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GRASSROOTS VICTORY PAGE 05



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

03
New Frontiers

06
Policy in Action

07
Significant Service

10
Convention Highlights

12
AFR Gives Back

14
Growing Gold

18
Behind the Banner

24
Oklahoma Strong w/ Scott Blubaugh

AFR DAY AT
THE CAPITOL
PAGE 08



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The Importance of a Home Inventory

By Amanda Riddle
AFR Insurance Interim Sales Director

With spring approaching and the onset of storm season, being proactive is of utmost importance in the event of a disaster. Making a complete list of all your personal belongings and property will relieve a huge burden if disaster strikes your home. This one preparation can make your damage or total loss much less stressful when filing a claim due to a fire or storm.

To help create a thorough home inventory, you can use a printable document or a mobile app to list all your items. It is important to include as much information regarding your belongings as possible. The brand name, serial number, make, model, purchase date and purchase price are the best information to provide. You will also want to

take photos of all these items, including opening your drawers, closets and cabinets. Don't forget your garage and storage buildings. Remember, a complete inventory includes items as simple as your tooth brush and toothpaste to your large appliances, guns and gun safes. If time does not permit, you can video these same items as well. The more detail you provide, the easier it will be for your insurance company to evaluate your claim and make you whole again. Keep your gathered information in a safe place other than your home. This could be a downloaded app, a flash drive, safety deposit box, with a family member or friend or with your insurance agent.



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New Frontiers

Oklahoma 4-H Foundation achieves \$100,000 goal for New Frontiers campaign

STILLWATER — AFR Cooperative committed a generous \$13,000 to finish the \$100,000 commitment set by Oklahoma 4-H Foundation directors and staff for naming opportunities in the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall on the Oklahoma State University campus.

The New Frontiers Agricultural Hall will be a new state-of-the-art teaching, research and OSU Extension facility for OSU Agriculture and will include a dedicated 4-H office suite for the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development and the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation.

Oklahoma 4-H alumni, volunteers and supporters had the opportunity to donate to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation to name three spaces in the new 4-H office suite. Donations of \$25,000 to \$50,000 were required before a donor received naming rights, said Milford H. Jenkins, Oklahoma 4-H Foundation executive director.

Oklahoma 4-H Foundation directors and staff announced the \$100,000 commitment in July 2021 at the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation Donor Alumni Reception. Jerry and Julie Kiefer declared their contribution of \$50,000 to jumpstart the fundraising effort, followed by a donation of \$10,000 from Oklahoma Farm Bureau. Following these contributions, John and Janice Grundmann donated \$1,000, along with their son, Josh Grundmann, who donated an additional \$1,000.



This artist rendering shows what the interior of the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Office Suite could look like once the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall is completed. Interior décor and furnishings have not been decided or approved.

Soon after, Burns & Stowers, P.C. donated \$25,000 in honor of the late Charlie A. Burns. To finish the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation fundraising effort, AFR committed \$13,000.

“AFR’s generous \$13,000 gift to New Frontiers empowers Oklahoma 4-H to reach its \$100,000 goal,” Jenkins said. “Oklahoma 4-H is very fortunate to have AFR as a corporate benefactor and partner and will always owe a debt of gratitude to AFR for their support.”

AFR’s resources and support each year play a crucial role in fostering the growth and development of Oklahoma 4-H youth, Jenkins added.

AFR’s gift to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation helps OSU progress toward its campaign

fundraising goal of \$50 million for the project. Less than \$2 million in private support is needed to reach the goal; although, fundraising will continue to incorporate additional features that will enhance the significance and uniqueness of the facility.

“We were honored to help the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation complete its commitment to the OSU New Frontiers Agricultural Hall campaign,” said Scott Blubaugh, AFR president. “We are proud to recognize both OSU and Oklahoma 4-H for their dedication to our state’s young people and this gift is an excellent way to honor both organizations.”

4-H is the largest youth organization in the world and focuses on leadership development by helping youth learn the life skills they need to be the leaders of tomorrow. Available in all 77 counties in Oklahoma, educators provide experiences where young people learn by doing. Visit Oklahoma 4-H for more information or to join.

The New Frontiers Agricultural Hall is projected to be open for the fall 2024 semester. It will include innovative teaching spaces and state-of-the-art areas for OSU’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources branches, including Oklahoma 4-H.

Wallace Completes Term on National Agriculture Policy Committee

Toby Wallace, Stonewall, has completed his one-year tenure as the AFR Cooperative representative to the National Farmers Union (NFU) Policy Drafting Committee. Wallace has spent much of his career in ranching; is an AFR Insurance agent; and is the owner of Wallace Insurance in Wapanucka. The NFU Policy Drafting Committee develops and proposes policy that will influence lobbying efforts of the national organization. Policies formed or altered during policy drafting meetings, then approved during the NFU Annual Convention, govern NFU legislative efforts throughout the year. AFR is one of only two state organizations with an annual seat at the NFU policy table. “I am pleased to have one of our agents and longtime members represent Oklahoma at the national level,” said AFR Cooperative

President Scott Blubaugh. “Toby Wallace has hands-on experience with agricultural production and a long history of husbandry and stewardship through ranching. His experience has proven to be a vital resource for the national committee and we’re proud of the work he’s doing on behalf of AFR and Oklahoma’s farmers and ranchers.”

Wallace is a longtime rancher, managing large cow/calf and goat operations for out-of-state ranches, as well as a personal cow/calf herd. He has also served his community extensively, currently as president of the Stonewall Public School Board and secretary of the Pontotoc Masonic Lodge. In addition to his work as an AFR Insurance agent, Wallace also serves as secretary for Johnston County Farmers Union. He and his wife, Tamara, have three children.



OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

SPRING *Highlights*

By Bray Haven, AFR Cooperative Lobbyist

The 2022 Legislative Session was just ramping up as AFR members from across the state took to the capitol on April 11. Both the Oklahoma House and Senate focus on their own goals without much consideration as to whether or not the other side of the rotunda can agree or even hear their priorities in committee and on the floor. That is not unusual for this time of year as there are no clear priorities for both chambers, with the one exception being the need to increase regulations on the state’s growing medical marijuana industry.

This year is an election year, which serves as its own kink in what bills legislators try to pass this year. Most statewide elected officials are on the ballot this year, including the governor. A few of the open races include: State Superintendent of Secondary Education, State Treasurer, and one Corporation Commissioner seat. At

the date of publication, polling is favoring the incumbent in most races. Most intriguing is the race created by the resignation of one of Oklahoma’s longest serving U.S. Senators, Jim Inhofe. That opening started a domino effect of a U.S. congressman entering the race for senate, followed by state legislators entering the resulting congressional race. In addition, Sen. James Lankford is also up for re-election. Needless to say, it’s shaping up to be an exciting election cycle. AFR has already claimed legislative victory on the state level this year as we joined the effort to defeat an educational voucher program for private schools. On top of that, several of our priority pieces of legislation are moving mightily through the process. Many of those bills came directly from this year’s policy committee meetings. Priorities for medical marijuana regulation include requirements for sign postings, bonding for reclamation of abandoned property, requirements to obtain all pertinent licenses and permits before Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA) final approval, and raising of

the license fee all seem to have some consensus around them. We are also seeing an uptick in arrests on illegal operations as enforcement has picked up in the last few months. AFR has worked closely with other agricultural organizations on ad valorem tax issues, including a bill that removes the requirement to report unmanufactured agriculture products such as hay and grains on your property taxes. We have also worked to push back undue overreach on fire codes in unincorporated areas as they relate to building structures. Our final priority measure is a bill that creates a seasonal restricted agriculture CDL in Oklahoma, which would allow 18-year-olds to obtain a CDL and exempts the written test portion of the CDL requirement. As we are about three-quarters of the way through this year’s session, your AFR team at the Oklahoma Capitol is monitoring more than 400 bills that affect our daily lives in agriculture, insurance and rural communities. We always appreciate your engagement and our tremendous turnout for AFR Day at the Capitol.

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GRASSROOTS *Victory*

The fight over school vouchers for private schools has proven to be the biggest battle of the 2022 Oklahoma Legislative Session. Senate floor debate over SB1647 spanned more than a week, with passionate arguments on both sides. Following guidance from our 2022 Special Orders of Business, AFR joined the fight in opposition to school vouchers. AFR’s public stance in clear opposition, combined with the many calls and emails from our grassroots membership, led to the bill’s ultimate defeat on the floor of the Oklahoma Senate on March 23.



AFR Advocates for Rural Public Schools, Opposes Proposed School Voucher System

OKLAHOMA CITY—Senate Bill 1647—known as the Oklahoma Empowerment Act—is drawing increasing concern from rural lawmakers who worry the legislation could reduce state funding dollars for rural public schools. The proposed legislation is a “school choice” bill that would allow any student to use state funds to cover costs associated with private school or homeschool attendance through the use of “school vouchers.”

Rural public school advocates adamantly oppose the legislation, foreseeing a significant negative impact on rural school systems across the state. The Oklahoma Education Association has estimated the proposed “voucher” system could remove a minimum of \$260 million from public education funding in Oklahoma.

“School vouchers put Oklahoma’s public schools directly in the bullseye,” said American Farmers & Ranchers (AFR) Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh. “This bill encourages families to remove their students—and state funding—from public schools and instead deliver those dollars to a private entity that is not held to transparency or state education standards.”

AFR Cooperative echoes rural lawmakers and public school advocates, with specific concerns that a loss in funding could further reduce education quality and extracurricular opportunities—such as FFA, sports, and music and arts programs—for rural students, and ultimately hasten the closure of some rural public school systems.

“Public schools are crucial to the health and vitality of any community,” said Blubaugh. “But, when a rural public school dies, the small town dies with it. Many of our rural communities are struggling just to survive. God forbid this bill further deprive our rural communities of a pillar of their very existence.”

Senate Bill 1647 has passed the Senate Education Committee and Senate Appropriations and is now slated for the Oklahoma State Senate floor. If the bill passes in the Senate, Speaker of the House Charles McCall, R-Atoka, does not plan to hear the bill in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

“I applaud Speaker McCall for his steadfast dismissal of the school voucher bill,” said Blubaugh. “This bill will most certainly lead to fewer dollars reaching our rural schools and now is a terrible time to divert funding away from public school systems. Oklahoma’s public schools are already often critically underfunded and the last two years have put an incredible strain on public school educators and students alike. Frankly, we need more energy and funding invested in public schools, not less.”

The 2022 AFR Cooperative Policy Committee, a diverse group of rural Oklahomans, directly addressed the prospect of school vouchers in this year’s AFR Special Orders of Business: “We support all public education-designated revenue from ad valorem taxation and any other common local, state, or federal government funding remaining in the public school system and not being transferred by voucher or any other method.”

Policy in Action

AFR Cooperative Sets 2022 Policy

AFR Cooperative set legislative policy for the upcoming year at the 117th Annual AFR Convention Feb. 11-13. Adopted AFR policy is truly grassroots—proposed policy begins as resolutions at the local and county level. Key issues this year included concerns over the proliferation of medical marijuana grow facilities, dysfunction in the fed cattle market, and agriculture’s “right to repair,” as well as consumer-related issue like truth-in-labeling for food products and public school funding. Additional significant directives included antitrust enforcement and farm stress management.



The 2022 AFR Cooperative Policy Committee included (left to right) Jordan Shearer, chairman, Slapout; Jerry McPeak, Warner; Bob Adrian, Tahlequah; Tim Bates, Mutual; Gary Vinson, Allen; David Misener, Elk City; Dillon Travis, Maramec; Susan Gosa, Seminole; Ed Fite, Tahlequah; Brenda Wiedemann Chapman, Ph.D., El Reno; George Roberts, Wewoka; Barry Squires, vice chairman, Carnegie; Tom Way, Lawton. Additional policy committee members not pictured are Kara Barger, Pawnee; Ron Vick, Okemah; and Rene Crispin, Putnam.

The 2022 AFR Special Orders of Business, which address recent, current or future issues of significant importance to rural Oklahoma and agriculture at-large include:

Medical Marijuana: “We recognize the production of medical marijuana is an evolving industry in Oklahoma. In light of this growing influence, we recommend special attention be given to developing policies that protect Oklahoma’s rural citizens, landowners and communities, and that enforcement of said policies be funded through increasing the amount of permit fees.”

The proliferation of medical marijuana grow facilities has strained rural resources and created challenges for farmers, ranchers and rural citizens. The 2022 AFR Policy Committee encouraged steps be taken to mitigate any negative impact on rural resources or the ability of Oklahoma’s farmers and ranchers to produce agricultural commodities in proximity to medical marijuana grow facilities.

Fed Cattle Marketing: “We support an increase in the amount of the negotiated cash trade percentage as it relates to the fed cattle market...To address the issue of captive supply in the fed cattle industry, we recommend that no one of the major four beef packing companies may purchase more than 25% of their weekly slaughter needs from any one feeding entity.”

The percentage of cattle sold on a negotiated cash basis (i.e. through an auction barn) has diminished significantly. That percentage is now so small, some industry experts warn the beef cattle industry lacks a market baseline. The 2022 AFR Policy Committee supports urgent and sincere efforts to increase competition in the fed cattle market and to encourage large meatpackers to purchase a minimum percentage of their cattle inventory through the cash market.

Local and Regional Food Systems: “We encourage development of local and regional food systems within the state of Oklahoma, including the formation of distribution co-operatives and tribal partnerships using upcoming USDA grant dollars designated for

local and regional food systems.”

The U.S. food supply chain has condensed into fewer companies processing food in fewer places. The fragility of this concentrated system was proven during the early stages of the Coronavirus pandemic. The 2022 AFR Policy Committee felt strongly that further steps should be taken to shield Oklahomans from the negative effects of disruptions to the U.S. food supply chain.

Oklahoma Agriculture Lien System: “...We support modernizing the lien recording and removal system, with an emphasis on a timely electronic automatic system housed in one entity...we support reducing the window for lien removal to 14 calendar days after loan pay-off and assessing a significant fine to ensure compliance...”

Oklahoma’s farmers and ranchers are experiencing undue challenges related to significant delays in the removal of discharged liens. These delays can cause difficulty in the procurement or management of financial resources and can place unnecessary strain on farmers’ and ranchers’ relationships with their banks and other places of business. As they have been directly affected, the 2022 AFR Policy Committee felt it necessary to place in this year’s AFR Special Orders.

Oklahoma Fencing Laws: “We support a review and possible update of the 1910 Oklahoma fencing law by the Oklahoma legislature... We support a modernized pre-determined arbitration process for resolving estray livestock complaints. We support strong financial penalties for owners of “repeat offender” trespassing livestock.”

Oklahoma’s fencing laws have not been updated since 1910. The 2022 AFR Policy Committee encouraged efforts to update the state’s fencing laws, and create a framework for farmers and ranchers to resolve issues with negligent livestock owners.

The 2022 AFR Policy Committee also retained some special orders from last year.

Packers and Stockyards Act: “We demand the enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act in regard to the antitrust issues surrounding the packing segment

of the beef industry in the United States.”

Truth in Labeling Standards: “We demand the USDA enforce truth in labeling. We oppose the use of food product labeling that misleads consumers. To qualify for ‘Product of USA labeling, livestock and poultry must be bred, born, fed, harvested and processed within the borders of the United States.”

Right to Repair: “We support farmers and ranchers having the right to repair their own equipment and cause to be repaired through third-party non-manufacturers. We further support access to service manuals, product guides, on-board diagnostics and other information to identify and repair machinery, parts and software.”

Broadband: “We support greater access to high-speed broadband internet in rural Oklahoma. We support a consistent and transparent per-pole attachment fee to promote adequate broadband service to rural Oklahoma.”

Healthcare: “We believe Oklahoma should make increased access to healthcare in rural areas a priority and work to preserve rural hospitals. We recommend reopening any structurally-viable rural hospitals that are currently closed.”

Education: “We support the Oklahoma State Legislature continuing to address the crisis in public education funding. No public school should be funded at a lower per student rate than any charter school...We support all public education-designated revenue from ad valorem taxation and any other common local, state, or federal government funding remaining in the public school system and not being transferred by voucher or any other method.”

DPS Licensing System: “We support improvements to the Department of Public Safety’s driver licensing system to encourage shorter delay times and greater efficiency in general with the implementation of REAL ID, especially for CDL license renewals. We encourage the State of Oklahoma to allow private, independent tag agencies to continue operating and discourage the reduction in the number of independent tag agencies across the state.”

Significant Service

Detrick Recognized for Meritorious Service, Only 14th in AFR/OFU History

Terry Detrick, Lahoma, received the Oklahoma Farmers Union Meritorious Service Award at the 117th Annual American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union (AFR/OFU) State Convention. The award was presented by AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh at the convention banquet Feb. 13.

“I’m extremely honored to receive this award. It’s also extremely humbling to me because you are the ones that made this possible,” said Detrick, addressing AFR members and agents during the award presentation. “...Here is to each and every one of you. You made this possible. None of the things we have been involved in would have happened had it not been for you. I am deeply indebted. I’m humbled.”

The Oklahoma Farmers Union Meritorious Service Award—the organization’s equivalent of its hall of fame—is rarely awarded. Detrick is only the 14th recipient in the organization’s history. The award is only given when an individual has merited such an honor and the organization as a whole feels it is deserved.

“The 14th OFU Meritorious Service Award recipient is a very familiar face to all of us,” said Blubaugh during the award presentation. “This gentleman has dedicated much of his life to upholding the policies and principles of Oklahoma Farmers Union and American Farmers & Ranchers over a 40-year time frame.”

The OFU Meritorious Service Award shines a spotlight on individuals who give selflessly to the organization, who tirelessly advocate for AFR, family farms and Oklahoma agriculture, and who set a positive example for other AFR members to follow. Award recipients must exhibit

these qualities over a long history with the organization, showing commitment, loyalty and consistency.

“Terry Detrick has dedicated countless hours to the betterment of our organization,” said Blubaugh. “He has contributed at every level—from managing local activities in his home county to leading the entire organization at the state level. His time at the helm is a legacy that will be looked to for many years to come and we are grateful for his significant service to not only AFR/OFU, but all family farms across Oklahoma.”

Detrick is a lifelong, second-generation AFR/OFU member. His involvement with the organization dates back to when he was a child watching his father sell OFU insurance at the kitchen table. He was first elected to the OFU Board of Directors in 1986, and served as vice president from 1988 to 1992. He returned in 1998 as OFU Vice President and Director of Farm Programs. He was elected AFR/OFU President in 2009, serving until his retirement in early 2019. Today, Detrick is a third-generation family farmer and continues to operate the Detrick Insurance Agency in Lahoma.

In addition to his service to AFR/OFU, Detrick has served as president of the Oklahoma Association of Wheat Growers and the National Association of



Terry Detrick (left) is presented with the OFU Meritorious Service Award by AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh.

Wheat Growers. He has also chaired the Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program, represented Oklahoma beef producers on the National Cattlemen’s Beef Board, and held many other positions dedicated to the advancement of agriculture.

A strong supporter of Oklahoma youth, Detrick is the recipient of the Honorary American FFA Degree and the Oklahoma FFA VIP of the Year Award. He also has received the Agriculture Advocate Champion award from the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

As an OFU Meritorious Service Award recipient, Detrick’s portrait will hang at the organization headquarters with other Meritorious Service Award recipients in the AFR/OFU Hall of Honor.

Upcoming 2022 Events

May 2-4	State FFA Convention, Tulsa	July 19-21	OSU Big 3 Field Days, Stillwater
May 3-5	Nat’l Land & Range Judging Contest, OKC	July 22-23	Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Convention, Norman
May 18	ODAFF Ag on Lincoln, OKC	July 24-26	Teen Leadership Summit, Midwest City
May 30	Memorial Day, AFR Home Office Closed	July 27-30	Senior Leadership Summit, Midwest City
June 1	AFR County Match Scholarships Due	Aug 1-2	CareerTech Oklahoma Summit, Tulsa
July 4	Independence Day, AFR Home Office Closed	Aug 4-5	Oklahoma Women in Ag Conference, OKC

AFR Day at the Capitol

Following another year of unique challenges for the agriculture sector, AFR brought rural issues to the Oklahoma Capitol Building April 11. Nearly 100 AFR members from across Oklahoma convened to discuss agriculture and rural issues and meet directly with state lawmakers. “We’re still seeing supply chain issues and world events impact us in a very real way here in Oklahoma. Because of this, we knew AFR members would have both new and returning issues they needed to discuss with members of the Oklahoma Legislature,” said AFR President Scott Blubaugh.

AFR members lobbied on behalf of all rural Oklahoma, with a particular emphasis on the intersection of rural Oklahoma and the medical marijuana sector, oil and gas issues for rural landowners, CDL regulations for agriculture workers and potential funding changes for public schools. Most importantly, each AFR member was encouraged to talk with their representative about the issues most important to their farm, their family and their community.

“As an organization, we strive to educate rural Oklahomans on policy issues and encourage them to get involved in the legislative process,” said Blubaugh. “Our legislative program is truly grassroots. We connect AFR members directly with their representatives and help them fight for the issues that are most important to them.”

The 2022 AFR Day at the Capitol included remarks from Governor Kevin Stitt, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur, Chairman of the Senate Ag Committee Casey Murdock (R-Felt), and Chairman of the House Ag Committee Dell Kerbs (R-Shawnee). AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh, Vice President Ryan Plemmons and Lobbyist Bray Haven also provided tips on effective communication with lawmakers.





“We had a great day seeing our beautiful Capitol! We truly feel that it was a very productive day, and made us very proud to be from a state where agriculture is so important.”

*-- Tim and Kelsey Bates
Farmers and Agribusiness Owners, Mutual*





"AFR Day at the Capitol was fantastic. We had a lot of fun meeting the senators and representatives and hearing the governor speak. We also enjoyed learning about the bills AFR supports."

*-- Christi Murdaugh (right) and Vonda Heaslet
Ricks & James Insurance Agency, McAlester*



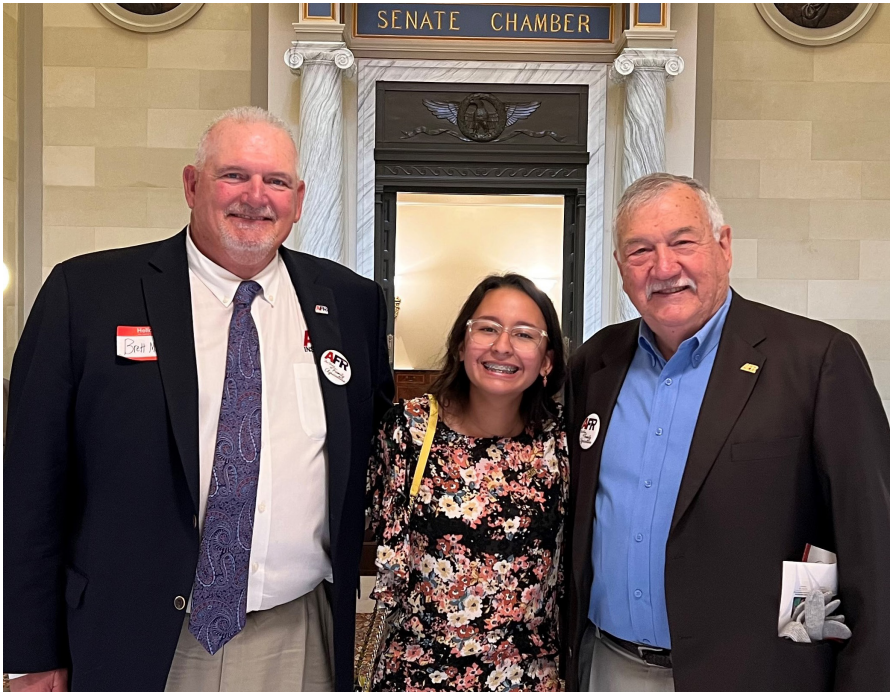
"AFR Day at the Capitol has grown so much. It's wonderful to see all our AFR members interacting with their representatives and senators. It's great to be part of the legislative process and supporting rural Oklahoma."

*-- Jo Scott, with son & former senator Paul Scott
Jo Scott Insurance Agency, Cyril*



"It was great to be a part of AFR's efforts promoting a productive government. Without our input, the congress and senate would struggle to sort out competing interests."

*-- Angela Frew, with former County Commissioner Bill Hickson
Cleveland Insurance Agency, Cleveland*



"It was such a great honor for my daughter and I to be able to represent AFR and the members within our community at the state capitol. We were able to speak with legislative officials and lobby for the issues that are important to AFR, our community, and the great state of Oklahoma."

*-- Toby Wallace, with daughter Taylor Keeling
Wallace Insurance Agency, Wapanucka*

2022 AFR Convention

AFR Elects Leaders, Celebrates a Great Year

AFR hosted its 117th annual state convention in Norman Feb. 11-13. This year’s convention theme was “One AFR.” The event featured educational speakers and entertainment, the annual business meeting of Oklahoma Farmers Union and American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company, discussion and adoption of AFR legislative policy and officer elections. This year, three AFR Board of Directors incumbents—Statewide Independent Director, District 2 Southwest Agent Director and District 3 Northeast Independent Director—retained their seats. In addition, AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh, Tonkawa, ran unopposed and will retain his current position for another three-year term. Statewide Independent Director **Mason Mungle**, Norman, retained his seat. Mungle has been an

AFR member for more than 40 years and has a background in dairy and cow/calf operations. He was a member of Class I of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program and holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in animal science from OSU. In the past, Mungle has served as director of the Oklahoma Conversation Commission, a legislative liaison for AFR Cooperative, president of Farmers Royalty Company, and president of the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Royalty Owner (OK-NARO). He has also served on the board of the Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program. District 2 Southwest Agent Director **Dustin Tackett**, Fort Cobb, retained his seat. Tackett has been an AFR Insurance agent since 2004, raises commercial Red Angus cattle and grows wheat, hay and pumpkins. He was a member of Class 12 of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program and holds an agricultural economics degree and an MBA from OSU. Tackett has served on the Caddo Kiowa Technology Center Board of Education since 2004 and has been board president since 2009. He has also served as president of the Oklahoma State School Boards Association Board of Directors and was selected to the OSSBA All-State Board of Education in 2015. District 3 Northeast Independent Director **Jim Shelton**, Vinita, was renewed for a three-year term. Shelton retired from a 35-year banking career with Oklahoma State Bank of Vinita. He and his wife Sara currently operate a commercial cow/calf and stocker operation. Shelton is a graduate of Class I of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program and Class XIV of Lead-

ership Oklahoma. He holds a bachelor’s degree in animal science from OSU and is a graduate of Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University. He serves on the Vinita Public Schools Board of Education and Vinita Public School Educational Foundation. He is also a director for Holistic Management International and the Oklahoma Grazing Lands Coalition. He served on the State of Oklahoma Long Range Capital Planning Commission and as a director of the OSU Alumni Association and Leadership Council and the OSU Animal Science Alumni Association. In addition to elections, 2022 AFR State Convention attendees learned about timely topics such as rural issues related to the medical marijuana industry and lack of competition in the livestock industry, connected with the next generation of AFR members during the youth program, learned about the 2022 AFR Women’s Cooperative initiative and much more. The three-day event featured presenters such as National Farmers Union (NFU) President Rob Larew, Rep. Ty Burns (R-Morrison), and Royalty Owners Coalition of Oklahoma Interim Executive Director Steve Thompson. In an expert panel titled “The Medical Marijuana Challenge,” Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs Director Donnie Anderson, Oklahoma Rural Water Association CEO Jimmy Seago, and Rep. Dick Lowe (R-Amber) discussed the impacts of marijuana grow facilities on rural Oklahoma. In another expert panel titled “Increasing Competition in a Concentrated World,” NFU President Rob Larew, U.S. Cattlemen’s Association Vice President Justin Tupper, and Montana Farmers Union President Walter Schweitzer discussed the impact of concentration on U.S. agriculture and the path toward a functional future for the beef industry. AFR Farm Stress Management team member Brent Brewer also conducted a breakout session on how to recognize and manage high levels of stress in farmers and ranchers. This year’s convention banquet was one to be remembered. U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas (R-03) was a featured speaker with an update on current affairs in Congress. The banquet also featured a presentation of the Oklahoma Farmers Union Meritorious Service Award to former organization president Terry Detrick, as well as a presentation honoring the late Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture and AFR Director Terry Peach.





Thousands of Students Participate in 2022 AFR Poster Contest

More than 3,703 students participated in the 2022 AFR Poster Contest. Participants represented 153 schools and 57 AFR Insurance agencies from across the state.

Division I Top Winners

- 1st Naomi Rodriguez, Coolidge
- 2nd Ryler Jones, Canton
- 3rd Kinley Peterson, Cherokee
- 4th Kent Oxford, Prather Brown
- 5th Arly Williams, Washington

Division II Top Winners

- 1st Kevin Solis, Garfield
- 2nd Giselle Sandoval, Watonga
- 3rd Abigail Hernandez, Garfield
- 4th Aubree Cudmore, Cherokee
- 5th Riley Cook, Garber



Giving Back



Blanchard AFR Local #129 recently donated \$750 to the Dibble FFA Chapter. Pictured are representatives of Blanchard AFR Local #129, Joann Richey and Brian Wells with Dibble FFA representative Jeromy Landress.



Grady County AFR donated \$100 to each FFA chapter in Grady County—nine in all. Grady County AFR also donated \$20 to each child who made the premium sale at the Grady County Livestock Show in February. Pictured is Grady County AFR President Willie Ratterman (far right) with members of the Verden FFA Chapter and their advisor.



The Delaware County AFR donated \$2,000 to agricultural education efforts in Delaware County. Through the total amount donated, \$500 was given to the Delaware County OSU Extension Office and \$300 each was given to the Grove, Jay, Colcord, Kansas and Oaks FFA chapters.



Wagoner AFR Local #10 holds an annual local AFR Poster Contest for students in grade 1–4 prior to sending in their posters to the state contest. This year, they judged 425 entries and awarded Walmart gift cards as prizes—\$25 for first place, \$15 for second place and \$10 for third place. They also held drawings for a \$100 gift card per grade for participating teachers. Pictured are third grade winners of this year's AFR Local #10 Poster Contest.



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.

Haskell County AFR donated \$500 to each FFA chapter in Haskell County. FFA chapters that received the \$500 donation were Stigler, Keota, McCurtain and Kinta. Haskell County AFR also donated \$500 to the Haskell County Extension Agency to put toward county 4-H programs. Pictured are Steven Sockey (third from right) with members of the Stigler and Keota FFA Chapters.



Zach and Kristi Rendel with the Rendel Insurance Agency in Miami recently donated a new greenhouse to Quapaw Elementary School. The Rendels are longtime AFR members and the Rendel Insurance Agency is one of the newest AFR agencies.



Kay County AFR Local #306 donated \$200 to the Fish & Loaves Food Pantry in Tonkawa. Pictured are Lisa Blubaugh with Kay County Local #306 with representatives of the food pantry.

County and Local AFR Organizations are Committed To Their Communities!



Brown Insurance with Creek County AFR donated \$1,000 to the New Year’s Buckle Run pig show held at the Creek County Fairgrounds in January. The annual fundraising event is presented by the Kiefer Ag Booster Club. Pictured are Johnie Brown (right) with Alston Carr, a young AFR member.

Growing Gold

AFR Member Earns Top State Honors in National Corn Yield Contest

ST. LOUIS—The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) salutes farmers from across the country for their efforts and exceptional results in the National Corn Yield Contest. Through their efforts, NCGA members contributed valuable data that will help all growers overcome incredible obstacles as they continue to drive efficient and sustainable agricultural production.

Zachary Rendel of Miami, Okla., placed first in Oklahoma’s Conventional Non-Irrigated Class with a yield of 213.4403 bushels per acre. The hybrid used in the winning field was AgriGold A6572 VT2RIB.

Rendel was one of 530 state winners nationwide. The 2021 contest participation included 7,213 entries from 47 states. Of the state winners, 27 growers—three from each of nine classes—were named national winners, representing 14 states. The average yield among national winners was more than 376.7593 bushels per acre – more than double the projected 2021 U.S. average of 177 bushels per acre.



2021 NCGA YIELD CONTEST
STATE WINNER

OKLAHOMA CONVENTIONAL NON-IRRIGATED CLASS

1 STATE RANK

ZACHARY RENDEL	213.4 bpa A6572 VT2RIB
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“The National Corn Yield Contest provides a special two-fold opportunity – contribute to the knowledge that will help corn farmers thrive in the future while enjoying good-natured competition and comradery with their peers today,” said Lowell Neitzel, chair of NCGA’s Member and Consumer Engagement Action Team. “...As farmers, we always strive to do more with less. We innovate using data, technology, and hard-won expertise. We work tirelessly to leave our farms better for the next generation, with gratitude to those who cared for it before us...” Farmers are encouraged through the contest to utilize new, efficient production techniques. Agronomic data gleaned from the contest revealed the following:

- Average planting population for the national winners was 38,111 seeds per acre, compared to 34,751 for all entrants.
- National winners applied an average of 276.1851 pounds of nitrogen, 82.5925 pounds of phosphorus and 134.0740 pounds of potassium per acre.

• Average commercial nitrogen use per bushel of yield was 0.88 pounds for the national winners and 0.89 pounds for all entrants.

• 40 percent of the national winners applied trace minerals, compared to 41 percent of all entrants.

• 45 percent of national winners applied manure, compared to 18.35 percent of all entrants.

The National Corn Yield Contest began in 1965 with 20 entries from 3 states. At that time, the highest overall yield was 218.9 bushels per acre, while the national yield average was in the mid-60 bushel-per-acre range.

All 2021 contest winners were invited to attend the 2022 Commodity Classic held March 10-12, 2022, in New Orleans, La. For a complete list of winners and for more information about NCYC, visit the NCGA website at www.ncga.com.

The National Corn Growers Association represents our nearly 40,000 members, 50 affiliated state corn grower and checkoff organizations, and over 300,000 corn farmers who contribute to state checkoff programs.

American Farmers & Ranchers...In the Field!

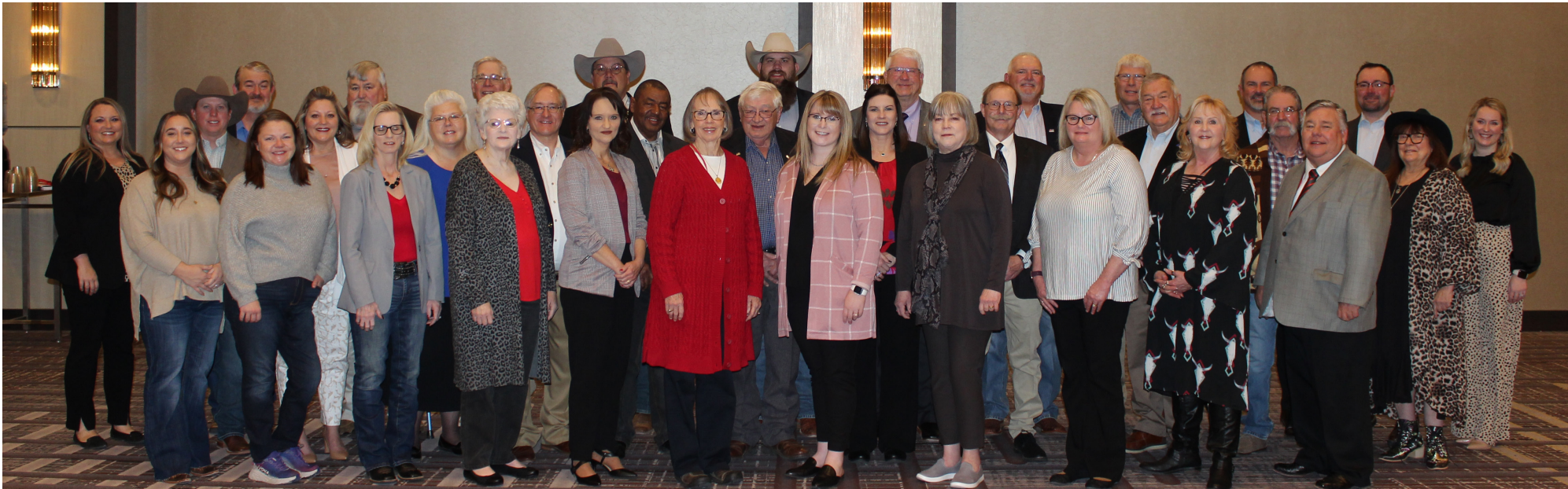


Left: AFR Insurance agents Robert and Mary Acre of the Acre Agency in Canton staff the AFR tradeshow booth at the 2022 KNID Agrifest farm show in Enid.
Center: Chenae Felton and Sam Felton staff the AFR tradeshow booth at the January 2022 KNID Agrifest farm show in Enid. Chenae is an AFR Insurance agent for the Brooks Agency in Alva and Sam farms in the Alva area.
Right: Sabrina Hogue and Del Habben staff the AFR tradeshow booth at the April 2022 Oklahoma City Farm Show. Sabrina is an AFR Insurance agent for the Luther Insurance Agency in Luther and Del Habben farms in the Luther area.



2022 NFU CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

FEB. 28 - MAR. 3 DENVER, COLORADO



NEW NATIONAL FARMERS UNION VICE PRESIDENT

Jeff Kippley



AFR YOUTH

Hello...

Leadership Summit 2022!

TEEN: JULY 24-26

SENIOR: JULY 27-30

HEARTLAND CONFERENCE CENTER

MIDWEST CITY, OK

AFRCOOP.ORG

Interested in running for Youth Advisory Council?

During AFR Senior Leadership Summit, five youth program participants are elected to the AFR Youth Advisory Council. These young Oklahomans represent AFR through the next year as they work side-by-side with the AFR Youth Coordinator on projects in service to the youth of Oklahoma.

Election Process:

1. Fill out a written application at leadership summit.
2. Interview with a panel of three judges.
3. Give a short campaign speech in front of your peers.

Requirements:

1. Entering the 12th grade at the time of leadership summit.
2. Attended leadership summit at least two previous times.
3. Current AFR Insurance policy holder.

AFR YOUTH

AFR Leadership Summit 2022 REGISTRATION FORM

SELECT SESSION:
_____ Teen Session | July 24–26, 2022 (Entering grades 7, 8, 9) _____ Senior Session | July 27–30, 2022 (Entering grades 10, 11, 12)

SELECT SHIRT SIZE: (Adult sizes) S M L XL 2XL

STUDENT'S NAME: _____ AGE: _____ SEX: _____

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE ENTERING: _____

COUNTY: _____ 4-H/FFA CHAPTER: _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PARENTS: _____

PARENT PHONE #: _____ STUDENT PHONE #: _____

PARENT EMAIL: _____ STUDENT EMAIL: _____

ARE YOU OR YOUR PARENT CURRENTLY AN AFR/OFU MEMBER? ☐ ☐

NAME ON MEMBERSHIP: _____

ARE YOU OR YOUR PARENT CURRENTLY AN AFR INSURANCE POLICYHOLDER? ☐ ☐

NAME ON POLICY: _____

TYPE OF POLICY: FARM AUTO HOME LIFE

AFR INSURANCE AGENT: _____

Teen Session: \$100 Senior Session: \$120 | Make check payable to: AFR
Non-Members: Include a SEPARATE check for \$35 & membership form for annual membership dues.
ONE PER FAMILY

A completed registration form and full payment is required to reserve your Leadership Summit spot.
Please contact Tailor Atkinson at tailor.atkinson@afrmic.com or 405.218.5566 for questions.

AFR YOUTH

Submit Payment and Form:
AFR Cooperative, Attn. AFR Leadership Summit,
P.O. Box 24000, Oklahoma City, OK 73124

COME SEE US AT THE OKLAHOMA STATE
FFA CONVENTION MAY 3-4 IN TULSA.

AFR COOPERATIVE

2022 AFR COUNTY/LOCAL MATCH SCHOLARSHIP

Applications Due June 1, 2022

Applicant or member of applicant's immediate family must be an AFR Insurance policyholder.

EOSC *Interscholastics*



Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC) in Wilburton hosted nearly 1,600 high school students from across Oklahoma at its annual interscholastics contest March 25. AFR Cooperative assisted with the preparation and serving of lunch for all attendees including students, ag teachers and staff. Interscholastic contests are held throughout the state to motivate students to learn more about agriculture. The events reflect a portion of secondary agriculture education curricula and assess student knowledge and skills in subject areas such as livestock, dairy, welding, agricultural communications, and much more.

Pictured are AFR Field Representative Jim Pilkington (above), AFR Vice President Ryan Plemmons and Bryce Livingston (below).

OYE BEHIND THE BANNER

The Oklahoma Youth Expo (OYE) welcomed students back for the 108th year March 11-18. Students, ages 9-18, brought their families, advisors and other spectators to watch what some call “The Greatest Show on Earth.” OYE has a long-standing tradition of excellence within the state of Oklahoma and across the country. At the Sale of Champions, a record-breaking \$1.9 million, which will be used toward future projects or continuing education, was awarded to 212 exhibitors from across the state. This included \$400,000 awarded in academic scholarships and \$1.9 million awarded to more than 100 exhibitors. AFR Cooperative is a proud sponsor of OYE, awarding \$30,000 to 61 members and policyholders who made the OYE Sale of Champions. AFR also sponsored the reserve grand champion trophy for each species.





Ten agricultural youth from across Oklahoma earned top placings in the 2022 AFR Agricultural Achievement Contest. The contest was conducted in conjunction with the Oklahoma Youth Expo (OYE) in Oklahoma City March 11-18. This year, AFR presented \$5,000 in prizes to contestants prior to the OYE Grand Drive March 17.

The AFR Agricultural Achievement Contest recognizes outstanding youth in Oklahoma who display exceptional showmanship skills and extensive knowledge of the livestock industry, including production, management, processing and end product utilization.

“As an organization, we are proud to offer development and scholarship opportunities to the youth of Oklahoma,” said AFR President Scott Blubaugh. “Our annual Agricultural Achievement contest is a great way for us to support the future of Oklahoma agriculture.”

The 2022 Top Ten were:

- 1st- KayLea Taylor, Mulhall-Orlando**
- 2nd- Taylor McConnell, Wellston**
- 3rd- Haleigh Ohl, Wellston**
- 4th- Karson Osborn, Fort Gibson**
- 5th- Macy Koch, Perry**
- 6th- Dax DeLozier, Adair**
- 7th- Corbin Clark, Morris**
- 8th- Josie Doshier, Woodland**
- 9th- Colton Jasper, Jones**
- 10th- Auburn Lane, Owasso**

Participation in the AFR Agricultural Achievement Contest is limited to Oklahoma junior and senior high school students who exhibit an animal at OYE. Contestants participate in showmanship rounds with their OYE animal and

take a written test about the livestock industry. The top 10 finalists are interviewed on their individual livestock project and the industry as a whole to determine final placing.





Oklahoma FFA students from across the state competed in the Third Annual OYE Ag Mechanics Contest at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds March 9. More than 150 projects were entered by individuals or team participants. The projects designed, fabricated and built by the students ranged from decorative projects to custom-built trailers and livestock equipment. Exhibitors were required to display their projects and provide an in-depth portfolio that included blueprints. They were judged on execution and documentation. The grand champion of the exhibit was an impressive tilt-bed multi-axle trailer exhibited by Woodland FFA.

Agriculture is a vast and diverse industry, and mechanics and fabrication are a large part of it,” said Bray Haven, vice president of operations at the Oklahoma Youth Expo. “The ag mechanics contest showcases the best and brightest students and their abilities to create functional, custom-built projects. The skills students learn in the shop are priceless and help prepare them for future careers in trade and technical fields.”

The top five projects in each division were sold through an online BigIron auction. Proceeds from the 25 auctioned items went back to exhibitors to fund future projects and higher education goals.

Women's Council



Women's Retreat June 2022 Broken Bow, Oklahoma

The AFR Cooperative Women's Council is excited to announce the annual AFR Women's Retreat will be held in June.

For official dates, complete trip itinerary, registration form and pricing information, visit afrcoop.org/womens-cooperative.

Gilbert Recognized as Oklahoma Youth Expo Honoree

By: Vanessa Wiebe, AFR Marketing Supervisor

AFR Insurance Agent Suzanne Gilbert was recognized by the Sirloin Club of Oklahoma as the 2022 Oklahoma Youth Expo Show Honoree for her many years of dedicated service to the youth of Oklahoma on March 14. Gilbert is no stranger to the AFR family, having been an agent for numerous years. She owns and operates the Gilbert Insurance Agency with her husband, Randy, in Tecumseh, as well as the Tecumseh Tag Agency. For those who know Gilbert, you can always expect to see a smile on her face. She has a passion for the youth of Oklahoma and is constantly going out of her way to support them through various

organizations like the Oklahoma Youth Expo. Gilbert is one of the few women to hold this honor and is excited about paving the way for more women in the future. Gilbert stays busy not only in her professional life, but also through her volunteer work with the Pottawatomie County Junior Livestock Show and other organizations. The Sirloin Club of Oklahoma is a group of agriculture enthusiasts who gather each year to support Oklahoma's 4-H and FFA. Congratulations Suzanne, and thank you for all that you do for AFR and organizations like the Sirloin Club and Oklahoma's 4-H and FFA!

• • • • • AFR Cooperative presents • • • • •

Women's Council

FEED TOMORROW'S FUTURE

Fund & Service Campaign

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

The Women's Council 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:

Make checks payable to: Farmers Union Foundation

AFR Cooperative
Attn: Hannah Seymore
P.O. Box 24000
Oklahoma City, OK 73124

Donations are tax deductible.

I WANT TO VOLUNTEER

The Women's Council will be hosting five service days at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. For more information, visit afrcoop.org/womens-council/




Gilbert with Sirloin Club of Oklahoma representatives Kent Boggs (left) and Jared Boehs (right).

Oklahoma Certified!


OCBA Registers New Lifetime Members



The newest OCBA Lifetime members, Janet Barnhart (left) and John Porter (right), received their branded hides presented by OCBA Director Hannah Seymore and AFR President Scott Blubaugh, respectively, during the OCBA membership meeting at the 117th Annual AFR Convention in Norman February 11. Branded hides are given exclusively to OCBA members that register a lifetime membership through the program.



OCBA Producer Directory



Barnhart Angus Cattle Ranch - Billings 918-873-2511	Destiny Ranch - St. Louis 580-320-7073	Rounds Cattle Company - Leedey 580-922-5238
Benefield Cattle - Claremore 918-629-0642	Ford Land & Cattle - Vian 918-773-2588	Sandy Creek Beef - Pauls Valley 405-238-0494
Beratto Farms - Mill Creek 405-385-1082	Grego Farms - Latimer 918-232-5763	SER Ranch - Okarche 580-318-4508
Blubaugh Angus Ranch - Tonkawa 580-628-3660	Hilltop Ranch - Morrison 405-747-6449	Shallow Creek Ranch - Muskogee 918-687-1321
Blue Line Angus Beef - Stillwater 580-761-7290	Inhofe Land & Cattle - Muskogee 918-684-4000	Sharp Cattle Co - Konawa 580-320-5340
Burns' Far Away Ranch - Morrison 580-307-5970	Jackson Farms - Ringling 580-276-4678	Sharp Ranch - Wynnewood 201-913-1923
Brainard Beef & Dairy - Enid 580-761-7780	Myrick Farms - Cushing 918-223-6425	Shelton Farm Grass-Fed Beef - Vinita 918-244-1077
Cedar Trails Longhorns - Rush Springs 580-678-0895	LoCo Farms - Guthrie 405-714-3015	Silverwood Wagyu - Enid 580-484-0352
Circle R Ranch - Holdenville 405-596-0348	Morrisland - Ninnekah 405-274-5114	Uncle Dave's Farm - Okarche 405-388-8874
County Line Beef - Marlow 405-626-7673	NoName Ranch - Wynnewood 580-768-1023	Watson Farms - Council Hill 918-474-3267
Cowan Farms - Wayne 405-444-4089	Plemmons Farms - Broken Bow 580-306-1024	4D Cattle Company - Wynnewood 405-665-2591
Cruise Cattle Co. - Okmulgee 918-260-6074	Rafter O Cattle Co - Ponca City 580-763-2893	4T Ranch Beef - Agra 620-762-0275
Dunagan-Farms - Guthrie 405-821-0562	River Bottom Cattle Co. - Norman 405-650-7172	6R Cattle Company - Canton 580-886-5077

In Memoriam

Terry Peach



Terry Lee Peach, 71, Mutual, passed away Jan. 20, 2022. He was born March 18, 1950, in Mooreland to Elmer and Alberta Mae (Henshaw) Peach. Terry grew up in Moscow Flats area and graduated from Mooreland High School. He attended Oklahoma State University (OSU) and earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. While in high school, Terry was involved in FFA. He was awarded the American FFA Degree, the highest degree achievable in the organization. At OSU, he was

a member of the livestock judging team. Terry taught agriculture at Cashion High School for one year before returning home to the family farm. He founded Peach Farm and Ranch Supply in 1976. The business evolved into Woodward Hull, Inc., which continues to this day. Terry was appointed by the Clinton Administration to serve as the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director for the state of Oklahoma in 1993; he held the position until 2000. He was then appointed Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture in 2003 by Governor Brad Henry. Terry served in that role until 2011. Terry was a member of the OSU Board of Regents from 2003 to 2011. He was also a member of many agriculture groups and organizations, including the Oklahoma Wheat Commission, Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture, Ag Leadership and Southern United States Trade Association. He was also a current board member of AFR, where he served multiple terms. Terry's life passion was being involved in farm and ranch policy through various avenues, with the ultimate goal of devel-

oping programs that are vital to the prosperity of family farms and ranches. He loved taking care of his family farm, always striving to improve and expand the operation. He also enjoyed golfing, fishing, skiing, quail hunting, riding ATVs, cross country Harley Davidson trips with friends, watching and attending OSU athletic events, and spending time with his family and friends. Some of his favorite times were spent at Angel Fire, N.M., or at the lake with his kids and grandkids. He is survived by his sons Terry "Te" Peach, II, and wife Jaimie; Bowdy Peach and wife Jamie; Joshua Peach and wife Jayme; six grandchildren Darci Peach, Kennedy Peach, Quinn Peach, Maudie Peach, Krew Peach and Bryer Peach; one brother Eugene Meyer and wife Phyllis; his stepmother, Delene Peach; other relatives and many friends. Terry was preceded in death by his parents, one sister Betty Burdick, and his beloved uncle, Leonard "Fat" Peach. Funeral services were held Jan. 25, 2022, at the First United Methodist Church in Woodward. Burial followed at Moscow Flats Cemetery.

Find us on Social Media

For the most up-to-date information on AFR activities, follow us on social media!

AFR Cooperative

 facebook.com/AmericanFarmersandRanchers

 Instagram @AFRFarmOrg

AFR Youth

 facebook.com/AFRYouth

 Instagram @AFRYouth

AFR Women's Council

 Facebook.com/AFRWomensCooperative

We love to see what you're doing in your communities. Don't forget to tag us in your pictures!

You can also visit us at www.afrcoop.org.

Joe Ed Kinder



Joe Ed Kinder, 79, Lawton, passed away March 29, 2022. He was born Oct. 19, 1942, in Wichita Falls, Texas, to John Madison and Jennie Dale (Comer) Kinder. Joe Ed graduated from Chattanooga High School in 1960. He and Jo Ann Cotney were married June 3, 1961, in Lawton. Joe Ed farmed and ranched in Tillman and Comanche counties his entire life. He served as mayor of Chattanooga for several years. He also served on the AFR Board of Directors and the Tillman County Rural Water District 1. Joe Ed was four-time Cowboy Polo World

Champion. He and Jo Ann enjoyed traveling, touring extensively in the United States and abroad. They were members of the First Baptist Church in Chattanooga. Jo Ed is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jo Ann Kinder of the home; one daughter, Kim Hewett and husband Ed of Lawton; one sister, Joy Beth Kinder of Frederick; ten grandchildren Will Cassidy and wife Stephanie, Kindra Woodall and husband Shea, Jade Stone and husband Tyler, Koal Kinder, Kemp Kinder, Masa Kinder, Ally Runyan, Jamison Hewett and wife Jennifer, Elizabeth Bullard and husband Justin, and Olivia Edgerton and husband Jacob; twelve great-grandchildren, Caroline, Ava, Sadie, Rhett, Lane, Benjamin, Phillip, Caden, Brycen, Gracyn, Brennan and Bowie; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Kenton Kinder; and siblings, Mary Helen Kinder, Nellie Ruth Barker and John Dale Kinder. Services were held April 2, 2022, at the Jackson Funeral Home Chapel in Frederick. Burial followed in Frederick Memorial Cemetery.

Phillip "Pete" McDaniel



Phillip “Pete” Earl McDaniel, 82, Apache, passed away Feb. 3, 2022. He was born March 24, 1939, to Charlie and Mary (Campbell) McDaniel on the family farm near Apache. Pete graduated from Apache High School in 1957. He was active in FFA, was a class officer and was named “Mr. Apache.” He was also named the inaugural Range Judging National Champion in 1955. Pete married Ruth Brown Dec. 14, 1959. They had four children Bryan, Darla, Richard and Gala. Pete served in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Chaffee, Ark. Pete was employed at the Apache Farmers Cooperative and served as local officer and treasurer of the Caddo County Farmers Union. In January 1999, he began serving AFR as an area field representative. Pete loved his work and enjoyed the many opportunities it afforded him. He traveled across Oklahoma promoting the AFR Insurance company and farm organization. He wanted others to know

and understand the importance of agriculture, how vital producers are and that their voices could and would be heard and represented by AFR/OFU. Pete’s love of agriculture and commitment to the industry was recognized beginning in 2015. He was honored as the 2015 National Land & Range Judging Contest Honoree. The Oklahoma FFA Association awarded Pete with the Honorary Oklahoma State FFA Degree in 2019. The national Farmers Union organization presented Pete with the Bruce Miller Membership Award. In February 2020, AFR honored Pete with the Meritorious Service Award, the most prestigious honor an AFR/OFU member can receive. For Pete, people were always at the heart of his mission. He loved the AFR/OFU youth and education program. Whether it was summer camps, speech contests, livestock shows, judging contests, 4-H and FFA banquets or the National Land and Range Judging Contest, it was Pete’s absolute joy to be with young people and encourage them. At the 2021 AFR Leadership Summit, Pete was presented with the AFR Youth Champion Award for his commitment, support and encouragement of AFR youth and education programs. In December 2021, AFR further honored Pete’s dedication to Oklahoma youth by creating the Pete McDaniel FFA Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) Scholarship. Pete treasured his home, his heritage and farming. He relished watching wheat sprout through the earth, a momma cow care for her newborn calf and a job well done at the end of the day. He loved to garden, both vegetables and flowers. He cherished his “grandpa rose bush” planted by his great-grandfather. He enjoyed talking on the phone, catching up with friends and family, dancing, a

good challenge at the Oklahoma Capitol and checking his cattle. Above all, Pete was a friend. His heart was made of solid gold. His speech was gentle and low, his hugs strong and genuine, his eyes clear blue and his smile big and bright. He will be remembered as a kind gentlemen who was tough as nails. Pete is survived by his children: Bryan McDaniel and wife Jenine of Ransom, Kan.; Darla McDaniel of Irving, Texas; Richard McDaniel and wife Theresa of Apache; and daughter Gala Thomas and husband Buck of Monett, Mo. He is also survived by seven grandchildren: Nathan McDaniel of Ransom, Kan.; McKall Morris and husband Barrett of Ringling; Sarah Thomas of Springfield, Mo.; Baylor McDaniel of Lawton; Morgan Stradal and husband John of Winfield, Kan.; Bobby and Amber Thomas, Broken Arrow; Matt Thomas, Edmond; and great-grandson, Tucker Heinz of Ringling. Pete is survived by sisters Della McCullough and husband Tony; Odie Caldwell and husband Oscar; Thelma Milhon; Velma Hrbacek and Walter; Helen Hrbacek and husband James and Anna Sue Barton; nieces and nephews, cousins and many treasured friends. Pete was preceded in death by his parents, brother Charley “Bud” McDaniel, sister-in-law Marilyn McDaniel and brother-in-law Gene Mindemann. Pete was “Dad” and “Grandpa Mac”, son, brother, uncle and nephew. To the rest of the world, he was friend. If you were blessed to be loved by Pete, then you were loved well. Services were held Feb. 9, 2022, at the Warrior Event Center in Apache. Burial followed at Fairview Cemetery.

Donald “Neil” Bolenbaugh



Donald Neil Bolenbaugh, 78, Enid, passed away Feb. 19, 2022. He was born Sept. 20, 1943, to Donald Bolenbaugh and Hazel (Schlottog) Bolenbaugh. Neil married Jo Ann Long on March 30, 1973. They had one son, Michael. After

Jo Ann’s passing, Neil married Jackie Countryman on Aug. 27, 2016. Neil graduated from Hillsdale Schools and earned an associate degree in diesel mechanics from Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee. He also earned a business degree and held real estate and insurance licenses. He and his family also owned a dairy farm near Carrier. Neil proudly served in the U.S. Navy, serving three years on submarines and one year on riverboats defending his country. He served in the Vietnam War and Cold War. Neil loved spending time with family, spoiling his grandkids, fishing and golfing. He loved meeting new people, helping others and serving his country. He was a member of the Awakening Fire Church, American Legion Post 190, Moose Lodge

#1740, VFW Post #2270 and the National Rifle Association. Neil is survived by his wife, Jackie of the home; sons Michael Bolenbaugh and wife Geneva and Daniel Bolenbaugh, all of Enid; brother, Ken Bolenbaugh and wife Cheryl of Enid; step-daughter, Lynette King and husband Aschel of Oklahoma City; granddaughters Brianna and Lillieanna Bolenbaugh and Madelyn King; and grandsons Aaron Bolenbaugh, Mason King and Aaron McCauley. Neil was preceded in death by his parents; wife Jo Ann Bolenbaugh; step-son Edward Leatherman and daughter-in-law Wanda Leatherman. Services were held Feb. 28, 2022, at Oakwood Christian Church.



Oklahoma STRONG

From the Desk of Scott Blubaugh

Warm springs greetings! We seem to have finally shrugged off the last cold of winter and I'm happy to see the Oklahoma countryside coming to life once again. Spring brings us renewed energy and a fresh perspective. I personally am always very eager for the season to arrive.

Spring brings another season that many Oklahomans anticipate all year long—the Oklahoma Legislative Session. Just like the season it's a part of, legislative session brings renewed energy to both the Capitol itself and to the many interest group organizations across our state. The AFR Cooperative is one such organization. We proudly lobby at the Capitol on behalf of our members and Oklahoma's farmers, ranchers and rural citizens.

This year's legislative session has been very active. The Capitol has come alive with people fighting for the issues they think are important for our state. AFR has been involved in many legislative debates this session, but there's one fight in particular that has shown how important it is to have our members involved and connected to what's happening at the Capitol.

Senate Bill 1647—a bill that would have created a school voucher program that would pull significant funding from public schools—was heavily supported by Senate leadership. The bill was a terrible prospect for our rural schools, but we were told that, unfortunately, the bill was unstoppable in the Senate. It was going to pass and there was nothing we could do about it.

Naysayers told us SB1647 was impossible to stop, but we didn't give up. When rural schools suffer, our rural communities suffer. The stakes were

too high to go down without a fight. Our professional lobbying force was already working hard to oppose the bill, but we saw it wasn't going to be enough. So, we sent out the press (Pg. XX) and sent in the cavalry!

You, my fellow AFR members, are the cavalry. We sent out an urgent call to action and we had faith that our membership would step up and take on the task at hand. And, you did! Over several days of debate, your calls, emails, and visits—asking your senators to vote NO—made the difference! The school voucher bill was finally defeated on the floor of the Senate on March 23.

The fight over SB1647 was the biggest battle of the 2022 Legislative Session and YOU, the AFR membership, won that fight. The victory proves that grassroots membership involvement, when called to action, can make a difference. Sometimes, it can even defeat a giant of a bill.

The victory over SB1647 has shined a brighter light on something I believe in deeply. When we're all together on an issue, we can move mountains. Each of our individual AFR members have a voice, and when we put our voices together we can be a pretty loud chorus. We can certainly get things done.

It's also reminded us all that the things we're passionate about are worth fighting for. Even when it's an apparently impossible climb, the outcome can still be surprising.

This victory has also shown us that our grassroots membership network still works. I'm convinced it can work even better with more people involved. It's easier to get involved than you might think. A simple email or phone call to your

lawmaker's office, asking them to vote "yes" or "no," can make a difference on how they vote on a bill. All the calls and emails are tallied up before a vote. They count them all, even if you only talked to a staffer.

We won't win all the fights. But with your help, we'll win some big ones. We've got another big fight coming in the very near future—this time in Washington, D.C.

Passage of the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2022 is absolutely vital to the survival of our nation's independent cattle industry. Whether you're a rancher or a consumer, dysfunction in the cattle markets has been negatively affecting you, your friends and your families for years. We finally have a real chance to do something about it.

The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act is fully bipartisan. It currently has 18 authors—9 Republicans and 9 Democrats. It's a bill EVERYONE can get behind. It's expected to start moving in the U.S. Senate very soon and will head to the U.S. House of Representatives after that. We need your help to get it through the House!

Your AFR Cooperative staff will put out a call to action when the time comes. I pray you will answer that call and contact your representatives on behalf of all Oklahomans. This is our biggest and best chance to make a difference for our state's ranchers. I hope you will help us!

Until the next big fight, I hope you have a warm and pleasant spring! God Bless!

-Scott