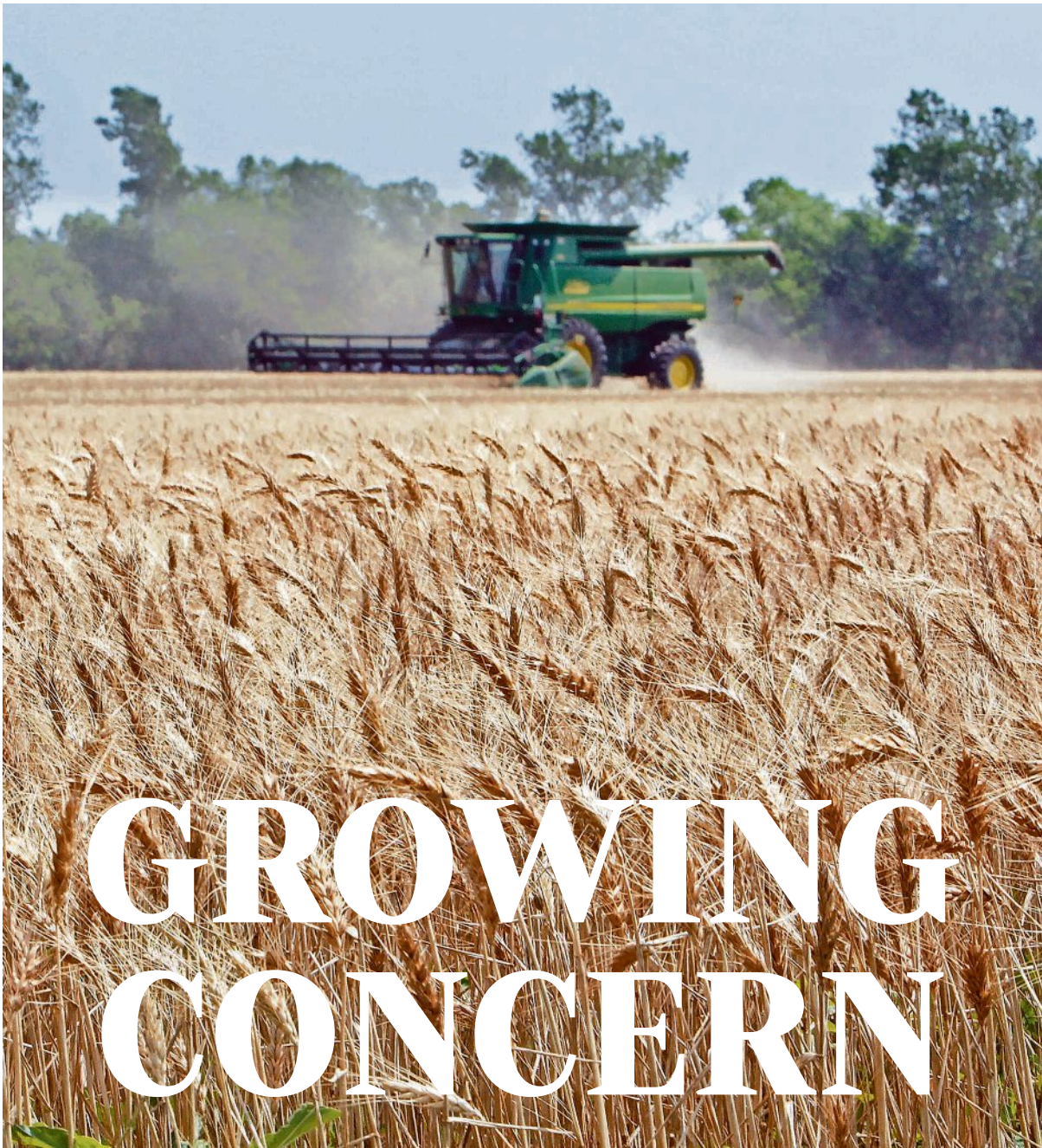


Crop yields, inflation and trade have Oklahoma farmers worried



GROWING CONCERN

Jeff Elkins The Oklahoman | USA TODAY NETWORK

As Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture weighs the prospect of assistance for American producers, Oklahoma farmers are trying to stay afloat amid weak markets and trade disputes.

High crop yields, inflation and trade challenges with China have farmers throughout the nation, including Oklahoma, feeling increasingly uncertain about the future.

Trade disputes affecting U.S. farmers are centered on the imposition of new tariffs by the Trump administration and subsequent retaliatory actions from major trading partners, particularly China.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins earlier this month said President Donald Trump knew the effort to reduce the trade deficit would bring challenges for producers, but it is necessary to realign the world economy “around what’s best for Americans.”

“We are in that uncertainty right now, especially for our commodities growers, our row croppers, soybean, corn, cotton, wheat, etc.,” Rollins said at Express Ranches in Yukon on Sept. 12.

“They’re about to start harvesting, and we don’t have the markets.”

The administration’s trade battle with China has had a profound effect on soy farmers.

The country is the world’s largest importer of soy, but has not placed any purchase orders for U.S. soybeans this season.

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Miami, Oklahoma-based farmer Brent Rendel tends to his soybean crops. PROVIDED BY RENDEL FARMS

TOP: High crop yields, inflation and trade challenges with China have farmers throughout the nation, including Oklahoma, feeling increasingly uncertain about the future. STEVE SISNEY/THE OKLAHOMAN

Will Stitt seek unity in home state?

Makes national appeal to work across divisions

Alex Gladden The Oklahoman USA TODAY NETWORK

As thousands gathered at a memorial service to honor slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk, Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt appeared on Fox News and delivered a message about coming together.

“The problem is we’ve gotten so divided, we can’t even have conversations,” Stitt said during the appearance Sept. 21.

He was appearing as part of a new campaign by state governors to call for unity across party lines. The National Governors Association, which Stitt chairs, is coordinating the messaging. The governors’ appeals have taken on extra meaning as the nation reckons with a rise in political violence.

At a news call hosted in September by the governors’ group, Stitt appeared alongside Democratic Maryland Gov. Wes Moore and said “there’s so much more that unites us than divides us.”

“We want to unite around the fact that we want to give the next generation that opportunity to chase their American dream and to continue to lead our country,” Stitt said.

Yet during his appearances, the governor has offered few details about how he plans to work across political divisions in Oklahoma. The state’s Democratic leaders say they aren’t sure his dedication to pursuing bipartisanship will extend to state policy issues.

As a two-term Republican governor in a deeply red state, Stitt has not

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Edmond project in court fight

Land surface rights, mineral rights at odds

Richard Mize The Oklahoman USA TODAY NETWORK

EDMOND — Honeyfield has turned out to be a legal minefield.

The “walkable” mixed-use, housing-retail-office project is stuck in court because it’s planned for an old oil patch. That’s not unusual in Edmond, which, after all, lent its name to the historic West Edmond Field.

What is unusual is the tangle of property rights that a court is tasked with untangling, and technical details to be sorted out by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, regulator of the petroleum business in the state.

Another difference is lack of cooperation between Kelly Corner LLC, which owns the land surface rights, and the holder of the underground mineral rights, said Clay Coldiron, lead developer of Honeyfield.

Mineral rights include the right to access, drill, operate and service oil and gas wells on others’ land. In the case of Honeyfield, that’s 150 acres at the southeast corner of Covell Road and Kelly Avenue.

Oil pump jacks, storage tanks and production equipment are all over Edmond, tucked behind landscaping or

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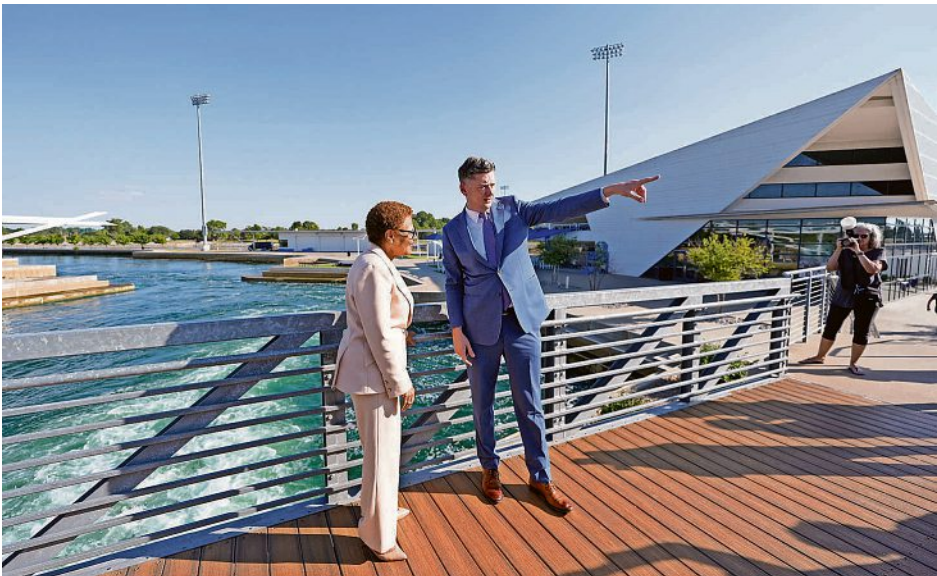
LA mayor visits OKC as Olympic cities gear up

Isa Almeida The Oklahoman USA TODAY NETWORK

In her first visit to Oklahoma City, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass got an up-close look at facilities set to host part of the LA 2028 Summer Olympics.

On Friday, Bass met with Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt to tour Riversport OKC and celebrate their partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties.

In a little less than three years, Oklahoma City will step onto the Olympic stage and serve as a two-sport satellite for Los Angeles by hosting canoe slalom and softball during the 2028 games. The Los Angeles organizing committee’s sustainability effort, which includes not building new venues, led to



Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt talks with Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, left, at the Riversport OKC in Oklahoma City on Sept. 26. SARAH PHIPPS/THE OKLAHOMAN

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