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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

# Perspective

May 25, 2018

## Kisling, Kinder honored with Governor's Agriculture Awards

**G**ov. Mary Fallin presented two Oklahoma Farm Bureau members with her Governor's Agriculture Awards May 9 during a ceremony hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry at the state Capitol.

Keith Kisling of Burlington, Oklahoma, received the Governor's Outstanding Achievement in Agriculture Award, the highest award given by the Governor to honor distinguished agriculture producers. The prestigious award honors leaders in the agriculture industry who exemplify personal values, performance, and achievement. Recipients are recognized for having high standards of conduct, leadership, innovation, and accomplishments in agriculture and as serving as a role model for Oklahoma agriculture's young people.

"This is a Kisling Farms' award in my opinion," he said. "I'm glad for the honor and it is really a big honor, but I couldn't be up there if it wasn't for my family."

As full-time farmers and ranchers, Kisling and his wife, Marlene, have built a thriving agricultural operation growing wheat, wheat pasture, cattle, irrigated corn, soybeans, alfalfa hay, grass hay and sorghum. The Alfalfa County couple also operated a feedlot for stocker cattle.

In addition to his roles in production agriculture, Kisling has and continues to champion the ag industry not only locally and statewide, but nationally and internationally.

An Alfalfa County Farm Bureau member, Kisling has served on the OKFB board of directors since 2014 and served for four years as Oklahoma's representative on the American Farm Bureau Federation wheat committee. In 2006, the Kisling family was chosen as OKFB Farm Family of the Year, and Keith received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from OKFB the same year.

"The Farm Bureau has meant so much to



*Gov. Mary Fallin (third from left) presents Governor's Agriculture Awards to Jimmy Kinder (far left) and Keith Kisling (center) during a May 9 ceremony at the state Capitol. Also pictured are Natalea Watkins, accepting her husband's posthumous award, Randy Gilbert and Ag Secretary Jim Reese.*

me," the OKFB leader said. "I owe a lot of thanks to them."

Jimmy W. Kinder of Walters, Oklahoma, received Gov. Fallin's Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Award. The award recognizes Oklahoma agriculturalists who are leaders in developing and adopting outstanding environmentally innovative agricultural practices. The award highlights the efforts of an Oklahoma agriculture producer who is a steward of the environment and is dedicated to conserving the natural resources of Oklahoma while helping to ensure a continued supply of food and fiber.

"I am overwhelmed to be the recipient of Gov. Fallin's Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Award," he said. "To me, this award recognizes a family tradition of over four generations to feed consumers from the land that God allows us to manage."

Kinder is a fourth-generation farmer and rancher from Cotton County and an early innovator in Oklahoma agriculture. His

family farms wheat, canola, sesame, and grain sorghum. They also grow grass and run stocker cattle.

Kinder has implemented the agricultural production methods of no-tillage cropping, crop rotation, cover crops and stocker cattle grazing. His agricultural production system offers superior economic, agronomic, environmental and social benefits.

A member of the Cotton County Farm Bureau, Kinder has served the organization at every level, serving as the Cotton County Farm Bureau president from 1990-2011, before becoming a state board member. He has served on the OKFB board of directors from 2011 to the present, with part of that time as vice president.

Randy Gilbert of Tecumseh, Oklahoma, received Gov. Fallin's Outstanding Public Service in Agriculture Award and the Governor's Outstanding Legacy in Agriculture Award was presented posthumously to Larry Watkins of Stillwater, Oklahoma.



*Emile Mittelstaedt of Amber-Pocasset (second from right) competes in the 2017 OKFB YF&R High School Discussion Meet. As the winner of the event, Mittelstaedt received a \$1,500 scholarship.*

## YF&R to host discussion meet July 17 during OSU Big 3 Field Days

High school FFA and 4-H members are invited to compete in the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers High School Discussion Meet to be held July 17 at 2 p.m. during the Oklahoma State University Big 3 Field Days.

Held in Agricultural Hall on the OSU campus in Stillwater, the competitive event provides students with an educational opportunity to enhance their speaking, reasoning and presentation skills, all while analyzing issues in agriculture. Participants build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues, and explore how groups can pool knowledge to solve problems.

The meet simulates a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. The competition is evaluated on an exchange of

ideas and information on a pre-determined topic. Find a list of potential discussion meet topics on the OKFB YF&R High School Discussion Meet registration form found at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications).

Scholarships will be awarded to the top four finalists in the competition. First place will receive \$1,500; second place will receive \$1,000; third place will receive \$500; and fourth place will receive \$250.

Each school may send one high school junior and one high school senior. Students must submit the registration form to OKFB by June 15. To learn more about the competition, find the YF&R High School Discussion Meet Contestants' Guide at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications).

For more information, please contact OKFB YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at 405-205-0070 or [zac.swartz@okfb.org](mailto:zac.swartz@okfb.org).

## OKFB disappointed in House farm bill vote, Moesel says

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel issued the following statement after the U.S. House rejected H.R. 2, or the 2018 farm bill.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau is deeply disappointed in today's House vote on the 2018 farm bill. Agriculture is the backbone of our state's economy. When farmers and ranchers succeed, our rural communities prosper and our economy thrives.

"The commodity and conservation programs within the farm bill provide stability to our state's farmers and ranchers that directly impact their planning and everyday business decisions. The farm bill's failure creates an unreliable business environment for farmers and ranchers in an already struggling farm economy.

"With so many Oklahomans suffering from hunger, the farm bill's nutrition programs are absolutely vital. Our state's most vulnerable residents will suffer without the assurance the nutrition programs in the farm bill provide.

"We're grateful for the support of Rep. Tom Cole, Rep. Frank Lucas, Rep. Markwayne Mullin and Rep. Steve Russell who all voted in favor of the measure. We urge the House to quickly advance a farm bill that works for rural America."

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Learn more about Governor's Agriculture Awards winners in Facebook videos

OKFB members Keith Kisling and Jimmy Wayne Kinder recently were honored with Governor's Agriculture Awards. As part of the awards ceremony, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry produced videos about each honoree. Watch the full videos on the OKFB Facebook page at [facebook.com/okfarmbureau](http://facebook.com/okfarmbureau).



Follow 2018 farm bill discussion on Twitter

The farm bill is a critical piece of legislation that provides support to farmers, ranchers, rural America and consumers. Want to follow the 2018 farm bill debate? As lawmakers in Washington continue work on the comprehensive legislation, receive the latest news and information by following the #2018FarmBill hashtag on Twitter.



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



# Jackson County member named to state water resources board

**M**att Muller, a Jackson County Farm Bureau member, has been chosen by Gov. Mary Fallin to serve a seven-year term on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

Representing all geographic areas of the state and diverse groups of water users, the OWRB board of directors define policy and conduct the state's water business.

"A plentiful water supply is absolutely critical to the success of Oklahoma agriculture," said Rodd Moesel, Oklahoma Farm Bureau president. "As a family farmer with direct experience in conserving and using water, Matt will serve the OWRB well as it decides how to best steward our state's most important resource."

A fourth-generation farmer, Muller grows cotton, wheat, grain sorghum, mungbeans and Bermuda grass hay on his family's farm near Martha, Oklahoma. Farming in often drought-stricken western Oklahoma, Muller has relied largely on innovative water conservation methods.

Muller irrigates crops with water supplied by the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District and available wells. He has installed subsurface drip irrigation systems to conserve water resources, and he uses a rainwater collection system to further maximize efficient natural resource use.

The southwestern Oklahoma farmer serves on the Jackson County Farm Bureau



*Jackson County Farm Bureau member Matt Muller has been appointed to a seven-year term on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board by Gov. Mary Fallin.*

board of directors, has attended numerous AFBF annual meetings, and has served on numerous state Farm Bureau committees.

He and his wife, Kellie, served as the OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers chairmen in 2003-2004, and received the 2006 American Farm Bureau Federation

YF&R Achievement Award, the only Oklahomans to ever win the award. The family was named OKFB's 2015 Farm Family of the Year.

The Mullers have four children, Taylor, Levi, Luke and Lincoln, who also farm alongside them.

## YF&R to host summer conference July 13-15 in Altus

**T**he Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers will host its 2018 Summer Conference July 13-15, 2018 at the Quartz Mountain Lodge in Lone Wolf, Oklahoma. The event is an opportunity for OKFB members ages 18-35 to network with fellow young farmers and ranchers from across the state, learn more about the diversity of Oklahoma agriculture, and discover YF&R leadership opportunities. To register, visit [www.okfarmbureau.org/yfr](http://www.okfarmbureau.org/yfr) or contact YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at 405-205-0070.

## Member Benefits

### ICEHOLE coolers

OKFB members can receive a 10 percent discount on all ICEHOLE cooler products. ICEHOLE coolers are built for the outdoor enthusiast who demands high-performance products and designed with the environment in mind. Its insulating foam is high-density for superior performance and is ecofriendly. Please call 830-895-4405 to place your order. Offer not valid for online purchases.

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

## Calendar

### On the Road with Ag in the Classroom

June 12-14 • Oklahoma

Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

### Nurse's Scholarship Application Deadline

July 1

Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

### YF&R Summer Conference

July 13-15 • Altus

Contact: Zac Swartz 405-205-0070

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## OKAgFund endorses candidates in state elections

**T**he OKAgFund, Oklahoma Farm Bureau's grassroots political action committee, has endorsed 22 candidates and donated to 71 candidates running for election in statewide, state Senate and state House races.

The OKAgFund board met Friday, May 18, to donate a total of \$63,000 to candidates and to select candidates for endorsement based on input from farmers and ranchers across Oklahoma.

Comprised of OKFB members from across the state, the OKAgFund identifies candidates who demonstrate beliefs and actions that are consistent with OKFB's policies, regardless of political affiliation. While the OKAgFund contributes financially to several state campaigns, an

endorsement is the highest level of support the committee gives to select candidates.

"With so few people involved in agriculture, we must elect state leaders who value the needs of Oklahoma farmers and ranchers," said Coy Farmer, OKAgFund chairman. "After careful consideration of all candidates by Farm Bureau members across the state, the OKAgFund is proud to support candidates who we believe will stand for agriculture and rural Oklahoma."

The OKAgFund endorsed Todd Lamb in the 2018 Oklahoma gubernatorial election along with Mike Hunter for Oklahoma attorney general, Randy McDaniel for state treasurer and Glen Mulready for state insurance commissioner.

Oklahoma Senate candidates receiving an

endorsement from the OKAgFund include Roger Thompson, SD 8; Frank Simpson, SD 14; Kim David, SD 18; and Brent Howard, SD 38.

Oklahoma House receiving an endorsement from the OKAgFund included Jim Grego, HD 17; Justin Humphrey, HD 19; Charles McCall, HD 22; Kevin Wallace, HD 32; Greg Babinec, HD 33; Sean Roberts, HD 36; John Pfeiffer, HD 38; Todd Russ, HD 55; Harold Wright, HD 57; Rhonda Baker, HD 60; Scooter Park, HD 65; John Echols, HD 90; Lewis Moore, HD 96; and Tess Teague, HD 101.

The OKAgFund is supported by voluntary contributions from OKFB members across the state as an option portion of their membership dues.



*Left: Representing OKFB's District Seven on the OKAgFund, Ryan Pjesky of Alfalfa County Farm Bureau discusses statewide candidates during the state OKAgFund meeting May 18 in Oklahoma City. Right: Caddo County Farm Bureau's Wayne Taggart shares the recommendations of District Three Farm Bureau members during the state OKAgFund meeting. The OKAgFund is OKFB's grassroots political action committee funded by members.*