



The Cunningham family walks across their burned pasture in Laverne, Oklahoma, following the devastating fires.

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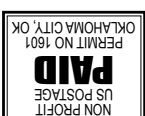
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**VOLUNTEERS HELP  
NORTHWEST OKLAHOMA  
RECOVER FROM  
WILDFIRES**

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Oklahoma City, OK 73124



## Long-time AFR leader Anna Belle Wiedemann receives Governor's Outstanding Public Service in Agriculture Award

A wheat field, a hog pen, a corner office, the floor of the State House of Representatives, an international food trade market -- these are all places that Anna Belle Wiedemann would feel comfortable in. A more diverse agriculturalist would be hard to find.

The first agricultural operation she ran with her

husband, Carl, had no running water and no indoor bathroom. Today, the Slash C Ranch encompasses just under 2,000 acres that sprawl through Kingfisher and Canadian Counties. Laying hens, hogs, cattle and wheat have all contributed to the success of the ranch, but production agriculture is just the beginning of

Wiedemann's service to the agriculture industry.

After forming and then serving as president of the first Democratic Women's Club in her county, Wiedemann was elected to the Oklahoma State House of Representatives in 1968 where she focused on agricultural issues as well as the good of all Oklahomans. She also served as the liaison between the agriculture committee and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. After her stint in the House, she went to work for the Oklahoma Consumer Credit Commission and then served as the Interim County Commissioner for Canadian County.

In 1984, Wiedemann took on the role of Coordinator of International Marketing for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. With this position she traveled extensively promoting the state's agricultural products in markets across the world. She became the director of ODAFF's Market Development Division promoting state-branded and educational programs. In addition, she was instrumental in the growth of farmers markets in the state and heavily promoted the use of local products by restaurants. Her next ODAFF position was Director of Rural Development where she designed and implemented programs that helped improve the rural economy of the state.

Through her long-term involvement with AFR/OFU and the Oklahoma Cattlewomen's Assoc., Wiedemann has been a valuable asset to the beef industry. She is a faithful supporter of 4-H and FFA programs and has served on many agriculture-related boards and committees where she worked tirelessly to improve the industry in her county, state, nation and world. She is an outstanding leader and public servant for agriculture.

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John Foster

## Foster named claims manager for AFR

John Foster has been selected to lead the Claims Department at AFR Insurance. Foster joins the Oklahoma City-based company with more than 30 years of claims experience.

“We are excited to have someone with John’s extensive claims background and leadership abilities join our team,” Justin Cowan, AFR Insurance CEO, said.

Foster, a native of Sterling, Kansas, has worked property and casualty insurance claims in every state west of the Mississippi River. His most recent service has been with Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance, McPherson, KS.

“I am very familiar with the unique claims needs of rural areas,” Foster said. “My goal is to provide prompt, fair service.”

Foster said doing the “little” things often makes the difference between a good and bad experience.

“I feel we need to take the extra time to explain the insured’s coverage, listen to their concerns and above all be empathetic and caring during a time when they just suffered a tragedy,” Foster said. “Our goal is to help them recover from their loss and assist in piecing things back together.”

Foster earned a business administration degree from Emporia State University. He and his wife, Becky, have a son and daughter.

# AFR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

## 2017 REGISTRATION FORM

**SELECT SESSION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Teen Session ~ July 23-25, 2017 (Entering grades 7, 8, 9)      \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Session ~ July 26-29, 2017 (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 CURRENTLY AN AFR POLICYHOLDER?**      Y      N

**NAME ON POLICY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF POLICY:**      FARM      AUTO      HOME      LIFE

**AFR AGENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration form to: American Farmers & Ranchers Attn: Micaela Danker, 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 an additional \$35 check for annual family membership dues)  
 \*First availability will be given to policyholders, then to members. Deadline for policyholders is June 26, 2017\*  
 A completed registration form and full payment is required to reserve your Summit spot. When these items are received by the AFR Youth Coordinator, medical and personal release forms will be mailed to you at a later date, prior to Leadership Summit.



## AFR WOMEN LAUNCH “WANTED BLOOD DRIVE” INITIATIVE

2017 AFR Women’s Cooperative Council as they launch their 2017 “Wanted Blood Drive” initiative during the AFR State Convention. (Left to right), Suzanne Gilbert, Geneva Bolenbaugh, Debi Thompson, Crystie Shebester, Stephanie Miller, Donna Newsome, Pam Livingston, Julie Brown.



The Eric Bond Family  
Knowles, Oklahoma



Story by Sam Knipp  
American Farmers & Ranchers



Jim Hilton is the Oklahoma Volunteer Camp director.

# OKLAHOMA heroes

## VOLUNTEERS HELP NORTHWEST OKLAHOMA RECOVER FROM WILDFIRES

They started arriving in groups of two, five, and seventeen. Fires were still smoldering as volunteers were asking how to help ranchers and others impacted by the early March wildfires in northwest Oklahoma.

"They've proven extremely generous," Andy Cunningham said of the volunteers. Cunningham and his family have a ranch near Laverne and had 8,000 acres of pasture burned.

Cunningham, who himself is a member of the Gate volunteer fire department, said farmers, ranchers and others from around the country have poured into the area.

"We even got calls from people who couldn't physically help, but said they were praying for us," Cunningham said. "That's been as important to us as anything."

Perhaps some of their prayers were prompted by the Bible verse in Luke 10:2 "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest fields."

### THE WORKERS HAVE ARRIVED!

Jim Hilton and his wife, Debbie, quickly realized the donations were outpacing the capacity of local resources. The couple, originally from Knowles and now living in Enid, established the Oklahoma Volunteer Camp at Knowles.

There is not much in Knowles, barely a speck on the map. An old post office- now vacant, grain elevator and a few old, abandoned houses. Yet, it is filled today with a tremendous flood of love, caring and compassion. In the middle of town, just off Highway 64, sits the Knowles Community Center.

"This was built in 1965 by the Ralph Barby family, a local rancher," Jim Hilton said.

Hilton, who also has a nearby ranch managed by his two sons, said he was contacted by the Oklahoma and Arkansas Baptist Relief organizations.

"The Oklahoma Baptist Relief knew our ranch

was burned, so they contacted me and it just started happening," Hilton said.

Debbie manages the social media communications.

"We started this because people were coming in to help, but they needed direction," Debi said. "The fire victims were in shock, overwhelmed, and we wanted to take some of the burden off their plate."

Debi established the Oklahoma Volunteer Camp Facebook page to let everyone know what was needed and how to get it to those who needed it the most.

"Social media has been the key to getting the word out," Debbie said.

Spreading the word has helped bring rapid relief for fire victims.

Some of the ranchers that lost property say they feel "blessed" by the outpouring of support. That may sound odd, given the large amount of damage. Eric Bond explained why he feels that way. His family, wife Kara and sons Tanner, Trapper and Trailen, have a ranch east of Knowles.

"It's been a tragic deal and a blessing all at the same time," Bond said. "But we're in good shape compared to some who lost more."

Bond lost 34 miles of fence, 16 cows, 20 calves, several barns, a large 165-HP Ford tractor, skid loader, two pickup trucks, miscellaneous tools and four horse trailers. This was in addition to the 4,000 acres of burned grass.

Eric, a member of the Gate Volunteer Fire Department, was 20 miles northwest of his house, fighting a fire on a neighbor's ranch, when he received word about his own property.

"I knew Kara and Trailen were back there trying to move the cows," Eric said. "After I filled up a few more times with water, I told the others (fire fighters) that I was going to go check on them and the house."

Their house, which was built by Eric's grandfather in 1907, was saved thanks to the efforts of a passerby. "This is home, it's special to us," Eric said.

Bond said he heard rumors a stranger may have stopped to wet down their house before they could get home. As he thinks about this stranger, and all the other stories of volunteers stopping by to help, Bond gets a little emotional. His stoic cowboy mentality returns to composure as he relates these stories:

"There's been three crews here so far, put in 3 miles of fence already," Eric said. "There was a guy from eastern Oklahoma, one from northeastern Missouri one day. The guy from Missouri was a welder and the eastern Oklahoma guy worked for GoBob (Pipe and Steel, Mounds, Okla.). They brought posts, pipe and fence and put in a quarter mile of fence right away."

"And then we had 13 guys from Texas with three skid loaders and trailers, put in a mile and quarter (fence) in a weekend."

"There were friends here fixing fence and feeding cattle, before I could get home, as I was still fighting fires on other ranches," Eric said.

Eric noted that his son Tanner, also a member of the Gate Volunteer Fire Department, was allowed to leave school at Dodge City (KS) Community College and return home to fight the fires.

"Tanner spent three straight days in the fire truck with me," Eric said. "We didn't take time to sleep or even change clothes."

The Bonds are fortunate as some of their losses will be covered by insurance.

"I've been really pleased with AFR Insurance taking care of us," Bond said. "Kodel (Cunningham, their AFR Insurance agent in Laverne) has been really good to us."

"We just want to thank everybody, people we don't even know, for helping us," Kara said.

"I know I can't mention all the people that helped but we just want them all to know how grateful we are," Eric added.

"The heroes are the people donating all this stuff," Eric said.

## BY THE NUMBERS

The statistics from the wildfires that have devastated ranchland throughout Oklahoma this year are staggering. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry provided us with the following numbers:

- This year's wildfire season has burned more than **420,000 acres** in Oklahoma and left **26 homes in ashes**.
- Firefighters from the state forestry service and local agencies in Oklahoma have responded to **851 wildfires across 423,887 acres**. That total doesn't include the estimated **472,000 acres in Kansas** that burned in the Starbuck fire, a fire that began in Oklahoma and spread into southern Kansas.
- An estimated **3,000 head of cattle** and **6,500 hogs** were killed by the fires in Oklahoma
- **Three people died** as a result of the fires.

The economic loss for livestock producers is also significant. At press time, Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension livestock marketing specialist, estimated the following:

- **\$2 million** or more for the large hog farm that burned.
- **\$6.7 million** for fence replacement and repair.
- **\$3.5 million** for livestock killed or destroyed plus veterinary costs and reduced value of surviving injured animals.
- **\$2.2 million** for burned facilities and corrals.
- **\$1.3 million** for emergency feed.
- **\$920,000** for burned pasture and hay.

Peel said the current totals do not include any estimates for equipment losses, meaning estimates may increase as a more comprehensive assessment of the losses is completed.

## GOVERNMENT HELP IS AVAILABLE

Governor Mary Fallin issued the following statement after the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), acting in response to a directive from President Donald Trump, authorized emergency grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands in Oklahoma as a result of wildfires that devastated parts of northwest Oklahoma:

"I appreciate President Trump and the USDA for their quick action to help our ranchers who have sustained significant losses as a result of the destructive wildfires that ravaged the northwest part of our state. The loss of livestock is a tremendous burden, but the president's authorization gives ranchers help in the recovery process."

The USDA said emergency loans are available to livestock producers in six Oklahoma counties where recent wildfires caused significant damage.

Eligible livestock producers in Alfalfa, Beaver, Ellis, Harper, Roger Mills and Woodward counties along with contiguous counties may apply for

emergency loan assistance.

Emergency loans help producers who sustain qualifying farm-related losses directly caused by the wildfires. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of an Administrator's Physical Loss Notification to apply for this assistance.

In addition, eligible livestock producers may receive partial payments to help pay for rebuilding fence or replacing other items destroyed by the recent Oklahoma wildfires. Normally, producers would have to wait until the work is completed to receive payment. Because some producers had more than 100 miles of fencing destroyed, it would be a financial hardship to wait until the rebuilding of fence is completed.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funding may also be used for debris removal and restoring conservation structures damaged by wildfires. The USDA is also allowing the use of used oil piping for fence construction.

In addition to ECP, farmers and ranchers suffering from the aftermath of the wildfires may also be eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) or the Emergency Assistance

for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). LIP provides payments to producers for livestock deaths. ELAP provides emergency relief to livestock producers when losses from a disaster are not adequately covered by any other disaster program.

In addition, Oklahoma producers affected by recent wildfires are being allowed to let their livestock graze on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage.

The FSA has authorized emergency use of CRP acreage, which will allow producers to move their livestock to CRP acreage for a period of up to 30 days for the six eligible counties in Oklahoma. Emergency use of CRP acreage allows livestock to be moved to those lands on a temporary basis for producers who lost pasture or fences due to the wildfires.

Producers in the affected counties are encouraged to check with their local FSA state office for additional information.

## AFR SUPPORTS YOUTH AT OKLAHOMA YOUTH EXPO

The Oklahoma Youth Expo showed once again why it is the world's largest youth livestock show, with more than 10,000 animals exhibited this year. AFR is proud to be a major part of the annual event. Congratulations to all the winners.





# DID YOU KNOW

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- NIACIN** supports energy production and metabolism.
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Kyndell Nichols



Mason Mungle



Garrett Barnett



Terry Peach



Bob Holley



Paul Jackson

## AFR elects leaders at annual convention

Voting delegates at the recent 2017 AFR convention elected two new leaders and re-elected three current leaders for their board of directors and officers. The voting took place Feb. 18 during the second day of the three-day annual convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

Elected to represent the new position of Northwest Agent Director from District 1 is Kyndell Nichols, Fairview. After graduation from Oklahoma State University with a BS Degree in Ag Economics and Accounting, he returned to the family farm to work with his father and with his mother in the insurance and real estate business. Nichols has been an agent for AFR/OFU since 1985. He now runs the farming operation and has expanded a registered Hereford cattle herd with the help of his two sons, Levon and Lathan.

As an active AFR member, he has served on the Policy Committee, attended Washington DC fly-in and participated in a Special Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors. He was appointed by AFR/OFU to serve on a special committee formed by then Governor Keating, to study the state's ability to handle an infectious disease attack. He has served as a Local officer, County Board member and has been President of the AFR Northwest Area for over 20 years.

As an agent, Nichols is serving on the Agents Association Executive Council and served on a special committee appointed by the Board to review the agent's contract.

Nichols has been an active leader in his community for 25 years serving on the County Fair Board and is a Charter Member of the Ringwood Lions Club. He was a member of the Oklahoma Hereford Association Board and served as President.

Filling the new At-Large Independent Director's position is Mason Mungle. He was a partner in the family dairy farm at Atoka, Oklahoma, and is still involved with a cow/calf operation on the farm. He was a member of the first class of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program and has a Bachelor and Master Degree from Oklahoma State University in animal science.

Mungle served as director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission working with Conservation districts in Oklahoma from 1986-1997.

Mungle worked for OFU/AFR in Coop Development and Legislative Affairs from 1997 to 2007. Duties included managing programs and legislative activities at the state and national levels for agriculture, rural and insurance issues.

He served as president of Farmers Royalty

Company until retirement in 2016. Farmers Royalty Company was established in 1928 as Farmers Union Cooperative Royalty Company. He is on the board and past state president of OK NARO and serves on the board of the Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program.

Garrett Barnett, Tahlequah, was elected to serve as the new leader for AFR in the position of Northeast Agent Director #3. Barnett manages Celeste Looney Insurance in Tahlequah, with his wife and co-owner, Brandi. He received his BBA at the University of Oklahoma with a major in Management Information Systems (MIS) in 1996. He entered the computer field when most businesses were beginning to realize the necessity of a presence on the Internet. Garrett worked the next 12 years at Hertz Car Rental. He led the team that set up reservation centers in Australia, Canada, and the United States. Then, in 2001 Garrett assumed management of the Internet Systems and Design team for hertz.com. In 2007, Garrett moved to corporate headquarters in New Jersey. He chose to leave in 2008 in favor of raising his young family in small town Oklahoma where public schools, 4-H and FFA are strong.

Terry Peach, Mutual, was re-elected to the AFR Board of Directors, representing the northwest independent district. Peach is the third generation to operate his family's 1898 homestead.

He earned a bachelor's in agricultural education from OSU and taught vo-ag at Cashion. He left his teaching career to go into business for himself, operating a feed business for many years. He also started Woodward Hull, an oilfield supply company that his son, Te, now operates.

Professionally, Peach has served as the USDA Farm Service Agency State Executive Director and as the Oklahoma Secretary and Commissioner of Agriculture from 2003 to 2011, managing a budget of up to \$50 million.

Peach has received the Honorary State and National FFA Degrees, the Oklahoma Wheat Commission Staff of Life Award, the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Distinguished Service Award, the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts President's Award and the USDA Distinguished Service Award. He has also served as president of the Southern U.S. Trade Association and the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

Bob Holley was re-elected to serve on the AFR board of directors, representing the southeast independent district. Holley was born and raised in rural Southeast Oklahoma on a small farm in the Pickens community. Family enterprises include beef cattle, market hogs and timber with the principal off-

farm income from timber harvesting for Choctaw Lumber Company later known as Weyerhaeuser Company.

His education was from Clebit, Oklahoma, then Battiest, graduating in 1957 in Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

Holley received an Associate's Degree in Agriculture in 1959 from Eastern Oklahoma A&M, Wilburton, and graduated with a BS Degree in Vocational Agriculture Education from OSU in 1961. Later that fall he completed one semester toward his Master's Degree.

After employment as a Vocational Agriculture Instructor for two terms at Wickes, Arkansas High School. He began working in 1965 as Assistant County Supervisor with USDA, Farmer's Home Administration (FMHA) in Pushmataha County in Antlers, Oklahoma where the agency made and serviced various types of loans.

Upon promotion to County Supervisor in 1968-69, he transferred to the Choctaw County Office in Hugo, Oklahoma where he served until 1979. After a promotion to District Director, he transferred to Atoka, Oklahoma where he supervised a minimum of 10 counties until retirement in July 1992.

Paul Jackson, Ringling, was re-elected to serve another term three-year term as AFR State Secretary.

A fourth-generation farmer/rancher, Jackson has a diverse agricultural background, including cow-calf, stocker cattle, wheat, rye, peanuts, cotton, hay and hogs.

Jackson serves on the boards of Love County Farmers Union & Local 741, Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program, Oklahoma 4-H Foundation and Midwest Shows Scholarship Program. He is a community volunteer, fireman, assistant pastor and church treasurer, and member of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Love County Historical Society, and Oklahoma Society of Association Executives.

Jackson chaired the NFU Policy Committee, served on the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Planning Committee, National Fire Ant Task Force and was appointed to the National Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board.

Jackson worked in Washington, D.C., on rural development and agriculture issues for an Oklahoma congressman and was the National Rural Water Association Professional Programs Director.

Jackson earned a degree in agricultural communications from OSU and has completed Leadership Love County and Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program.



**LEFT:** Colten Martin from Owasso, Okla. was awarded the 2017 AFR/AGR Winter Bonanza Scholarship. Pictured from left to right – Bray Haven, AGR Winter Bonanza chairman; Colten Martin, scholarship recipient; and Micaela Danker, AFR Youth Development Coordinator.

**MIDDLE:** AFR was proud to sponsor the Alpha Gamma Rho Winter Bonanza livestock show. The OSU fraternity honored AFR during a March 20 banquet at their house in Stillwater. This year AFR awarded two, \$500 scholarships.





Mike Dain, left, and State Rep. Scott Biggs, right, received the AFR Ag Advocacy award from AFR President Terry Detrick, center, during the 2017 AFR convention, Feb. 18.



Mike Dain, center, receives the Milt Hakel NFU Communications award from NFU President Roger Johnson, left, and AFR President Terry Detrick, March 6 at NFU convention in San Diego.

## State Rep. Scott Biggs receives AFR Agricultural Advocacy Award

State Rep. Scott Biggs, Chickasha, received the AFR Ag Advocacy award during the AFR annual banquet Feb. 18. The Ag Advocacy awards are a new addition to the AFR convention presentations.

“We wanted to recognize outstanding individuals for their outstanding advocacy for our industry,” said Terry Detrick, AFR president.

Rep. Biggs received the award, in part, due to his leadership on State Question 777, Right to Farm.

“I am extremely grateful to receive an award for doing something I love, advocating for agriculture,” Biggs said.

“The state question should be a wakeup call that we have to be more engaged in telling our story,” Biggs said.

Biggs and his family operate a livestock farm near Chickasha and are AFR members.

## Dain receives awards from NFU and AFR

Farm broadcaster Mike Dain was recognized for his outstanding communications and advocacy efforts at both the AFR and NFU conventions earlier this year.

At the AFR awards banquet, Dain received the AFR Ag Advocacy award.

The Ag Advocacy awards are a new addition to the AFR convention presentations.

“We wanted to recognize outstanding individuals for their outstanding advocacy for our industry,” said Terry Detrick, AFR president.

Dain, director of iHeart Radio’s First Oklahoma Ag/Voice of Southwest Agriculture/Yancey Ag Network, received the award for his lifetime of advocating for agriculture.

“I have devoted my professional career to reporting and advocating for rural and agricultural folks,” Dain said. “I am very honored to receive this award from AFR, an organization I have enormous admiration and respect for.”

Dain received the Milton D. Hakel Award for Excellence in Agricultural Communications at the NFU convention in San Diego, March 6.

“Agriculture communicators are increasingly important to providing a link between urban and rural communities, as well as the agriculture industry and

the general public. Mike’s insight into the viewpoints of family farmers, ranchers and rural citizens is what makes him an excellent communicator for the agricultural community and deserving of this award,” said NFU President Roger Johnson.

The Milton D. Hakel Award is presented to reporters or news outlets that demonstrate exceptional reporting of agricultural issues. The award was named in honor of Milton D. Hakel, a well-respected Farmers Union communicator.

Raised on a small farm near Newton, Kansas, Dain is no stranger to agriculture. He has been reporting on farm and rural issues for more than 35 years in both the radio and television industries. His contributions to the industry have received accolades, including awards from the Oklahoma Farmers Union, American Farmers & Ranchers, Oklahoma Wheat Commission, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, Oklahoma Cattlewomen’s Association, and the Oklahoma Pork Council.

“Mike is a journalist who understands agriculture and rural life. I appreciate his dedication to the industry and respect his fair and accurate reporting of the issues important to farmers and ranchers,” Johnson concluded.



(Left to right) Division 1 poster contest winners are Gabrielle Snyder, Maddilyn Taron, Kruz Shirey, Sumher Pritchett, Isaac Ervin.



(Left to right) Division 2 poster contest winners are Madison Savage, Breanna Wilson and Sydalee Kent.

## AFR announces 2017 poster winners

More than 4,000 Oklahoma elementary school students expressed their appreciation for farmers during the 2017 American Farmers & Ranchers poster contest.

“We are extremely pleased with the many creative ways students demonstrated with original artwork why we should thank our farmers and ranchers,” Micaela Danker, AFR youth development coordinator, said.

### Guidelines for the poster contest included:

- Posters must solely be the work of the student.
- Students may use crayons, markers, pens, pencils, etc.
- Posters were judged on originality, creativity, neatness, content and overall effect.
- There were two age divisions: Division I: Grades 1&2; and Division II: Grades 3&4.
- Cash scholarships were awarded to students in each division: First Place: \$100; Second Place: \$75; Third, Fourth & Fifth Place: \$50.

### Division I

- 1<sup>st</sup> — Maddilyn Taron, Barnard Elementary, Tecumseh
- 2<sup>nd</sup> — Gabrielle Snyder, Cimarron Elementary, Cimarron
- 3<sup>rd</sup> — Kruz Shirey, Barnard Elementary, Tecumseh
- 4<sup>th</sup> — Sumher Pritchett, Maryetta School, Stilwell
- 5<sup>th</sup> — Isaac Ervin, W.R. Teague Elementary, Wagoner

### Division II

- 1<sup>st</sup> — Madison Savage, Gracemont Elementary, Gracemont
- 2<sup>nd</sup> — Stone Davis, Carnegie Elementary, Carnegie
- 3<sup>rd</sup> — Breanna Wilson, Maryetta Elementary, Stilwell
- 4<sup>th</sup> — Savanna Key, W.R. Teague Elementary, Wagoner
- 5<sup>th</sup> — Sydalee Kent, Maryetta School, Stilwell

## AFR Women's Cooperative presents awards during annual luncheon

A number of awards were handed out to AFR leaders and supporters during the recent American Farmers & Ranchers annual state convention.

Special partners awarded this year included:

- Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma
- Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
- 2015-2016 AFR Youth Council
- Oklahoma Blood Institute

The AFR Women's Cooperative State Council presented Outstanding Service Awards to three organizations during their luncheon. Groups were recognized for going above and beyond throughout 2016 in their communities. Recipients included:

- Stephens County AFR. The county organization donated \$8,039 or one dollar per student to each school in their county.
- AFR Local 582 in Okmulgee County donated \$2,500 to the Twin Hills Public School system and spearheaded an effort to replace school buses damaged by vandalism.
- Harper and Beaver County AFR, Laverne Insurance, sponsored the Laverne Life Skills event to help high school seniors prepare for the future.

The Women's Cooperative also handed out awards to the top participants in the Drive Away Hunger with AFR campaign. Receiving awards for most pounds of food donated were:

- First place, Hofschulte Agency, Miami. They raised enough for a total of 667 meals or 800 pounds of food donated through a joint effort with their local 4-H and FFA chapters.
- Second place, Lincoln County AFR. They donated 162 meals or 196 pounds of food during their county annual meeting.
- Third place, Custer County AFR. They donated a total of 133 meals or 160 pounds of food during their food drive efforts.

Receiving awards for making the largest monetary donations to the food drive were:

- First place, Custer County. They donated \$750



2016 Drive Away Hunger with AFR most meals donated award goes to Custer County. Pictured left to right accepting the award are Nicole Jones, Donna Newsome and Suzanne Gilbert.

to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma with matches that is turned into a total of 3,750 meals.

- Second place, Oklahoma County. They donated \$533 to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma again with matches that equals a total of 2,615 meals donated.
- Third place, tie between Porter Insurance Agency, Edmond, and Tackett Insurance Agency, Ft. Cobb. Both donated \$500 to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma with matches a total of 2,500 meals were donated by each group.

The top award of the day, was presented to Custer County AFR for donating a total of 3,883 meals throughout the past year. Their name will be put on the traveling trophy to be displayed at the AFR home office.

The AFR Women's Cooperative also announced their 2017 council members. Serving as chairman will be Crystie Shebester, Chickasha. Other members include Suzanne Gilbert, Tecumseh, Debi Thompson, Carney, Geneva Bolenbaugh, Enid, Donna Newsome, Clinton, Pam Livingston, Seiling, Julie Brown, Sapulpa, and Stephanie Miller, Antlers.

The State council announced they will be working with the Oklahoma Blood Institute during 2017 initiative to attract at least one donor per county. New this year are grant opportunities available through the AFR WC to participate in the WC "Wanted Blood Drive" Initiative. Winners will be announced May 1st.

For more information and to see photos of the winners go to [www.iafr.com/womens-cooperative](http://www.iafr.com/womens-cooperative) or contact Megan Albright, (405) 218-5416, [malbright@afrmic.com](mailto:malbright@afrmic.com).

## AFR leader Carol Cowan selected for Significant Women in Ag Award

The words of praise gushed out like hard red winter wheat flowing from an auger to a parallel grain cart in the heart of harvest.

The question had been simple, "What impact has Carol Cowan's life had on agriculture in Oklahoma?"

Debbie Craig, a long-time employee of Wheeler Brothers Grain in Watonga didn't pause. She barely took a breath.

"Oh my gosh," she said, "Carol works herself to death. She's always working. Oh my, I can't say enough good words about this woman. We see Carol year-round, whether she's hauling fertilizer or wheat. She drives trucks, combines, and does any and everything that is needed. She takes meals to the field and then hauls wheat out of that field. She's what I would consider a 1950s farmwife."

Such a response is not uncommon. People throughout Oklahoma and the nation have benefited from Cowan's tireless commitment to agriculture and can't wait to sing her praises. In 2010 the Monsanto Company initiated an award called America's Farmers Mom of the Year. Cowan was not only chosen as the Southwest Region winner, but also went on to become the first national America's Farmers Mom of the Year award winner after receiving more than 4,600 online votes.

"I believe our country would have better people in it if they were all raised on a farm with Carol," friend Nancy Baker said. "She could show anyone how hard, honest work will make you happy and successful. Every family needs a mom like Carol."

This is part of a continuing series of stories

on Significant Women in Oklahoma Agriculture. The project is a collaborative program between the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry and Oklahoma State University to recognize and honor the impact of countless women across all 77 counties of the state, from all aspects and areas of the agricultural industry. The honorees were nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of 14 industry professionals.

Cowan, born in 1960, grew up on a farm in southwestern Oklahoma near Tipton.

"I always thought the dirtier I got while helping my dad, the more work it looked like I was doing," Cowan said. "I got an early start changing sweeps on the cultivator, driving the tractor with the pipe trailer while my parents laid irrigation pipe, chopping cotton and showing pigs in the 4-H. I was a little, short girl, but I could still make it up the side of those tall cotton trailers to tromp the cotton down so my dad could dump more cotton in before my mother pulled the trailer to the gin."

Cowan's parents were both from farming families also, Bill and Peggy Dunn. Her dad passed away in 1990 and her mother continues to live on the farm. Cowan is married to lifelong ag producer Rodney Cowan. His parents Orval and Gerri Cowan farmed also, as did their parents.

"I come from a long line of people getting their fingernails dirty," Cowan said.

Cowan has lived in Watonga in western Oklahoma all her married life and works alongside Rodney on their wheat, alfalfa and cattle operation. She is



Carol Cowan

a member of the American Farmers & Ranchers, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, First Baptist Church and the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program. She and her husband have four children: Ashley Cowan Neal and husband Jeff; Lance Cowan and wife Amy and sons Dalton and Matthew; Kelsey Cowan Shaw and

**("Cowan" cont'd on page 11)**

## ("Cowan" cont'd from page 10)

husband Kurtis and daughters Kinley and Kacie; Kari Cowan Hetherington and husband Colby and son Clark and daughter Abigail.

Rodney and Carol have previously served on American Farmers & Ranchers policy committee and were chosen by their local AFR to be at the state convention this year. Rodney and Carol were also chosen Blaine County farm family of the year in 1994 and 2004. Carol Cowan is also active in speaking to various groups, promoting agriculture. She has spoken at the state Ag in the Classroom Conference several times, including individual breakout sessions and panels. She has been a source in newspaper, radio and television reports about agriculture.

"First and foremost I must give the credit to my success in agriculture to my husband Rodney," Cowan said. "I had farming in my roots, but the reason I love farming and ranching and know what I know about the industry is because of my husband. To him I owe the credit for our family operation being so successful and staying current on the new applications for the farm. My husband has always been my biggest supporter, telling me I can do anything I put my mind to. Yes, I can drive that four-wheel drive tractor with the 54-foot implement behind me and not take out the fence at the end of the field."

Cowan graduated from Tipton High School in 1978, earned an Associate's Degree from Western Oklahoma State College in Altus in 1980 and then she and Rodney were married two weeks after she graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1982.

After farming with Rodney's family initially, Rodney and Carol farmed 1,200 acres when they first started out on their own. They purchased their first farm in 1994, consisting of 240 acres. They now farm more than 5,000 acres. They started out running 400 stocker calves and now it's more than 2,000 head. Cowan and her husband also pastures cattle in the Flint Hills of Kansas at the family ranch some summers.

"We keep increasing the number of acres we own to someday pass it on to our children to have our legacy continue," Cowan said. "We love what we do and want our children to carry on the tradition."

Their farming and ranching operation is very much family-centered.

"My first job helping out with the cattle operation was to check for bulls," she said. "Rodney told me that would be the best way for me to get used to the cattle, and it also helped him move them through the chute. When we get new calves in, Rodney works one side of the calf and I work the other. We are a true family operation, where our four children helped out in all capacities. We have three daughters, and one son right in the middle of them all. This is because we had our daughter Ashley, then Lance our son, then twin daughters Kelsey and Kari in a little over four years. At one point in time our girls were called 'the Cowan girls combine crew' because the three daughters ran the combines during our wheat harvest.

"We rarely have outside help on the farm, and if we do it is part-time."

Son Lance and daughter-in-law Amy are partners in the ag operation and both contribute greatly. Lance graduated from OSU with an Agribusiness degree and helps "keep us up-to-date on the technology part of the operation" as well as helping with the daily jobs on the farm. Amy was a state FFA officer in Connecticut and a national FFA officer candidate while in college and received an animal science degree from OSU. They have two

boys that are the "little farmers." Carol and Rodney's oldest daughter Ashley and her husband Jeff Neal have both completed their doctorates of chiropractic and own and operate two clinics. Twin daughters Kelsey and Kari also got an OSU degree and both are married and have two children of their own.

"They are fortunate to be stay at home mothers," Cowan said. "Kelsey has a BS degree in Animal Science and her husband Kurtis is a production engineer in the oil and gas industry. Kari has a BS in Health Education and Promotion and her husband Colby works for the water department at Oklahoma State University in the athletic department."

When Cowan looks at the grandchildren, the past yields some great memories.

"When I look at the grandkids I remember the times I would drive the tractor and have the twins on the floor sleeping, and have to make sure they weren't under the brake or clutch," Cowan said. "Our other two children would ride in the tractor with Rodney. I am proud to know all four of our children were farm raised, and are leading productive, happy lives."

“  
I come from a long  
line of people getting  
their fingernails dirty.”

Carol Cowan  
AFR Member



Megan Trantham and Brady Womack receive the AFR Outstanding Youth Award at the annual convention.

## AFR announces outstanding youth award

Two Oklahoma college students received the 2017 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.

Megan Trantham, Boise City, is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University. She has been active in AFR speech contests and other leadership activities including serving on the AFR Youth Advisory Council.

Brady Womack, Morris, is a sophomore at Connors State College. He has been active in AFR leadership events and also served on the Youth Advisory Council.

"This award is a way of recognizing individuals for their success and service," said Micaela Danker, AFR youth development coordinator. "Both of these students have been very active in our youth programs and continue to give back to AFR and their communities by serving as volunteers throughout the year. These students have exemplified true leadership and involvement and we are confident in these young people's ability to lead their peers."



Recently AFR Women's Cooperative sponsored the "Grow" event by Farmher in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Grow is designed to inspire and empower young women in agriculture to take an active role in the agriculture industry. In addition to sponsoring the event, the Women's Cooperative also sponsored attendees from across the state. Pictured Left to Right: Brooklan Light, Kaci Livingston, Megan Trantham, Amberley Snyder, Holly Carroll, Micaela Danker and Rachel Buford.



The top 10 AFR Ag Achievement award winners were announced at OYE March 16. From left, AFR President Terry Detrick, Parker Cantrell, Skiatook FFA, Maggie Martens, Fairview FFA, Ryli Powell, Ringwood FFA, Dalton Miller, Amber-Pocasset FFA, Nicole Stevens, Yukon FFA, Brianna Roat, Edmond FFA, Cade Miller, Hinton FFA, Amy Larson, Tecumseh FFA, Taryn Campbell, Alfalfa County 4-H, Danielle Hawkins, Wellston FFA, Micaela Danker, AFR youth development coordinator.

# You're invited!

## AFR DAY AT THE CAPITOL & LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

**TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017**

**AFR DAY AT THE CAPITOL:  
MEET AT 1:30 P.M. AT THE  
AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS HOME OFFICE**

4400 WILL ROGERS PARKWAY, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

**RECEPTION:  
5:30 - 7:30 P.M. AT THE  
OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER**

800 NAZIH ZUHDI DRIVE, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

RSVP BY MAY 1, 2017

STEVE THOMPSON • 405.630.5644 • [STHOMPSON@AFRMIC.COM](mailto:STHOMPSON@AFRMIC.COM)

**AFR**  
INSURANCE

## Legislative Update

By Steve Thompson

As the Oklahoma Legislature enters the final month of the 2017 regular session, most eyes are still focused on state budget issues. With an almost \$900 million deficit to overcome, the challenge has been daunting.

According to Governor Mary Fallin, “we have had minimal discussions on the state budget. “You’ve seen basically nothing pass at this point in the time as far as investing in core services and revenue enhancements for our state.”

AFR will be working to protect our members and preserve rural communities as many critical issues move in the last weeks of the session. If you have a question or comment on anything at the Capitol, please let us know. We would also like for you to join us in OKC on May 9, as we gather as a group to lobby the legislature. See the graphic above for details.

### HB 1374 — Public Safety Protection Districts

Would authorize municipalities to call for the creation of Public Safety Protection Districts, funded by increases in property taxes of up to 5 percent, for the operation and maintenance of police, fire, jail and emergency medical services. This is one of many possible ad valorem tax increases being considered this year.

### SB 618 — Teacher Pay Raises

Would provide a 4 percent (\$1,500/year) teacher pay increase in 2017 and another 4 percent in 2018. However, the measure does not address how the raises

would be funded. The bill’s author stated during floor debate that an increase in the fuel tax would be his preferred funding source.

### HB 1845 — Real ID

After almost a decade of defiance, the state legislature has finally made the necessary adjustments for Oklahoma drivers licenses to become compliant with the federal REAL ID Act. HB 1845 set a blazing pace through the process in 2017 and was the first bill to successfully navigate the course to Governor Fallin’s desk. With her signature, state-issued identification will remain valid for boarding planes and entering federal facilities.

### SB 615 — Feral Hogs

Would remove the authority Department of Wildlife game wardens have to regulate night shooting of feral swine. The Governor vetoed a similar bill in 2016 due to public safety and poaching concerns and is also expected to do the same this year if this measure makes it to her office.

### SB 493 — Consumer Protection

Would repeal the state law that prohibits businesses from charging more than the listed price for most products or from intentionally misleading or deceiving consumers. Would also repeal the law that requires accurate weights and measurements on items such as animal feed and grocery store meat and produce.



## AFR SPONSORS CONNORS JUDGING CONTEST

AFR was once again a proud sponsor of the 2017 Connors State Aggie Day livestock judging contest, April 6, in Warner, Okla.



## AFR SPONSORS CATTLE GRADING CONTEST

AFR President Terry Detrick welcomed a large crowd, estimated at over 500, to the commercial cattle grading contest at OKC West Livestock Market in El Reno, April 7. AFR was one of the sponsors.

## AFR delegates support immigration reform, other issues during annual meeting

Policies on immigration reform, REAL ID driver's licenses, better access to healthcare for U.S military veterans, "ag friendly county" designation, and the agriculture mediation program were among the issues attracting support during the recent convention of the American Farmers & Ranchers.

"We had more than 800 delegates from across the state actively involved in the policy process," said Terry Detrick, AFR president. "This was a true grass roots effort to support issues critical to agriculture and rural Oklahoma."

Specifically, AFR delegates said "We support comprehensive overhaul of the federal immigration system in order to safeguard the multi-billion dollar American agriculture industry, which currently lacks a stable legal workforce."

The delegates voiced strong support for the Oklahoma legislature to establish an "agriculture friendly" county program to help recruit and develop new and expanded agriculture operations and agribusinesses in Oklahoma.

A measure supporting the passage of legislation to bring Oklahoma drivers licenses into compliance with the federal REAL ID act was also passed by the voting body.

Delegates passed policy supporting veterans receiving healthcare at the local hospital if the care they need exists in that location.

In a special order, AFR members re-enforced support for the agriculture mediation program, as they requested inclusion of guaranteed funding for the program in the next farm bill.

Other issues drawing support included:

- Sales tax on internet purchases
- Military veteran healthcare options
- Nuisance lawsuits against agriculture producers & agribusinesses
- State collaborations with tribal governments
- Livestock market branding regulations
- Deer hunting regulations

There was also growing concern among AFR members about the threat of increased property taxes.

"We've always felt strongly about protecting private property rights and limiting ad valorem taxes," Detrick said. "Our members made it clear this is a major concern."



(Left to right) AFR Collegiate leadership team members Ryan Danker, K.C. Barnes, Whitney Wilkinson, Hallie Barnes, Brynn Danker, Megan Trantham, Emily Wilkinson.

## OSU students create Collegiate AFR club

By Whitney Wilkinson, Collegiate AFR President

Oklahoma State University College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources students hosted the inaugural meeting of Collegiate American Farmers & Ranchers, April 7 on the OSU campus.

Ryan Danker, CAFR vice president and an agribusiness junior, said he is excited to give students the opportunity to get involved in a new student organization.

"I have been involved with American Farmers & Ranchers since I was nine years old," Danker said. "I wanted to be an officer in CAFR so I would be able to share all of the wonderful experiences AFR has to offer."

"Giving students an opportunity to be involved on campus and in CASNR will open many doors to them. We are reaching out to all students to see who interested in becoming involved."

K.C. Barnes, CAFR treasurer and an animal science and agricultural communications senior, said he spent the past few months advertising the new student organization around campus.

"CAFR is different than most student organizations," K.C. Barnes said. "We are part of a parent organization based in Oklahoma City, Okla."

AFR has worked since 2007 trying to establish an organization on campus, K.C. Barnes said.

"This year we were able to do this with a small group of students and AFR staff members," K.C. Barnes said.

K.C. Barnes said AFR has a strong youth program which includes speech contests, livestock judging contests and a leadership summit.

"Many students at OSU are better leaders and communicators because of AFR's youth programs,

Barnes said. "Until this semester there was no way for collegiate students to stay involved with AFR. AFR can open many doors to students if they are willing to get involved."

K.C. Barnes said his family is involved with AFR through leadership programs, agricultural policy and insurance. AFR is a family oriented organization and will present CAFR to OSU students with the same open family environment, he said.

Hallie Barnes, CAFR secretary and an animal science and agribusiness junior, said she worked to organize the first meeting and advertise the new organization.

"I printed our flyers and took them to student life to get approval to hang around campus," Hallie Barnes said. "If students see our flyers hanging around they will be more likely to come to our first meeting."

Hallie Barnes said serving on the AFR Youth Advisory Council in high school allowed her to meet some of the most amazing people in Oklahoma.

"It brought me out of my quiet shell and opened me to endless possibilities. Students are looking for an opportunity to be involved," Hallie Barnes said. "We are going to have fun meetings but also meetings that will give them a stronger leadership background."

All of the CAFR officers have attended AFR leadership summit and they will draw from those experiences to make CAFR a success, Hallie Barnes said.

Danker said they are looking for students who would like to be in leadership positions.

"CAFR is a place for OSU students who want to be involved with leadership and agriculture, and they are welcome to join," Danker said.

## Recovering from a traumatic experience

By Taylor Randolph, MCP, MTS, LPC/LADC-S, Instructor of Psychology at NWSU

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the recent wildfires and severe weather outbreaks across the state, this information may be helpful.

Traumatic experiences can be very detrimental to child development if not properly addressed. Though all people naturally experience grief related to loss, symptoms persisting beyond 30 days may warrant professional help. Traumatic events may induce acute stress reactions in which people may have:

- Disturbing or distressing memories
- Intrusive thoughts of the event
- Flashbacks of the event (feeling as though it is still happening)
- Nightmares (especially in children)
- Repetitive themes in play in which the

traumatic experience is acted out (for children)

- Intense feelings of anxiety
- Negative mood most of the time most days
- Efforts to avoid thoughts of the event or reminders of the event
- Irritability
- Trouble concentrating
- Exaggerated startle response
- Insomnia (inability to fall or stay asleep)

These may be signs of PTSD or other psychological pain. Help is available.

For children and family consultation, please contact Melinda Schuster, LPC in Woodward at (580) 254-5322 or Western Plains Youth and Family Services, Inc. (580) 254-5322.



A burned fence post marks where the devastating fires crossed northwest Oklahoma.

## County AFR groups receive awards

American Farmers & Ranchers recognized three AFR County organizations for outstanding achievement during the past year at their recent annual convention.

The county groups received the Five Star award, which is the top award for county AFR groups, during the AFR annual banquet, Feb. 18 in Norman.

Receiving the awards were Beckham, Love and Wagoner counties.

“We wanted to recognize the many great things our county organizations do each year,” Terry Detrick, AFR President said.

To receive the Five Star award, counties must achieve 100 percent based on activity in four key areas: 1) County Officers and Board of Directors organized and become actively engaged county-wide. 2) Actively promote and support AFR Policy Positions county-wide. 3) Actively recruit, promote, and support AFR Youth Programs and Adult Education. 4) Create and implement new ways to support AFR in improving rural and community life in Oklahoma.

Here are a few of the activities that garnered Beckham County the award:

- Hosted the 17th annual Eggs and Issues breakfast at the Elk City Farm and Home Show. This has been a long standing tradition that attracts a large regional audience and is a tremendous community service project.
- Sponsored the Elk City leadership III program.
- Made significant donations to the Beckham County fire departments, the Beckham-Mills Burn Association, and the north Fork of the Red River Conservation District’s Outdoor Classroom.
- Made numerous presentations to area groups on the merits of SQ777, Right to Farm.
- Sponsored local youth livestock activities including high school rodeo and junior heifer show.

For Love County, the list included:

- Members from both local 300 and 741 hosted NFU President Roger Johnson during a summer visit to Oklahoma.
- Love County AFR members helped launch a public safety memorial fund to honor deceased law enforcement, fire department and other emergency responders who gave their lives in service.
- Raised funds to provide safety equipment for Love County Sheriff’s department.
- Sponsored a health fair focused on the senior community needs.
- Organized and sponsored a benefit dinner and other events that raised more than \$15,000 to help a local family with medical expenses.

In Wagoner County, AFR members received the Five Star award for activities that included:

- Sponsored local and county-wide livestock shows.
- Co-sponsored the Wagoner County Soil Conservation breakfast.
- Established and sponsored scholarships for local youth.
- Sponsored a “Farm to You” Exhibit at Wagoner Ellington Elementary School.
- Sponsored 10 youth to attend the AFR Leadership Summit. Fun fact...7 of the 10 were not AFR members at the time but after Local 724 paid for their membership, we now have new AFR members insured with AFR... simply because these families could see AFR really cares about their families.

“All of these counties accomplished a lot more than we have room to list,” Detrick said. “We’re talking 12, 15, 20 activities or more. These County AFR members are indeed improving the lives of rural Oklahomans.”



Cody Crow, Elk City, (left) represented Beckham County as it received the AFR Five Star award from AFR President Terry Detrick at the AFR convention Feb. 18.



Members of the Love County AFR received the AFR Five Star award from AFR President Terry Detrick (right) at the AFR convention Feb. 18.



Members of the Wagoner County AFR received the AFR Five Star award from AFR President Terry Detrick (left) and District 3 Board of Director Marion Schauffer, (right) at the AFR convention Feb. 18.

# Severe weather is upon us

By John Foster, Claims Manager, AFR Insurance

Dealing with severe weather is a part of living in Oklahoma. As we head into severe weather season, it's important to think about what to do before a storm hits, what to do after a storm and how best to report a claim if you've sustained damage to your property.

A little planning before a storm can help avoid some headaches after a storm. You should create a "Family Communication Plan" and a "Storm Kit".

The family communication plan should contain the names, physical addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for the following:

- Neighborhood Meeting Place – in the event of a disaster, where should your family members go to make sure everyone is safe?
- Regional Meeting Place – in case your neighborhood meeting place is inaccessible, where should your alternate location be?
- Family Information – include social security numbers and medical conditions and information including prescriptions.
- Medical Contact – Doctors, pediatrician, dentist, specialists, pharmacist, veterinarian.
- Insurance information – include health insurance and auto/property insurance.
- School Information – where is the evacuation location for the school?
- Work Information – where is the evacuation location for your work place?
- Out-of-Town Contact – sharing your plan with a relative or friend who is in a location different than you is a good idea in case you don't have access to your information.

When building a storm kit, keep in mind you may need to survive on your own for a period of time. Be sure to have your own food, water and other supplies for 72 hours. Other supplies could include:

- Prescriptions
- Glasses
- Pet food
- Infant formula and diapers
- Copies of important documents including insurance policies, bank account information, credit card, birth certificates, etc
- Money
- First aid kit
- Clothing
- Blankets
- Flashlights
- Batteries

Be sure to listen to radio and television stations when severe weather is approaching. Pay close attention to watches and especially warnings in your

area and take appropriate precautions and safety measures to avoid injury.

After an event occurs, make sure your family members are safe and accounted for and the basics of food, shelter and clothing are taken care of, contact your AFR agent to report your claim. An adjuster will

contact you as quickly as possible. Keep track of your expenses and any receipts related to the storm. If you can safely do so, take pictures of damaged property with your phone or a digital camera.

Remember, property can be replaced. The lives of you and your loved ones are precious.

## Firing up food safety

By Melanie Jackson, FAPC Graduate Communications Assistant

Whether they're deep-fried in batter, sautéed with mushrooms or raw to garnish a hamburger or taco, onions are a staple menu item.

Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center, a part of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, is teaming up with Unitherm Food Systems Inc. in Bristow, Oklahoma, to focus on onion food safety.

This widely consumed, versatile vegetable is susceptible to environmental insults because of being grown in and on the ground during long periods, said Peter Muriana, FAPC food microbiologist.

"They're out there in the open, possibly to receive any kind of fecal contamination from birds, rodents, deer, rabbits, you name it," Muriana said. "The produce is out there for weeks or months at a time before it's harvested, so plenty of opportunity for bacteria to get onto these products."

While food safety has always been a major concern for producers and consumers, the 2011 Listeria monocytogenes outbreak in cantaloupe prompted extra vigilance in preventing L. monocytogenes in other fruits and vegetables.

"Listeria is known to make biofilms in food-processing environments," Muriana said. "They likely also make biofilms on produce. The concern is, just like any type of pathogen disseminated in animal feces that can get on produce, if listeria were to do the same, it has additional significance because it can also make biofilms. Biofilms are difficult to eliminate because they can resist the affects of sanitizing agents."

Unitherm Food Systems, a market leader in innovative equipment technologies for pasteurization, cooking and chilling of raw, partially cooked and fully cooked food products and agricultural food commodities, developed a gas-fired flame grill to help reduce bacteria in products. Onions are moved along a conveyer belt and hit with flames to burn the outer layer where the bacteria would reside. A secondary

system with a wet scrub brush is used to remove the ash residue from the onions.

"The motivation to develop the process was a direct result of recalls of contaminated onions in Washington and California," said David Howard, president and chief executive officer of Unitherm Food Systems. "The research has already proven beneficial both domestically and internationally."

Muriana collaborated with Unitherm for microbial validation of the system. The research team looked at yeast, mold and listeria on red, yellow and white onions and quantified how much bacteria remained after going through the system.

To address potential contamination by pathogens, the research team inoculated with a non-pathogenic listeria – Listeria innocua, which was used as a surrogate organism instead of the pathogen.

"The knockdown we get, the drop in numbers, should be similar to what there might be if L. monocytogenes was on that product," Muriana said.

This system is beneficial because the onions are cleaned without physical manipulation or yield loss.

"They can provide intact onions with the outer layers removed that can be shipped or further processed in a safer manner than if you were to cut pieces off," Muriana said.

Eliminating the bacteria on the outer layer is important for consumers, too. Preparing onions for consumption typically involves cutting, and if Listeria is on the outside of the onion, it is dragged to the inside or onto the cutting surface with each slice.

"I think our data is going to validate that their process works well in what it is intended to do," Muriana said. "It provides Unitherm with an opportunity to provide a piece of equipment to onion processors to make their products safer for consumption."

The validation has already helped Unitherm Food Systems provide this food-safety process for companies around the world.



### SOUTHWEST STEAK LAYERED SALAD

TOTAL RECIPE TIME: 45 MINUTES

MAKES 6 SERVINGS

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 beef Flank Steak (about 1-1/2 to 2 pounds)
- 2 chipotle peppers in adobo sauce, finely chopped
- 3 medium ears corn, unhusked
- 9 cups coarsely chopped romaine lettuce
- 1-1/2 cups chopped tomatoes
- 1 can (15 to 16 ounces) black beans, rinsed, drained
- 2-1/2 cups coarsely crushed tortilla chips

#### Dressing:

- 1 large ripe avocado, mashed (about 3/4 cup)
- 3/4 cup prepared ranch dressing
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 tablespoon adobo sauce

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Whisk dressing ingredients in medium bowl until blended. Remove 1/2 cup for marinade and stir in chipotle peppers. Cover and reserve remaining dressing in refrigerator. Place beef steak and chipotle marinade in food-safe plastic bag; turn steak to coat. Close bag securely and marinate in refrigerator 6 hours or as long as overnight, turning occasionally. Pull back husks from corn, leaving husks attached. Remove and discard corn silk. Bring husks back up around corn; tie in place with kitchen string or strips of corn husk. Soak in cold water 30 minutes to 1 hour. Remove steak from marinade; discard marinade. Remove corn from water. Place steak in center of grid over medium, ash-covered coals; arrange corn on grid around steak. Grill corn, covered, 20 to 30 minutes or until tender, turning occasionally. Grill steak 11 to 16 minutes for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally. Remove steak; let stand 5 minutes. Husk corn; cut kernels from cobs. Cut steak lengthwise in half; carve each half across the grain into thin slices. Layer 1/2 of lettuce, corn, 1/2 of beef, tomatoes and beans in 4-quart glass salad bowl or 13 x 9-inch glass baking dish. Top with remaining lettuce and beef. Drizzle with, reserved dressing. Top with tortilla chips just before serving. Serve immediately or cover and refrigerate for up to 2 hours.



AFR President Terry Detrick is the first donor in the 2017 Women's Cooperative "Wanted Blood Drive" initiative.



We so appreciate all of the volunteers at the 2017 OYE Women's Cooperative Blood Drive.

## Blood Drive proves success at OYE

By *Crystie Shebester, AFR Women's Cooperative Council Chair*

Hello everyone! I hope you had a wonderful time at the AFR Convention in February. As announced at convention, I have been blessed to serve as the 2017-2018 AFR Women's Cooperative (WC) State Council Chairman. For those of you that I have not had a chance to meet yet, let me tell you a little bit about myself. My roots run deep in Grady County, as I am the 3rd generation to operate a small beef cattle operation in Alex. My husband and I have two boys that are extremely involved in many aspects in agriculture, but most of our time is helping them with their show steers. I also am the 3rd generation to own and operate the Taylor-Shebester Insurance Agency in Chickasha. As an agent with AFR, I've had the opportunity to meet many incredible members, agents and AFR staff members. Many of those individuals have also been involved with the AFR WC. The AFR WC activities are geared towards ladies that currently have an active AFR membership. However, the group's initiatives are open to anyone wanting to get more involved in their local community through cooperation.

The AFR WC State Council launched this year's initiative as the "Wanted" Blood Drives in partnership with the Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI). OBI is the local, non-profit blood provider for our state and deeply committed to Oklahomans and Oklahoma hospitals first. In fact, they are the sole provider of blood to almost 90% of the hospitals in Oklahoma. On average they need more than 1,000 donors every day to meet the needs of local patients.

The ladies have challenged local and county AFR members to get a donor from every county to a blood drive throughout 2017. We encourage you to contact Sharon Ash at [Sharon.ash@obi.org](mailto:Sharon.ash@obi.org) or call 405-419-1374 with OBI to host a blood drive or get involved with your local blood drive already in place.

The WC state council hosted a very successful blood drive during the Oklahoma Youth Expo in early March. Over 100 people signed up to donate during the event. Donors received a free AFR shirt, OBI anniversary shirt and a pork sandwich. The partnership between OYE, OBI, Oklahoma Pork Council and AFR WC was a great success, we hope to make this an annual event. In fact this event was such a success we decided to partner with the Oklahoma FFA Association to host another state wide drive during the State FFA Convention. This drive will take place May 2nd and 3rd in the career show.

In addition to the state blood drives a new addition to the WC program are local and county grants sponsored by the WC. Applications are due April 15th and grants will be awarded by May 1st to local and county AFR groups wishing to host a blood drive in their local community. Please go online to [www.iafr.com/womens-cooperative](http://www.iafr.com/womens-cooperative) for more information.

Other opportunities coming up with the WC include their annual State Conference and the Oklahoma Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference. Both taking place the first of August. Be on the lookout for more information about both events.

## AFR LEAD PROGRAM HAS A BUSY START TO SPRING

The 2nd annual legislative Farm & Ranch Forums at the K101 Farm Expo in Woodward, OK. Area legislators including Representative Mike Sanders, Representative Carl Newton and Senator Bryce Marlatt made remarks and answered questions from constituents at the event. AFR Director of Government Relations, Steve Thompson visited with attendees about current issues at the state capitol.



Representative Carl Newton addresses attendees at the 2nd Annual Legislative Farm & Ranch Forums at the K101 Farm Expo in Woodward, OK.



Representative Mike Sanders and Senator Bryce Marlatt answered questions from constituents at the 2nd Annual Legislative Farm & Ranch Forums during the K101 Farm Expo.



State LEAD Council members Matt Boyer and Charles Rohla present about the new LEAD initiative during the State AFR convention. This year the group is focusing efforts on Advocating in Agriculture specifically Food Production.





LEAD Academy Session 1 participants learn about using their leadership skills to set priorities and goals in the future.



LEAD Academy Session 2 allowed participants to tour the Capitol and hear from state legislators. They wrapped up the day meeting with their legislators discussing concerns for local areas.

## LEAD program offers valuable opportunities to AFR members

By Bailey Kliever, AFR LEAD State Council Chair

One drop in the bucket, one drop was a start. I remember all those hot summer days as a high school student when I had feed my families animals. It would be one hundred and twenty degree and it felt like the sun was aiming just for me.

Funny how the start of water brought such promise, after one drop fell into that bucket the water was soon overflowing and I could find some relief myself. It just takes one drop to see that change in our lives as well.

American Farmers & Ranchers has witnessed some pretty amazing things happen in just a short time with the development of the LEAD Program. Launched two years ago the Leadership Exploration And Development (LEAD) was designed to be a diverse, flexible and innovative program to assist in the needs of growing Oklahoma through informed leaders. The program has since evolved to offer a variety of events.

I serve as the LEAD State Council Chair. As a product of the AFR youth program, and an Agricultural Education Instructor at Burns-Flat Dill

City I saw the value of the educational opportunities through LEAD. Over the years being involved in many aspects of AFR I felt the LEAD program was the next chapter in my AFR involvement.

The skills I learned as an AFR youth participant launched me into the leadership role on the State Council. LEAD offers many leadership possibilities including the state council and district committees.

We would love to have you involved! Attend your next district meeting to find out how. LEAD District Meeting Dates:

SW District LEAD Meeting- June 17th

NW District LEAD Meeting- July 15th

NE District LEAD Meeting- August 26th

SE District LEAD Meeting- September 30th

The newest LEADership component to the program is the LEAD Academy. Each year a group of individuals are selected to participate from across the state. The program is designed to inform future leaders of AFR about Education, Legislation, Cooperation and Leadership. The academy meets four times a year and also offers a mentor program to participants. We

encourage you to apply for the program this fall.

If you are interested in networking the LEAD State Conference is for you. This event focuses on not only developing LEADership skills but is a great time to meet new and old friends from across the state. Each year the conference is held in a different part of the state to highlight the diversity of Oklahoma.

What LEAD participants are most excited about the initiative for 2017. The LEAD program is focusing its attention on the need to advocate for agriculture specifically food production. Go online to learn more about this unique cause. A great opportunity to learn more about this initiative will be the Noble Foundation Tour on May 19th from 10-4. We plan to tour the learning center and will have a special train the trainer program covering teaching and communicating food production systems.

As the program grows and develops we hope you will join us at the next event. For more information about our events and programs go to [www.iafr.com/lead](http://www.iafr.com/lead).



Oklahoma's Ray Miller presides over NFU delegate session.



Robert Thompson speaks during the business session.

## AFR members attend NFU Convention in San Diego

Oklahoma was well represented at the 2017 The National Farmers Union (NFU) 115th Anniversary Convention in early March.

AFR members had an active part in the adoption of the NFU policy book and special orders of business. Nearly 500 family farmers and ranchers convened in San Diego both to engage in thoughtful policy deliberations, as well as to learn from agricultural experts and each another.

The adopted policy book and special orders of business will guide the organization's government affairs priorities over the course of the next year, including the current farm crisis and upcoming deliberations on the 2018 Farm Bill.

"As a family farmer and rancher-led organization, our grassroots policy adoption process is the most important part of our annual convention," said NFU President Roger Johnson. "This year, NFU delegates adopted strong language to address a variety of issues facing family agriculture and rural communities, including the depressed farm economy, corporate consolidation, and international trade."

The convention featured two high-level panels on federal farm bill and conservation issues, as well

as remarks from industry leaders from a variety of agricultural sectors.

"Our programming provides members with the opportunity to learn more about the issues facing their operations and communities, and it sets the stage for how the national organization should address those issues back in Washington," said Johnson. "With deliberations beginning on the upcoming farm bill, this year's panel discussions provided valuable insight, important context, and diverse viewpoints that will shape the debate."

As a means of providing the organization a prescriptive set of priorities, 136 delegates from 33 states approved six special orders of business:

- Family Farming and Crisis Relief
- Family Farming and Farm Bills
- Family Farming and Trade Policy
- Family Farming and Leading the Way on Climate Change
- Family Farming and Expanded Higher Ethanol Blend Utilization
- Family Farming and Dairy Policy

Full text of the adopted policy manual will be available soon at [www.nfu.org](http://www.nfu.org).

# AFR TODAY

# TRADINGPOST

## Livestock

For Sale - Pasture raised yearling Angus bulls. 20 years of history raising Angus cattle. Reasonably priced. Call 918/538-2398.

For Sale - Registered PureBred Limousin Bulls, \$2,000 and Heifers, \$1,350. Homozygous and Heterozygous available. Call Jerry 580/367-9883.

For Sale - Reg. Longhorn bulls, 18 months old, fertility tested, Hunts Command Respect/Jamakizm bloodlines. Call 405/830-8489.

For Sale - Beefmasters. Proven herd bulls and yearling prospects. Body scans and EPD's available. Heavy weaning weights and high quality have let us survive for 42 years. Call 580/456-7226 or 580/513-4113.

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

For Sale - Brangus Bulls – Gentle, Low Birth Weight, 24 months, Shawnee Area. Call 405/201-8552.

For Sale - Registered Longhorn starter herds. Registered Longhorn bulls, heifers and bred cows start at \$950 each. See pictures on our website at [www.cattlecallranch.com](http://www.cattlecallranch.com) or call 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 - Plemmons Angus Ranch 40 bulls, 18 months old for sale. Battiest, OK. Call 580/306-1024.

For Sale - Brangus bulls and fancy replacement heifers. Top quality genetics, gentle dispositions. Delivery available. Horsehead Ranch. [www.horseheadranch.net](http://www.horseheadranch.net) Call 918/695-2357.

For Sale - Registered Angus bulls. AI sired and fertility tested. Breeding aged and ready to go to work. Asher, OK. Call 580/421-2355.

For Sale - Reg. Polled Hereford bulls. 8-13 months old. Remitall Online 122L and PW Victor Boomer P606 genetics. 48 years breeding registered Polled Herefords. Call 580/332-2468.

For Sale - BIG STOUT LIMOUSIN BULLS. Gentle, growthy, LBW. Add 50-75 lbs. to your weaning weights. Top the market. Semen tested, vaccinated, wormed. Over 4,000 bulls sold since 1970. Kusel Limousins. Call 580/759-6038.

For Sale - Angus bred cows, pairs, heifers and bulls. See pictures on our website at [www.cattlecallranch.com](http://www.cattlecallranch.com) or call 580/364-6592. Atoka

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

## In Search of:

Wanted - I loan money on Mineral Rights. Any county like Carter, Grady, Kingfisher or Blaine: states like Oklahoma, North Dakota. If you need a loan or want to sell. Call 580/227-2456.

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

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

## Household Items

For Sale - Piano, good condition, Gulbrason, well made for sound, Shawnee. Call 405/201-8552.

For Sale - Kenmore Freezer-17 cubic ft-white, manual defrost, 9 shelves, large bottom basket-great condition. \$275. Call 405/896-5121.

For Sale - Portable GE dishwasher with cutting board. Like new \$300. Call 405/896-5121.

For Sale - Queen size sheet set, good condition \$8.50. Queen size bed spread like new \$65. King size w ruffles, blue, really pretty, good condition \$40. Call 405/896-5121.

## Farm & Ranch Equipment

For Sale - Massey Ferguson 1100 diesel tractor. Has the Perkins Diesel engine, PTO, 3pt, cab, dozer blade. Runs good, needs work on the steering. Like new rear tires. \$3,750. Call 580/829-3153.

For Sale - iCase 830 LP row crop 65hp tractor, runs good, needs one rear tire. Has case-o-matic transmission, PTO, and 3pt. \$1500. Call 580/829-3153.

For Sale - 1948 John Deere Row Crop B (Gas). Serial #221648. \$2,100. Call or text 918/869-8855.

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

For Sale - Memo tractor front end loader, self-leveling, with bucket, for 60-100 hp tractor. Was taken off of a John Deere 4020. Pins are tight, all take grease. \$2,100. Call 580/829-3153.

For Sale - 1977 Chevy tandem axle wheat truck, sur-lock tarp with tailgate auger. Call 580/886-3345.

For Sale - 6 ft. Cattle feeder, new tires. Call 580/886-3345.

For Sale - 26 ft. Krause disc/new disc and bearings on front. Call 580/886-3345.

For Sale - 32 ft. Jaworsky field cultivator, older style. Call 580/886-3345.

For Sale -2012 Model GMD 9 ft. Disc. Mower E.C. Guaranteed \$5,500. Big Cabin, OK. Call 918/783-5515.

For Sale - Lely Mower Dolly \$1,500, Big Cabin, OK. Call 918/783-5515.

For Sale - Bush Hog Front End Loader, Fits 35 to 65 horsepower tractors. \$700. Call 580/829-3153.

## Hay, Feed & Seed

For Sale - Alfalfa Hay-3x3x8, 3x4x8, 4x4x8 squares, and Round Bales. Grass Hay Round Bales. Call for Pricing. Asher, OK. Call 580/421-2355.

## Boats, RVs, Campers & Trailers

For Sale- 2002 Forest River Sierra 5th Wheel w/Slide Out Gooseneck adapter. One owner. No Smoking or Pets. New AC's, Awning. Lots of Storage. Like New Inside. Everything Works \$9,800. Call 580/625-4454.

## Miscellaneous

For Sale - Cement Mixer. \$150. Call 405/896-5121.

For Sale - Border Collie Pups, Born Dec. 15, 2016, Working Parents. \$400. Call 580/336-8766 or 580/455-2481.

For Sale - Senco Air Guns SFN11, SN IV, M 11 Lots of nails and staples, used for hobby, nice case \$350. Call 405/659-5047.

For Sale - Sioux Valve Grinder, Serial # 1248, Model #40V505, \$275. Call 405/624-2448.

For Sale - 10 inch Ryobi Planer, with rollers, \$75. Call 405/659-5047.

For Sale - Rocks all sizes. You haul them. Use for Water Ponds, Flower Beds, Landscaping. Near Catoosa, OK/Tulsa. Call 918/636-3934.

For Sale - 5 acres of Wooded Hickory, Blackjack timbered land, 6.5 miles from Little River State Park, Thunderbird Lake. Fenced. \$30,000. Call 405/899-7203.

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 - 1981 Liberty 2 bedroom and 1 bath as is \$500. You move! Has roof leaks. Bethel Area. Call 405/740-4307.

For Sale - In Eakly, Nice 2 bedroom, 2 bath, brick home, with basement, 2 car garage, nice front and backyard. Front w porch and back w patio. Storage building in back. \$85,000. Call 405/687-0375.

**DUE DATE FOR SUMMER ISSUE OF AFR TODAY: JUNE 1**

**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.

## OBITUARIES

### JACK MCLANE

Jack McLane, father of AFR Agent Jackson McLane, passed away March 5, 2017, in Anadarko. Jack became an agent for AFR/OFU in October, 1963 and served as a loyal agent until his retirement in March, 2007.

Here is his official obituary:

Jack McLane Jr., 92, was born Dec. 27, 1924 in El Reno to Jackson McLane Sr. and Rubye (Fisher) McLane and passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by his loving family on March 5, 2017. Jack married the love of his life, Alyce Tackett, in 1944. They were happily married for 61 years. From this union was born four children, Linda, Rebecca, Ann and Jackson III. A 1942 graduate of Verden High School, he later attended Oklahoma A&M (Oklahoma State University) where he was on the Dean's Honor Roll and was awarded the American Farmer Degree in 1944. He then joined the United States Army and served during World War II. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Verden where he led the singing for many years, a member of the Anadarko Masonic Lodge 21, served 10 years as a member of the Verden School Board and Riverside Indian School advisory board member. Jack served on the community A.S.C.S. Committee, Caddo County F.H.A. Committee, Caddo County Extension Program Planning Committee and the Natural Resources Committee with the Anadarko

B.I.A. Agency. He was a charter member of the Indian Soil Conservation Association and the Grady County Alfalfa Association. He received the title of Master Agronomist from Oklahoma State University. He lived to promote better farming and conservation on Indian lands. Jack was also an Oklahoma Farmers Union Insurance agent and member of the board of directors for the Bank of Verden. He chose his farming occupation early in life. Jack was the fourth generation of his Delaware family to farm the fertile Washita River allotment. He was the great-great-grandson of famed Delaware scout Black Beaver and was a proud and active member of the Delaware Nation where he served as president, vice-president, and treasurer. He was preceded in death by his wife Alyce in 2006, and his daughter, Rebecca in 2016. He is survived by his children Linda McLane, Ann (McLane) and Grant Brower, Jackson and Lauri McLane, all of Anadarko; his grandchildren, Lee and Misty Marcum and Jade Marcum of the Oklahoma City area, Jeff Brower of Weatherford, Michael and Kodi McLane, Jenna (Brower) and S.L. Craft, all of Anadarko, Skyler McLane of Weatherford, and April (McLane) and Tyler Padgett of Verden, and six great-grandchildren with a seventh expected in September 2017.

Services were held on March 8th, 2017 at the First Baptist Church of Verden, Oklahoma.



Join the AFR LEAD Program for a day-long train the trainer event at the Noble Foundation in southeast Oklahoma.

### Friday, May 19, 2017

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>10 a.m.</b>    | <b>Arrive at Noble Learning Center</b>  |
| <b>10:15 a.m.</b> | <b>Welcome &amp; Noble History Overview</b>   |
| <b>10:45 a.m.</b> | <b>Tour of Noble Learning Center</b>  |
| <b>11 a.m.</b>    | <b>Tour of GrowSafe</b>   |
| <b>12:30 p.m.</b> | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| <b>1:30 p.m.</b>  | <b>Teaching &amp; Communicating Food Production Systems</b>   |
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Picnic Basket</i></li> <li>• <i>Noble Trunks</i></li> <li>• <i>Specialty Crops &amp; Agriculture</i></li> </ul> |
| <b>4 p.m.</b>     | <b>Depart Noble Foundation</b>  |

**RSVP Today! Registration is limited.**

For more information or to register, please contact Adult Education Coordinator

**Megan Albright** at [megan.albright@afrmic.com](mailto:megan.albright@afrmic.com) or 405.218.5416.



THE SAMUEL ROBERTS  
**NOBLE**  
FOUNDATION



## Out of the Past — The Present

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

#### TERRY DETRICK

One hundred twelve years ago, two years before Statehood, 10 men with futuristic minds got their heads together and formed a Farmer/Rancher Benefit Cooperative. The name of that cooperative was THE OKLAHOMA FARMERS EDUCATIONAL AND COOPERATIVE UNION OF AMERICA which soon became known as The Oklahoma Farmers Union. As membership in the cooperative grew, it became evident their intent was becoming a reality—“Many joining as one could accomplish great things including increased benefit opportunities for all!”

As members increased, the organization recognized a need to pool resources and be able to help neighbors in times of catastrophe. This was important since there was no such thing as rural insurance coverage. It only made sense for all to contribute into a central fund to be used when a member experienced loss. Thus was the beginning of our insurance coverages, later evolving formally into the ‘Oklahoma Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company’ and later to the ‘American Farmers and Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company’.

With the advent of spring storms, fires, hail and high winds, we once again should seriously consider evaluating our insurance coverages with one of our AFR Agents available in 162 communities across Oklahoma. PLEASE DO SO WITHOUT DELAY! You can rest assured that AFR, stronger than any time in our 112 year history, is prepared to take care of your needs.

Recent wildfires in rural areas damaged a lot of acres of grassland, cattle, miles of fences, and uninsured incidental structures. Rural Fire Departments have been tasked to the limit physically and financially. Many of your AFR staff also have

been heavily tasked seeking ways we can help. AFR field representatives have been collecting and distributing immediate needs such as water, Gatorade, protein and salty snacks as requested for fatigued firemen’s sustenance. Now our concerns look longer range. Many crews are coming from all over the United States to assist with removal and replacement of damaged property, mainly fencing. Thousands of miles of fences, thousands of livestock, and several homes were destroyed. Those of us who have built fences know it is a skill. Incoming work crews can provide some heavy lifting but I can only imagine the need for supervisors. I urge anyone, even if beyond your heavy-lifting days, to consider volunteering to supervise a crew. AFR is in the rotation to also provide meals as needed. However, the biggest SHOUT-OUT should go to your BOARD OF DIRECTORS for stepping up to the plate and on your behalf committed at least \$200,000 in assistance for participating rural volunteer fire departments. Their funding in most cases is exhausted and our local communities need them. Could I also encourage our local and county organizations to help your local fire departments with a reasonable allocation from the dues money that is returned to you based upon the number of memberships you have.

The Ron Hays Oklahoma Farm Report recently highlighted one of our AFR LEAD Program leaders, Matt Boyer, Claremore Ag Teacher, and his experience delivering two trailer loads of feed and fencing supplies which the Claremore FFA Chapter put together through the generosity of numerous individuals in northeast Oklahoma. He was 8th in line to unload, 7 of the 8 in front of him were from out of state. One was a northwest Wisconsin dairy farmer

with a check and a trailer loaded with corner posts and milk replacer for calves whose mother didn’t survive or was incapacitated. He hurriedly unloaded stating he needed to get started back to his dairy.

The touching part of this for Matt and his students came when a rancher from southern Kansas came to pick up some fencing supplies. He was part of a large family ranch operation—his home burned, his brother’s home burned and his parent’s home burned. In addition, they had hundreds of head of cattle killed, and hundreds of miles of fence destroyed. As Matt and his FFA students began to off-load their trailers onto his, he began to sob and thanked them over and over again. Matt told him he was only the driver and just wished the rancher had brought a bigger trailer. The FFA chapter members then got a behind the scenes look along with words of inspiration and education—a life lesson that Matt’s FFA chapter has learned that will enrich them and their community for a lifetime! Thanks Matt!

Members, YOUR AFR proudly and strongly supports our FFA/4H students and their educators; BE PROUD! Do all you can to encourage your friends and neighbors to become a part of the greatest farm organization and domestic insurance company in the state.

King James; 1st Cor. 13:13—“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is Charity.” May God bless our efforts and comfort those in distress.

— Terry



## Join AFR in Nova Scotia for its Agriculture and Historic Conference Sept. 6-14

Join AFR as we celebrate Canada’s 150th Anniversary on a fabulous 9-day program highlighting the seafaring heritage of the Atlantic Maritime Provinces. Explore “Gaelic” influenced Nova Scotia, the world-renowned Cabot Trail, the rich farmlands of Prince Edward Island, and the extreme tides of New Brunswick. Discover a land of pure natural beauty, friendly people and the sweetest lobster you’ve ever tasted!

Highlights include:

- Roundtrip Airfare from OKC to Halifax, Nova Scotia (with only 1 stop in Newark)
- 9 Days of Touring by Private Motorcoach
- 8 Nights Hotel Accommodations
- 17 Meals (8 Breakfasts, 5 Dinners, 1 Lobster Supper, and 3 Lunches)
- Halifax, Nova Scotia and the Victorian Public Gardens
- The Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
- Cranberry Farm Tour
- Millbrook Cultural Center and Mi’kmaq Musuem

- A Traditional Evening Ceilidh (Gaelic evening of music & dance)
- Cabot Trail & Cape Breton Highlands National Park
- Evening Performance of “Anne of Green Gables - The Musical”
- Green Gables Heritage House
- Prince Edward Island National Park
- Potato Farm or Potato Processing Plant (TBA)
- Hopewell Rocks
- Fundy National Park
- Annapolis Royal
- Grand Pre National Historic Site
- Tour and Tasting at Planters Ridge Winery
- Fox Hill Cheese Farm
- Peggy’s Cove
- Two Ferry Crossings
- A Local Tour Director throughout Canada

Plus so much more! Please contact Marilyn or Paul to receive a detailed itinerary. Hurry, space is limited!