



“New” Horizons  
 By Terry Detrick,  
 President Page 16



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## Rain! Rain! Rain!



According to State Climatologist Gary McManus with data from Oklahoma Mesonet, June was the 23<sup>rd</sup> wettest on record with an average total rainfall of 5.82 inches. Mesonet recorded at least an inch of rain somewhere in the state on 19 days of the month. The percentage of the state in at least severe drought dropped from 73 percent at the end of May to 66 percent at the end of June, with areas of exceptional drought dropping from 26 percent to 11 percent. *Staff photo*

## EPA Axes Critical Rural Fire Equipment Program

Rural fire departments across Oklahoma and the nation will be devastated by an agreement between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which stops making available excess DoD vehicles that are critical to rural fire departments' ability to fight wildland fires.

Through long-standing federal excess property programs, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) has been able to assist rural fire departments by providing no-cost military trucks that are then re-manufactured into wildland engines and water tenders through its Rural Fire Assistance Program. Without access to the vehicles and equipment, many rural fire departments will find it difficult to operate, as commercial trucks are cost prohibitive for most departments. Currently there are 8,812 vehicle and pieces of equipment, valued at over \$150 million, being utilized by Oklahoma's rural fire departments that were obtained through these programs.

The stoppage decision is based on an agreement between the DoD and EPA aimed at reducing emissions. Under the agreement, vehicles not meeting EPA emission standards

## USDA Announces New Support for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

On June 23, United States Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden announced the implementation of new Farm Bill measures and other policy changes to improve the financial security of new and beginning farmers and ranchers. Harden also unveiled a new website, [www.usda.gov/newfarmers](http://www.usda.gov/newfarmers), that will provide a centralized, one-stop resource where beginning farmers and ranch-

ers can explore the variety of USDA initiatives designed to help them succeed.

“New and beginning farmers are the future of American agriculture,” said Deputy Secretary Harden. “The average age of an American farmer is 58 and rising, so we must help new farmers get started if America is going to continue feeding the world and maintain a strong agriculture econ-

omy. The new policies announced today will help give beginning farmers the financial security they need to succeed. Our new online tool will provide one-stop shopping for beginning farmers to learn more about accessing services that can help their operations thrive.”

USDA's New Farmers website has

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Postal Customer or Current Resident



# Industry

## “Waters of the U.S.” Rule Still a Go

As of March 25, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is attempting to expand government jurisdiction over water beyond “navigable” waters through a proposed rule to redefine “waters of the United States.” The new definition would require landowners to obtain federal permission when they need to perform most routine farm activities.

The proposed rule would expand the EPA’s regulatory authority on water to unprecedented levels. Almost all activities will now touch a “water of the United States” under the expanded definition. It would open potential regulation for ditches, ponds, waterways and streams that have water in them only for short periods of time and other localized waters that are non-navigable.

Many farming and ranching prac-

**“We oppose any proposal now or in the future of the EPA’s Clean Water Act to expand jurisdiction of a federal takeover of all waters in the U.S.”**

2014 AFR/OFU Policy Book

tices could require government approval through a complex series of federal permitting and regulations. Normal farming and conservation activities, such as fencing and brush management, have never required permits under the Clean Water Act. The EPA would now require farmers and ranchers to meet otherwise voluntary Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards for some everyday farming activities and voluntary conservation practices, or face Clean Water Act liability. By linking agriculture exemptions to NRCS standards, the rule would make voluntary conservation standards subject to EPA enforcement.

On May 1, 231 members of the U.S. House of Representatives sent a letter to the EPA Administrator expressing their concerns and asking that the rule be withdrawn, and, on May 29, 72 agriculture organizations from around the country sent a joint letter to EPA expressing their concerns over the rule. Finally, on June 11, Oklahoma Water Resources Board Executive Director J.D. Strong testified before the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infra-



Waters of the U.S. rule opens potential regulation for ditches, ponds, waterways and streams that are non-navigable. *Public domain photo*

structure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment regarding the numerous problems with the way EPA developed the rule.

EPA has refused to withdraw or modify their proposal, so consequently both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have recently introduced legislation that would prevent the federal government from expending any funds to implement the proposed “Waters of the U.S.” rule changes. If passed by Congress, this would effectively

block all implementation of the rule.

In preparation for this aggressive action by EPA, the 2014 AFR/OFU Policy Committee proposed the following addition to our organization’s policy statement:

“We oppose any proposal now or in the future of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Water Act to expand jurisdiction of a federal takeover of all waters in the U.S.”

Delegates at the state convention unanimously adopted the language February 21, 2014.

## National News Update

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



### WRRDA & SPCC

In late May, the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) by an overwhelming total vote of 503-11. In early June, President Obama signed it into law, marking the first major water resources policy update at the national level to be enacted in seven years.

The bill aims to expedite commodity delivery and better prepare for future floods and droughts that can slow or even stop navigation on America’s inland waterways. WRRDA is crucial to farmers as more than 60% of the nation’s grain exports are transported by barge. Also included in the final bill is a provision that addresses the EPA’s Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulations, which require farmers and ranchers to make costly infrastructure invest-

ments to fuel and oil storage facilities. The current EPA SPCC rule for farms requires compliance if an operation has 1,320 gallons or more of aboveground fuel or oil storage. This also requires aboveground feed storage to be included in the total if it meets the broad definition of “oil” which includes the base of many liquid cattle feeds.

Under the provisions in the WRRDA legislation, the aggregate aboveground storage exemption limit is raised to 6,000 gallons. Moreover, the legislation exempts fuel tanks with a capacity of 1,000 gallons or less and all tanks that hold animal feed ingredients from the aggregate calculations.



### Livestock Haulers Hours-of-Service Exemption

In June, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced that drivers of vehicles hauling livestock will be granted a one-year exemption from the

30-minute break requirement during the first eight hours of a shift. This requirement is part of the current Hours-of-Service (HoS) rules for truck drivers to prevent fatigued-related crashes, although drivers transporting agricultural commodities, including livestock, within a 150-air mile radius of the source of those commodities are already exempt from the HoS rules and are not affected by this action.

In 2013, FMCSA granted livestock haulers a 90-day waiver during the hot summer months with no adverse effects to safety. As authorized by Congress, FMCSA considers and collects public comments on all applications for exemptions from federal regulations, including HoS for truck drivers. FMCSA received four petitions for exemptions, which only address the 30 minute break requirement of the HoS rule, and this is the second to be granted.



### News & Views Insider

Stay in touch with agriculture and legislative news with the online AFR/OFU Insider. To be added to the list, email [lwedel@afmic.com](mailto:lwedel@afmic.com).



### SCAM ALERT

#### Phone Scam Alleging Association with FSA

It has been brought to the attention of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) that a phone scam is being perpetrated on FSA customers.

The caller, who identifies themselves as a “farm loan services” representative from Washington, D.C., states that FSA “owes” you disaster assistance funds and requests your checking account information or a credit card number alleging that funds will be credited to these accounts.

Should you receive a similar call, do not, under any circumstances, provide personal or financial information to the caller.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this issue, please contact your local FSA office.

To locate your local FSA office, visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.



## Industry

# Farm Bill Implementation Progressing

### Conservation

Announced May 27, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a new farm bill program from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that stretches and multiplies conservation investments to reach goals on a regional or watershed scale. RCPP combines four previous NRCS programs—Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative and Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion—into one.

Through the RCPP, NRCS and state, local and regional partners coordinate resources to help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations, farmer cooperatives or other groups of producers, state or local governments, Indian tribes, municipal water treatment entities, water and irrigation districts, conservation-driven nongovernmental organizations and institutions of higher education are all eligible partners.

Agriculture producers and owners of agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland should visit their local USDA Service Center for information on how to enter into conservation program contracts or easement agreements under the framework of an RCPP partnership agreement. NRCS and the selected partner will coordinate resources to provide assistance to producers in the project area.

### Crop Insurance

The farm bill implementation process continued June 30 with an announcement from USDA that it would move forward with changes to crop insurance that provide more coverage levels and give beginning farmers expanded options as well.



Following the approval of the 2014 Farm Bill, USDA is rolling out several new or altered programs for producers.

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack said the improvements will provide better protection from weather disaster, market volatility and other risk factors, and the beginning farmer provisions will make crop insurance more affordable and provide greater support when new farmers experience substantial losses.

USDA's Risk Management Agency filed an interim rule with the Federal Register, allowing USDA to move forward with changes to crop insurance provisions. The provisions allow producers to have enterprise units for irrigated and non-irrigated crops, give farmers and ranchers the ability to purchase different levels of coverage for a variety of irrigation practices, provide guidance on con-

servation compliance, implement protections for native sod and provide adjustments to historical yields following significant disasters.

### Beginning Farmers

The 2014 Farm Bill authorizes specific coverage benefits for beginning farmers and ranchers starting with the 2015 crop year. The changes exempt new farmers from paying the \$300 administrative fee for catastrophic policies. New farmers' premium support rates will also increase ten percentage points during their first five years of farming. Beginning farmers will also receive a greater yield adjustment when yields are below 60 percent of the applicable transitional yield. These incentives will be available for most insurance plans in the 2015 crop year and all plans by 2016.

Additional information on implementation of these changes is available at the RMA website, [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov). The interim rule is available to the public on the Federal Register. Written comments on the rule may be submitted until Sept. 2, 2014.

## Continued from NEW FARMERS, 1

in depth information for new farmers and ranchers, including how to increase access to land and capital, build new market opportunities, participate in conservation opportunities, select and use the right risk management tools and access USDA education, as well as technical support programs. These issues have been identified as top priorities by new farmers. The website will also feature instructive case studies about beginning farmers who have successfully utilized USDA resources to start or expand their business operations.

Recent policy announcements in support of beginning farmers and ranchers include:

- Waiving service fees for new and beginning farmers or ranchers to enroll in the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the 2014 crop year. NAP provides risk management tools to farmers who grow crops for which there is no crop insurance product. Under this waiver, farmers and ranchers who have already enrolled in NAP for the 2014 crop year are eligible for a service fee refund.

- Eliminating payment reductions under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for new and beginning farmers which will allow routine, prescribed and emergency grazing outside the primary nesting season on enrolled land consistent with approved conservation plans. Previously, farm-

ers and ranchers grazing on CRP land were subject to a reduction in CRP payments of up to 25 percent. Waiving these reductions for new and beginning farmers will provide extra financial support during times of emergency like drought and other natural disasters.

- Increasing payment rates to beginning farmers and ranchers under Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). Under this provision, beginning farmers can claim up to 90 percent of losses for lost livestock, such as bees. This is a fifty percent increase over previously available payment amounts to new and beginning farmers.

In the near future, USDA will also announce additional crop insurance program changes for beginning farmers and ranchers including discounted premiums, waiver of administrative fees and other benefits. The Deputy Secretary made these announcements at the inaugural meeting of the reconvened Beginning Farmer and Rancher Advisory Committee. This committee, composed of 20 members, including Extension agents, lenders, farmers, ranchers and academics, will meet through 2015 to learn, discuss and formulate recommendations to USDA on how to support new and beginning farmers.

For more information, visit [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill).

## OSU to Study Water Efficiency in Cattle



OSU is part of a research grant initiative to address the impact of climate change on U.S. Agriculture Production. USDA photo

Des Moines, Iowa—U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awarded \$6 million to 10 universities to study the effects of climate on agriculture production.

"With longer growing seasons and an increased number of extreme weather events, climate-related changes are increasingly posing new challenges and risks for America's producers," said Vilsack. "Every day, farmers and ranchers see the impact that changes in climate patterns have on their operations and they are contending with drought, floods or extreme temperatures. The discoveries these grants will lead to will be invaluable for American farmers

whose livelihoods directly depend on land and water resources."

Oklahoma State University will receive \$1 million to provide some of the first climate adaptation tools for beef production systems in the form of water management resources, leading to the development of beef cattle that are adaptable to climate change-induced drought.

Through federal funding and leadership for research, education and extension programs, NIFA focuses on investing in science and solving critical issues impacting people's daily lives and the nation's future. More information is available at: [www.nifa.usda.gov](http://www.nifa.usda.gov) or [www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/newsroom](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/newsroom).

## Industry

# Managing Heat, Drought & Cattle Comfort

Information provided by  
OKLAHOMA MESONET

Oklahoma's extreme weather can have a dramatic impact on livestock. Extreme conditions can alter feed intake, reduce daily weight gain and increase feed requirements. Remember, comfortable cattle are productive cattle. Comfortable cattle gain better and maintain a higher level of health.

The Mesonet Cattle Comfort Advisor estimates cattle comfort levels based on data from the Oklahoma Mesonet and National Weather Service forecasts. The Mesonet Cattle Comfort Advisor runs continuously, monitoring heat or cold stress on a year-round basis.

Oklahoma Mesonet's cattle comfort maps are designed to help producers identify current and future periods of stress. Statewide maps choices include current, past and forecast maps. Local site graphs provide a time series for a single Mesonet location.

The Cattle Comfort Advisor boasts a variety of displays, including current and yesterday maps, forecast high and low maps, combined 10-day and 3-day forecast graphs, 45-day graphs and tables and high and



Managing cattle comfort can be pivotal during hot summer months. Mesonet photo

low current and last year graphs.

### Battling Heat

**Provide ample water:** The most important management concern in heat stress situations is providing ample water.

Cattle will drink more water when the water is cleaner and cooler. Provide enough tanks for cattle to be able to get the water they need. If possible, water should be cooled. Tanks should be cleaned weekly to encourage water consumption. Making water available under shade will also increase water consumption.

On days when the cattle comfort index reaches 85°F or higher, cattle

commonly need 2 gallons of water per 100 pounds of body weight.

**Improve airflow:** Consider ways to improve airflow where cattle are located. Buildings, solid high fences and vegetation reduce airflow. A six-foot high windbreak can obstruct airflow for 60 feet downwind.

**Avoid handling cattle:** Handling cattle can elevate their body temperatures by as much as 3.5°F.

When cattle are experiencing moderate heat stress, work the animals before 8 a.m. and avoid keeping them in holding pens for more than 30 minutes. Cattle should not be worked after 10 a.m. on days when the index will be above 85°F.

**Change feeding patterns:** For fed cattle, shift the feeding schedule toward evening on days when the Cattle Comfort Index is above 85°F.

Try to feed 70 percent of the animal's daily feed two to four hours after the peak Cattle Comfort Index value. Small amounts of feed during the heat of the day keeps metabolic heat of digestion low.

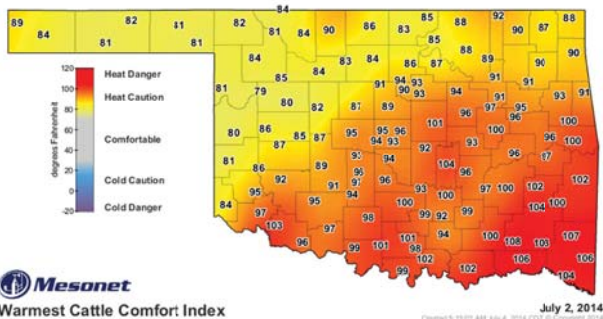
**Provide shade:** Shade is as much a relief for cattle as it is for humans. Shade height should be 8-14 feet tall and should be large enough to provide 20-40 square feet per animal. The most effective shade is a solid reflective roof constructed of

light-colored galvanized or aluminum materials. Shading with wooden slats, plastic fencing or other materials that allow flecks of sunlight to hit the animals is less effective. If possible, two shaded areas are recommended, one over the feed area to increase feeding time and another away from the feed area to encourage cattle to rest.

**Control biting flies:** Stable flies cause cattle to bunch and disrupts cooling. Monitor and control flies as needed. Eliminate shallow pools, muddy areas or other common places where flies can breed.

**Wetting Animals:** In emergency heat stress situations, it may be necessary to cool cattle by soaking them with water. A sprinkler or water nozzle needs to have enough pressure and water volume to wet the animal to the skin. Mists that only wet animals' outer hair coat may actually increase heat stress by increasing the nearby relative humidity.

The Oklahoma Mesonet Cattle Comfort Advisor is located on the Mesonet website, [www.mesonet.org](http://www.mesonet.org), under the "Agriculture" tab at the top of the page. From the main "Agriculture" page, select "Cattle Comfort Advisor" from the left menu under "Agriculture Essentials."



Mesonet  
Warmest Cattle Comfort Index

Highest temperatures for Mesonet Cattle Comfort Index on July 2, 2014. Mesonet photo

## Mesonet Delivers Accurate Rainfall Maps

Information provided by  
OKLAHOMA MESONET

Rainfall can be an agriculturalist's best friend or worst enemy. In Oklahoma, rain can be non-existent, sporadic or extensive depending on your location during a storm. Because of this knowing how much rain an area received is a critical planning tool for all aspects of agriculture.

The Oklahoma Mesonet provides rainfall information tools to allow users to monitor rainfall amounts in their area and get updates on Oklahoma's drought conditions.

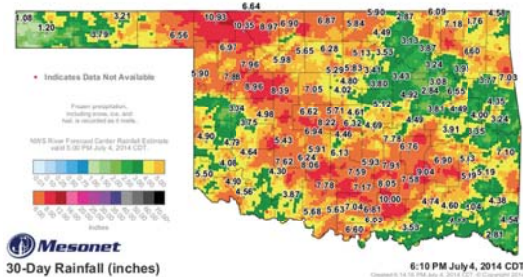
Each Mesonet tower is outfitted with a rain gauge that measures rainfall down to .01 inch. With 120

rain gauges across the state, producers can get a good idea of how much rainfall their area received. There is at least one Mesonet station in each of Oklahoma's 77 counties.

To view rainfall maps and tables, visit <http://mesonet.org>. Click on "Weather" in the top menu bar, and select "Rainfall" in the side bar.

The Oklahoman Climatological Survey provides rainfall statistics over time frames. The Mesonet website shows these rainfall statistics by clicking on "Rainfall Summaries" from the "Rainfall" section.

The Oklahoma Mesonet is a world-class network of environmental monitoring stations. The network





# Industry

## Protect Your Pigs this Show Season

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) and the closely related Porcine Delta Coronavirus (PDCoV) have been responsible for the deaths of approximately eight million pigs nationally in the last 14 months. PEDV and PDCoV are now collectively referred to as Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease (SECD). These viruses are only infectious to pigs and are not a food safety concern.

Oklahoma is a leading state for breeding, raising and exhibiting show swine and fall livestock shows are just around the corner. If you know a swine exhibitor, please share the following general swine health biosecurity basics from the National Pork Board ([www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org)).

### 1. Isolation

Isolation means keeping a new pig or a pig returning from a show separate from animals already on the farm for a set amount of time. Isolation provides a period of time for you to watch your pig for signs of disease before it goes back into your herd.

- House new or returning pigs in a separate facility.
- Work with isolated pigs last.
- Wear separate boots/footwear for isolation chores or wash boots after finishing chores and allow them to dry before use the next day.

### 2. Cleaning and Disinfection

Cleaning and disinfection of your facilities, trailers and equipment should be a top priority in your bio-

security plan. Proper cleaning can greatly reduce the risk of disease spread by removing the dirt and manure pathogens live in. Disinfection and drying can further reduce the amount of pathogens on surfaces.

- Cleaning equipment and trailers should occur away from the pigs that have not been to a show.
- Remove bedding, dirt and manure.
- Wash equipment/rooms with the hottest water possible. Detergents, like those used for dish washing, may make cleaning much easier.
- Make sure to clean all equipment that has gone to a show including feeders and waterers, hoses and show box items (show equipment, sort panels, brushes, etc.).
- Disinfect only after cleaning.
- Apply disinfectants according to the label directions. Directions may include how long a disinfectant needs to be on a surface and rinsing procedure.
- Allow equipment to fully dry to kill pathogens. Drying can be done by sunlight, time or adding a heat source.

### 3. Minimize exposure to people and other traffic

People can transfer pathogens on their body and/or clothing to your pigs. Vehicles also can carry unwanted pathogens and expose your pigs.

- Limit visitors to only those who have a reason to be there and only allow visitors when you are present.

- Visitors need to wear clean boots or plastic boot covers and clean clothing.
- Limit off-farm vehicle access to your pig project area.

### 4. Control of wildlife, birds and other pests

Wildlife, birds and rodents can readily transmit many diseases.

- Keep the area around your barn free of weeds, debris or feed, making the area less desirable for unwanted pests.
- Utilize fencing, bird netting or other materials to keep pests out of the barn or away from the building.
- Use rodent baits according to label directions and keep baits out of



Protecting show pigs from PEDV should be a top priority this show season. *Public domain photo*

reach of your pigs.

- If mortality occurs, dispose of pigs in a timely manner.

## Continued from RURAL EQUIPMENT, 1

would be destroyed instead of sold.

"This action will ultimately result in increased exposure of communities to loss of life and property associated with wildfire, as well as increased fire suppression costs," said George Geissler, ODAFF State Forester. "The greenhouse gas emissions associated with the vehicles are marginal at best compared to emissions of an uncontrolled wildfire."

Local fire departments are the first to respond to most wildfires. In

many states, including Oklahoma, local departments are first on the scene for more than 75 percent of all wildfires. Quick initial response protects lives, property and reduces fire suppression costs for local, state and federal entities.

AFR/OFU is working with ODAFF, National Farmers Union (NFU) and our congressional delegation to seek a long-term solution to resolve the issue and make this equipment available.

## State News Update

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



### State Beef Checkoff Legislation

On May 29, Gov. Mary Fallin signed Senate Bill 1851, which outlines how a state-based commodity checkoff would be created by Oklahoma beef producers. The bill was requested by the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (OCA) prior to the 2014 legislative session and authored by Sens. Eddie Fields and Ron Justice and Reps. Dale DeWitt and Scott Biggs.

"This bill outlines the process which Oklahoma cattle producers would use to create a supplement beef Checkoff program," said OCA president Richard Gebhart. "We

wanted language that would allow us to self-determine our own program."

The process outlined in the bill would require at least 10 percent of producers signing a petition calling for a referendum. If the petition is validated by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF), then a referendum would be held. All Oklahoma cattle producers would be able to vote in the referendum. If the referendum passes then a new checkoff would begin. All costs associated with creation and continuance of a program must be paid for by the requesting industry assuring no state funds are used. The bill also states that any program created must include a refund provision so that producers can request their money returned to them if they choose not to participate.

**"We wanted language that would allow us to self-determine our own program."**

OCA President  
RICHARD GEBHART



### Parents' Bill of Rights

On May 13, Gov. Mary Fallin signed legislation that will codify in state law a parent's fundamental right to direct the upbringing of their minor children. House Bill 1384, authored by Rep. Sally Kern and Sen. AJ Griffin, will create the "Parents' Bill of Rights" and reaffirm that the liberty of parents to direct the upbringing, education, health care and mental health of their children is a fundamental right.

"The Bible says that children are a gift from God, and it is the Legislature's job to ensure that the protection and best interest of children always remains in the hands of parents to whom children are entrusted," said Rep. Kern.

"This legislation bolsters the fundamental right of Oklahoma parents

to decide how to raise their children," added Sen. Griffin.

While the measure provides general protection for all parental rights, a number of specific rights are enumerated. For example, the measure prohibits medical personnel from providing any prescription drug to or performing any surgical procedures on minor children without prior consent from a parent or legal guardian, unless a physician has determined that the child's life is in danger and reasonably diligent effort has been made to contact the parent.

**"This legislation bolsters the fundamental right of Oklahoma parents to decide how to raise their children."**

Authoring Senator  
A.J. GRIFFIN

For more information on AFR/OFU's stance on state and federal issues, contact Policy & Membership Coordinator Steve Thompson at [sthompson@afmic.com](mailto:sthompson@afmic.com).

## Industry

# Wet June Can Lead to Combustion

Information provided by  
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Sean Hubbard, Agricultural Communications

STILLWATER—The state received much more rain in the last 60 days than in previous years at this time. With the increased moisture comes increased potential for hay combustion.

With no apparent ignition source, hay bales can burst into flames and cause major damage to storage facilities or a raging wildfire. The combination of low wind speeds, high humidity, moist hay and hot temperatures is a recipe for disaster. With these circumstances, tightly stacked hay bales have been known to combust.

“When you go in and immediately harvest these forages, they have a high water content,” said Darren Redfearn, Extension forage specialist. “One of the things that does continue is the process of respiration.”

Respiration is a normal plant process to produce food for itself, which in turn also produces heat. Mold will grow through respiration and produce heat until the moisture content of the hay drops below 40 percent. At 20 percent moisture, the hay is considered dry.

This heat, along with the hay itself, mixed with oxygen causes the combustion. Redfearn said the combustion typically takes place along



Moisture and heat can spell disaster for agriculture producers during hay season. OSU Agricultural Communications Services photo

the surface of the bales because the oxygen has trouble penetrating into the middle.

“Make hay while the sun is shining,” Redfearn said referring to the old adage that has a lot of truth to it. The summer months in Oklahoma provide adequate drying conditions with high temperatures, a slight breeze and low humidity.

If there is concern about whether or not the hay was baled at the correct moisture, the temperature of the bales should be closely monitored. A bale that measures less than 120 degrees Fahrenheit is in no danger;

bales between 120 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit need some attention.

Bales should be removed from a barn or structure and separated so they can cool. When a bale reaches more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit, it is generally too late, Redfearn said. “Once you start moving them at that temperature, that’s when you really get into danger,” he said.

These types of issues will generally occur within five to seven days of baling, so leave bales in the field for several days before storing.

For more information, contact your local Extension agent.

# Animal Activists Sue over LPC “Threatened” Listing



Three national animal activist groups lashed out on June 19 against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listing of the lesser prairie-chicken as threatened. Defenders of Wildlife, the Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians filed a legal notice in a Washington, D.C., federal district court. They will be suing USFWS and others in 60 days if the listing is not upgraded to endangered with mandatory rules and enforcement.

USFWS listed the prairie-chicken as threatened on March 27, citing a plan developed by biologists, members of industries that have an impact on habitat and other interested parties (including AFR/OFU) in the birds’ five-state range that includes 14 northwest Oklahoma counties. Thirty-two private companies in five states representing oil and gas, pipelines, electric transmission and wind energy have committed to enroll more than 3.6 million acres in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-wide Conservation Plan, providing about \$21 million for habitat conservation over the next three years.

Threats of lawsuits and actual lawsuits are not unusual for these activist organizations. WildEarth Guardians has filed dozens of lawsuits to enforce deadlines for USFWS to issue findings concerning some of the more than 700 species it has submitted petitions for protection under the Endangered Species Act. Some recent petitions they have filed ask for protection for nine Texas mollusks, the gila monster in Utah and the Mexican wolf.

For more information on legislation impacting Oklahoma’s producers, contact AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Coordinator Steve Thompson at [sthompson@afmic.com](mailto:sthompson@afmic.com).

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# Industry

## Detrick Named to National Beef Board



WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced 41 appointments to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board.

AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick is one of two newly appointed members representing Oklahoma. He will serve a three-year term.

The 103-member Cattlemen's Beef Board is authorized by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985. It includes domestic beef, dairy and veal producers, as well as importers of beef and beef products.

Each Beef Board member is appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture from nominations submitted by certified organizations. These organizations represent beef and dairy producers in each state or region.

Thirty-seven states have individual members serving on the Board. The remaining states are divided into three regions. Importer appointments are drawn from nominations by importer associations.

The number of Board members is established according to the number of cattle in the state or region—

500,000 head for the first Board member and 1 million head for each additional member.

Research and promotion programs are industry-funded, authorized by Congress and date back to 1966. Since then, Congress has authorized the establishment of 20 research and promotion boards. They empower agricultural industries by establishing a framework to pool resources and combine efforts to develop new markets, strengthen existing markets, and conduct important research and promotion activities.



## 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.oklabef.org/e-newsletter.aspx](http://www.oklabef.org/e-newsletter.aspx)

### Beef Remains #1 in Foodservice

Beef experienced significant volume growth in the past year and continues to be a mainstay on the menu, according to the 2013 Usage and Volumetric Assessment of Beef in Foodservice report, proprietary research from the Beef Checkoff Program.

The annual survey of protein purchasing executives showed that beef remains the number one protein in foodservice — in volume, in market share and in the dollars it brings to operations. Specific findings include:

- In the last year, the pounds of beef sold in foodservice increased by 79 million pounds to a total volume of 8 billion pounds.
- Beef represents about one-third (32 percent) of the total protein market share in foodservice.
- 97 percent of restaurant operators feature beef on the menu.
- Volume was up in every major beef category across the board, including steaks, roasts, ribs, ground beef and pre-cooked roast beef.
- Since 2009, beef represents the largest pound increase of any protein, totaling 178 million pounds.
- Beef growth has outpaced growth of the foodservice industry over the past 5 years.

"This research supports what we already know to be true: no other protein can satisfy like beef. Operators understand the value that beef brings to their business and they know beef is — and must continue to be — a mainstay on the menu due to strong consumer demand for beef," said Sid Viebrock, a beef producer from Washington and chairman of the checkoff's Value Subcommittee.

### FACTSABOUTBEEF.com Debunking Myths

The checkoff's [FactsAboutBeef.com](http://FactsAboutBeef.com) site is debunking myths about beef every day — about what consumers define as hot-button issues, including animal welfare, antibiotics in cattle, Beef Quality Assurance, beta-agonists, cows and global warming, environment, factory farming, food safety, Meatless Mondays and beef nutrition? That's right — consumers have questions about where their beef comes from, and FactsAboutBeef is addressing and answering those questions and concerns, stomping out misinformation from consumer media along the way. The site hosts a wide variety of research, expert opinions and beef facts to arm you with the information you need to help you learn about checkoff achievements and help set the story straight out in the country. Use the site to boost your own advocacy efforts by sharing the facts!



### New Beef Checkoff Digital Marketing Campaign Off to a Solid Start

The new digital "Beef. It's What's For Dinner" (BIWFD) advertising campaign is off to a tremendous start, with exciting new creative elements and more information to reach the important millennial consumer.

The idea of "social" plays a big role in meal inspiration, instruction and sharing, with more than 300 million social media posts per month. That's why the millennial influence and explosion of digital media led your beef checkoff to develop five new BIWFD recipe videos on the [BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com](http://BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com) website. These "no-recipe recipe" videos offer millennial consumers — who are just beginning to learn how to cook with beef — easy yet delicious ways to fit beef into their lifestyles. The website also features new tips and techniques for preparing winning beef meals and an update about beef's "Power of 10" essential nutrients.

Using digital media means customizing the right information at right time to the right consumers. For the older generation, that may feel like advertisers are intruding on their privacy. On the other hand, research indicates that the millennial generation, which is beef's primary target for the new ad campaign, is asking that the information to be delivered to them, when they want it, how they want it. They actually feel that advertisers are making it more personal.

The integrated media strategy for the campaign, including Facebook and Twitter, generated about 65 million impressions during the campaign's first three weeks. The BIWFD Facebook page now has more than 825,000 "fans," providing a strong community for beef-loving consumers to share recipes and information.

Partnerships with other websites reaching millennials and interested in food have generated about 9 million high-quality impressions. These websites include Parents.com, Allrecipes.com, Myrecipes.com, FoodNetwork.com and others.

On a state level, the **Oklahoma Beef Council will be further amplifying the efforts through additional funding of the new digital campaign in Oklahoma and in key "foodie" markets such as San Francisco, Chicago and New York City.** Watch for more details about the ad campaign social/digital components in the coming months!

### Oklahoma Leading State in the Nation for MBA Graduates!



It was a wonderful day as the beef checkoff-funded, Master's of Beef Advocacy (MBA) program took center stage at the Oklahoma FFA convention in May. During the fifth general session with thousands of FFA youth

in attendance, the Oklahoma Beef Council announced the winners of the state MBA program which the Oklahoma Beef Council and Oklahoma FFA kicked-off in FY 2012 to engage Oklahoma FFA youth in agriculture advocacy. As a result of the state-wide program, 300+ kids received their MBA and the success of the program has lead Oklahoma to be the number one state in MBA graduates.

As a reminder, the MBA program is an online training tool that equips ranchers, farmers and our youth with the information they need to connect with consumers in a positive conversation that takes many forms. Our goal is to help Oklahoma FFA youth learn how to positively engage in this dialogue with consumers and their peers, whether it's through everyday conversations, community presentations, the media and most especially where they are experts, social media. To get your MBA, visit [www.beef.org/MBA](http://www.beef.org/MBA).

### U.S. Beef Exports Continue Positive Growth



U.S. beef exports continued their positive growth trend in April, increasing by double digits in volume and by an even healthier margin in value, according to statistics released by the USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), contractor to the Beef Checkoff Program.

Higher prices commanded in the global market have driven up per-head export values for U.S. beef, as international customers have, so far, been willing to pay higher prices for larger volumes.

The U.S. exported 218.9 million pounds of beef in April valued at \$537.4 million, increases of 15 and 24 percent, respectively. Year-to-date, beef exports are up 10 percent in volume and 17 percent in value to \$29.7 million pounds valued at \$2.05 billion.

"Even with the large volume of Australian beef, we are still seeing demand grow in most of our key markets and remain steady in others," said Philip Seng, USMEF president and CEO. "It is encouraging to see solid growth in sales to markets where the U.S. industry has made the biggest commitment in resources. A good example would be Korea, where export volumes have struggled since 2012 but, as Korea's domestic supply levels of beef normalize, we are seeing a robust rebound in demand for U.S. products."

### Beef notes

Beef exports in April accounted for 14 percent of total U.S. beef production and 11 percent of muscle cuts alone, increases from 12 and 9 percent, respectively, last April. Export value per head of fed slaughter equated to \$262.41 for the month, up from \$207.70 a year ago. Strong beef exports to Asia helped support near-record prices for short plates, short ribs and chuck short ribs.

# Insurance

## AFR Welcomes New Agencies

### Combest Insurance Agency, Atoka

Warren and Jana Combest have purchased the Underwood Insurance Agency in Atoka and will operate as the Combest Insurance Agency. They are licensed in Property, Casualty, Life, Accident and Health.

Jana is a graduate of Texas A&M University-Commerce and has worked as a photographer and medical biller. Warren is a graduate of Tushka High School and Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He has worked as a teacher and bus driver for Tushka Public Schools. He loves to hunt and fish. The Combests have four children—Jaysik, 13; Jesse, 9; Josie, 7; and Jaxi, 1.

Assisting in the agency are longtime Underwood Agency employees Dave Stevenson and Jan Underwood. Stevenson was appointed with AFR in 2008 and Underwood was appointed in 1999.

The agency will remain in its current location, 110 S. Mississippi Ave., and will retain the same phone number—580-889-3519.



The Combests in their agency at 110 S. Mississippi Ave. in Atoka. *Combest photo*

### Pearman Insurance Agency, Lone Grove

Robert Schaffer has opened a Pearman Insurance Agency in Lone Grove. Schaffer is licensed in Property and Casualty and is working toward his license in Life, Accident and Health.

Schaffer is a third generation AFR /OFU agent. His grandfather, Dean Pearman, opened the Dean Pearman Insurance in Thackerville in 1973. Schaffer's parents, Dean and Melodie Schaffer, currently operate the Pearman Insurance Agency in Thackerville.

Schaffer is a graduate of Thackerville High School. He and his wife, Ember, have three dogs. Robert enjoys duck hunting and fishing. He credits his success in life to his faith in God.

The new Pearman agency can be reached at P.O. Box 567, Lone Grove, or 580-319-5318.



Robert Schaffer in front of his new agency in Lone Grove. *Staff photo*

## Taylor-Shebester Hosts First Customer Appreciation Day



The Taylor-Shebester Insurance Agency hosted its inaugural Customer Appreciation Day May 9 at the agency office in Chickasha.

The event brought in more than 100 Taylor-Shebester customers from the surrounding area. Agency owner Crystie Shebester was pleased with the response, especially for the first year.

Event attendees were welcomed with a full "cook-out" meal and refreshments, as well as several door prizes. Three attendees went home with large door prizes.

AFR/OFU Southwest Area Field Representative Pete McDaniel attended the event and helped with the day's activities.



Is your agency hosting a new event or an old tradition? We'd love to know about it! Please contact AFR/OFU Communications Coordinator Laici Wedel at 405-218-5557 or [lwe-del@afirmic.com](mailto:lwe-del@afirmic.com) to tell us what you've been up to!

## Sperle Grand Opening a Success



New AFR agents Terry and Katrina Sperle celebrated their grand opening recently with the Cordell Chamber of Commerce. Pictured left to right are AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick, AFR/OFU Secretary Paul Jackson, Washita County Farmers Union President Sherri Goeringer, Katrina and Terry Sperle and Cordell Chamber of Commerce members Phil Kliever, Cheri Nabors and Chris Gossen. *Staff photo*

## Reward Program



Is this your gate posted with the old OFU reward sign? Call 405-218-5559 to claim a \$50 reward for spotting it!

Don't forget: The new AFR Insurance Reward Program signs are available for purchase through your local agent or the Cooperative Store ([http://www.iafr.com/includes/farm\\_store.php](http://www.iafr.com/includes/farm_store.php)). Complete rules and more information can be found on the AFR/OFU website.



# Insurance

## 50 Ways to Make you Firewise

Information provided by  
**OKLAHOMA FORESTRY SERVICE**  
with the Southern Group of State Foresters

Wildfires are part of a natural cycle that maintains the health and vitality of Oklahoma's native landscapes. It is everyone's responsibility to reduce their risk during a wildfire by preparing themselves and their family, property and community. To help homeowners, the Oklahoma Forestry Service (OFS) has provided a list of action items to start you on your Firewise journey.

### No Cost Actions - Just A Little Time and Effort

- Perform a Firewise assessment of your home or contact OFS for a free consultation.
- Clean your roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles.
- Clear the view of your house number so it can be seen from the street.
- Put a hose (at least 100') on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.
- Trim all tree branches that overhang your house or are within 15' of chimneys.
- Move firewood pile out of your home's defensible space.
- Remove trees and shrubs along the driveway to make it 12' wide.
- Prune branches on trees to 6-10 feet above ground level to prevent fires from spreading into tops.
- Prune branches that overhang the driveway to 15' overhead clearance.
- Maintain a green lawn for 30' around your home.
- Clear dead wood and dense flammable vegetation from your defensible space. Thin and prune trees and brush and remove ladder fuels.
- Consider removing conifer shrubs from your home's defensible space.
- Post local emergency telephone numbers in a visible place.
- If new homes and out buildings are being built in your area, talk to the developer and local zoning officials about building standards.
- Keep landscaping within 30' of your home well-irrigated.
- Plan and discuss an escape plan with your family. Have a practice drill. Include your pets.
- Get involved with your community's wildfire protection plans and disaster mitigation plans.
- Check your fire extinguishers. Are they charged? Are they easy to get to? Does everyone know where they are and how to use them?
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage. Consult your agent about costs of rebuilding and repairs.
- Talk to children about not starting fires or playing with matches.
- If you use a burn barrel for burning trash, obey local ordinances.
- Compost leaves in the fall, instead of burning them.
- Become a Firewise advocate. Visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).



Firefighters battle a blaze near the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. OFS photo

- Be safe with sharp tools and ladders; use the buddy system when possible. If uncertain about your "DIY" skills, hire a service provider.

### Minimal Cost Actions - \$10 to \$25 and a little time

- Install highly visible house numbers (at least 4" tall) on your home and at the entrance of the driveway onto the street. Use non-flammable materials and posts.
- Install metal screens on all attic, foundation, and other openings on your home to prevent accumulation of leaves and needles.
- Hold a neighborhood meeting to talk about fire safety; invite your local fire chief.
- Install a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and the garage.
- Install a metal shield between your home and attached wood fences.
- Plant low-flammable plants in your home's defensible space.
- Thin and prune trees for 30' to 100' around your home.
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio. Many types of emergencies are announced through this service.
- Install a spark arrestor or heavy wire screen with opening less than 1/2" on wood burning fireplaces and chimneys.

### Moderate Cost Actions - \$50 to \$250 and a little more work

- Replace vinyl gutters and downspouts with non-flammable, metal gutters and downspouts.
- Build a gravel turn-around area near your house big enough to allow a fire truck to turn around.
- Join your neighbors in having an additional access road into your neighborhood; share the costs.
- Treat flammable materials such as wood roofs, decks, and siding with fire retardant chemicals.
- Modify driveway gates to accommodate fire trucks—at least 12' wide and set back at least 30' from the road. If locked, use a key box approved by your local fire department or a chain loop with the lock

that can be cut in an emergency.

- Enclose decks to prevent accumulation of leaves and debris. Include a metal screen with a 1/8" mesh opening to prevent sparks from getting under the deck.

### High Cost Actions - More than \$500

- Replace your roof with fire-resistant materials.
- Install a roof irrigation system to protect your home's roof.
- Install an independent water supply for a sprinkler system with a non-electric (e.g., propane) powered pump capable of running unattended for 24 hours.
- Replace wood or vinyl siding with non-flammable material.
- Replace single-pane glass windows and plastic skylights with tempered, double-pane glass.
- Box in eaves, fascias, gable vents, and soffits with aluminum or steel materials with metal screens to prevent entry of sparks.
- Improve driveway culverts and bridges to accommodate the weight of a fire truck.
- Relocate propane tanks to a safe distance from your home. If inside the defensible space, make sure they are at least 10' from the house.
- Place a non-flammable ground cover such as gravel around them for 10'. Have electric service lines to your house placed underground.
- Improve your driveway by straightening sharp curves and filling in dips that would hinder a fire truck. Provide sidetracks or pull-offs on long, narrow driveways.

### Make Firewise Fun!

Get neighbors involved in Firewise projects and have a party after the work day. Consider having a community firebreak around homes and maintain it for recreation.

Work together with your neighbors and local fire service to have your community recognized as a Firewise Community USA.

For more information visit [www.forestry.ok.gov/firewise](http://www.forestry.ok.gov/firewise).

## AFR/OFU is "Out & About" in Oklahoma



### National Land, Homesite and Range Judging Contest

Every year, AFR/OFU joins in sponsoring the National Land, Homesite and Range Judging Contest. AFR/OFU state staff and field reps serve lunch on location to more than 1000 contest participants. The day wraps up at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, where winners are announced and participants are recognized for making it to the national competition. Pictured: AFR/OFU Field Representative Wade Parker was the "Brownie Man" at this year's awards dinner.



### Eggs & Issues Breakfast

AFR/OFU state staff recently assisted Beckham County Farmers Union in hosting its Eggs & Issues Legislative Breakfast at the Southwest Farm & Home Expo in Elk City. The annual event connects attendees with state lawmakers as they speak about the recent legislative session and issues that are pressing for the upcoming election. Pictured: AFR/OFU Secretary Paul Jackson listens as State Representative Harold Wright addresses breakfast attendees.

**Do you have ideas about how we can get involved with activities statewide? Contact AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson at 405-218-5563 or [sthompson@afrcm.com](mailto:sthompson@afrcm.com)!**

# Membership

## AFR/OFU Counties in Communities

### Beckham County



Each year, Beckham County Farmers Union hosts a "children's booth" at the Southwest Farm & Home Expo. The event gives young attendees a space that is dedicated to their interests.

Beckham County has also increased its sponsorship efforts. This year, the organization gave \$500 to

six area volunteer fire departments, to a prescribed burn association and to North Fork Red River Conservation District to help offset the cost of an outdoor classroom. Pictured: Youth enjoy Beckham County's children booth (top). Beckham County Farmers Union members George Terry and Melody Cummings with Elk City Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee leader Kenneth Hart (bottom).

### Love County



Love County Farmers Union advertised AFR/OFU to more than 1,200 people during the recent Frontier Days. The event is the biggest event of the year for Love County.

### Pittsburg County



Pittsburg County Farmers Union recently hosted its annual fishing clinic for local fifth grade students where attendees are taught water safety and fishing techniques. Each student takes home a rod and reel they may not otherwise be able to own.

## Counties and Locals Announce Meetings

### CADDO COUNTY

**Saturday, Oct. 11, meal at 6:30 p.m., Ft. Cobb High School Cafeteria.** Business meeting with presentation of reports, election of officers, directors and delegate to state convention for the coming year and presentation of resolutions. Entertainment and door prizes. To make food and other arrangements, R.S.V.P. to your local agent by 4 p.m., Monday, Oct. 6.

### GARFIELD COUNTY

**Friday, Oct. 10 at 6 p.m., Oakwood Christian Church, 401 N. Oakwood, Enid.** Cindy's Catering. Speaker: Brian Baxter or Tony Van Eck. Business meeting with election of officers and delegate to the state convention for the coming year, and presentation of resolutions. R.S.V.P. by Friday, Oct. 6 by calling Bolenbaugh Agency, 242-2818; Detrick Agency, 796-2100 or Maly Agency, 863-2389. Lahoma Local 152, Woodson Local 529, Hunter Local 634, Bolenbaugh Local 668 and Garber Local 682 will meet immediately following the meeting. There will be door prizes.

### GRADY COUNTY

**Monday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m., Grady Co. Fairgrounds, Chickasha.** Catering by End O' Main. Speaker: Paul Jackson. Business meeting with election of officers and delegate to state convention for the coming year and presentation of resolutions. Entertainment and door prizes. R.S.V.P. by Friday, Oct. 10: Ratterman Agency, 352-5200; Taylor-Shebestor Agency, 224-4450; Community Agency, 476-3289; Ray Anthony, 224-1392; Jack McLane, 453-7801. Notify if you cannot attend after reservations are made.

### HARMON COUNTY

**Monday, Oct. 13, 6 p.m., Boomerang Restaurant.** Business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. R.S.V.P. to the Robinson Agency, 580-688-9229, by Oct. 8.

### OKLAHOMA COUNTY

**Saturday, Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m., Midwest City Community Center.** Meeting for Locals 150, 196 and 313 to follow immediately after. Entertainment and door prizes.

### PAYNE COUNTY

**Thursday, Oct. 16, doors open at 5:30 p.m., Payne County Expo Center, Stillwater.** Business meeting with election of officers, directors and delegate to state convention for the coming year and presentation of resolutions. If you have resolutions, bring them up at the meeting. Entertainment and door prizes. R.S.V.P. by noon, Oct. 13: Porter Agency, 372-4169 or 372-0585; Perkins Agency, 547-2971; Cushing Agency, 918-225-1751; Schieffer & Schieffer Agency, 918-352-9406.

### PITTSBURG COUNTY

**Saturday, Aug. 16, 6:30 p.m., Southeast Expo Center, 4500 W. Hwy 270, McAlester.** Catered by KFC. Business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Bring resolutions for approval. R.S.V.P. by Aug. 11 to Aliene Bristow, 145 Bristow Lane, McAlester, 423-7926, McAlester, OK 74501, Haileyville, 297-2553, 469-2360. Tickets for door prize will be handed out at the door, one per family.



## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

To learn more about how to access your AFR/OFU benefits, visit: <http://www.iafr.com/benefits>.

### GENERAL BENEFITS

- Access to Quality Farm, Home, Auto and Life Insurance
- Family Values, Agriculture and Rural Area Promotion
- Media Response, Information, Promotion and Public Relations Services
- Legislative Representation at National, State and Local Levels
- Policy Development and Education
- Youth and Education Programs
- Cooperative Development
- County and Local Organization Meetings
- AFR/OFU Caps, Coats and Other Memorabilia Sales
- \$5,000 Reward Program for Arson, Theft or Vandalism to AFR Property Insureds

### MEDIA BENEFITS

- Subscription to the Quarterly AFR/OFU News & Views
- Subscription to the News & Views Insider E-Newsletter
- Subscription to the National Farmers Union E-Newsletter
- Free Classified Advertising in Quarterly Publication

### DISCOUNT BENEFITS

- Discount Medical Flight Membership Program
- Discounts on Rental Cars and Hotels
- Discount Prescription Card
- Discounts on LifeLock Identity Theft Protection
- Dental and Vision Plan
- Free Hearing Screening and Discounts on Beltone Hearing Instruments
- Discounts on LifeLine Cardiovascular Screening at Mobile Testing Sites
- Discounts on VPI Pet Insurance for your Cat or Dog
- Discounts on Constant Contact Direct E-mail Marketing
- Discounts on Office and School Supplies
- Discounts on Legal Services

### YOUTH BENEFITS

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

## BENEFIT HIGHLIGHT

AFR/OFU members receive a 30% discount at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Oklahoma City. The membership rate for a room plus breakfast is \$72, instead of the regular rate of \$99. Members must mention they are with American Farmers & Ranchers to receive the benefit. The rate is good for weekday, weekend and the "Park & Fly Package" at this location: Wyndham Garden Hotel, Oklahoma City Airport, 2101 S. Meridian Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73108, 405-685-4000.



AFR/OFU members also benefit from the National Farmers Union 20% discount off the lowest regularly available public rate, a savings even compared to services like Hotels.com and Expedia. The discount extends to all WHG chains, including Ramada, Days Inn, Wingate Inn, Howard Johnson, Travelodge, Super 8, Baymont Inn, Microtel Inns & Suites, Hawthorn Suites and Knights Inn. To access call toll-free, 877-670-7088, or go directly to [www.NFU.org/hotels](http://www.NFU.org/hotels). Be sure to have the AFR/OFU code: 1000009284.



## Youth Program

### Gilberts Honored for Youth Involvement



Randy and Suzanne Gilbert receive the 2014 VIP Award at the 88<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention in Oklahoma City. Staff photo

AFR/OFU agents Randy and Suzanne Gilbert, long-time FFA supporters, received the 2014 VIP Award from the Oklahoma FFA Association. The award was presented April 29 during the 88<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

The VIP Award is the academy award of the FFA, presented annually to only one or two people who have supported FFA members, local chapters and the state association over an extended period of time. The recipients must have already received the Honorary State FFA Degree.

Randy and Suzanne Gilbert of Tecumseh, Okla., own Gilbert &

Sons Trucking Company, Tecumseh Tag Agency and Gilbert's Insurance Agency. They also maintain a Limousin cattle operation.

Randy represents agricultural education and FFA as a long-term member of the State Board of Career and Technology Education. He also serves on the board of directors of the Oklahoma Youth Expo and is the vice chairman-elect of the Oklahoma FFA Foundation Board of Directors.

Suzanne is the first woman to serve as chairman of the Oklahoma FFA Foundation Board of Directors. She also actively volunteers in her local community, Pottawatomie County and across the state.

### Redlands Competition a Success



AFR/OFU is a proud sponsor of the Redlands Community College (RCC) Ag Interscholastic Competition. Occurring every year in April, RCC hosts more than 600 ag students from across the state at the RCC Royse Ranch and the RCC Darling Agriculture Campus. The inter-

scholastic competition consists of livestock judging, land judging, entomology, food science, ag communications and meats.

Pictured: Members of the High Junior Team Kingfisher 4-H with AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick and Secretary Paul Jackson.

### AFR/OFU Supports Ag Youth



#### 88<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention

With more than 24,000 members, the Oklahoma FFA Association is the fifth-largest state FFA association. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. AFR/OFU is proud to be a long-time sponsor of the Association's efforts.

Pictured (above, left to right): AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer, Executive Assistant Danielle Rogers, SW Field Rep Pete McDaniel, Youth Intern Bailey Kliever, Youth Program Participant Taylor Detrick and NE Field Rep Wade Parker.

Commercial Cattle Grading Competition, held at State Fair Park during the first day of the farm show.

This year, 30 scholarships totaling \$6,300 were awarded to the top FFA teams, 4-H teams and individuals.

Pictured: AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick with the high individual to Levi Hill, Oktaha FFA Chapter.



#### Tulsa Stockyards Cattle Grading Competition

The Tulsa Stockyards Cattle Grading Competition is a recent sponsorship for the Youth Program. The event helps agriculture students hone their skills in judging cattle from a commercial perspective.

Pictured: FFA high individual Sam Barron, Oklahoma Union FFA Chapter, with AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick and Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer.



#### Oklahoma City Farm Show Cattle Grading Competition

AFR/OFU has once again sponsored the Oklahoma City Farm Show

## Fall Speech Dates

AFR/OFU has announced the dates and locations of the 70<sup>th</sup> annual AFR/OFU Fall Speech Contest series. This year's contest is anticipated to be another great experience for competitors as they vie for a chance to advance to the state contest.

For more information, contact AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer at 405-218-5561 or bboyer@afrmic.com.

- NOV. 6 - CENTRAL DISTRICT (TECUMSEH)
- NOV. 11 - SE DISTRICT (EOOSC-WILBURTON)
- NOV. 13 - SW DISTRICT (CACHE)
- NOV. 17 - NE DISTRICT (LONE STAR SCHOOL, SAPULPA)
- NOV. 18 - NW DISTRICT (AUTRY TECHNOLOGY CENTER, ENID)
- DEC. 6 - STATE SPEECH CONTEST (OSU STILLWATER CAMPUS)

# Youth Program

## Kliwer Interns with Youth

## State Scholarships Announced



Summer 2014 is anticipated to be full of change and new beginnings. The AFR/OFU Leadership Summit has been moved to a new location and with that transition comes many changes.

This summer, one aspect of the youth program remains the same. AFR/OFU welcomes Oklahoma State University senior Bailey Kliwer to her second year as the Youth Program intern. In her second summer with AFR/OFU, Kliwer brings valuable experience and a practical view point to the team.

Participating in the AFR/OFU Youth & Education program is one of the most influential experiences Kliwer has had to date. She considers this internship a huge honor and is thankful for the opportunity to give back to AFR/OFU.

From participating in speech contest, to livestock judging competitions, to being a camper at Leadership Summit, to receiving scholarships for college, AFR/OFU has greatly impacted Kliwer.

Because American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union has been very influential to her, Kliwer has enjoyed getting to better know the AFR/OFU family.

Kliwer grew up in Thomas, Okla., as part of an agricultural education family. Her two passions are agriculture and youth. She is thankful for the opportunity to combine these passions into one experience.

She is excited to see where the future will lead and plans to stay involved with Oklahoma agriculture and the youth of this state.

Beginning this fall, Kliwer will finish her last two semesters as an agricultural education major.

The staff of AFR/OFU is also excited to see what her future holds. We wish her luck in her future endeavors!



BRANDON TRENT BOLES ASHER



MICAELA DANKER WELLSTON



RYAN DANKER WELLSTON



MEGAN DEVUYST MORRISON



JACOB GROSSNICKLAUS NINNEKA



MORGAN HANNABASS CACHE



BETHANY HARDER BATTIEST



KELLAN HOSTETLER BILLINGS



COURTNEY JACKSON RINGLING



BAILEY KLIWER THOMAS



DARCY KLIWER THOMAS



KALLI KLIWER THOMAS



MICHAEL LARSON TECUMSEH



DENTON LOWE AMBER



DESIREE MASTERSON SPIRO



BARRETT POWELL MENO



TYLER SCHNAITHMAN GARBER



KAYLA SMITH HAWORTH



GATLIN SQUIRES KINGFISHER



JARRED STRATE FAIRMONT



LACIE UNDERWOOD SHAWNEE



LINDSEY UNDERWOOD SHAWNEE



WHITNEY WILKINSON CEMENT



# Youth Program

## Counties & Locals Present Scholarships



BECKHAM COUNTY  
KAILAN J. CRAIG, ELK CITY  
PRESENTED BY MELODY CUMMINGS



BLAINE COUNTY  
LONDON NAULT, KINGFISHER



CADDO COUNTY  
BETHANY WASHBURN, APACHE  
PRESENTED BY ROBERT SWANDA



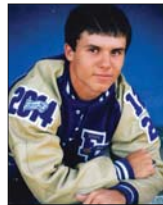
CADDO COUNTY  
SEAN LOWERY, CYRIL



CADDO COUNTY  
MICAELA SHORT, CYRIL



CADDO COUNTY  
CONNER BLAKE WEBB, CYRIL



CADDO COUNTY  
ALEC DYER, FT. COBB



COMANCHE COUNTY  
MEGAN MAGNESS, ELGIN  
PRESENTED BY DAVID KOLKER



CRAIG COUNTY  
MICHELLE SEARS, WELCH  
PRESENTED BY TERRIE SNODDERLY



CUSTER COUNTY  
ALLISON BISHOP, ARAPAHO  
PRESENTED BY KERMIT RAAB



DEWEY COUNTY  
MORGAN ROBERTS, LEEDEY



DEWEY COUNTY  
KACI LIVINGSTON, SELING



GARFIELD COUNTY  
COLTON BRAKHAGE, LAHOMA  
PRESENTED BY TERRY DETRICK



KINGFISHER COUNTY  
GATLIN SQUIRES, KINGFISHER  
PRESENTED BY DARCY JECH



KINGFISHER COUNTY  
DYLAN BLUNDELL, KINGFISHER  
PRESENTED BY DARCY JECH



KIOWA COUNTY  
KATIE HART, HOBART



LOVE COUNTY  
COURTNEY JACKSON, RINGLING  
PRESENTED BY JOHNNY HARPER



LOVE COUNTY  
KELSI DAWN WINCHESTER, MARIETTA  
PRESENTED BY MELODIE SCHAFFER



LOVE COUNTY  
PERRI MCGILL, MARIETTA  
PRESENTED BY DEAN SCHAFFER



OKFUSKEE COUNTY  
COLBY SHANDY, OKEMAH  
PRESENTED BY KERI DENNIS



PAYNE COUNTY  
CONNOR BUNCH, STILLWATER  
PRESENTED BY MARY MORRIS



PITTSBURG COUNTY  
NOAH IRWIN, HARTSHORNE  
PRESENTED BY ALIENE BRISTOW



PITTSBURG COUNTY  
MICHAEL C. O'KELLY, HARTSHORNE  
PRESENTED BY ALIENE BRISTOW



PITTSBURG COUNTY  
JAY GILBERTSON, MCALESTER  
PRESENTED BY DAVE FLEMING



PITTSBURG COUNTY  
SHYANNE AUSTIN, STUART  
PRESENTED BY ALIENE BRISTOW

# Youth Program

## Counties & Locals Present Scholarships



STEPHENS COUNTY  
SUSAN NALLEY, DUNCAN



WAGONER COUNTY  
JERROD ALLEN BAKER, COWETA  
PRESENTED BY JUSTIN RICHARDS



WAGONER COUNTY  
VICTORIA WHEELAND, HASKELL  
PRESENTED BY JUSTIN RICHARDS



WOODWARD COUNTY  
COOPER CALE FREE, SHARON  
PRESENTED BY JANET LIVELY



LOCAL #223  
TESSA LANGFORD, NINNEKAH



LOCAL #223  
LENA AST, POCASSET  
PRESENTED BY CRYSTIE SHEBESTER



LOCAL #223  
HALEY SAVAGE, POCASSET  
PRESENTED BY CRYSTIE SHEBESTER



LOCAL #236  
ELI HOBBS, HASKELL



LOCAL #295  
BETHANY HARDER, BATTIEST  
PRESENTED BY RYAN PLEMMONS



LOCAL #295  
TAYLOR PRATT, BROKEN BOW  
PRESENTED BY RYAN PLEMMONS



LOCAL #515  
COLTON A. GROBER, POTEAU



LOCAL #551  
SAMANTHA DENNIS, MARLOW  
PRESENTED BY KYLE JONES



LOCAL #551  
AUSTIN O'NEIL WHITESIDE, RUSH SPRINGS  
PRESENTED BY KYLE JONES

## Grilled Pork Chops with Watermelon-Pineapple Salsa

*The tropical salsa and the spice rub make for a zesty summer meal with Caribbean flair.*

### Directions

#### STEP 1

Cut watermelon and pineapple into 1/2-inch pieces. Put in medium-size container and add red peppers, thyme, salt and pepper. Mix well. Cover bowl with Saran™ Wrap and refrigerate for at least an hour.

#### STEP 2

Mix the cumin, thyme, salt and pepper reserved for the pork chops together in a small bowl. Rub mixture onto both sides of each chop. Seal tightly in a 1-gallon Ziploc® storage bag and let marinate in refrigerator for at least 2 hours, preferably overnight.

#### STEP 3

An hour before cooking, remove pork chops from refrigerator to bring them to room temperature. Brush grill with vegetable oil and heat to medium-high.

#### STEP 4

Grill pork chops until they are done medium-well, about 6 to 8 minutes per side, turning once.

#### STEP 5

Remove chops from grill and let rest 5 to 10 minutes on cutting board or platter before serving. Spoon salsa on top and serve.

### Chef's Notes

Salsa can be made 2 days ahead and stored in an air-tight container.

Save time on the salsa by buying precut pineapple and watermelon chunks.

### Ingredients

#### Salsa

2 cups watermelon, seeded  
2 cups pineapple, peeled and cored  
1/3 cup roasted red peppers, in 1/4-in pieces  
1 tsp fresh thyme leaves (or 1 1/2 tsp dried)  
1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper  
1/4 tsp salt

#### Pork chops

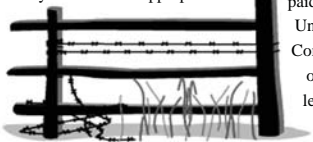
2 tbsp ground cumin  
2 tsp dried thyme leaves  
1/4 tsp salt and freshly ground black pepper  
4 bone-in, center-cut pork chops, 1 1/2-in thick, rinsed and patted dry  
Vegetable or canola oil for brushing grill





# Classifieds

AFR/OFU News & Views  
Trading Post Ads  
P. O. Box 24000  
Oklahoma City, Okla., 73124  
Fax: 405-218-5589  
E-mail: tradingpostads@afmic.com  
AFR/OFU reserves the right to not print any ad deemed inappropriate.



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ADS ARE DUE TO  
THE HOME OFFICE  
BY SEPTEMBER 1  
FOR PUBLICATION IN THE  
FALL ISSUE.

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



### AUTOS, TRUCKS & CYCLES

For Sale—1974 Mercedes 450SL Roadster, extremely well maintained with both tops. Extensive documentation, original sales receipt and some spare parts. \$8000, near Boswell. 903/715-5424.

### BOATS, RVs, CAMPERS & TRAILERS

For Sale—Very sharp 2004 Exiss three-horse slant w/8' living quarters. Excellent rubber, heat and A/C. Model SS308, pictures available. \$25,000. Call Matt, 580/541-8990.

### LIVESTOCK

For Sale—Reg. Polled Hereford bulls, heifers and a few cow/calf pairs. Remittal Online 122L and PW Victor Boomer P606 genetics. Kenneth E. Bolin, 580/332-2468.

For Sale—Reg. Beefmasters. Bulls, cows, heifers (bred and opens), show heifers. Red,

black and dunn. Polled and horned. Www.doubledeucebeefmasters.com, 918/253-8680 or 918/557-6923.

### HAY, FEED & SEED

For Sale—Bahia grass seed, harvested from fertilized hay meadows last summer. \$1.65/lb for combined run or \$1.80/lb for cleaned seed. All see in 50# bags. Over 20,000 lbs available. Gary, 580/509-9157.

For Sale—2013 hay, 4'x5' 9" mixed hay. Bermuda, native grass and fescue. \$25 per bale, will go down if large order. Call Lawrence Hallford, 918/864-0068.

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

For Sale—Robinaire Vac Pump, Freon recovery unit, \$350. 200 v A/C, \$125. 110 Air Conditioner, \$75. Fridge, \$100. Whirlpool W/D, \$220. Call 405/275-3419.

### ANTIQUE FARM & RANCH

### EQUIPMENT

For Sale—Antique gas & kerosene engines. Maytag model 72 & 92, Fairbank Morris "Z" Style C, 3 h.p., McCormick Deering Model LB, 3-5 h.p. Watson, Okla. 580/244-3836.

### MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale—3'x5' Polyester outdoor U.S. flag, \$8. Oklahoma flag, \$12. Postage paid. Contact Raymond Cobb, 580/925-2443.

For Sale—Homeschool curriculum, various grades. Copy-fax-scanner. Seat w/back massagers. Therapeutic corn bags, \$8.50. Leather items, handmade. Spray paint art. Also, need box tops for schools. Call 405/258-1297, leave message.

For Sale—"Jazzy Pride" power wheelchair w/charger. Blue, weight capacity 300 lbs. Used 3 months, still in new condition. Paid \$3,500, did have it priced at \$2,000, will cut additional \$500 off. Will be happy to send photos and additional information.

Call 918/966-3800 or email dirtpooroke@yahoo.com.

For Sale—30'x40' white vinyl tent with poles, ropes, stakes and side walls and 50 chairs. Very good condition. 918/697-0803.

For Sale—Wurlitzer Jukebox Americana 11, 100 45" records, works. Very good condition. Have keys, needles. Only needs 2 new belts and adjustment. Lights up. Owned 30 years. \$375. Call 918/652-7572.

### WANTED

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

Wanted—1 lb, tall old-time coffee cans. Helen Klopfenstein, 405/392-4701.

## In Memoriam

### Randel Thrasher, AFR/OFU Chaplain

Rev. Randel Thrasher passed away May 20, 2014. Services were May 24, 2014, at the Buffalo High School Auditorium and he was laid to rest at Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Buffalo, Okla. He leaves behind a great legacy.

Thrasher was born Feb. 17, 1953. He married Sally Parker Dec. 30, 1972, in Stigler, Okla.

Thrasher was a graduate of Buffalo High School and Oklahoma State University. He taught and coached in Kansas before entering the corporate field.

Thrasher was involved in many entrepreneurial ventures. He had a computer business and, as his parents aged, he took on their insurance business and cattle. He felt he was a country boy at heart.

A relationship with Jesus was always been a part of his life. At the age of eight, he felt a call from God to minister to others. After graduating from Rhema Bible Training College, he felt impressed to return to his country roots and begin Sure Foundation Fellowship which he pastored until his death.

A long time AFR/OFU agent, a highlight of Thrasher's last year was serving as AFR/OFU Chaplain. Thrasher said that nothing compares to seeing and walking in the grace of



God. His life was a representation to friends and family that exemplified the calling of God on his life and daily walking in the Word.

Thrasher was a member of the local ministerial alliances, Harper County Economic Development board, Rhema Alumni Association and many other organizations.

Thrasher is preceded in death by his parents, Doris and G. Murl Thrasher of Rosston, Okla. He is survived by his wife, Sally Thrasher of the home; son Gabriel Thrasher, wife Sarah and their three sons, Korban, Kohen and Amos of Minneapolis, Minn.; daughter Abigail Thrasher of Oklahoma City; and sister Melinda Daugherty of Moore, Okla.

Charitable donations may be made in Rev. Randel's memory to Ministerial Alliances, P.O. Box 302 Buffalo, OK 73834.

### Dale Dunagan



at the Eisenhour Funeral Home Chapel in Blanchard. He was laid to rest at Newcastle Memorial Gardens.

The son of Joseph Fred Dunagan, Sr., and Frances Louzella (Autry) Dunagan, he was born May 14, 1958, in Oklahoma City.

Dunagan worked for Oklahoma Farmers Union as an insurance adjuster for many years. He married Tonya Carlene Chapman May 22, 1981 in Dibble, Okla.

In his spare time, Dunagan enjoyed hunting and buying and selling guns and antiques. He was a member of New Bethel Baptist Church in Ada, where he pastored for 3 years. Since 16, he has been involved in music and youth ministry, pastoring churches and preaching the gospel.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Brain Tumor Association at www.abta.org.

### Ken Rowlett



at the Rowlett Family Cemetery in rural Sand Springs.

Rowlett was born July 28, 1941 in Muskogee, Okla. He was marriage to Connie Jean Noe in 1980.

Rowlett had been an AFR/OFU member since at least 1977 and was currently president of a Tulsa County local. The Rowlett family was always involved in leadership and youth activities and attended state and national conventions for many years.

Rowlett attended the Landmark Tabernacle and enjoyed gardening, traveling, reading, his family, and watching westerns on TV. He had served as a teenage Sunday school class and choir director. Rowlett previously worked for American Airlines as a senior systems analyst. He was a Certified Natural Health Professional and coordinated churches in the Tulsa area. He owned and operated Dodrill's Museum of Rocks, Minerals & Fossils in Cushing, Okla.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

# “New” Horizons



**TERRY  
DETRICK**

As I prepare my column for this summer issue of the AFR News & Views, we are looking forward to a NEW format for our publication. It is our desire to make your paper more appealing and readable. As always, we welcome your comments. Please direct them to Ms. Laici Wedel, AFR/OFU Communications Director, at 405-218-5557 or lwedel@afrmic.com.

We have more exciting NEW matters on our schedule. A few days ago, a job description was posted for a NEW employment opportunity for a NEW program that can and must make a difference and a contribution to the future of our organization. Thanks to our AFR/OFU Board of Directors for their approval and for their futuristic attitude regarding the future of our great organization.

This NEW program will target the younger generations that will lead our organization into the future. Our youth program does a terrific job preparing our young people through their high school years. We launch them as future leaders, but I believe we take too much for granted—We have not capitalized on those leadership skills we fostered by not providing advanced opportunities to keep our youth program participants involved and growing. We should encourage them to use their sharp minds and creative abilities to stay involved in our great organization. Therefore, we are starting a bold NEW program called the FUTURE LEADERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (FLDP). We will be targeting young men and women ages 21-50.

To help get this program off the ground, we are looking for a coordinator to take charge of the FLDP and build it into one of our most important endeavors in our history. All applicants will be thoroughly evaluated—We need an exceptional individual to accomplish this venture successfully! To everyone reading this paper, we request that you please

spread the word to anyone that may be a good fit. Please encourage them to submit their resume online by visiting our website, iAFR.com (click on “Careers” at the bottom of the home page to find the job description). They may also contact me directly at 405-218-5800 ext. 5555 or Joann Whittington ext. 5623. This is a tremendous opportunity for a young person to establish themselves as a true leader through an influential position in the agriculture industry.

Shifting gears, I am also very excited to bring Mr. Mike Robison, Ringwood, on staff this summer after his retirement from CareerTech July 10. Mr. Robison has been CareerTech’s Northwest District Supervisor for many years. He will be the NEW northwest district field representative, replacing Mr. Kermit Rabb, Arapaho. Mr. Rabb, did a great job, but relinquished his position after acquiring business interests that required more of his time.

Mr. Robison has supervised agricultural education instructors, chapter activities, speech contests, county and district livestock contests, and has provided assistance to county extension educators with 4-H activities. I believe his career experiences will also be valuable for the NEW AFR/OFU FLDP Coordinator.

In regard to the youth program, please remember: There is a NEW location for our AFR/OFU Teen and Senior Leadership Summits this year—one that is more centrally located for easier access to the Eastern half of Oklahoma. This year’s camp will be held at Big Cedar Campgrounds, 16 miles east of Purcell on

Hwy 39, about 45 minutes southeast of OKC. The new location will accommodate more summit attendees than previous campgrounds, allowing for exciting growth with our NEW AFR/OFU Youth Director, Ms. Blaire Boyer. Ms. Boyer is a previous state FFA officer and activity organizer and the 2014 Leadership Summits will prove to be an exemplary opportunity for your children, grandchildren and other young people who could profit by learning the rewards of taking charge of their lives through an honorable, productive and incredible experience. These could be students that you recognize as having leadership potential—whether they need to be pulled out of their shells, directed toward new goals or simply already love to lead.

Camp registration is closed for the 2014 Summits, but I challenge local and county officers, AFR agents, grandparents and parents to identify future leaders within your circle of acquaintances and encourage them to attend. This would also be a great investment of local or county funds as you evaluate ways to “give back” to your communities. For more information, contact Blaire at 405-218-5561 or bboyer@afrmic.com.

AFR/OFU has finally settled into our NEW location at 4400 Will Rogers Parkway, OKC. I congratulate our board of directors and management team for successfully marketing our previous location at top price and acquiring a more serviceable location at half the previous building investment. This property provides room to grow should we need it in the future. In the meantime, the “growth”

space is adding substantial rental income to our bottom line.

Finally, as I close, I’d like to respectfully address the most important ‘NEW’ that will ever occur in our lives. On May 20, Mr. Randal Thrasher, agent and AFR/OFU Chaplain, and on May 22, Mr. Dale Dunagan, a former AFR/OFU claims adjuster, went to their NEW eternal homes. Mr. Dunagan was a giant of a man with a positive, magnetic personality, reflecting the confidence he had in his faith. Dale left our employment to become a full-time gospel musician and church pastor.

Mr. Thrasher was a lifetime member, a second generation agent and a constant contributor to the betterment of AFR/OFU, an organization he and his entire family heritage influenced as they served our membership. Randal continued his family heritage as a strong supporter of our youth programs and a hard worker in the Agents Association with ideas on how to better serve our customers. The 2014 AFR/OFU Convention provided a welcomed opportunity for Randal to share his faith and serve our membership as our AFR/OFU Chaplain, something his mother once said she hoped would happen one day. When we asked Randal if he would accept this responsibility, he eagerly and unselfishly accepted the opportunity to serve and share his faith. His church, agency, family and AFR/OFU suffered a great loss with his sudden, unexpected passing.

Both of these men were prematurely taken. I’m sure the message they would most want me to convey to you with this writing would be this: “Prepare today for your NEW forever, it can come at any time.”

Have a safe summer. You are important to AFR/OFU and to those who love you! **God Bless.**

-Terry

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### July 2014

- Oklahoma State 4-H Roundup, Stillwater July 23-25
- Okla. Cattlemen’s Association Convention, Midwest City July 24-26
- Leadership Summit Teen Session, Wanette July 27-29
- Leadership Summit Senior Session, Wanette July 30-Aug. 2

### August 2014

- CareerTech Summer Conference, Tulsa Aug. 4-5
- Women in Ag & Small Business Conference, OKC Aug. 7-8
- Southern Plains Beef Symposium, Ardmore Aug. 9
- Northwest Oklahoma Beef Conference, Enid Aug. 14

### September 2014

- Labor Day - AFR/OFU Home Office Closed Sept. 1
- Septemberfest, OKC Sept. 6
- NFU Fly-In, Washington, D.C. Sept. 7-10
- Oklahoma State Fair, OKC Sept. 11-21
- Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa Sept. 25-Oct. 5
- Tulsa State Fair Cattle Grading Contest Sept. 30

### October 2014

- Tulsa State Fair Livestock Premium Sale, Tulsa Oct. 2

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