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OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU

# Perspective

Sept. 14, 2018

## OKFB Legal Foundation, other ag organizations file application in support of private property rights

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation, along with a coalition of agricultural organizations, this week filed an application supporting private property rights in a lawsuit between county commissioners and oil and gas companies.

The Oklahoma Oil and Gas Association recently sued the Kingfisher County commissioners in the Oklahoma Supreme Court after the commissioners banned oil and gas companies from placing temporary produced-water pipelines in bar ditches along county roads. The OKFB Legal Foundation, along with Kingfisher County Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Farmers Union, Kingfisher County Farmers Union and the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, filed an *amicus curiae* application in the case to assert and protect the rights of landowners.

"Private property rights are vitally important to those of us in agriculture and rural Oklahoma," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "Farmers and ranchers work hard to care for the land. Our goal in filing this application is to ensure our friends in the oil and gas industry also are protecting the land that's so crucial to our way of life."

The application asserts that the commissioners' ban "deprives Oklahoma landowners of property rights" that are protected by the state constitution, citing authority that the neighboring landowner "owns to the middle of the road." The application also argues that oil and gas companies must receive landowner consent prior to using the right-of-way, and that landowners are entitled to just compensation for use of the land.

OKFB members have longstanding grassroots policy on the issue. Current OKFB policy states that "any entity wanting to use easements or right-of-ways, such as oil and gas companies placing temporary or permanent water lines in a bar ditch, must contact the landowner to first notify him and then negotiate with him for the right to do so. If any compensation is due for this use, it should be paid to the landowner. County commissioners shall be notified of such use, after the entity desiring use and the landowner have come to an agreement."

The OKFB Legal Foundation strives to serve farmers and ranchers by engaging in public interest litigation, researching legal issues affecting family farmers and rural Oklahomans, and educating the public about issues important to agriculture.

## OKAgFund endorses Stitt for governor, expands support for other candidates

The OKAgFund, Oklahoma Farm Bureau's grassroots political action committee, endorsed Kevin Stitt in the Oklahoma gubernatorial race after a meeting of the board on Thursday, Aug. 30.

A grassroots committee comprised of OKFB members from around the state, the OKAgFund contributed an additional \$29,500 in financial support to statewide candidates. The committee increased financial support for eight candidates and gave first-time financial support to 25 candidates.

"As farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahomans, we aim to support like-minded candidates who value the rural way of life," said Coy Farmer, chairman of the OKAgFund. "We are proud to stand with these candidates who we believe will

work to ensure a strong future for agriculture and rural Oklahoma."

The OKAgFund also announced new endorsements for nine other candidates including Matt Pinnell for lieutenant governor and Leslie Osborn for labor commissioner. Senate candidates endorsed include Mark Allen, Senate District 4; and James Leewright, Senate District 12.

Candidates for the House endorsed by the OKAgFund included Josh West, House District 5; Tom Gann, House District 8; Scott Fetgatter, House District 16; Kenton Patzkowsky, House District 61; and Rande Worthen, House District 64.

The OKAgFund had an 85 percent success rate in backing candidates in the Aug. 28 primary runoff elections.



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 state campaigns, an endorsement is the highest level of support the committee gives to chosen candidates. The OKAgFund is supported by voluntary contributions from Farm Bureau members across the state as an optional portion of their membership dues. To learn more, visit [www.okfarmbureau.org/okagfund](http://www.okfarmbureau.org/okagfund).



## Comanche County Women's Leadership Committee sponsors safety training for area students

*Left: The Comanche County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee recently partnered with the OKFB Safety Services team to provide school bus safety training to elementary school students and teachers in Cache, Oklahoma. More than 800 students learned how to wait for the bus, the proper way to behave on a bus, how to cross the street in front of a bus, and what to do in case of an emergency. For more information about hosting an OKFB safety program for students in your county, visit [okfarmbureau.org/safety](http://okfarmbureau.org/safety).*

## YF&R award applications due Oct. 1

Each year, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers recognize members for their achievements through several awards presented at the OKFB Annual Meeting to be held Nov. 16-18, 2018 in Norman. OKFB YF&R members are encouraged to apply for the awards, due to the home office by Oct. 1.

### YF&R Achievement Award

The YF&R Achievement Award is presented to OKFB's top young farmer and rancher, and is based on his or her efforts in production agriculture and leadership achievement.

Applicants must be Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 who are actively engaged in production agriculture and receive a majority of his or her income from production agriculture.

The winner will be announced at the OKFB Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 17 in Norman. The Achievement Award winner also will win a trip to the American Farm

Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in January to compete on the national level.

Find the award application at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications).

### YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award

The Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes YF&R members who are actively engaged in agriculture, but who have not received a majority of their income from production agriculture in the past three years. Applicants are evaluated on knowledge of agricultural issues, leadership experiences and achievements, and ability to communicate their agriculture story.

Applicants must be Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 who have not derived a majority of his or her income from production agriculture in the past three years.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award also will be presented at the OKFB Annual Meeting in November. The winner will

receive a prize package and a trip to New Orleans, Louisiana, to compete at the AFBF Annual Meeting in January.

YF&R members may apply using the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award found at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications).

### YF&R Charles L. Roff Award

Highlighting Oklahoma's top county YF&R program, the Charles L. Roff award encourages counties to improve their local committees and activity participation while strengthening the Farm Bureau organization.

The winning county will be recognized at the OKFB Annual Meeting in November and will receive a traveling plaque. Applications may be found at [okfarmbureau.org/applications](http://okfarmbureau.org/applications).

For more information about the awards, please contact OKFB YF&R Coordinator Zac Swartz at the home office by calling 405-523-2300.

## Oklahoma Farm Bureau Online



Pottawatomie County member shares negative effects of trade with KOCO

John Stotts, a Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau member, last week explained the negative effects farmers are facing due to the trade tariffs – on top of an already struggling farm economy – during an interview with KOCO Channel 5 News in Oklahoma City. Find a link to the story at [facebook.com/okfarmbureau](http://facebook.com/okfarmbureau).



Find county annual meeting details online

Oklahoma Farm Bureau members across the state continue to hold county annual meetings in the next few weeks. These meetings serve as an opportunity for members to celebrate the year, discuss agriculture issues, create grassroots OKFB policy for the next year, and fellowship with one another. Find details for your county annual meeting at [okfarmbureau.org](http://okfarmbureau.org) or contact your county office.



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website

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

## OKFB president: Farmers appreciate tariff relief, but prefer selling commodities

Oklahoma farmers would rather sell their commodities than receive government payments, Oklahoma Farm Bureau President Rodd Moesel said in an interview with KFOR News Channel 4 in Oklahoma City last week.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced \$4.7 billion in payments to provide relief to farmers affected by retaliatory tariffs during President Trump's ongoing trade negotiations.

"We want to be selling our product, we don't want government payments," Moesel said in the interview. "We're appreciative for the short-term effort but like with any

government program, the cost to administer these programs is so high that the real answer is being to able to ship our product all over the world."

Moesel said many countries have targeted agricultural commodities in response to tariffs imposed by President Trump, causing commodity prices to drop significantly.

Eligible producers can apply to receive aid through the Market Facilitation Program. Applications are available online at [www.farmers.gov/mfp](http://www.farmers.gov/mfp) and may be submitted in person at your local USDA Farm Service Agency, by email or by mail.



## Emmy Karns named OKFB public policy coordinator

Oklahoma Farm Bureau recently hired Emmy Karns as its public policy coordinator. In her position, Karns will assist OKFB public policy staff as they work to advocate for organizational policy. She will assist in planning public policy events, scheduling Capitol visits and more.

Karns joins Farm Bureau after serving as an event and sales coordinator for PDC Productions where she assisted with facilitating the OKFB Annual Meeting.

"I loved working with OKFB while at PDC Productions," she said. "I knew OKFB would be a wonderful next step in my career and would give me the opportunity to work alongside great people."

A native of Chickasha, Oklahoma, Karns earned a bachelor's degree in strategic communications from the University of Central Oklahoma.



## Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation presents \$1,000 checks to 4-H families affected by spring wildfires

*Thanks to generous donations from individuals across the state and nation, the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation recently donated \$1,000 to nine 4-H-member families affected by spring wildfires in western Oklahoma. The foundation, alongside the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, presented checks to the families on Sept. 7 at the Dewey County Fair in Taloga, Oklahoma.*

## Member Benefits

### AT&T Wireless

Save on wireless phone coverage that blankets Oklahoma with blazing 4G LTE speed and goes with you wherever you travel! OKFB members can save up to 10 percent on qualifying services from AT&T wireless. Receive the discount by visiting an AT&T store with your OKFB membership card or by shopping online at AT&T's special website for OKFB members. Be sure to use code FAN 29405.

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

## Calendar

### OKFB Women's Leadership Committee Fall Conference

September 28-29 • Edmond

Contact: Marcia Irvin 405-523-2405

### OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Awards Due

October 1

Contact: Zac Swartz 405-205-0070

### County Resolutions Due

October 5

Contact: Emmy Karns 405-530-2681

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## Join OKFB for OSU football tailgates in Stillwater

*Oklahoma Farm Bureau members, agents, employees and friends are invited to join the organization for a tailgate before each Oklahoma State University home football game in Stillwater. OKFB will serve free food and drinks beginning three hours before kickoff, located south of Boone Pickens Stadium on Knoblock St. between Athletic and Elm Aves.*

*Join OKFB this weekend beginning at 10:30 a.m. for food, fun and fellowship with the Farm Bureau family! You'll also have an opportunity to enter for a chance to win an RTIC 65 hard-side cooler, sponsored by the OKFB Insurance Claims Department.*



**FARM BUREAU  
TAILGATE**

SEPT. 15 || 10:30 A.M.  
OSU VS. BOISE STATE

WIN AN  
RTIC 65  
COOLER!

**OKLAHOMA  
FARM BUREAU**

## County policy resolutions due to home office by Oct. 5

*Each year, county Farm Bureau members gather to write resolutions to OKFB policy for the coming year. County resolutions must be sent to the OKFB home office no later than Friday, Oct. 5. State staff then will assemble all county resolutions for review by the state resolutions committee Oct. 17-18 in Oklahoma City. For questions about the resolutions process, please contact Marla Peek at [marla.peek@okfb.org](mailto:marla.peek@okfb.org).*