

# 2026 AFR Convention

## What to Expect at the 2026 AFR Convention

### Top Speakers

**Insurance for Agents:** Insurance leadership, reinsurance and investment partners will address agents. A breakout session will focus on "Succession Planning for Your Agency." The annual meeting of the AFR Agent's Association will also take place.

**Agriculture:** As farmers are challenged, stressed and struggling across the country, federal borrower rights will be explored by Sarah Vogel, attorney and farmer advocate; Janie Simms Hipp, CEO of Native Agriculture Financial Services; and Jay Brunson, Oklahoma agriculture attorney.

**Cooperatives:** "The Spirit of Cooperation" explores challenges and opportunities for traditional farm supply cooperatives, as well as those that provide power and telephone services to rural Oklahoma. Speakers include Jana Wallace, Panhandle Telephone Cooperative CEO, and Nicki Fuller, Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives General Manager/CEO.

**State Questions:** Panelists will provide the pros and cons on SQ 836, which addresses an open primary system. Panelists include Pat McFerron with CMA Strategies and Dave Bond with the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs. There will also be a panel with Rep. Jay Steagall who will explore SQ 841, which eliminates residential property taxes.

**State Capitol:** Coffee with the Legislature is headlined by AFR members Sens. Darcy Jech, Grant Green, and Bryan Logan and Reps. Mike Dobrinski and Jonathon Wilk. Vintage Republican and Democrat political memorabilia baskets will be given away. AFR Cooperative President Scott Blubaugh and AFR Insurance Legislative Liaison Jeremy Rich will provide a snapshot of the upcoming state legislative session and associated activities.

**National Legislation:** Approaches and tactics for passing a farm bill will be considered by OSU's Agriculture & Food Policy Professor Dr. Amy Hagerman and NFU Vice President Jeff Kippley.

**Beef:** The price of cattle and the cost of beef is on the minds of both producers and consumers these days. Beef herd trends will be reviewed and the impact of the Beef Check-off on producers' pocketbook with "Turning a Dollar Into Demand: The Beef Check-off Story" with Oklahoma Beef Council Executive Director Heather Buckmaster.

### Registration

Registration is FREE and underwritten by AFR Insurance and AFR Cooperative. There will be a nice door prize for those registering early before 11 a.m. on the first day of convention! General education sessions are open to non-delegate members, but members must be credentialed delegates to participate in business sessions. Non-delegate members must check-in at registration. General education session participants may contact Jamie Goodson at [jamie.goodson@afrmic.com](mailto:jamie.goodson@afrmic.com) for non-delegate pre-registration. All participants will receive BEEF bags sponsored by the Oklahoma Beef Council. Custom Promotional Products is sponsoring attendee badges and pens. Convention registration and office needs are supported by R.K. Black, Inc.

### Counties/Locals

The Local & County Chapters Luncheon honors the service of local and county AFR Coop. boards. Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU) President Chad Franke will bring perspectives from multiple states that make up the RMFU organization focusing on "Proven Successful Strategies for Farmers Union Chapters." The luncheon is sponsored by Oklahoma AGCredit, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma, BancFirst and the

Oklahoma Wheat Commission.

### Business Session

Friday afternoon will be dedicated to the annual meetings of the AFRMIC and American Farmers & Ranchers Cooperative (Oklahoma Farmers Union), which will include financial reports, officer reports, director and officer candidate speeches and consideration and adoption of policy resolutions in the Cooperative. Reports for the AFRPAC, CALF, Farmers Union Foundation and OFU Enterprises, Inc., will be presented.

### Youth Program

Recognition of top AFR Youth and a look back at last year's activities will be part of Friday evening's activities. Youth program alumni Bill Shelby, Market/Regional President with Armstrong Bank will reflect on his experiences. A top AFR State Speech winner will present. The youngest convention attendees will be treated to pizza and a movie and arts and crafts.

### OCBA

The annual meeting of the Oklahoma Certified Beef Association will be held on the first day of the convention. Voting members of the OCBA will conduct business and AFR Cooperative members can attend to learn more about OCBA and how the entity can help them market Oklahoma bred, born, raised and processed beef to put more money back in the pockets of the cattle producer. Colt Clark, president of the Made in Oklahoma Coalition will be the featured speaker. OCBA members are eligible for a 14 Cu. Ft. Chest Freezer drawing and all AFR members are eligible for OCBA branded items.

### OFU Enterprises, Inc.

OFU Enterprises, Inc., will hold their first annual meeting and reports will be given on current investment activities and outcomes.



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### **Ag & Historic Conference**

Visit the AFR Ag & Historic Conference tradeshow booth to discover the adventures in store as AFR explores Hawaiian agriculture in Fall 2026.

### **PAC Auctions**

The AFRPAC live auction is again part of the convention banquet. This auction assists with legislative efforts by giving to candidates and legislators who support the AFR organization and legislative initiatives. A few of the items up for auction include a two-man guided quail hunt at Caney Outfitters; 2026 NFR package with two tickets to the rodeo and three-night Las Vegas hotel stay; western leather luggage set with AFR logos; two-night stay in a Hochatown/Broken Bow cabin with a fishing trip experience included; Yeti cooler with accessories; a pistol with an AFR logo; a shotgun with an AFR logo; a rifle with an OFU logo; a cruise; a chute-side veterinary cooler with vet supply gift certificate and cattle processing supplies package; and an AFR quilt. The AFRPAC silent auction items will be available for bid on Friday and Saturday. Both live and silent auctions are open to all attendees; you do not have to be a convention delegate to participate.

### **Reception/Banquet**

All banquet attendees are invited to mingle with members and special guests at the pre-banquet reception. Rep. Tammy Townley will deliver the national anthem. OCBA members' beef will be served as the entrée. The bread will be sponsored by the Oklahoma Wheat Commission. After dinner entertainment will be the son-of-a-beekeeper funny man Lucas Ross. Legislative Advocate Awards will be presented to Sen. Warren Hamilton and Rep. Dick Lowe. Special music will be delivered by country music icon Carrie Underwood's former background vocalist and The Voice

contestant Andrea (Thomas) Hand. In addition to the AFRPAC live auction, the convention's grand door prize drawing will round out the evening.

### **Worship Service**

The convention will close out with the Convention Worship & Memorial service on Sunday morning with a video tribute honoring members who passed away in 2025, congregational singing participation, special music, message from Chaplain Eddie Whitworth and worship music and message from Andrea (Thomas) Hand with Good Seeds Entertainment. Andrea is the creator, producer and host of A Sound of Hope – a groundbreaking docuseries that amplifies conversations around mental health, faith and restoration. Through her ministry she seeks to inspire others to find healing, connection and renewed purpose. Returning at the piano with soothing southern gospel music and hymns is Gathan Graham.

### **Major Door Prizes**

Several major door prizes will be drawn during Friday and Saturday general sessions, at the banquet and at the convention conclusion on Sunday morning. Featured door prizes include a John Deere S220 Lawn Tractor valued at \$3,100, a John Deere Tool Box valued at \$900, a Stihl Wet/Dry Vacuum valued at \$240, a John Deere AC-135 Kerosene Heater valued at \$650, a Stihl MSA60C Lithium Ion Chainsaw valued at \$330 and a Green Mountain Ledge Prime WiFi Pellet Grill and accessories valued at \$1,100. Convention delegates must be in attendance at the banquet for the grand door prize and have submitted their entry card. Tickets will be distributed at the beginning of each session where other major door prizes will be drawn and must be present to win. Major door prizes are sponsored by Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma, Oklahoma AGCredit, and

P&K Equipment.

### **NFU Delegates Election**

Contact the AFR State Secretary for a delegate card and biographical form to be considered to represent the Oklahoma Farmers Union at the National Farmers Union Convention Cards and biographical information (up to 175 words) must be received no later than Saturday, Feb. 14, at NOON. The NFU Convention is March 7-9, 2026, in New Orleans.

### **Trade Show**

Enjoy a comprehensive tradeshow with more than 50 vendors where you can learn from educational booths, get freebies, and shop for a tractor, great crafts or other popular merchandise.

### **Wheat Treats**

The Oklahoma Wheat Commission is back again with their famous treats in the convention tradeshow. This is always a "something not to miss" as we celebrate the products of Oklahoma wheat farmers.

### **Shoe Shine**

Just inside the door of the tradeshow, JJ's Shoe Shine will shine your boots and dress shoes FREE throughout the convention courtesy of BancFirst. Tips are always appreciated for a job well done!

### **Drawings**

Be early for the general sessions for a chance to win general door prizes sponsored by MIDCON, LegalShield, the cotton and pecan industries, Tinker Federal Credit Union, Piguet's Prime Time Restaurant, Ross Honey Company, and Jim Pilkington, as well as tradeshow vendors and others. You will need to arrive early to get a major door prize ticket no later than 30 minutes before start time – as one will be awarded in every session. Check out the prizes on page 22.