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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

Perspective

Nov. 22, 2019

OKFB 78th Annual Meeting a success

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members from all 77 counties met in Oklahoma City Nov. 8-10 for the organization's 78th annual meeting where they recognized outstanding members with numerous awards, learned from outstanding speakers and presenters, set organizational policy for the coming year and elected new leaders.

Sen. James Lankford presented an inspirational sermon for Farm Bureau members during the worship service and breakfast on Sunday morning. Members also heard about the state's efforts to encourage completion of the 2020 Census from Brent Kisling, executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, on Saturday morning.

Damona Doye, associate vice president of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, gave an update on the impact of the Extension throughout all 77 Oklahoma counties. Members also heard about the OSU Center for Health Science's work to improve health care in rural communities from OSU-CHS President Kayse Shrum.

Members also had the opportunity to learn about a variety of current agriculture and rural issues during breakout sessions on Friday afternoon. Chris Bengel of OSU-CHS shared about efforts to recruit physicians to rural Oklahoma, while Dr. Joe Johnson revealed a program that allows rural residents to receive specialty care in their own communities.

Experts from American Farm Bureau Federation and Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry answered members questions and concerns surrounding the production of industrial hemp. Dr. Derrell Peel, an OSU agricultural economist, shared current trends in cattle markets, ODAFF State Veterinarian Dr. Rodd Hall explained a proposal regarding livestock disease traceability, and OKFB member benefit AgBoost informed members about how to use its software to track genetic profiles of cattle.

Collegiate Farm Bureau members had the chance to hear from some of OKFB's most seasoned YF&R members about making Farm Bureau involvement a priority.

Moesel re-elected OKFB president; other leaders elected

Rodd Moesel was re-elected to another two-year term as president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau by voting delegates at the organization's annual meeting Nov. 9 in Oklahoma City. Moesel was first elected as OKFB president in 2017 after previously representing District Three on the OKFB board for seven years.

"I'm very honored," Moesel said of being re-elected. "I really appreciate the support of the members. I'm grateful for all the kind words and for the support to tackle another two years."

Board members, committee leaders elected

David VonTungeln of Canadian County was re-elected to a three-year term as District Three Director. VonTungeln will represent Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Grady, Kingfisher, Logan and Oklahoma counties.

Members in District Six re-elected James Fuser of Afton to serve a three-year term on the OKFB board of directors. Counties represented in District Six include Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Mayes,

McIntosh, Muskogee, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoyah and Wagoner.

Okmulgee-native Jim Meek was re-elected to a three-year term representing District Nine on OKFB's board of directors. Creek, Lincoln, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Osage, Payne, Pawnee, Tulsa and Washington counties are represented in District Nine.

The OKFB Women's Leadership Committee re-elected Cindy Schoenecke of Lincoln County to represent District Nine for another three-year term. Karen Krehbiel Dodson of Caddo County was chosen to represent OKFB's District Three for a three-year term.

The OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee elected Nocona and Jordan Cook of Washita County to serve as chairs for a one-year term. Logan and Brittany Hukill of Caddo County were elected as vice chairs, and Will and Leslie Lewis of Okmulgee County will serve as committee secretary. Additional committee members elected this year include Chris Hoskins, Rogers County, District Six; Dustin Ratliff,

Noble County, District Seven; Cody and Kara Goodknight, Comanche County, At-Large; and Austin Jackson, Payne County, At-Large.



Rodd Moesel

OKFB Women's Leadership Committee present District Farm and Ranch Family Recognition

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee's Farm and Ranch Family Recognition program honors a farm and ranch family in each of OKFB's nine districts who upholds the best traditions of Oklahoma agriculture and rural Oklahoma as they raise food and fiber for

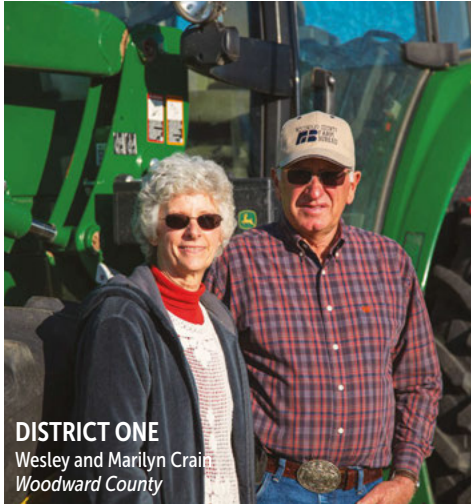
our state and beyond.

"Our farm and ranch families do a tremendous job caring for the land and their animals as they work to feed and clothe us all," said Mignon Bolay, OKFB WLC chair. "Our Women's Committee is proud to honor these great families who help make rural

Oklahoma a wonderful place to live."

As part of their recognition, each family received a cash award along with a custom sign to hang at their farm gate.

An official press release and award photo for each of the farm and ranch family is available at okfb.news/farmfamilies19.



DISTRICT ONE

Wesley and Marilyn Crain
Woodward County



DISTRICT TWO

Edward and Debbie Crall
Custer County



DISTRICT THREE

Kyle and Laura Widney
Blaine County



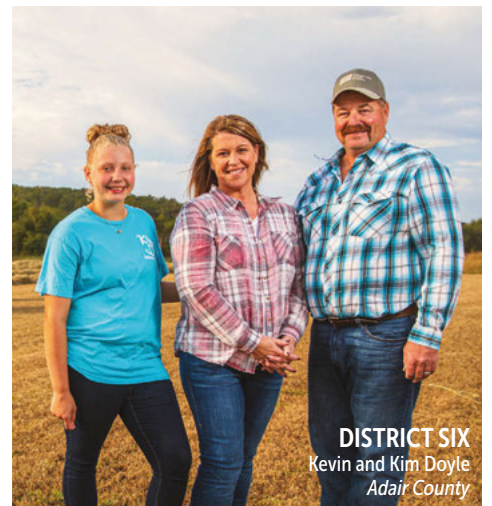
DISTRICT FOUR

Brian and Sarah Woods
Stephens County



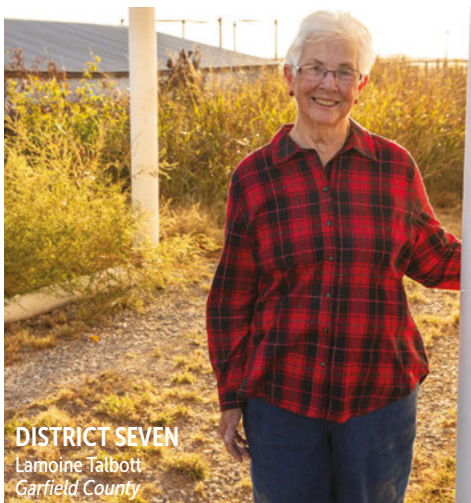
DISTRICT FIVE

Tony and Melissa Edwards
Haskell County



DISTRICT SIX

Kevin and Kim Doyle
Adair County



DISTRICT SEVEN

Lamoine Talbott
Garfield County



DISTRICT EIGHT

Brent and Fanie Thompson
Garvin County



DISTRICT NINE

Leon and Judy Bailey
Okfuskee County

Okmulgee County wins OKFB Lewis H. Munn Award at OKFB Annual Meeting

Okmulgee County Farm Bureau was honored with Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Lewis H. Munn Award on Saturday, Nov. 9 during the organization's 78th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City.

Also known as the Farm Bureau Builders Award, the award is presented each year to the county that conducts the strongest program in a chosen area. This year, the program area was volunteer engagement.

"In Okmulgee County, we look at how we can go into our elementary schools, junior highs and high schools and educate them about agriculture," said Jim Meek, Okmulgee County president. "But that comes about because our members, our Women's Leadership Committee and our

YF&R care about the future of agriculture and about putting agriculture in a positive light in our community."

Okmulgee County Farm Bureau members planned and hosted a tractor driving competition for 4-H and FFA members at the Okmulgee County Fall Fair. The event allowed Farm Bureau members to discuss and encourage farm safety among the participants. The county also used the event to share Farm Bureau with area students and their parents and recruit potential new members.

The award is named after the second president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau, whose philosophy centered on building strong county programs.



Above: Jim Meek, Okmulgee County Farm Bureau president and OKFB District Nine Oklahoma Farm Bureau Director, accepts the Lewis H. Munn award on behalf of Okmulgee County Farm Bureau for its work in volunteer engagement.

OKFB members set policy for 2020 during annual meeting



Following the resolutions process in mid-October, Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gathered Nov. 9 at the organization's 78th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City to vote on new policy to be implemented in 2020.

The policy voted on by members will serve as a guideline for OKFB staff as they represent members at the state Capitol in Oklahoma City and beyond.

Left: OKFB members discuss proposed policy on some of the top issues facing farmers and ranchers across the state.

OKFB Foundation donates ag books to 12 OK schools

Twelve Oklahoma educators from across the state were awarded a basket of agriculture books for their schools during Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 78th Annual Meeting held Nov. 8-10 in Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, in partnership with the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee, sponsored this year's Bushels for Books program. The program takes donated bushels of any commodity crop, as well as monetary donations from farmers and ranchers, and provides bushel baskets of accurate agriculture books to Oklahoma educators.

"Many students in our state have never learned what it takes for their food to get from the farm to their plate," said David VonTungeln, Foundation president. "We're thrilled to present each of these educators with accurate agriculture books to help bring the farm to classrooms and libraries across Oklahoma."

Applications were accepted from teachers across the state, and winners were chosen by the WLC state board. The books cover various agriculture topics and were picked from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's list.

"Agriculture plays an important role in the lives of all of our students, but most will never experience the farm firsthand," said Mignon Bolay, OKFB WLC chair. "We're excited to once again share our way of life with the next generation of Oklahomans through our wonderful Bushels for Books program."

Educators who received books included Cassidy Callahan, Anadarko; Luci Copelin, North Rock Creek; Ronna Haney, Stuart; Debbie Stidham, Haskell; Zena Lewis, Owasso; Katrina Patton, Western Heights; Brenda Prescott, Wellston; Jennifer Riddle, Foyil; Christy Snider, Cherokee; Jessica Williams, Davis; Anna Wofford, Frederick; and Heather Wofford, Snyder.

Comanche County couple named OKFB's top young farmer and rancher at Annual Meeting

Cody and Kara Goodknight of Chattanooga were named Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award winners at the 2019 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 9 in Oklahoma City.

The Goodknights grow wheat, cotton, grain sorghum, sesame, soybeans, oats and hay alongside their cow/calf and stocker cattle operation.

Working in the Comanche and Tillman County fields where he grew up is the fulfillment a lifelong dream of Cody's, who now manages the family farm.

"I knew at an early age when I was a

young boy – only five or six years old – that I wanted to farm," Cody said. "When I was at school, I couldn't think about anything else but getting back and helping dad on the farm."

The Goodknights' goals of growing their farm, taking care of the land and their animals, serving their customers and taking care of their employees all stem from their passion for agriculture and their commitment to growing and raising food and fiber.

"It's just very rewarding to see a product that you have started from the very beginning go through all stages of its life,

whether it be a calf or whether it be a seed," Kara said. "To be able to raise that product and know that you're sending that out – you're helping feed the world – it's just a way of life. We are excited and proud of the work that we do. That's why we continue on."

As Achievement Award winners, the Goodknights received a John Deere Gator XUV courtesy of the Oklahoma Pork Council and the OKFB YF&R state committee. The Goodknights will compete on a national level for the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award during the AFBF Annual Meeting.



Above: Cody and Kara Goodknight of Chattanooga were named the 2019 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award winners at the OKFB Annual Meeting Nov. 9 in Oklahoma City.

Rep. Pfeiffer honored with Distinguished Service to OKFB Award

Rep. John Pfeiffer was recognized with the Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Award on Saturday, Nov. 9 during the organization's 78th annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

Pfeiffer earned the award for his commitment to supporting farmers and ranchers in north central Oklahoma in the state House of Representatives.

"Rep. Pfeiffer grew up in agriculture, so he has a thorough not just understanding of agriculture, but also a true love of agriculture," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "He is a passionate spokesman for agriculture in the House and we're very honored that he's not only a House member but he is truly one of the leaders in the state House."

An Angus cattle producer and Logan County Farm Bureau member, Pfeiffer was first elected to the Oklahoma House in 2014 to represent Garfield, Grant, Kay, Logan and Noble Counties.

"This organization is very special to

me," Pfeiffer said. "To be able to go up and represent my district and represent agriculture and be honored by this organization means a whole lot to me. I'm very appreciative of it."



Above: Pictured with his family, Rep. John Pfeiffer is honored with the Distinguished Service to OKFB Award for his support of OKFB Nov. 9 during the 78th annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

County Farm Bureaus recognized for excellence during OKFB Annual Meeting

Each year, OKFB recognizes the county Farm Bureaus that have excelled in program areas such as membership, public policy, local affairs, service to members, Women's Leadership Committee and Young Farmers and Ranchers with a Presidential Star Award.

Six-Star

Comanche, Garfield, Okmulgee and Payne County Farm Bureaus were each honored with the Six-Star Presidential Award for excelling in all six program areas within the Farm Bureau organization.

Five-Star

Receiving the Five-Star Presidential Award were Caddo, Creek, Kiowa, Major, Noble, Seminole, Texas and Woodward County Farm Bureaus.

Four-Star

Four-Star Presidential Awards were presented to Beaver, Kingfisher, Nowata, Oklahoma, Pontotoc, Tulsa, Washington and Washita County Farm Bureaus.

Three-Star

Alfa, Cherokee, Greer, Kay, Muskogee, Pottawatomie and Woods County Farm Bureaus were each honored with the Three-Star Presidential Award.

Quota Counties

Oklahoma Farm Bureau also recognized 27 county Farm Bureau's offices for reaching membership quotas which include Beckham, Blaine, Canadian, Cleveland, Cotton, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grady, Harmon, Haskell, Hughes, Kiowa, Logan, Love, McClain, McCurtain, Marshall, Noble, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Payne, Pushmataha, Roger Mills, Wagoner and Washington County Farm Bureaus.

Dewey County member wins YF&R Discussion Meet at OKFB Annual Meeting

Chism Sander of Dewey County Farm Bureau was named the winner of the 2019 Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet on Saturday, Nov. 9 at Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 78th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City.

Sander competed against other participants in three rounds of debate-style discussion where performance was evaluated on the exchange of ideas and information on pre-determined topics. Participants were judged on their ability to offer constructive criticism, cooperation and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions.

As the state discussion meet winner, Sander received a John Deere Z345M ZTrak Lawn Mower, sponsored by P&K Equipment. He also has the opportunity to compete in the national discussion meet contest at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting Jan. 17-22 in Austin, Texas.

"I think it's a privilege and an honor," Sander said of competing in the national event. "I know I can certainly do my best and I'm excited to represent Oklahoma. Being in YF&R has given me a new passion for the industry, and I'm excited to share that passion with other young people."



Above: Chism Sander of Dewey County Farm Bureau is named the winner of the 2019 OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet on Nov. 9. He will represent OKFB in January at the AFBF Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.

OKFB presents District Secretary of the Year Awards Nov. 9

Oklahoma Farm Bureau presented its District Secretary of the Year Awards on Saturday, Nov. 9 during the organization's 78th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City.

The District Secretary of the Year Award is presented to one county Farm Bureau secretary from each of the nine OKFB districts for their contributions to the overall success of their county Farm Bureau. County secretaries are vital assets to each county Farm Bureau office by properly conducting the daily operations of the county Farm Bureau and helping to meet the needs of each of their members.

Photos are available of the District Secretary of the Year Award recipients and photos from throughout the event at [flickr.com/okfarmbureau](https://www.flickr.com/photos/okfarmbureau/).

DISTRICT ONE
Diana Routon
Woodward County

DISTRICT TWO
Phyllis Martin
Custer County

DISTRICT THREE
Kathryn Canada
Canadian County

DISTRICT FOUR
Marilyn Wiles
Johnston County

DISTRICT FIVE
Rhonda Cooper
Choctaw County

DISTRICT SIX
Brandy Branscum
Muskogee County

DISTRICT SEVEN
Monica Wahl
Major County

DISTRICT EIGHT
Sheryl Harrell
Cleveland County

DISTRICT NINE
Kristin Story
Okmulgee County

Nowata County couple wins YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award

Justin and Chrissy Maxey of Nowata County were honored with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award during the organization's annual meeting Nov. 9 in Oklahoma City.

The award is presented to young farmers and ranchers – who do not derive a majority of their income from an operation – for excellence in Farm Bureau and the agriculture industry.

Both growing up around agriculture, the couple purchased land and a home after graduating college and began to grow their cow-calf operation. When not working their full-time jobs at Phillips 66 and ConocoPhillips in Bartlesville, Justin and Chrissy spend nearly all of their time on the

ranch where they raise their two children, Wyatt and Audrey.

“We had a good farming and ranching foundation, but we didn't start out with a family ranch given to us or one that we were going to come back and run after college,” Chrissy said. “It's nice to know that we can do that ourselves.”

The northeastern Oklahomans believe in investing in the youth of their community as Justin serves on the county spring livestock show board and Chrissy provides lessons to local kids interested in roping, riding and ranching. The Maxeys also assist local students interested in agriculture by providing show animals.

The couple deeply values Farm Bureau, where they have served on the state

YF&R committee since 2015 and attended numerous state and national conferences and conventions. The two also actively serve on the Nowata County Farm Bureau board of directors.

“We've had the opportunity to volunteer so much with the YF&R and it's nice to get an award for all the things we've done,” Chrissy said.

As the Excellence in Agriculture Award winners, the Maxeys received a Polaris Sportsman 450 ATV, courtesy of Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma and Oklahoma AgCredit. They also earned a trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in January in Austin, Texas, where the pair will compete for the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award.



Above: Justin and Chrissy Maxey (fourth and fifth from left) of Nowata County are awarded the 2019 Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award. The award is presented to young farmers and ranchers – who do not derive a majority of their income from an operation – for excellence in Farm Bureau and the agriculture industry.

Farm Bureau explains farm economy troubles to *The Oklahoman*

Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel, along with Jackson County Farm Bureau member Matt Muller, recently discussed some of the challenges facing Oklahoma farmers and ranchers in a story published on the front page of *The Oklahoman* on Saturday, Nov. 9.

After a report from the American Farm Bureau Federation announced that Oklahoma had experienced the country's largest year-over-year increase in Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies, *The Oklahoman's* Jack Money explored the challenges that have plagued farm country over the years including natural disasters, commodity prices, input costs and trade disputes.

Many Oklahoma farmers are facing a rise in debt levels, Moesel told *The Oklahoman*.

“People are using up the cash they had saved up and have gone back to borrowing,” Moesel said in the story. “You need a really good year, every now and then. The problem grows when you go year after year without one. The mood wasn't great last year or the year before, but each year, it gets bleaker.”

Jackson County Farm Bureau member Matt Muller – who farms cotton, wheat and sorghum near Altus – told *The Oklahoman* he is worried the industry's current struggles will prevent his children from coming back to the farm.

“Right now, I have two sons in college studying agriculture,” Muller said. “They would like to come back. If things look too lean when they graduate, they may pick another field to go break their back in to make a buck.”

Sen. Boggs honored with Distinguished with Service to OKFB Award

Sen. Larry Boggs of Wilburton was recognized with the Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Award on Saturday, Nov. 9 during the organization's 78th annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

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

Boggs earned the award for his longtime commitment to supporting farmers and ranchers as a state senator representing Senate District 7.

"We really appreciate Sen. Boggs for his understanding of agriculture, his passion for agriculture and the job he does talking to his fellow members in the Senate on agricultural issues," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "There's nothing better than having legislators who really understand agriculture themselves that are in the caucus rooms, the committee rooms and on the

chamber floors."

A cow-calf producer near Wilburton, Boggs is an active member of Latimer County Farm Bureau. He served on the OKFB board of directors for eight years representing the organization's District Five

before running for the state senate.

"For me, (Farm Bureau) is a great organization and I was glad to serve at the county and at the state level both," Boggs said. "It's a great honor."



Above: Pictured with his wife, Karla, Sen. Larry Boggs is recognized with the Distinguished Service to Oklahoma Farm Bureau Award.

Okmulgee County named top county YF&R

The Okmulgee County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee was honored with the 2019 Oklahoma Farm Bureau YF&R Charles L. Roff Award on Saturday, Nov. 9 during the organization's annual meeting.

Presented to the state's top county YF&R committee, the Charles L. Roff Award

encourages YF&R members to improve their local committees while strengthening the Farm Bureau organization.

"This just means so much to us because we really implemented a lot of things in our county and really strive to help the youth in our county and our community," said Leslie Lewis, Okmulgee County YF&R chair.

The Okmulgee County YF&R committee earned the award for its work to promote agriculture and Farm Bureau to its local community. Throughout the year, the committee worked to support local youth by hosting a pancake breakfast at the Okmulgee County Spring Livestock Show, purchasing an animal in the Okmulgee County Premium Sale, presenting a \$500 scholarship for a graduating senior in the community and sponsoring a county tractor driving contest during the Okmulgee County Fall Fair.

The group also helped area elementary students learn about fire safety and tractor safety by hosting Oklahoma Farm Bureau's safety programs at a local school.

Many of the county YF&R committee members have been active on the state level, attending legislative meetings, YF&R conferences and OKFB conventions.

"It's bigger than our YF&R group," said Will Lewis, Okmulgee County YF&R chair. "It's our entire county. Our YF&R committee is what pushes us toward the six-star award, so it's more of the bigger picture with us."

The county received a traveling plaque in recognition for their outstanding committee involvement.



Above: Members of the Okmulgee County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers were honored with the OKFB YF&R Charles L. Roff Award Nov. 9 at the OKFB Annual Meeting. The award is presented to the top county YF&R committee for efforts to improve their local committees while strengthening the Farm Bureau organization.

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Okmulgee County named top county Farm Bureau

Okmulgee County Farm Bureau was presented with the 2019 Oklahoma Farm Bureau John I. Taylor Award on Saturday, Nov. 9 during the organization's 78th annual meeting in Oklahoma City. Named after OKFB's first president, the award serves as the organization's highest county honor.

Okmulgee County was honored for excelling in the program areas of public policy, local affairs, service to members, membership, Women's Leadership Committee and Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

"We're very blessed in Okmulgee County that we have a very active group," said Jim Meek, Okmulgee County president. "Our Women's Leadership Committee is dedicated to making their communities better, and in the last few years, we've got our Young Farmers and Ranchers going. We've been very blessed that we have good officers and we've had good participation."

Throughout the past year, Okmulgee County Farm Bureau focused their efforts on recruiting new members and promoting agriculture in their community. The group hosted membership drives at county

livestock shows to encourage students and parents interested in agriculture to join Farm Bureau.

Okmulgee County members also educated area students about agriculture by sponsoring the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture commodity trailer at local schools during agriculture week, informed state legislators about the issues affecting

farmers and ranchers during the OKFB Leadership Conference, and shared agriculture issues and information on its Facebook page.

"Members in Okmulgee County are always willing to do what it takes to support agriculture, both locally and in the state," Meek said. "We're just proud that we can have an impact in Oklahoma."



Above: Okmulgee County Farm Bureau President and OKFB District Nine Director Jim Meek accepts the John I. Taylor award, the highest award for county organizations, presented to the Okmulgee County Farm Bureau Nov. 9 at the organization's 78th annual meeting in Oklahoma City.