Welcome to the spring 2009 issue of Agricultural Economics News. The past academic year was a good one and we hope you enjoy catching up on news from the department. We are very proud of both our undergraduate students and our graduate students. You can read about some of their activities, awards, and recognitions in the newsletter. Our faculty and staff do a great job. You will be able to read about their activities as well. Finally, we do appreciate our alumni and our donors. Advancing and maintaining our programs in teaching, research, and extension is made possible by their generous support and donations.

We welcome several individuals who have recently joined our department. Dr. David Shideler joins us from Murray State University where he was on faculty. David holds a Ph.D. from Ohio State University, and will be working in the economic development area with a joint research/extension appointment. Dr. Jody Campiche also joins our department working in the agricultural policy area. Jody recently earned a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University and will hold a joint research/extension appointment with us. Suzanne Spears recently joined the department working with Dr. Lansford and the County Training Program as a Local Government Specialist. Sunny Sun is our new webmaster and joins us after completing her degree at OSU. We are so pleased to welcome all of these professionals to our department!

Please drop us a line and let us know how you are doing. We love to hear from our friends and alumni. We would like to launch a “where are they now” segment in our newsletter or on our website—but we need to hear from you in order to do that! Finally, remember our next tailgate party organized by Aggie-X is scheduled for October 31, 2009 prior to the Texas football game. More information is available in Aggie-X News later in this newsletter.
Students receive scholarships and awards at annual banquet

Over $68,000 in scholarship monies were awarded to departmental students at the 2009 Agricultural Economics Department and Aggie-X Club Scholarships and Awards Banquet held in April.

A total of 75 students received departmental scholarships; the Aggie-X Club gave eight scholarships.

Special recognitions were also given for various department, college, and university awards.

Jared Davidson (Fort Cobb, Agricultural Economics) was recognized for winning the department’s James Plaxico Award for All-Around Senior – Campus Wide Activities and Academic Achievement, and the CASNR Paul and Mary Hummer Outstanding Senior Award.

Jared and Austin Horn (Agricultural Economics, Yukon) were honored with the CASNR Dean LeCrone Award.

Jared and Katy Brookman (Agricultural Economics, Hollis) received the department’s Outstanding Senior Scholastic Achievement Citation.

Katie also received the 2008-2009 Outstanding Senior Award from the Western Agricultural Economics Association plus the 2009 Feedstuffs Scholar Award.

Jared was also presented the Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award and the Oklahoma Chapter of American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Award for Outstanding Appraiser, the L.A. Parcher Award.

Travis Schnaithman (Agribusiness, Garber) received the chapter’s E.E. Huff Award for Outstanding Farm Manager.

Top Seniors

The top twelve seniors in the College of Agriculture included the following students from the department: Jared Davidson, Austin Horn, Myriah Johnson (Agricultural Economics, Perry), and Nathan Thompson (Agricultural Economics, Chandler).

Five Ag Econ students were selected as CASNR Seniors of Significance 2008-2009: Jared Davidson, Myriah Johnson, Austin Horn, Brianna Jett (Agricultural Economics, Laverne), and Nathan Thompson.

Jared Davidson and Austin Horn were among those chosen as OSU Alumni Association 2008-2009 Outstanding Seniors. The Outstanding Senior award
recognizes students who distinguish themselves through academic achievement; campus and community activities; academic, athletic, or extra-curricular honors or awards; scholarships; and work ethic during their time at Oklahoma State University.

Along with Katy and Jared, 17 other seniors were recognized for Outstanding Academic Achievement (graduating seniors with a GPA of 3.5 or higher):

- James Coggins (Agribusiness, Ramona)
- Tucker Collins (Agribusiness, Sapulpa)
- Will Cosner (Agribusiness, Gans)
- Austin Horn
- Brianna Jett
- Myriah Johnson
- Erin Lyle (Agricultural Economics, Comanche)
- Catherine Maquet (Agribusiness, Lawton, Utah)
- Marcus Munger (Agribusiness, Collinsville)
- Haley Rader (Agribusiness, Canadian, Texas)
- Rachel Ringdahl (Agribusiness, Centreville, Virginia)
- Je Dee Schmidt (Agricultural Economics, Coyle)
- Nathan Thompson
- Landon Vilhauer (Agribusiness, Loyal)
- Monike Walker (Agribusiness, Ada)
- Carra Whitmore (Agribusiness, Coyle)
- Christopher Zakrzewicz (Agricultural Economics, Guymon)

**Top Freshman**

Ag Econ student Wyatt Swinford was selected as one of the OSU Top Ten Freshman Men and Women for 2007-2008. Six students from the department were among the OSU Top Twenty Freshman Men and Women for 2007-2008: D. Rayne Austin (Agricultural Economics, Ringling), Justin Ladd (Agricultural Economics, Perry), Paul Barbour (Agribusiness, Guthrie), Cody Ott (Agribusiness, Fairview), Bryce Castonguay (Agribusiness, Omega), and Paula Smithheisler (Agricultural Economics, Tonkawa).

**Jared Davidson chosen for USA Today team**

Jared Davidson was named to the second team in USA TODAY’s annual All-USA College Academic Team competition that honors those who excel both in and out of the classroom. Jared has worked with local agencies to create an information clearinghouse on the rural economy for communities and counties. Jared was honored with a plaque that will hang permanently in the OSU Student Union.
Students inducted into agriculture honor society

Undergraduates Austin Horn, Ashley Mason (Agricultural Economics, Tulsa), Shayla Sutton (Agribusiness, Erick), and Keven Waldschmidt (Agribusiness, Waldon, Kansas) were inducted into Gamma Sigma Delta (honor society of agriculture) at its spring 2009 reception and initiation in April.

Students selected to Mortar Board society

Six Ag Econ students were selected to the OSU Achafou Chapter of Mortar Board for 2009-2010. They are Brady Brewer (Hunter Senior, Agricultural Economics), John Brewer (Amarillo senior, Agribusiness) Bryce Castonguay (Junior), Megan Landon (Jenks Senior, Agribusiness) Ashley Mason (Tulsa Senior, Agricultural Economics), and Kalyn Neal (Oklahoma City Senior, Agribusiness). Mortar Board is a national honor society that recognizes college seniors for excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership and service. Mortar Board members represent the top scholars and leaders on the OSU campus.

Travis Schnaithman recognized by National FFA

The National FFA Organization named Travis Schnaithman as the 2008 American Star Farmer at a ceremony during their 2008 national convention in Indianapolis. Travis began his FFA career in 2000 at Garber Middle School when he was eight years old. That same year, Travis leased 12.5 acres from his grandfather and purchased his first set of Suffolk ewes. Travis says, “I’m a fifth-generation farmer. I couldn’t let my generation be the one to let it slip away.” After graduation, Travis says that he wants to return to the farm as a full-time production agriculturist. “I can’t wait to get home and be in the midst of it all,” he stated.

According to Dr. Mike Dicks, Ag Econ professor and Travis’s advisor, “Travis is an exceptional individual who will carry on the tradition of excellence CASNR students are known for.” Travis says that he is grateful to the CASNR faculty, who he feels “...go above and beyond with their students. The agricultural technology being produced at OSU is incredible.”

Travis Schnaithman was named the 2008 American Star Farmer by National FFA.
Hello, my name is Kyle Slagell, and I am currently serving as the 2009-2010 Aggie-X President. I am very excited about this coming year and the officers that will be serving along with me. This year’s officers are Johnna Rushin, Educational Vice-President; Courtney Pinkerton, Administrative Vice-President; Charlie Slough, Assistant Administrative Vice-President; Paula Smithheisler, Secretary/Reporter; and Jessica Morgan, Treasurer. After meeting with the officer team a few times, I am very excited about the group and know we will have a great year.

Last year we had our first annual Aggie-X tailgate. A lot of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni turned out for this event. Although I was unable to attend, I understand that the tailgate was a huge success. This year we are excited to have the second annual tailgate on October 31, 2009, when the cowboys will be playing Texas. Since the kick-off time is not yet set, we unsure of when the tailgate will begin. If you are interested in being contacted when a time is set, please email me at kyle.slagell@okstate.edu or osuaggie-x@hotmail.com so we can be sure to contact you once a time is decided. Also, watch the Agricultural Economics website, http://agecon.okstate.edu for updates. The tailgate will be held on the northeast side of Ag Hall.

After saying goodbye to a great senior class, we are looking forward to new leadership, a fresh group of willing workers, and many new ideas. I am looking forward to this new year and the many things to come.
New Aggie-X officers for the 2009-2010 school year at the 2009 banquet: (left to right) Jessica Morgan, Treasurer; Paula Smithheisler, Secretary/Reporter; Kyle Slagell, President; Charlie Slough, Assistant Administrative Vice President; Johnna Rushin, Education Vice President, Courtney Pinkerton, Administrative Vice President; and Senior Advisor Dr. Darrell Pell. Not pictured is Dr. Brian Adam, Junior Advisor.

Retiring Aggie-X officers for the 2008-2009 school year at the 2009 banquet: (left to right) Hannah Gregory, Treasurer; Noah Evans, Assistant Administrative Vice-President; Jordan Slagell, Administrative Vice-President; Chris Cain, Education Vice President; Carol Cook, President; and Senior Advisor Dr. Darrell Peel. Not pictured are Caitlin Freeny, Secretary/Reporter, and Dr. Brian Adam, Junior Advisor.
Graduate students inducted into agriculture honor society

Graduate students Arjun Basnet (MS, Agricultural Economics), Kathleen Brooks (PhD, Agricultural Economics), and Anh Vo (MS, Agricultural Economics) were inducted into Gamma Sigma Delta (honor society of agriculture) at its spring 2009 reception and initiation in April.

Fall graduates

10 graduate students graduated in December 2008. They are:

- Helen Barela, MS
- Jason Duke, MS
- Sierra Howry, PhD
- Rachel Johnson, MS
- Josh Parks, MS
- Rob Prickett, MS
- Lacey Seibert, MS
- Krista Smith, MAg
- Steve Toler, MS
- Emmanuel Tumusiime, MS

A departmental hooding ceremony was conducted in December.

Spring/summer graduates

18 graduate students graduated in spring/summer 2009. They are:

- Zakou Amadou, MS
- Ajita Atreya, MS
- William Barela, MS
- Jae Bong Chang, PhD
- Deepayan Debnath, MS
- Januka Dhungel, MS
- Amanda Dickson, MS
- Abdoulaye Mahamane Djido, MS
- Steve Gilliland, MS
- Dayton Hancock, MAg
- Robbie Hatchett, MS
- Taeyoon Kim, PhD
- Yoonsuk Lee, MS

Dr. Joe Schatzer with Krista Smith (MAg) following the department hooding ceremony in

Dr. Phil Kenkle hoods Taeyoon Kim (PhD) during the department hooding ceremony in May. Mistress of Ceremonies Dr. Shida Henneberry looks on.
Abdul Naico, MS
Seongcheol Park, PhD
David Roberts, PhD
Wade Svetgoff, MS
Anh Vo, MS

A departmental hooding ceremony was held in May.

**Dissertation/Thesis Topics**

**Spring 2009**

Three Essays on Modeling Consumer Demand, Jae Bong Chang, Spring 2009
Three Essays on Applied Economics: Rural Electric Cooperative Call Center Demand, Fertilizer Price Risk and Estimating Efficiency with Data Aggregation, Taeyoon Kim, Spring 2009 Dissertation
Management Production Systems and Timing Strategies for Cull Cows, Zakou Amadou, Spring 2009 Thesis
Basis Forecasts and the Law of One Price, Robbie Hatchett, Spring 2009 Thesis
Consumer Preference for Orange and White-Fleshed Sweet Potato: Results from a Choice Experiment Conducted in Maputo and Gaza Provinces, Mozambique, Abdul Naico, Spring 2009 Thesis
Relationships among Prices across Alternative Marketing Arrangement for Fed Cattle and Hogs, Yoonsuk Lee, Spring 2009 Thesis
Restricting Ferral Hogs from Creep Feeders with RFID Technology, Dayton Hancock, MAg, Spring 2009

**Fall 2008**

Economic Analysis of Management Practices to Reduce Phosphorus Loading in the Eucha-Spavinaw Lakes, Sierra Howry, Fall 2008 Disssertation
Feasibility of a 5,000,000 Gallon per Year Biodiesel Production Facility Using Canola, Soybeans, and Sunflowers as Feedstock, Josh Parks, Fall 2008 Thesis
The Cost of Coexistence between Bt Maize and Open Pollinated Maize Varieties in Lowland Coastal Kenya, Emmanuel Tumusiime, Fall 2008 Thesis
Adoption of Recommended Management Practices in Stocker Cattle Production, Rachel Johnson, Fall 2008 Thesis
Concern for Inequity: A Deeper Look at Farmer’s Markets, Steve Toler, Fall 2008 Thesis
Consumer Preferences for Farm Animal Welfare: Results from a Telephone Survey of U.S. Households, Rob Prickett, Fall 2008 Thesis
An Economic Analysis of Alternatives to Confinement Pork Production, Lacey Seibert, Fall 2008 Thesis
Comparison of Production Systems Involving Grain-Only Wheat, Dual-Purpose Wheat, and Canola, Jason Duke, Fall 2008 Thesis
Entrepreneurship and Rural Communities: A Thematic Analysis of Roundtable Sessions Across America, Helen Barela, Fall 2008 Thesis

Characteristics of Edible Twine for Hay Production, Krista Smith, MAg, Fall 2008 Thesis

New Graduate Students in summer/fall 2009

- Zakou Amadou  PhD  Niger
- Max Corbin  MS  Oklahoma
- Andrew Griffith  PhD  Tennessee
- Michael Machiorlatti  PhD  Oklahoma
- Matt Padgett  MS  Oklahoma
- JoDee Schmidt  MS  Oklahoma
- Kevin Schneider  PhD  Oklahoma
- Carra Whitmore  MS  Oklahoma
- Brian Williams  PhD  Nebraska
- Galen Williams  MS  Oklahoma
- Christopher Zakrzewicz  MS  Oklahoma

Activities

Graduates hold annual picnic

Graduate students hosted their annual picnic in April. Faculty and staff and their families were guests of the graduate students. Afterward, several students and faculty had fun playing softball.

Chili Cook-Off
(Submitted by graduate student Anh Vo)

The first departmental Chili Cook-Off held by the Graduate Student Association (GSA) in February was a great success. Over 70 participants from the Ag Econ Department attended. The event allowed staff, faculty, and students to get together, share chili, and have fun.

The idea behind the planned event was to eat good food and find out who makes the best chili. It also generated a little cash for the GSA.

The winners in first, second, and third place were Steve Gilliland, Robbie Hatchett, and Joyce Grizzle, respectively. Prizes were donated by local stores in Stillwater and included things such as gift cards and potted plants. Many of the participants expressed enthusiasm and hope to see a similar event in the future. The Ag Econ Chili Cook-off was made possible thanks to the support from local Stillwater donors, the cooks, the judges, and many others.
Faculty recognized at spring Banquet

At the scholarship and awards banquet, the Aggie-X club honored department faculty members Dr. Larry Sanders with their Outstanding Teacher Award and Dr. Shannon Ferrell with their Outstanding Advisor Award. Dr. Sanders teaches Ag Policy, and Dr. Ferrell teaches Ag Law.

Dr. Ferrell was also selected as the Alpha Zeta Outstanding Teacher. Alpha Zeta (a professional organization for persons in agriculture, natural resources, life sciences, and related fields) strives to recognize high standards of scholarship, develop outstanding leadership, promote agriculture to the community, and serve colleges of agriculture.

CASNR alumni recognize faculty members

Four Agricultural Economics professors were among the 12 recognized by CASNR alumni for their dedication to students: Dr. Kim Anderson, Dr. Bailey Norwood, Dr. Joe Schatzer, and Dr. Joe Williams. The alumni completed a survey about their experiences at OSU while giving credit to faculty who had a direct impact on their collegiate careers.

Mike Dicks receives Oklahoma Farm Bureau award

Dr. Mike Dicks received the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Distinguished Service award during their 67th annual meeting held in Oklahoma City. The award is designed to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture and to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

Faculty members attend SAEA meeting

Several Agricultural Economics Department faculty members and graduate students attended the 2008 Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) in Atlanta. Dr. Jayson Lusk currently serves on the SAEA Executive Committee. Department Head Dr. Mike Woods and faculty members Dr. Kelly Raper and Dr. Lusk served on SAEA awards committees.

Students and faculty make presentations

Faculty members and graduate students made presentations at 11 Selected Paper sessions. Faculty members also presented at two Organized Symposia and two Invited Paper sessions and served as Organizer for one Invited Paper session and Moderator for one invited Paper session.

Faculty members garnered three major awards:

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Larry Sanders received the SAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Sanders has served as an Extension Economist within the department since 1985. He works with fellow Ag Econ economists, policy makers, citizen, and governmental agencies in the broad arena of public policy. He has focused on many important issues during his career including agricultural policy, natural resources, rural development, citizen
participation, and trade. He also teaches two highly regarded courses, agricultural policy and natural resources.

**Distinguished Extension/Outreach Award**

Ag Econ faculty members Dr. Derrell Peel, Dr. Clem Ward, Dr. Damona Doye, and Dr. David Lalman (Animal Science) received the Outstanding Extension Program Award for the OSU Master Cattleman Program.

**Outstanding Teaching of a Course**

Dr. Shannon Ferrell received the award for Outstanding Teaching of a Course (AGEC 4413, Agriculture Law).

**Dr. Henneberry conducts tour for visitors**

Dr. Shida Henneberry recently took a visiting scholar from Iran and students and other visitors from China on a tour of OSU’s Swine Farm, Food Processing Center, and Willard Sparks Ranch.

Two of the gentlemen from China are with the National Bureau of Statistics and are working on a grant with Dr. Henneberry.

Dr. Naser Shanhnousi from Iran spent six months at OSU, where Dr. Henneberry was his sponsor.

Nini Zheng, a PhD student at the China Agricultural University in Beijing and her husband are visiting for 18 months funded by a scholarship from the China Ministry of Education.

Dr. Henneberry serves as a mentor to all of these visitors.

**Dr’s Lusk and Norwood featured at Celebrating Books by OSU Authors event**

Jayson Lusk and Bailey Norwood were honored at the Celebrating Books by OSU Authors event in February at the Edmon Low Library. Dr. Norwood and Dr. Lusk co-authored Agricultural Marketing and Price Analysis. Dr. Lusk also wrote Experimental Auctions: Methods and Applications in Marketing and Economic Research.

**Dr. Schatzer honored by agriculture honor society**

Dr. Joe Schatzer received the Experienced Teacher Award of Merit at the Gamma Sigma Delta (honor society of agriculture) spring 2009 reception and initiation in April. Dr. Damona Doye received the Experienced Extension Educator Award of Merit.

**Dr. Bob Oehrtman recognized by the Stillwater Rotary Club**

Dr. Bob Oehrtman, retired faculty member in the Ag Econ Department, was recently honored by the Stillwater Rotary Club as the non-Rotarian Outstanding Stillwater Citizen of the Year for 2008-2009. The award was made ...“for the service above self over the many years in the City of Stillwater.” In addition to his work in agriculture, Dr. Oehrtman spent many years in the Scouting organization. In 1995, he received the District Award of Merit from the Pawnee Bill District of the Cimarron Council.
**Al Tongco wins Wii Tennis match**

After an exciting week of Wii tennis games, the final match was between Dr. Francis Epplin, an old tennis pro with a mean serve, and Dr. Al Tongco, (Research Specialist) a lefty with a speedy and fierce return shot. Al was presented with a trophy, a pat on the back, and a handshake. The loser received a piece of the victor’s cake.

![Al Tongco (left) and Francis Epplin battle on the Wii tennis court.](image)

**Department Secretary Joyce Grizzle honored by Gamma Sigma Delta and OSU**

Joyce Grizzle, Department Administrative Assistant for almost 30 years, received the Gamma Sigma Delta Staff Award for Merit at their spring reception and initiation. Joyce was also selected as a finalist for the OSU Distinguished Service Award in the Administrative/Professional category.

**Joe Neal Hampton receives DASNR alumnus award**

Joe Neal Hampton recently received the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Distinguished Service Alumnus award. Joe received his BS in 1971 and his MS in 1975, both in agricultural economics at OSU. He was recognized as a leader of distinction, not only within the agricultural community, but also on the state and national legislative levels. Joe has served as president and chief executive officer of the Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association since 1975. He has also served as executive vice president of the Oklahoma Seed Trade Association and president and chief executive officer of the Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association.

According to Mike Woods, Ag Econ department head, Joe’s numerous leadership roles have been “critically important to Oklahoma agriculture. Joe Neal Hampton combines his vast knowledge of issues with a true passion to make a difference.”
Reception honors Barry Pollard

Dr. Barry Pollard and his family were honored at a reception in December to express appreciation for his endowment of the Barry Pollard/P&K Equipment Professorship in Agribusiness. According to DASNR Dean Bob Whitson, the endowment will encourage excellence in cross-disciplinary teaching and scholarship in agricultural business.

Jacques family honored at reception

A reception was held in November to honor agricultural economics alumnus AJ Jacques, his wife Susan, and their family for their endowment of a Chair in Agricultural Economics. According to Mike Woods, the chair will enhance scholarly efforts in the department for years to come.

H.E. Rainbolt reception

H.E. Rainbolt was honored at a reception for his endowment of the Rainbolt Chair in Agricultural Finance. Dr. Mike Woods stated that this endowment will enhance teaching and scholarship and will be of direct benefit to the state’s producers and agribusinesses, including lending institutions supporting these endeavor and the communities in which they are situated.
Marvin Welch celebrates 103 years

Ag Econ alumnus Melvin Welch, who graduated from OSU in 1928, recently celebrated his 103rd birthday. Welch was born in 1906 in Helena, Oklahoma. After graduating high school, Welch says his next step was to head off to college. "My mother never had a formal education, which pushed her to want all of her children to attend college. She sold eggs, cream, and butter to help pay for my education. I chose the agricultural economics department along with a few of my buddies. Also, it was brand new in 1924, which seemed exciting.” Welch still farms 360 acres with his family on the family farm where he grew up.

Other News

Aggie-X and faculty members assist with FFA Interscholastics event

Members of the Ag Econ faculty served as judges, and Aggie-X members served refreshments, acted as guides, and assisted the judges at the FFA Interscholastics event held at OSU in April. The Ag Econ competition was one of 30 state FFA events taking place at OSU that day.

Aggie-X members Kyle Slagell, Paula Smithheisler, Charlie Slough, Jordan Slagell, Courtney Pinkerton, and Johnna Rushin provided refreshments for Oklahoma FFA students attending the FFA Interscholastics.
DASNR Day at the Capitol

Several members of the Ag Econ Department participated with displays and information at the 2009 DASNR Day at the Capitol.

DASNR hosts this day each year to touch base with the state legislators regarding the division’s research, extension, and education programs. Those participating this year were Brian Whitacre, Rural Broadband Use: E-commerce and Small Business Websites and Community Health Engagement Process; Notie Lansford, County Government Personnel Education and Training Program; Joe Williams, OK Ag Leadership Program; James “JJ” Jones, OK Meat Goat Education Program; and Damona Doye, Beef Research and Education Programs for OK and Oklahomans and Farm and Family Finance.

Faculty honor staff at Holiday Celebration

The Ag Econ faculty members provided a delicious Holiday Luncheon for the staff in the department. Staff members were recognized for length of service and other accomplishments. The event was held at the Stillwater County Club in December and also included departmental emeriti.

Ag Econ staff, faculty, and emeriti enjoy the 2008 Holiday Luncheon.