

The background of the cover is a close-up photograph of several stalks of sorghum. The grains are a rich golden-brown color, indicating they are ripe. The stalks are arranged vertically, with some in the foreground and others slightly behind, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the grains.

AFR

FALL 2024

VOL. 105 | NO. 3

THE PUBLICATION OF AFR INSURANCE
AN AFFILIATE OF OKLAHOMA FARMERS UNION

TODAY

WEWOKA SORGHUM:

Harvesting Traditions

AFR
www.afrcoop.org



AMERICAN FARMERS & RANCHERS

VOL. 105, NO. 3 FALL 2024

www.afrcoop.org

First Published in 1920

AFR Today is published by
AFR Insurance

Oklahoma Farmers Union

4400 Will Rogers Parkway

Oklahoma City, OK 73108

(405) 218-5400 | (800) 324-7771

Fax: (405) 218-5589

**MANAGING EDITOR
& LEAD WRITER**

Laici Wedel Neumann

AFR Cooperative Press Secretary

DESIGN & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Karli Fuss

AFR Communications Coordinator

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.

AFR COOPERATIVE

President

Scott Blubaugh, Tonkawa

Vice President

Toby Wallace, Stonewall

Secretary

Paul Jackson, Ringling

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Independent Director District 1

Roger Edenborough, Goodwell

Independent Director District 2

Barry Squires, Carnegie

Independent Director District 3

Jim Shelton, Vinita

Independent Director District 4

Lloyd Steward, Shawnee

Agent Director District 1

John Porter, Edmond

Agent Director District 2

Dustin Tackett, Ft. Cobb

Agent Director District 3

William Lane, Grove

Agent Director District 4

Ryan Plemmons, Broken Bow

Independent Statewide Director

Mason Mungle, Norman

AFR INSURANCE

Interim President/CEO

Bernadette Autrey

Secretary

Paul Jackson

CFO

Bernadette Autrey

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Independent Director District 1

Roger Edenborough, Goodwell

Independent Director District 2

Barry Squires, Carnegie

Independent Director District 3

Jim Shelton, Vinita

Independent Director District 4

Lloyd Steward, Shawnee

Agent Director District 1

John Porter, Edmond

Agent Director District 2

Dustin Tackett, Ft. Cobb

Agent Director District 3

William Lane, Grove

Agent Director District 4

Ryan Plemmons, Broken Bow

Independent Statewide Director

Mason Mungle, Norman

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to AFR Cooperative, P.O. Box 24000, Oklahoma City, OK 73124



AFR TODAY

FALL 2024 | VOL. 105 | NO. 3

In This Edition

- 7 Wildfires**
Help Control the Uncontrollable
- 8 Southeast Oklahoma Tour**
National Farmers Union Tours the State
- 14 Wewoka Sorghum**
Harvesting Traditions
- 20 Youth Leadership Summit**
Camp Expanded with Record Attendance
- 26 County Meeting Notices**
County AFR Members Gather this Fall
- 4 Oklahoma Strong
- 6 Convention Announcement
- 11 New Membership Benefits
- 12 Legislative Advocates
- 13 National Update
- 18 OFU Memorabilia
- 19 Speech Contest Dates
- 22 County Match Scholarships
- 24 OCBA Directory

Oklahoma STRONG

From the Desk of *Scott Blubaugh*

Greetings, AFR Members!

As we ease into fall's cooler weather, I want to look back at our biggest event of the summer—the AFR Youth Leadership Summit.

What a year it was for our Summit! First, to accommodate the tremendous growth we experienced in recent years, we expanded from two to three sessions to host students in seventh through twelfth grade. The result was the largest AFR Leadership Summit on record—287 students!

So, with a new Summit format and a record number of kids headed to camp, we thought our plate was loaded. But just two weeks before camp, we learn our normal campground had sustained storm damage and couldn't host us.

After some scrambling, we decided to hold camp at Connors State College in Warner. The last-minute change worked out well and we had a successful Summit at the new location!

We were even able to host a special keynote speaker at our Summit banquet. Thank you to OSU President Kayse Shrum for taking

the time to address our students and encourage them to pursue their dreams.

Summit was a success because of all the hands that pitched in to help. A big AFR "thank you" to CSC President Dr. Ron Ramming and his staff. They were gracious and accommodating at every turn. Thank you to our AFR staff who worked tirelessly, our special guest speakers, and the army of volunteers who worked to make this year, and every year, a success!

On another quick youth note, the AFR Speech Contest is coming up! The contest attracts hundreds of kids from across the state in five regional contests and a final state contest. We need a total of 234 judges! Please consider volunteering as a judge in your district by calling our youth department at 405-218-5566. You won't regret it!

Moving on from youth, we have an exciting update for our AFR membership. We plan to roll out new membership cards later this fall. They will arrive in your mailbox with some great information on our membership benefits. Be on the lookout!

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the latest news in the farm machinery sector. John Deere has announced significant layoffs and a move to Mexico for some of their manufacturing. Deere joins Case IH, AGCO, Kinze and others as they contend with a slowing farm economy brought on by low grain prices, an inadequate farm safety net and high interest rates. We are watching with concern as we expect additional negative impacts in the future.

We're hoping for some better news in the next edition.

***Until then, have a safe
and happy fall.
God bless!***



Scott Blubaugh
PRESIDENT



Upcoming 2024 Events

Sept. 2

Labor Day; Home Office Closed

Sept. 26-Oct 6

Tulsa State Fair; Tulsa Fairgrounds

Oct. 8-14

Ag & Historic Conference; Pennsylvania

Oct. 17

AFR Foundation Golf Tournament; Shawnee

Nov. 11

Central District Speech Contest; Tecumseh

Nov. 12

Northeast District Speech Contest; Sapulpa

Nov. 14

Southeast District Speech Contest; Wilburton

Nov. 18

Southwest District Speech Contest; Cache

Nov. 21

Northwest District Speech Contest; Enid

Nov. 28-29

Thanksgiving; Home Office Closed

Dec. 7

State Speech Contest; Stillwater

Dec. 12-14

Tulsa Farm Show; SageNet Center, Tulsa

Dec. 24-25

Christmas; Home Office Closed

Dec. 31-Jan. 1

News Years Eve; Home Office Closed

A SPECIAL P&K EQUIPMENT OFFER FOR AFR MEMBERS

GET AN EXTRA

\$500 OFF

JOHN DEERE

3, 4, OR 5 SERIES TRACTORS



PLUS, GET AN EXTRA

\$50 OFF

SELECT MODEL JOHN DEERE

LAWN TRACTORS & ZERO
TURN MOWERS



VISIT ONE OF OUR 20 LOCATIONS IN OKLAHOMA & ARKANSAS.



VISIT US ONLINE:
PKEQUIPMENT.COM

Annual Meetings and Convention Deadlines Announced

By Paul Jackson, State Secretary

All American Farmers & Ranchers (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 American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance Company, Inc., (AFRMIC) and Oklahoma Farmers Union (OFU). Some local organizations will hold their meetings independent from county meetings, but also conduct business to elect delegates for the state annual policyholder and membership meetings.

If your county and local meeting are not listed in this issue of the AFR TODAY magazine, contact your local/county organization leadership to find out when they will be meeting so you may participate in the business meeting and local delegates election for the policyholder and membership state annual meetings. Basic meeting information is in the magazine, while additional information such as meals, refreshments, door prizes are published on the AFRMIC website (www.afrmic.com) and the AFR Cooperative website (www.afrcoop.org).

For the annual meeting, should policyholders wish to exercise their vote in-person as an individual, in lieu of the local delegate representation system, they must notify the AFRMIC Secretary in writing no later than Dec. 31, 2024. Based on the bylaws formula for the delegate system representation, an individual vote is valued as 1/50th of one vote.

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 October 15 and October 20 in the year prior to the annual meeting, thereby making the filing period five (5) calendar days. Since October 20 falls on a Sunday, the filing period for 2024 will be Oct. 15-21, 2024. Candidate packets are available after September 15.

October 14, 2024: Deadline for resignation or notification of intent to file by current officer or director filing for any seat other than the current position held.

October 15-21, 2024: Board officer and director candidates filing period. Filing is during normal business hours, Monday – Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The following elected positions will be presented for a vote at the 2025 AFRMIC/OFU Annual Meetings and State Convention. All elected positions are three-year terms:

AFR State President: Currently held by Scott Blubaugh, Tonkawa.

District 2 Agent Director: Currently held by Dustin Tackett, Fort Cobb.

District 3 Independent Director: Currently held by Jim Shelton, Vinita.

Statewide Independent Director: Currently held by Mason Mungle, Norman.

October 21, 2024: Deadline to file for an elected position. The completed packet must be received by 4:45 p.m. Background checks are required as part of the application process.

November 22, 2024: Deadline to submit changes to bylaws to be considered by the bylaws committee, ninety days before the first day of convention. (Must be received by 4:45 p.m.) Any proposed bylaws advanced by the committee and associated in-person and/or virtual educational sessions will be published on the AFRMIC and OFU websites.

December 15, 2024: Deadline to submit local and county resolutions to the AFRMIC/OFU State Office to be considered by the AFR State Policy Committee.

December 31, 2024: Deadline for policyholders to notify the AFRMIC Secretary Paul Jackson of their intent to vote in-person for directors at the annual policyholder meeting in lieu of local delegate representation. He may be contacted at Paul.Jackson@afrmic.com or Paul Jackson; AFRMIC Secretary; P.O. Box 24000; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73124.

January 10, 2025: Deadline for AFR/OFU Membership Memorial Roll submission.

January 31, 2025: Deadline to submit annual officers reports and financial statements to meet requirements for OFU to file IRS 990s and for locals and counties to be eligible to send delegates to the state convention.

February 21-23, 2025: AFRMIC Annual Policyholder Meeting/OFU Annual Membership Meeting (AFR State Convention).

WILDFIRES:

Helps Control the

UNCONTROLLABLE

AFR Insurance receives several significant fire claims annually. Along with those claims, we often see the overwhelming challenges and emotions that naturally come with the loss of hard-earned and sentimental property.

Fires originate from a variety of reasons. It's common to hear about house fires caused by issues within the home, such as electrical failures or cooking accidents, but house fires are also sometimes caused by external sources like wildfires.

Although the risk of wildfire damage may seem uncontrollable, there are steps that can be taken to reduce the impact on you and your property. As we head into autumn, now is a good time to evaluate your home to determine what can be done to reduce the chance of catastrophic wildfire destruction.

Firewise USA is a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) program designed to help communities initiate and maintain wildfire risk reduction practices. They have identified that embers and small flames are the primary ways homes are destroyed in wildfire incidents. In conjunction with the USDA Forest Service, they have created numerous

publications to assist the public in addressing wildfire risk mitigation.

Part of this initiative includes a protocol of wildfire risk reduction practices within a concept known as the Home Ignition Zone. According to this protocol, the following items are just a few of the key mitigation practices that homeowners can take to reduce their exposure to a devastating fire:

- Keep roofing and gutters clear of dead vegetation and debris.
- Ensure loose or missing shingles are repaired to prevent ember entry into the home.
- Install 1/8 metal mesh screening over vents to discourage embers from entering the home.
- Screen or enclose areas beneath patios or decks to prevent combustible materials from accumulating, and do not use these areas for storage.
- Remove flammable materials from wall exteriors, such as firewood, excess mulch and leaves.
- Clear vegetation from areas adjacent to stationary propane and fuel tanks.
- Keep the lawn well irrigated and mowed to a height of up to four inches.
- Carefully plan and maintain

landscaping and trees in a tiered approach, extending up to 200 feet away from the home in such a way to disrupt a fire's pathway to the property.

We encourage you to review more wildfire damage mitigation and safety information, which is available on the NFPA website, at www.nfpa.org. In the Education and Research section, you will find an array of detailed information concerning where to properly plant trees and vegetation, and how to perform regular upkeep. In addition to the above risk reduction tips, it is also a great idea to regularly discuss and practice an emergency evacuation plan for your family, pets and livestock. And if you haven't done so in a while, a check-in with your trusted insurance agent can ensure you have the coverage you desire and that all paperwork is in order. We hope this information is helpful to protect your well-being and property. May you enjoy a safe fall season.

*Story by Chad Yearwood,
Director of AFR Claims*

SOUTHEAST OKLAHOMA TOUR

National Farmers Union President Tours Southeast Oklahoma

AFR Cooperative hosted National Farmers Union (NFU) President Rob Larew on a tour of Southeast Oklahoma July 24-26.

McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties

The tour kicked off with Three Rivers Meat Company, a new meat processing facility near Smithville. The facility is owned jointly by the Choctaw Nation and four individual local investors, including AFR Member Jason Herring. The business houses a USDA-inspected processing facility, a retail store and a restaurant. It employs 30 workers and processes cattle, hogs, lambs and goats. While at Three Rivers, the group discussed the challenges faced by growing businesses in rural areas and the rural food desert the company is working to dispel.

Following a drive through the tourism area of Hochatown, the group settled in Broken Bow. AFR Cooperative leadership

discussed issues facing eastern Oklahoma, including changes to the state's poultry industry, such as over-concentration, the loss of laying houses, and issues with financing and compensation. The group also discussed recent changes to the region's agriculture, including inflated land prices and competition for resources between agriculture and tourism.

While in Broken Bow, the group met with Jarred Campbell, a longtime AFR member,

district manager of the Little River Conservation District and member of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. He discussed issues current to water conservation, such as residential runoff stream pollution, maintenance of watershed dams and tribal water concerns.

Next was a conversation with AFR Member Rick Harder, a retired timberlands manager for Weyerhaeuser. Harder explained forestry's \$5.5B contribution to the state's economy, the 30-year tree crop rotation, lack of insurance in the timber industry, and the low taxes timber companies pay.

The group then traveled west to Antlers, where AFR Insurance agents Terry and Stephanie Miller hosted the day's last stop. The group saw the Miller homeplace near Finley and toured the Tucker Ranch with longtime AFR Member Todd Tucker. Both ranches have been in their respective families for generations. The Tucker



Todd Tucker (right) of Tucker Ranch talks horses with NFU President Rob Larew.

Ranch produces performance quarter horses and has held an annual production sale since 1985. With a focus on conformation, Tucker Ranch has produced several world-ranked horses.

Bryan and Johnston Counties

The second day of the tour began at the farm of longtime AFR members Marty and Hope Hutchings of Hendrix. Their family operation includes beef production and custom hay cutting. The group discussed barriers to success for today's family farm, issues with crop insurance, the farm safety net and farmers mental health.

The AFR group traveled west to Colbert where they talked with AFR members Rusty Brigman and Brent Hicks at Brigman Sod Farm. The group learned about the area's shift from peanut farming to sod farming and the challenges farmers face in the sod industry.

The group then traveled northwest to Tishomingo, where a centennial marker recounts the origins and mission of Oklahoma Farmers Union, then on to the Wapanucka area. Their first stop was at the Albrecht Ranch, where AFR members Kelly and Laura Albrecht raise purebred Angus cattle. While there, the group discussed the purebred industry



Brent Hicks (far left) and Rusty Brigman (second from right) talked through the process of sod farming with AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh (second from left), NFU President Rob Larew (center) and AFR Secretary Paul Jackson (far right).

and the advantages of land ownership.

Next was a visit with AFR members Jesse Wommack and Tammy Dunegan. They own a new backgrounding yard where they prepare stocker cattle for pasture. The group discussed the need for multiple income streams and

entrepreneurship.

The final Wapanucka stop was Bill's Custom Processing. AFR members Bill and Jeanna Johnston have owned the custom-exempt processing facility for seven years. During the visit, the group discussed the challenges of owning a business while farming and the



(Left to Right) AFR Insurance Agent Brandon Higgins, AFR Cooperative President Toby Wallace, NFU President Rob Larew, AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh, AFR Secretary Paul Jackson, and OCBA Board Member Chase Berrato visit the Oklahoma Farmers Union monument in Tishomingo.

difficulties small processing facilities face in scaling, labor and funding.

Pontotoc and Hughes Counties

The third day of the tour began at the Chickasaw Nation headquarters in Ada. During the visit, AFR leadership met with Chickasaw Lieutenant Governor Chris Anoatubby for a robust conversation centered on rural infrastructure and economic opportunity for rural communities.

The group then traveled northeast to Calvin, where they met with farmers and ranchers at Granny's Garden, a shop with local produce and Made in Oklahoma products. The group learned about the Handcrafted and Homegrown Shopping Trail and discussed farm bill issues, including reference prices, subsidies and Farm Service Agency staffing.

The group then traveled northeast to Webbers Falls for a visit with row crop producers to discuss Farm Bill issues,



(Left to Right) AFR Cooperative Vice President Toby Wallace, AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh, Chickasaw Lieutenant Governor Chris Anoatubby, NFU President Rob Larew, and AFR Secretary Paul Jackson discussed rural community issues in Ada.

farm safety net funding and rising input costs.

From Webbers Falls, the group traveled west to Warner for the final stop of the tour—the AFR Youth Leadership Summit held at

Connors State College. Larew addressed attendees—the future leaders of Oklahoma's rural communities—before hearing a keynote from Oklahoma State University President Kayse Shrum.



Left: NFU President Rob Larew addresses AFR Youth Leadership Summit attendees. Right: AFR Cooperative leadership met with farmers and ranchers at Granny's Garden.

NEW & EXCITING MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

ALL PRODUCTS ARE MADE EXCLUSIVELY FOR NFU AND AFR MEMBERS.

Great for farmers, ranchers and small business owners!

Accident & Critical Illness

Our unique policy pays you per incident or diagnosis from the first dollar spent on an array of conditions, including an accident, cancer, heart attack, or stroke. This benefit helps defray enormous out-of-pocket costs and high deductibles. Guaranteed issue.

Short or Long-Term Disability

This benefit is income protection for farm families in the event of a devastating accident or illness. This coverage is tailored specifically to farmers' unique financial situation, and the benefits paid are based on your farm assets, not your annual salary, making it much more generous in benefits.

Dental & Vision

We offer three coverage options to fit your needs and stay within your budget. Choices for coverage for you, you and your spouse, or the whole family. One plan even covers orthodontia!

Life

Nearly half of consumers would need to make drastic financial changes if a death occurred. Our custom insurance life insurance product offers a level premium to age 121 with simplified underwriting. No health exam, no lab tests, just answer simple health questions.

Contact your local AFR agent to learn more.

www.afrcoop.org/nfumemberbenefits

Well Represented



AFR Cooperative Names 2024 Legislative Advocates

AFR Cooperative has named two state legislators 2024 AFR Legislative Advocates. This year's AFR Legislative Advocate Awards recognize Sen. Blake Stephens, R-Tahlequah, and Rep. Kevin Wallace, R-Wellston.

The AFR Legislative Advocate Award is presented to state leaders that advocate for AFR Cooperative policies and work hard on issues that are important to the AFR membership during each state legislative session. Stephens and Wallace were recognized for their work during the 2024 legislative session.

"We applaud the leadership of all our legislators and their service to Oklahoma, said AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh." But, Sen. Blake Stephens and Rep. Kevin Wallace are two legislators who went above and beyond for rural Oklahoma in 2024 and we're pleased to honor them with this award."

Sen. Stephens represents Oklahoma Senate District 03. He has authored several priority pieces of legislation for AFR since his election in 2020. In 2024,

he championed locking the clock on Daylight Savings Time pending federal approval, and in 2020, he passed regulatory reform requiring signage on medical marijuana grows. Stephens owns and operates his family ranch and is a strong supporter of AFR, even volunteering his time at the annual AFR Leadership Summit.

Chairman Wallace represents Oklahoma House District 32. He has served as chairman of the Appropriations and Budget House Committee since 2017. In that role, he has led the state out of budget shortfalls into some of the greatest surpluses in state history. Throughout his tenure, he has championed increases in funding for public education and many budget priorities for rural Oklahoma, all while being fiscally responsible for the state's appropriations. Wallace is an AFR member and served as a delegate at convention for many years. He is a staunch advocate for farming and ranching families and rural communities.

NATIONAL STAGE

Chevron

On June 28, the Supreme Court overturned Chevron deference, a 1984 ruling (*Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*) that required courts to defer to regulatory agency interpretation when federal laws are ambiguous. In basic terms, Chevron gave federal agencies the authority to issue rules and create policies when laws are unclear.

While many agree that Chevron streamlined the rule-making process, some argued it gave agencies and the executive branch too much authority. By overturning Chevron, the Supreme Court essentially returned this regulatory authority back to the courts.

The overturning of Chevron has injected uncertainty into the regulatory process by making rules created by federal agencies more vulnerable to legal challenges. Any regulation created within the six-year statute of limitations is now open to challenge.

Deere Layoffs

John Deere announced another round of layoffs in early July, for a total of more than 1,500 workers

since the beginning of the year. This last round includes more than 600 employees across three domestic factories in Iowa and Illinois. The factories produce harvesting, construction and forestry equipment. The company will shift production to Mexico.

Deere joins other farm equipment manufacturers in recent layoffs, including Case-New Holland, Kinze and AGCO. The companies say the layoffs are in response to reduced demand and falling revenue.

NFU Sues EPA

The National Farmers Union and the Renewable Fuels Association filed a petition for review in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals June 17. The petition challenges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently finalized tailpipe rule for light- and medium-duty vehicle emissions standards.

NFU filed the suit because it believes the EPA lacked the authority to adopt the regulation, which essentially mandated the production of battery electric vehicles while ignoring other

technologies, such as low-carbon ethanol and flexfuel vehicles, that also reduce emissions from light- and medium-duty transportation. Through the suit, NFU has added to the growing list of lawsuits against EPA's recent rule regarding the light- and medium-duty vehicle emissions standards. These suits have come from other national agricultural organizations, the petroleum industry, and 25 state attorneys general, including Oklahoma's AG Drummond, and others.

The new EPA light- and medium-duty vehicle rule finalized in April. Unchallenged, it would go into effect in 2027. Allowed to go into effect, the rule would require new vehicles, beginning with 2032 models, to have 44% to 50% lower emissions than 2026 vehicles.



WEWOKA SORGHUM:

Story By: Karli Fuss, Communications Coordinator

In the heart of Oklahoma, down Highway 56, lies Wewoka, a town rich in Native heritage, the frontier spirit and its storied past. Dan Houser, Seminole County AFR President and lifelong resident of Wewoka, appreciates the history of his rural community and served as a tour guide when AFR staff members visited the town on June 17, leading discussions on the town's history, the influence of the Seminole Nation, and one of the state's best local festival.



History of Wewoka

Like so many other small towns in Oklahoma, Wewoka was on the rise long before statehood. Forced from ancestral lands in Florida in 1858, the Seminole Nation settled near a cascading stream between the North and South Canadian Rivers.

Wewoka and the surrounding area quickly blossomed into a cultural hub for the Seminole people. Churches, schools and a fledgling government took root, nurtured by a community determined to preserve their identity.

In the wake of the Civil War, Wewoka was designated the capital of the Seminole Nation, and the turn of the 20th century brought a new chapter of growth and opportunity. In 1902, the town hosted a property lot drawing where participants from around the world jumped at the chance to own residential or business lots within the community. Chances were sold as far away as England, South Africa, and China.

As early as 1901, drilling equipment was in operation at the Wewoka town site in search of "black gold," and in 1907, oil was discovered in vast quantities. The initial discoveries yielded modest returns, but, in 1923, technological improvements heralded an unprecedented boom. That year, Wewoka's first high-production well kicked off the Greater Seminole Field, the largest oil-producing region in the world during its heyday. Ultimately, 50 pools would be discovered in and around Seminole County. From 1926 to 1929, these fields produced more than 250 million barrels of oil.

"The Betsy Foster #1 is the well that started the greater Seminole oil boom, which in the late 20s provided a very large percentage of the



Harvesting Traditions

petroleum products that was used in the world," said Dan. "We had wells that came in at 1,000 barrels a day and there were numerous wells like that all over this country."

Overnight, Wewoka transformed into a bustling regional hub. The influx of workers and entrepreneurs fueled growth, propelling the town into an era of prosperity. Wewoka's population quickly grew to 20,000 people.

Today, Wewoka's population stands at 3,000. The town is a testament to adaptation. From a cultural home for the Seminole people to its pivotal role in Oklahoma's oil boom, the town continues to evolve while honoring its vibrant past. Its streets, once filled with pioneers and oil barons, are now filled with modern Oklahoma families committed to the prosperity of their town.

The Seminole Nation Museum

In an effort to preserve the area's history, members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and citizens of Wewoka teamed up to form the Seminole Nation Historical Society in 1973 and, in 1974, opened the Seminole Nation Museum in a native stone building built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1937. Today, the museum includes 4,000 square feet of exhibit space, a research library, an expanded arts and crafts center and an art gallery that displays original works of art by Seminole artists.

Exhibits chronicle the people and events that shaped the town of Wewoka. Artwork, life-size models and artifacts show the culture and history of the Seminole Nation, the events that defined life in Wewoka over the years and the intertwined story that tethers the area's residents together.

"Our museum plays a crucial role in preserving history, ensuring that future generations understand and recognize significant events," said Dan. "It is a responsibility we take seriously. We are committed to being accurate and truthful in detailing exactly what happened and how it happened."

The Museum has hosted over a million visitors, hailing from every state and 140 foreign countries. Throughout the year, the museum offers different special exhibits for adults and children. With diverse programming, the museum strives to



On June 17, AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh and other state staff went on a tour of the Seminole Nation Museum led by Dan Houser, where they learned about the town's history and its local festival. Houser also showed them the equipment used in the sorghum demonstration

foster a sense of historical appreciation.

"We aim to help future generations appreciate the efforts of not only my generation, but also those before us, and how they contributed to building our community and town," said Dan.



Wewoka Sorghum Festival

The Seminole Nation Museum is open year-round, but one special day in October draws thousands to its grounds. The annual Wewoka Sorghum Festival celebrates the town's agricultural roots and unites its residents in their shared appreciation for their local history.

Sorghum syrup, made from the juice of sorghum cane, can be used in a variety of products, including baked goods, condiments, beverages, candies and barbecue sauce. Sorghum syrup is valued for its distinctive taste and nutritional profile, often served as an alternative to other sweeteners.

Wewoka's first sorghum festival was held in 1976 to promote the Seminole Nation Museum. Since then, the event has grown to attract people from across the United States and even around the world.

"It is fantastic for the town; it is a great economic booster," said Dan. "We often have 15,000 to 20,000 people in town that day."

There's more to the Sorghum Festival than just the sorghum making. There's a car show, with vendors lined up downtown, and a food alley, with many lunch options to choose from. But the majority of visitors come to the museum grounds to watch Dan and his fellow volunteers make sorghum syrup.

"The older I got the more history got interesting to me," Dan said. "I have helped with Sorghum Day from the late 70s, when I just was a volunteer."

Dan has one of the most important jobs at the festival—he's been growing sorghum for the festival since 2002. The former grower was aging and ready to pass on the vital task, so he helped Dan transition into the role. Today, Dan oversees many aspects of the sorghum festival, but he doesn't always grow the crop. Other volunteers have stepped up to help grow the festival crop. Each year, the sorghum is planted in June with the anticipation of harvesting for the October festival. A few days before the festival the leaves are stripped, and the seed heads are cut off from the mature sorghum cane.

At the festival, the cane is processed by a mule-powered mill. First, the sorghum cane is run through rollers that push the juice through a burlap sack to strain it.

"Most people today would know that as a burlap bag, but people my age would call that a tow sack," said Dan.

Once strained, the sorghum juice is transferred into an evaporator pan and the water is cooked out, turning it into syrup. It's a lengthy process, but the syrup making always draws a large crowd. "We try to stop grinding cane at two o'clock. That gives us a couple hours to get through cooking," said Dan. "It takes about two and a half hours to cook off a pan of sorghum juice."

Processing the sorghum is more than just a spectacle; it connects festival goers to the area's history. Before the late 1800s, when sugar wasn't

accessible in rural America, rural Oklahomans relied on honey and sorghum as their primary sweeteners.

"Sorghum was the sweetener that everyone used because they didn't have money to buy sugar or sugar wasn't available," said Dan. "A lot of sorghum was grown in this area. I couldn't even begin to tell the numbers of acres or how many sorghum mills were in this part of the country."

Families would grow their sorghum in half-acre or acre plots, then take it to the closest mill to be processed. The mill owner would cook the cane and receive a percentage of the syrup that had been made.

"Whoever had the mill would run the cane through the mill and squeeze the juice out of it," said Dan.

"He got some of the sorghum for having the mill, the pan and the place to cook it. The individuals who raised the cane would get their percentage and that's what they had for their sweetener for the winter."

In the 1930s, many people still relied on a barter system to trade for goods and services. This system not only helped people meet their basic needs but also helped foster a sense of community and mutual support during challenging economic times.

"A lot of them would sell sorghum and if you got 30 or 40 gallons as your percent, you were probably only going to use but two or three gallons so you would sell part of it," Dan said. "I could remember my dad talking about how they had a really good sorghum year one time during the dust bowl days, and they would take their sorghum to town and would trade it for groceries."

This connection to history may be the most important aspect to Dan. The Wewoka Sorghum Festival offers a glimpse into early American life, showcasing traditional agricultural practices. With today's Americans further removed from farming knowledge, the festival helps share and preserve the knowledge that would otherwise be forgotten.

"We raise produce; we process our own chickens; and we raise our own beef and have it processed," said Dan. "They are just amazed people can do that. I think that is what we need to do to tell the story of American agriculture and part of that story is this Sorghum Festival."

When asked why Oklahomans should make the trip to small-town Wewoka and its sorghum festival, Dan says the purpose is clear.

"If you want to see a piece of history that helped sustain our nation back when sugar was not available, and people had to make their own way for everything including sweets, this is the place to come," said Dan. "You can see a part of how early Americans lived."



During the sorghum-making demonstration, Dan Houser showcases the entire process, from running the sorghum through the mule-powered mill to cooking it down into syrup.

OFU MEMORABILIA

Cleveland County Farmers Union Welcomes You!



Ed Preble, Jr., Cleveland County President, Oklahoma County Vice President and owner of Preble Insurance in Norman, Midwest City and Mustang, recently presented a vintage Cleveland County Farmers Union sign to AFR State Secretary Paul Jackson.

In the 1960s, one side of the midcentury highway sign welcomes motorists; the other side promotes Farmers Union Insurance.

The sign will be part of the archives displayed at the AFR headquarters in Oklahoma City. The company and membership organization archives include an extensive collection of memorabilia dating to the beginning of the last century.

AFR AG & HISTORIC CONFERENCE *“Wonders of Scotland”*

There’s a reason the unicorn is the symbol of Scotland... it’s a land of pure magic! Discover stunning natural vistas, from the heather-covered Highlands to the depths of the famous Loch Ness. Explore enchanting castles, visit working farms and experience landscapes seemingly untouched by time. If Scotland is on your bucket list, it’s time to experience this magical place!

Contact Jamie Goodson for more information at (405)218-5665. Must be an AFR member to attend.



AFR Speech CONTESTS

Central District Speech Contest - Monday, Nov. 11, 2024

NE District Speech Contest - Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024

SE District Speech Contest - Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024

SW District Speech Contest - Monday, Nov. 18, 2024

NW District Speech Contest - Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024

State Speech Contest - Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024

MOO-ving
Forward in Agriculture

2024 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 ARE TWO AGE DIVISIONS. DIVISION I: GRADES 1 & 2; DIVISION II: GRADES 3 & 4.
- GIFT CARDS WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS IN EACH DIVISION: FIRST PLACE, \$50; SECOND PLACE, \$25; THIRD, FOURTH & FIFTH PLACE, \$10.
- THE TOP 50 POSTERS FROM EACH DIVISION WILL BE ON DISPLAY DURING THE AFR CONVENTION IN FEBRUARY 2025 AT THE EMBASSY SUITES AND CONFERENCE CENTER IN NORMAN.
- ALL POSTERS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE AFR COOPERATIVE BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024.
- FOR AN ORDER FORM, VISIT WWW.AFRCOOP.ORG.

Forging Frontiers: LEADING THE WAY

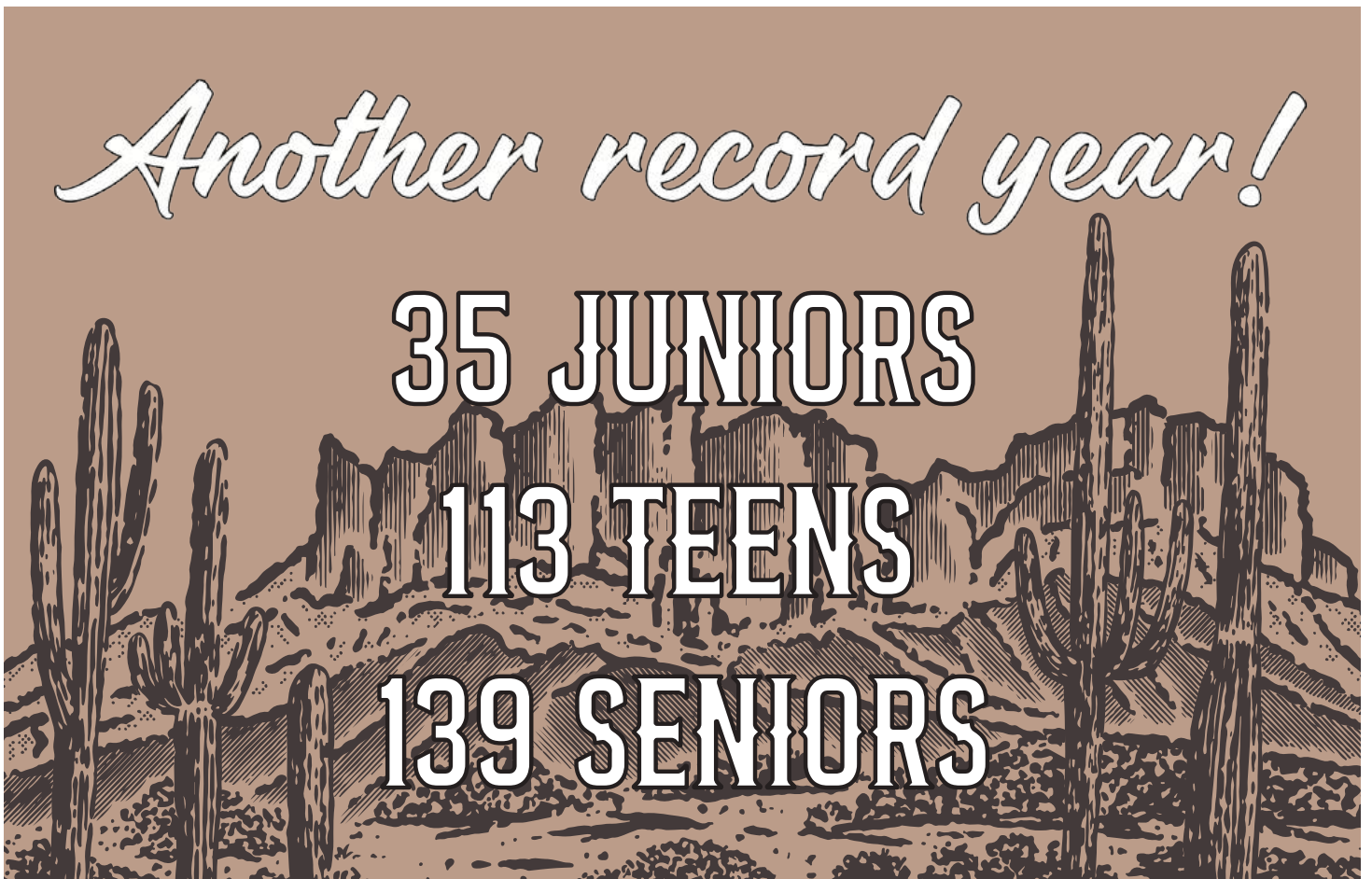
The 2024 Leadership Summit hosted a total of 35 juniors, 113 teens, and 139 senior campers at Connors State College in Warner. This year's Summit theme was "Forging Frontiers: Leading the Way." Campers were taught that they should never be afraid to forge their own unique frontiers.

Campers were reminded of the importance of connection, service, citizenship, leadership and agriculture throughout their camp sessions. They attended team building workshops that focused on enhancing their leadership skills, as well as heard from Oklahoma State Senator Blake Stephens on the Oklahoma legislative process.

All three sessions participated in service projects. The junior session created tie blankets to benefit Oklahoma

Children's Hospital, while the teen and senior sessions collectively packed more than 31,000 meals through Meals of Hope to benefit the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. Meals of Hope is a non-profit organization dedicated to coordinating meal packing events to battle food insecurity in Oklahoma and across the U.S.

Campers were also able to showcase their talent in this year's pre-session talent shows. This year's talent varied from music and instrumentals to poetry. Kaden Pliier of Purcell won this year's contest and performed at the Leadership Summit reception on July 26. Oklahoma State University President Kayce Shrum served as the keynote speaker for the event.



2024 AFR YOUTH *Leadership Summit*



County Match Scholarship Recipients



Allison Hedges
Dewey County



Audrey Ronald
Kay County



Audrey Heath
Dewey County



Brant Pollan
Delaware County



Chloe Barnes
Cherokee County



Clinton LaValley
Hughes County



Cole Hamlin
Haskell County



Dusty Cagle
Wagoner County



Emily Searce
Cherokee County



Emma Hoffman
Blaine County



Nathaniel Grisham
Hughes County



Jasmine Gould
Haskell County



Jaycie Perrier
Wagoner County



Jenna Burgess
Cherokee County



John Hardin
Blaine County

County Match Scholarship Recipients



Josey Cavitt
Carter County



Landry Whorton
Harmon County



Layce Price
Haskell County



Lillyan Ball
Grady County



Madison Rose
Delaware County



Matthew Patton
Johnston County



Matthew Talburt
Cherokee County



Morgan Robinson
Harmon County



Reagan Campbell
Kay County



Shaylee Morgan
LeFlore County



Timber Carter
Seminole County



Torin Brooks
Woods County



Walker Chandler
Garvin County

Not Pictured

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cody Conaway
Major County | Averie Bain
McCurtain County | Braelynn Perrin
McCurtain County |
| Kresta Badley
Harper County | Zoe McDonald
McCurtain County | Sydney Tyler
McCurtain County |
| Thatcher Heglin
Harper County | Logan Smith
McCurtain County | Aiden Bryant
McCurtain County |
| Ally Axton
McCurtain County | Lexie Clawson
McCurtain County | Claire Walden
McCurtain County |
| Bracie Gray
Johnston County | Hayden Thompson
Blaine County | Emalee Herald
Texas County |
| Grace Millam
Comanche County | Luke Easley
Marshall County | Brylan James
Marshall County |
| Summer Wallis
Okfuskee County | Lilly Jones
Okfuskee County | Katie Richmond
Latimer County |

Oklahoma Certified



BARNHART ANGUS RANCH

JANET BARNHART
CELL: 918-873-2511
BILLINGS, OK

BERATTO FARMS

CHASE BERATTO
CELL: 405-385-1082
MILL CREEK, OK

BILL'S CUSTOM PROCESSING

BILL JOHNSTON
CELL: 580-927-5234
COALGATE, OK

BLACK STAR CATTLE CO.

BRANDON & COURTNEY
ROBISON
CELL: 469-338-1554
WATONGA, OK

BLUBAUGH ANGUS RANCH

SCOTT & LISA BLUBAUGH
OFFICE: 580-628-3660
TONKAWA, OK

BRAINARD BEEF

BRAD BRAINARD
CELL: 580-761-7780
ENID, OK

BURNS' FAR AWAY RANCH

TY BURNS
CELL: 580-307-5970
MORRISON, OK

CHAPMAN CATTLE CO

JOSH CHAPMAN
CELL: 405-207-6446
ELMORE CITY, OK

CIRCLE R RANCH

GEORGE ROBERTS
CELL: 405-596-0348
HOLDENVILLE, OK

DOUBLE Z CATTLE

DAVID ZUMMALLEN
CELL: 405-388-8874
OKARCHE, OK

GENESIS ENTERPRISES

STEVE & BETTY ORR
CELL: 918-377-6364
DAVENPORT, OK

GREAT WESTERN TRAIL BEEF

JULIE OXFORD & TODD MASON
JULIE: 580-305-0404
TODD: 580-216-3472
FREDERICK, OK

HAPPY TRAILS LONGHORNS

JAMES & LA VONDA LEWIS
LA VONDA: 580-678-0895
RUSH SPRINGS, OK

INHOFE LAND & CATTLE

BILL INHOFE
OFFICE: 918-684-4000
MUSKOGEE, OK

JACKSON FARMS

PAUL JACKSON
CELL: 580-276-4678
RINGLING, OK

LANE CATTLE

WILL LANE
CELL: 918-253-7344
GROVE, OK

L&L CATTLE

LARRY & LOU ANN MYRICK
CELL: 918-223-6425
CUSHING, OK

MORRISLAND

BRETT MORRIS
CELL: 405-274-5114
NINNEKAH, OK

NONAME RANCH

DAWN BUECHNER
CELL: 580-768-1023
WYNNEWOOD, OK

PLEMMONS FARMS

RYAN PLEMMONS
CELL: 580-306-1024
BROKEN BOW, OK

PORTER FARMS

JOHN PORTER
CELL: 405-348-3750
EDMOND, OK

ROUNDS CATTLE COMPANY

SHELDON & CHELSIE ROUNDS
CELL: 580-922-5238
LEEDEY, OK

SER RANCH

VICKIE ROOP
CELL: 580-318-4508
OKARCHE, OK

SHELTON FARMS

JIM & SARA SHELTON
CELL: 918-244-1077
VINITA, OK

SILVERWOOD WAGYU

LINDA WOODRUFF
CELL: 580-484-0352
ENID, OK

T&T CATTLE

TOBY & TAMARA WALLACE
STONEWALL, OK

WATSON FARMS

DAMON WATSON
OFFICE: 918-474-3267
COUNCIL HILL, OK

OCBA TOURS SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA PROCESSING PLANTS

AFR Cooperative staff toured two processing plants this July while on a tour of southeastern Oklahoma.

In Smithville, co-owner Brandon White led a tour of the new Three Rivers Meat Company. The facility is owned jointly by the Choctaw Nation and four individual investors, including AFR Member Jason Herring. The 24,000-square-foot building houses a USDA-inspected processing facility, a value-added processing space, a small retail store and a restaurant. It currently employs 30 local workers. The facility can process cattle, hogs, lambs and goats, with a maximum capacity of 75 head of cattle per week and offers remote grading of carcasses. The award-winning value-added portion of the business boasts the Three Rivers Brand, which they carry in the retail shop.

The group also toured Bill's Custom Processing outside Wapanucka. AFR members Bill and Jeanna Johnston have owned the custom-exempt processing facility for about seven years. They built a strong customer base during the pandemic and demand for their services have continued to grow. The facility processes beef and pork and can process 10-20 head of cattle per week. The Johnstons maintain their excellent reputation for high-quality processing by focusing on rewarding good employees and loyal customers.

These new facilities are much-needed resources in rural southeastern Oklahoma. OCBA is pleased to endorse their services and is excited to see their businesses grow.



(Left to Right) AFR Cooperative Vice President Toby Wallace, AFR Members Bill and Jeanna Johnston, AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh, National Farmers Union President Rob Larew and AFR State Secretary Paul Jackson discussed pivoting a business during a pandemic and the importance of building a loyal customer base during the tour of Bill's Custom Processing.



National Farmers Union President Rob Larew and AFR Board Member Ryan Plemmons learned about value-added products during a tour of Three Rivers Meat Company at Smithville July 24. The tour was led by co-owner Brandon White. AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh and AFR Secretary Paul Jackson also toured.



County Meeting Notices

ADAIR COUNTY & LOCAL #756

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024

RSVP: Peoples Ins., 918-696-7191

ALFALFA COUNTY & LOCALS

Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, 11:30 A.M.

Where: Alfalfa County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building

RSVP: Please RSVP with your agent.

ATOKA COUNTY & LOCAL

Extra Info: Reach out to Jan Underwood at 580-889-0869 for details

BECKHAM COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, 6 P.M.

RSVP: Please RSVP with your agent.

BLAINE COUNTY & LOCALS

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Okeene K of C Hall

RSVP: Please RSVP with your agent.

BLAINE COUNTY LOCAL #504

Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Lucky Star Casino Restaurant

BRYAN COUNTY & LOCAL

Monday, Nov. 14, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Jestis Insurance Agency

CADDO COUNTY

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Kiowa Technology Center Cafeteria

CADDO COUNTY LOCAL #310

Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Coffey Insurance Office, 125 W Main, Hinton

CADDO COUNTY LOCAL #346

Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, 4 P.M.

Where: 103 W Main, Fort Cobb

CADDO COUNTY LOCAL #356

Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, NOON

Where: 102 W. Main, Anadarko

CADDO COUNTY LOCAL #386

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Swanda Insurance Agency

CANADIAN COUNTY & LOCALS

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Redlands College

RSVP: Please RSVP with your agent.

CANADIAN COUNTY LOCAL #17

Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: 136 State Highway 152, Mustang, OK

CARTER COUNTY & LOCAL #614

CONTACT: James Barrett, 580-668-2389 for details

CARTER COUNTY LOCAL #9

Thursday, Dec. 12, 202, 5 P.M.

Where: Rackley Insurance 312 S Commerce St.

CHEROKEE COUNTY & LOCAL #489

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: The Princess Diner

RSVP: 918-456-0559

CHOCTAW COUNTY & LOCALS

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: KTC VoTech, 107 S 15th St

CIMARRON COUNTY & LOCAL

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Senior Citizens Center, Boise City, OK

RSVP: By Tuesday, Dec. 3 to your agent.

CLEVELAND COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Les Chandler Senior Center

131 West Main Street, Lexington, OK 73051

RSVP: Please RSVP with your agent.

CLEVELAND COUNTY LOCAL #530

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2023, NOON

Where: Summit Insurance Services

2001 S. Broadway, Ste B, Moore, OK 73160

COMANCHE COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Maloy Park

6th Street & West B Avenue

COTTON COUNTY & LOCAL

Extra Info: Reach out to Kay Parks 580-975-6000 for details.



County Meeting Notices

CRAIG COUNTY LOCAL #86

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 6 P.M.

Where: Craig County Community Building

CREEK COUNTY & LOCALS

Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, 7 P.M.

Where: Creek County Fairgrounds

RSVP: Please RSVP with your agent.

CUSTER COUNTY & LOCALS

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Lucilles Roadhouse Diner

RSVP: Please RSVP with your agent.

DELAWARE COUNTY & LOCALS

Friday, Oct. 22, 2024, 6 P.M.

RSVP: For time and location -Teel-Lane Insurance, 918-786-2155.

DEWEY COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Dewey County Fairgrounds

ELLIS COUNTY & LOCAL

Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, 4 P.M.

RSVP: Stuart, Keffer & Schoenhals Agency, 580-938-2326

GARFIELD COUNTY & LOCALS

Friday, Oct. 11, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Enid Moose Lodge, 1740 Chapel Room

RSVP: By Oct. 1 @ 5 p.m. to your local agent.

GARVIN COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Wynnewood Insurance Agency

GRADY COUNTY

Monday, Oct. 21, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Canadian Valley Vo-Tech, Chickasha

RSVP: By Oct. 14 to your local agent.

GRADY COUNTY LOCAL #223

Monday, Oct. 21, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Canadian Valley Vo-tech, Chickasha

GRADY COUNTY LOCAL #246

Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Minco Senior Center

GRADY COUNTY LOCAL #551

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, 5 P.M.

Where: Community Ins. Agency

GREER COUNTY & LOCAL

Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, 9 A.M.

Where: OSU Extension Office, Mangum

HARMON COUNTY & LOCAL

Monday, Oct. 21, 2024, NOON

Where: 202 E Broadway "Old Ford Building", Hollis

HARPER COUNTY

Monday, Nov. 7, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Extra Details: Postcards will go out with details.

HASKELL COUNTY & LOCALS

Monday, Nov. 4, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Stigler High School Auditorium

HUGHES COUNTY & LOCAL

Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: First United Bank, Holdenville

JACKSON COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Friendship Inn Restaurant, Altus

RSVP: Please RSVP with your agent.

JEFFERSON COUNTY & LOCALS

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Waurika Grade School Cafeteria

JOHNSTON COUNTY & LOCALS

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Chickasaw Nation Comm. Center, 818 East 6th St, Tishomingo

KAY COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Methodist Church Family Center 103 N 4th St., Tonkawa

RSVP: Please RSVP with your agent By Sept. 27

KINGFISHER COUNTY & LOCAL

Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Interbank Community Room 320 N. Main St., Kingfisher

County Meeting Notices

KIOWA COUNTY & LOCALS

Extra Info: Reach out to Denise Reeves at 580-726-3076 for details.

LATIMER COUNTY & LOCAL

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, NOON

Where: Bowers Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

RSVP: To your agent by Oct. 30

LEFLORE COUNTY & LOCALS

Monday, Nov. 4, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Cavanal Room at Donald W. Reynolds Center

LINCOLN COUNTY & LOCALS

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Agri-Center, Chandler

RSVP: By Oct. 15 to your agents.

LOGAN COUNTY & LOCAL

Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, 7 PM

Where: First Christain Church, Guthrie, OK

LOVE COUNTY & LOCALS

Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Marietta School Cafeteria

RSVP: To your agent.

MAJOR COUNTY & LOCALS

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Ringwood Community Fair Building

RSVP: To your agent by Oct. 23

MAYES COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: OSU Extension Office, Mayes County Fairgrounds.

MARSHALL COUNTY & LOCAL

Extra Info: Reach out to Greg Clement 580-795-3064 for details.

MCCLAIN COUNTY & LOCALS

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, 5 P.M.

Where: Blanchard Trinity Holiness Church

RSVP: To your agent by Oct. 11

MCCURTAIN COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Plemmons Insurance Agency, 109 N. Park Dr, Broken Bow

MCCURTAIN COUNTY & LOCAL # 295

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Plemmons Insurance Agency, 109 N. Park Dr, Broken Bow

MCCURTAIN COUNTY & LOCAL #591

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 5 P.M.

Where: Sooner Insurance Agency 919 E. Washington, Idabel

MCINTOSH COUNTY & LOCAL

Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Westside Free Will Baptist Church

RSVP: To your agent.

MURRAY COUNTY & LOCAL

Extra Info: Reach out to Vickie Allbritten at 580-795-3064 for details.

MUSKOGEE COUNTY & LOCALS

Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024

Extra Info: Reach out to Ogden Ins. at 918-687-1321 for details.

MUSKOGEE COUNTY LOCAL #236

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Haskell Insurance Agency

NOBLE COUNTY & LOCAL

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Schieffer Insurance Agency Office

NOWATA COUNTY & LOCAL

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Swan Insurance Agency, Bartlesville

OKFUSKEE COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Cross Timbers Insurance Group

OKLAHOMA COUNTY & LOCALS

Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: St. Teresa's Catholic Hall

RSVP: With your agent by October 28.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY LOCAL #764

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: 7325 East Reno, Ave, Midwest City, OK

County Meeting Notices

OKMULGEE COUNTY & LOCAL

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, 1 P.M.

Where: Bradley Womack Agency, Okmulgee

RSVP: By Nov. 27, 918-756-5100

OSAGE COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Methodist Church Family Center

103 N 4th St., Tonkawa

RSVP: By Sept. 27 with your agent.

OTTAWA COUNTY & LOCALS

Monday, Dec. 2, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Ottawa County Courthouse Annex,

123 E. Central, Miami

RSVP: By Dec. 1 with your agent.

PAWNEE COUNTY & LOCALS

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024, A.M.

Where: Cleveland Insurance Agency

RSVP: 918-358-5221

PAYNE COUNTY & LOCALS

Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Payne County Expo Center, Stillwater

RSVP: By Sept. 14 to your agent

PITTSBURG COUNTY

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Southeast Expo Center, McAlester

RSVP: By Oct. 1 to your agent.

PITTSBURG COUNTY LOCAL #107

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: The Elks Lodge, McAlester

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Firelake Arena, 18145 Old Rangeline Rd,

Shawnee

RSVP: Call your agent by Oct. 20

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY LOCAL #522

Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Gilbert Insurance Agency

PONTOTOC COUNTY

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Chickasaw Nation Community Center

PUSHMATAHA COUNTY & LOCAL

Extra Info: Reach out to Melissa Robinson at 918-

569-4200 for details.

ROGERS COUNTY LOCAL #12

Extra Info: Reach out to Miranda Askew at 405-614-

0551 for details.

ROGERS COUNTY & LOCAL #607

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, 4:30 P.M.

Where: Dorsey Insurance Agency

RSVP: 918-557-9103

ROGER MILLS COUNTY & LOCAL

Extra Info: Reach out to Jennifer York at 580-983-

2442 for details.

SEMINOLE COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Rudy Alan Steak House

RSVP: By Nov. 8, 405-257-2100

SEQUOYAH COUNTY & LOCALS

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, 6 P.M.

Where: Catfish Hole, Sallisaw

STEPHENS COUNTY LOCAL #70

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 10 A.M.

Where: Graham Insurance Agency

TEXAS COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, NOON

Extra Info: Please reach out to your agent for details.

TILLMAN COUNTY & LOCAL

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Tillman County Food Bank, Frederick

RSVP: By Oct. 25 to your agent.

TULSA COUNTY LOCAL #423

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Haskell Insurance Agency

The remainder of county meeting notices can be found on Page 31.

In Memoriam



John Ogden

John L. Ogden, passed away peacefully at home in Oktaha July 24, 2024. He served as the vice president of Oklahoma Farmers Union and served numerous terms on the AFR/OFU board of directors.

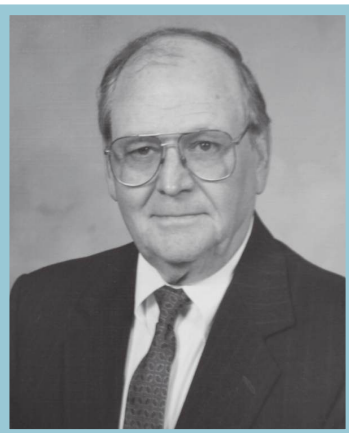
Born July 12, 1944, in Boynton, John was the second child and oldest son of B.L. and Ruth (Pippin) Ogden. He was a proud graduate of Wainwright School and Connors State College.

John married Joann Parker Dec. 7, 1962, and they enjoyed 61 years of love and companionship. They had two children, Doug and Marla. John was known for his humor, nickname-giving and dedication to his family. He cherished ranching with his son and sharing wagon-driving with his

grandchildren.

A skilled businessman, John owned Muskogee Overhead Door Company, managed Rocket Freight Lines, worked for McAdams Pipe and Supply, and served as a construction engineer for Oklahoma Department of Transportation. He was particularly proud of his work at Ogden Insurance Agency, which he led from 1976 to 2024. His community involvement included roles with the American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union, the Muskogee County Community Action Foundation, and many other organizations.

John was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Sandra Kaye Smalley; daughter-in-law, Stephanie Ogden; and several other family members. He is survived by his wife, Joann; children, Doug (Brenda) Ogden and Marla (Rocky) Mosley; grandchildren, Jace (Grace) Ogden, Rocky Joe Mosley, Daniel (Jennifer) Mosley, Rachel (Trea) Milne, and Caroline (Mike) Herring; great-grandchildren; and



Joe & Betty Colclazier

Two longtime Bryan County insurance agents for Oklahoma Farmers Union and then American Farmers & Ranchers passed away only a month apart. The husband and wife duo served their community 46 years.

Joe Walter Colclazier, a lifetime Bryan County resident, Marine and legacy insurance business owner in Durant, passed away June 7, 2024, at the age of 91, after a long illness. Betty Lou Colclazier soon followed her husband, Joe, departing on July 4, at the age of 91.

Joe purchased his insurance agency from his father. He knew the county and its citizens like no other.

Joe married Betty Lou Burns, his wife of 53 years, on April 30, 1971, in Denison, Texas.

Also a lifelong resident of Bryan County, Betty spent the whole of her adult life serving and fighting for the community she loved. At the age of 52, she began a second career as a licensed professional counselor, founding the Bryan County Counseling

Center in Durant, which led to child and youth advocacy working with local, state and federal officials.

There simply are not many families in the Durant area who have not had their lives touched or impacted in some way by the tireless work and dedication of Betty's efforts in the community and Joe's relationship with the farmers and ranchers and other citizens of the county.





AJ Bristow

AJ Bristow passed away at his home July 26, 2024. He was born Sept. 25, 1935, in Crowder to Dewey George Bristow and Lillie (Ward) Bristow. AJ married the love of his life, Aliene Smith, in Massey June 2, 1956.

AJ joined the National Guard his senior year of high school and joined the U.S. Army on March 13, 1958. He was honorably discharged March 1, 1960.

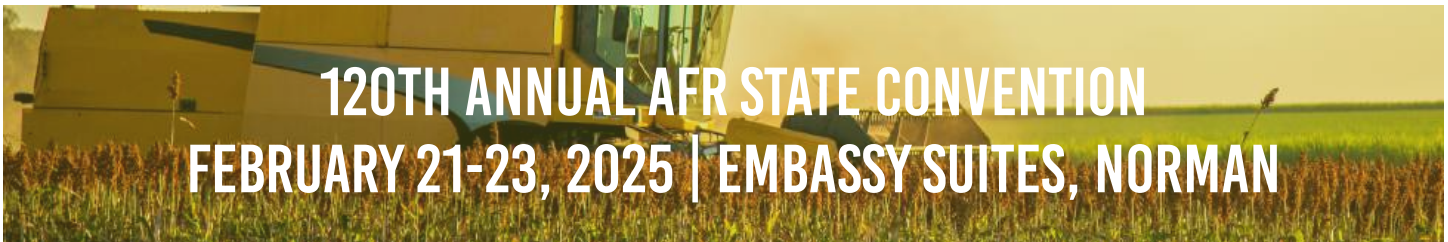
AJ furthered his expertise by earning a diesel mechanic degree from Okmulgee Technical College, then an associate's degree at Eastern Oklahoma State College. This education laid the foundation for a career that spanned more than five decades. AJ was also a well-known cattle

rancher.

AJ was successful both in his mechanic career and ranching with his family. As we say goodbye to AJ, we celebrate a life that exemplified the values of hard work, family and community.

AJ is preceded in death by his parents, Lillie and D.G. Bristow, and his siblings, Dewey Bristow, Jackie Morgan and Harold Bristow.

AJ is survived by his wife, Aliene Bristow; his daughter, Sandy Smith (Calvin); son, Darren Bristow (Cindy); grandchildren, Rashena Smith (Sidney), Austin Smith (Candace), and Mark Bristow; great-grandchildren, Aycen Smith, Maddox Smith, Ryker Smith, Raelynn Smith, Hunter White, Olivia White; sisters-in-law; Margie McGee and Shirley Bristow; and numerous other family members and friends.



AFR County Meetings Continued

WAGONER COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Where: Wagoner Civic Center, Wagoner

RSVP: Rowe Ins. Agency, 918-485-2405

WASHINGTON COUNTY & LOCALS

Tuesday, DEC. 17, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Where: Swan Insurance Agency

WASHITA COUNTY & LOCAL

Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, NOON

Where: Sperle Agency

WOODS COUNTY & LOCAL

Extra Info: Contact Brooks Agency for details.

WOODWARD COUNTY & LOCAL

Extra Info: Call Tasha Lively at 580-256-2737.

For all official county meeting details please, visit afrcoop.org/member-resources/afr-convention.



AFR

**AMERICAN FARMERS
& RANCHERS**