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Hurricane disaster relief funds, federal trucking regulations and the farm bill were hot topics for AFR leaders during a four-day lobbying trip to Washington, D.C., Sept. 10-13. The group included, from left, Steve Thompson, Terry Detrick, Cody Crow, Randy Gilbert, Mike Mayberry, Roy Perryman, Jaylee Craig, and Terry Peach.



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From the Desk of the President
By Terry Detrick





A state level checkoff, controlled and managed by Oklahoma beef producers would **give Oklahoma producers a greater ability to market, promote and defend beef here at home and around the globe** – something producers can't do on an individual basis.

The entire Oklahoma Beef Checkoff assessment of a \$1 per head would be managed by Oklahoma cattlemen and women to market, promote and educate consumers about beef and beef producers. The Oklahoma Beef Checkoff assessment will be fully refundable.

A state beef checkoff will be used to aggressively promote and confront the critically important beef industry challenges, such as:

- Educating fellow Oklahomans about beef and the role it's played in our state's heritage and economy
- Misleading claims about food safety and animal care
- Aggressive anti-meat activist working to remove beef from the menu
- Shifting consumer beef attitudes
- Competition for export markets

As last year's defeat of Question 777 (Right to Farm) showed us, we as producers need to do more to **promote the heritage of beef in Oklahoma and the future of the industry** – if not for ourselves, then for our families.

OKLAHOMA BEEF CHECKOFF

Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What is the Oklahoma Beef Checkoff?

A: The Oklahoma Beef Checkoff is a producer funded and managed, state-level promotion, marketing, research and education program for beef and beef products.

Q: Why Checkoff is Needed?

A: The additional Oklahoma Beef Checkoff dollar would be a state, producer driven checkoff that would allow Oklahomans the ability to control what to do with that dollar. It would give Oklahoma producers a greater ability to market, promote and defend beef here at home and around the globe – something producers can't do on an individual basis.

Q: Who will manage the money collected through the Oklahoma Beef Checkoff?

A: The Oklahoma Beef Council will serve as the management entity of the state-level checkoff program. The Board is comprised of Oklahoma representatives who are appointed by the following: American Farmers and Ranchers, Oklahoma Dairy Producers Association, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Oklahoma CattleWomen Association, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Livestock Marketing Association and the Chairman of the Oklahoma Senate and House Agriculture Committees.

Q: Are there safeguard measures to keep it from being misused?

A: The Oklahoma Beef Council has implemented greater controls and processes to safeguard and protect the finances of the council. The Council employs an independent third-party accounting firm that has a five-step review process; as well as an audit/risk committee which includes an independent, outside financial advisor to the committee that monitors and reviews the internal controls and potential risks to the council.

Q: What will the money be used for?

A: The use of funds is limited by the parameters established in state law, which are beef promotion, marketing, research and education for beef and beef products. The money can be used in Oklahoma, the U.S. and/or internationally. The law does not allow checkoff funds to be used for lobbying activities to influence public policy or government affairs.

Q: What is meant by the assessment being "a maximum of \$1?"

A: According to the Oklahoma Commodity Research Enhancement Act, producers set the maximum allowable rate for the assessment through the referendum vote. The actual assessment rate is set, not to exceed the maximum, by the Oklahoma Beef Council. If circumstances ever warranted an assessment less than the maximum, the Council has the authority to set that rate without another referendum. It will be an assessment of \$1.

Q: Who will decide if Oklahoma Beef Checkoff program is started?

A: Eligible beef producers who would be required to pay the assessment, will vote in a referendum to determine if a state-level checkoff program is started.

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2017 American Farmers & Ranchers 73rd Annual Speech Contest

All District Contest registrations will begin at 4 p.m. and the contest briefing will begin at 4:30 p.m. Judges and speakers will then disperse to assigned classrooms for competition. Immediately following competition, a meal will be served. Awards, special recognition and final comments will conclude the contest.

A list of dates and locations for the district speech contests is listed in the graphic to the right. State Finals will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at OSU-Stillwater, Classroom Building, Room 313. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the contest will begin at 10 a.m.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. Contestants will be disqualified if their speech fails to clearly mention American Farmers & Ranchers AND Oklahoma Farmers Union. Both names must be included in all speeches.

2. At all district contests, ALL students will enter the speaking room prior to the first speaker beginning his/her speech and will depart the speaking room following the last speaker's delivery of speech. No exceptions unless prior arrangements have been made with the AFR Youth Development Coordinator before the contest begins. This provides an opportunity for speakers to learn from each other and reflects a real world environment when public speaking. Any contestant causing a distraction during another contestant's speech will be disqualified.

3. Participants shall enter within their district as depicted on the accompanying map. Transfers out of districts are not allowed. The districts align with the five Oklahoma FFA Areas.

4. Contestants shall enter in only one division and category.

5. Speeches will be judged by a panel of judges individually scoring each speaker. Each judge will rank all contestants in order, highest score to lowest score. Collectively, judges will add ranking scores to select the category winner - lowest total ranking points wins the category. However, any contestant receiving a first place vote from two judges automatically wins. Scoring and potential points will include, but not be limited to, the following: stage presence, delivery, content and general effect.

6. At the discretion of the judges, the use of notes may be allowed, but could adversely affect scoring. Electronic devices, charts and props are prohibited.

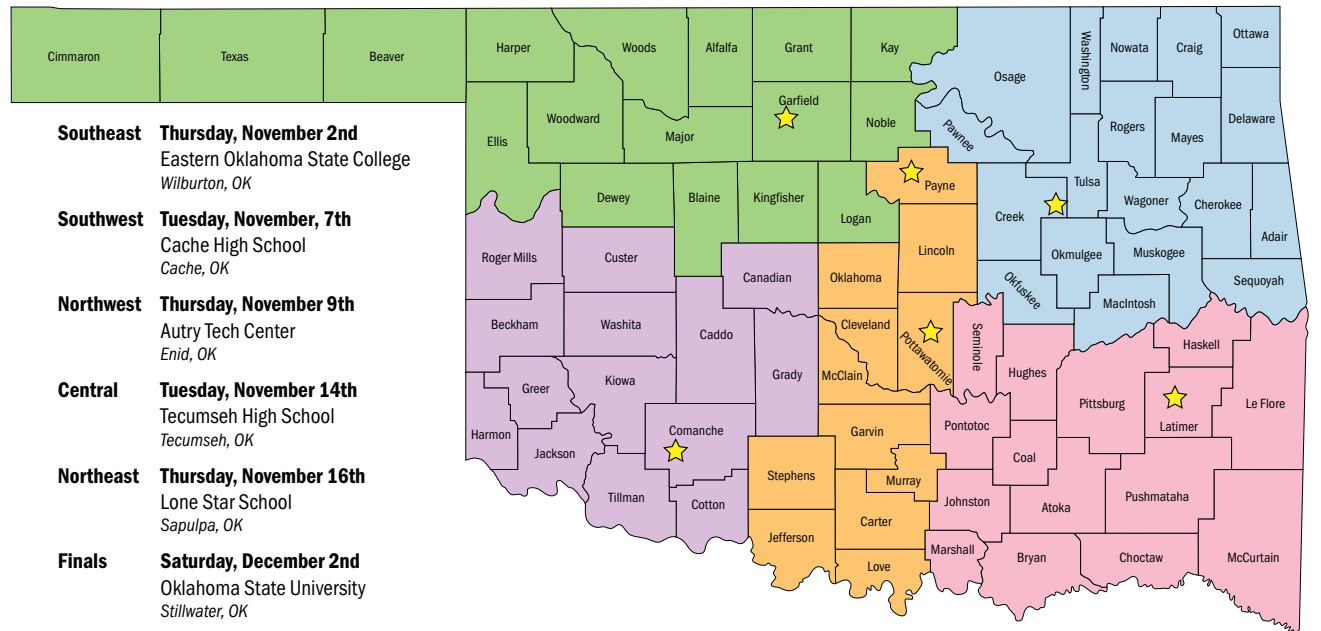
7. There is no maximum limit to the number of contestants from one school or chapter.

8. First and second place district contest winners advance to the state contest. Third place winners will be alternates to the state contest.

9. Copies of speeches are not required at district contests, but state contest qualifiers must submit three copies of their speech to their category judges at the state contest, prior to speaking. This manuscript must be double-spaced and include a bibliography page. Failure to do so will be cause for disqualification. The judges will retain one copy of the manuscript that will be kept on file in the State AFR Office.

10. **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS** - Each speaker advancing to the state contest will be asked to present the pre-printed information card he/she received at their respective district contest at registration of the state contest. This card will have all of the student's needed information for AFR to complete the scholarship award process in a timely manner. This card will be included with the letter that each advancing speaker will receive along with their award at their district contest. If the student does not

2017 AFR State Speech Contest Dates & Locations



American Farmers & Ranchers 73rd Annual Speech Contest

JUDGES REQUEST FORM

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ FFA Chapter or 4-H Club associated with: _____

CONTEST: (Select where you would like to judge. You may choose as many as you like.)

- EOSC, Wilburton - Nov. 2
- Cache High School - Nov. 7
- Autry Tech Center, Enid - Nov. 9
- Tecumseh High School - Nov. 14
- Lone Star School, Sapulpa - Nov. 16
- State Finals, Stillwater - Dec. 2

CATEGORY: (Select your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices.)

- American Farmers & Ranchers/ Oklahoma Farmers Union
- Science & Natural Resources
- Agribusiness
- Ag Advocacy & Policy

DIVISIONS: (Select only one age division.)

- Novice (Grades 4, 5 & 6) (AFR/OFU category only)
- Junior (Grades 7 & 8)
- Intermediate (Grades 9 & 10)
- Senior (Grades 11 & 12)

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:

Micaela Danker
Youth Development Coordinator
P.O. Box 24000
Oklahoma City, OK 73124

FAX: 405.218.5589

(Or email your choices for contest, category and division to mdanker@afrmic.com)

DON'T FORGET!

All District Contest Judges' Orientation will begin at 4 p.m. and dinner after the contest.

The State Contest Judges' Orientation Breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m.

For more information contact AFR Youth Development Coordinator, Micaela Danker, at 405.218.5561 or mdanker@afrmic.com.

AFR
INSURANCE

present this card at registration, the student will not be allowed to speak in the State Finals Contest.

11. Contestants will be required to answer speech-related questions at the state finals. The maximum five minute question period will consist of one pre-determined question originating from the State AFR Office, followed by questions determined by the panel of judges.

12. At the state contest, students will enter the room individually and speak before the three judges. No one else is allowed in the room at any time.

13. Once a participant has won a category at

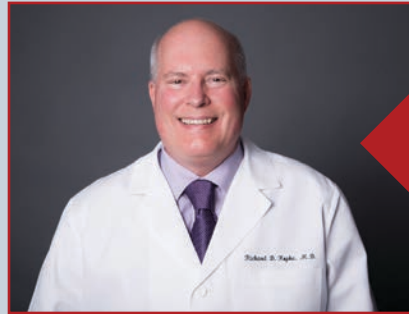
state, they will no longer be allowed to participate in the same category while still in that division. They are still eligible to speak in any of the other categories within the division.

TIME LIMITS

Novice Division speeches are required to be a minimum of two minutes and a maximum of four minutes in length. Junior, Intermediate and Senior Division speeches are required to be a minimum of four minutes and a maximum of six minutes in length. Students who fail to meet this criteria will be penalized at the judge's discretion.

Farmers and ranchers among those who suffer from hearing loss

By Sam Knipp,
American Farmers & Ranchers



“

Maybe 30 to 40 percent of my patients are farmers. Noise damage to the ear is almost epidemic ... The noise exposure of young people growing up on the farm stays with them even after they leave the farm for another career.

— DR. RICHARD KOPKE

”



Hear that? Maybe not, if you have been around farm tractors and other agriculture machinery your entire life.

According to the United States Department of Labor, twenty-two million workers are exposed to potentially damaging noise at work each year. Many of these workers are farmers and ranchers.

Exposure to tractors, forage harvesters, chain saws, combines, grain dryers, even squealing pigs and guns, can lead to significant hearing loss, says Dr. Richard Kopke, M.D., FACS, chief executive officer of the Hough Ear Institute in Oklahoma City. Kopke was in the military for 26 years and has conducted research on noise induced hearing loss since 1996.

“Maybe 30 to 40 percent of my patients are farmers,” Kopke said. “Noise damage to the ear is almost epidemic.”

“Most of the patients I see are in three main areas of occupation: the military, oil patch or farmers,” Kopke said.

The focus on hearing loss is especially important for family farmers with young children.

“The noise exposure of young people growing up on the farm stays with them even after they leave the farm for another career,” Kopke said.

The Oklahoma doctor is known worldwide for his work in the field of noise-induced hearing loss. He refers to the dilemma as the “silent hurt.”

“When you damage your ears with noise, you

often don’t realize it because it’s not always painful,” Kopke said. “It’s not the shotgun blast from last weekend’s hunting trip as much as it is the everyday, constant exposure to machinery. It gradually sneaks up on you. You may not know until it’s too late.”

The most practical way to protect from hearing loss is with personal hearing protection, such as ear plugs in the ear canal or ear muffs. One of the leading manufacturers of hearing protection is Etymotic Research, Inc.

“Etymotic is one of the top companies in the country for protecting hearing,” Kopke said.

Dr. Wayne Staab, Ph.D. Dammeron Valley, UT, is an internationally recognized authority in hearing aids and consults on issues related to hearing protection. Staab has conducted research specific to agriculture (see sidebar accompanying this article).

Both Staab and Kopke agree hearing loss cannot be reversed today.

Damage is a function of the loudness of the noise and the duration or frequency of the noise.

Kopke says the damage can be life altering.

“Hearing loss can cause one to be socially isolated leading to depression,” Kopke said. He added other health areas such as loss of balance due to hearing damage, can impact one’s life.

Kopke said high quality foam ear plugs work well in most circumstances, but you must get them deep into the ear canal.

WHAT EXACTLY IS TOO MUCH NOISE?

Most of us probably think attending a rock concert or running a chain saw all day is the type of noise-induced hearing damage doctors are talking about. In actuality, it is much more diverse.

“Anything you have to raise your voice above the sound of what you’re using, it’s probably a damaging noise,” Kopke said. “If the ringing lasts for more than 15 minutes, you’ve probably done some damage,” Kopke said.

Have you noticed ringing in the ears after shooting off fireworks or hitting a hammer on metal? The Oklahoma City doctor offers some guidelines on when to know if your hearing has been damaged.

Sound is measured in decibels (dB). Here is a quick reference to measure sound in everyday situations:

It is important to know that 85 to 90 dB is a relatively safe zone, 85 is about what you would experience in a modern, insulated tractor cab. The human voice is 60. Road traffic is about 80. Chopping silage is 90. Squealing sows is about 100. Chainsaw is about 115. Shotgun blast is 120.

It’s not just the sound level that contributes to hearing damage, but it’s also the duration of the exposure.

According to Patty Johnson, AuD, Director of Audiology at Etymotic Research, Inc., the National

Q+A ON HEARING LOSS WITH DR. WAYNE STAAB, PH.D.

Editor's note: We recently interviewed Dr. Wayne Staab, Ph.D. internationally recognized authority in hearing aids, and has done extensive work on hearing loss in the agriculture industry.

What is the best way to protect their hearing?

- Avoid loud noises, both impulse and continuous, when and if possible.
- Use enclosed cabs that are sound treated. Some farm equipment, especially cab-related, often provides the noise level in the cab during operation. For example, one farm tractor the family farm uses a lot provides the following information in the User's Manual: John Deere 8310R pulling a J&M 875-bushel grain cart. The tractor cab level was rated at 73 dB(A). Dosimeter measurements confirmed this level over a full day (about 10 hours of operation). <http://hearinghealthmatters.org/waynesworld/2014/old-mcdonald-farm/>
- Augers (not usually enclosed, especially when filling granaries from a grain truck) are best managed with hearing protection
- Start hearing protection early in life. If you wait until a problem exists, the damage has been done.
- Utilize an inexpensive dosimeter to measure your sound exposures (a product that Etymotic Research sells, and which I have used during wheat harvesting). This provides a good estimate of noise dose and alerts the user to the risk of over-exposure, essentially indicating when hearing protection should be used. It does not measure impulse noise. But, it can be positioned in the farm/ranch vehicle and turned on whenever noise exposure occurs.
- Make certain that all tractor door and window seals are intact.
- If driving a tractor with the rear window open, close it.

Can hearing loss be reversed?

- For the most part, no. Most noise exposure results in a sensorineural hearing loss, meaning that damage has occurred at least to cochlear hair cells.
- If anything, continued exposure to loud noise is progressive with respect to hearing.

Does using a hearing protection device actually work?

- Yes.
- There are different kinds of noise protection devices. Some are noise reduction earphones that fit over the ears, while others take the appearance of ear plugs.
- A difficulty with most ear plugs and even with many hearing protection earphones is that when they are in use, they reduce the overall level of incoming signals, including speech. This can be a dangerous situation. The Etymotic noise plugs employ two safety features. 1) When the incoming sound reaches a pre-determined level, the ear plug actively reduces the incoming sound to an acceptable level. In other words, it compresses the incoming speech based on the noise protection algorithm designed into the device. The amplified noise signal cannot be made louder than the output limit of the device. If the noise is reduced, even if for short periods of time, the Etymotic noise plug provides amplification so that the wearer can communicate. This does not occur with passive ear protection, such as most ear plugs. This is a great feature for individuals engaging in sport shooting activities. The loud noise is not allowed to be amplified because the ear plug circuitry prevents this from happening. Then, following the cessation of the gun blast, the unit provides appropriate amplification for communication, even though the plug remains in the ear.

Isn't it a lot of trouble to use these devices?

- It should not be. Either keep them in a case in the pocket (not really a good idea for farmers and ranchers), or leave them in the truck, tractor, combine, feed trucks, hay grinders, and other places where they are readily available, along with a supply of batteries, in the case of Etymotic's, to power the noise reduction/amplification device.
- But, it is not the most convenient for some individuals. Many farming and ranching activities occur on the spur of the moment, and sometimes unexpectedly. It is for this reason I suggest that hearing protection devices be kept in farm equipment where they are most likely to be needed.

Institute for Occupational Safety (NIOSH), has established Recommended Exposure Limits (RELs) for noise, based on the best available science and practice.

"The REL for noise is 85 dB as an 8 hour, time-weighted average; exposures at or above this level are considered hazardous to hearing," Johnson said. "This standard uses a 3-dB exchange rate: for every 3-dB increase in noise level, the recommended exposure limit is halved. This means that 85 dB is allowed for 8 hours; 88 dB is allowed for 4 hours, 91 dB is allowed for 2 hours, 94 dB for one hour, and so on. This is why it's important to consider not only the sound level, but also the duration of the exposure. If a modern insulated tractor cab has a typical sound level of 85 dB, short exposures don't pose much of a hazard. However, during harvest, a farmer may be in that cab far longer for 8 hours, so in that case, the 85-dB exposure presents a risk to hearing because of the length of the exposure time. The simplest solution to protecting hearing is to use hearing protection any time an exposure is 85 dB or greater, since exposures are cumulative over our lifetime. If a sound is loud enough that you have to raise your voice to be heard at a distance of three feet, it's loud enough that you should be using hearing protection."

IS THERE A MIRACLE CURE FOR HEARING LOSS?

The best thing is to protect the ears, but within five years we could have something to reverse the loss.

Kopke said recent research indicates the nerve endings on the inner hair cell in the cochlea are much more sensitive than the hair cells themselves. If those nerve endings can be repaired, perhaps hearing loss can be restored.

"One drug that we're working on is a pill that may regrow the nerve endings between the hearing nerve and the inner hair cells," Kopke said. "This could restore some hearing and reduce the ringing sound. The second approach involves regenerating sensory cells in the inner ear. We have another treatment that would be injected through the ear drum that would regenerate these cells."

These "hairs" are more like glass rods than the wispy hairs we have on our heads. These cells are very deep inside the inner ear.

Kopke emphasizes they are still in the research stage so his best advice today is to wear hearing protection.





AFR leaders meet with U.S. Rep. Tom Cole in his Washington, D.C. office.



Terry Peach, AFR board of directors, asks about federal farm program spending during a session with USDA Sec. Sonny Perdue.



AFR leaders meet with U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe.



AFR President Terry Detrick is interviewed by RFD-TV.

AFR leaders lobby Congress on key issues

Hurricane disaster relief funds, federal trucking regulations and the farm bill were hot topics for AFR leaders during a four-day lobbying trip to Washington, D.C., Sept. 10-13.

AFR President Terry Detrick lead the group and said they emphasized the need to prevent cuts in the agriculture budget.

“If every agency in Washington was as efficient and cost conscious as the USDA, then we would not have a big budget deficiency today,” Detrick said.

There was concern that hurricane disaster funds would detract from farm program funding. The group was repeatedly assured this would not happen.

During a meeting with USDA Sec. Sonny Perdue, they were told disaster funds would be in addition to regular program funds.

“We expect these to be supplemental appropriated funds,” Perdue said. “This won’t be a zero sum game, taking funds away from the farm bill.”

The AFR leaders heard similar remarks in meetings with the Oklahoma congressional delegation.

“There is flexibility in the budget for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to handle disaster funding,” U.S. Sen. James Lankford said. “The biggest issue we see now is the damage to agriculture crops and the loss of income.”

Oklahoma’s Fourth District Congressman Tom Cole, said although that has been a concern in the

past, he did not think disaster relief funds would take money from current programs.

“The need is so obvious and great in Texas and Florida, and while Congress recognizes we have a budget deficit, I don’t think they will come back and cut it out of existing programs. I don’t foresee any changes in the immediate future.”

Lankford added he expects the current farm bill, which expires in September 2018, to be extended, to allow Congress time to formulate a new farm bill.

“I think we’re going to take existing farm policy, with a few minor tweaks, and then do an extension,” Lankford said.

A proposed change in the federal trucking regulations was also discussed by the Oklahoma farm group. Effective Dec. 18, the government will require all trucks to use an electronic logging system to track schedules, replacing the current paper logs.

“What they’re doing is forcing every trucker onto the same schedule,” Randy Gilbert, Tecumseh, said. Gilbert owns a trucking company and has a cattle ranch. He wants Congress to repeal the ruling or at least exempt agriculture from the regulation.

“The government needs to understand everyone doesn’t operate on the same sleep and rest schedule,” Gilbert said. “This is being done in the name of safety but it could have the opposite effect as it will force drivers to work when they probably shouldn’t.”

U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, said he will work to get this issue fixed.

Taking time away from their Oklahoma farms and ranches to lobby Congress impressed lawmakers.

“It’s always good to have normal people come to Washington,” Inhofe said. “We always like to see Terry (Detrick) bring a group into town. They’re real people and that makes a difference.”

Sen. Lankford recalled his late grandfather, a dairy producer, made similar lobbying trips years ago.

“This (lobbying) is not only something I have seen in my own family but it’s good to see fellow Oklahomans in Washington, D.C.,” Lankford said.

Rep. Cole said the Oklahoma farmers’ visits to the Capitol are valuable.

“It’s extremely helpful for our staff here to get the farmers’ perspective first hand from people who know what they are doing,” Cole said.

Detrick likewise responded by praising the Oklahoma lawmakers for supporting agriculture.

“The Oklahoma Congressional delegation is on the same page with agriculture interests,” Detrick said.

“My hat’s off to our Oklahoma delegation as they are very much in tune with our needs.”



DID YOU KNOW

BEEF'S BIG 10
Do more than just get through the day — be your best every day. Here's how beef's essential nutrients can help.

- IRON** helps your body use oxygen.
- CHOLINE** supports nervous system development.
- PROTEIN** helps preserve and build muscle.
- SELENIUM** helps protect cells from damage.
- VITAMINS B₆ and B₁₂** help maintain brain function.
- ZINC** helps maintain a healthy immune system.
- PHOSPHORUS** helps build bones and teeth.
- NIACIN** supports energy production and metabolism.
- RIBOFLAVIN** helps convert food into fuel.

All lean beef subs have less than 10 grams of total fat, 4.5 grams or less of saturated fat and less than 95 milligrams of cholesterol per 3 1/2-oz. cooked serving. Surprised? Some cuts of beef are as lean as a 3-oz. skinless chicken thigh.

BEEF GIVES YOUR BODY MORE

nutrition research funded by your checkoff shows consumers that beef has what they want?

“Consumers are very concerned about nutrition. Beef delivers 10 really important nutrients: protein for muscles, B vitamins for brains, iron for blood, and zinc for the immune system. All this for only 150 calories in 3 ounces of lean beef. Your beef checkoff invests in nutrition research, and tells that story through advertising, social media, and at the grocery store meat counter.”

While you and the White family are working to produce nutritious beef, your checkoff provides facts to consumers about the importance of beef in the diet.



Lori and Benji White and family
Cow-calf producers
AFR members



www.oklabeef.org

AFR LEAD Golf Tournament raises \$11,500 for Farmer Veteran Coalition

Supporters of agriculture and the military raised more than \$11,000 on Aug. 17 during the annual AFR LEAD golf tournament. The event was held this year at Cherokee Hills Golf Course in Catoosa, Okla.

“This was a great event that showed our strong support for agriculture and military veterans,” said Terry Detrick, AFR president.

The AFR LEAD program is a diverse, flexible and innovative program assisting the needs of growing Oklahoma communities through informed leaders.

“By hosting this golf tournament we are providing leadership opportunities for our LEAD participants and we are supporting a worthy cause,” said Bailey Kliewer, AFR LEAD state council chair.

The Farmer Veteran Coalition, based in Davis, Calif., was started in 2007 as a way to create jobs on farms for military veterans returning from deployment.

The coalition has more than 4,500 veteran members. According to the FVC website, 72 percent have post 9-11 service, 20 percent are ethnic minorities, 16 percent are women and a staggering 59 percent have service connected disabilities.

Quoting directly from the FVC website, “Our vision of the future is an organization that will be around for decades, in every state and continuing to unite the agricultural sector - government, education, private industry, conventional and alternative farming and the veterans themselves. It will no longer be important to know how and when we began, but that we will be there, offering assistance to all those who chose to serve their country twice - once by defending it and once by feeding it.”

After a distinguished 20-year career in the Army, Joel Heinzeroth retired with the rank of major, and has started a ranch in southwest Oklahoma with an 80-head commercial cow herd.

“This is therapy for me after serving in combat,” Heinzeroth said.

The Army veteran sees similarities between the military and agriculture.

“Both require a strong work ethic and a love of the outdoors,” Heinzeroth said.

He applied for a \$5,000 fellowship grant through the FVC to purchase a Priefert cattle handling chute.

“My old equipment was old, difficult to use and not very safe,” Heinzeroth said. “The new chute is safe, fast and efficient.”

He also learned about crowdfunding through the FVC. He recently financed an overhead feed bin that allows him to store large amounts of feed for his cattle.

His goal is to build a ranch for his family, which includes wife Codie, daughter Emma, 8, and infant son Brett.

“I want to leave them something for the future, even if they don’t want to farm and ranch, at least they will have this land to use for whatever career they choose.

“We need partners like AFR to help us get the word out about FVC and how this can help military families,” Heinzeroth said.

The 18-hole golf event featured a best-ball, four-player scramble format with 80 golfers participating. Prizes were awarded to the top three teams and winners of several side contests.

First place went to Coweta Insurance Agency of Coweta, Okla., consisting of Justin Richards, Kris Richards, Dustin Cook and Heath Ritzhaupt.

The second place team, Choctaw County Farmers Union Local 684 of Hugo consisted of Ernie Taylor, Wally Schieffer, Clint Carpenter and Caleb Conn.



The AFR LEAD Golf Tournament raised more than \$11,500 for the Farmer Veteran Coalition. The 18-hole golf event brought in 80 golfers.



Joel Heinzeroth, retired Army major and now ranching in southwest Oklahoma, represented FVC at the golf event.

Coming in third was ServiceMasters of Oklahoma City, consisting of Brent Welborn, Spencer Prough, Dustin Sherry and Joe Halley.

Larry DeWitt, Cherokee, Okla., won the putting contest and Seth Smiley with Craig County Farmers Union of Vinita, Okla., won closest to the pin contest.

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Terry Peach

Craig County Farmers Union

R. E. McGuire Insurance

James Dickson

John Walstad



Legislative Update

By Steve Thompson,
American Farmers & Ranchers

A group of nine AFR members spent the second week of September in our nation's capital working on agriculture, transportation and insurance topics in Congress. Despite the lack of progress in 2017 on most critical issues, the mood in Washington D.C. was a calm one. Many leaders within USDA have yet to be appointed and the committee chairs on Capitol Hill are still trying to figure out the new occupants of the White House.

DOLLARS-AND-CENTS

Immigration, tax reform and health care are certainly all relevant topics in D.C. right now, but the only thing that will assuredly work its way through the 2017 Congress is federal spending. The president laid out a budget blueprint this spring that proposed devastating cuts to USDA and its mission. We visited with the Oklahoma Congressional delegation about the importance of maintaining programs and activities that are critical for rural communities and the agriculture economy. Their responses were positive, but we will continue our push to preserve these AFR priorities.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The ag economy was a central component of our discussion in each office, focusing on the importance of maintaining trade in key markets around the world. The current national political news is full of talk about renegotiating NAFTA and the promise of strong bilateral deals in populous Asian countries. It is paramount at times like these to remind our leaders that U.S. agriculture has maintained an annual trade surplus for over 50 years, totaling \$139.8 billion in FY 2017. Our industry has much at stake across the globe and must be considered a high priority in all international negotiations.

2018 FARM BILL

The current Farm Bill is set to expire next fall, so work is underway in both the House and Senate Ag Committees to craft a new version of this fundamental piece of American agriculture policy. AFR met with representatives from both ends of the capitol and from both sides of the aisle to provide input. While many different views were kicked around, the consistent theme from staff members was that funding in 2018

would be limited. With a deeply divided Congress struggling to find consensus on any major legislation, it is going to be an uphill climb for a fully funded reauthorization of the Farm Bill. Now more than ever it is important to educate our friends and neighbors about the good work Oklahoma agriculture producers do, the efficient way we produce food for the world and the positive impact our industry has on the overall economy.

HERE AT HOME

During the last week of September, things will once again come alive at the state capitol as Governor Fallin convenes a special legislative session to address the budget. This move was necessitated by a state Supreme Court ruling in August that \$200 million in cigarette taxes were approved in an unconstitutional manner by the legislature. Republican leaders have announced they will again seek approval for the cigarette tax. However, without much hope that the votes will be there to pass such a measure, further cuts to state agencies seem likely.

AFR LEAD committee holds conference in Stillwater



AFR State LEAD Conference attendees had the opportunity to tour Boone Pickens Stadium and the Sherman E. Smith Training Center during the conference.



A tour of Stillwater Milling Company was on the agenda for day two of the AFR State LEAD Conference in Stillwater.

COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING DATES

ADAIR COUNTY

Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 5:15 p.m.
Location will be announced when you call to RSVP
Peoples Insurance, (918) 696-7191

BECKHAM COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m.
Opera House Museum Complex
Elk City
RSVP with the Crow Agency (580) 225-3645

BLAINE COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 26, at 6:30 p.m.
Blaine County Fairgrounds
899 N. Spiece Ave.
Watonga
RSVP with the Acre Agency (580) 886-2584;
Daugherty Agency (580) 623-4744; Kidwell Agency,
(405) 884-2778; or Nault Agency, (580) 822-4701 by
Monday, October 23rd.

CANADIAN COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 24, doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 6
p.m.
Redlands College (between Redlands and Bible
Baptist Church, go west to dead end, turn north into
parking lot and enter that building.)
El Reno
RSVP by 4 p.m., Oct. 18, to: Wiedemann Agency, 262-
5388; Yukon office, 354-7920.

CLEVELAND COUNTY LOCAL 341

Friday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m.
Old McClain Bank Community Room
101 E. Broadway
Lexington
RSVP with the Hazel Ille Agency (405) 527-3883 by
Oct. 16.

COTTON COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 6, at 6:30 p.m.
Cotton Electric Civic Room
226 N. Broadway
Walters
RSVP to Scherler Insurance Agency (580) 875-6000

CREEK COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 12, business meeting at 6:30 p.m.,
dinner at 7 p.m.
Creek County Fair Barn
Sapulpa
RSVP by 5 p.m., Oct. 6 to Brown Ins. Agency, Sapulpa
(918) 512-8380; Dowdy Ins. Agency, Bristow (918)
367-9950; Schieffer & Schieffer Agency, Drumright
(918) 352-9406

CUSTER COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 19, dinner at 6 p.m.
TC's Country Kitchen, Ramada Inn
2140 W. Gary Blvd.
Clinton
RSVP your local agents: Jessy Barger, Weatherford
Insurance Agency (580) 772-8500; Donna Newsome,
Newsome Agency (580) 323-0444; Jessie Masquelier,
Sandy Land Insurance Agency (580) 661-3171.

GARFIELD COUNTY

Friday, Oct. 13, dinner at 6 p.m.
Oakwood Christian Church
401 N. Oakwood
Enid
RSVP by 5 p.m., Oct. 6 to: Bolenbaugh Agency(580)
242-2818; Detrick Agency(580) 796-2100.

GARVIN COUNTY

Tuesday, Nov. 14, doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Garvin County Fair Barn
Wacker Park
Pauls Valley
RSVP by 1 p.m., Friday, Nov. 10, to Wynnewood
Insurance Agency (405) 665-2018 or Pauls Valley
(405) 238-5589.

GRADY COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 16, dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Canadian Valley Technology Center
1401 Michigan St.
Chickasha
RSVP by Oct. 9 to your local AFR agents: Rattermans
Agency (405) 352-5200; Shebester Agency (405) 224-
4450; Kyle Jones Agency (580) 476-3289; Jackson
McLane Agency (405) 453-7800.

HARMON COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 23, dinner at 6 p.m.
Boomerang Restaurant
424 E. Broadway St.
Hollis
RSVP by Oct. 20 to Robinson Agency (580) 688-9229.

HASKELL COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m.
Stigler High School Auditorium
N.W. 7th St.
Stigler

JACKSON COUNTY

Thursday, Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m.
WOSC Multi-Purpose Room
2801 N. Main St.
Altus
RSVP by Nov. 27 to Storehouse Services, Inc. (580)
480-0049 or (580) 569-4241.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m.
Waurika Grade School Cafeteria
Waurika

JOHNSTON COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 4, at 6 p.m.
Chickasaw Nation Community Center
818 E. 6th St.
Tishomingo

KAY COUNTY

Thursday, Nov. 9, at 6 p.m.
Carolyn Renfro Event Center
445 Fairview
Ponca City
RSVP by Nov. 6 to Janice Gaddis (580) 762-1414 or
Lisa Blubaugh (580) 628-3660.

KINGFISHER COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m.
Interbank Community Room
320 N. Main
Kingfisher

AFR Women's Cooperative continues to serve Oklahoma communities

By *Crystie Shebester,*
AFR Women's Cooperative Chair

The Women's Cooperative hosted another successful state conference in Shawnee in August. Ladies from across the state enjoyed speakers and activities at the daylong event. You still have time to host a blood drive. All drives sponsored by AFR before December 31st will be considered for the cash awards. The main goal is to have a donor from every county at an AFR blood drive throughout 2017. Year to date AFR has hosted and partnered in 23 blood drives. Through these events 645 people were able to donate saving 1935 lives. With seven more scheduled in 2017, we know this is making a real difference to Oklahoma families and our rural communities. To schedule your local blood drive through OBI contact Sharon Ash at sharon.ash@obi.org or call 405-419-1374.

The following are the dates for "Wanted" Blood drives:

- Tahlequah- Celeste Looney Insurance- 10/4/17 & 10/5/17
 - Antlers- Miller Insurance Agency- 10/6/17
 - Clinton- Donna Newsome Insurance Agency- 10/21/17
 - Coweta- Coweta Insurance Agency- 10/31/17 (tentative)
 - Alex- Shebester Insurance Agency- 11/3/17
 - Antlers- Miller Insurance Agency- 12/1/17
 - Wewoka- Your Hometown Insurance- Fall 2017
 - Wagoner- Rowe Insurance Agency- Fall 2017
- Contact Brittany Mikles at 405-218-5416 to learn how to schedule your local blood drive or add your scheduled event to the list. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the AFR Women's Cooperative please visit www.iafr.com/womens-cooperative. Together we can save lives!



To schedule an AFR sponsored blood drive, contact:

Brittany Mikles
brittany.mikles@afrmic.com

www.iafr.com/womens-cooperative

COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING DATES

LATIMER COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m.
Panola School Cafeteria
Panola
RSVP by Oct. 27 to Reed Insurance Agency (918) 4654-3993, Gwen Wommac (918) 465-5041, or County President Jeff Reed (918) 465-2804.

LEFLORE COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 6, at 6 p.m.
Donald W. Reynolds Community Center (Poteau's new civic center)
Poteau

LINCOLN COUNTY

Thursday, Nov. 2, dinner at 6 p.m.
Agri Civic Center, Lincoln County Fairgrounds
Chandler
RSVP with your agent by Oct. 30.

LOGAN COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m.
Granny Had One Catering
312 W. Oklahoma Ave.
Guthrie

LOVE COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 4 BBQ dinner at 6 p.m.
Marietta School Cafeteria
800 SW 4th Street
Marietta
Resolutions Committee meets at 5 p.m.
RSVP: Pearman Ins. Agency - Thackerville (580) 276-3672, or Harper Ins. Agency – Marietta (580) 276-5129.

McCLAIN COUNTY

Saturday, Oct. 21, dinner at 5 p.m.
McClain County Community Center
1721 Hardcastle Blvd.
Purcell
RSVP by Oct. 16 to Richey Insurance Agency, Blanchard (405) 485-9400; Harryman Insurance Agency, Newcastle (405) 387-4416; or Heart of Oklahoma Insurance, Purcell (405) 527-2153.

MURRAY COUNTY

Saturday, Oct. 21, at 5:30 p.m.
Pappy's
38449 Highway 7
Davis
RSVP to Allbritten Insurance Agency (580) 622-2035, or Davis Tag and Insurance Agency (580) 369-2783.

MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Saturday, Oct. 21, at noon.
Location will be announced when you call your AFR Insurance agent.
RSVP by Oct. 19 to Ogden Insurance, Muskogee (918) 687-1321; Haskell Insurance, Haskell (918) 482-5286; Ramsey Insurance, Warner (918) 463-5345.

NOBLE COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m.
Noble County Fair Grounds
Concession Area
Perry

OSAGE COUNTY

Thursday, Nov. 9, at 6 p.m.
Carolyn Renfro Event Center
445 Fairview
Ponca City
RSVP by Nov. 6 to Janice Gaddis (580) 762-1414 or Lisa Blubaugh (580) 628-3660.

OTTAWA COUNTY

Monday, Dec. 4, at 6:30 p.m.
Ottawa County Courthouse Annex
123 E. Central
Miami

PAYNE COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 19, at 5:30 p.m.
Payne County Expo Center
4518 Expo CR E.
Stillwater
RSVP by noon, Oct. 17 to Porter Agency (405) 372-4169 or 372-0585; Perkins Agency (405) 547-2971; Cushing Agency (918) 225-1751.

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY LOCAL 200

Monday, Oct. 16, at 7:30 p.m.
19238 Abigail Dr.
Shawnee
RSVP to Jeff Mize (405) 997-5760

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 30, at 5:30 p.m.
Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center
Highway 177 & Independence
Shawnee
RSVP by Oct. 25 with local AFR agent.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Wewoka Trading Post
North end of Wewoka Ave. and Main St., two blocks north of courthouse.
Wewoka
RSVP by 5 p.m., Nov. 9 to Your Hometown Insurance, Wewoka (405) 257-2100; Lane Insurance Agency, Konowa (580) 925-3785.

TILLMAN COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 16, at 6:30 p.m.
Tillman County Food Bank
901 N. 15th
Frederick
RSVP by Oct. 6 to Carrs Insurance Agency (580) 335-2590.

WAGONER COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 6:30 p.m.
Wagoner Civic Center
301 S. Grant Ave.
Wagoner
Contact Coweta Insurance Agency (918) 486-2101; Rowe Insurance Agency (918) 485-2405.

WOODS COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 12, registration at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m.
Moose Lodge Building
302 7th Street
Alva
RSVP by noon, Oct. 6 to Brooks Insurance Agency (580)327-5353.

Annual Meeting and Convention deadlines announced

By Paul Jackson
AFR State Secretary

The AFR/OFU Bylaws require a candidate for a particular Director or Officer position to file in writing with the Secretary between one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days and ninety (90) calendar days prior to the next Annual Meeting thereby making the filing period thirty (30) calendar days. The AFR/OFU Annual Meetings and Convention is scheduled for Feb 16-18, 2018.

October 18, 2017: Deadline for resignation notification of intent to file by current officer or director filing for any seat other than the current position held.

October 19-November 18, 2017: Board officer and director candidates filing period. (Filing is during normal business hours, Monday – Friday 8 AM to

4:45 PM except on Saturday, November 18th from 8 AM to 4:45 PM).

The following elected positions will be presented for a vote at the 2018 AFR/OFU Annual Meetings and State Convention. All elected positions are three-year terms unless otherwise noted:

Vice President: Currently held by John Porter, Edmond.

District 2 Independent Director: Currently held by Joe Ed Kinder, Frederick

District 4 Agent Director: Currently held by Roy Perryman, Stigler

District 1 Agent Director: Currently held by Kyndell Nichols, Ringwood

November 18, 2017: Deadline for filing for an elected position. (Completed packet must be received by 4:45 PM).

November 18, 2017: Deadline for submitting changes to bylaws to be considered by the bylaws committee, 90 days before the first day of convention. (Must be received by 4:45 PM).

December 15, 2017: Deadline for submitting local and county resolutions to the State Office to be considered by the State Policy Committee.

January 1, 2018: Deadline for AFR/OFU Membership Memorial Roll submission.

January 15, 2018: Deadline for submitting annual Officers Reports and Financial Statements to meet requirements for OFU to file IRS 990's.

Census of agriculture forms to be mailed to all agricultural producers

Agricultural producers will soon have the chance to “stand up and be counted” as the U.S. Census of Agriculture packets will be sent to all producers later this year.

“This is the most comprehensive piece of agricultural data we collect,” Troy Marshall, Oklahoma state statistician, said. “Through the census, producers can show the nation the value and importance of agriculture, and they can help influence the decisions that will shape the future of our industry for years to come. This is their voice, their future and their opportunity.”

The agriculture census is conducted every five years as a tool to assemble an accurate count of America’s farms and ranches and the people who operate them

Anyone who meets the USDA definition of a agriculture producer will receive the census package. The USDA defines a farm as any place that produced and sold, or normally would have sold \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during the census year of 2017.

The roots of the census date to our country’s founding fathers, Marshall said.

“You can trace the census back to George Washington, who recorded data on his own farm,” Marshall said.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the first official census of agriculture was conducted as part of the country’s population census in 1820. In 1840, a separate census for agriculture data was started. President Lincoln increased the census’s importance when he established the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1862.

“We have a great plan in place for a census,” Marshall said. “We do this specifically for agriculture because it is important for us to know how much food and fiber is being produced in order for us to make sure everyone has enough to meet our needs.”

WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS ARE ON THE CENSUS?

Agricultural producers will be asked to provide such things as the number of acres they farm; type and amount of crops they grow; what type of livestock, cattle, sheep, pigs, etc. and how many of

each species; how many workers on the farm and their demographics (age, gender, etc.); do you use organic methods?; is renewable energy part of your farm?; do you use irrigation for the crops?; what type of marketing program do you use? How much did you sell your products for? Do you access to high speed Internet?

WHO USES CENSUS DATA?

Census of Agriculture data are used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities — federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations and many others.

- Farmers and ranchers can use Census of Agriculture data to help make informed decisions about the future of their own operations.
- Companies and cooperatives use the facts and figures to determine the locations of facilities that will serve agricultural producers.
- Community planners use the information to target needed services to rural residents.
- Legislators use the numbers from the Census when shaping farm policies and programs.

PRIVACY IS GUARANTEED

“The information provided to us is not shared by other government agencies or departments,” Marshall said. “This information is strictly confidential. We go so far as protect you from being subpoenaed in a court of law. The only way the information can come out is in a summarized form, highlighting a county’s production, not an individual.”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The census forms will be mailed in December and producers are asked to complete and return the forms by February 5, 2018. Producers can complete the forms online at www.agcensus.usda.gov or return their forms by mail.

The data from the 2017 census will be published in February of 2019.

Marshall emphasized the importance of completing the census forms.

“We need this vital information for making sound decisions on the farm bill, and other critical government programs,” Marshall said.



“

This is the most comprehensive piece of agricultural data we collect. Through the census, producers can show the nation the value and importance of agriculture, and they can help influence the decisions that will shape the future of our industry for years to come. This is their voice, their future and their opportunity.

— TROY MARSHALL,
OKLAHOMA STATE STATISTICIAN

”

2012 CENSUS OF AG FACTS FOR OKLAHOMA

81% of the 80,245 farms published in the 2012 Census of Agriculture were **under 500 acres in total size** and **59% were under 180 acres.**

59% of the 80,245 farms published in the 2012 Census of Agriculture **produced less \$10,000 worth of total agricultural sales** in 2012 and **75% were under \$25,000.**

Average age of an Oklahoma farm in 2012 was **58.3 years of age.**

Approximately, **\$7.1 billion dollars** of ag product produced in 2012.

Average farm produced **\$88,848 in ag products** in 2012.

Crops type ag items produced **26.3% of total value.**

Livestock type items produced **73.7% of total value.**

In 2012, **120,448 individuals** reported to be operators on farm operations.

56% of the 120,448 Oklahoma operators were **over the age of 55** and just **over 30% were over 65.**

Of those producers that reported themselves as the principle operator on the 2012 Census of Agriculture, **operators older than 55 years of age accounted for 51% of the total market value of ag products sold.**

Voluntary Beef Checkoff vote is important!

By Terry Detrick
AFR President



November 1, 2017 is one of the most important days in recent history for Oklahoma Beef Producers. It is the day on which beef producers across the state have an opportunity to participate in the 2017 Oklahoma Beef Checkoff Referendum which will determine whether or not to implement an additional one dollar checkoff on cattle changing ownership within the state of Oklahoma. IT IS A REFUNDABLE CHECKOFF. If this passes, a voluntary checkoff program gives you a continuous opportunity to vote by requesting a refund if you don't like how it's being managed. If a producer recognizes the value in continued

promotion, education, and research, not requesting a refund is a yes vote.

While serving on the USDA Federal Beef Board that determines how the 'National' checkoff dollars are disseminated, I witnessed the results of investing checkoff dollars to do research on the myths that eating beef causes cancer and heart attacks. The research proved that was not true and then checkoff education dollars were invested to inform consumers and the medical field of the research findings and saw beef consumption per capita rebound.

Bottom Line: since the early years of implementing the mandatory beef checkoff;

- Each checkoff dollar invested has returned \$11.20 to producers.
- The 1987 dollar only buys 43 cents worth of research and promotion today

- 1987 stats show 5.2 million head of livestock averaging \$330 value each.
- 2016 stats show 5.0 million head of livestock averaging \$532 value each.

The policy position of AFR/OFU for many years has supported a MANDATORY/VOLUNTARILY REFUNDABLE BEEF CHECKOFF!

You do not have to go to a county extension office to vote in person. You can obtain a mail-in ballot by calling 405-235-4391 between the dates of October 2 thru October 20. Ballots MUST BE POSTMARKED no later than October 27, 2017. Please do it NOW or plan to vote in person.

For more information, contact the Oklahoma Beef Checkoff Ballot Committee at 405-235-4391, text OKBEEF to 41411 or visit www.oklahomabeefcheckoff.com.

OKLAHOMA BEEF CHECKOFF Fact Sheet



OKLAHOMA BEEF CHECKOFF

As allowed under the Oklahoma Commodity Research Enhancement Act, cattle industry organizations have requested permission from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture to create a producer funded and managed, state-level beef checkoff program financed through a refundable assessment at each point of cattle ownership transfer in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Beef Checkoff program is different and separate from the current U.S. Beef Checkoff. The Oklahoma Beef Checkoff program may complement and extend the U.S. Beef Checkoff efforts. Unlike the U.S. program, which requires that fifty cents of every dollar collected be sent to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board for programs, the entire Oklahoma Beef Checkoff assessment would be managed by Oklahoma cattlemen and women. Another difference is the Oklahoma Beef Checkoff assessment is refundable.

OKLAHOMA BEEF CHECKOFF VOTE

In 2015 the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (OCA) began the process to call for a referendum pursuant to the Oklahoma Commodity Research Enhancement Act. With the assistance of many Oklahoma agricultural organizations, OCA collected more than 5,000 signatures required to call for the referendum and is responsible for conducting the referendum that would allow cattle producers the opportunity to vote on establishing the Oklahoma Beef Checkoff program.

ASSESSMENT, CHECKOFF DOLLAR

The assessment will be used for promotion, marketing, research and educational efforts regarding beef and beef products in Oklahoma, the U.S. and/or internationally. Decisions on how to use the funds will be made by the Oklahoma Beef Council, which is governed by beef producers and representatives from the State's major agricultural organizations.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The additional checkoff dollar is a state checkoff dollar, which means it will be overseen and controlled by Oklahoma beef producers, and will complement and extend current research, promotion and educational programs of the Oklahoma Beef Council.

ASSESSMENT COMMENCEMENT

If producers pass this referendum, the collection of the assessment will begin May 1, 2018.

VOTING PERIOD AND LOCATIONS

On November 1, 2017, eligible Oklahoma beef producers will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed state beef checkoff at any Oklahoma county extension office during each office's normal business hours. Mail-in ballots are also available from October 2-20, 2017 by calling and requesting at 405-235-4391 or emailing okbeefcheckoff@gmail.com. All mail-in ballots must be postmarked by October 27, 2017; otherwise, they will be invalid.

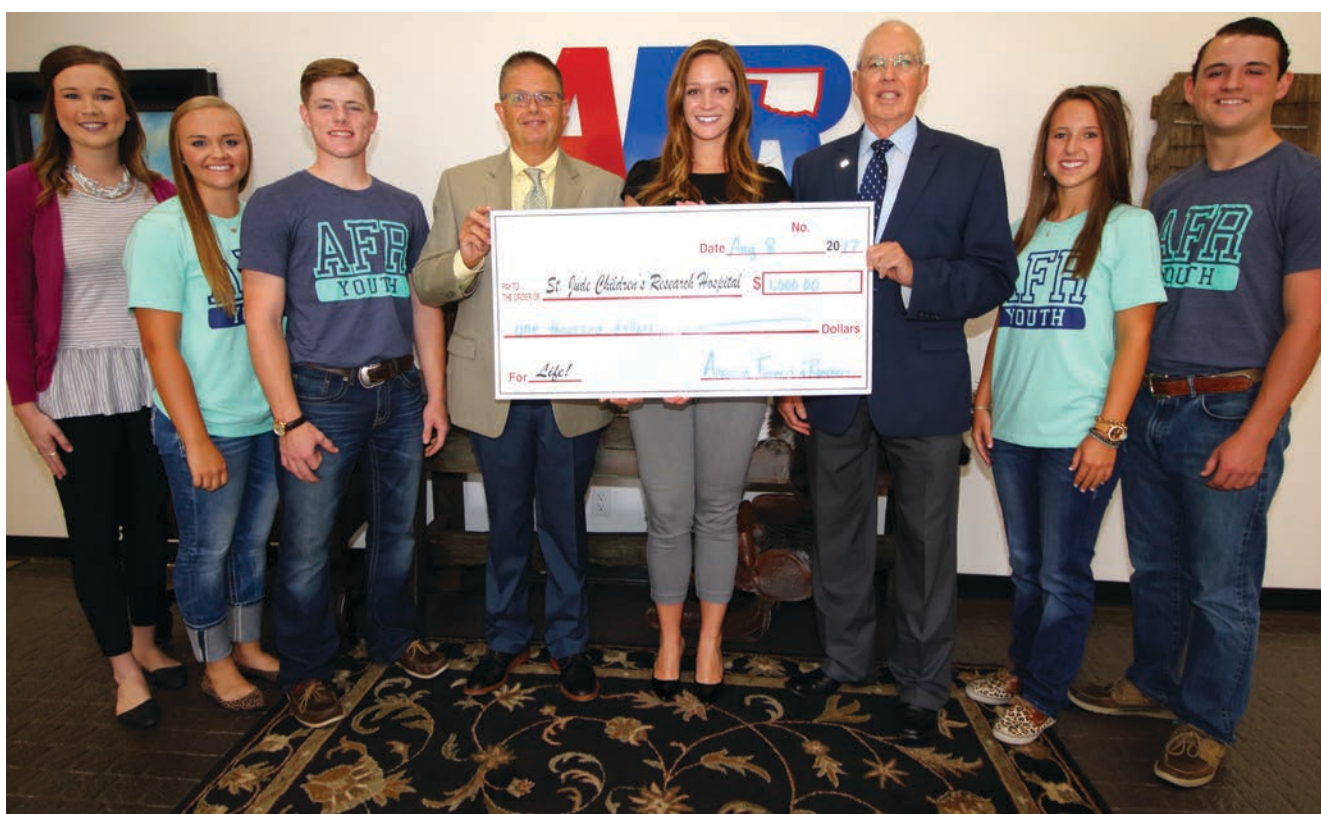
OTHER STATES HAVE APPROVED SECOND DOLLAR

Oklahoma would be following 15 other states that have approved the additional checkoff dollar. Those states include: AL, GA, IA, ID, IL, KY, NC, ND, OH, OR, SC, TN, TX, UT, WA.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

According to the Oklahoma Commodity Research Enhancement Act (2 O.S. Sec. 5-63.5), any beef producer, regardless of age, is eligible to vote in the election and referendum if the producer would be required under the referendum to pay the state assessment. For purposes of this referendum, a producer may be either an individual or a legal business entity.

For more information about the Oklahoma Beef Checkoff and the referendum please visit OklahomaBeefCheckoff.com; contact a Ballot Committee representative at 405-235-4391 or text OKBEEF to 41411.



The Youth Advisory Council advised AFR board of directors to donate \$1,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. From left, Micaela Danker, AFR youth development coordinator, council members Rylee Detrick and Drew Hardaway, AFR Insurance CEO Justin Cowan, Emily Drover, St. Jude OKC representative, AFR President Terry Detrick, council members Rayli Cunningham and Tyler Wilkinson.

AFR youth work to serve others

During the recent AFR Leadership Summit, youth participants worked on service projects that benefitted children less fortunate than themselves.

During the teen session, for grades 7-9, the youth constructed 80 fleece blankets for donation to Project Linus. According to their website, the mission for Project Linus is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets. The blankets are collected locally and distributed to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere that a child might be in need of a big hug.

The service project for the senior session students, grades 10-12, was a research project focused on finding the best charity to receive a \$1,000 donation. The students chose to donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"I think this is great for these young people to

get involved and care about helping children," Emily Drover, Oklahoma City representative for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Founded by Danny Thomas, the hospital's vision is no child is denied treatment based on race, religion or ability to pay.

"Families never receive a bill from us," Drover said. "We believe all a family should worry about is helping their child."

The service projects were honored Aug. 8 during recognition with the respective organizations. Representing the young participants was the AFR Youth Advisory Council, elected at the senior session.

"I've always wanted to give back and improve the world," Drew Hardaway, Battiest, Okla., and Youth Advisory Council member, said.

For Micaela Danker, AFR youth development coordinator, watching the young rural Oklahomans work on these service projects was a great joy.

"I think it is incredible these kids care enough to spend part of their summer helping others," Danker said.

The history of AFR is rich with culture and growth and began with Oklahoma Farmers Union. For more than 40 years the farm organization has sponsored a leadership summit for the state's top young leaders. Many of the participants have taken what they have learned at the summit back to their communities and served in greater leadership roles at the local and state levels.

This year 200 young leaders participated in the annual summit, held July 23-29 at the Heartland Conference Center near Oklahoma City.

Youth poster contest deadline is Dec. 23

Each year, American Farmers & Ranchers organizes a poster contest for elementary students across the state of Oklahoma. There's always a remarkable response and each year the home office receives 4,000+ posters.

This year's theme is "What does agriculture do for me?" Guidelines for the contest are as follows:

- Posters must solely be the work of the student. Students may use crayons, markers, pens, pencils, etc.
- Posters will be judged on originality, creativity, neatness, content and overall effect.
- There will be two age divisions: Division I: Grades 1&2; and Division II: Grades 3&4.
- Cash will be awarded to students as follows in each division: First Place: \$100; Second Place: \$75; Third, Fourth & Fifth Place: \$50.

- Top winners will be recognized at the Annual AFR State Convention in Norman at the Embassy Suites on February 16-17, 2018.

All posters must be returned to your local AFR Insurance Agent or mailed to the address below NO LATER THAN December 23.

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

Feel free to contact Micaela Danker, Youth Development Coordinator, by e-mail at mdanker@afmic.com or by phone at (405) 218.5561 if you have any questions.



Members of the 2017-18 AFR Youth Advisory Council are: Cade Leonard, Sequoyah; Rylee Detrick, Ringwood; Drew Hardaway, Battiest; Rayli Cunningham, Laverne; and Tyler Wilkinson, Calumet.

AFR announces 2017-18 Youth Advisory Council

American Farmers & Ranchers announced its 2017-18 Youth Advisory Council at the organization's annual Senior Leadership Summit Reception July 28. The reception was held at the conclusion of the annual AFR Leadership Summit.

The Council consists of high school juniors and seniors representing AFR youth from across the state. Members of the 2017-18 Council are: Cade Leonard, Sequoyah; Rylee Detrick, Ringwood; Drew Hardaway, Battiest; Rayli Cunningham, Laverne; and Tyler Wilkinson, Calumet.

Council members participate in agriculture-based service projects throughout the year and assist in planning many AFR Youth Program activities. They also facilitate AFR events and act as mentors for younger Oklahoma youth.

"AFR is proud to invest in the future of Oklahoma through these young people," said Terry Detrick, AFR president. "Our leadership summit and the AFR Youth Advisory Council demonstrate that investment across Oklahoma."

The selection process includes a written application, an interview conducted by a panel of AFR members and leadership professionals and a speech given in front of the candidates' peers. In addition to interview and application scores, a vote is cast by students attending Summit, allowing all attendees to

be involved in the selection process.

AFR Leadership Summit develops leadership skills in junior high and high school youth that will prepare them for future educational and professional experiences. Attendees learn such skills as setting and achieving short- and long-term goals and working in teams. They also learn the value of personal responsibility, respect for their peers and many other positive attributes.

"The AFR Leadership Summit is an excellent way for the youth of Oklahoma to learn skills that will benefit them in their futures," said Micaela Danker, AFR youth development coordinator.

AFR provides Oklahoma youth many opportunities to develop into the leaders of tomorrow. Leadership Summit is just one of several exciting AFR Youth Program traditions. The organization also hosts a poster contest, an agricultural achievement contest, fall speech contests, statewide scholarships, livestock handling and skills contests, livestock judging and grading competitions and many other leadership opportunities.

For more information on the Summit or other AFR youth opportunities, contact AFR Youth Development Coordinator Micaela Danker at (405) 218-5561, or mdanker@afmic.com.



AFR leaders learn about agriculture in Nova Scotia

AFR leaders and members recently returned from the 9-day Ag & Historic Conference in Nova Scotia, Canada. The group visited a cattle operation, a dairy farm with a retail cheese operation, a vineyard and a cranberry farm. They also learned about the fishing and aquaculture industry, cooperative grocery marketing as well as visiting the Alexander Graham Bell Historical Site and the Titanic victims' cemetery. In addition, they viewed apple orchards, turf production, potato, wheat, and canola and hay fields. The group also saw much of the beautiful rural countryside and ocean dotted with lighthouses and learned about the Acadian people who were deported to the U.S. – now known as Cajun. The group also crossed the ocean harbors by ferry on two separate occasions.



Rural Oklahomans concerned about state's budget, taxes and the farm economy

The state's continuing budget woes, proposed tax increases and a depressed farm economy were among the critical issues discussed during a series of issue discussion barbecues held across Oklahoma in late August. The meetings were sponsored by American Farmers & Ranchers.

"People are worried how the legislators will balance the budget," Terry Detrick, AFR president, said. "Will lawmakers increase fuel taxes, take away agriculture's sales tax exemption, or increase property taxes. With many of our farm commodity prices in the tank, we just have a lot of unsettled worry in the country."

Detrick said many of the more than 250 people attending the informal meetings questioned whether or not the legislature should increase revenue or better prioritize the money currently available. Among the most acceptable ideas to raise revenue, were an income tax and gross production tax on oil and gas production. The AFR members said increases in fuel and property taxes were not agreeable.

Other issues discussed during the meetings included rural priorities versus urban voters.

"Our members discussed the best way to educate urban legislators and advocate for agriculture and agribusiness," Detrick said.

The AFR President said he was most pleased with how the participants joined in the discussion.

"We basically fed them barbecue, introduced our staff and then let them visit with us about the key issues," Detrick said. "Neighbors visiting with a neighbor, that's what it is all about. These are the people we serve and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with them."

Detrick added, the issues discussed at the meetings will surface again at many of the county AFR annual meetings this fall and will then be used to formulate AFR policy at the group's annual convention in February.

The meetings were held Aug. 21-29 in five locations around the state, including Guthrie, Woodward, Hugo, Medicine Park and Wagoner.



REP. KOUPLEN RECEIVES LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AWARD FROM AFR

State Rep. Steve Kouplen (D-24), recently received the AFR Legislative Advocacy Award from American Farmers & Ranchers.

"I am extremely pleased to receive this award from AFR," Kouplen said. "It is gratifying to be recognized by AFR for the work I have done for agriculture. I have a deep feeling for agriculture since it has been my chosen career from the beginning."

The Beggs, Okla., farmer said improving the rural infrastructure, roads and bridges, rural health care, education, and fighting misinformation about production agriculture are critical issues facing his constituents today.

Kouplen, the Oklahoma Democratic caucus chair, said balancing the state budget is also important.

"We must invest in the future for our children and grandchildren," Kouplen said. "Most people believe we have a revenue problem, and in my opinion we need to look at the gross production tax or the income tax."

"Rep. Kouplen is highly deserving of this award," Terry Detrick, AFR president said. "He is a strong advocate for AFR policy, agriculture and rural Oklahoma at the state capitol and we want him to know he has our full support."

District 24 includes parts of Hughes, Okfuskee and Okmulgee Counties.



REP. PFEIFFER RECEIVES LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AWARD FROM AFR

State Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-38), recently received the AFR Legislative Advocacy Award from American Farmers & Ranchers.

"It's a great honor to receive this award from AFR," Pfeiffer said. "I went to the Capitol to be a voice for rural Oklahoma and the fact I can get honored by one of the largest ag groups in the state is a real humbling experience for me."

The Orlando, Okla., farmer said improving the rural infrastructure, roads and bridges, rural health care, and fighting misinformation about production agriculture are critical issues facing his constituents today.

"Rep. Pfeiffer is highly deserving of this award," Terry Detrick, AFR president said. "He is a strong advocate for AFR policy, agriculture and rural Oklahoma at the state capitol and we want him to know he has our full support."

District 38 includes parts of Garfield, Grant, Kay, Logan and Noble Counties.

Guess what's coming? Are you prepared for winter?

By John Foster

AFR Insurance, Director of Claims

Summer has quickly turned to autumn. The kids and grandkids are back in school. Time for Friday night high school football and cooler temperatures. I love autumn!

Sadly, right after autumn comes a time of the year people like least, winter. Does anyone really enjoy icy roads and drifting snow? I don't mind them, as long as I'm inside my home looking at it out the window, with a nice cup of coffee.

If you do have to get out on icy and snowy roads, it's important to be prepared. Here are some things to consider before winter arrives.

Take your car in to be serviced. Nobody wants to have a breakdown on the coldest day of the year. Have your favorite mechanic give your vehicle a check. Just like a person, our cars and trucks need a checkup.

Make sure your mechanic checks out the battery. Did you know that when the temperature drops, it takes more battery power to start your vehicle? Who knew! Be sure to check that the battery has sufficient voltage, that the belts are in good shape and if need be replace the battery.

The cooling system is one of those life blood systems for your vehicle. Make sure the coolant

will withstand the coldest temperatures we may experience. See your owner's manual or ask your mechanic for recommendations.

I usually remember to fill my washer fluid right when I run out. Don't be like me, make sure you have plenty of washer fluid as you can go through it pretty quickly in the winter time. For winter time, you should consider purchasing no-freeze washer fluid. It won't do you any good if it's frozen! While you're at it, take a look at your windshield wipers. They may be worn out and need replacement as well.

Tires are important for safe travel. Be sure to check the tire pressure and keep a tire pressure gauge in your vehicle. Look at the tread and the age of your tire.

Now that your car is ready, how about you? It's easy to forget how to drive in winter weather. Remember to go slow. You can't control your vehicle in snow and ice like you can when it's dry. Be sure to leave plenty of distance between you and any vehicles in front of you. Four wheel drive comes in handy but not much help on icy roads. You can spin and lose control just like a two wheel drive vehicle.

When you're getting ready to go on a trip, plan your route in advance. Go to the Oklahoma

Department of Transportation website and check road conditions before you head out. They have links to surrounding states road conditions as well. Do your best to keep your gas tank as close to full as possible. If you can, wait until weather conditions and roads improve before heading out.

Be sure your cell phone battery is fully charged and if possible take an additional battery pack and charger. A cell phone is the best way to reach out for help and keep people updated, especially if you get stranded. But don't text and drive!

If you do get stranded, you may be there for awhile. Consider having a shovel or broom, an ice scraper, jumper cables, flash light, kitty litter for traction, blankets and food, water and medications.

The main thing to remember is to make sure you and your family are safe. Experts recommend you always wear a seat belt and make sure your passengers do as well. Never, ever text and drive even if the weather is crystal clear.

Winter is a cold and dreary time of year, but it is beautiful in its own way. If the weather is bad and you have to get out in it, remember it's going to take you more time than normal. Plan ahead, be careful and be safe. Your family needs you!

Mikles joins AFR as Adult Education Coordinator

Brittany Mikles started Sept. 27 as the new Adult Education Coordinator for AFR. She replaces Megan Albright.

Mikles was raised in the Oklahoma Panhandle, near Turpin. Her family is involved in farming and banking.

"Agriculture has always been a way of life for me," Mikles said. "The people in agriculture are the salt of the earth and they keep my passion for the industry alive."

Mikles has a BS degree in Agriculture Leadership from Oklahoma State University.

"We are extremely pleased to have Brittany join our AFR team," Terry Detrick, AFR President said. "She brings a great deal of energy and experience to this position and we are looking forward to expanding the LEAD program."

Mikles' primary duties will focus on directing the LEAD program and coordinating the AFR Women's Cooperative program.

The AFR LEAD program is a diverse, flexible and innovative program assisting the needs of growing Oklahoma communities through informed leaders.

To learn more about the LEAD program and the AFR Women's Cooperative, contact Brittany at brittany.mikles@afmic.com or (405) 218.5416.



Brittany Mikles
AFR Adult Education Coordinator



AUTUMN BEEF AND CIDER STEW

TOTAL RECIPE TIME: 2 TO 2.5 HOURS

MAKES 4-6 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS

2 pounds beef Stew Meat, cut into 1 to 1-1/2-inch pieces

2 slices bacon, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper

1 can (10-1/2 ounces) condensed French onion soup

1 cup apple cider

1 pound sweet potatoes, peeled, cut into 1-inch pieces (about 3 cups)

1/3 cup unsweetened dried cranberries

COOKING DIRECTIONS

- 1) Cook bacon in stockpot over medium heat until crisp; remove with slotted spoon to paper-towel-lined plate. Brown 1/2 of beef in bacon drippings over medium heat; remove from stockpot. Repeat with remaining beef; season with salt and pepper.
- 2) Return beef and bacon to stockpot. Add soup and cider; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover tightly and simmer 1-1/2 hours.
- 3) Add sweet potatoes and cranberries to stockpot; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; continue simmering, covered, 20 to 30 minutes or until beef and potatoes are fork-tender.

AFR TODAY

TRADING POST

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For Sale-Outstanding 2 year old Registered Polled Hereford bull. 20-22 months old polled bulls from registered stock without papers-good disposition, fertility tested. Reasonably priced. Taloga/Vici. Call 580/995-3360.

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Farm & Ranch Equipment

For Sale-John Deere 4020 Diesel, runs good, needs hyd. pump in transmission replaced, sheet metal rough, has 38' tires, 3pt, and 2 hyd. Asking \$4,000. Call 580-829-3153.

For Sale-Factory cab for 66 series International Tractor. All glass good, includes mounting brackets and hardware. Antlers, OK. Call 580/317-7512.

For Sale-1010 Massey Ferguson, 3 cyl. diesel-less than 800 hours, 3 point-excellent estate size, turf tires. \$2,750, HD box blade \$300. Konawa, OK. Call 580/925-3277.

For Sale- M&W nine wheel hay rake. Call for price 580/364-2703.

Household Items

For Sale-New condition 12.9 cubic feet Frigidaire chest type freezer. \$275. Call 580/667-5203.

Hay, Feed & Seed

For Sale-Old World Bluestem grass hay, big round bales, fertilized, net wrapped, can haul. Call for Price, Alva, OK. Call 580/829-3153.

For Sale-Small square straw \$4 per bale. Pocasset, OK. Call 405/459-6543 or 405/574-5571.

Miscellaneous

For Sale-Mint condition, 2005 Honda Shadow XLT 600. Low miles, new tires, special seats, crash bars, Harley Davidson front end. Cruise control, wind shield, never driven over 50 mph. 80 miles per gallon. 2.5 gallon tank, \$2,500. Call 580/657-3165.

For Sale-1994 Ford F-250 7.3 power stroke, 5 speed, 2 wheel drive, supercab, 200,000 miles. Needs batteries and throw out bearing. Clean title asking \$1,500. Call 580/829-3153.

For Sale-Portable Generator, 8250 watt electric start about 120 hours use, in good condition, \$700. Call 580/666-2469.

For Sale-1993 Dodge 350D 4x4, 12 value cummins diesel engine. Extended cab, electric windows and locks. Automatic transmission, all new brakes. Garage kept, 142,000 miles, great condition. Tow package. Pictures available. \$18,500. Call 580/364-6592.

For Sale-1966 Ford Thunderbird. Needs restored. Stratford. Call 580/279-0668.

For Sale-1954 Oldsmobile, 2 door, hard top, new tires, 350 motor. Call 918/775-4645.

For Sale-Structural Pipe 2 3/8, 2 7/8, 4 1/2, 5 1/2; All sizes of sucker rods, new steel cable, 1 1/4 fiberglass post for hi-tensile electric. www.branchauction.com. Call 405/627-3920.

For Sale-Sioux Valve Grinder, Serial # 1248, Model #40V505, \$250. Call 405/624-2448. For Sale-110-year-old used bricks, cleaned. 50 cents each. You haul. Wister, OK. Call 918/655-3126.

Turning 65? Retiring? Questions about Medicare? What plan is right for you? Medicare Supplements, Part D (Rx), MAPD Part C. Call Free Consultation. Cushing, OK. Call Ragon 918/225-2600.

Free help understanding Medicare and Medicare supplements for AFR/OFU members 65 or older. Including Parts A, B, C, and D, Open Enrollment, Guarantee Issue, sign up times, etc. Call Melodie 580/276-3672.

Classified advertising in the Trading Post is available free of charge to all paid-up members of AFR. Ads must be of personal nature and strictly non-commercial. Commercial ads and ads for non-members can be purchased at the rate of \$1 per word, paid in advance. Member ads must be 30 words or less, unless the member pays in advance for additional words. Each member is limited to one advertisement per issue. Advertising will not be accepted for services or products in direct competition with those offered by AFR or affiliates. AFR reserves the right to not print any ad deemed inappropriate.

In Search of:

Wanted-need someone to work on older Seeburg Juke Box. Altus, OK. Leave a Message. Call 580/482-2017.

Wanted-8 Track Player, 110 Volt, must be working. Call 580/591-1135 or email grhayes@martineer.net

Wanted-down draft carburetor for an older model International gas tractor. Call 918/548-3378 or 918/429-4599.

Wanted-I loan money on Mineral Rights. Any county like Carter, Grady, Kingfisher or Blaine: states like Oklahoma, North Dakota. If you need a loan or want to sell. Call 580/227-2456.

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

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

Join AFR on a Voyage of the Glaciers and Heart of Alaska Adventure

Let your Heart of Alaska Adventure begin with a 3-night program starting in Fairbanks. Pan for gold, ride the Riverboat Discovery, watch a sled dog demonstration and more! Overnight in Denali National Park and then spend a full day riding a glass-domed rail car across this Great Land on Princess's exclusive Direct-to-the-Wilderness Rail Service. Step off your rail car and onto the Star Princess to begin your 7-night Voyage of the Glaciers Cruise. Sail into the charming gold-rush era towns of Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan. See Alaska's glacier-filled waters up close and personal. Travel in style and discover why Princess was named "Best Cruise Line in Alaska" nine years in a row. It's time to mark Alaska off your bucket list!

In addition to the "3 FOR FREE" PRINCESS has vastly reduced the required deposit, normally 20% of the total cruise. This incredible promotion EXPIRES NOVEMBER 14, 2017.

Call Paul Jackson (405) 218-5559 or Marilyn Sanders (405) 218-5567 for more information.

OBITUARIES

MARIE OLLER

Marie was born on September 9, 1930, and passed away on Thursday, August 3, 2017.

Marie was a resident of Pernell, Oklahoma at the time of passing.

Marie grew up and attended school in Pernell, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Oller is survived by: 2 sons: Bob Oller and his wife Terrie of Wynnewood, Oklahoma Don Oller and his wife Debbie of Caddo, Oklahoma 3 daughters: Debby Martin and her husband John of Nashville, Tennessee Pam Strickland and her husband Buddy of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma Joni Oller of Elmore City, Oklahoma 3 Brothers: Don Anderson and wife Susan of Edmond, Oklahoma Clois Anderson of Duncan,

Oklahoma Larry Anderson and wife Libby of Pernell, Oklahoma 4 sisters: Wilma Smith and husband Jack of Texoma, Oklahoma Rebecca Durham and husband Jerry of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Beth Frizzell of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma Edwina Bristol of Davis, Oklahoma 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren Mrs. Oller was preceded in death by: Her husband: John I. Oller Parents: Robert and Rosa Anderson Grandson: Jason Oller 2 brothers: Robert D. Anderson and David Anderson Sister: Norma Temple.

The family requests memorials be made to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org or by mail at P.O. Box 96011, Washington, D.C. 20090-6011.



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How much do we care?

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT
TERRY DETRICK

Recently, I once more had the tremendous opportunity to journey to our Nation's Capitol for the purpose of representing our valued membership and promote policy issues approved at our 2017 state convention. Thank you, members, for providing me and those who accompanied me with this opportunity.

Only because of you, the good people I represent and have the privilege of serving, I've always found an open door to the offices of our Oklahoma members of the House of Representatives and our U. S. Senator's offices. They truly respect AFR/OFU. We were listened to and well regarded everywhere we went. They know we care!

"Others don't care how much we know until they know how much we care!"

However, there are a whole lot of others who don't care at all or at least, don't care enough to get involved by supporting an organization such as AFR that does. "All it takes for evil to prevail is for good people to do nothing"! Also: "The world is run by those who show up"! Today, a lot of 'good people' are slow to show!

Sir Winston Churchill once said: "You can always depend on a democracy to do what's right... after they've tried everything else!" I've enjoyed the confidence during my lifetime in feeling that yes, in the end, the United States democratic system of government would do what's right. But, that only happens, when enough good people get involved.

The time of year for AFR/OFU County Meetings

is upon us. Why did our forefathers make it an organizational policy that in order to receive \$9 dues per membership (to be used promoting AFR in local and county communities—\$3 for the local and \$6 for the county) we must have an annual meeting? First of all, as part of our grass-roots involvement it is intended that at these annual meetings discussions will be held considering the needs and concerns of the local and county membership, pass resolutions on issues you want the state organization to work on, send them to the state policy committee so they can be considered by the state convention delegates for adoption.

Secondly, members need to discuss beneficial ways to get involved locally—ways beneficial to youth, volunteer fire departments, and other charitable community needs they care about. I strongly encourage the officers to meet quarterly to be able to actively be updated and engaged in beneficial activities.

May I suggest AND REQUEST that all counties consider adding a young adult (post college age) to your county board, even if it has to be an ex officio position without a vote but able to enter into discussions during board meetings. This is the age group we are trying to attract for our young leaders (LEAD) program. Folks, please, we MUST be exhibiting to the next generation of AFR the importance of involvement and leadership. They

need to be encouraged and involved to see 'We Care'!

The next time we make a trip to Washington D.C., we need to have some young people involved. Please help us find them. They soon will need to be carrying the torch we older ones are now bearing.

Last but certainly not least, I want to mention and thank those dedicated, committed and concerned members who accompanied me on this last trip to Washington D.C. They were Board Members Roy Perryman and Terry Peach; Staff members Steve Thompson and Sam Knipp; last year's Policy Committee Chairman, Cody Crow, a LEAD participant; and Randy Gilbert, a Governor appointee to the Oklahoma Career Tech Board of Education and Chairman of the State FFA Foundation Board of Directors. We were also privileged to enjoy the company of Jaylee Craig, granddaughter of Roy Perryman who accompanied us at grandpa's expense. (Way to go, Roy) Jaylee is currently a senior in Stigler High School and an exceptional young lady. I believe she is on her way to being a future leader and we need more young men and women like her. Let's all do everything we can to get them exposed and involved on the local and county level. I love and cherish you all—You're the greatest!

Until next time may God bless and watch over you.

- Terry

FAPC fosters innovation with first-ever product development competition

By Mandy Gross,
FAPC Communications Services Manager

Goat milk frozen yogurt, insect protein bars and ethnic pudding were unveiled during Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center's first-ever Food & Beverage Product Development Competition.

The Sept. 12 competition challenged college students to share their creative and innovative ideas for new food and beverage products to help foster creative research, idea development, product and process development, and commercialization potential and evaluation, said Dani Bellmer, FAPC food process engineer.

"The goal of the competition was to provide students with an opportunity to take on the role of a food scientist and develop a new product," Bellmer said. "By participating in the competition, students gained an understanding and appreciation of the various stages of product development."

Helena Hollins of Langston University won first place with her new product: Silly Billy Frozen Yogurt, soft served frozen yogurt, crafted from locally sources and non-hormonal goat's milk.

Hollins said her goal is to promote an alternative dessert to traditional products made from cow's milk.

"Goat's milk caters to individuals with sensitivity

to lactose and contains a list of essential nutrients," she said. "Yogurt also has its share of health benefits and helps with lactose sensitivity. My objective is to combine these two concepts into a high-quality product that the whole family can enjoy."

A team of OSU entomology students, including Michael Caballero, Molly Drakeley, Haley Hahn and Thomas Hess, won second place with their creation: The Arthrobar, an individually wrapped protein bar made with insect protein.

"Our target customer is a young individual who is health and environmentally conscious," Drakeley said. "They not only see the nutritional benefit of insect-based food with high-protein, low-carbohydrate and fat ratios, but also understand the global impact they can make with insect-based foods."

Team FAPC Fab Four, consisting of Manish Aryal, Sabra Barnett, Audrey Boeken and Joyjit Saha, won third place with the idea of Ethos Pudding, made with exotic flavors and rare ingredients.

"Ethos Pudding is prepared from some of the finest and rarest ingredients handpicked from around the world," Saha said. "Saffron, housed from the fields in the East, is used along with the more westernized cinnamon, pistachios and soymilk, crafting a rich new taste and aroma."

Student competitors displayed a storyboard or poster and provided product samples for tasting. In addition, participants delivered a 3- to 5-minute

presentation in FAPC's Kerr Auditorium, and answered questions from the judges and audience members.

Entries were judged on both oral presentation quality and product characteristics and evaluated for consumer appeal and market potential; clarity and organization of presentation; product and process description; product appearance, texture and taste; creativity and uniqueness; and commercial process description.

Representatives from the food and beverage industry served as judges, including Rashaun Robinson, Billy Goat Ice Cream; Victor Gramillo, Fresh Creative Foods; Will West, House of Webster; and Jeff Ragan, KiZE Concepts. First-, second- and third-place winners received \$500, \$250 and \$100, respectively.

Sponsors of the event included OSU's Riata Center for Entrepreneurship, platinum level; Institute for Food Technologists – Oklahoma Section and Stillwater Chamber of Commerce, silver level; and Fresh Creative Foods, BlendTech, Billy Goat Ice Cream Co. and Over the Fence Farms, bronze level.

"We greatly appreciate the willingness of the sponsors to help make this event a success for students to share their ideas and network with food industry professionals," said Chuck Willoughby, FAPC business and marketing relations manager.