



Giving & Accepting
 By Terry Detrick
 Page 20



AFR Employees
 Give Back
 Page 15



Convention Schedule
 & Information
 Page 8-10

AFR Gives Back!



This Christmas season, the AFR Insurance Employee Activity Committee (EAC) spent time with children at the Toby Keith Foundation OK Kids Korral. The December volunteers were (back row, left to right) Kim Johnston, Dadrian Long, Rob Travis, Joann Whittington, Sherry Henricks, Michelle Rowch, Megan Albright, (front row, left to right) Bernadette Autry, Danielle Jackson, Danielle Rogers and Tracy Knoche. For the full story, see page 15.

AFR/OFU Announces 2015 State Convention Gathering

Contributed by
PAUL JACKSON
 State Secretary

The 2015 American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company annual policyholder meeting and the Oklahoma Farmers Union State Convention is scheduled Friday and Saturday, Feb. 13-14, 2015, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 2501 Confer-

ence Drive, Norman, Okla.

During the 110th annual convention, one officer's position, one executive district board of directors seat and one executive director at-large board seat will be decided. The officers and board of directors seats up for election are: Vice President, State Director District 2 and State Director At-Large #1. At the close of the filing

period there are eight candidates:

The officer seat of vice president is up for election. It is currently held by John Porter, Edmond. Opponents for the seat are Monte Womack, Morris, and Eric Bilderback, El Reno.

The director seat for Southwest District #2 is up for election. Currently held by Joe Ed Kinder, Freder-

Turn to **CONVENTION, 7**

USDA Secretary Folds on Second Checkoff

On November 7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service announced it was seeking input from the public to guide in the potential development of a new industry-funded promotion, research and information order (also known as a "checkoff program") for beef and beef products.

The new order would be in addition to the existing beef checkoff program and subject to different rules and procedures, governed by a law entitled the Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996. The existing beef checkoff program is governed by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985.

Below are the official comments submitted to USDA by AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick:

On behalf of over 130,000 members in the state of Oklahoma, American Farmers and Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union (AFR/OFU) submits the following comments regarding the Beef Checkoff as derived from our grassroots membership.

1) AFR/OFU does not support the implementation of an additional Checkoff Program such as the Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996.

Turn to **CHECKOFF, 3**



INSIDE

Livestock Safety
 Concerns, p4

Candidates Ready
 for Election, p11

Reducing Hunger
 in 2015, p13

Industry

White House Plans to End Cuban Embargo

Story provided by
DANIEL ENOCH
Agri-Pulse Communications

On December 17, the White House announced plans to resume diplomatic relations with Cuba and ease a half-century old embargo on travel and commerce with the Communist nation, including trade in agricultural commodities and equipment.

Obama, who spoke to Cuban President Raul Castro by phone for about an hour prior to the announcement, said that while the U.S. embargo against Cuba was well-intentioned, it was also a failure.

"It is clear that decades of U.S. isolation of Cuba have failed to accomplish our enduring objective of promoting the emergence of a democratic, prosperous, and stable Cuba," Obama said. "Though this policy has been rooted in the best of intentions, it has had little effect - today, as in 1961, Cuba is governed by the Castros and the Communist party."

"Allowing the relationships between the two nations and its citizens to renew and blossom is good for both nations."

NFU President
ROGER JOHNSON

The conversation was the first substantive presidential-level discussion between the U.S. and Cuba since 1961.

Obama said he's instructed Secretary of State John Kerry to immediately take steps to open an embassy in Havana. He also said he's ordered

a review of the U.S. listing of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism.

In a fact sheet, the White House said the expansion of trade will "seek to empower the nascent Cuban private sector." Items that will be authorized for export include agricultural equipment for small farmers and goods for use by private sector Cuban entrepreneurs. The White House officials also said the initiative will include easing of some of the rules restricting trade in agricultural goods, which have been allowed since the turn of the century but on a cash-only basis.

Despite the restrictions, the U.S. sold almost \$349 million in agricultural goods to Cuba last year - mostly chicken meat, soybeans and corn -- after reaching a high of \$710 million in 2008.

The White House also said it would:

--Work with Cuba on improving human rights and democratic reforms, along with issues such as migration, counternarcotics, environmental protection and human trafficking.

--Ease travel restrictions on categories including journalism, professional research, educational activities, religious activities, public performances and athletic competitions.

--Raise the limit of money Americans can send to Cuban nationals from \$500 to \$2,000 per quarter.

--Allow Americans to import \$400 worth of goods from Cuba, of which no more than \$100 can con-



Normalized relations between the U.S. and Cuba could be beneficial to the agriculture and trade industries in both nations. *Public domain photo*

sist of alcohol and tobacco products, including Cuba cigars, and only for personal consumption.

Critics of Obama's Cuba policy are well-positioned to block his attempt to open an embassy in Havana. An ambassadorial nomination would have to go through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where Robert Menendez of New Jersey will be the ranking Democrat. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., is a member of the panel. The senators - both Cuban-Americans -- slammed Obama's moves.

"Throughout history, agriculture has served as a bridge to foster cooperation, understanding and the exchange of ideas among people."

Secretary of Agriculture
TOM VILSACK

Major U.S. agricultural groups, however, welcomed the initiative.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said in a statement:

"Throughout history, agriculture has served as a bridge to foster cooperation, understanding and the exchange of ideas among people. I have no doubt agriculture will continue to play that powerful role as we expand our relationship with the Cuban people in the coming years."

National Farmers Union (NFU) President Roger Johnson applauded the Obama administration on the important steps to normalize relations between the U.S. and Cuba.

"NFU has worked hard over the last five years to push for a normalization of relations with Cuba," said Johnson. "Acknowledging that Cuba is one of our closest neighbors and a potentially valuable trading partner, and allowing the relationships between the two nations and its citizens to renew and blossom is good for both nations," he said.

National News Update

Contributed by
STEVE THOMPSON
Policy & Membership Coordinator

New Conservation Commission Executive Named



Trey Lam, Garvin Conservation District board member and former president of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, has been named executive director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

Lam raises alfalfa, corn, soybeans, wheat and cattle. His previous leadership positions include Oklahoma Soybean Association President, Oklahoma Soybean Checkoff board member, Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association President, Oklahoma Alfalfa Hay and Seed Association Vice President and OSU Dean of Agriculture Advisory Council member.

He succeeds Mike Thralls, who retired in September after 17 years of service.



Conaway Named House Ag Chair, Fischer Chief Economist

The House Republican Steering Committee announced on November 19 that Representative Mike Conaway, R-Texas, (left) will become the next chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. Conaway succeeds current Chairman Frank Lucas of Oklahoma, and will assume the gavel in January.

Rep. Conaway has announced the appointment of Bart Fischer (right)

as Chief Economist, overseeing the economic analysis of policies coming before the Committee.

Fischer, a Frederick, Okla., native currently serves as Chief Economist of the House Committee on Agriculture under the leadership of Chairman Lucas. Prior to joining the Committee in June 2011, Fischer worked with the Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M and the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington, DC.



USDA Announces New Whole-Farm Revenue Insurance

The USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced on No-

vember 6 that the new Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance policy is now available for the 2015 crop year in most states.

The policy allows producers to insure 50 to 85 percent of their whole farm revenue and is available for most producers, including fruit and vegetable growers and organic farmers and ranchers.

The Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance includes a range of available levels, coverage for replanting, provisions that increase for expanding operations, a higher maximum amount and the inclusion of market readiness costs.

The new policy will also provide a whole-farm premium subsidy to farms with two or more commodities as long as minimum diversification requirements are met. Whole-Farm Revenue Protection can be purchased in conjunction with individual crop policies as long as those policies are at a buy-up coverage level.

Industry

Neuens Receives Service Award

Information provided by
RON SHOLAR
Great Plains Canola Association



Gene Neuens, Noble, an AFR/OFU member, has received the inaugural Mark C. Boyles Oilseed Industry Meritorious Service Award.

Neuens has worked effectively on behalf of producers in six different states for more than four decades. He is widely respected for his in-depth knowledge of the industry and his willingness to share that knowledge with others.

Neuens spent 30 years working in the agricultural cooperative industry

as either a general manager or as a business consultant. His management skills were highly sought after and he spent much of this time overseeing stressed organizations.

Six years ago, his experience brought him to Oklahoma's fledgling oilseed industry as executive director of Plains Oilseeds Products, LLC (POP), where he worked to provide a value-added market with local delivery points for winter canola grown in the southern Great Plains.

His work with POP led him to work for Oklahoma City's Producers Cooperative Oil Mill (PCOM) for five years. Neuens served as a canola field representative responsible for the promotion of winter canola production and contracting with canola delivery points for canola storage.

Neuens helped create a canola

market for the southern Great Plains and his efforts were instrumental in getting buy-in from the industry and establishing canola buying points so growers could market their crop.

Neuens was a strong advocate for the Oklahoma Oilseed Commission and made significant contributions to the state law that created it. He has been a consistent contributor on the board of directors and as secretary treasurer of the Great Plains Canola Association and has served on the U.S. Canola Association Board.

The Mark C. Boyles Oilseed Industry Meritorious Service Award is presented annually by the Oklahoma Oilseed Commission to an individual who exemplifies the professionalism and passion for the oilseed industry that characterized the life and service of Mark Boyles.

Continued from CHECK-OFF, 1

2) AFR/OFU favors one beef checkoff program controlled by beef producers who have been nominated by qualified livestock production entities and appointed by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture similar to the current selection methods.

3) The USDA appointees will make up the national checkoff board similar to the current Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) and be governed by a slate of executive officers elected by this national board of producers.

4) Livestock "handlers," including but not limited to importers and exporters, will pay the updated check-off and be granted ex-officio status on the overall board and serve in an advisory capacity only.

5) Appointees within a state will elect executive leadership officers and be allowed local control over a portion of the checkoff funds.

6) AFR/OFU favors only one checkoff, and that the checkoff be a \$2 checkoff consisting of \$1 that is non-refundable and \$1 that may be refunded upon formal request by the producer.

7) AFR/OFU favors the right to referendum requiring 10 percent of eligible producers requesting such.

8) AFR/OFU favors an adequate portion of checkoff dollars being allocated to enable administration of research, education and market development initiatives. The contracting for such should be accomplished through appropriately elected executive leadership and implementation of a committee structure that mandates the best possible accountability and efficiency while being subject to USDA audit at all times and mandatory annual audits.

After Detrick submitted comments on behalf of the AFR/OFU membership, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced on December 19 that USDA would be abandoning its efforts to create another beef checkoff under the 1996 law.

Vilsack cited two reasons for walking away from the proposal. First, language to prohibit USDA from using any funds to create a second beef checkoff was included in the federal spending bill. Second, there was little support in the industry to have two separate checkoff programs running side-by-side.










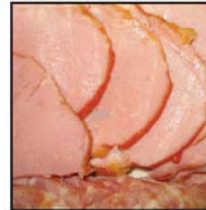





AFR/OFU supports many legislative causes throughout the year on behalf of its membership. If you have an issue you think merits further investigation or support, contact AFR/OFU Policy & Membership Coordinator Steve Thompson at sthompson@afmic.com. Thompson should also be contacted for more information on AFR/OFU's position on beef checkoff reform. For the most up-to-date information on legislative efforts, follow the American Farmers & Ranchers Facebook page.



Farmer's Share of Retail Food Dollar

Did you know that farmers and ranchers receive only 15.8* cents of every food dollar that consumers spend on food at home and away from home?

According to USDA, off farm costs including marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing account for more than 80 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States.

Bacon 1 Pound  Retail: \$6.06 Farmer: \$0.90	Top Sirloin Steak 1 Pound  Retail: \$6.99 Farmer: \$2.70	Bread 2 Pounds  Retail: \$2.19 Farmer: \$0.16	Fresh Carrots 5 Pounds  Retail: \$4.39 Farmer: \$1.65	Wheat Bagel 1 - 4 oz. bagel  Retail: \$0.96 Farmer: \$0.01
Cereal 18 Ounce Box  Retail: \$4.69 Farmer: \$0.05	Tomatoes 1 Pound  Retail: \$2.99 Farmer: \$0.74	Eggs 1 Dozen  Retail: \$3.89 Farmer: \$1.48	Flour 5 Pounds  Retail: \$3.49 Farmer: \$0.78	Boneless Ham Price per Pound  Retail: \$4.39 Farmer: \$0.90
Lettuce 1 Head (2 Pounds)  Retail: \$2.19 Farmer: \$0.35	Milk 1 Gallon, Fat Free  Retail: \$3.89 Farmer: \$1.75	Potato Chips Lays Classic, 10.5 oz  Retail: \$4.79 Farmer: \$0.20**	Fresh Potatoes Russet, 5 Pounds  Retail: \$4.39 Farmer: \$0.42**	Soda Two Liter Bottle  Retail: \$1.49 Farmer: \$0.06

Farmer's share derived from USDA, NASS "Agricultural Prices," 2014.
Retail based on Safeway (SE) brand except where noted.
*Figure according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service
**Reflects November 2014 price.

Industry

Livestock Handling Common Cause of Injury

Contributed by
LAICI WEDEL
Communications Director

For Oklahoma farmers and ranchers, processing cattle is all in a day's work. Each year, cow-calf herd owners pre-condition calf crops for market, stocker operators process young cattle to fight off illness and operations of all sizes gather, load and ship cattle to and from market.

It is during these times that a substantial number of farm- and ranch-related injuries occur.

By the Numbers

While there is no single, continuous source of national non-fatal agriculture accidents, some snapshot and state-specific studies give us a glimpse at the numbers.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the five-year period from 1992-1997, more than 75,000 people sustained animal-related injuries. Of those, 375 people died from their injuries.

Incidence of injury has not diminished over the years. In 2011, the rate of injury reported by those working in animal production was still 6.7 per 100 workers.

Perhaps the most clear picture of injuries related to handling livestock comes from state-specific studies.

Analyzing data from the Colorado Workmen's Compensation (CWC) from 1997-2006, animal behavior expert Temple Grandin found that riding horses and processing cattle through a squeeze chute caused the greatest percentage of livestock-related injuries on farms, ranches and

large-scale livestock facilities.

For those instances not related to horses considered by the Colorado-based study, in high-volume facilities such as feedlots or gathering facilities, equipment-related injuries, such as cattle kicking gates into workers, squeeze chute equipment issues and other gate-related accidents, accounted for 21 percent of all injuries reported. Non-gate-related kicks, cattle trampling and other injuries related to moving cattle on foot accounted for an additional 25 percent.

In lower volume facilities, such as private ranches or farms, the same categories of injuries were reported less frequently, but still often. Equipment-related injuries including squeeze chutes and gates accounted for 4 percent and direct livestock injuries accounted for 13 percent.

“Remember that human physical, psychological and physiological factors greatly affect the occurrence of life threatening accidents.”

Oklahoma State University
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Closer to home, a 1998-2001 analysis showed farm-related accidents were the leading cause of work-related deaths in Oklahoma, accounting for nearly 25 percent of deaths in the time period.

Of the incidents studied in Oklahoma, 39 percent were related to livestock farming or ranching.



Moving large numbers of cattle can increase the likelihood of injury to workers.
Oklahoma State University photo

Human Error

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service suggests that the “human element” plays a major role in the human error side of livestock handling injuries. As with any workplace injury, many livestock handling incidents happen when workers are tired, hurried, upset, preoccupied or careless. OSU Extension urges farmers and ranchers to “remember that human physical, psychological and physiological factors greatly affect the occurrence of life threatening accidents.”

According to researchers at Virginia Tech Extension, animals are involved in 17 percent of all farm injuries, equivalent to the number of accidents involving farm machinery. As we move toward spring calving season, one specific statistic stands out: 68 percent of livestock injuries sustained by men occur during calving season.

Perhaps the most sobering figure in the literature on livestock handling injuries relates to farming and ranching's aging population. According to an article in *Western Farmer Stockman* from 2008, livestock is the leading cause of injury among aging producers. Tractor or large equipment injuries account for only 11 percent of injuries in older farmers and ranchers, while livestock-related injuries account for a staggering 44.5 percent.

This increased incidence of injury among the aging certainly has a variety of causes, but one stands out. According to researchers with Virginia Tech Extension, producers dealing with the impacts of arthritis have 3.5 times more risk of injury while handling large animals.

“For young people involved in the process, safety is paramount.”

AFR/OFU President
TERRY DETRICK

In most cases, a better understanding of how an animal may respond to human interaction and immediate surroundings can prevent injury.

It is important to meet with your OSU Extension specialist if you need a better understanding of beef animals in general or the way your working pens may impact the behavior of your herd.

Instilling Safety

In the CWC study mentioned above, Temple Grandin found lack of experience to be the primary contributor in livestock-related injuries. Agriculture workers with six months or less experience suffered almost twice as many injuries as their more experienced counterparts. Closer to home, a 1997 Oklahoma State University study showed that more than 50 percent of injuries studied were due to human error, while equipment and facilities accounted for about 25 percent.

In recent years, AFR/OFU has in-

Turn to SAFETY, 5



The team from the Pawnee FFA Chapter won the 2014 Tulsa Farm Show Livestock Handling Competition. Team members are (left to right) Bethany Piotrowski, Erin Caldwell and John Barger. Pictured with the winning team are (left to right) AFR/OFU Northeast District Director Jim Shelton, Pawnee FFA Chapter Advisor XXXXXXX, AFR/OFU At-Large Director #1 Roy Perryman, AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick, Priefert Representative XXXXXXX, Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak and Oklahoma Insurance Department Field Representative Amanda Riddle. Staff photo

Industry

Continued from SAFETY, 4

creased its efforts to reduce the likelihood of livestock-related injury, at least in the youth of Oklahoma.

Every year, the organization hosts the Tulsa Farm Show Livestock Handling Competition, which spans several months and several areas of expertise.

"The livestock handling contest is a hands-on learning contest for students interested in cattle production," said AFR/OFU Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer. "It utilizes knowledge of the industry and cattle-handling skills to create a contest that is practical and extremely beneficial."

The contest begins in July with a written exam at OSU's Big Three Field Days that measures students' knowledge of livestock handling practices.

At the state competition, held at the Tulsa Farm Show each December, the competition emphasizes the application of classroom study to actual agricultural production scenarios. In order to excel, students must take knowledge out of the classroom



Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak addresses the audience and competitors at this year's Tulsa Farm Show Livestock Handling Competition. A strong supporter of Oklahoma youth, Doak noted the importance of teaching livestock handling safety at an early age. *Staff photo*

and apply it in a real world situation.

"In an industry where cattle of all ages and backgrounds are sent through the chute, stress-free processing is a primary concern for cattlemen," said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick. "For young people involved in the process, safety is paramount."

For the state competition, teams' knowledge must be translated in two ways. First, teams must properly communicate their knowledge to the public through a static presentation. Then, teams must actually work two calves to show their ability to apply written knowledge to real-life livestock handling. The calf processing portion varies each year, but can include vaccinations, growth implants, dewormer, ear tags and several other components of cattle health.

Contestants are judged on skill, accuracy and efficiency as they process the animals.

This year, nine teams of three qualified for the state competition, where they were guaranteed cash

scholarship awards. Top-placing teams also received prize buckles. All prizes were sponsored in part by AFR/OFU. In addition, this year's first place team won a Priefert Sweep System for their entire FFA chapter.

Each year, AFR/OFU partners

"For some students, this is what they want to do... This contest is literally 'real life.'"

AFR/OFU Youth Coordinator
BLAIRE BOYER

with Midwest Shows, Inc., and other sponsors to offer the livestock handling program.

The contest has had a consistent following with several FFA chapters throughout the state and is now gaining momentum among new chapters, allowing for more diverse competitors and stiffer competition.

For newcomers like the Locust Grove FFA Chapter, the contest is a whole new world.

FFA chapters new to the livestock handling competition are not just familiarizing themselves with a new contest, but a different type of contest.

"This contest is unique in that students don't need to speak publically or have a lot of parental support. All they need is a willing ag teacher and working knowledge of how to process cattle quickly and safely," said Boyer.

"For some students, this is what they want to do for their livelihoods. This contest is literally 'real life.'"

For more information on the Livestock Handling Competition or other AFR/OFU-sponsored youth events, contact Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer at 405-218-5561 or bboyer@afmic.com.



Top: The first place Pawnee team worked quickly and accurately as one unit. Each team member completed their individual tasks with ease and assisted teammates as needed. *Staff photo*

A contest facilitator helps a member of the Pawnee team during a practice run by holding the head of the calf. Some calves are unruly in the squeeze chute so facilitators are always near to help student competitors, especially as they work near the head of the animal. *Staff photo*

The winners of this year's Tulsa Farm Show Livestock Handling Skills Competition were:

1ST PLACE, PAWNEE FFA

Erin Caldwell, Bethany Piotrowski and John Barger

2ND PLACE, PERKINS - TRYON FFA,

Jake Gould, Ty Elwood and Kaylee Bruncker

3RD PLACE, MADILL FFA

Will Shelby, Jacob Hartin and Tucker Burns

4TH PLACE, LATTA FFA

Taw Sherrel, Tristan Monroe and Will Wilson

5TH PLACE, CRESCENT FFA

Tee Barnes, Tommy Ryland and Maddie Cox

6TH PLACE, HYDRO - EAKLY FFA

Alexia Carney, Denham York and Trey Whitley

7TH PLACE, LOCUST GROVE FFA

Corey Pell, Wesley Burford and Michael McFarland

8TH PLACE, GLENCOE FFA

Aaron Matheson, Marquee Bundee and Will Goering

9TH PLACE, FRONTIER FFA

Colton Lane, Callie Lane and Taelor Baetz

Industry

DID YOU KNOW

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



Beef Safety Research

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



Public Relations

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



Product Enhancement Research

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



New Product Development

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



Advertising

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



Foreign Marketing

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



Channel Marketing

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



Nutrition Research

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



Industry Information

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

*From the Cattlemen's Beef Board budget

GET TO KNOW
YOUR CHECKOFF

MyBeefCheckoff.com



Funded by the Beef Checkoff.

SHARE
THE FACTS



#beef11:1

Membership

Sweet Spirit Foods Finds Success with FAPC

Contributed by
MANDY GROSS
FAPC Communications

Many churches operate day care centers, preschools or even private schools as part of their outreach ministry and supplemental revenue stream to congregational giving. However, Christian Life Missionary Baptist Church in Oklahoma City took a unique approach by establishing Sweet Spirit Foods in July 2002.

This unique entrepreneurial enterprise was launched under the vision and leadership of Pastor Jayel Jacobs, Jr. and the late Joyce Jacobs with one "Snowie building," a mobile building with a self-contained water system, sinks, hand washing, hot water heater and other requirements of the Department of Health.

Later, Sweet Spirit Foods would operate two mobile food trucks, four Snowie buildings, a convenience store and a car wash serving Oklahoma City, and a restaurant serving Langston, Okla., all run by church member volunteers.

The church soon focused on marketing Sweet Spirit's barbecue sauces. Janee (Gipson) Jacobs, who married Pastor Jacobs following the passing of his first wife, began to drive that part of its mission.

The project of having Sweet Spirit barbecue sauce professionally bot-



If you have a food product idea you would like to commercialize, FAPC can help you. Call 405-744-6071, email fapc@okstate.edu or visit www.fapc.biz. FAPC photo

tled came about during the same time Janee Jacobs was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"God knew exactly what I needed," she said. "I was going to radiation treatments every day, and I would come home and sit in front of the window with the church's laptop. I didn't know where to begin, but I knew the Internet would at least get me started."

One of the first websites that Jacobs pulled up was step-by-step instruction on how to bottle barbecue

sauce for sale to the public. The article discussed a low-cost way of having the sauce tested that suggested taking it to a local university.

In June 2003, Jacobs contacted Chuck Willoughby, FAPC business and marketing relations manager, to help identify a co-packer and obtain nutrition facts information.

"Being an Oklahoma State University graduate, I was drawn to the campus I called home," Jacobs said. "It was there that



God connected us to Willoughby. From day one, he has been a great adviser. When we don't know what to do or how to do it, but we want to do it right, we involve Chuck."

Willoughby has been working with Sweet Spirit Foods for 11 years.

"I remember when Janee first called and noted that their sauce was really popular in their restaurant and how they wanted to sell it as a fundraiser in front of stores and even door to door," Willoughby said. "I thought that was a very creative approach to entering the market, given the numerous brands of barbecue sauce already available."

FAPC has continued to work with Sweet Spirit Foods over the years, providing trade show opportunities and label review for Food and Drug Administration compliance, brainstorming marketing ideas, offering feedback for its revised website and taking new product photos.

Sweet Spirit Foods is now a Made in Oklahoma vendor selling outside Boone Pickens Stadium before, during and after each home game.

"The Sweet Spirit family grows each game day with wonderful people from right here in Oklahoma and other states as well," she said.

ROBERT M. KERR

Food & Agricultural Products Center

Continued from CONVENTION, 1

ick, Lee Horton, Lone Wolf, opposes.

The At-Large #1 director seat is up for election. The seat is currently held by Roy Perryman, Stigler. Opponents are Matt Burris, Stratford, and Ryan Plemmons, Broken Bow.

County and local policy resolutions received by the office of the secretary are now being considered by the AFR/OFU Policy Committee.

Bylaw proposals have been considered by the AFR/OFU Bylaw Committee and will be published on the website (www.iafr.com) according to bylaw requirements.

Both dues-alone and policyholder members are eligible to attend convention as delegates, but dues-alone members are only allowed to vote on matters of the cooperative. Policyholders are eligible to vote on both cooperative and insurance matters.

Only registered delegates wearing a delegate badge may vote in the election of officers and directors.

Delegates to the NFU Convention in Wichita, Kan., March 14-17 will be elected at state convention on the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 14.

Deceased AFR policyholders and OFU members who have passed since last convention and are listed in the AFR/OFU Memorial Roll will be remembered in a memorial recognition held during general session.

*Rich Heritage
Bright Future*



AFR/OFU State Convention 2015

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL POLICYHOLDERS' MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

In accordance with Article III, Section 1, of the Bylaws of the American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company, notice is hereby given that the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Policyholders of the American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 2501 Conference Drive, Norman, Okla., February 13-14, 2015 beginning at 1:15 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13, 2015. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. with the meeting scheduled to convene at 1:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 2015. Presentations of business and financial reports, election of officers and directors, consideration of proposed bylaw amendments, and other necessary business will be conducted at this meeting.

Terry Detrick, President
Paul Jackson, Secretary

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA STATE UNION OF THE FARMERS EDUCATIONAL AND COOPERATIVE UNION OF AMERICA, INC.

In accordance with Article VII, Section 1, of the Bylaws of the Oklahoma State Union of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, Inc., the 2015 Annual Membership Meeting of the Oklahoma State Union of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, Inc., will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 2501 Conference Drive, Norman, Okla., February 13-14, 2015. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. with the meeting scheduled to convene at 1:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 2015. Presentations of business and financial reports, election of officers and directors, consideration of proposed bylaw amendments, consideration and adoption of policy resolutions, and other necessary business will be conducted at this meeting.

Terry Detrick, President
Paul Jackson, Secretary

Don't forget to donate to the PAC Auction!

The AFR/OFU Political Action Committee works for you by supporting the organization's legislative efforts. Help your voice be heard by supporting your PAC!

All items are accepted. Examples of donated items include:

- Household Items
- Yard Ornaments
- Decorative Items
- Collectors Items
- Memorabilia
- Furniture
- Paintings
- Metal Art
- Jewelry
- Quilts

Please donate PAC items by Friday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Steve Thompson at 405-218-5563.

NOTICE! NOTICE!

Bylaw proposals have been considered by the bylaws committee and will be published on the website (www.iafr.com) according to bylaw requirements.

Membership

Rich Heritage, Bright Future AFR/OFU State Convention 2015



Schedule of Events

Friday, Feb. 13, 2015

- 9 a.m. Registration, PAC, Ticket Sales, Trade Show Open
Agent Resource Room Opens
- 9:30 a.m. Policy Committee Meeting
Delegate Bylaws Info Session & Lunch *Jeri D. Towler, Attorney*
- 11:15 a.m. Agent Recognition Luncheon *Sp. by Willis Re*
Pledge of Allegiance *Justin Cowan, At-Large Director #2*
Luncheon Guest Speaker *Insurance Comm. John Doak*

FIRST GENERAL SESSION

- 1 p.m. Door Prizes *Sp. by Custom Promotional Products*
Beef Certificates *Sp. by the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association*
Invocation *Lendell Birdsong, Chaplain*
Pledge of Allegiance *Mike Humble, At-Large Director #3*
- 1:15 p.m. Calls to Order *Terry Detrick, President*
Meeting Notices, Convention Rules, Committees
& Appointments *Anita Poole Endsley, Parliamentarian*
Bylaws Changes Purpose/Overview *Jeri D. Towler, Attorney*
Bylaws & Articles Consideration *Terry Detrick, Pres. & Chair*
Election Committee Report *Paul Jackson, Chairman*
Candidate Speeches *Paul Jackson, Chairman*
Voting Opens
Milk & Cookies Break *Sp. by DairyMAX & Cox Communications*
Great American Milk Drive *Maddie Cook, Okla. Dairy Princess*
CEO Report *Richard Herren, Chief Executive Officer*
Financials Report *Tara Brooks, CFO & Treasurer*
Membership Report *Paul Jackson, Secretary*
Vice President Report *John Porter, Vice President*
President Report *Terry Detrick, President*
NFU Policy Report *Brett Morris, Grady County Farmers Union*
Consideration & Adoption of Policy
Phil Berkenbile, Policy Committee Chair
- 6:30 p.m. Kids Corral & Pizza Adventure

SECOND GENERAL SESSION

- 7 p.m. AFR/OFU Veteran's Tribute
Pledge of Allegiance *Roy Perryman, At-Large Director #1*
Youth Program *Blaire Boyer, Youth Coordinator*
Poster Contest Winners
AFR/OFU Touchbearer Recognition
State Scholarship Recipients
Youth "Year in Review"
Past Youth Participant Remarks
Amber Moser McNeil, Program Manager, Corvias Military Living
Remarks *Taylor Spears, Miss National High School Rodeo Queen*
Live & Silent PAC Auction
- 9 p.m. Northwest Area Meeting
Registration, Voting, Ticket Sales Close

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015

- 8 a.m. Registration, Voting, Ticket Sales, Trade Show Open
Silent Auction Continues

THIRD GENERAL SESSION

- 8:15 a.m. Door Prizes *Sp. by Custom Promotional Products*
Beef Certificates *Sp. by the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association*
Invocation *Lendell Birdsong, Chaplain*

- Pledge of Allegiance *Joe Ed Kinder, District 2 Director*
Sponsor Remarks *Danna Fowble, Clean Line Energy*
"Cutting Edge Technologies & Agriculture Application"
Moderated by Jim Shelton, District 3, Director
"Feeding the World: Meeting the Demand" *(Speaker Invited)*
"Farming Weather Technology & Forecasting the Future"
Al Sutherland, Oklahoma Mesonet, Norman
"Livestock Challenges & Opportunities" *(Speaker Invited)*
"Emerging Field Technologies & Applications"
Ryan Johnson, PinPoint Integrated Sltns Specialist, P&K Equip., Enid
- 10:30 a.m. Milk & Cookies Break *Sp. by DairyMAX & Clean Line Energy*
- 10:45 a.m. Youth Partnership Remarks
Tom Manske, Development Director, Oklahoma 4-H Foundation
Remarks *Roger Johnson, NFU President*
- 11:45 a.m. Women's Luncheon
Whitney Danker, State Advocacy & Public Policy Director
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
- 12 p.m. Ticket Sales & Silent Auction Close
NFU Delegates Card Deadline

FOURTH GENERAL SESSION

- 1:15 p.m. Memorial Service & Recognition
- 1:45 p.m. Door Prizes *Sp. by Custom Promotional Products*
Beef Certificates *Sp. by the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Assoc.*
- 1:30 p.m. Sponsor Remarks *Susan Lively Allen, DairyMAX*
"Communicating Agriculture: How to Talk the Talk"
Moderated by Terry Peach, District 1 Director
Ron Hays, Radio Okla. Network, Mike Dain, Okla. News Network,
Kirby Smith, Public Information Manager, ODAFF
- 2 p.m. Registration & Voting Booths Close
- 2:30 p.m. Remarks *Dr. Thomas Coon, VP, Dean and Director of DASNR, OSU*
- 2:45 p.m. Election Results, Completion of Business
NFU Delegates Election
- 3 p.m. Milk & Cookies Break *Sp. by DairyMAX & Clean Line Energy*
- 3:30 p.m. Breakout Session: "Succession Planning: Are You Ready?"
Shannon Ferrell, OSU, & Mike Mayberry, Oklahoma Ag Mediation
Agent's Association Meeting
- 4 p.m. Trade Show Closes
- 6 p.m. VIP Guests Reception

CONVENTION BANQUET

- 6:30 p.m. Banquet Doors Open
Pre-Session Entertainment *Beth Hallum*
- 7 p.m. Welcome *Terry Detrick, President*
Invocation *Lendell Birdson, Chaplain*
Pledge of Allegiance *Bob Holley, District 4, Director*
National Anthem *Beth Hallum*
Dinner *Pork entrée sponsored by Oklahoma Pork Council*
Dinner Entertainment *Kyle Dillingham & Horseshoe Road*
Sponsor Remarks *Roy Lee Lindsey, Exec. Dir., Okla. Pork Council*
County Leadership Achievement Award
Remarks *Garrett Reed, Oklahoma State FFA President*
Remarks *U.S. Senator James Lankford (Invited)*
Meritorious Service Recognition *James McManus*
Entertainment *"Jarrett Dougherty: Live from Branson Comedy"*
Grand Door Prize Drawing *Sp. by Farm Credit and P&K Equipment*
Sponsor Remarks *Farm Credit and P&K*
God Bless America *Beth Hallum*

Membership

Convention Special Guests



Dr. Thomas Coon

Vice President, Dean and Director of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, OSU



Ron Hays

Director of Farm Programming, Radio Oklahoma Network, Griffin Communications



Mike Mayberry

Executive Director, Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program



Mike Dain

Farm News Director of the Oklahoma AgriNet



Roger Johnson

President of National Farmers Union



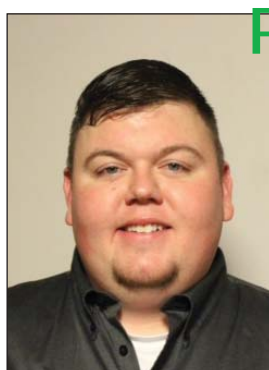
Kirby Smith

Public Information Manager, Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Forestry



Whitney Danker

State Advocacy & Public Policy Director, Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma



Ryan Johnson

PinPoint Integrated Solutions Specialist, P&K Equipment, Enid



Al Sutherland

Agricultural Coordinator of the OSU Mesonet, National Weather Center



Dr. Shannon Ferrell

Associate Professor specializing in Ag Law, OSU Department of Agricultural Economics

*Rich Heritage
Bright Future*



AFR/OFU State Convention 2015



Kyle Dillingham & Horseshoe Road

2011 International Acoustic Music Award winner, Bluegrass/Country category

Get ready for a high energy, uplifting musical experience. With an eclectic musical style including blues, bluegrass, gypsy jazz, Western swing, country, rock and gospel, Horseshoe Road blends an earthy genre of music they call Heartland Acoustic.

Kyle Dillingham of Oklahoma City, started playing the violin when he was nine. While still in high school, Dillingham was featured with Roy Clarke and twice on Nashville's Grand Ole Opry. He later toured with western-swing legend, Hank Thompson. Kyle has taken his music to over 30 countries earning him the title of "Oklahoma's Musical Ambassador."



Jarrett Dougherty as Mr. MT Arms
One of the Funniest Acts in Branson!

Raised in Ava, Mo., Jarrett Dougherty has always elicited laughter from those around him. During his school years, Dougherty was notorious for causing comedic disruptions. He spent so much time in the principal's office he was often mistaken for the assistant principal!

After traveling for years as the drummer for award-winning musical groups, Dougherty returned to his home state, settling near Branson in 1995. He quickly gained popularity in the entertainment community for his musical and comedic talents. Currently, he is co-starring with country music artist, Billy Dean, at The Starlite Theatre. His side-splitting humor has earned him recognition as one of Branson's funniest comedians.

Membership

Grand Prize

John Deere S240 Sport Lawn Tractor

18.5 horsepower, Hydrostatic Automatic Transmission
42" EDGE Cutting System, High Back Seat



GRAND DOOR PRIZE

All new model for 2015!

John Deere Lawn Sweeper

Clean up Grass clippings and leaves easy and quickly!



Winner takes home all 4!

Stihl FS56 RC-E Straight Shaft String Trimmer & Stihl BG55 Handheld Blower



Must be present to win!!

This year's grand door prize is sponsored by Farm Credit of Eastern Okla., Farm Credit of Western Okla., Chisholm Trail Farm Credit & P&K Equipment.

Women's Luncheon Food Drive

The AFR/OFU Women's Committee will be gathering items during the Women's Luncheon on Saturday. See page 13 for more information!

Special Features

"Shine to Go" Shoe Shine Stands
Kids Korral & Pizza Adventure Night
Beef Certificate Drawings
Great American Milk Drive Donation Site
Bring Your Ralgro Wheels to Convention!
Trade Show with More than 50 Vendors!

Convention Sponsors

Willis Re



SAVE THE WHEELS!

Start saving empty Ralgro Wheels Now!

Help fund scholarships & leadership training for Oklahoma's next generation of ranchers.



For every wheel received, Merck Animal Health will give \$1 to OCA Scholarship and Leadership Programs.



For more information or to turn Ralgro Wheels in, call the OCA Office at 405-235-4391

Membership

Candidates Gear Up for Convention Election

The officer seat of vice president is up for election. It is currently held by John Porter, Edmond. Opponents for the seat are Monte Womack, Morris, and Eric Bilderback, El Reno.

John Porter, Edmond



John Porter, a third-generation AFR Insurance agent, was raised on a dairy and beef farm east of Stillwater. He graduated from Quay High School, where he was involved in sports and judged beef and dairy cattle as a member of the FFA. After high school, he majored in business administration at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond and was a member of the Oklahoma National Guard from 1965 to 1971.

In July 1973, Porter was hired by Oklahoma Farmers Union to adjust insurance claims, first as a property loss adjuster and then as a multi-line adjuster. By the 1980s, he was a claims department supervisor.

During his 36-year career with AFR/OFU, Porter has worked directly with several organization presidents in various capacities. He was elected AFR/OFU Vice President in 2010 and remains an active insurance agent through the agency he shares with his daughter in Edmond.

He is a member of the Oklahoma Softball Hall of Fame, an Oklahoma High School Sports Association referee and a participant and member of the Player Youth Program. He is also a member of Lakeside Golf Course in Stillwater and has been a member of Sunnybrook Christian Church for 27 years.

Porter and his wife, Patti, have two daughters—Shandra, an AFR agent, and Tressa, married to Attorney Jacob Diesselhorst—and three grandchildren. Porter's parents, Charles, Jr., and Alta were AFR agents and his grandfather, Charles Porter, Sr., was an OFU agent. His brother, Charles Porter III, continues the family agency in Stillwater.

Eric Bilderback, El Reno



Eric Bilderback was raised on a small farm near El Reno. He earned an associate degree from Eastern

Oklahoma State College, a B.S. in Agricultural Education from OSU and an M.S. in Educational Leadership from Southern Nazarene University.

While working as the agricultural instructor in Chattanooga, Bilderback led his students in the classroom, show ring and FFA competitions. In 2002, he was named the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (CareerTech) Outstanding Young Agriculture Teacher of the Year.

In 2004, he became the Redlands Community College Agriculture/Equine Department Head and Livestock Judging Coach. He managed the progressive agriculture program that encompassed 600 acres, served 130 students and employed 20 people. During his tenure, the program's enrollment grew 125 percent and the budget increased 150 percent to \$1.5 million.

In 2006, Bilderback joined Oklahoma CareerTech as an agricultural education program specialist. He supervised 79 schools and 95 teachers in CareerTech's southeast district, was a liaison between school administrators and instructors and managed the entry-year teacher program with 42 new instructors.

Bilderback served on the AFR/OFU Board of Directors from 2011 to 2014. While on the board, he served as chairman of the Compensation Committee and was a member of the Audit and Building Committees.

Bilderback is currently the El Reno High School agricultural instructor and farms/ranches. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Sirloin Club, the Oklahoma Cattleman's Association and Heaston Community Church. He and his wife, Shelly, have been married 17 years and have one daughter, Lauren.

Monte Womack, Morris



Monte Womack, Morris, a 17-year AFR/OFU member, grew up in Idabel and was a state FFA officer.

At Eastern Oklahoma State College, Womack was student senate president, Outstanding Agriculture Student and a member of the Aggie Club and livestock judging team. He earned his bachelor's and master's in agricultural education from OSU, where he was Collegiate FFA President and an Ag Council and Outstanding Collegiate member.

Womack began teaching in Weleetka as an agricultural education instructor. He received the Out-

standing Young Teacher Award, was elected to the Oklahoma Agriculture Education Teachers' Board and Oklahoma and National FFA Alumni Councils, and served on the National Agriculture Education Legislative Task Force and the National FFA Alumni Legislative Internship.

Womack has served in administration for 17 years in Valliant, Hinton, Madill and Morris. He has been the Marshall County Chamber President, a 4-H program leader and a member of the OSU Extension Advisory Council, Lions Club, Kiwanis and Masonic Lodge.

Womack is past FFA Alumni Council Chairman and a member of the FFA Foundation Board. He is in the State FFA Officer Hall of Fame, holds Honorary State and American FFA Degrees, volunteers at OYE, and is the music director at Morris First Baptist Church.

Womack has been involved with the AFR/OFU Japan Exchange Program, judging and speech contests, Youth Advisory Council, scholarships and achievement awards.

Womack and his wife, Reina, have been married 34 years. They have five sons, all lifetime FFA Alumni members. Two have served on the AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council.

The director seat for Southwest District #2 is up for election. Currently held by Joe Ed Kinder, Frederick, Lee Horton, Lone Wolf, opposes.



Joe Ed Kinder, Frederick

Joe Ed Kinder grew up on a farm near Chattanooga in Tillman County and graduated from Chattanooga High School in 1960.

He has been a member of Oklahoma Farmers Union since the late 1950s and has had Oklahoma Farmers Union or AFR Insurance since that time.

Kinder and his wife, Jo Ann, were married in 1961 and have lived in the Chattanooga and Frederick area since then. The Kinder farming and ranching operation consists of wheat, cotton and cow/calf pairs on 2,920 owned acres and 320 rented acres. The Kinders have two children, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Kinder has served on the AFR/OFU Policy Committee and Bylaws Committee, the NFU Policy Committee and the NFU Policy Working Group twice. He has also participated in the organization's legislative

action "fly-ins" to Washington, D.C., was an NFU national delegate and has served the last 4 years on the AFR/OFU Board of Directors, working with the rest of the board to rebuild the AFR Insurance surplus.

In addition to his service to AFR/OFU, Kinder served on the Tillman County Rural Water District #1 for 12 years, with 9 years as president, and on the Chattanooga Town Board for 18 years, with 12 years as mayor. He has also been chairman of the Chattanooga Public Works Authority and chairman of the Chattanooga Airport Board. He has also served on the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association Board and chaired the Red River Terrace Water Authority.



Lee Horton, Lone Wolf

Lee Horton, 47, is a life-long resident of Kiowa County and a life-long member

of AFR/OFU. He owns and operates a cow/calf operation near Lone Wolf. In addition to farming since 1990, he has been employed in road maintenance by Kiowa County for 18 years.

Horton was raised on a cattle and wheat farm near Hobart and graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1986. He was a member of Class XII of the Oklahoma Agriculture Leadership Program (OALP).

Horton has served on the local Kiowa County AFR/OFU board for several years and is currently the president. He has attended many AFR/OFU state conventions.

Horton has served the Lone Wolf community as a volunteer fireman for 20 years. He is currently the Lone Wolf Fire Chief. He has also served on the Lone Wolf School Board since 1997, including holding the offices of president, vice president and secretary. He is a former member of his conservation district and, through civic duties, he has overseen legislative issues and many lobbying opportunities at the Oklahoma Capitol.

Horton and his wife, Margie, have been married 24 years and are members of the First Baptist Church of Lone Wolf. They have 5 children—Courtney, Trenton, Mary, Johnny and Joey. In his spare time, Horton enjoys spending time with his family by camping and fishing.

The At-Large #1 director seat is up for election. The seat is currently held by Roy Perryman, Stigler. Op-

Turn to **CANDIDATES, 12**

Membership

Continued from CONVENTION, 1

ponents are Matt Burris, Stratford, and Ryan Plemmons, Broken Bow.

Roy Perryman, Stigler



Roy Perryman, Stigler, was named to the AFR/OFU Board of Directors in 2012, filling a vacancy left by the

passing of Harry Jordan.

Perryman has a wealth of experience and knowledge that will serve the organization well. He has previously served on the AFR/OFU Board of Directors from 1992 to 2003.

Perryman was first appointed as an agent with Oklahoma Farmers Union in December 1973 and started the Perryman Insurance Agency in 1974. He was named the AFRMIC Commercial Lines Top Producer in 2002. He sold the agency in May 2011, but retains his agent status with AFR.

Perryman earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from Oklahoma State University. Prior to becoming an OFU agent, he worked as an agricultural education instructor in Ames, Okla., and Paden, Okla. He has also worked in sales and public relations for the Shawnee Milling Company in Shawnee, Okla.

In addition to his AFR/OFU leadership roles, Perryman served on the Haskell County Hospital Board from 1990 to 2002. He has also served on the Haskell County Fair and Show Committee and the Eureka Free Will Baptist Executive Board. He is a member of the Stigler/Haskell County Chamber of Commerce, the Stigler Lions Club and the Ringwood Masonic Lodge. He is also the owner-operator of Perryman, Inc.

Perryman has been married to his wife, Judy, for 46 years. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Matt Burris, Stratford



Matt Burris studied equine management at Murray State College and animal science at Oklahoma State University. He worked for more than 20 years in the feed industry and was the sales manager for Evergreen Mills for 8 years, where he was responsible for a network of 250 dealers and 12 salesmen in 5 states.

Burris purchased the Stratford Insurance Agency in 2003, during

a time when Oklahoma Farmers Union was not writing new business. He learned a lot from this difficult experience and others over the past 10 years. Burris has grown his book of business by more than 50 percent in recent years and, in 2013, he purchased the Wanette Insurance Agency, incorporating it into the Stratford office.

Burris has been married to his wife, Renee, for 27 years. They have two sons currently attending OSU. Burris has been on several committees and boards with local civic organizations and his church. In his spare time, he enjoys golf.

Ryan Plemmons, Broken Bow



Ryan Plemmons was raised on a cattle, poultry and swine farm near Battiest in southeastern Oklahoma. He was on the

livestock judging team for both Connors State College and Oklahoma State University and graduated with a degree in agricultural sciences.

After graduation, Plemmons was employed by Oklahoma Farm Bureau as an insurance agent. He spent five years working in McCurtain and Sequoyah Counties before purchasing his first AFR/OFU agency in Panama. He currently owns and operates the Plemmons Insurance Agency in Broken Bow. He has been a top producer for both the AFR Life Company and AFR Insurance through property sales.

Plemmons' AFR/OFU involvement includes serving as chairman of the policy committee, initiating the AFR/OFU Livestock Judging contest, judging speech contests, initiating a local speech contest in preparation for the state contest, assisting with the AFR/OFU Livestock Achievement Competition, working the Tulsa State Fair booth and lobbying at the state capitol and on legislative action fly-ins to Washington, D.C.

Plemmons has served as president of the AFR Insurance Agents Association and is currently president of the McCurtain Spring Livestock Show, a member of the McCurtain County Fair Board and active in various community organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce and Leaders in Agriculture.

Plemmons, his wife, Cindy, and their children, Kaylan and Blaine, reside on their Angus cow-calf operation near Battiest. Plemmons enjoys coaching summer league baseball and showing Angus cattle with his children.

AFR/OFU Welcomes New Heights, Opportunities with New Future Leader Program

Story by
TERRY DETRICK
AFR/OFU President

The future begins now. There is not an organization around that has done more in the last 110 years to build young adults than AFR/OFU. Realizing we must continually strive for betterment and that tomorrow is the first day of the rest of our lives, we have initiated a new program called the "Future Leaders Program" (FLP). It is designed to reinvest in the lives of active, aggressive-involved adults, whether they are aspiring young adults or progressive, established adults.

Our idea in starting the FLP was to target millennial-aged adults (age 30 +/-). However, we quickly realized a 50-year-old adult today is still interested in continuing to improve their personal and professional skills and achieve the most success possible in the next 15-20 or more years of their lives. Likewise, aspiring young 20+ year olds need all the help they can get to avoid common mistakes and to be motivated, equipped and encouraged to reach their ultimate potential. Whether you want to become a leader as a farmer, rancher, accountant, doctor, lawyer, teacher or some other professional while also becoming a better community leader, husband, wife and parent—we welcome you! The goal of AFR/OFU through the FLP is to expose participants to the latest technology, the brightest minds, the way government and business works and what you can do to "make a difference"—another way we plan to give back in honor of our heritage. Initial membership is not required!

We welcome Megan Albright to

fill the new FLP Coordinator position. Megan Sturgeon Albright grew up in Goltry, Okla., on a cattle ranch and wheat farm. Active in FFA, FC-



CLA, 4-H and AFR youth activities, Albright knows the importance of self-development opportunities.

After graduation from Timberlake High School, she attended Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kan., on a full livestock judging scholarship. She transferred to OSU where she graduated with a B.S. in Agricultural Education. Albright was the agricultural education instructor in Cherokee, Okla., for three years prior to getting married.

Albright followed her husband, a land man for a seismograph company, to Wyoming and Pennsylvania before they returned to Oklahoma to put down roots. During this time, Albright gained experience in marketing and catering and was the Resource Development Director for a Boys & Girls Club in Douglas, Wyo., where she solicited funding, designed and initiated the Boys and Girls Club farm and ranch program. Albright and her husband, Clay, now reside in northwest Oklahoma City.

For more information on the FLP, contact Megan Albright at malbright@afmic.com or 405-218-5416. For current information on all AFR/OFU activities, follow the American Farmers & Ranchers Facebook page.

Osage County & Local Organizations Announce Meetings

Osage County & Local #260
Thursday, January 22, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. Osage County Fairgrounds Office Building.

LOCAL #462
Monday, January 26, 2015 @ 6 p.m.
Jason Nutt Agency, 106 W. 9th, Paden, Okla.
There will be a business meeting with election of officers.

Membership

Women's Committee Kicks Off 2015 Food Drive Initiative



Food drives are an excellent and inexpensive way to give back to the Oklahoma community. *Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma photo*

Story by
MEGAN ALBRIGHT
FLP Coordinator

Recently the 2015 Women's Committee met to discuss initiatives for the upcoming year. After listening to several speakers, the Committee decided the 2015 AFR/OFU Women's Initiative would be to champion the hunger crisis facing many Oklahomans throughout the state.

Teaming up with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Food Bank of Tulsa, the women's committee is challenging AFR/OFU members statewide to donate 50,000 meals by the end of 2015. The "Drive Away Hunger with AFR" campaign will kick off with a

canned food drive January 19-30.

A competition will be held for your local or organization to compete for most meals donated. Winners will be announced at the AFR/OFU state convention February 14 during the annual women's luncheon. First place will receive \$250; second place will receive \$150 and third place will receive \$100.

Please bring your nonperishable canned items to your local agency by January 30 to be entered in the competition. All items will be donated back to your local food pantry for this portion of the "Drive Away Hunger with AFR Campaign."

According to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, most needed

items include canned meat and meat-based soups, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, pasta and brown rice. Please remember opened or homemade items, rusty cans and institutional-sized products cannot be accepted.

Members of the 2015 Women's Committee are Suzanne Gilbert (chair), Tecumseh; Lisa Blubaugh, Tonkawa; Julie Brown, Sapulpa; Angela Frew, Cleveland; Keri Dennis, Okemah; Pamela Livingston, Seiling; Katrina Sperle, Cordell; and Crystie Shebester, Chickasha.

For more information, contact Megan Albright at malbright@afmic.com or 405-218-5418.

Birdsong Named AFR/OFU Chaplain



Lendell Birdsong, Blanchard, has been named chaplain by the AFR/OFU Board of Directors. Birdsong and his wife, Cynthia, have pastored the Trinity Holiness Church in Blanchard for 25 years. Birdsong pastored former Chaplain Braunell Richey before he passed away in July 2013.

From a long line of ministers, Birdsong's grandfather pioneered church works in the area and his father began evangelizing at 15-years-old in Kentucky and now, at 86, marks 71 years of ministry. Birdsong's siblings also pastor in Kellyville, Okla., and Arkansas. Most of the Birdsong family are singers and musicians.

Twenty-two years ago, Birdsong began ministering at the Jesus House in downtown Oklahoma City with Jesus House co-founder Sister Ruth Wynne. For more than 10 years he and Trinity Holiness Church have transported residents and clients from the downtown location to Blanchard for Sunday service, where an extensive feeding and clothing ministry is delivered. For the past nine years, Birdsong has been also extensively involved in missionary work in Haiti, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama.

Birdsong has been a real estate investor for 36 years since constructing his first house at 20-years-old. His grandfather was a member of Oklahoma Farmers Union and Birdsong joined as a policyholder in the early 1980s. Birdsong has also worked for the Braunell and Dorothy Richey Insurance Agency as an agent where he sold P&C and life products.

The Birdsongs have served as delegates to the annual state convention. This year, Birdsong will assume full chaplain duties, leading convention attendees in the annual memorial recognition, invocations, etc.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

GENERAL BENEFITS

- Access to Quality Farm, Home, Auto and Life Insurance
- Media Response, Information, Promotion and Public Relations Services
- Legislative Representation at National, State and Local Levels
- Policy Development and Education
- \$5,000 Reward Program for Arson, Theft or Vandalism to AFR Property Insureds

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

DISCOUNT BENEFITS

- Discount Medical Flight Membership Program
- Discounts on Rental Cars and Hotels
- Dental and Vision Plan
- Discounts on Constant Contact Direct E-mail Marketing
- Discounts on Office and School Supplies
- Discounts on Legal Services

YOUTH BENEFITS

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

Insurance

Board of Directors Donates to Hungry Oklahomans



Above: Whitney Danker, with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, accepts a donation from the AFR/OFU Board of Directors and officers.

Below: The following is a letter from Melanie Anthony, with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, in regard to a Christmas contribution from the AFR/OFU Board of Directors and officer team. Staff photo



"Fighting Hunger...Feeding Hope."

To AFR/OFU:

Thank you all for the generous gift of \$1,600 to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. AFR/OFU's generous gift will be matched locally, thanks to Chesapeake Energy and the Cresap Family Foundation, and also matched on the national level through NFU and Feeding America's partnership.

For every dollar donated to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, five meals are provided. Locally, your gift will now provide approximately 16,000 meals to Oklahomans who struggle with hunger. One in four of our children are food insecure – which means, they do not know where their next meal will come from. The story below is from one of our Food for Kids Backpack Program coordinators:

"We have a tumultuous, sweet, beautiful, first -grade -boy who is always well dressed and clean. Last year, I had noticed that his mother always packed him a lovely lunch with fresh fruit, grape tomatoes, sandwich, etc. This school year, it was brought to my attention that this child had been coming to school with 1/4 of a sandwich from home. I checked his little sister's lunch box and found 1/4 sandwich as well. I put this child and his sibling on the backpack program because I knew the mother would send them a lovely lunch if she could. All she could send was 1/4 of a sandwich... Nothing else. That must have been so difficult for her. We also figured out a way they could get breakfast and lunch at school. I get hugs from this child every time I see him. He is so grateful to have the food I send with him on Friday's.

Later, I found out that when his first grade class were taking turns sharing what their goals were for the new year, this child said something unexpected. His goal was to have more food."

Through your continued partnership children, families and the elderly have access to food when they need it most. Thank you for partnering with us in "Fighting Hunger...Feeding Hope."

-Melanie Anthony
Manager of Corporate Engagement
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

Hardin Insurance Named Best of Guthrie

Information Provided by
Guthrie Award Program

La Moyne-Hardin Insurance, Inc., has been selected for the 2014 Best of Guthrie Award in the Insurance category by the Guthrie Award Program.

Each year, the Guthrie Award Program identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Guthrie area a great place to live, work and play.

"I commend Ms. Hardin for her recognition in the 2014 Best of Guthrie Award and am proud to have her as an American Farmers and Ranchers agent representing us in the Guthrie Community," said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2014 Guthrie Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both inter-

nally by the Guthrie Award Program and data provided by third parties.

The Guthrie Award Program is an annual awards program honoring the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Guthrie area. Recognition is given to those companies that have shown the ability to use their best practices and implemented programs to generate competitive advantages and long-term value.

The Guthrie Award Program was established to recognize the best of local businesses in our community. Our organization works exclusively with local business owners, trade groups, professional associations and other business advertising and marketing groups. Our mission is to recognize the small business community's contributions to the U.S. economy.



Perkins Agency Holds Open House in New Office Location



Mary Morris (center, left) and her two children, Joshua Morris and Lanette Morris-Pierson, welcomed customers and AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick (right) into their new agency location in Perkins. Staff photo

The Perkins Agency, in Perkins, Okla., owned by Mary Morris, had an open house in their new building on Dec. 18, 2014. The agency moved into their new facilities at the beginning of November.

"I commend Mary Morris and her staff for putting such an impressive face for American Farmers & Ranch-

ers in Perkins and for being such loyal AFR agents," said AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick.

Joining Morris in the new office are her son, Joshua Morris, and daughter, LaNette Morris-Pierson. Joshua and Lanette are the fourth generation to be in the Perkins Agency.

Insurance

AFR Employees Donate Time at the Oklahoma Kids Korral

Information Provided by
TRACY KNOCHE
EAC President



AFR employees Rob Travis and Dadrian Long help children make Olaf snowmen. Staff photo

This Christmas season, AFR Insurance Employee Activity Committee (EAC) spent time with the children at the OK Kids Korral. They made pizzas of different varieties, baked cookies and made crafts.

The EAC also donated turkey dinners to each of the families that use the Korral on a regular basis, 16 in total, so they could have a traditional Christmas dinner. The dinners consisted of a turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad and rolls.

December's volunteers were Rick Baranek, Joann Whittington, Rob Travis, Kimberly Johnston, Bernadette Autrey, Megan Albright, Dadrian Long, Michelle Rowch, Sherry Henricks, Danielle Jackson, Danielle Rogers and Tracy Knoche.

"We all had a wonderful time giving back. I've already gotten volunteers ready to get involved with our next event at the Kids Korral," said EAC President Tracy Knoche.

OK Kids Korral provides a cost-free, convenient and comfortable home for pediatric cancer patients receiving treatment at The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center, Peggy & Charles Stephenson Cancer Center and other nearby facilities.

The Korral's website states: "There is no greater gift than keeping families strong and together during a difficult time. If we can alleviate stress on a family, encourage a brother or sister and comfort a sick child, then we will make a difference in the fight against cancer."

The OK Kids Korral is a project of the Toby Keith Foundation.

A New Year is a Great Time to Check Your Beneficiaries



Story by
**SHERRY HENRICKS &
DELINDA JONES**
AFR Life Insurance

As the new year rolls around, Americans everywhere will be making New Year's resolutions and hoping for a fresh start. While many Oklahomans may be wishing away their holiday waistline, the AFR Life Company reminds you that your financial health is important, too.

A new year is a great benchmark to check on your insurance policies to ensure they are as current as possible. When it comes to life insurance, your beneficiaries are an important part of your financial plan. If you have not reviewed your policies in a while, now is a great time to make sure your beneficiary information is up to date.

What is a beneficiary?

The beneficiary or beneficiaries you name are the people you would like your assets to go to when you die.

What is the difference between a primary and a contingent beneficiary?

The primary beneficiary is the first person you want to receive the

proceeds of your life insurance policy. There can be more than one primary beneficiary.

Example: Primary beneficiary: 50 percent to John Doe, son, and 50 percent to Jane Doe, daughter.

The contingent beneficiary is the second person you want to receive the proceeds of your life insurance policy should the primary be deceased or not meet specific serviceable qualifications you have instructed. There can be more than one contingent beneficiary just as the example above appears.

How often should I review my beneficiary designations?

Life events such as marriage, birth of a child, starting your own business, a divorce or a death are great reasons to review your beneficiary designation and see if your objective has changed. Your designation should be reviewed periodically.

The beneficiary I named has died; do I need to name a new one?

Since a death certificate of the deceased beneficiary would be required at claim time it is best to update your beneficiary designation if one of your named beneficiaries has died.

Spanish Braised Chicken & Cheesy Mashed Cauliflower

Spanish Braised Chicken

Start off your New Year's Resolution right with this healthy Spanish dish!

Ingredients

4 Large Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts
3 Bell Peppers, Any Color
1 Sliced Onion
2 Chopped Garlic Cloves
Large Sprig of Thyme (or 1 1/2 tsp dried)
1/2 Cup Dry Sherry
Juice from 1/2 an Orange
12 Large Pitted Green Olives, Chopped
Sea Salt & Freshly Ground Black Pepper, To Taste
1 Tbsp. Butter

Directions

1. Put butter in bottom of slow



cooker.

2. Add chicken and season with salt and pepper. Put thyme on top of chicken.

3. Add peppers, onion and garlic.

4. Mix sherry and orange juice. Pour over chicken and vegetables.

5. Cover and cook on low 6-8 hs.

Mashed Cauliflower

This is a great basic recipe that you can use in any meal where you would have used mashed potatoes. To create mashed sweet potatoes, substitute 3 large sweet potatoes for the head of cauliflower.

Ingredients

1 Large Head of Cauliflower, Cut into small pieces
2 Tbsp. Butter
1 Tbsp. Heavy Cream
1/2 Cup Grated Cheddar or Parmesan
Salt and Pepper to Taste

Directions

1. Steam cauliflower or sweet po-



tatoes until very soft.

2. Add the rest of the ingredients and process until smooth.

3. Freeze in meal-size containers and reheat in microwave as desired.

Insurance

AFR Donates to Oklahoma Schools



Amanda Kissling, Vice Principal of Oklahoma City Lighthouse Academics Charter School, poses with donated desktop computers from AFR. *Staff photo*

Story by
DANIELLE ROGERS
Communication Specialist

In December, AFR donated 81 computers to the Lighthouse Academic Charter Schools in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The computers will be used in the school computer labs, allowing students to play educational games and do more schoolwork using online resources.

“We decided to see where we could best utilize the technology and felt any value added to the community would be appropriate,” AFR Director of Technology Services and Development Kevin Anders said. “It was a great opportunity for us to partner with the likes of the Walton Foundation, Murphy Controls, United Way and others to show our support and involvement in our urban, as well as rural, communities.”

Lighthouse Academics is a public

school for underprivileged, minority children pre-kindergarten through 4th grade, adding a new grade every year of enrollment. They focus on rigorous academics, social and emotional development and arts infusion in their curriculum to better prepare students for college.

Amanda Kissling, vice principal of the Oklahoma City Lighthouse School, said, “We believe the social and emotional aspect is key in teaching them how to be adults, how to learn and how to behave in the way the world expects them to behave.”

The Oklahoma City school currently has 190 applications for admission and will be accepting 280 students for Fall 2015, 50 students per grade. The first graduating class of Lighthouse Academics was a class of 2000 students who received more than \$3 million in scholarships.

AFR Holds Open House for OID



AFR hosted an open house for Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak and Oklahoma Insurance Department staff. Here Doak addresses members of the AFR/OFU board of directors and officers at the informal reception. *Staff photo*

Harper Insurance Hosts Customers

Information Provided by
PAUL JACKSON
State Secretary

Harper Insurance Agency, Marietta, a family-owned AFR Insurance Agency, hosted a Customer Appreciation Day on Friday, Dec. 19. Hot dogs, drinks, holiday treats and door prizes were provided to customers. Harper Insurance has been in business 34 years and acquired their

original Farmers Union books of business from agents George E. Glazener, Marietta, and Minnie Sweat, Rubottom, in 1983. AFR/OFU has been a family tradition with parents and grandparents of the current owners; they have had company insurance since the 1940s.



Top: (Left to right) AFR/OFU Secretary Paul Jackson, Sandy Harper Michael, Linda Harper, Jerry Harper and Johnny Harper enjoyed sharing prosperity and fellowship with Harper Insurance Agency customers. *Staff photo*

Bottom: Agent Johnny Harper serves a customer at the appreciation day. *Staff photo*

Agents Appreciated for Judging Contests



Okarche AFR Insurance agent Wayne Ludwig poses at the Northwest District Speech Contest with his three nieces (left to right) Maggie McCully, Molly McCully and Elixabeth Perdue. All three girls attend Kingfisher schools. *Staff photo*

Judging a fall speech contest is an excellent way for agents to get involved in AFR/OFU activities close to home. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated! The following agents judged during the 2014 season:

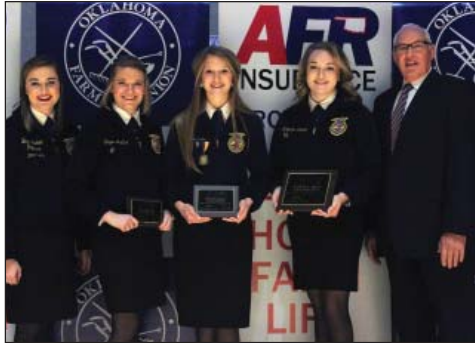
- | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Matt Schieffer | Geneva Bolenbaugh | Johnie Brown | Jeremy Scherler | Leda Canada |
| Wally Schieffer | Justin Cowan | Justin Richards | Mike Humble | Keri Dennis |
| Sherry Schieffer | Linda Cowan | Jimmy James | Randy Gilbert | Sandy Rochell |
| Wayne Ludwig | Julie Brown | Dustin Tackett | Suzanne Gilbert | Terri Rogers |
| | | | | Janet Robinson |

Youth Program

Youth Excell at 70th State Speech Contest



Winners of the Junior AFR category: (left to right) Riley Hopkins, Keys, third place; Reagan Detrick, Ringwood, second place; and Peyton Burns, Kingfisher, first place.



Winners of the Intermediate AFR category: (left to right) Brylee McCue, Fairview, third place; Madelyn Gerken, Kingfisher, second place; and Adrienne Foster, Prague, first place.



Winners of the Senior AFR category: (left to right) Paige Garza, Yukon, third place; Hannah Tankersly, Eufaula, second place; and Kalee Horn, Edmond, first place.



Winners of the Novice AFR category: (left to right) Morley Griffith, Shawnee, third place; Braden Burns, Kingfisher, second place; and Kale Campbell, Jet, first place.



Winners of the Junior Student Organization category: (left to right) Madison Stephens, Weatherford, third place; Brantlee Cox, Morrison, second place; and Emily Garrett, Kingfisher, first place.



Winners of the Intermediate Student Organization category: (left to right) Amarie Griffith, Cushing, third place; Tucker Jackson, Calera, second place; and Taylor Chapman, Kingfisher, first place.



Winners of the Senior Student Organization category: (left to right) Zachery Ilbery, Checotah, third place; Colton Smith, Kingfisher, second place; and Shiane Hood, Calumet, first place.



Winners of the Intermediate Extemporaneous category: (left to right) Brooklan Light, Garber, second place; and Katie Ashton, Elgin, first place.



Winners of the Junior Natural Resources category: (left to right) Emily Kennedy, Edmond, third place; Jacob Grellner, Cushing, second place; and Hunter Slater, Fairview, first place.



Winners of the Intermediate Natural Resources category: (left to right) Dawson Haworth, Fairview, third place; Kristen Webb, Haskell, second place; and Hailea Hooten, Perkins-Tryon, first place.



Winners of the Senior Natural Resources category: (left to right) Brayden Foley, Kingfisher, third place; Austin Grellner, Cushing, second place; and Samantha Howe, Sulphur, first place.



Winners of the Senior Extemporaneous category: (left to right) Seth McLaughlin, Prague, third place; Vanessa Wiebe, Hooker, second place; and Vivienne Hassenbeck, Elgin, first place.



Winners of the Junior Agribusiness category: (left to right) Elaina Eddlemon, Prague, third place; Baleigh Brickman, Kingfisher, second place; and Kaylee Holt, Shattuck, first place.



Winners of the Intermediate Agribusiness category: (left to right) Rylee Detrick, Ringwood, third place; Connor Holderread, Cushing, second place; and Anna Crosswhite, Kingfisher, first place.



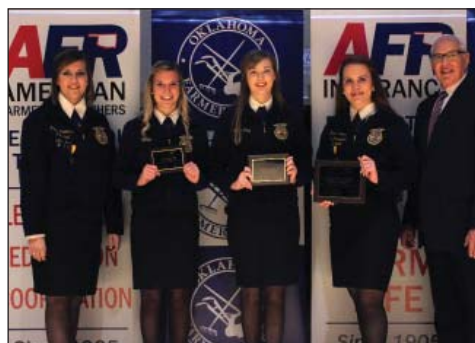
Winners of the Senior Agribusiness category: (left to right) Blaine Maye, Haworth, third place; Brooks McKinney, Spiro, second place; and Lauren Lacy, Edmond, first place.



Winners of the Junior Agriscience category: (left to right) Lillie Snider, Glencoe, third place; Bree Kisling, Chisholm, second place; and Reagan Stephens, Weatherford, first place.



Winners of the Intermediate Agriscience category: (left to right) Dillon Ponder, Bristow, third place; Addison Themer, Kingfisher, second place; and Meredith Proctor, Owasso, first place.



Winners of the Senior Agriscience category: (left to right) Sage Holder, Edmond, third place; Jaryn Frey, Kingfisher, second place; and Karli Jones, Adair, first place.

COMING SOON!
COMING SOON!
COMING SOON!

AFR/OFU State Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications will be available by February 1.

Applications can be found at:
www.iafr.com/youth-education

Completed applications must be returned by April 15, 2015.

For more information, contact:

Blaire Boyer at bboyer@afrmic.com

Youth Program

AFR Donates to Oklahoma Schools

Each year, AFR/OFU sponsors the high individuals at the Tulsa State Fair Cattle Grading Contest. Each winner receives a cash award and a prize belt buckle.

Prior to the contest itself, cattle grading experts hold a seminar to teach newcomers and refresh the

minds of contest veterans.

What began as a small event has mushroomed into a several-hundred student contest. AFR/OFU is proud to be a major sponsor of a contest that serves students from across the state.

AFR Donates to Oklahoma Schools

Story by
BLAIRE BOYER
Youth & Education Coordinator

Spectators may only see the bright lights and pretty smiles at Oklahoma's livestock premium auctions, but a lot of blood, sweat and tears are behind each young showman or showwoman and their animal when they have gotten to that point. The work involved in preparing show animals for their time to shine begins months in advance, without any of the glitz.

When livestock showmen, with the help of agricultural education instructors, family members and friends, select their animals at a young age, the show day preparation process commences. Whether their animal is a bovine, sheep, goat or pig, working the animal's hair and skin is an everyday process, along with training, walking and keeping the animals generally healthy and comfortable. Along with those responsibilities, the morning and night feeding and watering quickly becomes a

full-time job for students. For many, thoughts of the long nights and early mornings go by the wayside when they see their hard work paying off with the winning handshake from a judge or the paycheck at the end of the season.

AFR invests more than \$25,000 annually at both the Tulsa State Fair and Oklahoma Youth Expo premium auctions. Every dollar invested goes directly to the livestock showmen and showwomen who make the premium sales and are AFR/OFU members or policyholders.

When the official list of premium sale animals has been determined, it is sent to buyers and supporters who carefully search the list to find people who are associated with their company or organization. At the sale, each buyer will purchase animals outright or add on money to selected animals purchased by other buyers.

AFR/OFU knows how much hard work is behind a successful show season. We are proud to be a sponsor of these premium sales.



AFR/OFU President Terry Detrick (left), Youth & Education Coordinator Blaire Boyer (center right) and At-Large Director #1 (right) pose with the High 4-H Individual Kaylyn Branen, Rogers County (top), and the High FFA Individual Carlie Toon, Coweta (bottom). Staff photo



Top: (from left) Northwest Field Rep Wade Parker and At-Large Director # 2 Justin Cowan with Rylee Simpson, Locust Grove FFA. Middle: (from left) Southeast District Director Bob Holley, Vice President John Porter, Secretary Paul Jackson, Southwest District Director Joe Ed Kinder and Director Cowan with Ryder Klaassen, Hydro-Eakly 4-H. Bottom Left: (from left) Vice President Porter, Director Holley and Northeast District Director Jim Shelton with Guess Leonard, Sequoyah FFA. Bottom Right: (from left) Field Rep Parker and Director Kinder with Carley Mahurin, Fairland FFA. Staff photos

IT'S CALENDAR TIME!

We're already planning next year's calendar and we need your help!

We want to celebrate the unique places, people and events across Oklahoma. If you have a knack for photography and already have some great shots, we'd love to see them! If you know of any interesting places or events in your home area, we want to know about that, too. We might visit you!

For more information, or to request a disclaimer and release form, contact:

AFR Communications & Content Manager
Laici Wedel
(405)218-5557 or lwedel@afrmic.com

Classifieds

News & Views

Trading Post

HOME OFFICE DUE DATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE SPRING ISSUE: MARCH 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@AFRMI.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.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale—Equine ranchette, 11.4 acres. Rock home, 3BR/2½ BA. Pipe fencing, 60x80 covered arena, sheds, etc. East edge of Stigler on Hwy 9. Call 918/967-4955 or 918/448-4900.

AUTOS, TRUCKS & CYCLES

For Sale—1995 Ford F-350 4x4. 7.3 Powerstroke Diesel, 5-speed. Crew cab long bed, body has a few dings/dents. 273,000 miles, runs very good. \$5800. Call 580/829-3153.

For Sale—2013 Dodge half-ton pickup, regular bed. 4WD, bedliner, grill guard. 5.8 Hemi, 32,500 miles. \$22,500. Elk City. 580/225-6559.

For Sale—1980 Ford E-350 one-ton 4WD cargo van. v-8 400c Cleveland engine, 4,000 miles. Great hunting or mudding vehicle. One owner, \$2,500. Seiling. 580/922-5513.

BOATS, RVs, CAMPERS & TRAILERS

For Sale—Very sharp 2004 Exiss three-horse slant trailer w/ 8' living quarters. Excellent rubber, heat and A/C. Model SS308, pictures available. \$25,000. Call Matt, 580/541-8990.

FARM & RANCH EQUIPMENT

For Sale—John Deere "B." Narrow front end, gas, Ser. #221648, always under roof. Farmal "806" D, Ser. #42957, runs good. Call 918/463-3178 after 7 p.m.

For Sale—Fire extinguishers: Innovative clean fire suppression agent, not traditional dry chemical extinguisher (ammonia phosphate), which creates an expensive corrosive messy powder to cleanup. Safe for computers, other electronic & human skin. Superbly effective on "hidden fires." Fights multiple fires of various types without recharging. Phone toll-free 844-FIREOUT or email fire.out.far.out@gmail.com.

For Sale—New 230-volt spot welder, Chicago 45690, \$175. Brown-brand cook stove/oven/broiler, off-white, runs on propane, works great, \$100. 405/550-5346.

LIVESTOCK

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

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

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

For Sale—18 mo. registered quarterhorse colt. Easy Jet, Goldseeker, Dash for Cash in his background. Black, long-legged, good

build, very pretty. 580/243-9997.

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

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

For Sale—Registered longhorn starter herds. Registered longhorn bulls, heifers and bred cows start at \$1250 each. Also nice ranch geldings. See pictures on our website at www.cattlecallranch.com or call 580/364-6592. Atoka.

HAY, FEED & SEED

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

For Sale—Bahia grass seed for sale, harvested off fertilized hay meadows this summer. Selling for \$1.65/lb. for combined run or \$1.80/lb. for cleaned seed. All seed is sacked in 50 lb. bags. Contact Gary at 580/509-9157.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

For Sale—Kenmore Washer & Dryer, \$200. Gas LP Dryer \$125. Gas Cook stove, apartment size \$100. Call 405/275-3419.

For Sale—Pevey Amp "Vegas 400." Pur-

chased new 10 years ago for \$1,300, selling for \$400 OBO. Will also trade for .357 or 9mm. Contact 918/966-3800 or dirt-pooroke@yahoo.com if you have an offer or trade.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

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

WANTED

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

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

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

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

DUE DATE FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE SPRING ISSUE:

March 1

In Memoriam

Marvin Scherler



Marvin Scherler, 84, Walters, died Dec. 23, 2014. Services were Dec. 27 at Walters H.S. Auditorium, interment at Walters Cemetery.

Scherler was born Dec. 21, 1930, to Herman and Elizabeth (Maier) Scherler in Ahpeatone west of Walters. He married Trecy Daugherty in 1948 and enjoyed 66 years with her.

A farmer, cattleman and founder of the Nat'l Rural Water Assoc. (NRWA), Scherler spent his time insuring rural access to water, farm credit and electricity.

He was a believer in the cooperative concept and was on the Cotton Co. Farmers Union board for years. He served on the boards of the Okla. Assoc. of Electric Coops (OAEC), Okla. Rural Water Assoc., Walters Coop Elevator, Cotton Co. Rural Water and, for 40 years, Cotton Electric.

Scherler received many esteemed awards, including Cotton Co. Conservationist of the Year and "Man of the Year" by the NRWA, Progressive Farmer, and the Okla. Water Assoc.

Scherler served as a Walters Church of Christ elder from 1968 to 2001. His greatest achievement was his devotion to his Lord and Savior.

He is survived by his wife; sister, Beth Barnhart; daughter June and husband Roger Cromwell; two sons: Douglas and wife Michelle, and Stanley and wife Kim; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

James McManus



James McManus, 93, Chattanooga, died Dec. 20, 2014. Services were Dec. 22 at Cameron Baptist Church, committal followed at the Frederick Memorial Cemetery.

McManus was born to John and

Frances (Kelley) McManus Dec. 4, 1921, in Hurnville, Texas. As a baby, he crossed the Red River in a covered wagon with his family.

McManus was inducted into the army in 1942 and was a mechanic in the European Theater because of his experience with farm machinery.

He married Juanita Calloway near CampCampbell in 1943. After the war, he returned to farming in the Jack Creek area and worked as a Ft. Sill helicopter mechanic and carpenter.

McManus was a Farmers Union agent from 1957 until he retired in 1991. He sponsored many children in the youth program, taking them to summer camps and speech contests.

He was active in 4-H stockshows and the Baptist Church, was chairman of the Tillman Co. Democratic Party, sec./treas. of OK Railroad Maintenance and president of the Frederick Chamber. In the 70s-80s, he was a coordinator for Lay Witness Missions in the U.S. and Belize.

McManus is survived by his sister, Lorena Crook; two daughters, Julane and husband Eddie Whitworth, and Joanna and husband Donnie Lawson; two grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Lillie "Lil" Staude



Lil Staude, 93, Okla. City, died Oct. 14, 2014. Services were Oct. 17 in Buchanan Chapel, interment at Chapel Hill Mem. Gardens.

Staude was born in Butler to Houston and Margaret Lane.

She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Cliff Staude; sisters, Doris and husband Louis Bunch, Ruth Cotton; daughter, Marie and husband Dick Krueger; step-daughters, Marci Staude, Sheila and husband Gary Baustert, Lisa Staude; 9 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great grandchildren.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Giving & Accepting



TERRY
DETRICK

As I sat down to write this column for our January 2015 publication of the AFR NEWS & VIEWS, quite frankly, I was at a loss as I pondered what to write about and what could I possibly contribute. I do cherish every opportunity I get to share my heart with you, the friends and members of AFR/OFU! With an open mind I just sat—thinking and meditating for a brief moment. Then, what I saw before my eyes was the inspiration I needed—a snapshot in time capturing who we are!

On my wall directly in front of me was the December 2014 AFR/OFU calendar. It was a snowy picture of some beautiful Hereford heifers walking across snow covered ground with a lazy stream flowing by a bank of trees in the background. The picture was taken by the late Michelle Nichols of Ringwood, Okla. Michelle was an agent, but more than that, she was one who constantly “gave” unselfishly of her talents on behalf of AFR, promoting youth activities in Major County and across the state. Sadly, she is now part of our AFR/OFU proud heritage. Also on that

calendar page was a picture of AFR members serving in disaster recovery after the May 2013 tornadoes that hit central Oklahoma—fellow members SERVING and GIVING unselfishly of themselves. THAT is who and what we are! Alongside that disaster relief picture was a paragraph written by Laici Wedel, our communications director who developed the calendar. That inset said what we all need to know, remember, practice and celebrate. It says:

“Do you celebrate the season with giving? Giving back is a core value of AFR/OFU. Whether it’s employees serving in state-wide relief efforts, AFR agents actively involved in their hometown, or Farmers Union county organizations donating funds to their communities, the spirit of giving is

alive and well at AFR/OFU. During the holiday season, join AFR/OFU in its tradition of generosity!” -Laici Wedel

I realize full well I am writing to you just before Christmas and you will not receive this paper until after the New Year—all the more fitting!

As we ponder the New Year, are we taking time to remember last year? Are we taking inventory of what we did to make this a better world, help make someone else’s pathway more straight and easy, and are we honoring our precious heritage by letting the reason for the season shine through our unselfish deeds toward others? If our deeds for the last year or two could be summarized in one picture, what would it be?

All of us I am sure would do a

few things differently if we could do them over. I believe in second chances and I hope you do, too. In fact, the gift that is the reason for the season, is just that—an opportunity at a second chance because we were all born needing one. The birth of Christ brings with it that second chance opportunity for those receptive of the Christian faith.

As we proceed into 2015, we know there will be “ups” and there will be “downs”—how we handle them will depend on our attitude of gratitude, servitude and aptitude. Let us celebrate our precious heritage and the gift of second chances available to us through the gift of Love—the reason for the season.

May God Bless each and every one of you and prosper you and may we all feel His arms of love, warmth and friendship throughout the New Year.

And, thank you for GIVING...

-Terry

RICH HISTORY, BRIGHT FUTURE

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



small. Together, we are a driving force.

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

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

Today, we continue to focus on the agricultural indus-

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2015

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Home Office Closed Jan. 19
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Annual Meeting, El Reno??? July 24-26

February 2015

110th Annual AFR/OFU State Convention, Norman Feb. 13-14
Okla. Assoc. of Conservation Districts Annual Mtg., MW City Feb. 22-24

March 2015

100th Annual Oklahoma Youth Expo, OKC March 11-20
AFR/OFU Ag Achievement Contest, OKC March XXXX
Texoma Cattlemen’s Conference, Ardmore March 21
K101 Farm Expo, Woodward March 27-29

April 2015

Ag Day at the Capitol, OKC April 1
Good Friday, Home Office Closed April 3
Southwest Farm & Home Expo, Elk City April 11-12
Redlands Interscholastic Event, El Reno April 14
AFR/OFU State Scholarship Deadline April 15
Oklahoma City Farm Show, OKC April 16-18
Oklahoma FFA Convention, OKC April 28-29

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