

PERSPECTIVE

October 8, 2021

PRESSING ONWARD

A look into
Oklahoma Farm Bureau's
80th annual meeting

OKFB President Rodd Moesel: Getting back to what we do best

The following is OKFB President Rodd Moesel's column featured in the fall issue of Oklahoma Country.

There's nothing quite like getting back together with old friends.

As Oklahoma Farm Bureau members gather for our 80th annual meeting in November, the chance to see fellow farmers and ranchers from around the state is perhaps more exciting than ever before.

We all know the changes that we have made to our daily lives throughout the pandemic, and last year we had to make the tough decision to conduct our business through a live, online meeting, foregoing our traditional yearly gathering and policy development process. While it was a disappointment to miss the chance to connect with old friends while making new ones, we are now excited to return to our traditional in-person convention.

Our 2021 annual meeting theme is "Pressing Onward," and we know our Farm Bureau members have done just that throughout the last 18 months. Agriculture once again stood in the face of adversity and pressed onward to feed, fuel and clothe a world amidst

uncertainty that current generations have not experienced. Pressing onward is what our members will do in November as grassroots Farm Bureau members come together to set our policy positions, fellowship with fellow agriculturalists and learn about the industry we love.

It is time to press onward with our Farm Bureau grassroots policy process as we address existing and emerging issues and concerns that farmers and ranchers see and experience around our state. What truly makes our organization special is the ability for our voting members to propose solutions to improve our industry and our lives. The opportunity to present new ideas that make their way from the local farm or ranch level all the way to consideration at our state convention – and perhaps even onto the national level at American Farm Bureau – is what allows OKFB to make agriculture and Oklahoma's future brighter.

This is an exciting process in a normal year, but it only becomes more important and impactful

after postponing last year's policy development process. I believe the clarity and perspective the last 12 months have provided will help our members bring visionary new policy changes to be considered by their fellow Farm Bureau members.

Beyond our policy development process, this year's convention will be a great opportunity to again gather with folks throughout our industry who share our same values and love for our state. It is always a special experience to reconnect with old friends and meet new members who come from different walks of life and who are involved in different areas of agriculture. I hope you will enjoy the chance to learn and grow as we all expand our agricultural horizons.

Together, our Farm Bureau members will be pressing onward as one voice as we find new ways to help Farm Bureau, agriculture and our state grow. I hope you will join us November 5-7 as we once again gather to share ideas, grow our knowledge and enjoy the friendships that Farm Bureau has brought us.

New events at our 2021 annual meeting

Join fellow Oklahoma Farm Bureau members for some new and exciting events at OKFB's upcoming 80th annual meeting in Norman November 5-7.

The YF&R High School Discussion Meet

Thursday, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

High school students from across the state are invited to attend the OKFB Young Farmers and Ranchers High School Discussion Meet. An opportunity to share their thoughts on several current topics within agriculture, each participant will be judged on their ability to offer constructive criticism, cooperation and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions from a set of three predetermined questions. Traditionally held in conjunction with Oklahoma State University's Big Three Field Days, each round will consist of four competitors. The top four participants will each receive a scholarship ranging from \$1,500 to \$250. To register, visit okfarmbureau.org/applications.

County Farm Bureau administrators and secretary training

Thursday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

An opportunity to gather with fellow county administrators and secretaries, attendees will receive updates on both iMIS and insurance systems, hear from OKFB communications staff on how to best utilize a county Facebook page, a review of the many benefits available to members and much more. The training, open to all county administrators and secretaries, serves as a great learning opportunity to sharpen skills and abilities to best help members.

County Farm Bureau board member training

Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Led by American Farm Bureau's Elise Cruce, managing director of leadership development, OKFB board members are invited to attend the first-ever county board member training at convention. Applicable for all county board members, attendees will cover a variety of topics including ways to help their county program grow, the importance of building relationships with the community, ensuring board meetings are conducted properly and much more in order to best serve their county organization.

Private pesticide applicators license renewal session

Friday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Following a 2017 revision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the Code of Federal Regulations part 171, OKFB will be providing an opportunity for OKFB members to earn continuing education credits toward the renewal of their private applicators license.

OKFB and Oklahoma 4-H Progressive Agriculture Safety Day postponed

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day sponsored by Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Oklahoma 4-H to be scheduled for Oct. 15 has been postponed until the spring of 2022.

Updates will be posted to the OKFB website and social media pages as soon as they become available.

To schedule an OKFB safety event in the meantime, or for more information about the safety day, contact OKFB safety services at (405) 523-2300.

POSTPONED
Progressive
Agriculture
Safety Day

October 15
9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Join the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee convention events

Oklahoma Farm Bureau women from across the state are invited to join fellow Farm Bureau women for several events held in conjunction with the OKFB Annual Meeting Nov. 5-7.

Beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday, all Farm Bureau women are welcome to gather for the **OKFB WLC conference**. During the meeting, delegates in districts two, five and eight will elect a representative to serve on the state Women's Leadership Committee and all delegates will select a representative to the American Farm Bureau Convention Jan. 7-12 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Each year, counties complete the OKFB WLC Program of Work, a record of county Farm Bureau WLC activities. Those who complete it will be honored at the **WLC Program of Work Luncheon** by invitation on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 12:15 p.m.

New this year, Farm Bureau women are invited to attend a **WLC Coffee Talk** session on Sunday at 7:15 a.m., prior to the worship service. All Farm Bureau women are invited to attend the conference and coffee talk regardless if the county organization has an established WLC.

For more information about WLC programs and other events, contact Marcia Irvin, OKFB Senior Director of Women's Leadership Committee and Safety, at (405) 523-2300.

OKFB members invited for two nights of fun during convention

○klahoma Farm Bureau members are invited to enjoy two nights of fellowship on both Friday and Saturday during convention in Norman.

For a night of family fun, Farm Bureau members are invited to attend the OKFB Reception and Game night from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The evening will feature a Family Feud style game covering the history of OKFB and agriculture. County Farm Bureau's are encouraged to put together a team of five individuals, with eight teams being randomly selected to participate. Two tickets will be awarded to the winning team for a trip to the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, or OKFB's Congressional Action Tour in Washington, D.C. Both events will take place early in 2022.

Prior to the start of the dinner and awards program Saturday evening, members are invited to attend the OKFB AgFund Reception from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. While enjoying a delicious dinner, members will hear from country music artist Mo Pitney.

Awards to be presented on Saturday night include:

- County awards and quota
- Collegiate Farm Bureau Award
- YF&R Discussion Meet winner
- YF&R Charles Roff Award
- YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award
- YF&R Achievement Award
- Lewis Munn Award
- District Farm Family Awards and video presentation
- Journalist of the Year Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- John I. Taylor Award

For the latest details regarding OKFB's 80th annual meeting, visit okfb.news/Meeting21.

Prominent list of guest speakers scheduled for OKFB annual meeting

○klahoma Farm Bureau members will have the opportunity to hear from an array of guest speakers at the 80th OKFB annual meeting.

During the Friday afternoon general session, members will have the chance to hear from Gov. Kevin Stitt; John O'Connor, Attorney General of Oklahoma; and Dr. Kayse Shrum, the newly selected president of Oklahoma State University.

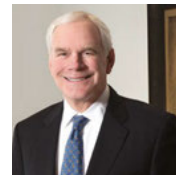
With updates directly from Washington, D.C., Rep. Frank Lucas will speak to members during the Saturday morning general session.

To wrap-up the convention weekend, Sen. James Lankford will lead members in a worship service on Sunday morning.



Kevin Stitt
Governor of Oklahoma

Friday afternoon opening session



John O'Connor
Attorney General, State of Oklahoma

Friday afternoon opening session



Dr. Kayse Shrum
President, Oklahoma State University

Friday afternoon opening session



Blayne Arthur
Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture

Saturday evening



James Lankford
United States Senator

Sunday worship service

Each of the speakers have been confirmed as of press time. The final list of speakers will be listed in the convention program.

OKFB annual meeting trade show space available

○klahoma Farm Bureau has trade show booth space available for vendors at the OKFB Expo during OKFB's 80th annual meeting Nov. 5-7 at the Embassy Suites and Convention in Norman.

The OKFB Expo provides vendors a chance to connect with farmers and ranchers from across the state during the gathering of the largest farm organization in Oklahoma.

With a variety of vendors showcasing products and services from tractors to jewelry, the OKFB Expo will be open Friday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday,

Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Booths will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis with a payment of \$75 for an 8' x 10' space. Setup will begin on Thursday, Nov. 4, and vendors must be set up by Friday, Nov. 5, at 8:30 a.m.

Visit okfb.news/3FOYV3P to a complete registration form. Once completed, mail the form and registration fee to OKFB Expo, Attn: Kelli Beall, 2501 N Stiles, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. For more information, contact Kelli Beall or Whitney Bender at (405) 523-2300.

OKFB delegates to elect state leaders

Saturday afternoon, delegates within districts two, five and eight will caucus from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. to select their representative to serve on the OKFB board of directors, followed by the OKFB presidential election during the afternoon general session at 1:30 p.m.

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A look into the Build Back Better Act and methane taxes

As discussions of the Build Back Better Act, a \$3.5 trillion Congressional reconciliation bill, have increased within the last few weeks, Oklahoma Farm Bureau has been closely monitoring the progression of the bill and is continuing to work to ensure farmers and ranchers are not burdened with additional taxation or other negative economic consequences.

The current version of the bill could impose a significant “fee” or tax on methane emissions on the oil and gas sector but does not include a tax on agriculture.

American Farm Bureau economists recently conducted an analysis on the bill to determine the potential impacts if it were applied to agriculture in the future in response to requests from congressional committee staff.

“We did so based on the formula set forth in legislative proposals that impose a methane tax on the oil and gas sectors,” said Sam Kieffer, American Farm Bureau Federation Vice President for Public Affairs. “We believe this analysis was informative and helpful in demonstrating that such a tax would have been devastating to agriculture.”

AFBF’s calculations on the 2019 EPA Emission Inventories monitoring CO2 emissions estimate the impact on agriculture would be more than \$414 billion dollars if added into the bill.

While the bill currently does not propose a methane tax on agriculture, adding taxes to the energy sector could lead to higher prices on critical inputs for agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers are the first conservationists and work each day to implement practices to reduce methane emissions. In fact, according to the Oklahoma Beef Council, the U.S. beef industry alone reduced emissions per pound of beef produced by more than 40% from 1961 to 2018 while producing more than 60% more beef per animal.

Existing OKFB policy supports reduced regulations on agriculture and opposes additional taxation on farmers and ranchers. Alongside AFBF, OKFB will educate and advocate on behalf of our members as these proposals make their way through Congress.

