



# News & Views

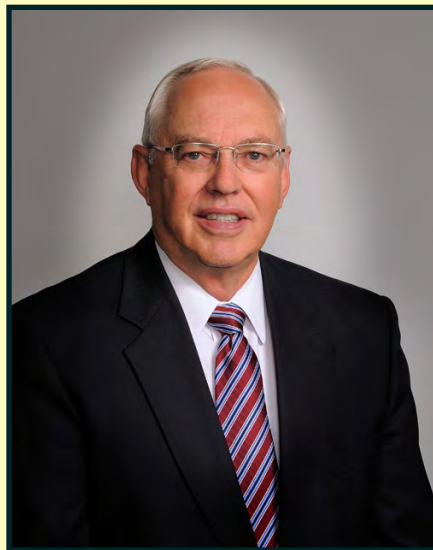
*"The Voice of Family Agriculture"*

Vol. XCIII No.3  
Summer 2012

## *There's Gold in those Fields*

The future is bright for Oklahoma's canola industry...

- 2012 Farm Bill Update • August Area Meetings Announced
- 2012 AFR Women's Conference Dates Set • State/County Scholarship Recipients
- AFR Supports State FireWise Program



By Terry Detrick, President

As I sit down to write this column, July 4, Independence Day, is fast approaching. Because of the delay in our mailing service, it will have come and gone by the time most of you get this paper. However, it is always appropriate to **remember, appreciate, and perpetuate!**

Central to these three ideas is **giving**. Am I off my rocker talking about giving in July? Well, maybe, but let's give it a try. Later in this writing, I'll reveal what has started my mind down this track—but first, a deeper look.

**Giving** is a subject we often associate with Christmas when we give to others in remembrance of God's Gift to mankind. The holiday season is followed by Easter when we celebrate the gift of the promise—eternal life for believers through the resurrection. On Memorial Day, we re-

member the giving of life for our freedom. Then, we celebrate mothers and fathers on their special day for the contributions they have given to us individually, and to society in general. Do you get the picture? Everything of major importance to us has been given.

**Remember:** On July 4, 1776, fifty-six members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence. The first sentence of the second paragraph, known as the Preamble, outlines the sentiment of the Congress.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Our forefathers were officially declaring their independence from a mother country that had become oppressive and was denying personal rights. Since that time, thousands upon thousands have given their all that we might have the freedoms we take for granted today. We have a duty to remember and teach the next generation to remember the men and women whose lives have been interrupted—some temporarily and some forever. We must not forget those who freely gave because of personal patriotic conviction and a feeling of obligation to country, to freedom, and to fellow citizens of the United States of America.

**Appreciate:** How long has it been since we stopped during our busy lives to take time to ponder the painful, horrible sacrifices many have gone through so we could live, and prosper the "American Way?" As we celebrated with family at picnics and happy gatherings on Independence

Day, did we even give our valiant warriors who have gone before us a passing thought of appreciation?

The final sentence of the Declaration of Independence is a pledge of commitment.

"And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

Today, can we even comprehend such a genuine commitment to each other—and to freedom for all?

From that time until now, families have suffered—and still do—because their brave men and women maintained that commitment with their blood, sweat, and tears—appreciate them always!

**Perpetuate:** Because of the investment in our future made by those present and past, it is our obligation to perpetuate what we have received—thus the title, "Giving Back."

I began with a short review of gifts we have received. What are we giving in return? What are we contributing and passing on? Are we living our lives selfishly with only our own needs in mind, or are we reaching out in the "American Way"—the "Christian Way" to others and for the future?

I told you I would reveal later what had my mind going down this track. Here it is!

On Saturday, June 16, I participated in a benefit golf fundraiser. I'm not a golfer, but I could not resist the opportunity to participate. It was a benefit fundraising event for one of our board members, Mr. Harry Jordan, who is suffering from stage 4 bladder cancer. He and his family have to fly to MD Anderson in Houston at their own expense almost weekly. There were opportunities to participate as a player for \$50, sponsor one of the holes for \$100, or just make a general contribution. In addition, countless hours were contributed by friends

and neighbors of the Ada community to organize it. They asked us to announce it to Harry's fellow agents, and we did. What an overwhelming response!

I had a chance to visit with some of the organizers—mostly church, school, and community leaders. I visited with one pastor and one school principal whose hearts were broken for Harry and his family. They spoke passionately about what Harry has given to individuals and to the community. He has always been there to volunteer and contribute to community betterment whenever there was a need. Most significantly, if there was a troubled young person or just one in an unfortunate situation in the community, Harry and his wife, Kim, would take them in as foster parents. I heard one figure of 17 children! Harry and Kim have 3 biological children, have adopted 4 that started as foster children, and have given their home and parentage to the rest. Harry and Kim have given! The community wanted to give back.

Never have I, a second generation  
*Giving continued on pg. 3...*

## GIVING BACK

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

#### OUR PRIVACY POLICY

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

#### INFORMATION WE MAY COLLECT

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

#### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

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

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## GIVING BACK

*Continued from pg. 2...*

OFU/AFR believer, participated in anything that made me more proud of our organization and the members that make it great. Numerous members came to participate—many more sponsored holes. Others donated significant dollars. At every hole there were numerous individual signs, each one showing the name of a sponsor. I don't believe there was a single hole that did not have the names of fellow board members, employees, agents, or individual AFR/OFU members. I applaud all who gave—they raised over \$16,000 that day because people cared.

The benefit tournament for Harry Jordan shows how instrumental AFR/OFU can be in the lives of its members. This has been proven time and again over the organization's 107 year heritage. As an AFR/OFU member, you have been given this heritage of cooperation and mutual support. How can you give back to our fantastic organization?

You can support the AFR/OFU cause with your insurance business. You have one policy with AFR, but you could have all your insurance needs met by one of our agents. Few organizations give back as much as we do. With AFR, a portion of your dues comes back to your county and local community to help volunteer fire departments, your civic organizations, boy scouts and girl scouts, community functions and more. Your insurance dollar also builds tomorrow's leaders through our Youth Leadership Development programs.

In addition to simply serving communities across Oklahoma, AFR/OFU serves as a legislative voice for its members. Our insurance dollars do not go off to Wall Street—they work for you from right here in Oklahoma all the way to Washington D.C. on issues YOU give us. Every August, AFR hosts its "Boots on the Ground" leadership meetings. These meetings give members a chance to learn more about and become more involved in AFR/OFU. These meetings also provide individual members an opportunity to form AFR legislative policy for the following year. Every member is invited to be a part of this process. For more information on these August meetings, see pg. 11.

Another great way to give back to AFR is to simply be a proud member of the organization. AFR/OFU is made up of members who **remember** the past, **appreciate** what they have been given, and **perpetuate** that spirit of giving. Be proud of your organization and tell your neighbor what you are a part of!

AFR members are the building blocks of our organization. Give us your ideas, tell us your needs, give us your loyalty, so we can give back to you by serving you better. Giving service to our policyholder/membership is what we do. Help us do it better and—Thanks, AFR, for giving. I am proud and honored to be a part of you!

God bless you all and God bless the USA. Have a safe summer and..... Happy birthday, America.

**Terry**

## SHELTON NAMED TO AFR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jim Shelton, of Vinita, has been named to the American Farmers & Ranchers (AFR) Board of Directors, filling a vacancy created by the resignation of Jerry Nick earlier this year. Shelton will finish out Nick's term which expires February 2013. The board interviewed five very highly-qualified candidates before choosing Shelton.

Shelton is retired from the Oklahoma State Bank of Vinita after 35 years. He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU in Dallas. He recently received the degree of Honorary State FFA degree at the 2012 convention.

Shelton was in Class I of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program and Class XIV of Leadership Oklahoma. He has been involved in many local and civic organizations. He has served as president of the Vinita Public School Board, treasurer of the Vinita Public Schools Educational Foundation, president of the Vinita Lions Club, and president of the Vinita Chamber of Commerce. He was also a member of the oversight committee for the construction of the new Craig County Community Center. Shelton has been a board member of the Cherokee Hills RC&D Council, a member of the Long Range Capital Planning Commission for the State of Oklahoma, director of the Oklahoma State University Alumni Association, a member of the OSUAA Leadership Council, a board member for the OSU Animal Science Alumni Association, and currently serves on the board of directors of Holistic Management International in Albuquerque, N.M. Shelton is also a member of the session at the Pilgrim Presbyterian Church in Vinita.

AFR President Terry Detrick recently spent time with Shelton at a Board Training Boot Camp in St. Louis, Mo.

"Jim and his wife Sara have been AFR/OFU members and supporters for 24 years," Detrick said. "They have a successful ranching operation that specializes in premium quality grass-fed beef production for that niche market. Jim has a lot of background experience valuable to AFR/OFU and I look forward to serving our membership alongside him."

Shelton and his wife work their ranching operation together. They have four grown children—2 boys and 2 girls. Their oldest Tom, has a construction and electrical contracting business. Their older daughter, Elizabeth, is a congressional legislative aid in Washington D.C. Will, their younger son, is an apprentice working toward his electrician's license on the construction of a high-voltage electric line in Amarillo, Texas. Mary Kate, their youngest, is an event planner for a nonprofit firm in Washington, D.C.



## Actions Speak Louder than Words

The theme for this year's "Boots on the Ground" August Area Meetings says it all! Be a part of the action by joining in the conversation and becoming an active member of American Farmers & Ranchers.

*See page 11 for details...*

# AFR DELEGATES LOBBY IN D.C.



*Joe Ed & Jo Ann Kinder, Eric & Shelly Bilderback, Justin & Linda Cowan, and AFR state staff Terry Detrick & Paul Jackson (not pictured) lobbied at the Capitol.*

A delegation from American Farmers & Ranchers pounded the pavement in Washington, D.C., for two days, April 17-18. They spent their time in the Capitol City communicating policy positions adopted by delegates at AFR's recent annual convention. Future farm policy took center stage as the 2012 Farm Bill was discussed in earnest with members and staff of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation – including Third District U.S. Representative Frank Lucas, chair of the House Agriculture Committee.

AFR President Terry Detrick and AFR Directors Eric Bilderback of El Reno, Justin Cowan of Locust Grove, and Joe Ed Kinder of Frederick focused on the importance of ensuring that livestock producers were not overlooked during the writing of the new bill. Detrick said Oklahoma's representatives responded favorably. The AFR delegation told Congress they wanted a "Farm Bill Now."

"One of the most important times for us to work on Capitol Hill is during the creation of a farm bill," said Detrick. "It not only directly impacts farmers and ranchers, but also non-farmers and ranchers who live in rural areas. And, it doesn't stop there as this food policy impacts every American who wants a safe, affordable, quality, and available food supply for their families."

Oklahoma has a lot riding on this bill. Farm bill payments are likely to receive a major overhaul as the federal budget tightens the purse strings. There is a major push to eliminate direct payments for crop farmers and move toward a ramped-up crop insurance program. However, recent trends indicate that the federal government is not willing to expend the dollars needed to underwrite the premiums. To make the crop insurance program financially sound, producers may have to pay higher premiums to receive adequate coverage for protection, which could be cost prohibitive. Oklahomans face drought and crop losses almost every year. Because of this, weather protection, as well as price protection, must be part of the final bill.

The elimination of direct payments means producers who choose to harvest the grain by grazing it out with cattle may be left with a "short stick" unless Congress intervenes. Congressman Lucas grazes out his crops and understands that Southern Plains producers are a key component in placing stocker cattle for a period of time before they are shipped to feedlots for completion. This grazing occurs prior to harvest and reduces total number of harvest acres; therefore, grazing wheat and other grains plays a role in raising prices for those who combine the grain for seed.

"I believe Congressman Lucas will be pursuing every opportunity possible to ensure that livestock producers who graze out are covered in some way, as well as to ensure other livestock disaster program coverage," said Detrick. "Without assistance to graze out, demand for cattle on the eastern side of our state may be diminished. The movement of cattle from east to west is an integral part of the overall beef industry in Oklahoma."

With July in full swing, Congress is fast approaching a political shift from action in Washington to action in the countryside in response to November elections. At this writing, the Senate has passed their version of the Farm Bill and the House is projected to take the bill up in July. It is widely accepted that most southern crops such as wheat and cotton will have to wait until a House mark-up occurs before beneficial provisions for these crops can be secured. Because of the flurry of activity following November elections, the Oklahoma delegation members predict the conclusion to writing a farm bill may not come until after the fall event.

"Writing a good farm bill is not enough. Getting it passed through both houses of Congress and signed by the president can be a bigger battle. And, time is running short," Detrick explained. "The good news is that, in both the Senate and House Ag Committees, they operate mostly in a bipartisan way."

"If no agreement is reached, it may be necessary to seek a one year extension of the currently expiring farm bill," Detrick said. "Whether we get a 'farm bill now,' or get an extension, we feel it is very important that our producers know what policy they will be bound by far enough in advance to plan ahead. With the passage of previous farm bills, it has not been unusual for farmers to not be informed of what the new program will be at planting time."

"The downside to an extension is that there are several conservation and disaster programs that have already expired," Detrick continued. "Without special provisions, these programs will not automatically be extended. Our expectations are that, come November and December, things are going to get hot and heavy, and we're probably going to have to really buckle down and get letters written. Further lobbying efforts and hard work by everyone will be necessary to get a farm bill done."

Other attendees included Shelly Bilderback of El Reno, Linda Cowan of Locust Grove, Jo Ann Kinder of Frederick, and AFR Farm and Cooperative Programs Director Paul Jackson of Ringling.

In addition to farm bill issues, the group lobbied on issues relative to the lesser prairie chicken, Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations, "navigable waters" definition, and castor beans. **A comprehensive package of issues discussed can be found on the AFR website at <http://www.iafr.com>.**



*AFR delegates meet with Chairman Lucas.*

## Farm Bill Updates

The 2012 farm bill is making its way through Congress this summer, with both the Senate and the House of Representatives establishing separate and distinct versions. Unlike many recent federal issues that have become mired in partisan gridlock, the farm legislation has seen steady progress. AFR remains hopeful that Oklahoma Congressman and House Agriculture Committee Chair Frank Lucas can lead a conference committee agreement for the benefit of American agriculture.

The status of the farm bill changes frequently. To stay current on the latest updates on this legislation, check AFR's website ([www.iafr.com/includes/news.php](http://www.iafr.com/includes/news.php)) or Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/AmericanFarmersandRanchers](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanFarmersandRanchers)).



# 2012 STATE LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

By Tommy Thomas and Heather Brown



The second session of the 53rd Oklahoma State Legislature came to a close May 25. AFR lobbyists stayed very busy this session on both insurance and agricultural issues. Some of the main topics affecting AFR members this session were landowner rights, water policy, and county roads and bridges. The debate over state income tax was another issue that was followed closely.

In order to stay on top of AFR issues and represent AFR's best interests at the Capitol, AFR lobbyists participated in groups of both agricultural and insurance lobbyists. These groups will meet regularly during the interim to share information and form strategies. Prior to the next legislative session, AFR lobbyists will be attending meetings, legislative events, and fundraisers, both at the Capitol and in various legislative districts. It is an election year, and close contact will be maintained with AFR's friends in the legislature.

Listed below are the bills that have been signed by Governor Fallin. This is not an exhaustive list; however, the main bills of interest are included. As always, more information about these bills or any others can be attained by contacting AFR at (405)218-5563 or [legislation@afrmic.com](mailto:legislation@afrmic.com).

## Landowner Rights

**SB1665**, by Sen. Rob Johnson, R-Kingfisher, and Rep. Fred Jordan, R-Jenks, provides statutory protection for surface owners who have seismic operations on their property.

**HB1562**, by Rep. Fred Jordan, R-Jenks, and Sen. Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City, protects the rights of landowners facing eminent domain proceedings by instructing the attorney general to prepare a "landowner's bill of rights."

**HB2573**, by Rep. Pat Ownbey, R-Ardmore, and Sen. Frank Simpson, R-Ardmore, increases fines for poaching.

**HB2654**, by Rep. Fred Jordan, R-Jenks, and Sen. Rob Johnson, R-Kingfisher, reforms the fiduciary duty owed by oil and gas operators.

## Insurance

**HB2453**, by Rep. Charles Key, R-Oklahoma City, and Sen. Bill Brown, R-Broken Arrow, requires the insurance commissioner to subject each applicant for a license as an insurance producer, consultant, limited insurance representative, or customer service representative to an examination. It removes language prohibiting an applicant who has failed to pass the first two examinations from taking a subsequent examination for 30 days.

**SB1060**, by Sen. Bill Brown, R-Broken Arrow, and Rep. Randy Grau, R-Edmond, directs an insurer who has reason to believe that a person or entity has engaged in an act or practice that violates state statute or administrative rules to notify the Anti-Fraud Unit of the Insurance Department as well as the Workers' Compensation Unit and the Insurance Fraud Unit of the Office of the Attorney General.

**SB1152**, by Sen. Bill Brown, R-Broken Arrow, and Rep. Glen Mulready, R-Tulsa, prohibits any insurer, agent, broker, solicitor, or other person to provide any prizes, goods, wares, merchandise, or tangible property of a value in excess of \$100 as an inducement to insurance or in connection with any insurance transaction.

**SB1196**, by Sen. Sean Burrage, D-Claremore, and Rep. Ben Sherrer, D-Chouteau, increases the amount that may be recovered under small claims procedures from \$6,000 to \$7,500.

## Roads and Bridges

**HB2249**, by Rep. T.W. Shannon, R-Lawton, and Sen. Bryce Marlatt, R-Woodward, phases in, over the next three years, five percent of the motor vehicle collection tax from the General Revenue Fund to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges (CIRB) Fund.

## Water

**HB3055**, by House Speaker Kris Steele, R-Shawnee, and Sen. Eddie Fields, R-Wynona, establishes a goal of consuming no more fresh water in the year 2060 than is consumed statewide in the year 2012 and the 15-member Water for 2060 Advisory Council.

## Weights and Measures

**HB1952**, by Rep. Skye McNeil, R-Bristow, and Sen. Gary Stanislawski, R-Tulsa, sets limitations on the authority of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to weigh vehicles at temporary scales.

**HB2250**, by Rep. T.W. Shannon, R-Lawton, and Sen. Bryce Marlatt, R-Woodward, directs any officer weighing a vehicle by means of portable scales to allow the driver of the vehicle to move the vehicle to the most level weighing area within 2 miles of the stop.

**HB2325**, by Rep. Dale DeWitt, R-Braman, and Sen. Ron Justice, R-Chickasha, allows vehicles to be operated on highways of the state, except on interstate highways, when transporting over-width or over-height equipment used in soil conservation work.

## General Ag Issues

**HB2188** and **HB2189**, by Rep. Dale DeWitt, R-Braman, and Sen. Mike Schulz, R-Altus, prohibit the commercial production or transportation of castor beans.

**HB3110**, by Rep. Earl Sears, R-Bartlesville, and Sen. Eddie Fields, R-Wynona, states that livestock are not subject to ad valorem tax.

**HB2715**, by Rep. Mike Jackson, R-Enid, and Sen. Patrick Anderson, R-Enid, modifies language regarding pesticide applicators.

**HB2917**, by Rep. Phil Richardson, R-Minco, and Sen. Ron Justice, R-Chickasha, authorizes the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) to establish voluntary fees for the development and writing of nutrient management plans for poultry operations.

**SB1518**, by Sen. Eddie Fields, R-Wynona, and Rep. Don Armes, R-Faxon, prohibits the importation of live feral swine into Oklahoma, unless the swine are going directly to a slaughter facility.

**SB1539**, by Sen. Josh Brecheen, R-Coalgate, and Rep. Don Armes, R-Faxon, permits the Department of Corrections to accept and process agricultural products from the public and to export the resulting products to foreign markets.

**SB1743**, by Sen. Steve Russell, R-Oklahoma City, and Rep. Leslie Osborn, R-Tuttle, permits any person hunting on property owned by the person or other persons hunting on the property with permission of the owner to use a sound suppressor.

**SB1751**, by Sen. Josh Brecheen, R-Coalgate, and Rep. Don Armes, R-Faxon, declares a person will not be considered the owner of a feral swine when the person catches, tags, and releases the feral swine in the same location that it was caught in a 24-hour period.

For a complete list of legislation from the 2012 session, visit the "News" page on American Farmers & Ranchers website at:

<http://www.americanfarmersandranchers.com/includes/news.php>

# AFR ADDRESSES WHEAT GRADING STANDARDS

## AFR

June 8, 2012

Department of Agriculture

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

7 CFR Part 810

RIN 0580-AB12

U.S. Wheat Grading Standards

American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union (AFR/OFU) is a general farm organization based in Oklahoma since 1905. We represent a variety of agricultural interests with emphasis on the two primary mainstays in Oklahoma – wheat and cattle. The production of both of these commodities in Oklahoma contributes greatly to the national economy with wheat being our number one crop. We offer our comments both in the interest of our member producers and its impact on them, but also in the interest of continued contribution of wheat production in the heartland to a struggling domestic economy.

The proposed changes in the Federal Register, Vol. 77, No. 70 dated Wednesday, April 11, 2012, would have dire economic consequences to the producers of the southern Plains – namely southern Kansas, Oklahoma and northern Texas. Unlike other areas of the country, wheat producers have not experienced the same uptick of prices relative to commodities like corn and combined with inconsistent weather conditions like drought in the southern Plains our producers have struggled.

The proposal advanced unfairly targets Oklahoma, southern Kansas and northern Texas wheat producers and puts them at a competitive disadvantage to other producers in the country who do not experience similar weather conditions which creates the shrunken and broken (SHBN) grades issue. It happened again here this year. The timing of a few days of hot dry winds at the wrong time and the SHBN issue is created. There is nothing a producer could have done to change the outcome. U.S. Grain Standards should be developed in a way that applies to the entire industry across the country and not target geographical areas for issues beyond the producers' control.

The Oklahoma, southern Kansas and northern Texas wheat producers would not only be at a competitive pricing disadvantage domestically but also equally in foreign markets. The issue of SHBN on quality is bogus as quality is not impacted by SHBN. The heart of the matter is that purchasers in the international marketplace are specifying standards so they can lower the price of U.S. grain and get a better deal for exactly the same quality. That's the real issue here. It is not a quality issue. Changing OUR grading standards only gives foreign buyers a price advantage while penalizing OUR producers. Regulatory requirements should be to the benefit of domestic producers and nothing has been shown that indicates producers will benefit from this proposal.

To repeat, at a time when the economy is questionable at best and southern Plains wheat producers have not experienced the same profits as other commodities because of drought and other circumstances, now is not the time – nor in the future – to change U.S. Standards for Wheat. I encourage GIPSA to represent the citizens of the United States as you consider this issue – and consider the domestic economy impact.

Again, AFR/OFU stands strongly opposed to the proposed U.S. Standards for Wheat. Thank you for this opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,



Terry Detrick, President

# AFR SUPPORTS ROADS & BRIDGES FUNDING



*AFR President Terry Detrick with Governor Mary Fallin at a bill signing ceremony for the legislation at the State Capitol on June 4.*

In the closing days of the 2012 session of the Oklahoma Legislature, AFR partnered with the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma (ACCO) to pass transportation legislation that will enhance funding for rural roads and bridges across the state.

"I would like to thank the Oklahoma State Legislature for giving HB 2249 final passage on May 24, 2012, said AFR President Terry Detrick. "This legislation, authored by Rep. T.W. Shannon and Sen. Bryce Marlatt, will increase funding for county roads and bridges by directing an additional five percent of revenue, derived from vehicle license and registration fees, from the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges (CIRB) Fund."

"Oklahoma farmers and ranchers depend on rural and county roads and bridges as they produce our food. Those same roads and bridges are necessary for consumers to receive the food. Therefore, the agriculture industry and consumers alike rely heavily on the quality of Oklahoma's rural infrastructure, and HB 2249 is important to ensuring the state's structurally-deficient bridges – most of them rural – are repaired or replaced."

Currently, 706 bridges on the state highway system are identified as structurally deficient. Of these bridges, 413 are currently scheduled to be replaced in the next seven years, but 293 remain unfunded. Many of those bridges will now be replaced.

After a three year stair-stepped phase-in, HB 2249 will ultimately result in 20 percent of state vehicle license and registration revenue being sent to the CIRB Fund. This is an increase from approximately \$80 million to more than \$111 million.

In addition to other lobbying activities to increase roads and bridges funding, AFR, along with other state agriculture organizations, supported ACCO's efforts by adding their organization name to a letter distributed to legislators.

"It demonstrates again the power of partnerships and working together to accomplish those things that often times we are not able to achieve individually," Detrick said. "As we in rural Oklahoma increasingly become a minority in the Legislature, we must continually cultivate opportunities which can be mutually beneficial."

At the request of AFR, ACCO representatives briefed the AFR 2012 Policy Committee about this and other potential mechanisms to increase funding for rural roads and bridges. AFR legislative policy, adopted by local and county delegates to the annual convention, is very supportive of funding for county road and bridge improvements.

## SOUTHEAST OKLAHOMA WATER MEETINGS

AFR, along with the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and Farm Bureau, hosted a water education forum in Atoka on May 17 and in Antlers on May 31. Patrick Wyrick, Solicitor General and lead litigator for the Oklahoma Attorney General's office and JD Strong, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board briefed southeast Oklahoma residents on the Sardis Lake area's general stream adjudication, tribal water rights lawsuit, and court-monitored mediation taking place between the state of Oklahoma and the Native American tribes.

A wide-ranging discussion took place at each location, with much interaction from the audience. In addition to the current legal issues, questions were addressed regarding transfer of water storage rights to Oklahoma City, membership of the water resources board, and the recent comprehensive water plan.



We thank everyone who came out to the forum and our partner organizations for being a part of these events. If you have any questions about AFR's policy on water issues, contact AFR at [sthompson@afrmic.com](mailto:sthompson@afrmic.com) or (405) 218-5563.

## AFR PRESENT AT CAPITOL AND IN DISTRICTS



### Ag Day at the Capitol

AFR field rep A.J. Bristow and his wife, Aliene, and AFR Policy & Membership Development Coordinator Steve Thompson attended Ag Day at the Capitol. AFR staffed a trade show booth in the Capitol rotunda and attended the Governor's Ag Hall of Fame award ceremony.

### Eggs & Issues Breakfast

At the Eggs & Issues Legislative Breakfast in Elk City, lobbyist Tommy Thomas, AFR President Terry Detrick, Elk City AFR agent and Director Melody Cummings, and current and former legislators, including Rep. Purcy Walker, Sen. Tom Ivester, and Rep. Todd Russ (pictured) from western Oklahoma provided an update on the state legislative session.



## AFR SUPPORTS INSURANCE AUDIT LEGISLATION



AFR President Terry Detrick (second from left) participated in the bill signing ceremony for Senate Bill 1474. The bill reduces the required external audits from every three years to every five years for Oklahoma insurance providers. This is a great benefit to AFR policy-holders as it greatly reduces the financial burden of audits, thereby allowing rates to remain low.

## OACD'S EFFORTS SUCCESSFUL



*Clay Pope, Executive Director of the OACD.*

The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts recently announced that the EPA has removed 11 additional Oklahoma streams from the 303(d) list of impaired waters. These streams join 16 others in Oklahoma that the EPA has removed from the impaired list in recent years.

These recommendations are a result of voluntary conservation practices by Oklahoma's farmers, ranchers, and other landowners in partnership with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and local conservation districts.

Clay Pope, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), believes the recommendation shows that the state's approach to non-point source pollution control is working. Oklahoma's efforts focus on voluntary, incentive based programs that work cooperatively with agriculture producers and other landowners.

"Our efforts in the area of water quality are truly bearing fruit," Pope said. "Oklahoma has one of the best, if not the best, non-point source pollution reduction programs in the country."

AFR joined the OACD at a press conference at the Capitol to announce this achievement and to encourage Oklahoma's ongoing conservation efforts.

# USDA CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

On May 15, commemorative ceremonies were held around the country, including at the Oklahoma State Capitol, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Several state organization leaders spoke, highlighting the far-reaching impact the USDA has on all aspects of life in Oklahoma. AFR staff attended the event.

The USDA has a special significance to the state of Oklahoma. According to Ryan McMullen, State Director of Rural Development, USDA research helped slow soil erosion during the Dust Bowl, and helped the state recover in the aftermath. In the following years, the USDA partnered with electric cooperatives to bring electricity to many rural Oklahoma residents. The Department also invested heavily in other areas of the state's rural infrastructure, including telephone, public water, and sewer systems. Today, the USDA partners with telecommunication cooperatives, schools, and hospitals to bring high-speed internet and distance learning to the state.

Francie Tolle, State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency, praised the Department's contribution to the overall economy. Tolle called agriculture "the unsung hero" of the American economy. She said that Americans spend on average only 10% of their income on food. While China and India have been praised in recent years for their industry advantages, Tolle noted one very important U.S. advantage -- because of American agriculture, the U.S. can feed its people.

President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation on May 15, 1862, to create the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Over the next two months - in the midst of the Civil War - he signed additional legislation that expanded and transformed American farming. This legislation included the Homestead Act and the Morrill Act, which established the land grant agricultural university system. The combination of these three pieces of legislation created an opportunity to educate and empower rural America. Called "The People's Department" by Lincoln himself, the USDA continues to play an integral part in every American's life.

The Department's emphasis on technology and innovation allows today's farmers to provide more food more efficiently than ever before. This will become increasingly important as the world's population expands and the need for affordable food increases



Steve Thompson, AFR Policy & Membership Development Coordinator; Ron Hilliard, State Conservationist for Natural Resources Conservation Service; Ryan McMullen, State Director of USDA-RDA; Francie Tolle, State Director of USDA-FSA; Paul Jackson, AFR Farm & Cooperative Programs Director; Terry Detrick, AFR President; and Garrett King, Oklahoma Ag Liaison for U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas.

drastically in the years to come. In a statement issued by the National Farmers Union, NFU President Roger Johnson stated, "The USDA has served the family farmers and ranchers of the country very well. With the Department's help, U.S. farmers and ranchers are able to produce the safest, most affordable, most abundant food supply in the world."

# NATIONAL NEWS UPDATES

## EPA Legislation Filed

Members of the Oklahoma congressional delegation introduced companion bills to address fears about potential Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) actions. These bills—HR 4965, sponsored by Reps. Lucas, Lankford, Cole, and Boren, and S 2245, by Sens. Inhofe and Coburn—aim to prevent the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from using "guidance" documents of their own creation to expand their authority beyond that given in the Clean Water Act. If passed, this legislation would strengthen the continued inclusion of the word "navigable" in key regulatory authority parameters. **AFR policy strongly supports this legislation.**

## Child Labor Regulations

In response to strong criticism from agricultural organizations nationwide, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has withdrawn a proposed rule that would have strengthened child labor laws for agricultural operations. Under the proposed law, strong rules would have been placed on children under the age of 16 and 18 in regard to farm labor on non-family farms. These restrictions would have included many forms of livestock handling and large equipment use. In place of the proposed rule, the DOL will work with the National Farmers Union, the National FFA Organization, and 4-H to develop an educational program aimed at reducing accidents among young workers and promoting safer agricultural working practices. **AFR lobbied against the DOL proposal and counts the recent withdrawal as a success.**

## Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service recently confirmed the nation's fourth case of BSE. Identified at a central California rendering facility, the cow was never presented for slaughter for human consumption and was never a threat to the food supply. Additionally, the BSE found in the animal was atypical and was not caused by a contaminated feed source. USDA identified the animal as part of its targeted surveillance program and has confirmed the cow's offspring were negative for BSE. Despite a weakening of markets immediately after the announcement, cattle futures increased the daily limit within a week and no export markets were closed.

## Rural Post Offices

In lieu of rural facility closures, the U.S. Postal Service announced a strategy to reduce costs by limiting retail window hours. The plan is to be implemented over the next two years and is scheduled for completion in September 2014. According to the USPS, no community will be required to close its post office. The USPS will also be conducting public meetings in the affected communities to review the plan's options. Communities will be notified by mail of the date, time, and location of these meetings. In addition to the proposed changes, the USPS also announced a voluntary early retirement incentive for postmasters. **AFR has policy to retain rural postal service that is equal to urban counterparts and has lobbied to retain rural post offices.**



AFR delegation in Washington, D.C.  
Back row: Joe Ed Kinder, Terry Detrick, Eric Bilderback, & Paul Jackson  
Front row: Jo Ann Kinder, Linda Cowan, Justin Cowan, & Shelly Bilderback



# AFR WELCOMES NEW AGENTS

## Taylor Buys McGuire Agency in Hugo



*Ernie Taylor (new agent, left) and Rolin McGuire*

Ernie Taylor recently purchased the R. E. McGuire Agency in Hugo. R. E. (Rolin) McGuire retired after many years as an award-winning AFR agent.

Taylor has lived in the Hugo area his entire life. His wife, Krystle Taylor, is editor of the "Hugo Daily News." They have one child, Clancy.

Taylor enjoys roping, ranching, and horse training. He also occasionally plays golf. He has been employed in several positions with the Choctaw Tribe. He has worked for the last 4 years as an AFR adjuster in southeastern Oklahoma.

Taylor graduated from Hugo High School and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

McGuire and his daughter, Lisa Leslie, will continue to work in the agency to help Taylor transition.

## Hembrees Buy Hobbs Agency in Haskell



*Shelli and Carl "Bud" Hembree*

Shelli and Carl "Bud" Hembree have purchased the former Hobbs Agency from Lowell and Donna Hobbs. Shelli Hembree has worked in the Haskell agency since 1997. Bud Hembree has recently become a life agent and will be working in the office as well.

Carl Hembree's parents, Lee and Sue Hembree, and Shelli Hembree's parents, Thomas and Carol Hallum, live in the Haskell area.

The Hembrees are active members of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Haskell. Bud Hembree is currently a project manager for Exterran, where he has worked for 29 years. The Hembrees have two children, Shaun and Kelsey, and two grandchildren.

The Hembrees have changed the name of the business to "Haskell Insurance Agency," but the agency is still located at 105-A S. Broadway. The agency will also retain the same phone number—(918) 482-5286.

## Schieffer and Son Buy Anderson Agency in Drumright



*Matt Schieffer*

Wally Schieffer and Matt Schieffer have purchased the Roger Anderson Agency in Drumright. Matt Schieffer is the new managing agent. He has worked in his parents' agency in Perry, which was established by his great-grandfather. He will be the fourth generation of Schieffers to be AFR agents.

Matt Schieffer graduated from Perry High School and earned his bachelor's degree in English from Oklahoma State University. He is currently working on his master's degree.

The Schieffers have changed the agency name to "Schieffer & Schieffer, Inc., DBA 5 Star Insurance." The agency is still located at 125-A E. Broadway in Drumright and still has the same phone number—(918)352-9406. Anderson will continue to work part time to help Matt Schieffer transition into his new role. Pam Murray will continue to work in the agency.

## Miller Buys Clements Agency in Lindsay



*Keith Miller (new agent, left) and Darla Clements*

Keith Miller, of Wynnewood, has purchased the Clements Agency in Lindsay.

The Clements Agency was established in 1905 by W. A. "Bill" Clements' grandfather.

Bill Clement's widow, Darla, chose Miller to carry on the agency's legacy. Miller has a long history with AFR. He has served as an agent and part owner in the Wynnewood Agency and as a local staff adjuster.

Miller has lived in Garvin County for 18 years with his wife, Andrea, and their two children. He has served as president of the Garvin County Farmers Union, Pauls Valley Kiwanis, and the Wynnewood School Board.

Miller is looking forward to becoming involved in the Lindsay community. Long-time employee Beth Taylor is still a part of the agency as a customer service representative.

# ANNUAL COUNTY MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

## Payne County Annual Meeting & Banquet

Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012  
Doors open @ 5:30 p.m.  
Payne County Expo Center  
Stillwater, Okla.

Catered by Klein's Catering Service  
RSVP by noon, Monday, Oct. 15 to:  
Porter Agency, 372-4169 or 372-0585  
Perkins Agency, 547-2971  
Cushing Agency, 225-1751  
Schieffer & Schieffer Agency, 352-9406

*Please make reservations with the agents listed as to how many will be attending from your family. This is important to plan seating and the dinner.*

*Entertainment - Hunt bluegrass band!  
Many door prizes!*

*There will be a short business meeting with election of officers and directors for the coming year, election of a delegate to the state convention, and presentation of resolutions. If you have any resolutions, please bring them up at the meeting.*

## Grady County Meeting & Free Dinner

Monday, Oct. 15, 2012 @ 7 p.m.  
Grady County Fairgrounds  
Chickasha, Okla.  
Catered by "End O' Main"  
RSVP by Friday, Oct. 12 to:  
Taylor-Schebester Agency, 224-4450  
Harold Ratterman, 352-5200  
Community Agency, 476-3289  
Ray Anthony, 224-1392  
Jack McClain, 453-7801

*Please include number attending in RSVP. If you find you are unable to attend after your reservations have been made, please call back to cancel. Thank you!*

*Door prizes & an evening of entertainment!*

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

## Stephens County Meeting & Free Dinner

Monday, Oct. 8, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Stephens County Fairgrounds  
Duncan, Okla.  
RSVP by noon, Oct. 4 to:  
Graham Agency, 658-3077  
Harris Agency, 255-2147  
Jeremy Scherler Ins., 439-8823

*To confirm, please call your AFR agent.  
For immediate family only, please!*

*Door prizes!!!*

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

*Marlow Local #70 will meet following the county meeting.*

## Pawnee County Annual Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012 @ 1 p.m.  
Cleveland Community Center  
(next to library)  
Cleveland, Okla.

*There will be food, drinks, and door prizes!*

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

## Oklahoma County Meeting & Dinner

Saturday, November 3, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Midwest City Community Center

*All OFU/AFR families welcome.*

*Door prizes! Entertainment!*

*Meeting for Locals #150, #166, #196, #3313, and #789 immediately following the county meeting.*

## Caddo County Meeting & Free Dinner

Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012  
Dinner served @ 6:30 p.m.  
Fort Cobb School Cafeteria  
Fort Cobb, Okla.

RSVP by 4 p.m., Monday, Sept. 24

*To make proper food and other arrangements for those attending, we ask that you please RSVP to your local insurance agent.*

*There will be a short business meeting with presentation of reports, election of officers and/or directors for the coming year, election of a delegate to the state convention, and presentation of resolutions.*

## Beckham County Annual Meeting & Customer Appreciation Dinner

Monday, October 15, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Opera House in the Museum Complex  
2717 W. Third, Elk City, Okla.

*Local #14 and #112 will have a short business meeting immediately following.*

## Garfield County Annual Meeting & Dinner

Friday, Oct. 19, 2012 @ 6 p.m.  
Hoover Building, Fairgrounds  
Enid, Okla.

Speaker: Terry Detrick, AFR President  
RSVP by Oct. 15 to:  
Bolenbaugh Agency, 242-2818  
Detrick Agency, 796-2100  
Maly Agency, 863-2389

*To confirm, please call your insurance agent. This is for AFR/OFU members and families only. Please bring this invitation for admittance: "Remember RSVP."*

*The following locals will meet immediately following:  
Bolenbaugh #668, Hunter #634, Garber #682, Woodson #529, Lahoma #152*

# ANNUAL COUNTY MEETINGS Continued...

## Creek County Annual Meeting & Free Barbecue Dinner

Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012 @ 7 p.m.  
Creek County Fair Barn  
RSVP by 5 p.m., Friday Sept. 28 to:  
Boone Agency - Sapulpa, 224-2005  
Firey Agency - Bristow, 367-2349

*Catering and seating will be based on response. Please call to cancel if you are unable to attend after making reservations.*

*Door prizes!!!*

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

## Lincoln County Meeting & Free Dinner

Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012  
Buffet served 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Agri-Center  
Chandler, Okla.  
RSVP by Oct. 5

*Make your reservations with your agent so that seating arrangements can be made. Remember that your membership entitles you to tickets for your immediate family only!*

*Entertainment! Door prizes!*

*There will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Nominations for county officers will be made from the floor. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please have his/her name placed in nomination at the meeting. We will also have resolutions presented for a vote of the membership.*

## Pittsburg County Annual Meeting & Dinner

Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Southeast Expo Center  
4500 W. HWY 270, McAlester, Okla.  
Catered by: KFC  
RSVP to:  
Aliene Bristow  
145 Bristow Lane, McAlester, Okla. 74501  
469-2360  
or  
McAlester Agent, 423-7926  
Haileyville Agent, 297-2553

*There will be a short business meeting with an election of officers for the coming year. Please bring resolutions for approval.*

## “BOOTS ON THE GROUND” AFR AUGUST AREA LEADERSHIP MEETINGS PLANNED

American Farmers & Ranchers Area Leadership Meetings are scheduled throughout the month of August. In preparation for the annual local and county meetings of the organization, AFR will be holding the area meetings open to all members who want to become more involved in membership activities and the business of the company.

“Actions Speak Louder than Words” is the theme for this year’s “Boots on the Ground” action meetings. Your participation in the August meetings will provide an opportunity to learn about current organization initiatives and state and federal legislative policy activities. It will also allow you to give input on regulatory and legislative issues and the development of resolutions. These meetings will be the beginning process for the development of a legislative agenda which will be completed February 2013 at the AFR annual convention. Current legislative policy can be found on the AFR website. Specifically, meeting discussions include an insurance company update, the status of the farm bill, state questions to be considered on the General Election ballot in November, and the general topic of being FireWise, which can benefit all policyholders with stabilized rates.

All member policyholders are welcome to attend. County and local officers and agents will receive a formal invitation and are strongly encouraged to attend so that the member policyholders in your area may be represented effectively on insurance and agricultural policy matters. Other members interested in taking part should contact us at the below number. Space limitations may exist at some locations, so be sure to RSVP well in advance to ensure a seat.

*Reservations are requested for attendance no later than 48 hours before each scheduled meeting. These reservations can be made by calling Bridget Hulet at 405-218-5526 or Steve Thompson at 405-218-5563.*

### Elk City - Tuesday, August 14th

Opera House  
2717 W. 3rd St.

### Chickasha - Thursday, August 16th

Canadian Valley Technology Center (Seminar Center- Room B)  
1401 Michigan Ave.

### Fairview - Monday, August 20th

City Hall Complex (East Room)  
123 S. Sixth Ave.

### Pryor - Tuesday, August 21st

Northeast Technology Center (Anglin Building- Seminar Room)  
6195 W. Hwy 20

### Wilburton - Thursday, August 23rd

Eastern Oklahoma State College (Student Center- South Ballroom)  
1301 W. Main St.

### Perkins - Monday, August 27th

Oklahoma Territorial Plaza (Vassar Community Center)  
750 N. Main St.

### Tishomingo - Thursday, August 30th

Johnston County Library  
116 W. Main St.

*Each meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. A light meal will be served.*

# AFR BENEFITS

## AVIS

AVIS® offers a 25% discount to Farmers Union/AFR members which includes an online booking site.

Visit the website:

<https://www.avis.com/car-rental/profile/go.acB291042>  
Promo code: Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) #B291043

Or call toll free at 1-800-331-1212. Use your Farmers Union/AFR Avis Worldwide Discount number to enjoy these special savings.

## Budget


Farmers Union/AFR members save up to 20% off Budget's great rates, plus you can take advantage of specials on daily, weekly & weekend rates and upgrades.

Visit the website:

<http://www.budgetcarrental.com/budget/assoc/index.html?R19843>

Promo code: Budget Customer Discount (BCD) #R198143

Or call toll free at 1-800-527-0700. Mention the Farmers Union/AFR Budget Customer Discount number to receive your discount.



**Superior • Simplistic • Common Sense**

KJD Enterprises offers a \$150 cash rebate to all AFR members on the purchase of a new K/D front end loader.

Call Kenneth or Jeff Day toll free at 888-641-0420 for instructions and a rebate voucher.

**K/D LOADERS**  
2700 Virgil Gray Blvd Brownwood, TX 76801

For more information about AFR membership benefits contact Paul Jackson at 405-218-5559 or [pjackson@afrmic.com](mailto:pjackson@afrmic.com)

## Saving Lives in Rural America!



Join America's largest Air Medical Membership Program with over 950,000 members in 15 states.

1-Year AFR Membership Fees, \$10.00 Savings!

- 1 member household - \$40
- 2 member household - \$45
- 3 or more member household - \$50

Please reference Plan Code 1060 when enrolling to receive the above discounted rate.



For questions call Membership Regional Director, Jill Burks • 580-497-7475

## WYNDHAM GARDEN HOTEL

OKLAHOMA CITY AIRPORT

### Oklahoma City 30% Discounts

- Regular Rate \$99 with two breakfasts
- AFR Rate with two breakfasts \$69
- AFR Rate with up to four breakfasts \$79

Members need to mention they are with **American Farmers & Ranchers** to receive the benefit.

\*Rate is good for weekday, weekend and Park & Fly Package.

Wyndham Garden Hotel, Oklahoma City Airport  
2101 S. Meridian Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73108  
405-685-4000

### National 20% Discounts

Farmers Union & AFR have partnered with Wyndham Hotel Group to provide this discount to our members, a discount that is not available to the general public. Members will receive a 20 percent discount off the lowest regularly available public rate. This means a savings even compared to services like Hotels.com and Expedia. And the discount extends well beyond Wyndham branded hotels to all of the chains in the WHG system - including: **Ramada Worldwide, Days Inn, Wingate Inn, Howard Johnson, Travelodge, Super 8, Baymont Inn, Microtel Inns and Suites, Hawthorn Suites and Knights Inn** locations.

To access this discount call:  
Toll Free  
877-670-7088

Each hotel chain will be available from the menu above.

Be sure to have the Farmers Union/AFR code:

100009284

Or go directly to:  
[www.NFU.org/hotels](http://www.NFU.org/hotels)

## 2011 HOMEOWNER RATES INCREASED NATIONWIDE

Homeowner insurance premiums went up 19 percent on average nationwide in 2011, according to the "Insurance Journal." This is with some states seeing lower rates, including highly-populated California. Premium increases of 29 to 39 percent were seen in some states.

Oklahoma is one of the states experiencing increases due to the severe weather we experienced in 2011 and the three years prior. The average adjusted loss ratio (insurance premiums divided by adjusted losses) for Oklahoma homeowner companies in 2011 was 77.35 percent according to SNL Financial, LC. Typically, anything over 65 percent is considered unprofitable.

AFR's adjusted loss ratio for 2011 was 87.21 percent. While the 6th best of the top 11 homeowner writers in Oklahoma, it was still very unprofitable.

Farmowner or Farm & Ranch policies were even more unprofitable in 2011. The average adjusted loss ratio for Farmowners was 105.66 percent. AFR Insurance, the 2nd largest farm & ranch policy writer in Oklahoma, had an adjusted loss ratio of 93.19 percent. Although the 4th best of the top 10 writers of Farmowners or Farm & Ranch policies, the percentage was, again, very unprofitable.

"Because of the storm losses over the several years that have continued into 2012, consumers can expect to see continued rate increases in the property lines of business," said Jim Overturf, Director of Underwriting and Product Development at AFR Insurance. "We do not see any company being immune – it's just a matter of time."

"Several companies have pulled out of the Oklahoma market completely. Those that are staying – in addition to considering rate increases—are encouraging or requiring higher deductibles to help offset higher rates or are implementing additional wind and hail deductibles and other underwriting actions. In addition, to balance their books of business, more carriers are now requiring supporting automobile insurance with new property policies."

Unlike national and regional carriers who can refocus their efforts on states outside of Oklahoma when things get tough, AFR's roots are firmly planted in Oklahoma. Because Oklahoma is the only state AFR operates in, the company is not immune to rate increases or other actions that improve profitability for the benefit of AFR members and policyholders. However, AFR is committed to Oklahoma for the years to come. AFR appreciates the long-term relationships that have been built with its customers and agent partners, and those at AFR hope that Oklahomans will continue to support this commitment.

# AFR

**New member benefits  
coming soon!**

**Watch the AFR website and the next  
AFR News & Views  
newspaper for updates!**

## AFR EMPLOYEES VOLUNTEER AT REGIONAL FOOD BANK

AFR employees have been busy volunteering at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. Two AFR groups volunteered recently at the non-profit food distributor.

The first group—(from left) Ronnie Knight, Tony Van Eck, Brenda Leheuw, Tena Moyer, Kimberly Johnston—sorted food donated from the statewide postal carrier's food drive. This group helped package 12,000 pounds of food which will feed approximately 9,230 people.



The second group— (from left) Lori Mason, Madicyn Baker (daughter of AFR employee Jane Baker), Sheila Cardwell, Kim Tomlinson, and Paul Jackson—sorted food for Oklahoma City's senior homebound. This group packaged 2,790 pounds of food which will provide approximately 2,146 meals for seniors.



### AFR Rewards Program

Is this your gate posted with the new AFR reward sign? Call 405-218-5557 to claim a \$50 reward for spotting your sign! Watch the next edition of the AFR News & Views to see if your new sign has been spotted. These attractive aluminum signs are available for purchase through your local AFR agent or the AFR Cooperative Store ([http://www.iafr.com/includes/farm\\_store.php](http://www.iafr.com/includes/farm_store.php)). Complete rules and other information on the AFR Reward Program can be found on the AFR website.

# AFR Women's Conference Set for August

The AFR Women's Committee is pleased to announce the 2012 AFR Annual Women's Conference Aug. 9-11. The Oklahoma City event includes activities at Moore-Norman Technology Center and Fairfield Inn & Suites - Oklahoma City Airport, as well as shopping and tourist venues, such as the newly renovated Myriad Botanical Gardens & Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory and Oklahoma History Center.

Attendees to the AFR conference will also take part in Oklahoma's Statewide Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference the first two days of the event with AFR activities during and after the meeting.

Sessions will focus on a variety of high-profile topics about agriculture, alternative enterprises, and business and finance. Participants will be able to attend sessions of most interest and value to them.

"Sessions will be led by practitioners and experts in their fields, among them OSU Cooperative Extension and Career Tech educators, local and state agricultural producers, business entrepreneurs, insurance agents, and lawyers," said Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension farm management specialist.

Post-conference training options will take place from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 10, and will include the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Program or Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus. BQA is part of a national program that provides guidelines and best management practices for beef cattle production. PQA is a continuous improvement program that provides guidelines to maintaining its food safety tradition.

Keynote speakers include Jim Reese, Okla. Secretary of Ag, Todd Lamb, Okla. Lt. Gov., and Betty Thompson, Miss Oklahoma 2011. In addition, Oklahoma legislators will provide insights on legislative actions that affect state agriculture and small business owners.

"Supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency, the conference really is the place to be in August," Jannetta Clark, OSU-OKC Manufacturing Extension agent, said. "Think of it as one-stop shopping to build awareness and skills."

Specific AFR activities will be Thursday and Friday evenings, Friday afternoon, and Saturday morning.

Registration is \$200 for a single room (Thursday and Friday nights) and \$105 each for double occupancy. A late fee of \$10 is charged for any registration received after Aug. 1. Registration includes meals and refreshments, conference materials and training, a Taste of Oklahoma reception, and visits to Outlet Shoppes at OKC, the Botanical Garden & Tropical Conservatory, and the Oklahoma History Center. **A complete schedule is available on the AFR website.**

For more information about the three-day event contact Paul Jackson at 405-218-5559 (pjackson@afrmic.com) or Bridget Hulet at 405-218-5526 (bhulet@afrmic.com).

The 2012-2013 AFR Women's Committee members are Co-Chair Darla Steffenson, Wellston; Co-Chair Suzanne Gilbert, Tecumseh; Pamela Livingston, Seiling; Donna Ramsey, Cheoctah; Julie Tackett, Fort Cobb; and Jeniece Tate, Pauls Valley.

## Pre-Registration

### AFR Women's Conference Oklahoma's Statewide Women in Agriculture & Small Business Conference

August 9 - 11, 2012

Moore Norman Technology Center | 13301 S Penn Avenue | Oklahoma City  
Fairfield Inn & Suites | 4521 SW 15th Street | Oklahoma City

(Please Type or Print Clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred name on ID badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration Fees:

Single Room - \$200/person	\$ _____	By Aug. 1
Double Room - \$105/person	\$ _____	By Aug. 1
Add \$10 for late registration after Aug. 1	\$ _____	
	\$ _____	Total Enclosed

Registration fee includes all meals.

#### No refunds or cancellations received after August 1, 2012.

Please make checks payable to American Farmers & Ranchers.

Method of payment:

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

For questions about registration, please contact Bridget Hulet: 405-218-5526 or bhulet@afrmic.com

Mail this form with payment to:

Attn: Bridget Hulet | American Farmers & Ranchers | P.O. Box 24000 | Oklahoma City, OK 73124

#### Post Conference Training

You're invited to a complimentary post conference training on Friday, Aug. 10. Beef Quality Assurance Program (BQA) and Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA) trainings will be offered as concurrent sessions from 1:30 - 4 p.m. Registration is encouraged to ensure sufficient number of refreshments and workshop materials are available to provide the best possible experience.

If you are participating, please indicate which session you plan to attend:

- BQA Training
- PQA Plus Training

#### AFR Women's Activities

- Yes, I plan to attend the shopping excursion Friday afternoon.
- Yes, I plan to attend the Saturday morning activities.

## Conference Speakers



**Jim Whitt** did not take the road most traveled for a career as a business consultant, writer and speaker. He grew up working in the cattle business, earned a degree in animal science and spent a dozen years in sales and marketing with two Fortune 500 companies.



With a campaign focused on job growth and economic development, **Okla. Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb** achieved an overwhelming victory in 2010 and quickly began putting his forward-thinking ideas and agenda in place. Soon after the election, he was appointed to the Governor's cabinet as the advocate for Oklahoma's small business.

# Oklahoma's Statewide Women in Agriculture & Small Business Conference



# & AFR Women's Conference

## AFR Women's Conference Agenda

\*AFR Women's Conference attendees participate in the Oklahoma Women in Ag and Small Business Statewide Conference. AFR attendees should meet Thursday morning at this location and register. Moore-Norman Technology Center, 13301 South Pennsylvania Ave., OKC

### Thursday, August 9, 2012

- 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Registration, Moore-Norman Technology Center
- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Oklahoma Women in Ag and Small Business Statewide Conference, including:
  - Speakers—Secretary of Ag Jim Reese and Jim Whitt with Purpose Unlimited.com
  - Conference mini-mall and exhibits
  - Concurrent sessions for agriculture, alternative enterprises, and business & finance
  - Panel discussion with state and federal legislators
- 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Taste of Oklahoma Reception, Holiday Inn, OKC Airport
- 7:30 p.m. AFR Women's Conference Dinner, Fairfield Inn & Suites

### Friday, August 10, 2012

- 8 a.m. - 1:30 Oklahoma Women in Ag and Small Business Statewide Conference, including:
  - Speakers—Todd Lamb, Oklahoma Lt. Gov., and Betty Thompson, Miss Oklahoma 2011
  - Conference mini-mall and exhibits
  - Concurrent sessions for agriculture, alternative enterprises, and business & finance
- 1:30 - 4 p.m. Post Conference Training with BQA or PQA or AFR shopping
- 7:30 p.m. AFR Women's Conference Dinner, Fairfield Inn & Suites

### Saturday, August 11, 2012

- 9 a.m. Tour Myriad Botanical Gardens & Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory
- 10:30 a.m. Tour Oklahoma History Center
- 12:30 a.m. AFR Women's Committee Lunch, Fairfield Inn & Suites

Participants can choose sessions from three tracks: **Agricultural Alternative Enterprises, or Business Finance.**

### Topics include:

- Agricultural Leasing
- Fresh Start Initiative
- Growing the Business
- Estate Planning
- Purpose-based Personal & Organizational Development
- Weather Outlook/New Mesonet Tools
- The Business of Innkeeping
- Facebook Marketing & Advertising for Business Owners
- Forage, Crop, & Livestock Insurance Alternatives
- Plasticulture
- Hands-on Social Media
- Ag Policy/Farm Bill Developments
- Vineyard from the Ground Up
- Pasture Recovery from Drought
- Gardening with Ease
- Contracting for Website Platform
- Agricultural Advocacy
- Loan & Grant Opportunities for You & Your Agricultural Enterprise
- Conducting Legal & Effective Employee Evaluations
- Mineral Rights
- Cut Flower Growing
- H2A Program for Agricultural Employers
- Beef Market Outlook
- Goats as a Small Business
- Making Technology Work for You

\*Full agenda for the 2012 Women's Conference can be found at [www.americanfarmersandranchers.com](http://www.americanfarmersandranchers.com)

## Conference Features

### Lunch Panel Discussion with State and Federal Legislators

Rep. Phil Richardson, Rep. Leslie Osborn, Sen. Ron Justice and Rep. Lee Denney. MC Jennifer Reynolds

### Taste of Oklahoma Reception

Will be held at the Holiday Inn Oklahoma City Airport reception room. The reception will feature Chapel Creek Winery and Oklahoma food products.

The hotel is located at 4401 Southwest 15th Street in Oklahoma City, approximately 15 minutes from the conference location. The hotel is in close proximity to several dining establishments and the Fairfield Inn & Suites.

## Mini Mall

Vendors will be selling their Made in Oklahoma products. This is a great opportunity to network with Oklahoma women and to hear their success stories.

## Exhibits

Exhibitors will provide the latest information on available resources to help you be more successful in your farming or small business efforts.

All booths will be open and easily accessible throughout the conference.

## Conference Sponsors



# There's Gold in those Fields

Oklahoma's golden harvest is the perfect recipe from the field to the kitchen...

By Paul Jackson, AFR Farm & Cooperative Programs Director

Canola growing



Canola seeds



Most Oklahomans realize the key to success in the kitchen is having all the ingredients and following a recipe. A fledgling crop is cooking up opportunity, not only for Oklahoma farmers, but also for the state's cooks. A melting pot of ideas has quickly begun to simmer into opportunity as people and industries begin to cooperate. With Oklahoma's ingredients and recipe, continued success with winter canola is sure to follow!

**The Ingredients:** Several ingredients made up Oklahoma's canola opportunity. First, Oklahoma's winter wheat crop had a problem with weeds such as feral rye and cheat. Second, the general farm organization – American Farmers & Ranchers (AFR)—wanted to find an alternative crop for its member farmers, especially those in areas where the peanut industry had collapsed after the elimination of federal support programs. The third ingredient in the mix—Producers Cooperative Oil Mill (PCOM) was looking for another oilseed to fill the crushing capacity void created with decreased cotton acres. The fourth ingredient—cooks across the state already appreciated the value of a healthy cooking oil for Oklahoma families, but they could benefit from the price advantage of an oil produced closer to home. The final ingredient was a dash of optimism from early farmer innovators for a crop called canola. The Oklahoma golden prairie fire had begun!

Canola swathed



**The Recipe:** Oklahomans discovered winter-planted canola—the best recipe for all the ingredients!

Winter canola has taken center stage in Oklahoma's winter crop rotation in the past few years. But, there's more behind those yellow fields than meets the eye. The ingredients to canola's story explain its rise in popularity and give a glimpse of its longevity in the southern plains.

Crop insurance, a valuable risk management tool, became available for canola three years ago in Oklahoma. The availability of insurance contributed to more farmers planting the crop last year, even with extreme dry conditions in 2011. Rain followed and the crop flourished. Yields in southern Oklahoma and northern Texas were 28-33 bushels per acre for 2012, and yields in northern Oklahoma and southern Kansas were 40-45 bushels per acre. Statewide yields averaged 35 bushels per acre.

Canola is now wheat's main companion competitor. In comparison to canola, the statewide wheat yield this year averaged 37 bushels per acre. While wheat may yield higher per acre, canola makes up for the difference with price. Gene Neuens, an oilseed field representative for PCOM in Oklahoma City, said the average Oklahoma wheat price this year will be \$6-6.50 per bushel compared to \$12.50 for canola. With these prices, farmers will gross from \$500-700 per acre for canola and \$200-350 for wheat.

AFR President Terry Detrick recognizes the potential for profit.

"The benefit of a canola crop is that it has been running about net double in round figures to an average wheat crop," he said.

"We don't want canola to be grown every year because we don't want disease to get into it," Neuens explained. "Insurance will let you grow it once in two years. We would like to see it grown once in three

years and they can clean up the ground."

Dr. Tom Peeper, a past Oklahoma State Extension agronomist, recognized the problem occurring when wheat is planted in the same field year after year without crop rotation. Not only has rotation contributed to eliminating weed issues for wheat producers, but also the addition of glyphosate-resistant canola allows the herbicide to be directly applied to the crop—killing the rye, cheat and other weeds, but not impacting the canola.

"With the transition to no-till farming, we needed rotation crops," Detrick said. "Canola is a perfect rotation for winter wheat, especially being Roundup Ready to clean-up our wheat fields. The root structure is beneficial for wheat following canola."

Neuens said a downside to canola is that grazing issues can reduce production by half. The crown of the canola plant is above ground and can be damaged by grazing or crushed with hooves. However, Neuens points out that the following year wheat will have about 20-30 percent more tillers and an equal increase in forage when rotated with canola.

Grazing canola continues to be an important research topic because of the difference in storage for the crop. Older elevators have had to adjust as the fine seed can easily escape through small openings. New storage dedicated to canola is being added to off-set this issue.

Harvesting techniques have also been a challenge for producers.

"When we first started, we didn't know the best way to harvest here," said Neuens. "We have used three forms: direct cut, which is handy, but doesn't do very good for seed production; pushing, which lays the crop down and then it is picked up later. But, the major way we harvest is by draper swather, where we lay it down 7-10 days and then pick it back up and put it through the combine."





*Different grades of canola*

The latter two production methods are designed to keep the crop from shattering (losing seed) as a result of the effects of wind and heat. It also helps with maturity. These approaches allow for earlier harvest and completing the crop before wheat is ready for harvest.

There were several reasons Oklahoma's canola industry took off. One thing is certain, without grant assistance, today's industry situation would not have been possible.

Neuens came in on the ground floor of the canola movement and remembers the early days. He initially worked on the development of the state canola industry through a grant obtained by AFR/Oklahoma Farmers Union (OFU) for the Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers Energy Enterprise (OKFREE). U.S. Representative Frank Lucas and then USDA Rural Development State Director Brent Kislung also weighed in heavily to obtain grant approval for OKFREE.

"If it wouldn't have been for OKFREE, and a group of producers working together, there would be no reason for the industry to start," said Neuens. "It started with Dr. Peeper trying to find a way to clean up wheat fields from cheat, wild oats, and other weeds. Recognizing a need, what OKFREE did was tremendous—there was a lot of effort put out with no pay. Most of the OKFREE grant money went to produce feasibility studies. Without that, [the canola industry] wouldn't have happened."

Detrick also weighed in on the Oklahoma canola industry during its infancy.

"This is also the result of the 2002 Farm Bill that annihilated the peanut program," he said. "I went to Oklahoma State University (OSU) and said we need help finding an alternative crop for our peanut growers. Little did I know, they

had already been looking at canola as an oilseed crop. OSU told me any place that could grow wheat could also grow canola and they were continuing to research it.

"So, we got behind the research and supported it, and then we completed the grant application with staff member Mason Mungle's help. It was ironic—the same time we needed an alternative crop because of the 2002 Farm Bill and a winter rotation crop to aid no-till farming practices, the grant showed that canola was one of our primary oilseeds we could grow to fit our climate.

"We (AFR/OFU) took the initiative to get the grant. Without the grant, there would have been no organization of Plains Oilseed Products Coop (POP)—producers interested in creating a processing plant owned by the member farmers—and there would have been nothing to hand-off to PCOM to be able to crush those seeds in-state. There was some canola grown before that, but they had to go out-of-state to get it crushed. [OKFREE] got the ball rolling to get a crusher in-state."

After the initial effort to launch, Neuens remembers the slow and steady growth of the industry.

"I started in 2006—I came to work that summer for AFR/OKFREE. We had from 5,000 to 25,000 acres for three or four years. One year we had 60,000 acres—not real successful. The price wasn't really good; we didn't have the right varieties.

"In 2007, DeKalb and Cropland Industries came out with new varieties and the winter survivability went up considerably. That same year, PCOM decided they would crush canola—they would put in an extra line next to a cotton seed line. We purchased canola for the 2008 crush, the first year we crushed it. Acres at that time was running between 25,000-30,000—not very many, but enough to at least get our crush going.

"It really started going about three years ago when we had about 60,000 acres. Two years ago we planted about

120,000 acres and harvested about 80,000 acres because it was a pretty poor year. This last year we planted between 180,000 and 200,000 acres for the 2012 harvest."

The value of the 2012 harvested crop is conservatively projected at \$45 million for the raw crop. This is before processing—before the value-added oil and meal. PCOM has enlisted an economics research firm to study and project the growth of the industry. Neuens said the state's canola industry is already within one or two years of projected acre expectations. Early projected plantings indicate between 300,000-350,000 acres may be planted this fall.

In a typical year, PCOM dedicates three to four months to canola crushing, with the remainder of the year focusing on cot-



*Gene Neuens*

ton seed processing. The current plant location is operating at full capacity, but will be able to handle production increases in the near future. PCOM's current plant processing is 450 tons per

*Canola continued on pg. 26...*

## Producers Cooperative Oil Mill



### Manufacturer of Oilseed Products

Buying Cottonseed, Roundup Ready® Canola  
and Conventional Canola

:: CONTACT ::

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

Gene Neuens (405) 760-4205

Heath Sanders, Oilseed Agronomist (580) 678-2754

6 S.E. 4th Street :: Oklahoma City, OK 73129  
[www.producerscoop.net](http://www.producerscoop.net)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

FireWise Oklahoma  
firewise@ag.ok.gov

Oklahoma Forestry Services  
Division of Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry  
405.522.6158  
www.forestry.ok.gov

Oklahoma FireWise  
www.forestry.ok.gov/firewise

FireWise  
www.firewise.org

ARE YOU  
**FIRE  
WISE**  
OKLAHOMA?

### Survivable Space

Do you have at least 30 ft. of space surrounding your home that is **lean, clean, and green**?

The objective of survivable space is to reduce the wildfire threat to your home by changing the characteristics of the flammable vegetation.

**Lean** - Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches, especially within 15 ft. of your chimney.

**Clean** - Remove all dead plant material from around your home; this includes dead leaves, dry vegetation and even stacked firewood.

**Green** - Plant fire-resistant vegetation that is healthy and green throughout the year.

### Fire-Resistant Attachments

Attachments include any structure connected to your home, such as decks, porches or fences. If an attachment to a home is not fire-resistant, then the home as a whole is not firewise.

### A Disaster Plan

The time to plan for any emergency is prior to the event. Take a few minutes to discuss with your family what actions you will take.

- Post local emergency telephone numbers in a visible place.
- Have tools available, such as a shovel, rake, axe, handsaw or chainsaw.
- Have a plan for your pets.
- Leave before it's too late. Decide where you will go and how you will get there. With fire, you may only have a few moments notice. Two escape routes out of your home and out of your neighborhood are preferable.
- Maintain an emergency water source.
- Practice family fire drills.

Evacuations for a wildfire can occur without notice. When wildfire conditions exist, be ready to take action.

### A FIREWISE HOME HAS ...



### Lean, Clean & Green Landscaping

With firewise landscaping, you can create survivable space around your home that reduces your wildfire threat. Large trees should be pruned so that the lowest branches are at least 6 to 10 ft. high to prevent a fire on the ground from spreading to the tree tops. Within the survivable space, remove flammable plants that contain resins, oils and waxes that burn readily: ornamental junipers, yaupon holly, red cedar, and young pine. A list of less flammable plants can be obtained from your local state forester, forestry office, county extension office or landscape specialist. Although mulch helps retain soil moisture, when dry, it can become flammable. Mulch as well as all landscaping should be kept well watered to prevent it from becoming fire fuel.

### Fire-Resistant Roof Construction

Firewise construction materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, tile and concrete products. Additionally, the inclusion of a fire-resistant sub-roof adds protection. Something as simple as making sure that your gutters, eaves and roof are clean debris will reduce your fire threat.

### Fire-Resistant Exterior Construction

Wall materials that resist heat and flames include brick, cement, plaster, stucco and concrete masonry. Tempered and double pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames. Although some vinyl will not burn, some vinyl soffits can melt, allowing embers into the attic space.

### Emergency Access

Identify your home and neighborhood with legible and clearly marked street names and numbers so response vehicles can rapidly find the location of the emergency. Include a driveway that is at least 12 ft. wide with a vertical clearance of 15 ft. to provide access to emergency apparatus.

# AFR SUPPORTS FIREWISE PROGRAM



*Director of Farm & Cooperative Programs, Paul Jackson (far right), represented AFR at the annual FireWise conference.*

Twenty communities were recognized recently at the 2nd Annual “FireWise at the Crossroads” Conference in Norman. Paul Jackson, AFR’s Director of Farm & Cooperative Programs, attended the event, and AFR helped sponsor the statewide awards recognition program.

Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, coordinates the program in Oklahoma. Oklahoma was recently placed in the “Top 10” nationwide for its number of FireWise communities by the FireWise Communities/USA Program.

Representatives from the following communities received placards designating them as Firewise Communities: Antlers, Blair, Canute, Cashion, Clinton, Colbert, Daisy, Dillard, Dover, Falconhead, Harmony, Hennessey, Hitchcock, Hochatown, Hollis, Iowa Tribe, Kingfisher, Mangum, Roberta, and Willis-Powell.

Kingfisher County was named the FireWise County of the Year. This is the first county in the state to have each of its communities join the FireWise program. This achievement is the result of the dedicated efforts of community leaders in Kingfisher, Loyal, Omega, Big 4, Okarche, Cashion, Dover, and Hennessey.

The national Firewise Communities/USA program is a multi-agency effort designed to involve homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire.

As the number of wildfires impacting populated areas has reached historic levels over the past few years, Oklahoma communities may be realizing the importance of the FireWise program. When a wildfire occurs, firefighters do not always have the resources to defend every home. Homeowners who take proactive steps to reduce the likelihood of their homes igniting during a wildfire stand a far greater chance of saving their homes.



To create your FIREWISE structure, remember that the primary goals are fuel and exposure reduction.

- Use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible whenever possible. Ask your contractor or building supply store.

- Use shingles such as Class-A asphalt, slate, or clay tile, metal, or cement and concrete products for roof construction.
- Construct a fire-resistant sub-roof for added protection.
- Use fire resistant materials such as stucco or masonry for exterior walls. These products are much better than vinyl, which can soften and melt.
- Consider both size and materials for windows—smaller panes hold up better in their frames than larger ones; double pane glass and tempered glass are more effective than single pane glass; plastic skylights can melt.
- Prevent sparks from entering your home through vents by covering exterior attic and under floor vents with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 of an inch.
- Keep your gutters, eaves, and roof clear of leaves and other debris.
- Clear dead wood and dense vegetation within at least 30 feet from your house, and move firewood away from your house or attachments like fences or decks.

Any structure attached to the house, such as decks, porches, fences, and sheds, should be considered part of the house. These structures can act as fuses or fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials.

- If you wish to attach an all-wood fence to your home, use masonry or metal as a protective barrier between the fence and house.
- Use non-flammable metal when constructing a trellis and cover with high-moisture, fire-resistant vegetation.
- Prevent combustible materials and debris from accumulating beneath patio decks or elevated porches; screen underneath or box in areas below the deck or porch.



To create a landscape that will make your home less vulnerable to wildfire, the primary goal is fuel modification. Think of the area around your structures in zones. Zone 1 is closest to the structure, Zone 4 is the furthest away.

**Zone 1 Distance 0’-30’** -- This well-irrigated area encircles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency. Plants should be limited to carefully spaced fire resistant tree and shrub species.

**Zone 2 Distance 30’-80’** -- Fire resistant plant materials should be used here. Plants should be low-growing, and the irrigation system should extend into this section.

**Zone 3 Distance 80’-100’** -- Place low-growing plants and well-spaced trees in this area, remember to keep volume of vegetation low.

**Zone 4 Distance 100’ +** -- This furthest one from the structure is a natural area. Thin selectively here and remove highly flammable vegetation.

Also remember to:

- Carefully space the trees and shrubs you plant.
- Take out the ‘ladder fuels’ – vegetation that serves as a link between grass and treetops. These fuels can carry fire from vegetation to a structure or from a structure to vegetation.

When maintaining a landscape:

- Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Prune all trees six to ten feet from the ground.
- Water and maintain your lawn regularly.
- Mow dry grass and weeds.
- Dispose of cuttings and debris properly.
- Landscape with less-flammable plants. Contact your local state forester, county extension office, or landscape specialist for plant information.

# AFR YOUTH PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

## Reasons to “like” AFR Youth Program on Facebook:

1. Get updates and pictures from AFR youth events.
2. Get to know your 2012-2013 Youth Advisory Council.
3. Learn what AFR 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.



American Farmers & Ranchers sponsors many events throughout the year to promote leadership and agricultural skills in 4-H and FFA members. By sponsoring events for the state's youth, AFR invests in Oklahoma's future.



## Ag in the Classroom

AFR Youth & Education Coordinator Lin Fariss hosted the Ag in the Classroom Advisory Council last month for their quarterly board meeting. Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom helps familiarize Oklahoma school children with Oklahoma's food and fiber industry by providing resources for Oklahoma teachers. The advisory council provides oversight and support for the program.

## Redlands Livestock Judging Contest

The AFR Redlands Livestock Judging Contest was held at Redlands Community College Royse Ranch, north of El Reno. This year's contest included 300 4-H and FFA members from 4th to 12th grade, as well as many ag teachers and ag extension educators. Pictured with youth is AFR President Terry Detrick.



## Southern Plains Livestock Grading Contest

The Southern Plains Farm Show, held at the State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City, hosts a livestock grading contest each year during the Oklahoma City Farm Show. This year, over 100 4-H and FFA members, grades 4 -12, competed in the cattle grading contest sponsored by AFR. Pictured is John Sampson, Southern Plains Farm Show, and Terry Detrick, AFR President.

## National Land, Homesite, and Range Judging Contest

Every year, AFR joins the Sirloin Club in sponsoring the National Land, Homesite, and Range Judging Contest. AFR state staff and field rep, Pete McDaniel, served lunch to over 1000 contest participants at the OSU Grazinglands Research Station at Fort Reno, and assisted servers at the awards banquet at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Pictured is Paul Jackson, Farm & Cooperative Programs Director.



# AFR CONTRIBUTES TO 82nd STATE FFA CONVENTION

Over 8,000 FFA members, agricultural education advisors, and parents attended the State FFA Convention to celebrate a year of FFA member accomplishments. AFR state staff and field reps, A.J. Bristow and Pete McDaniel, were in attendance to connect with future leaders of Oklahoma's agricultural industry.

AFR sponsored Career Development Event (CDE) Awards in the areas of Environmental & Natural Resources, Parliamentary Procedure, Agricultural Services, and Chapter Secretary's Contest. AFR also sponsored a Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship, the State FFA Degree Banquet, the FFA Foundation Luncheon, and the Honorary & VIP Banquet. Remarks were given at two events by AFR President, Terry Detrick, and Farm & Cooperative Program Director, Paul Jackson. A trade show booth was staffed for two days at the convention career show.



## INTRODUCTION TO NEW AFR COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Laici Wedel brings a suite of written communication and media skills to the Communications Coordinator position at American Farmers & Ranchers. Previously with Texas AgriLife Communications, Laici has experience with membership promotion, news publica-

tion, and social media management. She's excited about the opportunity to work with AFR and expand her knowledge and skill base in digital design and periodical publication.

Laici's interests are in agricultural advocacy, industry promotion, and sharing the rural and agrarian experience. From Major County, Okla., Laici's family has been involved in stocker cattle production, wheat farming, dairy production, and many other aspects of agriculture. With the addition of a livestock auction, Laici has first-hand experience in both production agriculture and agribusiness.

Laici also has a diverse educational background that will help her serve AFR in her new role. Most recently, Laici completed her master's coursework at Texas A&M University for a graduate degree in agricultural communications, with an emphasis in marketing. For her undergraduate degree, Laici completed her bachelor's in animal science at the University of Arkansas. Her science-based degree is complemented by minors in agricultural business, mass communications, and gerontology—the study of aging adults.

# 2012 COUNTY MATCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year, AFR invites each county organization in Oklahoma to participate in the cooperative's County Match Scholarship Program. AFR's goal is that each county will establish an annual scholarship to support its local youth and to provide recognition for its county organization. Scholarship presentations are made by county presidents, county secretaries, or AFR agents. These presentations are made during scholarship recipients' FFA banquets, awards nights or senior graduations.

## Beckham County



*Alex Phillips  
Elk City*



*Dakota Unruh  
Hammon*



*Trisha O'Quinn  
Sayre*

## Custer County



*Ashlee Bishop  
Arapaho-Butler*



*Connor Cross  
Thomas*

## Caddo County



*Ashley DeVaughan  
Fort Cobb-Broxton*



*Chaz Hurt  
Carnegie*



*Sarah Paxton  
Hinton*

## Dewey County



*Timothy Gerling  
Vici*

## Ellis County



*Randi Enriquez  
Gage*

## Garvin County



*Kassie Sechrist  
Apache*



*Jacob Short  
Cyril*



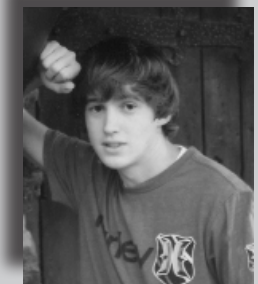
*Taylor Bailey  
Hydro-Eakly*



*Conner Davis  
Ada*



*Jordan Neal  
Ada*



*Riley Burris  
Ada*

## Cimarron County



*Davante Brown  
Boise City*

## Cotton County



*Ryan Turner  
Walters*

## Jackson County



*Debra Kime  
Altus*

## Kiowa County



*Brenna Coffman  
Hobart*

# 2012 COUNTY MATCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

*Continued...*

## Logan County



*Angela Hardin  
Guthrie*

## Mayes County



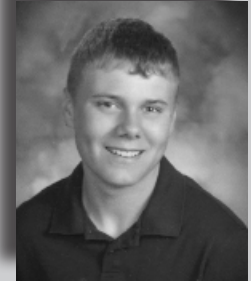
*Thomas Horton  
Locust Grove*

## Payne County



*Conner Carroll  
Perkins-Tryon*

## Pittsburg County



*Justin Morgan  
Hartshorne*

## Okfuskee County



*Kaitlin Noutbaar  
Paden*

## Ottawa County



*Jacob McGuire  
Fairland*

## Pottawatomie County



*Micaela Dugan  
Tecumseh*

## Roger Mills County



*Morgan Wells  
Cheyenne*

## Pawnee County



*Keith Henderson  
Cleveland*



*Kayla Horinek  
Cleveland*

## Stephens County



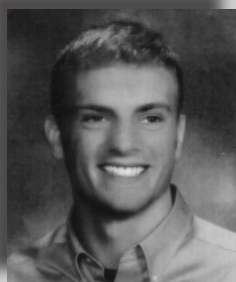
*Brittany Whitehead  
Bray-Doyle*

## Wagoner County



*Jacob Baker  
Coweta*

## Woodward County



*Ryan Schulze  
Fairfax*



*Ty Nelson  
Pawnee*



*Berk Long  
Sharon Mutual*



*Weston Free  
Sharon Mutual*

# 2012 AFR STATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



*Jamie Baumgardner  
Oklahoma State University*



*Kasey Campbell  
Northwestern Oklahoma  
State University*



*Micaela Danker  
Oklahoma State University*



*Jarrett Davis  
Oklahoma State University*



*Annie Jo Gilbert  
Oklahoma State University*



*Morgan Hannabass  
Oklahoma State University*



*Karli Hostetler  
Oklahoma State University*



*Bailey Kleiwer  
Oklahoma State University*



*Darcey Kliever  
Northwestern Oklahoma  
State University*



*Barrett Powell  
Oklahoma State University*



*Dyson Runyan  
Oklahoma State University*



*Kayla Smith  
Northeastern State  
University*



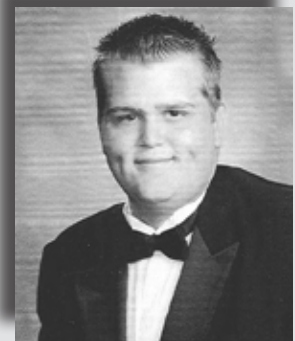
*Haley Travis  
Oklahoma State University*



*Lindsey Underwood  
Oklahoma State University*



*Kelsie Williams  
Oklahoma State University*



*Bradley Womack  
Oklahoma State University*



# 26th ANNUAL WHEATLAND STOCKER CONFERENCE

August 29, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cherokee Strip Conference Center, Enid, Okla.

## Sessions:

### Beef Cattle Price Outlook: The New Beef Industry

*Dr. Derrell Peel, Professor and OSU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist*

### U.S. and Oklahoma Economic Outlook

*Chad Wilkerson, Vice Pres., Economist and Branch Executive, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, OKC Branch*

### Managing the Health and Performance of High Risk Cattle

*Dr. Dan Thomson, Jones Professor of Production Medicine and Epidemiology, KSU College of Veterinary Medicine*

### Wheat Varieties Named After Buildings Have a Strong Foundation

*Roger Don Gribble, OSU Extension, NW Area Agronomist*

### Lunch with Dr. Clint Rusk

*New Department Head of the OSU Animal Science Department*

### Cattle Health & Well-Being: It's Our Future

*Dr. Dan Thomson, KSU Vet School*

### High Grain & Cattle Prices: Revisiting Supplementation

*Dr. Chris Richards, OSU Beef Specialist*

For more information, contact your local county extension office or Greg Highfill at 580-237-7677 or [greg.highfill@okstate.edu](mailto:greg.highfill@okstate.edu).

## 68TH ANNUAL AFR SPEECH CONTEST DATES ANNOUNCED

### "I Believe in Oklahoma Agriculture"

Participants should discuss why they believe in Oklahoma Agriculture. Participants should be able to exhibit an understanding of the importance of production agriculture to our state, as well as to our nation. The primary areas within each category and division which participants should focus on include: economics, food supply, food safety, animal welfare, future growth, culture, environment, career opportunities, traditions and quality of life.

### 2012 Speech Contest Dates

District IV	Northwest	Tuesday, November 6	Fairview High School
District V	Southwest	Thursday, November 8	Cache High School
District II	Southeast	Monday, November 12	EOSC, Wilburton
District III	Central	Tuesday, November 13	Newcastle Middle School
District I	Northeast	Thursday, November 15	Lonestar School, Sapulpa

*\*All District Contest registrations will begin at 4 p.m. Contest briefings will begin at 4:30 p.m.*

**Categories:** AFR/OFU, Student Organizations, Natural Resources, Agribusiness, Agriscience

**Ages:** Students in grades 4 - 6 can complete in the AFR/OFU category only. Students in grades 7 - 12 can compete in all categories.

If you are interested in judging any of the listed speech contests, or for more information on the speech contests themselves, please contact:

Lin Fariss, Youth Coordinator, (405)-218-5561, [lfariss@afrmic.com](mailto:lfariss@afrmic.com)

## AFR MEMBER RECOGNITION

### James Kuhn



Payne County AFR member, James Kuhn, of Glencoe, Okla., was recently recognized at the State Capitol for 10 years of service on the Oklahoma AgrAbility Advisory Council. He has been on the Council since the project was developed 10 years ago, and was recommended to the post by Oklahoma Farmers Union.

He brings the unique knowledge and experience of being a farmer with a disabling condition to the AgrAbility Advisory Council. Kuhn lost an arm in a farm machinery accident.

"The wonderful part about AgrAbility is that it provides a way of life to those who otherwise could not continue it in farming," stated Kuhn.

Kuhn grew up farming with his family in northern Oklahoma and was active in FFA. He received a degree in Ag Education from OSU and served in the Navy for 21 years. Kuhn is now retired after farming for more than 36 years. During that time, his operation consisted of beef cattle, wheat, and alfalfa. Kuhn now maintains a garden that enables him to provide fresh vegetables for the food pantry at his church.

He is currently the president of the Payne County Farmers Union Chapter. He has served on state-level Farmers Union committees and has represented the organization in legislative visits.

The Oklahoma AgrAbility Project was launched in 2002 to enable disabled producers to continue to farm or ranch. The organization can provide rehabilitation and assistive technology support specific to each producer's needs. Oklahoma AgrAbility focuses on education, networking, and direct services.

For more information on Oklahoma AgrAbility visit [www.agrability.okstate.edu](http://www.agrability.okstate.edu) or contact the organization directly at (888)885-5588 or via email at [ability@okstate.edu](mailto:ability@okstate.edu).

### Doug McMurtrey



Alfalfa County AFR member, Doug McMurtrey, of Cherokee, Okla., has been named a 2012 Master Agronomist by Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The award recognizes Oklahoma producers who actively participate in agronomic education programs and contribute valuable public service through their efforts in soil conservation, range management, or crop production.

A cow-calf producer and farmer, McMurtrey's crop production system includes wheat, grain sorghum, soybeans, and alfalfa. He has hosted a number of OSU grain sorghum and soybean performance trials on his operation, and has been a county leader in the adoption of no-till practices.

McMurtrey and his wife Dawn are active in the Cherokee community. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Alfalfa County Soil Conservation District and the Alfalfa County Electric Cooperative.

# Canola Continued...

Continued from pg. 17...



*Producers Cooperative  
Oil Mill*

day, with future operations projected at 1,800 tons per day.

For future expansion or relocation, land has been purchased by PCOM at the former Dayton Tire plant in western Oklahoma City. Neuens predicts it will take two years to completely retrofit the plant once a decision is made to begin operations at the new site. The new site will be able to process 700,000-800,000 acres per year at full capacity. Oil storage tanks have already been added to the new site and crop demonstration plots are in place for canola and wheat. These plots will show the value of crop rotation and yield differences.

Before PCOM started crushing canola seeds, the crop was exported out-of-state to be processed. When the plant began canola crushing, some of its capacity had to be filled by out-of-state crop. PCOM continues to purchase canola from North Dakota to crush until acreages grow large enough in Oklahoma to discontinue out-of-state acquisitions.

Oklahoma canola currently has high yields, but lacks somewhat in oil content. Generally, southern plains canola has a higher bushel yield than northern plains spring planted canola. However, the northern crop has increased oil content through improved genetics from the 30 years the crop has been produced. Oil content in the last ten years is about six percent higher in seeds produced just south of the Canadian border. The Oklahoma canola industry is only five years into genetic seed experimen-

tation for winter canola.

The differences between a northern and southern crop is the heat in Oklahoma and a longer growing season. Neuens anticipates equaling northern oil content once the genetic research is fully implemented.

Canola crushing at the existing plant is “once refined” and “degummed” which is the initial industrial grade process. The new expansion plant will have the ability to do the “once refined,” “food grade” for the domestic consumer, or “crude oil” for use in bioenergy. It will also be able to bring in other food grade oils such as palm to create special blends per purchasers’ requirements.

Overall, Oklahoma’s canola industry is more than promising.

“We see nothing but growth in it,” Neuens said. “You talk not only to the agriculture industry, but to the health industry, government, and the dairy industry which utilizes by-pass proteins in canola meal—I don’t see a problem with future demand.”

According to Neuens, a lot has changed since the crop was first planted in the state, including the learning curve of how to grow it and harvest it. The price is a lot better than when it first started at \$.06-.10 per pound compared to \$.24 today; more companies are bringing in optional seed varieties to make genetic seed changes appropriate to the climate; there are dedicated researchers and extension providers for the crop; the infrastructure with 40-45 elevators handling canola serves the three-state region; and a local market exists for the crop that includes purchasers, in addition to PCOM and its affiliates.

Also, state legislation was passed to create the Oklahoma Oilseed Commission which collects check-off funds from producers to fund research and variety demonstrations to further the industry in the state. AFR members are active on the commission.

Neuens says attitudes toward the crop have changed for everyone involved. Canola is seen as a long term crop with stability and the infrastructure to support it, not

just a “flash in the pan.”

“When we started this thing, we didn’t have anything,” Neuens said. “We have built an industry in less than 10 years. That’s a big deal. It’s a brand new industry and it’s a very successful industry.”

Neuens predicts canola could eventually be in third place, behind livestock and wheat, as a major commodity player in Oklahoma.

“As far as winter crops, I see wheat remaining number one and canola as number two,” Detrick agrees.

“We are just happy to have been a part of a big crop transition in Oklahoma that has tremendous economic value. It was just a coming together of the right idea at the right time with the right people. All of this was made possible through the support and leadership of AFR members. I am very proud of them and happy for the opportunity to have been a part.”



*Canola swathing*

For more information about raising winter canola, contact Josh Bushong, OSU Extension Assistant for Winter Canola at 580-237-7677 or Heath Sanders, PCOM Oilseed Agronomist at 580-678-2754 or your local county extension office.

***Canola producers are reminded to insure their crop prior to the August 31 deadline.***

## 8th Annual Oklahoma-Kansas Winter Canola Conference

### July 26, 2012

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Hoover Building, Garfield County Fairgrounds, Enid

### July 31, 2012

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Room H12 (Band Room), Western State College, Altus

- Economics of Wheat/Canola Rotations
- Varieties/Insects and Diseases
- Production Management
- Oklahoma Oilseed Commission County Demonstrations
- Fertilizing Canola: In-furrow/pH Effects
- Insurance
- Grain Handlers Perspective
- Industry Update

Free lunch and door prizes!

The winter canola conference is a great opportunity to learn more about winter canola production for new and experienced canola growers alike!

Attendance is free to everyone.

Sponsored by Oklahoma State University, Okanola, Oklahoma Oilseed Commission, Great Plains Canola Association and Kansas State University.

# LIKE TO TAKE PICTURES? AFR NEEDS YOUR HELP!

## Be a part of AFR's 2014 calendar!

As the 2013 calendar heads to the printer, AFR is already planning the 2014 calendar! This time around, AFR wants to do something special!

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

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

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

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

AFR also needs to build our stock of photos to use for publications, posters, etc. If you are a photographer and have some special photos that you would like to see featured in future AFR calendars or publications, sign the attached disclaimer and fax to 405-218-5582 or mail to AFR, in care of Laici Wedel.

American Farmers & Ranchers  
P.O. Box 24000  
Oklahoma City, OK 73124

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

### American Farmers & Ranchers Photograph Disclaimer and Release Form

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

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Photographer's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# OK ENTREPRENEURS SET A BLAZE TO SALSA MARKET

By Kylee Willard, FAPC Communications Graduate Assistant



"One bite and you will be hooked," said owners of Towhead Products, LLC, Kirk and Christy Kuhlman.

The fresh, all natural and oh-so delicious Towhead Salsa captivates one's senses and spices up one's palate. The Kuhlman's use tomatoes, onions, peppers, garlic, salt, black pepper, vinegar and pectin to make their salsa. With four levels of "hot," Towhead Salsa offers flavors for all tolerance levels.

The mission of the Tuttle, Okla., company is simple.

"We want to provide the best products and service to our customers at the lowest prices possible," Christy said. "We take great pride in our company, our commitment to customer service and in the products we sell."

Kirk's childhood love for gardening grew with age. Christy suggested he express his passion for gardening and fresh products by marketing the salsa he has made recreationally for 15 years.

In October 2010, the Kuhlman's took their salsa to the next level when they attended Basic Training conducted by Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center.

"More than 975 participants have graduated from Basic Training and more than 100 new companies have been started," said Erin Johnson, FAPC business and marketing client coordinator.

In October 2011, Towhead's salsa line was unveiled.

"After countless pounds of produce and hours in the kitchen, the salsa recipe was perfected," Kirk said. "We wanted to make the salsa ourselves from start to finish ensuring that the freshest vegetables were being used to produce the most flavorful, authentic and highest quality salsa on the market."

As members of the Made in Oklahoma Coalition, they purchase ingredients for their salsa concoction fresh from Vineyard Fruit and Vegetables and Franks Tomato House while using the Earth Elements' Kitchen, all Oklahoma City companies.

The Basic Training graduates have utilized the professional services, staff and facilities at the FAPC.

"The FAPC has been a tremendous asset to our business," Kirk said. "The FAPC continues to work with us to help us grow."

The full line-up of salsas are sold online through the company website, [www.towheadproducts.com](http://www.towheadproducts.com), and throughout stores in central and southern Oklahoma.

Kirk Kuhlman is also an accountant for American Farmers & Ranchers.



Adding Value to Oklahoma

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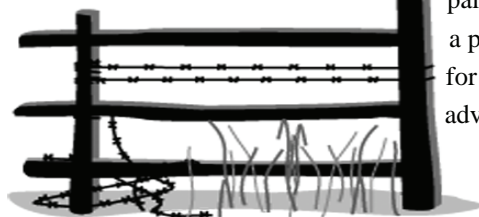
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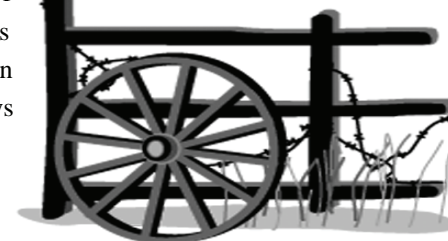


## TRADING POST

Classified advertising in the Trading Post is available free of charge to all paid-up members of the 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 \$1.00 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.

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Advertising will not be accepted for  
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### REAL ESTATE

For sale – 3BR/2B log siding cabin, minutes from Mountain Fork Park near Broken Bow. All wood interior, central H/A, metal roof, on 1 wooded acre. \$95,000. 405/620-0701 or 580/306-6466.

For sale – 425 acres, 3 miles N, 1 mile W of Arpelar (Pitts. County), 180 acre hay meadow, rest is pasture, 6 ponds, a creek, good hunting & fishing. 20 miles west of McAlester. Call 918/470-7272.

5-40 acre tracts near Fort Cobb Lake. Some timber, highway access, only 3 minutes from lake. From \$1,995 per acre. Call 405/643-2884, home, or 580/759-6038, cell.

I buy mineral rights and oil/gas royalties in North Dakota, Colorado, and Oklahoma. If you have minerals for sale, call me before you sell. Telephone 580/227-2456.

Want to buy rental property in Seminole and Hughes County. Looking for used mobile homes. Please no realtors or dealers. 405/220-2031.

For sale – 3BR/2B brick home located on 20 acres. 21384 NE North Dr., Fletcher, Okla. \$229,000. 580/284-3532.

For sale – Producing oil royalty in Pontotoc County near Ada, Okla. One oil well has an over-ride interest. 580/332-2468.

### MOBILE HOMES

2BR homes new and used, over 14 homes ready to deliver. Prices starting at \$19,900. 918/683-7791.

For sale – 2006 Lakeside, 1BR/1B, shingle roof, vinyl siding, large bath, appliances, only \$9,900. 918/683-8400.

Why Pay More? Lowest prices on mobile homes. 1,2,3,4 bedrooms, ready to deliver, see them all at [www.homestoreltd.com](http://www.homestoreltd.com).

For sale – New 2012 16x60, 2BR/2B, shingle roof, plush carpet, black appliances, vaulted ceilings, designer colors and drapes, std delivery and set up included, only \$29,900. 918/683-3707.

For sale – 2009 32ft wide Legacy doublewide! 3BR/2B, bootleg pantry, large multi-level breakfast bar, large tub with separate shower, spacious open inviting floor plan, only \$39,900. 918/683-7791.

### LIVESTOCK

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.

Miniature donkeys – jacks and jennies. Nice colors, quality, friendly. Weanlings and yearlings. Also, mature jennies. Sire is a 32' red donkey. 405/640-8212.

Kusel bulls have won more independent gain tests than any Limousin herd in U.S. Large selection of big, stout, gentle, easy calving herd sires. 405/643-2884.

Springborn show steer and heifer prospects out of winning AI genetics and our top Maine Anjou females. Sires such as Monopoly, Irish Whiskey, Salute, etc. Brower Land & Cattle, Anadarko. 405/831-1632

Brangus bulls, gentle, fertility tested, calving ease. Delivery available. Horsehead Ranch, Oologah, Okla. 918/695-2357.

Registered Beef Master bulls, cows, and show heifers. We have 3 & 1's, pairs, open, bred, and some are polled. Bred for the 6 essentials. Our website is [doubledeucebeefmasters.com](http://doubledeucebeefmasters.com). Home 918/253-8680 or cell 918/557-6923.

### FARM EQUIPMENT & LAWN MOWERS

For sale – 1951 John Deere Model M, good condition with electric starter and 3-point hitch. Many new parts. 405/614-3332.

### AUTOS, TRUCKS, RV'S & CYCLES

For sale – 2008 Salem LA 29' travel trailer Model 292FBDS, sleeps 6. Self contained. Two slide outs. \$15,000. 580/326-1802

For sale – 2010 Keystone Springdale travel trailer. Model #266, 30ft long, large slide, excellent condition, \$16,000. Call Lonnie 405/401-4532.

For sale – 1996 Saturn, fully-loaded, runs good, gets 30+ MPG. Sell for \$1,000, or trade for equal value. Call 918/966-3800.

For sale – 1949 GMC 350 truck, 6 cylinder, 4 speed, 2 speed axle, runs good, tagged and titled. 14 foot dumb bed, steel floor, wood sides. Dumps with PTO winch and cable. 580/829-3153.

1999 Kawasaki 1500 Nomad Bike, 24,000 miles, very nice, many extras, show room quality. \$5,500 or will trade Corvette or fixed up older pickup. 918/427-9995.

### WANTED

UltraLite Aircraft wanted. Must be flyable. Call 469/525-7082 anytime.

Wanted – Small “Legos” for boys 10+. Will buy small or large amount. Also, army men around 6in. long. Not collectables. 405/487-7952.

Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: P.O. Box 13557, Denver, Colo., 80201.

Wanted – Old gas pumps: 1915-1975 visible or electric, porcelain signs, transmission pumps. 580/639-2776.

Cash for old guns. Winchesters, Colt SA pistols, and old double barrel shotguns. Single guns or collections. Nice condition guns bring top dollar. Call Les at 580/456-7779 after 6 p.m.

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

Wanted – Interesting or classic vehicles. Call Lee at 405/613-1857.

Wanted – Old cars, hard tops or convertibles, running or not. 918/482-3272.

## HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

For sale – Kitchen Aid gas dryer, excellent condition. \$100. Call 580/276-2606 or 580/221-0712.

## MISCELLANEOUS

For sale – 110 year old bricks. Cleaned. You haul. 30 cents each. Wister, Okla. 918/655-3126.

Need a title? Vehicles, motorcycles, mobile homes, boats, and RVs. Call Regina Johnson at 405/275-5712.

#1 Bermuda grass hay square bales. Horse quality. 405/474-2018 or 405/279-3398.

For sale – Beautiful handmade queen-king size quilt, wedding ring pattern. \$250. Call 580/276-2606 or 580/221-0712.

Antiques – 314 Rock Island plow - horse or tractor type \$400, cast iron bathtub & sink \$150. Contact 580/822-3156.

For sale – Collector's item, Bud Lite pool table light \$200. Pair of water skis \$30. Apt. size chest freezer \$50. Call 918/966-3800.

Alfalfa sm. sq. \$9/bale. Wheat straw sm. sq. \$4/bale. Bermuda in July. 405/459-6543 or 405/574-5571.

Showbox for sale – Almost new, used twice. Everything in box, ready for any new FFA student who would be interested in showing cattle. \$700. 405/793-1302 Gene or Kim.

Barn for sale – 1940s built barn, in excellent condition, to be removed, old style, thousands of board feet, Old style tin. 580/306-1024.

For sale – Youth show saddle, used 5 times, excellent condition, \$400. Also, roping saddle, rode less than 10 times, like new, \$850. 580/306-1024.

2400 ft 2 $\frac{7}{8}$  pipe, 1500 ft 2 $\frac{3}{8}$  pipe.  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{7}{8}$ , 1" sucker rods, fiberglass posts for hi-tensile electric. 405/627-3920

For sale – Craftsman 10in. bandsaw with several attachments. Heavy duty table extra saw blade. Has been used very little. \$400. Call 918/635-5753.

Ride the Butterfield Stage on its first, almost 3,000 mile, trip from Missouri to California. One male rider on board gives an eye witness of the thrills, spills, and chills of the trip. Traces of the Butterfield Route can still be seen in eastern Oklahoma. Lois Hogle Edington, author. For a copy of this fabulous book, call her at 918/297-2704.

For sale – New wedding dress, size 6, with long train and veil. White satin with beading. Full hooped slip, size 8. Corset, size 8. \$900 for all. Serious inquiries only. Call 405/605-9110 or 405/391-5975.

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## In memoriam...

### Francis Ann Reeves



Services for Francis Ann Reeves were held Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at Carter First Baptist Church.

Reeves, 76, was born March 10, 1935 in Carter, Okla., to Sam and Janie Day. Reeves attended school in Carter and graduated from Highway School. She was married to Bobby Reeves on June 16, 1951 in Wheeler, Texas. They lived in Pasadena, Calif., before returning to Carter in 1955 to make their home. In 1963, Reeves became an insurance agent in Carter. **She retired as an AFR agent in 2012.** She also worked with her husband at Bobby Reeves Ford in Sayre from 1972 to 1984. Reeves was an avid worldwide traveler, and an accomplished pilot. She loved to garden. Her biggest joy was taking care of her family. Reeves was a member of the Carter First Baptist Church where she was the church organist for many years.

Reeves was preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Melanie Reeves, and brother, James Day. She is survived by her son, Marty Reeves, of Carter, Okla.; sister, Mary Jane Day, of Carter, Okla.; 4 grandchildren, Dylan Reeves King of Carter, Okla., Travis Reeves of Sayre, Okla., Quaid Reeves of Carter, Okla., Keeley Reeves of Sayre, Okla.; her nephew, Clark Wright and wife, Holly, of Manasses, Va.; brother-in-law, Ronnie Reeves and wife, Myra, of Dalton, Ga.; special friend, Charlene Simpson of Carter, Okla.; and a host of other relatives and friends.

### Helen Dee McGuire



Services for Helen Dee McGuire, 79, were held on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Hugo.

McGuire was born June 28, 1932, in Spencerville, Okla., to Morris and Mamie (Fatheree) Chappell. She married Rolin McGuire on February 27, 1954, in Lawton, Okla. McGuire lived in Hugo for the past 55 years. She had been a member of the First Baptist Church of Hugo since 1972. She worked as an assistant chief operator for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for 32 years. She also worked at Citizens State Bank, now known as BancFirst, for 13 years. **She and her husband, Rolin, owned and operated the AFR Insurance Agency in Hugo, Okla.** McGuire loved shopping and planned all family functions and activities. She loved her family and always put them first.

McGuire was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Bill Chappell and Don Chappell; one sister-in-law, Jo Ann Chappell; three nephews; Kelley McMillin, Todd Robinson, and Randy Chappell; one great-nephew, Kord McAdams; and mother-in-law, Marie Newman. She is survived by her husband, Rolin E. McGuire of the home; one daughter, Lisa Leslie and husband, Donald Jack of Hugo, Okla.; one granddaughter, Lendy Leslie of Ft. Worth, Texas; one brother, Von Chappell and wife, Mary of Cullman, Ala.; two sisters, Gwen McMillin, and Verna Robinson and husband, Turk, all of Hugo, Okla.; one sister-in-law, Christine Chappell of Hugo, Okla.; nieces and nephews, Billy Chappell, Katrina Harvey, Buckley Chappell, Kobi McAdams, Trey Chappell, Debbie Bills, Kay Weston, Teri Jester, Mark Hall, Dana Williams and Nicki Farrell; and 19 great-nieces and great-nephews.

# 2012 SOUTHERN PLAINS BEEF SYMPOSIUM

By Donald Stotts

Cattle producers seeking ways to better manage their operations in ever more challenging business conditions should register now to attend the Southern Plains Beef Symposium on Aug. 11 in Ardmore.

Leland McDaniel, Carter County Extension director and agricultural educator, said the symposium has become one of the premier single-day beef events in the nation.

"A truly excellent trade show, complimentary boot shines, and door prizes are longstanding traditions, adding to the opportunity for participants to learn from and interact with renowned experts who will be leading sessions about cutting-edge beef topics," he said.

Kit Pharo of the Pharo Cattle Company in Cheyenne Wells, Colo., has been devoted to creating an efficient and profitable cow-calf operation for the past 25 years. Pharo will lead a discussion on how challenging conventional wisdom can be the answer to running a profitable ranch enterprise, provided one does the necessary homework first.

John Hutcheson of Merck Animal Health, Amarillo, Texas, will provide the latest insights about consumer preferences and their implications for the beef industry.

Tommy Beall of Beall Consulting Group, Mead, Colo., will speak on the potential ramifications of the most recent cattle inventory and market factors.

Beall also will moderate a panel discussion on financing cattle operations in today's economic climate. Panel members will include Robert York, president of National Livestock Credit Corp. in Oklahoma City; Butch McComas, president of Chisholm Trail Farm Credit in Enid; and Bill Crutcher, president of the cattlemen's branch, First National Bank of Byers, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Mike Sands of Informa Economics, Memphis, Tenn., will lead a discussion about U.S. and global economic perspectives and their effect on beef prices.

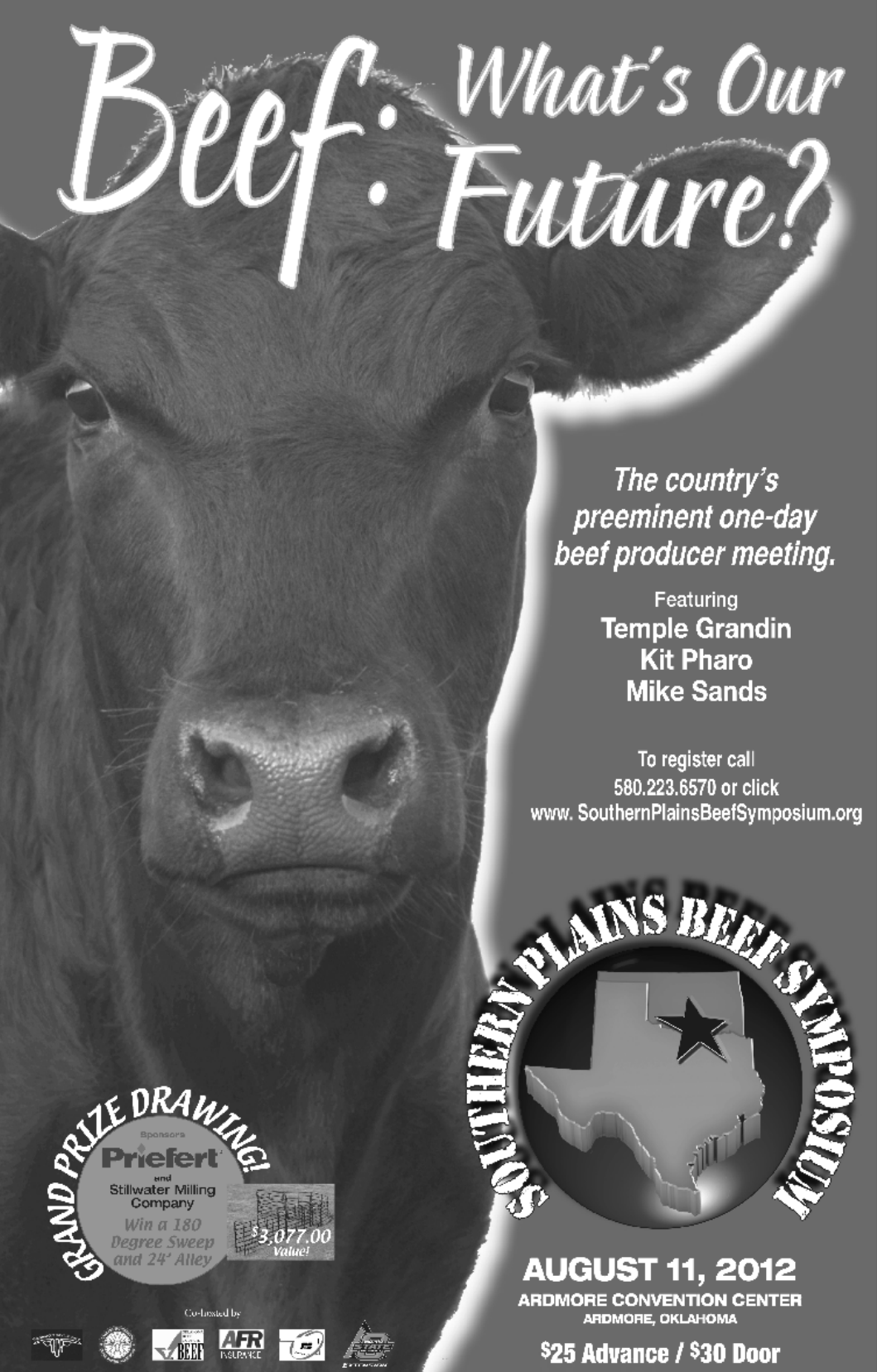
Temple Grandin, Colorado State University animal scientist and autism activist whose life was made into a five-time Emmy Award winning movie, will showcase the human perspective of livestock behavior and handling.

Ron Hays, agricultural broadcaster with the Radio Oklahoma Network, will moderate the symposium's morning sessions. Afternoon sessions will be moderated by Lyndall Stout, host and executive producer of the SUNUP agricultural TV program, a service of Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources airing on the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) network.

McDaniel said symposium participants also will receive insights and updates from the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma Beef Council, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, American Farmers & Ranchers and Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

"One of the greatest advantages of participating is the opportunity to speak with other beef producers who are in situations similar to your own, and who may have developed solutions that could prove useful in your own operation," he said.

Celebrating its 22nd year, the symposium will take place in the Ardmore Convention Center, located at 2401 N. Rockford Rd., just off Exit 33 from I-35. The event is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration is \$25 per participant, which covers the cost of symposium materials, refreshments, and the traditional prime rib lunch.



**Beef: What's Our Future?**

*The country's preeminent one-day beef producer meeting.*


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**Kit Pharo**  
**Mike Sands**

To register call  
580.223.6570 or click  
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**SOUTHERN PLAINS BEEF SYMPOSIUM**

**AUGUST 11, 2012**  
ARDMORE CONVENTION CENTER  
ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA  
**\$25 Advance / \$30 Door**

Co-hosted by  


Registration forms are available on the 2012 Southern Plains Beef Symposium website at <http://www.southernplainsbeefsymposium.org/>.

Anyone seeking additional information about the Aug. 11 beef symposium should visit the website or contact the Carter County Extension Office at 580-223-6570.



# Oklahoma Beef Checkoff UPDATE

## A New Crop of Advertising

The Beef Checkoff's FY2012 consumer advertising program kicks off the grilling season with a new crop of magazine ads, radio spots and online advertising, including two new online video commercials which can be viewed at [www.BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com](http://www.BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com).

The checkoff's new magazine ads include popular lean cuts -- such as Filet, Flank Steak, Strip Steak -- as well as feature consumer-friendly dishes, like Sliders, Beef Stew and even Beef for breakfast. The ads use close-in beauty shots of beef, sure to whet consumers' appetites and inspire them to choose beef for dinner tonight! Beginning in May 2012, the checkoff ads will run in a wide variety of magazines, including *Food Network Magazine*, *Men's Health*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Redbook* and more, and will run throughout the summer months.



## A Brief Snapshot of Retail Marketing Success

- For every beef checkoff dollar spent on cooperative retail efforts in 2011, partners invested \$24.92
- More than 134 million purchase incentives were generated through checkoff retail promotions in 2011. These included coupons and rebates, and saved consumers more than \$136 million.
- A total of 177.5 million new beef recipes were provided to consumers through newspapers, tear pads or on-pack labels thanks to the Beef Checkoff Program.
- More than 22,300 beef samples were handed out at 18 American GrillMaster Experience events in 2011, conducted with Sam's Club. Ten state beef councils joined in the effort, which also featured distribution of 8,000 Confident Cooking with Beef brochures



## Bringing the Ranch to OSU

The Oklahoma Beef Council in partnership with the Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlewomen and Cattlemen hosted a campus event called "Bringing the Ranch to OSU" in April. The purpose of the event was to help OSU non-ag students learn about the ranching, farming and the greater

beef community. The event was a wonderful success and a great way to engage OSU students in a conversation about the beef community while demonstrating the beef community's commitment to raising and caring for beef in a sustainable, safe and humane way.

## The Beef Checkoff at the Races

The Oklahoma Beef Council was a sponsor of the 30th Anniversary Redbud Classic in April which is the largest 10K race in Oklahoma. As part of the sponsorship, 7000 race participants received a beef protein recipe brochure. The Oklahoma Beef Council also exhibited at the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon Expo in April which attracted more than 28,000 participants. It was the perfect opportunity to target "food and health involved" consumers with healthy beef recipes and information.



## FFA Students Get Their MBA

The Oklahoma Beef Council and Oklahoma FFA kicked off a Master's of Beef Advocacy (MBA) pilot project with five FFA chapters in FY 2012. The MBA program is an online training program that equips farmers and ranchers with the information they need to be advocates for the beef community. As a result of the pilot project, 165 Oklahoma FFA youth achieved their MBA. Next year, the plan is to launch the program state-wide with all chapters. To get your MBA, visit [www.beef.org/mba](http://www.beef.org/mba).



## Engaging Beef Lovers Online

No gimmicks, no coupons, no fancy promotions...just a genuine love of beef. That's why more than 175,000 Facebook users have become "fans" of the checkoff's Beef. It's What's For Dinner Facebook page as of May 1, 2012. Every day, thousands more "like" the page and come looking for recipes, fun, nutrition information and the chance to be a part of a larger community where their peers and friends are talking about the great food they feed their families.



## BQA Field Days

In April and May, the Oklahoma Beef Council hosted five "Back to the Basics" field days around the state where cattlemen received valuable information and tools to enhance the value of their animals through Beef Quality Assurance practices. More than 150 attended, including 10 veterinarians who received continuing education credits. To learn more, visit [www.oklahomabeefquality.com](http://www.oklahomabeefquality.com).



## Be BOLD-and Healthy-with BEEF

A study by Pennsylvania State University researchers released December 2011 demonstrated that eating lean beef every day can be good for heart health by improving cholesterol levels. That's what the checkoff-funded study called BOLD (Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet) shows -- that adding lean beef to the most recommended heart-healthy diet can lower heart disease risk by reducing levels of total and LDL "bad" cholesterol.

The study has received significant, positive attention in the news. Through May 1, 2012 the story received 155 million positive impressions including media reports in Oklahoma. In April, the Oklahoma Beef Council successfully secured one of the lead researchers on the project, Dr. Michael Roussel to share the peer-reviewed study with the Oklahoma Dietetic Association, the state's largest organization of health nutritional professionals. He will also be speaking in June at the Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians convention.

## Turning Up the Heat at the Tulsa Home and Garden Show

The Oklahoma Beef Council (OBC) with the valuable assistance of the Oklahoma Cattle Women turned up the heat of beef promotion and education at the 2012 Tulsa Home and Garden Show in March with more than 35,000 consumers in attendance. During the event, staff and volunteers distributed beef recipes and nutrition information as well as handed out 3,400 beef samples. The Oklahoma Beef Council also featured a prize giveaway to drive subscribers to the *Beef So Simple* newsletter, a weekly e-newsletter funded by the beef checkoff featuring recipes and cooking tips in the booth attracting more than 400 new subscribers. The goal of the e-newsletter is to drive weekly engagement with consumers.

# *AFR News & Views*

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SUMMER 2012

## *Upcoming Events...*

### *July 2012*

- AFR Leadership Summit Teen Session, Altus July 5-7
- Ag in the Classroom "On the Road" Tour July 17-19
- OSU Big 3 Field Days, Stillwater July 17-19
- AFR Livestock Handling Contest, Stillwater July 18
- Oklahoma 4-H Round-Up July 25-27
- Oklahoma-Kansas Winter Canola Conference, Enid July 26
- OCA Convention & Trade Show, Midwest City July 26-28
- AFR Leadership Summit Senior Session, Altus July 29-Aug. 1
- Oklahoma-Kansas Winter Canola Conference, Altus July 31
- Cattle Trails Wheat and Stocker Conference, Wichita Falls July 31

### *August 2012*

- Women in Agriculture & Small Business Conference, Moore Aug. 9-10
- AFR Women's Conference, Oklahoma City Aug. 9-11
- Southern Plains Beef Symposium, Ardmore Aug. 11
- Wheatland Stocker Conference, Enid Aug. 29

### *September*

- Labor Day, AFR Home Office Closed Sept. 3
- AFR Fly-In, Washington, D.C. Sept. 9-12
- Oklahoma State Fair, Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City Sept. 13-23
- 4-H Foundation 50th Anniversary Event, Stillwater Sept. 22
- Tulsa State Fair Sept. 27-  
Oct. 7

*... AFR serving Oklahoma for over 107 years!*