IH parts card, courtesy of Case IH.

## OKFB member selected as a Top 10 Freshman at OSU

*Woodward County Farm Bureau member Leslie Smith (far right), is recognized as a Top 10 Freshman at Oklahoma State University by the OSU Mortar Board during a halftime ceremony at Boone Pickens Stadium Nov. . The selection process considers GPA, scholarships earned, research initiatives, extracurricular activities, community service projects and much more. A 2018 graduate of Woodward High School, Smith is currently pursuing a degree in agribusiness. Photo courtesy of Oklahoma State University.*



## OSU Collegiate Farm Bureau members make a difference this holiday season



*Above: Members of the Oklahoma State University Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter took time to purchase Christmas gifts for three Payne County children through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. OKFB is proud of our collegiate leaders and their willingness to make a difference within Payne County.*

## FOX 25 Newsroom honored with OKFB Journalist of the Year Award

**T**he Fox 25 Newsroom was recognized with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Journalist of the Year Award on Nov. 9 during the organization's 78th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City.

The award honors journalists for their contributions through reporting accurately and regularly about Farm Bureau news, agricultural and rural issues.

"Agriculture plays a significant role in Oklahoma," said Dan Snyder, Fox 25 News anchor. "It is a major industry for the Sooner State, and accounts for a significant portion of our economy. But farmers and ranchers have faced tough times over the last few years as global trade policies have

fluctuated. I see it as my job to tell their stories or, at least, bring awareness to their fight."

Oklahoma City-based Fox 25 Newsroom was chosen for the award for numerous pieces on issues facing Oklahoma farmers and ranchers including trade, weather and natural disasters, and more.

"I want to thank the Farm Bureau for their consistent help," Snyder said. "President Rodd Moesel has time and time again made himself available to us, even on short notice. He has consistently spoken on behalf of our state's farmers and in their best interest. The Farm Bureau has been an invaluable resource for our newsroom."

## OKFB-sponsored Tulsa Farm Show to feature latest ag products, services

**O**klahoma Farm Bureau this year will serve as the official sponsor of the Tulsa Farm Show, the state's largest indoor farm show to be held Dec. 12-14 at the River Spirit Expo at the Tulsa Expo Square.

More than 380 exhibitors will feature thousands of agricultural products, ranching equipment and services, making the Tulsa Farm Show one of the country's premier agricultural events and the largest of its kind under one roof.

"We are excited to have the Oklahoma Farm Bureau as the official show sponsor of the Tulsa Farm Show this year," said Scott Guttormson, show manager. "They have been an active participant and support of the show for many years. Having them more closely involved will allow us to better serve the area's farmers and ranchers."

More than 30,000 ag producers and ranchers from Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas regularly attend the Tulsa Farm Show which also will feature events, demonstrations, competitions, test drives and prize drawings.

The Tulsa Farm Show will be open Thursday, Dec. 12 and Friday, Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Additional information can be found at [www.TulsaFarmShow.com](http://www.TulsaFarmShow.com).

**78th Annual Meeting photos now available on Flickr! Visit [flickr.com/okfarmbureau](http://flickr.com/okfarmbureau) to download.**

## Calendar

### AFBF Convention

Jan. 17-22 • Austin, Texas  
Contact: Melisa Neal 405-523-2300

### State Leadership Conference

Feb. 17-18 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Emmy Karns 405-523-2300

### YF&R Legislative Day

Feb. 17 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-523-2300

### Farm Bureau Week

Feb. 17-21  
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2300

### Farm City Festival

Feb. 26 • Oklahoma City  
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2300

# Making rural Oklahomans count in the 2020 census

## RURAL OKLAHOMA COUNTS!

— THE 2020 CENSUS —

**A**s the state's largest general farm organization, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members have stood together for more than seven decades as a united voice for the rural way of life.

In early 2020, the voices of Farm Bureau members will be needed more than ever. The U.S. Census Bureau decennial census will be conducted beginning in March 2020, and OKFB will be relying on all members to ensure rural communities receive the voice they deserve.

### The 2020 census...

- directs how \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year for roads, schools, hospitals and more.
- determines population count for state legislative redistricting.
- impacts our representation in the U.S. House.
- brings your community ~\$1,700 annually per person counted.
- can easily be completed by mail, phone or online.

### HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

Want to make sure rural Oklahoma is properly counted in the 2020 census? Help us spread the word in your own circles of influence by sharing with your friends and neighbors about the importance of completing the census questionnaire. Below are some ideas for how to inform and educate your community.

#### START WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

Whether you're at the local co-op, in your Sunday school class or gathered around the table over the holidays, make sure to encourage your closest friends and family to look for their census questionnaire in the coming months.

#### SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.

Posting on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram allows you to quickly share why you plan to complete the 2020 census with friends and acquaintances alike. Create your own posts or look for content to share from Oklahoma Farm Bureau (@okfarmbureau).

#### SPEAK AT COMMUNITY MEETINGS.

Want to take it a step further? Volunteer to speak at your chamber of commerce, high school basketball game or other community event to inform people in your area about the impact of the 2020 census.

#### WRITE FOR YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

Who better for your local community to hear about the census from than an area leader? Encourage the readers of your local newspaper to complete the 2020 census, too, by writing an opinion piece or letter to the editor. Need help? Contact OKFB Communications and Public Relations at 405-523-2300.

#### HOST AN INFORMATIONAL CENSUS MEETING.

Invite your community to the county Farm Bureau office to learn more details about the 2020 census and how to complete the questionnaire.

Need help spreading the word about the 2020 Census? Contact OKFB Communications and Public Relations at (405) 523-2300.

## Member Benefits

### AirMedCare

Emergency Service for rural areas is here. OKFB members get a reduced annual fee for the Air Evac Lifeteam. This group of highly trained pilots, paramedics and registered nurses is standing by 24 hours a day to provide

emergency medical care for critically ill or injured people. In an emergency situation, AEL will fly directly to members' residences, farms, fields or the location of an accident simply by members calling AEL's toll-free number.

The service now includes all of Oklahoma. Applications are available at your county Farm Bureau office.

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

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## Members share farm economy woes with Tulsa's Channel 2 News

Two Oklahoma Farm Bureau members described some of the challenges facing the state's farmers and ranchers in a series of stories aired on KJRH Channel 2 News in Tulsa recently.

Muskogee County Farm Bureau board member Bart Wiedel, a cattle producer near Muskogee, explained how his family's haying business has been impacted by the weather this year.

While heavy spring rains and flooding delayed hay and other crops, a rainy summer and fall took a toll on harvest.

"No matter what it's always tough to be

in the farm and ranching business," Wiedel said in the KJRH story.

Farmers across the state this year have faced a number of difficulties from heavy rains and flooding, high production costs and unpredictable trade tariffs.

"It is a tough, tough time for ag producers," said Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur in the story.

Cattle producers are struggling due to low cattle prices and increasing production costs, McIntosh County Farm Bureau President Josh Emerson told KJRH Channel 2 in a separate story.

"I would say we were probably making \$400 to \$500 a calf profit during the good times, and now I would say on average maybe around \$100 profit, if that," Emerson told KJRH.

Despite the tough times, Emerson told KJRH he plans to weather the storm in hopes of passing on his passion to his children.

Read more about the struggles facing farmers and ranchers on our Real Farm Talk page at [okfarmbureau.org/RealFarmTalk](http://okfarmbureau.org/RealFarmTalk).

