



News & Views

"The Voice of Family Agriculture"

Vol. XCIV No. 4

Fall 2013

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**Agricultural
Education
Begins on the Farm**



By Terry Detrick, President

As I sit down to write this column, it is September 30 and some of the congressmen in Washington, D.C., are acting like kindergarten kids—playing games—volleying back-and-forth the same worn-out legislation that has taken their valuable time for most of the year. They have been spending taxpayer money passing “message” bills.

This Congress has passed fewer bills than any Congress in the past 50 years. They have known this day was coming, for a long time. If they have taken issue with the Affordable Care Act, why have they not submitted meaningful legislation that would correct any shortcomings or overreaches. Instead—knowing they didn’t have enough votes to repeal it, knowing it would be vetoed even if they did, knowing there definitely weren’t enough votes to override a presidential veto—they con-

tinued to debate impossible legislation over and over (40 times over) while very serious legislation went unattended.

One Oklahoma congressman was quoted, saying: “It’s like being mad at someone else, but putting a gun to your own head.” Others have described it as short-term stupidity and long-term disaster. I have heard some say not passing a budget will only shut down a third of the government, so it won’t be “that bad.” Ask the 800,000 Americans who will be furloughed if they think it’s “that bad!” Ask the mothers, the fathers, the breadwinners and all the hungry kids if it’s “that bad” or not!

It has been said: “The road to hell is paved with rationalization.” It seems everyone in Congress is rationalizing their position—trying to justify their ineffectiveness. The bottom line is we have a two-party system of government that depends on the art of compromise. DO IT!

Until we know more, I just have this to say: CONGRESS, THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPENDING AND INVESTING—If we don’t invest in our future, we won’t have one!

That brings me to the all-important farm bill—should farmers and ranchers be the only ones interested in it? NO WAY! The American Farmers & Ranchers bumper sticker says it all: IF YOU EAT, YOU ARE INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE! Forget about just eating—if you are a U.S. citizen this is important!

I am going to list a few reasons why farm policy is important to everyone. I challenge you to keep these points handy—carry them with you and keep them in your mind so you can explain to our city cousins why solid farm policy is good for this nation.

BROKEN... WHO CARES? WE DO!

Remember, they have heard much misinformation and false rhetoric, and many believe everything they hear.

- More than \$140 billion of agriculture products were exported from the U.S. in the past year. That \$140 billion is cash that came into the U.S. from other countries. That cash helps furnish jobs, which then have a multiplier effect on improving our economy. The farm dollar turns over more times than any other!

- Less than 2% of the U.S. population is active in agriculture. Production and distribution of their products provides employment for an additional 15% of our population! Jobs?? Many jobs!

- Americans spend about 9% of their disposable incomes on actual food—the cheapest in the world. Other countries with the closest percentage spent on food spend about 20%. Some countries spend as much as 90%. How many fewer conveniences would we have if we were spending even 20% for our food?

- If we had less disposable income for conveniences, how many fewer jobs would be generated?

- 1 in 6 U.S. households receive some form of welfare assistance. If our food were more expensive, think of the additional cost to taxpayers for that assistance!

- 18% of our population is considered “rural.” 40% of our Armed Forces—young people with the fortitude and gratitude to volunteer to keep us free—comes from that rural 18%!

- Finally, we are the ONLY country in the world that can still produce enough food to feed our entire population. Yes, we import some food items, but mostly for trade-relation reasons. How long will we be able to celebrate Independence Day if we neglect our farmers and ranchers to the extent that we become dependent upon ANYONE else for our sustenance!

There is also misleading press on the farm bill. Here are some facts:

- The bill projects 10-year numbers, even though it’s a 5-year bill.

- 80% of the farm bill is set aside for welfare programs, including food stamps and other nutrition provisions for families, children and the elderly.

- The remaining 20% includes conservation and environmental improvement programs that benefit the public.

- Only ¼ of 1% of the total federal budget provides “safety net” programs that often help farmers overcome unpredictable perils to survive one more year to attempt one more crop! What a small price to pay for food security, food safety and food abundance!

With the broad-reaching impact of the farm bill, it’s time to quit making politics instead of policy and get back to promoting, encouraging and supporting what has made America great! Our roadmap to the future must reflect our past. It must be patterned upon our FAITH and our VALUES with GRATITUDE for God’s blessings that made US the land of opportunity!

May God continue to bless this nation and AFR/OFU! -Terry

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 member’s name, address, e-mail address and phone number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

We do not share any of our members’ 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.

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2014 CONVENTION BUSINESS REMINDER

The American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union convention will return to Embassy Suite - Norman Hotel and Convention Center Feb. 21-22, 2014.

Important deadlines to remember:

December 13, 2013: Deadline for submitting local and county resolutions to be considered by the state policy committee.

December 23, 2013: Deadline for submitting bylaws to be considered by the bylaws committee. *(Must be received by 4:45 p.m.)*

December 23, 2013: Deadline for filing for an elected position. *(Must be received by 4:45 p.m.)*

January 2, 2014: Deadline for AFR/OFU Memorial Roll submissions.

February 14, 2014: Deadline for submitting convention credentials.

These elected positions will be presented for a vote at the 2014 AFR/OFU State Convention. All elected positions are 3-year terms.

Secretary/Treasurer

Currently held by Paul Jackson, Ringling

District 1 Director

Currently held by Eric Bilderback, El Reno

District 4 Director

Currently held by Bob Holley, Antlers

At-Large Director 2

Currently held by Justin Cowan, Locust Grove

AFR/OFU FINALIZES BUILDING PURCHASE



AFR/OFU State Secretary/Treasurer Paul Jackson, AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick and AFR CEO Brian Baxter finalize the purchase of the new corporate location for American Farmers & Ranchers and Oklahoma Farmers Union.

The property, located at 4400 Will Rogers Parkway in Oklahoma City, is near the Oklahoma River south of I-40, one block east of Meridian Avenue. The new location will provide ample room for current operations and possible future growth and will reduce operational costs, which will benefit both AFR Insurance customers and the OFU membership.

The relocation will occur before December 2014. The current AFR/OFU headquarters was purchased in December 2012 by Oklahoma City University (OCU) to house the OCU School of Law.

SERVICES HELD FOR AFR/OFU CHAPLAIN



Rev. Braunell Richey, 77, passed away July 8, 2013, in Oklahoma City. Services to honor his life were held Saturday, July 13, 2013 at First Baptist Church of Blanchard, with interment at the Blanchard Cemetery.

Richey became an Oklahoma Farmers Union agent in 1980 and proudly

served as the AFR/OFU Chaplain for 18 years. He was serving the organization in both capacities at the time of his death. In addition to owning AFR Insurance agencies in Lindsey and south Oklahoma City, Braunell and his wife, Dorothy, had a singing ministry for many years. They most recently pastored Friends Country Church in Dibble, Okla.

Richey was born on Feb. 25, 1936, to Doyle Bennis Richey and Lois Marie (Gillpatrick) Richey in Cole, Okla. He married Dorothy Nell (Hart) Richey on Sept. 25, 1954. They began ministering in 1955 and traveled extensively throughout the United States in order to share the Gospel of Jesus.

Richey was a loving and hard-working man who will be remembered for his exuberance, infectious smile, gentle strength and compassion. His soul-stirring rendi-

tions of Gospel songs have touched the hearts of thousands and will be an enduring part of his legacy. Giving was a significant part of his life, even in his last days—he spent much time giving an encouraging word to the faithful medical staff that cared for him.

Richey was preceded in death by his parents; his infant son, Mark Ellis; one brother, Ruel Gene Richey; two sisters, Braunita Laverne Sittingdown and Glenda Ruth Lynch. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; their daughter, Janell Marie Richey Robins; grandchildren, Ethan Mark and Hannah Marie Robins; brother, Paul Leon Richey; two aunts, Georgia Montgomery and Bertie Wright; and cousins by the dozens. He is also survived by a multitude of friends and an innumerable host of people whose lives he touched.

To my family of friends and agents,

With sincere appreciation, I express my gratitude to each of you for your outpouring of love and prayers for our family during our time of sadness.

Braunell and I have spoken often of the kindred spirit among those of our company, who show such love and kindness to each other.

I appreciate each of you who sent love gifts to Braunell's memorial fund, which I plan to use toward a headstone. This will mean so much, knowing our AFR/OFU family helped provide it in his memory.

Again, thanks to each of you for all your deeds of kindness to our family.

Tender regards,

The Family of Braunell Richey

AFR/OFU LOBBIES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



“...It’s not just important to rural America, it’s important to all America.”

–Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack

During the second week of September, AFR/OFU continued its annual tradition of participating in the National Farmers Union (NFU) Fall Legislative Fly-In to Washington, D.C. A delegation of eight Oklahomans visited with Reps. Frank Lucas, Tom Cole, James Lankford, Markwayne Mullin and Jim Bridenstine, Senator Jim Inhofe and the chief of staff for Senator Tom Coburn. The group also attended briefings presented by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow and the NFU government relations staff.

Most legislators and staff expressed faith that a full five-year farm bill would be completed before the end of 2013. However, negotiations over military action in Syria, the debt ceiling and federal government funding extensions have so far dominated the fall calendar in D.C. Reaching a compromise on the nutrition spending amount to be included in the farm bill was seen by Oklahoma’s congressional delegation as the key to completing the major legislation before December 31.

“With the 2013 Farm Bill remaining in a holding pattern, this year’s Fly-In is more important than ever to the future of agriculture programs,” said NFU President Roger Johnson. “We hope that hearing directly from family farmers will encourage the members of Congress to take action so that we can achieve a five-year, comprehensive farm bill this year.”



AFR/OFU members discuss current issues with Rep. Tom Cole (above) and Sen. Jim Inhofe (left).

2013 Farm Bill Lobby Issues

Following (page 4-5) is a sample of the issues and information the AFR/OFU group discussed with Oklahoma’s congressional delegation. If you have questions or comments on these issues, please contact AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson at sthompson@afrmic.com or 405-218-5563.

Reinstate existing permanent law provisions:

- The House “farm-only” bill removes the existing 1938 and 1949 permanent fallback provision and replaces it with only the commodity title of the 2013 bill.
- Permanent law provides an incentive for Congress to periodically review farm programs and ensure they are still relevant and working properly.
- House changes to permanent law would leave conservation, energy, rural development, research and trade provisions, etc., without authority to continue.

Reunite the nutrition and farm portions of the legislation:

- The historic coalition of farm and nutrition advocates will be undermined if the bills remain separated.
- Food policy, which affects both farmers and consumers, should be in one piece of legislation.
- Nutrition cuts must represent a true compromise that can be supported by both houses of Congress and by the president.

Oppose a short-term extension of the 2008 Farm Bill:

- Farmers, like all small-business owners, need policy certainty.
- No reforms can be made to any part of the legislation without passing a new bill.
- Each extension erodes funding, leaving less money for a comprehensive, five-year bill.
- An extension would once again leave important programs like the Beginning Farmer



and Rancher Development Program, livestock disaster programs and renewable energy programs without funding due to their expired baselines.

Priorities in the House bill to include in the conference report:

- Providing fixed reference prices in order to provide true protection against price collapse, rather than basing price protection on a percent of the rolling Olympic average; and
- Setting higher funding levels for beginning farmer, farmers market and research programs, as well as farm-to-school pilot programs and microloans for young farmers.

Priorities in the Senate bill to include in the conference report:

- Including mandatory funding for energy title programs, as well as eligibility for blender pumps under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP);
- Linking crop insurance premium subsidy eligibility with conservation compliance requirements;
- Maintaining existing permanent farm bill law; and
- Reuniting the nutrition title with the rest of the legislation and ensuring any changes made will be ultimately accepted by both houses of Congress and signed into law by the president.

Additional federal issues discussed during the NFU Fly-In are detailed on page 5.

LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN UPDATE



The following was disseminated to Oklahoma's congressional delegation with a call to action to protect Oklahoma's agricultural producers.

The Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) is a North American grouse species that has historically occupied portions of the southern Great Plains. In December 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) released a proposed rule that indicated the agency was considering listing the LPC as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Association (ESA), with a

final determination now expected to be made in March 2014.

The wildlife agencies of the five states encompassing the range of LPC habitat—Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and Texas—have developed the Range-wide Conservation Plan for the Lesser Prairie Chicken (RWP). The RWP is intended to deliver consistent and coordinated benefits to the LPC across its range.

In a time of increasingly limited federal resources—stretched even further as the number of such candidate species grows—use of public-private partnerships to conserve at-risk species is a growing imperative. For many years, state and federal agencies, along with industry, non-governmental organizations and individuals, have been working to conserve the LPC and its habitat.

Voluntary programs such as Candidate Conservation Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances, coupled with Farm Bill conservation programs (i.e. Conservation Reserve Program and the Lesser Prairie Chicken Conservation Initiative) have led to nearly 9.7 million acres of land directed to conservation within the five-state range of the LPC. The RWP has the same potential to provide similar conservation benefits for the LPC, helping to build a model for cooperative protection of wildlife species, their habitat and the economic activities in those habitats.

AFR/OFU hopes that, with the conservation framework provided by the RWP, the USFWS will ultimately come to the same conclusion as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) stated in its comments submitted into the LPC record on June 7, 2013, concluding that listing the LPC as threatened is not warranted at this time. Given its expansive Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative, the USDA is clearly the federal entity with the most experience with successful implementation of conservation measures for the LPC.

AFR/OFU is certain that continued state management and authority over this game bird is the best pathway to long-term conservation of the LPC.



The AFR/OFU News & Views Insider e-newsletter keeps cooperative members current on legislative happenings, from AFR/OFU grassroots membership efforts to state and national news!

If you would like to receive the AFR/OFU News & Views Insider in your inbox, send your email address to AFR/OFU Communications Coordinator Laici Wedel at lwedel@afmic.com to be added to the list!

USDA ELIMINATING NAP COVERAGE IN 6 STATES

The following was disseminated to Oklahoma's congressional delegation with a call to action to protect Oklahoma's agricultural producers and allow these vitally-important 2.5 million acres in Oklahoma to remain eligible for a NAP option.

Recently USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) released a new pilot federal crop insurance plan. This RMA pilot program establishes a Rainfall Index - Annual Forage Insurance Plan with Catastrophic Risk Protection (CAT) coverage which makes producers of annually-planted crops for livestock feed or fodder no longer eligible for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage.

Currently, the USDA plans for NAP coverage to NOT be available in 2015 for annually-planted forage crops used for livestock feed or fodder. This includes, but is not limited to, small grains, forage sorghums and mixed forages intended for forage, green chop, grazing, green manure, hay and silage.

AFR/OFU feels this change will be extremely detrimental to Oklahoma and other plains states farmers who have dual purpose (wheat/cattle) operations, ranchers who depend on these farms as a market for their calves and rural banking institutions.

AFR/OFU, on behalf of our membership statewide, believes NAP is a far better option for the many producers who graze winter wheat during winter months and then harvest the grain or bale it for hay in late spring.

In 2013, over 2.5 million acres in Oklahoma were reported as first grazed and then harvested or hayed. The provisions of the Annual Forage Insurance Plan make these acres ineligible for the superior NAP coverage.

Specifically:

- NAP provides coverage for two separate and distinct crops (grazed grain and harvested grain). The Annual Forage Insurance Plan only covers a single use and prohibits any additional type of insurance on that crop.
- NAP provides multiple-peril coverage (drought, hail, flood, freeze, heat, wind, etc.). The Annual Forage Insurance Plan covers only rainfall.
- NAP has late- and prevented-planting provisions. The Annual Forage Insurance Plan does not.

AFR/OFU PRESENTS LUCAS WITH GOLDEN TRIANGLE



The Golden Triangle Award is National Farmers Union's highest legislative honor. The award is presented to members of Congress who have demonstrated leadership and support for policies that benefit America's family farmers, ranchers, fishermen and rural communities.

Recipients of the Golden Triangle Award have been strong advocates for family farmers and ranchers and support similar principles and policies as Farmers Union," said NFU President Roger Johnson. "We are pleased to honor those who have proven to be true allies of our organization and our members."

This year's Golden Triangle recipients were selected for their leadership on a variety of issues, including the 2013 Farm Bill, dairy policy, competition, support for the continuation of energy programs and provisions for a safety net for farmers in times of long term market collapse or natural disaster.

The awards were presented during NFU's Fall Legislative Fly-In in September. The Golden Triangle Awards have been presented every year since 1988.

NATIONAL NEWS UPDATE: COOL BATTLE RAGES ON

It has been a busy 2013 for the Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) issue. The system requires meat products sold in the United States to be labeled with their country-of-origin and other origin information.

On July 8, a COOL lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia by nine meat industry groups—the American Association of Meat Processors, the American Meat Institute, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, the Canadian Pork Council, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the National Pork Producers Council, the North American Meat Association and the Southwest Meat Association. The suit seeks to block a USDA rule that would implement the long-debated issue.

The U.S. Cattlemen's Association, with National Farmers Union (NFU), the American Sheep Industry Association and the Consumer Federation of America, became official interveners in the lawsuit last month, giving them formal participation in the lawsuit.

In a resolution passed in September 2013, NFU stated: "In an increasingly economically-interconnected world, COOL provides important, common-sense information to American consumers about their food." When discussing the litigation issues surrounding COOL, AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick emphasized the need to resolve the issue swiftly, noting that the money and energy spent on the argument could be put toward market development and agricultural promotion.

COOL has been in high-profile public policy discussions for more than a decade. It was included in the 2002 Farm Bill, with an initial rule published by the USDA in 2003. After delayed implementation and an amendment to the law in the 2008 Farm Bill, the final rule took effect in 2009. Canada and Mexico filed a grievance against the law with the World Trade Organization (WTO) that same year. The WTO ultimately ruled in favor of Canada and Mexico, finding COOL violated previous trade agreements. The final May 2013 rule requires muscle-cut meat packaging to declare country-of-origin for three production steps: where the animal was born, raised and slaughtered.

AFR/OFU will continue to track this important producer and consumer issue. If you have questions or comments, contact AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson at (405)218-5563 or sthompson@afmic.com.

STRONGER RAIL COMPETITION NEEDED

National Farmers Union (NFU) was among a group of 37 organizations that sent a letter to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation urging action to strengthen competition in the U.S. rail transportation market.

"Family farmers and ranchers—and their rural communities—need access to fair rates for rail shipments," said NFU President Roger Johnson. "NFU has long advocated for the protection of captive shippers, and federal regulators haven't kept pace with an increasingly anti-competitive business climate for users of rail transportation."

The top four shippers control 90 percent of freight rail service, and 78 percent of the 28,000 cargo pick-up locations have access to only one rail carrier. Not coincidentally, rail rates have increased two-and-a-half times more than trucking rates and inflation.

The joint letter stated: "Lack of competition in the freight rail industry is hurting American manufacturers and producers. Importers frequently pay lower rates for transporting their foreign-made goods inside the United States than U.S. producers and manufacturers that often are dependent on a single railroad for service. Moreover, excessive domestic rail rates are making our exports less competitive in the world marketplace, cost American jobs and drive up the prices American consumers pay for a wide range of products from electricity to food. The nation needs a pro-competitive national freight rail transportation system to ensure fair prices and reasonable service for rail dependent shippers."

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE INTERIM STUDIES UPDATE

Contributed by Tommy Thomas, AFR/OFU Lobbyist

The Oklahoma State Legislature meets from the first Monday in February through the last Friday in May. The other eight months of the year are referred to as the "interim." During this time, legislators are usually in their home districts; however, they return to the state capitol periodically for official meetings of their legislative committees. During these meetings, they study specific issues in greater depth than time will allow during the upcoming hectic four-month session. These interim studies are requested by individual legislators and can be based on any topic. They must be approved by either the Speaker of the House or Senate President Pro Tempore.



Raw Milk Sales

Interim Study H-013, by Rep. Ken Walker, R-Tulsa, was held by the House Agriculture and Wildlife Committee to discuss whether advertising, transportation and regulation of raw milk sales should be allowed in Oklahoma and how that may or may not hinder the dairy industry. Small farmers, consumers and state government regulatory officials testified. Staff from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture cited examples from 2000 and 2005 where individuals were hospitalized due to consuming raw milk. Current state law allows for raw milk sales if the consumer purchases and picks up the milk directly from the farm, but no advertising of raw milk is permitted.

Drought Conditions

Interim Study H-027, by Rep. Don Armes, R-Faxon, was held by the House Agriculture and Wildlife Committee to discuss current drought conditions and the impact on Oklahoma agriculture. Oklahoma Climatological Survey Associate State Climatologist Gary McManus and Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Executive Vice President Michael Kelsey spoke about the current situation in Oklahoma. Staff from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture discussed the status of the Emergency Drought Relief Fund, which was created during the 2013 legislative session. This fund currently contains \$3 million and state officials are working to determine a plan for distribution through grants in the upcoming year.

Trailer and Boat Tagging

Interim Study H-132, by Rep. Anastasia Pittman, D-Oklahoma City, was held by the House Economic Development and Financial Services Committee to discuss the possibility of requiring tags on trailers and boats. Speakers from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and Oklahoma Department of Agriculture discussed the costs and benefits of the potential requirements. In 2013 a bill was filed to require tags on trailers of all kinds, but it did not advance through the complete legislative process. AFR/OFU will monitor this issue closely—it is always an attractive source of revenue for legislators to pursue.

Roofing Insurance Claims

Interim Study H-042, by Rep. Jon Echols, R-Oklahoma City, was held by the House Economic Development and Financial Services Committee to discuss insurance claims, roofing contractor licenses and the possibility of testing. Insurance company representatives and roofing business owners made presentations to the committee about the need for stronger registration enforcement and for the establishment of testing requirements for roofing contractors. Rep. Echols stated he would be pursuing legislation in 2014 to address these issues.

AFR INSURANCE JOINS OID IN RECOVERY ROUNDUP

Commissioner Doak Declares Recovery Roundup Huge Success

OKLAHOMA CITY—Many storm survivors are a step closer to rebuilding their lives after attending the Recovery Roundup hosted by the Oklahoma Insurance Department (OID) Aug. 17. The consumer assistance event allowed survivors to meet with their insurer face-to-face to discuss outstanding insurance issues.

“I was very pleased to see so many survivors get some resolution to their insurance claims,” said Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John D. Doak. “Together, we were able to address some very difficult issues, increase the dialogue and find some middle ground. The industry did an outstanding job at the Recovery Roundup. I want to thank them for their participation.”

Representatives from 20 different insurance companies, including AFR Insurance, met with policyholders to discuss unsettled claims related to the state’s severe storm outbreak in May. Officials from the City of Moore and the City of Oklahoma City answered questions about debris removal, permits and rebuilding issues. Oklahoma Emergency Management, FEMA, the Small Business Administration and the Oklahoma Bankers Association also assisted the survivors.

“These agencies have been working extremely hard to help the survivors get back on their feet,” said Doak. “They answered the call once again by participating in the Roundup. They provided some valuable information and I sincerely appreciate it.”

Oklahomans have filed more than 92,000 claims since May 19, totaling more than \$1 billion in insurance payments. OID Consumer Assistance has played a big part in helping consumers with issues relating to all types of insurance, including homeowners, auto, commercial property, life and health. Oklahomans with insurance questions are urged to call (800)522-0071.

The Oklahoma Insurance Department, an agency of the State of Oklahoma, is responsible for the education and protection of the insurance-buying public and for oversight of the insurance industry in the state. For more information contact Kelly Collins at (405) 522-0683 or Kelly.Collins@oid.ok.gov.

LIFE FOUNDATION EVENT INCREASES AWARENESS

Contributed by Delinda Jones, AFR/OFU Life Specialist

The LIFE Foundation sponsors Life Insurance Awareness Month (LIAM) every September. The foundation is joined in the educational initiative by more than 100 of the nation’s leading insurance companies and industry groups. Their mission is to make sure Americans are reminded of the need for life insurance in their financial plans.

AFR
LIFE INSURANCE

This year’s LIAM spokesperson was retired NFL MVP quarterback Boomer Esiason. During the month-long event, Esiason often spoke from the heart about the hardships his family faced when his mother, Irene, died when he was seven. As a father himself, he spoke about the importance of life insurance and what a difference it could have made in his life had his mother had a policy when she died.

What if your family had to suddenly manage on their own? Have you recently checked your family’s financial stability in your absence? Do you have a life insurance benefit through your employer? Do you have the option to increase that coverage? Have you had your life insurance needs reviewed by an insurance professional?

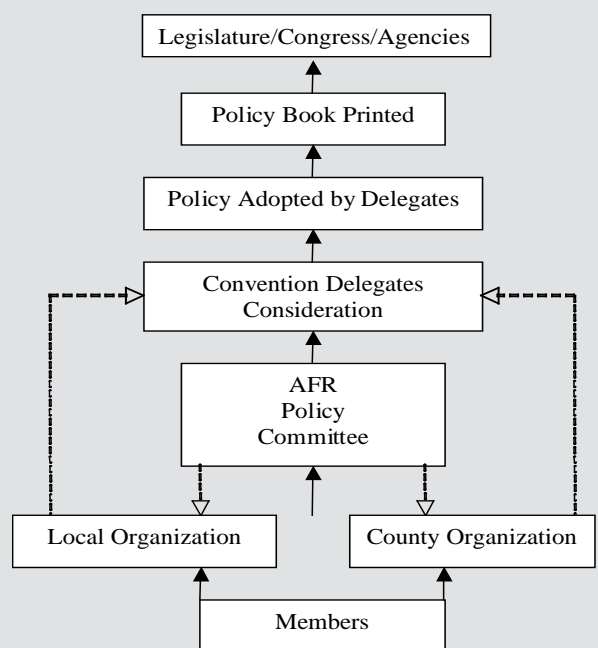
Too many Americans do not have adequate life insurance protection. According to the insurance industry research group LIMRA, 30 percent of U.S. households have no life insurance whatsoever. Sadly, the majority of families are just one accident or terminal illness away from a financial catastrophe.

Life insurance can do amazing things. It can buy loved ones time to grieve, providing an income stream for a family to live on for a period of time. It can pay off debt and keep families in their homes. It can pre-fund a child’s college education or keep a family business in the family. Life insurance can do all of these wonderful things for your family—as long as you have a policy in force at the time of your death.

Take ACTION today to protect your family tomorrow.

Article based on a LIFE Foundation article found on LifeHappens.org. The LIFE Foundation’s mission is to inspire the public to take personal financial responsibility through the ownership of life insurance and related products.

AFR/OFU POLICY PROCESS



AFR/OFU RESOLUTION PROCESS

As a member of American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union, you have a unique opportunity to influence and shape policy that will direct our organization in the next year as we work with Congress, the Oklahoma Legislature and state and federal agencies. You can obtain a copy of the 2013 AFR/OFU Policy Book from your county officers, local insurance agent or the AFR/OFU website. You may become involved in AFR/OFU policy through the following process.

Dues-paying members are invited to attend annual meetings of the local and county organizations. (In your county, a “resolutions committee” of officers and members may develop a list of resolutions prior to the meeting for consideration by the county membership.) During the meeting, resolutions submitted by the ad hoc committee and prospective resolutions from the floor are discussed and voted on by the county membership.

Once the policy is adopted, it is sent to the AFR/OFU Policy Committee. The Committee will approve, reject or modify a resolution. It may also propose new policy not of-

fered through resolutions.

During the AFR/OFU State Convention, locally-elected delegates from the local and county organizations consider the proposed policies.

If the Policy Committee did not adopt a policy presented by a local or county, it can be re-submitted on the floor of the Convention by a member of the original submitting organization during policy consideration.

Each section of policy is reviewed and changes are noted and offered for delegate consideration. Delegates may adopt, reject or change wording throughout the policy document. The final document is adopted by the full body of attending delegates.

The full adopted policy book is then printed and updated on the AFR/OFU website. Policy books are available through county officers and local agents.

To begin your involvement in the AFR/OFU Policy Process, attend your annual county meeting or, for more information, contact Steve Thompson at (405)218-5563.

ANNUAL COUNTY MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

BECKHAM COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 7 @ 6:30 p.m.
The Opera House, Elk City, OK

RSVP with the Crow Agency at 225-3645.

There will be door prizes, a short business meeting with election of officers and an update on what is happening with your insurance company and rural legislative organization. If you did not RSVP, please still attend. Reeves Agency Local 112 and Crow Agency Locals 14 and 530 will meet immediately following.

CANADIAN COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct., 29 @ 6 p.m.

Catered by Redlands College

Redlands College, El Reno, OK

(Building between Redlands College and Bible Baptist Church. West to dead end, north into parking lot, enter that building.)

RSVP with your agent by Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 4 p.m.:

Wiedemann Agency at 262-5388

Yukon office at 354-7920

Farmers Union family members only please.

Single members may bring one guest. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year.

COMANCHE COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 29 @ 5:30 p.m.

Dinner served from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.

Worley Center, Room 301

Great Plains Technology Center, Lawton, OK

RSVP with your agent by Friday, Oct. 25 at 5 p.m.:

Dismuke Agency - Lawton at 357-1110

Humble Agency - Cache at 429-3608

David Kolker - Elgin at 492-4280

There will be door prizes and a short business session with election of officers for the coming year. Door prizes are one per family (must be AFR/OFU member). Locals 799, 276 and 138 will meet immediately before dinner.

COTTON COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

Cotton County Expo Center, Walters, OK

(Behind Rodeo Arena)

There will be door prizes (including a 32" flat screen TV donated by the Jeremy Scherler Agency) and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year.

CUSTER COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 24 @ 6 p.m.

Catered by Heart's Desire

Arapaho Community Center, Arapaho, OK

(Corner of "C" and Broadway)

Speaker: Kermit Raab, County Secretary and State Field Rep

RSVP with your agent:

Burke Covey - Covey Agency at 323-6471

Jessy Barger - Weatherford Agency at 772-8500

Melody Cummings - Crow Agency at 225-3645

Donna Newsome - Newsome Agency at 323-0444

Jessie Masquelier - Sandy Land Agency at 661-3171

There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Locals 109, 312, 530, 589, 642 and 804 will meet immediately following.

NEW CORN LOCAL 762 & CLEVELAND COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 7 @ 7:30 p.m.

3556 National Drive, Norman, OK

Nila Wegeman, Secretary

DEWEY COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 29 @ 6:30 p.m.

Seiling Community Center

500 W. 6th, Seiling, OK

Speaker: Brian Baxter, AFRMIC CEO

RSVP with your agent by Friday, Oct. 18:

Robert Acre - Canton at 886-2584

Shannon Ball - Vici at 995-4968

Pam Livingston - Seiling at 922-6141

Jackie Price - Leedey at 821-0986

There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers and board members for the coming year.

GARFIELD COUNTY

Friday, Oct. 11 @ 6:30 p.m.

Hoover Building, Fairgrounds, Enid, OK

Speaker: Terry Detrick, AFR/OFU President

RSVP with your agent by Oct. 7:

Bolenbaugh Agency at 242-2818

Detrick Agency at 796-2100

Maly Agency at 863-2389

There will be door prizes. Dinner for Farmers Union members and families only. Bring your invitation for admittance. Locals Bolenbaugh 668, Hunter 634, Garber 682, Woodson 529 and Lahoma 152 will meet immediately following.

GARVIN COUNTY

Tuesday, Nov. 5 @ 7 p.m., Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Garvin County Fair Barn, Pauls Valley, OK

RSVP with your agent by Friday, Nov. 1 at 1 p.m.

There will be entertainment, door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers for the coming year.

GRADY COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 21 @ 7 p.m.

Catered by End o' Main

Grady County Fairgrounds, Chickasha, OK

Speaker: Paul Jackson, AFR/OFU State Secretary

RSVP with your agent by Friday, Oct. 11:

Taylor-Shebester Agency at 224-4450

Harold Ratterman Agency at 352-5200

Community Agency at 476-3289

Ray Anthony at 224-1392

Jack McClain at 453-7801

There will be entertainment, door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers for the coming year.

HARMON COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 21 @ 6 p.m.

Boomerang, Hollis, OK

RSVP by Oct. 17:

Robinson Agency at 688-9229

There will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year.

HASKELL COUNTY

Tuesday, Nov. 12 @ 7 p.m.

Stigler High School Auditorium

NW 7th St., Stigler, OK

There will be door prizes, turkeys and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers and delegates to the state convention. You must bring your mailer as your ticket for the drawings!

JACKSON COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 24 @ 6:30 p.m.

WOSC Multi-Purpose Room

2801 N. Main, Altus, OK

RSVP with your agent by Monday, Oct. 21.

There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of president for the coming year, two board members and delegate to the state convention. Jackson County Farmers Union scholarships will also be discussed.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Waurika Grade School Cafeteria, Waurika, OK

For members only. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers for the coming year.

JOHNSTON COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 2 @ 6 p.m.

Littlepage Cafeteria, Tishomingo Grade School
5th St. & Neshoba, Tishomingo, OK

For members only; no guests please. You must bring your invitation to be eligible for prizes. There will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year.

KIOWA COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 7 @ 6 p.m.

Western Technology Center, Hobart, OK

Speaker: Paul Jackson, AFR/OFU State Secretary

RSVP by Sept. 30 at 5 p.m.:

Lee Horton at 450-5231

There will be entertainment and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year and a delegate to the state convention.

LEFLORE COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 28 @ 6 p.m.

Catered by Eli's Bar B Que

Donald W. Reynolds Community Center, Poteau, OK
(Poteau's New Civic Center)

For members only. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Locals 6, 515 and 671 will meet immediately following.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Thurs., Oct. 24, Buffet served 6 - 7 p.m.

Agri-Center, Chandler, OK

Entertainment & Door Prizes!!

RSVP with your agent by Oct. 18.

Immediate family members only. Your mailer is your meal and door prize ticket. There will be entertainment, door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers for the coming year. If you know someone who is interested, you may place them in nomination at the meeting.

ANNUAL COUNTY MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

LOVE COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 2 @ 6 p.m.
Marietta School Cafeteria, Marietta, OK
RSVP with your agent:
5-Star/Pearman Agency - Thackerville at 276-3672
Harper Agency - Marietta at 276-5129
There will be door prizes and a short business meeting.

MCCLAIN COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 2 @ 5 p.m.
Newcastle Fair Barn, Newcastle, OK
RSVP with your agent by Monday, Oct. 28:
Richey Agency - Blanchard at 485-9400
Harryman Agency - Newcastle at 387-4416
Heart of Oklahoma Agency - Purcell at 527-2153
There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Locals Harryman 39 and 403, Richey 129 and Purcell 372 will meet immediately following.

MURRAY COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 16 @ 6 p.m.
The Inn at Treasure Valley, Conference Room
I-35 & Hwy 7, Davis, OK
There will be a short business session with presentation of resolutions and election of officers and board member for the coming year and a delegate to the state convention.

MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 16
Call your agent for location and time!
RSVP with your agent by Thursday, Nov. 14 at 5 p.m.:
Ogden Agency - Muskogee at 687-1321
Haskell Agency - Haskell at 482-5286
Ramsey Agency - Warner at 463-5345
Your invitation is your door prize drawing ticket.
There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year.

OKFUSKEE COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 10 @ 6 p.m.
Okfuskee County Livestock Building, Okemah, OK
Speaker: Paul Jackson, AFR/OFU State Secretary
RSVP with your agent:
Jason Nutt - Jason Nutt Agency at 932-4206
Keri Dennis - Cross Timbers Agency at 623-2840
There will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 2 @ 6:30 p.m.
Midwest City Community Center, Midwest City, OK
All AFR/OFU families are urged to attend. There will be entertainment and door prizes. Locals 150, 166, 196, 313 and 789 will meet immediately following.

OTTAWA COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 4 @ 6:30 p.m.
Charlie's Chicken, 2400 N. Main, Miami, OK
Speaker: Steve Thompson, Policy & Membership Development Coordinator
There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year.
The Local 79 Farmers Union Meeting will be Monday, Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m. at Charlie's Chicken, 2400 N. Main, Miami.

PAWNEE COUNTY

Saturday, Oct. 26 @ 1 p.m.
Cleveland Community Center, Cleveland, OK
There will be food, door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers and board members for the coming year immediately before lunch.

PAYNE COUNTY

Thurs., Oct. 17, Doors open @ 5:30 p.m.
Payne County Expo Center, Stillwater, OK
Catered Meal, Entertainment & Door Prizes!
RSVP with your agent by Monday, Oct. 14 @ Noon:
Porter Agency at 372-4169 or 0585
Perkins Agency at 547-2971
Cushing Agency at 225-1751
Schieffer & Schieffer Agency at 352-9406
There will be entertainment, door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers and directors for the coming year and a delegate to the state convention.

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 29, Dinner served from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center
Hwy 177 & Independence, Shawnee, OK
RSVP with your agent by Friday, Oct. 25:
Curtis Stanford - Shawnee at 273-7095
Williamson - Prague at 567-4959
Gilbert - Tecumseh at 598-2590
Jeff Mize - Earlsboro at 997-5760
Members only. Your invitation is your ticket for the meal and door prizes. There will be entertainment, door prizes and a short business meeting and election of officers for the coming year.

ROGERS MILLS COUNTY

Friday, Oct. 18 @ 6 p.m.
Community Building, Durham, OK
Speaker: Terry Detrick, AFR/OFU President
There will be entertainment, door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Local 530 will meet immediately following.

TILLMAN COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 28 @ 6:30 p.m.
Great Plains Technical Center, Frederick, OK
RSVP by Friday, Oct. 25:
McManus-Whitworth Agency at 335-2590
There will be dinner, door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions, election of officers and a delegate to the state convention.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 11 @ 6:30 p.m.
Wewoka Trading Post, Wewoka, OK
(North End of Wewoka Ave./Main St.)
Speaker: Paul Jackson, AFR/OFU State Secretary & Tommy Thomas, Lobbyist for AFR/OFU
RSVP to your agent by Thursday Nov. 7 at 5 p.m.:
Your Hometown Insurance - Wewoka at 257-2100
Lane Insurance Agency - Konowa at 925-3785
No guests please. Your mailer is your door prize ticket.
There will be door prizes and a brief business meeting of Wewoka Local 128 immediately following.

STEPHENS COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 7 @ 6:30 p.m.
Stephens County Fairgrounds, Duncan, OK
RSVP with your agent by Thursday, Oct. 3 at Noon:
Graham Agency - 658-3077
Harris Agency - 255-2147
Scherler Agency - 439-8823
Immediate family only please. Your invitation is your ticket for the drawings. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year and a delegate to the state convention. Marlow Local 70 will meet immediately following.

WAGONER COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 22 @ 7 p.m.
Wagoner Civic Center
301 S. Grant, Wagoner, OK
Speaker: Terry Detrick, AFR/OFU President
There will be a meal, cash prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers, two board members and delegates to the state convention.

WOODS COUNTY

Thursday, Nov. 7, Registration @ 6 p.m., Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.
Moose Lodge Building
302 7th St., Alva, OK
RSVP by Friday, Nov. 1 at Noon:
Troy Brooks at 327-5353
There will be entertainment and a short business meeting with election of officers. Alva Local 512 will hold its annual meeting immediately following.

Interested in serving on the 2013 AFR/OFU State Policy Committee?

The AFR/OFU Policy Committee plays a vital role in the development of organizational policies that direct interactions with state and national leaders and agencies through the following year.

We are always looking to extend our pool of possible Committee members, which is appointed each year by the AFR/OFU President.

During the selection process, every attempt is made to select a committee that represents the broadest possible cross-section of the AFR/OFU membership. Selections are made to represent each geographic region, various agriculture commodities and other interests.

If you are interested in being considered for this year's Policy Committee, contact Steve Thompson at (405)218-5563 or sthompson@afrmic.com.

AFR/OFU OUT AND ABOUT ACROSS THE STATE



AFR/OFU Southeast District Field Representative A.J. Bristow and his wife Aliene interact with young cattlemen at the 61st annual Oklahoma Cattlemen's Convention in Midwest City July 25-27. AFR/OFU is a convention sponsor each year, focusing on the Oklahoma Cattlewomen's portion of the event.



AFR/OFU Northeast District Field Representative Wade Parker and AFR Insurance Agent Steve Stinnett of Grove celebrate the benefits of cooperatives with attendees of the 75th annual Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative's Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Day in Grove September 21.

AFR Insurance agents David and Kaye Alexander contributed sponsorship dollars to the LeFlore County American Cancer Society Relay For Life in Poteau September 7. Relay for Life events are held across the United States to raise funds for groundbreaking research initiatives. This year's LeFlore County event ultimately raised \$15,000 toward cancer research.



AFR/OFU Northwest Field Representative Kermit Raab and state staff member Danielle Rogers interact with fair-goers from across the state at the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City September 12-22. Each year, the event provides an opportunity for AFR/OFU volunteers to mingle with insurance and agriculture consumers.



The AFR/OFU state office has banners, signs and other materials available for local and county organizations to use at events. For more information about materials use and availability or to tell us about your involvement in your community, contact AFR/OFU State Secretary Paul Jackson at pjackson@afrmic.com or (405)218-5559.

AFR/OFU's Ag & Historic Conference is Branson Bound!!

We are pleased to offer a second opportunity for AFR/OFU members to go on an agricultural, educational and entertaining excursion! AFR/OFU members will ride by motor coach from AFR/OFU Headquarters in Oklahoma City to Branson, Missouri, for a 5-day-4-night stay at the Camden Hotel & Conference Center Dec. 5-9, 2013!

During our winter adventure, members will visit the College of the Ozarks, a "hands-on" working agriculture college. Attendees will learn about current greenhouse production methods and the vintage farm equipment of yesterday at the college's tractor museum. The applied-agriculture skills learned by the students will also be on display, particularly at The Keeter Center, the college's teaching restaurant where the AFR/OFU will enjoy lunch. Other agriculture ventures will include experiencing the Stone Hill Winery and viewing the rural countryside around Branson, including Shepherd of



the Hills, Country Barn and surrounding lake areas.

AFR/OFU members will also enjoy nine star-studded Christmas productions, including Daniel O'Donnell, Jim Stafford, the Presleys' Country Jubilee, the Hughes Brothers, Barbara Fairchild, Clay Cooper's Country Express, Acrobats of China, Branson Gospel Sunday Service and the Showboat Branson Belle! Other highlights included dinner at Landry's Seafood, the Titanic Museum, a dinner cruise and outlet and boutique shopping.

Nine meals are included. **Attendees are just required to show up each morning ready for fun, fellowship and learning opportunities! We'll take care of the rest!** Other pick-up points on the way to Branson may potentially be arranged based on participants' home areas. Complete information can be obtained from the AFR/OFU State Secretary's office at (405)218-5567 or msanders@afrmic.com.

*****REMEMBER!!*****

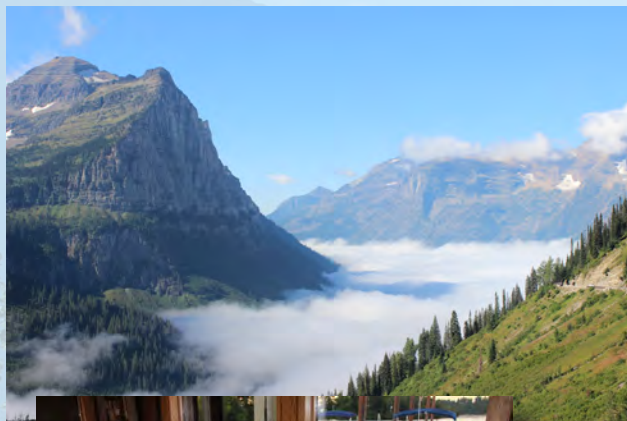
YOU MUST COMMIT BEFORE THE OCTOBER 21st DEADLINE!!

2013 AG & HISTORIC CONFERENCE AFR/OFU FINDS BEAUTY IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

This September, 2013 AFR/OFU Ag & Historic Conference attendees enjoyed a variety of agricultural operations and site-seeing opportunities in Washington, Idaho and northwest Montana. The annual event is a membership-only benefit offered to AFR/OFU members.

There were several agricultural stops during the event. Attendees experienced a 9,000-acre Hutterite Colony. The colony trades tractors annually with Case, incorporating the latest farm technology into their operation, but still living modestly with traditional conservative dress. In true commune format, the colony owns all assets and the 125 community members have no personal ownership. They elect colony business leaders who distribute any income to individual families.

Other agricultural stops included a visit to a family-owned alpaca ranch, home to one of the largest alpaca herds outside of Peru. Unlike many operations, the family sells finished products from their herd. Conference attendees also visited a fruit orchard where the apple harvest was just about to begin. The orchard has a dual-purpose operation, focusing on both fruit production and agri-tourism. A major agricultural stop featured a 1,300-acre working ranch with agri-tourism components such as barbeques, weddings and hayrides incorporated into its business model. Conference attendees also experienced a first-class purebred registered angus operation, a full-production winery, and the completion of the Montana wheat harvest. Other adventures included a stop at a historic silver mine, relaxing lake cruises and a day at Glacier National Park.



Agricultural Education Begins on the Farm!

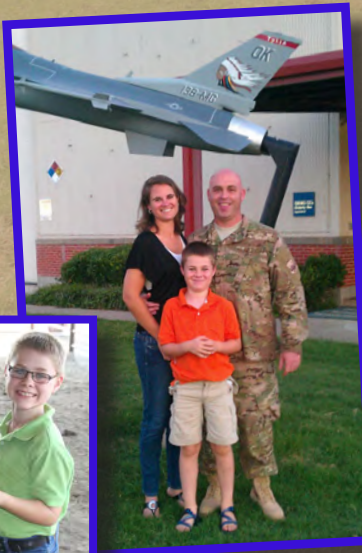


Over the past few decades, the knowledge gap between agricultural producers and their urban consumers has gradually broadened. Today, well under two percent of the American population is involved in agriculture and that number is shrinking daily.

Many consumers have never seen a truly agrarian landscape and even fewer have had direct contact with any form of agricultural production.

This lack of knowledge has created a great need for agriculturalists to connect with consumers. Unfortunately, industry professionals and producers face an uphill battle as they fight misinformation and myths surrounding production agriculture. Many wish for a situation where consumers can let down their guards and learn about agriculture. Producers and educators alike have found that opportunity through agritourism's informal interaction opportunities.

Pumpkin patches and blueberry picking may come immediately to mind, but agritourism takes many forms. Oklahoma currently has about 400 agritourism operations registered with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF), with venues focusing on many diverse industries segments, including hunting, forestry, viticulture and more.



Brian and Carrie Winslett and their son Will enjoy sharing their farm with St. Mary's children.

Consumers may or may not intentionally plan to connect with agriculture, but every agritourism adventure has an educational component. Whether directly or indirectly, visitors learn where their food comes from, how wine is made, what a cattle farm really smells like, and many more small (but important) lessons.

Some agritourism ventures exist for profit and some simply to educate the public. Operations, like Brian and Carrie Winslett's farm near Ponca City, work with only one or two select groups. In recent years, the Winsletts have enjoyed a unique agritourism partnership with the private school their son attends, St. Mary's Catholic School.

Earlier this year, AFR/OFU got to see children learn about the farm during one of St. Mary's farm field trips. We were also able to sit down with Carrie Winslett to learn about the development of their farm field trips and what they've learned about what works and what doesn't with young visitors.

The Winsletts' relationship with St. Mary's School began when their son Will's preschool-one teacher showed interest in having her students learn more about the farm. The idea was appealing to both parties involved—at that young age, a field trip to the farm is all about fun for the children and is an easy way to introduce early agricultural education.

Although the first year was technically rained out, the children still had



some interaction with the animals. Refusing to let the day be a total wash, Carrie loaded the mare and her foal, the milk goat and some baby chicks into the livestock trailer and headed for the school.

"I took them to the school so they could still get to see the goat being milked and still get to pet the baby chicks and the horse," Carrie said. "We also took our border collie that was really good at chasing a tennis ball, so they got to play with her. It wasn't actually on the farm, but at least they got that interaction."

Carrie and Will with Carrie's father, long-time AFR/OFU member Jim Johndrow.



By the next year, the Winsletts had incorporated their cow herd, chickens, ducks and goats and were ready for the children to visit the farm. They were planning on having horseback rides and some other organized activities. Carrie remembers those "organized activities" didn't exactly go as planned.

"You have all these things planned out with some organization," Carrie said. "But when the vans pulled up and stopped, the kids poured out just like in the movies. They went screaming in every direction. I just thought 'Well, okay!' We turned them loose and they had a blast."

The visitors did eventually get to pet the chicks and ride the horses, but little of the day was structured. The children and the Winsletts learned a lot that year.



Brian supervises one of the farm day favorites - horseback riding.

“Just to be able to run and not have any structure is what I found worked best for the kids—to just learn and do whatever activity they wanted to do,” Carrie said. “Each year, I’ve tried to add something new. So far, I’ve succeeded, but I have to expand my mind every year.”

The Winsletts also feature any extra additions they luck into. This year, they had Akbash puppies, piglets and their son’s show heifer, all of which were big hits. It doesn’t always work out like they plan—one year they were supposed to have piglets, but instead had a very pregnant (and presumably very grumpy) sow (that gave birth the day after the farm field trip).

The Winsletts have learned how to balance chaos with structure. A few of the original events, like the hayride and horseback rides, have become mainstays; others come and go depending on the year. Talking with Carrie, you can tell each year has brought rewarding surprises and memories.

AFR/OFU saw one of those “memories” first hand. During our visit, a young boy took a break from holding (squeezing) a baby chick by offering it to the Winsletts’ mini Australian shepherd. The dog made a break for it with the baby chick in its mouth. After a short chase and a very stern “You spit that out!” the dog released the chick, which was traumatized and slobbery, but otherwise unharmed.

“It didn’t hurt the chick, but I just knew we were going to have a fatality!” Carrie said.

Other memories have been much more pleasant. During the first visit to the farm, the cows wouldn’t come up, so the Winsletts’ Akbash (a livestock dog that looks like a Great Pyrenees) walked down the driveway with everyone to see them.

“The cows made me look a little foolish that day,” Carrie said. “But, [the dog] went down there with us and, as we were coming back,

Pugsly, the “chick-napper,” soaks in some attention.



the kids were all around him and they were singing “Bingo” all the way down the driveway. That was their favorite thing—just to be able to hang out with him.”

The children have also created memories during the farm field trips. During the first trip to the farm, the Winsletts’ 2,200-pound bull, Toad, was gentle enough to let the children feed him and have

their picture taken with him. Being able to not only see a “giant” bull up close, but to get to pet one was a BIG deal to them.

Carrie has gradually added more semi-structured activities. This year, the farm field trip included a bubble station where the children could make colorful snake-shaped bubbles and a marshmallow station where they could build geometric shapes with toothpicks. They have also added ice cream and butter making to the mix.

“We put the ingredients in a container for each kid and let them shake it to their little hearts’ content,” said Carrie. “Sometimes they get butter and sometimes they get buttermilk, but they’re happy either way.”

These memories are very clearly displayed on handmade thank-you cards the St. Mary’s children make after each visit to the farm. While some aspects are always a favorite among the young visitors, some are a surprise. One of this year’s biggest hits? The tractor tire sandbox—the pictures the children drew were very detailed, all the way down to the tread on the tire.

So what’s the next step?

With Will’s class as the first to attend the farm trips, the Winsletts have been able

to see when the children outgrow the barnyard atmosphere.

“Will’s group has been coming for four years, so they’re used to it,” Carrie said. “They do ask to come back and the second grade class was really upset that they didn’t get to come this year, but I didn’t just abandon them! I went to the classroom and we talked about how eggs are made inside chickens.”

She also had a special surprise for the class. As part of a project at OSU, Carrie had videotaped some of the students answering questions about farmers. During her classroom visit, the students got to watch the video for the first time.

“They were really excited to be able to see themselves on T.V. and be ‘famous,’” Carrie said.

Carrie conducted other classroom activities as well. “During one of my visits, we talked about the different things made from animal byproducts. I gave the kids bubblegum and marshmallows. After they ate them, I told them what they were made from. A few of the kids definitely backtracked a little!

Even the teachers commented on how much they learned just from that simple activity.”

In addition to working in the classrooms, the Winsletts have been working with a teacher on a new farm field trip for next year.

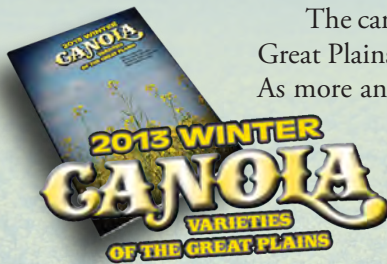
“If everything works out, next year’s third-grade class will move on to a bigger farming operation where they’ll learn about crop farming and other larger-scale agriculture ventures.

Hopefully, they’ll get to go out on the combines and the big tractors and see them tilling the ground and things like that.”

The hope is that, by having their farm experiences grow with them, the children will develop a strong understanding and appreciation of agriculture so they can make well-informed decisions when they grow up.



AFR/OFU MEMBER'S CANOLA BOOK BRINGS INFORMATION TO PRODUCERS



The canola industry is growing rapidly across the Southern Great Plains—exploding may be a more apt way to describe it. As more and more producers seek to add it to their rotations,

Fairview canola producer and AFR/OFU active member Matt Gard says there is one thing that has not kept pace: information.

As an entrepreneur, Gard saw the need to bring together information from all varieties of canola acclimated to the Great Plains. So, he produced a book with exhaustive information about each specific variety, including the traits and characteristics each exhibit. Gard's book contains more than 25 pages of tables and several guest editorials from producers, canola extension specialists and certified crop advisors.

"As a canola producer myself, I've noticed the difficulties in trying to find accurate yield data and have it right at your fingertips. So my company pulled together all the information from the Oklahoma Oilseed Commission, the national canola yield trials, Oklahoma State University and our good friends at Kansas State University. We put all our yield data in one book so it's one-stop shopping for our producers."

Gard says producers started out with a couple of varieties made available by Kansas State University and Dekalb. Now there are more than half a dozen seed companies with a variety of different cultivars available for sale in the region. Selections now include Roundup-ready varieties, as well as more conventional varieties.

Seed companies have responded to the demand from growers and are developing

an ever-growing number of new varieties.

"We have a lot of high-yielding hybrids coming in, but the newest—and it's amazing—we have a clear-field variety called Eddy Max that gives us new herbicide options when Round-up isn't quite taking care of everything we need it to do."

Gard sees canola production increasing rapidly from here forward. He believes total acreage will eventually top out somewhere in the two-million-acre range.

Seed companies are interested in canola's potential as a rotational or companion crop for wheat in the Great Plains, Gard said. Interest among producers is growing rapidly with about 300,000 acres planted to canola last year and 500,000 acres projected to be planted this year.

Along with those projections are two seed crushers under construction in the area. Producers Cooperative Oil Mill is adding a facility in central Oklahoma and NorthStar is building a plant in Enid.

"With two large crushers coming to the area, their crystal ball is showing large amounts of canola production coming in our future," Gard said.

To get a copy of Gard's book go to canolaofthegreatplains.com or send a check or money order for \$15 to Canola of the Great Plains, P.O. Box 299, Fairview, Okla., 73737.

**Story courtesy Ron Hays with the Radio Oklahoma Network Farm Report*



Producers Cooperative Oil Mill



Manufacturer of Oilseed Products

Buying Cottonseed, Roundup Ready® Canola and Conventional Canola

:: CONTACT ::

Brandon Winters (405) 232-7555, ext. 5

Gene Neuens (405) 760-4205

Heath Sanders, Oilseed Agronomist (580) 678-2754

6 S.E. 4th Street :: Oklahoma City, OK 73129
www.producerscoop.net

November 1, 2013
 ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center
 Click Family Alumni Hall
 Stillwater, OK

Join AFR/OFU and industry leaders at this year's conference!



2013 Keynote Speaker:

Joel Kotkin
 of
"The Next Hundred Million: America in 2050"

Rural Economic Outlook Conference

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL LAND AUCTIONS RAPIDLY APPROACHING

In Oklahoma, October is the time for auctions that will grant school land leases. Harry Birdwell, Secretary of the Commissioners of the Land Office, recently spoke with Radio Oklahoma Network Farm Director Ron Hays about the state's school lands and the upcoming auctions.

He says the last couple years have been difficult for land owners due to the drought. The state owns 750,000 surface acres and mineral rights on 1,100,000. Though the drought in western Oklahoma has been tough, he said the land office has not been hit nearly as hard. He said prudent management has been very helpful in lessening the impact.

"It has been important for us to monitor the grazing activity and the amount of water that we have that is a part of each of our leases around the state and effectively managing that so that we are good stewards and the land is as productive and valuable 50 years from now as it is today. It is an awfully important part of our role."

Birdwell says his office assesses the commission's parcels each year to deter-

mine such things as proper grazing counts and any special conservation requirements that may need to be addressed. He says another responsibility of the commission's field staff is to work with lessees to ensure they know what the requirements are for the land they are leasing. Different parameters that apply to each individual lease help determine its price at lease auctions.

He said the land office is constantly involved in a balancing act of responding to environmental laws while at the same time ensuring the maximum return possible from activities on school lands to support education.

"Despite the fact that there has been drought over the last couple of years, our income from leases hasn't really diminished. As a matter of fact, in some areas, it's gone up because much of our land has associated water. And when there's a shortage of water people are looking for it. And where there is grass people are looking to lease it to graze.

In addition to the income from properly-managed surface acres, Birdwell says

minerals have also been good for the state. Oklahoma has about 6,100 producing oil and gas wells. He says the school land office currently invests about \$2 billion dollars of income received from its properties.

Birdwell says about 1/5 of the school lands are leased each year on a rotating basis. The upcoming October school land lease auctions will be held at nine different locations. Those locations can be found online at www.clo.ok.gov or by calling (888)355-2637. Auctions will be held Oc-

tober 14 - 29. This year, 574 tracts of land will be offered in 34 counties.

"We hope people will access our website. The auction brochure is there. It lists any special requirements on any piece of land you might be interested in."

Birdwell said those interested in bidding on the leases can then go to the particular auction site for the lease they are interested in and participate. The state constitution requires open auctions for these leases instead of sealed bids.

574 Leases in 34 Counties

Leases for:
Grazing Farming
Ranching Hunting

1-888-35LANDS
Auction Dates: Oct. 14 - 29

Visit WWW.CLO.OK.GOV for more information.



OSU HOSTING ANNUAL RURAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

STILLWATER—Agribusiness leaders interested in gaining insight into the latest industry trends should register for the 2013 Rural Economic Outlook Conference set for Nov. 1 on the OSU campus. The conference will highlight a variety of topics relevant to decision makers in business and government agencies across Oklahoma, specifically aimed at agricultural lenders, government officials, agribusiness leaders and producers.

"This is an opportunity for leaders in this field to hear and discuss key considerations they should be thinking about for the coming year," said Damona Doye, acting agricultural economics department head at OSU.

This year's event will feature a special focus on water issues affecting agriculture and rural Oklahoma. Also, a panel of OSU experts will offer their current perspectives on Oklahoma law and the grain and livestock markets. This year's conference keynote speaker will be Joel Kotkin, author of "The Next Hundred Million: America in 2050."

"Joel's review of and research into demographics provides key insights into prospects for economic growth," Doye said. "He slices and dices data in different ways to address potential shifts in where people will live and work, as well as what they aspire to do, and what all that means for agricultural and the rural economy."

The registration fee before Oct. 25 is \$50, and the cost to register at the door is \$70. To register online and pay by credit card, visit <http://orangehub.okstate.edu> and select "Agricultural Economics." Or, download the registration brochure at www.agecon.okstate.edu/extension/ruralconference.asp and mail it with the registration fee to the address listed. For questions or more information, contact Kareta Casey at (405) 744-9836.

FSA Reminds Producers of New Acreage Reporting Deadlines

STILLWATER—Francie Tolle, executive director for the Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA), reminds producers of new deadlines for submitting their annual report of acreage to local FSA county offices.

Producers of perennial forage crops (grass, hay, alfalfa and pasture) must submit a 2014 acreage report for those crops by Nov. 15. Producers of fall seeded grains (including winter wheat) and canola must submit a 2014 acreage report for those crops by Dec. 16. The normal deadline is December 15, which falls on a Sunday this year. Dec. 16 is also the date for crops to be reported to crop insurance agents for federal crop insurance.

Any crop that has Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage must be reported 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

All acreage must be reported for a farm, including crops on non-cropland such as hayed or grazed grassland. It is important to accurately report crops' intended use, which is used to determine eligibility in many FSA programs and cannot be revised once reported.

Producers should contact their local FSA county office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines. In order to meet FSA program eligibility requirements, producers must submit timely acreage reports. Reports filed after the established deadlines must meet certain requirements to be accepted and will be charged late fees.

For more information on FSA crop reporting requirements, contact your local FSA office or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov/ok.

AFR/OFU WELCOMES YOUTH COORDINATOR



AFR/OFU has announced its new Youth & Education Coordinator, Nikki Slagell, Hydro, will spearhead the state-

wide program that provides leadership growth and agricultural opportunities to youth of all ages.

Slagell brings many agricultural experiences with her. From showing and judging livestock to participating in speech and agricultural communications contests, Slagell has spent time in many areas of the agricultural spectrum. This diverse experience is a key requirement for the program's coordinator—the AFR/OFU Youth Program strives to provide activities for students in many interest areas.

Slagell is familiar with the mission of the AFR/OFU Youth Program. She is a veteran of the program herself and served as the summer intern in 2008, a position that gave her direct experience with many youth activities.

"I am honored to lead one of the strongest and most diverse youth programs in the state," Slagell said. "I hope to grow the program even further than its current reach, developing additional opportunities for leadership, personal growth and career development for the youth of Oklahoma."

Slagell is a 2010 graduate of OSU and a 2007 graduate of Kingfisher High School. In addition to her experience with the AFR/OFU Youth Program, she is a recipient of the State FFA Degree, was a member of Collegiate FFA and Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlewomen and was a member of the OSU chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

2013 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT A SUCCESS

AFR/OFU held its annual Teen Leadership Summit July 7-9 and Senior Leadership Summit July 28-31. This year's theme was "Lead by Example." The annual retreat develops leadership skills that prepare high school youth for their future educational and professional lives. Attendees learn such skills as setting and achieving short- and long-term goals and working in teams. They also learn the value of personal responsibility, respect for their peers and many other positive attributes.

Each year, outgoing Youth Council members play an integral role in Senior Leadership Summit as their last service project. Members of the 2012-2013 AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council were Gatlin Squires, Kingfisher; Desiree Masterson, Spiro; Taylor Green, Wellston; Chance Imhoff, Prague; and Whitney Wilkinson, Cement.



Teen Session attendees had a blast at their first (for many) Summit!



Building life skills!



Building friendships!



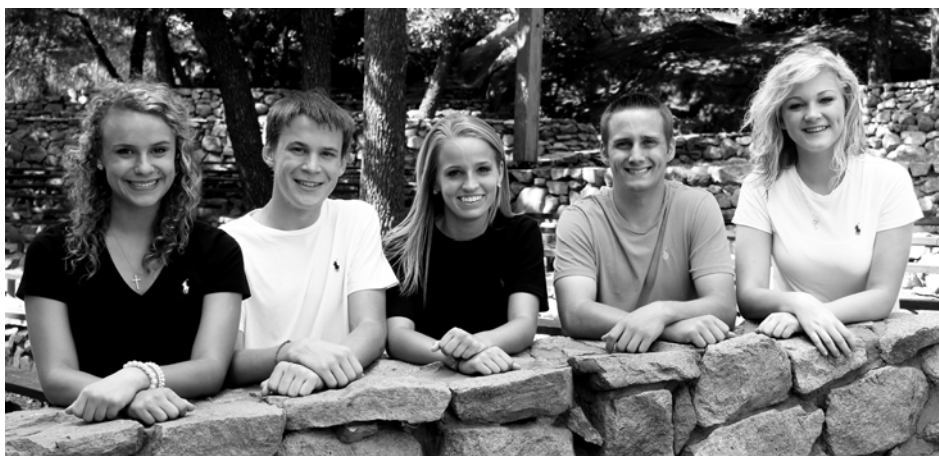
Senior Session attendees built lifelong skills and lifelong friendships at this year's Summit!

All Oklahoma students entering grades 10-12 are eligible to attend the Senior Leadership Summit. Teen Leadership Summit is offered to students entering grades 7-9. For more information on AFR/OFU youth opportunities, contact AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Nikki Slagell at (405)218-5561 or nslagell@afrmic.com.



Last year's Youth Council members passed the torch to next year's leaders!

AFR/OFU ANNOUNCES 2013-2014 YOUTH COUNCIL



Members of this year's AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council are (left to right) Bethany Harder, Battiest; Ryan Danker, Wellston; Brooks McKinney, Spiro; Brady Womack, Morris; and Megan DeVuyst, Morrison.

American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union AFR/OFU announced its 2013-2014 Youth Advisory Council at the organization's annual Senior Leadership Summit Banquet July 30.

The Council consists of high school juniors and seniors representing AFR/OFU youth from across the state. Members of the 2013-2014 Council are Bethany Harder, Battiest; Ryan Danker, Wellston; Brady Womack, Morris; Brooks McKinney, Spiro; and Megan DeVuyst, Morrison.

Council members participate in agriculture-based service projects throughout the year and assist in planning many AFR/OFU Youth Program activities. They also facilitate AFR/OFU events and act as mentors for younger Oklahoma youth.

"AFR/OFU is proud to invest in the future of Oklahoma through these young people," said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. "Our leadership summit and the AFR/OFU Youth Council demonstrate that investment across Oklahoma."

The AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council is selected at the organization's annual Senior Leadership Summit. The selection process includes a written application, an interview conducted by a panel of AFR/OFU members and leadership professionals and a speech given in front of the candidates' peers. In addition to interview and application scores, a vote based on personal relationships is cast by students attending Summit, allowing all attendees to be involved in the selection process.

SEPTEMBERFEST CONNECTS PUBLIC TO AGRICULTURE



Members of the AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council were an instrumental part of the organization's activities at the recent Septemberfest event, held at the Governor's Mansion in Oklahoma City September 7. The annual event provides opportunities for urban families and agricultural membership and commodity groups to interact.

The Council taught attendees of all ages about the origins of protein on their dinner plates. Through a matching game, they helped school children match finished products, such as hamburgers and chicken nuggets, to the farm animals that produced the food. While assisting the children, Council members also took the opportunity to educate their parents about the meat products they eat every day.



Members of the Youth Advisory Council with Gov. Mary Fallin and First Gentleman Wade Christensen.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

to former
AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator

LIN FARISS ZWILLING

on her marriage to Jason Zwilling
on Sept. 14, 2013.

The Zwillings will reside in northern
Indiana where Lin will continue to mold
young minds and future leaders!



AFR/OFU ANNOUNCES FALL SPEECH CONTEST DATES

AFR/OFU has announced the dates and locations of the 69th annual AFR/OFU Fall Speech Contest series. This year's contest is anticipated to be another great experience for competitors as they vie for a chance to advance to the state contest.

For more information on this year's speech contest, contact AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Nikki Slagell at (405)218-5561 or nslagell@afrmic.com.

2013 Speech Contest Dates

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| NE District Speech Contest | Lonestar School, Sapulpa | Nov. 5 |
| NW District Speech Contest | Autry Technology Center, Enid | Nov. 11 |
| SW District Speech Contest | Cache High School | Nov. 19 |
| SE District Speech Contest | EOSC, Wilburton | Nov. 21 |
| Central District Speech Contest | Newcastle Middle School | Nov. 25 |

**All district contest registrations will begin at 4 p.m. Contest briefings will begin at 4:30 p.m. A meal will be served for all contestants and judges immediately following competition.*

State finals will be held Saturday, Dec. 14 at Oklahoma State University

Divisions:

Novice Division — Students in grades 4, 5 and 6. Time Limit: 2-4 minutes.

Novice speakers may only compete in the AFR/OFU Category.

Junior Division — Students in grades 7 and 8. Time Limit: 4-6 minutes.

Intermediate Division — Students in grades 9 and 10. Time Limit: 4-6 minutes.

Senior Division — Students in grades 11 and 12. Time Limit: 4-6 minutes.

Categories:

AFR/OFU: Participants may speak on the history of American Farmers & Ranchers/ Oklahoma Farmers Union, and its fight to support agriculture and rural families through legislation, cooperation and education.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: Participants may choose topics, such as leadership, personal growth, goal setting, team work, community activities, competitions, etc. Organizations should be limited to 4-H, FFA, FCCLA, TSA, Boys Scouts and Girls Scouts.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Participants may choose any current subject such as soil, water, air, rural water, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, energy, environmental issues, agronomy, etc.

AGRIBUSINESS: Participants may choose topics such as cooperatives, value-added, sales, service, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, futures, advertising, international trade, rural economic development, politics, animal rights, etc.

AGRISCIENCE: Participants may choose topics such as biotechnology, biogenetics, bio-engineering, mechanical engineering, farm safety, use of technology, research, embryo transfer, or any animal science topic concerning dairy, equine, poultry, sheep, swine, beef, specialty animals, etc.

JUDGES NEEDED FOR DISTRICT SPEECH CONTESTS

The 69th annual AFR/OFU Fall Speech Contest is an opportunity for students to hone their public speaking and leadership skills. This year's contest will draw approximately 250 young people to compete in five district contests, with more than 150 finalists advancing to the state competition.

We need qualified individuals to serve as judges for this year's contest. Forty-eight judges are needed for each district contest. Finding an adequate number of judges always proves the largest and most challenging obstacle for the speech contest series.

If you would like to serve as a judge, please complete the form and return it to the home office to the attention of the AFR/OFU Youth Coordinator. For questions or to register by phone, contact AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Nikki Slagell at (405)218-5561 or nslagell@afrmic.com.

Speech Judge Registration Form

Select contest where you would like to judge:

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NE District Speech Contest | Lonestar School, Sapulpa | Nov. 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NW District Speech Contest | Autry Technology Center, Enid | Nov. 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SW District Speech Contest | Cache High School | Nov. 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SE District Speech Contest | EOSC, Wilburton | Nov. 21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central District Speech Contest | Newcastle High School | Nov. 25 |

Select division you would like to judge:

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Novice (Grades 4 - 6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (Grades 7 - 8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate (Grades 9 - 10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (Grades 11 - 12) |

Select category you would like to judge (1st, 2nd, & 3rd choice):

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Farmers & Ranchers | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Agribusiness <input type="checkbox"/> Agriscience |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Chapter/Club: _____

Return to: Youth & Education Coordinator, P.O. Box 24000, OKC, OK 73124

Fax: (405)218-5589 Email: nslagell@afrmic.com

AFR/OFU SUPPORTS LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS

Bristow Cattle Grading Contest



Wyatt Ross of Morris (left) and Grayson Epperson of Oklahoma Union (right) had the highest individual rankings at the Bristow contest.

Cave Springs Cattle Grading Contest



Krista Svendsen of Okmulgee (left) and Makaela Elkins of Coalgate (right) had the highest individual rankings at the Cave Springs contest.

American Farmers & Ranchers Good Eats!

Fall 2013 Featured Organization

Dairy MAX

our land. our cows.
our passion. 



www.facebook.com/DairyMax.Local.Dairy.Council



twitter.com/dairymax



www.youtube.com/DairyMaxInc



www.pinterest.com/DairyMAX



Seven Layer Salad

Start to Finish: 30 Minutes
Serves 6 to 8 Guests

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 (1 oz.) package ranch dip mix | 1 small red onion, chopped |
| 16 oz. sour cream | 1 (10 oz.) package frozen sweet peas, thawed |
| 1 head lettuce | 1 (8 oz.) package shredded cheddar cheese |
| 2 cucumbers, sliced | ½ lb. bacon, cooked crispy & chopped |

1. Mix dip mix and sour cream. Set aside.
2. Chop lettuce into bite-sized pieces and pour into large glass serving dish.
3. Layer cucumbers, onion and sweet peas.
4. Pour sour cream mixture over bowl contents. Layer with cheese; top with bacon.
5. Cover and refrigerate until serving.

American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union
Fall 2013 Featured Recipe
Tom and Angie Meyer, Okarche, Okla.
In cooperation with Dairy MAX
www.DairyMAX.org, (972)603-4700, info@dairymax.org



NORTHWEST DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS



The Northwest District held its annual meeting in Ringwood August 17. The event drew attendees from across the district, offering organizational fellowship and the opportunity to interact with House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas. Lucas spoke about the importance of the 2013 Farm Bill, its far-reaching impact on the American economy and the politics during the farm bill failure earlier this year.

STATE CONSERVATIONIST VISITS AFR/OFU



AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick and Secretary/Treasurer Paul Jackson visit recently about conservation issues with Oklahoma State Conservationist Gary O'Neill, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA. O'Neill is originally from Osage County, where his father, Hugh O'Neill, served as an Oklahoma Farmers Union Mutual Insurance (AFR Insurance) agent.

AFR/OFU News & Views

Trading Post Ads

P. O. Box 24000

Oklahoma City, Okla., 73124

Fax: 405-218-5589

E-mail: tradingpostads@afmic.com

AFR/OFU reserves the right to not print any ad deemed inappropriate.



Classified advertising in the Trading Post is available free of charge to all paid-up members of American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union. Ads must be of a personal nature and strictly non-commercial. Commercial ads and ads for non-members can be purchased at the rate of \$1 per word, paid in advance. Member ads must be 30 words or less, unless the member pays in advance for additional words. Each member is limited to one advertisement per issue.

ADS ARE DUE TO
THE HOME OFFICE
BY DEC. 1

FOR PUBLICATION IN THE
WINTER ISSUE.

Advertising will not be accepted for services or products in direct competition with those offered by AFR/OFU or affiliates.

REAL ESTATE

For sale—20 acres. Cleared, good fences. Doublewide mobile home, barn, garage. On Hwy 77, south of Wayne. 405/640-2400.

For Sale—60 acres. Pecan trees, pasture, bottom land, 3 ponds. Rural water available. Perimeter fenced with barbed wire. Minutes from turnpike or interstate. Lincoln County. \$150,000. 405/258-0256.

For Sale—Nice 3 BR brick home. Large living room with fireplace. \$165,000. Also, 10 lots for sale, approx. 100'x147'. Highway frontage, in city limits, Morris. \$25,000 each. Agent/Owner. 918/759-1846 or 918/733-2796.

For Sale—3 vacant city lots in Idabel, corner of Monroe and Ave. H. \$13,000 for all or \$5,000 for individual. 972/742-9368.

I buy mineral rights—Oil, gas and brine royalties anywhere in North Dakota and Oklahoma. If you're thinking of selling part of your mineral rights, call me before you sell. 580/277-2456.

For Sale—Sub-surface royalty interest in 95 acres in Pontotoc County, Section 27. Includes royalty check from 4 producing oil wells. One well has override interest. 580/332-2468.

AUTOS, TRUCKS & CYCLES

For Sale—1970 CJ-5 Jeep Special. Low miles, 225 cu. in. V6 engine. Lots of extras. Edmond. Call for details. 405/396-2925.

BOATS, RVs & CAMPERS

For Sale—2003 Minnie Winnebago, 29' Bedroom and living room slide-outs, Ford E-450 Super Duty Triton V-10 gas engine. Sleeps six, good condition. Price reduced, \$28,900. 580/618-6368 or 6369.

FARM EQUIPMENT & LAWN MOWERS

For Sale—1985 Belarus 805, 2-wheel drive tractor with front-end loader. 617 hours, always kept inside. \$7500. 580/856-3727.

For Sale—John Deere Tractor Model 4410. 4-wheel drive, power reverse, front-end loader, industrial tires. Less than 900 hours. \$9,000. 405/391-3319.

For Sale—Tractor propane tank, approx. 30 gallon. Has all gages and hook-ups. Also, other farm equipment. Call Rowdy, 918/866-2440 or 405/706-5233.

For Sale—Dempster windmill motor. In good shape, was powered by 6 ft. blade. \$90 OBO. Located 4 miles east of Covington, Hwy 164. 580/864-7890.

LIVESTOCK

Reg. Limousin bulls and heifers. Open and bred, black, polled, calving ease, gentle and homozygous top genetics that work. Limflex angus bull. Wildhorse Valley. Call 405/517-3824 or 405/474-2018.

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

For Sale—Bragus bulls and fancy replacement heifers. Top quality with gentle dispositions. Delivery available. Horsehead Ranch. 918/695-2357.

For Sale—Goats. 2 100% New Zealand Kiko goat bucklings. Born March & May 2013. Good bloodline for breeding. Chickasha area. 405/863-2823 or 405/248-6226.

For Sale—Reg. polled Dexter cattle. Docile nature and smaller stature. Make great show animals. Also, reg. spotted, colored, traditional Boer goats. View them on our website. Qualityboergoats.com. 918/642-5063.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

For Sale—Whirlpool washer & dryer, \$250. Icebox, \$100. 220 A/C, \$100. 110 A/C, \$75. 405/275-3419.

For Sale—Hospital bed, completely functional, with remote control. Unbeatable price, \$200. 35 miles west of Ft. Smith, Ark. 918/966-3800 or 918/617-9011.

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale—John Deere/plow mailbox. Call Rowdy, 918/866-2440 or 405/706-5233.

For sale—110-year-old used bricks, cleaned. 30¢ each. You haul. Wister. 918/655-3126.

For Sale—Small square bales of first-cutting alfalfa, \$9/bale. Small square bales of crabgrass, \$6/bale. 405/459/6543 or 405/574-5571.

For sale—Burn barrels. \$5 each, 50 or more \$4 each. Wellston. 405/356-2407.

WANTED

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

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

Wanted—Interesting or classic vehicles. Lee, in Mustang. 405/613-1857.

Wanted—Radiator core for International TD 18a dozer (1951 model). 405/737-5977.

Wanted—Deck or fence jobs in or near Shawnee area. Call Jennifer, 918/866-2468 or 405/802-4126.

Wanted—Old gas station signs. Also, old gas pumps, oil lubesters, transmission pumps. 580/639-2776.

Trading Post ads
are due to the
AFR/OFU state office
by December 1
for publication in the
winter issue
of the AFR/OFU
News & Views.

IN MEMORIAM...



Debra (Debbie) Scott

Debra (Debbie) Scott, 48, AFR Insurance agent, daughter of James Ferguson and niece of Kathy and Doug Harryman, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013. Funeral services were held Sept. 14 at First Baptist Church of Newcastle. Interment followed at Newcastle Memorial Gardens.

Debbie was born Nov. 23, 1964, in Oklahoma City to James Edward and Carole Lynn (Harryman) Ferguson. She grew up in Newcastle and graduated from Newcastle High School in 1983. She married Jay Don Scott Aug. 24, 1985.

The Scotts made their home in Newcastle where they raised three children, Morgan, Meghan and Justin. Debbie loved being a stay-at-home mother while her children were growing up. For the past 11 years, she also worked as an AFR Insurance agent. She worked for her father at the Heart of Oklahoma Insurance Agency in Purcell for ten years and for her uncle Doug Harryman at the Harryman Agency in Newcastle for the past year.

Debbie devoted her life to her family, her church and her job. She enjoyed helping her children in school activities, including serving as treasurer of the Newcastle FFA Parents Club. Debbie loved spending time with her family, especially camping, fishing, boating and being outdoors with them. Debbie was a member of the Newcastle First Baptist Church for 38 years. She considered it a privilege to take care of "Jesus' little ones" during worship services. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Debbie is survived by her husband, Jay; children, Morgan and Justin Scott, both of the home, and Meghan Honeycutt and husband Ben, of Tuttle; parents, James "Sonny" and Carole Ferguson of Newcastle; grandmother, Paulene Harryman of Newcastle; two sisters, Risa Haygood and husband, Keith, of Edmond, and Vickie Vanderburg and husband, Monty, of Broken Arrow; father- and mother-in-law, B.W. and Dolores Scott, of Oklahoma City; and many more relatives and a host of friends.



Peggy Jane Teel

Peggy Jane Teel, 83, former long-time AFR Insurance agent and wife of former AFR/OFU board member and agent Paul Teel, passed away on Aug. 6, 2013. Funeral services were held Aug. 9 at Dodge Baptist Church, Grove, Okla. Interment followed at Southwest City Cemetery, Southwest City, Mo.

Peggy was a life-long resident of Grove, Okla. She was born Oct. 26, 1929, in her grandparents' Grove home to John and Lizzie (Kelly) Hampton. She graduated from Grove High School in 1947 and married Paul Teel Aug. 6, 1949. The Teels had just celebrated 64 years of marriage.

In July of 1959, the Teels formed the Teel Insurance Agency where Peggy was an agent for 45 years. During this time, she also assisted Paul with the daily tasks of their cow/calf operation on the Cowskin Ranch north of Grove. Peggy was a member of the Dodge Baptist Church, the Gideons' Auxiliary, and the Eta Omega Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, a philanthropic sorority.

Peggy is survived by her husband, Paul; two daughters, Sue Moore and husband, Sterling, of Reydon, and Carol Stinnett and husband, Steve, of Grove; four grandchildren, Stacy Webb and husband, Stephen, of San Angelo, Texas, Shawn Moore and wife, Whitney, of Reydon, Seth Stinnett of Grove, Micah Stinnett and wife, Cassi, of Grove; four great-grandchildren, Grady Webb, Channing Stinnett, Bronson Moore, Brecken Stinnett, and baby Moore due in February; one sister, Sue McGhee and husband, John; one brother, Kelly Hampton and wife, Lona; and seven nieces and nephews.

FOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE ENHANCES FOOD SAFETY

The issue of food safety has challenged groups to think outside of the box for ways to minimize food safety risks and, as a result, implement new protocols and resources. However, a more innovative approach has some states forming statewide food safety task forces. In 2009, Oklahoma became one of these states after establishing the Oklahoma Food Safety Task Force.

The task force materialized after the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry received a five-year \$5,000 grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to fund the Oklahoma Food Safety Task Force.

"This award provides funding over five years so that states can develop a means to create an effective statewide infrastructure for outreach, response and information sharing," said Chuck Willoughby, Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center (FAPC) business and marketing relations manager.

The task force was created to foster communication, cooperation and collaboration of efforts related to food safety in Oklahoma, spanning the horizon of the food supply, from production, processing, distribution, retail and foodservice sales to home consumption.

"This FDA program to help states implement a statewide task force is meant to bring people together from various disciplines that may have overlapping roles when it comes to food safety outbreaks, food-related bioterrorism, accidental catastrophes, etc.," said FAPC food microbiologist and Oklahoma Food Safety Task Force coordinating committee member, Peter Muriana.

Muriana said the formation of this group offers multiple benefits, including readiness, networking and information sharing.

"Having a collaborative network in the area of food safety is helpful because if something were to happen, there is already a connection and familiarity between groups making it easier to communicate with one another," said Muriana. "This group allows us to be prepared for potential threats to food safety, as well as share ideas of what works and what does not."

Since the inception of the task force, members have met each year to strengthen the relationships between the organizations represented, train for all potential food emergency hazards and identify priorities for the task force.

"I believe communication and developing relationships is of extreme importance," said Stain Stromberg, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry food safety director and Oklahoma Food Safety Task Force committee chair. "If we can develop those relationships so we know who to talk to and communicate with, it will only strengthen the core of the task force. We're all in this situation together and we need to work together for the people of Oklahoma."



Adding Value to Oklahoma

Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center

Oklahoma State University, 148 FAPC, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078

(405) 744-6071 | www.fapc.biz | fapc@okstate.edu



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with your AFR/OFU dues:

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- Family Values, Agriculture and Rural Area Promotion
- Media Response, Promotion and Public Relations Services
- Legislative Representation at National, State and Local Levels
- Policy Development and Education
- Youth and Education Programs
- Exclusive Travel Opportunities
- Cooperative Development
- County and Local Organization Meetings
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- Subscription to the Quarterly *AFR News & Views*
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- Subscription to the NFU E-Newsletter
- Free Classified Advertising in Quarterly Publication

DISCOUNT BENEFITS

- Discount Medical Flight Membership Program
- Discounts on Rental Cars and Hotels
- Discount Prescription Card
- Discounts on LifeLock Identity Theft Protection
- Savings on Cell Phones Through Our Wirefly Partner
- Dental and Vision Plan
- Discounts on LifeLine Cardiovascular Screenings
- Discounts on VPI Pet Insurance for your Cat or Dog
- Discounts on Constant Contact Direct E-mail Marketing
- Discounts on Office Supplies from Office Depot
- Free Hearing Screening and Discount on Beltone Instruments

YOUTH BENEFITS

- Speech and Poster Contests
- State and County Educational Scholarships
- Youth Leadership Summit
- Agricultural Contests
- Leadership Opportunities
- Youth Sponsorships

AFR/OFU REWARD PROGRAM OFFERS MAJOR BENEFIT

The AFR/OFU \$5,000 Reward Program is a cooperative effort between local AFR Insurance agents, AFR/OFU county organizations, the state AFR/OFU organization and the American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company. Reward signs are available through local AFR Insurance agents.

AFR
AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS

\$5,000 REWARD
FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND FELONY
CONVICTION OF PERSONS COMMITTING THEFT, ARSON, OR
VANDALISM ON THIS MEMBER'S PROPERTY. LIMITATIONS APPLY.

MEMBER BENEFIT:

In an effort to discourage such activities, the company will pay up to \$5,000 to the person who furnishes original information leading 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 (AFR Insurance) member policyholder. This member benefit is only applicable to property covered by your AFR Insurance policy. Such payments shall be subject to the following conditions and limitation:

CONDITIONS TO COLLECT:

- The provision of this program shall not apply unless the insured has an official reward sign (obtained through AFR/OFU) posted in a conspicuous place on the premises involved.
- Only one reward shall be paid for each violation, regardless of the number of persons arrested and convicted. Likewise, if the same person is convicted of several violations only one reward shall be paid.
- Rewards will be reported to the IRS on Form 1099 – Misc.
- All claims will be submitted to the AFR Insurance claims manager.
- 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.

LIMITATIONS:

- No reward shall be payable to the AFR 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.
- Payment will be up to \$5,000, based on the value of the damages to the property impacted.
- Should another reward sign of AFR/OFU be posted on the member 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 thereof.
- Reward shall only be paid after a final conviction and all rights of appeal have been exhausted. In the 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 AFR/OFU. The reward shall be paid to the first person reporting the crime.
- If a reward is given, the member policyholder with the reward sign posted will be requested to have their photo taken for publication and publicity purposes by AFR/OFU as a condition of the additional protections afforded through the posting.

**See the AFR/OFU website for any updates of reward program provisions.*



Oklahoma Beef Checkoff UPDATE



Bass and Beef: A Winning Combination in Japan

Beef and baseball are a winning combination in Japan as they are in the United States. To capitalize on that double-header pairing, USMEF recently involved Japanese baseball legend and Oklahoma state Senator Randy Bass in an extremely popular campaign to promote U.S. beef in Japan.

With coordination provided by the Oklahoma Beef Council, USMEF brought the two-time Japanese triple crown winner back to the scene of his spectacular baseball success to serve as headliner for a campaign to promote U.S. beef for yakiniku dishes.

Since Japan expanded access for U.S. beef earlier this year to include product from cattle up to 30 months of age, USMEF-Japan and its partners in the Japanese yakiniku industry have collaborated on a variety of promotional programs to let consumers know that popular U.S. beef – particularly beef tongue – is again being featured in the tabletop-grill cuisine.

The Oklahoma state senator was the ideal matchup for the promotion: an American slugger who turned Japanese baseball on its ear before retiring from the Hanshin Tigers in 1988. After playing professional baseball in the U.S. for 16 years, including six in the major leagues, he played the final six years of his career with the Tigers of Japan's Central League. There, he set eight Japanese national records, including winning back-to-back triple crowns and setting a single-season batting average record of .389.

Even after 25 years away, Bass remains an extremely popular figure in Japan. Media coverage of his visit was carried by four daily newspapers, one TV program, seven industry publications and the tabloid Weekly Baseball.

Bass chose to meet first with children in the Tohoku region of Japan that was devastated by an earthquake and tsunami in the spring of 2011.

USMEF represented the U.S. red meat industry in the region after the disaster, spearheading relief efforts designed to provide hot meals to people displaced from their homes.

Bass, a wheat and cattle farmer in addition to serving as a state senator, also met with youth baseball teams and, while preparing beef dishes for the children, explained the importance of making protein-rich U.S. beef a part of their training table menu.

"My career as a Triple Crown winner was made by American beef," Bass told the young athletes. "American beef contains good protein, vitamins and minerals such as iron and zinc, which are the best ingredients for athletes' health."

"The Japanese yakiniku market is extremely important for the U.S. beef industry," said Takemichi Yamashoji, senior marketing director for USMEF-Japan. "We deeply appreciate the support from the Oklahoma Beef Council and the participation by Senator Bass to draw attention to this promotion and help accelerate the return of U.S. beef to the market-leading share it enjoyed previously."

For the first time since 2003, U.S. beef has regained its status as the No. 1 export market for U.S. beef. Through the first six months of the year, Japan has purchased 114,874 metric tons (253.3 million pounds) valued at \$696.2 million – increases of 59 percent in value and 46 percent in volume versus 2012.

2013 Oklahoma Beef Quality Assurance Winners

The Oklahoma Beef Council recently announced the winners of the 2013 Oklahoma Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Awards. Every year the Oklahoma Beef Council recognizes partners and individuals that have dedicated their time and effort to ensure the success of the state's BQA program.



The 2013 winner of the BQA Marketer of the Year went to the Hickey family of the Elk City Livestock Market for their initiation of low-stress handling seminar for their customers and staff.

Dedicated and accomplished BQA trainers are key to the success of the program in reaching producers. The 2013 winner of the Oklahoma BQA Trainer of the Year went to Dr. Dave Sparks, DVM, of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service for his tireless work educating producers across the state and his service on the Oklahoma BQA Advisory Committee.

OKLAHOMA BEEF COUNCIL

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FALL 2013

Upcoming Events...

October 2013

- McAlester Ranch & Home Show Oct. 18

November 2013

- OSU Economic Outlook Conference Nov. 1-2
- AFR/OFU NE District Speech Contest, Sapulpa Nov. 5
- AFR/OFU NW District Speech Contest, Enid Nov. 11
- AFR/OFU SW District Speech Contest, Cache Nov. 19
- AFR/OFU SE District Speech Contest, Wilburton Nov. 21
- AFR/OFU Central District Speech Contest, Newcastle Nov. 25
- Thanksgiving Holiday, AFR/OFU Home Office Closed Nov. 28-29

December 2013

- AFR/OFU Ag & Historic Conference, Branson, Mo. Dec. 5-9
- Tulsa Farm Show, Tulsa Fairgrounds Dec. 12-14
- AFR/OFU State Speech Contest, OSU, Stillwater Dec. 14
- Christmas Holiday, AFR/OFU Home Office Closed Dec. 24-25
- New Year's Holiday, AFR/OFU Home Office Closed Dec. 31-Jan. 1

January 2014

- KNID Agrifest Farm Show, Enid Jan. 10-11

...Serving Oklahoma for more than 108 years!