



“School of Life”
 By Terry Detrick,
 President Page 16



Antique Tractor
 Show
 Page 11



County and Local
 Scholarships
 Page 17 & 18

Impact Resistant Roofing Saves Money



AFR Employees examine the Malarkey Roofing facility where roofing products are tested in the diverse Oklahoma elements. There are approximately 3,000 hailstorms annually in the United States, resulting in average insured losses of \$1.6 billion. Because of the financial impact, AFR Insurance encourages insureds to install impact resistant roofing for both new construction and replacement roofs. Full story, page 10. *Staff photo*

White House Announces Pollinator Plan

Contributed by
STEVE THOMPSON
 Policy & Membership Coordinator

Announced by the White House in May, the National Strategy to Promote the “Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators” outlines a comprehensive approach to tackling the impact of multiple stressors on pollinator health, including pests and pathogens, reduced habitat, lack of nutritional resources and exposure to pesticides. Building on current science, and with an emphasis on expanding understanding of the interactions among factors impacting pollinator health, this strategy lays out current and planned federal actions to achieve the following goals:

- **Honeybees:** Reduce honeybee colony losses during winter (overwintering mortality) to no more than 15 percent within 10 years. This goal is informed by the newly established surveys by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.
- **Monarch butterflies:** Increase the Eastern population of the monarch butterfly to 225 million butterflies occupying an area of approximately 15 acres in the overwintering grounds in Mexico by 2020.

Turn to **FLOODS, 5**

Turn to **POLLINATORS, 6**

Shifting from Drought to Flood

Story by
AL SUTHERLAND
 OKLAHOMA MESONET

In Oklahoma, shifts in weather patterns can be swift and dramatic. After four and a half years of drought, May 2015 ended as the wettest on record. We received so much rain that farmers and ranchers in some areas of the state went from managing for drought to bracing against flooding.

Lake Lugert-Altus in the southwest went from 10 percent to full. A full lake means the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District can deliver water to farmers for the first time since 2010. Farmers have gone without water from the irrigation district for four years in a row.

As of June 2, 2015, the U.S. Drought Monitor had only two small areas designated “abnormally dry” in Oklahoma. There were no areas in Oklahoma

with a drought designation, D1 thru D4.

With such a dramatic, unexpected, unprecedented change in moisture across our state, farmers and ranchers face the challenge of dramatically switching from managing under and for extreme drought conditions to having plenty of moisture and in some



INSIDE

From the Desk of
 the President, p20

County Meeting
 Notices, p14

Expanding Economic
 Growth, p6



Industry

Tribute to a Cowboy Richard P. Gebhart 1956-2015



Richard Gebhart was respected for “shooting straight.” *Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association Photo*

Tribute by
TERRY DETRICK
AFR/OFU President

THE DASH! Seldom is there ever as much accomplished by any human being as was accomplished during the life span represented by that little dash between 1956 and 2015! It has been my privilege to stand in the shadow of “The Colonel”, Richard Gebhart, in Oklahoma through our work together at the Oklahoma Beef Council and his Presidency of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association and on the national level as an officer of NCBA, but most importantly to me, as a friend.

Gebhart was a retired Army infantry officer, a colonel, having served his country for 30 years. The Colonel could read an entire book in one evening’s setting, which helps explain his brilliance and insatiable thirst for knowledge. During his 30 years of duty to his country, he acquired a bachelor’s degree from the University of Arkansas, a master’s degree in agricultural economics/animal science from Mississippi State University, an MBA from Syracuse University and a law degree from the University of Tulsa. At the time of his death he was a tenured professor at TU utilizing all his degrees, military experience and legal expertise helping students learn and map the rest of their lives’ endeavors.

I knew Gebhart as a very complex man. He was a giant in stature and knowledge but always sought out the wisdom of the common man and experiences from which he could learn. When first exposed to his presence, you might think he was crude and obnoxious. Then, you’d get to know him better, sense the kindness of his heart and think he was humorous. But when you really got to know him and work with him, you’d find him caring, loving, respecting, exhibiting understanding but always pursuing more, and inordinately brilliant.

He was an encourager with the ability to “take command” if necessary and make you feel you were important, pushing and pulling at the same time. He was a big man with a big heart, a big voice, big visions and a big promoter of youth. He had a heart big enough to engulf his love for God, family, the beef industry, his community, his country and his fellowman.

As I remember and pay tribute to the man I knew as Richard Gebhart, as The Colonel, as the President of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association and the many other leadership positions he served and commanded, a scripture comes to my mind which is the opinion I formed of him as I grew to know him. Matthew 25:35 says: “For I was hungered, and ye gave me meat, I was thirsty and ye gave me drink, I was a stranger and ye took me in.”

On that bright and sunny morning of June 4, 2015, the life of Richard Gebhart was celebrated on what was to have been his 59th birthday. I felt the love, sharing, and caring nature of hundreds of ranch hands who had lost their foreman, their commander, and their colonel! There was a warming spirit and respectful nature flowing throughout that crowd which made me so proud on behalf of AFR

to be a part and to call them all “my brothers and sisters”—brothers and sisters in the Beef Industry; brothers and sisters in promoting the future welfare of youth and mankind; brothers and sisters in faith.

On behalf of the thousands of members of American Farmers & Ranchers who consider themselves cattlemen and cattewomen and the many others involved in the industry who knew him, I am thankful for the opportunity to use this space in tribute to a great man who always greeted me with a smile, a firm handshake, a bear hug and a ready spirit to assist our membership and myself at any time with his abundant understanding and wisdom. Yes, to know him was to appreciate him, love him and to know he deserved respect!

To the Good Lord above and to the Gebhart family, we say a great big Thank You for the privilege of getting to ride just a bit of the trail with The Colonel.

We are all better for it and encouraged by a couple of his proclaimed examples: “Do what is right not what is safe and popular” and “Only pack what you can carry!”

Col. Gebhart, Ret.; we salute you!

National News Update



Contributed by
STEVE THOMPSON
Policy & Membership Coordinator

EPA Issues Final WOTUS Rule

On May 27, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a 297-page rule aimed at defining the federal government’s jurisdiction over “Waters of the U.S.” for all Clean Water Act programs. The definitional changes contained in the rule would significantly expand federal control of land and water resources across the country, leading to substantial additional permitting and regulatory requirements.

AFR has been working with EPA officials and the Oklahoma Congress-

sional delegation for two years in an effort to clarify and narrow the regulatory scope of this rule. As with most other agriculture organizations, AFR had concerns about the EPA’s intent to expand their jurisdiction onto all farmland, regardless of the presence of navigable water. The contents of the final rule confirmed those fears and set the stage for years of legal battles over the persistently vague language used to define the federal government’s authority on private land.

The rule is scheduled to take effect around the first of August. Congress is currently advancing two measures that would block this implementation, but the White House has stated intentions to veto both bills. Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt has stated his intention to pursue other legal remedies to protect Oklahoma property owner’s rights.



Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)

On May 18, the World Trade Organization (WTO) again sided with Canada and Mexico in their challenge of the United States’ mandatory country-of-origin labeling law. The ruling represents the fourth time a panel or appellate body of the WTO has decided against the rule that was first written into the 2002 Farm Bill and implemented after the 2008 Farm Bill.

The latest move rejects an appeal by the United States of the international trade body’s October 2014 ruling that the COOL law discriminates against Canadian cattle and pigs and Mexican cattle. COOL requires meat to be labeled with the country where the animal from which it was derived

was born, raised and harvested.

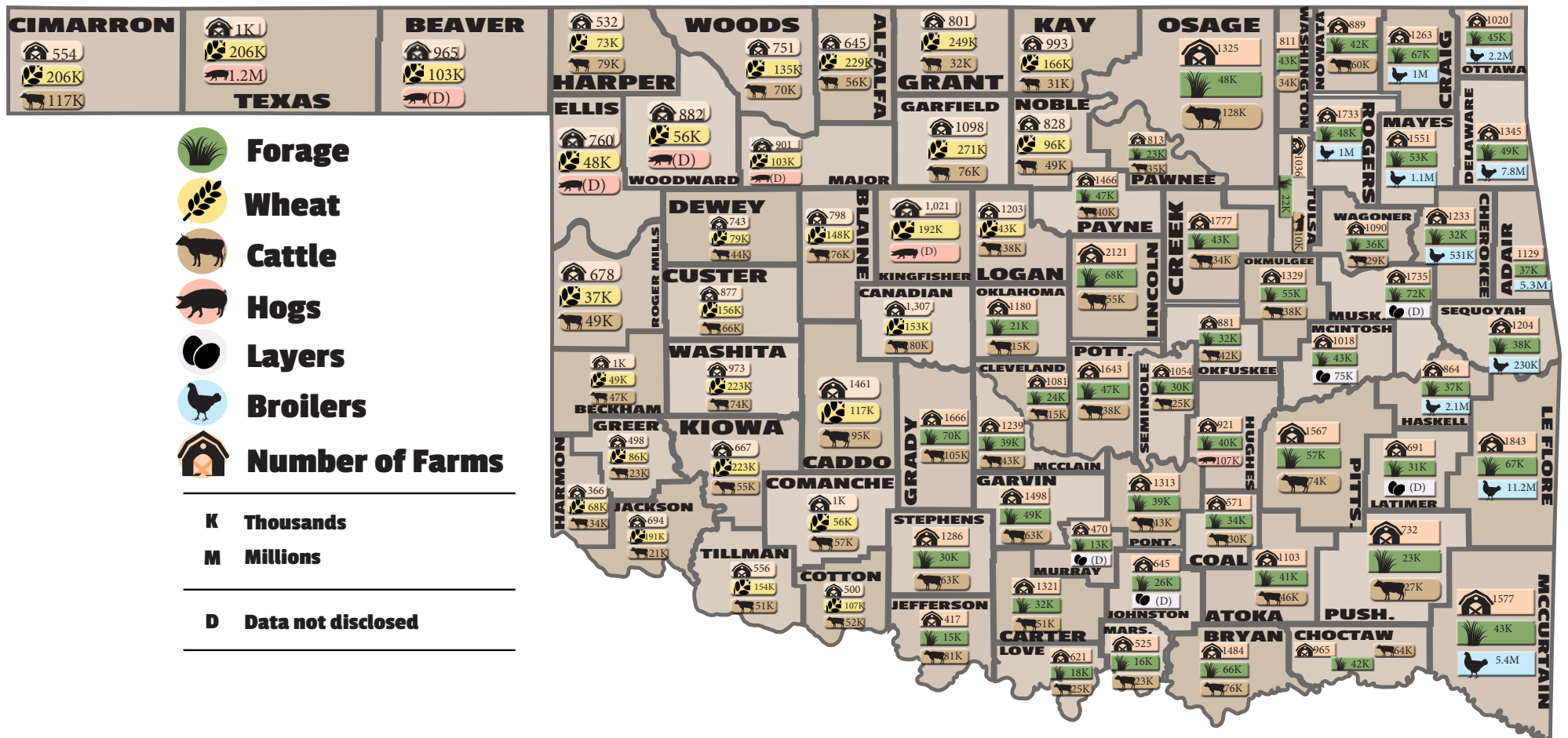
The WTO decision paves the way for those countries to place tariffs on U.S. imports. Canada and Mexico are expected to quickly request authorization from the WTO to retaliate against U.S. products. The level of retaliation will be equivalent to the economic harm incurred by the countries from COOL. Canada and Mexico are expected to claim billions of dollars in damages.



Keep up with legislative news with the Insider eNewsletter. To get on the list, email drogers@afrmic.com

Industry

Oklahoma Commodities by County



The production agriculture industry continues to be a growing segment of our state's economy. Oklahoma ranks fourth nationally in total number of farms. With data from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Oklahoma Field Office (2012 Census of Agriculture), above is a map of the state with each county's total number of farms, top crop by acreage and top livestock by number of head. *Staff image*

Stay Alert for Anthrax in Livestock This Summer

Information provided by
DR. ROD HALL
Oklahoma Department of
Agriculture, Food and Forestry

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry is recommending Oklahomans to be alert for anthrax in their livestock this summer.

Outbreaks are often associated with floods that follow drought, and are slightly more apt to occur in alkaline soil. Oklahoma has a higher than normal potential to experience cases of anthrax this summer and livestock producers should be alert to the signs of the disease.

The disease is most common in cattle and sheep, but can be seen in dogs, horses, pigs and other animals including humans. Humans can become infected by handling carcasses or bodily fluids of an infected animal after its death, but the disease-causing agent is not as easily transmitted to humans as the modified anthrax spores that were used as bioterrorism agents after the World Trade Center bombings.

Anthrax cases are seen yearly in Texas, North and South Dakota, and other Midwestern states. Oklahoma has not had any known cases since 1996.

With anthrax owners often see no signs of illness with anthrax in their



Most anthrax outbreaks occur in areas where animals have previously died of the disease, as the spores remain viable for decades. *Public domain photo*

livestock — the animals are found dead. A carcass will typically bloat rapidly, dark tarry blood oozes from body openings and rigor mortis does not set in. A live animal with anthrax will have a very high fever, be very listless, and will usually die within a few hours. If you suspect anthrax, call your veterinarian immediately for an assessment.

Animals that die from anthrax

should not be moved or have the carcass opened. An open carcass can release bacteria which can form spores and may infect the soil in the area. A veterinarian should be called to observe the carcass and take a blood sample, which can be transported by hand or shipped normally to an animal diagnostic laboratory for faster verification. Blood samples from suspected anthrax cases should be

triple bagged and cushioned well when shipping to prevent breakage.

Animals that have been diagnosed as having anthrax or are strongly suspected should be incinerated or buried deeply according to the carcass disposal guidelines available from ODAFF.

If you have questions call your local veterinarian or State Veterinarian Dr. Rod Hall at 405-522-0270.

Industry

Counties Approved for FEMA Disaster Assistance

Contributed by
STEVE THOMPSON
Policy & Membership Coordinator

The major disaster declaration for Oklahoma following recent severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding includes both public and individual assistance.

Entities in Adair, Atoka, Beckham, Bryan, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Choctaw, Cleveland, Coal, Comanche, Cotton, Creek, Garvin, Grady, Haskell, Hughes, Jackson, Johnston, Latimer, LeFlore, Logan, Love, McClain, McCurtain, McIntosh, Marshall, Murray, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Seminole, Sequoyah, Stephens, Tillman and Washita counties are eligible for funding to help repair or rebuild public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water systems and utilities and public buildings such as schools, as well as emergency debris removal.

Types of entities which may be eligible for public assistance include:

- Local governments and special districts;
- Private nonprofit organizations or institutions which own or operate facilities that are open to



The SH-99 bridge over the Washita River near Tishomingo has been closed due to flooding since May 10. *Oklahoma Department of Transportation photo*

the general public;

- Federally recognized tribes; and
- State government agencies.

Citizens of Atoka, Bryan, Comanche, Cleveland, Grady, Johnston, Kiowa, Le Flore, McClain, McCurtain, Oklahoma, Pittsburg and Pottawatomie are eligible for individual assistance to help survivors get back on

their feet.

Individuals and business owners in the designated counties, or anyone who has received damage from the recent storms, are encouraged to register for federal disaster assistance online at www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362.

Dairy MAX Holds Farm Tours

Story by
DANIELLE ROGERS
AFR Communications Coordinator



Dairy MAX is educating health professionals about the benefits of Dairy in diets. *Staff photo*

In April, Dairy MAX brought together 20 registered dietitians from the Oklahoma City area to share agriculture's message to health professionals who are the educators of consumers. The dietitians toured the Mason Dairy Farm near Kingfisher, for many it was their first time on a farm.

The group met at the Homeland

Turn to **DAIRYMAX, 5**

State News Update

Contributed by
STEVE THOMPSON
Policy & Membership Coordinator



Avian Influenza

During 2015, avian influenza has been confirmed in the backyard and commercial poultry flocks of 15 states and resulted in the destruction of almost 45 million birds. The virus is carried and spread by wild waterfowl and can be deadly to domestic poultry, but has not been shown to cause illness in humans. Poultry products remain safe for human consumption when properly prepared.

To date, Oklahoma has not had a confirmed case of avian influenza, but experts warn the threat will rise in the fall when ducks and geese begin to migrate south. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry is urging anyone with poultry to take actions to protect the birds from contact with wild waterfowl. This includes direct contact, sharing food or water, and walking

on areas where wild waterfowl have been. The virus can be transported on shoes and clothing.

If sick poultry are noticed, please contact the ODAFF's Animal Industry Services Division at 405-522-6139. Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks can be found at <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>



Lucas Amendment Targets Lesser Prairie Chicken Listing

In May, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted an amendment introduced by Congressman Frank Lucas to effectively remove the Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) from the Endangered Species List (ESL) for a period of five years. The proposal amends the defense spending bill, or National Defense Authorization Act, to address concerns that the LPC's "threatened" listing by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service could impact American military readiness by hindering development of new facilities and

training exercises.

"Despite strong conservation efforts in Oklahoma and other range states, the Lesser Prairie Chicken remains on the Endangered Species List. Its listing has not only created yet another layer of costs and bureaucracy for farmers and ranchers, but it could also force American military bases to tip toe around a set of dubious regulations," said Congressman Lucas.

In addition to de-listing the Lesser Prairie Chicken – whose populations increased in 2014 – Lucas' amendment also de-lists the American Burying Beetle which has been on the ESL since the early 1980's despite the fact that its observed populations today are well above goals set by the Fish & Wildlife Service in 1991.



USDA Offers Flood Impacted Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers Disaster Assistance

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has federal farm program ben-

efits that may be available to help producers recover from recent severe weather.

FSA offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist agricultural producers in their recovery efforts following floods or similar natural disasters. To establish or retain FSA program eligibility, farmers and ranchers must report prevented planting and failed acres.

For more information on disaster assistance programs and loans, producers should contact their local FSA office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov/ok.

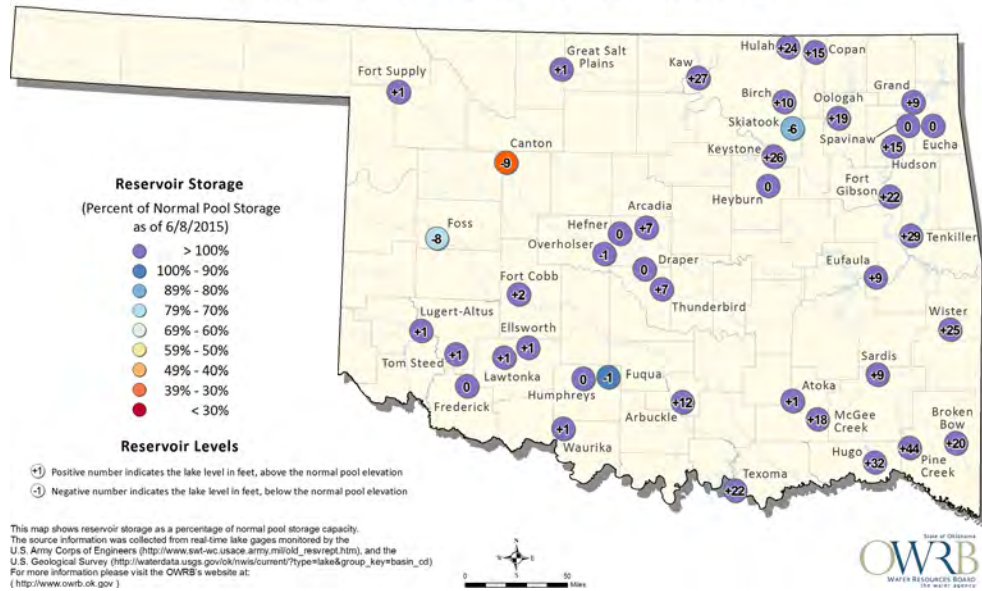


For more information on AFR/OFU's stance on state and federal issues, contact Policy & Membership Coordinator Steve Thompson at steve.thompson@afmic.com.

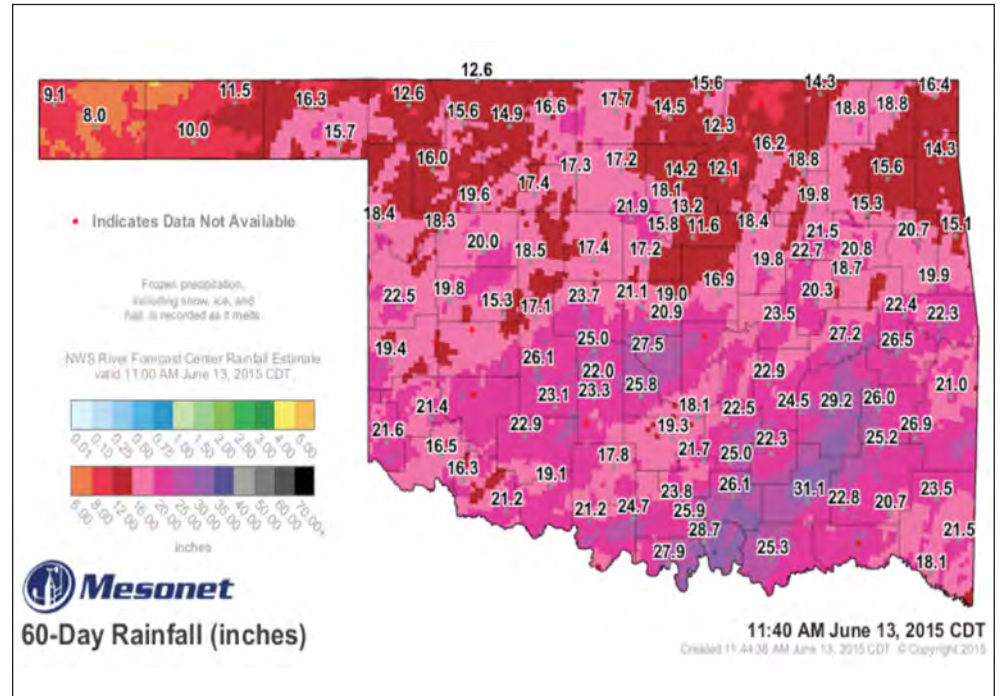
Industry

Continued from FLOODS, 1

Oklahoma Surface Water Resources
Reservoir Levels and Storage as of 6/8/2015



Reservoir levels in the state as of June 8, 2015. *Mesonet photo*



May through June rainfall for the state. *Mesonet photo*

cases too much.

What has switched on the farm and ranch with all of this moisture? Plant diseases are going to be a bigger pest concern this summer and fall. Drought puts a damper on disease. They haven't had much impact in recent years. They will in 2015.

Plant foliage is lush and susceptible to damage from wind and heat. High moisture and mild temperatures have stimulated significant new plant

growth, but the waxy layer covering plant leaves is thinner. When hot, windy weather returns, the leaves may lose water faster than roots and stems can supply it.

For those producers who can water, lighter and more frequent irrigations may be needed, especially if farmers jump rapidly into summer heat and wind. In areas of flooding or saturated deeper soils, the bulk of crop roots may be shallower than when drought

conditions persisted.

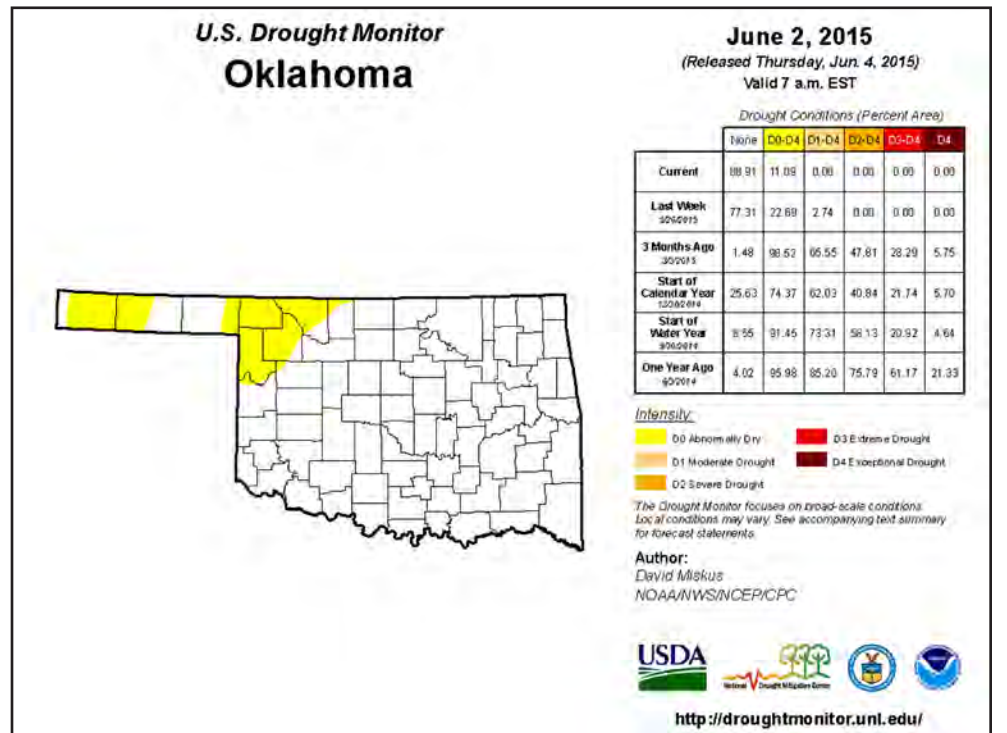
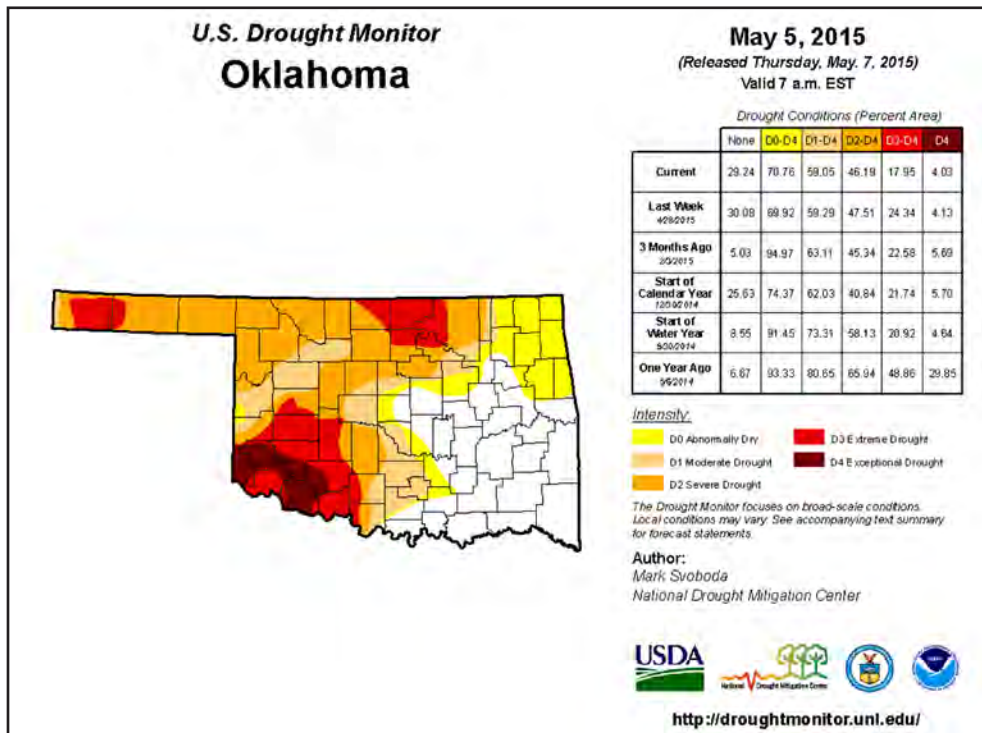
Rains have delayed wheat and hay harvest. Those delays will have quality impacts on both grain and hay.

On the plus side, crops are growing and maturing quickly. This is the perfect year to have a crop like corn in the ground because it takes advantage of the extra moisture.

Forage is growing faster which means the extra biomass can feed more cattle. After years of poor crop

growth, it too is growing at a rapid pace. The new challenge is not finding enough feed for cattle, but finding enough cattle for forage and hay.

Farmers and ranchers have to be ready to rapidly shift to changing weather conditions. The right move yesterday may be the wrong one today.



The above maps show the difference in the drought from May 5, 2015 to June 2, 2015. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, only 6,228 Oklahomans are currently affected by drought, down by almost 1.8 million from May. As of May 26, month-to-date rainfall totals were at 18.97 inches in Oklahoma City, representing the highest monthly total on record. According to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Oklahoma City's wettest month had been June 1989, with 14.66 inches. *National Drought Mitigation Center photo*

Continued from DAIRYMAX, 5



Dieticians tour Mason Farms north of Kingfisher to get a better understanding of where milk comes from. *Staff photo*

headquarters in Oklahoma City where they learned some of the myths and facts concerning dairy, where it comes from and what goes into it, as well as their initiatives with the Fuel Up to Play 60 campaign before heading to Kingfisher. Once the tour began the professionals learned the difference in large and small dairy operations, how often a dairy cow is milked and what measures are taken to assure a product which is safe and wholesome for families.

"The tour is great because a lot of times the dieticians don't have access to the farms," said Alyson Fendrick, HAC Corporate Dietician. "To a lot of them

farming is just gardening. If we are talking to the consumers and educating them on where their food is coming from, what they're buying from the grocery store they need to know the start to finish from it."

AFR member and M6 Farms owner Angie Meyer led the tour around Mason Farms and believes the better informed dieticians will be more likely to refer dairy products to their clients. Those who attended the tour went home impressed by the amount of time and care which is put into taking care of a dairy farm as well as the animals who occupy the barns.

Industry

Expanding Economic Growth in Oklahoma Communities

Contributed by
ASHLEY MIDDLESWARTH
Graduate Assistant
FAPC Communications

Oklahoma is deeply rooted in production agriculture. As a leader in livestock and crop production, Oklahoma is well rounded in raw commodities and a group of strong and quickly growing core of companies is working on the food-processing side of the equation.

Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center understands the need to keep commodities in the state to be processed before distributed. An FAPC Industry Advisory Committee member is helping this vision become a reality.

Tommy Kramer, the executive director of the Durant Industrial Authority, helps bring economic development to the city of Durant.

"This is not a job or career," Kramer said. "It's an encouragement to have a front row seat to the growth in a community you love."

Under Kramer's 17-year leadership, sales tax for Bryan County has doubled, county property tax has grown 200 percent and the city of Durant, as a whole, has grown twice as fast as the state average.

Through the creation of a group called TEAM DURANT, Kramer has created sizable development in the retail sector, which created several thousand jobs in the community.

BrucePac is the most recent addition to the Durant area. BrucePac, which is headquartered in Woodburn, Ore., was looking to expand and found a home in southeastern Oklahoma.

The meat company, specializes in chicken, beef, turkey and pork products, and currently produces 1.3 mil-



The new BrucePac building broke ground April 24 in Durant, Okla. at the former JC Potter plant. OSU Agricultural Communications Services photo

lion pounds of product per week.

The company utilizes raw materials which are predominantly produced in this region of the country and the ability to cut back on raw material freight, while also expanding its southern and eastern customer base, made Oklahoma the ideal home for expansion.

"The city of Durant is built of team players, family and friends and that type of environment really sold the company," Kramer said. "Oklahoma already has the built-in resources to service customers from farm-to-fork, BrucePac will only enhance the opportunities available."

Kramer said one of the attracting factors about a company like BrucePac is it creates relationships, so everything the company makes is a custom-formulated product for a specific company, which has been its model since 1949.

"You don't always get the family feeling from larger food companies like you do from BrucePac," he said. "They are built of the same morals as the people of Oklahoma."

As a veteran in the business, Kramer quickly recognized that BrucePac was looking to expand operations because the company is at maximum capacity in its current locations. The Durant location will be the third BrucePac facility—proving the company already has the sales volume to support the operation.

"This will make a positive economic impact on Durant," Kramer said. "We could not have handpicked a better company than BrucePac."

BrucePac is reenergizing the business effect in Durant by moving into a currently vacant building. The impact of new jobs and salaries in the community represents what Kramer calls "homegrown economic devel-

opment at its best."

"That salary rolls through a community seven to eight times, which has a positive correlation on community growth," Kramer stated.

BrucePac held a groundbreaking ceremony April 24 to mark the start of construction on a new, state-of-the-art, 40,000-square-foot food-processing facility in addition to the existing facility.

BrucePac plans to invest approximately \$20 million in construction, renovation and equipment at its new Durant facility to extend existing Oregon capabilities and meet customer demands. The Durant facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2015 and will employ 300 team members on two shifts.

"BrucePac's acquisition of the former JC Potter Sausage facility in Durant will allow us to better serve our customers and remain competitive in the marketplace," said Terry Buford, BrucePac vice president.

Jim Brooks, FAPC manager of business services, attended the groundbreaking ceremony, along with Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, members of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, members of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Durant mayor and city council members, and Durant Industrial Authority board members.

"This is another great example of the work being done by the leadership of Tommy Kramer and TEAM DURANT," Brooks said. "The BrucePac executives present at the event were excited and committed with the opportunity for the new food company that will create 300 new jobs when fully operational."



ROBERT M. KERR
Food & Agricultural
Products Center

Continued from POLLINATORS, 1



Pollinators are crucial members of various ecosystems, from farmland to wilderness. There are an estimated 352,000 flowering plant species, many of which depend on pollinators to reproduce. Public domain photo

- Pollinator Habitat Acreage: Restore or enhance 7 million acres of land for pollinators over the next five years through federal actions and public/private partnerships.

The pollinator strategy addresses four themes: conducting research to understand, prevent, and recover from pollinator losses; expanding public education programs and outreach; increasing and improving pollinator habitat; and developing public-private partnerships across all these activities. A major component of the strategy is to advance the science behind the government's land management and regulatory decisions.

The plan also advances federal commitments to increase and im-

prove habitat for pollinators, both through the variety of facilities and acreages of land managed by the federal government and through interactions with states, localities and the private sector. These actions range from planting pollinator gardens and improving land management practices at federal facilities to advancing the availability and use of pollinator-friendly seed mixes in land management, restoration and rehabilitation actions nationwide. Pollinators are critical to the economy, food security and environmental health. Honey bee pollination alone adds more than \$15 billion in value to agricultural crops each year.

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

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#beef11:1

Insurance

AFR Welcomes New Agencies



Steven Blair at the 2015 AFR/OFU State Convention. Staff photo

Contributed by
LAICI WEDEL

Trisha Gedon, Communications Services

The Blair Group, Laverne

Steven Blair has purchased the Thrasher Insurance Agency in Laverne and has changed the agency name to The Blair Group, LLC.

Blair earned his undergraduate degree from East Central University and his masters from the University of Oklahoma. He spent time working for the PGA Tour and the U.S Geological Society before becoming a licensed insurance agent in 1999.

Blair enjoys being involved in his community. He has been a city commissioner for Shawnee, is a former president of the Oklahoma City OSU Alumni Chapter and is a part of the Laverne Chamber of Commerce.

Blaire became a Series 7 licensed financial advisor in 2001. His financial advising practice is called Commonwealth Capital Management, LLC. Both businesses will operate from the same office location.

The Blair Group will maintain the original Thrasher Insurance location at 224 South Broadway in Laverne. The agency can be reached at 580-921-5675.



Rochelle Agency store front in Duncan. Rochell Insurance photo.

Rochell Insurance Agency, Comanche

Roy and Sandy Rochell have purchased the Scherler Agency in Comanche. Sandy is licensed in Property & Casualty, Life and Health, both in Oklahoma and Texas. Prior to purchasing the agency, the Rochells owned a marina on the Texas Gulf Coast

Both originally from Comanche, the move is a homecoming for the Rochells. Roy and Sandy have been

married 36 years and have three sons. In their spare time, they focus on their family and grandchildren.

The new Rochell Insurance Agency is a family endeavor. Roy's and Sandy's son Kendal Rochell is a big part of the agency and Sandy's sisters work in the agency—Linda works in the agency and Penny is now licensed with AFR

It is important to the Rochells that their agency remains in its original location. The historic building has housed an insurance agency for decades; Penny has had insurance through the location since 1972. The family is currently updating the building and uncovering many of its original features, including the old tin ceiling and plaster and brick walls. They consider it a return to its former glory.

The Rochell Insurance Agency is located at 205 Oak Main in Comanche. They can be reached at 580-439-8823.

Route 66 Insurance Agency, Verdigris

Justin McCaw has opened the new Route 66 Insurance Agency in Verdigris. McCaw is licensed in Property & Casualty and owns two other agency locations. He has plans to become Life & Health licensed.

McCaw has been an insurance agent for five years. Prior to his insurance career, he was a warehouse manager for a local northeast Oklahoma company. His father convinced him to become an independent insurance agent.

McCaw has lived in the Claremore and Tulsa areas his entire life. He has a 13-year-old son, Daniel. In his spare time, Justin enjoys being involved in his church community and spending time at his son's school events. The McCaw family also loves Sooner football and duck hunting.

The all-new Route 66 Insurance Agency is located in Verdigris at 26301 South 4110 Road, Suite B. The location is next door to the rural sewer district and directly behind BancFirst. The agency can be reached at 918-739-5049. The other Route 66 location is in Chelsea.

Dowdy Insurance Agency, Bristow

Ellen Dowdy has purchased the Firey Insurance Agency in Bristow and is incorporating it into her existing Dowdy Insurance Agency. Dowdy is licensed in Property and Casualty and Life.

Dowdy has lived in Bristow for 40 years and has owned her insurance agency since 2004. She became an independent agency approximately four years ago.

Dowdy's daughter Amanda works in the agency. Amanda earned her



Amanda and Ellen Dowdy at the home office in Bristow. Bristow News photo

insurance license in October 2014 and joined the Dowdy Agency full-time in March 2015.

In her spare time, Dowdy loves spending time with her grandchildren and her animals—she has peacocks, a miniature horse and a miniature potbelly pig, among other creatures. She has been married to her husband, David, for 32 years. They have seven daughters.

The Dowdy Insurance Agency is located at 125 West Sixth Street, across the street from the Bristow Post Office. She is keeping the Dowdy Insurance phone number—918-367-9950—and the old Firey Insurance phone number—918-367-2349.

Whitworth-McManus Hosts Appreciation Day



Local AFR members and farmers joined the McManus-Whitworth Agency at the first Farmers Appreciation Day in April. Staff photo

The McManus-Whitworth Agency hosted its first Farmers Appreciation Day April 21 at the agency office in Frederick.

The event brought customers and farmers from the area together for a cook-out and refreshments, as well as homemade baked goods. Agency owner Eddie Whitworth grilled for the lunchtime event while friends and family greeted and served the community.

AFR Board Member Joe Ed Kinder and wife Joann, AFR Southwest District Field Representative Pete

McDaniel and home office staff attended the event to assist in set-up and clean-up along with socializing with local members.

AFR
INSURANCE

Is your agency hosting a new event or an old tradition? We'd love to know about it! Please contact AFR/OFU Communications Coordinator Danielle Rogers at 405-218-5590 or drogers@afmic.com to tell us what you've been up to!

Insurance

Tips for Summer Grilling Safety

Contributed by
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Trisha Gedon, Communications Services

Shorts, flip flops and glowing coals in the grill are just a few of the signs of summer.

While a fire in the grill under some juicy hamburgers, hotdogs or some great tasting vegetables is a welcome sight, keeping safety in mind for everyone is a must, said Gina Peek, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension housing and consumer specialist.

“There isn’t too much that’s better than an old fashioned family cookout. However, safety must be your first concern during grilling season,” Peek said.

Proper placement of your outdoor grill, whether charcoal or propane, is essential. Keep it 10 feet or more from your home and everything attached to your home, such as carports, porches, decks, deck railings and garages, as well as all vehicles. Also, grills should not be placed under wooden overhangs or under tree branches and never use a charcoal or propane grill indoors.

Be sure to check for gas leaks. Make a solution of half liquid dish soap and half water and rub it on the hoses and connection, then turn on the gas. Make sure the lid of the grill is open while checking for leaks to prevent gas from building up. If the soap forms large bubbles, that is a sign the hoses have tiny holes or the connections are not tight.

“Don’t try to repair the tank valve



Do not overload your grill, especially if cooking fatty meats, this can cause flare-ups quickly. *Public domain photo*

yourself. It’s best to leave that to the professionals,” Peek said.

Peek also mentioned to never leave a lit grill unattended and to keep children and pets away from the grilling area.

When lighting the grill, make sure the lid is always up, so gas doesn’t build up inside the grill and cause an explosion. Also be sure to keep the grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup in the tray below.

“If you’re using a charcoal grill, use a charcoal chimney to start the coals,” she said. “When using lighter fluid, use only the type designed specifically for charcoal and never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. Also,

be sure to store the lighter fluid away from heat sources.”

Peek also recommends keeping a spray bottle of water, and a fire extinguisher nearby. It will come in handy for small flare-ups; the water will not hurt the foods you are grilling.

“Something else I recommend during grilling season is to keep a small fire extinguisher handy and be sure you know how to use it before you may possibly need it,” she said. “During an actual fire emergency is not the time to be reading the operation instructions. If your fire starts to get out of control, call 9-1-1 immediately.”

When placing foods on the grill, be

sure to not overload it, especially if cooking fatty meats.

“If too much fat drips on the flames, it can cause a large flare-up very quickly,” Peek said.

In addition, never leave the grill unattended. Fires can double in size every 60 seconds. Plan ahead and make sure all of your grilling prep work is done ahead of time so you can devote 100 percent of your attention to the grill.

“Summer is a great time for family and friends to gather in the backyard for a barbecue,” Peek said. “Using these safety tips will help ensure an enjoyable time together.”

GROW! Protect Your Home From Wildfire with Firewise Plantings

Information provided by
DAVID HILLOCK
Stillwater News Press

There are a number of things homeowners do to protect their homes from fire. Homeowners keep a close eye on the gas or charcoal grill during a cookout, or they don’t have an open flame near flammable liquids.

Unfortunately, Oklahoma is prone to wildfires simply because of our landscape and vegetation. While homeowners take steps to keep from accidentally starting a fire in or near their homes, they can also help protect their homes from wildfire through the plants they establish in their scenery.

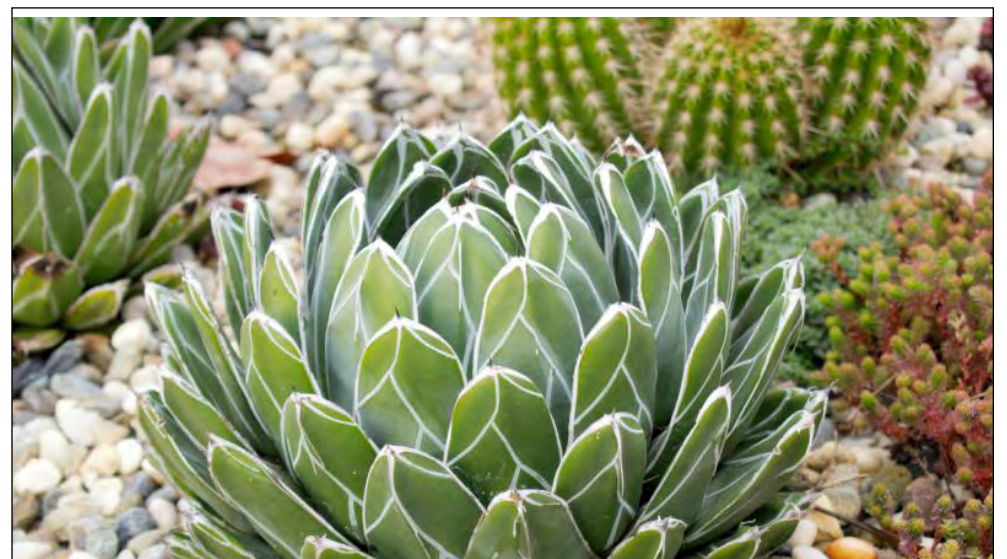
Some plants are more resistant to fire than others. Fire-resistant plants are those that do not readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. Although the plants themselves can be damaged or killed by a fire, their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute as fuel and, therefore, the fire’s intensity.

The key to plant selection is to identify plants with a low flammability rating for the areas nearest your house. There are several factors that influence the fire characteristics of plants, including plant moisture content, age, total volume, dead material and chemical content. By selecting plants with certain characteristics, you can reduce the flammability potential of your landscape and provide habitat for wildlife.

Plants with low flammability do not accumulate large amounts of combustible dead branches, needles or leaves as they grow. They also have little dead wood and tend not to accumulate dry, dead material within the plant. They have open, loose branches with a low volume of total branches. Many of our deciduous trees and shrubs are fire-resistant.

We also want to look at the leaf characteristics. Leaves that are moist and supple, such as the sedum leaf, are more resistant to fire.

Many herbaceous perennials make excellent firewise plantings. Some



Take special precautions to protect your homes against wildfire by using fire-resistant plant material in your landscaping. *Public domain photo*

remain green in the winter, reducing their flammability. Examples of fire-resistant plants would be: trumpet vine, sedges and coneflower.

Some plants are extremely flammable due to volatile oils and resins in the sap, such as pines, junipers, cedar and Yaupon holly. Avoid placing these types of plants adjacent to your house and other structures on your property.

In the early 1990s, several agencies, including Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension, joined forces and coined the term “firewise.” This program became a catalyst for educational resources and programs to help homeowners, communities and firefighters to make sensible choices in the rural/urban interface, which would in turn help control wildfires and protect property.

Insurance

AFR TOURS CLASS 4 ROOFING FACILITY



According to Malarkey, the rubber polymer technology used in their class 4 roofing materials adds strength and flexibility to their roofing products. *Staff photo*

Story by
LAICI WEDEL

AFR Communications and Content Manager

AFR Furthers Adjuster Knowledge Base, Encourages Insureds to Protect Roofs Pocket-books from hail

With Oklahoma accounting for 13.3 percent of the nation's hailstorms, hail damage in the Sooner State is not a question of "if," but "when." According to impactroofing.com, the majority of Oklahoma counties experience damaging hail five or more times per year, resulting in some homes being hit multiple times in one storm season.

It does not take long for the dollar signs to add up for homeowners and insurance companies alike. The average lifespan of many roofs is 20 years; but, according to the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) roofs in severe hail-prone areas may need to be replaced every seven to 10 years.

According to IBHS, lab tests and field observations indicate that three tab asphalt shingles may be damaged by hail as small as one inch in diameter. With hail damage practically imminent in Oklahoma, what can homeowners do to protect themselves against the financial burden

and inconvenience of a hail-damaged roof? Purchase impact-resistant roofing.

Impact-resistant roofing (Class 4) looks like its lower-grade counterpart, but provides homes and other structures with increased protection against damaging hail. Created with a blend of traditional asphalt materials and rubberized polymer, these shingles may cost more to install, but can save homeowners thousands over their roofs' lifetimes.

Homeowners understandably doubt the effectiveness of Class 4 roofs, but an IBHS study found mandatory impact-resistant roofing materials in vulnerable areas would result in a 50 percent reduction in hail-related property losses.

Understanding the Product

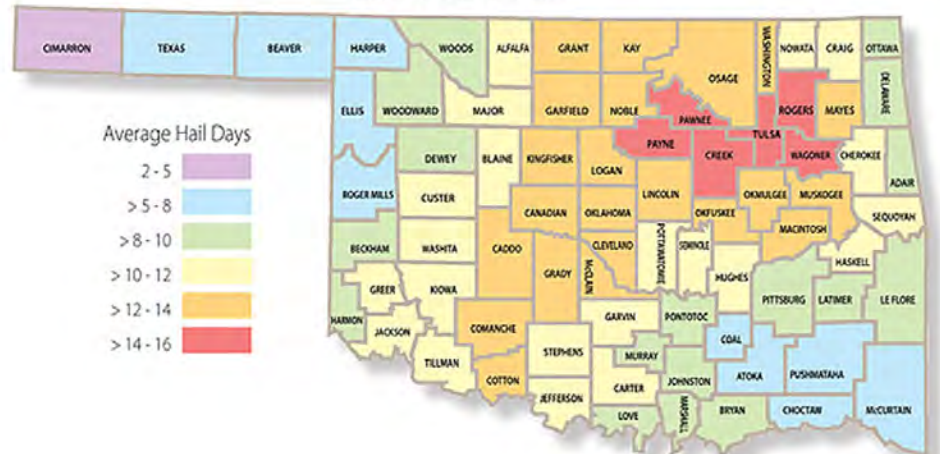
Oklahoma's most frequent instances of hail are in heavily populated areas of the state and the number one homeowner insurance claim in the state is hail damage. Because of the cost and inconvenience of roof replacement, AFR Insurance encourages homeowners to purchase Class 4 impact resistant roofing. The company even offers a discount on homeowner policies for those who opt for the Class 4 material.



Malarkey Roofing's patented "Zone" technology includes a tapered nailing area three times larger than most other laminate shingles, which improves correct fastener placement. Improper fastener placement is the leading cause of incorrect shingle installation. *Staff photo*



Average Number of Hail Days with Damaging Hail (>0.75") per 20 Years
STATE OF OKLAHOMA



In the average 20-year time period, there have been 12-16 hail days in much of central and north-eastern Oklahoma. It is common to see entire neighborhoods with hail-damaged roofs — a costly sight for homeowners and insurance companies alike.

impactroofing.com photo

IMPACT RESISTANCE TESTING					
Drop Height (ft)	12	14	17	20	
	Golfball (1.680" D)	(1 1/4" D)	(1 1/2" D)	(1 3/4" D)	(2" D)
Class	1	2	3	4	

Any hail stone larger than 0.75 inches in diameter is considered "damaging hail." This threshold is where damage to asphalt shingles is expected by most hail experts. A study performed by the IBHS found that counties in southern Oklahoma can expect damaging hail at least 12 times in a 20 year span, the lifespan of the average roof. *impactroofing.com photo*

To better understand Class 4 roofing products, AFR sent its claims specialists and field adjusters to the Malarkey Roofing Products Class 4 production facility in Oklahoma City. AFR representatives learned about the steps in production for a Class 4 roofing product and toured Malarkey's on-site chemistry laboratory to learn about the chemistry behind impact-resistant roofing.

The impact-resistant roofing they learned about is considered a UL 2218 Class 4 roofing material. The UL 2218 standard system grades roofing materials based on impact ratings of Class 1-4. Class 1 is the most likely to be damaged; Class 4 is the least likely. A UL 2218 Class 4 rating offers the best hail resistance.

To determine the rating, a steel ball is dropped onto a test panel twice in the same location. The panel must show no evidence of fracture, cracking, splitting or any other failure to be awarded that rating level. The table above shows the test method for each rating.

What Else Can Homeowners Do?

The AFR representatives were reminded of additional ways homeowners can protect themselves against hail damage.

- Metal roofing materials of 26 gauge or heavier can provide increased protection from dam-

aging hail. The roof will sustain cosmetic damage, but it will protect your home from the hail damage that could allow water to seep into the structure.

- A steep roof, or a slope with six feet of rise for every 12 horizontal feet of run, will improve its impact resistance.
- Proper installation is important. Make sure your roofer removes existing materials down to the decking. A thin, single layer of underlayment should be installed. When the UL tests are performed, they are done as a single layer roof assembly. Installing a new roof over an existing roof may not provide you with the advertised protection.
- When selecting a roofer, ask if they are a member of the National Roofing Contractors Association (<http://www.nrca.net>) and if they have completed their online training program and exam for Impact Resistance Certification.

For more information on how a Class 4 impact-resistant roof can protect your home, contact AFR Insurance Claims Director Chad Yearwood at chad.yearwood@afrmic.com or 405-218-5420.

Membership

AFR Field Representative Honored at National Land & Range Judging Contest



Information provided by
OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

In May, the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts held the 64th Annual National Land and Range Judging Contest in El Reno. AFR supports the contest each year by sponsoring and volunteering during meals and awards. Each year, the OACD honors an individual for their hard work and dedication to the contest. This year, AFR's Southwest Field Representative Pete McDaniel was awarded the 2015

National Land and Range Judging Contest Honoree Award.

Phillip "Pete" McDaniel has been involved in the National Land and Range Judging contest since its inception. His history with the contest began in 1955, when, as a young lad from Apache, Okla., he won first place and was named Range Judging Contest National Champion at the first Annual National Range Judging Contest.

Through the years, McDaniel has continued to participate in, support and promote the contest and recruit other volunteers to help. McDaniel serves as a group leader during the contest and is a work horse when it comes to getting ready for the awards banquet.

Shortly after graduating from Apache High School, Pete began his farming and ranching career in 1959. He worked for the Apache Cooperative, including eight years as the assistant manager and three years as manager. McDaniel still farms in Caddo County northwest of Apache. A long-time Oklahoma Farmers Union

member, his family ties to OFU date back to his grandparents' membership and involvement. He currently serves as secretary/treasurer of the Caddo County Farmers Union, has served on the OFU Policy Committee and has lobbied during legislative action fly-ins to Washington, D.C. His cow/calf, wheat and hay operation consists of 1,600 acres of owned and rented land, including the homesteads of his father and grandfather. McDaniel has four children and many grandchildren.

"It's a real pleasure to work with someone like Pete who really has a passion for the National Land and Range Judging Contest," said Don Bartolina, contest coordinator. "He cares about our youth and our natural resources and very much deserves this honor."

For more information regarding conservation or the National Land and Range Judging Contest visit www.ok-conservation.org.



National Land, Homesite and Range Judging Contest

Every year, AFR/OFU joins in sponsoring the National Land, Homesite and Range Judging Contest. AFR/OFU state staff and field reps serve lunch on location to more than 1000 contest participants. The day wraps up at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, where winners are announced and participants are recognized for making it to the national competition. Pictured: AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Blair Boyer served drinks and cookies to participants.

AFR/OFU Counties in Communities



In May AFR/OFU members exhibited several of their restored and original tractors at the first American Farmers & Ranchers, Harper's Insurance and Oklahoma Farmers Union Local 741 Antique Tractor Show in Marietta during Frontier Days, joining in the parade and fun were volunteer firemen from the community. Staff photo

Earl Schoenhals, AFR/OFU member since 1997, presented the Foreman Insurance Agency with the AFR sign shown in the above picture. This is the first project he has tackled with his new plasma cutter.

Earl has been Square Top Local 286 and Ellis County Farmers Union vice president since 2005. Earl and his wife, Marilyn, travel frequently with AFR groups. They participate in the AFR county and local meetings and serve as state delegates for their local Square Top organization. The Schoenhals own and operate a farm and ranch operation in Ellis County.

The Foreman Insurance Agency was honored to have received this gift from Earl Schoenhals.

LEAD Program

Paint Your Path

AFR Women's Conference

Embassy Suites Hotel

August 5, 2015 1-8 p.m. Oklahoma City

• **Registration available for the first 50 ladies**

- **Contact AFR LEAD Coordinator Megan Albright at 405-218-5416 or malbright@afrmic.com for more details on how to register**



1:30-2:30 p.m. • Keynote Speaker

Kirby Smith, Field Representative for Congressman Frank D. Lucas
“Light Your Path”

Smith is a native of Elk City and a former AFR youth participant. She completed a bachelor's and master's in agricultural communications at Oklahoma State University. After graduation, she worked for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry as the public information manager. Smith is a graduate of Class XX of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Leadership Academy and a member of Class XVII of the Oklahoma Ag Leadership Program.

3-4 p.m. Breakout Sessions



Chris Campbell
AFR Dir. of Marketing & Agency Relations
“Marketing Yourself and Your Organization”

Chris Campbell received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Brigham Young University and his Masters in Business Administration in marketing from Thunderbird School of Global Management. His professional designations include Chartered Property & Casualty Underwriter, Associate in Personal Insurance, Associate in Insurance Services and Associate in Surplus Lines Insurance. Chris has been married to his wife Melissa for 16 years and is a proud father of six children.



Kerry Spencer,
Federal Instructor, C.L.E.E.T.
Instructor/S.W.A.T. Instructor
“Women's Safety”

Kerry Spencer has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, is a State of Oklahoma certified police officer and served in the U.S. Army. He currently offers more than 80 courses in self-defense training. The “Women's Safety” seminar will cover how to watch your surroundings while at the work place, home or out on the town, encouraging everyone to stay safe in real life situations.

4-5 p.m. Breakout Sessions



Tess Mack, CEO
Social Media Mack
“Social Media 101”

Tess Mack, CEO of Social Media Mack, helps small businesses, associations and organizations utilize technology as part of their marketing plan, as well as build effective relationships with their customer and member base. Mack is an author, brand ambassador and social media expert with a passion for all things in new media. She has more than 10 years experience with social networks and has recently been inducted into Oklahoma Magazine's 40 under 40. Mack has been featured in various Oklahoma publications as a social media expert.



Blaire Boyer,
AFR Youth & Education Coord.
“Getting Involved in Your Community”

Blaire Boyer has served as the AFR Youth & Education Coordinator since March 2014. Working with members and agents across the state to engage youth, Boyer is an expert on how to get involved with. Her seminar will answer questions you have about the AFR/OFU cooperative programs and their impact on local communities.

6-8 p.m. Dinner and Painting

(Every attendee will create their own painting led by a professional artist)

Be on the lookout for district women's conferences in your area
 October - January. More information to come.

LEAD Program

AFR Participates In Food Drives Around State

Information provided by
MEGAN ALBRIGHT
AFR/OFU LEAD Coordinator

AFR local and county organizations went above and beyond to help those in need in their communities with the “Drive Away Hunger with AFR” campaign. In February members of the AFR Women’s Cooperative and home office staff joined forces to volunteer at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma where they packaged more than 2,100 meals for the Regional Food Bank’s School’s Out Lunch Program. The program ensures children with inconsistent access to food still get nutritious meals when school is out for summer break.

In Beckham County, AFR/OFU members joined forces with Youth and Family Services and the Regional Food Bank to provide the first-ever Food for Kids Summer Feeding Program in Elk City. Thanks to their hard work, children in Elk City will have access to complimentary snacks and lunches this summer June 1 – July 31. The program provides children under 18 years-of-age with nutritious meals and snacks. It is sponsored through a partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture and Oklahoma Department of Education.



The AFR Women’s Cooperative would like to thank everyone for their efforts in the “Invest An Acre” and “Plant A Row” programs. *Staff photo*



Beckham County members volunteer in their communities for the Food for Kids Summer Feeding Program. *Photo provided by Beckham Co.*

In Love County, members help provide a “Meals on Wheels” program that delivers fresh food to seniors in need. Every day, older Oklahomans are faced with the dilemma of not having enough money to pay for rent, utilities, medical bills and prescriptions. Oklahoma continues to rank among the top 10 states in the nation for food insecurity among seniors. There are roughly 700,000 seniors age 60+ who are lacking meals in Oklahoma.

The next phase of “Drive Away

Hunger with AFR will be a back to school milk drive in conjunction with the second phase of “Plant a Row.” They both will take place Aug. 1 – Sept. 30. The Women’s Cooperative is encouraging members to donate to the Great American Milk Drive at www.milklife.com/give or by donating excess produce to local food banks within their community. Both programs will keep donations in your local food bank. For those who are not green-thumb gardeners, but would

still like to give to their communities, ask a producer at the local farmers market to donate unsold goods to the closest food bank.

To help the AFR/OFU Women’s Cooperative achieve a goal of donating 50,000 meals in 2015 or for more information about the “Drive Away Hunger with AFR” campaigns, contact Megan Albright, AFR/OFU LEAD Coordinator, at 405-218-5416 or megan.albright@afrmic.com.

LEAD Program To Hold First Event

Information provided by
MEGAN ALBRIGHT
AFR/OFU LEAD Coordinator

AFR/OFU’s new Leadership Exploration And Development (LEAD) Program will offer events across the state to assist in the needs of Oklahoma communities, both rural and urban.

LEAD is a diverse, flexible and innovative program designed for adults to grow their networks, participate in educational seminars and tours regarding business and agriculture, and be involved in social activities to connect with friends, old and new.

On July 18, 2015, the LEAD Program will hold its first social event with a kick-off at an Oklahoma City Dodgers baseball game. The evening will begin with a gathering at “Put A Cork In It Winery,” where before heading to the game participants can socialize and learn what other exciting events the program has in store for them over the next several months.

In August, LEAD will host educational seminars in conjunction with

the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association’s Range Round-Up at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie Aug. 29.

In September, join LEAD for a tour of the cutting-edge agriculture research at the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore.

During the Tulsa State Fair in October, LEAD will offer unique tours in northeastern Oklahoma and a social gathering at the fair.

All events will be open to AFR/OFU and non-AFR/OFU members. There will be unique offerings of educational and networking opportunities at all occasions. These activities are the perfect opportunity to expand your knowledge of agriculture and business, regardless of your background.

If you would like to attend a LEAD event or would like more information about the LEAD Program, contact Megan Albright, AFR/OFU LEAD Coordinator, at 405-218-5416 or megan.albright@afrmic.com.

AFR Kick-Off
Event
AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS

Saturday, July 18th • Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark

LEAD
LEADERSHIP EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**LEAD Program Kick-Off
Event**

with the Oklahoma City Dodgers

Join us for a **FREE** night of fun as the Oklahoma City Dodgers take on the Round Rock Express (Rangers) and celebrate AFR/OFU’s new **LEAD Program!**

5 PM: Pick up your complimentary tickets at the **LEAD Program Reception at Put a Cork In It Winery** located at 115 E. California, Suite 103, in Bricktown. Drinks and appetizers will be provided.

Enjoy an exciting evening with AFR and see what other great activities the LEAD Program will be offering!

Call today to reserve your seats!

Youth Program

EVERY FARMER, EVERY RANCHER, EVERY AFR MEMBER-
Welcome to the P&K Family!

You put in a lot of hard work around your property and at P&K, we believe in bringing you the best equipment on the market. That's why we so proudly offer the latest in John Deere equipment, including our complete line of attachments & accessories. When you're a part of the P&K family, we'll deliver the productivity and efficiency you need and the comfort and convenience you deserve.

PARTNER WITH US & YOU'LL SEE WHY IN OKLAHOMA,
John Deere starts with P&K.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR AFR MEMBERS ONLY
 BRING THIS COUPON INTO ANY P&K EQUIPMENT LOCATION & RECEIVE
10% OFF ATTACHMENTS & ACCESSORIES
FOR YOUR TRACTOR OR GATOR
 (TOTAL DISCOUNT AMOUNT MAY NOT EXCEED \$250)
 Discount Code: **AFR15**

Offer expires 12/31/2015. One coupon per transaction. Must present coupon at the time of purchase. There is no minimum or maximum on the total purchase amount, but the discount total cannot exceed \$250. If non-eligible items are also purchased on the same ticket, the 10% discount can only be applied to the attachments and accessories. Some restrictions apply. See P&K Equipment for details.

Visit one of our ten locations today:

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ENID enid@pkequipment.com	PURCELL purcell@pkequipment.com	BARTLESVILLE bartlesville@pkequipment.com
BLACKWELL blackwell@pkequipment.com	STILLWATER stillwater@pkequipment.com	PRYOR pryor@pkequipment.com
	EDMOND edmond@pkequipment.com	

pkequipment.com

JOHN DEERE



MEMBER BENEFITS

GENERAL BENEFITS

- Access to quality farm, home, auto and life insurance
- Media response, info, promotion and public relations services
- Legislative representation at national, state and local levels
- Policy development and education
- \$5,000 reward for arson, theft or vandalism to AFR property insureds

DISCOUNT BENEFITS

- Discount medical flight membership program
- Discounts on rental cars and hotels
- Discounts on dental and vision plan
- Discounts on Constant Contact e-mail marketing
- Discounts on office and school supplies and legal services

MEDIA BENEFITS

- Subscription to the quarterly AFR/OFU News & Views
- Subscription to the News & Views Insider e-newsletter
- Subscription to the National Farmers Union e-newsletter
- Free classified advertising in quarterly publication

YOUTH BENEFITS

- Speech and poster contests
- State and county educational scholarships
- Youth leadership summit
- Agricultural contests
- Youth sponsorships

BENEFIT HIGHLIGHT

KDJ Enterprises offers a \$150 cash rebate to all AFR members on the purchase of a new K/D front-end loader. Call Jeff Day toll-free at 888-641-0420 for instructions and a rebate voucher.



Revised January 1, 2015

Counties and Locals Announce Meetings

Pittsburgh County Annual Meeting
 Saturday, August 22 @ 6:30 PM
 McAlester Expo Center
 RSVP by August 17

Lincoln County Annual Meeting
 Thursday, October 1 @ 6PM
 AGRI-CENTER, Chandler
 RSVP by September 25

Stephens County Annual Meeting
 Monday, October 5 @ 6:30 PM
 Stephens County Fairgrounds, Duncan
 RSVP by October 1

Payne County Annual Meeting
 Thursday, October 15 at 5:30 PM
 Payne County EXPO Center, Stillwater, OK
 RSVP October 12

Dewey County Annual Meeting
 Thursday, October 29 at 6:30 PM
 Dewey County Fairgrounds, Taloga, OK
 RSVP October 21

Redlands Contest a Success



Members of the First Place Intermediate Team from Lindsay FFA with AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. *Staff photo*

AFR/OFU sponsored the Redlands Community College Interscholastic Livestock Judging Contest April 14. Held at Redlands Royse Ranch in El Reno each year, the contest attracts students from across the state.

The annual event tests participants' ability to recognize high-quality livestock traits in the show ring. In the contest, 4-H and FFA members employ their knowledge of desirable livestock traits as they judge animals of each show species—sheep, goats, pigs and cattle.

The contest also challenges students with their ability to speak pub-

Turn to REDLANDS, 18

Youth Program

Reward Program



Is this your gate posted with the AFR reward sign? Call 405-218-5559 to claim a \$50 reward for spotting it! Complete reward program rules can be found on our website at www.iafr.com. *Jeremy Bennett photo*

AFR Youth Council Members Win 2015 State Offices



Brooks McKinney, Spiro, was elected the 2015-2016 Southeast District Vice-President. *Oklahoma FFA photo*

Story by

MICAELA DANKER

AFR/OFU Youth & Education Intern

The Oklahoma FFA Association concluded its 89th annual state convention April 29 by electing the 2015-2016 officer team.

The leadership team is led by eight students from across the state. Two of those students, Brooks McKinney and Hallie Barnes, are AFR/OFU youth members who have served on the AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council. Barnes is a current council member, while McKinney served on the 2013-2014 council.

Both McKinney and Barnes said they were excited about their new leadership positions with FFA.

"The FFA has taught me how to



Hallie Barnes, Porter, was elected the 2015-2016 State FFA Reporter. *Oklahoma FFA photo*

believe in myself," McKinney said. "I will encourage other members to believe in their abilities and never give up."

McKinney is from Spiro, Okla., and is the southeast district vice president. Barnes is from Porter, Okla., and is the organization's state reporter.

"I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know many more FFA members and serving them," said Barnes "I am so blessed and excited to have one more year in the FFA."

Six additional FFA members will join McKinney and Barnes on the 2015-2016 Oklahoma FFA officer team.

AFR Youth Council Members Selected for 2015 State Star Awards



Megan Trantham, Boise City, 2014 AFR Youth Council member earned the 2015 FFA State Star Award in Agribusiness. *Oklahoma FFA photo*



Hallie Barnes, 2014 AFR Youth Council member from Porter, was awarded the 2015 FFA State Star Award in Agriscience by Billy Cook, Senior VP & Division Coordinator at The Samuel Roberts Noble foundation. *Oklahoma FFA photo*

Story by

MICAELA DANKER

AFR Youth & Education Intern

AFR/OFU's 2014 Youth Council members Megan Trantham, Boise City FFA Chapter, and Hallie Barnes, Porter FFA Chapter, had a successful year at the 2015 State FFA Convention. Both have been selected as 2015 State Stars, earning one of Oklahoma FFA's highest honors in Agribusiness —Trantham— and Agriscience — Barnes.

The projects were chosen as the best among 742 FFA members who received the State FFA Degree at the 89th Oklahoma State FFA Convention in Oklahoma City April 29. Trantham's supervised agricultural experience includes owning and operating a livestock show feed distribution business called Trantham Feed, which she began in 2010. Barnes' SAE includes conducting experiments to determine the temperature in refrigerators to see if they maintained the correct temperature to store animal health products.

"My favorite part of owning Trantham Feed is educating 4-H and FFA members about their feed and helping them achieve their goals," Trantham said. "When they succeed in the showing, so do I. The little things, like investing in them, can make all the difference."

Trantham started her business because of a lack of fresh feed in the area. She did not expect the business to grow rapidly, but she now has more than 50 customers and sells in five different states.

Trantham said while operating her business she has developed skills such as communication, professionalism, marketing and public relations.

Trantham plans to attend Okla-

homa State University and double major in agricultural education and agricultural communications. She hopes to continue the business as much as she can while she is at college, but said her younger brother will eventually run it.

"When they succeed in the showing, so do I. The little things, like investing in them, can make all the difference."

2015 AFR Youth Council Member
Megan Trantham

Agriscience winner Hallie Barnes tested 43 refrigerators to conduct her research. Refrigerator temperature should stay between 35 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit, but her results showed that nearly 70 percent of the refrigerators were below standard. Barnes said factors such as type, age and location determined the temperature ranges.

"I really enjoyed seeing the results of my experiments to see not only how other producers' refrigerators were performing, but also if mine was maintaining the correct temperature," Barnes said. "I also like talking to the producers and telling them the results, so that they could improve their practices and save a little money down the road."

Through her project, Barnes developed skills such as statistical analysis, data analysis and communication.

She plans to attend Oklahoma State University and double major in animal science and agricultural communications.

Youth Program

Danker Interns with Youth



Meet the Intern

AFR/OFU is excited to welcome Micaela Danker, a native of Wellston, Okla., to the home office as the AFR/OFU youth and education intern for the summer 2015.

She is the daughter of Dwayne and Lisa Danker and will be a senior this fall at Oklahoma State University majoring in agricultural communications. Her involvement in the AFR/OFU Youth Program dates back to 2001 when she attended her first OFU camp in first grade. Since then she competed in every AFR/OFU speech contest from fourth to twelfth grade, participated in the Agriculture Achievement Contest, attended National Farmers Union Convention and numerous state conventions, served on the Youth Advisory Council, was a four year state scholarship recipient and missed only one Leadership Summit from 2001 to present.

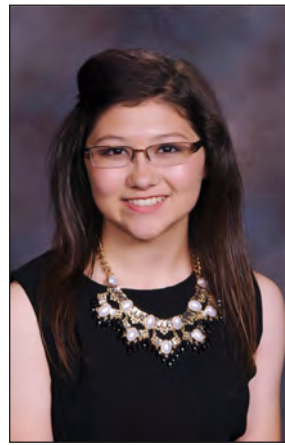
The wealth of knowledge and experience Micaela brings to the program will be beneficial as she helps AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator, Blaire Boyer plan the AFR/OFU Leadership Summit during the next two months.

“Growing up in this program has been a big part of my life,” Danker said. “Lin (Fariss) Zwilling was a mentor for me while I served on the Youth Advisory Council and I knew one day I wanted to work at AFR.”

In addition to her part in the Leadership Summit, Danker will be assisting with other events and programs throughout the summer for the AFR/OFU Youth Program.

“I’m most excited to work in the planning process for camp, but I’m also excited to develop skills in other areas of program and development while working with students.”

State Scholarships Announced



HALLIE BARNES HULBERT



BRANDON TRENT BOLES ASHER



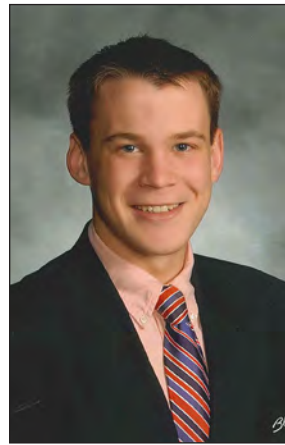
BRYNN DANKER WELLSTON



ANNIE BLASSINGAME TECUMSEH



MICAELA DANKER WELLSTON



RYAN DANKER WELLSTON



MEGAN DEUYST MORRISON



BETHANY HARDER BATTIEST



KELLAN HOSTETLER BILLINGS



COURTNEY JACKSON RINGLING



KALLI KLEWER THOMAS



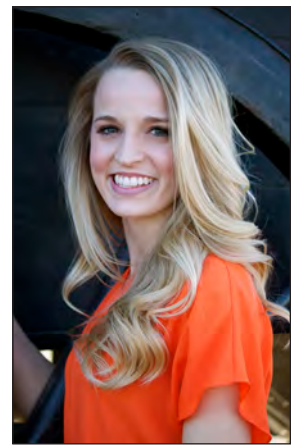
MICHAEL LARSON TECUMSEH



DENTON LOWE AMBER



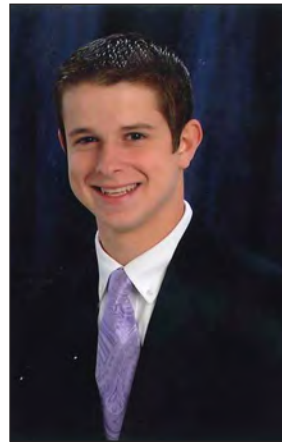
DESIREE MASTERSON SPIRO



BROOKS MCKINNEY SPIRO



BARRETT POWELL MENO



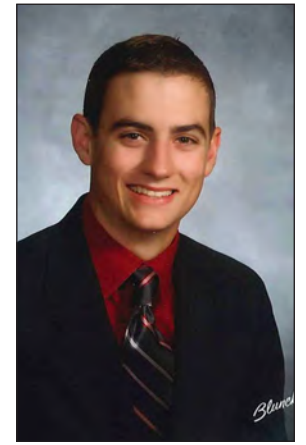
TYLER SCHNAITHMAN GARBER



GATLIN SQUIRES KINGFISHER



SARAH STOLL INDIAHOMA



JARRED STRATE FAIRMONT



MEGAN TRANTHAM BOISE CITY



LACIE UNDERWOOD SHAWNEE



EMILY WILKINSON CEMENT



BRADY WOMACK MORRIS



LAURA WOOD VINITA

Youth Program

Counties & Locals Present Scholarships



BECKHAM COUNTY
LIBBY UNRUH, ELK CITY



CADDO COUNTY
CAMERON NEWPORT, CARNEGIE
PRESENTED BY DUSTIN TACKETT



CADDO COUNTY
SYDNEY DEVAUGHAN, FT. COBB
PRESENTED BY DUSTIN TACKETT



CADDO COUNTY
CORD COFFEY, BINGER
PRESENTED BY VERNA WARREN



CADDO COUNTY
VALERIE SEURER, HINTON
PRESENTED BY VERNA WARREN



CADDO COUNTY
KARLY MURRAY, HINTON
PRESENTED BY VERNA WARREN



CADDO COUNTY
PAIGE SECHRIST, APACHE
PRESENTED BY ROB SWANDA



CADDO COUNTY
ZACHARY JOHNSON, CYRIL
PRESENTED BY JO SCOTT



CADDO COUNTY
KAITLIN SEIBOLD, CEMENT
PRESENTED BY JO SCOTT



CRAIG COUNTY
BAYLEE MENDELL, VINITA
PRESENTED BY JOHN MILLIKAN



JACKSON COUNTY
RANDI THOMPSON, EL DORADO



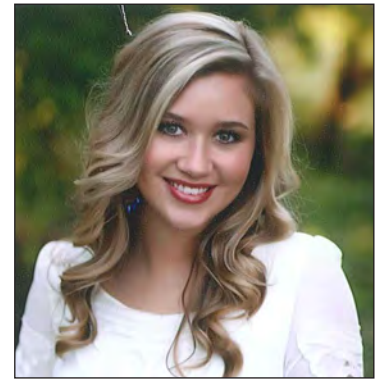
KINGFISHER COUNTY
HAILEY DUFFY, LOYAL
PRESENTED BY DARCY JECH



KINGFISHER COUNTY
DILLON SMITH, KINGFISHER
PRESENTED BY DARCY JECH



KINGFISHER COUNTY
JEFFREY TROUT, KINGFISHER
PRESENTED BY DARCY JECH



KIOWA COUNTY
JACY DUFF, HOBART



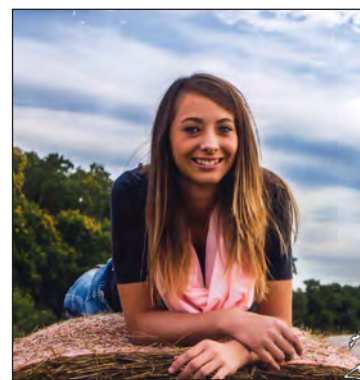
LATIMER COUNTY
WESLEY CORCORAN, PANOLA
PRESENTED BY GWEN WOMMACK



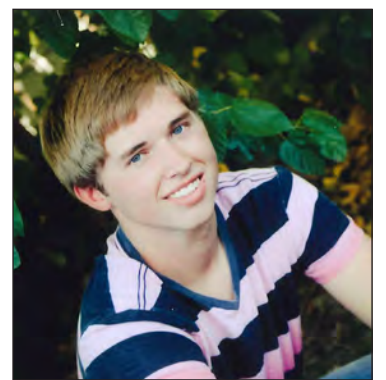
LOVE COUNTY
DEVIN O'CONNOR, MARIETTA
PRESENTED BY JOHNNY HARPER



LOVE COUNTY
MALLORY SYKORA, MARIETTA
PRESENTED BY PEARMAN INSURANCE



MAJOR COUNTY
ASHLEE BECKWITH, CLEO SPRINGS



MAJOR COUNTY
BENJAMIN DETRICK, RINGWOOD



MAJOR COUNTY
BREANNA NIGHTENGALE, FAIRVIEW



MAYES COUNTY
CAYLEE KNOTT, LOCUST GROVE
PRESENTED BY JUSTIN COWAN



MAYES COUNTY
COREY PELL, CHOUTEAU
PRESENTED BY JUSTIN COWAN



MAYES COUNTY
MICHAEL MCFARLAND, LOCUST GROVE
PRESENTED BY JUSTIN COWAN



MAYES COUNTY
WESLEY BURFORD, LOCUST GROVE
PRESENTED BY JUSTIN COWAN

Youth Program

Counties & Locals Present Scholarships



OTTAWA COUNTY
KYLA REYNOLDS, FAIRLAND



PAYNE COUNTY
TY ELWOOD, COYLE
PRESENTED BY MARY MORRIS



ROGER MILLS COUNTY
ABBEY HARTLEY, REYDON
PRESENTED BY JENNIFER LOWRANCE
- YORK



STEPHENS COUNTY
TAYLOR NICHOLS, MARLOW



TILLMAN COUNTY
ASHLEE FRYER, FREDERICK
COURTNEY HAYNES, FREDERICK
PRESENTED BY EDDIE WHITWORTH



WASHITA COUNTY
KENNEDY MERRILL, CORDELL
PRESENTED BY TERRY SPERLE



LOCAL 166
JACY CULLERS, RUSH SPRINGS
PRESENTED BY KYLE JONES



LOCAL 166
HOLDEN NICHOLS, RUSH SPRINGS
PRESENTED BY KYLE JONES



LOCAL 295
MATTHEW HARDIN, BETHEL
PRESENTED BY CYNTHIA PLEMMONS



LOCAL 799
KYLAN TATUM, GRANDFIELD
PRESENTED BY
MIKE HUMBLE

Continued from REDLANDS, 14

lically. Participants must not only judge classes of livestock, they must also explain their judging choices with “reasons” presented in front of the contest facilitators.

AFR/OFU’s sponsorship provides scholarship dollars, trophy awards, lunch and professional staff. Each year, more than \$2,000 in scholarships dollars are awarded to participating 4-H and FFA members.

In addition to the Redlands Com-

munity College Interscholastic Livestock Judging Contest, AFR/OFU also sponsored the Connors State College Interscholastic Livestock Judging Contest held April 2, 2015.

For more information on the livestock judging contest or other AFR/OFU youth events, contact AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer at 405-218-5561 or bboyer@afrmic.com.

Fall Speech Dates

AFR/OFU has announced the dates and locations of the 71st annual AFR/OFU Fall Speech Contest series.

This year’s contest is anticipated to be another great experience for competitors as they vie for a chance to advance to the state contest.

For more information, contact AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer at 405-218-5561 or bboyer@afrmic.com.

- NOV. 5 - NW DISTRICT (AUTRY TECHNOLOGY CENTER, ENID)
- NOV. 10 - CENTRAL DISTRICT (TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL)
- NOV. 12 - SE DISTRICT (EOSC, WILBURTON)
- NOV. 17 - NE DISTRICT (LONESTAR SCHOOL, SAPULPA)
- NOV. 18 - SW DISTRICT (CACHE HIGH SCHOOL)
- DEC. 5 - STATE SPEECH CONTEST (OSU STILLWATER CAMPUS)

Cilantro Lime Grilled Chicken with Strawberry Salsa

Cilantro Lime Grilled Chicken with Strawberry Salsa – a light and refreshing strawberry and jalapeno salsa with cilantro lime marinated grilled chicken, perfect for summer!

Directions

STEP 1

In a blender add the cilantro lime chicken ingredients—olive oil, honey, cilantro, lime zest, lime juice, salt and pepper. Add club soda if using it. Blend for about 30 seconds until smooth.

STEP 2

Place each chicken breast between plastic wrap and gently pound using a meat mallet until chicken is about

1/2 inch in thickness. Place chicken in a large bowl and pour cilantro lime marinade over chicken. Marinate for about 20 minutes.

STEP 3

To make strawberry salsa, toss all the salsa ingredients together in a bowl, cover and refrigerate until chicken is ready to serve. Grill the chicken on both sides, about 3 to 4 minutes per side.

STEP 4

To serve spoon salsa over grilled chicken.

Chef’s Notes

1/4 cup club soda (optional, helps tenderize meat)



Ingredients

Salsa

- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- 1 cup chopped strawberries
- 1 chopped jalapeno pepper
- 5 green onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
- juice from one lime
- salt and pepper to taste

Grilled Chicken

- 4 small chicken breasts
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1 tsp honey
- 1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
- zest from a lime
- juice from a lime
- salt and pepper to taste

Classifieds

News & Views Trading Post

HOME OFFICE DUE DATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FALL ISSUE: SEPT. 1

AFR/OFU NEWS & VIEWS TRADING POST ADS
P.O. BOX 24000, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., 73124
PHONE: 405-218-5590 FAX: 405-218-5589
TRADINGPOSTADS@AFRMIC.COM

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

BOATS, RVS, CAMPERS & TRAILERS

For Sale—2009 CM 5'x14' Trailer, like new. New tires, good spare, brakes both axles. New center caps, rubber floor, all lights work, bulldog ditch center gate, curb gate, slider gate & full rear gate. \$4,200. 580/585-7391.

For Sale—2007 Gulf Stream Toy Hauler, 30 ft. bumper pull. 3.6 kw Generac generator, central heat/air, TV, all kitchen appliance's. New tires with spare, all in excellent working order. \$12,850. 405/624 2448.

HAY, FEED & SEED

For Sale—Small, sq. alfalfa. first & second cutting, \$10 per bale. Small, sq. wheat straw bales, \$4 per bale. 405/459-6543 or 405/574-5571.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

For Sale—Brown leather couch, 7ft. 4in. long, in good shape. \$400. Print, stain-resistant overstuffed chair and foot stool in perfect condition, \$150. Both \$500. Poteau. Call for appointment, 918/635-0701.

LIVESTOCK

For Sale—Reg. polled Hereford bulls and heifers, 12 months - 2 years. Remittal On-line 122L & PW Victor Boomer P606 genetics. 48 years breeding reg. polled Herefords. 580/332-2468.

For Sale—Reg. Beefmaster Bulls, cows, heifers (bred and opens), show heifers. Red, black and dunn. Polled and horned. Can see at www.double-deucebeefmasters.com. 918/253-8680 or 918/557-6923.

For Sale—AQHA buckskin gelding, 2 years, Haida's Lil Pep, \$2,000. 2 year registered paint gelding, \$1750. 2 year registered paint filly, \$2250. 3 year thoroughbred filly for racing, \$2500. All sound. 405/262-4668.

For Sale—Performance-tested PB yearling plus Gelbrich bulls. Red, black and double polled. Low birth weights, docile, fertility tested. Beef, butts and guts. Inda Gelbrich. 405/282-4131 or 405/650-3481.

For Sale—Registered longhorn bulls, ready for breeding. Registered longhorn bred cows & heifers. \$1,800 - \$2,200. Two nice ranch or roping geldings (heading or heeling). Both 14. Gentle. www.cattlecallranch.com or call 580/364-6592.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bee swarms removed. Oklahoma State Beekeepers Assoc. Member. 405/380-2438.

For Sale—"Jazzy Pride" wheelchair. Blue. Used 3 months; paid \$3,500 new. Selling for rock bottom price of \$1,200. E-mail for pictures, dirtpooroke@yahoo.com. Or call if interested, 918/966-3800.

For Sale—Tales of Wagoner County by C. Ray Essary. Exciting WWII era and modern romances; local murder and mayhem. \$19.95,

postpaid. 918/485-5178.
pioneerokie@yahoo.com.

For Sale—110-year-old used bricks, cleaned. 50 cents each. You haul. Wister. 918/655-3126.

WANTED

Wanted—BoxTops for Education, Campbell's & Best Choice UPC codes. Arapaho-Butler Elem. School is buying new playground equipment. Sent to AB Elementary School % Vayda Brown, PO Box 160, Arapaho, Okla. 73620.

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

Wanted—I buy mineral rights in Alfalfa, Blaine, Canadian, Carter, Ellis, Garvin, Grady, Kingfisher, McClain, Roger Mills, Stephens, Woods counties and other state. Call before you sell. 580/227-2456.

In Memoriam



Richard Gebhart - Oklahoma Cattleman's Association, President

A memorial service honoring the life of Richard Perry Gebhart was held on June 4, 2015, at the Claremore Expo Center. Gebhart passed away May 30, 2015, after an illness.

Gebhart was born June 4, 1956, in Frankfurt, West Germany, and was the only child of J.D. and Martha Helene (Perry) Gebhart. He was a fourth generation cattleman who, with his family, owned and operated Beacon Hill Ranch in Langley. The family-owned Hereford operation was established in Northeastern Oklahoma in 1909 and focused on purebred Hereford cattle beginning in the 1950s. In addition to the ranching operation, Gebhart was a professor of Operations Management and Director of Assessment in the Collins College of Business at the University of Tulsa.

He will be missed by family members including his wife, Susan "Miss

Kitty" Gebhart, of Claremore; his daughters Roxane Gebhart of Claremore and Erica Boyer and husband, Matt, of Langley, and their children, McKenzie and Gus; and mother-in-law, Roberta Carter of Tulsa.



Allen D. Mitchell - Former OFU Life Insurance Manager

Allen Dee Mitchell passed away April 13, 2015, in Henrietta, Texas. Mitchell was born in Amorita, Okla., Oct. 2, 1932, to Hugh Allen and Bessie Enid (Gray) Mitchell. Mitchell married Neva Faye Anderson of Glencoe, Okla., on July 12, 1951, in the United Methodist Church. Neva Faye passed away in Nov., 1993.

Mitchell married Shirley Ione Anderson in June, 1994. Shirley currently resides at Grace Care Center in Henrietta, Texas.

He served as a full time and part time pastor, associate pastor and youth minister at many rural United Methodist Churches in Oklahoma and Texas. Mitchell leaves behind a

son, Michael Allen Mitchell and wife Sunny of Henrietta, TX and daughter, Joneva Kay Welle and husband Daniel of Bethany, Okla. Grandchildren Joey Daniel Welle and wife Ashley of Oklahoma City, Okla. Robbie Edward Welle and wife Jenna of Edgewater, Md., Michael Anderson (Andy) Mitchell and wife Jessica of Wichita Falls, Texas and MaiLynn Alexis (Lexi) Mitchell Sanchez D.O. and husband Francisco of Henrietta, Texas. Great-grandchildren are Lorelei Michelle and Raylan Brooks Anderson Mitchell and Reese Elizabeth and Hudson Daniel Welle.



Brian Baker - Son of AFR Agent Kimberlee Kidwell

Brian Kenneth Baker was born Jan. 4, 1979, in Weatherford, Okla., to Michael Baker and Kimberlee Smith. He passed away March 11, 2015, at the Mercy Hospital in Watonga, Okla., at the age of 36. Baker

graduated from Geary High School in 1997 where he was involved in FFA, football and wrestling. He worked in the oilfield at Temtrol and farmed with his grandfather, Kenneth Smith. He was a member of the First Christian Church and attended the First United Methodist Church in Geary.

Baker was preceded in death by his grandfather, Kenneth Baker.

Baker is survived by his son Braxton Kenneth Baker of Calumet, Okla.; parents, Kimberlee Kidwell and her husband Tommy of Geary, Okla., and Mike Baker of Geary, Okla.; grandparents, Kenneth and Dixie Smith and Elizabeth Ann Baker all of Geary and Loy and Janis Kidwell of Ada, Okla.; siblings, Mindy Wigington and her husband Andy of Watonga, Okla., Myra Nettles and her husband Stormy of Dacoma, Okla., and Molly Smith and her husband Andy of Geary; half siblings, Phillip and Katie Baker of Geary, step-sister, Desi Kidwell of Baltimore, Md.; and many nieces and nephews, great-aunts and great-uncles.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

“School of Life”



TERRY DETRICK

HAVE YOU GRADUATED OR ARE YOU STILL ENROLLED?

I recently read a piercing article by a gentleman named Bob Milligan. Dr. Milligan, a professor at Cornell University, elaborated on something about living our life that inspired me and reminded me of something I used to tell my students when, in a previous life, I was a public school teacher and later the principal.

Milligan’s writing was very eloquent. I used a more-simple example by comparing life to a factory. In order to stay productive, I would tell them a factory has to be maintained daily, but also has to have continual updates and sometimes even has to be “retooled.” I would tell my students life is the same as that factory, we must perform daily maintenance, up-grade and sometimes completely remodel, retool and sometimes even change directions if we are going to succeed. “Even if we are on the right track, if we just sit, there we’ll get run over.”

Spring is a joyous time of the year as graduations take place everywhere. We celebrate graduation from kindergarten, eighth-grade or junior high, high school and college each time we achieve a new degree. Then what?

THE CLASSROOM OF LIFE!

My senior year in college accounting class we had a very successful business man as a guest speaker. I remember two things from that talk even today—his beginning and ending statements. His beginning statement was this: “So this is a senior accounting class. Congratulations. Now you are ready to graduate and you are finally prepared to come and tell me how to run my business?” I didn’t fall for it but many did by a positive nod of the head. He then said, “No, you’re just now ready to come and learn how I run my business!” He then emphasized the value of continuing to learn. His closing statement was the motto by which he had achieved tremendous success. “Early to bed, early to rise—work like h___, and advertise!”

We may have graduated in some form or fashion but have we continued to stay enrolled in the “Classroom of Life?” Life is a great teacher if we’ll

learn something from each experience. Granted, sometimes the tuition is expensive!

As a school principal and even still today, I assess the personnel I hire by trying to determine if they really do have five, 10 or 20 years of experience or the same year five, 10 or 20 times. Are they green and growing or ripe and dead?

Please allow me to get on my soap-box for a moment. When as a principal I would put together a teaching staff, I sought out teachers who were committed to teaching the student—not just subject matter. Evaluating a teacher based on the test scores of the class as a whole does not allow that. I commend the Oklahoma Legislature for discontinuing Common Core education which forced teachers to teach kids to pass a test. Every student and class is different—a good teacher takes students from where they are to as far as their limitations will allow

and should be evaluated and compensated based on their ability to do that!

The “Classroom of Life” is a class from which we should never graduate. We just keep striving for promotions. There are practical everyday teachings and there are divine, Biblical lessons to learn and to live by. Drop-outs from the ‘Classroom of Life’ die on the vine!

God bless you all as you keep on living and learning and staying enrolled. Have a blessed summer, study constantly, learn well, profit from each promotion and live each day with your eye on the ultimate, greatest graduation of all!

That leads me to say one more thing. Thursday, June 4, I attended the funeral of a great man who learned more than I could ever imagine or comprehend from the “Classroom of Life.” Look for the article in this paper in which I pay a brief tribute to (Colonel) Richard Gebhart, President, Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association and National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, Treasurer.

—Terry

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 philoso-

RICH HISTORY, BRIGHT FUTURE

We provide diverse membership benefits and programs in our three mission areas—Education, Legislation and Cooperation.

phy—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, provid-

ing unmatched service, unparalleled discounts and boundless opportunities for personal growth.

Today, we continue to focus on the agricultural industry, rural population and families.

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

July 2015

Oklahoma State Big 3, Stillwater	July 14-16
LEAD Kick-Off Event, Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark	July 18
Leadership Summit Teen Session, Wanette	July 26-28
Leadership Summit Senior Session, Wanette	July 29-Aug. 1

August 2015

CareerTech Summer Conference, Tulsa	Aug. 3-4
AFR Women’s Conference, OKC	Aug. 5
Women in Ag & Small Business Conference, OKC	Aug. 6-7
Southern Plains Beef Symposium, Ardmore	Aug. 8
LEAD Seminar with OCA Range Round-Up, Lazy E Arena	Aug. 29

September 2015

NFU Fly-In, Washington, D.C.	Sept. 7-10
LEAD Tour, Noble Foundation, Ardmore	Sept. 11
Septemberfest, OKC	Sept. 12
Oklahoma State Fair, OKC	Sept. 17-27

October 2015

Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa	Oct. 1 - 11
Tulsa State Fair Cattle Grading Contest	Oct. 6
Livestock Premium Sale, Tulsa	Oct. 8

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www.americanfarmersandranchers.com

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

Oklahoma State Union of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America
OUR PRIVACY POLICY: We do not sell our membership information. We do not provide our members’ personal information to persons or organizations outside of our affiliate companies. We afford prospective and former members the same protections as existing members with respect to personal information.
INFORMATION WE MAY COLLECT: We only collect the member’s name, address, e-mail address and phone number.
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE :We do not share any of our members’ personal information with outside entities. Your personal information is used to mail our monthly publication or advise you of information pertinent to your membership in the organization. It may be used to offer you any of our membership benefits. If you are a policy holder of one of our affiliate insurance companies, your information may be shared to verify correct contact information.