Ag Econ Students Major Players in Homecoming Celebration

Alumni Feature: Barry Bessinger

Doye Selected as 2017 AAEA Fellow
Welcome to the latest issue of Cowboy Economist published by the Department of Agricultural Economics. Our intent is to highlight key events in the life of the department over the past several months including news about students, faculty members and staff. We also highlight accomplishments of distinguished alums and share information about research and extension programming efforts.

Our faculty members have been recognized at multiple events regionally and nationally. Dr. Damona Doye was named a Fellow by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). Dave Shideler also received the Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award at the AAEA meetings. Our graduate student team was highly competitive and placed second in the AAEA Case Study Competition. Shannon Ferrell was presented the award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching from the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA).

We spotlight a distinguished graduate, Barry Bessinger, who is a leader within the Oklahoma agricultural industry. Barry and his family have deep ties to OSU and to our department.

Our students in our undergraduate and graduate programs continue to excel. Placement of Ph.D. graduates to Land Grant University faculty positions has been impressive. We are proud of our graduate students and the contribution they make to the department. Aggie-X is doing well and has an outstanding group of officers and members. Be sure to read about their recent activities.

We are thankful for all the wonderful students in our program. This issue highlights several students who received special recognition at the departmental, college and university level. I continue to marvel at the abilities and dedication demonstrated by our students!

Best regards. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Mike Woods
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The agricultural economics department had some major players in the recent OSU Homecoming Celebration, both on and off the field.

Starting last year, Gatlin Squires, an agribusiness senior from Kingfisher, as Executive Director of the 2017 OSU Homecoming Executive Team, supervised the planning and execution of the week-long celebration.

In the middle of the field during halftime festivities, Brittany Krehbiel, an agricultural economics senior from Hydro, was crowned 2017 OSU Homecoming Queen.

Krehbiel said, “Being surrounded by exceptional people, you don’t really consider that your name will be the one called. Hearing my name announced was truly humbling. I am honored to be chosen to represent OSU in this capacity.”

Also on the field with Krehbiel was Megan DeVuyst, agribusiness senior from Morrison, a queen finalist and a member of the homecoming royal court.

During the OSU football game, agribusiness senior (with option in farm and ranch management) James Washington from Stamford, Texas, caught passes and gained yards as a wide receiver for the Cowboys, who were victorious against Baylor.
University officials recently announced this year’s Seniors of Significance.

A total of 48 students were recognized with 20 having majors within the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Eight students with majors in agricultural economics were named, including Megan DeVuyst, an agribusiness major from Morrison; Jacob Fanning, an agribusiness pre-law major from Laverne; Hammons Hepner, an agricultural economics and finance major from Freedom; Brittany Krehbiel, an agricultural economics major from Hydro; Grayson Kuehny, an agricultural economics major from Elmore City; Angel Molina, an agribusiness major from Johnson City, Kansas; Gatlin Squires, an agribusiness pre-law major from Kingfisher and Luke Werth, an agribusiness major from Elk City.

This is a great honor, congratulations students!

Two agricultural economics students have been selected to be inducted into Phi Kappa Phi.

Agricultural economics students Kelli Case, an agribusiness major from Ada and Jera Anne Pipkin, an agribusiness major from Edmond, will be inducted and initiated into the OSU chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Membership is based on academic achievements and exemplary character.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 and is the oldest and most selective honor society for top-ranking students from all academic disciplines.
Seven students in the agricultural economics department have been chosen for the Top Twenty Awards Program.

Top Freshmen men include: Levi Baker, an agribusiness major from Blanchard; Benjamin (Luke) Hale, an agribusiness major from Throckmorton, TX; Ridge Hughbanks, an agribusiness major from Alva; Jacob Sestak, an agricultural economics/accounting double major from Prague; and Hunter Starr, an agribusiness/agricultural communications double major from Forgan.

Top Freshmen women include: McKenzie Carvalho, an agribusiness/agricultural communications double major from Maxwell, CA and Allison Wilton, an agribusiness major from Fort Sumner, NM.
Spielman Scholarship (Endowed)
Donors: Jan and Hank Spielman, Margaret Brown
Sunjin Ahn Ph.D.
Jeong Seung Kim Ph.D.
Abby Biedenbach M.S.
Meagan Osburn M.S.

Leo and Betty Blakley Graduate Fellowship
Donors: Leo and Betty Blakley, Lyle and Adeana Sallee
Sunjin Ahn Ph.D.
Bernadette Chimai Ph.D.
Pedro Machado Ph.D.
Mengyu Yin Ph.D.
Abby Biedenbach M.S.
Meagan Osburn M.S.

The Leonard F. Miller Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in International Rural Development
Donors: Leonard Miller, Ronald and Carol Huffman, Bruce and Kristen Miller
Wonkyu Cha Ph.D.
Jung Min Lee Ph.D.
John Ng’ombe Ph.D.

Endowed International Agricultural Economics Fellowship
Bart Niyibizi Ph.D.

Clem Ward Endowed Scholarship
Donors: Clem and Mimi Ward, others
Pedro Machado Ph.D.

Mapp Fellowship Fund
Donors: Damona Doye, Damon and Georgia Doye, others
Brian Mulenga Ph.D.

Log onto our website or visit our Facebook page for more pictures!

Graduate Scholarship and Fellowship Reception
October 25, 2017
The Aggie-X club has had a great fall semester! Club attendance has grown exponentially this year and we continue to see rising numbers at each meeting. This fall we kicked off the new school year with our Back to School Bash at Boomer Lake. The Back to School Bash continues to be a successful way for students to connect with faculty within the department.

Fall at Oklahoma State means one thing — football. Aggie-X facilitated the student and alumni tailgate the day of the TCU football game. We were pleased with the turnout at the tailgate as we gathered to cheer on our OSU Cowboys.

Our members also participated in America’s Greatest Homecoming Celebration where we were able to ‘herald our fame’ through the sign competition, Ag Hall window painting, harvest carnival and chili cook-off.

During our monthly meetings, our members have been able to hear from students and faculty representing other organizations’ events or study abroad trips. We have also been able to use these meeting times to keep the students updated about events and important dates happening in the department.

This semester the officer team has implemented a new incentive to get members involved through points. Members can earn points by participating in events through the club and department. In the spring the few members with the most points will receive a spot on the Aggie-X trip to Denver, Colorado on April 26-29, 2018.

I am humbled to serve as the Aggie-X president. This first semester has been a great success for the club. I look forward to finishing up the school year in the spring with another great semester for my team and the club.

Sincerely and Go Pokes,
Grayson Kuehny
2017-2018 Aggie-X President
The Graduate Student Association kicked off the semester with the annual ‘Welcome Back’ outing, where faculty and students built fellowship over appetizers at Eskimo Joe’s. This kicked off our busy semester of meetings that featured professional development and learning opportunities. These included a speaker on the 3 Minute Thesis Competition, publishing tips from our very own Dr. Brorsen and the benefits of using EndNote.

Our monthly meetings also featured a new segment ‘Whitacre’s Wisdom’ where GSA’s faculty advisor, Dr. Whitacre, shares personal tips and lessons that are very beneficial for everyone.

In addition to the professional activities, members of GSA got out of the office for a fun and (slightly) competitive trivia night. Competition is also present this semester with those who participate in the college football ‘pick’ems’ each week (bragging rights only)!

We are looking forward to next semester’s activities which include GSA hosting a brain break, the much anticipated International Dinner, and hopefully another series of informative meetings.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Conley
GSA President
From landman to agricultural financial services, Barry Bessinger, senior vice president at Oklahoma AgCredit, has made great use of his degree from OSU’s Department of Agricultural Economics. Originally from the small town of Mountain View in southwest Oklahoma, Barry’s interests have always revolved around farming and ranching. He began college with the plan to become an agricultural education teacher.
“Dr. Bob Terry, agricultural education department head at the time, and my dad graduated together from Mountain View,” Barry said. “[Terry’s] mom was my Sunday school teacher.”

Despite his connection to the Terry family, and interest in teaching agriculture, he had a change of heart after one class with Dr. John Goodwin.

“I knew my talents and expertise lie more in the economics of agriculture rather than the education,” Barry said.

Playing an active role in many campus activities and student clubs and organizations including Campus Squares, Young Democrats, he’s now a conservative republican, and intramural sports, out of everything, he most enjoyed being a member of the Aggie-X Club.

“From working concessions at home football games, pledge smokers, beginning of the year hotdog cookouts, monthly meetings with industry speakers, crowning the Aggie-X queen to the awesome spring-break trips,” Barry said. “These were the big reasons for all the fun times.”

Barry is still good friends with many of the people he met because of Aggie-X.

“Actually, there are several that are my colleagues at Farm Credit because ag econ just fits for a Farm Credit career,” Barry said.

During my last year of school, I was the Aggie-X education vice president, which put me in charge of the new pledges,” Barry said. “One of the new pledges was a pretty red-headed girl from Cordell.”

Dana Bessinger, Barry’s wife, said it was funny they grew up 30 miles apart and had never met. They had their first date April 7 and Barry graduated May 13, so they only dated a few weeks before he moved to Houston, she explained.

“Before I left for Texas, I told her I was going to marry her,” Barry said.

After Barry graduated in 1978, his first job was as a landman for a large gas pipeline company in Texas.

With a new job, and little time off, he wrote to Dana often.

“That fall, Barry came back to OSU for football games, and I would sign him in to help out at Aggie-X concessions,” Dana Bessinger said.

“About every time I came home, I hinted about getting married,” Barry said. “When I came home for Christmas, I asked, and she said, ‘Yes!’”

They got engaged on a Saturday and were married the next Saturday!

“This December will be our 39th wedding anniversary,” Barry said. “Who would have thought a one-week engagement would last?”

Barry has told this story at least 100 times over the years, he said, and he always gives full credit to Aggie-X and OSU for helping him find Dana.

“In January of 1980, I started my career at Farm Credit in Guymon,” Barry said. “I left Farm Credit from 1988 to 1994 to start the Farm Business Management [program] at Chisholm Trail Career Tech, a new career-tech school between Watonga and Kingfisher.”

He returned to Farm Credit in 1994, and he presently serves as senior vice president for Oklahoma AgCredit.

“Barry has been a role model for our students,” said Mike Woods, agricultural economics department head. “He is a great example for current students to observe and learn from. Many students are interested in a career in farm credit or banking. Barry has always been available to support departmental and student efforts.”

Barry reflects on his memories and experiences at OSU with fondness.

“The personalization, professionalism, connections and confidence to succeed were some of the biggest things I took away from my time at OSU,” Barry said.

He said the professors within the department take the time to get to know their students on a first name basis.

“It was true in 1978, and I can verify it’s true today in 2017,” Barry said.

Very few of the professors are around from his days, but he’s met several new ones from his son’s time there from 2006-2010.

“Dr. Joe Williams was my adviser, Bessinger said. “From 1978 to the present, not one time I’ve seen Dr. Joe did he not know me by my first name. That means a lot. Today, I can say the same thing about Dr. Mike Woods. He knows me, my wife and my youngest son who also got his agribusiness degree from the department.”
Doye presents her lesson on Quicken to Women in Agriculture Conference attendees.

As an extension economist for the department, Doye develops educational material to keep farmers and ranchers up-to-date on farm management practices and agricultural finance issues.

The Quicken program Doye and the department offers incorporates a step-by-step, hands-on approach which allows attendees to ask questions as they follow along.
The Agricultural and Applied Economics Association named Damona Doye 2017 AAEA Fellow. Doye, Oklahoma State University Department of Agricultural Economics extension economist, regents professor and holder of the Rainbolt Chair in Agricultural Finance, was presented this honor at the association’s 2017 annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

The AAEA Fellow is awarded to a professional in higher education deserving recognition for their outstanding contributions to the agricultural and applied economics industry.

According to the AAEA’s website, “These individuals are leaders shaping the future of the association and the field of agricultural and applied economics as a whole.”

Known for her active roles in program coordination at the state, regional and national levels, Doye is looked up to by many.

“Damona is a regional and national leader in our profession because of her strong commitment to service coupled with her national reputation for program excellence,” said Mike Woods, OSU agricultural economics department head.

A faculty member at OSU since 1986, Doye earned her bachelor’s and master’s in agricultural economics from OSU in 1980 and 1981 respectively. Doye completed her doctorate at Iowa State University in 1986 before returning to her alma mater to begin her career.

“I got an opportunity to immediately come back home which I didn’t expect,” said Doye. “Most of the time you have to go somewhere else or several other places before you get the chance to come back home.”

Doye has spent a majority of her career developing programs to increase the managerial skillset of farmers and ranchers across Oklahoma. Doye’s extension and outreach programs provide farmers and ranchers the tools and educational opportunities necessary to allow them to make informed decisions in order to remain sustainable.

“Dr. Doye is the embodiment of the land grant mission,” said Thomas Coon, Vice President, Dean and Director of OSU’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. “She is particularly committed to helping families learn new business and financial management practices that strengthen their operational sustainability.”

The nomination letter compiled on Doye’s behalf includes multiple praises and compliments from numerous colleagues.

“If someone wanted to know the best extension agricultural economist in the U.S. today, Damona Doye would have to be included near the top of the list,” said Scott Irwin, AAEA Fellow, Lawrence J. Norton Chair of Agricultural Marketing, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Doye’s hard work and dedication to her profession is well-regarded across the nation.

“Many people may believe that Damona is a great role model and mentor for young female faculty at U.S. land grants,” said Rodney Clouser, Professor and Associate Chair, University of Florida. “However, that sells Damona’s efforts short. Damona is a great role model and mentor for younger faculty, not just female faculty.”

Doye was the first female state extension specialist in OSU’s DASNR, as well as the first female member and chair of both the Southern Extension Farm Management Committee and the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Council of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE).

Doye said she once was advised to consider becoming a consumer economist, as many people thought she would not get the same respect as a woman in this profession.

“I didn’t set out to be a pioneer,” Doye said. “What I did, and what I recommend, is find the things that are meaningful for you to do.”

Doye credits much of her success to the many people who have helped her along the way, as well as the teams she has been honored to be a part of over the years.

“I have been blessed to have extension assistants, secretaries, county educators and area specialists who have all kept me grounded and focused on real-world challenges,” Doye said.

Doye said she never felt discriminated against for being a
woman in her field of work. She has always had the mentality that people mean well and has focused on the positives.

“Be good at what you do and continue learning,” Doye said. “This will keep you ahead of your competition.”

Doye grew up on a farm outside of Lawton, Oklahoma, where she was active in 4-H, FFA and her school’s vocational-agriculture program, she said.

I was not always on track to attend college, she noted.

“Mr. Bicket was one of my vo-ag teachers in the Lawton Intra-City FFA,” Doye said. “He told me that I needed to go to college.”

Since I liked science and agriculture, I started out as a biochem major within OSU’s College of Agriculturial Science and Natural Resources.

Lauren Park, Doye’s professor in introduction to agricultural economics, asked Doye what she was going to do with her major. When she did not have a certain response, Park convinced Doye to switch majors. He also encouraged her to consider graduate school, she said.

The AAEA Fellow is not frequently awarded to extension professionals, and Doye is honored not only for herself, but for the department and institution as well.

“It’s a very nice honor,” Doye said. “I was very humbled to receive it. It’s great to have the recognition for OSU with someone from an extension appointment.”

AND THE ACCOLADES CONTINUE...

Damona Doye was notified in October she had also been chosen to receive the Southern Region Excellence in Extension Award of the National Cooperative Extension Award Program.

This award is presented by the Cooperative Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU).

One educator from each of the five extension regions (northeast, north central, south, west, and 1890 universities), was recognized for excellence at the APLU Annual Meeting.

According to Fred Schlutt, Chair of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, which is the representative leadership and governing body of Extension nationwide, “...These awards represent the finest examples of the many positive impacts of Cooperative Extension work in the United States.”

“NIFA is proud to support the national network of Extension experts and educators through our land-grant institution partnership, said NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy. “This collaboration brings science-based knowledge to farmers, ranchers, and community members to help them grow their businesses, raise healthy families, and support their communities.”

In response to receiving the news, Doye said, “I am truly honored to receive this award.”

Aggie-X Gathering

April 13, 2018
stabilizing economy, the need for tweaks in the farm bill, and the importance of trade to the U.S. ag economy provided timely insights ahead of the next planting season for the more than 120 participants at the Rural Economic Outlook Conference, held Oct. 20, at Stillwater, Okla.

Keynote speakers at the conference, held each year on the Oklahoma State University campus, included Cortney Cowley, an economist in the Regional Affairs Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City; Dr. Pat Westhoff, director of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, University of Missouri; and Dr. Luis Ribera, professor and director of the Center for North American Studies at Texas A&M University.

Cowley addressed the crowd about the economic conditions in the United States and Oklahoma.

“A lot of what we are seeing both in the U.S. and Oklahoma, more regionally, is moderate growth,” said Cowley. “Digging down more into some of the economic indicators, if we look at measures of gross domestic product (GDP), unemployment, employment growth and personal income, we’ve seen some weakness in 2015 and 2016 in Oklahoma but a lot of that has stabilized coming into 2017.

“So, how commodity markets go is how Oklahoma goes,” she said. “Weakness in oil and natural gas and agricultural commodities
contributed to a lot of the weakness in 2015 and 2016. But some of those have rebounded coming into 2017—cattle, oil and natural gas. We are still seeing a lot of weakness in the crop sector, but other areas of improvement have contributed to stabilizing the Oklahoma economy.”

While farm income is expected to remain low in both the nation and the District, like Oklahoma, Cowley noted recent signs of stabilization. She expressed concern about the agricultural credit conditions, which have continued to weaken, but noted that deterioration has slowed.

Farm Bill

Westhoff focused on the farm bill, the context of the next farm debate and outlining some of the major issues in agriculture today. He also discussed how the current [commodity] programs might play out if they continue in the future and some of the changes people want to see in the next farm bill.

“People definitely want to see some changes in the dairy program and definitely want to see some changes in the cotton program,” Westhoff said. “Those are both cases where people feel the current provisions are not providing enough support to those commodities.

“Another set of folks want to see much, much bigger changes in the overall type of support that we provide agriculture, maybe by making major cuts to chief budgetary objectives or restructuring programs to achieve something different than we are achieving today.”

Westhoff said, because cotton, a major commodity, was not included in the Agriculture Act of 2014 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, there is talk about providing support to the cotton industry by creating a cottonseed program.

“They’ll make a payment if cottonseed prices fall below a trigger level,” Westhoff explained. “So, that’s one that’s been seriously discussed.

“It is far too early to know with confidence when the next farm bill will be passed and what it will say and ... if the President will sign it. To become law, the farm bill will need 218 votes in the House and 51 or (more likely) 60. That means a bill almost certainly will require bipartisan support to clear both chambers. If the President vetoes the bill, it requires a two-to-three vote in both the House and the Senate to override,” said Westhoff.

With about one-third of U.S. farm income generated from this nation’s export market, Ribera spoke about the importance of trade with other countries, including the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA and its success in fulfilling its objectives.

“We depend on agricultural markets,” he said. “We need to maintain the markets that we have — and possibly expand them.” The U.S. is the largest agricultural exporter in the world, shipping $135 billion in commodities in 2016.

Trade and NAFTA

The U.S. has about 25 percent of the world’s gross domestic product (GDP), making trade with America of great interest to other countries, Ribera noted. “We have 350 million people [in the U.S.] with money, who control about 25 percent of the world economy, so there’s no question about why other countries want to get their products into the U.S. market.”

Ribera discussed NAFTA, a 1994 trade pact between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, and its success in increasing U.S. exports to NAFTA countries. “We have quadrupled our exports to NAFTA countries, while only tripling exports to the rest of the world,” Ribera said. “NAFTA is very important for U.S. agriculture. A lot of things about it can be improved, but there’s no question it has been successful in terms of agricultural trade.”

U.S. agricultural exports have increased from $46.2 billion in 1994 to $134.9 billion in 2016, a 192 percent increase, he said. During the same period, U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico grew from $10 billion to $38 billion, a 288 percent increase, making those nations the second and third largest markets for U.S. exports.

With all the discussion by the Trump administration about renegotiating NAFTA, Ribera said, it is important to point out that, if agriculture were the main issue, he thinks it would be easier to get an agreement done. But agriculture constitutes only about 7 percent of trade between the three countries.

“So basically, non-agriculture issues have dominated the NAFTA discussion,” he said.

The conference concluded with a Rapid Fire Outlook Panel featuring speakers: Damona Doye, Rainbolt chair of Agricultural Finance; Rodney Jones, Farm Credit chair; Kim Anderson, OSU Agricultural Economics professor emeritus; and Derrell Peel, OSU Agricultural Economics Charles Breedlove professor.
The Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) met in Chicago, Illinois in late July. Agricultural economics faculty and students represented the department in several areas.

Damona Doye was recognized as an AAEA Fellow. (See story on page 12). Dave Shideler received the Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award (Individual: Less than Ten Years’ Experience).

In the Graduate Student Case Study Competition, the OSU team received second place. Team members included Abby Biedenbach, Jacob Manlove and Devon Meadowcroft. The team was coached by Brian Whitacre.

Patrick Kanza was a finalist in the Graduate Student Extension Competition.

Agricultural Economics faculty and students also traveled to the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) Annual Meeting in Lake Tahoe, NV in early July, where Wade Brorsen presided as president during the meetings.

Shannon Ferrell was presented with the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, Less Than 10 Years’ Experience.

Ben Tong received Honorable Mention for Outstanding Graduate Paper or Master’s Thesis Award. His advisor is Tracy Boyer.

WAEA Fellow and former faculty member, Jayson Lusk, was nominated and selected as a WAEA Fellow while still at OSU.

Brian Whitacre led a post-conference workshop on spatial econometrics. The workshop was successful with 23 attendees ranging from graduate students to professors.
Oklahoma, along with other areas of the country, could be facing a substantial shortage of rural real estate appraisers in the next three to five years.

Since 2007, the total number of all appraisers has dropped 20%. This potential situation is of concern to associations and individuals in the state involved with rural real estate appraisals.

According to state banking associations, “The shortage of qualified rural appraisers has dramatically increased the time to process a rural real estate loan. This has created a detrimental ripple effect throughout rural economies in this country because all affected parties, the bank, the seller, and the buyer, must remain at a standstill until a qualified appraisal is available to service a loan transaction.”

The associations blame this shortage on “aging and retirements among appraisers, declining young populations in rural areas, and the lengthy appraiser training process.”

Other factors include higher standards in appraisal work and increased requirements for becoming a certified appraiser plus the failure of appraisal compensation to rise in accordance with the requirements. Also, rural appraisals are often more complex than urban appraisals since factors in addition to buildings are involved such as land use, soil type, slope, till-ability, road access, and other characteristics.

As a step towards addressing this situation, the OSU Department of Agricultural Economics’ curriculum committee has created a minor in Agricultural Real Estate Appraisal.
The OSU Regents approved this recommendation, and the minor is now available for enrollment.

According to agricultural economics professor Joe Schatzer, “The agricultural appraisers in Oklahoma have requested that we help our students obtain creditable hours in their coursework as undergraduate students. Under the current guidelines of the Appraiser Qualification Board (AQB), a part of the Appraisal Foundation, for university coursework to be approved by the AQB as meeting creditable class hours, a program of study requiring the courses must be offered by that university.

The American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (ASFMRA) is a not-for-profit professional appraisal society and a sponsoring member of the Appraisal Foundation that provides professional designations, education, advocacy, appraisal news and networking in all jurisdictions in the United States. They provide the AQB and the state with approved appraisal training for certified general licensure and for continuing education.

“The new minor requires courses,” says Dr. Schatzer, “that we believe, after our discussions with the AQB, will contribute towards creditable class hours. The minor will enhance the prospects of students entering the appraisal field by reducing the creditable class hours they will need to obtain after graduation.”

Grant Rohwer, Vice President – Appraisal for Oklahoma AgCredit in Stillwater, states, “The addition of the Minor Study Program in Agricultural Real Estate Appraisal is a huge step for a person looking to get into the appraisal field. The education and experience requirements that have been implemented by the State Appraisal Board have made it very difficult for a new person to get started. Adding this minor has made that person more marketable for a potential employer to hire since they will have a good start toward the education requirements. For the individuals looking to go out on their own, it is beneficial since the out-of-pocket costs for several classes will already have been met. It is a great step for the appraisal industry and the shortage of appraisers we face in the near future.

The new minor requires 24 credit hours. Nine hours of these courses must be taken at OSU.

Agribusiness senior Cole Johnson from Durant has completed the requirements and will graduate with this minor as part of his degree in May. In January, he will start work part-time as an appraiser for Oklahoma AgCredit, becoming a full-time employee after graduation.

Cole believes that the minor is a benefit to both the student as an employee and the employer. The employee will not need to take as many certification classes once on the job because the university classes will have satisfied some of the requirements.

Cole says, “As a student, I believe this minor gives me an important edge over graduates from other colleges in the area. New appraisal employees expect to train for three years for certification after starting their jobs. Already having fulfilled some of the requirements in these classes cuts down on the time and expense of acquiring certification for both the employee and the employer.”

Working with the appraisal groups and affected businesses in Oklahoma in developing this minor is another example of the department and CASNR responding to the concerns of employers and producers.

Agricultural economics department head, Mike Woods says, “CASNR always strives to consider the needs and suggestions of industries and employers in developing and modifying courses to enhance opportunities for our students.”

Dr. Cynda Clary, Associate Dean, Academic Programs in CASNR, says, “I appreciate how quickly the agricultural economics department responded to the needs of the rural appraisal industry. The minor will better prepare students for this important career area.”

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**REQUIREMENTS**

- AGEC 3213 Quantitative Methods
- AGEC 3423 Farm and Agribusiness Management
- AGEC 3603 Agricultural Finance
- AGEC 3713 Agricultural Law
- AGEC 4513 Farm Appraisal
- ACCT 2103 Financial Accounting
- ACCT 2203 Managerial Accounting
- STAT 2023 Elementary Statistics for Business and Economics