First Graduates of CAU-OSU Joint Project

Participating in the Oklahoma State University (OSU) undergraduate graduation ceremonies this spring were 28 Chinese students who graduated with a “Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness,” not only from OSU, but also from China Agricultural University (CAU). These students are the first graduates of a CAU-OSU joint program approved in 2013, which includes two years of study at CAU and two years in the Department of Agricultural Economics at OSU.

A special departmental graduation ceremony and reception to honor these students was also held on Saturday in the Student Union Starlight Terrace. The graduates began their studies as freshmen at CAU in 2013. They took two years of English-speaking classes at CAU, and they arrived at OSU for the fall 2015 semester. An additional 32 students began studying at OSU in the fall of 2016, and a third group of 35 students are expected this fall.

According to Mike Woods, Agricultural Economics Department Head, “Almost 80% of these students are now pursuing graduate degrees as their next endeavor. Students are considering several universities in the United States, including OSU, University of California Davis, University of Miami, Cornell University, and others, plus universities in Australia and Japan.”

The CAU-OSU joint program began when OSU President Burns Hargis traveled to China and signed a general MOU with CAU in December, 2011. Hargis’ visit generated a strong interest from CAU to partner with OSU in the general area of agribusiness. After further negotiations, the two universities signed an Educational Affiliation Agreement in 2013.