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TODAY

*Half Century
of Good Horses*

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Educational and Cooperative Union of America**

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Covers and table of contents photos courtesy of Kelly Mae Photography.

Photo above is from the 2025 Tucker Production Horse Sale.

Oklahoma STRONG

From the Desk of *Scott Blubaugh*

As I write this column, we are nearing the end of the 2026 Oklahoma Legislative Session and I want to draw special attention to our fight for the farmers' Right to Repair.

Modern farm equipment needs specific software to address breakdowns. Farmers and independent mechanics are required to pay high prices for access to that software, which isn't as robust as licensed dealership versions. Because of lack of access, farmers are often left with little choice but to take their equipment to a licensed dealership for repairs.

A Right to Repair bill was introduced to the Oklahoma Legislature this session and it passed committee with significant support. Unfortunately, when it was clear it would pass, it was denied a floor vote by leadership in our state House of Representatives due to corporate pressure. We have not given up; we will try again next session!

There has also been a settlement announced in the producers' Right to Repair lawsuit against John Deere. Deere has agreed to a \$99 million settlement, which is woefully inadequate. It includes no admission of wrongdoing and the amount equates to just 79¢ per acre total, or just 10¢ per acre per year. Any farmer
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who's dealt with a repair issue knows that's just a drop in the bucket!

In my last column, I talked about the dire situation many crop farmers are facing. The drastic increase in fertilizer prices has added to that pain. For the upcoming growing season, farmers will either cut way back on fertilizer or not purchase it at all. It just doesn't make sense to sink money into fertilizer when crop prices are so low. The result will be apparent in the fall when yields hit as low as 50% less than normal. This will likely increase the price of grain significantly, which could be a problem for the livestock industry. Our cow/calf producers are currently enjoying record prices and a rare season of profitability. Fertilizer costs may be the first sign markets are beginning to soften.

I must mention a recent gathering organized by Coop staff. We were honored to host a very special guest—Rep. Jason Smith from Missouri—chairman of the most powerful committee in Congress—House Ways and Means, which is responsible for all revenue-raising legislation, including taxes, tariffs, Social Security, Medicare, etc. The AFR Board of Directors enjoyed a great discussion about the future direction of U.S. tax policy.

Between the months of April and May,

the Coop staff will host 21 different statewide events. It's a super busy time for us, but we're up for the challenge. Speaking of events, don't forget to sign your youth up for AFR Leadership Summit. Secure your spots before they're gone!

Finally, a huge congratulations to our newest state representative, Dillon Travis (R-Maramec), who won three special election races in a matter of weeks to gain his seat. He was sworn in during session and he's already doing a great job for farmers and ranchers in his district. Rep. Travis participates in our adult leadership program—AFR Strive—and we're excited to see him go on to the next level. We're proud of you, Rep. Travis!

*Have a wonderful summer,
God bless!*



Scott Blubaugh
PRESIDENT



Upcoming 2026 Events

May 22-24

All States Leadership Conf. Washington DC

May 25

Home Office Closed: Memorial Day

June 1

AFR Local/County Match Scholarships Due

July 3

Home Office Closed: Fourth of July

July 21-24

AFR Teen Leadership Summit; Binger

July 25-28

AFR Senior Leadership Summit; Binger

Sept. 7

Home Office Closed: Labor Day

Oct. 1-11

Tulsa State Fair; Tulsa Fairgrounds

Oct. 1

TSF Cattle Grading Contest; Tulsa Fairgrounds

Oct. 7

Night of Champions; Tulsa Fairgrounds

Oct. 15

OCBA Flying Cow Genetics Tour; Welch

Oct. 22-30

Ag & Historic Trip; Hawaii



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Adequate liability coverage is vital in today's world, as injured parties are pursuing personal assets more now than in the past. Without proper protection, a single major claim or lawsuit could negatively impact your financial stability and long-term goals.

When choosing liability limits:

- Have an open conversation with your agent about your lifestyle, assets and potential exposures. Your agent can help you understand what coverage makes sense for your situation.

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- An accident or lawsuit could put your assets at risk. The more assets you have, the more you have to protect. Look at your savings, investments, vehicles and home equity.

- Think about any exposure you may have. This could include how much you drive, whether you own pets, and whether you have a swimming pool, among other examples to consider.

- If your net worth exceeds your auto or home policy liability limits, consider purchasing an umbrella insurance policy for an additional layer of protection.

Life is unpredictable. Protecting yourself isn't something to put off. By choosing the proper limits, you are protecting yourself and your family. A quick conversation with your agent can help you choose the coverage you need.

*Story by Kim Tomlinson,
Director of AFR Claims*

NEW & EXCITING MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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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 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.

<https://afrcoop.org/member-resources/membership-benefits>

2026 AFR Convention Highlights



American Farmers & Ranchers/Oklahoma Farmers Union hosted its 121st annual state convention at the Embassy Suites & Conference Center – Norman Feb. 13-15. 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's convention theme was "Delivering on our Promises."

"This year's convention theme speaks to our history as an organization, always fulfilling our commitments to our members in good times and bad," said AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh.

This year, three AFR/OFU board members were reelected, with candidates running unopposed. AFR Cooperative Secretary Paul Jackson, Ringling, ran unopposed and will retain his current position for a three-year term. AFR/OFU Secretary Jackson was first elected in 2013. A long-time AFR/OFU employee and supporter, Jackson most recently served the organization as AFR/OFU Farm & Cooperative Programs Director. Jackson is also a fourth-generation farmer/rancher and operates his family farming operation with his wife, Kim.

Northwest Independent Director District 1: Roger Edenborough, Goodwell, was renewed for a three-year term. Edenborough attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University and was named a partner in Edenborough and Edenborough, CPAs, in 1992. He served 19 years on the Goodwell Public Schools Board and 11 years on the Oklahoma State School Board Association, serving as OSSBA President in 2016-2017. Edenborough has served on the board of trustees for Panhandle Telephone Cooperative for 27 years and currently serves on the Goodwell Town Council.

Northeast Agent Director District 3: William Lane, Grove, was renewed for a three-year term. Lane attended Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and Oklahoma State University as part of collegiate livestock judging teams. He graduated from OSU in 1996. He was also a member of Class X of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program. Lane is a third-generation AFR Insurance agent. He began his insurance career in 1998 and currently owns an agency in Gentry, Ark. He also helps his family with their AFR Insurance agency in Langley, Okla. Lane owns a small purebred Shorthorn cattle operation, which produces nationally-successful show genetics. Lane and his wife, Jennifer, live in Grove.

Southeast Independent Director District 4: Loyd Steward, Shawnee, was renewed for a three-year term. Steward graduated from Oklahoma State University. For the past 30 years, he has owned and operated RS Lawn Services. Steward served on the Bethel School Board for 11 years. He voluntarily improves the turf on the local school's sports complexes and also maintains a community cemetery. A longtime AFR member, he has served as Pottawatomie AFR county president for more than 20 years. He has served on the AFR Policy Committee and attended the National Farmers Union Legislative Fly-In. Steward owns a cow/calf operation. He and his wife, Becky, have two children and five grandchildren.



In addition to elections, 2026 AFR State Convention attendees learned about rural economic and environmental issues, connected with the next generation of AFR members during the youth program, learned about new opportunities available through the Oklahoma Certified Beef Association and much more.

This year's three-day event features speakers like Sarah Vogel, attorney and author of *The Farmer's Lawyer*; James Brunson, agricultural bankruptcy attorney; state sens. Grant Green and Bryan Logan; state reps. Jonathan Wilk and Tammy Townle; National Farmers Union Vice President Jeff Kippley; Radio Oklahoma Ag Network Director KC Sheperd; Armstrong Bank Market & Regional President Bill Shelby; Rocky Mountain Farmers Union President Chad Franke; North Dakota Farmers Union President Matt Purdue; Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives CEO Nicki Fuller; Panhandle Telephone Cooperative CEO Jana Wallace; Oklahoma State University Professor of Ag & Food Policy Amy Hagerman; Major League Baseball Umpire Jordan Baker; and more.



Counter clockwise from top left: AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh, AFRMIC President and CEO Chad Yearwood, AFR Policy Committee Chair Brenda Wiedemann Chapman, AFR scholarship recipients, AFR Poster Contest winners, Jarred Campbell, inspirational speaker Andrea Thomas Hand, OCBA member David ZumMallen, AFR State Secretary Paul Jackson, AFR State Speech winner Hannah Hayes, and AFR Cooperative Vice President Toby Wallace.



Oklahoma

Legislative Review

Legislative Session Coming to Close

By Jeramy Rich, AFR Lobbyist

The Second Session of the 60th Oklahoma Legislature looks to conclude sometime in early May. The legislature will likely adjourn sine die several weeks ahead of the constitutional deadline. The \$12.6 billion state budget has been the sole focus up to this point in session. Issues concerning property taxes, water usage, cell-cultured meat, and increased regulation of the domestic insurance industry are the remaining questions for the 60th Legislature. AFR's top priorities for the waning days of this session are to enact a ban on fake meat, protect property rights, maintain reasonable limitations on ad valorem taxes, and fight for a friendly environment to provide risk protect to rural Oklahoma.

Some of the issues AFR has worked on this session and will continue to prioritize moving forward:

Supporting Farmers' "Right to Repair"

HB 3617 (Rep. Mark Lawson, R-Sapulpa) moved to require manufactures who sell agricultural equipment and parts within the state to make necessary documentation, tools and parts available for equipment owners and independent repair providers. HB 3617 was co-sponsored by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt). HB3617 was held up by house leadership due to an onslaught of pressure from agriculture equipment manufacturers and was not allowed to receive consideration by the full House where it enjoyed significant support.

Banning "Fake" Meat in Oklahoma

SB 96 (Sen. Hamilton, R-McCurtain) moves to ban the manufacture, sale and distribution of cell-cultured (lab-grown) meat products within state borders. As a carryover bill from last year, SB 96 is not subject to the deadlines of the legislature. It remains awaiting action by the Oklahoma State Senate. The bill has been emboldened by the co-authorship of Sen. Spencer Kern (R-Duncan) and Rep. Dillon Travis (R-Maramec).

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Limiting Data Center Energy Impact

HB 2992 (Rep. Brad Boles, R-Marlow) moves to address the growing electricity demands of large data centers by ensuring new data centers pay their share of the infrastructure and electricity costs required to support their operations, so those expenses are not passed on to residential and small-business utility customers through higher rates. HB 2992 is co-sponsored by Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston). HB 2992 has passed the Senate Energy Committee and awaits consideration by the full Senate.

Monitoring Voluntary Water Metering

SB 259 (Sen. Brent Howard, R-Altus), SB 1928 (Sen. Casey Murdock, R-Felt), and HB 4459 (Rep. Carl Newton, R-Cherokee) all move to allow groundwater irrigation or conservation districts to implement voluntary metering programs, enabling members to apply for five-year flexible groundwater allocations from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. Participants can exceed annual limits, provided they stay within a 5-year cumulative cap. All have passed out of their chamber of origin and await consideration by either the Oklahoma State House or Senate.

There are also several bills of concern we are monitoring and will be fighting if the need arises. Look for a full update on what passed during the 60th Legislature in the Fall Edition of AFR Today.

Contact AFR Cooperative Press Secretary Laici Neumann (laici.neumann@afrmic.com) to be added to the AFR Session Updates or Policy Action list. We encourage AFR members to stay engaged during legislative session as action from the membership is crucial when we are working to pass or defeat legislation.



AFR Day

at the

Capitol



AFR brought rural issues to the Oklahoma Capitol April 14 when AFR members from across Oklahoma convened to discuss agriculture and rural issues facing their communities. They met directly with state lawmakers and lobbied on behalf of all rural Oklahoma. Most importantly, each AFR member was encouraged to talk directly with their representatives about the issues most important to their farm, their family and their community.

Thank you to all the AFR members who attended and made the day a great success. If you would like to be included in next year's event, email laici.neumann@afrmic.com.



2026 NAFU CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



AFR members attended the 124th Anniversary NFU Convention in New Orleans, La., March 7-9. The gathering was attended by more than 450 family farmers and ranchers. AFR was well represented with nearly 30 policy delegates pushing for legislative priorities important to Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers.

AFR Foundation**Good Samaritan Program**

The AFR Foundation is proud to support our members through the Good Samaritan Program, a special initiative created to lend a helping hand to AFR families battling cancer. Through this program, eligible members will receive a \$100 fuel gift card to help ease the burden of travel to and from medical appointments, treatments, and other essential needs.

This one-time assistance is our way of supporting our AFR members during one of life's most challenging journeys. At AFR, we believe in standing beside our members when they need it most, and the Good Samaritan Program is just one way we strive to make a meaningful difference.

Contact your AFR Insurance agent for more information.

**2025-2026****AFR Policy Committee Completes Term**

A new AFR Policy Committee is selected each year, with special consideration given to equal representation across the state. Policy members serve from mid-fall through AFR State Convention, where they present their proposed changes to the AFR Policy Book to voting delegates. Several members of this year's committee also represented AFR at the National Farmers Union Convention in New Orleans, La.

Members of the 2025-2026 AFR Policy Committee were Chairwoman Brenda Wiedemann Chapman, El Reno; Vice Chair Elisabeth Butler, Keota; Joe Halley, El Reno; Richard Wells, Laverne; Clayton Neumann, Ringwood; Jamie Case, Tonkawa; Bradley Bullock, Stillwater; Landon Hendon, Newalla; Jim Wilson, Newcastle; and Mike Cohoon, Ringling.

Thank you to this year's committee for all their hard work!

Photos courtesy of Kelly Mae Photography.



Half Century of Good Horses

Story by Karli Fuss, AFR Communications Coordinator

For Todd and Jane Tucker, raising performance quarter horses isn't just a business, it's a lifelong passion rooted in Pushmataha County.

"My great-grandparents came to Pushmataha County in 1895," Todd said. "I'm the fourth generation to live and ranch in Finley."

Todd's and Jane's story begins before they were born.

"My dad went to look for grass to lease to put cattle

on," Todd said. "He was driving down a country road in Kansas, and this guy was plowing on a tractor. My dad stopped, climbed through the fence and introduced himself. It was Jane's dad."

Their fathers formed a lifelong friendship, with the Tucker and Custer families collaborating closely on their respective ranches for years.

Early on, Jane's family's ranch was in the southern



Flint Hills of Kansas. When Jane was in the eighth grade, her family moved close to the Red River in Choctaw County.

"We've known each other for literally all of our lives," Todd said. "We got married in 1978."

When they're not busy tending to the horses at their ranch, Todd can be found selling on the auction block, while Jane dedicates her time to serving others at a counseling center in Antlers.

Todd's work with cattle and horse sales carried him across Oklahoma, New Mexico and the United States.

"I used to go to six sales a week," Todd said. "But that was back when I was young."

While Todd's career kept him traveling all over the country, Jane's journey was closer to home. During her career, she served nearby communities as an educator, 4-H leader, shooting sports coordinator and active member of local agricultural and conservation organizations. She even co-founded the Chuck Wagon Chicks with her sister-in-law, expanding their passion

for outdoor cooking into competitions, events and classes.

The Program

Horses caught young Todd's attention early. His father, Ray, ranched and raised horses, and in 1971, took 15-year-old Todd to his first registered horse sale in Tyler, Texas, where they purchased their first registered quarter horse mare named Tonkas Tempest.

"We went back the next year and bought another one," Todd said. "Probably 85% of the horses on this place trace to one or two of those old mares."

Jane was also becoming interested in registered quarter horses during that time. Her father, Warren Custer, purchased the family's first registered mare, Tweedy Babe, in 1967. He intended to raise a horse for each of his five children to ride. "He did so twice over," Jane said.

Every summer until he was out of high school, Todd would spend a week or two working with Frank Perkins on his ranch near Tyler, Texas, learning the do's and don'ts of the horse industry.

"He's the one that got me started in

the registered quarter horse business," Todd said. "We just kept it going from there."

For Todd, improving the Tucker horse herd has been a lifelong project. When asked why he started breeding horses, Todd said he was just "trying to raise one that was better than the last one you rode."

Over the years, Todd and Jane have become more intentional with their breeding program. They know raising quality horses requires careful decision making, a deep understanding of the animals, and a commitment to doing things the right way.

The Tuckers have built on years of hands-on experience, resulting in a program that's very traditional, even in this modern era of precision horse breeding.

They're still family-owned and -managed, their mares foal out in the pasture, and they don't train the majority of the horses they raise. The result is a young horse that's hardy and equally ready for ranch or arena work.

Unlike many of today's horse breeding programs, the Tuckers don't use



artificial insemination. "It's all live cover, pasture breeding," Todd said. "We don't do any hand breeding or AI." The Tucker's preference for live cover is based on the needs of their operation. "It just works for us," Todd said. "We're not set up to [AI] and, well, you've got to consider about 90% of our mares aren't user friendly. They're not broke to lead."

That same traditional approach is used when they evaluate their yearlings. The young horses are evaluated for conformation, their physical structure and build. Different traits are more valuable, depending on the specific event or discipline the horse is intended for.

"One of the first things to look for is if they're real tight and low in the tailhead," Todd explained. "If you go to the racetrack, you want a real high, loose tailhead. You've never seen a winner of the Kentucky Derby that had a tight tailhead; his tail always comes out. If you look at any roping horses, their tailhead lays real low and real tight and gives them more ability to run and stop."

"We're offering the potential. It is up to you to develop it."

Most Tucker horses are purchased for ranch or rope horses, but they have been used across most disciplines in the horse world. A recent buyer bought her Tucker horse for breakaway roping. "The breakaway roping is getting really big, but it takes a different, special kind of horse," Todd said. "A breakaway horse is smaller and a little quicker footed than a heading horse or steer-tripping horse."

Heading and steer-tripping are two rodeo events that require very strong, stout horses.

As with any lifelong passion project, there are a few key moments the Tuckers consider key to their success. In 1979, Todd made a pivotal decision that would impact his breeding program into the present day. He made a trip to the Haythorn Ranch in Nebraska and found a stallion that would complement one of their original Tucker mares. The cross produced a gray stallion, Lary Heck Hancock,

better known as Hector, who ultimately transformed the direction and success of the Tucker breeding program.

"He's the one that I feel really kickstarted the breeding operation," Todd said. "Before that, we kind of bred to whatever was handy."

Many of the horses they breed today trace back to that horse. "There's been so many in this country that are either by him or trace back to him."

A recent race-bred acquisition two years ago signaled the next evolution in the Tucker breeding program.

"Todd has always liked speed added to the cow horse breeding, as so many other old-timers have done," said Jane. "He looked at several stallions, but would not settle until he found one that suited his criteria. After years of searching and talking to countless folks, he heard of a yearling colt that had been injured, would be un-raceable, and was for sale. One look at One





Ranchy Seis, and a thorough inspection later, Ranchy made his new home in Finley.”

“He’s a hot ticket item,” said Todd. “He was consigned to a sale, but didn’t pass the soundness exam. I just about couldn’t afford him on three legs, but I bit the bullet and bought him, and I’m

glad I did. We have had a tremendous response, people wanting colts by him, and we’re breeding him to our ranch bred mares.”

Production Sale

This spring marks 41 years since the Tuckers held their first production sale. During the annual sale, the Tuckers market mostly geldings and occasionally pairs, but they keep a few select fillies for replacement brood mares.

The sale is a great way to build their reputation and showcase their horses. “We had so many horses that we had to [start a sale] basically out of necessity,” Todd said. “I wanted to get some out in public and get the name spread.”

Springtime is the optimal time for the Tuckers to sell their horses. “They have shed their winter coats,” Jane said. “The foals have filled out and are old enough to travel and the mares are in good body condition.”

The number of horses Tucker Ranch has to market each year determines whether Todd and Jane hold a traditional auction at a sale barn or a board sale.

“You can sell about 40 on the boards, we’ve got about 32 this year,” Todd said.

“This will be about the eighth time we’ve done it that way.”

Todd first came across this type of sale in the Dakotas and Montana. “There was a guy in North Dakota that raised angus bulls, just a mom-and-pop operation,” Todd said. “They couldn’t afford to rent a tent, a sale crew and all the stuff that went with it.”

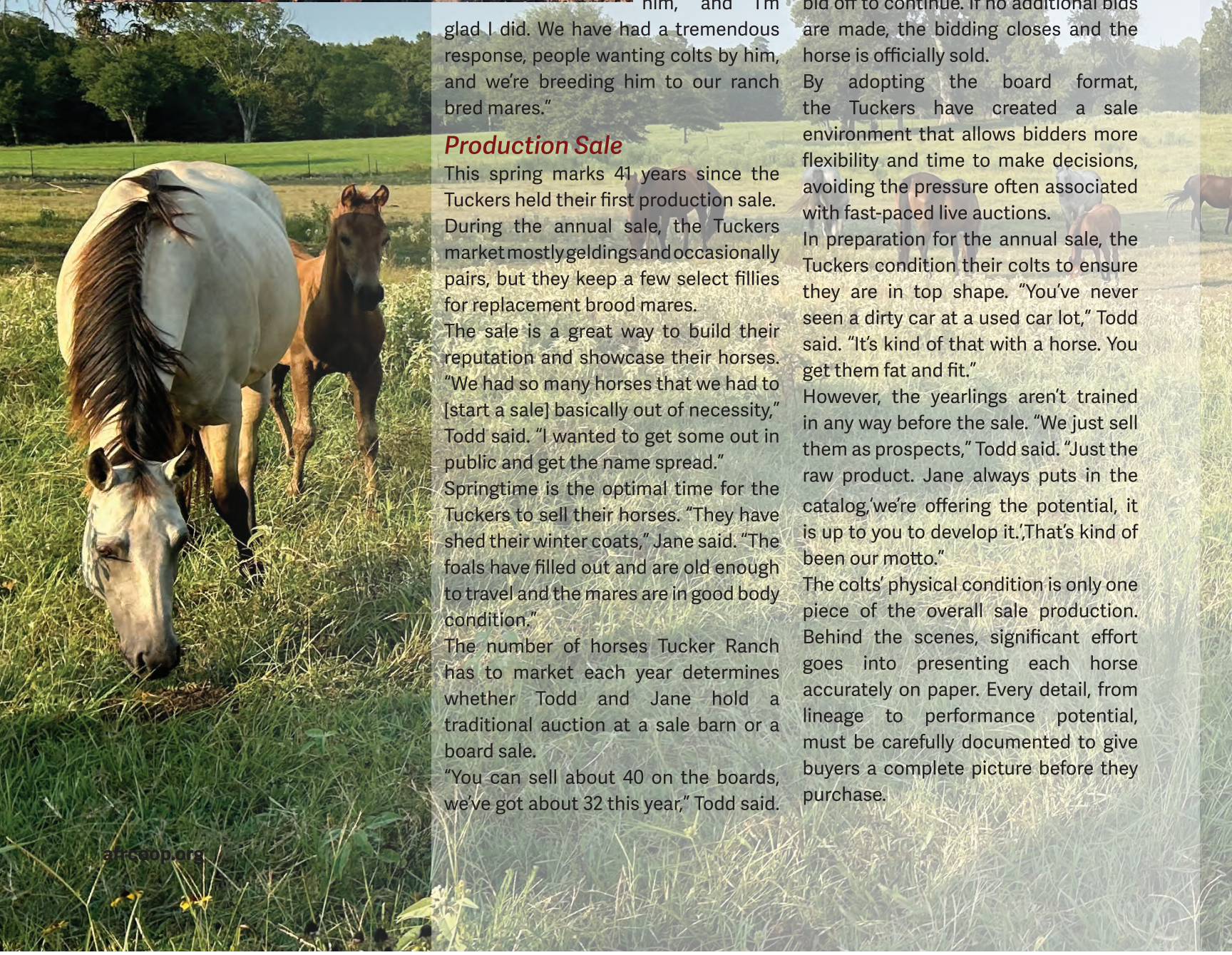
During a board sale, interested buyers place their bids on a board specific to each horse during a designated open-bid timeframe. When the open bidding ends, the sale transitions into a structured soft close process. For each new bid placed, a two-minute countdown begins. If another bid is placed within the two minutes, the clock resets, allowing the two-minute bid off to continue. If no additional bids are made, the bidding closes and the horse is officially sold.

By adopting the board format, the Tuckers have created a sale environment that allows bidders more flexibility and time to make decisions, avoiding the pressure often associated with fast-paced live auctions.

In preparation for the annual sale, the Tuckers condition their colts to ensure they are in top shape. “You’ve never seen a dirty car at a used car lot,” Todd said. “It’s kind of that with a horse. You get them fat and fit.”

However, the yearlings aren’t trained in any way before the sale. “We just sell them as prospects,” Todd said. “Just the raw product. Jane always puts in the catalog, we’re offering the potential, it is up to you to develop it. That’s kind of been our motto.”

The colts’ physical condition is only one piece of the overall sale production. Behind the scenes, significant effort goes into presenting each horse accurately on paper. Every detail, from lineage to performance potential, must be carefully documented to give buyers a complete picture before they purchase.



One of Jane's roles is to manage the books and register the horses. She puts together the annual sale book, including pedigrees and descriptions of all the horses. Luckily, Jane has plenty of experience in designing their sale books and accurately describing the horses up for sale.

"I felt confident in completing the task," Jane said. "Why pay someone else, when I could do it."

The catalogs and sale flyers have evolved over the years. "As my confidence and skill set have grown," Jane said. "The printed materials have continued to improve."

The Payoff

Over the years, the Tuckers' dedication to producing quality horses has brought them notable success within the industry.

The Tuckers' horses have participated in countless contests, including major events like the National Finals Rodeo, International Professional Rodeo Association Finals, American Quarter Horse Association World Show, Versatility Ranch Horse World Show, International Youth Finals Rodeo, Cheyenne Frontier Days, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, and many more. When asked about his most rewarding experience, Todd said "Gosh, there's



Todd and Jane Tucker with Jake Walker, Connors State College, who has very successfully shown Dexter 77.

so many. I guess seeing our horses compete on TV, on the big stage is what I call it."

For Todd, both sides of the experience are important. "Watching them at Cheyenne, San Antonio and Las Vegas, and just going out every morning and seeing the new babies born. That's a pretty good experience."

The Tuckers have also faced challenges during their years, but adapting to ever-evolving industry trends has been a constant.

"Meeting industry wants and needs through selective breeding practices

is challenging as future industry demands are unknown," Jane said. "We take pride in our ability to make the right mating choices to meet today's standards for our repeat and new customers."

The Tuckers have maintained their operation through industry changes, with adaptability at the center of their success. Recently, Todd sent a special black colt, named Dexter 77 to Connors State College in Warner to go through their colt starting program.

"The instructor liked him so much that when the time was up, he asked me, 'do



you mind if I keep him and ride him and show him," Todd said.

Todd and Jane don't show horses themselves, but the instructor has shown Dexter 77 very successfully, twice qualifying for the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) World Show in Oklahoma City.

Dexter 77 has earned numerous honors through the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association (OQHA), including 2025 Champion Versatility Ranch Horse in Ranch Conformation, Open All-Around, Ranch Cow Work, Ranch Riding, Ranch Reining, and Ranch Trail, as well as 2025 Champion Performance Stallion.

Accomplishments like that are rare and represent the highest level of success within the industry.

"He's one of very few that have won halter conformation and that many performance events in the same year," Todd said. "He's qualified for the AQHA World Show in Oklahoma City twice. That's kind of the Super Bowl of horse shows." Dexter 77 is a great example of the versatile and competitive horses raised on the Tucker ranch.

"Over the years, it's gotten more specialized," Todd said. "People have one horse for one event. You go to a big show, very seldom will you see a horse in two events, hardly ever three events unless it's a roping horse. The roping horses will compete in heading and heeling and sometimes tie-down roping."

"Specialization of pedigrees for particular disciplines is certainly a modern-day practice versus owning a running horse that could cut a cow, show in halter, and rein," Jane said.

The Tuckers are 50 years into their

breeding program and still have strong goals for the future.

"Every year, you hope for something a little bit better and to keep getting horses out into the right hands," Todd said.

He encourages people who are starting out in the horse industry to network intentionally. "Get with someone that's been in the business for a long time and been successful, and pick their brain," Todd said. "See what they're doing and really learn what the correct conformation is.

"When I was starting out, if they had four legs and two eyes, I thought they were good, but I didn't know anything about the correct conformation then."

Through the ups and downs, Todd's and Jane's story is filled with dedication and adaptability. Years of hard work, careful decisions and commitment to quality have built a breeding program of versatile and beautiful horses known throughout the United States.

As they look toward the future their outlook remains simple, keep improving and continuing to produce horses that leave a lasting impact both in and out of the arena.

When asked what legacy he wants to leave, Todd said simply, "A good honest representation of a good horse."



OFU MEMORABILIA

Preserving the Legacy of Oklahoma Farmers Union

Staff at the American Farmers & Ranchers Home Office display organization and company memorabilia throughout the year. The items on display show that membership needs have been at the forefront of the work of the Oklahoma Farmers Union and now American Farmers & Ranchers from the very beginning.

Featured below is an early-day 1930s membership receipt book, a 1950s receipt with dues of \$2.50, a 1940s-1950s membership promotional piece, and membership cards from the 1920s, 1930s and 1980s. OFU President Homer Duffy (in the dark suit) and OFU State Secretary Zed Lawter (in the lighter suit) can be seen preaching the virtues of belonging to the Farmers Union in 1955.

To view or contribute to the collection, contact AFR State Secretary Paul Jackson at paul.jackson@afmic.com.

WHY BE A MEMBER OF THE FARMERS' UNION?

EVERY FARMER SHOULD BE A MEMBER. OTHERS BENEFITTED. COMMON GOOD SERVED.

Oklahoma State Union of the Farmers, Educational and Co-Operative Union of America, Generally Known as

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OKLAHOMA UNION FARMER
(our Official Publication)

How You Can Save Money And Help a Good Cause

The Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, known as the National Farmers Union, was chartered in Texas September 17, 1902. The Oklahoma Farmers' Union is a subordinate Union thereof in its fraternal relationship.

THE FARMERS' BATTLE CRY: "THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL FARM LABOR COSTS IN THE PARITY FORMULA, UNLESS SUCH INCLUSION IS ACCOMPANIED BY A MINIMUM WAGE FOR Hired FARM LABOR."

Part of Constitution State Union
ARTICLE I
Preamble and Name.
In the course of modern industrial development we find it necessary that the farmer not only apply the principles of scientific agriculture, but that he systematize his business by co-operation and apply the principles of scientific commerce.
Expensive and wasteful methods of exchange have been a constant drain on the farming and speculation has been allowed to demoralize markets and prevent the normal operation of the supply and demand.
To eliminate gambling in farm conditions and protect their interests, we have organized the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, and declare the

purchase through the SALES DEPARTMENT and carry insurance in the MUTUAL INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.
Part of the DUES remain in the Local Union, part goes to the County Union, State Union and National Union, and part is used for The Oklahoma Union Farmer. Farmers should be members although they have no property to insure. In case of man and wife and one is a member and the other owner of property to be insured, insurance should be carried in both of their names. The name (one should not be Bill Smith and the other W. H. Smith, if the same person).

Other Benefits With Membership
While many thousands of dollars are saved to members through the SALES and INSURANCE departments, probably the greatest benefits result from the LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM. Also much good results from the Union's EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. Each member receives The Oklahoma Union Farmer, a good farm paper.
The Farmers' Union improves the community life. The membership dues are small compared with the benefits received. The members are beginning to learn that the Union belongs to them and that the more they put into it the more they can get out of it.

Fire Department Service
Some policyholders who live near cities want fire department service. A charge of only 60 cents \$100 for such service is made. Some pay on up to \$200 for such service.

Rate Under Stock Companies
On some properties not specially rated, a rate under the stock company rate is fixed.

Instructions To Secretaries PLEASE DO:
Read instructions on application form and fill all applicable blanks. Sign, if risk is all right.
Name of the same person (member and policyholder) should be written the same.
If policyholder changes address, give new address.
Give kind of roof on buildings and if composition state whether roll or put over wood shingles or on hard, flat surface.
Give distance, direction, and best route from a city to property.
If you are on a route, give your direction and distance from a city.
Give correct land description. Mortgagees frequently call for corrections.
PLEASE DON'T:
Don't write application for insurance on outbuildings, or other property, which is not in an insurable condition (bad condition), or where there are serious doubts about the moral hazard (questionable character).
Don't sign mortgage clause endorsements. Mail them to the office.

Different Owners, Husband, Wife, Etc.
Don't write an application for insurance on properties of different owners (should prepare separate applications), (a) except in the case of a husband and wife, one is the owner and the other is a member of the Farmers' Union (in such cases to be written in of their names, and (b) except in the case of a minor child who at the home of his parents or both of the parents or insurance (one being a member of the Farmers' Union), and (c) except where the property is owned, or owned in equal two or more persons, one is a member of the Union. It is not necessary to be members of the Union. If there is a separate application, written, although one parent and the other son or daughter.

Good, Cheap
The insurance is of our best farmers' professional people.
Policies are accepted by Federal Land Bank, Commissioners of the Land Office of Oklahoma, and other governmental and private loan agencies (banks, building and loan associations, etc.).
It began to write insurance in 1922. There has never been a case in the Supreme Court of Oklahoma involving a loss-claim against the Organization. It came through the depression and the

tion of the agents' business and the removal of insurance from the profit field."
On May 2, 1941, there was chartered in Oklahoma what was named The Oklahoma Capital Stock Insurance Council, the purpose of which is to insure the insurance. The organization of the agents' business and the removal of insurance from the profit field."



MEMBERSHIP CARD
Farmer's Educational and Co-Operative Union of America
OKLAHOMA STATE UNION

This is to certify that dues have been paid by
M. J. Hays
in the amount of \$1.00
This Card Expires December 31, 1930

No. 3156
J. M. Lawter, State Secretary
L. L. Kennedy, National Secy.-Treas.
J. H. Hayes, Local Secy.-Treas.

DUCA paid 1930
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CARD
Farmer's Educational and Co-Operative Union of America
STATE UNION

This is to certify that
W. N. Kiebs
of Wagon, R. F. D.
IS A MEMBER OF
ISSUED March 10, 1925
LOCAL No. 325
J. H. Hayes, National Secy.-Treas.
A. D. Davis, Local Secy.

Official Membership Card
OKLAHOMA FARMERS UNION

Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
County _____ Local _____
Issued by _____
Jack Kelsey, State President
Ray M. Schult, State Secretary

LOCAL COPY

Harry R. McCampbell
Date 3-16-57

Appl. Dues
Endor.
\$ 2.50
Out of _____
CASH M.O. Cash

Over _____

SHORT _____

OKLAHOMA FARMERS UNION
Secy. No. _____
Attn. No. 623
County, Beckham

POLICY NO.	Service Fee	Insurance Premium	Members' Ship Dues	TOTAL PAID
				2.50

PAID TO
Harry R. McCampbell
Box 201
Erick, Okla.
3-16-58

GEORGE STONE, PRESIDENT Z. H. LAWTER, SECRETARY

F. E. & C. U. of A.
Oklahoma Division

Local No. _____, 193____

Received of _____ Dollars
For Membership Dues and Subscription to The Oklahoma Union Farmer.

\$ _____, Secretary.

Behind THE Banner



AFR INVESTS IN STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH AG ACHIEVEMENT CONTEST

As part of its commitment to the youth of Oklahoma, AFR Cooperative offers the Agricultural Achievement Contest each year, rewarding top students with scholarship funds.

Twenty agricultural youth from across Oklahoma earned top placings in the 2026 AFR Agricultural Achievement Contest. The contest was conducted in conjunction with the Oklahoma Youth Expo (OYE) March 10-20. This year, AFR presented \$10,000 in awards to contestants.

The AFR Agricultural Achievement Contest recognizes outstanding youth in Oklahoma who display exceptional showmanship skills and possess strong knowledge of the livestock industry, including production, management 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

afrcoop.org

contest in particular is a great way for us to support the future of Oklahoma agriculture."

Participation in the AFR Agricultural Achievement Contest is limited to Oklahoma junior and senior high school students who exhibit an animal at OYE. Contestants compete in a showmanship contest and take a written test that covers all phases of the livestock industry. The combined scores from the test and showmanship determined the Top Ten contestants, who then advanced to a panel interview about their livestock project and overall knowledge of the livestock industry. Contestants ranked 11th through 20th were determined based solely on their test and showmanship scores.

The 2026 AFR Ag Achievement Top Twenty are:

- 1st: Lauren Crosthwait, Stillwater
- 2nd: Kelton Arthur, Ripley
- 3rd: Jade McPeak, Checotah
- 4th: Ella Allen, Konawa

5th: Hadley Ott, Lomega

6th: Tassi Fadely, Stillwater

7th: Emma Fletcher, Frederick

8th: Hailey Helmke, Fox

9th: Jace Taylor, Mulhall-Orlando

10th: Leighton McNait, Crescent

11th: Kylee Bell, Dover

12th: Abigail Breese, Porum

13th: Isaac Nowakowski, Pawnee

14th: Cierra Collins, Frederick

15th: Hope Metcalf, Elk City

16th: Cooper Davidson, Elgin

17th: Ridge Garrett, Guthrie

18th: Madison Dunn, Rush Springs

19th: Carli Thomas, Purcell

20th: Jaxson Staggs, Purcell

American Farmers & Ranchers is a proud platinum sponsor of the Oklahoma Youth Expo, awarding \$35,000 to AFR members who qualified for the OYE Sale of Champions. AFR also sponsors the reserve grand champion trophies for each species and the OYE Ag Mechanic Contest.

AFR YOUTH Leadership Summit

JULY 21- JULY 28

Cedar Hills Baptist Youth Camp
Binger, OK

Teen Session
July 21-24
Grades 7-9

Senior Session
July 25-28
Grades 10-12

NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION PLATFORM

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QR CODE TO
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SPOTS ARE
LIMITED

DON'T WAIT
TO SIGN UP

Are you interested in running for the Youth Advisory Council?

During the AFR Senior Leadership Summit, five youth program participants are elected to the AFR Youth Advisory Council. These young Oklahomans represent AFR throughout the next year as they work side-by-side with the AFR Youth Coordinator on projects in service to the youth of Oklahoma. Full requirements for YAC can be found at afrcoop.org.

Election Process:

1. Submit application and materials by July 15.
2. Complete a professional interview.
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.

* Full requirements for YAC can be found at afrcoop.org.



Incoming Freshman *Scholarship Recipients*



Annie Schneider
Oklahoma State University



Faith Wright
Oklahoma State University



Grant Mahr
University of Science and
Arts of Oklahoma



Hadley Ott
Oklahoma State University



Hudsyn Boren
Oklahoma State University



Jewel Scherler
Oklahoma State University



Kaden Plier
Oklahoma State University



Kimberly Holland
Oklahoma State University



Luke Lundry
OSU Institute of Technology



Meredith Pye
Oklahoma State University



Saidee Wright
Oklahoma State University

2026 Speech **CONTEST DATES**

Central Area - November 9
Southeast Area - November 12
Northwest Area - November 19

Northeast Area - November 10
Southwest Area - November 16
State - December 5

Continuing Education *Scholarship Recipients*



Baylee Wilbourn
Oklahoma State University



Cooper Kline
Oklahoma State University



Coy Davidson
Oklahoma State University



Darla Fesmire
Oklahoma State University



Halle Pullen
Oklahoma State University



Kelby Ott
Oklahoma State University



Kennedy Clark
Oklahoma State University



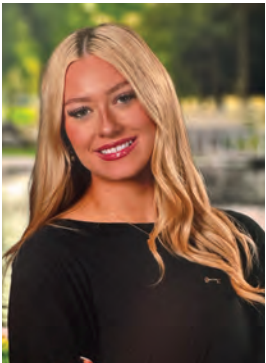
Konner Shebester
Oklahoma State University



LeAundre Delonia
Oklahoma State University



Lexi Lane
University of Arkansas



Morgan Matheson
Oklahoma State University



Mylee Sims
Northwestern Oklahoma State University



Raegan Wilbourn
Redlands Community College



Taryn McCaa
Oklahoma State University

AFR WELCOMES SUMMER INTERNS



Kennedy Clark

Kennedy grew up in Minco with a passion for all things agriculture. Growing up in a show barn, she was quick to learn lessons and gain many countless memories. These experiences ignited a fire in her heart to do whatever she could to give back to the industry that raised her. She previously served as a member of the AFR Youth Advisory Council.

Kennedy is currently attending Redlands Community College, working toward a bachelor's

degree in animal science and agricultural communications with a pre-law option.

This fall, Clark will be a junior at Oklahoma State University, where she will be a member of the livestock judging team.

As the AFR Communications Intern Kennedy will support the AFR Press Secretary and AFR Communications Coordinator with a variety of tasks, including event support at AFR Cooperative functions, graphic design projects, videography and press releases.

In Kennedy's free time, you'll find her at the lake with her friends and family making memories. She also loves going to pig shows. It's where her passion for agriculture really comes to life. There's nothing better than being around good



Cooper Kline

Cooper Kline is a native of Chandler and a graduate of North Rock Creek High School, where he developed a deep-rooted passion for agriculture at an early age. Growing up in a family actively involved in the livestock industry, Kline spent much of his childhood working with show animals and participating in various events, shaping both his work ethic and leadership skills. His early exposure to agriculture and FFA set the foundation for a career centered on service and leadership.

Kline is currently a student at Oklahoma State afrcoop.org

University, where he is pursuing a degree in agricultural education. His involvement in leadership organizations has been extensive, including serving on the AFR Youth Advisory Council. In addition to AFR, Kline has been heavily involved in FFA, even serving as the Oklahoma FFA State President for 2025-2026.

As the AFR Youth Program Intern, Cooper will support the AFR Youth and Education Coordinator in various youth program activities, including cattle grading contests, livestock shows and leadership summit.

Cooper enjoys staying involved in livestock production, particularly through his swine operation, as well as spending time mentoring younger students and participating in agricultural events.

Steak Shish Kabobs

A flavorful shish kabob marinade is made with soy sauce, vegetable oil, lemon juice, garlic, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and black pepper. Chunks of lean beef are added to the marinade to soak up all that bold flavor, then threaded onto metal skewers along with pieces of green and red bell pepper and large squares of onion.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 pound lean beef, cut into 1 inch cubes
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt or to taste
- 1 teaspoon cracked black pepper
- 2 green bell peppers cut into chunks
- 2 red bell peppers, cut into chunks
- 1 large onion, cut into large squares

Directions

Whisk soy sauce, vegetable oil, lemon juice, garlic, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, salt and black pepper together in a bowl; pour into a resealable plastic bag, add beef cubes and seal bag. Marinate in the refrigerator for eight hours or overnight.

Preheat an outdoor grill to high heat and lightly oil the grate. Remove beef from the marinade, shaking off any excess liquid. Pour the marinade into a small saucepan and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for 10 minutes; set aside for basting.

Thread pieces of green bell pepper, beef, red bell pepper and onion onto metal skewers, repeating until all ingredients are skewered.

Cook the skewers on the preheated grill, turning frequently and brushing generously with the basting marinade until nicely browned on all sides and beef is no longer pink in the center, about 15 minutes.



Oklahoma Certified



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AT 405-218-5597 OR
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Oklahoma Certified!

OCBA RANCH MEMBERS: HENDON RANCH

Story by Katie Whitfield, OCBA Coordinator



Landen and Marisa Hendon

First-generation ranchers Landen and Marisa Hendon of Macomb own and operate Hendon Cattle Company, alongside Landen's parents, Tommy and Susan. What began as a simple idea to "keep the grass down" on a five-acre rental property has grown into a thriving and steadily expanding cattle operation rooted in hard work, curiosity and commitment to continuous improvement.

Landen's introduction to agriculture was anything but traditional. Without a commercial agriculture background,

he started by trading labor for hay to feed his first cows. From there, growth came one opportunity at a time, adding neighboring acreage and investing in equipment with the help of his family.

Today, the Hendons manage both spring and fall calving herds, retain and develop their own replacement heifers, and run stocker cattle. Their breeding program focuses on Charolais and Angus genetics, with Landen working toward a goal of producing black-hided, Charolais-influenced cattle. Initially driven by a desire to raise and enjoy their own beef, the Hendons' journey into direct-to-consumer beef sales was equally intentional. Through careful ration development and a willingness to self-critique and refine their process, they have built a beef product they are proud to stand behind. What started with a single animal for their own freezer has grown into a retail business that offers quarters, halves, wholes and individual cuts to meet increasing demand from friends, family and customers in their community.

Despite their growth, the Hendons remain grounded in their philosophy of never being satisfied—whether that's improving their cattle genetics, expanding their beef program or exploring opportunities like school partnerships. Marisa emphasizes their mindset simply: "No question is a bad question, and there is always more to learn."

OCBA MEMBERS ATTEND RURAL CAUCUS

Members of the Oklahoma Certified Beef Association attended the Oklahoma House of Representatives Rural Caucus luncheon at the State Capitol on April 8. The caucus meets weekly during the legislative session to discuss and address the unique challenges and opportunities facing Oklahoma's rural communities, including agriculture, economic development and rural infrastructure.

During the meeting, OCBA President Scott Blubaugh spoke on behalf of members, sharing the mission and impact of the organization. OCBA sponsored the caucus and legislators enjoyed a lunch featuring beef provided by Boedeker Farms of Waukomis, an OCBA Lifetime Member.



OCBA members attended the House of Representatives Rural Caucus at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

In Memoriam



Paul Maly

Paul E. Maly, 82, of Garber, passed away Sept. 11, 2025. Paul was born Sept. 2, 1943, in Enid to Paul and Otilia (Novak) Maly. He grew up in Garber and graduated from Garber High School in 1961. He graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1965.

Paul met the love of his life, Georgena Brezny, at the Yukon Czech Hall. They married Jan. 21, 1967, and celebrated 58 years of marriage. They lived in Woodward, but ultimately built their forever home on the family farm near Garber. They enjoyed Saturday night dances at the Czech Hall and were blessed with four children: Joan, Chris, Matthew and Joshua.

Paul was an insurance agent for Oklahoma Farmers Union for 36 years. He was also a farmer and rancher. He was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Enid, and the Knights of Columbus, Council 1044. He was also a member of the #1 Oklahoma Polka Club.

Paul was preceded in death by his wife, Georgena; son, Chris; and his parents. He is survived by his daughter, Joan (Bill) Dunlap and their children, Kyle and Shelby, of Garber; son, Matthew (Amanda) and their children, Mackenzie (Andrew), Caleb, Garrett, Devon, and Bailey, of Prague; son, Joshua (Lora) and their children, Hannah, Justin, Logan, Isabella, and Kamdyn, of Garber; Chris's children, Tyler (Anna), Derek, Craig, and Kirsten; nine great-grandchildren; two sisters, Pauline Noteware and Helen Shriver; and many friends.



Virgil Daniels

Virgil was born to Brewer and Cherry Christie Daniel May 9, 1936, in Collinsville. He was an athlete who played many sports, but football and rodeo were his passions. He was Collinsville's all-conference football player for numerous years. He graduated from

Collinsville High School and went on to play football at Bacone College and at Haskell Indian Nations University College. Virgil and his only brother, Richard "Chief" Daniels, entered the rodeo circuit where they met many of lifelong friends.

In 1957, Virgil became an ironworker and spent his career with the Ironworkers Local 584 in Tulsa. He started out as an apprentice, but left to serve in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He returned as an apprentice after three years of military service and was promoted to journeyman. He became an honorary member in 1991 when he partially retired; he fully retired in 2001. He enjoyed showing his grandkids all the things he helped build as they drove by buildings and sporting stadiums.

He married the love of his life, Phyllis Jo Daniels, April 20, 1974. He gained three children and together they built a beautiful life. He would later work alongside her as an Oklahoma Farmers Union agent. They retired and went to the farm to enjoy spoiling their

grandchildren and great grandchildren. Virgil enjoyed working on their farm and having cattle.

Virgil was a member of the Wann Baptist Church and a member of the Lion's Club of Wann. He was Wann's Christmas "Santa" for more than 20 years and was a member of the Collinsville Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He was a proud member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and loved the annual Delaware Powwow and looked forward to the reunion of family and friends every year.

Virgil spent his final couple of years living in Westville with his grandchildren. He was known in town as "Grandpa" and loved by the Westville community.

Virgil was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Phyllis Jo; his parents, Brewer and Cherry Daniel; his brother, Richard "Chief" Daniels; and his great-grandson, Lucas Doye. He is survived by his granddaughter, whom he loved as a daughter, Jenna Jo Sitsler and her husband Brian, of Westville; his children, Bill, Michael, and Linda Doye, of Wann; his grandchildren, Michael F. Doye, of Nowata, Tina Oyer and her partner Ty, of Nowata, Robert Doye and his partner Ashley Wilson of Wann, Jessica Scudder and her partner Charles of Bartlesville; and his great-grandchildren, Zoe', Wyatt, Girric, Michael David, Sheridan, Brianna, Brandon, Justin, Jaxon, Christina, Wesley and Christopher.



Lee Streetman

Lee was born Nov. 12, 1947, in Oklahoma City, to Phyllis Dale Streetman and was raised by his grandparents, Maude Omer and Edgar Allen Phillips. He attended John Marshall High School, where he got his start in journalism as sports editor of *The Advocate*.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Oklahoma State University in 1970. While at OSU, he worked his way up from freshman reporter to sports editor of the *Daily O'Collegian*. He served as president of the OSU chapter of the Sigma Delta Chi Professional Journalistic Society, where he helped inaugurate the chapter's first women members. He remained a devoted OSU Cowboys fan for the rest of his life.

Lee served in the U.S. Army Reserve during the Vietnam War, where he rose to the rank of staff sergeant. He graduated with honors from the U.S. Department of Defense Information School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., where he received the Golden Quill Award as editor of the *Quill and Scroll* newspaper. He served with the 95th Division, 4003rd U.S. Army Garrison, in Midwest City and edited the award-winning unit newsletter, *The Shaft*. Though he never saw combat, the war marked him deeply. Many of his high school classmates and college friends did not come home; he carried that awareness, and their memory, for the rest of his life.

His civilian career in journalism spanned more than three decades. He began as a summer intern at the *Daily Oklahoman*, then worked as a reporter at the *Oklahoma City Times*, covering the police beat and high school football. He spent four years as a writer and photographer in the University of Oklahoma's Media Information Office before joining Oklahoma Farmers Union in 1978, where he would remain for 26 years.

At OFU, Lee did a little of everything. He started as OFU Managing Editor and Public Relations Director, building the communications department and publishing the *Oklahoma Farmers Union Farm News & Views* newspaper. He also served as OFU Education and Youth Director, which included tasks such as youth camp director, cabin counselor, and photographer. He wrote the internal employee newsletter, which he titled *Farmers Union News (FUN)*. He judged speech contests and 4-H Roundups, lobbied in Washington, D.C., emceed retirement

receptions, chaired United Way campaigns, organized blood drives, and once judged the Oklahoma Dairy Princess Contest. He was recognized with the Congressional Action Committee Award for his lobbying work, an Honorary State FFA Degree, and the Oklahoma Blood Institute's "Life Saver" Award. In 1992, he chaperoned an agricultural student exchange trip to Kyoto, Japan, a trip he never stopped telling stories about. He retired in 2004, leaving behind an organization full of people who had loved working with him.

Lee was an avid reader, a skilled writer, and a beloved storyteller. He was charming, funny, and had a knack for keeping his audience guessing what he was going to say next. His passions were wide-ranging and fiercely held: John Wayne westerns and Clive Cussler novels, the Civil War, *Three Dog Night* and *Motown*, Laurel and Hardy, the Marx Brothers, and the Three Stooges. He shared his passions with his children, especially his favorite movies. He was known for his wild bidding in pitch, his sense of humor that could light up a room, and a willingness to coach anything that needed it: Little League baseball, youth soccer, and slow-pitch softball.

Above all, Lee loved his family. He and Janet Oliphant married Feb. 26, 1971, sparking a love and partnership that spanned nearly 60 years. He was a wonderful father and a proud "Grampy" and "Papa" who adored his grandchildren. He also loved every dog that ever crossed his path.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Phyllis Whitney; grandparents, Maude Omer and Edgar Allen Phillips; brother, Jack Garrison; great aunts, Mabe, Winnie, Dale and Virgil; and great uncles, Arthur and Otis.

He is survived by his wife, Janet Streetman; his son, Kyle Streetman; his daughter and son-in-law, Erin and Christopher Honious; and five grandchildren, Millison Streetman, Iselle Streetman, Emerett Streetman, Evelyn Honious, and Arthur Honious; as well as his sister, Gay Ann Russell and husband Denzell; his brother, Gary Garrison and wife Cathy; his sister, Ruth Ann Malear; his brother-in-law, Sam Oliphant and wife Tina; multiple nieces and nephews; and a wide circle of friends and colleagues who were always glad to see him.

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