



WWW.OKFARBUREAU.ORG

OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

Jan. 19, 2018

Delegates elect Moesel to AFBF board, set grassroots policy

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel was elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors by delegates at the 2018 AFBF Annual Convention Jan. 5-10 in Nashville, Tennessee. Moesel will serve a one-year term representing AFBF's Southern Region.

AFBF President Zippy Duvall and Vice President Scott VanderWal were re-elected to two-year terms.

Delegates also approved measures to help assure a prosperous agricultural and rural economy in the coming year and beyond.

Resolutions approved by farmer and rancher delegates from across the nation ran the gamut of issues, from trade to regulatory reform, crop insurance, biotechnology and more.

"Today's actions give us a clear roadmap at a time when farmers are on the verge of their fifth consecutive year of shrinking net farm income," Duvall said. "Despite these difficulties, we remain optimistic: Official Washington feels more like a partner than it did just a short time ago. We have real opportunities to make progress in policy that we have not had in the past."

Among other things, delegates approved

measures supporting:

- An improved Agriculture Risk Coverage program to decrease risk-management disparities across counties
- A flexible cotton support program that considers cotton seed, cotton lint or both to help cotton growers.
- Permission for workers to seek employment from more than one farmer under the H2A program.
- Trade and trade agreements that strengthen market opportunities for U.S. agriculture.
- Elimination of sunset provisions in trade agreements, to give certainty to businesses into the future.
- Modification of NAFTA to improve market access to difficult Canadian dairy markets, in addition to improved food-safety standards for imported products.
- An end to use of non-GMO labels on products that do not have GMO alternatives.
- A \$1 per member increase in dues paid by state affiliates of AFBF.



Left: OKFB delegates Gary Johnson, Paula Sawatzky, OKFB President Rodd Moesel and Brent Howard pose for a photo following the AFBF policy session on Jan. 9. Right: District Nine Director Jim Meek, an OKFB delegate, studies policy during the AFBF business delegate session Jan. 9.



Crawley selected as state FSA committee chair

Oklahoma Farm Bureau District Five Director Gary Crawley was selected by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to serve as

chairman of the Oklahoma Farm Service Agency Committee.

State FSA committees are appointed for a one-year term, which began on Jan. 1, 2018.

Each state committee has five members,

one chairperson and four members. FSA committee appointees for state committees are selected by the USDA secretary, serve at the pleasure of the secretary, and are responsible for carrying out FSA's farm programs within delegated authorities.

Crawley and his wife, Wilma, raise cattle near Savanna in southeastern Oklahoma. Crawley retired after serving a long and distinguished career with the USDA FSA office in McAlester, working primarily in the farm commodity and loan program areas.

"The state committees will help to ensure USDA is providing our farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers with

the best customer service," Perdue said. "They serve as a liaison between USDA and the producers in each state across the nation by keeping them informed and hearing their appeals and complaints. The committees are made up mostly of active farmers and ranchers, representing their peers and ensuring USDA's programs are supporting the American harvest."

Also selected for the Oklahoma FSA committee were McCurtain County Farm Bureau board member Don Allen Parson, Sarah Dorsey of Bixby and Karen Eifert Jones of Stillwater/Waukomis.



President Donald Trump praises farmers for their enduring values during an address Jan. 8 at the 2018 AFBF Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

Trump promotes rural development in speech to Farm Bureau members

President Donald Trump unveiled a major initiative Jan. 8 designed to strengthen a rural economy that has lagged urban areas in recovery from the Great Recession of 2007-2008. Trump signed two executive orders that fund and streamline the expansion of rural broadband access after an address to 7,400 farmers and ranchers gathered at American Farm Bureau Federation’s 2018 Annual Convention.

In addition to economic development, Trump touched on issues of particular importance to agriculturists such as regulations, labor and trade. He praised farmers for their enduring values.

“We are witnessing a new era of patriotism, prosperity and pride—and at the forefront of this exciting new chapter is the great American farmer.”

Farmers, Trump said, “embody the values

of hard work, grit, self-reliance and sheer determination.”

The president spent much of his address decrying the costs of excessive regulation and tallying the rules his administration has moved to eliminate.

“We are also putting an end to the regulatory assault on your way of life. And it was an assault,” he said.

Trump singled out the Waters of the United States rule, now being withdrawn following an executive order he signed in the first weeks of his administration.

“It sounds so nice, it sounds so innocent, and it was a disaster. People came to me about it and they were crying – men who were tough and strong, women who were tough and strong – because I gave them back their property and I gave them back their farms. We ditched the rule.”

Trump acknowledged controversy over the North American Free Trade Agreement and other trade agreements that account for roughly a quarter of U.S. agriculture revenues.

“To level the playing field for all of our farmers and ranchers as well as our manufacturers we are reviewing all of our trade agreements,” he said. “On NAFTA I am working very hard to get a better deal for our farmers and ranchers and manufacturers.”

Trump promised the farm bill would continue to provide a safety net for farmers who are now entering their fifth year of declining incomes.

“I look forward to working with Congress to pass the farm bill on time so that it delivers for all of you, and I support a bill that includes crop insurance,” he said.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online

Find more photos from the AFBF 2018 Annual Meeting & IDEAg Trade Show

See the highlights of our members’ trip to Nashville in early January including YF&R competitive events, delegate business sessions, speakers including Reba McEntire and President Donald Trump and much more in our AFBF 2018 Annual Meeting flickr album.

What did OKFB members think about President Trump’s address to AFBF members?

OKFB President Rodd Moesel and District Two Director Monte Tucker visited with Ron Hays of Oklahoma Farm Report about President Donald Trump’s speech to members at the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 2018 Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Find the link to the interview on the OKFB Facebook page.



facebook



twitter



pinterest



instagram



flickr



soundcloud



youtube



website

www.okfarmbureau.org

Inhofe honored with AFBF Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award

The American Farm Bureau Federation presented its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, to Sen. James Inhofe during AFBF's 2018 Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show.

AFBF established the Distinguished Service Award in 1928 to honor individuals who have devoted their careers to serving the national interest of American agriculture.

Sen. Inhofe is a longtime friend of America's farm and ranch families and an eight-time recipient of AFBF's Friend of Farm Bureau award. His commitment to protecting landowners' property rights, preserving our natural resources, and reining in federal regulatory overreach has brought relief to farmers and ranchers across our nation.

From the start of his public service career, Inhofe's primary goal has been to shrink the federal government, after seeing firsthand how over-regulation was stifling our free enterprise system.

"I spent 20 years as a builder and a developer. I was out doing what Americans are supposed to be doing: expanding the tax base, making money, losing money," Inhofe said. "All those years the chief opposition I had was federal over-regulation."

Inhofe was first elected to Congress in 1986, and has served in the Senate since 1994. As a member and past chair of the



Sen. Jim Inhofe speaks with OKFB members during a Congressional Action Tour visit to Washington, D.C. Nominated by OKFB, Inhofe was honored with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award during the AFBF 2018 Annual Convention held Jan. 5-10 in Nashville.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Inhofe has been a staunch advocate for agriculture through his work to stop unreasonable regulations, rebuild the nation's crumbling infrastructure, protect investments in ag research and innovation, and promote policies that help create jobs and economic prosperity. He led the legislative charge to put a stop to the flawed Waters of the U.S. rule, and has been a leading voice on Capitol Hill for bringing a common-sense, science-based approach to

the regulatory process.

"He's a guy you want on your side," Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel said. "There is no better bulldog, there is no better warrior fighting for your issues, and we are blessed that most of the time he and Farm Bureau are on the very same side."

OKFB nominated Sen. Inhofe to receive the award, and a national Farm Bureau committee named each as winners.

Make plans to attend the 2018 OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference!

County Farm Bureau leaders are invited to attend the 2018 OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference March 5 and 6 in Oklahoma City. Held at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel, the two-day event will focus on updating members on state and federal policy issues. Stay tuned for more details.

Member Benefits

Office Depot

As you begin the new year, restock on school and office supplies with your Oklahoma Farm Bureau member discount at Office Depot. OKFB members can receive savings of up to 80 percent on office and school supplies. Shop online or go to the nearest Office Depot location to take advantage of these special discounted prices. Find and print your savings card on the "Member Benefits" page of the OKFB website.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

State Legislature Convenes

Feb. 5 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Tasha Duncan 405-530-2681

OKFB Legislative Leadership Conference

March 5-6 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Tasha Duncan 405-530-2681

Farm Bureau Week

Feb. 19-23 • Oklahoma
Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

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

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

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

STAFF DIRECTORY

Interim Executive Director

Thad Doye 405-523-2438

Senior Director of
Corporate Communications

Dustin Mielke 405-530-2640

Senior Director of
Policy Communications

Hannah Davis 405-523-2346

OKFB prepares for legislative session with two new staff members



Swartz



Haven

Bray Haven and Zac Swartz recently joined the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Public Policy Division as associate directors of public policy. The two will help advocate for Farm Bureau policy at the state Capitol.

“Bray and Zac certainly will be an asset to Farm Bureau members across the state as they help serve as the voice for agriculture and rural Oklahoma,” said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. “We’re excited to see all that the Public Policy team will accomplish this year for our members.”

Haven is a longtime Farm Bureau member who grew up in Cheyenne,

Oklahoma. He earned a bachelor’s degree in agribusiness from Oklahoma State University in 2017 before joining the Oklahoma Oil and Gas Association as a field representative.

A native of Sulphur, Oklahoma, Swartz has served OKFB in a variety of capacities since joining the organization in 2015. He most recently served as the southwest field services director. He will continue in his role as YF&R coordinator.

Haven and Swartz will serve members alongside Director of State and National Affairs LeeAnna McNally, Director of Regulatory Affairs Marla Peek and Public Policy Coordinator Tasha Duncan.

Oklahoma Country in mailboxes this week

The Winter 2018 issue of *Oklahoma Country* hit mailboxes this week! Make sure to check out our feature on nine OKFB farm and ranch families, our Q&A with OKFB President Rodd Moesel, our OKFB annual meeting wrapup, information on the 2018 farm bill and more. Watch our social media pages for behind-the-scene looks at our features.

