

PERSPECTIVE

July 31, 2020

Sponsorship opportunity ending soon for OKFB YF&R shotgun shoot

Deadline: Aug. 7

Time is running out for those interested in becoming a sponsor of the second annual Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers shotgun shoot, time is running out.

Platinum level - \$750

two four-person teams and a logo on the event sign

Gold level - \$500

one four-person team and a logo on the event sign

The event is open to all ages and proceeds from the shoot will benefit the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

For more information, contact Zac Swartz at (405) 523-2300.

Nominations open for Leopold Conservation Award

Deadline: Aug. 15

Producers and foresters who go above and beyond to maintain and care for the natural resources of their land are encouraged to apply for the 2020 Oklahoma Leopold Conservation Award.

The deadline to apply is Aug. 15. Applications can be emailed to award@sandcountyfoundation.org or postmarked by Aug. 15, and mailed to:

**Leopold Conservation Award
c/o Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Foundation for Agriculture
2501 N. Stiles
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

More information can be found at www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA.

UPDATE: Revised schedule for annual August Area Meetings

In light of the current situation with COVID-19, there have been changes made to the schedule for the organization's upcoming August Area Meetings.

For the most current version of the schedule, visit okfb.news/aam20 or contact your district field representative.

District One - West*

CANCELED

The district one meeting in Guymon has been canceled. If you live in district one, please attend the meeting in Woodward.

District One - East*

Aug. 4 at 6 p.m.

High Plains Technology Center
3921 34th St.
Woodward

District Two*

Aug. 17 at 6 p.m.

General Tommy Franks - Stanley Building
300 S. Washington St.
Hobart

District Three

Aug. 25 at 6 p.m.

Redlands Community College
Conference Center
1300 S. Country Club Rd.
El Reno

District Four - East

Aug. 10 at 6 p.m.

Casa Romo
120 W. Main St.
Ardmore

District Four - West

Aug. 13 at 6 p.m.

Comanche County Farm Bureau
502 S.W. 11th
Lawton

District Five*

Aug. 20 at 6 p.m.

Eastern Oklahoma State College -
McAlester
1802 College Ave.
McAlester

District Six

Aug. 18 at 6 p.m.

Moore Farm's Event Barn
9353 W. 500 Rd.
Pryor

District Seven

Aug. 11 at 6 p.m.

The Home Place Country Estate
272271 E. County Rd. 44
Meno

District Eight

Aug. 24 at 6 p.m.

Pottawatomie County Museum
207 N. Minnesota
Shawnee

District Nine

Aug. 6 at 6 p.m.

Creek County Fairgrounds
17808 OK-66
Kellyville

Virtual (open to all members)

Aug. 27 at 7 p.m.

Details to be announced.

**Note: Meetings with an asterisk have had a location change. Dates and locations are subject to change and are current as of our print date on 7/27/20.*

OKFB commends \$10 million in grants for small meat processors

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel commended the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry July 21 for its use of \$10 million of CARES Act grants to fund the Food Supply Stability Plan to support small meat processors in Oklahoma.

“Many Oklahoma ranchers and agricultural producers have been devastated by the unprecedented disruptions in our nation’s food supply chain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Moesel said. “Though there was never a shortage of livestock being raised on Oklahoma farms and ranches, a decrease in processing facility space left many grocery store meat counters without their usual abundance while Oklahoma agricultural producers battled with low prices as our food system adjusted to ever-changing realities. The \$10 million in grants for Oklahoma meat processing startups and expansions, secured by Gov. Stitt and Sec. Arthur, will provide a great step toward increasing processing capacity in our state and in turn, build strong, local markets for agriculture producers while ensuring a safe, stable food supply for all Oklahomans.”

Eligible recipients and projects:

- New and existing meat processing businesses will be eligible to apply for grants up to \$1 million each to help construct new facilities or expand existing facilities to add to the state’s overall processing capacity.
- This could include registered custom-exempt, state inspected, federally inspected establishments.
- Publicly traded companies are not eligible to apply.
- These grants can be used to construct new plant space, invest in equipment, implement biosecurity upgrades, or develop a supporting service such as rendering.
- Grant funds cannot be used for payroll expenses or to purchase real property.

Award process

- Grant applications are due to ODAFF by **Aug. 14, 2020** and will be reviewed by the existing Agricultural Enhancement and Diversification Board using an evaluation form tailored to meat processing development.
- Points will be awarded based on extent of processing capacity the project will add, credibility and merit of the applicant based on business experience, timeliness of implementation, likelihood of success based on the business plan, and level of need in the given location of the facility.
- The requested amounts of each grant application is expected to vary significantly, but awards will be capped at \$1 million.
- Applicants will be required to submit supporting documentation with applications justifying their expected expenses for a given project.
- The advisory board may recommend award of the full amount or a lesser amount than what is applied for.
- Once grants are awarded, funds will be disbursed, and recipients will be required to submit regular reports and receipts showing progress and how funds are utilized.
- Improvements to facilities occurring after March 1st are eligible for reimbursement.
- Award money must be expended by recipients by Dec. 30, 2020.



For more information about the available grants, contact Jason Harvey at (405) 606-1477 or Jason.Harvey@ag.ok.gov.

OKFB WLC awards four nurse’s training scholarships

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee has recently awarded four \$500 scholarships to nursing students from across the state.

Recipients of the scholarship include **Kaitlyn Kilan**, Medford; **Samuel Langley**, Pauls Valley; **Myranda Oliva**, Moore; and **Michelle Tripp**, Braman.

Recipients will be attending universities including East Central University, Northern Oklahoma College, Western Governors University and Oklahoma City University.

Members of the WLC recognize the significant role nurses play in ensuring

a high quality of life for all Oklahomans, especially those in rural areas. With the cost of education rising yearly, the committee is proud to provide these four students with scholarships to aid in their pursuit of a career in nursing.

“The members of our committee understand the challenges students often face when financing their education,” said Mignon Bolay, OKFB WLC Chair. “It is our hope that with this scholarship, we can help them achieve their goal of serving the residents of our rural communities.”

The WLC awards scholarships

annually to students studying nursing at an accredited college, university or trade school. The students also must be an OKFB member or be a member of a Farm Bureau-member family.

The OKFB WLC promotes the importance of family and health, safety and crime prevention, state and national agricultural issues, voter awareness and citizenship, Agriculture in the Classroom and much more. To learn more about the WLC program, visit okfarmbureau.org/women.

OKFB applauds Stitt's request to ensure consistent agricultural regulatory enforcement

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel recently released a statement supporting Gov. Kevin Stitt's request to the Environmental Protection Agency to apply an environmental regulation section of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005.

Provisions in the act would allow the state of Oklahoma to continue its regulatory functions concerning environmental issues in light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*.

"We appreciate Gov. Stitt's proactive approach to ensure a consistent regulatory framework for all Oklahoma farmers, ranchers and businesses in Indian country. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry serves as our state's boots-on-the-ground experts in ensuring environmental regulations are applied and enforced fairly and evenly.

"With years of experience in handling environmental matters as it applies to agriculture and other areas of interest to Farm Bureau members, ODAFF's continued environmental regulatory function in our industry will provide a consistent implementation of Oklahoma's environmental policy while ensuring our state's natural resources are properly monitored.

"Additionally, the environmental regulatory work of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and other state agencies is vitally important to a prosperous future for all Oklahomans.

"We are grateful to U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe who had the foresight to author this language and secure congressional authorization of this regulatory approach back in 2005.

"We are hopeful that EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler will promptly address Gov. Stitt's request on behalf of all Oklahomans to provide certainty to Oklahoma property owners and businesses."

USDA releases report on investigation into beef and cattle price spread

Over the last year, the beef and cattle markets have experienced two unique "black swan" disruptions that impacted the markets in similar ways. The first event was the shutdown of a Tyson packing plant in Kansas for approximately four months after a significant fire. The second event is the spread of COVID-19 throughout the U.S. and its resulting impact on consumer spending and the beef supply chain. Following these events, the wholesale price of beef skyrocketed, while the price producers received for their cattle cratered.

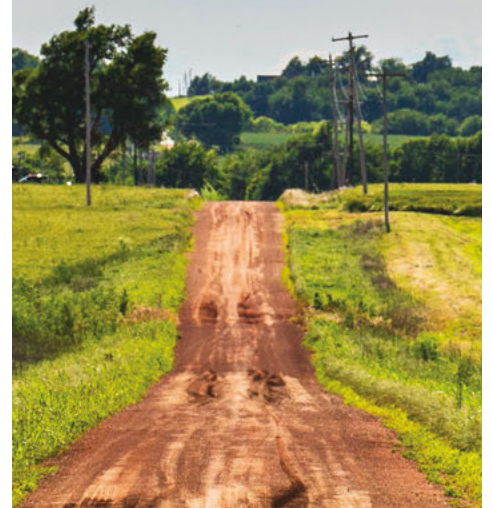
Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service to investigate the Tyson plant closing's impacts on the beef and cattle markets, along with the impacts of COVID-19. The purpose of this investigation is to examine whether any regulated entities violated the Packers and Stockyards Act by taking advantage of the disruptions through price manipulation, collusion, restrictions of competition or other unfair practices. On July 22, USDA released the Boxed Beef and Fed Cattle Price Spread Investigation Report. Prepared by AMS in coordination with USDA's Office of the Chief Economist, the report summarizes market conditions in the beef and cattle markets before and after the events and analyzes the events through an economic lens. This report does not examine potential violations of the PSA because that investigation into potential violations is ongoing, limiting AMS' ability to publicly report on it.

To read the full analysis of the report from the American Farm Bureau, visit okfb.news/pricespread.



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and be
counted
for rural
Oklahoma.

From federal funding to rural representation, the **2020 Census** has never been more important for our rural communities. Help shape our state for generations to come by completing your census at My2020Census.gov.



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FARM BUREAU**

Rural Oklahoma counts.
okfarmbureau.org/census

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Bushels for Books applications now available to OK educators, due Sept. 18

Do you know of a teacher or librarian that could benefit from accurate agriculture books in their classroom or school library?

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee has joined with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture to help ensure more books covering agriculture make their way into classrooms across the state.

To be eligible, a teacher must submit an application for a specific grade level

or a librarian may submit an application for books that span multiple grade levels. **Only one application can be submitted per school.**

Books will be selected from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's book database filled with books that cover a variety of topics. Most books are elementary-age-appropriate.

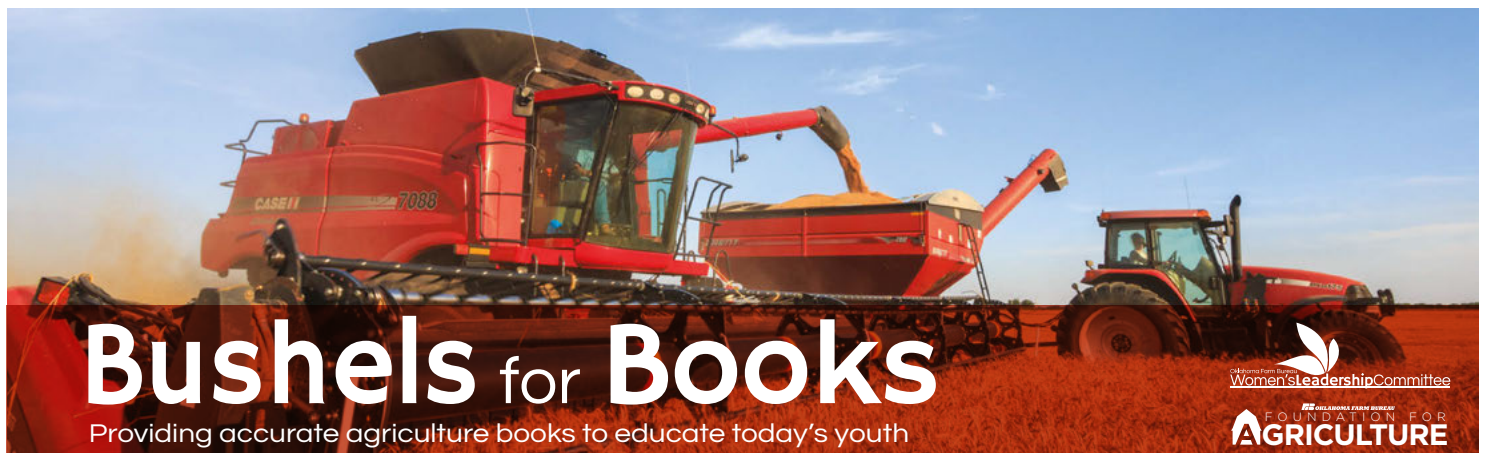
Applications are due Sept. 18.

To submit your Bushels for Books application, mail to:

**Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Attn. Marcia Irvin
2501 N. Stiles
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

To complete your application today, visit okfb.news/bfb20. Award details will be presented to the winners.

For more information about the Bushels for Books program, contact Marcia Irvin at (405) 523-2300 or Marcia.Irvin@okfb.org.



Bushels for Books

Providing accurate agriculture books to educate today's youth

Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Women's Leadership Committee
OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU
FOUNDATION FOR
AGRICULTURE