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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

Nov. 24, 2017

OKFB members elect Rodd Moesel as president; other leaders elected

Rodd Moesel, a horticulturalist from District Three, was elected president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau by voting delegates at the organization's annual meeting Nov. 11 in Norman, Oklahoma.

The central Oklahoma business owner has represented District Three on the OKFB board of directors for seven years. He was re-elected to serve his third term in 2016.

"It's very gratifying, and it's unusual because I am unconventional," Moesel said. "I know I'm not the traditional farmer. Oklahoma's very much a cow-calf and grains state."

Moesel and his wife, Dona, own and operate American Plant Products and Services in western Oklahoma City. The grandson of dairy farmers and lifelong Farm Bureau members, Moesel grew up on a vegetable farm and greenhouse operation. He first became involved in the farm organization as a 4-H member.

"I've always felt that horticulture is one of the best ways to relate to our urban friends," Moesel said. "The same issues you face in planting and harvesting a tomato crop when you're fighting bugs, weather and temperatures are the same issues farmers face with their whole crop. I think the garden and horticulture experience is a great way for people to relate to issues agriculture faces."

Moesel outlined several priorities as part of his vision for the organization including creating more cooperation with state agriculture groups, retaining relationships with state and federal elected officials, and ensuring Farm Bureau has the right people in place to serve members.

Moesel has been a member of the Oklahoma State University Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Dean's Advisory Committee for more than 20 years, has served as Oklahoma 4-H Foundation president, and co-chairs the OSU Foundation agriculture



Newly elected OKFB President Rodd Moesel of District Three addresses OKFB members at the organization's 2017 annual meeting.

fundraising committee.

He is a graduate of the Oklahoma Agriculture Leadership Program, Leadership Oklahoma City and Leadership Oklahoma. He also is one of two Oklahoma representatives on the National Council of Agricultural Research, Education and Teaching.

Board, committee leaders elected

David VonTungeln of Canadian County was elected to fulfill the remaining two years of Moesel's term as District Three Director. VonTungeln will represent Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Grady, Kingfisher, Logan and Oklahoma Counties.

OKFB delegates re-elected three members to serve a three-year term on the state board of directors. Alan Jett of Beaver County was re-elected represent District One, Jimmy Wayne Kinder of Cotton County was re-elected to represent District Four, and Keith Kisling of Alfalfa County was

re-elected to represent District Seven.

The OKFB Women's Leadership Committee re-elected two board members: Linda Fox of District One and Mignon Bolay of District Seven. Sandra Berry of Stephens County was elected to serve a three-year term representing District Four, and Misty Dowell of Seminole County will represent District Eight.

The OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee elected Brent and Jennifer Howard of Jackson County to serve as chairman for a one-year term. Brent and Jenny Haken of Payne County were elected as vice chairmen. Additional new committee members include: Brice Hicks, District One; Brittany Krehbiel and Logan Hukill, District Three; Josh Anderson, District Four; Hunter Shaufelberger, District Five; Steve and Mindi Clark, District Seven; Corey Holman, District Eight; and Baylie Cooper and Blake Rea, At-Large.

Holcomb honored with Distinguished Service to OKFB Award

Phyllis Holcomb of Creek County was recognized with the Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Award during the 2017 OKFB Annual Meeting Nov. 10 in Norman, Oklahoma.

The award honors OKFB members who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture and Farm Bureau.

"I have dedicated my life to the farming industry," Holcomb said. "It's just been in my heart and soul since I grew up."

A longtime member, Holcomb has served on the Creek County Farm Bureau board of directors, the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee and the OKFB board of directors.

"Farm Bureau does so much to help each farm family, legislatively and on their own farms and in their communities," Holcomb said. "It's just been a great organization since it was started in 1942. If you look

back at the history, where would farmers be without each of us?"

Serving on numerous Farm Bureau committees and attending countless conventions and conferences, Holcomb has advocated for agriculture on behalf of family farmers and ranchers on both the state and national levels.

"I was blown away," Holcomb said of receiving the honor. "It's so much appreciated."

Holcomb has spent more than 30 years educating Oklahoma's youth on the importance of agriculture and rural Oklahoma. Holcomb has served as a 4-H



Phyllis Holcomb (second from right) receives the 2017 Distinguished Service to OKFB award from AFBF President Zippy Duvall, OKFB President Tom Buchanan (left) and OKFB Interim Executive Director Thad Doye (right) along with members of her family at the OKFB annual meeting in Norman Nov. 10.

leader and is an active supporter of FFA and 4-H programs throughout the state.

Tulsa County member named OKFB's top young farmer and rancher

Chad Selman of Skiatook was named the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award winner Nov. 10 at the organization's annual meeting in Norman, Oklahoma.

Selman and his wife Katrina won the award for their dedication to improving and growing their farm, which consists of pecan orchards and cattle.

The couple's passion as young farmers have spurred them to modernize the family's pecan farm, including the use of computer-controlled sorting machines.

The young Tulsa County farmer also build his cow herd from the ground up – starting with 12 cows and growing to more

than 100 head today.

Selman has been involved in a number of capacities for Farm Bureau, serving on the Tulsa County Farm Bureau board of directors, in addition to his service to the state OKFB YF&R committee. He also serves as president of the Tulsa and Rogers County Farm Service Agency Board and is the vice president of the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association.

As the Achievement Award winner, Selman received a John Deere XUV 560 courtesy of the OKFB YF&R state committee and a trip to compete in the national contest at the 2017 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting.



OKFB President Tom Buchanan (left) presents the 2017 OKFB YF&R Achievement Award to Chad and Katrina Selman during the OKFB annual meeting awards session in Norman on Friday, Nov. 10.

Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Learn more about OKFB Annual Meeting award recipients

OKFB honored members and counties for excellence and service during the 2017 annual meeting awards program Nov. 10. Read about the OKFB WLC Farm and Ranch Family Recognition recipients, YF&R award winners, county star awards and more under the "News Center" page of the OKFB website.



Browse and download photos from the OKFB Annual Meeting on flickr

Want to see more from this year's annual meeting? Check out pictures of the event by visiting the OKFB flickr page. Featuring photos from general sessions, the awards program, luncheons, the banquet and more, flickr allows you to browse through and download your favorites. Find the OKFB flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/okfarmbureau.



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Stephens County farmer wins award for excellence in agriculture, Farm Bureau

Dell Farris was named the winner of Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award on Nov. 10 at the 2017 OKFB Annual Meeting in Norman.

The award recognizes successful young



John Grunewald of Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma (left), and OKFB President Tom Buchanan (center) present the 2017 YF&R Excellence in Agriculture award to Dell Farris at the OKFB annual meeting on Nov. 10.

adults ages 35 years or younger who are involved in farming, but whose primary occupations are not farming or owning an agricultural business. Winners are chosen based on their involvement in agriculture, Farm Bureau and community organizations.

"It's a real honor," Farris said. "I'm proud to be able to represent Oklahoma, my family and Stephens County."

A fourth-generation farmer and rancher, Farris raises cattle and grows wheat and hay with his family in Stephens County. Farris works off the farm as a banker specializing in production agriculture loans.

As the Excellence in Agriculture Award winner, Farris received a Polaris four-wheeler, courtesy of Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma and Oklahoma AgCredit, and a trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting Jan. 5-10, where he will compete for the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Garfield County honored with John I. Taylor Award

Garfield County Farm Bureau was honored with the John I. Taylor Award during this year's OKFB Annual Meeting Nov. 10 in Norman, Oklahoma.

Named after OKFB's first president, the award serves as the organization's highest county honor. County winners are required to earn the Four-Star Presidential Award and excel in at least six program areas.



(L to R): OKFB President Tom Buchanan and AFBF President Zippy Duvall present the John I. Taylor award to Garfield County Farm Bureau President Gary Johnson along with Interim Executive Director Thad Doye during the annual OKFB convention in Norman on Nov. 10.

OKFB WLC honors District Farm and Ranch Families*

District One
Britt and K'dawn Hilton
Beaver County

District Two
Dale and Lori Kennemer
Beckham County

District Three
Bruce and Mary Wilson
Oklahoma County

District Four
Clarence and Betty Vache
Cotton County

District Five
Terry Caldwell
Choctaw County

District Six
Jonathan and Bessie Scheffel
Mayes County

District Seven
Wayne and Carla Hafner
Logan County

District Eight
John and Janice Stotts
Pottawatomie County

District Nine
Kenneth and Debbie Fisher
Creek County

*Look for our full coverage of the District Farm and Ranch Family Recognition in the next issue of *Perspective*.

Member Benefits

Storm Safe Shelters

Prepare your home for spring storms! Storm Safe Shelters has provided Oklahomans with safe-havens during severe storms since 1987. Storm Safe gives OKFB members a \$100 discount on the purchase of a qualifying Storm Safe in-ground shelter. Call Chris at 405-204-9223 or visit the Storm Safe Shelters website at www.stormsafeshelters.com.

www.okfarmbureau.org/benefits

Calendar

YF&R State Committee Meeting

Dec. 7-8 • Oklahoma City
Contact: Zac Swartz 405-205-0070

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

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OKFB members set grassroots policy for 2018

Taxes and rural healthcare were at the top of the list as Oklahoma Farm Bureau members finalized the organization's 2018 policy during its 2017 annual meeting Nov. 10-12 in Norman, Oklahoma.

OKFB's grassroots policy begins at the county level before being refined by a state resolutions committee and finalized by the delegate body at state convention. OKFB advocates for the policy on behalf of its farm and ranch members at the state Capitol.

Tax policy

As the state of Oklahoma continues to grapple with budget shortfalls, state lawmakers have attempted to raise revenue by implementing various tax increases. Members this year heavily considered the organization's stance on a number of tax issues including fuel tax, ad valorem tax, wind production tax incentives and the agricultural sales tax exemption.

Approved by an overwhelming majority of the delegate body, members voted to support a maximum 6-cent increase in gasoline and diesel taxes dedicated to

roads and bridges. Members also passed a resolution favoring fuel taxes or state sales taxes over any ad valorem tax increases.

Reversing the organization's policy on wind generation, members voted to support elimination of tax breaks for wind power and encouraged levying a competitive tax rate on wind production in Oklahoma.

After the state Legislature narrowly stalled a bill to allow municipalities access to ad valorem taxes, Farm Bureau members this year reinforced the organization's policy on property tax increases.

"We oppose any increase to rural ad valorem taxes by any municipality," the resolution states.

With this summer's Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling that elimination of existing sales tax exemptions require only a simple majority vote by the state Legislature, members also backed a resolution to give agricultural inputs non-taxed status rather than only tax exempt.

Rural healthcare

As rural Oklahoma continues to struggle with adequate medical care access, Farm

Bureau members added several policy positions to strengthen rural health care.

"Oklahoma should develop and enact legislation focused on sustaining quality levels of rural health care," the organization's new policy states.

To improve affordable and accessible health care in rural Oklahoma, members supported the easing of physician supervision requirements for nurse practitioners and certified registered nurse anesthetists, along with a student loan forgiveness program for medical professionals practicing in rural areas.

Members also encouraged the use of telemedicine to help sustain rural hospitals.

Other

As feral swine continue to wreak havoc on farms and ranches across the state, Farm Bureau members called for increased funding for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry to finance USDA Wildlife Services efforts to control the feral swine population.

Members also reversed a key water policy by opposing all out-of-state water sales.