

THE PUBLICATION OF AFR INSURANCE
AN AFFILIATE OF OKLAHOMA FARMERS UNION
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LARGEST AFR LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT IN CAMP HISTORY
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RETURN ADDRESS:
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ANNUAL MEETINGS & CONVENTION DEADLINES ANNOUNCED

By Paul Jackson, Secretary

Due to continuing potential Covid issues relative to city and state requirements, a decision has not been reached at this time with respect to a full or reduced in-person convention, a virtual convention or hybrid thereof. We are however publishing the following in anticipation of a convention event. A decision on convention will be made no later than December 1. All Farmers Union county and local organizations and policyholders will hold annual meetings this fall to conduct business and elect a slate of delegates and alternates for the annual meetings of the Oklahoma Farmers Union and the American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company, Inc. Some local organizations will hold their meetings independent from county meetings but also conduct business to elect delegates for the state annual membership and policyholder meetings. **As noted elsewhere in the paper, some counties are conducting limited (business-only) meetings without meals, refreshments and door prizes, and even different locations as many are not available due to Covid. Before traveling great distances, please confirm your meeting, as changing Covid conditions may change the meeting location, date and time.** If your county and local meeting is not listed in this issue of AFR TODAY, contact your local/county organization leadership to find out when they will be meeting to participate in the business meeting and local delegates election for the membership

and policyholder state annual meetings. The AFRMIC/OFU Bylaws require a candidate for a particular Director or Officer position to file in writing with the AFRMIC Secretary and OFU Secretary between one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days and ninety (90) calendar days prior to the next Annual Meeting thereby making the filing period thirty (30) calendar days. **DEADLINES:** **October 13, 2021:** Deadline for resignation notification of intent to file by current officer or director filing for any seat other than the current position held.

October 14-November 12, 2021: Board officer and director candidates filing period (filing is during normal business hours, Monday – Friday 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.). **November 12, 2021:** Deadline for filing for an elected position. (Completed packet must be received by 4:45 p.m.). **November 12, 2021:** Deadline for submitting changes to bylaws to be considered by the bylaws committee, 90 days before the first day of convention. (Must be received by 4:45 p.m.). Any proposed bylaws and in-person and/or virtual educational sessions will be published on the AFRMIC and OFU websites.

December 13, 2021: Deadline for submitting local and county resolutions to the State Office to be considered by the State Policy Committee. **January 4, 2022:** Deadline for AFR/OFU Membership Memorial Roll submission. **January 28, 2021:** Deadline for submitting annual Officers Reports and Financial Statements to meet requirements for OFU to file IRS 990's and for Locals and Counties to be eligible to send delegates. **February 11-13, 2021:** AFR Convention (AFRMIC Annual Meeting/OFU Annual Meeting).

The following elected positions will be presented for a vote at the 2022 AFRMIC/OFU Annual Meetings and State Convention. All elected positions are three-year terms unless otherwise noted: **President:** Currently held by Scott Blubaugh, Tonkawa **District 2 Agent Director:** Currently held by Dustin Tackett, Ft. Cobb **District 3 Independent Director:** Currently held by Jim Shelton, Vinita **Independent Statewide Director:** Currently held by Mason Mungle, Norman

<p>VOL. 102, NO. 4 FALL 2021 www.afrcoop.org First Published in 1920</p> <p><i>AFR Today</i> is published by AFR Insurance Oklahoma Farmers Union 4400 Will Rogers Parkway Oklahoma City, OK 73108 (405) 218-5400 (800) 324-7771 Fax: (405) 218-5593</p> <p>MANAGING EDITOR WRITING & DESIGN</p> <p>Laici Wedel Neumann Press Secretary <i>AFR Cooperative</i></p> <p>Oklahoma State Union of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America OUR PRIVACY POLICY: We do not sell membership information. We do not provide members’ personal information to persons or organizations outside of affiliate companies. We afford prospective and former members the same protections as existing members with respect to personal information. INFORMATION WE MAY COLLECT: We only collect the member’s name, physical address, e-mail address and phone number. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE: We do not share members’ personal information with outside entities. Your personal information is used to mail our quarterly publication or advise you of information pertinent to your membership in the organization. It may be used to offer you membership benefits. If you are a policyholder of an affiliate insurance company, your information may be shared to verify correct contact information.</p>	<p>AFR COOPERATIVE</p> <p>President Scott Blubaugh, Tonkawa</p> <p>Vice President Ryan Plemmons, Broken Bow</p> <p>Secretary Paul Jackson, Ringling</p> <p>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p>Independent Director District 1 Terry Peach, Mutual</p> <p>Independent Director District 2 Brett Morris, Ninnekah</p> <p>Independent Director District 3 Jim Shelton, Vinita</p> <p>Independent Director District 4 Mike Goodwin, Roberta</p> <p>Agent Director District 1 John Porter, Edmond</p> <p>Agent Director District 2 Dustin Tackett, Ft. Cobb</p> <p>Agent Director District 3 John Ogden, Oktaha</p> <p>Agent Director District 4 Landon Jestis, Bokchito</p> <p>Independent Statewide Director Mason Mungle, Norman</p>	<p>AFR INSURANCE</p> <p>President/CEO Jon Srna</p> <p>Secretary Paul Jackson</p> <p>CFO Bernadette Autrey</p> <p>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p>Independent Director District 1 Terry Peach, Mutual</p> <p>Independent Director District 2 Brett Morris, Ninnekah</p> <p>Independent Director District 3 Jim Shelton, Vinita</p> <p>Independent Director District 4 Mike Goodwin, Roberta</p> <p>Agent Director District 1 John Porter, Edmond</p> <p>Agent Director District 2 Dustin Tackett, Ft. Cobb</p> <p>Agent Director District 3 John Ogden, Oktaha</p> <p>Agent Director District 4 Landon Jestis, Bokchito</p> <p>Independent Statewide Director Mason Mungle, Norman</p>
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to AFR Cooperative, P.O. Box 24000, Oklahoma City, OK 73124



By Paul Morgan, VP of AFR LIFE

An old Chinese proverb takes form in a series of questions and answers:

Question: “When is the best time to plant a tree?”
Answer: “Twenty years ago.”

How many times have we wistfully thought of the “if only” when reflecting on what we might have done earlier in our lives?

AFR Life often receives calls from people hoping to buy life insurance to provide for their families, but the potential customers are now too old or too ill to qualify for life insurance. We often hear them say, “If only I had started sooner.” The Chinese proverb and this sad occurrence provides us with perspective and an opportunity.

The second half of the Chinese proverb continues:

Question: “When is the second best time to plant a tree?”
Answer: “Now”

We can’t turn back the hands of time, but in a way, we can do that for our future generations. Consider the following facts: When insurance companies price a life insurance policy, they refer to a mathematical table that shows the probability of mortality of the insured at any given age. As a result, the cost of insurance is significantly lower for younger ages than for older ages. While this fact seems obvious, the information represents a very powerful opportunity. Another important fact is that not all life policies are designed or created equally. Some whole life insurance policies offer a “paid-up” option. In this option, an individual pays somewhat higher premiums for a number of years, then the accumulated cash value in the policy will sustain the guaranteed payment of premiums for the rest of the life of the insured. This policy is then “paid up” and requires no additional premium payments even though the life insurance coverage continues for the remaining life of the insured. If we take advantage of these two concepts by combining the lower premium of insurance on a younger person with the paid-up feature

of a whole life policy, the results can be remarkable.

As an example, imagine you purchase a \$25,000 whole life policy with a paid-up feature that is completed in 20 years for two individuals—one at age four and the other at age 40. Both policies would be “paid up” after 20 years and the same level coverage of \$25,000 would continue for the remainder of both their lives. However, the cost for the paid-up coverage on the four-year-old would be less than 30% of the total cost on the policy of the 40-year-old. That’s 70% savings for the same amount of coverage!

The scenario improves even further when you take into account that the four-year-old would have received an additional 36 years of coverage (from age four through age 40) than the 40-year-old insured!

Where else could you spend less than a third of the regular price of a product to get the same product that lasts twice as long with the exact same quality?

Somelifeinsurancepoliciesalsooffera“single pay” option that will pay up the policy with a single initial premium. While this amount is a larger single amount up front, it can cost up to 40% less than the total premiums for a 20-year-pay plan. A single-pay option on a youth whole life plan can be the least expensive life insurance coverage available when considering the

total length of the coverage.

An additional benefit to youth life insurance is the assurance of continued coverage even if the child has an injury or health condition that makes them uninsurable as an adult. Some parents and grandparents hesitate to purchase life insurance on a child because they don’t want to contemplate the mortality of a child. However, like the tree in the Chinese proverb, children grow into adults sooner than we like. As adults, they would benefit from a paid-up life insurance policy that provides lasting coverage and doesn’t burden them with ongoing premiums.

As you look for ways to provide something of true lasting value to your children or grandchildren, consider the purchase of a life insurance program that offers a paid-up option. It’s a gift with a lasting legacy of security and peace that will endure their entire life.

Plant the tree, now. If you need assistance assessing your life insurance needs, contact AFR Life at 800-425-9303 or afrlife@afrmic.com.



OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

FALL *Highlights*

By Bray Haven, AFR Cooperative Lobbyist

The Medical Marijuana Impacts on Oklahoma Production Agriculture Task Force was created to focus on crafting state and federal solutions to the increasing impact of medical marijuana on production agriculture across Oklahoma. The task force organizations are working together to provide policy recommendations to state and federal leaders.

In late May, Oklahoma agriculture organizations formed the Medical Marijuana Impacts on Production Agriculture Task Force. Our task force organizations—American Farmers & Ranchers, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association, Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council and Oklahoma Agriculture Retailers Association—had each received several notifications of issues with spray drift, unusual activity and sometimes blatant criminal activity.

Over the summer, our task force has focused on meeting with elected officials who are committed to working on this issue during the next legislative session. We have worked very closely with the executive branch—Governor Stitt’s office and cabinet members, including Chief Operating Officer Steve Harpe and Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur. It has been evident in these meetings with both legislators and the executive branch that this issue is not to be taken lightly. Within weeks, we saw immediate results. Over the summer, funding was increased for the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, specifically for medical marijuana grow facility investigations. Most recently, a new director to the Oklahoma

Medical Marijuana Authority was named—Adria Berry—with whom many of the task force organizations already have a great working relationship.

There were several interim studies held at the Capitol over the interim on many issues surrounding the medical marijuana industry. Some interim studies were overarching and generic, with legislators hearing from several presenters including a farmer/rancher engaged in growing marijuana himself. One study focused solely on the issue of spray drift liability and insurance; another focused on foreign ownership of land. The foreign ownership concern has become a priority as many of our members have pointed out potential signs of this problem increasing exponentially across the state. During the interim studies, we also learned that several laws passed during the last legislative session are going to help our state government agencies crack down on many of the illegal operations across Oklahoma.

Again, much of the summer has been spent gathering information so that we can inform the members of our organizations and make the best and most sensible

policy recommendations for the upcoming legislative session. We want to ensure that the policy changes we focus on next session don’t have adverse side effects that may harm agriculture or set precedent that we would otherwise disagree with. We understand this issue is something new, unlike anything we have worked on before, and we must put our best effort forward to protect rural Oklahoma. Our meetings focused on what we can do better and change in the future on this issue. Many of our interactions were optimistic about the actions already being taken to protect our state on a public safety front and in the ever-developing regulatory environment surrounding medical marijuana. Most importantly, we have learned that many of Oklahoma’s regulations aren’t held to the same standard as those in other states that grow medical marijuana.

Before the next legislative session, we intend to bring you solutions that will result in more enforcement and regulation of illegal operations. We look forward to hearing more from our organizations’ memberships as we continue to learn and inform on what is happening as information becomes available.

Woodward County AFR Member Interviewed by OETA

Woodward County AFR member Tim Bates, Mutual, was interviewed by OETA Aug. 4. During the interview Bates showcased his farming operation and discussed the right to repair issue with OETA’s Jason Doyle. Bates’ interview appeared as part of a broader story about the right to repair in many industries, not just agriculture. The interview aired Aug. 6 and is available for viewing at <https://www.oeta.tv/shows/oklahoma-news-report/>.



A Great Partnership

AFR Honored with Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award by Connors State College

AFR received a 2021 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award. The award is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses. AFR was nominated by Connors State College (CSC) in recognition of their longstanding partnership. AFR's relationship with Connors State College is longstanding. CSC's namesake, John P. Connor, served as the first vice president of Oklahoma Farmers Union, now known as AFR. In the more than 110 years since CSC's founding, AFR has provided the institution with resources that have contributed to valuable and positive experiences for CSC students. AFR has sponsored livestock contests, provided funding for student programs and filled volunteer



Pictured (left to right) AFR Director Dustin Tackett, Director Brett Morris, State Secretary Paul Jackson, Director Mason Mungle, Director Jim Shelton, Director Terry Peach, Director Landon Jestis, CEO Jon Srna, Director Mike Goodwin, Director John Ogden, Director John Porter, CSC President Ron Ramming, AFR Vice President Ryan Plemmons, President Scott Blubaugh

positions within CSC. "We are both humbled and honored by this recognition," said AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh. "Throughout our history, AFR Cooperative has encouraged the youth of Oklahoma to pursue higher education. Connors State is a place where students can gather not only knowledge, but also life experiences that will carry them into successful futures. Connors graduates achieve great things, improve and

build rural communities and shape the future of our state. We are proud to play a part in their success." In early 2021, AFR gifted \$10,000 to the CSC Development Foundation. The endowment will fund a tuition scholarship award for the CSC Top Agricultural Student each year. The scholarship is named in honor of the first president of the Oklahoma Board of Agriculture and CSC's namesake, J.P. Connors. "AFR has been a longtime supporter of our students at Connors," said CSC President Ron Ramming about the scholarship endowment. "We are proud of our students and grateful AFR saw our students the same way we do—bright and full of potential to make a difference in the world." For more information about RBPEA, visit www.okhighered.org/RBPEA.

Ag, mineral owner groups form Royalty Owner Coalition of Oklahoma

Five agriculture and mineral owner groups this week announced the formation of the Royalty Owner Coalition of Oklahoma, a non-profit corporation to create a structured, consistent and strong voice for the interests of Oklahoma mineral owners. Representing approximately 150,000 individual members, the founding organizations of ROCO include AFR, the National Association of Royalty Owners of Oklahoma (OK-NARO), Oklahoma Farm Bureau (OKFB), Farmers Royalty Company (FRC) and the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (OCA). ROCO will work with elected officials on legislation impacting mineral owners including royalty payment accuracy and transparency, drilling incentives and long-lateral development, force pooling reforms, surface damages, produced water disposal and recycling, and other issues. The coalition also plans to develop educational programs to inform its members, state elected officials, state legislators, administrative agencies and the public of the obligations and opportunities of mineral ownership in



Oklahoma. The founding member organizations created ROCO to fill the void in mineral and royalty owner advocacy following the dissolution of the Coalition of Surface and Mineral Owners and retirement of its executive director Terry Stowers. "With my retirement, I was very pleased to see COSMO's prior partners step up and

decide to carry on our past 18 years of work for Oklahoma's mineral owners by creating this stronger and sustainable organization," Stowers said. The founding ROCO board of directors include Mason Mungle of FRC, president; Scott Blubaugh of AFR, vice president; Jared Boehs of OK-NARO, secretary; Rodd Moesel of OKFB, treasurer; and Michael Kelsey of OCA, governance. "Terry Stowers has served as a strong advocate for Oklahoma's small mineral owners for many years and AFR is honored to take an active role in continuing his important work. We are pleased to partner with other like-minded agriculture and mineral owner groups as we continue Stowers' efforts through the newly-formed Royalty Owner Coalition of Oklahoma," said AFR President Scott Blubaugh.

The founding ROCO board of directors are (left to right) Rodd Moesel of OKFB, Michael Kelsey of OCA, Mason Mungle of FRC, Scott Blubaugh of AFR, and Jared Boehs of OK-NARO with Terry Stowers of the Coalition of Surface and Mineral Owners (far right).

Agricultural Acreage

Why Farmers Worry About Non-Farming Landowners

You’ve likely heard the buzz that Bill Gates, in addition to being one of the wealthiest men in the world, is now also the largest private owner of farmland in the United States.

Over the past several years, the billionaire has amassed a portfolio of 242,000 acres of cropland across the country, which is about the one-third the size of Rhode Island. The news was met with concern and consternation from farmers and others, who mused about what he could possibly want with so much land.

When asked about the purchases during a recent “ask me anything” session, Gates responded with:

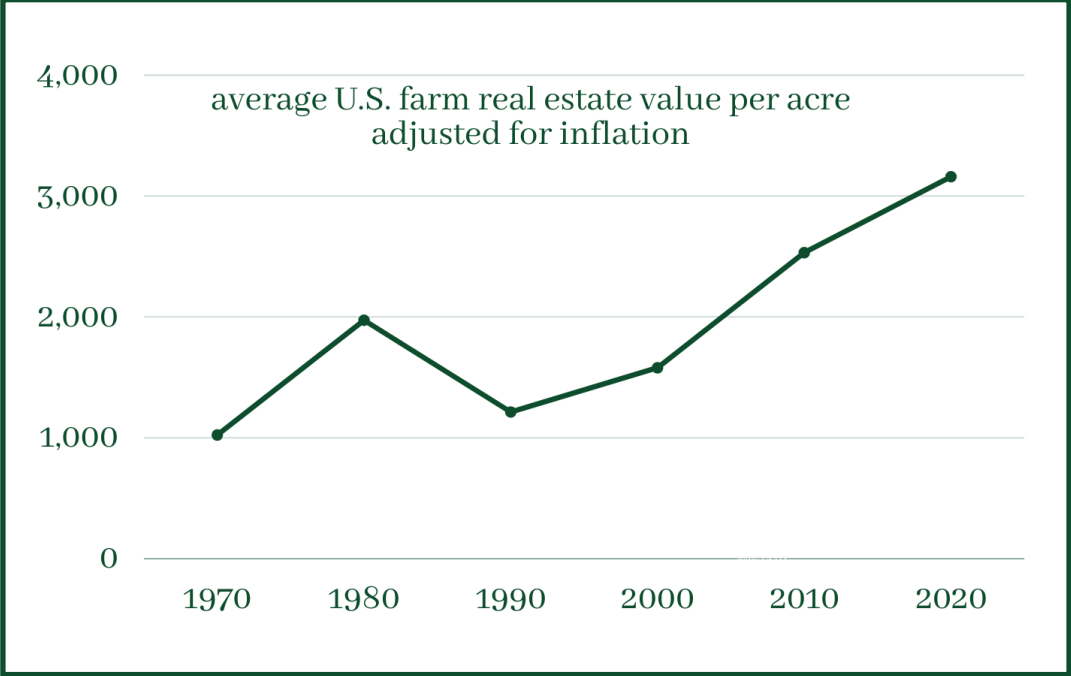
“The agriculture sector is important. With more productive seeds we can avoid deforestation and help Africa deal with the climate difficulty they already face. It is unclear how cheap biofuels can be, but if they are cheap it can solve the aviation and truck emissions.”

Though Gates’ land acquisitions have received significant attention, he is by far not the only wealthy non-farmer who has been snapping up agricultural acreage. Farmland tends to continually accrue value at a faster rate than real estate or stocks, making it a smart investment for those who can afford it, even if they aren’t planning to cultivate it themselves. As a result of these investments, nearly 40 percent of U.S. farmland is now owned by non-farmers, who rent it out to agricultural producers. The portion of land that isn’t owned by farmers varies widely regionally; in some areas, almost 80 percent of agricultural land is held by non-operators.

Not all of these owners are American; in fact, the portion of farmland that is foreign-owned has grown about 60 percent in the last decade, from 22 million acres in 2009 to 35.2 million acres in 2019, which is around the size of New York state. Though the trend is certainly alarming, so far, foreign entities still own a relatively small fraction of national farmland, at about 2.7 percent of the total.

The shift of farm ownership to non-farmers and foreign entities has some very real implications for farmers, rural communities, and the environment.

For one, it has pushed up the price of farmland. In 1970, the average acre of American farmland cost about \$1,000 (that’s adjusted for inflation). In the subsequent 5 decades, the price has more than tripled, to \$3,160 per acre. That means that the median 444-acre farm that would have cost



they may or may not be around to reap the benefits. Landowners, on the other hand, often don’t have any agricultural experience and may not understand the importance of protecting natural resources. Consequently, they may be unwilling to sacrifice rental income in order to take marginal land out of production or support lessees’ conservation efforts. Foreign land ownership contributes to these same issues, plus others on top of them. Local farmers often patronize their neighborhood cooperatives, grain elevators, and processors, supporting regional economic growth and job creation. Foreign entities, in contrast, might be

more likely to direct their resources towards its own interests, taking those jobs and economic opportunities overseas instead.

Perhaps even more alarming than the extraction of wealth is the extraction of food. A foreign entity could purchase farmland with the intent to export the products grown on that land out of the country. If this is executed on a large enough scale, it could seriously undermine national food sovereignty.

Unfortunately, there are reasons to believe this trend could intensify in the coming decades. Currently, more than 80 percent of U.S. farmland is owned by someone older than 55, and 50 percent

is owned by someone older than 75, meaning that about 400 million acres of land will change hands in the coming decade. If investors and foreign entities are able to outbid farmers when that happens, we could see a rapid shift towards even more non-farming landowners.

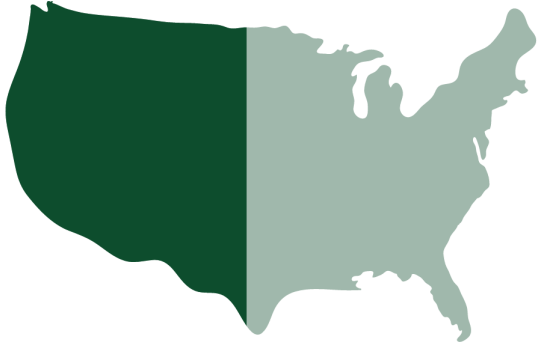
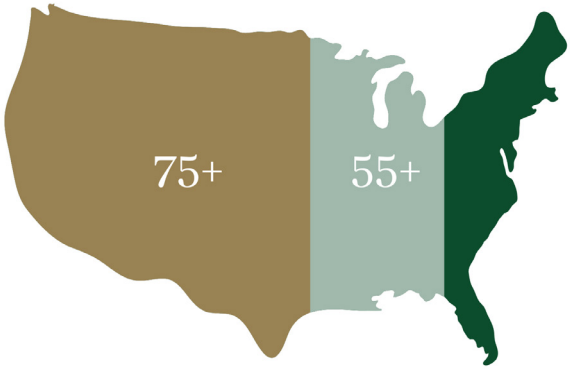
"Currently, more than 80 percent of U.S. farmland is owned by someone older than 55, and 50 percent is owned by someone older than 75, meaning that about 400 million acres of land will change hands in the coming decade."

\$444,000 in 1970 is now worth \$1.4 million. (This hasn’t been helped by the fact that farmland area in the U.S. has fallen by 25 percent since mid-century.)

As the value of farmland has skyrocketed, small-scale and beginning farmers have been priced out from purchasing their own land or even affording leases. In the absence of smaller buyers and lessees, the largest, wealthiest operations have been able to hoard land. As things stand, just 13 percent

of operations rent or own 75 percent of U.S. farmed cropland.

The proliferation on non-farmer land ownership may have consequences for the environment too. For renting farmers, there is no guarantee that they’ll be tending the same tract of land in five or ten years. That means there less incentive to invest the time, money, and energy into implementing practices that protect soil, water, and air quality because



National Farmers Union proposes the following legislative solutions to help prevent this outcome:

- Ban foreign entities from purchasing farmland
- Prohibit foreign entities from participating in federal farm programs
- Offer incentives to landowners to encourage them to sell to farmers and aspiring farmers
- Protect farmland from further development
- Provide incentives to non-farming landowners and renting farmers to encourage them to invest in conservation practices
- Discourage the concentration of land ownership and off-farm ownership via graduated land taxes and similar limitations



New-Fashioned Field Day

Kingfisher County AFR Hosts Field Day



Above: Kingfisher County AFR President Steve Pope began converting to no-till farming in 2005. He has since incorporated cover crops and other regenerative agriculture practices and has maintained a profitable margin on his operation.

Right: Look Closely! Root nodules are found on the roots of legumes such as beans, peas and soybeans. Within these nodules, rhizobia bacteria works to "fix" nitrogen gas from the atmosphere. This ability to fix gaseous nitrogen makes legumes an ideal regenerative crop as their requirement for nitrogen fertilizer is reduced.

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC), Oklahoma Assoc. of Conservation Districts (OACD), USDA Southern Plains Climate Hub, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and AFR Cooperative, held a soil health field day Aug. 3 at Loyal. Kingfisher County AFR hosted the full-day event.

The field day event was a great opportunity for area farmers and ranchers to learn about the benefits of improved soil health in the region.

Educational field day topics included the economics of soil health, a producer

perspective on following winter wheat with cover crops, discussions on cover crop grazing, an overview of the OCC Working On Regenerative Management Systems (W.O.R.M.S) program and a general overview of soil health basics.

The event also featured an in-field cover crop tour and soil demonstration with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission's Greg Scott and a rainfall simulator demonstration with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission's Blane Stacy and Meg Greski.



Giving Back



Okfuskee County AFR sponsors the Okfuskee County Spring Livestock Show Showmanship Awards for every year. The sponsorship rewards good showmanship, but it also benefits the Wes Watkins Technology Center welding program, which uses the showmanship awards to help its students practice their welding skills.



AFR Cooperative Local #527 participated in the 23rd Annual Jay Cruise Night for the first time. Teel-Lane Insurance was a sponsor of the event and Matt and Mitzi Lane and their friends and family provided cold water for event attendees.



AFR Local #551 sponsored the Rush Springs FFA Speech Contest this year. The sponsorship included a meal for more than 250 students and awards for the contest winners. Kyle Jones with Community Insurance in Rush Springs presented the funds.





Pontotoc County AFR donated \$1,800 to rural fire departments in their area. They gave \$200 each to fire departments serving Roff, Lula, Union Valley, Vanoss, Stonewall, Oil Center, Homer, Francis and Fitzhugh.



AFR Local #462 donated \$500 to the Paden Fire Department. They also gives out \$1,000 scholarships to three graduating seniors every year.

County and Local AFR Organizations are Committed To Their Communities!

Are you a member of a county or local AFR organization that's doing great things in your corner of Oklahoma?
Let us know!

We'd love to showcase your contributions. Email details and photos to afrcoop@afrmic.com.



During Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom's "Read an Accurate Ag Book Week," AFR Cooperative State Secretary and Love County AFR member Paul Jackson (above) and AFR Youth Advisory Council member Hailey Sunthen and Mitzi Lane of Teel-Lane Insurance and Delaware County AFR (right) read books that told the agriculture story to elementary students across the state.



LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

After last year’s camp cancellation, this was a great year to be back for the 2021 AFR Leadership Summit!

AFR hosted a total of 55 teen and 156 senior campers from 41 different counties at the Heartland Conference Center in central Oklahoma July 25-31.

This year’s Summit theme was “Legacy.” Campers learned about creating their legacies by attending team-building workshops that enhanced their leadership skills.

Throughout the week, teen and senior campers packed more than 500 care packages that were sent to active military men and women overseas. Each package had 35 items, including a handwritten note provided by one of the campers.

Campers showcased their talents during the Leadership Summit Talent Show. This year’s talents ranged from singing and dancing to a pianist, and many more awesome talents. Ava Jernigan from Owasso won this year’s talent show.

During policy session, senior campers were assigned a position on a state or federal legislative issue. Students then had to research, discuss and debate their topic. Each group performed a skit or prepare a speech to debate their topic. After hearing both sides of the argument, campers each “voted” on the issues.





55 TEENS 156 SENIORS 41 COUNTIES



Long time AFR supporter Pete McDaniel, Apache, was honored at the 2021 Leadership Summit Reception on July 30, 2021. McDaniel recieved the inaugural Youth Champion Award for his more than 20 years of service to the AFR Youth Program. McDaniel has always “ridden for the brand,” pushing the AFR mission areas of legislation, co-operation and education. McDaniel has been the spark for many through his actions, leadership and encourgaging others.

CONGRATS
PETE!

77TH ANNUAL AFR SPEECH CONTEST

- CENTRAL DISTRICT- NOV. 4, TECUMSEH
- NORTHEAST DISTRICT- NOV. 9, SAPULPA
- SOUTHEAST DISTRICT, NOV. 11, WILBURTON
- SOUTHWEST DISTRICT- NOV. 15, CACHE
- NORTHWEST DISTRICT- NOV. 18, ENID
- STATE SPEECH- DEC. 4, STILLWATER

2021-2022 YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



HAILEY SUNTKEN, SEQUOYAH

Suntken serves on the Oklahoma Agricultural Youth Council, as president of her FFA chapter, and as a member of the National Honor Society, all while playing soccer and softball. She plans to attend Oklahoma State University and major in agribusiness and agricultural communications.



SOPHIE VARNER, BRISTOW

Varner serves on the Oklahoma Agricultural Youth Council, as president of her FFA chapter, as secretary of the National Honor Society and as a member of the student council. Following high school, Varner hopes to attend Oklahoma State University and major in pre-law and agribusiness.



KELSEY WALL, GROVE

Wall is a cattle enthusiast and grew up showing cattle. She has ventured onto other species, including hogs and sheep. After high school, Wall hopes to attend Oklahoma State University and pursue agricultural communications and agricultural business degrees.




**TAYLOR MCCONNELL,
WELLSTON**

McConnell has shown hogs for the 14 years. She is a member of the National Junior Swine Association and the Oklahoma Junior Swine Association. She also serves as president of her FFA chapter. She plans to attend Oklahoma State University and major in animal science in hopes of attending vet school.



**LARAHMY BLAKLEY,
OOLOGAH**

Blakley serves as president of his FFA chapter, on the Oklahoma Junior Cattlemen Board of Directors and as an at-large director of the American Maine Anjou Association. He plans to attend Oklahoma State University and major in animal science and agribusiness.



2021 AFR Poster Contest

POSTERS MUST SOLELY BE THE WORK OF THE STUDENT. STUDENTS MAY USE CRAYONS, MARKERS, PENS, PENCILS, ETC.
POSTERS WILL BE JUDGED ON ORIGINALITY, CREATIVITY, NEATNESS, SUBJECTIVITY AND OVERALL EFFECT.
THERE WILL BE TWO AGE DIVISIONS: DIVISION I: GRADES 1 & 2; AND DIVISION II: GRADES 3 & 4.
GIFT CARDS WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS IN EACH DIVISION: FIRST PLACE: \$100; SECOND PLACE: \$75; THIRD, FOURTH & FIFTH PLACE: \$50.
TOP 50 POSTERS FROM EACH DIVISION WILL BE ON DISPLAY DURING THE AFR CONVENTION IN FEBRUARY AT THE EMBASSY SUITES AND CONFERENCE CENTER IN NORMAN.
POSTERS MUST BE TURNED IN TO YOUR LOCAL AFR INSURANCE AGENT OR MAILED TO THE AFR COOPERATIVE.

ALL POSTERS MUST BE RETURNED TO AFR COOPERATIVE BY FRIDAY DECEMBER 3, 2021.

RETURN COMPLETED POSTER(S) TO: AFR COOPERATIVE | ATTN: TAILOR ATKINSON | PO BOX 24000 | OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73124 | 405-218-5566 | TAILOR.ATKINSON@AFRMIC.COM

Women's Cooperative

Feeding Tomorrow's Future Initiative Provides Volunteer Opportunities



This year, the AFR Women's Cooperative Service Initiative is "Feed Tomorrow's Future," a partnership with The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. The mission of The Regional Food Bank is to "lead the fight against hunger in central and western Oklahoma." In 2020, more than 47 million meals were provided and 37,000 children were fed through the Food for Kids program. In addition, for every dollar donated to the program, four children are fed. This year, there are two ways for AFR members to get involved in our service initiative. The first way to get involved is through participation in a "food and fund drive." By hosting a food and fund drive, each local AFR agency can collect canned goods and

raise money through fundraising efforts. The second way to get involved is to participate in our in-person volunteer events. Through the onsite volunteer experience, participants help assemble sacks of food for the Food For Kids Backpack Program or pack Commodity Supplemental Food Program Boxes. The volunteer date and time is to be announced. *For more information on hosting a Food and Fund Drive at your local agency or getting involved in our in-person volunteer event, please contact Carrie Leach at 405-218-5591 or carrie.leach@afrmic.com.*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Farmers Union Foundation will match every dollar donated to the Feed Tomorrow's Future Fund.

Volunteer in Person!

The AFR Women's Council will host a volunteer day at The Regional Food Bank on November 22. All AFR members are welcome!

Contact AFR Cooperative at carrie.leach@afrmic.com for more information.

..... AFR Cooperative presents

Fund & Service Campaign

ONE in FOUR children in
..... OKLAHOMA
has inconsistent access to healthy food.

The Women's Cooperative has partnered with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to help fight against childhood hunger in Oklahoma.

I WANT TO MAKE A DONATION

Mail to:
AFR Cooperative
Attn: Carrie Leach
P.O. Box 24000
Oklahoma City, OK 73124

Make checks payable to:
Farmers Union Foundation

Donations are tax deductible.

I WANT TO VOLUNTEER

The Women's Cooperative is hopeful we will be able to hold service days at the Regional Food of Oklahoma later this year following the conclusion of the pandemic. Please stay tuned for more information.

AFR Welcomes Goodson to the Cooperative Team



Jamie Goodson joined the AFR Cooperative team in early 2021 as the executive assistant to the state secretary. In this role, Goodson will aide in the organization and management of AFR county and local organizations, including helping new locals establish their non-profit status and existing counties and locals maintain their current non-profit status. Beyond her work with county and local organizations, Goodson will help with all aspects of state convention planning and will manage candidate and delegate paperwork for both state and local conventions. She also assists the state secretary with corporate audit requests and the tasks associated with the mutual company secretary role.

Goodson has served AFR for the past four years in agency relations and customer service. In that role, she worked with the AFR agency force across the state. She will carry the relationships she built in agency relations to her new position with the Cooperative. Prior to her time with AFR, Goodson worked as an office manager for more than 10 years. She also owned and operated a child care center for eight years. Goodson is an Oklahoma City native and attended Oklahoma City Community College. She holds an insurance license with property and casualty lines of authority.

COUNTY MEETING NOTICES

-- IMPORTANT --

WITH PENDING COVID-19 ISSUES, SOME COUNTIES ARE CONDUCTING LIMITED (BUSINESS-ONLY) MEETINGS WITHOUT MEALS, REFRESHMENTS AND DOOR PRIZES, AND EVEN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AS MANY LOCATIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS. BEFORE TRAVELING GREAT DISTANCES, PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR MEETING, AS CHANGING COVID CONDITIONS MAY CHANGE THE MEETING LOCATION, DATE AND TIME.

ADAIR COUNTY

Tuesday, December 9, 2021, 5:30 P.M.

Where: TBD

RSVP: Brad Davenport, 918-696-7191; Southlake Ins., 918-489-5823

Extra Info: Local #756 will meet immediately afterward.

ATOKA COUNTY *Pending*

ALFALFA COUNTY

Saturday, October 2, 2021, Noon

Where: Helena Senior Citizens Bldg.

RSVP: Brooks Agency, 580-596- 3321; Nichols Agency, 580-883-5969 or 580-822-5554

Extra Info: Lunch will be provided. Locals #164 and #167 will meet immediately afterward.

BEAVER COUNTY *Pending*

BECKHAM COUNTY

Monday, October 4, 2021, 6 P.M.

Where: Achkely Park and Large Pavilion In The Center, Elk City

RSVP: Crow Agency, 580-225-3645

Extra Info: Locals #14 will meet immediately afterward.

BLAINE CO. LOCAL 316

Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 5 P.M.

Where: Kimberlee Kidwell Agency, 107 West Main Street, Geary

RSVP: Kidwell Agency, 405-884-2778

BLAINE CO. LOCAL 335

Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Cornerstone Bank Com. Rm

RSVP: Kyle Jech, 405-375-5100

BLAINE CO. LOCAL 504

Tuesday, October, 19, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

RSVP: For time and location -- Kyle Jech, 405-375-5100

BRYAN COUNTY

Tuesday, October 27, 2021

Where: Jestis Insurance Agency 912 West Evergreen, Durant

RSVP: Please call office for details,

580-634-2883

Extra Info: Local #28 will meet immediately afterward.

CADDO COUNTY

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Fort Cobb School Cafeteria

CADDO CO. LOCAL 310

Thursday, November, 4, 2021, 5 P.M.

Where: Coffey Insurance Agency, 125 West Main Street, Hinton

CADDO CO. LOCAL 346

Thursday, December 2, 2021, Noon

Where: Tackett Insurance Agency 103 W. Main Street, Fort Cobb

CADDO CO. LOCAL 386

Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 5 P.M.

Where: Swanda Insurance Agency 110 E. Evans Avenue, Apache

CANADIAN COUNTY

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 6 P.M.

Where: Redlands Community College. Between RCC and Bible Baptist Church.

RSVP: By Oct. 20 - Wiedemann Agency, 405-354-7920; Darrell Wiedemann, 405-262-5388; Tyler Pfaff, 405-263-7935

Extra Info: Locals #4 and #43 will meet immediately afterward.

CARTER COUNTY

RSVP: For time and location -- James Barrett, 580-668-2389

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Thursday, October 21, 2021

RSVP: For time and location -- 918-456-0559

Extra Info: Local #489 will meet also.

CHOCTAW COUNTY

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 6 P.M.

Where: Kiamichi Technology Center

RSVP: R.E. McGuire Ins., 580-326-7558; Combest Ins., 580-566-2552

Extra Info: Refreshments and door

prizes. Locals #460 and #684 will meet immediately afterward.

CIMARRON COUNTY

Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 5 P.M.

Where: AIM Insurance Agency; Possibly virtual, contact to verify.

Candi Baird, Boise City, 580-544-2479; Marge Wilmarth, Keyes, 580-546-7253

Extra Info: Local #258 will meet immediately afterward.

CLEVELAND COUNTY

Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Old McClain Bank Building 101 East Broadway, Lexington

RSVP: Ed Preble, Norman, 405-321-2348; Hazel Ille, Lexington, 405-527-3883

Extra Info: Locals #341 and #762 are included in this notice.

COAL COUNTY *Pending*

COMANCHE COUNTY

Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Maloy Park, West B Ave., Cache

Extra Info: Locals #138, #276 and #799 will meet immediately afterward.

COTTON COUNTY

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 5 P.M.

Where: Scherler Insurance Agency 202 West Missouri, Walters

Extra Info: Local #18 will meet immediately afterward.

CRAIG COUNTY

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

Where: American Legion Dale Peace Post #40, Vinita.

RSVP: John Millikan, 918-256-6682

Extra Info: Catered dinner with limited seating. Locals #86 and #357 will meet immediately afterward.

CREEK COUNTY

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 7 P.M.

Where: Creek County Fairgrounds, 17808 W. US Rt 66, Kellyville

RSVP: Brown Insurance, 918-512-8380;

or Dowdy Insurance, 918-367-9950
Extra Info: Guest speaker will be AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh. Meal provided.

CUSTER COUNTY

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 6 P.M.
Where: TC's Country Kitchen, 2140 W. Gary Blvd, Clinton. Located in the Whitten Inn.
RSVP: To your local agent -- Donna Newsome, 580-323-0444; Jesse Barger, 580-772-8500; Jessie Masquelier, 580-661-3171
Extra Info: Bring non-perishable food items for the food drive and items for an extra door prize ticket. Locals #109, #312 and #804 will meet immediately afterward.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
RSVP: For time and location -- 918-786-2155
Extra Info: Local #527 will meet immediately afterward.

DEWEY COUNTY *Pending*

ELLIS COUNTY

Thursday, December 16, 2021, 4 P.M.
Where: SK&S Insurance Office 312 S. Main Street, Shattuck
Extra Info: Local #286 will meet immediately afterward.

GARFIELD COUNTY

Friday, October 8, 2021, 6 P.M.
Where: Oakwood Christian Church 401 N. Oakwood, Enid
RSVP: By Oct. 1 @ 5 p.m. -- Bolenbaugh Agency, 580-242-2818; Detrick Agency, 580-796-2100
Extra Info: Guest speaker will be Cory Rink, Garfield Co. Sheriff. Meal provided. There will be a business meeting with election of officers and presentation of resolutions. Lap blankets, no-slip socks, hygiene products will be collected for nursing home residents. Locals #152, #529 and #668 will meet afterward.

GARVIN COUNTY

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Garvin County Fair Grounds, Chickasaw Street, Pauls Valley
RSVP: To your local agent - Wynnewood Town & Country, 405-665-2018; Oller Ins., 580-788-2277; Wynnewood & Town, Pauls Valley, 405-238-5589; Stratford Ins., 580-759-2936; Clements Ins., 405-756-2253

Extra Info: Locals #32, #176, #278, #340 and #670 will meet immediately afterward.

GRADY COUNTY

Monday, October 18, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Canadian Valley Vo-Tech, Chickasha
RSVP: Willie Ratterman, 405-352-5200; Kyle Jones, 580-476-3289; Crystie Shebester, 405-224-4450; Jack McLane, 405-453-7801
Extra Info: Food provided by Kleins Catering. Guest Speakers; Jon Srna, AFR President/CEO; Mason Mungle, AFR Statewide Independent Director; Scott Blubaugh, AFR Cooperative President.

GRADY CO. LOCAL 223

Monday, December 13, 2021, 5 P.M.
Where: Shebester Insurance Agency 615 W. Chickasha Ave., Chickasha

GRANT COUNTY *Pending*

GREER COUNTY

Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 8 A.M.
Where: OSU Extension Office, Mangum
Extra Info: Local #44 will meet immediately afterward.

HARMON COUNTY

Monday, October 25, 2021, Noon
Where: Boomerang Restaurent, Hollis
RSVP: By Oct. 20 - Robinson Agency, 580-688-9229
Extra Info: Local #15 will meet immediately afterward.

HARPER COUNTY

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Laverne Insurance Agency, 224 South Broadway, Laverne
RSVP: By Nov. 8 - Laverne Insurance, 580-921-5675
Extra Info: Dinner and entertainment provided. Local #8 will meet immediately afterward.

HASKELL COUNTY

Monday, November 8, 2021, 7 P.M.
Where: Stigler High School Auditorium N.W. 7th Street, Stigler
Extra Info: Annual gathering with door prizes and turkeys. No meal will be provided. Locals #52 and #141 will meet immediately afterward.

HUGHES COUNTY

Monday, November 15, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Robert Taylor Insurance 120 W. Main Street, Holdenville

Extra Info: No meal or refreshments provided. Local #353 will meet immediately afterward.

JACKSON COUNTY

Thursday, October 14, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Friendship Inn, 1800 N. Main Street, Altus
RSVP: Storehouse Services, Altus, 580-480-0049. Local #241 will meet immediately afterward.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
RSVP: For location -- Kirkland Insurance Agency, 580-228-2318
Extra Info: Space is limited. Locals #53 and #533 will meet immediately afterward.

JOHNSTON COUNTY

Saturday, November 6, 2021, 6 P.M.
Where: Chickasaw Nation Community Center, 818 East 6th Street, Tishomingo.
Extra Info: Locals #157, #195 and #540 will meet immediately afterward.

KAY COUNTY

Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 6 P.M.
Where: Carolyn Renfro Event Center Fireside Room.
RSVP: For more information -- Lisa Blubaugh, 580-628-3660; Janice Gaddis, 580-762-1414
Extra Info: Locals #5 and #306 will meet immediately afterward.

KINGFISHER COUNTY

Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Interbank Community Room, 302 N Main Street, Kingfisher
Extra Info: Refreshments will be served. Local #243 will meet immediately afterward.

KIOWA COUNTY

Monday, October 18, 2021, 6 P.M.
Where: Western Tech Center, Hobart
RSVP: By Oct. 13 - Lee Horton, 580-450-5231
Extra Info: Pizza and door prizes. Locals #240 and #274 will meet immediately afterward.

LATIMER COUNTY *Pending*

LEFLORE COUNTY

Monday, November 1, 2021, 6 P.M.
Where: Cavanal Room at Donald W. Reynolds Center in Poteau.
Extra Info: Locals #6, #515, #619 and #671 will meet immediately afterward.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Where: AGRI- CENTER, Chandler

RSVP: By Oct. 14 - Make reservation with your agent.

Extra Info: Buffet dinner being served. Having a food drive, so please bring non- perishable food items or cash donations for the food bank. Locals #597, #305 and #636 are included in this notice.

LOGAN COUNTY

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 7 P.M.

Where: Granny Had One Catering, Ben Coffin, 312 W. Oklahoma, Guthrie

Extra Info: Full annual gathering with catered meal. Locals #102 and #338 will meet immediatley afterward.

LOVE COUNTY

Thursday, October 28, 2021

RSVP: For time and location -- Pearman Agency, 580-276-3672; Harper Agency, 580-276-5129

Extra Info: Locals #300 and #741 will meet immediately afterward.

MAJOR COUNTY

Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, Registration at 5:30 P.M., Dinner at 6 P.M.

Where: Ringwood Community Fair Building, 310 N. Main Street, Ringwood
RSVP: By Oct. 22 if possible -- Nichols Agency, Ringwood, 580-883-5969; Nichols Agency, Fairview, 580-227-3623; Detrick Agency, Ames, 580-796-2100 or 580-753-4280

Extra Info: Full annual gathering with dinner and door prizes. Locals #272, #392 and #709 will meet immediately afterward.

MARSHALL COUNTY

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, Noon

Where: Greg Clement Insurance 509 N. 1st, Madill
RSVP: 580-795-3064

Extra Info: Local #302 will meet immediately afterward.

MAYES COUNTY

Thursday, November 11, 2021, 6 P.M.

Where: Cowan Insurance Agency 410 E. Main Street, Locust Grove

Extra Info: Locals #29 and #34 will meet immediately afterward.

MAYES CO. LOCAL 220

Thursday, November 4, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Ag Center, OSU Extension

Office, 2200 NE 1st Street, Pryor

RSVP: By Oct. 27 -- Delozier Insurance Agency, Pryor, 918-825-4353

Extra Info: Meal provided. There will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year.

MCCLAIN COUNTY

Thursday, October 19, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Richey Insurance Agency, 215 North Main Street, Blanchard

Extra Info: Business meeting only. Locals #39, #129 and #372 are included in this notice.

MCCURTAIN COUNTY

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 6:15 P.M.

Where: Plemmons Insurance Agency 109 N. Park Drive, Broken Bow
RSVP: Ryan Plemmons, 580-584-2130

MCCURTAIN LOCAL 295

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 5 P.M.

Where: Plemmons Insurance Agency 109 N. Park Drive, Broken Bow
RSVP: Ryan Plemmons, 580-584-2130

MCCURTAIN LOCAL 591

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 5 P.M.

Where: Sooner Insurance Agency 919 E. Washington, Idabel
RSVP: Jim Campbell, 580-286-5555

MCINTOSH COUNTY

Friday, October 29, 2021

RSVP: For time and location - Donna Ramsey, 918-473-5561

Extra Info: Local #322 will meet immediately afterward.

MURRAY COUNTY

Saturday, November 6, 2021, 5 P.M.

Where: Main Street Restaurant, Davis
RSVP: By Nov. 1 - Allbritten Insurance, 580-622-2035; Davis Tag & Insurance Agency, 580-369-2783
Extra Info: Locals #165 and #505 will meet immediately afterward.

MUSKOGEE COUNTY

Saturday, October 23, 2021, 6 P.M.

RSVP: By Oct. 13 -- For location -- contact your agent; Ogden Ins., 918-687-1321; Ramsey Ins., 918-463-5345; Haskell Ins., 918-482-5282
Extra Info: Locals #236, #322, #410 and #423 will meet immediately afterward.

MUSKOGEE CO. LOCAL 236

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Local Flavor Cafe, 206 E Franklin Street, Haskell

NOBLE COUNTY

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2021, 5 P.M.

Where: Schieffer & Schieffer Insurance Agency, 320 6th Street, Perry
Extra Info: Local #131 will meet immediately afterward.

NOWATA COUNTY

Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Swan Insurance, 4033 Nowata Road, Bartlesville
Extra Info: Local #717 will meet immediately afterward.

OKFUSKEE COUNTY

Monday, October 4, 2021, 6 P.M.

Where: FreeWill Baptist Church, Paden
RSVP: Cross Timbers Insurance, 918-623-2840
Extra Info: Locals #419 and #462 will meet beforehand at 5:45 p.m.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY

Saturday, November 6, 2021

RSVP: For time and location contact agent - Tate & Co., 405-454-3288; Cliff Staude Ins., 405-528-4887; Porter Ins., 405-348-3750; Luther Ins., 405-277-9030; Richey Ins., 405-685-5784; Neher Ins., 405-632-5755
Extra Info: Locals #150, #166, #327, #695, #789 and #928 will meet immediately afterward.

OKMULGEE COUNTY

Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 1 P.M.

Where: Bradley Womack Agency 914 E. 8th Street, Suite A, Okmulgee
RSVP: By Nov. 18 -- 918-756-5100
Extra Info: Local #582 will meet immediately afterward.

OSAGE COUNTY

Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 6 P.M.

Where: Carolyn Renfro Event Center, Fireside Room, Ponca City
Extra Info: Catered meal will be provided. Locals #140, #260, #562, #568 will meet immediately afterward.

OTTAWA COUNTY

Monday, December 6, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Ottawa Co. Courthouse Annex, 123 E. Central, Miami
RSVP: By Dec. 3rd -- 918-542-9677
Extra Info: Meal provided. There will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the coming year. A membership/policyholder business meeting will be held for each local. Locals #60 and #79 will meet immediately afterward.

PAWNEE COUNTY

Saturday, November 13, 2021, Noon
Where: Hickory House, Cleveland
RSVP: Angela Frew, 918-358-5221
Extra Info: Locals #184 and #570 will meet immediately afterward.

PAYNE COUNTY

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 6 P.M.
Where: Payne Co Expo Center, Stillwater
RSVP: By Oct. 7 at noon - Bullock Agency, 405-372-4169; Perkins Agency, 405-547-2971; Cushing Agency, 918-225-1751
Extra Info: Locals #20, #37, #99 will meet immediately afterward.

PITTSBURG COUNTY

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Southeast Expo Center, 4500 W. Hwy 270, McAlester
RSVP: By Oct. 15 -- Aliene Bristow, 918-469-2360; Becky Ricks, 918-423-7926; Janelle O’Kelley, 918-297-2553
Extra Info: Meal provided.

PONTOTOC COUNTY

Tuesday, October 7, 2021, 6 P.M.
Where: Chickasaw Nation Community Center, 700 N. Mississippi, Ada
RSVP: By Oct. 5 - 580-332-6025
Extra Info: Local #213 will meet immediately afterward.

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 5:30 P.M.
Where: Firelake Arena
18145 Old Rangeline Rd., Shawnee
RSVP: Call your agent by Oct. 22 w/ no. attending -- Stanford, 273-7095; Williamson, 567-4959; Gilbert, 598-2590; Mize, 997-5760.
Extra Info: Meal provided. Canned goods will be collected for the area food bank. There will be a short business meeting and election of officers for the coming year. A membership/policyholder business meeting will be held for each local.

POTT. CO. LOCAL #200

Saturday, October 16, 2021, 11 A.M.
Where: 48248 Hwy 9, Earlsboro
RSVP: Mize Agency, 405-997-5760

PUSHMATAHA COUNTY

Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Miller Insurance Agency
812 E. Main Street, Antlers
Extra Info: Locals #259 and #319 will meet immediately afterward.

ROGER MILLS COUNTY

Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, 5:30 P.M.
Where: Metcalfe Event Center, Durham
Extra Info: Full annual gathering with dinner, prizes and entertainment. Local #35 will meet immediately afterward.

ROGERS COUNTY

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021, 4:30 P.M.
Where: Dorsey Insurance Agency
512 E. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore
Extra Info: Local #607 will meet immediately afterward.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

Monday, November 8, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Rudy Alan Steak House, Intsct. of Hwys 56 and 270, Wewoka
RSVP: By Nov. 54w/ number attending -- Your Hometown Insurance, Wewoka, 405-257-2100; Lane Insurance, Konawa, 580-925-3785
Extra Info: Full annual gathering with banquet and door prizes. Local #128 will meet immediately afterward. Local #209 is included in this notice.

SEQUOYAH COUNTY

Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 6 P.M.
Where: Catfish Hole, 5 mi S of Sallisaw
RSVP: By Sept. 27 -- Oberste Insurance Agency, 918-775-6233 or 918-427-3276
Extra Info: Locals #519 and #520 will meet immediately afterward.

STEPHENS COUNTY

Monday, October 18, 2021, 9:30 A.M.
Where: Graham Insurance Agency
403 W. Main Street, Marlow
Extra Info: Breakfast pastries with coffee and juice. Locals #70, #264, #669 will meet immediately afterward.

TEXAS COUNTY

Monday, December 6, 2021, Noon
Where: Thurman Wilson Ins. Agency, 116 East Glaydas Street, Hooker
RSVP: By Nov. 29 -- Thurman Wilson, 580-652-2807; Mary Rhodes, 580-652-3207
Extra Info: Full gathering with dinner. Proposed resolutions due by Nov. 29

TILLMAN COUNTY

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Tillman County Food Bank
901 N. 15th, Frederick
RSVP: By Nov. 1 - Jason Carr, 580-335-2590

Extra Info: Local #479 will meet immediately afterward.

TULSA COUNTY

Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Colton's Steak House, 32 Alexander Blvd., Sand Springs
RSVP: John Firey, 918-637-7243
Extra Info: Full annual gathering with meal. Locals #423, #430 and #543 will meet immediately afterward.

TULSA CO. LOCAL #423

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 6 P.M.
Where: Local Flavor Cafe, 206 E Franklin Street, Haskell
RSVP: John Firey, 918-637-7243

WAGONER COUNTY

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 7 P.M.
Where: Wagoner Civic Center, 301 S. Grant Ave, Wagoner
Extra Info: Locals #10 and #724 will meet immediately afterward.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021, 5:30 P.M.
Where: Swan Insurance Agency
4033 Nowata Road, Bartlesville
Extra Info: Local #716 will meet immediately afterward.

WASHITA COUNTY

Thursday, October 22, 2020
Where: For time and location - Sperle Agency, 580-832-3700; Mayfield Agency, 580-393-2363
Extra Info: Locals #89 and #244 will meet immediately afterward.

WOODS COUNTY

Thursday, November 11, 2021, Reg.at 6:30 P.M. and Dinner at 7 P.M.
Where: Cherokee Strip Museum Annex, 901 14th Street, Alva.
RSVP: By Nov. 5 - Brooks Agency, 580-327-5353
Extra Info: Local #512 will meet immediately afterward.

WOODWARD COUNTY

Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Moose Lodge, 3702 1st Street, Woodward
Extra Info: Local #3 will meet immediately afterward.

Oklahoma Certified!

OCBA Ranch Feature: Brainard Beef and Dairy

As a fourth-generational farmer, Brad Brainard takes great pride in his farming and ranching operation, Brainard Beef and Dairy. Brainard’s ranching roots run deep. He grew up working on his family farm and graduated with a degree in agriculture economics from Oklahoma State University in 1988. Brad and his father Derald founded Brainard Beef in 1965 and have since focused on raising high-quality Black Angus and Holstein cattle, with both herds being grass-fed, grain-finished. All of Brainard’s cattle are bred, born, raised and processed within four miles of the ranch headquarters near Enid, meeting all of the in-state requirements to be a member of the Oklahoma Certified Beef Association. The Brainards offer their beef by the quarter, half and whole; they also have a

wide selection of retail cuts. “I appreciate the foresight of the Oklahoma Certified Beef Association and their efforts to further beef sales direct to consumers right here in Oklahoma,” Brad said. For more information on Brainard Beef and Dairy, including how to purchase their products, visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/BrainardBeef.

The Oklahoma Certified Beef Association currently has more than 30 producers who sell beef products that are bred, born, raised and processed in the state of Oklahoma. For more information on the Oklahoma Certified Beef Association, visit afrcoop.org/ocba.



Cows at Brainard Beef and Dairy, located near Enid.



Oklahoma Certified Beef Association Producer Directory



Benefield Cattle - Claremore
918-629-0642

Beratto Farms - Mill Creek
405-385-1082

Blubaugh Angus Ranch - Tonkawa
580-628-3660

Blue Line Angus Beef - Stillwater
580-761-7290

Burns’ Far Away Ranch - Morrison
580-307-5970

Brainard Beef & Dairy - Enid
580-761-7780

Cedar Trails Longhorns - Rush Springs
580-678-0895

Circle R Ranch - Holdenville
405-596-0348

County Line Beef - Marlow
405-626-7673

Cowan Farms - Wayne
405-444-4089

Cruise Cattle Co. - Okmulgee
918-260-6074

Dunagan-Farms - Guthrie
405-821-0562

Destiny Ranch - St. Louis
580-320-7073

Ford Land & Cattle - Vian
918-773-2588

Grego Farms - Latimer
918-232-5763

Hilltop Ranch - Morrison
405-747-6449

Inhofe Land & Cattle - Muskogee
918-684-4000

Jackson Farms - Ringling
580-276-4678

LoCo Farms - Guthrie
405-714-3015

Morrisland - Ninnekah
405-274-5114

NoName Ranch - Wynnewood
580-768-1023

River Bottom Cattle Co. - Norman
405-650-7172

Sandy Creek Beef - Pauls Valley
405-238-0494

SER Ranch - Okarche
580-318-4508

Shallow Creek Ranch - Muskogee
918-687-1321

Shelton Farm Grass-fed Beef - Vinita
918-244-1077

Silverwood Wagyu - Enid
580-484-0352

Uncle Dave’s Farm - Okarche
405-388-8874

Watson Farms - Council Hill
918-474-3267

4T Ranch Beef - Agra
620-762-0275

6R Cattle Company - Canton
580-886-5077



In Memoriam

Louie Dowd



Louie Dowd was born April 1, 1935, in Enid to Joseph and Pearl (Wheeler) Dowd. He passed away September 24, 2021, in Tulsa. Dowd married Ruth Mary Mathews on July 14, 1962; they were married 59 years. Dowd graduated from Canton High School in 1953. He attended Oklahoma A&M and Oklahoma State University, earning a degree in agronomy. He served in the Air National Guard from 1957 to 1963, then worked for the Soil Conservation Service in Hutchinson, Kan. In 1966, he returned to the family farm. He also served Canton and the surrounding area as an Oklahoma Farmers Union Insurance agent for 42 years. Dowd served on the Canton School Board, was a charter member of the Canton Grand Arts Council, and was a member of the Lions' Club. He loved farming his land and serving the Canton Community. Dowd was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents. He is survived by his wife; his brother Francis Ray Dowd (Joyce) of Scott City, Kan.; his son Joseph Dowd (Cheryl) of Broken Arrow; his son James Dowd (Michelle) of Beggs; his daughter LouAnn Dowd Edwards (Scott) of Houston, Texas; and his daughter DeeAnn Dowd Lemmons (Tom) of Evergreen, Colo. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren: Michael Lemmons of Evergreen, Colo., Alyssa Dowd of Broken Arrow, Rachel Dowd Jordan (Caleb) of Del City, Stephen Dowd (Cassidy) of Midwest City, Danielle Lemmons of Mutual, Ryan Dowd Rakow (Christian) of Checotah, Franklin Lemmons of Rapid City, S.D., Bryan Edwards of Houston, Texas, Julia Edwards of Albuquerque, N.M., Emily Dowd, Erin Dowd, Matthew Dowd (Katie), Jonathan Dowd, all of Broken Arrow, Joshua Dowd and Jacob Dowd of Beggs, and four great-grandchildren. Graveside services were held Oct. 1, 2021, at Fountain Cemetery, Canton.

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Upcoming 2021 Events

Nov. 4	Central District Speech Contest, Tecumseh
Nov. 9	Northeast District Speech Contest, Sapulpa
Nov. 11	Southeast District Speech Contest, Wilburton
Nov. 15	Southwest District Speech Contest, Cache
Nov. 18	Northwest District Speech Contest, Enid
Dec. 3	Poster Contest Entries Due to AFR Home Office
Dec. 4	State Speech Contest, Stillwater
Dec. 9-11	Tulsa Farm Show, Tulsa
Jan. 14-15	KNID AgriFest, Enid
Feb. 11-13	2022 AFR State Convention, Norman



Oklahoma STRONG

From the Desk of Scott Blubaugh

Fall is here! And thankfully, it feels like we're slowly getting back to more normal fall school year activities. Football games, homecomings, county fairs...and speech contests!

Last year, we were forced to cancel the annual AFR Speech Contest because of concerns over Covid spread and school closures. As I write this, we are on track for this year to hold a traditional, in-person contest. We've certainly learned to be flexible over the last 18 months. If the time comes and we're unable to hold in-person events, we will take the contest virtual. Either way, there will be a 2021 AFR Speech Contest!

So what does it take to hold our in-person speech contests? Many people consider the AFR Leadership Summit to be the biggest youth event of the year, but our speech contests are just as challenging and labor intensive.

Each of our district contests are "all hands on deck" for our Cooperative staff. For each of those five evenings in November, we register, organize and feed hundreds of kids. We organize and quickly train dozens of judges. Finally, we tally results and conduct an awards ceremony for the evening's winners. Then, we pack up and make the long drive home to do it all over again in a couple of days. It's a lot of hard work...and we love it!

Our AFR Youth Coordinator Tailor Atkinson has the most stressful job of all. She plans the events weeks in advance, but we don't know how many students will show up for each speech category. For each contest, it's a mad dash from finalizing registration to assigning judges depending on how many kids registered for a given topic.

This is where you can help! Each district contest requires 39 judges; our state contest also requires 39 judges. That's a total of 234 judges each year to put on the AFR Speech Contest. That's a tremendous number! Please consider volunteering as a judge for the speech contest in your district. You'll get to see firsthand the best and brightest of our Oklahoma Youth. It's truly a rewarding and encouraging experience.

Another fall activity I'm happy to see return are our in-person AFR county meetings. This year, we will have an AFR Cooperative staff member present at nearly every county meeting across the state. We have missed seeing our members over the last year and we are beyond excited to visit with you all.

Before I wrap up, I want to share a couple of legislative updates. First, you'll notice on page four that we've made some headway as a part of the Medical Marijuana Impacts on Oklahoma Production Agriculture Task Force. It's a long name for a taskforce whose mission is simple: Help find solutions to ease the impact of medical marijuana facilities on our farmers and ranchers.

I'm pleased to report that we've done a lot of positive, productive work with our state agencies and legislators. I'm hopeful we will be able to present solutions for consideration in the next legislative session. This summer, I testified during one of the medical marijuana interim study on the issue of spray drift. It was clear in that interim study that everyone in the room, which included some medical marijuana growers, were serious about the issue and genuinely wanted to find positive solutions that would be helpful to everyone involved.

Another excited legislative update: We should learn any day if two of our AFR members have been federally appointed to serve as the state executive director of the Oklahoma USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) or the state executive director of the Oklahoma USDA Rural Development. It's a difficult process to reach an appointment and I'm hopeful I will have good news to report in the next edition of the newspaper.

Finally, I'm please to say the concern over consolidation in agriculture has not dissipated from the halls of Congress. National Farmers Union President Rob Larew did a fantastic job testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee in late July and the wheels have continued to turn all summer long. Again, I'm hopefully we'll have additional news to report with the next newspaper.

Finally, please note the "Giving Back" pages of this edition of the newspaper on pages 8-9. Our AFR Insurance agents and our county and local AFR organizations are out there doing good work. We're very proud to be active in our communities and to support Oklahomans across the state. If you'd like to get involved in the AFR activities in your community, contact your AFR Insurance agent. We'd love to have you!

I hope you have a wonderful fall. God bless!

-Scott