The Department of Agricultural Economics

The department consists of 26 tenure track faculty members, two area agricultural economics specialists, two rural development specialists, and 17 support personnel. Nine tenured faculty currently hold a chair or professorship.

The department’s 530 undergraduate students may select majors in Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness and specialize in one of eight options or three double majors. For fall 2017, seven of OSU’s Top 20 Freshmen were agricultural economics and agribusiness majors. The department has 48 graduate students with 31 of these in the doctoral program. The department currently has one Fulbright scholar enrolled. Numerous recent PhD students have been hired by other land-grant universities.

The department has a strong commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and extension. Numerous faculty members have won departmental, college, university and association awards. The department has a long history of producing applied research that is widely used by policymakers and agricultural businesses. Extension faculty have been widely recognized by state, regional, and national agencies and professional associations for outstanding individual and group efforts.

Oklahoma State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity/E-verify employer committed to diversity and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment and will not be discriminated against based on age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or other protected category. OSU is a VEVRAA Federal Contractor and desires priority referrals of protected veterans for its openings. OSU will not discharge or in any other manner discriminate against employees or applicants because they have inquired about, discussed, or disclosed their own pay or the pay of another employee or applicant. However, employees who have access to the compensation information of other employees or applicants as a part of their essential job functions cannot disclose the pay of other employees or applicants to individuals who do not otherwise have access to compensation information, unless the disclosure is (a) in response to a formal complaint or charge, (b) in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action, including an investigation conducted by the employer, or (c) consistent with the contractor’s legal duty to furnish information. 41 CFR 60-1.35(c).
Willard R. Sparks Endowed Chair in Agribusiness Studies

The Sparks Chair is endowed through a gift from the late Willard R. Sparks, founder and chairman of the board of Sparks Companies, Inc. The holder of the Sparks Chair will be expected to develop and/or sustain a nationally-recognized research and teaching program in the general area of agribusiness. The chair holder will be expected to direct studies to understand factors affecting agricultural and natural resource industries, develop information to aid private sector firms in making business decisions, and provide information to assist and guide government leaders in understanding the implications and impacts of policy alternatives on agribusinesses. Specific responsibilities will depend upon the individual hired, but potentially include the following:

- Focus on one or more subject matter areas of agribusiness, such as management, marketing, finance, or production
- Teach approximately one course per semester at the undergraduate or graduate level
- Advise graduate students (Ph.D. and M.S.) and undergraduate students
- Seek extramural support to supplement agribusiness research and teaching programs
- Communicate research results to professional peers and industry groups
- Coordinate appropriate research efforts with Extension faculty

Qualifications Include the Following

- Candidates should currently hold or have previously held the rank of Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor, or an equivalent position and have a Ph.D. degree in agricultural economics, economics, business administration, or other related disciplines.
- Candidates must have a record of high productivity and a record of producing relevant applied research.
- The successful candidate should have demonstrated an ability to effectively work with departmental and inter-disciplinary university faculty groups, agribusiness firms, and government agencies.

Applications and Nominations

- Applications must be submitted electronically by clicking on [LINK] Click the “Apply Now” button in the upper left corner. Screening of applicants will begin December 15, 2017.
- Questions may be directed to Mike Woods (mike.woods@okstate.edu) Agricultural Economics department head or Wade Brorsen (wade.brorsen@okstate.edu) the chair of the Willard R. Sparks Endowed Chair search committee.
- Application materials include a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, and a list of five references.