



AFR

NEWS & VIEWS

“The Voice of Family Agriculture”

A publication of American Farmers & Ranchers Volume 95, Number 4 Fall 2014



Parenting
By Terry Detrick,
President Page 16



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Leadership Summit...Success!



The AFR/OFU Leadership Summit changed locations this year. The new Summit location, Camp Big Cedars near Wanette, offers a more traditional summer camp feel in a central location that is more easily accessible to the eastern part of Oklahoma. *Staff photo*

Farm Bill Workshops a Necessity for Production Decisions

The Agriculture Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) revised commodity support programs beginning with the 2014 crop year. Direct payments, counter-cyclical payments and the Average Crop Revenue Election payments were eliminated.

In place of those supports, new programs were created for most crops grown in Oklahoma. These are: Agriculture Risk Coverage-County

Option (ARC-CO), Agriculture Risk Coverage-Individual Farm Coverage (ARC-IC), and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), which also offers the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO).

The 2014 Farm Bill also provides one-time opportunities for farm owners to update their payment yields and a one-time opportunity to reallocate their base acres among program crops.

The new farm bill also included funds for the development of web-based aids that farmers, landowners and others can use to sort through the program decisions required. Oklahoma State University (OSU) has partnered with Kansas State University to develop such a farm bill decision tool.

Turn to **FARM BILL, 4**

CEO Passes Baton to Designee

AFR Insurance CEO Brian Baxter has informed the AFR/OFU Board of Directors that he will be stepping aside in December 2014. During his short tenure with AFR, Baxter has helped the company regain solid footing by increasing its surplus to an industry-acceptable level, moving the company to a more suitable office location, resolving software and hardware issues and reducing the company's overall expense ratio.

“With many challenges resolved through the hard work and effort of all of us, AFR is in great shape to move forward,” said Baxter. “It is time to let a new CEO guide the company in its growth”

CEO Designee



The AFR/OFU Board of Directors is pleased to announce Richard Herren, Counsel to the Board, as the new CEO Designee effective October 1. He will assume his CEO duties January 1.

Herren has worked closely with

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RETURN ADDRESS:
American Farmers & Ranchers
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Industry

Oklahoma Extension Celebrates 100 Years

Information Provided by
OKLA. COOP. EXTENSION SERVICE
 Joyce Sherrer, Dir. of Staff & Program Development
 Debra Gaines, Program Assistant

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) is celebrating 100 years of extending knowledge and changing lives of Oklahomans.

The Smith-Lever Act formally established the national Cooperative Extension Service May 8, 1914. The legislation created a unique partnership between county, state and federal governments and provides funding through land-grant schools to expand vocational, agricultural and home and family programs beyond the university.

In Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University (OSU) and Langston University engage in Extension outreach activities.

“Extension’s mission is to harness all the research and know-how of land-grant institutions like OSU and use it to help Oklahomans live the best lives possible,” said James Trapp, assoc. dir. of OCES. “We’re proud of our history of putting that mission into action in Oklahoma.”

OCES now operates offices in all 77 Oklahoma counties and provides programming and information on a wide range of topics such as lawn and gardening, health and nutrition, home and family, crops, personal and family finances, community development and animal science.

“For 100 years, Extension educators and specialists have worked one-on-one, side-by-side with Oklahomans to solve local issues and assist families with everyday challenges,” Trapp said. “For us, it’s personal. It



Extension agents have been an integral part of positive rural and agricultural development in Oklahoma since its inception. Photo courtesy OCES

always has been and it always will be.

“Whether you are an agricultural producer striving to keep up with new technology and the markets, or a citizen needing help identifying a plant in your yard, wanting to learn how to safely operate an ATV or needing guidance on setting up a household budget, these are just a few of the areas where Extension can serve as a resource for Oklahomans.”

Most OCES resources and activities, including a database of more than 5,000 downloadable, research-based fact sheets (www.osufacts.okstate.edu), are free or low-cost for participants.

For more information about OCES, visit www.oces.okstate.edu.

Extension Fast Facts

• The OCES is one of two state agencies that are part of OSU’s Di-

vision of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, along with the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, the division’s statewide research arm.

• Extension’s county educators work with area, district and state specialists to develop science-proven programs that help Oklahomans solve local issues and concerns, promote leadership and manage resources wisely.

• Federal extension efforts began in 1907. At the same time, Oklahoma A&M—as OSU was then called—developed a series of short courses and assigned personnel to specifically help state farmers and ranchers take advantage of the latest scientific knowledge and technological advances. These programs were merged in 1914 with the passage of the Smith-Lever Act.

• Extension county offices are a joint effort by OSU and county government. They have been called the “front door to the university,” and are at the forefront of OSU’s land-grant mission to help Oklahomans improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and their communities.

• OSU Cooperative Extension offices are situated in all 77 counties of the state.

• Extension personnel average 1.6 million total contacts with Oklahomans annually. More than 25 percent of those contacts are with identifiable minority populations. Approximately 430,000 contacts annually are with farmers and ranchers.

• OCES programs encompass agriculture, the family and consumer sciences, community and economic development, environmental stewardship, natural resource management, local government education and Oklahoma 4-H youth development.

• OSU Cooperative Extension personnel provide direct, in-person educational experiences equivalent to more than 800 college classes with Oklahoma residents each year (based on reported contact hours).

• Approximately 600 employees comprise the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. Of those, approximately 350 are assigned to county, area or district offices, with the remaining 250 working out of the university’s main Stillwater campus. OSU Cooperative Extension personnel add approximately 50 full-time-equivalent faculty positions to the division.

State News Update

Contributed by
STEVE THOMPSON
 Policy & Membership Coordinator



Water for 2060 Drought Grants

With the Water for 2060 Act of 2012, Oklahoma became the first state to establish a statewide goal of consuming no more fresh water in 2060 than is consumed today. Appointees to the Water for 2060 Advisory Council are studying a wide range of innovative conservation measures, incentives, and related project financing options to solidify Oklahoma’s water future. The 2012 update to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan demonstrated that water conservation still remains the most immediate and effective

way to prevent future shortages. As the state enters its fourth year of ongoing drought, water conservation and reuse are increasingly important to protecting the water supplies that communities currently use.

The state of Oklahoma has \$1.5 million available in drought grants for cities, counties, water districts and other public entities to help fund projects that highlight responsible use of water. Projects to be considered for this grant funding must demonstrate water efficiency and support drought resiliency within the community or water system. Water efficiency encompasses conservation and reuse efforts, as well as water loss reduction and prevention, to protect water resources for the future. Eligible costs may include planning, design, construction, inspection, and testing. Contact the Oklahoma Water Resources Board staff for more information at 405/530-8800 or www.owrb.ok.gov.



LFP Payments in Oklahoma

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to producers who suffered grazing losses. The 2014 Farm Bill made LFP a permanent program and provided retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011.

Since LFP began on April 15, Oklahoma FSA offices have processed nearly 45,000 applications. FSA anticipates that number to double before sign-up is complete. The program will remain open for sign-up until Jan. 30, 2015.

Total payments made under LFP in Oklahoma so far are the most of any state. Top states for total payments (through end of August)

are Okla. \$553,402,833; Texas \$326,625,954; Neb. \$242,818,553; Mo. \$219,045,339; Kansas \$207,960,205.



Flood Control Improvements

On July 18, national, state and local officials gathered at Perry Lake to announce \$26 million in funding for dam upgrades in Oklahoma as a result of the 2014 Farm Bill. Nationally, dams in 26 states will receive a total of \$262 million. Thirty-six structures in Oklahoma will benefit. The money will be spent on planning, design or construction of upstream flood control dams. The projects were identified based on potential risks to life and property if a dam failure were to occur.

Industry

Producers Square Off with USDA on Actual Production History

The 2014 Farm Bill replaced direct and counter-cyclical payments with a program that relies on crop insurance. Multiple drought disaster years have eroded many farmers' yield history, on which insurance coverage is based.

The lower yield history presents a financial hardship in many cases. A provision in the new law addresses this issue by allowing producers to

"exclude any year from their insurable production if the county's yield per planted acre for the crop in that year is at least 50 percent below the previous 10-year average of the yield per planted acre for the crop in the county. This also applies to contiguous counties and allows for the separation of irrigated and non-irrigated acres."

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) insists they cannot find time to facilitate these changes until the 2016 crop year. Sec. of Agriculture Tom Vilsack told the AFR/OFU group during the recent Washington D.C. fly-in that this issue wasn't a high enough priority to be implemented this year. However, both House Ag Chairman Frank Lucas and Subcommittee Chairman Mike Conaway told the AFR/OFU that USDA had been given funds to carry out this task and staff research had indicated there was plenty of time to have accomplished it this summer.

As a result of this non-action by USDA-RMA, Oklahoma City law firm McAfee & Taft has begun work



Producers may have to band together to push implement of APH. Public domain photo

on a group legal action to achieve the production adjustment. This will allow costs to be shared among a large base of impacted farmers, enabling producers of any scale to participate economically and receive the benefit intended by Congress.

It is \$2/acre to join their group and then another \$2/acre if they are successful in getting your production adjustment made. The legal case will focus on language in most crop insurance policies that says anything in the terms of the policy that conflict with the Federal Crop Insurance Act shall be superseded by the Act. The new adjustment option has been included in the Act since the president signed the farm bill on February 7 of this year. The key is the producer must state their desire to elect the adjustment provision, which is not being offered to them. So they need to write it in somewhere. Otherwise, the case for RMA denying it later is much easier.

Contact Steve Thompson at (405) 218-5563 or sthompson@afmic.com for more information.

Rural Fire Department Equipment Program Saved



Rural fire departments rely heavily on equipment repurposed from the Department of Defense. Public domain photo

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) has resumed providing excess military vehicles in support of fire service agencies after consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The agency temporarily suspended the flow of excess vehicles outside the Department of Defense (DOD) on June 19 after certain engine restrictions drew scrutiny during a DLA staff review of excess military vehicle regulations.

DLA is the arm of the DOD that manages excess property turned over to it by U.S. military units around the world. The agency's first priority is to encourage other elements within the armed forces to reuse items. If equipment is not reused within the military, it can supply special programs such as the firefighter and law enforcement programs.

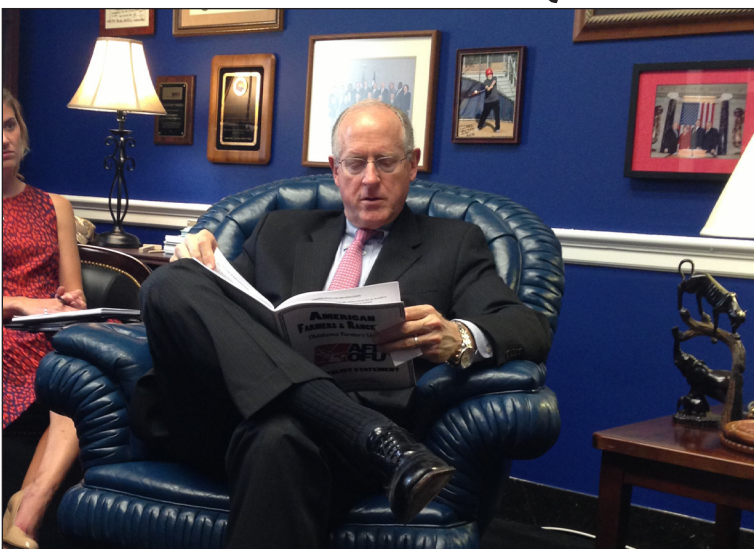
U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe praised the agreement that will allow local fire and law enforcement agencies to continue receiving surplus military equipment:

"I applaud the Department of Defense and Environmental Protection Agency for coming to an agreement on a 25-year-old rule that the DOD

recently decided to start enforcing to the detriment of a program supporting Oklahoma's local fire departments and their ability to fight wildfires. The agencies decided to extend the national security exemption for this vital program on the grounds that the vehicles' titles remain under DOD after being repurposed in order to ensure the vehicles are eventually destroyed. This new agreement will create more red tape for our local fire departments by requiring the roughly 17,000 pieces of surplus equipment around the state to now be tracked and returned once they are no longer in use. This is the best short term answer to maintain the program with the DOD, and I will be working with my colleagues to address the unnecessary regulation created by the agreement."

Each year, Oklahoma's fire departments receive and rely on \$13 million to \$15 million worth of surplus equipment from the DOD. The cost of new vehicles falls between \$150,000 and \$200,000, but the departments are able to take these surplus vehicles and equip them for as low as \$30,000.

2014 Fall Fly-In



Congressman Mike Conaway (R-TX), Chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, reviews the AFR/OFU policy book during the recent NFU fall legislative fly-in. Members of the Oklahoma delegation met with Congressman Conaway to discuss implementation of the farm bill and the proposed EPA "Waters of the U.S." rule. Staff photo

OSU Hosts Rural Outlook Conference



The 2014 Rural Economic Outlook Conference, scheduled for Oct. 31, will focus on trends and expectations regarding the rural economy and agriculture, including key considerations agricultural lenders, rural leaders and others should be thinking about for the coming year.

For more information on how you can attend, contact Steve Thompson at sthompson@afmic.com or 405/218-5563.

Industry

Congress Requests GAO Audit for South American Proposals

In two separate letters sent by Congress, an audit conducted by the Government Accountability Office has been requested in response to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's proposed rule to allow importation of fresh and frozen beef from Brazil and Argentina and live cattle from Argentina. The audits will focus on the methodology and controls used in the site visit review process, which were the foundation for these decisions.

The concern stems from the risk of introduction of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), which is the most economically damaging livestock disease and one of the most contagious diseases in the world. The last case of FMD in the U.S. was in 1929 and was brought in from Argentina. South America has been plagued with this disease and reintroduction could risk the health and well-being of domestic livestock herds.

"While we are staunch advocates for open markets and free trade, we will not ignore the fact that unfettered access of these products has the potential to cause significant harm to our domestic food supply," the letter states. "Until a timely and independent study can be conducted on the methodology and management controls of the APHIS site visits to the exporting country to verify the animal health data, we shall not abide risking our nation's food supply, health and economy."

The last documented case of FMD



South American cattle could compromise the U.S. herd. Public domain photo

in Argentina was in 2006. In April, the Food Safety Inspection Service released an audit that found substantial flaws related to Brazil's food safety regulation requirement. An independent third-party review also found significant weaknesses in the methodology of the risk analysis for the Argentina proposals, specifically the APHIS hazard analysis and the exposure assessment, as well as an overly subjective qualitative format.

The second letter, which was sent in September echoed industry concerns, and stated that research indicates a significant loss in gross domestic product for countries that suffer an FMD outbreak.

"It is imperative that the best interests of our nation's food supply, health and economy be properly considered," states the letter. "Until a timely and independent study can be conducted concerning the overall process, documentation, and risk assessments utilized to formulate these rules, we cannot support their implementation."

AFR/OFU Disappointed in NFU Leaving Beef Check-Off Talks

NFU recently withdrew from the Beef Checkoff Program Working Group, which is comprised of 11 beef-producing organizations, because their demands were not met. After three years of negotiations, NFU has walked away because it believes the process is unlikely to result in what it deems necessary reform.

AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick sees a problem with NFU's proposed changes to the program. Fortunately, the NFU charter allows member states to be independent from the national organization when their individual state policy differs from national policy.

"As AFR/OFU president, I cannot support a position that conflicts with AFR/OFU members' policy," said Detrick. "I'm disappointed that NFU has completely pull away from discussions because they do not get everything they want."

NFU's proposed changes to the Beef Check-Off Program are detailed below, along with Detrick's concerns.

- NFU wants the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) to handle all administrative services and decisions for research, education and market development contracting. Detrick has a USDA federal appointment with the CBB and holds extensive knowledge about the organization.

"This is an unusually complicated check-off system," said Detrick. "Much more so than any other commodity check-off I'm familiar with. It was set up that way more than 25 years ago, voted upon and approved by producers. It has worked, but



The Beef Check-Off is a vital part of beef marketing and research. Public domain photo

that's not to say there has not been discussion about changes over the years. Is there a better way to handle it? Any process should be able to stand up to review and open debate. Compromise should be a goal, not a deal breaker for either side."

- NFU demands non-policy organizations (NPOs) be allowed to contract the check-off's research, education and market development projects. They also want more private entity involvement with the contracting.

"I urge extreme caution due to private firms possibly having more 'self-interest' as motivation, rather than interests of grassroots producers," said Detrick. "However, if these entities can survive the producer-driven approval process currently in place and, if safe-guards are implemented, he thinks it could work."

- NFU also demands that all check-off dollars be refundable. Currently, the \$1-per-head check-off is not refundable.

AFR/OFU policy allows for an

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Continued from FARM BILL, 1

These changes offer many new opportunities, but also require complicated decisions to be made in a very short period of time. To help producers understand their options, AFR/OFU has partnered with USDA and OSU Extension to hold more than 20 farm bill informational meetings around the state.

Speakers will include representatives from OSU, Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development and National Agricultural Statistics Service.

2014 Farm Bill Info Meetings

OCTOBER 14: 9:30 a.m. Major County Fairgrounds, Fairview. RSVP to Major County OSU Ext. @ 580-227-3786.

OCTOBER 16: 9:30 a.m. Pioneer Tech, Ponca City. RSVP to Kay County OSU Ext. @ 580-362-3194.

OCTOBER 16: 5:30 p.m. Gordon Cooper

Tech Center, Shawnee. Pottawatomie Co. OSU Ext. @ 405-273-7683.

OCTOBER 22: 9:30 a.m. Muskogee Co. OSU Extension, Muskogee. RSVP to Muskogee Co. OSU Ext. @ 918-686-7200.

OCTOBER 23: 5:30 p.m. Kingfisher Co. Fairgrounds, Kingfisher. RSVP to Kingfisher Co. OSU Ext. @ 405-375-3822.

OCTOBER 28: 5:30 p.m. Payne County Expo Center, Stillwater. RSVP to Payne County OSU Ext. @ 405-747-8320.

OCTOBER 29: 5:30 p.m. Autry Tech Center Enid. RSVP to Garfield County OSU Ext. @ 580-237-1228.

NOVEMBER 5: 5:30 p.m. Western Okla. State College, Altus. RSVP to Jackson County OSU Ext. @ 580-482-0823.

NOVEMBER 12: 5:30 p.m. OSU - Institute for Agricultural Biosciences, Ardmore. RSVP to Carter County OSU Ext. @ 580-223-6570.

NOVEMBER 13: 9:30 a.m. Comanche County Fairgrounds, Lawton. RSVP to Comanche County OSU Ext. @ 580-355-1045.

NOVEMBER 13: 5:30 p.m. Canadian Valley Tech Center, Chickasha. RSVP to Grady County OSU Ext. @ 405-224-2216.

NOVEMBER 20: 5:30 p.m. Kiamichi Tech Center, Poteau. RSVP to LeFlore County OSU Ext. @ 918-647-8231.

NOVEMBER 21: 9:30 a.m. TBD, McAlester. RSVP to Pittsburg County OSU Ext. @ 918-423-4120.

NOVEMBER 24: 1 p.m. OSU Research Station, Goodwell. RSVP to Texas County OSU Ext. @ 580-338-7300.

NOVEMBER 25: 9:30 a.m. TBD, Woodward. RSVP to Woodward Co. OSU Ext. @ 580-254-3391.

NOVEMBER 25: 5:30 p.m. Northwest Technology Center, Alva. RSVP to Woods County OSU Ext. @ 580-327-2786.

DECEMBER 1: 3:30 p.m. TBD, Durant.



Be sure to attend one of the 2014 Farm Bill Information Meetings to ensure you're making the right decision for your crop.

RSVP to Bryan County OSU Ext. @ 580-924-5312.

DECEMBER 2: 5:30 p.m. TBD, Clinton. RSVP to Custer County OSU Ext. @ 580-323-2291.

DECEMBER 4: 9:30 a.m. Ottawa Co. Courthouse Annex, Miami. RSVP to Ottawa County OSU Ext. @ 918-762-2735.

DECEMBER 9: 5:30 p.m. Northeast Technology Center, Pryor. RSVP to Mayes County OSU Ext. @ 918-825-3241.

Industry

DID YOU KNOW

EVERY **DOLLAR INVESTED*** RETURNS **\$11.20?**



Beef Safety Research

Identifies potential risks to beef safety and develops solutions to maintain a safe beef supply for consumers



Public Relations

Proactively shares positive beef messages with consumers, health professionals and other food influencers



Product Enhancement Research

Discovers new ways to improve beef quality, consistency and value, including research focused on new cuts, taste, tenderness and carcass value



New Product Development

Works with industry leaders to develop new beef products, plus shares beef recipes and cooking tips



Advertising

Creates all domestic consumer advertising –radio, print, outdoor and digital – to reinforce how beef is part of their everyday life



Foreign Marketing

Provides beef market development, promotion, research, consumer and industry information in more than 100 countries worldwide



Channel Marketing

Develops all promotions, training and other programs to help promote beef in restaurants and grocery stores



Nutrition Research

Focuses on beef's role in human nutrition as it relates to overall health and well-being



Industry Information

Safeguards the image of the beef industry by responding to, and correcting, misinformation about beef and sharing the beef production story

*From the Cattlemen's Beef Board budget

GET TO KNOW
YOUR CHECKOFF
MyBeefCheckoff.com



SHARE
THE FACTS



#beef11:1

Funded by the Beef Checkoff.

Membership

Northwest District Holds Informative Meeting

The Northwest District held its annual meeting in Fairview September 27. The event drew attendees from across the district, offering organizational fellowship and the opportunity to learn about two important issues relevant to the area—water resource planning and energy transmission.

NW Okla. Water Planning Council

AFR/OFU has joined other organizations and municipalities to form the Northwest Oklahoma Water Planning Council. It consists of 14 counties with others being considered: Alfalfa, Blaine, Canadian, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grant, Harper, Kay, Kingfisher, Major, Woods and Woodward Counties.

The Council is spearheaded by Brent Kisling, Director of Eco-



Brent Kisling (left) and Phillip Teel (right) discuss their respective issue with Northwest District AFR/OFU members. Staff photo

omic Development for the city of Enid. A Burlington, Okla., native, Kisling understands how vital a reliable water source is for rural areas of Oklahoma.

“We have been experiencing the worst drought trends since the 1950s,” said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. “We have witnessed the devastation of the Canton Lake community, stock ponds without water and ground water levels lowering faster than they can be recharged.

“We are witnessing an economic boom in Northwest Oklahoma, leading to increasing demands on a depleting water supply. We must examine and develop plans for the future.”

Plains & Eastern Clean Line

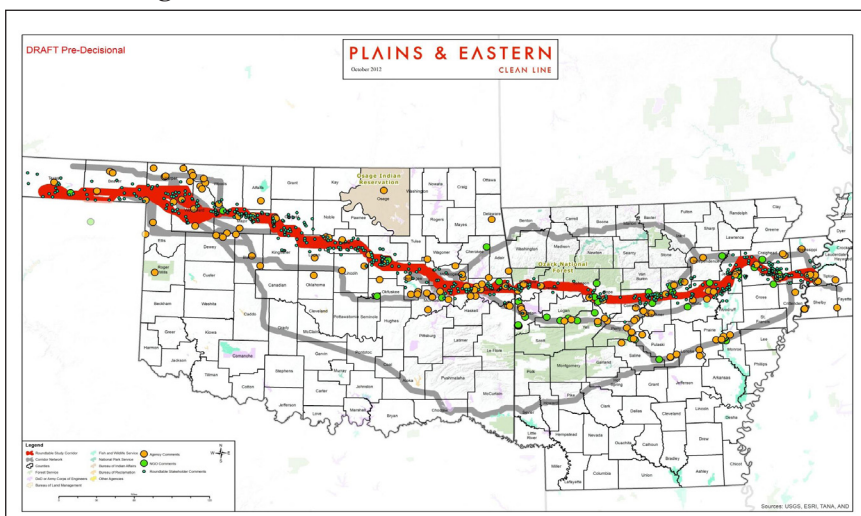
The Plains & Eastern Clean Line will be crossing Oklahoma beginning in or near the Oklahoma panhandle and crossing the state as it moves to connect with the Tennessee Valley Authority entities. At the Northwest

District meeting, Clean Line Outreach Representative Phillip Teel addressed questions and rumors regarding the power line, such as how landowners will be compensated, construction timelines, etc.

AFR/OFU was the first organizations contacted by Clean Line to offer suggestions in the best interest of landowners.

To help answer questions and bridge the gap between Clean Line and Oklahoma landowners, AFR/OFU has provided a question and answer guide and a link to the Clean Line website.

If you have further questions, please contact AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick at tdetrick@afmic.com or 405/218-5555.



There are several proposed routes for the P&E Clean Line. The most likely is highlighted in red. Photo courtesy Plains & Eastern Clean Line

Convention Deadlines Announced

Information provided by
PAUL JACKSON
AFR/OFU State Secretary

Oct. 16, 2014: Deadline for resignation notification of intent to file by current officer or director filing for any seat other than the current position they hold.

Oct. 16, 2014–Nov. 14, 2014: Board officer and director candidates filing period. (Filing is during normal business hours Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.)

Nov. 14, 2014: Deadline for filing for an elected position. (Completed packet must be received by 4:45 p.m.)

Nov. 14, 2014: Deadline for submitting changes to bylaws to be considered by the bylaws committee which is 90 days before the first day of convention. (Must be received by 4:45 p.m.)

Dec. 1, 2014: Deadline for submitting local and county resolutions to the state office to be considered by the state policy committee.

Jan. 2, 2015: Deadline for AFR/OFU Memorial Roll submissions.

Feb. 6, 2015: Deadline for submitting convention credentials.

Feb. 13–14, 2015: AFR/OFU Convention, Embassy Suites – Norman Hotel and Convention Center

The following elected positions will be presented for a vote at the 2015 AFR/OFU State Convention. All elected positions are 3-year terms. All incumbents have indicated intentions they will re-file for the positions they currently hold.

VICE PRESIDENT

Currently held by:
John Porter, Edmond

DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR

Currently held by:
Joe Ed Kinder, Frederick

AT-LARGE DIRECTOR #1

Currently held by:
Roy Perryman, Stigler

Continued from CHECK-OFF, 4

additional, refundable \$1-per-head if approved by producers. Based on his experience with the CBB, Detrick believes, one way or another, that additional dollar needs to happen.

“It would be impossible to budget some research projects, especially those relying on multi-year funds, without knowing if there will be income based on the cattle population at that time and past knowledge of cattle movement trends.

• NFU also proposes the current producer-approved Beef Check-Off Program be controlled by USDA under the Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996.

“If USDA can implement and control a generic check-off program, where does that leave producers?” Detrick asked. “Do we really want our research and promotion programs in the changing hands of whatever administration is in power?”

• Lastly, NFU’s proposal calls for a referendum vote by producers every five years, regardless of producer needs or desires.

“Producers must have the right to a referendum vote, but a vote every five years, regardless of need, really makes it difficult to do any long-range budgeting,” said Detrick. There are other commodity check-off

programs that allow a small percentage of producers to sign a petition for a referendum vote. If a referendum vote is not perceived by producers as necessary, why spend needed promotional dollars to hold an expensive referendum vote?

In general Detrick is optimistic and positive about the performance of the Beef Checkoff Program and believes compromise is key.

“If the first dollar is non-refundable, but the second dollar is refundable, and, if a referendum vote is held only when necessary, the check-off dollars can be used effectively and continue to do what they have been doing so well.

“Recent research has determined the current Beef Checkoff Program has been returning \$11.20 for every \$1 invested in it!” said Detrick. “At a time when beef prices are at record-breaking highs, the check-off marketing efforts continue to accomplish increased sales and exports, much of these exports comprised of products American consumers do not eat!”

“Finally, AFR/OFU has a major concern over NFU threatening to pull out of negotiations if they cannot get ALL they ask for. It sounds too much like Washington politics all over again, which inhibits progress!”

Membership

AFR/OFU Spring Conference Announced

Information provided by
PAUL JACKSON
AFR/OFU State Secretary

Attendees to the freshly announced 2015 AFR/OFU Spring Ag & Historic Conference will experience our nation's capital in full bloom. From the origin of Washington, D.C.'s acres of cherry blossoms to farming practices in the eastern United States, there will be a lot to discover and learn on the "Cherry Blossoms & Shenandoah Valley" spring conference March 27 - April 1.

Day 1: Arrive in Virginia

Arrive at Reagan National Airport, meet our local guide for the week and enjoy a welcome lunch at the Charthouse Restaurant in Alexandria. Experience the Changing of the Guard and see the Kennedy gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery and visit the Iwo Jima Memorial. Finally, check in to the Hilton Garden Inn Arlington for a three-night stay.

Day 2: Explore the Capital

Enjoy a full day of discovering our nation's capital. In the morning, experience history at the Ford's Theatre and the Peterson House. Marking the 150th anniversary, the historical sites will be hosting spe-

cial exhibits and artifacts that have not been seen by the public since 1865. Enjoy lunch at Old Ebbitt Grill, steps away from the White House and see the famous national memorials—World War II, Vietnam, F.D.R., Korean, Lincoln, etc.

Day 3: Soak in the Knowledge

Get a bird's-eye view of the nation's capital from the Washington Monument, then spend the morning at the Smithsonian Institute, the world's largest museum and research complex, with 19 museums, 9 research centers and many agricultural exhibits and projects. Spend the afternoon at beautiful Mount Vernon, learning about George Washington's agricultural entrepreneurialism. End the day with dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn.

Day 4: Say "Hello" to Virginia

Depart for Charlottesville, Virg., and visit the historic colonial town of Fredericksburg to see a civil war battlefield and colonial medicine at its best. Then learn about farming practices in the eastern United States at one of the area's award winning diversified modern farms. Get acquainted with Charlottes-

ville via bus before checking in for a two-night stay at the Homewood Suites - Charlottesville and enjoying a manager's reception with complimentary light dinner and drinks.

Day 5: See Ag Differently

Explore Monticello, the beautiful home and farm of Thomas Jefferson, then enjoy lunch at Michie Tavern. Later, discover the fruits of farming with a tasting at Jefferson Vineyards. In the evening, enjoy the last manager's reception at the Homewood Suites.

Day 6: Discover Our Flying Roots

Drive the scenic Sky-

line Drive and explore Shenandoah National Park. After lunch, learn about manned flight at the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center, a facility dedicated to aeronautical and space travel. Say goodbye at Dulles Airport and return to OKC.

For more information, the AFR/OFU State Secretary's office at msanders@afmic.com or 405/218-5567.



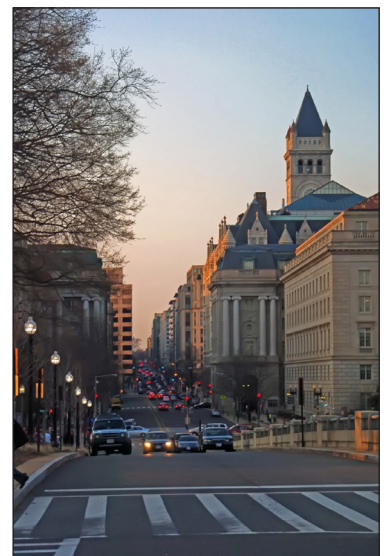
Conference attendees will experience the capital in full bloom. Stock photo



See our nation's capital in its prettiest season. Photo courtesy Steve Thompson



See national memorials and the capital city at night. Photo courtesy Steve Thompson (left), stock photo (right)



AFR/OFU Out and About in Oklahoma



OCA Convention

AFR/OFU Northeast District Field Rep Wade Parker, Southeast District Field Rep A.J. Bristow and his wife Aliene Bristow represented the organization at the 62nd annual Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Convention July 24-26 in Midwest City.



Tillman County Free Fair

Frederick AFR Insurance agent and Tillman County Secretary Eddie Whitworth, Tillman County President Tommy Murr and AFR/OFU Southwest Field Rep Pete McDaniel represented AFR/OFU at the Tillman County Free Fair September 4-6 in Frederick.



Oklahoma State Fair

Fort Cobb AFR Agent Dustin Tackett, pictured with Jerry Tackett, introduced the newest member of the Tackett family, Hudson, to the Oklahoma State Fair while interacting with fair attendees from across the state. The State Fair was held September 11-21 in Oklahoma City.



Pottawatomie Co. Prepare Fair

The Pottawatomie Co. Prepare Fair featured preparedness information and mini-courses to help citizens better prepare for disasters in their homes and communities. Suzanne Gilbert and Leda Canada represented the Gilbert Agency at the event, held September 27 in Shawnee.

Membership

Whitworth Named Mayor of the Year



Information provided by
MAYORS COUNCIL OF OKLAHOMA
Nancee Morris, MCO Communications

OKLAHOMA CITY— Frederick Mayor Eddie Whitworth has been named the 2014 Okla. Mayor of the Year for communities of less than 5,000 people. Whitworth owns the McManus-Whitworth AFR Insurance Agency in Frederick and is the Tillman County AFR/OFU secretary.

He was presented the award from the Mayors Council of Oklahoma (MCO) during the Okla. Municipal League (OML) Annual Conference banquet Sept. 25 in Oklahoma City.

Whitworth was an Army Reserves Sergeant First Class and taught vo-

educational agriculture for eight years before becoming an AFR Insurance agent in Frederick for 35 years.

Whitworth has been described as a peacemaker who patiently listens to all sides of an issue before making a decision. He is an ardent supporter of Frederick and has a real heart for the welfare of its people.

The MCO award recognizes the dedication and commitment of the highest elected post in municipal government. Nominees must be an MCO member and in elected municipal office at the time of the presentation. Additionally, nominees must complete at least three years of service in an elected municipal office.

Edwards Recognized for Dedication to 4-H



Information provided by
GREER COUNTY 4-H NEWS
Trisha Gedon, Cooperative Extension Service

STILLWATER—When there is a 4-H event going on in Greer County, Glynadee Edwards will be there. She is a 19-year volunteer with the Greer County 4-H Program and an AFR/OFU Greer County board member.

She was recently presented the Lifetime Volunteer Leader of the Year award at the 2014 4-H Parent/Volunteer Conference. The award recognizes the hard work and dedication of volunteers with 10 or more years of service to 4-H.

Edwards was also recognized as the Southwest Dist. Volunteer Lead-

er of the Year, as well as the Greer Co. Volunteer Leader of the Year.

If she had to use just one word to describe Edwards, it would be “giving,” said Cheryl Lively, Extension director in Greer County.

“Glynadee IS Greer County 4-H,” Lively said. “She’s the driving force behind all successful 4-H activities. She gives her time, knowledge and financial resources so 4-H members excel.”

Edwards volunteers with the Mangum Senior 4-H Club, Mangum Cloverbuds and the Greer County Sewing Club. She also helps with many activities, conducts workshops, takes time to judge a variety of 4-H contests and has even painted shelves and display cases in the 4-H Building at the Oklahoma State Fair.

She said she became a volunteer many years ago because she knew there was a need. She served as president of the Friends of 4-H (state 4-H volunteer leader board) for 10 years and secretary for two years, and as superintendent at the Oklahoma State Fair in the 4-H Building.

“I was a 4-H’er and I knew they always needed help with the clubs,” Edwards said. “My love of kids drew me to the 4-H program and I have always believed 4-H is the best youth organization in the world.”



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

GENERAL BENEFITS

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

MEDIA BENEFITS

- Media Response, Promotion and Public Relations Services
- Subscription to the Quarterly AFR/OFU News & Views
- Free Classified Advertising in Quarterly Publication
- Subscription to the News & Views Insider and the National Farmers Union E-Newsletters

SAVINGS BENEFITS

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

YOUTH BENEFITS

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

USAPARK
AIRPORT PARKING

3901 S. Meridian Ave. 73119

NEW BENEFIT OFFERED

AFR/OFU has partnered with USA Park Airport Parking to offer a special membership coupon. Visit iafr.com/benefits to learn how to get \$5 off any stay of two days or more.

AFR/OFU Members Join Elite Group for OALP Class XVII

Three AFR/OFU members, Bob Mulligan, Tonkawa; Justin Street, Stillwater; and Coleen Thornton, Welling, have been named members of the Class XVII of the Oklahoma Agriculture Leadership Program (OALP). OALP is a two-year work study leadership development program that was established to further develop future leaders for Oklahoma agriculture. The program ends with an international travel experience that offers an international perspective of how Oklahoma agriculture fits into the global marketplace. This class will conclude its OALP experience in the spring of 2016.

Insurance

Consider Safety this Hunting Season

Information provided by
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Sean Hubbard, Agricultural Communications

STILLWATER—Oklahoma hunters have been checking their trail cameras, climbing into their blinds and slinging arrows at deer since archery season began Oct. 1.

While avid hunters are eager to get out in the wild, there are several safety issues they should consider as hunting season ramps up, said Dwayne Elmore, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist.

“Always wear a fall restraint harness when using an elevated stand,” he said. “This includes climbing into and out of the elevated stand as an estimated 75 percent of accidents occur when climbing into and out of stands. Many accidents occur when people are simply ‘checking on’ a stand, but are not prepared with a restraint.”

It is not just deer hunters in tree stands who should take precautions. Waterfowl hunters should always wear a personal flotation device (PFD) while on the water.

Sometimes hunters ignore this precaution because they are already wearing bulky clothing. However, if you are wearing heavy clothing, it is all the more reason to wear a PFD.

“Even an experienced swimmer has little chance of making it to safety in bulky clothing and cold water. Also, waders quickly fill with water

pulling the person under,” Elmore said. “For this reason, either cinch the top of the waders to minimize water intake or wear tighter fitting neoprene waders.”

Before shooting, hunters should be sure their target is in full view with a clear backstop. Bird hunters are particularly at risk, as they tend to hunt in groups in dense cover for fast moving birds going in random directions.

“Make sure you know where your entire hunting party is at all times, avoid shooting at low birds, and wear an orange hat as that may be the only part of you above tall cover,” said Elmore.

Always tell someone where you are hunting and what time to expect you home. If something happens to you, at least there is someone who knows where to send assistance. Do not count on your cell phone for rescue. It likely will not have coverage and you may be unconscious.

Also, exercise extreme caution when cleaning and processing game.

“This is best carried out with a helper in case of accidents,” Elmore said. “Do not cut toward your body and always use sharp knives. Dull knives require more physical force, which will increase the likelihood of slipping and injuring yourself.”

A few safety precautions can go a long way in ensuring a safe and successful hunting season, at least for the hunters.

Commissioner Visits AFR/OFU Farm



Long-time AFR/OFU member Eugene Cheatwood introduced Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak to his farming operation. Cheatwood is a former county official and has served on the AFR/OFU State Policy Committee. Photo Courtesy Cross Timbers Insurance Group

AFR Insurance Welcomes New Marketing Director



Chris Campbell is the new AFR Insurance Director of Marketing & Agency Relations. He has also been designated the director of the AFR Life Insurance Company.

Campbell has more than 10 years experience in strategic planning for marketing and business development. He is known for his strong industry relationships, his efficient

team management and effective direct marketing initiatives.

“I am grateful for the opportunity I have to work with such outstanding individuals—people who care deeply about their communities and have a positive outlook on the future.

Among his most recent career experiences, Campbell was the Vice President for Insurance House in charge of production in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Campbell earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology from Brigham Young University and his Masters of Business Administration in Marketing from Thunderbird, School of Global Management. He holds CPCU, API, AIS and ASLI designations.

Campbell has been married to his wife, Melissa, for more than 14 years. They have six children, ages 11 months to 13-years-old.

Continued from CEO DESIGNEE, 1

the AFR/OFU organization, AFR Insurance and the board of directors for many years and will make a great addition to the company.

“I am truly excited about the opportunity at AFR and humbled to be a part of it,” said Herren. “AFR has a rich past that we will honor by creating a bright future.”

Herren has a strong business and agricultural background, as well as a background in corporate contracts, legal and business consulting. He holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma and a bachelor’s in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University.



Consider all facets of hunter safety, especially at the beginning of each hunting season as hunters re-acclimate themselves to best practices. Stock photo

Youth Program

Leadership Summit Moves, Proves Successful

Story by
BLAIRE BOYER,
AFR/OFU Youth Coordinator

AFR/OFU held its annual Teen & Senior Leadership Summits July 27-Aug. 2. More than 130 students participated in leadership development activities that will benefit them in the future.

This year marked a major change for the summit with a move to Camp Big Cedars near Wanette, Okla. In contrast to the previous location, the new campgrounds are set up in a more traditional summer camp format with small group cabins and a central meeting place.

The new central location has helped make the AFR/OFU Leadership Summit equally accessible to both sides of Oklahoma, encouraging involvement from students in both the eastern and western parts of the state.

This year's theme was "Currents of Change." The theme reflected the new direction for the Summit and

encouraged attendees to become involved in their communities and in the lives of others through team-building and cooperation exercises.

Summit sessions focused on leadership, character, service and success. Additional activities included

Ag in the Classroom "Minute to Win It," an ATV safety course, water wars, game night and a dance.

Members of the 2013-2014 AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council served as Leadership Summit mentors and youth ambassadors throughout the year. Council members were Ryan Danker, Wellston; Megan DeVuyst, Morrison; Brooks McKinney, Spiro; Bethany Harder, Battiest; and Brady Womack, Morris.

Leadership Summit is divided into two sessions. All Oklahoma students entering grades 7-9 are eligible to attend the AFR/OFU Teen Leadership Summit. AFR/OFU Senior Leadership Summit is offered to students entering grades 10-12.

For more information on the Summit, contact AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer at (405)218-5561 or bboyer@afmic.com.



Summit attendees gained important leadership knowledge during camp sessions. *Staff photo*



Summit Members of the 2013-2014 AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council served as Leadership Summit mentors and youth ambassadors throughout the year. Council members were Ryan Danker, Wellston; Megan DeVuyst, Morrison; Brooks McKinney, Spiro; Bethany Harder, Battiest; and Brady Womack, Morris. *Staff photo*



Summit included team building and cooperation exercises. *Staff photo*

AFR/OFU Youth Named Nat'l Rodeo Queen



Spears took time out of her competition schedule to spend time with the AFR/OFU family. *Staff photo*

AFR/OFU sends its congratulations out to one of its Youth Program participants, Taylor Spears of Cleveland, Okla. Spears is the 2014-2015 National High School Rodeo Association Rodeo Queen. She will spend the next year traveling the country representing the National High School Rodeo Association and the sport of rodeo in general.

Spears is the 17 year old daughter of Terry and Shirley Spears of Cleveland, who are AFR Insurance customers. She is a senior at Cleveland High School where she is on the principal's honor roll and is active in the FFA and student council. She has a passion for rodeo and enjoys it has to offer.

Spears' platform is "Ban on Bullying." During her term, she will be

on radio shows, interview with many media outlets and visit hundreds of schools. She will speak to kids about bullying and how life is a little simpler if we just show kindness. She also wants to stress "stay you...stay true" and show everyone with or without the crown on her head, she is the same girl.

Spears' future plans are to attend Oklahoma State University and major in broadcast journalism, in hopes of one day working for the Pro Rodeo Sports News magazine and as a TV commentator for the PRCA and WNFR.

Spears is also the 2014-2015 Miss Oklahoma High School Rodeo and the 2013 Miss Rodeo Oklahoma Teen. Her ultimate goal is to be Miss Rodeo America.

Youth Program

AFR/OFU Youth Feed Hungry Children

Story by
BLAIRE BOYER,
AFR/OFU Youth Coordinator

More than 130 AFR/OFU 2014 Leadership Summit attendees teamed up with Kids Against Hunger to help fight hunger in the United States and abroad. Kids Against Hunger is a humanitarian food-aid organization with a mission to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the U.S. and to feed starving children throughout the world.

This year's Summit project was to prepare and package "fortified rice-soy protein meal packages" for hungry children. Teen Session attendees packaged 23,112 meals during their service project and Senior Session packaged more than 51,000 meals in under two hours. Between the two sessions, Summit attendees packaged more than 75,000 meals for children in Oklahoma, the United States and the world.

The packaged meals consist of long-grain rice, crushed soy, blended dehydrated vegetables and vitamin and mineral powder, and contains all nine essential amino acids. Each bag has a shelf life of at least three years and, when boiled, can feed six children. The average package of food from the Leadership Summit project will be eaten in less than three months.

If you would like more information on this year's service project, contact AFR/OFU Youth Coordinator Blaire Boyer at bboyer@afmic.com or 405/218-5561.



Summit attendees completed the service project from raw product to sealed packages. Staff photo

Ladies Sweep New Youth Advisory Council

Story by
BLAIRE BOYER,
AFR/OFU Youth Coordinator



The Advisory Council spends their year-long term serving AFR/OFU and the youth of Oklahoma. Staff photo

AFR/OFU announced its 2014-2015 Youth Advisory Council at the organization's annual Senior Leadership Summit Reception August 1.

The Council consists of high school juniors and seniors representing AFR/OFU youth from across the state. Members of the 2014-2015 Council are Sarah Stoll, Indianhoma; Laura Wood, Vinita; Megan Trantham, Boise City; Brynn Danker, Wellston; and Hallie Barnes, Porter.

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

"AFR/OFU is proud to invest in the future of Oklahoma through these young people," said AFR/OFU

President Terry Detrick. "Our leadership summit and the AFR/OFU Youth Council demonstrate that investment across Oklahoma."

The AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council is selected at the organization's annual Senior Leadership Summit. The selection process includes a written application, an interview conducted by a panel of AFR/OFU members and leadership professionals and a speech given in front of the candidates' peers.

Advisory Council candidates were asked to share about their experiences with AFR/OFU and other leadership roles.

In addition to interview and application scores, a vote based on personal relationships is cast by students attending Summit, allowing all attendees to be involved in the selection process.

In order to run for the Council, students must be an AFR Insurance policyholder and must have attended summit previously.

Youth Program

AFR/OFU Sponsors ATV Safety



AFR/OFU board members, officers and state staff join Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer in an educational introduction to the new AFR/OFU 4-H ATV mobile classroom conducted by Oklahoma 4-H ATV Safety Coordinator Mike Klumpp and Oklahoma 4-H Foundation Director of Development Tom Manske. *Staff photo*

**Information provided by
MIKE KLUMPP**

Oklahoma 4-H ATV Safety Coordinator

AFR/OFU is celebrating its newest sponsorship that benefits youth. The organization is now a sponsor of Ride Safe Oklahoma.

With information and support provided by the ATV Safety Institute (ASI), the goal of the program is to provide safety education and injury prevention information as related to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

AFR/OFU will sponsor the pro-

gram's transport trailers that double as mobile classrooms. These "classrooms" are used throughout Oklahoma at public schools and special events to introduce youth to ATV Safety and to instruct them on proper riding techniques.

The hands-on half-day, ATV Rider Course is conducted by licensed ASI instructors. The course offers students an opportunity to increase their safety knowledge and to practice basic riding skills in a controlled environment under the direct super-

vision of a licensed instructor. The course includes pre-ride inspection, starting and stopping, quick turns, hill riding, emergency stopping/swerving and riding over obstacles.

Ride Safe Oklahoma is a joint initiative led by OSU 4-H Youth Development, OU Trauma One Center and the Oklahoma State Dept. of Health Injury Prevention. In addition to AFR/OFU, the initiative is sponsored by the Children's Center Rehabilitation Hospital, Safe Kids of Oklahoma and Kohl's Department Stores.

Contest Promotes Practical Skills



AFR/OFU staff join Heather Campbell, Bristow FFA Advisor, in congratulating contest winners. *Staff photo*

AFR/OFU sponsored the Bristow Cattle Grading Contest September 17 at Mid America Stockyards. Kassie Kilgore, Porter, was the top FFA individual and Jordan Treadway, Muskogee, was the top 4-H individual. AFR/OFU Northeast Field Rep Wade Parker and Youth Coordinator Blaire Boyer represented the organization at the event.

AFR/OFU a Septemberfest Hit



Members of the newly elected 2014-2015 AFR/OFU Youth Council enjoyed their first activity during their year-long term of service. *Staff photo*

Members of the AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council were an instrumental part of the organization's activities at Septemberfest, held at the Governor's Mansion September 6.

Septemberfest provides opportunities for urban families and agricultural membership and commodity

groups to interact. It celebrates what makes Oklahoma unique, featuring 50 attractions for people of all ages. The agriculture portion of the event is coordinated by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF).

The Council worked with ODAFF

to provide an activity children of all ages could enjoy. They created an obstacle course by setting up a cone course for stick horse races. Although it rained most of the day, the AFR/OFU station was a favorite of attendees.

Harper County Supports Youth



Sally Thrasher presented the Harper County Match Scholarship to Kaleb Maphet, Laverne. *Harper County photo*

Youth Program

70th Annual Speech Contest Dates Announced

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

The contest allows students to hone their public speaking and leadership skills. This year's contest will draw approximately 250 young people to compete in five district contests, with more than 150 finalists advancing to the state competition.

Finding an adequate number of

judges always proves the largest and most challenging obstacle for the contest. We need forty-eight qualified individuals to serve as judges for each district contest.

If you would like to serve as a judge, please complete the form and return it to the home office to the attention of the AFR/OFU Youth Coordinator. To register by phone or for more information on this year's speech contest, contact AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer at (405)218-5561 or bboyer@afrmic.com.

Speech Judge Registration Form

SELECT CONTEST WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE TO JUDGE:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central District Speech Contest - Tecumseh High School | Nov. 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SE District Speech Contest - EOSC, Wilburton | Nov. 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SW District Speech Contest - Cache High School | Nov. 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NE District Speech Contest - Lonestar School, Sapulpa | Nov. 17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NW District Speech Contest - Autry Technology Center, Enid | Nov. 18 |

SELECT DIVISION YOU WOULD LIKE TO JUDGE:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Novice (Grades 4 - 6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (Grades 7 - 8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate (Grades 9 - 10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (Grades 11 - 12) |

SELECT CATEGORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JUDGE (1ST, 2ND, & 3RD CHOICE):

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Farmers & Ranchers | <input type="checkbox"/> Agribusiness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriscience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources | |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Chapter/Club: _____

Return this form to:
Youth & Education Coordinator, P.O. Box 24000, OKC, OK 73124
Email: bboyer@afrmic.com
Fax: (405)218-5589

2014 Speech Contest Dates

Central District Speech Contest - Tecumseh High School	Nov. 6
SE District Speech Contest - EOSC, Wilburton	Nov. 11
SW District Speech Contest - Cache High School	Nov. 13
NE District Speech Contest - Lonestar School, Sapulpa	Nov. 17
NW District Speech Contest - Autry Technology Center, Enid	Nov. 18

*District contest registrations begin at 4 p.m. Contest briefings begin at 4:30 p.m. A meal will be served for all contestants and judges immediately following competition.

State finals will be held Saturday, Dec. 6 at Oklahoma State University.

Divisions

NOVICE: Students in grades 4, 5 and 6. Time limit is 2-4 minutes.

(Novice speakers may only compete in the AFR/OFU Category.)

JUNIOR: Students in grades 7 and 8. Time limit is 4-6 minutes.

INTERMEDIATE: Students in grades 9 and 10. Time limit is 4-6 minutes.

SENIOR: Students in grades 11 and 12. Time limit is 4-6 minutes.

Categories

AFR/OFU: Participants may speak on the history of American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union and its fight to support agriculture and rural families through legislation, cooperation and educational opportunities.

Student Organizations: Participants may choose any current issue that deals with their student organization—topics such as leadership, leadership training, personal development and growth, goal setting and team work, community activities, competitions, etc. Organizations should be limited to 4-H, FFA, FCCLA, TSA, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Natural Resources: Participants may choose any current issues such as soil, water, air, rural water, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, energy, environmental issues, agronomy, etc.

Agribusiness: Participants may choose any current issue on topics such as cooperatives, value-added products, sales, service, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, futures, advertising, international trade, rural economic development, politics, animal rights/animal welfare, etc.

Agriscience: Participants may choose topics such as biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering, mechanical engineering, farm safety, use of technology, research, embryo transfer, etc. Participants may also choose any animal science-related topic dealing with dairy, equine, poultry, sheep, swine, beef, specialty animals, etc.

NEW (for State Contest only):

Intermediate Extemp Division: Students in grades 9 and 10. Time limit is 2-4 minutes.

Senior Extemp Division: Students in grades 11 and 12. Time limit is 4-6 minutes.

Nat'l FFA Honors New AFR/OFU Field Rep



Robison is AFR/OFU's newest field representative, serving the organization in the northwest district. He brings a wealth of knowledge through his expertise in youth leader involvement, youth education and the agricultural industry. Photo courtesy M. Robison

Information Provided by
NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION
Kristy Meyer, Marketing & Communications

INDIANAPOLIS—Mike Robison, retired northwest district program specialist for the Okla. Department of Career and Technology Education (CareerTech), has been awarded VIP Citation by the National FFA Organization (FFA), recognizing his significant contributions and dedication to the FFA and agricultural education.

Robison had a 38-year career in agricultural education, serving as an agriculture teacher for 27 years, then as a district program specialist for CareerTech.

He was an advisor to the Oklahoma Agricultural Education Teach-

ers Association and a member of the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

FFA officials nominated Robison for the award, citing that "he is greatly respected and appreciated by the 68 teachers and 61 programs he supervised in the northwest district of Oklahoma. Although his district is the smallest in number of teachers, programs and FFA membership, it is recognized as the top producer of consistent winners year in and year out in many chapter and member award areas. Robison left a great legacy in agricultural education and his enjoyable personality and strong leadership in our noble profession will be missed, but not forgotten."

"The VIP Citation recognizes the dedication individuals who contribute to the FFA mission of student success through their hard work and cooperation," said FFA CEO Dwight Armstrong. "Without such strong and outstanding commitment, FFA would not be able to help build strong character in its members, who in turn build strong families, communities and industries."

The FFA provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 579,678 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,570 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Classifieds

Counties and Locals Announce Meetings

ADAIR COUNTY

Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m., Location to be Determined by number of RSVPs. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year and presentation of resolutions. Open to members only. RSVP by Friday Dec. 1 to Brad Davenport, 918/696-7191.

ALFALFA COUNTY

Saturday, Oct. 25, Registration @ 11:30 a.m., Lunch @ Noon, Baker Building, 2nd & Grand, Cherokee. There will be door prizes and a business meeting with election of county officers, speakers and presentation of resolutions. Bring any you would like considered by the State Resolutions Committee. Following the county meeting, Patton Agency Local #164 and Nichols (Helena) Agency, Local #167 will hold annual business meetings. RSVP by Thursday, Oct. 23 to the Nichols Agency, 580/883-5969; Oma Gay Nichols, 580/822-5554; or the Brooks Agency, 580-596-3321.

BECKHAM COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 20 @ 6:30 p.m., Elk City Convention Center (kitchen), 1016 Airport Industrial Rd, (South side of Hwy 66, east end of town). Speaker: Steve Thompson, Policy & Membership Development Coordinator. There will be a dinner and a short business meeting to elect officers and take care of any necessary business. There will be door prizes and an update on what is happening with your insurance company and rural legislative organization. Reeves Local #112 and Crow Locals #14 and #530 will meet after the county. RSVP with the Crow Agency, 580/225-3645, if you can. Please come even if you didn't call.

CANADIAN COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 28 @ 6 p.m., Redlands College (between Redlands College and Bible Baptist Church). Go west to dead end, turn north into parking lot and enter that building. Catering by Redlands College. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Farmers Union family members only; single members may bring one guest. RSVP no later than 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15 to the Wiedemann Agency, 262-5388, or the Yukon office, 354-7920.

COTTON COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 3 @ 6:30 p.m., Cotton Electric Civic Room, 226 N Broadway, Walters. There will be dinner and a business meeting with election of officers for the coming year and door prizes, including a 32" flat screen TV donated by the Scherler Agency.

CUSTER COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 23 @ 6:30 p.m., Arapaho Community Center, corner of C and Broadway (from flashing yellow light @ Hwy 183 & Main, east 4 blks to stop sign and south 1 blk). There will be cash door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Locals #109, #312, #530, #589, #642 and #804 will meet after the county meeting. RSVP to your agent: Burke Covey, Covey Agency, 323-647; Jessy Barger, Weatherford Agency, 772-8500; Melody Cummings, Crow Agency, 225-3645; Donna Newsome, Newsome Agency, 323-0444; Jessie Masquelier, Sandy Land Agency, 661-3171.

DEWEY COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 28 @ 6:30 p.m., Dewey County Fairgrounds, corner of W Main and Sexton, Taloga. Speaker: Paul Jackson, State Secretary. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers and board members for the coming year. RSVP to your agent by Wednesday, Oct. 22: Robert Acre, Canton, 886-2584; Shannon Ball, Vici, 995-4968; Pam Livingston, Seiling, 922-6141; Jackie Price, Leede, 821-0986.

GARVIN COUNTY

Tuesday, Nov. 4 @ 5:30 p.m., Wynnewood Insurance Office, 204 S Dean A. McGee. There will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year and presentation of resolutions.

GRADY COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m., Grady County Fairgrounds, Chickasha. Catering by End O' Main. Speaker: Paul Jackson, State Secretary. There will be door prizes, entertainers and a short business meeting with election of officers and delegate to the state convention for the coming year and presentation of resolutions. R.S.V.P. by Friday, Oct. 10 to Ratterman Agency, 352-5200; Taylor-Shebest Agency, 224-4450; Community Agency, 476-3289; Ray Anthony, 224-1392; Jack McLane, 453-7801. Please notify if you cannot attend after reservations are made.

HASKELL COUNTY

Tuesday, Nov. 4 @ 7 p.m., Stigler High School Auditorium, NW 7th St. There will be a short business meeting with election of officers and election of delegates to the state convention. Resolutions will also be presented. There will be turkeys and cash door prizes. You must bring your mailed notice to be eligible for the drawings.

HUGHES COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 23 @ 6 p.m., Holdenville High School Cafeteria, 115 E 9th St. There will be dinner and a short business meeting with election of officers and directors, election of a delegate to the state convention and presentation of resolutions. Door prizes and entertainment will be provided. RSVP no later than Friday, Oct. 10 to Robert Taylor, Holdenville, by phone, 405/379-2176, or in person, 120 W Main.

JACKSON COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 30 @ 6:30 p.m., WOSC Multi-Purpose Room, 2801 N Main St, Altus. There will be dinner, door prizes (including \$100 cash) and a short business meeting with election of president for the coming year, two board members and a delegate to the state convention. Resolutions and Jackson County Farmers Union scholarships will be discussed. RSVP to your local agent no later than Monday, Oct. 27.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 8 @ 6:30 p.m., Waurika Grade School Cafeteria. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year and presentation of resolutions. Members only.

JOHNSTON COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 1 @ 6 p.m., Family Life Center, Calvary Baptist Church, 9700 S Hwy 377, Tishomingo (new location). There will be a BBQ dinner and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Bring your mailed invitation to be eligible for door prizes. Members only; no guests, please.

LEFLORE COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 17 @ 6 p.m., Donald W. Reynolds Community Center (Poteau's new Civic Center). Catering by Eli's Bar B Que. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Members only, please. Locals #6, #515 and #671 will meet immediately after the county meeting.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 23, Buffet served 6 - 7 p.m., Agri-Center, Chandler. There will be dinner, entertainment, door prizes and a business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Nominations will be made from the floor and resolutions presented for a vote. Membership includes tickets for immediate family only. RSVP to your agent by Oct. 18 so arrangements can be made.

LOVE COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 8 @ 6 p.m., Thackerville School Cafeteria. There will be dinner, door prizes and a short business meeting. Bring your resolutions. Resolutions committee will meet at 5 p.m. RSVP to Pearman Agency, Thackerville, 580/276-3672, or Harper Agency, Marietta, 580/276-5129.

MCCLAINE COUNTY

Saturday, Oct. 25 @ 5 p.m., McClain County Community Center, 1721 Hardcastle Blvd, Purcell. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Harryman Locals #39 and #403, Richey Local #129 and Purcell Local #372 will meet after the county meeting. RSVP to your agent by Monday, Oct. 20: Richey Agency, Blanchard, 405/485-9400; Harryman Agency, Newcastle, 405/387-4416; or Heart of Oklahoma Agency, Purcell, 405/527-2153.

NOWATA COUNTY

Thursday, Dec. 4 @ 6 p.m., Nowata Senior Citizens Building. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers for the coming year and delegates to the state convention. Local meetings will be held after the county meeting. Meat and beverages will be provided; please bring vegetables, salads and desserts.

OKFUSKEE COUNTY

Friday, Oct. 17 @ 6 p.m., Paden Senior Citizen's Center. Speaker: Paul Jackson, State Secretary. There will be dinner and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. RSVP to Jason Nutt, Nutt Agency, 405/932-4206; Keri Dennis, Cross Timbers Agency, 918/623-2840; or Max Case, 405/932-4486. - **Cross Timbers Insurance Group and Local #419** will host their annual "Christmas Cookout," Dec. 18, 4 - 6 p.m., 124 N 5th, Okemah. RSVP to Keri Dennis, 918/623-2840.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 1 @ 6:30 p.m., Midwest City Community Center. Speaker: Paul Jackson, State Secretary. There will be dinner, door prizes and entertainment. All AFR families welcome. Locals #150, #166, #196 and #313 will meet after the county meeting.

OTTAWA COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 3 @ 6:30 p.m., Charlie's Chicken, 2400 N Main, Miami. Speaker: Terry Detrick, President. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. - **LOCAL #79, Monday, Dec. 1 @ 6:30 p.m., Charlie's Chicken, 2400 N Main, Miami.**

PAWNEE COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 1 @ Noon, Hickory House, Cleveland. There will be a short business meeting with election of officers and board members for the coming year before lunch. There will be food, drinks and door prizes.

PAYNE COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 16, Doors Open at 5:30 p.m., Payne County Expo Center, Stillwater. There will be door prizes, entertainment and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers, directors for the coming year and a delegate to the state convention. Bring your resolutions. RSVP by noon, Oct. 13 to the Porter Agency, 372-4169 or 372-0585; Perkins Agency, 547-2971; Cushing Agency, 918/225-1751 or Schieffer & Schieffer Agency, 918/352-9406.

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

Tuesday, Nov. 4, Dinner Served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center, Hwy 177 & Independence, Shawnee. There will be door prizes, entertainment and a short business meeting and election of officers for the coming year. RSVP by Friday, Oct. 31 to your agent: Curtis Stanford, Shawnee, 273-7095; Williamson, Prague, 567-4959; Gilbert, Tecumseh, 598-2590; or Jeff Mize, Earlsboro, 405/997-5760. This is important for food and seating arrangements.

ROGER MILLS COUNTY

Friday, Oct. 17 @ 6 p.m., Durham Community Building. Speaker: Terry Detrick, President. There will be door prizes, entertainment and a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. Local #530 will meet immediately following the county meeting.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m., Wewoka Trading Post, N end of Wewoka Ave/Main St, 2 blocks north of courthouse. Speakers: Paul Jackson, State Secretary, and Tommy Thomas, AFR/OFU Lobbyist. There will be door prizes. No guests, please. There will be a brief business meeting of Wewoka Local #128 following the county meeting. RSVP by 5 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 6 to Your Hometown Insurance, Wewoka, 405/257-2100 or Lane Insurance, Konowa, 580/925-3785, for food and seating arrangements.

TILLMAN COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 21 @ 6:30 p.m., Great Plains Technical Center, Frederick. There will be dinner, door prizes and a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers and a delegate to the state convention. RSVP by Friday, Oct. 17 to McManus-Whitworth Agency, 580/335-2590.

TULSA COUNTY & LIMESTONE LOCAL

Saturday, Nov. 15 @ 6 p.m., Historic Burnett Mansion, 320 S Main, Sapulpa. Dinner is \$10/person; children under 8 eat free. Dress is semi-casual. There will be a short business meeting with presentation of resolutions and election of officers for the coming year and delegates to the state convention. RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 12 to Stephen or Margaret Gund 918/366-8711.

WAGONER COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 21 @ 7 p.m., OSU Extension Service, take Hwy 51 to 305th E Ave south to 147th (Pecan), turn right, 1½ block on left across from intermediate school, Coweta. There will be a meal, door prizes, discussion of resolutions and a short business meeting with election of officers, two board members and delegates to the state convention.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Wednesday, Dec. 3 @ 6 p.m., Branding Iron Bldg, Don Tyler Ave, Dewey. There will be door prizes and a short business meeting following the meal.

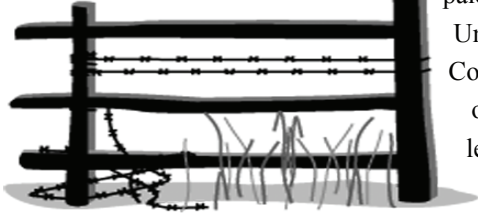
WOODS COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 23, Registration @ 6 p.m., Dinner @ 6:30 p.m., Moose Lodge Bldg, 302 7th St, Alva. There will be a short business meeting with election of officers and entertainment. Bring your mailed invitation for the drawing. Alva Local #512 will hold its annual meeting immediately following the county meeting. RSVP by noon, Friday, Oct. 17 to Troy Brooks, 580/327-5353.



Classifieds

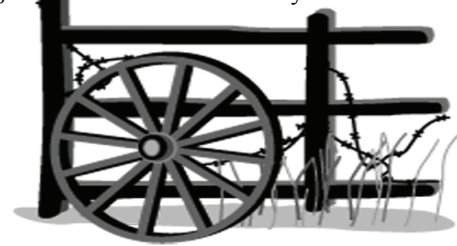
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ADS ARE DUE TO
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BY DECEMBER 1
FOR PUBLICATION IN THE
WINTER ISSUE.
Advertising will not be accepted for services or products in direct competition with those offered by AFR/OFU or affiliates.



REAL ESTATE

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

AUTOS, TRUCKS & CYCLES

For Sale—2003 2WD Chevy 1500 Silverado extended cab pick-up. 123,456 miles. \$6200. NW of Chickasha. 405/574-5413.

For Sale—1997 GM 4.3L Vortec engine, excellent condition. Ready for installation, has all parts and components. No smoke, no knocks, no oil leaks. \$500 firm. Foss, Okla. 580/592-4625 or 580/660-1668.

BOATS, RVs, CAMPERS & TRAILERS

For Sale—2007 Gulf Stream, 30 ft. bumper-pull toy hauler. Fully contained, factory-equipped Generac 3.6kw generator. 12 ft. cargo space, central heat/air, kitchen, bath, bed, TV, microwave, new tires with spare. All in excellent working order, a very livable trailer. \$13,975. 405/624-2448.

For Sale—2000 Prowler M-28-5S camper trailer, very sharp. 30' gooseneck, 1 slide-out. Good tires, H/A in excellent condition. Diesel 1980 or 1981 360 long tractor. Also have owner's manual. Home @ 580/925-2644 or cell @ 405/380-5183.

For Sale—Equipment trailer, 27 1/2 ft long (total length), 8 ft wide. Hydraulic operated. Bed lowers to ground for loading equipment. Factor made. 918/697-0803.

LIVESTOCK

For Sale—Reg. Polled Hereford bulls, heifers and a few cow/calf pairs. Remittal Online 122L and PW Victor Boomer P606 genetics. 48 years of breeding polled Herefords. Kenneth E. Bolin, 580/332-2468.

For Sale—Reg. Beefmasters. Bulls, cows, heifers (bred and opens), show heifers. Red, black and dunn. Polled and horned. Www.doubledeucebeefmasters.com, 918/253-8680 or 918/557-6923.

For Sale—Reg. Limousin bulls and heifers, open and bred. Black, polled, calving ease, gentle, some homozygous top genetics that work. Limflex angus bull. Wildhorse Valley. 405/517-3824 or 405/474-2018.

For Sale—Reg. paint/pinto horses. Two 2-yr-old geldings; yearling colt and filly; two weanlings. All tobianos. Popular bloodlines, show quality, some are 7th-8th generation since 1968. 405/262-4668.

For Sale—Brangus bulls and fancy replacement heifers. Top quality genetics, gentle dispositions. Delivery available. Horsehead Ranch. 918/695-2357.

For Sale—Reg. polled Dexter cattle. Docile nature and smaller stature. Make great show animals. Also, reg. spotted, colored, traditional Boer goats. View them on our website @ qualityboergoats.com. 918/642-5063.

HAY, FEED & SEED

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

For Sale—Small square Bermuda bales, sprayed and fertilized, \$7. Straw, \$4. "Den-

nis" 25-ton/1041 bu. overhead grain bin. 405/459-6543 or 405/574-5571.

For Sale—Sea minerals, "Let's Do It Nature's Way." Pasture - Crops - Free Choice to Cattle. \$4/acre, \$12/year, \$50/50# bag, \$1600/ton. Free shipping for ton lots www.OSM100.com. 918/698-5308 or 918/367-5146.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

For Sale—Like new Whirlpool W/D, \$300. Kenmore W/D, \$200. Side-by-side refrigerator, \$150. Refrigerator, \$100. 220 A/C, \$125. 110 A/C, \$75. 24" gas cook stove, \$100. 405/275-3419.

For Sale—"Jazzy Pride" power wheelchair w/ charger. Blue, weight capacity 300 lbs. Used 3 months, new condition. Paid \$3500. Due to medical bills, forced to sell for \$1000. Contact 918/966-3800 or dirtpooroke@yahoo.com for photos and additional information.

For Sale—Ride-on side sickle mover with ball hitch and Super White Log Splitter gasoline engine with pin hitch. Reasonable offers only. Leave message @ 580/332-6871.

For Sale—Gulbrason piano, good condition. \$295. 405/273-3881 or 405/201-8552.

FARM & RANCH EQUIPMENT

For Sale—Hay trailer, 5-bale individual cradle dump. Built by Wheels Unlimited. Used, in very good condition. \$1995. 405/222-0792 or 405/320-2436 (cell).

For Sale—Stone's Power-Pull Calf Puller, come-along. In excellent condition. \$125. 405/222-0792 or 405/320-2436 (cell).

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

For Sale—Burn barrels. \$5 each, 50 or more \$4 each. Wellston. 405/356-2407.

WANTED

Wanted—Interesting and classic vehicles. Lee @ 405/613-1857.

Wanted—Livestock guardian dog for poultry and a few goats. Must be proven with variety of poultry. Stephens County. Leave message @ 580/439-5408.

Wanted—Single, middle-aged woman to live in. No rent, no utilities, with small salary. Light housekeeping and care. 6 miles west of Spiro in Bokoshe, Okla. Call Fay McKinney @ 918/962-2967.

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

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

Wanted—Deck or fence jobs in or near Shawnee. Jennifer @ 918/866-2468 or 405/802-4126.

Wanted—Old gas station signs, old gas pumps, oil lubesters, transmission pumps. 580/639-2776.

Ruth's Chris Sweet Potato Casserole

Directions

Serves 6-8 with a fall meal.

STEP 1: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine brown sugar, flour, nuts and butter in mixing bowl. Set aside.

STEP 2: Combine sweet potatoes, sugar, salt, vanilla, eggs and butter in a mixing bowl in the order listed. Mix thoroughly.

STEP 3: Pour mixture into buttered baking dish.

STEP 4: Sprinkle the surface of the sweet potato mixture evenly with the crust mixture.

STEP 5: Bake for 30 minutes. Allow to set at least 30 minutes before serving.

Ingredients

Crust

1 cup brown sugar
1/3 cup flour
1 cup chopped nuts (pecans preferred)
1/2 cup butter (melted)

Sweet Potato Mixture

3 cups mashed sweet potatoes (can use canned to save time, just drain)
1 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 eggs (well beaten)
1/4 cup butter, melted (1/2 cup)



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Parenting: What's our Role?



TERRY
DETRICK

This time of year at AFR/OFU, we are keeping an eye on state and federal legislation that affects our membership, recovering from all the summer youth activities, anticipating the new school year that has begun, enjoying our involvement in county and state fairs, livestock shows and premium auctions and preparing for one of the premiere speech contests in the state—the AFR/OFU speech contest. We revel in the quality of young people we are privileged to work with—what a thrill it is to see the results of their hard work and be a part of an organization so dedicated to youth leadership development. If you haven't experienced it, I urge you to get involved.

It is easy to become complacent as we associate with top-quality future leaders. I have often written about the accomplishments of our youth. In this writing, however, I want to reverse my focus and talk to parents.

First, let's get outside our present, personal world and think about the world our young people will be inheriting in the future. What will be the influencers and conditions our grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren will need to be prepared for?

Then, I want to bring us back to

the sad, current world. I am appalled that every time I turn on the news, someone of seemingly heroic stature is involved in an incident of domestic violence, or a so-called preacher, teacher, law enforcement officer or parent is involved in child pornography, inappropriate sexual conduct with a minor, drugs or some other kind of illegal activity. Bottom line: Irresponsible parenting opens the door for inappropriate lifestyles.

How can a terrorist movement such as ISIS recruit young people world-wide to be involved in inhumane barbaric activities? They simply capitalize on the fact that young people, by nature, want recognition. If they haven't been taught and haven't developed good moral values, they will fall prey to bad ones.

Young people, from crying in the crib to graduating high school or college and beyond, have an independent nature. Independence, howev-

er, must still be guided and nurtured, allowing freedom only to the extent to which they have demonstrated readiness. Human nature is to "want it our way," but children actually do want and respect guidance and discipline—discipline based on love, fairness and consistency, coupled with constant encouragement to do good toward others. This helps them develop a self-less attitude instead of a selfish one. Tough love is hard love for a parent, but it is true love and, down deep, our children know it, respect it and will later thank their parents for it.

I compliment "our" parents on the good job they have done with "our" kids. Our Youth Program participants are incredible young people. But, "our" job is not done. We must continue to help the next generation and the generation after that. We must maintain and support future programs that will promote and as-

sist with youth leadership and family values development.

Several years ago, I had finished presiding over my local Farmers Coop board meeting and we were sitting around the table visiting about current, terrible world events. Those events twenty years ago were minor compared to today's world problems. But, even then, it was easy to see we were heading in the wrong direction. I made the following statement: "If we'll be honest with ourselves, read the newspaper and the Bible side-by-side, we will be able to see where we are heading, how we are getting there and what's going to happen when we get there!"

May I urge us to take that same approach today and determine to have a lasting influence upon our own families. We may think we've done a pretty good job with this current generation of youth, but what about the next and the next? We must continue to be an influence. Need a guide? Try Deuteronomy 6: 4-9.

Thanks to all for the good you contribute. **Carry on and God Bless.**

-Terry

RICH HISTORY, BRIGHT FUTURE

Oklahoma Farmers Union (OFU) was formed in 1905 when a group of farmers banded together to break monopolies inhibiting the transportation and marketing of their crops. Their cooperative venture brought supplies, fresh opportunities and progress to their small community. Our founders knew their combined effort would accomplish what they could not achieve alone. We still believe in their philosophy—Individually, we are small. **Together, we are a**



driving force.

Through the years, we moved beyond crops and trains to a full-fledged membership organization, providing

unmatched service, incomparable discounts and boundless opportunities for personal growth.

Today, we continue to focus on

the agricultural industry, rural population and families. We provide diverse membership benefits and programs in our three mission areas—**Education, Legislation and Cooperation.**

We offered our first insurance policy in 1922 as a membership benefit. Now known as American Farmers & Ranchers (AFR) Insurance, we are a leading domestic insurance carrier in Oklahoma. Each policyholder is a member of the OFU membership organization.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2014

Oklahoma Rural Economic Outlook Conference, Stillwater Oct. 31

November 2014

AFR/OFU Central District Speech Contest, Tecumseh Nov. 6
 AFR/OFU Southeast District Speech Contest, Wilburton Nov. 11
 AFR/OFU Southwest District Speech Contest, Cache Nov. 13
 AFR/OFU Northeast District Speech Contest, Sapulpa Nov. 17
 AFR/OFU Northwest District Speech Contest, Enid Nov. 18
 AFR/OFU Ag & Historic Conference, Costa Rica Nov. 16-23
 Thanksgiving Holiday, AFR/OFU Home Office Closed Nov. 27-28

December 2014

AFR/OFU State Speech Contest, OSU Stillwater Campus Dec. 6
 Tulsa Farm Show, Tulsa Expo Square Dec. 11-13
 AFR/OFU Livestock Handling Competition, Tulsa Farm Show Dec. 12
 Christmas Holiday, AFR/OFU Home Offices Closed Dec. 24-25
 New Year's Holiday, AFR/OFU Home Office Closed Dec. 31-Jan. 1

January 2014

AFR/OFU Poster Contest Submission Deadline Jan. 1
 KNID Agrifest Farm Show, Chisholm Trail Expo Center, Enid Jan. 9-10

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