

AFR & NEWS VIEWS

“The Voice of Family Agriculture”

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LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: #LIFEGOALS



The 2015 AFR/OFU Leadership Summit took place at Camp Big Cedars near Wanette, Okla., July 26 - Aug. 1. Summit kicked off with Teen Session and ended with Senior Session and a new AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council. This was the second year for the summit to be at the more centralized location. *Staff photo*

Alpacas: More Than Just Alright

Story by
DANIELLE ROGERS
AFR/OFU
Communications Coordinator

In 2002, AFR/OFU members John and Janice Robinson purchased two young Huacaya alpacas and one llama, beginning their new venture *Just Right Alpacas* in Jones, Okla. Neither had done much in agriculture and were looking for a way to get involved with animals that are easy to handle and maintain.

“We had all this land with nothing on it except our horses,” said Janice Robinson. “I saw a picture in the newspaper and we went to visit the ranch. I fell in love with them immediately. They were just so cute.”

One of the most important steps in her alpaca business venture, according to Janice, has been the community of breeders in Oklahoma. Once you become a member of the Alpacas of Oklahoma you can reach out to other breeders in

your area for tips and ideas on how to set up and run your business successfully.

“There is a wonderful mentorship program for those who have started their alpaca business,” she said. “If you have a question, it is so easy to call someone and get an answer or advice.” Janice has helped other alpaca breeders by assisting them in getting their fencing started, offering her advice and lending her animals when it’s time for breeding.

Turn to **ALPACAS, 10**

OSU Releases New Wheat Variety

Story by
LEILANA MCKINDRA
Communications Specialist
OSU Agricultural Communications Services



In advance of the upcoming fall planting season, Oklahoma State University’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources announced the release of Bentley, its newest wheat variety.

“OSU has a strong history of producing high performing wheat varieties and Bentley only adds to this proud tradition,” said Jeff Edwards, head of the OSU Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. “The OSU Wheat Improvement Team is dedicated to meeting the needs of Oklahoma wheat producers and we’re excited about the ways Bentley will help them continue to thrive and succeed.”

A hard red winter wheat, Bentley features excellent grain yielding ability under challenging climate conditions, including moderate, but chronic drought stress and late winter freezes.

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Industry

Rabies Precautions Urged for Livestock



The rabies virus can be dormant for several weeks or months before symptoms occur. Anyone bitten by an animal should clean the wound and see a doctor immediately. Photo courtesy public domain

**Information Provided by
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND FORESTRY**
*Dr. Justin Roach,
ODAFF Staff Veterinarian*

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFA) is encouraging rabies vaccinations for family pets, horses and show animals.

Rabies is a virus that can only infect mammals. It is carried by skunks and bats, which serve as reservoir species in Oklahoma. Rabid animals spread rabies to others primarily through biting; however, direct contact with the saliva or nervous tissue of a rabid animal can also result in exposure to rabies. Although dogs and cats are most commonly thought of as getting infected with rabies, livestock species may also be infected.

In Oklahoma, the disease is actually more common in livestock but may not always be recognized. A sudden change in orientation and aggressive behavior are recognizable symptoms in carnivores like dogs. In horses, cattle and other livestock species, the disease more typically presents as loss of appetite, limb paralysis, abdominal straining or difficulty swallowing, without the typical dramatic symptom of aggressive, biting behavior. For a complete list of symptoms,

go to www.oda.state.ok.us/ais/rabies-managementlivestock.pdf.

ODAFA staff veterinarian Justin Roach, D.V.M. recommends vaccinating all pets, horses and exhibition or show animals.

“As we move toward show season, Oklahoma youth will be having daily contact with livestock that are susceptible,” Roach said. “That’s why it is important for all owners to properly vaccinate their animals and prevent the spread of this disease.”

Prevention includes deterring wildlife from contacting livestock, pets and people. Take measures to prevent skunks from denning near homes and livestock. The best way to monitor for this disease is to take note of unusual animal behavior. A lethargic animal that is usually lively should be noted. Similarly, an animal that is usually sociable and gets along with others in a herd may suddenly become aggressive.

If symptoms are observed, avoid looking in the animal’s mouth and contacting saliva. Call a veterinarian to examine the animal. Municipalities vary on whether dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated every year or every three years, but pet vaccination against rabies is required statewide for animals once they are four months of age.

EPA Water Rule Under Fire



Since late May, many states and trade associations have protested the WOTUS rule that establishes federal control over domestic bodies of water. Photo courtesy public domain

**Contributed by
STEVE THOMPSON**
Policy & Membership Coordinator

On July 8, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt filed a lawsuit alleging that the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) rule is executive overreach, contrary to the will of Congress. The lawsuit alleges that the EPA’s broad redefinition of long-standing regulatory jurisdiction places virtually all land and water under an untenable regulatory burden. The EPA’s regulatory jurisdiction has historically been limited to the “navigable waters”—a term that has always been understood to include only large bodies of water capable of serving as pathways for interstate commerce.

“Respect for private property rights have allowed our nation to thrive, but, with the recently finalized rule, farmers, ranchers, developers, industry and individual property owners will now be subject to the unpredictable, unsound and often byzantine regulatory regime of the EPA,” Attorney General Pruitt said. “I, and many other local, state and national leaders across the country, made clear to the EPA our concerns and opposition to redefining the ‘Waters of the U.S.’ However, the EPA’s brazen effort to stifle private property rights has left Oklahoma with few options to deter the harm that its rule will do.”

On July 13, the State Chamber of

Oklahoma joined the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business and the Tulsa Regional Chamber in a separate lawsuit against the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over the new WOTUS rule. The suit alleges the rule exceeds the authority granted to the agencies under the Clean Water Act and is unconstitutional because the agencies did not comply with the Regulatory Flexibility Act during the rulemaking process.

On August 27, a federal judge in North Dakota issued a preliminary injunction stopping the rule from going into effect in a number of states. In his opinion, Judge Ralph Erickson said it appears the EPA “has violated its Congressional grant of authority in its promulgation of the rule at issue.” He went on to say that the states and other parties that brought this lawsuit—North Dakota, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, Wyoming and two state agencies in New Mexico—“have demonstrated that they will face irreparable harm” if the rule were to go into effect. In a statement, the EPA said the 13 states that obtained the injunction in North Dakota, are not subject to the new rule; however, for the remainder of the states, “in all other respects, the rule went into effect on August 28.”

Continued from WHEAT VARIETY, Pg. 1

It also fits well in dual-purpose grazing systems and in minimum-tillage systems which promote the development of multiple leaf spotting diseases.

“Bentley’s drought resistance is equal to or slightly better than Iba, which is currently our best adapted variety for drought, but it has much better leaf hygiene in the presence of leaf spotting diseases, particularly tan spot and physiological leaf spot,” said Brett Carver, lead researcher for the OSU WIT, an interdisciplinary team of nine OSU researchers responsible for developing the variety.

Along with another OSU experimental line, Bentley earned the

2015 Millers Award presented by the Wheat Quality Council. It has also placed in the highest yielding group of varieties at every location for which three-year data (2013-15) is available from the OSU Wheat Variety Trials.

Bentley is best suited for growth in southwestern and central Oklahoma and areas extending north, east and possibly into south central Kansas. Its use in the panhandle should be limited to dryland conditions.

Producers should wait until early September to plant Bentley due to possible heat-sensitive germination and the variety should not be harvested late because of the potential

for below-average test weight.

Beginning in August, about 8,000 bushels of foundation seed is expected to be available to current members of Oklahoma Genetics, Inc., a farmer nonprofit that distributes pedigreed seed to producers in Oklahoma and surrounding states.

“We should consider Bentley as a genetic background complementary to what’s currently available in Duster, Gallagher and Iba,” said Carver. “It will offer competitive yield in the presence of multiple yield-limiting factors, with drought being the main factor.”

Bentley is named after Walter Dimmitt Bentley, a former educator turned farmer who served as the first director of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service from 1914 to

1916 and as assistant director of Extension from 1917 until his sudden death in 1930.

The variety’s name was chosen as part of a contest celebrating Extension’s centennial anniversary in 2014.

Bentley is the first variety OSU has released since Doublestop CL Plus in 2013.

DASNR is comprised of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension.

For more information about Bentley, contact Oklahoma Foundation Seed Stocks or OGI at (405) 744-7741 or ofss.okstate.edu/company.

Industry

AFR/OFU Member Rises to the Top As Peanut Profitability Winner

Story by
RON SMITH
Southwest Farm Press
Editorial Staff

The determining factor, most years, in selecting the Farm Press Peanut Profitability Award winners is cost management, says award coordinator Marshall Lamb, research leader, USDA National Peanut Research Laboratory.

"This year's three winners' cost management was outstanding," Lamb said during the annual awards breakfast, sponsored by the National Peanut Board and held in conjunction with the Southern Peanut Growers Conference, held this year at Callaway Gardens Resort near Pine Mountain, Ga.

The 2015 class includes Brian McClam, Kingstree, S.C.; Johnny Cochran, Worth County, Ga.; and AFR/OFU member Anthony Reed, Thackerville, Okla.

Lamb explained that the award is based on production efficiency instead of yield only. "We look at a formula of yield, plus price minus cost," Lamb said. "Each year the winners usually rise to the top for different reasons. This year, all three made good yields and all three did a good job marketing. Cost of production was the difference."

He said most producers do a good job with variable costs—fertilizer, fungicide and other inputs. "These three gentlemen also did a great job managing fixed costs. They are above average."

In remarks following the award presentation, all three winners mentioned the importance of family in their operations and the commitment to making their farms better for the next generation. Each uses some form of conser-



2015 Peanut Profitability Winners were honored at the recent Southern Peanut Growers Conference in Callaway Gardens Resort. Pictured (from left to right): Ron Smith, editor, Southwest Farm Press; AFR/OFU Member Anthony Reed, Thackerville, Okla.; Brian McClam, Kingstree, S.C.; Johnny Cochran, Worth County, Ga.; and Marshall Lamb, research leader, USDA National Peanut Research Laboratory. Lamb also serves as the Peanut Profitability Award coordinator. Photo courtesy Ron Smith, Southwest Farm Press

vation tillage to help control weeds, improve the soil and reduce wind erosion.

"I am honored to receive this award," Reed said. He said he owes much of his success to his father for teaching him how to farm and to his wife Karen for her unwavering support. He encouraged young farmers to "pay attention to Mother Nature and be ready to react."

Cochran said young farmers face tough challenges to build efficient operations. "Farming is cash intensive," he said. "It's hard for a young person to get started. And the farm population is getting older."

McClam, who farms in a humid area of the South Carolina Low Country, said disease pressure is a constant challenge. But, God wants me to farm because every time I fall, He picks me back up."

Farm Press Director of Content Forrest Laws said Farm Press is honored to have these three farmers as representatives of their respective regions. "We congratulate all three for their outstanding achievements," Laws said. "They all have outstanding operations."

In a question and answer session following the awards ceremony all three acknowledged another common interest—pigweed.

"Pigweed is our number one weed issue," Reed said. "I spend more time with pigweed than I do with my wife."

"We battle pigweed with anything we can use," Cochran said.

"You know what I'm going to say," McClam, the last one to answer the toughest weed question said. "Pigweed. But I look forward to new products coming out soon."

In concluding remarks, Lamb said

the Peanut Profitability Program, sponsored by Farm Press Publications, the Southern Peanut Farmers Federation, and a host of corporate sponsors (listed below) is "the most rewarding program I have ever been part of."

He expressed appreciation to Farm Press for supporting the award for 17 years.

"This program is not just about the winners," Lamb added. "The education aspect through articles in Southeast Farm Press, Delta Farm Press and Southwest Farm Press help the entire industry. Filling out the application form provides information other farmers can use to improve their operations."

McClam said the form, which is a comprehensive report of acreage, production practices, costs and marketing information, "helped me identify weak spots in my operation."

"I think you are the only farmer we've ever had who didn't complain about how hard the form is to complete," Lamb responded.

Lamb also praised the program for recognizing "how great this industry is and how great our product is. The peanut is a nutrient rich food product."

He said the industry success "always begins at the ground level. It starts with the producer and moves up."

Sponsors for the 2015 Peanut Profitability award include: Agri-AFC, AMVAC Chemical Corporation, Arysta LifeScience, BASF, DuPont Crop Protection, Golden Peanut Company, John Deere, National Peanut Board, Southeast Farm Press, Delta Farm Press, and Southwest Farm Press.

Rural Fire Department Funding Available



Information Provided by
**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD,
AND FORESTRY**
Michelle Finch-Walker,
ODAFF Communications Specialist

fire station construction. Fire departments in towns with a population of less than 10,000 are eligible to receive a grant and can apply through Oklahoma Forestry Services by September 1.

The grants provide reimbursement of up to 80 percent of the total amount of the project, with fire departments receiving reimbursement after the purchase or construction costs have been paid. A total of \$200,000 is available for the program this year and will be awarded in each of Oklahoma's 11 rural fire districts. Departments can receive up to \$30,000 for fire department construction and up to \$20,000 for fire equipment purchases.

"Our rural fire departments do an excellent job and we are pleased to have some funding to help them get what they need to fight fire," said State Forester George Geissler. "We only wish we had more funds to assist more departments."

The grants are authorized by Governor Mary Fallin, funded by the Okla-

homa legislature and administered by Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. Oklahoma's Rural Fire Coordinators grade the applications and select the recipients.

Fire departments that received funding last year include: Afton Volunteer; Cedar Lake/Canadian Valley; Corn; Corum; Freedom; Harrah; Hollis; Holly Creek/Oak Hill; Jones; Kellyville; Kildare; McLoud; Milburn; Ninnekah; Olney; Piedmont; Pioneer; Twin Hills; and Waurika.

Applications and more information are available on the Oklahoma Forestry Services website, www.forestry.ok.gov/firegrants, or call (405)522-6158.

Industry

Oklahoma Vineyard Quality Project Reveals Opportunities for Industry

Story by
MANDY GROSS
FAPC Communications
Services Manager

The Oklahoma wine industry has grown tremendously during the last several years, and now the Oklahoma Vineyard Quality Project is enhancing the ability of state grape growers and winemakers to strengthen their operations further.

“The old saying goes, ‘Great wine is made in the vineyard,’ and it’s true,” said William McGlynn, horticultural products processing specialist for Oklahoma State University’s Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center. “Only high-quality fruit can make a high-quality wine and the information gleaned from this project will better equip Oklahoma grape growers to produce the highest quality fruit possible.”

The project, funded by the Oklahoma Specialty Crops Block Grant program through the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, aimed to identify improvements needed in Oklahoma vineyards as well as pathways to implement them through educational programs. More specifically, the program sought to classify geographically the grape cultivars grown throughout Oklahoma’s eco-regions, provide information on growing high-quality grapes that can be made into high-quality juices or wines, and offer information to include in educational and extension programs.

“The four primary elements that promote high fruit quality in the vineyard are selecting the proper cultivar, having a suitable environment for



It is projected that during the next few years, Oklahoma wine sales will increase to 5 percent or more of the state’s total wine sales, adding at least 100 new jobs and retaining 250 existing jobs in rural Oklahoma and adding an additional \$558,000 in taxes to the Oklahoma economy. Photo courtesy Mandy Gross, FAPC Communications Services Manager

growing grapes, providing dedicated and observant management and choosing a proper site for the crop,” said Eric Stafne, viticulture consultant and associate extension and research professor at Mississippi State University.

“These four elements can be used in combination to enhance fruit quality throughout Oklahoma,” Stafne said.

According to a final report written by Stafne, the primary concern of Oklahoma’s wine industry is the long-term sustainability of vineyards throughout the state. Lack of attentive management, poor pruning practices, lack of adequate pest control, poorly balanced vines and overall

poor site selection can lead to problems in producing high-quality fruit.

Stafne stated many of these problems can be improved over time and offered recommendations that can lead to better vineyard quality.

For example, wineries should further integrate hybrids into their plans if vineyards are to be more sustainable over time. Stafne suggested 3-4 tons per acre should be the minimum for production of vinifera, and hybrids should range from 4-8 tons per acre to be economically viable.

Not all sites are good locations for grape production. Soils in Oklahoma may limit productivity due to low organic matter, high Boron, heavy clay textures, salinity and other features.

Stafne recommended performing a soil test prior to planting grapes and then every 2-3 years after planting.

Furthermore, Stafne emphasized the importance of educational programs on plant and soil nutrition, irrigation and water allocation, pest management, pruning practices and canopy management.

“I encourage growers to incorporate the Oklahoma Vineyard Workbook into practice,” he said. “Workshops that explain the book and allocate time for completing the ratings are necessary for better participation.”

Oklahoma is a difficult place to grow grapes, but the state’s grape growers and winemakers are committed to producing high-quality fruit juices and wines proudly made using Oklahoma-grown grapes.

FAPC, a part of OSU’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, helps to discover, develop, and deliver technical and business information that will stimulate and support the growth of value-added

food and agricultural products and processing in Oklahoma. For more information contact FAPC Communications Services Manager Mandy Gross at (405)744-0442.



OSU Hosts Rural Outlook Conference



The 2015 Rural Economic Outlook Conference, scheduled for Oct. 30, will include a variety of topics important to the Oklahoma economy including: future trends, big data and the role of technology, soil health and more.

For more information on how you can attend, contact Steve Thompson at steve.thompson@afmic.com or (405)218-5563.



For the past several years, FAPC, under the direction of William McGlynn, horticultural products processing specialist, has participated in an Oklahoma Wine Quality Project aimed at sensory and chemical testing of Oklahoma Wines. Photo courtesy Mandy Gross, FAPC Communications Services Manager

Industry



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Insurance

Calumet Family Weathers the Storm with AFR

Story By
LAICI WEDEL
AFR Insurance

Communications & Content Manager

Like most farming and ranching families, Clay and Lili Elliott and their daughters stick to a daily routine. May 24, 2011, began like any other late spring day for the Elliotts. They rose early, completed morning chores on their 400-head club lamb operation and checked the weather before the rest of their day began.

"The weather stations had told us for a week this was it for intense tornadic activity. Everything was lined up to be rough and we were right on the dry line," said Clay. "But, we were out doing chores that morning, everything as normal."

"I do remember the sky was really blood red-orange that morning," said Lili. "It was unreal; I just couldn't believe the color of that sky. They tell you 'red sky in the morning, sailors take warning' because the wind's going to blow. I thought, 'Okay, great.' It never dawned on me that it would hit us."

"You know you're in trouble when you're trying to get out and the storm chasers are trying to get in."

AFR Member
Lili Elliot

Thankfully, the early morning was the only normal part of the Elliotts' routine that day. They're typically outside in the mornings, but May afternoons are spent in their barn preparing show lambs for a large June sale.

"The barn has refrigerator cooler units," said Clay. "With the fans and those coolers going you don't know what's going on outside. Under a normal situation, we would've

been inside that barn and not even known this tornado was creeping up. We wouldn't have known it was coming.

"Except that day, because the weather had told us there was a chance it would be ugly, we decided to run errands. We told our hired college kids to take the afternoon off. Lo and behold, three-thirty in the afternoon we got nailed."

Like many tornado survival stories, the circumstances of that day are serendipitous. No one was in the barn with outside sounds muffled. The Elliott daughters were home on one of the first days of summer break. Clay had gone to Oklahoma City for parts. And, Lili just happened to need another trip into town.

"I needed to go back to town and [when I stepped outside] I saw the cloud," Lili said. "It was huge. It looked like a hail cloud; it didn't look like a tornado at all. About that time, the power lines started snapping and I heard this rumble, like an avalanche. We got out; we had just a few minutes to get out before it hit."

Lili drove with her daughters ten miles to Trinity Lutheran Church in El Reno to take shelter. They arrived just before the tornado hit.

In the shelter Lili heard the weatherman announce the tornado's current location as I-40 Mile Marker 113—the exact location of their house.

The funnel was about a mile wide and was on the ground for 60-plus miles. The Elliotts' house, barns, livestock and everything else they owned took a direct hit. As with other EF-5 tornadoes, everything in its path—the Elliotts' entire operation—was a total loss.



Clay and Lili Elliott live on their club lamb operation near Calumet, Okla. Formerly the livestock judging coach at Redlands Community College, Clay now works as a consultant and sales representative for Purina. Lili manages their club lamb operation, which sells purebred Hampshires as breeding stock and show lambs nation-wide. The Elliotts are insured with Shanna Foster at the Ed Preble Agency - Mustang. Photo courtesy of the Elliott family

Cleaning Up

Lili came home to a property in ruin. Their 50 acres were covered in debris; all the barns and outbuildings were gone; the vehicles and implements tossed about the field; and the property's beautiful century-old oak trees bent and broken.

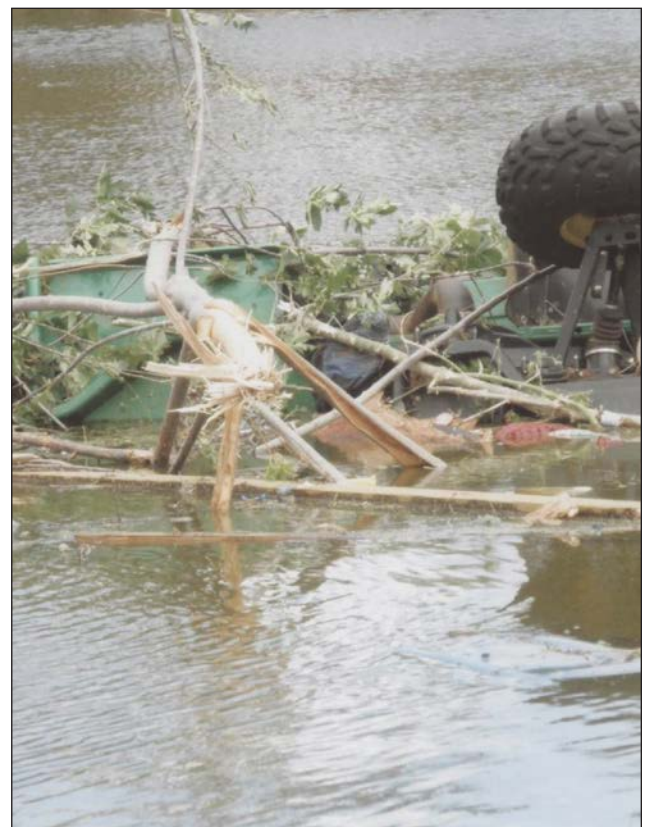
The knowledge of others and their willingness to help was a life-saver for the Elliotts. By the time Clay broke through

traffic barriers and made it home, people were already gathering livestock.

The amount of work to be done was overwhelming, but friends and family helped with general clean-up, the Red Cross provided meals and fresh water, FFA chapters and 4-H clubs ran bobcats and the oil company Cimarex helped put fence line back up and provided large machinery to bury debris.

"We really hadn't expected all those

Turn to ELLIOTT, 7



The Elliotts included a basement with a reinforced safe room in their new home, which they have used several times since the 2011 storm. The Elliott's property was covered in the wreckage left by the tornado, leaving flipped tractors and cars in fields and ponds. Photos courtesy the Elliott family

Insurance

Continued from ELLIOTT, 6

people to show up and help us clean,” said Lili. “It was very, very humbling.”

The most sobering loss was the death of about 100 ewes, a quarter of the Elliots’ total head-count. The help they received with the surviving sheep is something they will never forget.

“It was amazing the number of people that showed up to help haul ewes out, truckload after truckload and trailer-load after trailer-load,” said Clay. “They were backed up on our county road waiting to get in.”

“We never called; they just lined up,” Lili said. “We thought we were just going to have to stay down there and guard the sheep all night to keep the coyotes away. It was crazy; they had all those animals taken care of by ten-thirty that night.”

Many of the Elliots’ surviving ewes were sent to Fairview, Okla., where a friend set up a make-shift triage unit. There were about 20 people waiting to medicate and dress wounds when the trailer-loads of sheep arrived.

A handful of the prized ewes went to other places where they could be “babied back to health.”

“We had friends from South Dakota and Colorado jump in their pickups and drive all night to get here,” Lili said. “They took our high-dollar donor ewes home with them so they would get more exclusive care. They drove all night to get here, loaded them up and drove all the way back home.”

Picking up the Pieces

After the tornado, the Elliots lived in town for a year, then moved a single-wide mobile home onto their property so they could live there while waiting for their new house to be built.

“Five of us in a little bitty trailer house—It brings you closer together whether you want to be or not,” said Lili.

Throughout their ordeal, the Elliots have considered themselves blessed. Counted among their blessings was their ease in dealing with their insurance issues.

“Of course, you lay awake all night thinking ‘Oh my gosh, I hope I made that last payment and we’re insured.’”

AFR Member
Clay Elliot

“I called AFR very early in the morning and we had an adjuster here by 10 a.m.,” said Clay. “He immediately said, ‘It’s a complete loss and here’s [a check] toward what you had insured.’ He said, ‘You’re going to need this.’ He wrote it right there that day.”

“We had no trouble whatsoever with any part of our claims process. They gave us everything we were insured for without any issues. We had neighbors that fought with their insurance companies and that went on forever.”

“We were thanking God that we didn’t have to deal with the horrors they were dealing with,” said Lili. “Their insurance didn’t want to pay. AFR just said, ‘You’re right; it’s wiped



It took three years for the Elliots to get moved into their new home, which is on a hill overlooking their former homesite. Photo courtesy of the Elliott family

out. We’re going to follow our policy. We’re going to stay true to our word.’ The other companies weren’t doing that and AFR did.”

The Elliots were grateful they were able to resolve their claim quickly and focus on other things. Many of their neighbors waited on an adjuster for days.

“[Our adjuster] was phenomenal,” said Lili. “If I had questions, I just called him and he would check on it. He was always there with a phone call, or, if he wasn’t in the office, he would return my phone calls. Just perfect, I couldn’t have asked for any better.”

It’s a little like fate that the Elliots have AFR insurance. While many customers find AFR through referrals, Lili shopped for insurance in old-fashioned way.

“I called three insurance companies. AFR was the first one to respond and they were out here the next day,” said Lili. “They weren’t too busy to take my phone call; they got right on it. They took the time to talk to us and went through all options with me. They cared. It was just a fit; it was the right one.”

“Those people [at the agency] are phenomenal. It’s really nice because they’re just like extended family.”

“We’ve had plenty of opportunity to change companies, we get phone calls from people that want to talk to us about insurance a lot,” said Clay. “We just tell them we’re happy where we’re at.”

“A lot of people have seen what we went through,” said Lili. “I tell my story and a lot of people switch to AFR.”

A Learning Process

The Elliots’ new home is built, their barns and other structures are almost complete, and, while there aren’t any more oak trees, their field has healed and is ready for this winter’s grazing wheat.

Through the process, Clay and Lili have learned a few things. On the

insurance front, they’ve learned the value in everyday items, especially those intended for agricultural use.

“We insured all the barns and we had the house insured for the full amount,” said Lili. “I thought we had plenty of contents insurance on the house, but you don’t really know that until you check everything.”

“We didn’t insure any of the barn contents—the fans, the stands, the blowers, the vet supplies, the show box, the lamb blankets, everything else that goes with that. Twenty years of accumulations gone like that. When we started buying, it added up really quickly. Those fans are \$300-400 apiece, just little things like that add up. We didn’t realize the thousands of dollars-worth of equipment we had.”

“We were insured for a certain amount and we were grossly underinsured,” said Clay. “Because of that we are better off in terms of insurance now. I don’t know if you can ever completely prepare for it again, even though you’ve been through it

before. I do know we’re better prepared if it happens again.”

Because of their experience, the Elliots have increased their efforts to document their possessions. They send serial numbers for large or expensive items to their insurance agent to keep with their policy. They also take pictures of new items as they are purchased and send a copy to their agent for backup through the recovery process.

Clay and Lili also learned a lot about themselves.

“A lot of people had their house wiped out,” said Lili. “We had our house and our business wiped out.”

“We made some poor decisions after the tornado because we were trying to immediately put this thing back together and get back in business,” said Clay. “We jumped in head first the very next morning and we never stopped until we got it put back together.”

“We were very, very blessed because AFR was right there and we could do that.”



Originally from Wyoming, Clay and Lili Elliot moved to Oklahoma to grow their sheep operation. They had 400 head of mostly Hampshire ewes at the time of the tornado. Photo courtesy the Elliott family

LEAD Program

AFR/OFU Women’s Conference Paints Successful Path

Story By
DANIELLE ROGERS
AFR/OFU
Communications Coordinator

The 2015 AFR/OFU Women’s Cooperative hosted the “Paint Your Path” Women’s Conference at the Embassy Suites by Hilton – Oklahoma City Aug. 5. Event attendees learned women’s safety, how to become more involved in their communities and how to market themselves and their businesses.

“Women have become such a large demographic in leadership roles. We want to assist them in further educating themselves and building their business skills,” said AFR/OFU LEAD Coordinator Megan Albright. “With the 2015 Women’s Cooperative, we are mixing an educational atmosphere with fun social events so these women can grow their networks and learn what other women are doing in their businesses.”

The one-day conference included marketing speakers Social Media Mack CEO Tess Mack, AFR/OFU Youth Coordinator Blaire Boyer and AFR Insurance Marketing Director Chris Campbell and a women’s safety session presented by Kerry Spencer, a federal and C.L.E.E.T./S.W.A.T. instructor. In addition to marketing and safety, attendees learned how



Attendees of the 2015 AFR/OFU “Paint Your Path” Women’s Conference painted a landscape during the event, utilizing each woman’s individual talents. *Staff photo*

to create and follow a business path from keynote speaker Kirby Smith, a field representative to Congressman Frank Lucas. Smith’s session taught guests the importance of social media, how valuing your business promotes others to place value in it and the important role agricultural education plays in all areas of life.

The conference also included en-

tertainment provided by Wine & Palatte. The activity allowed attendees to socialize with other women involved in agriculture while painting a path using individual, unique talents.

Following the AFR/OFU Women’s Conference, guests were provided the opportunity to attend the Oklahoma Women in Agriculture and Small Business

Conference at the Moore-Norman Technology Center in Oklahoma City Aug. 6-7.

If you would like more information about the AFR/OFU Women’s Conference or other adult programs, contact LEAD Coordinator Megan Albright at (405) 218-5416 or megan.albright@afrmic.com.



LEAD Program

Cattle Seminars Teach Progress in Beef Market



LEAD event-goers got hands-on with the UAV demonstration, by testing weight and getting an up-close look at the new technology. Staff photo

Story By
DANIELLE ROGERS
AFR/OFU
Communications Coordinator

The AFR/OFU LEAD (Leadership Exploration and Development) program teamed up with the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association's 31st Annual Range Round-Up to host its first educational event on Aug. 29 at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, Okla.

Kicking the event off, participants gathered for an informational session regarding agricultural economics presented by OSU Professor and Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist Derrell Peel, PhD. Peel discussed cost management skills, which market factors to watch in 2016 and the importance of trade for the beef industry.

The afternoon event also included OCA and Beef Check-Off updates from OCA

Executive Vice President Michael Kelsey; cattle pregnancy and PI-BVD testing from Bruss Horn, PhD. of Okie Dokie Cattle Data; and Farm Service Agency risk management and disaster programs information presented by Jay Goff, President of Oklahoma Association of FSA County Office Employees (OKASCOE), and Robert Payne, Vice-President of OKASCOE. The day finished with a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) demonstration piloted by state extension specialist, Brian Arnall, PhD.

The cattle seminar marks the third event hosted by AFR's LEAD program in 2015. The program has events of the year you can see at iafr.com/lead, including an Advocate for Agriculture training Oct. 10. Contact AFR/OFU LEAD Coordinator Megan Albright, (405)218-5416 or megan.albright@afirmic.com for more details.

LEAD Tours Sam Roberts Noble Foundation



Sam Roberts Noble Foundation tour participants were given the opportunity to see a demonstration of the cutting edge trapping system called the BoarBuster. Staff photo

Story By
DANIELLE ROGERS
AFR/OFU
Communications Coordinator

The AFR/OFU LEAD program continued their educational seminars with a tour of The Sam Roberts Noble Foundation, Oklahoma's largest private foundation, in Ardmore on Sept. 11.

Adam Calaway, director of communications for the Noble Foundation, began the day with an overview about the history of the institute and a short seminar regarding the crisis in agriculture.

Following Calaway's presentation, the group toured the world's largest research greenhouse on the foundation's campus. Attendees were able to touch different types of grasses to demonstrate which type of foliage

would be easiest for cows to pull from the ground versus which would be best used for athletic activities.

During the campus tour, LEAD participants were given a demonstration of the research-based trapping system known as the BoarBuster by Noble Foundation Wildlife Specialist Russell Stevens. The device is controlled by mobile, with live streaming video used to deploy the trap when the sound of wild hogs is beneath it. You can learn more about the BoarBuster by following the link at iafr.com/LEAD.

In addition, the afternoon was spent learning about pecan research, innovative hoop house construction and a session about sport fish pond management.

LEAD Kick-Off

Story By
DANIELLE ROGERS
AFR/OFU
Communications Coordinator

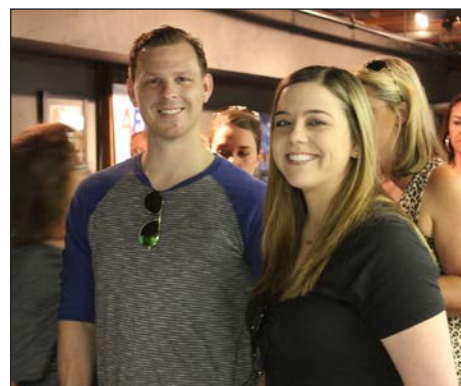
The AFR/OFU LEAD (Leadership Exploration And Development) program held its first event July 18 at Put A Cork In It Winery and the Chickasaw Ballpark in Oklahoma City. The kick-off event welcomed more than 300 attendees to enjoy an evening out with AFR for a social gathering and an Oklahoma City Dodgers baseball game.

"As an organization, we want to be able to provide assistance to our members of any age, this program will help bridge the gap between our established youth program and our active older generations," said

AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick.

LEAD is AFR/OFU's new adult leadership program directed at creating opportunities for growth within Oklahoma's agricultural community. A priority of the program is to provide the latest information which could affect the bottom line of farming and ranching operations and to assist agricultural producers in staying up to date on trends and new technology within the industry.

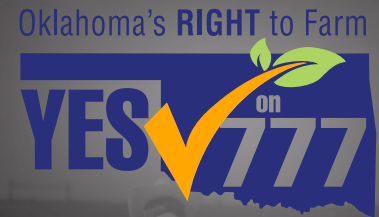
For more information about how to get involved in the LEAD program or Women's Cooperative activities, contact LEAD Coordinator Megan Albright for more details.



Attendees of the 2015 AFR/OFU LEAD Kick-Off enjoyed socializing before the Oklahoma City Dodgers baseball game at Put A Cork In It Winery in Bricktown. Staff photo

Membership

Oklahoma's Farmers Support SQ 777: THE RIGHT TO FARM!



IN NOVEMBER 2016, Oklahoma's voters will have the opportunity to defend the hard-working farm families that feed our communities and drive our economy.

SQ 777 will create permanent protections in Oklahoma's state constitution, forever preserving the right to farm and ranch.

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

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



AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS



OKLAHOMA PORK COUNCIL



OKLAHOMA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION



OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU



THE POULTRY FEDERATION



OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL



OKLAHOMA WHEAT GROWERS ASSOCIATION



OKLAHOMA GRAIN & FEED ASSOCIATION



OKLAHOMA AGRIBUSINESS RETAILERS ASSOCIATION



OKLAHOMA COTTON COUNCIL

OklahomaRightToFarm.com



@YesOn777

Continued from ALPACAS, pg. 1

She teams up regularly with Sheila Robinson of Agra to give advice and temporarily trade alpacas for breeding. Sheila's farm focuses on agritourism and education regarding the use of alpaca fibers and alpaca manure for soil nutrition.

Breeds, Breeding & Family

Alpacas are too small to be used as a pack animal and farms usually keep a llama, horse or dog with the herds to keep predators away. They are social herd animals who live in family groups usually consisting of an alpha male, females and their young. With their docile nature, it is easy to walk up to the alpacas and pet them on their backs or scratch behind their ears. If they do not know you, expect them to walk away.

There are two breeds of Alpacas—the Suri and Huacaya. The main differentiation is the appearance of the fleece and what can be made with it. Most commonly used in fine textiles, blankets and socks, the Huacaya fleece is the softest and most easily processed of the two breeds. Huacaya alpaca colors range from the common white, fawn, brown and rarest black.



Having a great community is one thing that helps build and promote an alpaca farm and fiber business. The close knit group works together to answer questions and solve problems with the friendly animals. Staff photo

It is important to have a community for alpaca breeding to get a pure quality fiber from the animals. To get the best quality product, alpacas cannot be bred to a color or breed different from their own. Keeping the same fiber color and breed of animals produces a pure product and shows the breeder is a reputable producer of alpacas and alpaca products.

The Alpaca, Llama Difference

What is the difference between the alpaca and the llama? Alpacas are primarily used for their fibers for textiles; llamas are considered pack animals and are more aggressive. Llamas are larger,

standing over six-foot-tall; alpacas stand closer to five-foot-tall and weigh between 100 - 200 pounds. Also, a llama's ears will curve inward at the top; alpaca ears stick straight up.

Agritourism

Just Right Alpacas sets up tradeshow booths and is active in many alpaca shows. After finishing National Alpaca Farm Days at the end of September they will be collaborating with the Wings Event Center Fall Festival in Edmond, Okla., Oct. 10 and 24, and then off to the 10th Annual A-OK Alpaca Blastoff at the Lazy-E Arena in Guthrie, Okla., Nov. 13-15.

Janice Robinson provides tours of her farm and boutique, accompanied by information regarding alpacas and what it takes to operate an alpaca farm. If you would like more information, please contact AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson at (405) 218-5563 or steve.thompson@afmic.com.

Membership

AFR/OFU Spring Ag & Historic Conference: Cajun-Style

Information provided by
MARILYN SANDERS
AFR/OFU
Executive Assistant

This spring, join us on a seven-day adventure as we discover Louisiana's Cajun Country, April 11 - 17, 2016.

Culture

Learn about the culture of the Acadian people and their diverse, agriculturally rich lands. Explore Avery Island, the home of Tabasco Sauce. Explore the Domino Sugar Refinery, the largest in the U.S. and 2nd largest in the world.



Food & Farm

Get up close and personal at a working alligator farm and learn how farmers use rice fields as crayfish ponds. Taste real Creole with a dash of Cajun food at the New Orleans School of Cooking and experience the world-class National World War II Museum.

History & Entertainment

Meet an accordion-maker and experience how Cajun-style accordions are made by hand. Spend time at a historic antebellum mansion on the Great River Road, then experience the Angola Prison Rodeo, the "Wildest Show in the South," plus so much more!

Contact

For additional information contact Marilyn Sanders at (405) 218-5567 or marilyn.sanders@afmic.com or Paul Jackson at (405) 218-5559 or paul.jackson@afmic.com.

Laissez les bons temps rouler!
(Let the good times roll!)



Convention Deadlines Announced

Information provided by
PAUL JACKSON
AFR/OFU State Secretary

Oct. 22, 2015: Deadline for resignation notification of intent to file by current officer or director filing for any seat other than the current position they hold.

Oct. 22-Nov. 20, 2015: Board officer and director candidates filing period. (Filing is during normal business hours Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.)

Nov. 20, 2015: Deadline for filing for an elected position. (Completed packet must be received by 4:45 p.m.)

Nov. 20, 2015: Deadline for submitting changes to bylaws to be considered by the bylaws committee, 90 days before the first day of convention. (Must be received by 4:45 p.m.)

Dec. 1, 2015: Deadline for submitting local and county resolutions to the state office to be considered by the state policy committee.

Jan. 1, 2016: Deadline for AFR/OFU Memorial Roll submissions.

Feb. 12, 2016: Deadline for submitting convention credentials.

Feb. 19-20, 2016: AFR/OFU Convention, Embassy Suites – Norman Hotel and Convention Center.

The following elected positions will be presented for a vote at the 2016 AFR/OFU State Convention. All elected positions are three-year terms.

PRESIDENT

Currently held by:
Terry Detrick, Ames

DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR

Currently held by:
Jim Shelton, Vinita

AT-LARGE DIRECTOR #3

Currently held by:
Mike Humble, Cache

AFR/OFU Member Receives Icon Award

Information provided by
LIVESTOCK MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Billy Perrin, Hugo, Okla., received the Livestock Marketing Association's (LMA) Industry Icon Award during the 2015 LMA Annual Convention and World Livestock Auctioneer Championship in Waco, Texas. Perrin joins Pat Goggins and E.H. Fowler as the only Industry Icon Award recipients since the inception of LMA more than 50 years ago.

Shawn Madden, 2001 World Livestock Auctioneer Champion and past LMA executive committee member, presented the award.

"Billy Perrin has successfully owned and operated five auction markets in Oklahoma," Madden said. "Without question, he is a man of integrity, intelligence and determination. He is one of the most dedicated friends of livestock marketing in history. He is truly an industry icon, in every sense of the word."

Beginning in 1990, Perrin had leadership roles with the LMA including President of the Association from 2002 to 2004, Chairman of the



AFR/OFU Member Billy Perrin is honored by Shawn Madden with the Industry Icon Award. Photo courtesy Livestock Marketing Association

Board from 2004 to 2006, Director from 2006 to 2008 and board member of the LMA Professional Livestock Insurance Company from 2005 to 2013.

LMA is headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., and is North America's largest membership organization dedicated to supporting, representing and communicating with and for the entire livestock marketing sector. LMA has more than 800 member businesses across the U.S. and Canada.

Membership

Anthony Reed: Proud Peanut Farmer



AFR/OFU member Anthony Reed, Thackerville, Okla., won the 2015 Peanut Profitability Award for the Southwest Region. Photo courtesy Southwest Farm Press

Story By
RON SMITH

Southwest Farm Press Editorial Staff

Not many peanut farmers welcomed the loss of the quota system and a guaranteed price for their crop, but Thackerville, Okla., farmer Anthony Reed says losing that support made farmers rethink some production practices.

"Losing the program taught us to be better farmers," Reed said. "We had to become more efficient."

He explains that with the program in place he used to grow 300 acres of peanuts on his south central Oklahoma farm. Without the program, but with a better rotation system and improved technology, he makes almost as many peanuts on 70 acres as he did on 300.

That improved efficiency is what earned Reed the 2015 Peanut Profitability Award for the Southwest Region.

He and his wife, Karen, accepted the award July 25 during the annual Southern Peanut Growers Conference in Callaway Gardens, Ga.

Reed says consistent rotation makes high yields possible. "Good rotation is the success of any peanut farmer," he says. He follows a one-in-four year system, planting peanuts behind rye, which he grows for grain, hay and grazing for his 140-cow commercial cattle herd.

It's proven a profitable combination for Reed who says cattle provides the most income with "peanuts a strong second and rye third." He also raises watermelons for a few small grocery stores, local customers and "most for the peddler trade."

He has a niche market for the rye, moving much of it into East Texas. "But I consider myself a peanut farmer," he adds. "I was raised growing peanuts and I still enjoy watching the plants mature from seedlings to harvest."

They do well in a grass rotation. "I get a lot of organic matter from the rye and a lot of phosphorus and potassium goes back into the soil. We could make one crop of peanuts without fertilizer, behind rye. My dad taught me that, but he was a better farmer than I am."

He strip-tills peanuts in terminated rye grazed over the winter. "About 90 percent of what cattle eat, we get back on the soil," he says. "It's good for the cattle, good for the soil and good for peanuts."

The one-in-four rotation also limits disease pressure. "I sometimes have to spray for leafspot and Southern blight, but sclerotinia and limb rot are not factors."

Good varieties also improve production efficiency. Reed plants Red River Runner, a relatively new high oleic variety, and OL 11, also high oleic. He averaged 4,600 pounds per acre last year on the Red River Runners and 5,300 pounds on the OL 11.

"Red River Runner is a good peanut; OL 11 is a better peanut." He says the lineage for each is similar but that OL 11 yields and grades a bit higher. Maturity is about the same.

He plants only high oleic varieties, as do most Southwest farmers who capitalize on the better market options for peanuts with a longer shelf life.

He plants half circles under two center pivot units. "Water has been okay. We're able to irrigate as much as we need to."

Weeds do well with adequate water, too, Reed says. "Are weeds becoming a worse problem? Yes and no. We are seeing more herbicide resistance, but, with the one-in-four rotation, we're able to apply herbicides we can't use in peanuts and we're able to control some of those weeds."

He typically uses Roundup as

a burndown on the rye two weeks before planting and applies Prowl H₂O pre-plant. "I use a lot of Select for panicums."

He also employs hoe hands to take out pigweeds. "Some of my hoe hands have come from the same family for years," he says. "We also get some high school football players hoeing weeds late in the season. They want to adjust to the heat before practice starts."

Keeping up with technology offers continuous challenges as Reed evaluates new chemicals and loses some old favorites. "Chemicals are getting better," he adds, "and I try to stay current with new products, GPS and even a smartphone."

He says his wife convinced him that he could master the intricacies of a smartphone and he's now finding it useful. "The camera is a good tool," he says. "I can take photos of equipment for sale and send it out."

Recording crop progress and problem spots is another option. "I'm just trying to stay up with technology."

Reed credits his father for getting him started in farming and teaching him how to do it.

"My dad also grew watermelons and said he made more money from watermelons than he did peanuts, but he considered himself a peanut farmer. I make more money with cattle, but I consider myself a peanut farmer. I was raised growing peanuts and peanuts have been good to my family."

His father, Chester, was grow-

ing peanuts in the early '40s, during World War II. "He had four brothers in the war, but he farmed and raised peanuts for the government. They needed peanut oil to make clean-burning diesel."

Chester Reed was share-cropping in Gainesville, Texas, when Anthony was born in 1954. "I was number 11 of 12 children. Dad was a cotton and peanut farmer and one year made a good enough cotton crop to get together a down payment to buy the farm in Thackerville. Reed and two brothers later took over the farm. Both brothers are now deceased; the youngest, Tim, lost a battle with cancer just this past January."

Reed intends to keep the land in farm production.

"I've been through a few hard years, but, except for eight years serving as a county commissioner, I've never held an off-farm job. When I was 12-years-old I told my dad that I wanted to farm. I always wanted to farm."

His brother Tim was never as devoted to farming, but wanted to work with his brother anyway. "We worked it together."

Today the farm would "sell for good money" if Reed were remotely interested in selling. The property is close to a casino that rivals Las Vegas gambling halls and land values have

Turn to REED, 13



MEMBER BENEFITS

GENERAL BENEFITS

- Access to quality farm, home, auto and life insurance
- Media response, info, promotion and public relations services
- Legislative representation at national, state and local levels
- Policy development and education
- \$5,000 reward for arson, theft or vandalism to AFR property insureds

DISCOUNT BENEFITS

- Discount medical flight membership program
- Discounts on rental cars and hotels
- Discounts on dental and vision plan
- Discounts on Constant Contact e-mail marketing
- Discounts on office and school supplies and legal services

MEDIA BENEFITS

- Subscription to the quarterly AFR/OFU News & Views
- Subscription to the News & Views Insider e-newsletter
- Subscription to the National Farmers Union e-newsletter
- Free classified advertising in quarterly publication

YOUTH BENEFITS

- Speech and poster contests
- State and county educational scholarships
- Youth leadership summit
- Agricultural contests
- Youth sponsorships

Membership



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Continued from REED, 12



risen steeply as a result of the growth around the attraction.

“But as long as I’m alive and I’m here to look after it, this land will be farmed.” He says a son has an interest in moving back to the farm when he retires.

Reed takes little credit for what he’s accomplished on the farm, instead acknowledging contributions of his family, “other good farmers and the community for teaching me

to work hard and to be responsible.”

“Also, behind every good farmer is a good woman who is a good cook and has a good job with health insurance and a good income to tide us over in hard times. I give a lot of credit to my wife, God, family and my community.”

He also acknowledges his own responsibility for keeping the farm running. “You have got to be in the field as much as possible,” he says. “That’s as big a key as anything in agriculture.” He says he’s learned from “better farmers than me.” “I like to listen to farmers who love what they do,” he says. “But farming is not just a job. It is what I do. It’s certainly not about the money.”

Love County Gets Involved



Members of the officer team for Harper Insurance, Local 741 in Love County, got involved in the revitalization and enhancement of the Love County Free Fair Aug. 28.

With attendance declining each year, AFR stepped in to help encourage attendance to the event by adding new activities and events for fairgoers. The ice cream social was a success driving stronger participation than in recent years.

Do you have an event happening in your community to encourage community involvement? Please contact AFR/OFU Policy and Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson at (405) 218-5563 or steve.thompson@afmic.com to tell us what you’ve been up to.



Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program, Inc.

OAMP helps Oklahoma agricultural producers, lenders and USDA agencies negotiate or resolve program disputes or denials and loan accelerations, possibly avoiding administrative appeals or going to court.

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For more information about this no-charge service, contact OAMP, Inc.

1-800-248-5465 • www.ok.gov/mediation

Membership

NW Oklahoma Water Plan Defines Future Water Agenda

Information provided by
BRENT KISLING
Northwest Oklahoma
Alliance

Northwest Oklahoma communities and water interest groups announced completion of a coordinated plan to aggressively resolve water-related issues and problems in the region.

The Northwest Oklahoma Water Action Plan (NWAP), developed through the combined efforts of numerous municipalities, agricultural organizations and the energy sector, is all about responsible economic development, according to Brent Kisling, Chairman of the NWAP Action Team (NWAT) and Executive Director of the Enid Regional Development Alliance.

“If we didn’t know it already, this most recent drought has made it clear that, without water, northwest Oklahoma has little chance to thrive or even maintain our citizens’ current standard of living,” he points out. “This plan recognizes that we have significant water challenges ahead of us. It reconfirms our economic objectives and recommends more appropriate policies that reflect the true value of this priceless, yet finite and vulnerable, resource.”

Developing the NWAP and serving on the NWAT to implement the NWAP are the communities of Alva, Enid, Fairview and Woodward; Farm Credit Services, Northwest Oklahoma Agriculture and Irrigation Associa-

tion, American Farmers & Ranchers, Continental Resources, Devon Energy, Nemaha Environmental and Select Energy Services. The Northwest Oklahoma Alliance brought these diverse interests together in August 2014, providing leadership and support of this permanent public entity and its goals. For eight months, stakeholders participated in numerous meetings to develop the plan, which was formally approved on April 27.

The NWAP offers dozens of phased strategies at both the local and regional level to:

- Secure additional water supplies, especially groundwater, but also available streamflows and reservoir storage, such as at Kaw Lake;
- Improve management of water supply systems, including better accounting of water use and programs to detect and repair leaks;
- Address high nitrate levels in drinking water and related treatment issues;
- Expand water reuse and conservation programs;
- Create a regional drought response plan;
- Investigate the use of brackish and/or other water sources of marginal water to free up fresh water supplies;
- Accelerate government studies to determine the yields and regulatory withdrawal rates of the region’s



In May communities across northwest Oklahoma developed a plan for water development and reliability. Photo courtesy USDA-NRCS

aquifers; and

- Secure additional funding to address water infrastructure needs.

While the NWAP serves as an important blueprint for future municipal, industrial, agricultural and energy-related water development, more than anything, the plan is about maximizing water reliability, according to Kisling.

“It may surprise some, but we have lots of water in northwest Oklahoma. It’s just not always available when and where we need it. This requires approaching the problem from a regional perspective,” he says.

“Fortunately, our NWAP stake-

holders have demonstrated incredible unity in developing fair and sensible solutions to our shared water problems. And that’s important because this commitment will be essential to implementation of the plan over the coming years.”

AFR/OFU members involved in the NWAP process were: AFR/OFU Northwest District Board Member Terry Peach, Mutual; AFR/OFU Northeast Field Representative Mike Robison, Ringwood; and AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick, Ames.

For more information or to join the implementation effort, contact Kisling at (580)233-4232.

AFR Youth Work Septemberfest



Members of the newly elected 2015-2016 AFR/OFU Youth Council enjoyed their first activity during their year-long term of service. Staff photo

Newly elected members of the AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council were an instrumental part of the organization’s activities at Septemberfest, held at the Oklahoma History Center September 12.

Septemberfest provides opportunities for urban families and agricultural

membership and commodity groups to interact. It celebrates what makes Oklahoma unique, featuring attractions for people of all ages. The agriculture portion of the event is coordinated by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF).

Contest Promotes Practical Skills



AFR/OFU sponsored the Tulsa-Cattle Grading Contest June 23 at Tulsa Stockyards. Grace Blackwell (left), Oktaha, was the top FFA individual and Lyndee Branen (right),



Rogers County 4-H, was the top 4-H individual. AFR/OFU Northeast Field Rep Jim Pilkington and Youth Coordinator Blaire Boyer represented the organization at the event.

Youth Program

71st Annual Speech Contest Dates Announced

AFR/OFU has announced the dates and locations of the 71st annual AFR/OFU Fall Speech Contest series. This year's contest will be another great experience for competitors as they vie for a chance to advance to the state contest.

The contest allows 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.

Finding an adequate number of judges

always proves the largest and most challenging obstacle for the contest. Forty-eight qualified individuals are needed to serve as judges for each district contest.

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. To register by phone or for more information on this year's speech contest, contact AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson at (405)218-5563 or steve.thompson@afrmic.com.

Speech Judge Registration Form

SELECT CONTEST WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE TO JUDGE:

- NW District Speech Contest - Autry Technology Center, Enid Nov. 5
- Central District Speech Contest - Tecumseh High School Nov. 10
- SE District Speech Contest - EOSC, Wilburton Nov. 12
- NE District Speech Contest - Lonestar School, Sapulpa Nov. 17
- SW District Speech Contest - Cache High School, Cache Nov. 19
- State Speech Contest - Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater Dec. 5

SELECT DIVISION YOU WOULD LIKE TO JUDGE:

- Novice (Grades 4 - 6) Junior (Grades 7 - 8)
- Intermediate (Grades 9 - 10) Senior (Grades 11 - 12)

SELECT CATEGORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JUDGE (1ST, 2ND, & 3RD CHOICE):

- American Farmers & Ranchers Agribusiness
- Student Organization Agriscience
- Natural Resources

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Chapter/Club: _____

Return this form to:

Policy & Membership Development, Steve Thompson, P.O. Box 24000, OKC, OK 73124

Email: steve.thompson@afrmic.com

Fax: (405)218-5589

2015 Speech Contest Dates

| | |
|--|---------|
| NW District Speech Contest - Autry Tech Center, Enid | Nov. 5 |
| Central District Speech Contest - Tecumseh High School | Nov. 10 |
| SE District Speech Contest - EOSC, Wilburton | Nov. 12 |
| NE District Speech Contest - Lonestar School, Sapulpa | Nov. 17 |
| SW District Speech Contest - Cache High School, Cache | Nov. 19 |

*District contest registrations begin at 4 p.m. Contest briefings 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. 5, at Oklahoma State University.

Divisions

NOVICE: Students in grades 4, 5 and 6. Time limit is 2-4 minutes.

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

JUNIOR: Students in grades 7 and 8. Time limit is 4-6 minutes.

INTERMEDIATE: Students in grades 9 and 10. Time limit is 4-6 minutes.

SENIOR: Students in grades 11 and 12. Time limit is 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 educational opportunities.

Student Organizations: Participants may choose any current issue that deals with their student organization—topics such as leadership, leadership training, personal development and growth, goal setting and team work, community activities, competitions, etc. Organizations should be limited to 4-H, FFA, FCCLA, TSA, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

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

Agribusiness: Participants may choose any current issue on topics such as cooperatives, value-added products, sales, service, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, futures, advertising, international trade, rural economic development, politics, animal rights/animal welfare, etc.

Agriscience: Participants may choose topics such as biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering, mechanical engineering, farm safety, use of technology, research, embryo transfer, etc. Participants may also choose any animal science-related topic dealing with dairy, equine, poultry, sheep, swine, beef, specialty animals, etc.

For more information about the 2015 speech contest or other AFR/OFU Youth events contact Policy & Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson at (405)218-5563 or steve.thompson@afrmic.com.

LEAD & Women's Cooperative Events

| | |
|---|---------|
| Advocate for Ag Training, Tulsa..... | Oct. 10 |
| Northwest District LEAD Meeting, Woodward..... | Oct. 13 |
| Southwest District Women's Retreat - Wichita Mountains Refuge Tour..... | Oct. 17 |
| Southeast District LEAD Meeting, McAlister..... | Oct. 20 |
| Northeast District LEAD Meeting, TBD..... | Oct. 27 |
| Southwest District LEAD Meeting, Lawton..... | Nov. 3 |
| Southeast District Women's Retreat - Fall Tour (Talimena Drive, Antlers)..... | Nov. 14 |
| LEAD Ag Appreciation Reception..... | Dec. 14 |
| Northeast District Women's Retreat - Aquarium & Antiques Tour, Jenks..... | Dec. 19 |

Youth Program

#LifeGoals At AFR/OFU Leadership Summit

Story by
BLAIRE BOYER,
AFR/OFU Youth Coordinator

AFR/OFU hosted its 2015 Leadership Summit July 26 – Aug. 1. More than 160 students participated in leadership development activities that will benefit them far into the future.

“We are excited to continue the tradition of the AFR/OFU Leadership Summit and to be more accessible to students from all corners of the state,” said AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer. “This year, our attendance continued to increase, making this one of the largest Summits ever.”

The annual retreat develops leadership skills in junior high and high school youth that will prepare them for future educational and professional experiences. Attendees learn such skills as setting and achieving short- and long-term goals and working in teams. They also learn the value of service leadership, community development and many other positive attributes.

“We are proud to invest in the future of Oklahoma through these



The 2015 Leadership Summit was the most attended in the annual retreat's history with more than 160 students attending. Staff photo

young people. This is just one way of demonstrating that investment in communities across our state,” said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick.

The theme for this year's Summit was “#LifeGoals.” The theme reflected the four focus areas of Summit: leadership, community, service and success.

This year marks the second year

for the summit to be held at Big Cedars Camp near Wanette, Okla. The central location has made the AFR/OFU Leadership Summit equally accessible to both sides of the state.

Leadership Summit is divided into two sessions. All of the state's students entering grades 7-9 are eligible to attend the AFR/OFU Teen

Leadership Summit. AFR/OFU Senior Leadership Summit is offered to students entering grades 10-12.

For more information on the Summit or other AFR/OFU youth opportunities, contact AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson at (405)218-5563 or steve.thompson@afrmic.com.



Each year the AFR/OFU Leadership Summit includes activities which promote team building and cooperation designed to grow each participant's strengths and enhance their leadership skills for future educational and professional opportunities. Staff photo

Youth Program

AFR/OFU Youth Fight Hunger

Story by
BLAIRE BOYER

AFR/OFU
Youth & Education Coordinator

More than 160 2015 Leadership Summit attendees once again teamed up with Kids Against Hunger of Northwest Oklahoma to help fight hunger in the United States and abroad. Kids Against Hunger is a humanitarian food-aid organization with a mission to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the U.S. and to feed starving children throughout the world.

For the second year, Summit attendees prepared and packaged “fortified rice-soy protein meal packages” for hungry children. Teen Session attendees packaged more than 36,000 meals during their service project and Senior Session packaged more than 64,000 meals in under two hours. Between the two sessions, Summit attendees packaged more than 100,000 meals for children in Oklahoma, the United States and the world.

The packaged meals consisted of long-grain rice, crushed soy, blended dehydrated vegetables and vitamin and mineral powder, and contained all nine essential amino acids. Each bag has a shelf life of at least three years and, when boiled, can feed six children. The average package of food from the project will be eaten in less than three months.

The service project took place at the annual AFR/OFU Leadership Summit July 26 – Aug. 1. The retreat develops leadership skills in junior high and high school youth that will



prepare them for future educational and professional experiences. All Oklahoma students entering grades 7-9 are eligible to attend the Teen Leadership Summit. Senior Leadership Summit is offered to students entering grades 10-12.

For more information on the Summit or other AFR/OFU youth opportunities, contact AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson at (405)218-5563 or steve.thompson@afrmic.com



Summit attendees packaged more than 100,000 meals for Kids Against Hunger. Staff photo

AFR/OFU Welcomes New Youth Council



The 2015-2016 AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council spend their year-long term serving AFR/OFU and the youth of Oklahoma at various events. New members of the council are (left to right): Ashley Tucker, Fairview; Grant Wilber, Cherokee; Macee Hammack, Leedy; Guess Leonard, Claremore; and Madi Baughman, Lone Grove. Staff photo

Story by
DANIELLE ROGERS
AFR/OFU
Communications Coordinator

AFR/OFU announced its 2015-2016 Youth Advisory Council at the organization’s annual Senior Leadership Summit Reception July 30.

Members of the 2015-2016 Council are Madi Baughman, Lone Grove; Grant Wilber, Cherokee; Ashley Tucker, Fairview; Macee Hammack, Leedy; and Guess Leonard, Claremore.

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.

“Our Leadership Summit and the AFR/OFU Youth Council demonstrate that investment across Oklahoma,” said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick.

The AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council is selected at the annual Senior Leadership Summit. The se-

lection 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.

During interviews Advisory Council candidates were asked about their experiences with AFR/OFU and why they were running for the role of a Youth Advisory Council member.

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.

In order to run for the Council, students must be an AFR Insurance policyholder and must have attended Summit previously.

For more information about the Youth Advisory Council contact AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson at (405)218-5563 or steve.thompson@afrmic.com.

Classifieds

Counties and Locals Announce Meetings

ADAIR COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 9 @ 5:30 p.m., Location to be determined by the number of RSVP's received. There will be presentation of resolutions and a short business meeting to elect officers for the coming year. Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 30 to Brad Davenport, (580)696-7191.

BECKHAM COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 27 @ 7 p.m., Elk City Convention Center (kitchen), 1016 Airport Industrial Rd., (south side of Hwy 66, east end of town), Elk City. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting to elect officers. Please RSVP with the Crow Agency (580) 225-3645. Reeves Agency Local 112 and Crow Agency Locals 14 and 530 will have a short meeting before we adjourn.

CADDO COUNTY

Saturday, Sept. 26 @ 5 p.m., Ft. Cobb High School Cafeteria. There will be entertainment, dinner and door prizes. There will also be a short business meeting with presentation of reports, election of officers and/or directors for the coming year, election of delegate for the state convention and presentation of resolutions.

CANADIAN COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 27 @ 6 p.m., Redlands College, between Redlands College and Bible Baptist Church. Go west to dead end, turn north into parking lot and enter that building. There will be drawings for turkeys and hams followed by a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Due to limited seating and to be in compliance with fire codes, please, members only. Single members may bring one guest. RSVP to the Wiedemann Agency, (405)262-5388, or the Yukon office, (405)354-7920, no later than 4 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 21.

COMANCHE COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 6 @ 5:30 p.m., Worley Center, Room 301, Lawton. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. One prize per family; must be an AFR/OFU member to win. Please notify your local agent by Friday, Oct. 2 @ 5 p.m., with number of guests attending: Dismuke Agency, (580)357-1110; Humble Agency, (580)429-3608; David Kolker, (580)492-4280.

CREEK COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 8 @ 7 p.m., Creek County Fair Barn. There will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Catering and seating arrangements will be based on responses. Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 2 @ 5 p.m. to: Brown Ins. Agency, Sapulpa, (918)224-2005; Dowdy Ins. Agency, Bristow, (918)367-9950.

CUSTER COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 22 @ 6 p.m., Arapaho Community Center, corner of C and Broadway (at Hwy 183 & Main, east four blocks to stop sign and south one block), Arapaho. There will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Locals 109, 312, 530, 589, 642 and 804 will meet immediately following the county meeting. Please RSVP to your agent: Weatherford Insurance Agency, (580)772-8500; Crow Agency, (580)225-3645; Newsome Agency, (580)323-0444; Sandy Land Agency, (580)661-3171.

DEWEY COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 29 @ 6:30 p.m., Dewey County Fairgrounds, corner of W. Main and Sexton, Taloga. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers and board members for the coming year. RSVP to your agent by Wednesday, Oct. 21: Robert Acre, Canton, (580)886-2584; Shannon Ball, Vici, (580)995-4968; Pam Livingston, Seiling, (580)922-6141; Jackie Price, Leedey, (580)821-0986.

GARFIELD COUNTY

Friday, Oct. 16 @ 6 p.m., Oakwood Christian Church, 401 N. Oakwood, Enid. Speaker: Richard Herren, AFR CEO, and a representative of Air Evac. There will be door prizes, a presentation of resolutions and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Lahoma Local 152, Woodson Local 529, Hunter Local 634, Bolenbaugh Local 668 and Garber Local 682 will meet immediately following the County meeting. Please RSVP by Oct. 9 @ 5 p.m. to Bolenbaugh Agency, (580)242-2818; Detrick Agency, (580)796-2100; Maly Agency, (580)863-2389.

GARVIN COUNTY

Tuesday, Nov. 3 @ 6:30 p.m., Garvin County Fair Barn, Pauls Valley. There will be entertainment, prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers for the coming year. RSVP to your insurance agent by Friday, Nov. 6 @ 1 p.m.

GRADY COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 19 @ 7 p.m., Grady County Fairgrounds, Chickasha. Catering by End O' Main. Speaker: Richard Herren, AFR CEO. There will be door prizes, entertainment and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions, election of a delegate to state convention and officers for the coming year. RSVP by Friday, Oct. 9 to Ratterman Agency, (405)352-5200; Taylor-Shebestor Agency, (405)224-4450; Community Agency, (405)476-3289; Ray Anthony, (405)224-1392; or Jack McLane, (405)453-7801. Please notify if you cannot attend after reservations are made.

HARMON COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 12 @ 6 p.m., Boomerang Restaurant. There will be a short business meeting with election of officers and for the coming year. Please RSVP to the Robinson Agency, (580)688-9229 by October 9.

HASKELL COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 9 @ 7 p.m., Stigler High School Auditorium, N.W. 7th Street, Stigler. There will be door prizes, turkeys and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions, election of officers and election of delegates to the state convention.

JACKSON COUNTY

Thursday, Nov. 12 @ 6:30 p.m., WOSC 2801 N. Main St., Altus. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions, election of vice president for the coming year, and one board member (Don Proctor), election of a delegate to the state convention and discussion of the Jackson Co. Farmers Union Scholarship. RSVP to your local agent if you plan to attend and eat dinner no later than Monday, Oct. 26.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 14 @ 6:30 p.m., Waurika Grade School Cafeteria, Wauika. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers and a delegate for the coming year. Members only.

JOHNSTON COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 7 @ 6 p.m., Family Life Center, Calvary Baptist Church, 9700 S. Highway 377, Tishomingo. There will be dinner, door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Members only.

LEFLORE COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 9 @ 6 p.m., Donald W. Reynolds Community Center (Poteau's new Civic Center), Poteau. 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. Members only, please.

KIOWA COUNTY

Monday, Sept. 21 @ 6 p.m., Western Tech Center, Hobart. Speaker: Tommy Thomas, AFR Lobbyist. There will be a short business meeting to elect officers and a delegate to the state convention. Please RSVP by Sept. 16 @ 5 p.m. to Lee Horton, (580)450-5231.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 1, Buffet served 6 - 7 p.m., Agri-Center, Chandler. There will be dinner, entertainment, door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Nominations will be made from the floor and resolutions presented for a vote. Membership includes tickets for immediate family only. RSVP to your agent by Sept. 29 so arrangements can be made.

LOGAN COUNTY

Thursday, Nov. 5, @ 7 p.m., Granny Had One Catering, Ben Coffin, 312 W. Oklahoma Ave., Guthrie. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions, election of officers delegates to the state convention.

LOVE COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 7 @ 6 p.m., Marietta School Cafeteria, Marietta. There will be dinner, door prizes and a short business meeting. Resolutions committee will meet @ 5 p.m. RSVP to: Pearman Agency, Thackerville, (580)276-3672, or Harper Agency, Marietta, (580)276-5129.

MAJOR COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 24 @ 5:30 p.m., Ringwood Community Fair Building, 310 N. Main, Ringwood. Speaker: Terry Detrick, AFR President. Immediately following dinner will be a business meeting with election of officers, speakers and presentation of resolutions. Please bring any proposed resolutions. Nichols Agency Locals 709 & 272 and the Detrick Agency Local 392 will hold their annual business meeting at the conclusion of the county meeting. RSVP to an agent for dinner reservations by Thursday, Oct. 22: Nichols Agency, Ringwood, (580)883-5969 or, Fairview, (580)227-3623; and Detrick Agency, Ames, (580)796-2100, or (580)753-5969.

MCCLAIN COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 7 @ 5 p.m., Blanchard High School Cafeteria, 1440 N. County Line Rd., Blanchard. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Harryman Local 39 and 403, Richey Local 129 and Purcell Local 372 will meet immediately following the county meeting. Please RSVP to your agent by Monday, Nov. 2 if you plan to attend: Richey Ins. Agency, Inc., Blanchard, (405)485-9400; Harryman Agency, Inc., Newcastle, (405)387-4416; Heart of Oklahoma, Purcell, (405)527-2153.

MURRAY COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 14 @ 6 p.m., The Inn at Treasure Valley, Conference Room, I-35 & Hwy 7, Davis. There will be a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers, board members and a delegate to the state convention.

MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Saturday, Oct. 17. Location and time will be announced when you call your agent. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting to elect officers for the coming year. Please notify the agents listed by Thursday, Oct. 15 @ 5 p.m. as to how many will attend. This is important for food and seating preparation. Ogden Agency, (580)687-1321; Haskell Agency, (580)482-5286; Ramsey Agency, (580)463-5345.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 7 @ 6 p.m., Midwest City Community Center, 200 N. Midwest Blvd., Midwest City. There will be dinner and entertainment. Locals 150, 196 and 313 will meet after the county meeting. All AFR families welcome.

OTTAWA COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 2 @ 6:30 p.m., Charlie's Chicken, 2400 N. Main, Miami. Speaker: Paul Jackson, AFR State Secretary. Meal will be furnished by the County. There will door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Local 79 will meet Monday, Dec. 7 @ 6:30 p.m., Charlie's Chicken, 2400 N. Main, Miami.

PAYNE COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 15, Doors open @ 5:30 p.m., Payne County Expo Center, Stillwater. There will be door prizes, entertainment and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers, directors and a delegate to the state convention. RSVP by noon, Oct. 12 to the Porter Agency, (405)372-4169 or (405)372-0585; Perkins Agency, (405)547-2971; Cushing Agency, (918)225-1751, or Schieffer & Schieffer Agency, (918)352-9406.

PONTOTOC COUNTY

Friday, Oct. 9, @ 6:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, 4015 N. Broadway (next to Pepsi), Ada. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with discussion of state convention. Dinner will be served. RSVP no later than Wednesday, Oct. 7, by calling the Harry Jordan Agency at (580)332-6025

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

Tuesday, Nov. 3, @ 5:30 p.m., Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center, Hwy 77 & Independence, Shawnee. There will be door prizes, entertainment and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Please RSVP with the agents listed with how many will attend for food and seating arrangements. Call by Friday, Oct. 30. Curtis Stanford, (405)273-7095; Williamson, (405)567-4959; Gilbert, (405)598-2590; Jeff Mize, (405)997-5760.

ROGER MILLS COUNTY

Friday, Oct. 16 @ 6 p.m., Community Building, Durham. Speaker: Terry Detrick, President AFR. 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 the county meeting.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 9, Doors @ 6:30 p.m., Wewoka Trading Post, North end of Wewoka Ave./Main St., two blocks north of courthouse. Speaker: Paul Jackson, AFR State Secretary. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting of Wewoka Local 128 immediately following the County meeting. Must RSVP by Thursday, Nov. 5 @ 5 p.m. to one of the following persons listed with how many will be attending, this is important for food and seating arrangements. No guests please. Your Hometown Insurance, (405)257-2100; Lane Insurance Agency, (405)925-3758.

STEPHENS COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 5, Dinner served at 6:30 p.m., Stephens County Fairgrounds, Duncan. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of a delegate to the state convention, officers and directors for the coming year. Local 70 will meet following the County meeting. To confirm, please call your agent by Tuesday, Sept. 29 @ noon: Graham Agency, (580)658-3077; Harris Agency, (580)255-2147; Jeremy Scherler, (580)439-8823.

TEXAS COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 2 @ 6:30 p.m. Pizza on Broadway, 103 N. Broadway, Hooker. There will be a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of a delegate to the state convention. Resolutions should be submitted in writing to Secretary Rhodes by Friday, Oct. 30. RSVP by Friday, Oct. 30, for proper dinner and seating arrangements. Make reservations by calling Thurman Wilson, (580)652-2807, or Mary Rhodes, (580)652-3207.

Turn to COUNTY MEETINGS, 19

Classifieds

News & Views Trading Post

HOME OFFICE DUE DATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE WINTER ISSUE: DEC. 1

AFR/OFU NEWS & VIEWS TRADING POST ADS
P.O. BOX 24000, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., 73124
PHONE: 405-218-5590 FAX: 405-218-5589
TRADINGPOSTADS@AFRMIC.COM

Classified advertising in the Trading Post is available free of charge to all paid-up members of AFR/OFU. 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. Advertising will not be accepted for services or products in direct competition with those offered by AFR/OFU or affiliates. AFR/OFU reserves the right to not print any ad deemed inappropriate.

REAL ESTATE

Wanted—I buy mineral rights. Any county like Carter, Grady; states like North Dakota, Oklahoma. If you're thinking of selling part of your mineral rights, call me before you sell. 580/227-2456.

For Sale—Two adjoining lots (354 and 355) in Canadian Shores #3, Pittsburg Co. \$2500 OBO for both. Call 347/882-3885 anytime or email BoDavis37@aol.com. If no answer, please leave message.

LIVESTOCK

For Sale—Reg. Polled Hereford bulls, heifers, 15 months to 2 years. Remittal Online 122L and PW Victor Boomer P606 genetics. 48 years of breeding polled Herefords. 580/332-2468.

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

For Sale—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—Registered mini Hereford bulls, heifers and steers. 580/339-3688.

HAY, FEED & SEED

For Sale—Small square alfalfa. First and second cutting, \$10 per bale. Small, square wheat straw bales, \$4 per bale. 405/459-6543 or 405/574-5571.

BOATS, RVs, CAMPERS & TRAILERS

For Sale—2007 Gulf Stream Toy Hauler, 30 ft. bumper pull. 3.6 kw Generac generator, central heat/air, TV, all kitchen appliances. New tires with spare, all in excellent working order. \$12,850. 405/624-2448.

For Sale—Deluxe commercial topper, 23 in. height, two 66 in. side doors, half-door with window. \$1,800. 580/276-5686.

FARM & RANCH

For Sale—10'x4', 1.5" zero pipe, 3" x 2" angle w/ rod braces and boards; 7.5' x 4', 1" zero pipe, 1.5"x2" angle open, drilled w/ boards; 9'x4', 1.25" zero pipe, 2"x4" wire mesh; two 12'x4', 1.5" zero pipe,

2"x4" wire mesh. Best offer. 405/233-5698 or 405/708-1288.

WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

Continued from COUNTY MEETINGS, 18

TILLMAN COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 26 @ 6:30 p.m. Great Plains Technical Center, Frederick. There will be a barbecue dinner and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers, directors and a delegate to the state convention. Reservations must be made by calling McManus-Whitworth Insurance Agency, (580)335-2590, on or before Friday, Oct. 23.

TULSA COUNTY & LIMESTONE LOCAL

Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m., Historic Burnett Mansion, 320 S. Main, Sapulpa. AFR will be providing the meat. There will be a short business meeting after dinner with presentation of resolutions, election of officers for the coming year and election of delegates to the state convention. Please RSVP to Stephen or Margaret Gund at (918)366-8711 no later than Saturday, Nov. 28.

WAGONER COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 20, @ 7 p.m., Wagoner Civic Center, 301 S. Grant, Wagoner. There will be dinner, door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions, election of officers, two board members and delegates to the state convention.

WOODS COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 22, @ 6 p.m., Moose Lodge Bldg, 32 7th St., Alva. There will be door prizes, entertainment and a short business meeting with election of officers. Alva Local 512 will hold its annual meeting immediately following the County meeting. Must RSVP by Friday, Oct. 16 by noon to Troy Brooks, (580)327-5353.



Reward Program



Is this your gate posted with the AFR reward sign? Call 405-218-5559 to claim a \$50 reward for spotting it! Complete reward program rules can be found at www.iafr.com.
 Photo courtesy AFR /OFU Field Rep Jim Pilkington

Marie's Baked Potato Soup

Directions

STEP 1: In a large stock pot; place a little of the butter and bacon. Cook the bacon, crumble and set aside.

STEP 2: Using the same stock pot, melt butter and add the flour. Continuously stirring, add in milk, potatoes and half of green onions.

STEP 3: Heat until soup comes to a boil. Lower heat and cover. Allow to cook for 20 minutes.

STEP 4: Add cheese and remaining ingredients; cover and cook for 20 minutes.

STEP 5: Add bacon and sour cream, cover and cook for 5 minutes.

STEP 6: Serve.

Ingredients

6 slices of bacon
 1 cup of butter
 1/2 cup of flour
 8 cups of milk
 1 tsp pepper
 1/2 tsp garlic powder
 1/2 tsp salt
 4 potatoes - peeled and cut
 1/2 cup of green onions - diced
 1 cup of cheddar cheese - shredded
 1/2 cup of sour cream



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Oklahoma's Right to Farm



President's Preface by
TERRY DETRICK,
AFR/OFU President



Editorial by
SCOTT BIGGS,
Oklahoma State Representative

Happy fall, everyone. Fall is a very busy time of year for everyone—fall harvesting, fall planting, county fairs, state fairs, kids back to school and on and on. When we are so preoccupied with making the best of our time and energy, it is easy to take a lot of things for granted. It is also easy for us to assume our grandchildren and great grandchildren will have the same privileges we have today. What if they decide to carry on the family tradition and become a farmer/rancher? Will they still have the freedom to grow food and fiber using the most advanced technology that sound science can provide?

It may seem far-fetched to imagine a world that would tolerate unfounded restrictions which would limit this but it is happening as we speak, happening because many states do not have a state legislature as familiar with what it takes to produce food as Oklahoma does, and my hat is off to our legislators.

The reason I referred earlier to our grandchildren is because the legislature we currently have does understand what it takes and the current generation of producers can count on them, but we cannot be sure that will always be the case. In fact, if the current trend continues, in all likelihood, Oklahoma might one day have an uninformed, social-media influenced legislature, influenced by people who think all animal agriculture is bad and crop scientists are demonic, which is

already the case in many other states.

I am therefore gratefully yielding the rest of my column to State Representative Scott Biggs for his editorial regarding State Question (SQ) 777. Please read and understand the issue, determine and pledge NOW that you will do all you can to promote by word-of-mouth AND financially to help us pass SQ 777 RIGHT TO FARM; not necessarily for our generation but for our grandchildren's generation.

—Thanks, Terry Detrick

Oklahoma has always been an agricultural state. The blood, sweat and tears of former generations of farmers and ranchers have given us the opportunities we have today, but our future is under attack. The days of Mother Nature being the biggest threat to agriculture are long gone, and have been replaced by out-of-state special interest groups and out of control politicians, that look for ways to put agriculture out of business. These groups push agendas such as EPA rules to limit dust, EPA rules to make rain water in your

gutters a navigable water way or even OSHA rules limiting child labor on the family farm. Right here in Oklahoma, last session we had bills filed and sponsored by Washington DC lobbyists that sought to put an end to agriculture production and impact Oklahoma farmers and ranchers directly. Every year these groups convince elected officials to file bills that would harm and destroy our industry. The main issue is a disconnect from the farm, and a lack of understanding about what goes into the safe and affordable food and fiber that is produced across Oklahoma. This is why we need the Right to Farm Amendment.

The Right to Farm Amendment, State Question 777, would amend the Oklahoma Constitution, and place in it a constitutional right to farm and ranch. This is important, as the Oklahoma Constitution serves as the highest state law. The legislature would be prohibited from passing laws that would impact the right to farm and ranch unless the new law meets very narrow criteria. New laws could only be passed if they are necessary to impact the health safety and welfare of the public. If passed the right to farm and ranch would be added to the list of Constitutional protected rights, such as the right to hunt and fish, right to bear arms,

right to vote and a list of other rights we take for granted today. State Question 777 will go to a vote of the people in November 2016.

State Question 777 will pass in the Fall of 2016, but only if we have the support of groups like AFR and its members. There are many different ways to help. First and foremost plan to vote in November of 2016, but just as important talk to your family, friends and customers. Make sure they understand how important the Right to Farm is, and make sure they vote. Secondly, become involved in the Vote Yes On State Question 777 campaign. Additional information can be found at www.oklahomarightofarm.com. Please consider serving as a volunteer and donating to the campaign.

We cannot take the Right to Farm for granted. We often fall into the usual routine and think things will always stay the same. The things we value most are under attack. For instance, prayer in school or before a sporting event is now illegal. We had to pass a law to require students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in schools. The Ten Commandments have been ordered to be removed from the Capitol, while PETA has made an application to place banners for kids to eat vegan in its place. The list goes on, but we now have a chance to make sure Oklahoma agriculture is not added to that list.

We have the opportunity to truly make a difference in Oklahoma agriculture. A vote YES says that we believe in Oklahoma. Voting YES on the Right to Farm says we want to preserve our agricultural heritage for our children and future generations. Please join me in supporting and voting YES on State Question 777.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2015

Oklahoma Rural Economic Outlook Conference, Stillwater Oct. 30

November 2015

AFR/OFU Northwest District Speech Contest, Enid Nov. 5
 AFR/OFU Central District Speech Contest, Tecumseh Nov. 10
 AFR/OFU Southeast District Speech Contest, Wilburton Nov. 12
 AFR/OFU Northeast District Speech Contest, Sapulpa Nov. 17
 AFR/OFU Southwest District Speech Contest, Cache Nov. 19
 Thanksgiving Holiday, AFR/OFU Home Office Closed Nov. 26-27

December 2015

AFR/OFU State Speech Contest, OSU Stillwater Campus Dec. 5
 Tulsa Farm Show, Tulsa Expo Square Dec. 10-12
 AFR/OFU Livestock Handling Competition, Tulsa Farm Show Dec. 11
 Christmas Holiday, AFR/OFU Home Offices Closed Dec. 24-25
 AFR/OFU Poster Contest Submission Deadline Jan. 1
 New Year's Holiday, AFR/OFU Home Office Closed Dec. 31-Jan. 1

January 2016

KNID Agrifest Farm Show, Chisholm Trail Expo Center, Enid Jan. 8-9

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