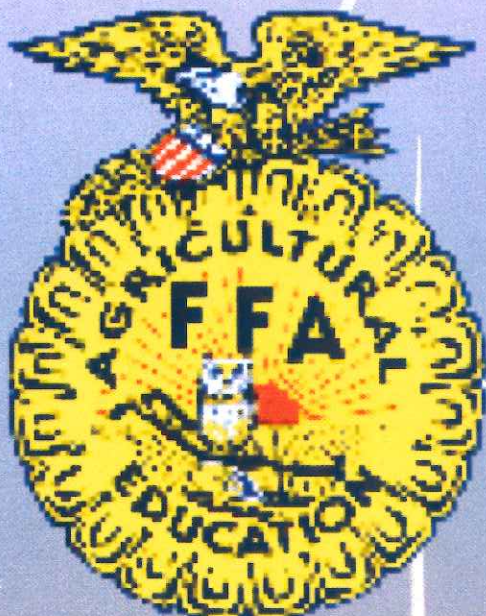


Will Kingfisher County expand its
production of renewable energy?



...OR IS THIS PROJECT

Gone with the Wind?



OKLAHOMA

STATE QUALIFYING CONTEST : APRIL 27, 2013



KINGFISHER FFA AG ISSUES TEAM ISSUE SUMMARY

List courses in which instruction occurred including the number of students involved in the instruction of the issue:

Courses in which instruction occurred include agricultural explorations (18 students) and agricultural communications (12 students) in which students were asked to explore agricultural issues which affected our community and researched local media coverage of the wind energy issue. Students received instruction on this issue that is important to our local community as well as surrounding counties. Students learned to analyze issues, conduct research and collect information from credible sources. They also learned important communications skills through their curriculum centered around writing and speaking.

Why is this issue important now?

This issue is a timely manner as one wind farm has already been constructed near Kingfisher County on the land of several Kingfisher citizens. APEX Wind Energy plans to expand this farm throughout the county and into neighboring Canadian county. The cities of Kingfisher, Okarche, and Piedmont each have groups of citizens trying to stop the progression of this wind farm expansion, which is planned to continue in the next few months. Therefore, the issue needs to be resolved soon.

What is the nature of this issue?

The nature of this issue is a combination of environmental issues and economy/trade. APEX Wind Energy plans to expand a current wind farm by at least 120 turbines, creating 30 megawatts of electricity, which is enough to power nearly 100,000 homes. Over 100 local landowners have signed agreements to participate in the project, while 11,000 acres have been leased within the project area. The project will produce a substantial amount of revenue for the community including \$3 million per year in property taxes, over \$9 million per year in new income from jobs created, and hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in sales tax revenue from new income spent in Kingfisher and Canadian counties. At the same time, it will produce a "green" energy source and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

However, some community members are concerned that the construction will decrease aesthetic values of the landscape while decreasing property values and increasing liability issues associated with wind turbines. These opponents have conducted studies on the negative effects of wind energy and have held town meetings voicing their concerns to town officials and community members.

Who is involved in this issue:

APEX energy, and more specifically, Larry Saunders are responsible for the wind farm expansion project. Many local landowners have signed leases to profit from the turbines. Nearby landowners may be negatively effected by the presence of turbines. Families in the Okarche and Piedmont school districts will benefit from the taxes generated. Also, Kingfisher and Canadian County citizens will be effected with increased economic gains.

How can this issue be defined?

The issue can be defined by one simple question: "Will Kingfisher County expand its production of renewable energy, or is this project *"Gone with the Wind?"*" We were initially introduced to this issue through local media coverage of the original wind farm, and the issues surrounding its expansion. Also, the local Rotary Club hosted two different groups who supported and opposed the wind farm.



KINGFISHER FFA AG ISSUES TEAM

ISSUE SUMMARY

What is the historical background of this issue?

- December 2003: Oklahoma's first wind farm established
- 2005: Kingfisher county landowner contracts signed to begin work on Campbell Creek wind farm
- 2010: Oklahoma adopted goal of generating 15% of electricity from renewable sources by 2015
- 2012: Piedmont city meetings held to oppose wind farm expansion
- November 2012: First wind turbine installed in Kingfisher County
- December 2013: Expansion discussed by APEX energy
- 2013: Wind Production Tax Credit extended until 2019
- 2013: Piedmont City Council meets to try to stop wind farm expansion

What caused this issue?

The issue was originally created once the original portion of Campbell Creek wind farm was established. Once plans were finalized to expand in farm into more portions of Kingfisher and Canadian counties, citizens became concerned about its effect to their property. Many Piedmont citizens held town meetings discussing the negative benefits to their community while APEX Energy continued to hold informational seminars about their expansion process and its benefits. Therefore, an issue was created among Kingfisher, Okarche, and Piedmont homeowners, landowners, and citizens as well as APEX Energy associates.

What are the risks?

Wind farm expansion opponents claim:

- Decreased property value of land surrounding new wind farm
- Poor communication involving contracts and income
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Interruption of agricultural production due to transmission lines and turbines
- Low efficiency of wind turbines
- Uncertain future of wind power

What are the benefits?

Supporters of the wind farm expansion believe that benefits to the community include:

- Increased revenue to landowners
- Increased taxes to local schools and communities
- Clean source of renewable energy
- Production Tax Credit incentives
- Additional income to neighboring colleges and college students
- Increased land values for producers who own land with turbines

Is there a strong disagreement on the issue?

Because Kingfisher county is a small, rural area, this type of decision has created a disagreement among community members. According to our research and interviews, about 50 percent of those interviewed were in favor of the expansion, while the other half was opposed to wind energy. Even while presenting our forums to different groups within the community, we witnessed both acceptance and resistance to this change.



KINGFISHER FFA AG ISSUES TEAM BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PERSONAL INTERVIEWS:

Gruntmeir, Dr. Laura. Redlands Community College. El Reno, OK. February 13, 2013

Huffstutlar, Tammy. Treasurer, Calumet Schools. Calumet, OK. April 20, 2013

Murray, Billy. USDA FSA Office, and rural Kingfisher landowner. Kingfisher, OK. February 28, 2013

Sanders, Mike. Oklahoma House of Representatives. Kingfisher, OK. March 3, 2013

Saunders, Larry. APEX Wind Energy. February 1, 2013

Snowden, Mark. Cimarron Electric Cooperative. Kingfisher, OK. April 10, 2013

Sternburger, Jason. Superintendent, Kingfisher Schools. Kingfisher, OK. March 3, 2013

Taylor, Joanna. Co-owner/operator of Taylor Ranch. Kingfisher, OK. April 16, 2013



KINGFISHER FFA AG ISSUES TEAM

LOCAL FORUMS

<i>TO WHOM:</i>	<i>WHEN:</i>		<i># PRESENT:</i>
Former Electric Cooperative Manager	4/8/13	5:00pm	2
Redlands Community College Professors	4/11/13	10:00am	7
Kingfisher Lions Club	4/11/13	12:00pm	22
Kingfisher USDA Office	4/12/13	2:00pm	10
Cimmaron Electric Cooperative Board Members and Manager	4/12/13	3:00pm	6
Kingfisher Rotary Club	4/16/13	12:00pm	31
APEX Wind Executives	4/17/13	8:00am	3
Kingfisher Farm Bureau	4/20/13	7:00pm	12
Kingfisher Toastmasters Club	4/25/13	6:30pm	14
Kingfisher High School Faculty Meeting	4/26/13	7:45am	46
State FFA Competition	4/28/13	8:00am	77





LOCAL FORUM PRESENTATION

REDLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

APRIL 11, 2013 10:00AM

REDLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

April 11, 2013
10:00AM

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 11, 2013, the Kingfisher FFA Agriculture Issues team gave a presentation on

Wind Turbines in the Regents Room at Redlands Community College. Many RCC agriculture faculty and administrators were present. Their presentation was well researched and clearly written. The students delivered the information in an easily understood manner. They were able to answer our questions and demonstrated well rounded knowledge of the problem.

The faculty members were very impressed with the group and we wish them much success in the competition.

Sincerely

William Baker

Vice President of Academic Affairs



LOCAL FORUM PRESENTATION
FORMER ELECTRIC COOP MGR.
APRIL 8, 2013 5:00PM



April 8, 2013 5:00pm

Kingfisher FFA Ag Issues Team:

Thank you for recently sharing your wind energy presentation with me. As a former Cimarron Electric Manager, I was highly involved in the original Wind Farm in Oklahoma. I appreciate your investigation of this important issue to our community.

Again, I really enjoyed listening to your presentation and helping you prepare for your upcoming competitions. Good luck!

Tom Garrett



LOCAL FORUM PRESENTATION

KINGFISHER LIONS CLUB
APRIL 11, 2013 12:00PM



Kingfisher (Okla.) Times & Free Press Sunday, April 14, 2013 15

National Weather Service Forecast At A Glance

~ KINGFISHER COUNTY, OKLAHOMA ~

SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY
20% Slight Chc Showers High: 72 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 55 °F	Sunny High: 80 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 56 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 75 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 57 °F	20% Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 68 °F



KINGFISHER FFA Ag issues team members, who presented a program to Kingfisher Lions Club meeting Thursday on electricity-generating wind farms include, from left: Brayden Foley, Lane Holt, Blair Kloeppel, Anna Crosswhite, Sarah Gruntmeir, Emily Murray and Trevor Woods with advisor Lori Burns and Lions Club member Chris Cameron. (TIMES-FREE PRESS Staff Photo)

Kingfisher FFA Ag Issues team gives Lions program on turbines

The Kingfisher FFA Chapter's Agricultural Issues team discussed the wind generator program currently under discussion for Kingfisher County at the Kingfisher Lions Club meeting Thursday.

Team members Trevor Woods, Brayden Foley, Lane Holt, Blair Kloeppel, Emily

come obsolete or unfeasible should federal subsidies for the wind-electricity generating plan be stopped at some point in the future.

The discussion also regarded taxes for local school districts as well as jobs resulting from the location of the electricity-generating tur-

Sanders honored for efforts on behalf of children

State Rep. Mike Sanders today received an award for his efforts on behalf of Oklahoma children.

Sanders received the Outstanding Elected Official Award from the Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention Day at the Capitol.

"It is a real honor to be recognized by this important group that is dedicated to protecting Oklahoma children," said Sanders, R-Kingfisher. "Child abuse is not a Republican or Democratic issue. It is an Oklahoma issue. It is a plague that is poisoning our great state and this Legislature will do all that is in our power to destroy this evil trying to take our children's innocence."

To Whom it May Concern:

The Kingfisher FFA presented their Wind Energy discussion to the Kingfisher Lions Club on Thursday, April 11, 2013. The meeting was held at 12:00pm at Snider's Catering at the intersection of the HWY 33 and HWY 81 intersection. The FFA members have trained well and did an excellent job presenting the information.

Regards,

Tim Abercrombie

Kingfisher Lions Club President



LOCAL FORUM PRESENTATION USDA OFFICE APRIL 12, 2013 2:00PM



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm
Service
Agency

1600 S. 13th
Kingfisher, OK 73750
405-375-5776 ext. 118

April 15, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

The Kingfisher FFA's Ag Issues Team came to the Kingfisher County USDA Service Center and gave their presentation on Wind Turbines on Friday, April 12, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

We appreciated the opportunity to listen to the team. They presented themselves in a very professional manner and were great ambassadors of FFA. All those in attendance very much enjoyed the experience.

If you have any questions, I can be contacted at 405-375-5776, ext. 118.

Sincerely,

Billy D. Murray
BILLY D. MURRAY
Farm Loan Specialist



LOCAL FORUM PRESENTATION CIMARRON ELECTRIC COOP APRIL 12, 2013 3:00PM



**CIMARRON
ELECTRIC**

PO Box 299 • Kingfisher, OK 73750
Phone: (405-375-4191) Fax: (405-375-4203)
www.cimarronelectric.coop

April 13, 2013

Mrs. Lori Burns
Kingfisher High School
1500 South 13th Street
Kingfisher, OK 73750

Dear Mrs. Burns:

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with your Ag Issues team at our office on Friday, April 12 at 3:00pm. Your team impressed us with their knowledge and their ability to present both sides of the wind generation debate.

Our management and board enjoyed the time to listen, discuss, and address the current and timely topic. Due to the existing wind generation facility to the southwest of Kingfisher and the proposed one to the southeast, this is a perfect subject to present. We hope that our assistance with questions and our input was helpful.

Thank you again for your presentation.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hyatt
Jeff Hyatt
Director of Communications



LOCAL FORUM PRESENTATION

KINGFISHER ROTARY CLUB
APRIL 16, 2013 12:00PM

2 Sunday, April 21, 2013 Kingfisher (Okla.) Times & Free Press



KINGFISHER FFA Agriculture Issues Team presented the Rotary program on Tuesday. From left are: FFA Advisor Lori Burns, Lane Holt, Brayden Foley, Anna Crosswhite, Sarah Gruntmeir, Emily Murray, Trevor Woods and Blair Kloeppel. They were introduced by Rotarian Tom Garrett, far right. (TIMES-FREE PRESS Staff Photo)

Ag issues team presents at Rotary

By Cindy Gruntmeir
Times-Free Press Staff Writer

Rotarians experienced the results of hard work and dedication by the Kingfisher FFA Agriculture Issues Team at its Tuesday noon meeting.

Rotarian Tom Garrett introduced Kingfisher FFA Advisor Lori Burns who presented her team.

"Most of these students compete in other events along with the ag issues team. They give speeches, participate in parliamentary procedure or livestock judging," Burns said.

"Members of this year's group are new. Last year's team competed at nationals so they are ineligible to compete this year, or they competed in other events at nationals leading them to compete in a different event such as ag issues this year. Others were eighth graders last year," she said.

The competition requires selecting a controversial, agriculture-related topic of

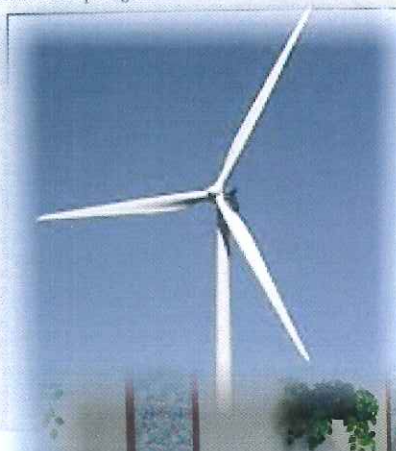
without reaching a conclusion.

The current team's topic deals with the pros and cons of wind energy.

Brayden Foley introduced the topic and acted as moderator. Team protagonists in-

cluded Sarah Gruntmeir, Lane Holt and Trevor Woods. Antagonists included Blair Kloeppel, Emily Murray and Anna Crosswhite.

They will be competing against 12 other teams at the state contest this week.



KINGFISHER ROTARY CLUB KINGFISHER, OKLAHOMA



Lori Burns
April 25, 2013
Kingfisher FFA Chapter
Kingfisher High School

This is to confirm that the Kingfisher FFA Ag Issues team presented their Wind Farm issue at our club meeting April 16th, 2013, at 12:00pm.

Please thank those members on the team for their presentation. It is a very timely issue and they presented both sides fairly and accurately. We appreciate you taking of your valuable time to make this presentation at our weekly meeting, as well as the many other things you do to make our community look great.

Sincerely,

Tom Garrett
Program Chairman





**LOCAL FORUM PRESENTATION
APEX EXECUTIVES
APRIL 17, 2013 8:00AM**



**LOCAL FORUM PRESENTATION
KINGFISHER FARM BUREAU
APRIL 20, 2013 7:00PM**



Kingfisher County Farm Bureau
117 West Sheridan Ave.
Kingfisher, OK 73750

April 20, 2013

Lori Burns
Kingfisher FFA Ag Issues Team

Dear Mrs. Burns,

Thank you for sharing your presentation to our meeting tonight, April 20, 2013 at 7:00pm here in Kingfisher. The members enjoy seeing young agriculturists who can debate local issues that effect our industry. It gives us great pride in knowing that our community is producing such great future leaders.

We enjoyed your wind energy debate and were impressed with your preparation and knowledge. We wish you luck as you compete.

Thanks again!

Doug Hauser





**LOCAL FORUM PRESENTATION
TOASTMASTERS CLUB
APRIL 25, 2013 6:30PM**

April 26, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The Kingfisher FFA Agricultural Issues Team presented the Kingfisher Toastmasters Club with their forum over the wind farm debate in our community. The club meeting was held April 25, 2013 at 6:30pm. The team discussed the pros and cons of expanding the wind farm located near Kingfisher.

We appreciate their dedication to our community.

Debbie Maas
Club President



**LOCAL FORUM PRESENTATION
KHS FACULTY MEETING
APRIL 26, 2013 7:45AM**



KINGFISHER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Post Office Box 29

Kingfisher, Oklahoma 73750

April 26, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

At our weekly faculty meeting this morning at 7:45am, Mrs. Burns and the agricultural issues team presented our group with a presentation concerning a wind farm being built near our community that could effect our residents and schools. The students presented both sides of the issue in front of 46 teachers and faculty members and handled themselves with the utmost professionalism. They also answered questions concerning the wind farm and wind energy in America.

I am pleased to see these students working to achieve their goals and am proud of their accomplishments. I know they have done their presentation several times throughout the community and I am grateful of their representation of our school.

Sincerely,

Sammy Jackson
Kingfisher High School Principal

