Welcome! We hope you will enjoy the fall 2018 issue of *Cowboy Economist* published by the Department of Agricultural Economics. Our purpose 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, nationally, and on the OSU campus. Dr. Notie Lansford received the Bonnie T eater Community Development Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in Extension serving rural communities and local government. Kellie Raper was presented the inaugural Dan and Junita Childs Service Award for her tireless contributions to the life of our department.

We spotlight two extremely successful students in Ridge Hughbanks and Piper Merritt, who have received national acclaim with their service in FFA. These students are role models for students in our College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources who strive to make a difference!

Read about the successful Extension program led by J. C. Hobbs, and the impact this educational effort has for tax preparers statewide. We also feature a story on Gene Rainbolt who was honored as a 2018 DASNR Champion recently. Mr. Rainbolt has created a culture focusing on small towns and rural communities in Oklahoma and his support for education is notable and appreciated!

The 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 contributions 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 levels. I continue to marvel at the abilities and dedication demonstrated by our students!

Best regards.

Mike Woods
# CONTENTS

## 4 SENIORS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Agricultural Economics Department had two students honored as Seniors of Significance.

## 5 TOP 10 FRESHMEN MEN AND WOMEN

The Agricultural Economics Department had five students chosen for the Top 10 Awards Program and 11 students awarded Top 20 recognition.

## 6 GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP RECEPTION

The Graduate Scholarship and Fellowship Reception was a huge success this year, awarding $20,464 to students.

## 10 AGGIE-X UPDATE

Aggie-X Club members continue the club’s long-standing traditions.

## 11 GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

GSA members were very active this year, with several students presenting at conferences.

## 15 THERE IS AN APP FOR THAT

Several apps are being developed to help farmers and producers with farm production management decisions.

## 16 RURAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

Speakers at the Rural Economic Outlook Conference spoke about the various challenges Oklahoma agriculturalists face in today’s economy.

## 12 BACK TO SCHOOL – TAX SCHOOL, THAT IS.

The OSU Farm and Business Tax Institute continues to be a leading program for professional education continuation for tax preparers.

## 14 DEPARTMENT DOUBLEHEADER

Ridge Hughbanks, an agribusiness and pre-law junior, is representing Oklahoma as a 2018-19 National FFA Officer in the same office Piper Merritt, an agricultural economics sophomore, held on the 2017-18 National FFA Officer team.

## 18 AAEA & WAEA CONFERENCE SUMMARIES

Several Agricultural Economics students and faculty presented at the AAEA and WAEA Conferences.

## 19 FACULTY AWARDS

The department had several faculty members honored and recognized for their dedication and excellence in education.
Seniors of Significance

Two students in the Agricultural Economics Department were chosen for the Seniors of Significance Awards Program.

DALACY DOCKREY
Dale, Oklahoma
Agricultural Economics

Who has contributed to your success at OSU?
When I think of every person who helped me find success at OSU, there are too many to count, and I believe that is a testament to the empowering culture of OSU and CASNR. Specifically, Dr. Bailey Norwood and Dr. Shannon Ferrell are my two most significant mentors in college. Each gives me opportunities to work on exciting research, as well as be a teaching assistant for their AGEC 1113 and AGEC 3713 classes, respectively. Additionally, Dr. Cynda Clary and Dr. Karen Hickman have been advisers to me in different organizations and have shown me incredible examples of character and leadership.

What is your biggest accomplishment as an OSU student?
I think my most significant accomplishment at OSU was the experience of serving as the CASNR Ag Legislative Intern. After four months of several 40+ hours a week at the Oklahoma State Capitol during one of the most tumultuous legislative sessions in our state history, I will forever be more aware of the issues Oklahoma faces, as well as the inequities people face and the capability every person has to make a difference.

VANESSA WIEBE
Hooker, Oklahoma
Agribusiness

Who has contributed to your success at OSU?
Drs. Cheryl and Eric DeVuyst have been such a big influence in my life and a big reason why I believe I have been successful in college. Cheryl is my adviser and, since my freshman year, she has been like my mom away from home. She always checks in on me and, even though she is extremely busy, she always takes the time to have a genuine conversation with me in the hallways. I had the opportunity to travel to Israel on a study abroad trip with Eric, and it is an understatement to say that trip changed my life. It was such an incredible experience not only because of the students who went on the trip, but also because of Eric and how he made the trip an impactful experience. I cannot imagine what my college experience would have been like had it not been touched by Eric and Cheryl DeVuyst.

What is your biggest accomplishment as an OSU student?
I do not think it is my personal accomplishment, but ever since I came to Oklahoma State I have been very passionate about food insecurity. I sat next to someone who would later become my best friend, and I found out my freshman year that she was working multiple jobs just to pay for tuition and living arrangements. Since then I have tried to set up some type of a solution for this problem. Last spring a survey was taken and it found that 43 percent of the campus is food insecure. I currently serve as the Student Body Vice President and, with this role, I have the opportunity to sit on the task force for food insecurity. I not only sit on the administrative committee, but I am also heading up the student committee. With this task force, the University has charged us with writing a recommendation that must be turned in by Feb. 15. This is not my legacy that I am leaving on campus, but this is the legacy of the 43 percent who, hopefully after this semester, have access to healthy and nutritious food, and have a happier college experience. My biggest accomplishment in this is that I get to be part of a project that has a lasting impact on this campus and makes a significant change.
Eleven students in the Agricultural Economics Department were chosen for the Top 20 Awards Program, with five students being awarded Top 10 recognition.

Five department of agricultural economics agribusiness sophomores were among 20 students who were recently named as the OSU Top 20 Freshmen Men and Top 10 Freshmen Women for the 2017-2018 school year.

The top 10 freshmen men are: Cale Hinrichsen, Westmoreland, Kansas; Luke Muller, Altus, Oklahoma; Truitt Taylor, South Coffeyville, Oklahoma; and Hunter Thomas, Newkirk, Oklahoma.

The top 10 freshmen woman is: Erica Wiebe, Hooker, Oklahoma.

Previously, these five students, plus six additional department sophomores, were among the 40 students who were named as OSU Top 20 Freshmen Men and Top 20 Freshmen Women for the 2017-2018 school year.

Top 20 freshmen men are: William Church, Fairview, Oklahoma; Zachary Guy, Meeker, Oklahoma; Kade Killough, Stillwater, Oklahoma; and Dalton Miller, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

Top 20 freshmen women are: Brooklan Light, Enid, Oklahoma; and Nyla Maere, Bloomington, Illinois.

The Achafoa Chapter of Mortar Board at Oklahoma State University oversees the selection and recognition of the Top 20 and Top 10 Freshmen Men and Women on the OSU campus.

The Agricultural Economics Department was well represented in the Top 20 Freshmen awards program. Front left: Nyla Maere; Brooklan Light; Erica Wiebe; Dalton Miller; Truitt Taylor; William Church; and Associate Dean of Academic Programs, Dr. Cynda Clary. Back left: Department Head, Dr. Mike Woods; DASNR Vice President, Dr. Thomas G. Coon; Zachary Guy; Hunter Thomas; Kade Killough; Luke Muller; and Cale Hinrichsen.
Graduate Scholarship & Fellowship Reception

The Spielman Scholarship (Endowed)

Donors:
Jan and Hank Spielman
Margaret Brown

Recipients:
Bernadette Chimai, Ph.D.
Will Maples, Ph.D.
Zuhrah Alwahabi, M.S.*
Leann Westbrook, M.S.

The Leonard F. Miller Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in International Rural Development (Endowed)

Donors:
Leonard Miller
Ronald and Carol Huffman
Bruce and Kristen Miller

Recipients:
Joo Hun Han, Ph.D.
John Ng’ombe, Ph.D.*
Mengyu Yin, Ph.D.

Endowed International Agricultural Economics Fellowship Fund

Recipients:
Bernadette Chimai, Ph.D.*
Bart Niyibizi, Ph.D.

*Shown in picture with Dr. Wade Brorsen, Graduate Coordinator
THE LEO AND BETTY BLAKLEY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP (ENDOWED)

Donors:
Leo and Betty Blakley
Lyle and Adeana Sallee

Recipients:
Sunjin Ahn, Ph.D.
Joo Hun Han, Ph.D.
Pedro Machado, Ph.D. *
Lauren Clark, M.S.

CLEM WARD ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Donors:
Clem and Mimi Ward
others

Recipients:
Ryan Feuz, Ph.D.
Bart Niyibizi, Ph.D. *

*Shown in picture with Dr. Wade Brorsen, Graduate Coordinator

HARRY P. MAPP GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP (ENDOWED)

Donors:
Damona Doye
Damon and Georgia Doye
others

Recipients:
Logan Britton, Ph.D. *
Pedro Machado, Ph.D.
Brian Mulenga, Ph.D.
Leann Westbrook, M.S.
OSU honors Gene Rainbolt as a 2018 DASNR Champion.

Story Courtesy of: Donald Stotts, OSU Agricultural Communications Services

Oklahoma State University’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources has honored noted philanthropist and banker H.E. “Gene” Rainbolt as a 2018 DASNR Champion award recipient.

The DASNR Champion award recognizes individuals with exceptional records of providing meaningful and lasting benefits to Oklahoma as part of the state’s production, processing and related agricultural industries, in addition to being outstanding leaders in their communities and supporters of OSU’s land-grant mission.

“Throughout his career in the banking industry, Mr. Rainbolt remained dedicated to providing tools and resources for young people to gain a strong education, while believing in the state of Oklahoma and the value of the land-grant mission to help improve the quality of people’s lives,” said Mike Woods, head of OSU’s department of agricultural economics.

A visionary for rural Oklahoma, Rainbolt has been an avid supporter of the department, from student scholarships to establishment of the H.E. “Gene” Rainbolt Endowed Chair of Agricultural Finance in honor of OSU President Burns Hargis, which focuses on promoting the sustainable financial success of Oklahoma farmers, ranchers and agribusiness operators.

Rainbolt told the media in 2008 that he and his family made the endowment gift for many reasons, not the least of which had been how his career had led him to be involved with a number of banks located in primarily agricultural areas of Oklahoma, and he wanted to see those rural towns flourish.

“He made it a point to add how the triggering event had been Burns Hargis accepting the presidency at Oklahoma State and his belief Hargis would be incredibly effective for OSU and the state of Oklahoma,” Woods said. “He also spoke about the influence of James Plaxico, retired OSU professor and former head of the department of agricultural economics, and a BancFirst board member; as well as Norm Durham, who served as dean of OSU’s Graduate College from 1967 to 1991.”

It is an investment that has paid dividends for the department, the division, the university and all of Oklahoma, Woods added.

“Mr. Rainbolt once declared OSU’s agricultural economics major to be the strongest degree offered in the state, high praise from one of his stature in the financial industry,” he said. “We agree, of course, and recognize that part of the program’s success over the years has been because of his generosity as an advocate and ally.”

Rainbolt also has been an active supporter of the OSU Spears School of Business and the university’s Wes Watkins Center for International Trade and Development. But nobody should assume his belief in a quality education stops with OSU’s Stillwater campus.

“Mr. Rainbolt has hired a number of OSU graduates, specifically agricultural economics majors,” Woods said. “His legacy at BancFirst continues to be felt today in that BancFirst remains an active sponsor for many DASNR and university programs, conferences and workshops, such as the Oklahoma Rural Economic Outlook Conference at OSU.”

Raised during the Dust Bowl, Rainbolt graduated from Norman High School in 1947. He earned both his bachelor’s degree in economics and master’s degree in finance from the University of Oklahoma. The Norman native then attended the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin. After graduation, he served as an Army officer during the Korean War and was honored with the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal for his service.

It was 1967 when Rainbolt began his banking career with Federal National Bank in Shawnee. By 1989, his United Community Corporation had consolidated 12 banks under a single charter and officially renamed the company BancFirst. Today, he remains active with the bank, serving as chairman emeritus while his son David serves as chief executive officer.

“Gene Rainbolt has been one of Oklahoma’s most noteworthy philanthropists through the years, and we are blessed to have him as a DASNR Champion,” said Tom Coon, OSU vice president of agricultural programs. “It was a great honor to be able to recognize his support during the Oct. 19 DASNR Honors ceremonies.”

DASNR is comprised of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and two state agencies: The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and the statewide Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station system.
BancFirst executives (from left to right) Debbie Kuykendall, executive vice president; Casey Bell, president; Mark Gish, president and regional executive; Justin Krebbs, president; Susie Presley, executive vice president; Doug Tippens, executive vice president; Gene Rainbolt; Ken Starks, executive vice president and BancFirst community banking director; Roy Ferguson, executive vice president and BancFirst chief credit officer; Pat Zimmerman, president; Jay Emory, president; and Jerry Franklin, president, gather to celebrate Rainbolt’s recognition as a 2018 DASNR Champion. Photo by: Judy Rudin

One of Oklahoma’s most noted philanthropists, Gene Rainbolt has been an active supporter of higher education for more than three decades. Photo courtesy: Todd Johnson, OSU Agricultural Communications Services
The Aggie-X Club has had an exceptional fall 2018 semester! We began the 2018-2019 school year with our annual Back to School Bash at the Totusek Arena. Students had the opportunity to interact with faculty, meet our new officers, grab a burger and play a game of corn hole. The Back to School Bash is a great way for students to see what Aggie-X is all about and kick off the new semester.

Another Aggie-X tradition is our annual Alumni Tailgate. Each year we invite students, faculty, and alumni of the department to join us and cheer on the Oklahoma State Cowboys. We may have lost to Texas Tech this year, but our tailgate was still a success. We had a large turnout of students, faculty, and alumni. We even had Dr. Thomas Coon, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, stop by and hang out! If you know anything about Oklahoma State, you know how important homecoming is to everyone on campus. Aggie-X is no exception, and this year our theme was “Woody Rides On,” a play on the overall theme “Cowboys Ride On.” We competed in the Harvest Carnival, Chili Cook-Off, Window Painting, and Sign Competition using a Toy Story twist in each event.

We have had two business meetings this semester. At one of those meetings, we heard from the Study Abroad Office on study abroad opportunities campus-wide, and then from Dr. Joe Schatzer about study abroad opportunities in the Agricultural Economics Department. At our second business meeting Dr. Wade Brorsen spoke about graduate school, accompanied by current graduate students who answered questions about the everyday life of a graduate student.

This year Aggie-X is doing its very first raffle. We are raffling off tickets for a hand tooled leather pad-folio made by our department’s very own Mr. Garrett Reed. The money raised from the raffle will help fund our annual spring trip, which is to Kansas City this year.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the members of Aggie-X as this year’s President. We are off to a great start this year, and I am excited to see what we accomplish next semester.

Go Pokes,
Amanda Higgins
2018-2019 Aggie-X President

2018-2019 OFFICERS

AMANDA HIGGINS
President
Agricultural Economics, Accounting

KALEE HORN
Educational Vice President
Agribusiness

KELSEY BRIGGS
Administrative Vice President
Agricultural Communications, Agribusiness

AMANDA UPTON
Secretary/Social Media
Agricultural Economics

RIO MOHRMANN
Treasurer
Agricultural Economics, Accounting

The 2018-2019 Aggie-X officer team and members continue participating in the club’s long-standing traditions, as well as establishing some new ones. Front left: Rio Mohrmann, Kalee Horn, and Amanda Higgins. Back left: Kelsey Briggs, Amanda Upton, and Dr. John Michael Riley, adviser.
The back half of 2018 has been busy for graduate students in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University (OSU). While we have been productive in our research and actively engaged in professional organizations, we have also found some spare time to enjoy our lives in Stillwater.

The main objective of the Agricultural Economics Graduate Student Association (GSA) is to enhance the graduate student experience at OSU through social and professional activities. This year’s officer team includes: Lauren Clark, from Eagle, Idaho; Whoi Cho, from Gangneung, South Korea; Abby ShalekBriski, from Twin Falls, Idaho; Leann Westbrook, from Belvins, Arkansas; and Kayla Hildebrand, from Templeton, California. GSA is advised by Brian Whitacre, professor and extension economist.

The 2018 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting was held in Washington, D.C. at the beginning of August. Eight of our students shared their research through either a formal presentation or poster, or moderated a session. In addition, our students have continued OSU’s almost 10-year legacy of having primary leadership roles with the Graduate Student Section of AAEA. This academic year, Will Maples serves as the section’s chair, while Aaron Ates has transitioned into an advisory role as past chair, and I have the fortune of assisting as chair-elect.

To kickoff the semester, GSA hosted its annual welcome social at Eskimo Joe’s where we enjoyed its famous cheese fries and each other’s company. Jawauna Harding, senior career consultant at OSU Career Services, shared insights during our November meeting about job search resources, salary negotiation and evaluation of job offers. We have plans to bring more speakers from within our discipline to showcase the areas of teaching, research, and extension to students.

There are currently 51 graduate students in the department, 29 of those pursuing a Ph.D., 20 pursuing a Master of Science, and two a Master of Agriculture. Our students hail from 15 states and 9 countries.

We look forward to the successes our students will accomplish in the months to come as they work on their research projects and attend professional meetings, such as the 2019 Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama.

Go Pokes!

Logan Britton
2018-2019 GSA President
Back to School - Tax School, that is.

The Oklahoma State University Farm and Business Tax Institute continues to be a leading provider of professional education for tax preparers.
Federal income taxes have been around since 1913, but, despite their longstanding history, tax laws and regulations continue to change and develop. New regulations and laws change with the economy, which calls for accountants, lawyers, tax professionals, and others to stay current with those changes. Farm tax laws in particular require more attention from tax preparers and professionals because of their complexity.

In the 1940s, Extension educators realized there was a need for tax preparers and professionals, farmers and ranchers, and Extension specialists to become better educated about farm tax preparations and the tax laws that affect farm and ranch businesses. Factors, like the weather or world trade, can affect tax preparation, especially farm income tax rules.

In order for tax preparers and professionals to get this critical information, Extension personnel developed a “curriculum,” which was developed into an Extension publication, and was later adopted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as IRS Publication 225, The Farmer’s Tax Guide. This publication is reviewed and updated annually to make sure the information is both current and accurate.

What began as a way to inform people about farm tax preparation and appropriate legislation, has now evolved into a two-day course, known as the OSU Farm and Business Tax Institute. There are 25 states that have tax schools designed to provide continuing education for tax preparers. The Oklahoma State University tax education program was established in 1961 and continues to be a superior tax education program for tax preparers and professionals.

In the beginning, tax school students were primarily farmers, tax preparers, and Extension specialists. However, as tax laws and regulations evolved, the student demographic changed to include a broader audience in order to address issues affecting individuals and businesses.

The mission of the Oklahoma State University Tax School is to provide a quality, valuable tax education.

Associate Extension Specialist, J. C. Hobbs said, “Our goal is to provide quality continuing education for income tax preparers.”

Hobbs has coordinated and taught the OSU Tax School since 2003, but his roots in the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service began in 1985.

Other instructors at the OSU Tax School include CPAs, a retired Extension specialist, and tax attorneys. The OSU Tax School also has instructors who are representatives of various agencies like the IRS, the Oklahoma Tax Commission, and the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

Hobbs said, “We have a set of instructors who are really well-respected.”

The OSU Tax School offers eight two-day schools in six different locations throughout the state annually. Each Tax School provides its students with 16 credit hours of education, which are then reported to their appropriate professional affiliations.

All tax school coordinators in the United States meet twice a year to update the curriculum, develop materials, write the course book, and prepare information that will be taught at the schools.

Hobbs said farming is a business, and the tax legislation changes every year will affect many of those who attend the Tax School. It is for that reason the curriculum changes each year to ensure instructors are covering current federal tax issues.

“If you look at what all has impacted us, that is going to be the focus of our tax schools this year – the tax law,” Hobbs said.

A major focus of the OSU Tax School every year is to review new legislation and to determine how to properly report income/expenses according to that new legislation, Hobbs said.

Specific topics typically included at an OSU Tax School are new individual and business tax legislation, agricultural and natural resource issues, income tax planning for both individuals and businesses, professional ethics, retirement planning, and Oklahoma income tax updates, among other tax relevant topics.

Hobbs said some topics at the OSU Tax School only appear every two to three years, but agricultural topics, new legislation, and individual and business topics, as well as ethics, are covered every year.

The OSU Tax School instructors teach attendees how to prepare returns and work within the law. A majority of the schools’ materials are designed specifically for Oklahoma tax preparers, Hobbs said.

While the OSU Tax School caters to Oklahomans, there are a handful of out-of-state attendees. In years past, there have been attendees from as far away as New York and Arizona whose clients live in Oklahoma, or who have businesses in the state, Hobbs said.

The early founders of the tax school created a highly relevant tool. They established a valuable opportunity for tax preparers and professionals that is still valued today. The OSU Tax School provides outstanding education to further one’s tax knowledge, and continues to be one of the leading programs in the country.
For the past two years, a student from the Agricultural Economics Department has held a National FFA office.

RIDGE HUGHBANKS
2018-2019 National FFA Organization
Central Region Vice President
An agribusiness and pre-law junior

Over the last few months I have been continuously reminded of how truly blessed I am. The outpouring of support and encouragement I have received from the Agricultural Economics Department, CASNR, and beyond has instilled in me a higher sense of confidence and trust which I know will carry me through this exciting year of service with the National FFA Organization. I am most excited to share the mission, lessons, and traditions of this organization and of an agrarian upbringing with students, industry leaders, and supporters nationwide. All of this while growing as an individual and seeking out ways to progress the organization and the agricultural industry for years to come.

PIPER MERRITT
2017-2018 National FFA Organization
Central Region Vice President
An agricultural economics sophomore

My hope is that members will continue to understand their full potential, the influence they can have in empowering others, and the power they have to create change in our world. Our organization will grow and thrive if we continue with open perspectives, innovative mind-sets, and the excitement to reach outside our comfort zones.
Eric DeVuyst, an agricultural economics professor, and a team of programmers are developing several apps to help farmers and producers with farm production management decisions.

The agricultural economics department is creating a series of farm production management decision apps for mobile electronic devices. These apps serve a dual purpose: 1) providing producers with profits and costs decision-making tools on a mobile device and 2) providing information about the Agricultural Economics Department at OSU to potential future students and their parents. Pressing the “About” button brings up this information plus links to agricultural economics web sites for faculty, course descriptions, research, social media, and other data.

Working with a team of programmers, the apps are being created by Eric DeVuyst, agricultural economics professor and Neustadt Chair in Agricultural Economics. These apps are based on spreadsheets on the Agricultural Economics Extension Enterprise Budgets website. These spreadsheets were previously developed for agricultural producers by agricultural economics faculty and staff.

As apps, these decision-making tools are literally put into the hands of producers with access to mobile media devices. No longer limited to desktop or laptop computer access, producers can now do farm planning and budgeting in downtime situations, for example, waiting in the feed store or in line at the mill, attending auctions, or working with suppliers.

Two apps are currently available as free downloads on the Apple iTunes store and Google Play under the search name DASNR:
1) Cow-Calf Budgeting app
2) Crop Budgeting app
   (Includes 8 crop selections)

A third app on Wheat Stocker Budgeting is close to being released. A fourth app on Cow Bid Price Estimate Calculation is being developed.

The apps contain a helpful walkthrough showing the steps to create a budget. In the Cow-Calf Budgeting app, producers can create a budget by projecting herd information – number of head/ acres per cow/percent of land cost for steers, heifers, and cull cows, replacement heifers, and bulls. All apps include production costs, operating inputs, and fixed costs based on the current and/or expected economic environment, and management practices typical of an area.

The apps are being marketed through agricultural economics social media sites. They are also being demonstrated to various Extension audiences and groups throughout the state. Agricultural Economics Assistant Extension Specialist, Agricultural Finance, Brent Ladd, posts information monthly on social media.
The economic outlook for Oklahoma agriculture, the effect of the federal and state changes in budgets and ag policy, and the concentration and structural change in U.S. Agriculture were the primary topics addressed at the recent 2018 Agricultural Economics Rural Economic Outlook Conference held at Oklahoma State University (OSU).

Tom Coon, Vice President of the OSU Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (DASNR), welcomed over 110 people attending the conference including producers and agricultural suppliers, plus individuals from finance and education. Dr. Coon spoke of the considerable challenges facing rural Oklahoma and the agricultural sector today, such as producing a quality crop, with risk and uncertainty, and then having trouble finding a market for it.

The first of two keynote speakers, Nathan Kauffman, from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City – Omaha Branch, presented statistical data on four outlook themes:
• Momentum in the national economy has persisted, but the agricultural economy has remained in a prolonged downturn; the outlooks for agriculture and the U.S. economy have reversed since 2013.
• Agricultural credit conditions have continued to deteriorate gradually, although the value of farm real estate has remained a relative bright spot.
• Signs of stabilization in agriculture earlier in the year have become more questionable with ongoing trade disputes.
• Interest rates have continued to rise at a gradual pace, putting pressure on highly leveraged operations.

Kauffman concluded by saying:
• National economic indicators remain relatively strong, driven by growth in metro areas, consumer spending, and the services sector.
• The agricultural sector remains one of the weakest in the region as commodity prices have dropped recently alongside trade disputes.
• The near-term test for U.S. agriculture is beginning now, after the fall harvest. Risks will mount if China maintains its reduced pace of soybean imports from the U.S., and if planting in South America

Dr. Dave Shideler, an OSU agricultural economics associate professor, spoke to a full house at the Rural Economic Outlook Conference. His presentation was titled “A Tale of Two Oklahomas? Growing Disparities Between Oklahoma’s Urban and Rural Counties.” Photo by: Mariie Moore
accelerates.

- Uncertainty around the next Farm Bill also remains.

Dave Shideler, OSU Agricultural Economics Associate Professor, Community Development, then discussed the state of the rural economy, citing “A Tale of Two Oklahomas?” based on the growing disparity between Oklahoma’s urban and rural counties. The metropolitan corridor has shown population and employment growth over the past decade while the reverse is true in many nonmetropolitan counties.

Dr. Amy Hagerman, OSU Agricultural Economics Assistant Professor, noted that there are multiple sources of risk facing producers and that risk management tools are critical. The federal changes in budget and policy, another factor that is having an effect on Oklahoma agriculture, were also discussed by Dr. Hagerman. These changes include the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017; The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018; and the 2018 U.S., Mexico, and Canada Agreement (USMCA) that has replaced NAFTA.

Another critical factor is the expired 2014 Farm Bill, whose replacement’s date is uncertain. Hagerman presented several of the issues and concerns of the new version of the Farm Bill currently under discussion. Major areas, which represent 99 percent of spending in the 2014 Farm Bill, are commodity programs, crop insurance programs, conservation, and nutrition (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

Hagerman cautioned that, “November midterm elections and the possible change in the House majority could throw a wrinkle in a timely new Farm Bill passage. It could be a long road.”

James M. MacDonald, USDA Economic Research Service, addressed two topics: structural changes in the farm sector, and a concentration in agribusiness. He noted that there is actually less consolidation in Oklahoma.

Closing out the afternoon session, OSU agricultural economics faculty members presented facts and outlooks for ag finance topics (Rodney Jones, Oklahoma Farm Credit Professor); grain markets (Kim Anderson, Professor Emeritus and extension economist); and livestock markets (Derrell Peel, Professor and Charles Breedlove Professorship in Agribusiness).

To view a video of the conference or access the PowerPoint slide presentations, go to agecon.okstate.edu/extension/ruralconference.
The Agricultural Economics Department had several students and faculty attend and make presentations at the AAEA and WAEA Conferences.

**APPLIED AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION (AAEA) ANNUAL MEETINGS**
Washington, D.C.

- Posters Presented: 4
- Selected Presentations: 5
- Served as Moderator for Selected Presentations: 3
- Track Session Organizer and Moderator: 4
- Selected Presentation Moderator: 2
- Track Session Presentation: 1

**WESTERN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION (WAEA) ANNUAL MEETINGS**
Anchorage, Alaska

- Selected Papers Presented: 8
- Graduate Student Competition: 1
Faculty Awards

CHANJIN CHUNG
2018 Oklahoma State University Outstanding Graduate Coordinator

SHANNON FERRELL
Promoted to Professor

DAYTON LAMBERT
Appointed Willard R. Sparks Chair in Agribusiness Studies

NOTIE LANSFORD
2018 Southern Rural Development Center Bonnie Teater Community Development Lifetime Achievement Award

KELLIE RAPER
2018 Dan and Junita Childs Service Award

JOE SCHATZER
2018 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award
2018 Phi Beta Delta Epsilon Upsilon Inductee

MIKE WOODS
2018 Phi Beta Delta Epsilon Upsilon Inductee

DAN AND JUNITA CHILDS SERVICE AWARD
Kellie Raper received the Dan and Junita Childs Service Award on August 15, 2018.

A one-time stipend is presented annually to a faculty member judged to provide exemplary service for the good of the department. This is a faculty member that demonstrates the very best of “good citizenship” or service to the overall welfare of the department.

BONNIE TEATER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Dr. Notie Lansford received the Bonnie Teater Lifetime Achievement Award on June 12, 2018.

The award is for superior lifetime work by an individual who made an important contribution to the Extension Community Development area.
Get Connected...

Follow the Department of Agricultural Economics on social media to stay up-to-date on events, research, industry news, faculty and more!