

AFR

News & Views

"The Voice of Family Agriculture"

Vol. XCII No. 5
Winter 2012



- Embassy Suites in Norman
Site of 107th Annual AFR
Convention Feb. 17-18
- Candidates Announced
for Director's and Officer's Positions
- Convention Schedule & Details
 - Youth News:
State Speech Contest Winners
Livestock Handling Contest
- Policy Updates
- Reward Program Changes

You're Invited!





By Terry Detrick, President

From your President, to the greatest people in the world—

Christmas has passed, a New Year has begun and the 2012 convention of American Farmers and Ranchers is just around the corner. The theme for this year's convention is "HERITAGE—HONOR—RESPONSIBILITY". I hope as we think about this we can better merge the path down which we as an organization have come, with the path to the future and find the necessary inspiration to accomplish it. This is the last issue of the **Farm News and Views** before the convention in which you will find all of the announcements and notifications as required by the by-laws.

The AFR fiscal year is January 1 to

I Wish You Enough!

December 31. But our program year seems to run from one annual convention to the next. Will the February 17-18, 2012 annual convention mark the end of another year for our members or the beginning of a new one? Each of us gets to choose where we place our emphasis.

For many, 2011 has been a year of severe storms, drought, extreme temperatures both hot and cold, failed hay crops and cultivated crops, dried-up ponds, liquidated herds, unemployment, bankruptcies, an economy in the tank and destroyed political confidence. Sounds like a bad year, doesn't it.

For others, 2011 has been a year we are glad to have survived and are looking forward to 2012 with excitement and anticipation of better times ahead—Times of joy, laughter, family, good health, good times, promise and opportunity.

2011 was a bad year for many of us—but we can't dwell there. 2012 can be a good year—but we have to see it that way and have HOPE coupled with Faith and Love for one another.

For Christians, the birth of Hope was celebrated at Christmas. Renewed, resurrected Hope will be celebrated at Easter and that Hope lives on within as we join hands and walk into the future. Matthew 7:7 says: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"

Life presents us all with many challenges. That's why we need each other. Working together strengthens us all. **That's who and what we are at AFR!** Because of the faithfulness of our members, we can more effectively tackle the issues that face us from where we are at the moment at Our house, to the State House, to the White House! The more we uti-

lize our friendship and our togetherness, the more we care about and appreciate each other, the more we look for opportunities to serve, and the better life will be for all of us.

As we move forward into a New Year and as I reminisce about the thousands of member friends I have had the privilege of knowing and serving, I want to tell you how honored I am to represent you and thank you for this privilege. My prayer is that I will never let you down by missing an opportunity to hold you up.

Some years back, a friend of mine sent me a poem called "I Wish You Enough"! Sincerely from my heart I want to thank you and forward to you this poem as my wish for you through the coming year and beyond. I have no idea who wrote it, I only take credit for passing it along.

I WISH YOU ENOUGH

I wish you enough Sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish you enough 'Hello's' to get you through the final 'Good-bye'.

My friends and loved ones, I wish you ENOUGH !!

It has been said: It takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then a lifetime to forget them.

I WISH YOU ENOUGH, and may we always remember!

Thanks,
Terry



February, 17-18, 2012

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center
2501 Conference Drive
Norman, Oklahoma

Vol. XCII, No. 5 WINTER 2012
www.americanfarmersandranchers.com

News & Views
is published by the
American Farmers & Ranchers,
located at 800 N. Harvey,
Oklahoma City, Okla., 73102;
(405) 218-5400; 800-324-7771;
Fax (405) 218-5581; E-mail: news@afrmic.com

First Published in 1920

Editor.....Paul Jackson
Managing Editor.....Natasha Rodgers

STATE OFFICERS

President.....Terry Detrick, Ames
Vice President.....John Porter, Stillwater
Secretary.....Bobby Green, Okemah

STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD

District 1.....Eric Bilderback, El Reno
District 2.....Joe Ed Kinder, Frederick
District 3.....Jerry Nick, Okmulgee
District 4.....Bob Holley, Antlers
At Large #1.....Jim Campbell, Idabel
At Large #2.....Justin Cowan, Locust Grove
At Large #3.....Melody Cummings, Elk City

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
American Farmers & Ranchers • P. O. Box 24000 •
Oklahoma City, OK 73124

Oklahoma State Union of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America

OUR PRIVACY POLICY

- We do not sell our membership information.
- We do not provide our members personal information to persons or organizations outside of our affiliate companies.
- We afford prospective and former members the same protections as existing members with respect to personal information.

INFORMATION WE MAY COLLECT

- We only collect the members name, address, e-mail address and phone number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

We do not share any of our member's personal information with outside entities. Your personal information is used to mail our monthly publication or advise you of information pertinent to your membership in the organization. It may be used to offer you any of our membership benefits. If you are a policy holder of one of our affiliate insurance companies, your information may be shared to verify correct contact information.

Embassy Suites ~ Norman To Host 107th State Convention Feb. 17-18, 2012

By: Secretary, Bobby Green

The 2012 American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Co. Annual Policyholder Meeting and the Oklahoma Farmers Union State Convention is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, **Feb. 17th & 18th**, at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center 2501 Conference Drive, Norman, OK.

One Officer position, one Executive District Board of Director's seat and one Executive Director At-Large board seat will be decided during this 107th Convention. The Officer and Board of Directors' seats up for election are: Vice President, State Directors District 2 and State Director At-Large 1.

At the close of the filing period there are 7 candidates; Officer seat of Vice President up for election currently held by **John Porter**, Stillwater; also running for the Vice President position is **Ed Preble Jr.**, Norman and **Kermit Raab**, Arapaho. State Director Southwest District 2, held by **Joe Ed Kinder**, Frederick; opponent, **George Terry**, Mangum; and State Director At-Large #1, currently held by Jim Campbell who has decided not to seek re-election has drawn candidates **Ryan Plemmons**, Broken Bow and **Harry Jordan**, Ada.

County and Local policy resolutions received by the office of Secretary, Bobby Green are now being considered by the Policy Committee.

Article IV, Section 1 states: "To be eligible for election as a delegate or alternate to the Oklahoma Farmers Union Convention, a person must have been a member of the Oklahoma Farmers Union for at least the entire fiscal year proceeding the year of the Convention." County and Local Credential forms will be mailed out to the County and Local Secretaries January 3, 2012 and are due in the State Office no later than Friday, February 10, 2012.

The names of deceased AFR Policyholders/OFU Members who have passed away since our last convention for the "**AFR/OFU Memorial Roll**" will be remembered in a memorial recognition held on Feb. 18th.

Notice of the Annual Policyholders' Meeting of the American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company

In accordance with Article III, Section 1, of the By-Laws of the American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company, Notice is hereby given that the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Policyholders of the American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company will convene at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 2501 Conference Drive, Norman, OK, beginning at 1:15 p.m., Friday, Feb. 17, 2012. Presentations of business and financial reports, election of Officers and Directors, consideration of proposed By-Law amendments, and other necessary business will be conducted at this Meeting.

Terry Detrick, President
Bobby Green, Secretary

Notice of the Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma State Union of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, Inc.

In accordance with Article VII, Section 1, of the By-Laws of the Oklahoma State Union of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, Inc., the 2012 Annual Membership Meeting of the Oklahoma State Union of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, Inc., will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 2501 Conference Drive, Norman, OK, February 17 & 18, 2012. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the Meeting scheduled to convene at 1:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, 2012. Presentations of business and financial reports, election of Officers and Directors, consideration of proposed By-Law amendments, consideration and adoption of policy resolutions, and other necessary business will be conducted at this Meeting.

Terry Detrick, President
Bobby Green, Secretary

Porter, Preble & Raab Candidates for Vice President



John L. Porter was raised on a dairy and beef farm east of Stillwater. He graduated from Quay High School. During high school, he was involved in sports and a member of the Quay FFA, judging beef and dairy cattle at state fairs. After high school, Porter attended Central State University in Edmond, where he specialized in business administration. Porter was a member of the Oklahoma National Guard from 1965 to 1971.

July 16, 1973, he was hired by Oklahoma Farmers Union to adjust insurance claims. Porter first worked property loss and then became a multi-line adjuster. In the 1980's he was a claims department supervisor. During a 36-plus-years career with the company, Porter worked directly with several of the company presidents in various capacities. Elected in 2010 to serve as AFR

Vice President, he's an active insurance agent with daughter, Shandra in Edmond.

Porter's community activities include membership at Sunnybrook Christian Church, 27 years; member of the Oklahoma Softball Hall of Fame; participant and member of the Player Youth Program, Lakeside Golf Course, Stillwater; and Oklahoma High School Sports Association referee.

Porter's immediate family includes wife, Patti Porter, two daughters, Shandra Porter, Edmond and Tressa Diesselhorst, a pre-school teacher at St. Marks Lutheran Church and her husband, Jacob, an Attorney-at-Law, two grandchildren, Gabriel and Hannah Diesselhorst. His parents, Charles Jr. and Alta Porter, brother, Charles Porter III, father and brother are AFR agents in Stillwater and his grandfather, Charles Porter Sr. was also an agent for Oklahoma Farmers Union.



Kermit Raab, Arapaho, graduated from Custer High School in 1973. He is 56 years old and married to Eva Raab for 35 years. Members of The First Church of God in Clinton, they have one daughter Desra, who is married to Garrett Miller, Yukon.

Raab's farming/ranching operation is located north of Clinton, consisting of wheat and stocker cattle. For the past 17 years he also has been employed with Rother Brothers, Clinton, and is co-manager for parts sales.

Raab has served on the following boards: Arapaho Adjustments, First Church of God and

its' subsidiary Day Care and the Christian Motorcycle Association Local #568.

An active AFR member participating as a convention delegate, he is currently serving as Secretary-Treasurer for Custer County where he attends all officer and general meetings. Raab continues to work on the project which he initiated last year to help fund the state AFRPAC with sales of gift card chances and has promoted and spoken about the AFRPAC at Clinton Kiwanis, Elk City Southwest Farm & Home Show and Boots on the Ground meeting. Raab served as an AFR Speech Contest judge for the past two years at district contests Fairview and Cache and this year at the state contest in Stillwater. He also has worked the AFR Oklahoma State Fair Booth.

Raab attended Barton County Community College, Great Bend, Kansas, with certification in technical training and has certification from Case New Holland Web University in Parts Sales. Active in FFA, he served as local Vice President.



Ed C. Preble Jr., Norman, grew up in a Farmers Union Family in Cleveland County. He has been involved in OFU his entire life.

He owns the Ed Preble Insurance Agency which has been in business since 1956. Preble became an Agent in 1976. He serves as President of the Cleveland County Farmers Union, served 17 years on the State Executive Board of Directors and has been on the OFU Foundation Board. He has represented OFU many times before members of Congress in Washington D.C. as well as on global trade missions to Japan and China.

Ed is an OU Graduate and served in the United States Army. He is a member of the Norman Chamber of Commerce, the Local, State and National Cattlemen's Associations, OU Alumni Association, Sooner and Touchdown Clubs and has been honored many times

by 4H and FFA Chapters for his support.

He raises cattle and hay and also has farm land in Washita County. Ed is the owner of Ed Preble Investment Properties which is involved in the construction, ownership, management and leasing of both residential and commercial properties. He also owns an Antique and Import distributorship as well as E & J Commercial Properties.

Ed and His wife Janet have been married 37 years and have three adult children and three grandchildren. They are active members of McFarlin United Methodist Church.

AFR PAC AUCTION

Please donate items to be auctioned at
7:00 p.m. on
Friday, Feb. 17, 2012.

All items accepted: Here are a few examples
of items that can be donated.

- *Jewelry*
- *Knives*
- *Power Tools*
- *Decorative Items*
- *Purses*
- *Wallets*
- *Household Items*
- *Quilts*
- *Yard Ornaments*
- *Collectors' Items*
- *Furniture etc.*
- *Metal Art*

AFR's Political Action Committee
gives you a voice at the Capitol.
Help Grow Your PAC!

Kinder & Terry Candidates for Southwest District



Joe Ed Kinder grew up on his parents' farm near Chattanooga in Tillman County. He graduated from Chattanooga High School in 1960. He has been a member of Oklahoma Farmers Union since the late 1950's. Kinder was elected to serve as AFR Director for the Southwest District 2 position in February, 2011.

Kinder and wife JoAnn were married in 1961 and have two children, six grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Since then, they have lived in the Chattanooga and Frederick area where they farm and ranch currently. The Kinder farming operation consists of 2,760 owned acres where they raise wheat and have a cow-calf operation.

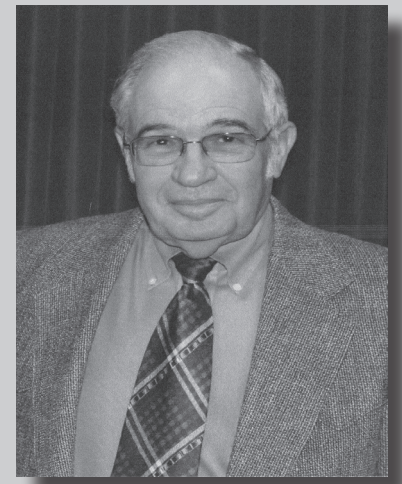
Kinder served on the Tillman County Rural Water District #1 for 12 years, 9 years of which he was President; 18 years on the Chattanooga Town Board, 12 years were served as Mayor; Chairman of the Chattanooga Public Works Authority; and Chairman of the Chattanooga Airport Board while serving on the town board. He also served on the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association Board for several years and as Chairman of the Red River Terrace Water Authority. The Kinders' are members of the First Baptist Church in Chattanooga. Kinder has served on the Oklahoma Farmers Union Policy Committee, By-laws Committee, the National Farmers Union (NFU) Policy Committee and the 1995 Farm Bill Working Group. Kinder participated in legislative action "fly-ins" to Washington, D.C. and served as a NFU national delegate. To devote more time to state activities, he recently vacated the presidency for Tillman County AFR/OFU.

George Terry, Mangum, has been married to wife, Jo, for 57 years. They live in Southwestern Oklahoma on a Greer County farm where they raised two sons who are now married, and have blessed them with five grandchildren. Terry is a lifelong resident of Greer County.

Terry has farmed and ranched in Greer and Harmon counties since his senior year of high school. Having down sized his agriculture operation in recent years, it currently consists of 1,100 acres – primarily pasture land and is comprised of both owned and leased land where he maintains a cow-calf herd and plants wheat for harvest.

Terry's father was an Oklahoma Farmers Union Mutual Insurance agent when he was born, so George Stone was a common household name used as well as a family friend. Terry followed in his dad's footsteps, retiring as an agent in 2003 after 43 years of service to the company and organization. His Farmers Union/American Farmers & Ranchers involvement includes serving as President of the Greer County OFU/AFR Board; member of the state policy committee; participant of Washington, D.C. Legislative Action Fly-ins and Oklahoma State Capitol lobby days; participant at leadership meetings; participant in the rural unity town hall meeting and state and national conventions delegate countless times. Terry has been active with the OFU/AFR youth program, serving as a judge numerous times at the district contest.

He and Jo attend the Church of Christ in Mangum where Terry has served as an elder for the last 35 years.



Jordan & Plemmons Candidates for At Large #1 Seat



Harry Jordan, Ada, has been married to his partner and best friend Kimberly Rose for 30 years. Together they had three children, Skeeter, Justin and Sidnee. In 2002, Harry and Kim became certified therapeutic foster care parents – which shifted their focus from traditional civic involvement to helping troubled youth-- and over the years, have helped countless youths to find better homes and second chances. They decided to adopt four children themselves: Nikki, Audrey, Adam, and Amanda, giving them a home to call their own and a family.

Jordan has been writing and selling insurance in Ada for almost 30 years. He was introduced to the insurance world through his dad who sold commercial insurance in Ada. In 1985, he purchased the Oklahoma Farmers Union insurance office in Pontotoc County then later purchased the Ada Office of Commercial Insurance Services from his dad in 1990 creating Jordan Insurance Agency. A family operation, Jordan, his wife, Kim, and daughter, Sidnee, work in the agency.

He has served on the OFU Policy and By-laws Committees, and as a local and county officer since 1986. Jordan and his family are active in the community with Adam and Amanda participating in the Boys and Girls Club. The family holds membership with Morris Memorial Baptist Church in Ada. Jordan is President of the Latta Partners in Excellence, a foundation to provide scholarships to graduating students, which was created by him and two others 27 years ago. Jordan enjoys family activities, including hunting and water sports.

Ryan Plemmons was raised on a cattle, poultry, and swine farm near Battiest in Southeastern Oklahoma. After graduation he attended Connors State College then Oklahoma State University, graduating with a Degree in Agricultural Sciences. While attending CSC and OSU Plemmons was on the Livestock Judging Teams.

Upon graduation Plemmons was employed by Oklahoma Farm Bureau as an insurance agent and spent five years working in McCurtain and Sequoyah counties before purchasing his first OFU/AFR agency. He currently owns and operates the Plemmons Agency in Broken Bow and resides on the farm near Battiest with wife, Cindy, and children Kaylan and Blaine where they have an Angus cow-calf operation. He has been a Top Producer in both AFR Life and Property Sales Contests.

Plemmons OFU/AFR organization involvement includes serving as Chairman of the Policy Committee; initiating the Livestock Judging Contest; judging speech contests; initiating a local speech contest in preparation for the state contest; involving local schools in the poster competition; assisting with the Livestock Achievement Competition; working the Tulsa State Fair booth; lobbying at the State Capitol, Oklahoma City, and on Legislative Action Fly-ins to Washington, D.C.

Plemmons serves as President of the Agents Association, board member of the McCurtain County Spring Livestock Show and is active in various community organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Leaders in Agriculture and is a member of the Calhoun Baptist Church. He also enjoys coaching summer league baseball and showing Angus cattle with his children.



2012 AFR Convention Schedule

Friday, Feb. 17, 2012

9:00 a.m. **Registration, Voting, Ticket Sales, Trade Show, Agent Resource Room Opens**

9:30 a.m. **Policy Committee**

1:15 p.m. **FIRST GENERAL SESSION
Call to Order**

2012 Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma State Union of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, Inc.
Terry Detrick, President

Call to Order

2012 Annual Policy Holders Meeting of the American Farmers and Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company, Inc.
Terry Detrick, President

Reading of Meeting Notices, Convention Rules, Committees, and Appointments

Richard Herren, Parliamentarian

Credentials Committee Report

Bobby Green, Chairman

Membership & Treasurer's Report

Bobby Green, Secretary

CEO Report

Chris Blevins, Chief Executive Officer

President's Report

Terry Detrick

Vice President Report

John Porter, Vice President

Farm & Cooperative Programs Report

Paul Jackson, Director

Consideration and Adoption of Policy

Randy Gilbert, Chairman

By-Laws and Articles Consideration

Recess the Business Session

4:30 p.m. **AFR Insurance State of the Company Dinner Agent Ticketed Event**

Insurance Commissioner John Doak (invited)
Jet McCoy Appearance

6:00 p.m. **Trade Show, Agent Resource Room Closes**

6:45 p.m. **SECOND GENERAL SESSION
Pre-Session Entertainment**

Melodie Schaffer

7:00 p.m. **"Live" & Silent PAC Auction**

Rep. Don Armes
Jet McCoy Appearance

8:00 p.m. **Candidate Speeches**

9:00 p.m. **Entertainment & Dance**
Joe Settlemyres & The USAO Show Band

Northwest Area Meeting

Registration, Voting, Ticket Sales Close

Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Voting, Ticket Sales, Trade Show, Agent Resource Room Opens**

Silent Auction Continues

9:00 a.m. **THIRD GENERAL SESSION
"A Conversation About Issues In Oklahoma & Washington D.C."**

State Legislative Issues

Tommy Thomas, AFR Lobbyist

How Safe Are Your Bridges Where You Live?

Gary Ridley, Secretary of Transportation (invited)

Agriculture Issues at OSU, Water and Environmental Issues

Gary Sherrer, Secretary of Environment and OSU Legislative Liaison

Q&A

10:15 a.m. **Milk & Cookies Break**
Sponsored by Dairy MAX

10:30 a.m. **AFR Ideas In Action**

10:40 a.m. **Federal Legislative Issues**

Roger Johnson, National Farmers Union President

The Farm Bill & Rural Policy

Dr. Larry Sanders, Professor & Extension Economist, OSU

Q&A

12:00 p.m. **Ticket Sales, Agent Resource Room, Silent Auction Closes**

Women's Luncheon

Miss Oklahoma Betty Thompson
AFR Member & Dairy Farmer

1:15 p.m. **FOURTH GENERAL SESSION
The Richey Trio**

Braunell, Dorothy Richey & Paul Jackson
Memorial Recognition

1:30 p.m. **AFR Ideas In Action**

1:45 p.m. **Youth Program**
Lin Fariss, Youth Coordinator

AFR Youth "Year in Review"

AFR Novice State Speech Winner
"Farming on Four Flat Tires"
Rylee Detrick

Past Youth Participant Remarks
Tiffany Ferguson, MD, Southeastern Oklahoma Medical Center, Durant

Maria Miller, NFU Education Director, Poster Contest Winners State Scholarship Recipients AFR 5-Star Recognition

2:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION & VOTING CLOSSES**

3:00 p.m. **Recess Session
Milk & Cookies Break**
Sponsored by Dairy MAX

3:15 p.m. **Breakout**
"Talking to Your Lender, During Tough Times"
Maria Miller, Education Director, NFU Farm Credit Representative

4:15 p.m. **Trade Show Closes**

4:30 p.m. **Agent's Assoc. Mtg.**

6:00 p.m. **VIP Guests Reception**

6:30 p.m. **Banquet Doors Open**

7:00 p.m. **CONVENTION BANQUET
Dinner**

Sponsored by Oklahoma Pork Council

Entertainment

LeAnn Hart

AFR Senior State Speech Winner
Micaela Danker

County Leadership Achievement Awards

Remarks: Jim Reese, OK Secretary & Commissioner of Agriculture

Keynote: The Honorable Frank Lucas, R-Cheyenne

Grand Door Prize Drawing

Sponsored by Farm Credit & P&K Equipment

9:30 p.m. **Entertainment**

"Salute to the American Farmer Tour"
By the Dove Brothers Quartet

Proposed Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation

The adjacent language was adopted and proposed by the Board of the respective companies to update the Certificate of Incorporation. The adoption of the proposed language will allow the policyholders/members to amend the company's By-Laws. This change is necessary to bring each company's corporate documents in conformity with Oklahoma law and to grant the policyholders/members this right. In the case of the Mutual Insurance Company two-thirds of the voting policyholder must ratify the proposed language for the Certificate of Incorporation to be amended. In the case of the Cooperative a simple majority must ratify the proposed language for the Certificate of Incorporation to be amended. Without this change the policyholders/members have no right under Oklahoma law to amend the company's By-Laws.

In the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation, amend Article VIII to read:

"These Articles of Incorporation can be amended only by a resolution of the Board of Directors which resolution must be ratified by a super majority (2/3 vote) of the members of the Organization present or by a proxy at a meeting called for said purpose, notice of such meeting to be given in compliance with Title 18, O.S. 1067(B).

Amendments to the organization's By-Laws may be proposed by resolution from the County Union, Local Union or the Board of Directors, and filed with the Secretary not less than sixty (60) days preceding any special or annual meeting, which proposals are to be published or included in a mailed notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

The President shall appoint a By-Laws Committee for the purpose of consideration of proposed changes and to make recommendations with regard to the proposed changes to the delegates at the Annual Meeting. Proposed amendments shall be presented to the Annual Meeting by the Chairperson of the By-Laws Committee and may be adopted and these By-Laws amended by a two-thirds favorable vote of the delegates voting at the Annual Meeting.

County and Local Unions may adopt such By-Laws as do not conflict with the By-Laws of the National and STATE UNION."

In the Mutual Company's Articles of Incorporation, amend Article IX to read:

"These Articles of Incorporation may be altered, amended, or repealed by a resolution of the Board of Directors which resolution must be ratified by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Corporation present in the person or at a regular or special meeting of the members of which notice in writing of said proposed amendments to be filed with the Secretary not less than sixty (60) days preceding any special or annual meeting, which proposals are to be published or included in a mailed notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Amendments to the corporation's By-Laws may be proposed by resolution of the Board of Directors or upon petition signed by at least five thousand (5,000) policy holders and filed with the Secretary not less than sixty (60) days preceding any special or annual meeting, which proposals are to be published or included in a mailed notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Proposed amendments may be adopted and the corporation's By-Laws amended by a 2/3 favorable vote of the policyholders voting at a regular or special meeting of the members subject to said notice requirements."

4-H/FFA Night at Baron's Hockey Game



American Farmers & Ranchers continues to sponsor the 4-H and FFA Night at a Barons Hockey Game. Come join the fun at this year's event Saturday, January 28, 2012.

Tickets are only \$11 for 4-H and FFA members, advisors, family and friends. For each ticket sold to the game, four dollars will be given back to the respective 4-H/FFA foundation. Last year the FFA foundation received \$2,120.00

and the 4-H Foundation received \$436.00 for a total of \$2,556.00.

All 4-H and FFA members in attendance are entered into the drawing for a chance to win one of the four grand prizes:

- \$2,500 valued dollar Heifer
- \$500 gift certificate for a Barrow
- \$500 gift certificate for a Lamb
- \$500 gift certificate for a Goat

At the conclusion of the game, 4-H and FFA members are welcomed on the ice where the grand drawing will take place.

For ticket information, please contact your local FFA Advisor or your County Extension Office!

*Get Involved and Make a Difference!
Raffle Tickets Could Make You a Winner of a
Visa Gift Card*

1st-\$250 2nd-\$100 3rd-\$50

Tickets can be purchased at the Convention



Tickets are \$10 each.

*Drawing to be held during the American
Farmers & Ranchers State Convention*

*Banquet
Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012*

You do not have to be present to win.

Dues Adjustment Effective January 1

Dues Changes Explained

It has become apparent that locals and counties are struggling under the current dues structure to hold annual meetings, send people to the convention, to do local marketing activities within communities and for the state office to balance its' budget despite reduction of staff and expenses. It became clear that additional revenue was needed before 2013. Just as action has been taken within the last few years to adjust premiums to reflect increased claims, operational costs and for premiums to be in line with losses in a given area – dues must be raised. In layman's terms a cost of operating adjustment was necessary for the entire cooperative structure as we all have seen cost of everything go up including food, fuel etc.

When presented with a variety of facts, action was taken last month during the AFR Board of Directors meeting to adjust dues effective January 1 from \$15 to \$25. This adjustment is consistent historically with the timeframe for need of an increase. The average dues for the other Farmers Union states is \$46.40 with Oklahoma and Arkansas being the lowest at \$15 and California being the highest at \$80. The \$25 level adopted will equal North Dakota who is similar in size and in insurance operations scope. The \$25 is still \$10 lower than the average of Oklahoma Farm Bureau memberships which frequently have county dues of \$45 and \$50 in some locations. OFU dues before the increase were the lowest dues of any general farm or commodity organization. In spite of salary and employee reductions, the bottom line is that income has not kept pace with expenses also partly due to changes over the past two years within the insurance structure.

The \$25 will address the needs of counties and locals with increases for both which can be found in the chart below. You can also find additional information below on the history of OFU Dues Increases, Other Farmers Union States Dues and Oklahoma Farm and Commodity Organization Dues. The increase will allow the state to restore programs which previously have been cut because of lack of funding such as young adult leadership development; payment in full to NFU for dues and additional participation in NFU activities.

The Oklahoma Farmers Union 2011 Budget was comprised of the following revenues and percentages: One Percent Use of Name Fee (Farmers Union Heritage Licensing) at 50%; Dues Income of 47% and event Registration Fees of 3%. Funding from the licensing/heritage fee has been increased or decreased over the years by the board depending on dues income. A dues increase also could possibly reduce some of the need for assistance from the mutual insurance company. Below and to the right is additional information relative to the dues increase.

History of Oklahoma Farmers Union Dues Increases

January, 2012 – Will be 11 years since the last local, county and state increase.

| Current Dues | New Dues |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| NFU \$5.00 | \$5.00 |
| State \$4.75 | *\$10.00 (+\$5.25) |
| County \$3.40 | \$5.00 (+\$1.60) |
| Local \$1.35 | \$2.00 (+\$.65) |
| Paper <u>\$1.50</u> | \$1.00 (+\$.50) |
| \$15 | *\$2.00 contingency \$25 |

*Indicates unallocated funds within these two areas which will be banked for primarily an expected dues increase by the national organization as well as for use in unanticipated expenses.

October, 2011 – Current dues revenue @ \$15 for 61,667 memberships annually is \$925,000 of which \$308,335 goes to NFU; \$292,918 to the state; \$209,667 to counties; \$83,250 to locals; \$30,833 to newspaper publication;

November, 2000 – An increase of \$4.00 was approved which moved the dues from \$11 to \$15. NFU remained \$5; state went from \$2.25 to \$4.75; county went from \$2.40 to \$3.40; local went from .85 to \$1.35 and the newspaper remained at .50. Was 13 years since the last increase to benefit the local, county and state. Membership at the time was: 115,000 with dues revenue of \$1,265,000 @ \$11.

February, 1992 – An increase of \$1.00 was approved for the National Farmers Union which took the dues from \$10 to \$11 and none to the local, the county or the state. Membership at the time was: 110,000 with dues revenue of \$1,100,000 @ \$10.

February, 1987 – An increase of \$3.00 was approved by the delegates to the 82nd Annual Convention benefitting the local, the county and the state raising dues to \$10 --\$1.50 increase to state, \$1 increase to the county; and .50 to the locals. Membership at the time was: 90,000 with dues revenue of \$630,000 @ \$7.

1984 – An increase of \$2.00 by delegates to the National Farmers Union Convention approved a motion to increase dues by \$2.00 to bring Oklahoma dues to \$7.00 from \$5.00. Membership at the time was: 105,000 with dues revenue of \$525,000 @ \$5.

Dues Comparison

Current Dues Farmers Union States/Average \$46.40

| |
|--|
| \$15 Oklahoma, Arkansas |
| \$25 North Dakota |
| \$30 Alaska |
| \$35 New England |
| \$40 Indiana, Missouri, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington |
| \$45 Ohio |
| \$50 Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin |
| \$55 Kansas |
| \$60 Illinois, Michigan, Texas |
| \$65 Minnesota |
| \$75 Rocky Mountain |
| \$80 California |

Other Oklahoma Farm/Commodity Organizations Dues Comparison

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Oklahoma Pork Council | \$25 |
| Oklahoma Grain & Stocker Association | \$25 |
| Oklahoma Farm Bureau | \$35-\$50 (average to high end) |
| Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association | \$75/\$25 (Lowered to \$25 but many still pay \$75 as a gold member.) |
| Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association | \$100 plus .10/head fee as additional fair share. (OCA membership does not include NCBA membership which is based on the number of head owned plus an additional fair share of .25 for pairs and .125 cents for stocker/feeders. AFR/OFU dues includes membership in NFU.) |

2011 AFR Ag & Historic Conference

Hawaii



AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS AG & HISTORIC CONFERENCE 2011
 Front Row (left to right): Lavene Tucker, Linda Rose, Claudell Laycock, Charlie Gibson, Sherry Green, Loreta Dye, Harriet Marshall, Bille Marshall, Megan Marshall, Pam Lohse, Travel Agent.
 Middle Row: Jim Rodekopp, Guide; Patty Coleman, Tommy Tucker, Nelda Tucker, Marilyn Schoenhals, Judy Martin, Donna Gibson, Bobby Green, Clare Wilkins, John Marshall.
 Back Row: Sammy Martin, Marnel Coleman, Tracey Hartley, Carl Hartley, Earl Schoenhals, Ivy Fisher, Cliff Fisher, Mary Baker, Danny Baker, Henry Rose, John Letourneau, Lillian Letourneau, Dawn Gay Brooks, Terry Brooks, Troy Marshall, Gary Marshall.

The 2011 Ag & Historic Conference took place in the Hawaiian Islands with 34 members attending.

The tour began on the island of Oahu. After landing in Honolulu, we were taken by motor coach to The Outrigger Reef on the Beach Hotel to check in and a welcome get-together and orientation with free time that evening.

Day two began with the Iolani Palace then to the Dole Plantation. Next was the Kualoa Ranch Company and then to the Kahuka Farms for a delicious shrimp plate lunch. Returning to the hotel for relaxation time on Waikiki beach or touring the area.

Day three started with Pearl Harbor, the Arizona Memorial and the Mighty Mo. After lunch, we went the airport to fly to the Big Island and arrived at the Royal Kona Resort for a free evening.

Day four we toured the Hawaiian Chocolate Plantation then the Kona Coffee Farm with lunch at Hugo's with the afternoon free to explore on our own.

Day five our first stop was the Volcano National Park with lunch at the Lava Rock Café. After lunch, we toured the Akatsuka Orchid farm and then to the tasty Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Farm. We then went to the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel for an enjoyable evening in Hilo!

Day six was a horticultural experience starting at the Green Point Nursery. We then toured the Hearts of Palm and Tropical Fruit Estate. We stopped for lunch at the Hilo Bay Café and then on to the Tsunami Museum; returning to the hotel for a free afternoon.

Day seven we checked out of the hotel and took a scenic drive along the Hamakua Coast and the Akaka Falls. Next we arrived at the Hawaiian Vanilla Kitchen and Plantation for a tour and lunch. After meeting the Parker Ranch Cattle Operations Manager for a tour we headed to the airport for an island hop to Maui!

Day eight was an entire day of leisure on the beautiful island of Maui ending with an authentic Old Lahaina Luau.

Day nine started with the morning on our own, checking out of the hotel at noon to stop at the Surfing Island Goat Dairy, then to the Alii Kula Lavendar Farm, Ulupalakua Ranch and finally the Tedaschi Winery before heading to the airport for an overnight flight home.

We would like to thank those who attended the 2011 Ag and Historic Conference and to all of you who have attended in the past and we are excited to plan the next destination. This is a valued membership benefit and we look forward to continuing this benefit for years to come.

Please look for the Ag & Historic Conference Booth at the 2012 Convention for the next destination.

AFR Revises Reward Program Rules



Paul Jackson, AFR Farm & Coop Director, Terry Detrick, AFR President and Bobby Green, AFR Secretary show off new reward signs.

The AFR Board of Directors recently approved new compliance rules associated with the AFR Reward Program. The company has also introduced a new aluminum reward sign along with the rule changes.

MEMBER BENEFIT:

In an effort to discourage such activities, the Company will pay up to \$5,000 to the person who furnishes original information that leads to the arrest and felony conviction of a person or persons committing theft, arson or vandalism on the property of an American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance member policyholder. This member benefit is only applicable to property covered by your AFR policy. Such payments shall be subject to the following conditions and limitations:

CONDITIONS TO COLLECT:

- The provision of this program shall not apply unless the insured has an official Reward Sign (obtained thru American Farmers & Ranchers) posted in a conspicuous place on the premises involved.
- Only one (1) reward shall be paid for each violation, regardless of the number of persons arrested and convicted; or if the same person is convicted of several violations only one (1) reward shall be paid.

• Rewards will be reported to the IRS on Form 1099 - Misc.

• All claims will be submitted to the AFR Claims Director.

• To be eligible, the member, whose property is impacted, must be a member in good standing with dues and policy premiums paid current at the time the crime was committed.

• Payment will be up to \$5,000 based on the value of the damages to the property impacted.

LIMITATIONS:

• No reward shall be payable to the American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance member policyholder impacted, or members of his or her immediate family or household, or any person(s) having an interest in the damaged or stolen property.

• Should another reward sign of AFR or Oklahoma Farmers Union be posted on the members property with a value less than \$5,000, the maximum reward amount will be the number indicated.

• No reward shall be paid to any law enforcement officer or family member. Reward shall only be paid after a final conviction, and all rights of appeal have been exhausted. In case of juveniles, who are allowed special treatment on first offenses, reward will be paid on a letter verifying guilt by the appropriate presiding judge.

• If two or more persons file claim for the reward, the merits of the various claims shall be evaluated by American Farmers & Ranchers. The reward shall be paid to the first person reporting the information leading to the arrest or conviction. If a reward is given, then the policyholder with the reward sign will be requested to have their photo taken for publications and publicity purposes by American Farmers & Ranchers as a condition of the additional protections afforded through this posting.

• *All Signs Can Be Purchased Through The AFR Co-op Store Or Contact Your Local AFR Insurance Agent.

AFR Agents Organize Fundraiser to Help Their Local Fire Departments



Coffee Creek Music Complex hosted the Rural Redneck Firefighters event, Saturday, Nov. 11, 2011. The event was a fundraiser geared towards several area fire departments in Grady and Stephens County.

American Farmers & Ranchers insurance agents, Mike and Becky Graham, organized the fundraisers with several

activities including, performances by The Dead City Outlaws and Bryan Rolin, an antique car show, all you can eat hamburgers, hot dogs and calf fries, and a live and silent auction. AFR was a proud sponsor during this event.

A "Redneck" calendar featuring serious and comical pictures was published and sold for \$10 each, raising over \$10,000 if all calendars are sold.



Castor Bean Update

On December 13th, the Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture passed an emergency rule prohibiting the commercial production, transportation and storage of castor beans. The rule went into effect immediately and will expire November 1st, 2012 or if the Oklahoma Legislature enacts law addressing the production of castor beans, whichever comes first. AFR offered comments in support of the rule, as did several Oklahoma agriculture organizations.

Four bills addressing this issue have already been filed by legislature. They will be considered between February and May of 2012. All of these measures would make the prohibitions on castor beans permanent. AFR staff will continue to work with the Department of Agriculture and state legislature to insure that our state's food and feed supply remain safe. If you have any questions about this or any other policy issue, please send us a note at: legislation@afrmic.com or call us at 405-218-5563.

Long Time Caddo County Board of Directors Member Retires



Caddo County AFR members recently honored retiring board member Ira McAnally for his years of service on the Caddo County Board of Directors. Left to right: Marty Oxley, Rob Swanda, Wayne Spies, Pete McDaniel, Dustin Tackett and Ira McAnally, center. He served on the board for 11 years.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2012 AFR CONVENTION SPONSORS



FARM CREDIT

Convention Speakers & Entertainment

Roger Johnson, NFU President



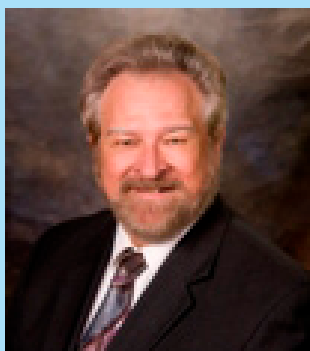
Roger Johnson was elected National Farmers Union president March 2009. Prior to leading the farm organization, Johnson, a third-generation family farmer from Turtle Lake, ND, served as North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner, a position he was first elected to in 1996.

While Commissioner, he served as president of the National Association of State Department's of Agriculture (NASDA). As NASDA president, he played a key role in crafting the 2008 Farm Bill, pressing for a permanent disaster program, ending the ban on interstate shipment of state-inspected meat, the re-balancing of loan rates for program crops and farm-based renewable energy.

Johnson grew up in Farmers Union, participating in the organization's youth programs, serving as a county president and chairman of the board of a local Farmers Union cooperative.

He graduated with a degree in agricultural economics.

Dr. Larry D. Sanders



Dr. Sanders is a Professor and Extension Economist, Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. Since 1985, he has taught and done extension work in public policy related to agriculture, natural resources and environment, international trade policy, managing change in agriculture and ethics.

He has a Doctorate of Philosophy in Economics, a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Dr. Sanders has written a variety of publications, spoken at various conferences, working on special overseas projects, received several professional awards and served on several committees at the department through university levels.

He is currently serving on a national advisory committee to the Environmental Protection Agency on issues impacting agriculture and rural areas.

Insurance Commissioner, John Doak



John Doak was sworn in as the 12th Insurance Commissioner of Oklahoma on Jan. 10, 2011.

Doak takes the next step in a distinguished career deeply grounded in providing insurance options and coverage to Oklahomans.

The commissioner of insurance began his career in the field shortly after graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, in 1988.

Doak established his own branch for the Farmer's Insurance Agency in Tulsa, and over the next six years would receive numerous awards and commendations from Farmer's for his office's success.

Doak left Farmer's Insurance to work in the executive level of the insurance industry at firms such as Marsh, Aon Risk Services, HNI Risk Services, and finally at Ascension Insurance, where he served as senior vice president of acquisitions.

Doak has a lengthy history of service to the Tulsa community, as well. He is a former board member for the Tulsa Ronald McDonald House, the Tulsa Opera, and Dillon International Adoption Agency. He also has served as a member of the Oklahoma Governor's Round Table for Business Development.

Jim Reese



Jim Reese is currently the Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture.

Jim is an experienced legislator and businessman with extensive professional ties to the agricultural community. He served in the Oklahoma Legislature from 1987 to 2001 before serving as the State Executive Director for the USDA/Oklahoma Farm Service Agency. Reese has also served as policy advisor to House Speaker Chris Benge since 2008. He has owned and operated Jim Reese Farms since May 1978.

Jim graduated from Oklahoma State

University after earning an associate degree in drafting and design from Northern Oklahoma College. He also attended the USDA Supervisory Academy at Texas A&M.

For his service to the state of Oklahoma, Jim has received the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Meritorious Service Award, the Oklahoma Farmer's Union Outstanding Service Award and received recognition or awards from the Oklahoma Institute of Child Advocacy, the National Federation of Independent Business, Kay Electric, the Oklahoma School Administrators and the Oklahoma State Troopers. He is a former board member at Leadership Oklahoma and chairman of the board at Nardin First United Methodist Church.

Gary Sherrer



Gary Sherrer serves as Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment under Republican Governor Mary Fallin. He served as Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment under Governor Frank Keating and as Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture under Democratic Governor of Oklahoma David Walters.

Sherrer was elected as a Democratic member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He served from 1981 to 1989. After leaving the Legislature, Sherrer served as Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs for the Oklahoma Farmers Union and then worked for

Convention Speakers & Entertainment

the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Governor David Walters appointed Sherrer to serve as the State's first Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture. Walters also appointed him to concurrently as the Commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. He served in both of those positions from 1991 until the end of Walter's term in 1995.

Betty Thompson, **Miss Oklahoma 2011**



Betty Thompson, Miss Oklahoma 2011, is a senior Elementary Education major at Oklahoma State University. She is a member of the Dairy Farmers Spokesperson Network as well as a Dairy Max Classroom Educator. Betty dances with the world known McTeggart Irish Dancers and represented the USA at the World Irish Dance Championships for 4 years as well as the All-Ireland Irish Dance Championships for 5 years where she was the first Oklahoman to medal. In 2010 she was on the Oklahoma State University President's Honor roll and the Dean's Honor roll in 2011.

Betty became involved with the Miss Oklahoma Organization in the fall of 2008 when she competed for and won the title of Miss Oklahoma State University. She was in the top 10 her first year at Miss Oklahoma in 2009. The following year, Betty was first runner up to Miss

Oklahoma 2010. Her third year at Miss Oklahoma, she received the preliminary interview and swimsuit awards as well as the title of Miss Oklahoma 2011.

Betty's platform, Milk It Really Does a Body Good, is inspired by growing up on a small Jersey dairy farm near Davenport, Oklahoma. Thompson is an AFR member.

Maria Miller



Maria Miller is the director of education for the National Farmers Union (NFU). She develops educational outreach programs for members of all ages, and for rural residents, consumers, and other audiences who share a vested interest in agriculture. Most recently she built a Beginning Farmers Institute program from scratch to enhance the organization's adult education program. Her next project is developing a national women's conference using the Annie's Project methodology and also to encourage women to pursue leadership roles on boards such as those for farm organizations and cooperatives.

Miller is responsible for developing and implementing NFU's education program strategies. She works with state Farmers Union education directors and volunteers who provide educational and leadership building opportunities.

She is a member of the National Farm to School advisory board and the National Farmer Veteran Coalition Fellowship advisory panel. She has taught courses for all ages on creative thinking, cooperative businesses, food origin and successful networking.

Congressman Frank Lucas



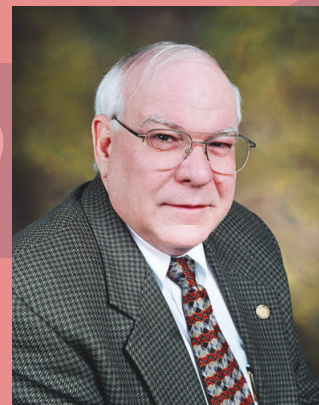
Congressman Frank Lucas is a fifth generation Oklahoman whose family has lived and farmed in Oklahoma for over 100 years. Lucas graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1982 with an Agricultural Economics degree. He was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1994, and is currently serving his tenth term as a member of Congress.

He represents the Third Congressional District consisting of all or portions of 32 counties in northern and western Oklahoma, taking up almost half the state's land mass and is one of the largest agricultural districts in the nation. Lucas has been a crusader for the American farmer and private property rights since being elected to Congress.

He serves as the Chairman of the House of Agriculture Committee and previously served as Ranking member of the Committee and Subcommittee Chairman for conservation programs. Prior to Congress, Lucas served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He and his family continue to actively farm and ranch in Roger Mills County where he is an AFR member.

Prior to working for NFU, Miller was an independent agribusiness insurance agency owner and an award-winning photographer and journalist. In addition, she brings with her hands-on experience in start-up charitable foundations and fundraising.

Gary Ridley



Gary Ridley is the current Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation, having served since he was appointed by Governor of Oklahoma Brad Henry in 2009. In addition to his service as Transportation Secretary, Ridley also serves concurrently as both the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (since 2001) and the Director of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (since 2009).

Governor of Oklahoma Brad Henry appointed Ridley as his second Secretary of Transportation following the resignation of Phil Tomlinson in 2009. As Transportation Secretary, Ridley has supervision over all state transportation initiatives and the entities charged with implementing them, including the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the Oklahoma Transportation Authority, the Oklahoma Aeronautics

Commission, the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority and all Port Authorities within the state.

On November 29, 2010, Governor-elect Mary Fallin announced that she would retain Ridely as Secretary of Transportation in her Administration and as the Director of both the Department of Transportation and the Turnpike Authority.

LeAnn Hart



Originally from Louisiana, LeAnn, is now a “transplant” to the State of Oklahoma. LeAnn and her husband, J.W. Hart, who is a professional bull rider, and their children, live a very active lifestyle, but are proud to call home in Marietta, OK.

Along with being a busy mom, LeAnn recently opened her own photography business. However, LeAnn is mostly known as a singer/song writer in the country music genre.

She has written songs entitled, “Livin In a Cowgirls Dream,” “Everything but Lying,” and “Wild Enough.”

Representative Don Armes



Elected in 2002, Don represents District 63 covering part of Comanche County and all of Tillman County. Rep. Armes is currently Chair of Agriculture and Rural Development, member of Appropriations and Budget, member of Economic Development, Tourism and Financial Services, member of International Development, member of Energy and Utility Regulation, member of Rules and Chair of Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Regulatory Services.

Don was an agricultural education instructor for 13 years, followed by a career in radio and television agriculture broadcasting. In addition to representing District 63, he has served as a spokesman in TV advertising and works in commercial real estate and auction services business.

Don lives on the family farm near Fax-on with his wife Dede and daughters Kelsey and Katie, who is a student at OSU.

Jet McCoy



Jet McCoy (left) with brother, Cord McCoy (right)

Jet McCoy is a lifelong horseman and five (5) time IPRA world champion, twelve (12) time IFR qualifier, active rancher training horses for reining and cutting competition.

He has begun reining competitions, attracted to the challenge and competitive spirit.

Jet is a graduate of Southwest Oklahoma State University and married wife Ashlee in 2004. They have a daughter, Ti, who was born in 2008.

Jet and his brother, Cord, achieved international fame as participants of the CBS-TV's *The Amazing Race*.

Joe Settlemires & The USAO Showband



The USAO ShowBand travels Oklahoma and beyond as ambassadors for the University of Science and Arts. The group is led by nationally acclaimed western swing and jazz guitarist and impresario Joe Settlemires, whose long career in the recording industry has brought new opportunities to USAO students.

In its first five years, the group has a wide range of music: from Sinatra to Santana, from the Dixie Chicks to Journey. Special theme concerts have showcased Elvis music with Oklahoma City vocalist Brady Odom and Motown hits and with student talent.

ShowBand vocalists perform over guitar, bass, drums, woodwind and brass instrumentals. In 2003, the ShowBand performed a special concert with Clint Strong, one of the best jazz and western swing guitar players in the country, whose credits include albums with Mel Tillis and Merle Haggard just to name a few.

Settlemires has performed on a dozen western swing, jazz and other albums with various artists. He spent many years in Nashville and Los Angeles, but recently returned to Blanchard to get reacquainted with his Sooner roots. Settlemires uses his unique style of jazz and western swing to arrange most of the tunes for the band. Joe is the youngest surviving Texas Playboy from Bob Wills fame.

The ShowBand is but one of 25 outreach programs at USAO, all designed to provide enriching educational and entertainment experiences for Oklahoma audiences.

Convention Entertainment

Dove Brothers

Music for the entire family best describes American Music Group "The Dove Brothers" & "The Dove Brother's Band." Together they are a top tier entertainment act that work on any stage and at any level and in any venue. Recipients of numerous prestigious awards, keys to cities, chart topping songs have only strengthened their faith in God, Family, and Country. Four part harmony, live music, positive lyrics, and the group's deep gospel roots, energize audiences both young and old, who enjoy a variety of music.

"Our country needs MORE acts like the DOVES!!!!!"

-Joe Bonsall author and 36 year member of the American Music group The Oak Ridge Boys.



**Grand
Door
Prize!**



Sponsored by Farm Credit Services of Eastern Oklahoma, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma, Chisholm Trail Farm Credit & P&K Equipment.

Win this ALL NEW John Deere X310 Lawn Tractor with a 18.5 hp Kawasaki Engine, hydrostatic drive with a 42" deck. It also has Power Steering and Hydraulic Power Lift deck.

In addition, a Stihl Trimmer will be included, with a total value over \$4200!

*Awarded at the 107th AFR Convention Banquet
Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012*

7:00 p.m.

Must Be Present to Win!

 **P&K**
EQUIPMENT

AFR BENEFITS

AVIS

AVIS® offers a 25% discount to Farmers Union/AFR members which includes an online booking site.

Visit the website: <https://www.avis.com/car-rental/profile/go.acB291042>

Promo code: Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) #B291043

Or call toll free at 1-800-331-1212. Use your Farmers Union/AFR Avis Worldwide Discount number to enjoy these special savings.

Budget

Nothing is smarter than getting great deals on great cars. As a Farmers Union/AFR member, you get a great deal every time you rent. Farmers Union/AFR members save up to 20% off our great rates, plus you can take advantage of specials on daily, weekly & weekend rates and upgrades.

Visit the website: <http://www.budgetcarrental.com/budget/assoc/index.html?R19843>

Promo code: Budget Customer Discount (BCD) #R198143

Or call toll free at 1-800-527-0700. Mention the Farmers Union/AFR Budget Customer Discount number to receive your discount.

For more information about AFR Membership Benefits contact Paul Jackson at (405)-218-5559 or email at pjackson@afrmic.com

Saving Lives in Rural America!



Join America's largest Air Medical Membership Program with over 950,000 members in 15 states.

1-Year AFR Membership Fees, \$10.00 Savings!

- 1 member household - \$40
- 2 member household - \$45
- 3 or more member household - \$50

Please reference Plan Code 1060 when enrolling to receive the above discounted rate.

Visit our Trade Show booth at Convention



For questions call Membership Regional Director,
Jill Burks • 580-497-7475

WYNDHAM
GARDEN HOTEL
OKLAHOMA CITY AIRPORT

Oklahoma City 30% Discounts

- Regular Rate \$99 with two breakfasts
- AFR Rate with two breakfasts \$69
- AFR Rate with up to four breakfasts \$79

Members need to mention they are with **American Farmers & Ranchers** to receive the benefit.

*Rate is good for weekday, weekend and Park & Fly Package.

Wyndham Garden Hotel, Oklahoma City Airport
2101 S. Meridian Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
405-685-4000

National 20% Discounts

Farmers Union & AFR have partnered with Wyndham Hotel Group to provide this discount to our members, a discount that is not available to the general public. Members will receive a 20 percent discount off the lowest regularly available public rate. This means a savings even compared to services like Hotels.com and Expedia. And the discount extends well beyond Wyndham branded hotels to all of the chains in the WHG system – including: **Ramada Worldwide, Days Inn, Wingate Inn, Howard Johnson, Travelodge, Super 8, Baymont Inn, Microtel Inns and Suites, Hawthorn Suites and Knights Inn** locations.

To access this discount call:

Toll Free
877-670-7088

Each hotel chain will be available from the menu above.
Be sure to have the Farmers Union/AFR code:

100009284

Or go directly to:
www.NFU.org/hotels



Superior • Simplistic • Common Sense

KJD Enterprises offers a \$150 cash rebate to all AFR members on the purchase of a new K/D front end loader.

Call Kenneth or Jeff Day toll free at 888-641-0420 for instructions and a rebate voucher.

K/D LOADERS

2700 Virgil Gray Blvd Brownwood, TX 76801

State and Federal Policy Issues

Federal Child Labor Law Proposal

In the first update to the Fair Labor Standards Act concerning child farm workers since 1970, the U.S. Department of Labor is proposing dramatic revisions to child labor laws relating to agriculture. Young workers would be prohibited from many types of common farm duties, except on an operation solely owned by their parents. Kids working with or without pay on their grandparents', nonguardian relatives' or neighbors' farm, wouldn't be allowed to operate any type of power driven equipment or work around uncastrated male horses, pigs or cattle older than 6 months or sows with suckling pigs or cows with a newborn calf. These restrictions would also apply to family partnerships that included anyone other than the minor's parent. Additionally, children would be completely prohibited from "being employed in the storing, marketing and transporting of farm-product raw materials," and "working at grain elevators, grain bins, silos, feed lots and livestock auctions."

More info, including the full 50 page text of the rule can be found at:
http://www.dol.gov/whd/CL/AG_NPRM.htm

To the right, is a letter from Gov. Mary Fallin and Agriculture Secretary Jim Reese to U.S. Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis on their concerns regarding the proposed Child Labor Regulations.

FEDERAL

Horse Transportation

On December 8th, U.S. Senators Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ), Chairman of the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV), Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee introduced the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Enhancement Act, a bill that reauthorizes the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and addresses federal truck and bus safety standards. On page 150 of the 163 page bill, in a section entitled "Miscellaneous", the transportation of horses in double decker trailers is made illegal. The bill passed the Senate Commerce Committee 13-11 along party lines on December 14th. This legislation will have to clear several other committees before being reconciled with a similar House Bill, in an attempt to create the 2012 omnibus federal transportation authorization bill.

Farm Dust Update

H.R. 1633, the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act, passed the House floor 268-150 on December 8th. It is now co-sponsored by 121 representatives and would prevent EPA from changing its current standard for coarse particulate matter for one year and exempts "nuisance dust" from federal regulation where such dust is already regulated under state, tribal, or local law.

EPA Regional Haze Plan

This month the EPA partially disapproved the Oklahoma State Implementation Plan to meet federal air quality standards. As a result, the EPA is promulgating a Federal Implementation Plan to reduce emissions at six Oklahoma power plants. Attorney General Scott Pruitt announced he would appeal the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit. The EPA rule is estimated by the Attorney General to have the potential to increase Oklahoma utility rates by up to 13%.

STATE

Oklahoma Academy Report

The Oklahoma Academy for State Goals, in the final report from its 2011 town hall meeting stopped well short of endorsing a much discussed proposal to eliminate the state's individual income tax. In summary, the members wrote: "Many believe that the systems of taxation in Oklahoma need attention and improvement in efficiency and balance. There is no consensus on what needs to be done, or how to do it. The state income tax should not be eliminated until further independent studies have been conducted on the impact and a budget-neutral strategy has been developed."

Water Lawsuit Update

The Water Resources Board voted December 13th to direct its legal counsel to proceed with an adjudication process for water rights claims in the southeast area of the state. This area includes the territory at issue in a federal lawsuit filed by the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations. The Water Resources Board is working with the state attorney general's office to develop an adjudication process. The tribes condemned the board's action in a December 17th Norman Transcript editorial.

Dear Secretary Solis:

We are writing in regards to the proposed Child Labor Regulations published at 76 Fed. Reg. 54836, September 2, 2011 from your Department relating to labor laws for young people in agriculture. In an era of sedentary lifestyles, i.e.; computers, video games, all access TV and poor eating habits in the United States, this policy to restrain and/or limit on-farm employment of young people is very misguided. The youth of America would benefit greatly from working on the farm, in the open air, learning about animals, crops and wildlife. Hauling hay, riding horses, sorting cattle and driving tractors have been a learning foundation for many of our nation's most successful citizens. Any policy that would hinder the opportunities of young Americans to experience life in our agricultural communities is misguided indeed. Our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are much more able to determine and teach farm safety to our youth than government officials in Washington DC. Farm safety classes are available in communities all across our state.

The youth of America are facing many challenges today. We believe working outside, in agriculture, on a farm could be the best remedy for this generation. Safety is imperative to every Oklahoma farmer and their families. Agricultural youth are required to complete all of their farming responsibilities and chores while still competing in school activities and achieving academic excellence. One of the very reasons for working on the farm is to learn the life skills of competition, commitment, dedication and achievement. We respectfully ask that you reconsider these proposed rules. We also urge you, when there is an opportunity to hire additional staff; to hire a farm raised common sense, young person and see just how dedicated and competitive they are.

The proposed regulations claim that they will "in no way compromise the statutory child labor parental exemption involving children working on farms owned or operated by their parent." However, farms are also a great tool and educator for many urban youth or "town kids" that work summers on a friend's farm. Many family farms have a corporate structure or become a Limited Liability Corporation to adhere to best business practices; yet they are entirely family inclusive. There are just too many exceptions needed to make this rule.

We need more young farmers in Oklahoma, no less. We need more young people to know where their food comes from, not less. We need more young people outside, exercising, working and earning rather than discouraging this practice. The federal government should not construct further employment barriers at a time when there are fewer job opportunities for young people.

There are already necessary and proper laws in place to ensure agricultural youth workers are protected. We have many avenues that we currently use to promote youth safety including Cooperative Extension and Vocational Agricultural Education. Agricultural experiences are not identical in their state. These avenues would allow each state to address the risks and conditions in their state. Our recommendation for these rules is to immediately withdraw and abandon this proposal.

Sincerely,
Mary Fallin
Governor of Oklahoma

Jim Reese
Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture

"The government should not seek to adversely impact the longstanding tradition of young people working on farms. Many family farms in Oklahoma depend on the contributions of youth for their successful operation. Also, for many young people, working on farms and participating in programs such as 4-H teaches valuable skills and lessons on hard work, character, and leadership."

-Congressman Dan Boren

Community Wind Energy Projects in Oklahoma

SECOND COMMUNITY WIND PROJECT EXPLORED FOR STATE

American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union cooperated with the National Farmers Union and OwnEnergy to hold a workshop on Community Wind Development at the Sugar Creek Canyon Golf Club at Hinton on November 7. AFR staff members Paul Jackson, Farm & Cooperative Programs Director and Steve Thompson, Policy & Membership Development Coordinator, represented the organization at the first meeting. The concept of community wind projects are based on the cooperative model and the benefits flowing to those who participate. Cooperative development is a continuing cornerstone of AFR/OFU activities.

After a significant analysis of the state of Oklahoma, OwnEnergy narrowed its' focus on the Caddo County area, as the immediate area possesses strong fundamentals for wind development. OwnEnergy intends to partner with interested community leaders that seek to participate in a Community Wind project. By partnering with local community leaders, OwnEnergy enables landowner partners to have a direct role in the development of a project and receive financial reward for their efforts. Project development will begin by identifying a local partner and installing a meteorological (met) tower to measure the wind resource in the focus area.

OwnEnergy partners with landowners to develop renewable energy projects, with an initial focus on 10-80 MW wind energy projects. The partners take an active role in the development and installation process and in return, they are provided with a significant ownership stake in the resulting renewable energy project. The first Oklahoma project is located near Blackwell. Currently a project is also underway just south of Oklahoma in the Muenster, Texas area.

More information is available at www.yourownwindfarm.com or by contacting Guy Rusche, NFU Project Development Specialist, 605-529-5140; Nathan Vajdos, OwnEnergy Project Developer, 210-831-5144; Terry Detrick, AFR President, 405-218-5555 or Paul Jackson, Farm & Cooperative Programs Director, 405-218-5559.

OWNENERGY AND LOCAL EQUITY PARTNERS SELL WIND FARM THAT WILL PROVIDE CLEAN ENERGY TO OG&E AND OSU

OwnEnergy, the leader in Community Wind announced today that it has closed a transaction in Kay County, OK where NextEra Energy Resources will acquire, construct and operate the Blackwell Wind Farm. Blackwell is a project that OwnEnergy has been developing from inception alongside its local landowner partners.

The 60 megawatt project is expected to be constructed by the end of 2012. The clean, renewable energy produced by the wind farm will be sold under a long term contract to Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E). OG&E will use the output from the project to supply Oklahoma State University with clean energy. The Blackwell project is strategically located just up the road from the Stillwater campus. It will provide up to 150 jobs during construction, and approximately three full-time jobs to operate the facility, as well as enhanced economic development for the region due to its Community Wind nature.

The Blackwell Wind Farm was initiated three years ago as a Community Wind farm by a local landowner in the Blackwell area, David Savage, who partnered with OwnEnergy and other local investors. David had held an interest in renewable energy for some time when he met OwnEnergy in 2008 at the annual WindPower conference in Houston, TX. There David learned about the company's focus on Community Wind, where ownership is retained in the community and profits are recycled, creating incremental jobs, wages, business income and local pride. "This wind project will have a significant economic impact on the Blackwell community and I am very pleased to have had a hand in making it happen" said Savage.

OG&E and OSU recently announced an agreement to provide wind power to the Stillwater campus. If approved by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, the 20-year agreement will provide wind power for the university's existing load as well as meet the needs of OSU's future expansion. The new wind agreement will provide the university cost savings over the contract term. The savings include retiring the university's existing cogeneration facility and eliminating the need to invest future capital in additional cogeneration facilities to keep up with growing energy demand.

Burns Hargis, president of Oklahoma State University said "The signing of this agreement with OG&E is part of our overarching sustainability initiative aimed at saving money, reducing carbon emissions and improving efficiency." Blackwell's unique location in north central Oklahoma is advantageous for both OG&E and OSU in that it combines a strong wind resource with an existing transmission grid. "The Blackwell location works well for us in terms of providing the necessary support to execute this agreement with OSU," said Wayne Walker, Director of Business Development for OG&E. "We've been very pleased with the partnership between OG&E and OwnEnergy and look forward to the completion of the wind farm and the start of the program with OSU," he said.

Own Energy will receive a royalty payment from the project throughout its life. Jacob Susman, Founder and CEO of OwnEnergy, said, "This is an exciting opportunity for all the parties involved, including OwnEnergy, our local Blackwell partners and investors, OG&E, and Oklahoma State University."

About OwnEnergy:

OwnEnergy, Inc. is a Community Wind developer of mid-sized, utility scale wind projects that enable landowners and communities to build and profit directly from their own local wind farms. The company works in partnership with its nationwide network of energy entrepreneurs to develop the approximately 30 community wind farms in its 1,500MW pipeline. OwnEnergy has a breakthrough business model for the profitable and capital-efficient development of these mid-size wind farms that involves a community ownership model and proprietary development systems. The company is based in Brooklyn, New York and is active in sixteen US states. For more information about OwnEnergy visit www.ownenergy.net.

"Join the Revolution of Responsibility"

Who: Anyone working as a volunteer with youth or interested in volunteering

What: 2nd Annual Master Volunteer Conference

When: April 18, 2012

Where: Oklahoma County OSU Extension Office, 930 N. Portland

How to sign up: Contact the Oklahoma County OSU Extension Office, 405-713-1125

Fees: \$25 Registration fee

Early bird \$20 by Mar. 30th

Speakers: Sean Abbanato
Lorinda Schrammel
Riley Pagett

Topics: Volunteer Expectations
Risk Management
Technical & Social Media
Working in Difficult Situations



Dennis Becomes New Owner of Cross Timbers Agency in Okemah



Keri Dennis is the new co-owner and managing agent for Cross Timbers Insurance Group at Okemah.

Keri Dennis is a fifth generation Oklahoman, and has been involved with the agriculture industry all of her professional career. She has been in the agriculture insurance industry since 2010 with Triangle Insurance Company. Prior to that Keri was the Southwest Oklahoma Field Representative and Agriculture liaison for US Congressman Tom Cole. Keri graduated from Hobart High School and The University of Oklahoma. Her family is from Lincoln and Payne Counties.

Keri took over on October 1st. Marc'ette Lucas the former owner worked for a few months to help in the transition but has now

retired. Kathleen Huckeba is also a new agent in the agency.

The office address and phone number will remain the same. Keri is very excited about becoming involved with the community and representing AFR in the area.

Firey New Managing Agent at Bristow



Scarlett Firey is the new managing agent and owner at Bristow Agency.

Scarlett Firey, is a recent graduate with a Masters in Business Administration from Columbia College. She has years of corporate marketing and management experience, and is very excited about the new venture of owning an insurance agency. She was born and raised on a farm outside of the Sapulpa area and graduated from a private Christian school in Oilton, Oklahoma.

Scarlett has been affiliated with AFR for many years, going to summer camps, participating in the annual conventions and poster contests. Scarlett's Grandmother, Sylvia Firey, and father, John Firey, have also been agents in the past for AFR or Oklahoma Farmers Union as it was known then. She is a long time participant in AFR and seems to have always been involved in the AFR programs.

Firey Insurance Agency also has another agent, Stephani Anderson, working in the office. She had previously worked in the office for the Boone's before the change of ownership. Stephani is a lifetime resident of Bristow, and has worked for AFR as an agent for more than four years. She has much to bring to the table as far as her insurance knowledge and great customer service.

Stop by Firey Insurance Agency in Bristow, at 105 South Main, and say hello to Scarlett and Stephani and let them take care of all your insurance needs.

Local Meetings Scheduled

County Meetings are on pg. 22

•Edmond Local 327 Annual Farmers Union Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012

5:30 p.m.

Johnnie's Restaurant 33rd St. Edmond, OK

•Okfuskee Local 462 Annual Farmers Union Meeting

Monday, Jan. 16, 2012

6:00 p.m.

Jason Nutt Agency 106 W. 9th, Paden, OK

The Jurgensmeyers show support with generous gift

If there is one thing Virgil and Marge Jurgensmeyer of Miami, Okla., understand well, it's the importance of giving back.

The Jurgensmeyers generously made a \$250,000 gift to Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center to create the Virgil and Marge Jurgensmeyer Endowed Professorship in Food Product Development.

Virgil, chief executive officer of J-M Farms in Miami, Okla., and one of the founding members of the FAPC, has served in a leadership role with the center from inception to date.

"As we grew older, Marge and I looked at what we were going to do with our money to help others," Virgil said. "Agriculture has been good to us; Oklahoma has been good to us and is home to us. It's a good feeling to be able to do this."

Virgil said his concern throughout his years of involvement with the FAPC has been the funding of the facility.

"The FAPC needs sources of funding down the road," he said. "Marge and I came to a conclusion that this would be a good place to put our earnings."

The FAPC is fortunate to have supporters like the Jurgensmeyers who understand the importance of the center's mission and adding value to Oklahoma, said Chuck Willoughby, FAPC business and marketing relations manager.

"We are truly thankful to the Jurgensmeyers for their support and doing something meaningful to provide funds to the center in addition to the current appropriations," Willoughby said. "It is their hope and ours that other industry leaders will follow their example and provide additional endowments to the FAPC."

Virgil is an innovative agricultural business owner of a mushroom production, processing, packaging and shipping facility. J-M Farms has been a successful Oklahoma business since 1979.

Virgil's experience and knowledge of being in the mushroom business for 40 years has made him tremendously valuable to the FAPC while serving on FAPC's Industry Advisory Committee as an advisor, decision maker, mentor and coach, said Roy Escoubas, FAPC director.

"Virgil has always been sensitive to the immediate issues and in the long-term planning of the FAPC," Escoubas said. "He believes in value-added processing and what value-added processing can do to expand the Oklahoma economy. Virgil is a tireless supporter of the FAPC."



Adding Value to Oklahoma

*Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center
148 FAPC • Oklahoma State University • Stillwater, OK 74078
(405) 744-6071 • (405) 744-6313 - FAX*

www.fapc.biz

67th Annual AFR State Speech Contest



AFR/OFU: Novice division, first place Rylee Detrick, Ringwood, second place Emily Garrett, Kingfisher and third place Seth Jackson, Bethel. Junior Division first place was Sarah Gruntmeir, Kingfisher, second place was Syndee Gerken, Kingfisher and third place was Kohl Murray, Perkins-Tryon. Intermediate Division, first place was Tapha Akers, Haworth, second place was Margan Yost, Kingfisher and third place was Ryan Danker, Wellston. Senior Division, first place was Micaela Danker, Wellston, second place was Chance Imhoff, Prague and third place was Lane Newlin, Burlington.

Natural Resources: Junior division, first place was Tori Sessions, Fairview, second place was Colten Smith, Kingfisher and third place was Jordan Storey, Valliant. Intermediate division first place Jennifer Bedwell, Fairview, second place Kyler Belinson, Elgin and third place was Colton Pratz, Stillwater. Senior results, first place was Jessie Heidlage, Claremore, second place Jillian Whipple, Alva and third place was Emily Landoll, Elgin.

AgScience: Junior division, first place was Sydney Hutchinson, Fairview, second went to Micah Mueggenberg, Kingfisher and third place was Will Shelby, Madill. Intermediate division, first place was Cheradan Vap, Burlington, second place was Kade Blackley, Thomas Fay Custer and third place was Brooke McKinney, Spiro. Senior division results, first place went to Jamie Adams, Kingfisher, second place Kirsten Rogers, Calera and third place was Nicole Ashton, Elgin.



Student Org.: Junior division, first place was Juanita Neeley, Elgin, second place was Jill Coats, Konawa and third place was Dal Williams, Hollis. Intermediate Division results, first place was Gatlin Squires, Kingfisher, second place, Kelby Corbett, Elgin and third place was Cale Jahn, Elgin. In the senior division first place was Kyle Hilbert, Depew, second place was Kelsi Williams, Hollis and third place was Skylar Vogle, Perkins-Tryon.

AgBusiness: Junior division, first place was Colten Budy, Waynoka, second place Shiane Hood, Lookeba-Sickles and third place was Brooke Cameron, Kingfisher. Intermediate results, first place went to Jessie Philips, Kingfisher, second place Hannah Cummins, Elgin and third place Audry Dunlap, Fairview. Senior Division, first place was Tyler Schnaithman, Garber, second place was Katie Lippoldt, Kingfisher and third place was Mikayla Balderas, Tipton.

Tourn. of Champions: Division I category, first place was Hadley Griffith, Shawnee. Division II, first place was Spencer Struck, Kingfisher and second place was Blair Kloppel, Kingfisher.

*Pictured with winners are Terry Detrick, AFR president, John Doak, Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner and AFR Youth Council members.

American Farmers & Ranchers News & Views

Trading Post Ads

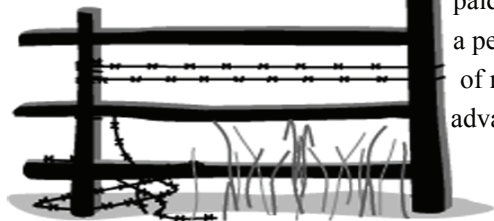
P. O. Box 24000

Oklahoma City, Okla. 73124

Fax: 405-218-5589

or email: tradingpostads@afmic.com

American Farmers & Ranchers reserves the right not to publish any ad deemed inappropriate

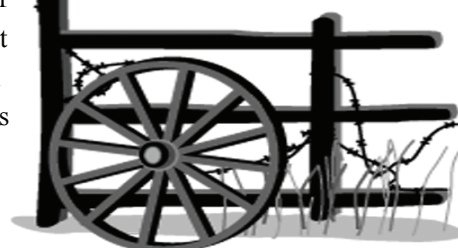


TRADING POST

Classified advertising in the Trading Post is available free of charge to all paid-up members of the American Farmers & Ranchers. Ads must be of a personal nature and strictly non-commercial. Commercial ads and that of non-members can be purchased at the rate of \$1.00 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.

ADS ARE DUE INTO THE HOME OFFICE BY MARCH 1ST FOR PUBLICATION IN THE SPRING ISSUE.

Advertising will not be accepted for services or products in direct competition with those offered by American Farmers & Ranchers or its affiliates.



REAL ESTATE

For Sale – Hwy frontage, log home, with two bedrooms, 2 full baths, one with Jacuzzi tub, laundry room, and large pantry. Comes with a bonus, one room log cabin with electric and gas and the Kiamichi River at back of the property. All on 5.61 acres and with storage building for storage. Price \$140,000. Call 918/569-4272 or 479/248-2899.

For Sale – One bedroom condo with hot tub. Sleeps five. Week 51. At Mountain Side, Slovista Ski Slope located in Granby, Colorado. \$5000 or best offer. Call Jim at 970/856-7100.

5 Acres – 40 Acre Tracts near Fort Cobb Lake. Some timber, highway access and only 3 minutes from Lake. From \$1995 per acre. Call 405/643-2884, home or 580/759-6038, cell.

195 Acres, pond and fenced, Alva, Oklahoma. Also have some mineral rights for sale in Woods County. Also looking for “cheap” gas golf cart under \$1000. Call 580/254-2669 or 580/334-5972.

For Sale by owner – 30 acres, Tahlequah, OK off of Hwy. 62. 2400 plus sq. ft. modular home, catfish pond, tool shed, other outbuilding. Dear Hunters Dream. \$250,000.00 Call 918/456-3862 or email JMARQUISSR@aol.com.

Want to buy rental property in Seminole and Hughes County. Looking for used mobile homes. Please no realtors or dealers. 405/220-2031.

MOBILE HOMES

2012 - 16' wide shingle roof, vinyl siding, front kitchen, tan plush carpet, black appliances, washer & dryer, 6 panel doors, delivered and set up with air \$27,900. 918-683-4973

2011 - Dealer Repo's only 16' wide 3 bedroom units left. Hurry before they are gone! Discounted prices on new warranted homes. Call 918-683-7791 for more info.

Repo! Bargain! Save \$\$\$! Fairmont 16x80, 3+2, 2x6 walls, real wood cabinets, open floor plan, only \$12,900. 918/683-8400.

You're Approved!! Credit scores of 575 and over on select new mobile homes. Call for more info. 918/683-7791.

FEMA Liquidation Center! Make offers on FEMA Mobile Homes and park models. They all must go. No reasonable offer refused. Call 918/683-3707.

2007 Grand Junction 40' 5th Wheel Camper. All the amenities of home. Fireplace, surround sound, full size sleeper sofa, dual power refrigerator, dining for four, separate toilet room, king size master bed, shower w/ skylight, w/d ready, hardwood throughout, outside shower, ready for a generator. Photos available 580-279-3020 or e-mail bapastorbob@gmail.com

For Sale: Class A Motor Home, 2007, Itasca, Sunova, Model 34A, 34'6", Ford V10, 6.8L, sleeps 6, triple slide, video camera system (side and back), hydraulic leveling system. 580-492-4319.

LIVESTOCK

Registered Polled Hereford Herd Sire. Remitall Online 122L genetics; 2,300 lbs. Hip height (63 inches). Young bulls (10 months old). Also, a few registered Polled Hereford cows. 580-332-2468

Kusel bulls have won more independent gain tests than any Limousin herd in U.S. Large selection of big, stout, gentle, easy calving herd sires. 405/643-2884.

Brangus Bulls, Gentle, Fertility Tested, Calving Ease. Delivery Available. Horsehead Ranch, Oologah, OK. 918/695-2357.

Registered Limousin bulls and heifers, open and bred, black, polled, calving ease, gentle and some homozygous Limflex. Top genetics at work. Wildhorse Valley. Call 405/517-3824 or 405/279-3398.

Maine/Angus Bulls for sale out of our top donor cow (Maine) and Raven (Angus) top REA in the Angus breed. These ET bulls are low birth weight, fertility tested and ready for service. Brower Land & Cattle, Anadarko, 405/831-1632 or 405/933-2007.

Beef Master Bulls – Black polled. Bred Heifers, polled heavy in calf, most black or red. Price at time of sale. Discount for three or more. Okemah, OK. 918/623-1663.

Registered Beef Master Bulls, cows, and show heifers. We have 3 & 1's, pairs, open, bred and some are polled. Bred for the 6 essentials. Our website is doubledeucebeefmasters.com. Home 918/253-8680 or Cell 918/557-6923.

For Sale: Black cow with steer calf; Black BF cow heavy springer, Black steer, wt 600 lbs. \$25,000. Call 405-391-3319.

For Sale - 15 year old Jet of Honor barrel horse. Runs 2d times. Not barrel hitter. Bends around the barrels. Calm before and after he runs. Rides in pasture. Started on poles, \$12,000, Freedom, OK. Call Sharon Harper @ 580-747-3486 or email sharper@freedom.k12.ok.us

Flashy black/white paint team 15H, 10/12 yo, well broke and cound. Traffic safe. Old hands at parades, gunfire, Christmas caroling, Round-up Sundays & funerals. \$25,000 each. 580-515-4818

Horses for Sale: Must sell due to health problems. Mini bay weanling filly, \$150. Very sweet and cute; Beautiful bay Arabian filly. Born Christmas Day, \$250; Flashy yearling Pinto filly, \$500. Call 405-466-1541 or email ValC4@aol.com

Prairie hay and alfalfa square bales. Edmond area. 405-412-5031.

FARM EQUIPMENT & LAWN MOWERS

5ft.x14ft Cattle trailer, everything works, \$1,850. Also two 5ftx8ft Area rugs, \$35 each. 12 gauge Remington 1100 Semi Automatic and case \$295. 405-240-2883

For Sale: a Farmall Tractor, parade ready, B Farmall Tractor with Billy mower, VCA Case Tractor, All running. 580-365-4470.

TO20 Ferguson for parts, two rear wheels and tires are in very good shape. Some other parts missing, \$400. 1976 Lincoln, Hasn't been started in 3 years, \$600. 9-joints 20' C purlin, some short pieces, \$150. Email Ldchamlee@aol.com

AUTOS, TRUCKS & CYCLES

1962 Ford pickup, 3/4 ton, V8, 4 speed, needs some work. Tag is current, \$750. Stringtown, OK 580-346-7681.

Restored, beautiful, 1970 Ford pickup. Car show ready. Shunshine yellow, blacktop, new yellow and black upholstery, 302Ci, V8, standard transmission, new bumpers, glass. Runs great. 580-281-3476.

1993 Nissan PU, 150K miles. Asking \$1,700. Call Dorothy at 405-449-3427.

WANTED

Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: P.O. Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201.

Want to Buy: Old Gas Pumps: 1915-1975 visible or electric, Porcelain signs, transmission pumps. 580/639-2776.

Cash for old guns. Winchester, Colt SA pistols and old Double Barrel Shotguns. Single guns or collections. Nice condition guns bring top dollar. Call Les at 580/456-7779 after 6 p.m.

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

Want to buy rental property in Seminole and Hughes County. Looking for used mobile homes. Please no realtors or dealers. 405/220-2031 – leave message.

Wanted: I buy Mineral Rights, in Carter, Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Blaine, Canadian, Ellis, Garvin, Grady, Harper, Pottawatomie, Ponotoc, Roger Mills, Washita, all counties. Call me before you sell. 580-227-2456.

Want to buy interesting or classic vehicles. Call Lee at 405/376-9272.

Wanted: old cars, hard tops or convertibles, running or not. 918/482-3272

Wanted: Chevy 409 cars and motors and Mopar 426 cars and motors. Also want 1963, 1964, 1965 Dodge or Plymouth. 918/695-8700. Inola, OK.

Wanted: Tree and Stump Grinding. 405-473-8691.

Wanted: Looking to buy more round bale hay, send size and kind, i.e. Bermuda, bluestem or kind of grass, location of hay, with price to our home phone at 405-598-3540 (has a recorder for messages anytime.)

DOGS & PETS

ASCA registered Australian Shepherds, fat, healthy pups with champion bloodlines, excellent temperament for pet, work or show. damcofarm.com or call 405/392-3602.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Whirlpool Washer & Dryer...\$200, Gas Oven...\$100, Bike Helmet...\$40, Metal Lockers...\$40. 405-275-3419.

MISCELLANEOUS

Small Tree and Stump Grinding. 405-473-8691.

Bud Lite Pool Table Light – collector's item \$200. Pair of Water Skis, \$30. 1996 Saturn 4-door coupe 30 mpg, good running condition. Good car to go to school or work in. Has air, am/fm/cd that is worth \$300 alone. Will sacrifice for \$1,200 or trade for equal value. Call 918/966-3800.

Just Published – 483 page, "Memoirs of a Pioneer Okie of Wagoner County – 1933-2009." WWII romances, hardships, fidelity, infidelity, unbridled ambition, sexual discrimination, bootleggers, murder, some good times; 30 photographs. \$24.95 post-paid. 918/485-5178 or pioneerokie@yahoo.com. Author – C. Ray Essary. Also have two barrels for mod. 1100 Remington shotgun.

4061 ft. of 2 7/8" pipe, \$1.35/ft; 422- 3/4" Oilfield Sucker Rods, \$8.00 each. Call 405-627-3920.

Speedrite 580-110 fence charge; 40-6' & 6-1/2' T-posts' 20'-3/8 log chain, 70' of top rails & posts 4" cedar; 4-6'x10' chain link panels; chain come-a-long. Rogers 405-488-5917.

20,000 used red bricks in Perry, OK. Clean and on pallets. \$.41 each OBO. Buyer take all. 580-336-9440.

190 Romance Books for sale. \$80.00 cash firm. Contact Virginia Green at 918-267-4199.

Antique Iron Wheel Farm Implement Collection; John Deere No. 2 Hay Mower – intact and rare, \$350; No. 7 McCormick/Deering Mower, also hard to find, \$350; 5-Hay Rakes at \$250 each; Nice 4-row Cultivator, \$350; Rare Tractor Belt driven Cross Saw, \$300; Planter, \$200; Plows and Cultivators \$150 each. All are in good condition. Will sell some or all. Tired of weed eating around them. Norman seller. Call John at 405/292-6299.

For Sale: Old Things. Old Square, Wringer Maytag Washer, Treadle Sewing Machine, Electric Pressure Cooker, Horse Collar and Brass Knob Hames, 5 dozen 63 Jar Linds and 2 dozen Rings, Jars, Smoothing Iron. Much More. Call 918-962-2967.

Reasons to "like" the AFR Youth Program page on Facebook.

1. Get updates and see pictures on AFR Youth events.
2. Get to know your 2011-2012 Youth Advisory Council.
3. Learn what Oklahoma youth in doing within the state.
4. Be a part of a team who promotes education to Oklahoma youth.
5. Earn Scholarships!



Ads Due to AFR State Office by March 1st for Publication in the Spring Issue.

2011-12 AFR Policy Committee



Randy Gilbert, Policy Chairman, Pete McDaniel, John Grunewald, Bill Wilson and Drew Christensen, discuss legislative issues as a part of the 2012 Farm Bill. Not Pictured: Kent McAninch, Harvey Schroeder, Rodney & Carol Cowan and Jarrod Stewart.

As it has been done for more than a century, each year AFR assembles a group of members to serve as the drafting committee for producing a policy document which will become our roadmap for pursuing state and federal legislative initiatives for the next year. This committee makes recommendations to convention delegates on existing policy and consideration of new resolutions submitted by local and county organizations.

At the first meeting in August, the committee focused primarily on the 2012 Farm Bill. Current policy was initially reviewed and a few federal policy experts briefed them on key details to consider. The committee then began setting a general direction based on the input and discussions. Major topics discussed were castor beans, debt reduction, revenue assurance and crop insurance.

The November meeting focused on state issues. Our group heard from the Ag Coop Council, Cattlemen's Association, Wheat Growers Association, Wheat Commission, Pork Council, Association of County Commissioners, Noble Foundation, Association of Electric Cooperatives, Railroad Association, Bankers Association, Association of Conservation Districts, Conservation Commission, Department of Agriculture, Water Resources Board and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.

Action was taken to forward recommendations on to the convention regarding hay transportation regulations, pesticide record keeping requirements, child farm labor laws, endangered species designation, CAFO facility closure, record keeping and continuing education requirements, farm disaster response plans, rural roads and bridges and agriculture research funding.

In January the committee will reconvene in order to wrap up consideration of resolutions submitted by counties and locals. Existing policy provisions will be finally reviewed for completion of the policy book and any other resolutions or special orders.

AFR staff was on hand to answer questions and provide information to assist the committee, but we strive for a bottom-up, membership driven policy. Each of you, our members, have ideas to contribute to the policy process and we look forward to hearing from you. Time has been reserved for considering last minute items at the start of the convention in February.

AFR Livestock Handling Competition: Pawnee Takes Home Top Honors



Pawnee FFA Team, J.D. Steele, Macey Skidgel and Chase Collins

The Pawnee FFA Team took home the Top Team of the Livestock Handling Competition on Dec. 9, 2011 at the Tulsa Farm Show. The competition was sponsored by American Farmers & Ranchers.

Earlier this summer, Oklahoma teams took a written test during the Oklahoma State University Big Three Field Days competition. Those teams which made the finals were announced, and have gone through several months of preparing for the finals at the Tulsa Farm Show.

The Pawnee Team consisted of Macey Skidgel, J.D. Steele and Chase Collins. The advisor & coach for the team was their agricultural education instructor, Mr Brian Skidgel.

Those teams making it into the finals each received a scholarship for being a finalist and the top team received additional prizes, trophy buckle and a new Priefert cattle chute to take back to their agricultural education program.

The second place team was Porter FFA with members K.C. Barnes, Hallie Barnes and Jarros McKinney. Third place was Pawnee Southeast at Large with members Hayden Skidgel, Morgan Vance and Chrissie Collins.

For more information for next year's competition, please contact Lin Fariss at 405-218-5561 or visit the Midwest Farm Shows, Inc. website for more details.

County Meeting Notice

***Kay County Annual Farmers Union Dinner Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
NOC Renfro Nursing Center, Tonkawa, OK
Local 5 & 306 will meet immediately following the County
meeting.***

Comfort Foods Done Right!

Don't Cheat that New Years Resolution!

Chicken Potpie

Recipe from: eatingwell.com

Ingredients:

Filling: (3) tsp. canola oil, divided, (1) c. frozen pearl onions, thawed, (1) c. peeled baby carrots, (10) oz. cremini mushrooms, halved, (2.5) c. reduced-sodium chicken broth, divided, (1/4) c. cornstarch, (2.5) c. diced cooked chicken, or turkey, (1) c. frozen peas, thawed, (1/4) tsp. salt, (1/4) c. reduced-fat sour cream, freshly ground paper to taste. Biscuit Topping: (3/4) c. whole-wheat pastry flour, (3/4) c. all-purpose flour, (2) tsp. sugar, (1.25) tsp. baking soda, (1/2) tsp. salt, (1) tsp. dried thyme, (1.5) tbsp. cold butter, cut into small pieces, (1) c. nonfat buttermilk, (1) tbsp. canola oil.

Directions:

1. To prepare filling: Heat 1 teaspoon oil in a large skillet or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add onions and carrots; cook, stirring, until golden brown and tender, about 7 minutes. Transfer to a bowl. Heat the remaining 2 teaspoons oil in the pan over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms and cook, stirring often, until browned and their liquid has evaporated, 5 to 7 minutes. Return the onions and carrots to the pan. Add 2 cups broth and bring to a boil; reduce heat to a simmer. Mix cornstarch with the remaining 1/2 cup broth; add to the pan and cook, stirring, until the sauce thickens. Stir in chicken (or turkey), peas, sour cream, salt and pepper. Transfer the filling to a 2-quart baking dish.
2. To prepare biscuit topping bake potpie: Preheat oven to 400°F. Whisk whole-wheat flour, all-purpose flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and thyme in a large bowl. Using your fingertips or 2 knives, cut butter into the dry ingredients until crumbly. Add buttermilk and oil; stir until just combined. Drop the dough onto the filling in 6 even portions. Set the baking dish on a baking sheet.
3. Bake the potpie until the topping is golden and the filling is bubbling, 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Nutrition Facts: Per serving: 403 calories; 12 g fat; 64 mg cholesterol; 46 g carbohydrates; 29 g protein; 4 g fiber; 667 mg sodium; 427 potassium.



Hot Chocolate

Recipe from: eatingwell.com

Ingredients:

(2) tbsp. sugar; (4) tsp. unsweetened cocoa powder; (1) c. 1% milk, divided; (1/4) tsp. vanilla extract; pinch of ground cinnamon.

Directions:

1. Mix sugar, cocoa and 2 tablespoons cold milk in a mug until smooth. Heat the remaining milk in a small saucepan on the stovetop or in a 2-cup glass measure in the microwave until steaming hot but not boiling. Stir in the cocoa mixture and vanilla.
2. To froth the hot chocolate, whirl a whisk in it by rubbing your hands back and forth. (Alternatively, pour the hot chocolate into a blender, cover with the lid and a kitchen towel and blend until frothy.) Pour it back into the mug and sprinkle with cinnamon.

Nutrition Facts: Per serving: 227 calories; 4 g fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 31 g carbohydrates; 7 g protein; 2 g fiber; 97 mg sodium; 390 mg potassium.



AFR News & Views

"The Voice of Family Agriculture"

Vol. XCII No. 5

WINTER 2012

Upcoming Events...

- Jan. 13-14 KNID Agrifest, Chisholm Trail Expo Center, Enid
- Jan. 28 AFR 4-H/FFA Hockey Night, Cox Center, Oklahoma City
- Feb. 15 Oklahoma Soybean Expo, Wes Watkins Center, OSU, Stillwater
- Feb. 17-18 AFR Convention, Embassy Suites, Norman
- Feb. 26-28 Okla. Assoc. of Conservation Districts, Reed Center, Midwest City
- Mar. 4-7 National Farmers Union Convention, Omaha, Nebraska
- Mar. 9-19 OK Youth Expo, Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City
- Mar. 9-19 AFR Ag Achievement Contest, Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City
- Mar. 16 OK Pork Congress, Reed Center, Midwest City
- Mar. 23-25 Expo/Farm Expo 2012, Fairgrounds, Woodward
- Mar. 26 AgrAbility Day, State Capitol, Oklahoma City
- Apr. 5 Ag Day, State Capitol, Oklahoma City



Feb. 17-18, 2012

... AFR serving Oklahoma for over 106 years!