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CHECK OUT OUR NEW LOOK!

Notice anything different about this issue? We've revamped our look! Check out the details inside for a look at the new and improved AFR Today!



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To learn more about SQ 777, and how you can get involved, visit OklahomaRightToFarm.com.

SQ 777 is endorsed by Oklahoma's leading agriculture groups, including:



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Welcome to AFR Today!

The American Farmers & Ranchers News and Views has a new name and a new look. Why? We want the changes to reflect who we are and what we do today, remembering our heritage and continuing our original purpose of education, member services, youth development and building rural tomorrows. We are focused on the future while never forgetting the past.

AFR is a modern, active, vibrant organization working extremely hard to serve rural Oklahoma. With today's digital technology making news "instantly" available 24/7, our AFR publication is not so much news as it is information. This publication will continue to be a vital source of information for AFR members.

AFR Women's Cooperative launches Drive Away Hunger Campaign

Food deficient Oklahomans have received a significant boost from AFR Women's Cooperative (WC) efforts to collect funds and food as part of the annual Drive Away Hunger campaign. The 2015 campaign totaled 140,303 meals.

During this year's AFR convention awards brunch the WC recognized agencies, local and county AFR groups for collecting donations during food drives.

For the most meals donated in the Back to School Milk Drive:

First place goes to Local 14, the Crow Insurance Agency gave 1635 meals to the drive; 2nd place went to Local 327, the Porters Insurance Agency contributed a total of 500 meals; 3rd place was Local 223, the Taylor-Shebester Insurance Agency donated a total of 348 meals.

For the final food drive of 2015:

First place goes to Local 346, the Tackett Insurance Agency with 5000 meals going to help hungry Oklahomans; 2nd place went to Local 305, the Thompson's Agency with 2,305 donated meals; 3rd place was Local 327 Porters Insurance Agency with 400 meals.

The council also awarded four outstanding individuals, locals, counties, and agencies for their work throughout the campaign. The council created the WC Outstanding Service Award to bestow on the groups. They included:

Local 741, Harper Insurance Agency for their work with the Love County Senior Program Silver Star Initiative. Members were instrumental in the success of the Christmas Food Distribution as they worked for more than three days organizing and filling boxes and bags weighing 85 pounds each for a total of approximately 21,250 pounds of food that was delivered to 300 recipients of Love County. AFR local board members Evelyn and Mike Cohoon delivered to over 100 homes personally. In addition over the year Local 741 donated approximately 2,138 meals to their local food bank.

Local 327, Porters Insurance Agency was also honored. They were the only group that donated to all four food drives throughout 2015. They donated a total of 2,150 meals to the campaign throughout the year.

County 5, Beckham County's Giving Group was also honored for their work with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's Summer Feed Program in Elk City. This was a project to serve area children that were fed during the school year through the free and

reduced lunch program and the backpack program that had nowhere to turn for resources during the summer months. This year through the help of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, Elk City Public Schools, Elk City Youth and Family Program, local churches, PTOs, local citizens, school sports teams, Beckham County Giving Group, Crow Insurance Agency, Local 14 and Beckham County 5 they were not only able to provide 938 meals to children through June and July but they truly brought a community together. Over the last year they have donated approximately 2,260 meals that we know of to the campaign. It is hard to determine the true impact of this group but we feel the good accomplished here merits recognition all on its own.

Finally, County 41, Lincoln County was the first group to ask their members to bring canned good items to their county meeting last fall. They also passed a hat and asked for donations at that meeting. Because of this they were able to donate 2,708 meals to their local food bank. This event spurred the idea for the 2016 food drive and we encourage everyone to invite members to bring donations to their next local and county meeting.

In addition to these four, 27 other agencies, locals and counties participated. Those recorded are:

Williamson Insurance Agency/AFR Local 613
Thompsons Insurance Agency/Local 305
Perkins Insurance Agency/Local 20
Swanda Insurance Agency/Local 386
Terry Detrick Agency/Local 152/Local 392
Steffenson Insurance Agency/Local 597
Cleveland Insurance Agency/Local 570
Heart of Oklahoma Insurance Agency/Local 372
Allbritten Insurance Agency/Local 505
Greg Clement Agency/Local 302
Rattermans Insurance Agency/Local 246
Richey Insurance Agency/Local 129
Taylor-Shebester Insurance Agency/Local 223
All-County Insurance Agency/Local 200
Gilbert Insurance Agency/Local 522
The Storehouse Services/Local 241
Krieger Insurance Agency/Local 274
Neher Insurance Agency/Local 928
Richey Insurance Agency/Local 789

Ludwig Insurance Agency/Local 328
Graham Insurance Agency/Local 70
Lively Insurance Agency/Local 3
Brown Insurance Agency/Local 543
Haskell Insurance Agency/Local 236/423
Miller Insurance Agency/Local 319
Rowe Insurance Agency/Local 10
Harris Insurance Agency/Local 669

The prestigious traveling trophy and bragging rights for a year for winning the Outstanding Contributor Award was presented to Local 346,

Tackett Insurance Agency. They donated a staggering 5,100 meals for 2015. We are very proud of this accomplishment and have decided to make this an annual award. The traveling trophy will be displayed at the home office in the lobby for all to see.

The 2016 campaign is now underway. Here are some statistics about hunger in Oklahoma:

Oklahoma is one of the hungriest states in the nation.

One in four children in Oklahoma struggles with hunger every day and Oklahoma remains one of the top 10 states in the nation for food insecurity for seniors.

We have more than 1,650 food banks and schools who operate food programs to feed Oklahoma's hungry, of them 50 percent rely entirely on volunteers.

For 2016 the council has decided to run a year-long campaign. Instead of four different types of food drives we look to have one all-encompassing food campaign that will end on December 9, 2016.

We encourage you to incorporate a food drive in connection to your local and county meetings. This is a very simple and efficient way to ensure members in your community involved with AFR know about the campaign.

And please if you participate in any way let Megan Albright know so she can track AFR's accomplishments toward our 50,000 meal goal.

Please be creative and find ways to help your specific community. We know everyone has different opportunities to help so whether you give, volunteer or advocate, the council just hopes you will get involved to help Drive Away Hunger in Oklahoma.

Thank you to the 31 agencies, locals and counties who participated in 2015! Because of your support, AFR is significantly closer to reaching our 50,000 meal goal.

KARL JETT:

dedicated conservationist

Story by Sam Knipp
American Farmers & Ranchers

As you walk with Karl Jett through the knee-high grass on his Beaver County ranch in the Oklahoma Panhandle, you realize how a lifetime of conservation efforts can pay huge dividends today, and tomorrow.

Jett owns KC Farms, a family farm and ranch southwest of Slapout. KC Farms is a diversified farm and ranch with irrigated and dryland wheat, forage crops and grass. They also have a commercial cow herd.

“I’m a fourth generation farmer and rancher,” Jett proudly states.

Some of the land he works on today was originally settled by his ancestors in 1904.

“It was still called No Man’s Land then, said Jett, referring to the area’s infamous title granted by a New York journalist, ‘God’s land, but no man’s.’ It was a tough place to grow food then, and still is today. However, Jett and his family have found a way to co-exist with nature and sustainably manage the land.

After years of working with the Beaver County Conservation District, Jett was appointed by Gov. Fallin in 2011, to the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, overseeing conservation programs for the Panhandle and northwest Oklahoma.

His long term dedication to conservation was recognized this year by the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts as he was inducted into the OACD Hall of Fame.

“Karl understands the importance and value of locally led, voluntary conservation practices,” Steve House, OACD president, said. “Karl is committed to preserving our soil, water, air, native plants and wildlife. He is an outstanding steward of the land and a true community leader. We are grateful for his continued service to conservation in Oklahoma.”

“I want to leave this land better for the next generation,” Jett said.

Some of the conservation practices used by Jett include minimum and no-till, grass waterways, terraces, and rotational grazing.

Five years ago, as a severe drought gripped the state, Jett converted several marginal areas of crop land to grass. Today the grass is thick and covers the ground, providing protection from erosion.

“Our history in this area is filled with the tragic stories of what can happen when the land is not protected,” Jett said.

The former crop land was tight, clay soil that was difficult to farm.

“I finally decided to plant a mix of native grasses recommended by the NRCS,” Jett said. “This grass mix is similar to what was growing here 100 years ago.”

The Panhandle rancher has installed solar-powered wells to water livestock. He uses two panels to power a 1 horsepower pump, drawing water from about 120-feet below ground.

“We pump about 4 gallons per minute,” Jett said, which is more than enough to keep the tank filled.”

Jett said he converted from windmills primarily because of constant maintenance challenges that often created water shortages.

Jett has taken such good care of the land that it is now considered a “managed wildlife area,” providing

habitat for a diverse variety of wildlife including prairie chickens, mule deer and wild turkeys.

Jett has created almost 3 miles of grass waterways, further reducing erosion.

“Our terraces drain into the waterways, reducing sediment and preventing erosion,” Jett said.

For Jett, it’s all about preserving today for the next generation. That’s one reason why he supports State Question 777, Right to Farm, which is on the November ballot.

“This will protect Oklahoma agriculture for my grandchildren,” Jett said. “Farmers are out here every day, working on the land. We know what’s best for this land, not someone from California or New York. This state question must pass in order to protect Oklahoma agriculture.”

Jett is an active member of American Farmers & Ranchers, most recently participating in the AFR LEAD (Leadership, Exploration And Development) Northwest District Committee.

“This is a great opportunity to get involved and support AFR,” Jett said.

Jett’s involvement in AFR, OACD and other associations is another example of how the Panhandle farmer works to provide a future for the next generation.

“Hopefully, some of the work I do today will help guarantee a brighter future for my grandchildren and great grandchildren,” Jett said.

“
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Karl Jett
KC Farms



The Panhandle rancher has installed solar-powered wells to water livestock. He uses two panels to power a 1 horsepower pump, drawing water from about 120-feet below ground.



Karl and Charlene Jett are proud of their family's rich heritage in the Oklahoma Panhandle.



Above: Fourth grade students at Horace Mann Elementary school listen to instructions before playing a game to learn more about beef production.

LEAD sponsors farm and ranch forum at Woodward

The AFR LEAD program sponsored a Farm and Ranch Forum in conjunction with the K101 Farm Expo in Woodward, April 1-3. The forum featured a legislative update, and presentations on livestock genetics and farm machinery technology.

“We wanted to add value to the expo by providing an educational opportunity for participants,” Megan Albright, Adult Education Coordinator, said.

Speaker of the House Jeff Hickman presented the keynote address at the April 1st forum.

“There’s been a lot of attention on the oil and gas bust, state budget issues, and tough ag economy,” Hickman said. “In spite of those challenges, we continue to move the state forward.”

Hickman praised the rural firefighters for quickly coordinating fire suppression efforts.

“Our Oklahoma fire departments from throughout the state came in and worked great together,” Hickman said, “with limited loss of property.”

State Rep. Scott Biggs talked about State Question 777, Right to Farm. He encouraged the forum crowd to support the issue and talk to their friends and neighbors.

“This state question is good for everyone, not just farmers and ranchers, but consumers too,” Biggs said.

Following the April 1st forum, NW District LEAD committee members, assisted by Mooreland, Laverne and Woodward FFA members, sponsored Ag in the Classroom games at nearby Horace Mann Elementary school.



NW District LEAD committee members, assisted by Mooreland, Laverne and Woodward FFA members sponsored Ag in the Classroom games at Horace Mann Elementary school during the K101 Farm Expo in Woodward. From left, Terry Detrick, AFR president, David Zummallen, Okarche, Kodel Cunningham, Laverne, Megan Albright, AFR adult education coordinator, and Emily Sewell, Woodward FFA advisor.

“We talked to them about hay, beef, and other Oklahoma commodities, and how food makes it on to the dinner table, Kodel Cunningham, Lavern, Okla., said. “We think it’s important these young fourth graders know where their food comes from.” At the event Dairy Max also sponsored butter making so kids can better understand where their food comes from.

During the second day of the Farm Expo, forum speaker Dr. Dan Stein discussed reproduction and genetics in cattle herds. Kyle Fulton, integrated solutions specialist with Western Equipment, advised attendees on the best use of technology to increase production and yields.

Throughout the entire three-day show, LEAD

program volunteers helped to educate children about Oklahoma agriculture. Families stopped by the K101 Kid Booth to learn about cotton, sheep, corn, dairy, hay, beef and pigs by playing “minute to win it” games. Participants also took home a gift bag filled with crayons, coloring books and information about Oklahoma agriculture. The gift bags were sponsored by Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom, Pork Council, Beef Council, Oklahoma Farmers Care, Dairy Max and AFR.

“We had hundreds of parents and their kids stop by our booth, play the games and learn something about agriculture,” Albright said. “It was definitely worth the time and effort.”



(Left to right) AFR President Terry Detrick, Jimmy Harrel, CEO and Chairman, Bank of Western Oklahoma, Sydnee Gerken, Kingfisher FFA; 2nd, Rhett Pursley, Locust Grove FFA; 3rd, Jill Mencke, Hennessey FFA; 4th, Chesley Comstock, Woodward FFA; 5th, Dawson Haworth, Fairview FFA; 6th, Brayden Foley, Kingfisher FFA; 7th, Layne Kisling, Chisholm FFA; 8th, Samantha Williams, Stillwater FFA; 9th, Brittny Richards, Oktaha FFA; 10th, Lexi Lerblance, McAlester FFA; 11th, Nicole Stevens, Yukon FFA; 12th, Matt Lancaster, Cherokee FFA, Jill Smart, Bob Funk, CEO, Express Personnel Services.

AFR announces Youth Ag Achievement Contest winners

American Farmers & Ranchers partnered with the Oklahoma Youth Expo to host the Youth Agricultural Achievement Contest, March 14-17. The contest recognizes Oklahoma youth who excel in showmanship skills and demonstrate superior knowledge of the livestock industry including production, management, processing, and end product utilization. The top 12 finalists received over \$5,000 in scholarships.

The top 12 winners are: 1st place, Sydnee Gerken, Kingfisher FFA; 2nd, Rhett Pursley, Locust Grove FFA; 3rd, Jill Mencke, Hennessey FFA; 4th, Chesley Comstock, Woodward FFA; 5th, Dawson Haworth,

Fairview FFA; 6th, Brayden Foley, Kingfisher FFA; 7th, Layne Kisling, Chisholm FFA; 8th, Samantha Williams, Stillwater FFA; 9th, Brittny Richards, Oktaha FFA; 10th, Lexi Lerblance, McAlester FFA; 11th, Nicole Stevens, Yukon FFA; and 12th, Matt Lancaster, Cherokee FFA.

This year's contest featured 84 Oklahoma high school students. Competition is open to high school juniors and seniors who are exhibiting animals at the Youth Expo. All contestants completed a written exam with questions pertaining to all phases of the livestock industry. Each participant was also evaluated on their showmanship ability with their animal. Combined

test and showmanship scores determined the top ten contestants, who then participated in a personal interview. This year there was a three way tie and we interviewed the top 12. Questions pertained to the applicant's livestock project and the current livestock industry.

"American Farmers & Ranchers is proud to sponsor this and many other youth programs across our state," said Terry Detrick, president of American Farmers & Ranchers. "Investing in the youth of Oklahoma and being a part of the Oklahoma Youth Expo is extremely important."

Contest focuses on creativity in Oklahoma youth

The results of a poster contest focused on seeing agriculture from a young person's perspective have been announced by American Farmers & Ranchers.

The "I Believe in Oklahoma Agriculture," contest attracted over 2,000 entries from across the state.

"We saw a tremendous amount of creativity in how our young students portrayed agriculture," said Terry Detrick, AFR president.

Through agriculture-based themes, the contest allows educators to promote agriculture and to introduce aspects of the industry to students and parents alike. Students were encouraged to illustrate what agriculture meant to them or why they believed in agriculture in Oklahoma.

"We are proud to sponsor a contest that not only educates, but also encourages creativity among our

state's young people," Detrick said. "Agriculture is important to Oklahoma for many reasons, and we are pleased to provide an opportunity for families to learn about it."

"It is exciting to think more than 2,000 young people sat at their family's kitchen table and illustrated their vision and understanding of Oklahoma agriculture and where their food comes from."

The contest consists of two age divisions—Division I for students in grades 1-2 and Division II for students in grades 3-4. The top five posters in each division received cash awards.

AFR recognized the top five winners at the organization's convention, Feb. 19, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Norman.

Division I winners were, Kohlton Baker, Fort Cobb-Broxton Elementary, Ft. Cobb, first place; Marley Johnson, Maryetta Elementary, Stillwell, second; Addison Taron, Barnard Elementary, Tecumseh, third; Rush Hunt, Seiling Elementary, Seiling, fourth; and in fifth place, Xander Graves, Laverne Elementary, Laverne.

Division II winners were Maryah Davis, Lindbergh Elementary, Tulsa, first place; Lexly Hernandez, Lindberg Elementary, Tulsa, second; Reagan Fourkiller, Maryetta Elementary, Stilwell, third; Nicholas Tsatigh, Canton Elementary, Seiling, fourth; and in fifth place, Ceanna Bagby, Fairview Elementary, Elk City.

The poster contest is just one of several AFR Youth Program traditions. In addition, the organization also offers a speech contest series, a summer youth leadership summit, statewide scholarships, livestock handling and skills contests, livestock judging and grading competitions and many other leadership opportunities.

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AFR Women's Cooperative holds retreats

Sea turtles, sharks, antiques, emus, and sand dunes were on the agenda for participants in the AFR Women's Cooperative retreats in the northeast and northwest districts this spring.

The northeast district met in Jenks where nineteen ladies went on a "behind the scenes tour" of the Oklahoma Aquarium. They viewed sea turtles that aren't on display yet and stood above the shark reef to see the entire tank from the top. They were also able to learn more about what the Aquarium feeds the animals and how they transport the fish into Oklahoma. Water use was a hot topic as attendees learned about the recycling that takes place within the aquarium. After the tour ladies enjoyed lunch at Los Cabos, and then toured some of Jenks renowned antique shops.

In Waynoka, northwest Oklahoma members were able to see the Little Sahara. This is a prime example of Oklahoma's diverse terrain as it boasts over 1,600 acres of sand dunes, ranging in height from 25-75 feet. Attendees also had the opportunity to visit the Waynoka Harvey House and History Museum. Waynoka's Harvey House earned a unique place in American aviation history when Col. Charles Lindbergh chose Waynoka for the location of an airport on the Transcontinental Air Transport air-rail route between New York and Los Angeles. Next members were treated to Lunch at Café Bahnhof, a German restaurant that owner Dieter Dorner has made his quaint little eatery a slice of Bavaria in northwest Oklahoma. Ladies were able to try some hand-crafted German sausages, schnitzels and bratwursts among other delights. Next ladies headed to The Menagerie Bradt's Mammals and More LLC for a look at the amazing agritourist opportunity. Oklahoma's largest petting zoo, The Menagerie has chickens, turkeys, ducks, peacocks, geese, goats, miniature donkeys, llamas, rabbits, highland cattle, a miniature zebu steer, a water buffalo, a yak, an Indu-Brazilian steer, dwarf angus cattle, a pony, a mini horse, alpacas, a zebra, micro-pigs, emus, camels and a longhorn steer that gives rides.

The Southwest District Retreat is scheduled for September 24th in the Anadarko area and the Southeast District Retreat is scheduled for October 15th in the Shawnee area. Mark your calendars today for these great opportunities to learn more about Oklahoma and network with other ladies from across the state.

AFR at Oklahoma Youth Expo

The Oklahoma Youth Expo is the largest junior livestock show in the country and AFR is proud to be a major part of the annual event. Congratulations to all the young people participating in the event this year. To see more of our photos from this year's event, go to www.iafr.com.



2016 Leadership Summit

REGISTRATION FORM

SELECT SESSION:

Teen Session ~ July 24-26, 2016
(Entering grades 7, 8, 9)

Senior Session ~ July 27-30, 2016
(Entering grades 10, 11, 12)

SELECT SHIRT SIZE: (Adult sizes - please circle) S M L XL 2XL

STUDENT'S LAST NAME: _____ AGE: _____

STUDENT'S FIRST NAME: _____ SEX: _____

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE ENTERING: _____

COUNTY: _____ 4-H/FFA CHAPTER: _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PARENTS: _____

PARENTS' PHONE #: _____ STUDENT'S PHONE #: _____

PARENTS' EMAIL: _____ STUDENT'S EMAIL: _____

ARE YOU OR YOUR PARENT CURRENTLY AN AFR/OFU MEMBER? Y N

NAME ON MEMBERSHIP: _____

ARE YOU OR YOUR PARENT A CURRENT AFR POLICYHOLDER? Y N

NAME ON POLICY: _____

TYPE OF POLICY: FARM AUTO HOME LIFE

A completed registration form and full payment is required to reserve your Summit spot. When these items are received by the AFR Youth Program, medical and personal release forms will be mailed to you. Mail registration form to: American Farmers & Ranchers Attn: Lin Zwilling, P. O. Box 24000, Okla. City, OK 73124

Enclose a check payable to: American Farmers & Ranchers

Teen Session \$85; Senior Session \$100

(Non-Members include two checks - One for the camp session fee and an additional membership check of \$35.)

AFR hosts SQ 777 training session

Rural leaders from around Oklahoma participated in a spokesperson training session on State Question 777, Right to Farm, March 29, hosted by American Farmers & Ranchers in Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma's Right to Farm constitutional amendment will be on the ballot in 2016. To secure these constitutional rights for farmers and ranchers, Oklahoma agriculture needs to make our case to the press and the voters, said AFR President Terry Detrick.

"The Right to Farm protects family farmers and ranchers and ensures that we can pass on our farms to the next generation," Detrick said. "We are asking Oklahoma voters to support the family farmers that are leading the charge on the Yes on State Question 777 campaign."

Fellow farming and ranching states like North Dakota and Missouri have already passed Right to Farm constitutional amendments in 2012 and 2014, respectively, and Oklahoma has the opportunity to be a national leader in this movement.



AFR President Terry Detrick explains to rural leaders why AFR supports SQ 777, Right to Farm, during a training session at AFR headquarters, March 29.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT STATE QUESTION 777

Q: What is Right to Farm?

A: Right to Farm is a state constitutional amendment to protect family farmers and ranchers from unreasonable government interference and attacks by out of state special interests. It also protects consumer choice. This amendment is being supported by farmer-led organizations because agriculture is the lifeblood of rural Oklahoma's economy and a deeply held part of Oklahoma's heritage. Family farmers and ranchers work hard to pass their farm on to the next generation and Right to Farm will help ensure that transition to the next generation by giving farmers and ranchers another "tool in their toolbox" to defend themselves from unwarranted laws and regulations in the future.

Q: What will State Question 777 actually do?

A: If voters approve the Right to Farm, farmers and ranchers will have additional constitutional protections that they currently lack, and need. Right to Farm will give farmers another "tool in their toolbox" to defend themselves against future laws that could directly jeopardize their ability to farm, including ballot initiatives funded by deep-pocketed animal-rights groups. Right to Farm will not throw out scientifically-based rules and regulations as every right is subject to reasonable regulation and Oklahoma's farm and ranch families are committed to upholding all laws and regulations pertaining to agriculture. Moreover, by guarding against overly restrictive laws and regulations that limit the ability of Oklahoma farmers and ranchers to decide what production methods work best for them, Right to Farm will assure consumers that Oklahoma farmers and ranchers can provide the choices they want in food and fiber.

Oklahoma's courts will ultimately determine the scope of Right to Farm, but this amendment gives farmers and ranchers a degree of protection that they do not have now and that they need for future protection. Past attacks on agriculture have proven that Oklahoma agriculture needs Right to Farm as a first line of defense.

Costly ballot initiatives that promote unreasonable

and unnecessary laws and regulations are designed to drain agriculture's resources and mislead the public. The same well-funded animal rights groups opposing Right to Farm have run ballot initiatives targeting agriculture across the country and Right to Farm protects our farmers and ranchers before these extreme groups can make Oklahoma a target.

Q: Why is Right to Farm needed now?

A: State legislatures and activist groups around the nation are pushing mountains of needless misguided regulations that put bureaucrats and politicians in control of agriculture, instead of farmers and ranchers. This red tape is making it nearly impossible for America's family farmers to grow quality food, take proper care of their animals, or even stay in business. We must act now to protect Oklahoma's family farmers from the same fate and provide long-lasting legal protections for their way of life and for the economic base of rural Oklahoma.

Q: Don't we already have the Right to Farm?

A: No. There are no existing constitutional protections that prevent the state government from cracking down, restricting—or even eliminating—your right to farm, ranch or grow food for your family.

Q: Will Right to Farm overturn all agriculture regulations?

A: No. State Question 777 will not impact any law or regulation that was enacted on or prior to December 31, 2014. Moving forward, the Right to Farm will still allow reasonable regulations on agriculture that are needed ensure the health and safety of Oklahoma's citizens.

Q: Right to Farm seems like commonsense. Who opposes this and why?

A: Animal rights groups, led by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) have opposed the Right to Farm movement because these constitutional protections would hinder their plans to target agriculture at the ballot box through misleading ballot initiatives. HSUS has spent tens of millions to target everything from egg farming in California to

deer hunting in North Dakota and they oppose Right to Farm because they oppose farmers, ranchers, hunters, and all meat eating.

Q: Who benefits from the Right to Farm?

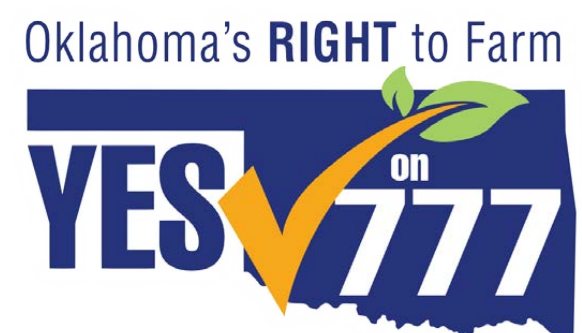
A: All Oklahomans including farmers, ranchers and families. State Question 777 protects all shapes and sizes of farmers and ranchers including small farmers, hobby farmers, family farmers, organic farmers, as well as conventional farmers. The Right to Farm will protect all farmers equally and family farms will especially benefit as they do not have the resources to relocate or fight off well-funded anti-agriculture groups that have used the initiative petition process in many states to target agriculture. The Right to Farm amendment will ensure that Oklahoma families have access to great-tasting, healthy and affordable nutrition.

Q: Will State Question 777 grant new rights to out of state corporations?

A: No, State Question 777 was written to protect only the individual rights of Oklahoma's citizens. Current state law limits the corporate ownership of farms and State Question 777 will not change that.

Q: Does this amendment give farmers and ranchers a "blank check" to do whatever they want?

A: Every right is subject to reasonable restriction. Just as we can't shout "fire" in a crowded building, farmers will not have a blank check under the Right to Farm amendment. State and federal regulations that are in place will not be superseded by the Right to Farm amendment.



Explore Coastal Oregon with AFR

The Oregon coastal region is the destination for the American Farmers & Ranchers Fall Ag & Historic Conference, Sept. 24-30. Few places on earth where land meets sea are as dramatic and beautiful as the Oregon Pacific coastline! Discover the natural wonders that Oregon offers as well as the rich agricultural farms and orchards, the thrill of whale watching and walks on the beach!

PORTLAND CITY

Welcome to Portland, “City of Roses”! Upon arrival our first stop will be an “All-you-can-eat” brunch overlooking the Columbia River. Then, the city excursion includes the International Rose Test Gardens, Chinatown, Old Towne and much more.

PLACES OF INTEREST

During your travels the second day, you will visit such places as Mount Hood, Timberline Lodge; then off around the mountain to stop at an orchard to sample apples and pears. Stop at Cascade Locks on the Columbia River and visit the Bonneville Dam Visitor Center and Fish Ladder. Then it is on to the magnificent Multnomah Falls before ascending to the iconic Vista House at Crown Point for spectacular views of the gorge.

MOVING DOWN THE COAST

Bob’s Red Mill is first on the next day’s list of interesting places to see. This mill is an employee-owned business and produces over 400 products, primarily whole grains that are processed on quartz millstones that originate from several 120-year old mills. Next is a visit to Camp 18, a restaurant that pays homage to the logging industry. Continue on to Cannon Beach and then on to Garibaldi, an authentic fishing village, for the night.

FARM, TILLAMOOK CHEESE AND AQUARIUM

To begin Day 4 you will have the opportunity for a photo-op at Cape Mears Lighthouse before visiting

a local dairy farm that is part of the farmer-owned cooperative that supplies Tillamook with milk to make their dairy products. You will enjoy a tasty self-guided visit of Tillamook Cheese Factory with lunch after at their Creamery Café; later stopping at the Yaquina Head Lighthouse for more pictures before dining with the sharks in our own private Oregon Coast Aquarium.

SEA LIFE CRUISE

The morning of Day 5 you will board the boat Discovery for a cruise of the bay and ocean. Hands on experience of crabbing for Dungeness crab and see a pod of whales that live off the coast. Next, visit Old Towne for lunch before arriving at the Oregon Dunes National Recreation area where you will get to ride 7-10 miles in a large dune buggy, later arriving in Eugene for the night.

DARI-MARTS, PACIFIC HAZELNUTS AND FARM-TO-TABLE DINNER

Day 6 includes a unique visit to Lochmead Farms that pasteurizes bottles and ships their milk within 48 hours of milking their own 44 Dari-Marts. They also operate an active methane digester which provides electricity for 200 houses a year. Next, enjoy lunch at Burgerville USA before heading to explore the Pacific Hazelnut Farms Factory. The icing on the cake for the day is visiting the French Prairie Gardens for a delicious farm-to-table farewell dinner where most everything served is grown on their 500 acre farm.

There will be so many wonderful memories generated when you register to attend the Fall Ag & Historic Conference!

For more information on our fall adventure, contact Paul Jackson at (405)218-5559 or Marilyn Sanders at (405)218-5567. Deadline is June 1.

Photos shown below include sights that will be seen during the trip to Oregon.



From left, Paul Jackson, AFR state secretary, Rick Baranek, AFR director of human resources, and Terry Detrick, AFR president, stand outside the new storm shelter for AFR employees.

Tornado shelter installed for AFR employees

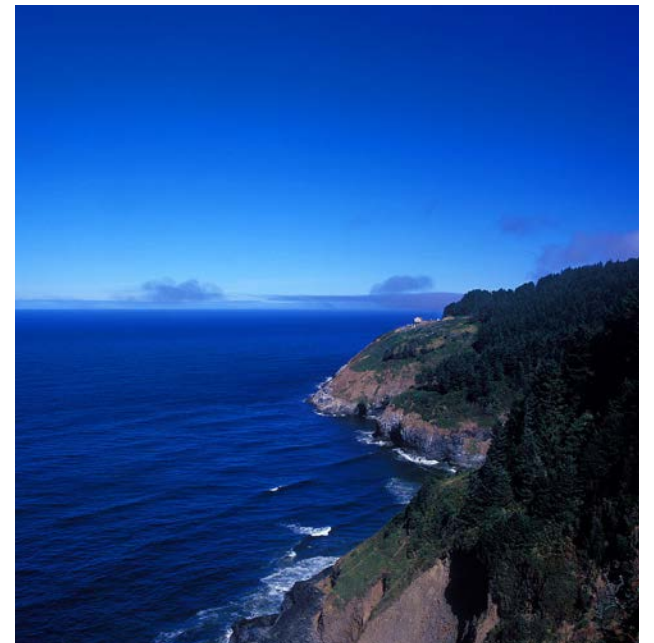
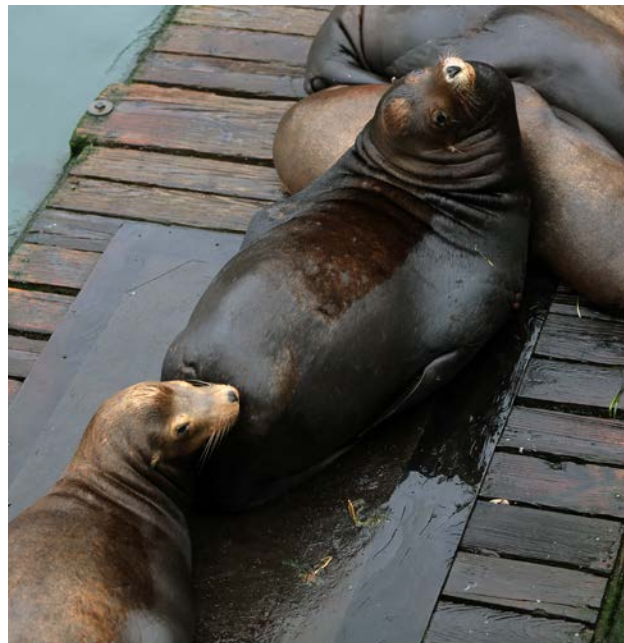
When the tornado sirens blare, employees of American Farmers & Ranchers have a safe, FEMA-approved shelter just outside their back door.

AFR contracted with Survive-A-Storm shelters to construct a 10’ wide, 48’ long and 8’ high shelter with capacity for 105 people. A natural gas-powered 8 kilowatt stand-by generator provides emergency power for lights and ventilator fans.

According to the shelter manufacturer, heavy quarter-inch hot-rolled steel plates in the concrete walls provide protection against any windstorm ever experienced on earth. A heavy 18” thick concrete foundation weighing over 140,000 pounds provides anchoring support.

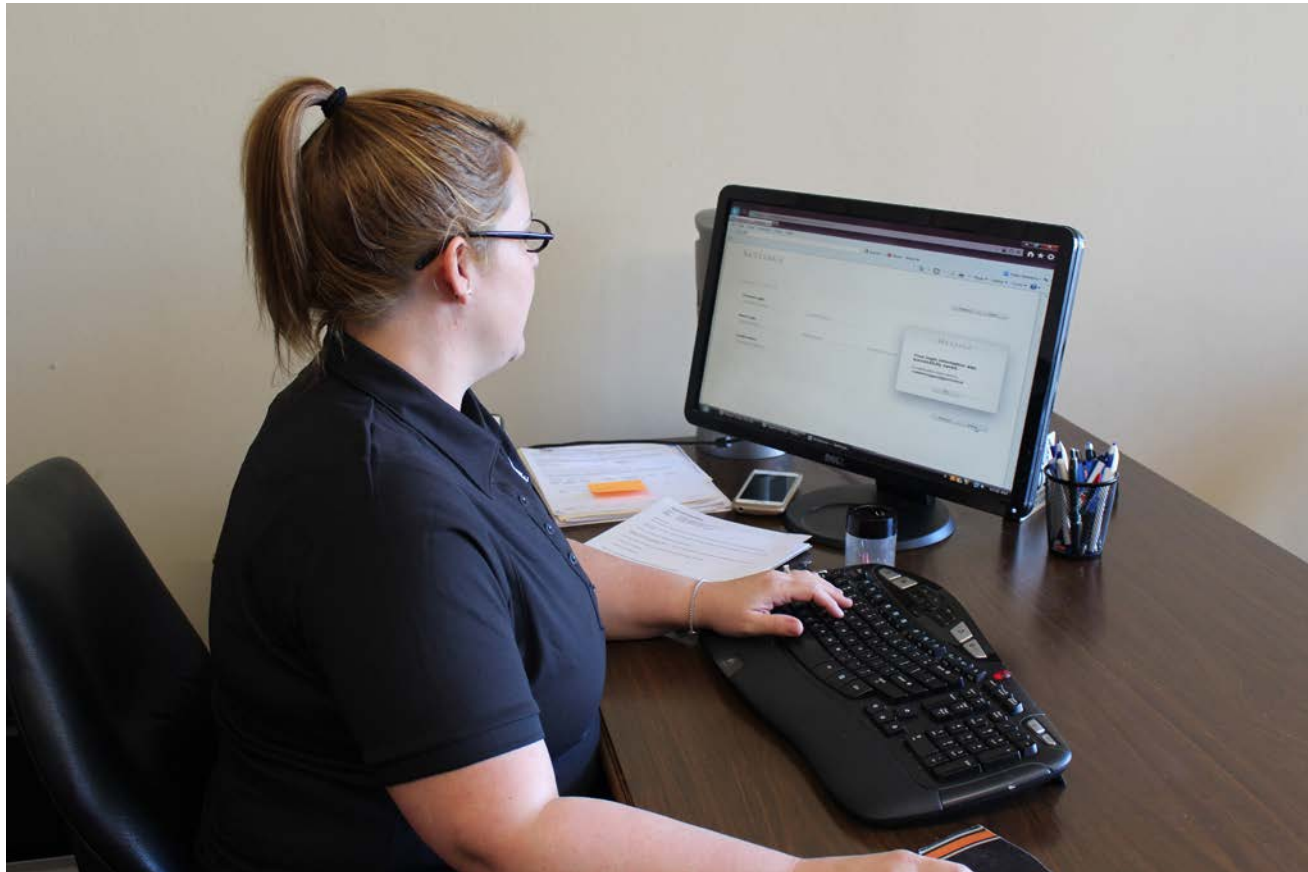
The shelter also features men’s and women’s restroom facilities.

“We want to provide a safe, secure shelter to protect our employees,” said Rick Baranek, AFR director of human resources.



BRITECORE

Insurance Administration System



Nikki Neher Weekley reviews a policy using the new BriteCore system. BriteCore is an all-in-one advanced online quoting and application system. Agents statewide have already trained on the new system, either at the AFR home office or in their own agencies.

AFR welcomes new dwelling system

AFR Insurance unveiled BriteCore, a new processing system for dwelling policies, at the 2016 AFR State Convention in February. With the new system, AFR agents can quickly generate quotes based on lines of business and rates configured in BriteCore and then instantly convert those quotes into applications—all with seamless, automatic enforcement of the company's underwriting standards.

BriteCore is an improvement over AFR's current quoting system in many ways, making the overall process more efficient and flexible. Policies will be easier to customize and information will be closer at hand. The endorsement process will be both faster and easier to navigate, saving time for the agent and the insured.

In addition to its benefits to staff, agents and customers, BriteCore is appealing because of its

cooperative structure that closely links it to AFR's heritage. BriteCore bands together more than 40 insurance carriers nationwide to create a stronger cooperative system. When one carrier upgrades or improves the system, all BriteCore carriers benefit from that improvement.

Since the debut, agents statewide have spent time training on the new system, either at the AFR home office or in their own agencies. Response has been positive, with both agencies and AFR staff looking forward to a smooth transition to the new system.

AFR plans to incorporate all lines of business into the new BriteCore system in the near future, beginning with the Homeowners line of business in early Fall 2016.



Join the AFR LEAD Program at the Noble Foundation

Friday, May 27, 2016

- 9:55 a.m.** Arrive to Noble Foundation
Oswalt Ranch
- 10 a.m.** Welcome & Noble History
Overview
Danielle Pacifico
- 10:30 a.m.** Tour of Cattle Handling
Facility
Devlon Ford
- 11 a.m.** Tour of GrowSafe
Devlon Ford
- 11:30 a.m.** Lunch
Budro's (provided by AFR)
- 12 p.m.** Integrity Beef Overview
Robert Wells
- 12:45 p.m.** BQA Overview
Robert Wells
- 1:30 p.m.** Cattle GPS Collar & VLSA
Mike Proctor
- 2 p.m.** Regional Grazing Practices
& Forage Measurement
Technology
James Rogers
- 3 p.m.** Wrap-up & Depart Noble
Foundation



Trooper Micah Stinnett

Trooper of the Year honoree has AFR connections

Last fall, one of Oklahoma's finest, Trooper Micah Stinnett, responded to a desperate call for help that resulted in him saving the lives of five people. Stinnett is the son of Steve Stinnett, AFR Insurance agent and the grandson of longtime AFR leader Paul Teel.

On November 27th, Troop L Dispatch advised Trooper Stinnett of a call from Grove Police Department about a missing vehicle occupied by two females and three children. The reporting party said they had received a phone call from these people, where they heard screaming before the call was disconnected.

Shortly thereafter, Trooper Stinnett heard Ottawa County dispatchers advise of a vehicle that had been washed off the roadway into a creek, with occupants trapped in the sinking vehicle.

When Trooper Stinnett arrived at the scene, he was unable to drive to the location due to high water

crossing the road. A pickup pulled up and Trooper Stinnett asked the driver to transport him across the high water. By this time, the flooded vehicle had washed downstream about 200 yards.

Trooper Stinnett ran to the site, where there was a firefighter attempting to climb on the roof of the vehicle. One small child was clinging to a nearby tree, another was sitting on top of the vehicle, and a female was holding another child. Both adults seemed to be stuck partially in the vehicle.

With assistance from firefighters, Trooper Stinnett managed to bring the children and adults to an ambulance on shore.

For his courage and bravery, Trooper Stinnett was presented the Trooper of the Year Award for Heroism in March.

Thank you Trooper Stinnett, and all law enforcement officials and firefighters for keeping us safe!



DID YOU KNOW

our checkoff activities increased beef demand by 2.1 billion pounds per year?

“When we think about the national beef checkoff’s impact, the \$11.20 return for every dollar invested is a tremendous feat. Our marketing efforts funded by the beef checkoff have resulted in higher prices for beef producers and importers and sales of more beef in the U.S. and foreign markets. We are really proud of our checkoff’s achievements.”

While you and the Fanning family are managing your operations, your checkoff helps build demand for beef and impact your bottom line.



Tom and Michele Fanning
Cow-calf, Stocker and Feeder



MyBeefCheckoff.com



Funded by the Beef Checkoff.

2016 AFR Convention Wrap-up



AFR Policy Committee member Thad Reimer discusses issues during a break on the first day of the AFR convention.



This year at the State AFR Convention the LEAD program held its first ever LEADership Luncheon. Riley Pagett, Director, Government & Nonprofit Relations, National FFA Organization was the speaker and the topic was advocating for agriculture. Over 150 county and local officers as well as LEAD participants from around the state gained valuable skills to help them advocate in their communities. Pagett encouraged attendees to find ways in their everyday life to engage with others and share your passion.



"Sale ring" assistants called out bids during the annual AFR PAC auction during the state convention. The auction brought in over \$12,000 in proceeds. A "thank you" goes out to everyone that donated and participated in this year's auction. PAC funds are used to fulfill a very important part of our mission of legislative work at the state and national level. The PAC is our only way to provide contributions to candidates and legislators that support AFR's efforts and ideas. This support does not consider which side of the aisle the representative or senator sets on, but how they help and support AFR policy.



A panel of Oklahoma agriculture leaders discussed State Question 777, Right to Farm, during the Saturday afternoon session of the AFR convention. From left, Michael Kelsey, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Roy Lee Lindsey, Oklahoma Pork Council, and R.J. Gray, Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council.



Nationally known comedian and musician Rik Roberts provided plenty of laughs during the annual AFR convention banquet.



The Cast Iron Bluegrass band is a AFR convention tradition as they entertained the crowd during the Friday night festivities.



Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak checks out some of the silent auction items at the AFR annual convention.



Alec Anderson, Ringwood, delivers his speech that won the AFR novice division contest.



The AFR LEAD program hosted a Made In Oklahoma reception at the state convention. Over 500 members were able to sample products and visit with MIO business owners from across the state. Chicken and Beef appetizers were sponsored by the Oklahoma Beef Council and The Poultry Federation of Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Attendees were able to mix and mingle at the event making new friends and meeting up with old ones from across the state.

AFR members pass issues critical to rural Oklahoma

During the American Farmers & Ranchers annual convention, Feb. 19-21, voting delegates adopted policies on water, health care, State Question 777, earthquakes and other issues critical to rural Oklahoma.

“Our members spoke with a strong, united voice on these issues,” said Terry Detrick, AFR president. “This was true grassroots policy development.”

On the issue of water, delegates said “We support legislation defining water quality and water quantity as compelling state interests.”

In addition, they adopted new language stating “We support continued studies on underground aquifer water storage, recharge and recovery.”

The delegates strongly supported State Question 777, Right to Farm. The measure, which will give protection to consumers and production agriculture, is on the general election ballot in November.

“We are working hard to make sure everyone understands the need for voters to pass this issue in November,” Detrick said.

Rural health care received a boost when delegates said “We support continuation of Oklahoma teaching hospitals and associated training which primarily returns physicians to rural Oklahoma.”

“High quality health care is vitally important,” Detrick said. “We want to do everything possible to make sure rural residents receive the health care they need.”

In addition, AFR will place special emphasis on

rural health care, including facilities, this legislative session.

The surge in earthquakes in Oklahoma attracted the farm group’s attention as they stated “We support research to determine if there are man-made causes contributing to earthquakes and/or seismic activity.”

Other policies adopted by the AFR delegates included language designating cottonseed as an “other oilseed” for purposes of the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs, as well as supporting development of reasonable regulations for the use of

unmanned aerial vehicles, while protecting private property rights.

“
“
Our members spoke with a strong, united voice on these issues.”

Terry Detrick
AFR President

”



Megan DeVuyst, Morrison, and Annie Blassingame, Shawnee, receive the Outstanding Youth Award. Pictured L-R: Maddie Baughman, AFR Youth Advisory Council Member; Megan DeVuyst; Annie Blassingame; Terry Detrick, AFR President.

AFR announces outstanding youth award

Two Oklahoma college students received the Outstanding Youth Award during the recent American Farmers & Ranchers annual convention in Norman, Okla. The award honors young people who have demonstrated strong leadership in meeting the challenges of an increasingly complex agricultural industry.

Annie Blassingame, Shawnee, is a freshman at Redlands Community College. She has been active in AFR speech contests and other youth leadership activities.

Megan DeVuyst, Morrison, is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University. She is a former Oklahoma FFA state officer and a member of the AFR Youth Advisory Council.

“This award is a way of recognizing our rising stars,” said Jill Smart, AFR youth development coordinator. “These students have exemplified true leadership and involvement and we are confident in these young people’s ability to lead their peers.”



Marion Schauffler



Mike Humble



AFR members elect leaders at 2016 convention

American Farmers & Ranchers held officer and director elections at the 111th AFR Convention Feb. 19-21, Norman, Okla. The organization's membership delegates re-elected Terry Detrick, Ames, Okla., to lead the organization as president.

"I am honored and humbled by the members' trust in my ability to continue leading this great organization," Detrick said. "I look forward to working with the members and agents for the continued success of this company and its future."

The membership voted on two other seats on the AFR Board of Directors—Northeast District Seat #3 and at-large District #3.

Mike Humble, Cache, Okla., will retain the at-large District 3 seat for another three-year term.

Marion Schauffler, Porter, Okla., was elected to his first term on the board.

In addition to the elections, the three-day event featured educational speakers and entertainment, and the annual business meeting where AFR legislative policies were adopted.

This year's convention theme was "Insuring Rural Tomorrows."

"This year's convention theme represents who we are as a company and as an organization," said AFR President Terry Detrick. "Our vibrant and accomplished history stands as our foundation for our current and future growth, both as an insurance company and as a farm organization that serves the state of Oklahoma."

AFR has success at NFU convention

During the first week of March, AFR members represented Oklahoma at the National Farmers Union Convention in Minneapolis, MN. During the 114th annual event, NFU President Roger Johnson (North Dakota) and Vice President Donn Teske (Kansas) were each reelected to additional 3 year terms of service.

In keeping with longstanding tradition, policy consideration among delegates was the most significant undertaking of the convention. Notably, AFR members were able to successfully defend strong national policy opposing the EPA "Waters of the U.S." rule, as well as make common sense changes to the policy on Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) labeling requirements.



Cody Crow, Beckham County AFR President, receives the Five Star Outstanding Achievement Award at the AFR Convention.



Linda Hyman, Local 741 President, accepts the award on behalf of Love County during the convention.

Beckham and Love County AFRs receive Five Star Awards

American Farmers & Ranchers affiliates Beckham and Love Counties received the state group's highest honor at the AFR annual state convention at the Embassy Suites & Conference Center, Norman, Feb. 19-21.

Both counties received the Five Star Outstanding County Achievement Award which recognizes outstanding counties that have shown exemplary devotion to the AFR culture of giving back to

communities across Oklahoma.

"The county organizations are the life blood of AFR," said AFR President Terry Detrick. "Without outstanding counties, we would not be able to serve the great state of Oklahoma and further the cause of agriculture, families and rural America."

Some of the activities that merited the five star designations include sponsoring a legislative breakfast (Beckham County), food drive (Love County),

legislative efforts at the state Capitol (Beckham County) and a county health fair (Love County).

Other county AFR groups winning awards were Wagoner County (Four stars) and Pottawatomie (Three stars).

The annual AFR convention features educational speakers and entertainment, the annual business meeting, discussion and adoption of AFR legislative policy and officer elections.

OSU student wins \$30,000 for Nescafé Get Started Project

An Oklahoma State University student was named the winner of the Nescafé Get Started Project funded by Nestlé, which inspires young African entrepreneurs to create ideas to help society.

Kortoumou Sidibé, an agricultural business senior who is originally from Mali, Africa, was awarded \$30,000 to fund her project to help remove food insecurity in her home country, then work towards other parts of Africa.

Sidibé said her dream for this project began after she learned about the vast amount of food waste in Africa caused by improper conservation, harvest and transportation. The food waste is not from cooking but from fresh produce that is unable to be stored because most Africans do not have refrigeration.

“I became passionate about this because women are important to African society,” she said. “Providing a way to recycle and make the country’s economy better makes more profit for women and a better lifestyle for the kids.”

Tim Bowser, food engineer for OSU’s Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center, is assisting Sidibé with the logistics of the project. FAPC, a part of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, is known for helping small food entrepreneurs turn their ideas into reality.

“Reduction and reuse of food waste is a very important issue in some parts of Africa,” he said. “It can be a matter of life or death for many, especially farmers. Her plans would help make the food supply more stable.”

Sidibé plans to build her own food transformation facility with the funds she received from the contest. She also has studied different types of materials to help with conservation.

“After we discussed her goals for the project, we got to work making it happen,” Bowser said.

The facility will have two parts, transformation and administration.

During transformation, food, which is purchased from small farmers to help increase profits, will be processed and packaged for longer shelf life.

“I will buy the food waste that would be thrown away at low cost,” Sidibé said. “I will make the veggies into spices that women can use to cook and the fruits will be jams or jellies.”

On the administrative side, the facility will function as a school for farmers and merchants to teach resource management and how to avoid food waste from harvest to commercialization. It also will help participants learn how to maximize profit and advertise their products.

“Power and clean water are required to make this project feasible,” Bowser said. “Fortunately, Sidibé has both available at the proposed site for her facility. She can use bioenergy and solar energy for most processes.”

Sidibé’s end goals are to provide quality food at affordable prices, develop rural areas and reduce food waste. This will, in turn, increase income to help with growth in Africa.

“I know she will be successful in whatever she decides to do,” Bowser said. “She had no qualms about getting hands-on in the process. She is a hardworking young lady and a quick learner.”

The Nescafé Get Started Project challenge started with nearly 2,000 ideas in the areas of technology, health, culture, community development and environment. Four finalists were selected through a multi-stage voting process, which included a public



Kortoumou Sidibé is pictured with her mentor during the Nescafé Get Started Project, Chukwuemeka Fred Agbata, popularly known as CFA, who is a Nigerian blogger, newspaper columnist, information technology specialist, motivational speaker and television presenter.

vote on the Nescafé Facebook page and nine West African influencers. Finally, the finalists presented their business ideas to a jury of African entrepreneurs, where the winner was selected.

Insurance staff attend Tornado Summit

The 2016 National Tornado Summit was held at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City February 29 – March 2. AFR Insurance Claims Director Chad Yearwood and AFR Property Manager Brett McGavock played significant roles in the planning of the event, sponsored in part by AFR Insurance. The annual event strives to improve disaster mitigation and weather-related disaster preparedness, response and recovery in order to save lives and property nationwide.

The Summit also serves as a national forum for insurance professionals and regulators and international, national and state experts to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve emergency management. This networking opportunity links insurance and emergency management professionals with weather and structural engineering experts. The working relationships formed during the Summit could save lives and property during future storm seasons.

This year’s Summit highlights included presentations on crisis and disaster communications, business and home safety, disaster stress and reinsurance. There were more than 25 breakout sessions; some provided continuing education credit opportunities for insurance professionals. The Summit also included a tradeshow with relevant resources, services and products and tours of the National Weather Center and Emergency Operations Center in Norman.

Examples of issues explored by the Summit include the future use of drones in the aftermath of weather-related disasters, the signs of irreparably-damaged structures, flash flooding after a significant weather event, El Niño’s influence on tornado season, effective use of social media following a weather-related disaster, the future of wind-resistant structures and today’s storm shelters and safe rooms.



AFR Insurance Claims Director Chad Yearwood (left) co-planned this year’s National Tornado Summit. The event brings together experts to share resources, information and tips to be better prepared for the next catastrophe. The hope is to improve disaster preparedness, response and recovery in order to save lives across the United States.

During the Summit, attendees could choose one of five different break-out tracks geared toward adjusters, emergency management, producers, special interest or the National Severe Weather Workshop. Of most interest to AFR Insurance and its customers, the adjusters’ track focused on claim handling, new technology to better improve adjusting and industry best practices. The producers’ track also provided an important learning opportunity for AFR Insurance staff. Presenters discussed managing risk, alternatives to wood-frame construction, enhanced building code and what code changes could mean for property losses and the insurance industry.

Oklahoma students learn life skills

High school students from Beaver and Harper Counties learned life skills during a recent event at the Laverne High School, Laverne, Okla.

Sponsored by the Laverne Insurance Agency, the event included presentations from Josh Howard, Bank of Western Oklahoma, Chad Yearwood, AFR Insurance, Delinda Jones, AFR Life Insurance, Megan Albright, AFR Adult Education Coordinator and Kodel Cunningham, Laverne Insurance. More than 75 high school seniors and sponsors from Laverne, Balko, Beaver and Forgan, attended the day-long event.

“We wanted to provide an opportunity for students to learn about some topics that will be very real in their lives as they graduate from high school,” Kodel Cunningham, Laverne Insurance, said. “Finances, insurance and hunger were a few of our topics and everyone, in one way or another, experiences those topics in life. We want to give these students the best opportunity to succeed in all their future endeavors not just college,” Cunningham said.

Students also learned the truth about some traditional agricultural topics such as GMO’s, antibiotics, herbicides and other crop protectants. They were able to enjoy a Made In Oklahoma lunch of pizza and pecan brittle provided by the Harper County AFR organization, Value Added Products of Alva, OK, Watonga Cheese, Anchor Ranch, and Benson Park Pecans of Shawnee, OK. The day wrapped up with information about the AFR scholarship opportunities.

“We hope to expand this event to cover more topics and reach more students in the coming year,” Cunningham said.

CHANGING THE FACE OF OUR CO-OPS

Story by *Samantha Smith*
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council



Audrey Hofferber, CEO of Texhoma Wheat Growers, is one of the few female co-op managers in the state.

Audrey Hofferber began her career in the cooperative system 1993 as an office assistant at Hooker Equity Exchange in Hooker, Oklahoma. Now, more than twenty years later, she is one of the few females in Oklahoma to reach the top level of leadership in the cooperative system.

Growing up in agriculture, Hofferber was exposed to the cooperative system at a young age. Farming and ranching was her way of life growing up, and a career in the agricultural sector made sense to the native Coloradan.

After years of working as an office assistant in the co-op, Hofferber was promoted to Chief Financial Officer for the company. It was there that she found her love of numbers and learning how the cooperative ran. While she loved her job as CFO, she found herself wanting more.

“I wanted to be a general manager,” Hofferber said, “I just never felt like I had enough knowledge or the confidence in myself that I really needed to step up and apply for the position.”

But her former supervisor thought otherwise. In

June of 2011, Hofferber reached her goal when she accepted the job as CEO of Texhoma Wheat Growers, a full-service co-op located on the Oklahoma-Texas line in the iconic Oklahoma Pandhandle.

But reaching this goal has not proven easy for women across the state and nation. Only a handful of females hold general manager positions at cooperatives in Oklahoma.

“I don’t think the ag world has completely accepted women,” Hofferber said. “I don’t think the industry as a whole has become comfortable with women working in agriculture.”

With 98 percent of Texhoma Wheat Growers’ customers being male, it took awhile to gain her customer base’s trust when she started as a general manager, Hofferber said.

“It took me a long time, but once I really gained that trust with my customers, they came to me for everything,” she said. “I’m not one who sits back and watches. I dive in. I fix the fuel pumps. I load feed and chemicals. I interact with my customers quite a bit to earn their trust, and soon they figured out the

knowledge I bring to the position.”

Gaining that trust with customers seems to come a little easier to her male counterparts though, she said.

“It just seems like no matter where you go, we as females have to start at the bottom building that trust level where a male instantly has that trust level handed to him,” Hofferber said.

Tonya Meyers, CEO of Farmers Cooperative Association in Snyder, Oklahoma, is another one of the women breaking through the glass ceiling, but she says she doesn’t feel like she’s treated any differently than her male counterparts.

“I am the lone woman in a man’s world at all the meetings I go to,” Meyers said, “but none of the men have ever made me feel like I didn’t belong. I just tell them that I’m no different from anybody else. They shouldn’t feel like they have to treat me special.”

Hofferber and Meyers, like any other managers at cooperatives, are governed by a board of directors made up of their co-ops member producers. The managers run the day-to-day operation, while the board is responsible for approving major strategic



Hofferber began as an office assistant at Hooker Equity Exchange before reaching her lifelong goal of becoming a general manager of a co-op in June of 2011.

and financial decisions of the co-op while monitoring and partnering with the CEO.

Phil Kenkel, Bill Fitzwater Cooperative Chair at Oklahoma State University, published a paper with the CHS Center for Cooperative Growth in 2015 looking at the need for board diversity in agricultural cooperatives across the nation.

Lack of gender diversity, he said, is not uncommon in cooperatives, especially when it comes to cooperative boards of directors.

“Females make up just over 3 percent of board members in agricultural cooperatives, the lowest representation of any cooperative sector,” Kenkel said in his paper. “The general finding is that agricultural cooperatives clearly trail other cooperative sectors and investor-owned firms in board gender diversity.”

Ag cooperatives are not the only co-ops who are behind the curve when it comes to gender diversity on their boards. Mutual insurance cooperatives have an average of 6.4 percent of their boards made up by females, followed by Farm Credit boards at 7.2 percent and rural electric boards at 8.9 percent.

Female board members, Kenkel said, can bring a whole new perspective to the board room, resulting in finding new ways to solve problems.

“Women have always been important team members in farm operations, yet the agricultural cooperatives with which they do business have not historically included them in leadership roles,” Kenkel said. “Women also make up a significant portion of the cooperative workforce, and female representation on the board gives those employees a greater sense of connection with the cooperative and improves the perception of career path.”

Hofferber says electing female cooperative members to the board is accompanied by a number of benefits in the board room.

“Women just have a different outlook on things and a different way of approaching things,” Hofferber said. “Women would have a lot to offer the board if they were just given the chance to serve on them.”

Meyers said females bring an attention to detail to the board room that an all-male board is sometimes lacking, but nominating a woman to the board has not

been an easy task to accomplish.

“I believe women are a lot more detail oriented and look further into problems,” Meyers said. “We have to convince our members that we can nominate them. It’s just the mentality that our members have right now — when they think of a farmer, they don’t think of a woman. But I think female board members would be a benefit if we could get someone to be nominated. It just seems to be hard to do that.”

Although gender diversity is a new topic to the co-op system, Hofferber is optimistic that change and acceptance is on the horizon.

“I think women have to know that the glass ceiling is there, and you have to be able to accept that it’s there and pursue on,” Hofferber said. “We are making progress. I would like to see more progress made, but we are getting there slowly but surely.”

Meyers agrees with the progress.

“I feel like there was progress made when I was hired,” she said. “I’m confident we will get to a point where co-op women aren’t a rarity.”

AFR TODAY

TRADING POST

DUE DATE FOR SUMMER ISSUE OF AFR TODAY: JUNE 3

AFR TODAY TRADING POST ADS
P.O. BOX 24000, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73124
PHONE: 405-218-5590 FAX: 405-218-5589
TRADINGPOSTADS@AFRMIC.COM

Classified advertising in the Trading Post is available free of charge to all paid-up members of AFR. Ads must be of personal nature and strictly non-commercial. Commercial ads and ads for non-members can be purchased at the rate of \$1 per word, paid in advance. Member ads must be 30 words or less, unless the member pays in advance for additional words. Each member is limited to one advertisement per issue. Advertising will not be accepted for services or products in direct competition with those offered by AFR or affiliates. AFR reserves the right to not print any ad deemed inappropriate.

Farm & Ranch Equipment

For Sale- Hoeme 20 ft. spike chisel cultivator, 15 shanks. Working condition. Has buster bar on rear. \$1,650. Phone in daytime 580/227-2940.

For Sale-1965 John Deere 4020. Diesel, 3 Point PTO, Dual Hydraulics. Lots of New Parts on it. \$8,750. Call 580/829-3153.

For Sale-1948 John Deere Row Crop B (Gas). Serial #221648. \$1,850. Call 918/869-8855.

For Sale-1967 Farmall 806 (Diesel). Serial #40458. \$3,850. Call 918/869-8855.

For Sale-2010 Mi-T-M, 2000 PSI hot water pressure washer. 220 volts, diesel or kerosene. Used only 5 times, excellent condition. \$2,150. Call 405/624-2448.

Vehicles

For Sale-2012 Dodge Ram 2500 Pickup-diesel, white, long bed, 80,000 miles. Has extended warranty up to 100,000 miles. Call for Price 918/464-2346.

For Sale-1999 Ford F-250. 7.3 Diesel, 4x4. 166,000 miles. Call 580/829-3153.

For Sale-2000 Freightliner Single Axle. Air Ride Cab with Sleeper. 10 Speed Transmission. 460 Cummins Motor. \$11,500. Call 580/554-0987.

Livestock

For Sale-Reg. Beefmasters. Bulls, cows, heifers (bred and opens), show heifers. Red, black, and dunn. Polled and horned. www.doubledeucebeefmasters.com, Call 918/253-8680 or 918/557-6923.

For Sale-Reg. Polled Hereford bulls. 13-14 months old. Remital Online 122L and PW Victor Boomer P606 genetics. 48 years breeding registered Polled Herefords. Call 580/332-2468.

For Sale-Brangus Bulls-Quality Genetics-Gentle Disposition, Tested and Shots. Call 405/220-5817.

For Sale-Registered longhorn starter herds. Registered longhorn bulls, heifers and bred cows start at \$950 each. Also nice ranch

geldings. See pictures on our website at www.cattlecallranch.com or call 580/364-6592, Atoka.

For Sale-Limousin Bull, 2 ½ years old. \$2,850. Pictures on website at www.cattlecallranch.com.580/364-6592, Atoka.

For Sale-Performance tested PB yearling Gelbvieh bulls. Red, black and dbl polled. Low birth weights, docile, fertility tested. Beef, butts and guts. Inda Gelbvieh. Call 405/282-4134 or 405/650-3481.

For Sale-Miniature horses, show quality and pet/companion prices, AMHA & AMHR registered, \$300-500. Stillwater, OK. Call 405/707-7143.

Professional Sheep Shearing. Call 580/336-8766 or 580/455-2481.

For Sale- Plemmons Angus Ranch 25 - 18 month old Angus Bulls for Sale. Battiest, OK. 580/306-1024.

For Sale-Brangus Bulls and fancy replacement heifers. Top quality genetics, gentle dispositions. Delivery available. Horsehead Ranch. Call 918/695-2357.

Miscellaneous

For Sale-Jazzy Wheelchair used one month. Blue in color; paid new \$3,700. Lowest price \$1,200 or trade for equal value. For photos of the wheelchair email dirtpooroke@yahoo.com. Call 918/966-3800.

For Sale-110-year-old used bricks, cleaned. 50 cents each. You haul. Wister, OK. Call 918/655-3126.

Free help understanding Medicare and Medicare supplements for AFR/OFU members 65 or older. Including Parts A, B, C, and D, Open Enrollment, Guarantee Issue, sign up times, etc. Call Melodie 580/276-3672.

For Sale-Antique 59-year old Gretsch Electric Guitar. Has model and serial number inside. Sunburst finish. Very nice collector item. Call 580/332-2468.

For Sale- Antique Mosler Mercantile Safe. Call 405/372-7107.

For Sale-Antique Wooden Secretary. Call 405/372-7107.

Hay, Feed & Seed

For Sale-Horse quality Sm. Sq. Alfalfa \$9 each. Pocasset, OK. Call 405/459-6543 or 405/574-5571.

For Sale-Sm. Sq. Bermuda Sprayed & Fertilized \$6 each. Pocasset, OK. Call 405/459-6543 or 405/574-5571.

Boats, RVs, Campers & Trailers

For Sale- 2016 17ft Keystone SummerLand, Bumper Pull with Power Hitch. Never Used. \$12,500. Call 405/640-0228.

For Sale-2007 Gulf Stream 30' bumper-pull toy hauler. Fully contained, 3.7 auxiliary generator. \$13,450. Call 405/624-2448.

Household Items

For Sale-Gulbrason Piano, good condition. \$250. Call 405/220-5817.

In Search of:

Wanted-Deck or fence jobs near Shawnee or Prague. Phyllis, 918/866-2468 or Rowdy, 405/706-5233.

Wanted-A pup, or young, Blue Tick or Black & Tan, hound (male or female). Call 918/224-3797 or 918/344-9138.

Wanted-Mineral Rights. Any county like Carter, Grady, Kingfisher or Blaine: states like Oklahoma, North Dakota. If you're thinking of selling part of your mineral rights, call me before you sell. Call 580/227-2456.

Wanted-Interesting and classic vehicles. Call Lee @ 405/613-1857.

Wanted-Old cars, hard tops and convertibles. Running or not. Call 918/482-3272.

Wanted-Old gas pumps, car dealership and farm equipment signs and memorabilia. Call 580/530-9067.

Wanted-Any Oklahoma Farmers Union memorabilia (pictures, agency signs, elevator items, old charters, etc.). Call 405/218-5559.



PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT STATE QUESTION 777: OKLAHOMA'S RIGHT TO FARM

2016 LEAD Golf Tournament

July 11, 2016 – Shotgun start at 9 a.m.

The Greens Country Club

Oklahoma City, OK

AFR will serve as the title sponsor for the LEAD Golf Tournament in Oklahoma City to support State Question 777: Oklahoma's Right to Farm. Join us for a round of golf as well as a live and silent auction following the tournament.

The tournament will be a four-man scramble with two flights. Lunch will be provided by AFR after the tournament. Your entry fee includes green and cart fees.

Each player will receive two drink tickets and a goodie bag. Contests for the day will include a putting contest, closest to pin contest and longest drive contest.

TO REGISTER, CONTACT MEGAN ALBRIGHT AT MALBRIGHT@AFRMIC.COM OR 405.218.5416

Registration

Team (4 players)	\$400
	(maximum 34 teams)
Single Player	\$125
Mulligans	\$5 for 1, 4 for \$15
	(Limit 2 per player)

Oklahoma's RIGHT to Farm



2016 Calendar of Events

Contact: Lin Zwilling

lzwilling@afrmic.com | 405.218.5590

May

May 5 National Land, Homesite & Range Judging Contest, OKC

May 27 LEAD Noble Foundation Cattle Tour, Noble's Oswalt Ranch

June

June 11 LEAD Poker Run & Red Dirt Concert SQ 777 Fundraiser, Medicine Park

June 25 AFR LEAD Day at the OKC Dodgers, OKC Bricktown Ballpark

July

July 11 SQ 777 LEAD Fundraiser Golf Tournament, The Greens Country Club

July 19-21 OSU Big 3 Field Days Livestock Handling Exam

July 24-26 Leadership Summit Teen Session (Students entering 7th-9th grade)

July 27 Registration deadline for Women in Agriculture Conference

July 27-30 Leadership Summit Senior Session (students entering 10th-12th grade)

August

Aug. 3 Registration deadline for AFR Women's Cooperative Conference

Aug. 4-5 Women in Agriculture Conference, Moore, Oklahoma

Aug. 6 AFR Women's Cooperative Conference OKC

Aug. 27 OCA Range Round-up & AFR Cattle Forums Guthrie/OKC (tentative)

September

Sept. 10 Septemberfest Event

Sept. 15-25 Oklahoma State Fair

Sept. 19 Registration deadline for SW District Women's Retreat

Sept. 24 SW District Women's Retreat Anadarko or Clinton

October

Sept. 29 - Oct. 9 Tulsa State Fair

Oct. 4 Tulsa State Fair Cattle Grading Contest

Oct. 7 Tulsa State Fair Premium Sale

Oct. 10 Registration deadline for SE District Women's Retreat

Oct. 15 SE District Women's Retreat Shawnee, Oklahoma

Oct. 21-22 LEAD State Conference OKC

November

Nov. 3 SW District Speech Contest

Nov. 5 SE District LEAD Area Tours (tentative)

Nov. 8 NW District Speech Contest

Nov. 10 Central District Speech Contest

Nov. 14 NE District Speech Contest

Nov. 15 SE District Speech Contest

Nov. 30 AFR Women's Cooperative State Council Nomination Deadline

December

Dec. 3 AFR State Speech Contest

Dec. 9 Tulsa Farm Show Livestock Handling Competition

Dec. 10 NE District LEAD Tulsa Area Tours (tentative)



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT
TERRY DETRICK

Politics — State Budget — Rural Health — Education — Hunger

We have a right to be critical of our political system but it is still better than whatever country is second best. It seems currently all you have to do to be successful in the presidential nomination race is to promise something free. I question what our Civics courses are teaching our young people today. Are they not told there is no ‘free lunch’, and when the government is handing out freebies, WE, the taxpayers, are still the ones paying those bills.

For the State of Oklahoma, we can blame a lot of conditions that have caused our budget shortfall. Some say we are just trimming back spending from the extravagancies practiced by others gone before. Others blame reduced taxes for lost revenue! Lots of finger pointing and probably some grounds for each accusation.

However, could it also be that because of term limits we failed to remember how many times Oklahoma has experienced booms and busts in the oil and gas industry, and how important it is to build a rainy day fund when possible with high enough caps to maintain continuity when fate befalls us?

We as taxpayers/voters must also bear some of the blame. Since the beginning of our democracy, we have seen trends when voters were tired of high taxes and voted for people who promise to cut their taxes.

Later when schools, fire departments, police and roads and bridges are in need of improvement, people run for office to fix those things. After being elected, they have to proceed to raise taxes to cure those deficiencies. We’ve been here before and know lessons can be learned, efficiencies gained, and we WILL become better and stronger.

Health Care in general and more specifically Rural Health Care has become an issue of gigantic proportions. Recent research by the National Conference of State Legislatures states that 60 percent of trauma deaths in the United States occur in rural areas where only 15 percent of the population is

represented. With recent closures of rural hospitals and many more in danger of closing, a large part of the rural population will be faced with longer and longer response times for emergency care and much farther driving distances to get emergency treatment.

A look at what is causing so many to encounter

“
Let's change what we can, accept what we can't, be thankful and help the less fortunate.

Terry Detrick
AFR President

”

AFR POKER RUN & RED DIRT CONCERT

JUNE 11 BENEFITTING SQ 777

LEAD is sponsoring a poker run in southwest Oklahoma, June 11, to raise funds to support a “yes” vote on SQ777, right to farm.

The family-friendly event starts at 1 p.m. at Medicine Park. An outdoor concert in Medicine Park runs throughout the day's activities. For more details about this family-friendly event, go to <https://www.iafr.com/events/poker-run-red-dirt-concert-sq-777-fundraiser>.

According to Wikipedia, a poker run is an organized event where participants, usually using motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, trucks, mini vans or other means of transportation must visit five checkpoints drawing a playing card at each one. The object is to have the best poker hand at the end of the run. The event has a time limit, however the participants are not timed—winning is purely a matter of chance.

financial difficulties is partially due to medicare payment deficiencies. Thankfully, this problem is receiving some attention in Washington D.C. There are two proposals—one in the U.S. Senate and one in the U.S. House. Hopefully an agreement between the two can be reached. If so, in one form or another some of the important changes will be to relax some of the requirements put upon rural health facilities that are impossible for many to achieve and still receive full medicare assistance (number of beds, patients, hours of operation, etc.) and increase the medicare reimbursement to these smaller facilities in some instances from 80 to 105/110 percent.

The State Legislature is also studying a proposal to move some recipients off Medicaid and roll them to a health insurance coverage plan—the goal being to save money for the state while still making health care available based on need. We’ll see?

Education funding is still in the crosshairs. Public School Officials are cutting their budgets to the bone while worrying about teacher pay and availability, class size, student transfers, vouchers, transportation, school days per week to mention just a few of their concerns.

Last but not least, I also have to mention SQ 777 again and how important it is for all of us to be as well-versed as possible on the facts: (www.OklahomaRightToFarm.com). The public is being bombarded by false, deceptive statements from opponents who hope if people hear their bad information enough, they will begin to believe it. We currently have over 1 out of 4 (29 percent) of Oklahoma children that are food deficient. What a devastating affect increased food prices will have on these children if SQ 777 should fail to pass allowing frivolous regulations to hamper the efficient production of scientifically-proven safe, abundant, affordable food using the most environmentally friendly production practices in the world.

Meanwhile, let’s change what we can, accept what we can’t, be thankful and help the less fortunate. God Bless you as you do.

- Terry

