



The AFR News & Views Insider

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Terry Detrick
AFR President

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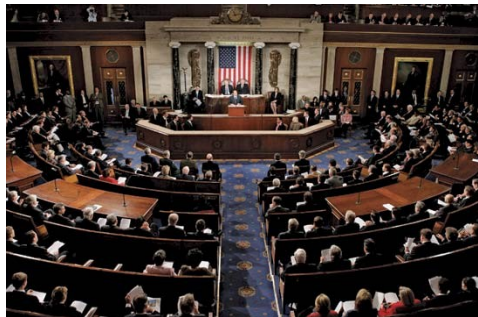
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Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act Passed

On Nov. 30, 2011 the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce voted in support of H.R. 1633, the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act of 2011. The legislation passed (33-16) through the full committee with bipartisan support and will head to the full House of Representatives for a vote.

“American Farmers & Ranchers favor congressional approaches such as H.R. 1633 by Rep. Kristi Noem, R-SD, the “Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act of 2011,” said Terry Detrick, AFR president. “This prohibits the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) from proposing, finalizing, implementing or enforcing any regulation revising the national pri-

mary ambient air quality standard or the national secondary ambient quality standard applicable to particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter greater than 2.5 micrometers under the Clean



Air Act (CAA) for one year,” Detrick said. The bill also exempts nuisance

dust from the CAA and excludes nuisance dust from references in such Act to particulate matter, except with respect to geographic areas where such dust is not regulated under state, tribal, or local law if the Administrator finds that: (1) nuisance dust (or any subcategory of nuisance dust) causes substantial adverse public health

and welfare effects at ambient concentrations; and (2) the benefits of applying CAA standards and other requirements to such dust outweigh the costs.

If H.R. 1633 passes the House, it will move to the Senate, where it was introduced by Senators Mike Johanns (R-Neb.) and Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and has support from 26 bipartisan senators.

AFR members lobbied Congress to support these trade agreements during their recent legislative action trip to Washington D.C.



AFR Revises Reward Program Rules

The AFR Board of Directors recently approved new compliance rules associated with the AFR Reward Program. The company has also introduced a new aluminum reward sign along with the rule changes.

MEMBER BENEFIT:

In an effort to discourage such activities, the Company will pay up to \$5,000 to the person who furnishes original information that leads to the arrest and felony conviction of a person or persons committing theft, arson or vandalism on the property of an American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance member policyholder. This member benefit is only applicable to property covered by your AFR policy. Such payments shall be subject to the following conditions and limitations:

CONDITIONS TO

COLLECT:

- The provision of this program shall not apply unless the insured has an official Reward Sign (obtained thru American Farmers & Ranchers) posted in a conspicuous place on the premises involved.
- Only one (1) reward shall be paid for each violation, regardless of the number of persons arrested and convicted; or if the same person is convicted of several violations only one (1) reward shall be paid.
- Rewards will be reported to the IRS on Form 1099 - Misc.
- All claims will be submitted to the AFR Claims Director.

- To be eligible, the member, whose property is impacted, must be a member in good standing with dues and policy premiums paid current at the time the crime was committed.

LIMITATIONS:

- No reward shall be payable to the American Farmers & Ranchers Mutual Insurance member policyholder impacted, or members of his or her

- No reward shall be paid to any law enforcement officer or family member.
- Reward shall only be paid after a final conviction, and all rights of appeal have been exhausted. In case of juveniles, who are allowed special treatment on first offenses, reward will be paid on a letter verifying guilt by the appropriate presiding judge.

- If two or more persons file claim for the reward, the merits of the various claims shall be evaluated by American Farmers & Ranchers. The reward shall be paid to the first person reporting the information leading to the arrest or conviction.

- If a reward is given, then the policyholder with the reward sign will be requested to have their photo taken for publications and publicity purposes by American Farmers & Ranchers as a condition of the additional protections afforded through this posting.



Paul Jackson, AFR Farm Coop Director, Terry Detrick, AFR President and Bobby Green, AFR State Secretary show off new reward signs.

immediate family or household, or any person(s) having an interest in the damaged or stolen property. Payment will be up to \$5,000 based on the value of the damages to the property impacted.

- Should another reward sign of AFR or Oklahoma Farmers Union be posted on the members property with a value less than \$5,000, the maximum reward amount will be the number indicated.



***ALL SIGNS CAN BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE AFR CO-OP STORE OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AFR INSURANCE AGENT.**

2011 67th Annual AFR District Speech Contest

Southwest District Speech Contest Results

The American Farmers and Ranchers (AFR) Annual Speech Contest kicked off in Cache on November third. The Southwest contest brought talented youth and prepared the evening's speaking events. This is just one of the five contests that is a stepping stone for youth in preparing for the State Finals Contest held in Stillwater, Oklahoma in December.

Results of the Southwest District Contest are as follows: AFR/OFU category, in the Novice division, first place Violet Webber, Elgin, second place Chasen McPherson, Minco and third place Laural Hughes, Elgin. Junior Division first place was Emily Forehand, Elgin. Intermediate Division first place was Kristin McCracken, Elgin, and second place was Leann Bay, Elgin. Senior Division, first place was Nikki Kirk, Chattanooga, second place Kaylee Snow, Lawton and

third place was Lakin Hardzog, Elgin. The Student Organization category, junior division, first place was Dal Williams, Hollis and second place was Juanita Neeley, Elgin. Intermediate Division results, first place was Cale Jahn, Elgin, second place, Kelby Corbett, Elgin. In the senior division first place was Kelsie Williams, Hollis and second place was Holly Hunter, Elgin.

In the Natural Resources category junior division, first place was Davian Muncrief, Chickasha. Intermediate division first place Jake Grossoicklaus, Chickasha, second place Kyler Belinson, Elgin and third place was Kaylia McCracken, Elgin. Senior results, first place was Trail Gardner, Binger-Oney, second place Emily Landoll, Elgin and third place was Denton Lowe, Amber-Pocasset.

The Agribusiness category, junior divi-

sion, first place was Shiane Hood, Lookeba-Sickles. Intermediate division, first place was Hannah Cummins, Elgin, second place Elizabeth Good, Tipton and third place was Brittane Cliatt, Elgin. Senior results, first place went to MyKala Balderas, Tipton, second place Seth Paxton, Tuttle and third place Whitney Peace, Elgin.

The AgriScience category intermediate division, first place was Kade Blakley, Thomas-Fay-Custer, second place Taylor Ferguson, Elgin and third place was John Nelson, Chickasha. Senior division results, first place went to Nicole Ashton, Elgin, second place Jennifer Dittman, Elgin and third place was Chandra Yoder, Tomas-Fay-Custer.

Those placing in the top two automatically advance to the state finals contest on Dec. 10, 2011, in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Southeast District Speech Contest Results

Results of the Southeast District Contest are as follows: AFR/OFU category, in the Novice division, first place Kalynn Williams, Latta, second place Trey Hughes, Madill and third place Cody Dill, McCurtain Co. 4-H. Junior Division first place was Raylee Rogers, Calera, and second place Clay Shires, Calera. Intermediate Division first place was Tapha Akers, Haworth, second place was Alyssa Smith, Calera and third place Macey Moore, Haworth. Senior division, first place was

Alyssa Beadle, Calera. The Student Organization category, junior division, first place was Skyler Tucker, Calera, second place was Jill Coats, Konawa and third place was Hailey Bishop, Calera. Intermediate Division results, first place was Mathew Slaten, Calera, second place, Macey Cothrun, Tishomingo and third place was Kaley Elliot, Valliant. Senior division first place was Sara Calloway, Achille, second place was Ryley Antu, Antlers and third place was Maddison Williams,

Durant.

In the Natural Resources category junior division, first place was Drew Savage, Antlers, second place Jordan Storey, Valliant and third place was Ashlynn Arnold, Marshall Co. 4-H. Intermediate division first place Taylor Pratt, Broken Bow, second place Ramona Vasquez, Calera and third place was Brady Womack, Madill. Senior results, first place was Elaina Jackson, Calera, second place Chelsea Pallindino, Wetumka and third place was Jackie Coats, Konowa.

The Agribusiness category junior division, first place was Courtney Keeney, Broken Bow, and second place was Dakota Tillery, Calera. Intermediate division, first place was Paige Hutchings, Achille, second place was Cooper Morris, Caddo and third place was Scott Gould, Calera. Senior results, first place Desiree Masterson, Spiro, second place Levi Shelby, Madill and third place Ryan Perry, Bennington.

The Agriscience category junior division, first

place was Kobi Reese, Antlers, and second place Will Shelby, Madill. Intermediate division, first place was Cara Blansett, Antlers, second place was Brooks McKinney, Spiro and third place was Logan Cox, Spiro. Senior division results, first place went to Dyson Runyan, Madill, second place Kirsten Rogers, Calera and third place was Lacey Brooks, Wetumka.

2011 AFR District Winners

SW District Winners



AFR/OFU Category: Novice division, first place Violet Weber, Elgin, second place Chasen McPherson, Minco third place Laural Hughes, Elgin. Junior Division first place Emily Forehand, Elgin. Intermediate Division first place Kristin McCracken, Elgin, second place Leann Bay, Elgin. Senior Division, first place Nikki Kirk, Chattanooga, second place Kaylee Snow, Lawton, third place Lakin Hardzog, Elgin.



Stu. Org. Category: Junior division, first place Dal Williams, Hollis second place Juanita Neeley, Elgin. Intermediate Division results, first place Cale Jahn, Elgin, second place, Kelby Corbett, Elgin. Senior division first place Kelsie Williams, Hollis second place Holly Hunter, Elgin.



Nat. Resources Category: Junior division, first place Davian Muncrief, Chickasha. Intermediate division first place Jake Grossoicklaus, Chickasha, second place Kyler Belinson, Elgin third place was Kaylia McCracken, Elgin. Senior results, first place Trail Gardner, Binger-Oney, second place Emily Landoll, Elgin third place Denton Lowe, Amber-Pocasset.



Agribusiness Category: Junior division, first place Shiane Hood, Lookeba-Sickles. Intermediate division, first place Hannah Cummins, Elgin, second place Elizabeth Good, Tipton third place Brittane Cliatt, Elgin. Senior results, first place MyKala Balderas, Tipton, second place Seth Paxton, Tuttle third place Whitney Peace, Elgin.



Agriscience Category: Intermediate division, first place Kade Blakley, Thomas-Fay-Custer, second place Taylor Ferguson, Elgin third place John Nelson, Chickasha. Senior division results, first place Nicole Ashton, Elgin, second place Jennifer Dittman, Elgin third place Chandra Yoder, Tomas-Fay-Custer.

SE District Winners



AFR/OFU Category: Novice division, first place Kalynn Williams, Latta, second place Trey Hughes, Madill third place Cody Dill, McCurtain Co. 4-H. Junior Division first place Raylee Rogers, Calera, second place Clay Shires, Calera. Intermediate Division first place Tapha Akers, Haworth, second place Alyssa Smith, Calera third place Macey Moore, Haworth. Senior Division, first place Alyssa Beadle, Calera.



Stu. Org. Category: Junior division, first place Skyler Tucker, Calera, second place Jill Coats, Konawa third place Hailey Bishop, Calera. Intermediate Division results, first place Mathew Slaten, Calera, second place, Macey Cothrun, Tishomingo third place Kaley Elliot, Valliant. Senior division first place Sara Calloway, Achille, second place Ryley Antu, Antlers third place Madison Williams, Durant.



Nat. Resources Category: Junior division, first place Drew Savage, Antlers, second place Jordan Storey, Valliant third place Ashlynn Arnold, Marshall Co. 4-H. Intermediate division first place Taylor Pratt, Broken Bow, second place Ramona Vasquez, Calera third place Brady Womack, Madill. Senior results, first place Elaina Jackson, Calera, second place Chelsae Pallindino, Wetumka third place Jackie Coats, Konawa.



Agribusiness Category: Junior division, first place Courtney Keeney, Broken Bow, second place Dakotah Tillery, Calera. Intermediate division, first place Paige Hutchings, Achille, second place Cooper Morris, Caddo third place Scott Gould, Calera. Senior results, first place Desiree Masterson, Spiro, second place Levi Shelby, Madill third place Ryan Perry, Bennington.



Agriscience Category: Junior division, first place Kobi Reese, Antlers, second place Will Shelby, Madill. Intermediate division, first place Cara Blansett, Antlers, second place Brooks McKinney, Spiro third place Logan Cox, Spiro. Senior division results, first place Dyson Runyan, Madill, second place Kirsten Rogers, Calera third place Lacey Brooks, Wetumka.

2011 AFR District Winners

NW District Winners



AFR/OFU Category: Novice division, first place Emily Garrett, Kingfisher, second place Rylee Detrick, Ringwood and third place Victoria Gerken, Kingfisher. Junior Division first place Sydnee Gerken, Kingfisher, second place Sarah Gruntmeir, Kingfisher third place Bayli Hyde, Burlington. Intermediate division first place, Paige Gosney, Shattuck, second place Maegan Yost, Kingfisher third place Jenna Maltbie, Burlington. Senior Division, first place Lane Newlin, Burlington second place Beau Kloepfel, Kingfisher.



Stu. Org. Category: Junior division first place Lane Holt, Kingfisher, second place Alley Riley, Alva third place Ashley Tucker, Fairview. Intermediate division results, first place Alli Siler, Fairview, second place, Gatlin Squires, Kingfisher third place Carter Stewart, Burlington. Senior division, first place Peyton Yeoman, Kingfisher, second place Katelyn Garvie, Burlington third place Marijo Leedy, Morrison.



Nat. Resources Category: Junior division, first place Colton Smith, Kingfisher, second place Tori Sessions, Fairview third place Abigail Anderson, Ringwood. Intermediate division, first place Jennifer Bedwell, Fairview, second place Jerred Strate, Garber third place Emmaly Helt, Kingfisher. Senior division results, first place Jillian Whipple, Alva, second place Kaitlin Prichett, Kingfisher third place Trevor Woods, Kingfisher.



Agribusiness Category: Junior division, first place Colten Budy, Waynoka, second place Brook Cameron, Kingfisher third place Layne Kisling, Chisholm. Intermediate division, first place Jessie Phillips, Kingfisher, second place Audrey Dunlap, Fairview third place Kirsten Schiska, Fairview. Senior division, first place Tyler Schnaithman, Garber, second place Katie Lippoldt, Kingfisher third place Taylor Tucker, Fairview.



Agriscience Category: Junior division, first place Sydney Hutchison, Fairview, second place Micah Mueggenberg, Kingfisher third place Jaryn Frey, Kingfisher. Intermediate division, first place Cheredan Vap, Burlington, second place Sadie Vore, Burlington third place Jason Murray, Kingfisher. Senior division results, first place Blake Cameron, Kingfisher, second place Jamie Adams, Kingfisher third place Alexis Hayes, Ringwood.

Central District Winners



AFR/OFU Category: Novice division, first place Emily Kennedy, Edmond, second place Seth Jackson, Bethel third place Aimee Cagle, Bethel. Junior Division first place Kohl Murray, Perkins-Tryon, second place Courtney Coulson, Wellston third place Victoria Chapman, Dickson. Intermediate Division first place Lacie Underwood, Tecumseh, second place Ryan Danker, Wellston third place Coleman Sanders, Wanette. Senior Division, first place Micaela Danker, Wellston, second place Chance Imhoff, Prague.



Stu. Org. Category: Junior division, first place Shante Seals, Maysville. Intermediate Division results, first place Cody Dean, Agra, second place, Annae Imhoff, Cushing third place Katlyn Stewart, Lone Grove. Senior division first place Trisha Kingsbury, Prague, second place Skyler Vogle, Perkins-Tryon and third place Chelsea Coulson, Wellston.



Nat. Resources Category: Junior division, first place Kendra Jackson, Prague, second place Ashley Rackley, Wellston third place Riley Danker, Wellston. Intermediate division first place Colton Pratz, Stillwater second place Kolton Vanbuskirk, Lone Grove. Senior results, first place Gabby Fleming, Edmond, second place Kelsey Spencer, Stillwater third place Faith Hazen, Harrah.



Agribusiness Category: Intermediate division, first place DeAnn Warne, Wellston. Senior results, first place Annie Jo Gilbert, Choctaw, second place Sophie Gibson, Edmond third place Abigail Johnson, Edmond.



Agriscience Category: Junior division, first place Danielle Hawkins, Wellston, second place Paige Grandstaff, Wellston. Intermediate division, first place Beth Hallum, Lone Grove, second place Nicole Brinker, Shawnee third place McKay Brown, Shawnee. Senior division results, first place Laurie Fitch, Stillwater, second place Taylor Green, Wellston third place Amy Coleman, Stillwater.

Northwest District Speech Contest Results

Results of the Southwest District Contest are as follows: AFR/OFU category, in the Novice division, first place Emily Garrett, Kingfisher, second place was Rylee Detrick, Ringwood and third place was Victoria Gerken, Kingfisher. Junior Division first place was Sydnee Gerken, Kingfisher, second place Sarah Gruntmeir, Kingfisher and third place was Bayli Hyde, Burlington. Intermediate division was first place, Paige Gosney, Shattuck, second place Maegan Yost, Kingfisher and third place was Jenna Maltbie, Burlington. Senior Division, first place was Lane Newlin, Burlington and second place was Beau Kloeppel, Kingfisher.

The Student Organization category, junior division first place was Lane Holt, Kingfisher, second place Alley Riley, Alva and third place was Ashley Tucker, Fairview. Intermediate division results, first place was Alli Siler, Fairview, second place, Gatlin Squires, Kingfisher

and third place was Carter Stewart, Burlington. Senior division, first place was Peyton Yeoman, Kingfisher, second place was Katelyn Garvie, Burlington and third place was Marijo Leedy, Morrison.

In the Natural Resources category junior division, first place was Colton Smith, Kingfisher, second place was Tori Sessions, Fairview and third place was Abigail Anderson, Ringwood. Intermediate division, first place was Jennifer Bedwell, Fairview, second place was Jerred Strate, Garber and third place was Emmaly Helt, Kingfisher. Senior division results, first place was Jillian Whipple, Alva, second place Kaitlin Prichett, Kingfisher and third place was Trevor Woods, Kingfisher.

The Agribusiness category junior division, first place was Colten Budy, Waynoka, second place was Brook Cameron, Kingfisher and third place

was Layne Kisling, Chisholm. Intermediate division, first place was

Jessie Phillips, Kingfisher, second place was Audrey Dunlap, Fairview and third place was Kirsten Schiska, Fairview. Senior division, first place was Tyler Schnaithman, Garber, second place was Katie Lippoldt, Kingfisher and third place was Taylor Tucker, Fairview.

The AgriScience category junior division, first place was Sydney Hutchison, Fairview, second place was Micah Mueggenberg, Kingfisher and third place was Jaryn Frey, Kingfisher. Intermediate division, first place was Cheredan Vap, Burlington, second place was Sadie Vore, Burlington and third place was Jason Murray, Kingfisher. Senior division results, first place went to Blake Cameron, Kingfisher, second place was Jamie Adams, Kingfisher and third place was Alexis Hayes, Ringwood.

Central District Speech Contest Results

Results of the Central District Contest are as follows: AFR/OFU category, in the Novice division, first place Emily Kennedy, Edmond, second place Seth Jackson, Bethel and third place Aimee Cagle, Bethel. Junior Division first place was Kohl Murray, Perkins-Tryon, second place Courtney Coulson, Wellston and third place Victoria Chapman, Dickson. Intermediate Division first place was Lacie Underwood, Tecumseh, and second place was Ryan Danker, Wellston and third place Coleman Sanders, Wanette. Senior Division, first place was Micaela Danker, Wellston, second place Chance Imhoff, Prague.

The Student Organization category, junior division, first place was Shante Seals, Maysville. Intermediate Division results, first place was Cody Dean, Agra, second place, Annae Imhoff, Cushing and third place was Katlyn Stewart, Lone Grove. In the senior division first place was Trisha Kingsbury, Prague, second place was Skylar Vogle, Perkins-Tryon and third place was Chelsea Coulson, Wellston.

In the Natural Resources category junior division, first place was Kendra Jackson, Prague, second place Ashley Rackley, Wellston and third place was Riley Danker, Wellston. Intermediate

division first place Colton Pratz, Stillwater and second place Kolton Vanbuskirk, Lone Grove. Senior results, first place was Gabby Fleming, Edmond, second place Kelsey Spencer, Stillwater and third place was Faith Hazen, Harrah.

Northeast District Speech Contest Results

Results of the Northeast District Contest are as follows: AFR/OFU category, in the Novice division, first place Bryce Smith, Keys, and second place was Courtney Jinkens, Chelsea. Junior Division first place was Chelsea Richison, Depew, and second place Jackson Wells, Keys. Senior Division, first place was Kelsi Crossland, Afton and second place was Hannah Baker, Oklahoma Union.

The Student Organization category, intermediate division results, first place was Haley McKinzie, Depew, second place, Taylor Spears, Cleve-

Arnold, Afton. Senior division, first place was Kyle Hilbert, Depew and Gabe Crawford, Gans.

In the Natural Resources category intermediate division, first place was Bailey Treloar, Depew, second place was Brittni Cole and third place was Ronnie Weaver, Cleveland. Senior division results, first place was Jessie Heidlage, Claremore, second place K.C. Barnes, Porter and third place was Kaitlyn Kelly, Keys.

The Agribusiness category

junior division, first place was Austyn Fuss, Cleveland. Intermediate division, first place was Kassie Kilgore, Porter.

The AgriScience category intermediate division, first place was Hallie Barnes, Porter, second place was Kaden Merriman, Cleveland and third place was Whitney Donathan, Wilson. Senior division results, first place went to Sarah Rowland, Depew, and second place was Spencer Baer, Wilson.

2011 AFR District Winners

NE District Winners



AFR/OFU Category: Novice division, first place Bryce Smith, Keys, second place Courtney Jinkens, Chelsea. Junior Division first place Chelsea Richison, Depew, second place Jackson Wells, Keys. Senior Division, first place Kelsi Crossland, Afton second place Hannah Baker, Oklahoma Union.



Stu. Org. Category: Intermediate division results, first place Haley McKinzie, Depew, second place, Taylor Spears, Cleveland third place Gabby Arnold, Afton. Senior division, first place Kyle Hilbert, Depew Gabe Crawford, Gans.



Nat. Resources Category: Intermediate division, first place Bailey Treloar, Depew, second place Brittni Cole third place Ronnie Weaver, Cleveland. Senior division results, first place Jessie Heidlage, Claremore, second place K.C. Barnes, Porter third place Kaitlyn Kelly, Keys.



Agribusiness Category: Junior division, first place Austyn Fuss, Cleveland. Intermediate division, first place Kassie Kilgore, Porter.



Agribusiness Category: Intermediate division, first place Hallie Barnes, Porter, second place Kaden Merriman, Cleveland third place Whitney Donathan, Wilson. Senior division results, first place Sarah Rowland, Depew, second place Spencer Baer, Wilson.

AFR Update on Federal Issues

“Super Committee”

The co-chairs of the bipartisan Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction announced they were unable to reach an agreement before their November 23 deadline. The unique committee had been tasked with finding at least \$1.5 trillion in budget cuts. Now, the issues of debt reduction and the next farm bill get pushed down the road, possibly to as far as after the November 2012 elections. If no agreements are made during 2012, across the board cuts of \$1.2 trillion will be automatically implemented in January 2013. It was hoped that a Farm Bill could have been included as part of this process.

Keystone XL Pipeline

November was a busy month for TransCanada Corp.'s proposed \$7 billion Keystone XL pipeline project that would bring crude from Alberta's oil sands to the Gulf Coast. The project would address the shortage of pipeline capacity for carrying oil from a main terminal in Cushing, to refineries in Texas and other parts of the Gulf Coast.

- On November 10th, President Obama announced the State Department would delay a decision on the pipeline until after the 2012 elections. The Department cited “environmental sensitivities” in the proposed route and said it would look at alternate routes in Nebraska, where critics have said the planned path would threaten a vital aquifer in the Sand Hills region.
- On November 22nd, Nebraska Governor Dave Heinemen signed two bills aimed at rerouting the pipeline around the environmentally sensitive areas in the Sand Hills region. TransCanada had endorsed this plan earlier in the month.
- On November 30th, 37 Republican U.S. Senators introduced a bill to require the State Department to permit the pipeline within 60 days unless the president publicly determines it is not in the national interest. A congressman from Nebraska stated this month that the House may also introduce a bill to speed up State's timeline, but a similar bill was passed by the House in July, and did not advance in the Senate.
- The House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on the pipeline December 2nd.

Horse Slaughter

In November, President Obama signed a multi-topic, Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations bill, known as the “Mini-bus”. For the first time in 6 years, the agriculture appropriations portion of the law did not contain language specifically prohibiting USDA from funding inspections at horse slaughter facilities. No additional dollars were provided to USDA for the inspections, but they have said they would conduct the inspections if and when a facility opens.

AFR Update on Federal Issues

Child Labor

In the first update to the Fair Labor Standards Act concerning child farm workers since 1970, the U.S. Department of Labor is proposing dramatic revisions to child labor laws relating to agriculture. Young workers (depending on the activity- under 18 or under 16) would be prohibited from many types of common farm duties, except on an operation solely owned by their parents. Kids working with or without pay on their grandparents', nonguardian relatives' or neighbors' farm, wouldn't be allowed to operate any type of power driven equipment or work around uncastrated male horses, pigs or cattle older than 6 months or sows with suckling pigs or cows with a newborn calf. These restrictions would also apply to family partnerships that included anyone other than the minor's parent. Additionally, children under 18 would be completely prohibited from "being employed in the storing, marketing and transporting of farm-product raw materials," and "working at grain elevators, grain bins, silos, feed lots and livestock auctions."

Trade

According to the final USDA report for agricultural exports in fiscal year 2011, U.S. agricultural exports reached a record high of \$137.4 billion - exceeding past highs by \$22.5 billion. These exports supported 1.15 million jobs in America. The agricultural trade surplus reached a record high of \$42.7 billion. For the first time, China was the lead export market for US agricultural products, buying almost \$20 billion.

AFR Update on State Issues

Water Lawsuit

The Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, which have filed a lawsuit against the Oklahoma Water Resources Board concerning water rights in southeast Oklahoma, have added a claim to a currently-existing pipeline supplying Oklahoma City with drinking water. The new claim, would give the nations the rights to the pipeline that travels from Lake Atoka to Lake Stanley Draper, which provides a large portion of the drinking water for Oklahoma City.

The two nations filed a lawsuit in federal court in August seeking an injunction against a water use permit granted to the Oklahoma City Water Utility Trust on water in the Sardis Reservoir and any future withdrawal or transport of water in tribal areas defined by the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. The treaty territory includes Sardis Reservoir and Atoka Lake, as well as the free-flowing waters of the Kiamichi Basin and Clear Boggy Basin and other river systems.

State Energy Plan

At the Governor's Energy Conference, Governor Mary Fallin presented, "the 'Oklahoma First' Energy Plan, a comprehensive blue print for the state's energy future." The plan focuses on enhancing the production of oil and natural gas while complementing their use with renewable sources of energy. Strategy highlights of the plan include:

- The development of a multistate initiative to increase natural gas vehicles in state automobile fleets.
- Aggressive support for the development of the Keystone XL Pipeline.
- Supporting safe hydraulic fracturing and the public disclosure of chemicals used in the process.
- Implementing a new energy efficiency initiative in state buildings and energy efficiency initiatives in the private sector.
- Supporting energy-specific education initiatives to help improve workforce development.

AFR on State Issues Continued

Task Force on State Tax Credits and Economic Incentives

Members of the task force met for the ninth time on November 30th, and voted in support of eight recommendations. The first of which was to end the transferability of future tax credits. The task force voted unanimously in support of the recommendation, as they did for a proposal to impose audit controls on credits, by establishing procedures under the Office of the State Auditor and Inspector to review tax credit programs. A third proposal, subjecting all future tax credits to review and pre-approval by a new board, was postponed for further discussion after questions were raised about how it would be implemented and how it would differ from the existing Incentive Review Committee. AFR Mutual Insurance and its customers have benefited from state tax credits. Other recommendations adopted:

- Require fiscal impact statements on credits.
- Job retention and creation as the goal of any credit.
- Require applicants to disclose other incentive programs they are accessing.
- Establish sunset provisions for credits.
- Place caps and limits on future credits.
- Prohibit the consideration of tax credit legislation late in session.
- There will be one more meeting of the task force, and a final report is due by December 31.

According to *The Daily Oklahoman*, the following incentives have been identified for special scrutiny by the task force (annual cost in parenthesis):

Rural Venture Capital Companies	(\$47,185,735)
Reimbursement of 5-Year Property Tax Exemptions	(\$33,500,000)
Investment/New Jobs Credit	(\$28,497,000)
Small Business Capital Companies	(\$15,910,061)
Oklahoma Coal Production	(\$9,891,232)
Historic Building Rehabilitation	(\$9,847,099)
Property & Casualty Guaranty Fund	(\$9,536,344)
Oklahoma Capital Investment Board	(\$6,815,000)
Oklahoma Film & Music Production	(\$5,000,000)
Energy Efficient Home Construction	(\$3,776,000)
Life & Health Guaranty Fund	(\$1,392,362)
Zero-Emission Power Generators	(\$1,239,000)
Railroad Rehabilitation	(\$1,130,000)
Small Wind Turbine Manufacturers	(\$775,000)

AFR Calendar

Tulsa Farm Show, Tulsa Fairgrounds	Dec. 8-10
Tulsa Farm Show, Livestock Handling Contest, Tulsa Fairgrounds	Dec. 9
AFR State Speech Contest, OSU Stillwater	Dec. 10
OK Wheat Growers Assoc. Annual Mtg., OKC	Dec. 10
AFR Policy Committee, AFR, OKC	Dec. 13-14
AFR Office Closed Christmas	Dec. 23-26
AFR Office Closed, New Year	Dec. 30-Jan.2
KNID Agrifest, Chisholm Trail Expo Center, Enid	Jan. 13-14
AFR 4-H/FFA Hockey Night, OKC	Jan. 28