

A Garfield STEAM Academy second-grade teacher recently received a basket of agriculture books from the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, alongside the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee, sponsored this year's Bushels for Books program. The program takes donations of bushels of any commodity crop, as well as monetary donations from farmers and ranchers, and provides bushel baskets of accurate agriculture books to Oklahoma educators. "Agriculture is one of Oklahoma's leading industries, but few truly understand what it takes to produce our food, fiber and fuel," David VonTungeln, foundation president, said in a statement. "We're thrilled to help our state's educators teach the next generation about Oklahoma farmers and ranchers."

Teacher Megan Sowers, who was selected to receive the books from Tulsa County, received the bushel of books November 17 during the Oklahoma Farm Bureau's annual meeting and presented them to the school November 19. "It will give them a better understanding of where their food comes from, where their clothes come from," Sowers said of the books. "They'll see that it comes from farmers and people have to work to get it (to stores)." She said she placed the books in the school's library so all Garfield students can have access to it. The books also included a teacher's guide so they can incorporate the information into their lessons. Applications were accepted from teachers across the state, and winners were chosen by the WLC state board. The books cover various agriculture topics and were picked from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's list. "It's so important for all of our students to learn about agriculture," Kitty Beavers, OKFB WLC chair, said in a statement. "Many of our schools don't have any books about agriculture in their libraries. We're pleased to help present these books to educators who help teach our children about the important role agriculture plays in their everyday lives."

Thirteen other educators across the state received books. Rachel Snyder 918-581-8315 rachel.snyder@sandspringsleader.com