Oklahoma Agriculture Secretary Jim Reese suspended applications for any more poultry farms in the state. October 8 was the date set to freeze applications, the same day that the one across the fence from the xxx family in Ottawa County was approved. James Reese was quoted to have said, it was on his desk and he could find no reason to make it wait. The equipment did not wait, the work began immediately clearing land and making ready for the 6 Mega Houses that will be constructed just across the fence from the homeowner, who’s life will be forever changed as he becomes what the “chicken council” calls a fence-line neighbor.

POULTRY FACTS:
- New “Mega” chicken houses measure 66’ x 600’ and hold approximately 50,000 chickens apiece. Many growers set 6 of these houses at a site.
- Four and five flocks a year are grown in each of the houses.
- “Simmons is wanting to double their size by 2019,” according to Anthony Simpson, a Simmons grower
- Simmons’ new chicken facility is in Benton County between Decatur and Gentry. Both Oklahoma and Missouri competed for this project.
- Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) has authority over the poultry permits from Title 2 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 2-4.

Why did the chicken cross the road? …

The elections are over and our goose is cooked because of it. Everything is harder when BIG CHICKEN WINS and we don’t elect officials who will fight for our water and our rural way of life. We did this to ourselves and made this fight much harder. But this fight is worth fighting!
Is your yard lead safe?
What about your unpaved driveway?
Testing is FREE!
If high levels are found DEQ will remove it & replace for FREE

Call DEQ Hotline to sign up your yard
1-800-522-0206
Save the number to REPORT POLLUTERS

JOIN LEAD AGENCY AND RAISE YOUR VOICES
POULTRY FACILITIES IN NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA

BOX COLORS INDICATE TYPE POULTRY FACILITY:

- **Green**: Established
- **Brown**: New/ Expanding
- **Red**: CAFO Confined Animal Feeding Operation

Ottawa County statistics are as follows:
- Existing - 19 Facilities – 2.4 million birds - @24,000 birds per house
- Pending – 2 facilities – 530,000 birds - @54,000 birds per house
Your Chicken Fight Call List for NOW

**Ottawa County Commissioners**
- John Clarke (District 1) – 918.673.1100 / 918.542.0506
- Chad Masterson (District 2) – 918.678-2238
- Russell Earls (District 3) – 918.676-3227 / 918.542.0430

**Craig County Commissioners**
- Lowell Walker (District 1) – 918.256.5487 / 918.244.0314
- Mike Fitzpatrick (District 2) – 918.788.3722
- Dan Peetom (District 3) – 918.256.6677 / 918.244.8525

**Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry**
- Commissioner Jim Reese – 405.521.3864  jimlreese@gmail.com
- Attorney Teena Gunter – teena.gunter@ag.ok.gov
- Jeremy Seiger, Director, ODAFF Agricultural Environmental Management Services  Jeremy.seiger@ag.ok.gov

**Oklahoma Water Resources Board**  Main Office: 405.530.8900
- Julie Cunningham, Executive Director
- Bob Drake (assigned represent rural residential water interests) bob.drake@owrb.ok.gov
- Robert L. Melton, Sr. (assigned to represent municipal water use interests) robert.melton@owrb.ok.gov
- Jason Hitch (Chairman & assigned to represent soil conservation interests) jason.hitch@owrb.ok.gov
- Bill Cauthron (Water Quality Programs Division Chief)

**Oklahoma Conservation Commission**
- Trey Lamb, Executive Director – 405.521.2384  trey.lam@conservation.ok.gov

**State Representatives**
- Ben Loring
  2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 503
  Oklahoma City, OK 73105
  (405) 557-7399
  (918) 542-6685
- Josh West
  2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 242A
  Oklahoma City, OK 73105
  (405) 557-7415

**State Senator**
- Micheal Bergstrom
  2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 428B
  Oklahoma City, OK 73105
  (405) 521-5561
  bergstrom@oksenate.gov  Ex.Ast: Holly Randall
- Sara Hill, Cherokee Nation
  800-256-0671
- Mike Shambaugh, Cherokee Nation Council
  800-995-9465
We have a Chicken Fight on a much larger scale now. Other Green Country counties are covered already and we must get ready for what is coming to Ottawa and Craig County. It is time for you to join the Oklahoma Chicken Fight for Water and our Future. No one has to know you have joined. Make a decision to do something. That phrase, see something, say something, THAT was made for us. Go in your kitchen, turn on the tap, see the water? Want to keep seeing water you can drink? Then, yes, say something about it. Who will you tell? We can inform the people we know that water and a healthy future is at stake. Then what? Tell every local elected official you are concerned and you want them to speak up. Call more elected officials, the Governor.

Call James Reese at the Department of Agriculture or meet him in person November 19 at 6:30 pm at the Afton Senior Citizens Center. Call each of his board members. Call every legislator on the Agriculture Committees. Then call OK Water Resources Board and every other agency that has something to do with water.

The elections are over and our goose is cooked because of it. Use ALL CAPS SO THEY KNOW YOU ARE SERIOUS. The dirt is being moved on new chicken houses south of Miami and north of Vinita. Each BIG one is 3 football fields long. Some of us can't even walk that far without getting winded. We could speak up for air quality to all those folks you contacted about the water quality. Your neighbors need you.

Ottawa County has paid her dues, providing the lead for both World Wars and having the land left like it was the war zone. She dutifully provided jobs for breadwinners with BF Goodrich which now sits abandoned like a second warzone with fears of asbestos and Benzene beneath the ground nearby. Ottawa Countians have had generations of our youth lead poisoned.

Craig County for the most part has protected herself all these years. We are not a superfund site, we did not grow with the influx of workers to a polluting plant like BF Goodrich. We have good people who breathe good air. Your neighbors and your neighboring counties need your support now.

Vinita and the Rural Water District #2 drink Grand Lake. For an 18 month period ending last year we were all drinking water with HAAs which can cause cancer and other illnesses especially for our most vulnerable. The lake water needed more chlorine added to kill what was in the lake water before you drank it. The chlorine changed out water. More chicken houses produce more litter and that litter can lie in the Grand Lake watershed and add to its burden which will cause it to be treated and that treatment can harm us. More chicken houses more waste that will be distributed on the land, harming our Grand Lake or her sister lakes downstream.

We pay with our health, we pay for treatment and we pay for corporate farming. You might not drink the Roubidoux but your Bluejacket, Miami, Commerce, Quapaw neighbors do. This is an industrial disaster come upon this land and her people that can harm our environment and suck water right out from under us. Chickens love water, just like you do. And when you have 300,000 chickens per house per year and 6 going in right away, you might want to add in your message that you want to keep the Roubidoux drinkable, the tap water you drink is at risk.

The Roubidoux lies beneath the Boone and if lots of water is pulled from the Roubidoux, the contaminated Boone will try to fill it, and if it does, it can contaminate that tap water you like. Lots of chickens can drink lots of water millions of gallons per house quickly. So be quick with your letters, calls, texts. Very quick. It’s your chicken fight now.

Respectfully Submitted ~ Rebecca Jim
Imagine your great-grandchildren (or great-grandnieces) playing in Tar Creek without any need to worry. Imagine nutrient levels are normal, metal contents low, water running clear over the rocks. This future is possible, though it requires effort and commitment to realize. Now imagine those same children growing up with red “NO SWIMMING OR FISHING” signs on the banks of every nearby river and around Grand Lake. In this possible future, northeast Oklahoma is home to thousands of mega poultry houses causing nutrient loading after every torrential rain. This future can also happen. It only requires us, today, to assume somebody else will keep the poultry houses out. In fact, there are already 200 mega poultry houses in Delaware County.

Saving Ottawa County from drowning in chicken litter is a numbers game. That’s it. A numbers game. Here’s how the numbers work.

If only a few people speak up in defense of safe water, we will lose. Big poultry will win. Pollution will win. Alternatively, if “enough” people fight for a cleaner future we’ll win the fight we face today – but little more. We’ll have to fight this fight all over again, facing the same or worse odds. What does it take to protect our water now AND in the future? What does it take to keep this chicken house AND future chicken houses out? It takes LOTS of people to fight NOW for clean water, for clean air, for a better future. This is a numbers game.

Government is a tool for those who learn how to use it. It is a tool for those who make themselves heard. Do you want to WIN a clean future? Do two things. First, call every government official on the enclosed insert and tell them this issue matters, that you support efforts to keep big poultry out of Ottawa County. Second, give take a photo of this insert and text it to a friend or family member; ask them to speak up and speak out. Help them understand that their voice DOES matter.

What is the “will of the people”? It’s what the most people tell government they want. It’s a numbers game. We can be the will of the people. But we can’t do it alone.

The average American household uses 109,500 gallons of water per year. (EPA)

One 300,000-bird poultry farm uses 3.17 MILLION gallons of water per year.

Poultry farms in NE Oklahoma draw their water directly from the Roubidoux Aquifer, from which Ottawa County and Bluejacket, OK take drinking water.
Goodrich on Your Mind?

We might have thought of BF Goodrich as the rich man who built a plant that put your daddies to work and made sure a lot of their children got to get educations so they never had to work a dirty job like their daddies did here. But BFG built other plants just like ours in other places near rivers, made messes that got left behind and eyesored other neighborhoods, too.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identifies sites such as Bf Goodrich Tire Co because they pose or had once posed a potential risk to human health and/or the environment due to contamination by one or more hazardous wastes. Bf Goodrich Tire Co is currently registered as an Archived superfund site by the EPA and does not require any clean up action or further investigation at this time.

- The Toxics Release Inventory had not been invented when our BF Goodrich plant was operating, but
- his sister site in Tuscaloosa, Alabama listed #s released into the atmosphere last year, letting us imagine how many tons of emissions belched out of ours all those years of operation. Many families who lived in the neighborhood remember the carbon black if they did laundry and hung it out to dry, or had a car they doted over. But anyone who was in Miami remembered that smell. Where there is smell there are emissions and we must have been recipients of a lot of what came out.
- One sister site in Calvert City, Kentucky is a superfund site and the site in California is damaged, too.
- The site in Thomaston, Georgia had what we have, "liquid" and asbestos and it was deemed a removal only site, which sounds like a quick and easy-fix for those Contaminants of Concern which are determined to be concentrated and may cause harm to humans if exposed.
- Benjamin Franklin Goodrich made it big with rubber and when Akron, Ohio residents raised $13,600 dollars to encourage him to choose their site, he made it the Rubber Capital of the World. He made real money when he made tires that could be inflated with air, air is cheaper than rubber, first for bicycles, then for cars.
- The City of Miami supplied the land for our BF Goodrich plant. And the City waits patiently for the land to be returned to it. With renewed ownership the city could pursue cleanup through a Brownfields program EPA offers, a way to make wasted land reusable. But ownership has been hard to come from out of state owners who hold firm to titles. But the guy with the cape in this story is a humble official who works for EPA and has worked in our county years back on the Tar Creek Superfund site. He knows us. He knows we have issues and that this is an environmental justice site, a place where it has been piled higher and deeper on us and our health and wealth has suffered from our exposure and damaged unusable lands.
- B.F. Goodrich began construction on the Miami Plant in 1944, opening to production in 1945. It operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for 40 years.
- At its peak, the Miami B.F. Goodrich plant employed nearly 2000 workers who commuted from all over northeast Oklahoma, southeast Kansas and southwest Missouri.
- Manufacturing plants like to be built near rivers, generally so their products can ship easily but I wonder if it might also be easier for discharges to go unnoticed into water. But a much easier way might be to let it seep into the ground, creating a plume of benzene some 8 to 12 feet below the surface under part of the abandoned plant and stretching into the neighborhood receiving some treatment and monitored periodically.
- At the Goodrich site in Kentucky it was required to pump and treat contaminated groundwater to prevent its discharge to their river, the Tennessee River.
- Say lead, think Tar Creek Superfund site and chat piles, but the BF Goodrich plant in Tuscaloosa up until 2010 was admitting they were emitting lead in their air emissions which also included 109,277 pounds of other chemicals according to the Toxics Release Inventory.
- We know there are health concerns with our Goodrich site, asbestos and the benzene, but is that all there really is? Has the site really been assessed fully? We want asbestos and benzene removed, the debris cleared off, the deep pits secured. But what about the rest of the site? the oozing discolored water, the dumps many workers say are north of the site, and off site closer to the river, our Neosho.

We hope our Potentially Responsible Parties will come and do what is right, to enter into an agreement for clean up for that piece of land and return it repaired to the city who gave it 75 years ago. That would be one of the honorable things that could be done to help this community end this relationship on the good faith it began.

We know you served your families well, dear former workers, don't cross those fences and take souvenirs anymore, the gates are posted with warnings about the asbestos, not to enter without a respirator.

- Show EPA where the dumps are, let me know if you are willing.
- Miami Academy students and their faculty are broadcasting our hope, "Get IT Done, ASAP"

This is a good time to speak up. Tell what you know, Say what you want. AND WHY.
LEAD Agency, Inc.
223 A. St. S. E.
Miami, OK 74354

918-542-9399
www.leadagency.org

Volunteers needed
Contact LEAD with your availability. We will be glad to hear from you!
Call 918-542-9399 or email leadagency@att.net

Let your kids make a difference, too
Never too early to be a Chicken fighter!

LEAD Agency November Meeting
223 A. St. SE, Miami, OK  Nov. 29 at 5:30 Covered Dish

LEAD Agency December Meeting
223 A. St. SE, Miami, OK  Dec. 27 at 5:30 Covered dish
Meetings are open to the Public

Volunteers needed
Contact LEAD with your availability. We will be glad to hear from you!
Call 918-542-9399 or email leadagency@att.net

Let your kids make a difference, too
Never too early to be a Chicken fighter!

SAVE THE CHICKEN INSERT
IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION