

# A chain of events

18 holes make more impact than just bragging rights  
photos and story by Nikki Snider

During a muggy day in March, Roy Lee Lindsey, Jr., sits elbow-to-elbow in a room quickly reaching full capacity during the House Agriculture Committee meeting. As executive director of the Oklahoma Pork Council he has walked the halls of the Oklahoma Capitol Building working to reverse many limitations that were set before the pork industry only 10 years ago.

House Bill 1957 passes through the committee with unwavering support and stretches its wings as it begins its journey to becoming law. The bill then passes through the full House and the Senate with overwhelming majorities.



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Governor Mary Fallin signs the bill to law May 11.

As a result, beginning November 1, swine facilities setbacks written in the Oklahoma Water Resources Board statutes will be no more.

These events were a result of more than 10 years of long hours, sweat and old-fashion footwork from McSpadden and Associates, OPC staff and most importantly Oklahoma's pork producers who worked tirelessly to build relationships and open dialogue about their farms with their legislators.

Each summer, pork producers and industry supporters gather for 18-holes at Turkey Creek Golf Course, Hennessey, Okla. Four-man teams compete for bragging rights, fellowship, good food and to raise funds to support OPC's unrestricted activities.

## Making the Connection

"Most producers enter the Pork Open for a fun day, but I think it's important to make the connection of why we hold the tournament – we have to raise money to support our unrestricted activities and PAC," said Roy Lee Lindsey, Jr., OPC executive director.

Checkoff dollars are restricted to research, promotion and education. These limitations leave a gap for funding legislative projects, which are essential for bills such as HB 1957. In the past five years, the Pork Open Golf Tournament has raised more than \$20,000 to use at the Capitol in the form of unrestricted dollars and Political Action Committee contributions.

"OPC is always in need of more unrestricted dollars and we worked diligently this year to maximize our return from the golf tournament," said Mark McGinnis, OPC community outreach specialist.

James McSpadden, OPC lobbyist, believes the golf tournament is important and every dollar raised is vital to OPC's success at the State Capitol.

"I encourage all pork producers to get the most out of the dollars raised by spending a few minutes with their state representative or senator," McSpadden said. "A few minutes visiting with your legislators about your farm can make a more significant impact than an hour of Bart, myself or Roy Lee educating them about what you do."

## 2011 Oklahoma Pork Open

Just like previous years, Oklahoma's pork producers and industry supporters met at Turkey Creek Golf Course to ensure the pork industry will have a voice at the State Capitol.

## Thanks for your support

Thank you this year's golf tournament sponsors.

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