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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU *Perspective*

July 5, 2019

OKFB hosts 10 high school students at OYLA conference

Ten high school seniors from across the state recently participated in Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Oklahoma Youth Leading Agriculture conference June 25-28, 2019.

OYLA is a four-day annual event hosted by the OKFB Young Farmers & Ranchers to prepare high school students for a future career in agriculture and to advance youth leadership skills.

The 10 students were Tori Booker, Altus, Jackson County; Jaden Brunnermer, Cushing, Payne County; Ryan Clark, Henryetta, Okmulgee County; Laramie

Coffey, Morrison, Noble County; Zachary Evans, Mangum, Greer County; Abby Jeffrey, El Reno, Canadian County; Sarah Knowles, Keota, Haskell County; Callee Lester, Cheyenne, Roger Mills County; Dassie May, Shawnee, Pottawatomie County; and Katelynn Williams, Yale, Payne County.

"The students that participated in our OYLA conference are some of the best and brightest our state has to offer," said Brent Haken, OKFB YF&R chair. "We always appreciate the chance to invest in the

agriculturalists of tomorrow."

Throughout the week, the group had the opportunity to tour local agricultural enterprises including American Plant Products, Oklahoma National Stockyards, Lopez Foods and the First Oklahoma Ag Network radio studio. Students also volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, learned how to communicate their agriculture story with the media and discovered how to share agriculture with their communities with the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom program.

The conference also served as a way for students to learn more about Farm Bureau's work for the future of agriculture and rural Oklahoma by visiting with OKFB President Rodd Moesel, Women's Leadership Committee Chair Mignon Bolay and YF&R Chair Brent Haken.

Participants of the conference are selected through an application process. The students selected represent some of Oklahoma's most promising high school agriculturalists.

The students attending the conference plan to pursue a wide variety of agricultural degrees including agribusiness, agricultural communications, animal science and pre-vet, and plant and soil sciences.



Above: OYLA group members had the opportunity to sort and pack meals for hungry families.



Above: Sam Knipp with First Oklahoma Ag Network talked with students about farm broadcasting and what it entails.



Above: Participants tested their leadership and team building skills through various activities at a ropes course.



Above: Kelli Payne, general manager of the Oklahoma National Stockyards, took time to speak with OYLA participants.

Bolay honored as AFBF Women's Communications Boot Camp graduate



Above: WLC Chair Mignon Bolay visited with Rep. Frank Lucas in Washington, D.C., about the latest issues facing Oklahoma agriculture during the AFBF Women's Communications Boot Camp.



Above: Fifteen women from various state Farm Bureau organizations spent four days gaining intensive training so they can become influencers at the local, state and national level. Sessions consisted of hands-on opportunities related to public speaking, working with the media and messaging. A fall session will be held Oct. 22-25 with applications opening July 1.

Mignon Bolay, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee chair and Noble County Farm Bureau member, was recently recognized by the American Farm Bureau Federation as one of 15 farm and ranch women leaders who completed the organization's Women's Communications Boot Camp summer session.

The intensive four-day course completed by the agricultural leaders was comprised of hands-on sessions related to public speaking, working with the media and messaging to the public.

"Women's Communications Boot Camp is the experience of a lifetime," said Isabella Chism, an Indiana row crop farmer and vice chair of the AFB Women's

Leadership Committee. "It's gratifying to see the increased confidence of these women leaders, all of whom are passionate advocates for agriculture. Graduates of this program are effective in connecting with influencers at the local, state and national levels."

Special guest speaker Anne Hazlett, senior adviser for rural affairs at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, shared highlights of her journey to leadership with Boot Camp attendees. Hazlett's insights included thoughts on the courage it takes to know when to say "no" to ensure that you remain focused on reaching your goals, and to not be afraid of new opportunities and taking risks. She also emphasized the importance of building a strong and honest support system when pursuing leadership roles.

Other Boot Camp graduates include

Ashley Jeffers-Sample, Arizona; Adrienne DeSutter, Illinois; Ann Margaret Hughes, Kentucky; Rachel Lee, Louisiana; Danielle Bauer, Maryland; Chris Catterton, Maryland; Heidi Cooper, Massachusetts; Makenzi Blakeney, Mississippi; Shannon Higginbotham, New Jersey; Jane Gardner, North Carolina; Ashton Walls, Ohio; Kristie Glaser, Oregon; Terra Davis, Tennessee; and Stacey Righter, Washington.

The American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee, in partnership with AFBF staff, hosts and provides training for the Women's Communications Boot Camp. This is the 13th year of the program, which has 195 graduates and is open to all women involved in Farm Bureau. An application process is used to choose the participants. A fall session of Boot Camp will be conducted Oct. 22-25, with applications open July 1.



Summer 2019 issue of OK Country hitting mailboxes soon

The most recent issue of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's *Oklahoma Country* magazine will be reaching members mid-July and will be available to read online in the publications section on the OKFB website. Feature stories include the recently named general manager of the Oklahoma National Stockyards, the story of one Farm Bureau member and how his family has been affected by the recent floods, and a summary of the 2019 legislative session.

Supreme Court to reargue case involving private property rights in Oklahoma

The Supreme Court of the United States decided June 27 to reargue a case, the outcome of which has significant implications for the state of Oklahoma including farmers and ranchers.

Carpenter v. Murphy, which brings into question whether the historical territorial boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is an Indian reservation, was heard by the Supreme Court during its 2019 term after the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in 2017 ruled the reservation was not disestablished by Congress. The Supreme Court's decision on the case could have considerable affects on private property rights in Oklahoma.

Concerned by the potential outcome of the Supreme Court's ruling, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation, Mayes County Farm Bureau and Muskogee County Farm Bureau last year filed an amicus curiae brief in the case alongside

the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, the State Chamber of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Oil and Gas Association and the Environmental Federation of Oklahoma.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are always concerned when private property rights are threatened," OKFB President Rodd Moesel said after the court's decision. "Although we are disappointed in the lack of a ruling today by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Carpenter v. Murphy*, we believe this further emphasizes the significant impact the decision could have on Oklahoma and all of its residents. The deep implications of this case warrant careful consideration, and we appreciate the court's diligence in ensuring they consider all input to reach the appropriate decision."

The Supreme Court again will hear arguments in the case in its term that begins in October.

NRCS flooding disaster initiative funding opportunity

Extensive rainfall this spring created flooding in many Oklahoma river bottoms and their tributaries causing unprecedented destruction over a very large portion of northeastern and southwestern Oklahoma.

In response, the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service in Oklahoma is offering special Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding for cover crop establishment to landowners who have been impacted. Cover crops reduce erosion, increase organic matter within the soil, capture and recycle nutrients in the soil profile, increase biodiversity, suppress weeds, manage soil moisture and minimize or reduce soil compaction.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Farm Service Agency along with NRCS has deemed the following counties eligible: Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Creek, Cherokee, Delaware, Haskell, Kay, Kiowa, LeFlore, Lincoln, Mayes, Muskogee, Nowata, Noble, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Payne, Pawnee, Rogers, Tulsa, Sequoyah, Wagoner, Washington and Washita.

To apply for this program, applications must be submitted by July 12.

The purpose of this initiative is to offer EQIP Funding on Cropland only for cover crop establishment to landowners who have been and continue to be impacted by this natural disaster. Producers should consider the impact this might have on crop insurance eligibility. FSA Prevented Planting guidelines must also be considered if applicable.

If you are located in an eligible county and seeking more information about this program, please contact your local NRCS office for assistance. NRCS offices and staff are located in every county in Oklahoma.

Final August Area Meeting schedule released

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members are encouraged to gather together during the organization's annual August Area Meetings held Aug. 5 through Aug. 29 throughout the state.

These annual meetings signify the kickoff of OKFB's grassroots policy development, and serve as an opportunity to learn about the latest organizational activities and how you can become involved.

If you plan to attend meetings in District 1, District 4 or District 5, changes have been made to those meeting locations from the previous issue.

District 1

August 5 | 6 p.m.

Hunny's Restaurant
Guymon

August 6 | 6 p.m.

Red Prairie Steakhouse
Woodward

District 2

August 8 | 6 p.m.

Kiowa County Farm Bureau office
Hobart

District 3

August 22 | 6 p.m.

Canadian County Farm Bureau office
El Reno

District 4

August 15 | 6 p.m.

Comanche County Farm Bureau office
Lawton

August 20 | 6 p.m.

Casa Roma
Ardmore

District 5

August 27 | 6 p.m.

Kiamichi Technology Center
McAlester

District 6

August 12 | 6 p.m.

Moore's Event Barn
Pryor

District 7

August 19 | 6 p.m.

Central National Bank Center
Enid

District 8

August 13 | 6 p.m.

Seminole County Farm Bureau office
Seminole

District 9

August 29 | 6 p.m.

Creek County Fairgrounds
Kellyville

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OYLA Conference photos continued

“ During my four days at OYLA, I learned so many new things about the agricultural industry and all the great things Oklahoma Farm Bureau has to offer. One of my main takeaways was the vast career opportunities our industry has to offer. We were fortunate enough to listen to many different speakers that were all employed in agriculture, but weren't farmers or ranchers. It really opened my eyes to all the career opportunities there are in ag. We also got to learn about all the amazing scholarships and programs the Oklahoma Farm Bureau has to offer for its young members. I learned that Farm Bureau is much more than just an insurance agency. I had an amazing time at OYLA and can not wait to further my involvement in the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. ”

Abby Jeffrey, El Reno
Canadian County Farm Bureau member



Above: Properly communicating your story and message to the public is key. Students had the chance to learn first hand what it's like to do that while on camera.



Above: The group spent their last night touring the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark followed by an Oklahoma City Dodgers game.