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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

# Perspective

Jan. 5, 2018

## USDA Secretary appoints two OKFB members to national beef board

Two Oklahoma Farm Bureau members were selected as two of 27 new members appointed to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue on Dec. 20.

Roger Mills County Farm Bureau member Jimmy Taylor and Grady County Farm Bureau member Blayne Arthur were selected to each serve a three-year term on the board, which is composed of 99 members. Taylor was nominated by OKFB.

Taylor and his wife, Tracy, have a cow-calf operation located between Elk City and Cheyenne in western Oklahoma.

"The goal of our operation is to make the best steak possible," Taylor said during an OKFB interview earlier this year. "We raise every animal as if it was going to be served on our own table."

Blayne Arthur of Stillwater was also selected to represent Oklahoma on the board. Arthur and her husband, Jerrod, raise show cattle and help agriculture students learn animal-handling and showing techniques. Arthur also has a fourth-generation wheat and alfalfa hay operation she owns with her sisters.

"The Cattlemen's Beef Board works to build demand for beef by helping to maintain and expand markets through their research, promotion, and information-sharing efforts," said Perdue. "Their work represents all segments of the beef industry and I know that the agricultural sector will be well served by them."

Taylor and Arthur join fellow Oklahomans Brett Morris, board Chair, Chuck Coffey, board Secretary/Treasurer, and Jean Lam as the five Oklahoma members on the board.



Jimmy Taylor



Blayne & Jerrod Arthur



## OKFB to host campaign management seminar Jan. 26-27 in Oklahoma City

Oklahoma Farm Bureau will host a campaign management seminar Jan. 26-27 at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau home office in Oklahoma City.

The two-day seminar will provide helpful information for candidates seeking political office in upcoming elections. The seminar is open to candidates seeking office, their spouses and campaign managers.

The seminar will feature a variety of topics presented by political experts who have a wide array of experience and knowledge working on campaigns and with elected officials.

Topics to be covered include successful campaign management, message building, grassroots engagement, social media tips

and techniques, and fundraising.

Seminar attendees also will have the opportunity to experience an on-camera mock media interview and critiques to help hone their interview skills.

The cost for the seminar is \$150 per person, and the enrollment deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 17. Enrollment in the seminar is limited and early registration is encouraged.

The full seminar schedule and the seminar enrollment form is available on the Oklahoma Farm Bureau website at okfarmbureau.org. For more information on the seminar, contact Marla Peek at (405) 205-0064 or Tasha Duncan at (405) 530-2681.

# Doye receives national recognition for work on packs programs

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Interim Executive Director Thad Doye received the National Association of Agricultural Educators Outstanding Cooperation award at the NAAE annual convention in Nashville on December 8. The award recognizes both individuals and organizations who have given outstanding support to agricultural education programs.

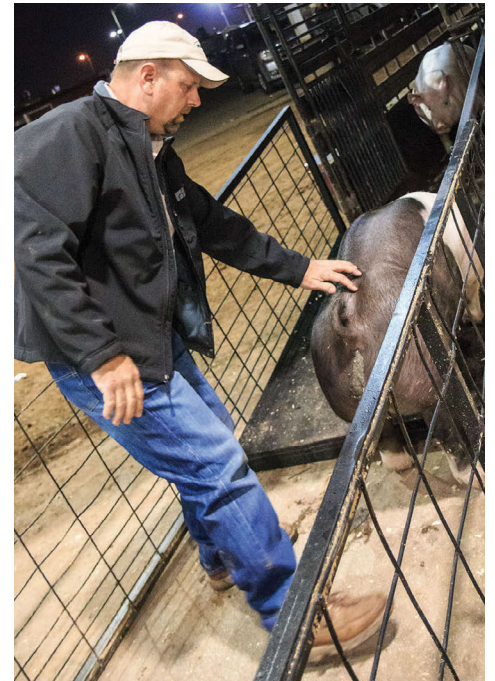
Doye encourages Oklahoma FFA and 4-H members to donate their livestock to the state's Pork for Packs and Beef for Backpacks programs. Donated animals are processed into protein sticks that food banks add to backpacks sent home with undernourished schoolchildren. In the past four years, Doye, FFA and 4-H members together have impacted over two million students. This year alone, 540 animals were donated, producing 953,526 protein sticks.

Doye serves as a liaison between students who donate livestock and the processing plants. He has driven thousands of miles over the past four years take animals to processing plants for FFA members, and sometimes houses animals in his own facilities until the processing plant is ready to accept the donation.

The Pork for Packs and Beef for Backpacks programs provide a valuable service-learning project for student participants. Doye's support allows undernourished schoolchildren in all 77 counties in Oklahoma to benefit from the programs.

Each of the six regional Outstanding Cooperation award winners were recognized for their contributions to agricultural education during the NAAE Convention in Nashville. Forrest T. Jones and Company sponsors the plaques for the NAAE Outstanding Cooperation award. NAAE is the professional association for agricultural educators. Its mission is "professionals providing agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership, advocacy and service." The NAAE office is located in Lexington, Kentucky.

For more information on the Beef for Backpacks and Porks for Packs programs, including information on how to donate animals or funds to help feed Oklahoma children in need, visit the Oklahoma Farming & Ranching Foundation's website at [OKFarmingAndRanchingFoundation.org](http://OKFarmingAndRanchingFoundation.org).



*Above: OKFB's Thad Doye loads donated pigs for the Pork for Packs program after the OYE Sale of Champions. Doye was recognized by the National Association of Agricultural Educators for his dedication to helping the program succeed, helping Oklahoma's youth.*

## Trump to address Farm Bureau members at Annual Convention

Donald J. Trump, the 45<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, will address farm and ranch families from across the nation at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 99th Annual Convention, Jan. 5-10 in Nashville, Tenn.

"The American Farm Bureau Federation is honored to host our nation's president," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall, a beef

and poultry farmer from Georgia. "President Trump has said all along that he would make sure agriculture has a seat at the table when it comes to the top issues facing America's farmers and ranchers. Now, it is our privilege to reserve a spot for him at our podium."

Duvall considers President Trump's announced speech as a sign of the high

regard in which the nation's chief executive holds America's farm and ranch families.

"Farmers and ranchers and our rural communities are the bedrock of our nation. President Trump knows that, and his willingness to devote his time to talk directly with Farm Bureau members will be a memorable occasion," Duvall said.

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Follow along with OKFB at the 2018 American Farm Bureau Convention

The 2018 American Farm Bureau Convention & IDEAg trade show takes place Jan. 5-10, and Oklahoma Farm Bureau will be sharing photos and news of Oklahoma Farm Bureau members at the convention. Follow along on Facebook and Twitter as OKFB members head to Nashville!



View our favorite photos taken during 2017

As we reflect upon 2017, Oklahoma Farm Bureau communications staff looked back through our photo archives from the past year and selected some of their favorite photos taken around the state. The photos are available to view in an album on OKFB's flickr account, accessible at [flickr.com/okfarmbureau](http://flickr.com/okfarmbureau).



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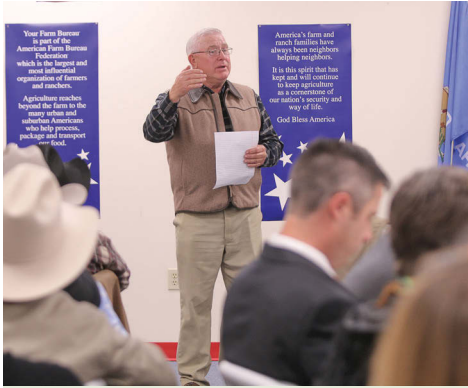
website

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

# Comanche County Farm Bureau hosts annual legislative dinner

Comanche County Farm Bureau held their annual legislative dinner Thursday, Dec. 28, at the Comanche County Farm Bureau office in Lawton.

A packed house of legislators, local officials, guests and Farm Bureau members were treated to a full meal before hearing updates from elected officials on a wide variety of state and local issues, including rural roads, the state budget, legislative priorities, and opportunities the legislators see on the horizon for the upcoming regular legislative session.



**Comanche County Farm Bureau President Kerry Givens welcomes Farm Bureau members and guests to the county's annual legislative dinner in Lawton Dec. 28.**



**Oklahoma Rep. John Michael Montgomery (right) visits with Comanche County Farm Bureau member Benny Taylor before the start of the Comanche County legislative dinner.**



**Thomas Lewis, field representative for U.S. Rep. Tom Cole, shares a national legislative update, including information on tax reform and health care.**



**Rep. Rande Worthen shared with Farm Bureau members the need for strong rural representation at the state Capitol.**



**Rep. Jeff Coody (left) visits with Comanche County's Isaac Fisher after the Comanche County Farm Bureau legislative dinner.**



**Sen. Chris Kidd shares his optimism for the upcoming regular legislative session with Comanche County Farm Bureau members.**

## Member Benefits

### Grainger

Is it time for winter projects? Grainger has the supplies you need as you tackle repairs, maintenance and prepare for the year ahead. OKFB members receive special discounts on a variety of products from Grainger. Access special savings at [grainger.com](http://grainger.com), at Grainger stores in OKC and Tulsa, or by ordering by phone at 1-800-GRAINGER. Be sure to reference OKFB's unique account number: 854408606.

[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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## Duvall: Tax reform package to benefit farmers, ranchers

*American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall issued the following statement after the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which passed Congress on Dec. 20 and was later signed into law by President Trump on Dec. 22:*

“The tax reform package passed by Congress this week will result in lower taxes for the vast majority of farmers and ranchers. This tax overhaul includes many changes to the tax code, most notably lower individual tax rates, that will benefit farmers and ranchers. Ninety-four percent of farmers and ranchers pay taxes as individuals, and those rates are coming down. The bill also maintains all of the important deductions and credits that farmers rely on. So, thanks to a lot of hard work by Congress and the administration, farmers will have both lower rates and all the tools they’ve always had to manage their businesses.

“Starting next year, farmers and ranchers will also be able to take a 20 percent deduction off their business income. That’s new, and it will reduce the taxes farmers owe. The bill also doubles the estate tax exemption to \$11 million per person, which will provide relief to the vast majority of farmers and ranchers. We look forward to President Trump signing this bill. Most of the provisions in this tax bill are temporary, lasting for only seven years, so Farm Bureau will now focus our work on making those important tax deductions, lower rates and the estate tax exemption permanent.”



## Livestream President Duvall’s annual address from Nashville

**A**merican Farm Bureau will provide a live video stream of AFBF President Zippy Duvall’s annual address to Farm Bureau members at the 2018 AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg trade show on Sunday, Jan. 7 at 9:30 a.m. Central.

Other events will be streamed live, including the YF&R Discussion Meet Final 4 Round and the Closing General Session at on Monday, Jan. 8.

View live video from the  
2018 AFBF Annual Meeting at:

[livestream.com/FarmBureau](http://livestream.com/FarmBureau)