



News & Views

"The Voice of Family Agriculture"

Vol. XCIV No. 3
Summer 2013

*AFR/OFU...
Making a Difference!*

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Yukon agent Travis Wiedemann cleans up a wheat field during the AFR/OFU "Field of Teams" event.



By Terry Detrick, President

WORKING TOGETHER AND GIVING BACK

In addition to helping storm victims in the Oklahoma City and Moore area, AFR/OFU also hosted an El Reno clean-up day in conjunction with the “Field of Teams” relief effort. A cooperative effort between AFR/OFU and the El Reno FFA Chapter, AFR/OFU staff, agents, field reps and members and about 15 FFA chapters walked farmers’ wheat fields and picked up debris so combines could harvest the fields. The people of AFR/OFU participated in the clean-up activities and provided a cook-out that fed approximately 250 people. I want to extend a big THANK YOU to all our employees for their extra efforts, both volunteering outside the office and carrying the extra workload inside the office. I applaud your willing hands and giving spirit! You truly are GIVING BACK!

While we continue to focus on our fellow Oklahomans and the cooperative spirit of rebuilding, we are also looking to the recent uncooperative events on Capitol Hill. It has been a stormy season in D.C. as well!

The outcome of the D.C. storm has not been nearly as cooperative or positive. It has been said that democracy is the “art of compromise.” Currently, the brand of “democracy” practiced in Congress is neither art nor compromise. Many of today’s legislators think they are elected to make politics instead of policy! Of course, I am referring to the recent failure of the House of Representatives to pass a farm bill—the first time in the history of farm bills.

My hat’s off to Chairman of the House Ag Committee, Frank Lucas, for his leadership and to his fellow Oklahoma Reps. Lankford, Cole and Mullin for supporting him.

Lucas had worked diligently alongside House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin Peterson for four years to develop their version of the farm bill. Together, they worked with each political

party to gain compromises when opinions differed. They crafted a bipartisan bill that would have resulted in a \$40 billion deficit reduction and the first reforms to SNAP, the federal nutrition and welfare programs, since 1996. The bill would have accomplished this while preserving a farm safety net for times of disaster.

If approved, this version of the farm bill would have been sent to a conference committee of House and Senate members charged with merging their two versions into one bill. They would have worked out compromises and final writings for a conference bill that would have then gone back to the House and Senate for a final vote. In short, the failed House version of the bill was not even the version that would have become law. The final bill would have been written by the conference committee.

Unfortunately, Lucas needed more than a bipartisan vote to pass his committee’s bill—he needed a tri-partisan vote. With the current political climate of the House, Lucas had to get Democrats, old-school Republicans and Tea Party Republicans thinking in the same direction. It has rarely happened during this Congress!

As the House version of the bill progressed, Lucas and Peterson continued to work together to bring agreements and compromises to the table. They worked hard to get promises of support from both sides of the aisle as an assurance that the bill would pass. As part of this effort, Lucas emphatically set the tone with his party—there could be NO MORE requests for additional requirements to the SNAP program. If there were, the bill risked losing the 40 Democrat votes Peterson had promised.

When the day came, they had secured the votes needed to pass the bill. With full knowledge of the uphill partisan battle and the damage such a request could cause, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor pushed for additional restrictions to SNAP just before the final vote. What Lucas predicted would happen, did—the call for additional SNAP cuts caused the entire bill to be defeated! It went down in a big way—16 promised Democrat votes were lost and 61

Republicans did not even support their own chairman’s bill.

I believe the best legislation—written in D.C. or in our own state—happens when neither side gets everything they want. Currently, far too many politicians have an attitude that I refer to as “Sandbox Mentality.” When two little boys are playing in a sandbox and one doesn’t get everything his way, he just takes his toys and goes home. I guess going home might not be such a bad idea for some!

When you get this newspaper, you will have already celebrated the 4th of July, our Independence Day. I hope that on that day you remembered the sacrifices that brought about our independence as a then functioning democracy. I hope you raised your face toward the heavens, thanked God for this country and those who sacrificed for it, and prayed that we as a nation might once more work together cooperatively—GIVING BACK to achieve a common good. If you didn’t, please do so now!

May God bless and preserve our independent USA!

-Terry

In recent months, our insurance company and farm cooperative have directed considerable effort toward reviewing our mission, vision and values—an important exercise to redefine who we are, why we are here, who we want to become and by what principles of life will we abide.

Driven by the values of our membership, GIVING BACK is a quality we have all agreed should be a priority. We have demonstrated that well during the spring and summer months. As president of this great organization, I am proud of the efforts of our dedicated employees. With caring hearts, they have given time, money and energy to help those impacted by the May storms, from fellow AFR employees to those they’ve never met. I want to thank CEO Brian Baxter and our department managers who allowed and encouraged employees to help those in need.

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.

Vol. XCIV, No. 3 SUMMER 2013
www.americanfarmersandranchers.com

News & Views
is published by
American Farmers & Ranchers
800 N. Harvey
Oklahoma City, Okla., 73102
(405) 218-5400 - (800) 324-7771
Fax: (405) 218-5581 - Email: news@afmic.com

First Published in 1920

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

LEADERS REACT TO FARM BILL FAILURE

On June 20, the U.S. House of Representatives unexpectedly rejected its version of the 2013 Farm Bill with a 195-234 vote. The defeat of H.R. 1947, or the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management (FARRM) Act, marks the first time in more than 80 years that a farm bill has failed on the House floor. The defeat stunned the agriculture community and has raised serious questions about how long-term farm policy could be enacted before the current one-year extension of the 2008 Farm Bill expires September 30.

AFR/OFU will continue to press for a full five-year farm bill and will keep you informed as the process develops. Following are a selection of reactions from agriculture's industry leaders.

"On this day, on this vote, the House worked its will. I'm obviously disappointed, but the reforms in H.R. 1947—\$40 billion in deficit reduction, elimination of direct payments and the first reforms to SNAP since 1996—are so important that we must continue to pursue them. We are assessing all of our options, but I have no doubt that we will finish our work in the near future and provide the certainty that our farmers, ranchers and rural constituents need."

-Frank Lucas, Congressman for Oklahoma's 3rd District

"This flies in the face of nearly four years of bipartisan work done by the Agriculture Committee. I'll continue to do everything I can to get a farm bill passed, but I have a hard time seeing where we go from here."

-Collin Peterson, Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee

"House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas and Ranking Member Collin Peterson led the House Ag Committee with a show of bipartisanship, working together in a fashion unknown in Washington, D.C., today. Unfortunately, their efforts failed. The House of Representatives turned their backs on rural America today. National farm policy, which has historically provided the cheapest, safest, most plentiful and most available food supply in the world was disregarded over partisan politics. We are proud of the Oklahoma delegation members that supported their chairman on this bill. We are disappointed Congressman Bridenstine chose to vote NO. American Farmers & Ranchers refuses to become a politically-partisan organization. Whether state or federal, any legislator on the side of our membership is considered a friend. I ask that our members remember our friends."

-Terry Detrick, President of AFR/OFU

"With today's failure to pass a farm bill, the House has let down rural America. We are deeply disappointed that the House voted against the best interests of family farmers and rural America."

-Roger Johnson, President of National Farmers Union

"The failure by the House leadership, for the second year in a row, to reach consensus on a Food, Farm and Jobs Bill is a tremendous disappointment for all Americans. Twice now, the U.S. Senate has done its job and passed balanced, comprehensive legislation with overwhelming bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the House version of this bill would have unfairly denied food assistance for millions of struggling families and their children, while failing to achieve needed reforms or critical investments to continue economic growth in rural America. As a result, the House was unable to achieve bipartisan consensus."

-Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

"OACD is very disappointed with the vote in the house to disapprove the farm bill. The farm bill would have reduced overall spending while continuing its purpose of helping landowners meet the needs of feeding our nation and world. While we are pleased with the support of all but one of Oklahoma's congressmen and while we can't say enough good things about the leadership shown by Chairman Lucas on this issue, we can't help but be terribly disappointed by the defeat of this bill in the full house. We can only hope cooler heads prevail and that this measure is given reconsideration and advanced on to conference committee."

-Clay Pope, Exec. Director of the Okla. Association of Conservation Districts

"The Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association is very disappointed in the outcome of the floor vote. We urge Congress to get their job done so Oklahoma wheat farmers can know the rules before they plant their next crop. We are proud of Chairman Lucas and his staff's leadership and tireless work on our behalf."

-Paul Fruendt, President of the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association

"The farm bill process has not gone according to any explainable route for over a year now and it doesn't appear to be getting on an explainable track any time soon."

-Steve Thompson, AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Coordinator

FARM BILL UPDATES



With the House's failure to pass their version of the 2013 Farm Bill, the legislation still has a long journey from the House Agriculture Committee to a vote of the full House and hopefully on to a joint conference committee. AFR/OFU remains hopeful that Oklahoma Congressman and Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee Frank Lucas can lead the charge for a successful 2013 Farm Bill before the September 30 deadline.

AFR/OFU pledges to keep its membership informed on the latest updates to the farm bill's journey. The status of the farm bill changes frequently. To stay current on the latest updates on this legislation, check AFR/OFU's website (www.iafr.com/includes/news.php) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AmericanFarmersandRanchers).

AFR/OFU LOBBIES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

During a recent trip to Baltimore, several AFR/OFU board members spent time lobbying members of the Oklahoma congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. In addition to discussing the importance of a 2013 farm bill and other rural and agricultural issues, the group also discussed items of interest specific to each congressman.



With Rep. Frank Lucas, the AFR/OFU group discussed the volatile issue of water storage rights. Using the devastating effects of the recent water draw from northwest Oklahoma's Canton Lake in Lucas' district as an example, the lobbying group urged Lucas to consider legislation that requires significant conservation measures be taken in advance of a water draw from any Corps of Engineers lake across the U.S. With the potential for significant negative environmental, economic and societal impact, the water storage issue should be of concern to water storage lakes in semi-arid regions across the country.

With Sen. Jim Inhofe, the AFR/OFU group discussed the EPA's Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule and highlighted the impact it could have on farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma. Under the current rule, producers with fuel storage tanks will be required to hire a certified professional engineer to design a SPCC plan.



Inhofe has been working to provide farmers with relief from the SPCC rule for years. He has already championed an amendment to extend the exemption timeline for agriculture and is currently pursuing legislation to make the exemption permanent.

The AFR/OFU group also met with Oklahoma's new 2nd district congressman, Rep. Markwayne Mullin, who was elected in November 2012. Mullin is a small business owner and cattleman and has been selected to serve on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Natural Resources Committee. The AFR/OFU group was impressed with



Mullin's knowledge of the agriculture community and his support of Rep. Frank Lucas in the fight for a 2013 farm bill. He will be a strong ally in AFR/OFU's promotion of its membership's needs and values.

AFR/OFU AND NFU JOIN FARM BILL COALITION

On July 2, American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company, Oklahoma Farmers Union, National Farmers Union (NFU) and a broad coalition of 532 agriculture, conservation, rural development, finance, forestry, energy and crop insurance companies and organizations sent a letter to the Speaker of the House John Boehner urging for the passage of a comprehensive, five-year farm bill before the current law expires on Sept. 30.



"This important legislation supports our nation's farmers, ranchers, forest owners, food security, natural resources and wildlife habitats, rural communities, and the 16 million Americans whose jobs directly depend on the agriculture industry," the letter stated.

The letter also noted the importance of maintaining a unified bill to include both farm and nutrition programs.

"Farm bills represent a delicate balance between America's farm, nutrition, conservation, and other priorities, and accordingly require strong bipartisan support," the coalition wrote. "It is vital for the House to try once again to bring together a broad coalition of lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to provide certainty for farmers, rural America, the environment and our economy in general and pass a five-year farm bill upon returning in July."

Below is the text of the letter sent to Boehner on July 2.

July 2, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

America's agriculture, conservation, rural development, finance, forestry, energy and crop insurance companies and organizations strongly urge you to bring the Farm Bill (H.R. 1947, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013) back to the Floor as soon as possible. This important legislation supports our nation's farmers, ranchers, forest owners, food security, natural resources and wildlife habitats, rural communities, and the 16 million Americans whose jobs directly depend on the agriculture industry.

Farm bills represent a delicate balance between America's farm, nutrition, conservation, and other priorities, and accordingly require strong bipartisan support. It is vital for the House to try once again to bring together a broad coalition of lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to provide certainty for farmers, rural America, the environment and our economy in general and pass a five-year farm bill upon returning in July. We believe that splitting the nutrition title from the rest of the bill could result in neither farm nor nutrition programs passing, and urge you to move a unified farm bill forward.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to our continued dialogue as the process moves forward and stand ready to work with you to complete passage of the new five-year Farm Bill before the current law expires again on September 30, 2013.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL NEWS UPDATE: LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN



Fish & Wildlife Service Ruling Delayed

A final ruling on the proposed “threatened” listing of the lesser prairie chicken (LPC) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been delayed for six months. Originally scheduled for September 2013, the ruling is now planned for March 2014. Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe was among a group of senators who requested the extension. This additional time will allow Oklahoma landowners to apply for the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) program. The CCAA program offers a voluntary agreement in which landowners perform certain habitat work to benefit LPCs in exchange for assurances that no further restrictions will be placed on their land should the bird be listed as “threatened” or “endangered.”

OACD Wildlife Credit Program

The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) is offering a Wildlife Credit Program that provides cost-share dollars (\$8/acre) for five years to producers who implement a CCAA. To qualify, producers must first complete a CCAA from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC). Applicants will then be ranked, placing emphasis on the “core areas” identified by ODWC. Money is currently available to fund 10,000 acres for five years and additional funds will be distributed to producers upon expansion of the program.

NRCS Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative (LPCI) provides financial and technical assistance to landowners and operators for reducing threats to the species and enhancing and maintaining existing habitats in high priority areas. LPCI objectives will be funded by NRCS through the Conservation Technical Assistance Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). The primary focus for the LPCI is wildlife habitat management. Participants can receive technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices including brush management, prescribed grazing, range planting, prescribed burning and restoration of rare and declining habitats.

SUPREME COURT REJECTS TEXAS CLAIM FOR OKLAHOMA WATER

On June 13, the U.S. Supreme Court denied a Texas water district’s attempt to obtain Oklahoma water, dealing a major set-back to the fast-growing region in north Texas. The Tarrant Regional Water District, which supplies water to residents of Fort Worth, had sought water from a part of the Red River watershed that lies inside of Oklahoma. The Texas agency claimed it had a right to the water under the Red River Compact, a congressionally-sanctioned agreement that allocates water rights among states where the river flows.

But, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board denied Texas’ bid to cross the state border to take its allotment, citing Oklahoma law that prohibits the supply of water to out-of-state applicants. The court voted unanimously that the Red River Compact does not allow Texas to trump Oklahoma’s sovereign right to control its own water supplies.

Okl. Attorney General Scott Pruitt called the ruling a major victory. “Texas does not have the right to come into Oklahoma and take our water,” he said. “This unanimous decision will affect all western states governed by multi-state water compacts and will protect Oklahoma’s ability to control this vital resource for generations to come.”

NAP COVERAGE AVAILABLE FOR 2014 CROPS

Francie Tolle, executive director of the Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA), announced June 21 that an exception has been made to allow Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2014 crops annually planted for livestock feed or fodder. Crops included are wheat planted for hay and/or grazing, forage sorghums planted for hay, silage or pasture and various other annually planted forage crops.

On May 1, the Risk Management Agency (RMA) released a new pilot federal crop insurance plan that utilizes a rainfall index to provide coverage for annual forage crops. The Rainfall Index - Annual Forage Insurance Plan is being tested in six states and covers crops planted annually for livestock feed or fodder. It is available in all counties in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. Catastrophic Risk Protection (CAT) and buy-up levels are available under the plan.

In accordance with the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, the release of the new Rainfall Index - Annual Forage Insurance Plan makes producers of the annually-planted crops for livestock feed or fodder no longer eligible for NAP coverage.

Given the limited time available for producers in the six pilot states to transition from NAP to the new RMA pilot Rainfall Index-Annual Forage Insurance Plan, an exception has been made to allow NAP coverage to be offered for annually-planted crops used for livestock feed or fodder for 2014 only.

In 2015, NAP coverage will not be available for annually-planted forage crops used for livestock feed or fodder grown in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota or North Dakota. This includes, but is not limited to, small grains, forage sorghums and mixed forages intended for forage, green chop, grazing, green manure, hay and silage.

Producers who are interested in purchasing NAP coverage for 2014 need to submit an application for coverage by the August 31, 2013, deadline. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

**Article courtesy of the Oklahoma Farm Service Agency. For more information about NAP or other FSA programs, contact your local FSA Service Center or visit FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov/ok.*

AG ISSUES SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN OKC



The second annual Southwest Agricultural Issues Summit will take place at the Skirvin Hilton in Oklahoma City Sept. 8-10, 2013.

The summit will bring agricultural leaders from across the greater Southwest region together for a three-day event to discuss key issues facing agriculture and to network with fellow agricultural influencers in the industry.

This year’s event boasts many notable speakers, as well as ample networking opportunities including a golf tournament, wine tasting and poker tournament.

Visit www.AgIssuesSummit.com for more information about the event.

2013 POST-SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Contributed by Tommy Thomas, AFR/OFU Lobbyist

The first session of the 54th Oklahoma Legislature adjourned on May 24. According to the Oklahoma Constitution, legislators could have remained in session for an additional week through the last Friday in May. While they were able to wrap up business and finish early, they did have to rush through a lot of legislation during the last few days.

On May 30, Gov. Mary Fallin processed the bulk of the legislature-approved legislation, signing 68 measures and vetoing two. The two vetoed measures were a bill concerning classification status of state employees and a bill disapproving permanent rules for training providers for asbestos removal by the Department of Labor.

Major Legislation this Session

Tax Cut and Capitol Building Repairs

HB 2032 provides for a two-stage reduction of Oklahoma's individual income tax and dedicates money to Capitol repairs. The legislation reduces the top income tax rate from 5.25 percent to 5 percent effective Jan. 1, 2015, and cuts the rate further to 4.85 percent in 2016, providing certain revenue growth projections are met. The bill also creates the Oklahoma State Capitol Building Repair and Restoration Fund and apportions \$60 million to the fund in fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

Supporters say the income tax cut is an important tool for job creation and economic development; opponents say the amount of money the average taxpayer will save is trivial and that the legislation was a political move. Some legislators question the legitimacy of combining these issues in one bill, suggesting it was a way to get votes for the tax cut.

Gov. Fallin signed the legislation into law May 13.

Workers' Compensation Reform

SB 1062, authored by Sen. Brian Bingman (R-Sapulpa) and Rep. T.W. Shannon (R-Lawton), creates the Administrative Workers' Compensation Act. The bill repeals the existing Workers Compensation statute (Title 85) and creates a new Title 85A, establishing an administrative workers' compensation system, rather than the current judicial system.

Supporters of the measure claim costs to businesses will be reduced and injured workers will be treated more fairly, opponents of the bill argue that the savings would result from benefit cuts, not from lowered insurance or medical costs.

The final version of the bill passed the House 74 to 24 and the Senate 35 to 12. Gov. Fallin signed the legislation into law May 6.

Horse Slaughter

HB 1999 legalizes equine processing in Oklahoma. As a condition of legalization, the bill requires it to be unlawful to sell any quantity of horsemeat for human consumption in the state and requires the State Commissioner of Health to have free access to inspect and examine any horsemeat facilities and their activities.

U.S. horse slaughter facilities closed in 2007 when Congress cut funding for USDA inspectors for the facilities. Congress reinstated funding for the inspectors in 2012 and USDA records show companies have now applied to open slaughterhouses in New Mexico, Missouri, Iowa and Tennessee.

The bill's authors, Rep. McNeil (R - Bristow) and Sen. Fields (R - Wynona), and other supporters of the bill stressed that Oklahoma horses are currently slaughtered for human consumption after being sold in the state and transported to Mexico or Canada. There is currently no processing facility in the state.

Gov. Fallin signed the legislation into law on April 1.



American Indian Cultural Center

On May 20, the Oklahoma House Joint Committee on Appropriations and Budget voted 13-10 to use tax revenue from Internet and out-of-state purchases to provide \$40 million toward the completion of the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City. Information about the proposal was made public only a few days prior to the meeting.

Many legislators were surprised by the bill after several years of arguing over whether or not the state could devote more money to the project. The center was first envisioned 19 years ago and has benefited from three previous state bond issues totaling \$63 million, as well as \$14.5 million in federal funding and \$4.9 million in funding and 250 acres of land from Oklahoma City.

Blake Wade, executive director of the project, assured the committee this was the last financing he would request from the state. He testified that private businesses had offered to match state funds of \$40 million and that liquidation of the project would cost the state \$38 million.

The bill was never heard on the floor and is now dormant.

**Measures which do not have an effective date or an emergency clause will go into effect August 22.*

Interim Activities

During the current 2013 interim, AFR/OFU legislative staff will attend numerous meetings, legislative events and fundraisers, both at the Capitol and in several legislative districts. We will maintain close contact with our friends in the legislature, as well as continue to build relationships with newer members. During session, we have many opportunities to entertain legislators in order to get to know them better. While these opportunities are less frequent during the interim, we will look for chances to host lunches or dinners whenever possible.

As always, we will attend interim studies, many of which will be of interest to the AFR/OFU membership. As this is not an election year, we do expect to see more interim studies scheduled than last year.

As always, if you need more information or want to visit about any bills or issues, please feel free to contact us!



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

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

AFR/OFU LOBBIES FOR OKLAHOMA'S RURAL CITIZENS



American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union hosted its State Capitol Legislative Action Day April 29. Through the event, AFR/OFU strives to connect organization members with their respective legislators.

The event also unites AFR/OFU members from across Oklahoma as they lobby for rural values, family and agricultural legislation. This year's issues included rural and urban water conservation measures, water transfer and storage rights, drought relief funding and livestock canine protection.

"Rural issues are the heart of what we're about as a company," said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. "Without our state's agricultural producers and rural citizens, Oklahoma would be unable to thrive economically and socially."

In addition to lobbying with individual legislators, the AFR/OFU group also met with Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese and Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak.

"As a cooperative, we put our membership first," said Detrick. "State legislation on rural and insurance issues directly affects our membership, and we strive to be involved and informed throughout the legislative process."

AFR/OFU SPONSORS WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE



On May 13, members of the AFR/OFU cooperative staff, the AFR Insurance claims department and AFR Insurance agents Becky Graham of Marlow and Keri Dennis of Okemah attended the Governor's Conference on Wildfire Preparedness at the Oklahoma History Center. AFR/OFU was a main sponsor of the event that brought together firefighters and service personnel from across the state and featured industry professionals from across the country.

As the conference's primary supporter, Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin spoke to conference attendees. Additional speakers included Oklahoma Secretary of Jim Reese, Oklahoma Commissioner of Insurance John Doak, and representatives of the Oklahoma Forestry Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Fire Protection Association, the National Weather Service and the Oklahoma Office of Emergency Management.

Speakers discussed the importance of having a cohesive wildfire strategy in place, land management strategies that reduce the risk of wildfire, the role of effective communications in the battle against wildfires, strategies to fight wildfires in urban areas and the importance of individuals and communities to be FireWise.



EPA AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR VISITS OKLAHOMA



On June 20, AFR/OFU staff joined the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) on a tour of agricultural best management practices within the North Canadian River watershed in Blaine and Canadian counties. No-till crops, fenced riparian areas and pasture management techniques were observed and discussed and agriculture producers participating in conservation programs described their experiences. Oklahoma Conservation Commission staff also gave presentations on Oklahoma's water quality program, carbon credit program and other agriculture and conservation projects.

The tour was arranged for OACD guest Sarah Bittleman, Senior Agriculture Counselor for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is the hope of AFR/OFU that Bittleman will report to Washington, D.C., the exemplary job Oklahoma's agriculture and conservation community are doing in protecting and preserving our natural resources.

AFR/OFU COUNTIES & LOCALS REACH OUT TO COMMUNITIES

AFR/OFU county and local organizations throughout the state are active in their communities. Volunteerism and community involvement are primary values of the AFR/OFU organization and these counties are excellent representations of that value.

Canadian County Farmers Union teamed up with the El Reno FFA Chapter and the AFR/OFU state organization for the "Field of TEAMS" tornado relief volunteer event June 11. The event's impact on the Heaston community is detailed on page 11.



Pottawatomie County AFR/OFU agent Randy Gilbert worked with the Oklahoma Peanut Commission to warehouse 8 pallets of peanut butter for distribution in the nearby communities impacted by the May storms. State FFA officers and local FFA members delivered the 10,000 jars of peanut butter.

Pittsburg County Farmers Union and AFR/OFU local #107 contributed to sponsorship dollars for the annual youth fishing clinic in their area. Six schools and 135 children participated in the event.

Beckham County Farmers Union organized and hosted the AFR/OFU Eggs & Issues Breakfast at the annual Southwest Farm & Home Expo in Elk City April 6. Each year, the breakfast helps connect people in that area to their legislators. This year's keynote speaker was Rep. Todd Russ of Cordell, representing Oklahoma House District 55.

Love County Farmers Union advertised AFR/OFU to more than 1,200 people during the county's Frontier Days on May 31. The event is the biggest event of the year for Love County.

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



DEWEY COUNTY GIVES TO LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS



The Dewey County Farmers Union recently presented \$1,000 to eight local fire departments in their area. The presentation was made on the steps of the Dewey County Courthouse in Taloga. The county organization represented AFR/OFU in the best way possible and we are proud of their involvement!

NW AREA ANNOUNCES ANNUAL PICNIC

The Northwest Area AFR/OFU continues to hold an annual picnic each summer. This year's event will feature Frank Lucas, Oklahoma's Third District Congressman and Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture.

**Northwest Area Annual Picnic
August 17, 2013 @ Noon
Ringwood Fair Building, 308 N. Main St.
Ringwood, Okla. 73768**

For more information, contact Kyndell Nichols at (580)883-5969, Randel Thrasher at (580)921-5675, Janet Lively at (580)256-2737 or your local agent.

AFR/OFU COUNTIES ANNOUNCE ANNUAL MEETINGS

BECKHAM COUNTY
**Customer Appreciation Dinner
& Annual County Meeting**
Monday, Oct. 7 @ 6:30 p.m.
Opera House, Elk City, OK

CADDO COUNTY
Farmers Union Meeting & Free Dinner
Saturday, Sept. 28, Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.
Fort Cobb School Cafeteria, Fort Cobb, OK
Entertainment & Door Prizes!!
So food arrangements can be made, RSVP to your agent by 4 p.m., Monday, September 23. There will be a short business meeting with presentation of reports and resolutions and election of a delegate to the state convention and officers/directors for the coming year.

GARFIELD COUNTY
OFU Annual Meeting & Dinner
Friday, Oct. 11 @ 6:30 p.m.
Hoover Building, Fairgrounds, Enid, OK
Speaker: Terry Detrick, AFR/OFU President
Door Prizes!!

*To confirm, call your agent by October 7:
Bolenbaugh - 242-2818,
Detrick - 796-2100, Maly - 863-2389.
These locals will meet immediately after the county meeting: Bolenbaugh Local #668, Hunter Local #634, Garber Local #682, Woodson Local #529, Lahoma Local #152. Dinner for Farmers Union members and families only. Bring this invitation for admittance.*

LINCOLN COUNTY
Farmers Union Meeting & Free Dinner
Thurs., Oct. 24, Buffet served 6 - 7 p.m.
Agri-Center, Chandler, OK
Entertainment & Door Prizes!!
RSVP with your agent by October 18 so seating and food arrangements can be made. There will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Nominations will be made from the floor. If you or someone you know is interested, place them in nomination at the meeting. Resolutions will be presented for a vote. Your membership entitles you to tickets for immediate family only. This notice is your meal ticket.

PAYNE COUNTY
Annual Farmers Union Meeting & Banquet
Thurs., Oct. 17, Doors open @ 5:30 p.m.
Payne County Expo Center, Stillwater, OK
Catered Meal, Entertainment & Door Prizes!
*So arrangements can be made, RSVP to agents with how many will attend from your family by Monday, October 14 @ Noon:
Porter - 372-4169 or 0585, Perkins - 547-2971,
Cushing - 225-1751, or Schieffer - 352-9406.
There will be a short business meeting with election of a delegate to the state convention and officers/directors for the coming year. There will also be a presentation of resolutions. Your resolutions can be brought up at the meeting.*

PITTSBURG COUNTY
Farmers Union Annual Meeting & Dinner
Catered by KFC
Saturday, Aug. 17 @ 6:30 p.m.
Southeast Expo Center
4500 W. Hwy 270, McAlester, OK
RSVP by August 8 to:
Aliene Bristow (469-2360, 145 Bristow Lane, McAlester, 74501) or agents (McAlester - 423-7926 or Haileyville - 297-2553).
There will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Please bring resolutions for approval. Tickets for door prize will be handed out at the door. One per family.

STEPHENS COUNTY
Farmers Union Meeting & Free Dinner
Monday, Oct. 7, Dinner served @ 6:30 p.m.
Stephens County Fairgrounds
Duncan, OK
Door Prizes!!
*Confirm with your agent by Thursday, October 3 @ Noon:
Graham - 658-3077, Harris - 255-2147,
Scherler - 439-8823.
For immediate family only, please. This card is your ticket for the drawings. There will be a short business meeting, with election of a delegate to the state convention and officers for the coming year. Marlow Local #70 will meet following the county meeting.*

AFR/OFU WELCOMES NEW AGENCY OWNERS

Richards Purchase Chartier Agency



Pictured left to right: Beverly Hall, Justin Richards & Vicki Perkins.

Justin and Lindsey Richards are the new owners of the Coweta Insurance Agency. Nita Chartier has retired from the insurance business after 31 years as an agent for AFR/OFU.

Most recently, Justin has worked in insurance in Locust Grove. He is fully licensed in Property, Casualty, Life and Health. Prior to becoming an agent for AFR/OFU, Justin was in the

U.S. Marine Corps and studied criminal justice at Rogers State University and Northeastern State University.

As the Richards' move to Coweta, they look forward to becoming involved in the community. They have three children—Sebastian, seven; Kaylee, six; and Isabelle, two.

The agency will remain at 112 S. Broadway and will keep the same phone number—(918)486-2101. Beverly Hall and Vicki Perkins, long-time employees of the Chartier Agency, will stay with the Coweta Insurance Agency and continue to serve its customers.

Finleys Purchase Nick Agency



Pictured left to right: Bob and Sheila Finley, Danielle Young & Margie Honick.

James R. "Bob" and Sheila Finley have purchased the Nick Insurance Agency in Okmulgee and will operate the agency as Finley Insurance Agency. They both have licenses in Property, Casualty, Life, Accident and Health.

The Finleys live near Morris on their farm. Bob is a graduate of Morris High School and has been in sales and the oil leasing business. Sheila Prince Finley has spent most of

her life in the Tulsa area and has worked as an office manager in several different industries. Bob has 3 grown children—J. D., Stephanie and Jeremy—and 6 grandchildren. Sheila has a 16-year-old son, Collin Prince.

Assisting the Finleys in the agency are long-time Nick Agency employees Margie Honick and Sue Finley, who is Bob's mother and a long-serving Okmulgee County Oklahoma Farmers Union Secretary. New employee Danielle Young will also be working in the agency.

The agency will remain at 1017 East 6th St. and will keep the same phone number—918-756-5100.

MAKE LIFE INSURANCE FIRST ON YOUR LIST

A bucket list is filled with things a person wants to achieve before they die, dreams and goals for their time on earth. Parachuting, climbing Everest or owning a home—bucket lists are as varied and diverse as the people who write them. A bucket list assumes we will lead full lives, that we will be blessed with the years needed to tick

off all the items on our list. Sadly, for many this is not the case; their lives are cut tragically short. That's why the first item on your bucket list should be life insurance.

Every plan we make and every dream we have assumes that we will live to old age. Our career path, our dreams of spending time with our grandchildren and our retirement plans all work on the assumption that we will be granted the biblical "three score and 10 years" or 70 years on this earth. While we all know death can be a hair's breadth away, we rarely plan for this reality. But, planning for your own death is essential.

As a parent or bread-winner, caring for your children is one of your first priorities. You earn the money they need to survive, care for them when they are ill and spend hours helping with their homework. You are their anchor and shelter in this world, ensuring they are clothed, fed and sheltered. Your job as a parent is not done until you plan for the day when you are no longer there to look after them.

To ensure your family has the funds needed to stay afloat in the event of your death, invest in a life insurance policy that will help carry the cost of supporting your family. It can be put toward living expenses, university fees, healthcare, or your unpaid debt.

While it is important to plan for the future—to list your dreams and goals—it is also important to plan for your untimely death. Invest in a life insurance policy today.

**For more information, contact Delinda Jones, Senior Life Specialist of the AFR Life Company at 405-218-5583. Article adapted from Life Insurance for You.*

AFR

LIFE INSURANCE

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

OKLAHOMA'S STATEWIDE
WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE &
SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE



The 2013 Oklahoma Statewide Women in Agriculture & Small Business Conference will be held at the Moore-Norman Technology Center Aug. 8-9.

The theme of this year's conference is "Empowering the Women of Rural America." The conference is expected to live up to its name, offering entertaining and educational

keynote speakers, a mini-mall showcasing Made in Oklahoma products and a complimentary evening networking reception and concurrent breakout sessions with three tracks - agricultural, alternative enterprises, and business & finance.

For more information about this year's conference, please contact Jennifer Jensen at (405)744-9826 or jennifer.jensen@okstate.edu.

To register online, visit <http://okwomeninagandsmallbusiness.com/>.

AFR/OFU EMPLOYEES MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OKLAHOMA

Each month, AFR/OFU employees volunteer at the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank. From sorting donations to repackaging meals, volunteers make a significant impact in the lives of less fortunate families across Oklahoma.

One of the mission areas of AFR/OFU is giving back to the communities we serve. This value of volunteerism and generosity is encouraged throughout AFR/OFU, from employees to county and local organizations. Below is a letter from the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank detailing just one of the efforts of the AFR/OFU employees.



"Fighting Hunger... Feeding Hope"™

Ms. Mickey Wherritt
American Farmers and Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company EAC
800 North Harvey
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Ms. Wherritt:

Thank you and American Farmers and Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company EAC for raising 330 pounds of food for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. Your generosity will make a significant impact in the lives of many families, children and seniors who struggle with hunger on a daily basis.

Each week, the Regional Food Bank provides enough food to feed more than 90,000 hungry Oklahomans. However, it is still not enough to meet the demand for food assistance. Many families are asking for help for the first time in their lives. The food provided through your support can often mean the difference between slipping further into hardship and receiving the helping hand needed to get back on their feet. A school pantry coordinator recently shared a story of two students who are very grateful to receive help from their school food pantry.

"We have a family of two students whose parents lost their jobs and they are very thankful for the supplemental food for their children during the weekend. Donors of this organization really need to be recognized for their outpouring generosity."

Your kindness and compassion for our Oklahoma neighbors who are experiencing hunger on a daily basis helps meet these needs. Whether it is meals and snacks served at a Kids Cafe site, food provided through a partner agency food pantry, or food distributed through mobile food pantries, it all makes a difference. Thank you so much for partnering with us in "Fighting Hunger...Feeding Hope."

Gratefully,

Rodney W. Bivens
Executive Director

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 quarter three different groups made a difference in the lives of Oklahomans, particularly underprivileged children.



In April, Greg Belt, Mark and Delinda Jones, Michael Putthoff and Ronnie Knight and his daughter Whitney volunteered. They packaged rice into 81 cases. These cases equated to approximately 2,093 meals!

Pictured left: AFR/OFU's April volunteers were (back row, left to right) Ronnie Knight, Michael Putthoff, (front row, left to right) Mark and Delinda Jones and Greg Belt.

In May, Brianna Pack, Curtis Liles, Michael Putthoff, Debbie Kungu and Ashley Carter volunteered. They packaged dried red bell peppers into 80 cases. These cases equated to approximately 1,600 meals!

Pictured right: AFR/OFU's May volunteers were (back row, left to right) Brianna Pack, Michael Putthoff, (front row, left to right) Debbie Kungu, Ashley Carter and Curtis Liles.



In June, Chad Yearwood, Tim Wiederkehr and Michael Putthoff volunteered. They packaged frozen carrots into 76 cases. These cases equated to approximately 2,153 meals!

Pictured left: AFR/OFU's June volunteers were (left to right) Chad Yearwood, Tim Wiederkehr and Michael Putthoff.

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@afrmic.com or AFR/OFU State Secretary Paul Jackson at (405)218-5559 or pjackson@afrmic.com.



Wonder how AFR/OFU members share their passion for agriculture?



Check the fall edition of the **News & Views** for a showcase of AFR/OFU members who are leading the way for Oklahoma AgriTourism!

Are you involved in the agritourism industry in Oklahoma? Let us know!
Contact AFR/OFU Communications Coordinator Laici Wedel
at (405)218-5557 or lwedel@afmic.com

OID RESPONDS TO TORNADO-RELATED INSURANCE NEEDS

Insurance claims filed in response to the May tornado outbreak has jumped to more than 75,750, with insurance payments reaching \$687,945,000.

“The victims of these devastating tornadoes will be dealing with the aftermath for quite a while,” said Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak. “The claim filings are slowing down but they’re nowhere near complete. The Oklahoma Insurance Department is here to help guide the victims through some important decisions. We’re committed to seeing this through to the very end.”

As an additional form of assistance, the Oklahoma Insurance Department (OID) held a series of educational forums for storm victims. The weekly forums allowed impacted Oklahomans to ask questions and receive assistance with insurance-related issues, including complaints, delays and disputes. The forums featured OID experts covering various topics such as how to file a claim, what to do if your claim is denied, how to file a complaint and how to spot fraud.

“We’ve seen the enormous impact the tornadoes have had on our citizens in the past several weeks,” said Doak. “We understand that the road to recovery can be long and challenging. This is one more way we can reach out and help the thousands of Oklahomans navigating the insurance process, a process that isn’t always easy to understand. That’s why we’re here to help.”

During the disaster recovery process, the OID also set up its Consumer Assistance Command Center, increased anti-fraud efforts, capped fees for public adjusters, advised insurers to delay nonrenewals on tornado victims and hosted a post-natural disaster forum that brought together insurance commissioners from across the U.S. that had served during other major natural disasters such as Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina. They were able to collaborate and provide experiences and advice on better assisting consumers in the aftermath of large-scale storms.

“As always, I am impressed and reassured by the integrity of the Oklahoma Insurance Department,” said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. “The people of the OID are public employees who make sure insurance professionals are prepared and consumers are protected. They do their job very well. I commend Commissioner Doak and his staff on a job well done.”

OFU FOUNDATION ACCEPTING FUNDS FOR TORNADO VICTIMS

One of the mission areas of AFR/OFU is giving back to the communities we serve. In light of the on-going needs of AFR/OFU members who were impacted by the May tornadoes, the Oklahoma Farmers Union Foundation is accepting cash donations to aid storm victims.

In addition to donations from AFR/OFU agents, members, county and local organizations and other in-state contributors, funds have also been received from Farmers Union organizations in other states such as North Dakota and Minnesota.

All contributions are tax deductible and, because they do not have to comply with the same regulations as PAC contributions, local and county organizations can contribute. Individuals, corporations, businesses can also contribute.

For more information, contact AFR Insurance Counsel Tony Van Eck at tva-neck@afmic.com or (405)218-5419.

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www.producerscoop.net

The People of AFR/OFU....

Ready for Harvest in El Reno...

AFR/OFU volunteers, including Director Mike Humble, load debris during the "Field of TEAMS" event.



AFR/OFU joined forces with the El Reno FFA Chapter on June 11 to help change the course of the 2013 wheat harvest for producers in the Heaston area. Located just a few miles southwest of El Reno, the area's farmers and ranchers were hit hard by the May 31 tornado outbreak.

The AFR/OFU and El Reno FFA event brought in several groups including 15 FFA chapters from across Oklahoma and many AFR/OFU employees, insurance agents and cooperative members. The day was part of a bigger volunteer effort called "Field of TEAMS." The effort works to clean up tornado debris in fields and rural roadways. Volunteers work in groups, meticulously combing



AFR/OFU volunteers served lunch to 250 people.



AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick and Director Eric Bilderback prepare lunch for volunteers. Secretary Paul Jackson also attended the event.

farmers lose a major portion of their income."

Wheat harvest is fast-approaching and many farms are still clogged with debris from surrounding structures. Sheets of tin, wood planks, shingles, insulation, fencing and other types of debris litter the otherwise harvestable fields. Tornado debris poses a great risk to producers—debris found by a wheat combine instead of a volunteer could result in thousands of dollars in damage to valuable harvest equipment.

"We hope to give farmers and ranchers in this area a little piece of mind," said Detrick. "Cleaning up fields can take a lot of time and money. Insurance does not cover the cost of field clean-up and farmers certainly don't have time right

*"... These fields are a place of business."
-Terry Detrick*

as they deal with damage to their homes and farm structures."

The AFR/OFU and El Reno FFA day made a significant impact in the tornado relief effort. More than 250 volunteers from southeast Texas, several Midwestern states and all across Oklahoma cleaned-up well over 400 acres of now-harvestable farm land. The help came right on time—harvest crews were already lining up waiting for clean fields.

AFR/OFU Field Rep Kermit Raab, Arapaho, earns his keep.



AFR/OFU agents Travis Wiedemann of Yukon (below), Darcy Jebb of Kingfisher and Wayne Ludwig of Okarche helped with the relief effort.



The first wave of volunteers at the AFR/OFU/El Reno FFA "Field of TEAMS" event.



Clean-up Crew...

One of AFR/OFU's core values is the belief in volunteerism and generosity—giving back to and investing in the communities it serves. This has been apparent over the last few weeks as the people of AFR/OFU have donated time, energy and resources to helping their fellow Oklahomans recover from the May tornado outbreak.

AFR/OFU agents and adjusters have gone above and beyond their normal duties to ensure the peace of mind of storm victims. Several have put their own needs as tornado victims second to the needs of AFR/OFU member/policyholders.

As a company, AFR/OFU also believes in supporting its employees when they are in need. Teams of AFR/OFU home office employees volunteered for the general relief effort and also spent time focusing on those employees whose homes were damaged in the storms. AFR/OFU employees were also able to raise \$3,000 to help their fellow employees recover from the storms.

AFR/OFU Agent Bobby Steffenson of Wellston (left) and President Terry Detrick (right) survey the storm damage of a member policyholder.



AFR/OFU home office employees help co-workers clean up after the Moore tornado.



Oklahomans Making a Difference!

Riding for a Cause...

Nikki Weekley (right) with her mother and fellow AFR/OFU agent, Tammy Neher.



AFR/OFU Agent Nikki Neher Weekley, of the Neher Insurance Agency in Oklahoma City, organized an anti-protest rally to counter Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) protest efforts during the funeral of a child

victim of the Moore tornado. The WBC is a "hate group" that pickets prominent funerals across the U.S. as publicity stunts to gain notoriety.

"That just doesn't sit well with me," Weekley said of the Westboro protestors.

"I had no idea how many people would show up. It was amazing how many came to support the families."

Weekley initiated and organized much of the event, but still credits the hundreds of participants for making the anti-protest a success. It was estimated that 1,000 motorcycles and 2,000 anti-protesters lined the road to shield mourning family members.

In addition to the staggering number of motorcycles and people on foot, participants made signs to show support for the families. Weekley spent hours organizing the event and making extra signs to show the families that the crowd was "standing Oklahoma strong" with them.

Weekley credits participants for the day's success, but her initiative made it possible. AFR/OFU is proud to have her represent the organization.



Thousands turned out to support the family of young tornado victims.



Senior Claims Manager Steve Ford represents AFR at a mobile command center during the tornado relief efforts.



Claim-Stakers...

Contributed by Chad Yearwood, Director of Claims

Thanks to Oklahoma's unpredictably severe weather, May proved to be a challenging month for AFR Insurance policyholders and staff. On May 19-20, a tornado and hail outbreak caused significant damage in Carney and Shawnee, devastated parts of Moore and impacted many other communities in the central part of the state. On May 31, another record-breaking tornado swept through the countryside near El Reno. Overall, the outbreak resulted in more than 1700 policyholders reporting some type of damage to their property.

AFR claims representatives were on site at both the Shawnee and Moore Tornado Command Centers for several days. Specifically for insurance carriers, these locations were set up by the Oklahoma Insurance Department as a place for customers to ask anything, from general insurance coverage questions to more detailed guidance on their specific claims. Through its triage approach to inspecting damage claims,

the AFR Claims Department was able to efficiently process claims and personally assist many customers at these command centers.

AFR customers who had lost their homes were offered pre-funded debit cards so they could make purchases using AFR's Additional Living Expense Coverage, which is intended to help policyholders cover the necessary costs of maintaining a household while they are displaced from their homes.

An easy, hassle-free way to access funds, these cards helped many policyholders take care of their immediate needs and get back on their feet just a little bit sooner.

The AFR Claims Department also provided a one-stop shop for policyholders with hail-related claims. Claims representa-



AFR Claims representatives work diligently during the AFR Hail Service Day.

"... That just doesn't sit well with me."

-Nikki Neher Weekley

tives were on hand at the AFR Auto Hail Clinic at the AFR Home Office May 24 to inspect and process auto hail claims for customers while they waited. On average, each claim took only 30 minutes.

May's devastating storms were an unwelcomed reminder of the importance of analyzing and properly meeting insurance needs. As AFR continues to assist its customers impacted by the tornado outbreak, the AFR Claims Department is encouraging AFR customers to talk with their local agents about products that best protect their property.



AFR Claims representative Courtney Dishman inspecting hail damage.

YOUTH PROGRAM OFFERS EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Contributed by Bailey Kliewer, 2013 AFR/OFU Youth Intern



AFR/OFU is proud to offer opportunities for youth to gain life experiences and career skills. The Youth Program teaches valuable life lessons like hard work is the key to achieving goals.

Youth program activities occur throughout the year and keep facilitators and students alike on their toes. Seeing participants develop into the leaders of tomorrow is the highlight of the year for many involved in AFR/OFU's hosting, providing scholarship dollars to, and serving the future of Oklahoma.

The AFR/OFU Youth Program kicks off the year with its annual poster contest. From late fall to early January, elementary school students statewide try their hands at artwork, agriculture-style. Designed to teach students about agriculture at an early age, the contest encourages the youth program's youngest participants to consider how the industry impacts their lives.

In February, the youth program's best and brightest are honored. The youth session at the AFR/OFU State Convention is packed with excitement. Students of all ages are recognized for their hard work and achievements. A select group of high school students can be seen facilitating throughout convention. These



students are the AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council. Selected through peer-evaluation and professional interviews, the councils help with events throughout the year, an in-depth opportunity to learn career skills for their futures.

March is a busy month filled with one of the year's highlights for agriculture students, the Oklahoma Youth Expo. AFR/OFU is a major sponsor of OYE and is present for the duration of the event. During OYE, the AFR/OFU Ag Achievement Contest offers high school juniors and seniors a way to combine their livestock showing abilities, knowledge of the industry and interviewing skills. Participants begin with a 100-question test of basic livestock industry knowledge. They then compete



with their show animals—pigs, sheep, goats or cattle—in a showmanship contest. The top ten competitors advance to the interview portion of the contest. They are then ranked based on the three categories and awarded scholarships. The contest is a great way for students to grow and ensure the future of Oklahoma's livestock industry.

In April, students are given another opportunity to work with livestock at the AFR/OFU Redlands Livestock Judging Contest. Participants select livestock based on breeding and market criteria and must defend their rankings to a judge. Through this, students are exposed to public speaking and justifying their viewpoints. With participants ranging from third grade to high school seniors, the contest is a great way for all ages to learn about AFR/OFU.

Continuing with livestock, students are able to try commercial cattle grading in April and May during the AFR/OFU-sponsored commercial cattle grading contests at the Southern Plains Farm Show, Connors State College and the Tulsa Stockyards. These contests follow the same process as a judging contest, but focus on traits that will help an animal survive, grow and ultimately market successfully. These traits include soundness in bone structure and yield and quality of their meat. Students also learn important lessons such as when to sell a cow or which heifers should be kept for breeding stock.

The State FFA Convention draws April to a close. A major contributor, AFR/OFU sponsors several of the event's banquets, career development events, the WLC Scholarship, proficiency awards and the session laser light show. Results of this sponsorship include the opportunity for select students to travel to the National FFA Convention and to the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

The highlight of the youth program is in late June and July each year. Students from across the state take an incredible leadership-journey during the AFR/OFU Teen and Senior Leadership Summits. Attendees are trained in many leadership subjects, from working on a team to the importance of character and responsibility, taking initiative and being accountable for one's actions. Senior Summit closes with the selection of the new youth council and a banquet to recognize a great year.

July marks the beginning of the AFR/OFU Livestock Handling Contest with a written exam about livestock handling practices. At the state level, the competition emphasizes the application of classroom study to actual production scenarios. In order to excel, students must take classroom knowledge and apply it to real-world situations. Ten teams qualify for the state competition, with the top two teams from each FFA district advancing to the finals. The livestock handling competition begins at OSU's Big Three Field Days, another event sponsored by AFR/OFU.



Fairseason kicks into high gear with Septemberfest at the Governor's Mansion. The event brings agriculture to the heart of the state's largest urban area. The Youth Advisory Council is responsible for hosting AFR/OFU's interactive experience that helps community members actively learn about agriculture and the importance of the industry in their lives.

September and early October is another high-profile time for AFR/OFU as it sponsors portions of the Tulsa State Fair and the State Fair of Oklahoma. More than just midways and funnel cakes, these fairs host livestock events that showcase the hard work of many 4-H and FFA members and provide a window for urban families to experience animal agriculture.

The fall months host the annual AFR/OFU Fall Speech Contest series. These contests provide an opportunity to hone public speaking skills, a vital skill that students will use throughout their lives. At each of the district contest, students grades 4-12 compete in five categories—American Farmers & Ranchers, Natural Resources, Student Organizations, Agribusiness and Agriscience. More than 150 finalists advance to the state contest. These contests are an opportunity for students who are not involved in agriculture to get involved in the AFR/OFU Youth Program.

AFR/OFU has a full schedule each year as it invests in the youth of Oklahoma. For more information on AFR/OFU Youth Program events, contact AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Lin Fariss at (405)218-5561 or lfariss@afrmic.com.



MEET OUR INTERN



For the summer of 2013, AFR/OFU has rejuvenated the organization's summer internship program. The program is intended to bridge the gap between AFR/OFU's high school youth programs and college students who are interested

in AFR/OFU and youth education. It also serves as another opportunity for AFR/OFU to support Oklahoma's young leaders.

Bailey Kliever is the AFR/OFU Summer Youth Intern for 2013. Originally from Thomas, Okla., she is the daughter of Justin and Mary Kliever. Bailey grew up in a Vo-Ag family and has been very active in agricultural programs throughout her life. As a junior agricultural education major at Oklahoma State University, she plans to remain involved with her two main passions—youth and agriculture.

Bailey considers serving young people, especially those in agriculture, one of the most important responsibilities. She grew up participating in programs designed to help young people succeed and has seen firsthand how these programs can impact young lives. This summer, along with AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Lin Fariss, Bailey will be working to make the AFR/OFU Leadership Summit a success. She will also provide support at many other events throughout the summer in an effort to improve the overall impact of the AFR/OFU Youth Program.

American Farmers & Ranchers and Oklahoma Farmers Union have been very influential to Baily and she is enjoying getting to know the organization and the AFR/OFU family better. From participating in speech contests and livestock judging competitions to being a camper at Leadership Summit, to receiving scholarships for college, AFR/OFU has greatly impacted Bailey. She is excited to see where the future will lead her and plans to stay involved in Oklahoma agriculture where ever her path may lead.

**Bailey is also a recipient of this year's AFR/OFU State Continuing Education Scholarship.*

AFR/OFU YOUTH EXCEL IN FFA



Tyler Schnaithman of Garber

Every year, AFR/OFU is a proud sponsor and active participant in the annual State FFA Convention. At this year's 87th annual convention, several AFR/OFU Youth Program participants were rewarded for their exemplary leadership skills and business sense.

Former AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council member Tyler Schnaithman of Garber was awarded the State Star Farmer Award for his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project. Schnaithman farms and raises cattle and sheep in north-west Oklahoma. He served on the 2011-2012 Youth Council and will be attending Oklahoma State University in the fall.



Chance Imhoff of Prague

Chance Imhoff of Prague was selected as the 2013 State Star in Agribusiness for his SAE project. Imhoff began his project by raises and markets goats, and used his knowledge of the industry to pioneer Chance's Clipping, LLC. He produces and sells videos covering a range of topics in the show goat industry. This honor places him at the top of his field and recognizes his FFA project and business as successful and thriving. Imhoff is currently serving on the AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council and will be attending Oklahoma

State University in the fall.

Some of AFR/OFU's brightest youth were selected to serve on the 2013-2014 state FFA officer team. Desiree Masterson of Spiro, a member of the current AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council, will serve as the Southeast District Vice President. Tyler Schnaithman is the new State Secretary. Another active participant in the youth program, Allison Christian of Duncan, will serve as the Central District Vice President.



AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick receives a check representing AFR/OFU's contributions.



Desiree Masterson of Spiro

DETRICK HONORED WITH OKLAHOMA FFA VIP AWARD



Terry Detrick and his friend Mike Spradling, Oklahoma Farm Bureau President, wave to the crowd during the Oklahoma FFA Foundation VIP Award presentation. Detrick and Spradling were the two recipients of this year's award.

AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick recently received the 2013 VIP Award from the Oklahoma FFA Association. Detrick was presented with the award at the 87th State FFA Convention April 30 in front of more than 8,000 FFA members, advisors and guests. Each year, the award is presented to one or two individuals who have shown significant support of FFA members, local chapters and the state association in Oklahoma over an extended period of time. All recipients must have previously received the Honorary State FFA Degree.

A strong supporter of youth, Detrick has already been awarded the Honorary Chapter, Honorary State and Honorary American FFA Degrees and the Agriculture Advocate Champion award from the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. As life-long AFR/OFU member, an agency owner and a third-generation farmer, Detrick is also an advocate for agriculture, and the role it can play in the lives of youth in Oklahoma.

"No endeavor can provide youth with a brighter future than involvement in Oklahoma's agriculture industry," said Detrick.

"I am a firm believer in the ability of the FFA organization to teach our young people the skills and leadership that will lead to a successful life in agriculture and beyond."

Detrick has served AFR/OFU in leadership roles nearly continuously since he was elected to the OFU Board of Directors in 1986. He has also served the agricultural industry at the state and national level through many organizations.

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.

Reasons
to "like"
AFR/OFU Youth
Program on
Facebook:

1. Get updates and pictures from AFR/OFU youth events.
2. Get to know your 2013-2014 Youth Advisory Council.
3. Learn what AFR/OFU youth are doing across the state.
4. Be a part of a team that promotes education to Oklahoma youth.
5. Be reminded of AFR youth deadlines.



www.facebook.com/AFRYouth

AFR/OFU SUPPORTS LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS



AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick with the first place Redlands team, Kingfisher FFA.

American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union (AFR/OFU) recently sponsored several livestock judging and cattle grading competitions.

The Redlands Community College Interscholastic Livestock Judging Contest was held at Redlands Royse Ranch in El Reno April 16.

The annual event tests participants' ability to recognize high-quality livestock traits in the show ring. In the contest, 4-H and FFA members employ their knowledge of desirable livestock traits as they judge animals of each show species—sheep, goats, pigs and cattle. Participants must explain their judging choices with "reasons" in front of judges and other competitors.

"Contestants' ability to identify superior breeding animals and explain their choices will benefit them immensely in their careers," said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. "We are proud to sponsor a competition that encourages youth to pursue a career in production agriculture."

AFR/OFU also sponsored the Southern Plains Farm Show Commercial Cattle Grading Contest April 19 at State Fair Park in Oklahoma City. To excel in the contest, participants must employ their knowledge of high-quality cattle traits to choose breeding and market animals that will prove profitable in real-life production situations. The contestants rank animals by structural soundness of replacement heifers, profitability of cull cows, market steer yield potential and more. Contestants are rewarded for recognition of high-quality cattle—just as a producer would profit from similar selection within his own herd.

"Contestants' ability to identify the best animals within



Steve Thompson represents AFR/OFU with the Connors high individual, Natalie Hofschulte of the Wyandotte FFA.

their herd and in purchasing situations ensures their success as future cattle producers," said Detrick. "We are proud to sponsor a competition that translates to real-life situations and provides tomorrow's agricultural producers with practical skills they can use in the future."



AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick with the first place Southern Plains team, Wyandotte FFA.

Two events are new to AFR/OFU, the Connors State College and the Tulsa Stockyards Cattle Grading Contests. The Connors State College Cattle Grading Contest was held in Warner June 4. Approximately 100 4-H and FFA members competed.

"These cattle grading contests are one more way our member policyholders actively support the youth of Oklahoma," said Detrick. "We look forward to the future accomplishments of these outstanding students and we are proud to play a part in their success."

The Tulsa Stockyards Cattle Grading Contest drew FFA and 4-H members to the livestock market on June 25. Open to students across the state, the event introduces participants to live cattle evaluation and educates them on current grading practices.

During each of these events, participants attend an educational seminar on commercial cattle grading presented by Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) consultants. Participants learn about production challenges, such as how to choose replacement heifers and how to determine when an aged cow needs to be culled.



AFR/OFU representatives Wade Parker, Lin Fariss and Terry Detrick with the Tulsa Stockyards high individuals, Michaela Branen of the Rogers County 4-H and Levi Hill of the Oktaha FFA.

AFR/OFU ANNOUNCES FALL SPEECH CONTEST DATES

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

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

Northeast District Speech Contest	Lonestar School, Sapulpa	Nov. 5
Northwest District Speech Contest	Autry Technology Center, Enid	Nov. 11
Southwest District Speech Contest	Cache High School, Cache	Nov. 19
Southeast District Speech Contest	Eastern Okla. State College, Wilburton	Nov. 21
Central District Speech Contest	Newcastle Middle School, Newcastle	Nov. 25

2013 STATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



*Trent Boles
Asher*



*Chelsea Coulson
Wellston*



*Micaela Danker
Wellston*



*Jarrett Davis
Sterling*



*Annie Jo Gilbert
Tecumseh*



*Taylor Green
Wellston*



*Morgan Hannabass
Cache*



*Chance Imhoff
Prague*



*Darcey Kliever
Thomas*



*Katie Lippoldt
Kingfisher*



*Kaylin Listen
El Reno*



*Denton Lowe
Amber*



*Desiree Masterson
Spiro*



*Barrett Powell
Ringwood*



*Dyson Runyan
Madill*



*Tyler Schmaithman
Garber*



*Kayla Smith
Haworth*



*Whitney Wilkinson
Cement*



*Lindsey Underwood
Tecumseh*



*Bradley Womack
Madill*

2013 COUNTY MATCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year, AFR/OFU invites each county organization in Oklahoma to participate in its County Match Scholarship Program. AFR/OFU's goal is that each county will establish an annual scholarship to support its local youth and provide recognition for its county organization.

Beckham County



*Emily Carpenter
Erick*



*Dillon Dugger
Hammon*

Cimarron County



*Bailey Cook
Boise City*

Custer County



*Kalli Kliever
Thomas-Fay-Custer*

Caddo County



*Kelsie Andrade
Bridge Creek*



*Kayla Carr
Cyril*



*Photo
Unavailable
Andrew Carrillo
Apache*

Dewey County



*Madison Murlin
Vici*



*Kelcie Burns
Mangum*

Garvin County



*Nicole Lenaburg
Hinton*



*Selika Shives
Binger-Oney*

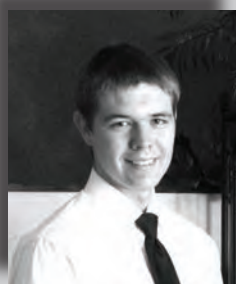


*DeAmber Barrett
Stratford*



*Madysson Morris
Ada*

Blaine County



*Kenneth Paul Smith
Geary*

Cherokee County



*KC Barnes
Porter*

Kiowa County



*Kelcie Howard
Snyder*

Love County



*Jonnah Liddell
Marietta*

2013 COUNTY MATCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Continued...

Marshall County



*Levi Holliday
Madill*



*Macci Clement
Madill*

Roger Mills County



*Mason Congdon
Cheyenne*



*Lauren Wright
Reydon*

Mayes County



*Megan Cowan
Locust Grove*

Okfuskee County



*Tia Mitchell
Varnum*

Tillman County



*Grant Hoover
Frederick*



*Fox Luna
Frederick*



*Tanner Oxford
Frederick*

Oklahoma County



*Caleb Freeman
Harrah*

Osage County



*Jacee Gullett
Pawhuska*



*Tamara Perry
Frederick*



*Emily Wasinger
Frederick*



*Sage Watson
Frederick*

Payne County



*Emily Gould
Perkins-Tryon*

Pittsburg County



*Morgan Woody
Crowder*

Woodward County

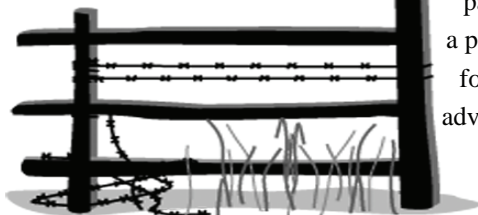


*Brice Gregory
Mooreland*



*Jacy Gillenwaters
Mooreland*

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 SEPT. 1
FOR PUBLICATION IN THE
FALL 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—20 acres. Cleared, approximately 28'x48'. Good pasture and fences. Mobile home, barn, garage, tack room. Set up for horses. On Hwy 77, south of Wayne. 405/640-2400.

I buy mineral rights in North Dakota and Oklahoma, Carter, Alfalfa, Beaver Beckham, Blaine, Canadian, Ellis, Garvin, Grady, Logan, Major, Pontotoc and Roger Mills counties. Call before you sell. 580/227-2456.

AUTOS, TRUCKS & CYCLES

For sale—1954 Chevy Bel Air. Car show ready, beautiful car. Pearl white, dove gray interior. 350 V8, power steering and brakes. New Michelin tires. Runs great, drive anywhere. \$15,250 OBO. 580/281-3476.

FARM EQUIPMENT & LAWN MOWERS

For sale—MTD 42" cut riding lawn mower, \$450. 405/275-3419.

For sale—2008 Mahindra tractor, Model 4530. 365 hrs. FWD, front loader, bucket, bale spike. \$16,900 OBO. 405/240-2883.

BOATS, RVs & CAMPERS

For sale—1996 35' Snowbird (Model SE 102) fifth wheel. Excellent condition. Two slides and entertainment center. \$11,000 OBO. 580/479-5463.

For sale—1978 Ranger boat with cubby cabin. 26' rebuilt 350 race motor bored .60 over. Lots of new parts, seats and wiring. Meed finished. Call for details. \$3,800. 580/618-6369.

LIVESTOCK

For sale—Older registered bay Arabian mare. Good brood mare, not broke to ride. \$500. Older registered bay Quarter Horse mare. Good brood mare, not broke to ride. \$600. 405/466-1541, Coyle.

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

For sale—Four registered black Belted Galloway cows. Low fat and cholesterol beef since they are double-haired. 620/222-2616. Email for pics and registration papers. allboyzokfarm@yahoo.com.

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

For sale—13-year-old bay gelding. 15 hands. Gentle for anyone, no bad habits. \$1500. Also, kids, ranch and trail saddles. \$150 and up. 580/695-1847.

For sale—Limousin cow with black steer calf, \$1500. Also three black steer calves, \$700 each. 405/391-3319.

Northern black and black baldie first-calf heifer pairs, nice calves. 405/668-8847.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

For sale—220 A/C, \$100. 110 A/C, \$50. 405/275-3419.

MISCELLANEOUS

For sale—All sizes pipe, 2 ³/₈ - 8". Sucker rods, ⁵/₈ - ⁷/₈". 1 ¹/₄ fiberglass rods. 405/627-3920.

Hickory trees on property did not survive drought and need to be cut down. Excellent for meat smokers! Wood is free—you cut it, you keep it! 405/356-0093.

For sale—Five iron wheel antique hay rakes. \$125 each or \$500 if you take all five. Also have other antique implements for sale. 405/292-6299 or 405/620-3523.

For sale—Shotglasses. More than 900. \$600 for all. 405/382-1873.

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

For sale—Antique 56-year-old Gretsch electric guitar. Has model number and serial number inside. Spanish S sound holes. Sunburst finish. Very nice collector's item. 580/332-2468.

For sale—Quadafire pellet fireplace insert, 1200 series. Used one year. Good unit, will warranty to work. New black door. 40,000 BTUs. 918/784-2318 or 918/541-0652.

For sale—Complete set of Zane Grey hardback books, 55 in all, \$200. Upright Craftsman grinder on stand with light, \$250. 918/635-5753, Poteau.

For sale—Burn barrels. \$5 each. Wellston. 405/356-2407.

For sale—75 cedar logs. 8' to 25', various diameters. \$5 each, take all for \$4 each. Will load. 405/356-2135, Wellston.

WANTED

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

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

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

**Trading Post ads due to
AFR/OFU state office
by September 1
for publication
in the fall issue of
AFR/OFU News & Views.**

HEAD COUNTRY: SAME SAUCE, DIFFERENT STORY



From its start as a mere kitchen concoction in 1947, Head Country Food Products Inc. has flourished into a successful, internationally known company, thanks to a 66-year-old barbecue sauce recipe, hard work and some help from FAPC.

Oklahoma's No. 1 selling barbecue sauce has experienced a lot of success since its establishment, including receiving the 2013 Governor's Award for Excellence in Exporting and the U.S. Department of Commerce Export Achievement Certificate.

"We are very pleased to receive this award," said Paul Schatte, Head Country co-owner. "We have worked diligently to grow our international business. It is a pleasure to provide a taste of Oklahoma on a global perspective."

This annual governor's award recognizes successful Oklahoma firms for significant efforts to increase export sales, which means more jobs and enhanced economic development in the state.

While the Oklahoma company has built a name for itself, it took time and hard work. Recipe creator Donovan "Bud" Head developed Head Country Original Bar-B-Q Sauce in Shidler in 1947. In 1977, Donovan sold his recipe to his nephew, Danny Head. Production moved to Ponca City in 1982, where 150 cases were sold in the first year. It took more than five years for Danny Head to make a profit, but he stuck with it.

Head Country's facility is triple the size it was in 1994 as a result of four plant additions. FAPC began working with Head Country in 2001 to assist with its second expansion.

Since then, FAPC has assisted with product development and equipment identification for its salsa line and provided assistance and feedback for its social media and marketing strategy, said FAPC business and marketing relations manager Chuck Willoughby.

"I think a lot of their success can be attributed to the efforts they put into marketing their products," Willoughby said. "They understand the value of marketing directly to consumers at events such as the Oklahoma and Texas state fairs."

One of FAPC's biggest contributions to Head Country was its assistance in creating a food safety plan.

"FAPC helped develop a food safety plan to include HACCP plan assistance, internal plant audits and customer-driven food safety programs," Willoughby said. "FAPC assisted Head Country in meeting British Retail Consortium criteria to meet Global Food Safety Initiative compliance requirements by one of its major customers."

AFR BENEFITS

This is what you get with your AFR/OFU dues:

GENERAL BENEFITS

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

MEDIA BENEFITS

- Subscription to the Quarterly *AFR News & Views*
- Subscription to the *News & Views Insider* E-Newsletter
- Subscription to the NFU E-Newsletter
- Free Classified Advertising in Quarterly Publication

DISCOUNT BENEFITS

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

YOUTH BENEFITS

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



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



American Farmers & Ranchers Good Eats!

Summer 2013 Featured Organization
Oklahoma Peanut Commission

(405) 275-5994

okpeanut@sbcglobal.net

<http://nationalpeanutboard.org/>

The 2013 peanut crop is off to a great start and we anticipate another outstanding harvest this fall.

In the meantime, as you enjoy all those summer family activities, the OPC reminds you...

"Don't spread yourself or your peanut butter too thin!"

Chili Peanut Scallops

Start to Finish: 20 Minutes

Serving Size: 4 oz.

½ cup peanut flour

1 tsp. Kosher salt

¼ tsp. cumin, ground

3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

1 tsp. chili de árbol, finely ground

3 tbsp. peanuts, toasted and ground, for garnish

12 scallops (fresh, foot removed)

4 skewers (6 inch) & Oil for grill

* You can find chili de árbol in the ethnic or Mexican cuisine section of many supermarkets. Cayenne pepper can be substituted as needed.

1. In a small bowl, combine peanut flour, chili de árbol powder, salt and cumin. In a small sauté pan, toast the mixture over medium-low heat until it just starts to color and the aroma of the peanuts begins to fill the room; set aside to cool.
2. Rinse scallops, pat dry and coat with olive oil. Rub with chili peanut mixture. Thread three scallops on each of the 4 six-inch skewers.
3. Preheat grill to medium-high heat and oil grill rack. Grill scallops until cooked through, about 4 minutes per side. Carefully remove the scallops from the skewers.

American Farmers & Ranchers, Summer 2013 Featured Recipe
Oklahoma Peanut Commission, in cooperation with the National Peanut Board
Find more peanut-featured recipes at <http://nationalpeanutboard.org/>.

AFR/OFU ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT



AFR/OFU is pleased to offer an additional membership benefit to its member policyholders. The OmniAdvantage Air Medical Transport Membership provides AFR/OFU members with an alternative to the current AirEvac membership benefit, which will continue to be offered.

OmniAdvantage has provided the following information about the new benefit: "Our OmniAdvantage membership program provides the security of knowing there will be no additional transport costs if you or a

loved one is transported via Air Methods' air ambulance. Membership covers transportation by our community-based fleet, whether you are in Oklahoma or any of the other 28 states we cover!

"With your discount, you receive a \$10 savings for one year! The group discounted plan is only \$39 per year per household. Reference 'American Farmers & Ranchers (AFR)' on your application to apply the discount.

"For more information or to enroll, visit www.omniadvantagemember.com or call (855) 877-2518 to speak with a representative."

For more information about AFR/OFU's partnership with OmniAdvantage or other membership benefits, visit <http://www.iafr.com/benefits>. More new membership benefits are coming this fall, including a discount on off-site parking at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City.

AFR/OFU REWARDS PROGRAM



Is this your gate posted with the new AFR/OFU reward sign? Call (405)218-5559 to claim a \$50 reward for spotting your sign! Watch the next edition of the News & Views to see if your new sign has been spotted.

These aluminum signs are available for purchase through your local agent or the AFR/OFU Cooperative Store (http://www.iafr.com/includes/farm_store.php). Complete rules and more information can be found on the AFR/OFU website.

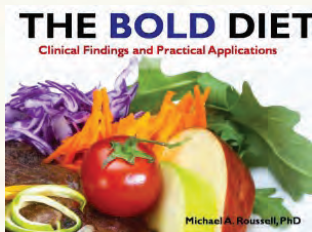


Oklahoma Beef Checkoff UPDATE

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.oklabeef.org/e-newsletter.aspx

Oklahoma Beef Council Launches Website to Educate Physicians

The Oklahoma Beef Council (OBC) is excited to announce the launch of a nation-wide program to educate physicians and other health professional groups on how lean beef fits into a heart-healthy diet. In 2012, the Beef Checkoff released the results of the checkoff-funded BOLD (BEEF in an Optimum Lean Diet) study. The study demonstrated that lean beef could be added to a heart-healthy diet every day and significantly lowers cholesterol. Since the release of the BOLD study, there have been significant efforts by National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a contractor to the The Beef Checkoff, and state beef councils, including Oklahoma, to share the information with health professionals across the US. However, the OBC saw a new opportunity to do more.



Knowing that continuing medical education (CME) was an important requirement for most physicians and knowing that online medical education was also growing, the OBC engaged a top medical communication company to develop an online training program on the BOLD study to help educate physicians looking to fulfill their continuing medical education requirements. The website www.heart-healthynutrition.com features two video presentations on the BOLD study narrated by Dr. Michael Russell, one of the principal investigators. Physicians can take the courses and receive their CME's with accreditation from the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Why is this project significant? With the release of the BOLD study and the advent of web-based training, we are poised to provide a long-term framework for successful continuing medical education. In addition, when you consider the average family physician sees eleven patients a day, there is an incredible opportunity to create a domino effect of positive beef nutrition education. The bottom line-through your beef checkoff, the OBC is providing outstanding science-based research that clearly demonstrates the positive role beef can play in a heart-healthy diet with a key influencer group, doctors.

New Beef Checkoff Consumer Advertising Premieres

The "Beef. It's What's For Dinner." consumer advertising campaign premiered this spring bringing the recognizable

tagline to older millennial and Gen-Xers. The new campaign, funded by the beef checkoff, will feature sizzling beef recipes, juicy details about essential nutrients and the voice of one of Hollywood's most promising new talents.

"This campaign builds upon the core benefits that only beef offers -- its great taste and 10 essential nutrients. While most folks just look at beef for its sizzle or great flavor, it's made up of more than that. Its nutrients are what make it the most powerful protein and what makes beef above all else," says Cevin Jones, chair of the checkoff's Domestic Consumer Preference Committee and producer from Eden, Idaho. "It doesn't hurt that the voice delivering the message on the other side of the radio epitomizes health and sizzle too."



New Voice for a New Target

The new "Above All Else" campaign aims to reach the next generation of beef eaters - the older millennial and Gen-Xer, aged 25 to 44 -who care about food and nutrition.

While keeping many brand mainstays, such as Aaron Copeland's "Rodeo" music, the new beef campaign is switching up the voice behind the famous words, "Beef. It's What's For Dinner." Sparking a new interest for the older millennial and Gen X target, Garrett Hedlund's voice will take a starring role in the campaign's radio spots. Garrett, an up and coming young actor, personally represents healthful living, and his strong, warm voice is perfect for provoking new understanding about beef. "I'm proud to represent America's farmers and ranchers," Hedlund said. "I grew up on my father's cattle operation, so I'm right at home as the new voice of beef."

The print advertisements will appear in monthly national magazines with an emphasis on food, health/fitness, parenting, lifestyle and men's sports. In addition to traditional print placements, the campaign will appear across a wide range of digital platforms, such as 22 tablet versions, online radio stations (e.g., Pandora), video websites (e.g., Hulu), social networking sites (e.g., Facebook) and popular recipe websites (e.g., AllRecipes.com). State Beef Councils will extend the campaign through print, radio, digital, in-person promotions, sporting events, outdoor advertising and more. Public relations, health professional outreach, social media and other promotional efforts round out this integrated effort.

Sharing the Positive Beef Story- Oklahoma Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Oklahoma Beef Council was a sponsor of the Oklahoma Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (OAND) annual convention. As OAND represents the leading group of nutrition health professionals in the state, it was a wonderful opportunity to provide outreach on beef's role in a heart healthy diet as well as information on beef production. As part of the sponsorship, the Oklahoma Beef Council hosted an educational program featuring Dr. Sara Place, an expert in beef sustainability systems and an assistant professor in the animal science department at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Place gave a presentation on the significant improvements of the cattle industry and its impact on the environment from land and water usage to its carbon footprint. There were approximately 200 dietitians in attendance and the presentation was very well received.

American Heart Association Certifies Three More Beef Cuts

The Beef Checkoff Program has announced that three additional fresh beef cuts now are certified to display the American Heart Association's Heart-Check mark. With that, retailers have the opportunity to market a total of six different extra-lean beef items to shoppers using one of the most trusted nutrition icons on food packaging today.



The extra-lean beef cuts that meet the American Heart Association's criteria for heart-healthy foods as part of an overall healthy dietary pattern, and are certified to display the Heart-Check mark include the following USDA Select grade cuts:

- Sirloin Tip Steak
- Bottom Round Steak
- Top Sirloin Stir-Fry
- Boneless Top Sirloin Petite Roast
- Top Sirloin Filet
- Top Sirloin Kabob

Having the American Heart Association certify three additional extra-lean beef cuts is yet another important milestone in the beef checkoff's efforts to help consumers understand the positive health and nutritional benefits of beef.

AMERICAN
FARMERS & RANCHERS
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AFR News & Views

"The Voice of Family Agriculture"

Vol. XCIV No. 3

SUMMER 2013

Upcoming Events...

July 2013

- Annual 4-H State Round-Up, OSU Campus, Stillwater July 24-26
- Oklahoma Cattlemen's Assoc. Convention, Midwest City July 25-27
- AFR/OFU Senior Leadership Summit, Quartz Mountain July 28-31

August 2013

- Oklahoma CareerTech Conference, Oklahoma City Aug. 1-2
- Oklahoma Women in Ag and Small Business Conference Aug. 8-9
- Southern Plains Beef Symposium, Ardmore Aug. 10

September 2013

- AFR/OFU Office Closed – Labor Day Sept. 2
- Septemberfest, Governor's Mansion, Oklahoma City Sept. 7
- AFR/OFU Ag & Historic Conference, Pacific NW Sept. 7-13
- NFU Fly-In, Washington, D.C. Sept. 8-10
- Oklahoma State Fair, Oklahoma City Sept. 12-22
- Heart of America Farm Show, Beggs Sept. 20-22
- Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa Sept. 26 - Oct. 6

...Serving Oklahoma for over 108 years!