



News & Views

"The Voice of Family Agriculture"

Vol. XCIV No. 2
Spring 2013

Celebrating Oklahoma's Youth



Ag Achievement
Okla. Youth Expo
H.B. 1999 Passes
Policy Updates
Member Benefits





By Terry Detrick, President

SPRING: NEW LEAVES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES, NEW CHALLENGES

When National Farmers Union was formed in 1902, it was officially named (and still is) the “National Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America.” The organization’s symbol was the live oak tree—emphasis on LIVE. Each spring, a living tree produces new leaves. From our very beginning, the new leaves of the live oak symbol have represented YOUTH. Each year, we have the opportunity and obligation to reach out to a new crop of youth, while continuing to advance the youth from last year’s crop.

While our organization has been forced to initiate budget cuts, I commend your AFR/OFU Board of Directors for keeping that original vision and continuing to fund our youth and education programs, and I commend YOU, the policyholder/members, for supporting their efforts through your loyalty, participation and insurance purchases. I also commend our staff for the long hours they invest in carrying out the programs you have endorsed. This is especially true this time of year with the Oklahoma Youth Expo (OYE) during the weeks of March 17 and March 24. OYE’s claim to fame is that it’s the world’s largest junior livestock show. YOUR organization helped support more than 7,000 exhibitors showing 14,000 animals!

Not only did AFR/OFU support OYE in general, we also sponsored awards for the reserve grand champion animal of

a well-rounded opportunity for our state’s youth! A special thanks to our youth director, Lin Fariss, for successfully organizing and conducting this very complex contest.

Hopefully, this contest and others like it will prove useful as our youth defend the animal agriculture industry in the future. As most of you know, animal agriculture is under attack by organizations such as the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). The names of these organizations are deceptive. They represent something all of us believe in, but IN NAME ONLY. Don’t be deceived—their goal is to eliminate animal agriculture and encourage a vegetarian society.

In recent days, your AFR/OFU legislative team has been active in a united effort to confront efforts by HSUS and other like groups regarding the repeal of the prohibition of horse processing in Oklahoma.

The legislation provides a much needed outlet for unwanted horses in our state (providing the meat is for an international market). The repeal will help reduce the number of horses that face death by starvation, illness or predator and the number of horses that endure the stressful, long-distance shipment and possibly inhumane slaughter conditions in Mexico or Canada. It will also lessen the financial strain on counties forced to care for abandoned animals.

State-inspected, humane horse processing is an all-encompassing solution for these issues and I am grateful for the bill’s passage. When initially asked which side of this issue I supported, I replied, “I’m on the side of the horses!”

As your president, I recently made a very sincere statement in support of the legislation before a packed house at the Oklahoma Capitol. You can read my full statement on page 5.

What I said was heartfelt. I truly believe in rural Oklahomans’ ability to care for and respect their animals. I also believe that animal

husbandry, whether it be livestock or pet ownership, is an irreplaceable learning experience for our state’s youth.

As you can see, legislative action and the future of our state’s youth go hand-in-hand. I commend Governor Fallin and the Oklahoma Legislature for their support of the horse processing bill. They stood firm against fear-mongering and intimidation from extreme activists—even after some were threatened with bodily harm.

I want all of our readers to know, HORSE PROCESSING IS AN OPTION, NOT A MANDATE. If a horse owner has the finances and desire to euthanize or give geriatric care to an animal that is special to them, they still have that option. That is part of what we fought for during this legislative session—the right to choose the best option for your animal.

I personally feel blessed to live in a state and represent an organization that supports my right to that choice!

Until next time...GOD BLESS!

-Terry

Welcome to spring! With each spring come new opportunities and new challenges. I want to first thank the delegates of the 2013 AFR/OFU convention for granting me the opportunity to serve you for another three-year term. I welcome the challenge. I am indeed blessed to serve the AFR/OFU membership, who, in my opinion, are the greatest, salt-of-the-earth people that exist today. I am also blessed to serve the time-honored industry of agriculture and, on your behalf, advocate for the hard-working, risk-taking, self-sacrificing farmers and ranchers who feed a hungry world. AFR/OFU is a “membership service organization” and I appreciate the opportunity to represent you as we attempt to meet the needs of every member through our grassroots policy, whatever those needs may be.

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

OUR PRIVACY POLICY

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

INFORMATION WE MAY COLLECT

We only collect the member’s name, address, e-mail address and phone number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

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

each species and took full responsibility for organizing and conducting the annual Ag Achievement Contest, where competitors are tested on their knowledge of animal husbandry, judged on their showmanship ability and interviewed before a panel of judges. What

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AFR/OFU ELECTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AFR/OFU elected a new board of directors at the organization's 108th annual state convention at the Embassy Suites & Conference Center – Norman Feb. 22-23. This year, the membership voted on three contested seats on the board of directors—president, secretary/treasurer and at-large seat #3. In addition, AFR/OFU Northeast Director Jim Shelton ran unopposed and will retain his current position for a three-year term.

In the presidential race, incumbent Terry Detrick, Ames, was challenged by the former AFR/OFU Secretary/Treasurer Bobby Green, Okemah. Detrick will retain his seat for another three-year term.

Detrick is a life-long, second-generation AFR/OFU member. He was first elected to the OFU Board of Directors in 1986, and served as vice president of the organization from 1988 to 1992. After serving as president of the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association and then the National Association of Wheat Growers, he returned to OFU in 1998 as Vice President and Director of Farm Programs. He was named AFR/OFU President in 2009.

Detrick is a third-generation farmer/rancher and the managing agent of the Detrick Insurance Agency in Lahoma, which was founded by his father with the inception of OFU Insurance.



*Terry Detrick,
AFR/OFU President*

Paul Jackson, Ringling, defeated AFR/OFU insurance agent Wally Schieffer, Perry, in the race to fill the secretary/treasurer vacancy. Jackson will serve out the remaining term of the former secretary/treasurer and will be up for re-election in February 2014.

Jackson is a long-time AFR/OFU supporter and has been an employee of the organization for 18 years. In his previous position as AFR/OFU Farm & Cooperative Programs Director, he directed state and field activities for the cooperative and managed annual state conventions, adult and youth leadership activities and legislative fly-ins to Washington, D.C.

Jackson is a fourth-generation farmer/rancher and holds Property, Casualty, Health and Life insurance licenses.



*Paul Jackson,
AFR/OFU Secretary/Treasurer*

AFR/OFU agent Mike Humble, Cache, was elected to his first term as AFR/OFU At-Large Director #3. Humble defeated incumbent Melody Cummings, Elk City, to gain the seat for a three-year term.

Humble has been an AFR/OFU agent for 12 years. He is an active member of the organization and has served on the AFR/OFU Policy Committee for three years, with two of those years as chairman. He has also represented the state organization on the National Farmers Union Policy Committee.

During his career, Humble has been a vocational agriculture instructor, an agriculture loan officer and a crop insurance agent. His Farmers Union background began when he attended the OFU summer camps at a young age. He has remained involved since his early years as an OFU youth.



*Mike Humble,
AFR/OFU At-Large #3 Seat*

OKLAHOMA DELEGATES INFLUENCE NFU POLICY

Members of AFR/OFU played an integral role in the development of National Farmers Union legislative policy at NFU 111th Anniversary Convention in Springfield, Mass., March 2-5.

AFR/OFU sends delegates as affiliated members of the NFU to the annual event each year to consider resolutions by the national policy committee. This year, Kent McAninch, Tonkawa, represented Oklahoma on the national committee.

The committee develops and proposes policy that will influence lobbying efforts of the national organization for the next year. Convention delegates then discuss, amend and adopt the committee policy draft.

"It is important to emphasize key issues at the state and national level," said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. "We intend to work hard for Oklahoma's rural citizens throughout this year, using the avenues of both NFU and AFR/OFU."



Kent, McAninch, AFR/OFU delegate to the NFU Policy Committee

In addition to other special orders of business adopted by convention delegates, emphasis was placed on the need for a five-year farm bill passage this year. Delegates from Oklahoma were successful in their effort to include a price support system for certain crops that are present in the state's agricultural industry.

NFU policy now states that the organization "supports a price support system that allows the economic viability of crops such as rice, cotton, peanuts and grazed-out wheat." These crops are not economically sustainable in the context of current farm bill proposals. The farm bill special order also pointed to the dramatic drought issues impacting the southwest and other areas of the nation.



2013 NFU Convention attendees from Oklahoma

AFR/OFU PRESIDENT APPLAUDS INHOFE LEADERSHIP ON EPA RULE

AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick released the following statement recently after a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators, including Oklahoma's Sen. Jim Inhofe, introduced a bill to amend the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule to ease the regulatory compliance for agriculture:

"I want to thank Sen. Inhofe for taking the lead in reducing EPA's regulatory impact on Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers. The SPCC rule was designed for oil refineries, not farmers. It would have imposed significant and unnecessary costs on our community. The exemption being sought by Sen. Inhofe is prudent and just what we need."

The EPA rule is poised to take effect May 10. Under the rule, farmers who have oil and gas tanks will be required to hire a certified professional engineer to design an SPCC plan, just as oil refineries are required to do. The proposed legislation would exempt most farmers from these regulations for above-ground storage tanks.

Inhofe has been working to lessen the burden of the SPCC rule for some time. In June 2011, Inhofe, with a bipartisan group of 31 other senators, sent EPA's administrator a letter requesting the EPA extend the implementation timeline for farmers for the amended SPCC rule and work to ensure that the rule is not burdensome or confusing.

STATE CAPITOL UPDATE



For the 2013 spring legislative session, 2500 bills and measures were introduced at the Oklahoma Capitol. With this legislative session half completed, the Legislature is down to 800 pieces of legislation. The state constitution requires a spring session adjournment date of no later than 5 p.m. on the last Friday of May. State leadership is projecting the session will adjourn a few days earlier than scheduled.

This legislative session has been a productive one for AFR/OFU. All supported measures are progressing well and all opposed measures have either been killed or amended to the AFR/OFU legislative team's satisfaction.

H.B. 1923 | Rep. Dale DeWitt S.B. 996 | Sen. Ron Justice

This bill creates the Emergency Drought Relief Fund. The fund would assist in drought relief efforts once an emergency has been declared by the governor. Expenditures would be approved by a commission of the Oklahoma Commissioner of Agriculture, the Conservation Commission Executive Director and the Water Resources Board Executive Director.

H.B. 1080 | Rep. Mike Sanders

This bill would increase the portion of motor vehicle taxes sent to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Fund to 5% in 2014 and following years.

H.B. 2066 | Rep. Mike Jackson

This bill is a statement supporting the control of invasive species of plants and animals, increased agricultural burning to control noxious weeds, and government control of feral hog eradication and eastern red cedar removal in right-of-ways.

S.B. 965 | Sen. Bryce Marlatt

This bill would modify the Water Resources Board districts from congressional districts and at-large seats to water-planning regions and would require one board member must have knowledge of the oil and gas industry.

H.J.R. 1006 | Rep. Scott Biggs

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that would prohibit the Legislature from passing any law that abridges the rights of farmers and ranchers to employ agricultural technology and modern livestock production practices.

H.B. 1062 | Rep. Mark McCullough

This bill would permit a handgun to be carried into any elementary or secondary school by school personnel who have successfully completed a state-approved training course, provided a policy has been adopted by the local board of education that authorizes the carrying of a handgun.

H.B. 1638 | Rep. Scott Biggs

S.B. 931 | Sen. Ron Justice

This dual legislation would enact the Oklahoma Agritourism Activities Liability Limitations Act, which limits the potential liability for agritourism facility operators and establishes reasonable parameters for operators to follow in order to remain in compliance.

S.B. 402 | Sen. Ron Justice

This bill would allow any animal control or peace officer to seize any canine for which reasonable suspicion exists that the animal

has killed or injured livestock within the past 48 hours or may be dangerous to livestock or people.

H.B. 1999 | Rep. Skye McNiel

S.B. 375 | Sen. Mark Allen

This dual legislation amends the Oklahoma Meat Inspection Act by allowing horses, mules and other domestic equine to be transported, manufactured, processed, packed, sold or prepared in Oklahoma, providing the meat is for export to an international market.

H.B. 1999 would remove the ban on horse slaughter in Oklahoma. S.B. 375 would make it unlawful to sell horse meat unless exported to an international market.

For more information on a specific bill or on AFR/OFU's legislative efforts in general, contact Steve Thompson at (405)218-5563 or sthompson@afrmic.com.



The new AFR/OFU newsletter was unveiled in March! The newsletter keeps cooperative members current on legislative happenings, from AFR/OFU grassroots membership efforts to state and national news!

If you did not receive the March edition of the AFR/OFU News & Views Insider e-newsletter in your inbox, send your email address to AFR/OFU Communications Coordinator Laici Wedel at lwedel@afrmic.com to be added to the list!



You can also stay current on many legislative and general cooperative issues by following AFR/OFU on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/AmericanFarmersandRanchers

AFR/OFU WELCOMES STATE DIRECTOR



AFR/OFU and Oklahoma's agricultural education teachers welcomed the new state director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (CareerTech) with a reception at the Oklahoma Youth Expo March 22. Robert Sommers, Middletown, Ohio, was named state director earlier this year and officially join the organization April 1.

AFR/OFU INSTRUMENTAL IN PASSAGE OF H.B. 1999

Governor Mary Fallin signed House Bill 1999 into law on March 31. The bill ends the prohibition on horse meat processing for export in Oklahoma. At the time of the bill's passage, forty-six states, not including Oklahoma, currently allow horsemeat processing. H.B. 1999 goes into effect Nov. 1, 2013. It was sponsored by Rep. Skye McNeil in the Oklahoma House of Rep. and Sen. Eddie Fields in the Senate. The bill passed 82-14 in the House and 32-14 in the Senate.

In-state equine processing has been a hot-button issue this spring as dual legislation makes its way through the Oklahoma Legislature. Currently, H.B. 1999 has been signed into law, and S.B. 375 is working its way through the legislature. S.B. 375 would make it legal to sell horse meat for export to an international market.

"Oklahoma stands poised to take a significant step forward in the care and handling of horses in this country," said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. "This bill benefits our state's rural citizens, business owners and agriculturalists, and provides for the responsible, humane harvesting of these horses."

AFR/OFU has played an integral role in getting the word out about the benefits of H.B. 1999. Most notably, the organization teamed up with other state agricultural organizations for a lobbying and press day at the state Capitol March 13. As part of the coalition, AFR/OFU announced its support for the equine processing legislation.

"It is cruel and unfair to inflict undue stress on these animals because we lack a local processing center," said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. "State-inspected horse slaughter is an all-encompassing solution for the current issue."

In addition to the press conference, AFR/OFU members spoke to legislators individually in support of the bill. Through their efforts, these members were able to influence the bills' progress on two levels, both in individual opinion-swaying through one-on-one lobbying and in mass volume of support at the press conference.

The atmosphere surrounding the issue has been volatile. Outside interest groups, such as the Human Society of the United States (HSUS), have attempted to sway opinion through misinformation and fear tactics, including threatening individual legislators.

During the AFR/OFU-sponsored press conference, support was shown by several state leaders, including T.W. Shannon, Speaker of the Oklahoma House. That support was not only in favor of the legislation, but also specifically against the out-of-state interest groups who had injected themselves into the issue.

"We're here to make a statement loud and clear that Oklahomans will not be intimidated by outside interest groups," said Shannon. "This morning we draw the line in the sand to say that we are not going to be bullied."



AFR/OFU members who attended the legislative action day were (left to right) Pete McDaniel, Apache; Lin Fariss, Newcastle; A.J. and Aliene Bristow, McAlester; Kermit Raab, Arapaho; George Terry, Mangum; Matt Gard, Fairview; David Dorrell, Cache; Ira Kennedy, Geronimo; Wayne Ludwig, Okarche; Paul Jackson, Ringling; Steve Thompson, Yukon; and Wade Parker, Locust Grove.

Below are AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick's full remarks given during the press event March 13.

As president of American Farmers and Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union, I am speaking on behalf of well in excess of 120,000 members who love their animals. They work hard bringing them into this world and nurture them daily with the best of care.



Our young people grow up being taught that the animals eat first. They are up early to do their chores before they themselves come in for breakfast and get ready for school. They come home from school in the evening and know, caring for their animals comes first before they, themselves, come in for supper. It is not uncommon to find our 4-H and FFA young people in the same stalls with their animals as they lie relaxed in the bedding, resting upon them or against them, petting and loving them.

Our young people grow into adulthood expecting to see one generation of animals after another be born, mature and grow old. We know our obligation does not end just because the usefulness of that animal's life has come to an end. We know we have an obligation to see that these animals we have cared for receive a humane ending.

Thank you, Representative McNeal and Senator Allen, for your bold attempt to make this possible through H.B. 1999 and S.B. 375. Your proposed legislation could provide a desperately-needed outlet for horses that have reached the end of their health and usefulness and abandoned, unwanted horses as well.

When horse owners can no longer care for aging or unwanted animals, current options are limited. Many owners turn horses out to seek food on their own, some even find their way onto public roads creating property damage and life-threatening, safety hazards. Many die of starvation, illness, or succumb to predators. Others become a financial strain on counties forced to care for them.

According to a study by the independent and nonpartisan Government Accounting Office, incidents of starved and neglected horses have increased by 60% since 2006 when Congress defunded processing plant inspectors. A report by the American Association of Equine Practitioners states "euthanasia at a processing facility in a manner designated as humane by the American Veterinary Medical Association is an acceptable alternative to a life of suffering, inadequate care, or abandonment."

Why do we need to encourage an Oklahoma processing facility? Horses that are not abandoned are often sold for almost nothing, and transported to Mexico or Canada for slaughter. The abysmal conditions those horses endure during shipment and the unregulated nature of some foreign processing facilities has been well documented. These animals may be transported in cramped, unethical conditions and then killed inhumanely.

It is cruel and unfair to inflict undue stress on these animals because we lack a more local processing center. State-inspected horse processing is an all-encompassing solution for this current issue.

Representative McNeal, Senator Allen and others in the legislature supporting this legislation: We regret that such a worthy piece of legislation has brought criticism and harassment toward you from uninformed and unreasonable activists, some of which are imported fear-mongers from out-of-state.

This is an Oklahoma issue! We urge our Oklahoma Legislature and Oklahoma Governor Fallin to do what's right for OKLAHOMA. Pass these bills and sign them into law!

POLICY POSITION HIGHLIGHTS

During the business session of the 108th AFR/OFU Convention, delegates adopted a 55-page policy document that will serve as a guide for lobbying efforts on state and federal issues throughout the year. The document has been in the development process since August 2012 and will remain the AFR/OFU official policy document through February 2014 when a new policy document will be adopted. Highlights from the newly-adopted policy book are listed here. Current significant policy issues are indicated with bold print. For the complete 2013 AFR/OFU adopted policy book, visit the AFR/OFU website at <http://www.americanfarmersandranchers.com/policy>.

We support an opportunity to be implemented through the AFR billing process for members/policyholders to be able to make a voluntary contribution to the American Farmers & Ranchers Association Political Action Committee (PAC) to support candidates that support our policies and issues.

We urge Congress to pass a new Farm Bill immediately so farmers and ranchers are better able to make long term plans.

We support a stabilized supply of milk and milk products, at levels which will adequately meet the needs of consumers. We further support improving the level of income for dairy farmers to better meet their increased cost of production, in order to maintain a productive capacity to meet anticipated future needs. Therefore, we support the Dairy Security Act of 2012.

We support reinstatement of federal agriculture disaster programs.

We appreciate the action of the Administration and Congress with respect to changes on the implementation of new federal guidelines for the school lunch and breakfast program. We encourage the continued oversight of the program by Congress to reduce obesity, consider the impact on local school budgets, caloric intake needs relative to student needs and participation by students.

We support state-wide efforts in development of a drought assistance and fire control package including, but not limited to, insurance department plan, conservation plan and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. Additional funding for cost share programs, such as pasture taps, building/repairing ponds, drilling water wells, soil erosion control, grass restoration and cedar tree removal,

should continue to be delivered by conservation entities.

We strongly oppose the relocation of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education headquarters from Stillwater.

We strongly support the implementation of school security protection initiatives with state funding.

We commend the Honorable Frank Lucas, Chairman, U.S. House Agriculture Committee for his leadership to develop farm policy which recognizes the issues relevant to Oklahoma farmers and ranchers and those of the nation.

We commend U.S. Senator James Inhofe, Congressman James Lankford, and former Congressman Dan Boren for their efforts to pass legislation to exempt agriculture producers from federal transportation rules regarding movement of agricultural commodities interstate.

We commend Governor Mary Fallin for her efforts to support the replacement of deficient rural roads and bridges.

We commend the men and women of the Armed Services of the United States of America, veterans and veterans groups with much appreciation and applause for their contributions around the world. We further support additional mental and emotional examination and treatment for returning veterans and family members impacted by this or the loss of a loved one.

We support the concept of cooperative wind projects which further benefits member landowners and such projects which remain as cooperative ventures once construction is completed without resale to other private entities.

American Farmers & Ranchers does

not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex/gender, age, disability or veteran status.

We support adequate school security funding assistance with the help of state or federal government levels.

We oppose consolidation of schools solely based on student enrollment.

We oppose mandated consolidation of administration.

We support cooperative initiatives by small schools to improve efficiencies.

We support allowing schools to be given credit for average daily attendance of students participating in virtual learning.

Of the six appointments made by the Governor to the Oklahoma State Board of Career and Technology Education, we strongly encourage a minimum of two appointees must have an agricultural background and/or Career Technology Education programs background.

We support the victim's rights to be strongly protected by law at the local, state or federal level.

We support new bridges being built on the original right of way and not off-set.

We oppose the Basel III proposal which fundamentally changes how all banks' holding companies calculate their capital ratios which impacts loan volume.

We support the enforcement of the telephone solicitors no call list.

We support the Firewise community designation program and associated educational initiatives to property owners. We encourage the participation of AFR mutual insurance agents in Firewise community programs which will result in reduced risks for company insureds.

We support the continuation of fracking as a means of extraction of energy resources.

We oppose the use of Super Political Action Committees (PAC's) during the election process and find their intrusion to be detrimental.

We support the federal government using available technology to monitor crop production around the world and report both quantity and quality to American producers in a timely manner.

We support bonding, federal insurance or other types of protection for commodity traders engaged in trading stocks, bonds or other financial instruments.

To facilitate the expedient delivery of commodities relative to trade opportunities we support increased attention to maintenance of the waterways infrastructure of the United States.

We support the initiation of tariffs to ensure a stable food supply.

We support an adequately funded beef check-off to continue the mission of market promotion, research, nutrition, product safety and education.

We oppose an automatic referendum on the beef-check every five years.

We support pork and beef initiatives funded through check-off programs which educate youth and adults about these industries and products.

We encourage privately owned anhydrous ammonia facilities and equipment to meet the same safety requirements and standards as that of licensed dealers. Furthermore, we encourage private owners to attend anhydrous ammonia safety training classes.

AFR/OFU POLICY COMMITTEE



Committee members for the 2013 policy book were: Matt Gard, Fairview; Stan Scheller, Walters; Dale Turner, Holdenville; Brett Morris, Ninnekah; Pete Adams, Stratford; Wade Parker, Locust Grove; Kermit Raab, Arapaho; Harvey Schroeder, Frederick; and Robert Acre, Canton. Pictured with the committee are AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick and AFR/OFU Secretary/Treasurer Paul Jackson. The updated policy book will be available April 15.

LPC PROGRAM INITIATED

In November 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed a “threatened” listing for the lesser prairie chicken. A final ruling is expected by the end of September 2013. When a species is listed as federally endangered or threatened, additional federal regulations and oversight can apply to landowners. These may have an impact on what happens on the property or how it may be used.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) and the USFWS created the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) program to provide assurances to landowners against certain liabilities and federal restrictions in the event that the lesser prairie chicken is listed as a threatened or endangered species.

By participating in the voluntary program, landowners agree to perform certain habitat work to benefit lesser prairie chickens in exchange for the assurances. Landowners and ODWC biologists collaborate on a wildlife management plan specific to the enrolled property. This may include efforts such as red cedar removal, fence marking and grazing management. Participation is free and landowners may opt out at any time.

Conservation measures accomplished through the program could help convince the USFWS that a final listing is not warranted. Should the lesser prairie chicken become listed as federally endangered or threatened in the future, landowners with an approved CCAA management plan in place before the final listing decision will have the guarantee that no additional conservation measures on land, water or resource use beyond those voluntarily agreed to in the CCAA management plan would be required.

Assurances are provided under the individual certificate of inclusion, which is subject to approval by the ODWC and concurrence by the USFWS. Landowners in the following counties in western and northwest Oklahoma may be eligible for free participation in the CCAA: Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Cimarron, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Major, Roger Mills, Texas, Washita, Woods and Woodward. Eligibility is not dependent on the presence or absence of the lesser prairie chicken on the enrolled property.

More information and a CCAA program enrollment application can be found online at www.wildlifedepartment.com or by contacting AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson at (405)218-5563.

PRESCRIBED BURNING PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED

On April 1, the Noble Foundation entered into a strategic relationship with the Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association (OPBA) to advance the use of prescribed fire as a safe, economical and effective land management practice in Oklahoma.

As the largest independent nonprofit agricultural research organization in the U.S., the Noble Foundation will provide essential support (i.e. resources and personnel) to enable the conduct of OPBA operations and programs. As part of this support, Noble Foundation Wildlife and Fisheries Consultant Russell Stevens will serve as coordinator and acting head of the OPBA.

“The goals of the OPBA align with the Noble Foundation’s mission to promote responsible stewardship of the land,” said Bill Buckner, president and CEO of the Noble Foundation. “Prescribed burns are vital to ensuring the health and vitality of our native rangeland and farmlands, and Oklahoma is now poised to provide a comprehensive resource to our landowners.”

The OPBA was formally established as a nonprofit in early 2013 after two years of statewide meetings to gauge interest and garner support from all key organizations. The OPBA will establish, educate and assist a statewide network of local burn associations. The new nonprofit will also serve to educate the public and policymakers about the need to use prescribed fire and the safety of this management practice.

As research has shown, fire is a natural part of the ecological process and is necessary for rejuvenating the land. Prescribed fires (or controlled burns) are carefully choreographed and planned activities that target specific areas for this purpose. The use of prescribed fire enhances grassland and forest land, reduces fuel loads that threaten public safety due to uncontrollable wildfires and reduces and manages brush species detrimental to public health.

“The formation of the OPBA is one of the most important steps to help landowners reclaim the Oklahoma landscape naturally,” said John Weir, research associate with the OSU Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management. “The OPBA will provide landowners with a clearinghouse of information, training and funding opportunities to help them safely and effectively apply fire to their lands.”

The OPBA brings together dozens of organizations, including the Nature Conservancy, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) and its 88 local conservation districts, the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), Oklahoma State University Extension, Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the USDA’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

“Collaboration is one of the keys to success,” said Darrel Dominick, tribal outreach coordinator with OCC. “We have built a strong coalition of reputable organizations, all focused on improving the land and supporting landowners.”

Oklahoma Interfaith Days of Prayer for Rain

May 1, June 26, September 18

A joint project of the:
Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts
Whole Creation Community
Oklahoma Conference of Churches

www.okprayer4rain.com

TOP AFR AGENTS FOR 2012 ANNOUNCED

AFR Insurance announced the top 2012 AFR Insurance agents at the organization's annual Agent Recognition Luncheon Feb. 22 during 108th AFR/OFU Convention. Honorees received a commemorative trophy award to mark the achievement.

The 2012 AFR Super-Stars are:

Steve Sockey, Sockey Ins., Stigler
 Johnny Harper, Harper Ins., Marietta
 Rodney Wright, Wrights Ins., Talihina
 Terry Kirkland, T. Kirkland Agy., Waurika
 Darla Steffenson, Steffenson Ins., Wellston
 John Ogden, Ogden Ins., Muskogee
 Ronnie Burns, Colclazier/Burns, Durant
 Nita Chariter, Chartier Ins., Coweta
 Pete Vinzetta, Vinzetta Agency, Haileyville
 David Alexander, Alexander Ins., Poteau
 James Barrett, James Barrett Agy., Wilson
 Rob Swanda, Swanda Ins., Apache
 Melissa Robinson, Clayton Ins., Clayton
 Marlo Barnes, Campbell's Ins., Pryor
 Kimberlee Kidwell, K. Kidwell Agy., Geary
 Donna Ramsey, Ramsey Ins., Checotah
 Paul Maly, Paul Maly Agency, Garber
 Jennifer Davis, Davis Tag & Ins., Davis
 Robert Acre, Acre Agency, Canton
 Sharron Barnes, Pryor Ins., Mannsville

Janet Richardson, Robinson Agency, Hollis
 Jackie Price, Wild West Ins., Leedey
 Justin Cowan, Cowan Ins., Locust Grove
 Ernie Taylor, R.E. McGuire Ins., Hugo
 Kerri Newman, Your Hometown, Wewoka
 Jarrod Stewart, AIM Agency, Inc., Keyes
 Ida Kilburn, Kilburn Agy., W. Siloam Sprgs

The 2012 AFR All-Stars are:

Roy Tinney, Castle Ins., Mangum
 Toni Pierce, Toni Pierce Ins., Boswell
 John Ogden, Ogden Ins., Muskogee
 Shanna Foster, Ed Preble Ins., Mustang
 Keith Miller, Clements Ins., Lindsay
 Crystal Shebester, Taylor-Shebester, Chksha
 Rodney Wright, Wrights Ins., Talihina
 John Millikan, Secondine Ins., Vinita
 Justin Krieger, Krieger Ins., Hobart
 Sharon Dismuke, Dismuke Ins., Lawton
 Celeste Akins, Akins Ins., Keota
 Ryan Plemmons, Plmms Ins., Broken Bow
 Dawn Gay Brooks, Brooks Agency, Alva
 Nick Hofschulte, Cook Agency, Miami
 E.J. Tolbert, Tolbert Ins., Tishomingo
 Darla Steffenson, Steffenson Ins., Wellston
 Willy Ratterman, Ratterman's Ins., Mingo
 Franklin Nault, F. Nault Agy., Okeene
 Steve Sockey, Sockey Ins., Stigler
 Joni Oller, Oller Ins., Elmore City

Brad Pollard, Brad Pollard Ins., Crescent
 Robert Acre, Acre Agency, Canton
 LaMoynes Hardin, Hardin Ins., Guthrie
 Mary Rowe, Rowe Ins., Wagoner
 Betty Mayfield, Mayfield Agency, Sentinel
 Scott Wiedemann, Wiedemann Ins., Yukon
 Steve Stinnett, Teel Ins., Grove
 Jim Campbell, Sooner Ins., Idabel
 Stephanie Miller, Miller Ins., Antlers
 Terri Rogers, Rogers Ins., Anadarko
 Joe Nick, The Nick Agency, Okmulgee
 Verna Warren, Warren Ins., Hinton
 Jarrod Stewart, AIM Agency, Keyes
 Mike Perkins, Hometown Agency, Cordell
 Melissa Robinson, Clayton Ins., Clayton
 Royce Meek, Underwood Ins., Atoka
 Marlo Barnes, Campbell's Ins., Pryor
 Terry Kirkland, T. Kirkland Agy., Waurika
 Aaron Mitchell, Mitchell Ins., Pawnee
 Greg Clement, Greg Clement Agy., Madill
 David Alexander, Alexander Ins., Poteau
 Keri Dennis, Cross Timbers Ins., Okemah
 Kyle Jones, Community Ins., Rush Springs
 Neil Bolenbaugh, Bolenbaugh Ins., Enid
 James Barrett, James Barrett Ins., Wilson
 Vickie Allbritten, Allbritten Ins., Sulphur
 Nita Chartier, Chartier Ins., Coweta
 Mary Andrews, M. Andrews Ins., Heavener
 Kerri Newman, Your Hometown, Wewoka
 Becky Ricks, Ricks & James Ins., McAlester

Veva Daugherty, Daugherty Agy., Watonga
 Jeff Mize, All County Ins., Earlsboro
 Pam Livingston, Livingston Ins., Seiling
 Shelli Hembree, Haskell Ins., Haskell
 Lanna Harris, Harris Ins., Duncan
 Jeniece Tate, Wnnwd Ins., Wynnewood
 Kermit Maynard, Mynrd Ins., Wapanucka
 Wayne Ludwig, Ludwig Ins., Okarche
 Jimmy James, Storehouse Services, Altus
 Hazel Ille, Hazel Ille Agency, Lexington
 Judy Martin, Martin Ins., Harrah
 Matt Burreis, Stratford Ins., Stratford
 Janet Richardson, Robinson Agy., Hollis
 Rob Swanda, Swanda Ins., Apache
 Robert Taylor, Taylor & Assoc., Holdenville
 Mickey Williamson, Wllmsn Ins., Prague
 Jo Scott, Jo Scott Agency, Cyril
 Jo Ann Richey, Richey Ins., Blanchard
 Karen Gunter, Karen Gunter Ins., Terral
 Curtis Stanford, Stanford Ins., Shawnee
 Dustin Tackett, Tackett Ins., Ft. Cobb
 Paul Maly, Paul Maly Agency, Garber
 Jennifer Davis, Davis Tag & Ins., Davis
 David Kolker, Kolker Ins., Elgin
 Jackie Price, Wild West Ins., Leedey
 Pete Vinzetta, Vinzetta Agy., Haileyville
 Sharron Barnes, Pryor Ins., Mannsville
 Suzanne Gilbert, Gilbert Ins., Tecumseh
 Will Lane, Grand Ins., Gentry, AR
 Brenda Lane, Cagle Ins., Langley

LIFE AGENTS RECOGNIZED

AFR/OFU recognized the top-producing AFR Life Company agents at the organization's annual Agent Recognition Luncheon Feb. 22. Honorees received a commemorative trophy to mark the achievement.

2012 AFR Life Company Rookie Award

Terri Rogers – Rogers Insurance Agency, Anadarko
 John Millikan – Secondine Insurance, Vinita
 Mary Rowe – Rowe Insurance Agency, Wagoner
 Ernie Taylor – R.E. McGuire Insurance Agency, Hugo

AFR/OFU Ag & Historic Conference Trip Winner

Randel Thrasher – Thrasher Insurance Agency, Laverne

2012 Life Producer Award

3rd Place: Melody Cummings – Crow Insurance Agency, Elk City
 2nd Place: Jeniece Tate – Wynnewood/Town & Country, Pauls Valley

Top Life Producer & President's Club Member

Keith Miller – Clements Insurance Agency, Lindsay

AFR AGENTS GET "FIREWISE"



AFR Mutual Insurance Company agents recently attended a continuing education program that included information on the ODAFF FireWise program. AFR/OFU is a proud sponsor of the program, which helps individuals and communities become more fire-resistant and fire-prepared.

Geared with this additional information, agents can help determine how prepared homeowners are for a fire event. For more information on how you can help yourself and your community become more FireWise, visit your local AFR Insurance agent!

RETIRING AGENTS HONORED

AFR Mutual Insurance Company retiring agents were honored during the AFR Insurance Agent Recognition Luncheon Feb. 22. Retirees were presented with a retirement watch to commemorate their many years of service.



Danny Swanda

Danny Swanda joined AFR Insurance as an agent in 1982 and has served as president and secretary of his local organization and as the Southwest Agents Association President. Danny's son, Rob Swanda, has taken over the agency.

Danny's legacy with AFR is somewhat comical. Years ago, he received a notice from the home office concerning wood stoves. The notice requested that photos be taken of wood stoves "both inside and outside" and submitted with applications.

Danny submitted the pictures with the following explanation: "Outside photos of stove enclosed. However, since I am 6-foot-3-inches tall and weigh 200 pounds, I cannot get inside the stove. So, I have enlisted the help of a local leprechaun to take the inside photos as requested. Along with the 1-inch black photos is a bill for dry-cleaning, as he was rather sooty upon his emergence from the stove."

The home office personnel thought this was hilarious and have since clarified the instructions to read "inside and outside the dwelling."

Kathryn Frazee

Kathryn joined AFR Insurance as an agent in July 1994 and purchased the Bettie Cook Agency in 1996. Kathryn is the secretary of both the Ottawa County and the Local 79 organizations. Kathryn sold her agency to Nick Hofschulte in 2012.

During her time with AFR, Kathryn has enjoyed meeting and befriending people from across the state.

"Working with AFR is like working with family and that's a good thing!" said Kathryn. "It has been a pleasure working with everyone and serving as an officer on the Agents Association. Everything from women's conferences to state and national conventions to continuing education classes, it has all been good!"

Kathryn Secordine

Kathryn joined AFR/OFU as an agent in January 1998. Kathryn has been her county and local organizations' secretary/treasurer since 1998.

Kathryn's father purchased the family agency in 1968; it has been in their family for 44 years. John Millikan purchased the agency in 2012.

**Retirees not in attendance were Roger Anderson, Drumright; Darla Clements, Lindsay; R.E. McGuire, Hugo; Rose Ann Pruitt, Anadarko; James and Karen Stone, Wagoner; and Donna and Lowell Hobbs, Haskell.*

AFR WELCOMES NEW AGENCY OWNERS

BROWNS PURCHASE SAPULPA AGENCY



Johnie & Julie Brown recently joined AFR Insurance as new agents in Sapulpa. They purchased the AFR Insurance business from the Boone Agency.

Prior to joining AFR, Johnie was a Farm Bureau Insurance agent for 13 years. Julie assisted him in the office and has 10 years previous experience with State Farm Insurance. They are fully licensed in Property & Casualty, Life and Health.

The Browns are both graduates of Seminole High School and have lived south of Mannford, for 12 years. They have two adult children and one grandchild.

The Browns have moved the agency to 1030 E. Taft Ave., behind QuikTrip Convenience Store and next door to Billy Sims BBQ. The agency phone number remains the same: (918)224-2005.

Johnie and Julie Brown and their agency secretary, Sara Street, are eager to help you with your insurance needs. Stop in to introduce yourself!

MASQUELIER ACQUIRES THOMAS AGENCY



Jessie Masquelier, Fay, has recently purchased Dobbins Insurance Agency in Thomas. Masquelier worked in the AFR Insurance agency in Arapaho for two years before purchasing Dobbins' agency.

Masquelier grew up on her family's farm and is still involved in farming and other aspects of agriculture. She graduated from Thomas-Fay-Custer High School and attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University for four years. She has a 3-year-old daughter, Macee Jo.

Masquelier is looking forward to growing her AFR business and will be promoting the organization in the community. Linda Dobbins will continue to assist Masquelier in the agency, but has slowed down to enjoy more family time.

The agency will retain the same location and phone number. Stop in to congratulate Jessie on her new adventure and Linda on her semi-retirement!

BECKHAM EARNS COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Beckham County received the 2012 AFR/OFU County Leadership Achievement Award. The award was presented during the 108th AFR/OFU Convention Banquet Feb. 23. Melody Cummings, Elk City, represented the county during the award presentation.

GRAHAM NAMED TO OBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



AFR/OFU member, Mike Graham, Marlow, has been named to the Oklahoma Beef Council (OBC) Board of Directors. Graham is an active member of AFR/OFU, currently serving on the organization's Co-operative Advisory Committee.

The OBC is a non-profit organization working for the farming and ranching families of Oklahoma. The OBC Board of Directors is comprised of representatives who are appointed by agricultural organizations from across the state.

The OBC attempts to increase beef demand and producer profitability by focusing on consumers through a variety of programs funded by the Beef Checkoff. The council also invests in national and international programs focused on driving beef demand in the U.S. and around the world.

AFR/OFU VOLUNTEERS AT REGIONAL FOOD BANK

Each month, AFR/OFU encourages state office employees to make a difference in our great state by volunteering at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. This spring two different groups made a difference in the lives of Oklahomans, particularly underprivileged children.

Volunteering in January were Kristi Wilson, Jeremy Johnson and Rob Travis. During their volunteer time, they packaged food for a children's lunch program. They helped package approximately 15,300 lbs. of fresh apples and 2,208 boxes for Food for Kids. Their efforts fed approximately 13,467 children!

Volunteering in February were Ronnie Knight, Tim Wiederkehr, Michelle Featherstone and Gayla Blott. During their volunteer time, they packaged food in backpacks for kids that otherwise would not have had food for the following weekend. They helped package approximately 8,372 lbs. of goodies and 2,184 backpacks of food. Their efforts fed approximately 364 individual children!

AFR/OFU encourages volunteering throughout the organization. If your local or county organization or your agency has volunteered recently, let us know by contacting AFR/OFU Communications Coordinator Laici Wedel at (405)218-5557 or lwedel@afmic.com.

Pictured is the February volunteer group: Gayla Blott, Ronnie Knight, Tim Wiederkehr and Michelle Featherstone.



AFR/OFU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE



The AFR/OFU Women's Committee hosted a successful annual women's luncheon at the 108th AFR/OFU Convention Feb. 23. The speaker at this year's luncheon was Love County Commissioner Linda Hyman. She is the county's first female commissioner.

Pictured: Members of the AFR/OFU Women's Committee with Linda Hyman. From left to right: Julie Tackett, Fort Cobb; Susan Allen, Edmond; Lindsay Hyman, Leon; Donna Ramsey, Checotah; Suzanne Gilbert, Tecumseh; and Donna Steffenson, Wellston.

See Glacier Country with AFR/OFU!

AFR/OFU members are invited on an adventurous excursion to Washington, Idaho and Montana, including Glacier National Park and the resort town of Coeur d'Alene. Ride the Red Jammer bus as it travels the stunning Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park; explore the silver-mining town of Wallace, Idaho; cruise on beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene; sip wine at the Arbor Crest Winery; and more!

EXPLORING SPOKANE

After exploring the city, we will end the day with a wine tasting at Dry Fly Creek Distillery. While in Spokane, we will be lodging at the historic Davenport Hotel.

AGRICULTURE IN THE GREENBLUFF AREA

At a Spokane family farm, we will learn how farm-fresh milk goes from the cow to the bottle on-site. Then, after a home-cooked lunch at a Hutterite colony, we'll explore Greenbluff, an agriculturally-rich area. First, we'll learn more (and taste more) about Washington's wine industry at the award-winning Arbor Crest Winery. Next, we'll experience another segment of the state's agriculture by picking famous Washington apples at Walter's Fruit Ranch.

SIERRA SILVER MINE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

We will leave beautiful Spokane for stunning Wallace, Idaho. On the National Historic Register, this Old West mining town lives up to its designation. While in Wallace, we'll learn about the "rich" history of the area at a Sierra silver mine. From Wallace, we'll head to Whitefish, Mont., to check in to the luxurious Lodge at Whitefish Lake.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK BY LAND AND SEA

Whitefish will serve as our base as we explore majestic Glacier National Park. The first adventure at the park is a half-day excursion on the Going-to-the-Sun Road traveling in one of the park's famous 1936 Red Jammers. Next, we'll change our mode of transportation to a watercraft with a boat cruise on Lake McDonald.

DESTINATION: COEUR D'ALENE

Remember that no adventure is complete without a little retail therapy! Following shopping in Whitefish, we'll depart for Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and the stunning Coeur d'Alene Resort. The day isn't complete until we've eaten dinner as a group at Cedar's Floating Restaurant.

CRUISING AND RANCHING IN IDAHO

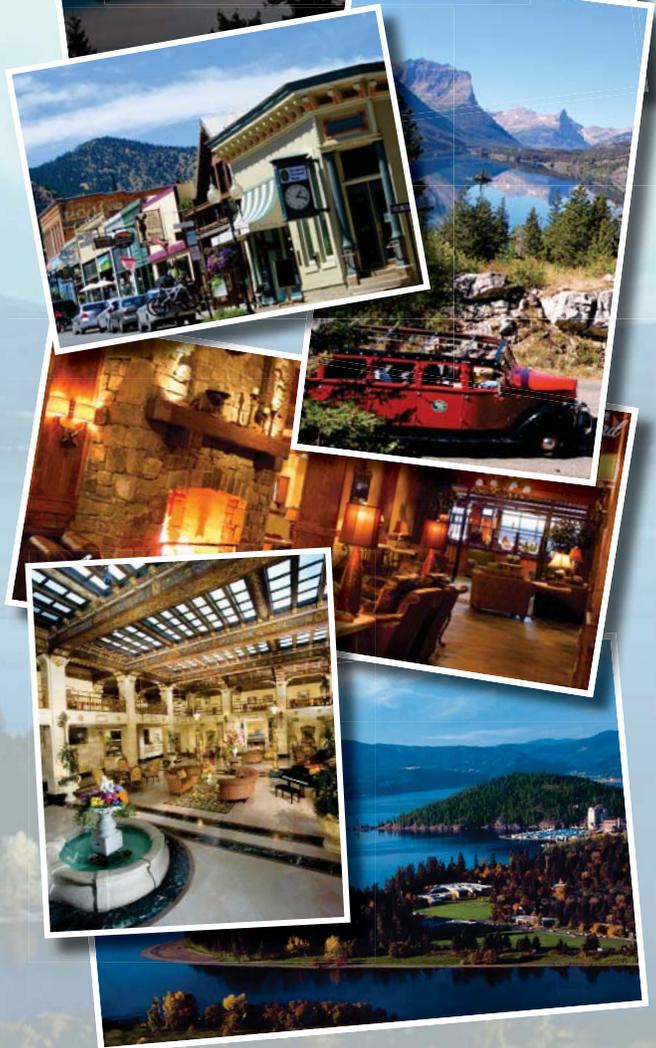
Welcome to Sandpoint, Idaho, voted the most beautiful small town in America by both USA Today and Rand McNally. While in Sandpoint, we'll visit the Bird Aviation Museum and explore the town. The day will wind down with a wine tasting at Pend d'Oeville Winery, followed by a visit to the working Rider Ranch for a wagon ride and a delicious steak dinner.

LAST CHANCE CASINO

After a leisurely morning, we'll enjoy one last boat cruise on the lake before departing for Northern Quest Resort & Casino for a last evening out before returning to the great state of Oklahoma!

We hope you will join us as we experience the beauty of America's glacier country! Contact Paul Jackson at (405)218-5559 or Marilyn Sanders at (405)218-5567 for more information about the 2013 AFR/OFU Ag & Historic Conference. Remember, you must commit before the JUNE 28 DEADLINE!

**2013 Ag & Historic Conference
Montana, Idaho,
Washington
September 7-13**



Convention Highlights

AFR/OFU Members Celebrate 108 years!



2013 AFR/OFU CONVENTION

AFR/OFU hosted its 108th annual state convention at the Embassy Suites & Conference Center – Norman Feb. 22-23. The event featured educational speakers and entertainment, the annual business meeting of Oklahoma Farmers Union and AFR Mutual Insurance Company, discussion and adoption of AFR/OFU legislative policy, and officer elections. This year's convention theme was "Serving and Protecting: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

"This year's convention represents who we are as a company and as an organization," said AFR President Terry Detrick. "We have a rich history in our yesterday. Today, we stand strong as we move forward toward a bright future."

The convention featured educational speakers, such as NFU VP of Government Relations Chandler Goule and U.S. House Committee on Agriculture Chief Economist Bart Fischer and entertainment such as agricultural spokesman and comedian Jerry Carroll.

The two-day event culminated with the convention banquet. Special honorees at the event were Gary Ridley, Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director, and Dr. Phil Berkenbile, CareerTech State Director—Retired.

"Our annual state convention is one of our favorite times of year," said Detrick. "It is a time to remember where we came from, be proud of where we are and look forward to building our future."



**TOP LIFE AGENT
KEITH MILLER**



**OKLAHOMA
SECRETARY
OF AG JIM REESE**



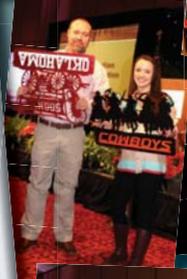
**OKLAHOMA BEEF
COUNCIL HONORED**



**AG COMEDIAN
JERRY CARROLL**



**NOVICE
SPEAKER
SETH
JACKSON**



ELECTION RESULTS



**Pledge of
Allegiance**



**WOMEN'S
SPEAKER
LINDA
HYMAN**

**OKLA. INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
JOHN DOAK**



**PATTON WINS
GRAND DOOR PRIZE**



**OKLA. SECRETARY
OF ENVIRONMENT
GARY SHERRER**



2013 PAC Auction

This year's Political Action Committee auction was a rousing success! Through the live and silent auction items, the membership raised more than \$10,000 for AFR/OFU legislative efforts. The AFR/OFU Political Action Committee works for the membership by supporting the organization's legislative endeavors.



**SENIOR
SPEAKER
MEAGHAN
YOST**



**NFU VP OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
CHANDLER GOULE**



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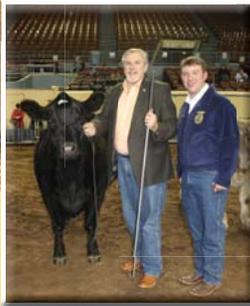
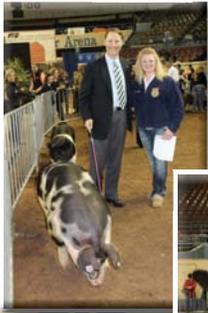


**SENATE AG
COMMITTEE
CHIEF ECONOMIST
BART FISCHER**



Oklahoma Youth Expo

Legislative Show



OYE Grand Drive



Sale of Champions



AFR/OFU Sponsorship



AFR/OFU HOSTS AG ACHIEVEMENT CONTEST

The 2013 AFR/OFU Agricultural Achievement Contest was held at State Fair Park in Oklahoma City March 19-23. The top ten students were recognized at an awards presentation March 26. The contest is a joint effort between AFR/OFU and the Oklahoma Youth Expo (OYE).

The annual contest recognizes outstanding youth in Oklahoma who display exceptional showmanship skills and possess extensive knowledge of the livestock industry, including production, management, processing and end product utilization. Each year, AFR/OFU presents \$5,000 in prizes to the top ten finalists in the competition.



2013 Ag Achievement Contest top competitor, K.C. Barnes, with AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick

“As an organization, we take pride in the opportunities AFR/OFU provides the youth of Oklahoma,” said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. “Our annual ag achievement contest is another way we help young people showcase and develop their talents.”

The 2013 AFR/OFU Agricultural Achievement Award winners were K.C. Barnes, of the Porter FFA Chapter, first place; Katie Lippoldt, Kingfisher FFA, second place; Tanner Miller, Mulhall-Orlando FFA, third place; Gatlin Squires,

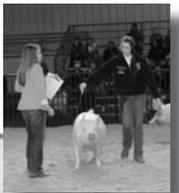
Kingfisher FFA, fourth place; Denton Lowe, Amber-Pocasset FFA, fifth place; Cassi Allread, Union City FFA, sixth place; Abbey Chrz, Morrison FFA, seventh place; Amber Cox, Morrison FFA, eighth place; Chance Brooks, Coweta FFA, ninth place; and Natalie Hofschulte, Wyandotte FFA, tenth place.



The interview panel for the 2013 Ag Achievement Contest were (left to right) Tyler Powell, Guthrie; Suzanne Gilbert, Tecumseh; and David Dorrell, Cache.

Competitors in the contest are judged on showmanship ability and test scores from a written examination on all phases of the livestock industry, including current events. Each contestant's test and showmanship scores are combined to determine the top ten individuals. The top ten are then interviewed regarding their individual livestock project and the livestock industry as a whole. The interview panel for this year's contest were David Dorrell, Cache; Suzanne Gilbert, Tecumseh; and Tyler Powell, Guthrie.

Participation in the contest is limited to Oklahoma junior and senior high school students who exhibited an animal at OYE. For more information on the contest or other AFR youth events, contact AFR Youth & Education Coordinator Lin Fariss at (405)218-5561 or lfariss@afrmic.com.



STAR YOUTH RECOGNIZED



Mikayla Danker,
Wellston



Mikayla Danker,
Wellston



Mikayla Danker,
Wellston

Four youth received the AFR/OFU Star Youth Award for their involvement in the AFR/OFU Youth Program at the 108th AFR/OFU Convention Feb. 23. The award is the highest honor a youth can receive from the AFR/OFU Youth Program. It recognizes rising stars for individual achievement and service, both to the organization and in their communities. Recipients are selected based on their attitude toward agriculture, their passion to help others and their personal accomplishments. They are involved in many aspects of the youth program and are active leaders for younger students.

“Our Youth Program is overflowing with tomorrow’s leaders,” said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. “We are confident in our recipients’ desire and ability to lead their generation as they rise to the challenges of the ever-changing agricultural industry.”

This year’s recipients were Kelsie Williams, Hollis; Dyson Runyan, Madill; Micaela Danker, Wellston; and Barrett Powell, Ringwood.

Students statewide are eligible for the honor. Recipients must have been active in the AFR/OFU Youth Program for a minimum of five years leading to high school graduation.

**Not pictured: Dyson Runyan, Madill*

LOCAL 306 CONTRIBUTES TO YOUTH



Local 306 recently purchased jackets for the Kay County 4-H senior livestock judging teams. One of the teams wore the jackets at the National Western Livestock Show in Denver where they placed tenth overall in the 4-H division. Officers of Local 306 are: Scott Blubaugh, president, Joe Kingery, vice president, and Lisa Blubaugh, secretary.

AFR/OFU county and local organizations give back to communities across Oklahoma. If you’ve donated or volunteered recently, let the rest of the state know! Contact Laici Wedel at (405)218-5557 or lwedel@afrmic.com to share your story.

TOP POSTERS ANNOUNCED

More than 2,000 students statewide competed in the 2013 AFR/OFU Poster Contest. Each year, the poster contest captures the creativity of students across the state.

“We are proud to sponsor a contest that not only educates, but also encourages creativity among our state’s young people,” said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. “Agriculture is important to Oklahoma for many reasons, and we are pleased to provide an opportunity for families to learn about it.”

This year’s theme was “I Believe in Oklahoma Agriculture.” Students were encouraged to illustrate what agriculture meant to them or why they believed in agriculture in Oklahoma. The agriculture-based theme of the contest allows educators to promote agriculture and to introduce aspects of the industry to students and parents alike.

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

The contest consists of two age divisions—Division I for students in grades 1-2 and Division II for students in grades 3-4. The top five winners from each division were recognized at the 108th AFR/OFU Convention Feb. 23.



Division I winners Cooper Rouk, Beggs Elementary, second place; Lilli Jo Jordan, Maryetta Elementary, Stillwell, third place; and Dailee Camacho, Beggs Elementary, fourth place. *Not pictured: Shelby Gregory, Maryetta Elementary, first place; and Samantha Schweighard, Barnard Elementary, Tecumseh, fifth place.*



Division II winners Toss Fourkiller, Maryetta Elementary, first place; Janessa Chastain, Maryetta Elementary, third place; and Kallie Chewey, Zion Elementary, Stillwell, fifth place. *Not pictured: Clara Munoz, Linbergh Elementary in Tulsa, second place; and Cory Keasler, Frederick Elementary, fourth place.*

BARONS HOCKEY NIGHT A SUCCESS

AFR/OFU sponsored the 2013 FFA/4-H Barons Hockey Night on January 19. Each year, 4-H clubs and FFA chapters from across the state travel to the event. Throughout the night, the two youth organizations are celebrated. AFR/OFU is proud to be the sponsor of such a festive event for Oklahoma’s outstanding youth!

All students in attendance are entered in a drawing to win a quality show animal sponsored by AFR/OFU. This year, one animal of each show species was given away to a deserving 4-H or FFA member.



STATE SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED

AFR/OFU's state scholarships are available to qualified students in all 77 Oklahoma counties. Students are eligible to apply for the Incoming Freshman Scholarship during their senior year of high school. Students may then apply for the Continuing Education Scholarship throughout their undergraduate career. Both previous and first-time applicants are eligible for the Continuing Education Scholarship.

Recipients are selected based on knowledge of and involvement in AFR/OFU, leadership activities, scholastic achievement and financial need. Eligible applicants must have attended two years of AFR/OFU Senior Leadership Summit, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and be an AFR Insurance policyholder.

For more information on scholarship opportunities or other AFR/OFU Youth Program projects, contact AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Lin Fariss at (405)218-5561 or lfariss@afrmic.com.

****Applications due by APRIL 15, 2013****

Applications available on the AFR/OFU website:
www.iafr.com/includes/farm_education.php

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Submit applications to:

Lin Fariss

AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator

P.O. Box 24000

Oklahoma City, OK 73124



Fifteen scholarship recipients were recognized at the 108th AFR/OFU Convention Feb. 23. Each year, the AFR/OFU Incoming Freshman and Continuing Education Scholarships are awarded to deserving youth from across the state.

ROAD TO THE RING

During the Spring 2013 stock show season, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) released its "Road to the Ring: OYE 2013" video series. The series showcased hard-working and dedicated 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors as they worked toward the Oklahoma Youth Expo (OYE).

Each video is a snapshot of the everyday activities required to care for an animal and prepare it for show. The videos were released digitally through ODAFF's website, Facebook page and YouTube channel in an effort to reach the general public and show the story behind all OYE exhibitors.

The videos follow four families as they work toward success in the show ring, one for each show animal species (goats, sheep, hogs and cattle). The 2013 featured families were the Craig family (goats), Hulbert; the McGolden family (sheep), Fairview; the Goss family (hogs), Sentinel; and the Bilderback family (cattle), El Reno.

For information on how you or someone you know can be a featured family for the 2014 show season, contact Kirby Smith at kirby.smith@ag.ok.gov.

www.americanfarmersandranchers.com



Quartz Mountain Resort Arts & Conference Center

The AFR/OFU Leadership Summit focuses on leadership, teamwork and cooperative skills with activities geared toward helping youth develop into future agricultural leaders. Policyholders have first priority in camp registration. Remember: To be eligible for the 2013-2014 Youth Advisory Council you must be a current AFR policyholder. Don't miss out, **REGISTRATION IS LIMITED AND FILLS UP FAST.**

REGISTRATION FORM

SELECT SESSION:

_____ **Teen Session - July 7-9** _____ **Senior Session - July 28-31**
 (Entering grades 7, 8, 9) (Entering grades 10, 11, 12)

SELECT SHIRT SIZE: (please circle)

Adult Sizes: SML MED LG XL 2XL

Student's Full Name: _____

Age: _____ **Sex:** _____ **Grade Entering in School:** _____

School: _____ **County:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____

Zip: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Student Phone: _____ **Parent Phone:** _____

Parents: _____

AFR Member? (Y/N) _____ **Name on Membership:** _____

AFR Policyholder? (Y/N) _____ **Name on Policy:** _____

Enclose a check payable to: American Farmers & Ranchers

Teen Session: \$85 | Senior Session: \$100 | Non-Members: Add \$25

Mail form to: AFR Youth Coordinator, P.O. Box 24000, OKC, OK 73124



AFR BENEFITS

Membership dues paid to AFR (as a dues-alone member or as part of your insurance policy) makes you a member of Oklahoma Farmers Union, National Farmers Union, and your local and county AFR/OFU organizations. As a member, you receive many benefits, including discounts for products and services. Below is a list of benefits you receive as member. For more information on these benefits and more, visit the AFR/OFU website at: www.iAFR/includes/membership.php.

- Legislative Representation at the National, State and Local Level
- Subscription to the AFR News & Views Insider E-Newsletter
- Media Response, Promotion and Public Relations Services
- Subscription to the National Farmers Union E-Newsletter
- Family Values, Agriculture and Rural Areas Promotion
- Free Classified Advertising in Quarterly Publication
- Subscription to Quarterly AFR News & Views
- County and Local Organization Meetings
- County and State Youth Scholarships
- Policy Development and Education
- Attractive Insurance Programs
- Youth and Education Programs
- Speech and Poster Contests
- Cooperative Development
- Youth Leadership Summit
- Leadership Opportunities
- Agricultural Contests
- Youth Sponsorships

Constant Contact Members receive a discount of 10% on this e-mail marketing program. Current users, including Farmers Union organizations, can send their username to Leigh Slayden, NFU VP of Membership, at lslayden@nfudc.org to register it for the discounts. To learn more, visit: <http://natlfarmersunion.constantcontact.com/index.jsp>.

VPI Pet Insurance Members receive a 5% group discount on your policy. Owners with multiple pets are entitled to additional discounts! For more information call and mention NFU: 877-PETS-VPI. For more information, visit: <http://www.petinsurance.com/affiliates/nfu>.

Life Line Screening Members can partake in these close-to-home preventative health screenings at an affordable cost of only \$135. This program can save your life! For more information call, toll-free: 800-908-7992. Or, visit: <http://www.lifelinescreening.com/nfu>.

Beltone Hearing Members and their immediate family (grandparents, parents, spouse, children) are eligible for complimentary hearing screenings and a 20% discount off the retail price of any Beltone hearing instrument at any of more than 500 locations throughout the U.S. Members also receive a complimentary two-year manufacturer's product warranty and 48 hearing aid batteries per hearing aid. For more information, call toll-free: 800-BELTONE (1-800-235-8663).

Office Depot National Farmers Union and AFR/OFU have partnered with Office Depot to bring members a FREE national discount program. Members save up to 80% on preferred products and receive discount pricing on more than 93,000 additional products. Benefits can be used with online or in-store shopping and include free next-day delivery on orders over \$50, terrific copy and print pricing, and monthly specials and everyday exclusives. Visit the AFR/OFU website to print your free discount card.

Rx Savings Card Members can save up to 55% on prescription drugs with the NFU Prescription Savings Card. The card has no fees and no expiration date, and is accepted at more than 59,000 pharmacies. One card covers the entire family, including pets. Visit the AFR/OFU website to download your FREE card and start saving today!

Wirefly Cellular Members save on phones from Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile and more. Wirefly is the #1 retailer of phones and plans on the Internet and has better selection, greater savings, straight-forward pricing and free FedEx shipping. Every purchase is backed by a satisfaction guarantee! Visit the AFR/OFU website for more information.

LifeLock ID Protection LifeLock, the industry leader in identity theft protection, uses the most advanced alert system to help ensure you remain you. Members are entitled to a special offer and a 10% discount. That's just \$9 per month or \$99 annually. Call 800-LifeLock (543-3562) and mention promo code NFU.

Avis Rentals With AVIS, members receive a 25% discount and access to an online booking site. Visit: <https://www.avis.com/car-rental/profile/go.ac?B291043>. Promo code: Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) #B291043. Or, call toll-free: 800-331-1212. Use your AFR/OFU Avis Worldwide Discount number to enjoy these special savings.

Budget Car Rentals Members save up to 20% on rates and have access to rate specials and upgrades. Visit: <http://www.budgetcarrental.com/budget/assoc/index.html?R19843>. Or, call toll-free: 800-527-0700. To receive discount, mention promo code: Budget Customer Discount (BCD) # R198143.

Wyndham Garden Hotel Members receive a 30% discount: Rate for two breakfasts is \$72 (regularly \$129); rate for up to four breakfasts is \$79. Discount is good for weekday, weekend and "Park & Fly" packages at the Wyndham Garden Hotel - OKC Meridian. To receive discount, call 405-685-4000 and mention AFR/OFU.

Wyndham Hotel Group Members receive a 20% discount off the lowest regularly available public rate, meaning members can save even when compared to discount travel sites. The discount extends to all hotels in the WHG system, including Ramada, Days Inn, Wingate Inn, Howard Johnson, Travelodge, Super 8, Baymont Inn, Microtel Inns and Suites, Hawthorn Suites and Knights Inn. To access the discount, call toll-free: 877-670-7088. Or, visit: www.NFU.org/hotels. Use member code: 1000009284.

Embassy Suites Members receive the special convention rate at Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center - Norman throughout the year. The rate is \$105 for single/double room occupancy and \$114 for triple/quad occupancy. Rates include breakfast and manager's reception. For reservations, call 405-364-8040 and provide group code FRC.

AirEvac Lifeteam Members benefit from 200 emergency flight bases located in Oklahoma and 27 other states. One-member household cost is \$40; two-member is \$45; and three-or-more-member is \$50. When enrolling, reference plan code 1060 to receive discounted rate. For more information or to sign up, visit www.lifeteam.net.

KDJ Enterprises Members receive a \$150 cash rebate on the purchase of a new K/D front-end loader. Call Kenneth or Jeff Day toll-free at 888-641-0420 for instructions and a rebate voucher. KD Loaders, 2700 Virgil Gray Blvd, Brownwood, TX 76801.

Reward Program AFR/OFU will pay up to \$5,000 to the person who furnishes original information leading to the arrest and felony conviction of a person or persons committing theft, arson or vandalism on the property of an American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance member policyholder. Learn more about the AFR/OFU Reward Program at the AFR/OFU website. (This benefit is only applicable to property covered by an AFR Insurance policy.)

American Farmers & Ranchers Good Eats!

okPORK
Oklahoma Pork Council

Spring 2013 Featured Organization
Oklahoma Pork Council

405.232.3781
communications@okpork.org

<http://okpork.org>



Search for okPORK and stay connected.

Slow Cooker Hawaiian-Style Ribs

Serves: 6 (4 ribs per serving)

2 racks pork back ribs (2 1/2 to 3 pounds each), cut into 3- or 4-rib sections
3 tbsp sesame oil* 3 tbsp fresh ginger, grated
2 cups hoisin sauce* 3 scallions, green only, thinly sliced (optional)
1 cup pineapple juice 1 1/2 tsp sesame seeds, toasted* (optional)

* You can find hoisin sauce sesame products in the ethnic or Asian section of most supermarkets.

1. In a medium bowl, combine the hoisin sauce, pineapple juice, ginger and sesame oil. Arrange the ribs in a slow cooker and pour half of the sauce mixture over the ribs. Set the remaining sauce aside in the refrigerator.
2. Cover ribs and cook on low for 5 to 6 hours or on high for 3 1/2 to 4 hours, until the ribs are very tender. About 1/2 hour before the ribs are done, remove the sauce from the refrigerator to bring it to room temperature.
3. Arrange the ribs on plates or a platter and brush both sides with some of the remaining sauce. Sprinkle with scallions and sesame seeds. Serve with the remaining sauce on the side.

American Farmers & Ranchers, Spring 2013 Featured Recipe

Oklahoma Pork Council, "Pork: Be Inspired"

Find more pork-inspired recipes at <http://www.porkbeinspired.com/Index.aspx>.

BE A PART OF THE 2014 AFR/OFU CALENDAR

AFR/OFU is already preparing the 2014 calendar! This time around, we are doing something special! We will be using pictures taken by AFR/OFU members to fill the 2014 calendar! We know Oklahoma is unique and we want to celebrate it by featuring unique places and events across our state. We need pictures that feature Oklahoma's landscapes, events, and rural life. Your hometown or area has something unique! Share it with the rest of the state!

Landscapes—Whether it's a cotton field ready for picking, a wheat field ready for harvest, a hay field being baled, a vineyard ready for picking, a lavender farm in full bloom or even a Christmas tree farm or a pumpkin patch, your specific area of Oklahoma has a unique crop. We want to see it!

Events—We are also looking for unique festivals and events across Oklahoma, such as the Rush Springs Watermelon Festival, the Hollis Black-Eyed Pea Festival, the Prague Kolache Festival, the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, Fourth of July Parades, or any other unique event in your specific area of the state.

Rural Life—Part of Oklahoma's unique charm is its diverse array of rural life. We want to represent every part of the spectrum, so we are looking for everything from wildlife, scenery, and barns to farm animals, children, and family life.

AFR/OFU also needs to build our stock of photos to use for publications, posters, and other design projects. If you have photos you would like to see featured in future AFR/OFU calendars or publications, sign the attached disclaimer and fax to (405)218-5582 or mail to: Laici Wedel, AFR/OFU Communications Coordinator, American Farmers & Ranchers, P.O. Box 24000, Oklahoma City, OK 73124.

If you have questions regarding picture quality or subject, please contact AFR Communications Coordinator Laici Wedel at (405) 218-5557 or lwedel@afmic.com.

American Farmers & Ranchers Photograph Disclaimer and Release Form

American Farmers & Ranchers reserves the right to use any images sent send to us for the 2014 calendar; however, we may also use such photographs in electronic, print or any other sort of medium. American Farmers & Ranchers may use the photographs for educational or advertisement purposes.

All photographs submitted become the property of American Farmers & Ranchers, and may be edited, cropped, or retouched. Anyone submitting images waives any rights to inspect the final photographs.

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You agree to hold American Farmers & Ranchers, all of its subsidiaries and employees harmless from any and all claims resulting from the use of photographs submitted by you.

You understand that NO royalties will be paid to you for publication of your photographs or use in any form of digital media or in the marketing of any products by American Farmers & Ranchers. By submitting such photographs, you covenant and agree not to sue or otherwise initiate legal proceedings against American Farmers & Ranchers for the use of such photographs. All grants of permission and consent, and all covenants, agreements and understandings contained herein are irrevocable.

Photographer's Signature

Date

American Farmers & Ranchers News & Views

Trading Post Ads

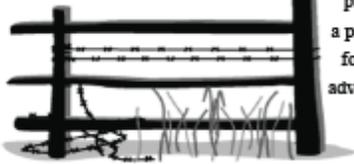
P. O. Box 24000

Oklahoma City, Okla., 73124

Fax: 405-218-5589

E-mail: tradingpostads@afrmic.com

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



TRADING POST

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

ADS ARE DUE INTO THE HOME OFFICE BY JUNE 1 FOR PUBLICATION IN THE SUMMER ISSUE.

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



REAL ESTATE

For sale – Three lots, Ft. Cobb Lake, Swan Lake Addition, 111 Norm St. 3B/2B, living area, heated sunroom, full baths, central H/A, detached garage, two-car carport, lake view. Perfect hunting/fishing home or weekend getaway. Best offer over \$35K. 405/250-5396.

For sale – 20 acres. Good pasture and fences. Cleared approximately 28'x48'. Mobile home, barn, garage, tack room. Set up for horses. On Hwy 77, south of Wayne, Okla. 405/640-2400.

AUTOS, TRUCKS, RV'S & CYCLES

For sale – 1997 Chevy Suburban LS1500. Low mileage (122K), "summit" white. Front bucket seats, third row seat, roof rack, towing package, running boards, rear air. Very good condition, one owner. \$3950. Call owner at 405/222-0792.

For sale – 2004 Ford Freestar van. In excellent condition. 110,800 miles. \$6200. Must sell. Need to pick up. 405/320-4691.

FARM EQUIPMENT & LAWN MOWERS

For sale – 2003 GMC 2500. Positive trac, flat bed, grill guard, 6.0 liter engine. 101K miles. \$7500. 580/889-0133.

For sale – Stone's Power-Pull Calf Puller. Come-along style. In excellent condition. \$125. 405/222-0792.

For sale – Used spike bed off one-ton truck. In excellent condition, made in Kremlin, Okla. \$2200. 405/466-1541 or 405/206-8017.

For sale – Heavy Bilt 33-ton overhead feed bin. 7-years-old, ready to move, on farm at Atoka. \$8,000. 580/889-0133.

For sale – New Holland 116 Swather. 14 ft. header with riveted sections. Very good condition, ready to take to the field. \$4750. 405/222-0792.

For sale – 2010 Dodge diesel, 2500 ¾ ton. Loaded with extras. 57K miles. Extended warranty. 918/464-2346.

For sale – IHC Hydro 100 tractor. 436 diesel. Factory sunshade. 5380 hours. Engine and transmission have been overhauled. 8' Waldon dozer. Good, solid tractor. \$6500. 580/661-3888.

For sale – Bale spear mounts on 3 pt or front loader. In very good condition. \$175. 405/222-0792.

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

For sale – King Kutter 5-ft. Finish mower 3 point. In good condition. \$500. In Mustang, Okla. 405/376-4387.

For sale – 1963 Minneapolis Moline M-5. Runs good, fresh valve job, w/ or w/o front blade. Propane, dual hydraulics, PTO. \$2500. 580/829-3153.

LIVESTOCK

Brangus bulls & heifers. Gentle, fertility tested, calving ease, excellent genetics. Horsehead Ranch. 918/695-2357.

Reg. Beefmasters. Bulls, cows, heifers (breds and opens). Red, black and dunn. Polled and horned. See them at www.douleducebeefmasters.com. 918/253-8680 or 918/557-6923.

Reg. Hereford heifers. Remittal online 122L and PW Victor Boomer P606 genetics. 12 mos. – 24 mos. Also a few young bulls. Breeding registered polled Herefords for 45 years. 580/332-2468.

Reg. Limousin bulls and heifers. Open and bred. Black, polled, calving ease, gentle. Also some homozygous LimFlex Angus bulls. Top genetics that work. Wildhorse Valley. 405/517-3824 or 405/474-2018.

For sale – 16-year-old sorrel mule. Quiet, gentle and sound. Neck reins perfectly. Has been hunting in Colorado 8 times. \$3500. 405/412-5031.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Maytag washer/dryer, \$200. Kenmore washer/dryer, \$200 (set). Gas dryer, \$100. Icebox, \$100. Gas stove, \$100. Electric and gas cook stoves, \$100 (each). Restaurant plate warmers, \$40. 405/275-3419.

MISCELLANEOUS

For sale – Small sq. wheat straw. \$4/bale. Small sq. horse quality alfalfa. NW of Pocasset, Okla. 405/459-6543 or 405/574-5571.

For sale – All sizes pipe/sucker rods. 5/8, 3/4, 7/8, 2 3/8, 2 7/8, 4 1/2", 5 1/2", 6", 7". 405/627-3920.

For sale – Recently rebuilt 4T65e trans axle from 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix GTP. In good operating condition, would be great tranny for any vehicle. Check here for list of vehicles it would fit: http://www.tripleedgeperformance.com/4T65E_Vehicle_App_List.html. \$700 firm, cash only, no Paypal. Call 580/823-2008 or text 931/561-4577, ask for David.

For sale – 3'x5' polyester outdoor flags, U.S., Oklahoma or "Don't Tread on Me" Tea Party. \$8 each, postpaid. 405/380-2438.

For sale – Rough cut, air dried black walnut wood. 1 in. - \$6/board ft. 2 in. - \$8/board ft. Various lengths and widths. 405/642-7192.

For sale – Three antique mirrors, \$100 to \$300. Antique library table, 100 yrs old, \$250. 918/635-5753.

I buy mineral rights anywhere in Oklahoma and other states. I also loan money on mineral rights. If you have minerals for sale, call me before you sell. 580/227-2456.

Vacation in Branson, Missouri, this summer. Beautiful 2BR condo for rent at the Suites at Fall Creek. Check in July 20, check out July 27 (7 nights). Very nice unit and location, close to everything. \$795, cash. Call owner ASAP at 405/222-0792.

For sale – Original oil and acrylic paintings on canvas and color prints. \$19.95 and up. 580/335-4854.

For sale – Two nice burial spaces in Rest Haven Memory Gardens. Garden of Baptism, 104th and S. Western, OKC. \$3000 for both. 405/567-3669.

For sale – Reg. Yorkies. Two females, one male. One year old in June. Current on S/W. Weight between 5-7 lbs. \$400 and up. 918/650-0792.

WANTED

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

Wanted – Large anvil and blacksmith tools. 405/387-3273.

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

EVENTS

Ninth annual Lavender Festival, Apache. Sat., June 8, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Lavender Hydrosol to first 100 visitors. Door prizes, live entertainment. Breakfast and lunch include lavender drinks, cookies and desserts. Gift shop has lavender products, plants and more. Contact Jag Sodhi, 580/588-2855. www.lavendervalleycres.com.

Ads due to AFR state office by June 1 for publication in the summer issue of AFR News & Views.

For the latest news and updates, check out AFR/OFU on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/
AmericanFarmersandRanchers

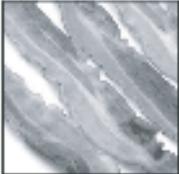
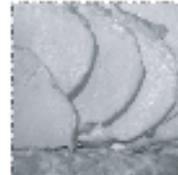


UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

Farmer's Share of Retail Food Dollar

Did you know that farmers and ranchers receive only 15.6* cents of every food dollar that consumers spend on food at home and away from home?

According to USDA, off farm costs including marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing account for more than 80 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States.

Bacon 1 Pound  Retail: \$4.83 Farmer: \$0.87	Top Sirloin Steak 1 Pound  Retail: \$7.99 Farmer: \$2.01	Bread 1 Pound  Retail: \$2.99 Farmer: \$0.18	Fresh Carrots 5 Pounds  Retail: \$4.39 Farmer: \$1.53	Beer 6 Pack Cans  Retail: \$6.59 Farmer: \$0.06
Cereal 15 Ounce Box  Retail: \$5.49 Farmer: \$0.12	Tomatoes 1 Pound  Retail: \$2.99 Farmer: \$0.58	Eggs 1 Dozen  Retail: \$2.99 Farmer: \$1.05	Flour 5 Pounds  Retail: \$3.09 Farmer: \$0.91	Boneless Ham Price per Pound  Retail: \$3.89 Farmer: \$0.81
Lettuce 1 Head (2 Pounds)  Retail: \$2.79 Farmer: \$1.03	Milk 1 Gallon, Fat Free  Retail: \$3.89 Farmer: \$1.71	Potato Chips On the Border, 10.5 oz  Retail: \$4.79 Farmer: \$0.22**	Fresh Potatoes Russet, 5 Pounds  Retail: \$3.29 Farmer: \$0.34**	Soda Two Liter Bottle  Retail: \$1.49 Farmer: \$0.12

*Farmer's share derived from USDA, NASS Agricultural Prices 2012.

Retail based on Safeway (SF) brand except where noted.

**Figure according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service

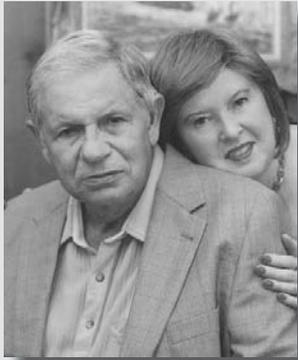
**Reflects February 2013 prices.

www.nfu.org

March 31, 2013

IN MEMORIAM...

Edward Joe "Ed" Campbell



Edward Joe "Ed" Campbell, 70, passed away on March 11, 2013, in Pryor. His memorial service was held March 18 at Stephens Memorial Chapel, with burial following at Graham Memorial Cemetery.

Campbell was born May 9, 1942, in Parsons, Kan., to Joe and Genevieve (Smith) Campbell. His family moved to Pryor in 1957, where he graduated from high school in 1960. Campbell married Jantha Redden in Pryor Sept. 8, 1961.

Campbell was involved in rodeo as a calf roper during his teenager years and early 20s. He continued to be involved with horses and cattle throughout his adult life.

Campbell graduated from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah in 1965. He taught Industrial Arts and Arts & Crafts for ten years in Missouri.

Campbell was an Oklahoma Farmers Union insurance agent for 32 years, first in Locust Grove, then in Pryor. He retired in 2007.

Campbell's children and grandchildren were the joy of his life. He received Jesus as Lord and Savior in August 1987.

Campbell is survived by his wife, Jantha Campbell of the home; his son, Dr. Joseph Campbell of Lakeworth, Fla.; and his grandchildren, Jamie Campbell of Chicago, Ill.; Amanda Campbell of Corona del Mar, Calif.; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his son, Jerry Jon, and his sister, Cindy Moody.

Like the AFR/OFU Youth Program on Facebook!

1. Get updates and pictures from youth events.
2. Get to know your Youth Advisory Council.
3. Learn what AFR youth are doing statewide.
4. Be a part of a team that promotes Oklahoma youth.
5. Be reminded of AFR youth deadlines.



OSU-FAPC NEWS

Microbiologist Appointed to National Committee

An Oklahoma State University microbiologist has been appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods, or NACMCF, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Peter Muriana, food microbiologist for the Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center and professor in the department of animal science, joined the 22-member committee on Jan. 28.

"I have a fair bit of expertise in certain areas of food microbiology based on the research I have done at FAPC and prior," Muriana said. "But especially in my time since arriving at FAPC, I have completed more than 70 food microbiology-related projects of practical significance to the food industry by working with individual companies to help them with their problems, and this experience has equipped me well for this occasion."

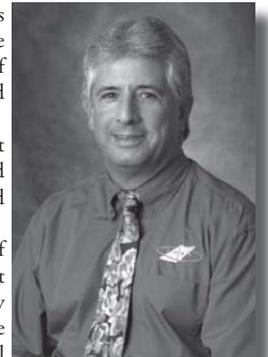
The committee originated in 1988 and currently serves the purpose of providing recommendations to the secretaries of agriculture and health of human services on microbiological criteria to evaluate food safety and wholesomeness.

"This committee is used by USDA, FDA and other regulatory agencies that interact with and regulate the food industry to provide scientific input on issues," Muriana said. "Basically we are a group of scientists put together so regulatory agencies can use NACMCF as a reference by making suggestions upon which the regulatory agencies can take action and their actions are based on scientific data provided to them by this expert committee."

The committee is made up of scientists from academia, industry and government. "Each member brings their unique area of expertise to the team," Muriana said. "I hope that my experience in connection with food microbiology will help to contribute something substantial along with the other members of the committee."

Members of this group serve a two-year term and meet several times a year in Washington, D.C., to convene as a committee.

Roy Escoubas, FAPC director, nominated Muriana to the committee. "I was honored to nominate Dr. Muriana for the opportunity and even more proud that he was selected," Escoubas said. "His experience in food microbiology research coupled with his knowledge of food safety industry applications makes him more than qualified to be a member of the committee."



Adding Value to Oklahoma

Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center
Oklahoma State University, 148 FAPC, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078
(405) 744-6071 | www.fapc.biz | fapc@okstate.edu





Oklahoma Beef Checkoff UPDATE

Farmers and Ranchers- Don't forget to sign up for the Oklahoma Beef Checkoff Update, a monthly e-newsletter providing the latest in checkoff information and news at www.okbeef.org/e-newsletter.aspx

National Beef Quality Audit Released



While the beef industry continues to make progress in the area of beef quality, there is still room for improvement. That's the overarching conclusion of the 2011 checkoff-funded National Beef Quality Audit (NBQA). The results show that

the industry has made significant improvements in producing safe and wholesome beef that is consistently higher in quality, as proven by several measurable standards. Still, the three-phase checkoff-funded research, which took nearly a full year to complete and examined all facets of beef production, found there were several aspects - many associated with channel communication and consumer trust - on which the industry should strive to continue improving. To learn more, visit www.nbqa.com.

Beef Checkoff Supports Ag Literacy



This summer, the Oklahoma Beef Council (OBC) was a sponsor of the Ag in the Classroom teacher's tour attended by 48 teachers over a three-day period. The tour, which stopped at four beef cattle ranches, provided teachers an up close

and personal look at agriculture while connecting them with the lessons and resources aligned to the new state standards. An OBC staff member also discussed modern beef production and practices with the teachers as well as answered many questions.

Reaching Doctors Where It Counts!



In June, the Oklahoma Beef Council (OBC) reached more than 80

doctors at the Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians (OKAFP) Scientific Assembly meeting with the good news from the checkoff-funded study, Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet, more popularly known as the BOLD study. Flying in the face of conventional thinking, the BOLD study showed that adding lean beef to the most recommended heart-healthy diet can lower heart disease risk by reducing levels of total and LDL "bad" cholesterol.

To promote the presentation, the OBC sent a postcard mailing to all members of the OKAFP encouraging them to come to the presentation to hear Dr. Mike Roussell, one of the co-researchers on the study, present the scientific findings. Dr. Mike Roussell, who has his PhD in nutrition from Pennsylvania State University, is also an expert contributor to both national print publications and leading online fitness outlets such as *Men's Health*, *Men's Fitness*, *LiveStrong.com*, *ShapeUp* and *ShapeUpAmerica.org*.

This meeting was an outstanding opportunity to present science-based information to those physicians on the front lines of patient care. Even better, the physicians were able to receive continuing medical education credits due to the quality of the BOLD research.

80 Million Coupons Offer Discounts

Promotions are a key component to increasing incremental sales in the supermarket and while rising food and energy costs will weigh on consumers' purchasing behaviors, the Beef Checkoff participated in four summer retail promotions to encourage beef purchases. It is important to know, the Beef Checkoff assists with marketing expenses, but does not pay for coupon redemption. In 2011, for every \$1 in checkoff dollars invested in cooperative promotions, partners put in just over \$24. More than 80 million coupons will be distributed offering discounts on beef.

Culinary Event Draws Foodservice Operators, Retailers and Packers

The beef checkoff recently hosted a steak immersion and educational event at the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone in St. Helena, Calif., to help educate decision makers from more than 30 major U.S. foodservice (restaurant) operators, major retail chains and the top US packers. Because rising food prices and reduced beef supply are causing foodservice operators to rethink their menus, the event aimed to inform operators on the versatility and selling power of beef.



The group — consisting of chefs from multi-unit chain restaurants such as Applebee's, Chili's, Qdoba and Sizzler, and retailers including Whole Foods, SaveMart, Harris Teeter and HEB — had the opportunity to learn more about:

- New and exciting beef menu ideas
- Profit Power - how beef can be a profit driver for their operation
- Focus on secondary cuts and other cost savings measures
- Affordability and versatility of beef
- Beef cutting demos
- Straight talk on pricing/trends/future
- Sustainability and carbon footprint



Japanese Consumers A-Twitter

While Americans are being cautioned not to text while they drive, or even while they walk, Japanese diners are being encouraged to "Tweet While You Eat" to share their excitement about U.S. beef.

Japanese consumers are accustomed to following bloggers and visiting mobile websites to learn more about U.S. beef, but Twitter is a relative newcomer to Japan. As the number of Twitter fans in Japan recently topped 15 million, USMEF launched a multi-phase Twitter campaign to engage and motivate consumers to digitally share their interest in U.S. beef and win tasty prizes. Funding for the campaign is provided through the USDA Market Access Program (MAP) and the Beef Checkoff Program.

The first initiative is the selection of four American Beef Ambassadors from the nearly 5,000 Twitter followers USMEF-Japan has amassed. Over the next six months, these individuals will promote themselves as American Beef Ambassadors, utilizing the "#usbeef" hashtag at the end of each tweet. This hashtag will make their tweets searchable to other fans as they write about home cooking or restaurant dining experiences with U.S. beef.

"As Twitter gains new followers by the day in Japan, we are confident that this campaign will significantly expand the visibility of U.S. beef among a critical audience — the young adults who have built this technology into their daily lifestyles," said Tazuko Hijikata USMEF-Japan senior manager of consumer affairs.

"American Beef Go! Go!" Campaign

USMEF is not putting all of its new media eggs in the Twitter basket. To help drive traffic to its website, USMEF-Japan recently conducted the "American Beef Go! Go!" campaign to provide education about U.S. beef in an entertaining format. More than 10,000 consumers participated in the campaign.

Long-term beef demand among today's consumers. It is continuously updated with the latest market intelligence, consumer trends and insights on shopper purchase behaviors.

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Upcoming Events...

April 2013

- AFR/OFU State Scholarship Deadline April 15
- Redlands Interscholastic Judging Contest, El Reno April 16
- Southern Plains Farm Show, OKC April 18-20
- Southern Plains Farm Show Livestock Grading Contest April 18
- AFR/OFU Lobby Day at the Capitol April 29
- Oklahoma State FFA Convention, Cox Center, OKC April 30-May 1

May 2013

- Oklahoma Grain & Feed Assn. Annual Mtg., OKC May 1
- National Land & Range Judging Contest, El Reno, OKC May 2
- AFR/OFU Office Closed – Memorial Day May 27

June 2013

- County Match Scholarship Deadline June 1

July 2013

- AFR/OFU Home Office Closed – Independence Day July 4
- AFR/OFU Teen Leadership Summit, Quartz Mtn. July 7-9
- OSU Big 3 Field Days, Animal Science, OSU July 16-18
- Annual 4-H State Round-Up, OSU July 24-27
- AFR/OFU Senior Leadership Summit, Quartz Mtn. July 28-31

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