Cowboy Economist
Oklahoma State University • Department of Agricultural Economics

We Need Your Help!
FFA Members Succeed

A Look to 2050
Comments from the Department Head

The Agricultural Economics Department has had a busy summer and fall. Summer brings professional meetings, new student enrollment, more focused research and, of course, opportunities for vacation; with fall comes new fresh faces to both the undergraduate and graduate program. A number of our faculty and grad students won awards at the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) and Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) annual meetings. At the AAEA meetings, we also began meeting potential candidates for a new research/Extension position in Environmental Economics and Natural Resources. We are excited both about the candidates we will interview early next year and the prospects for new program contributions.

In a faculty planning session prior to the start of the fall semester, we discussed and updated departmental priorities. We continue to contribute significantly to both disciplinary and interdisciplinary research. We help many students hone analytical skills that are highly sought by employers. And, we develop and deliver a wide variety of meaningful Extension programs.

Enrollment continues strong in both undergraduate and graduate programs. We offered a new eight week agricultural economics orientation class this fall, which follows the general ag orientation class. Our first cohort of students in the joint program with China Ag University enrolled this fall in Beijing with plans to become Cowboys in Stillwater in fall 2015. At the DASNR fall faculty meeting and OSU convocation, several faculty were recognized for significant academic contributions. We enjoy seeing alumni at events such as our Rural Economic Outlook Conference. Do keep in touch. We love hearing your news.

Sincerely,

Damona Doye
Acting Department Head

Faculty Travel the World

*Faculty members have crisscrossed the world this year.*
In This Issue

From the Department Head .............................................................. 1
Faculty Awards & Recognition ...................................................... 7
Undergraduate Students ................................................................. 8
Graduate Students ......................................................................... 13
Staff .............................................................................................. 17
Extension ........................................................................................ 19
Alumni ............................................................................................ 22
Keynote speaker Joel Kotkin provided “A Look Ahead to 2050” for the attendees at the fourth Rural Economic Outlook Conference organized by the OSU Agricultural Economics Department. Kotkin, an internationally recognized authority on global, economic, political, and social trends, presented projections in these areas for the United States and the Great Plains in particular. Kotkin referenced information from his recently published book, *The Next Hundred Million: America in 2050*. Last year he completed an examination of the rise of the Great Plains for Texas Tech University, working with Praxis Strategy Group.

For growth in the Great Plains, Kotkin predicts the “future drivers” to include:
- The resurgence of basic industry. Oil, gas, and agriculture will be the primary industries contributing to growth in the Great Plains.
- The rise of growth corridors.
- The internet becoming the great leveler; rural areas are no longer isolated.
- Immigration.
- Millennials, seniors, and the role of families driving dispersion.

The trends are that personal income growth and job growth percentage change will be greater in the Great Plains than in the rest of the U.S. He says that the Great Plains will become increasingly globalized, especially in agricultural and oil and gas exports. Agriculture will be driven by the consumer, not only in the U.S, but also in other countries.

Another emerging trend in the Great Plains, according to Kotkin, are the changing demographics of its population, based on these three factors:
1. Nationwide, people are heading to smaller towns and cities. Currently 16 percent for the U.S. population lives in rural or micropolitan areas, but 35 percent want to live in the country.
2. A shift is occurring towards opportunity regions.
3. U. S. population growth will increase interest in the Great Plains, previously known as “flyover country.”

All of these changes, says Kotkin, also bring challenges to rural Oklahoma and the Great Plains:
- Communities need to appeal to new generations, immigrants, and down-shifting boomers. They must build on lifestyle and affordability advantages.
- Industry must focus not just on energy production, but also on processing and research.
- Areas must preserve the natural environment.

Kotkin’s advice to states in the Great Plains is to “build on what you are – just make it better.” He also borrows a line from Shakespeare: “This above all: to thine own self be true.”

Kotkin is the Roger Hobbs Distinguished Fellow in Urban Studies at Chapman University in Orange, California and Executive Editor of the widely read website www.newgeography.com. He writes the weekly “New Geographer” column for Forbes.com. For more information about his work, go to joelkotkin.com.

Keynote speaker Joel Kotkin addresses conferences attendees.
Water Issues
Following Kotkin’s presentation, Larry Sanders, agricultural economics professor, moderated a panel that included JD Strong, Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) director, and Tom Buchanan, Altus-Lugert Irrigation district manager, vice chairman of the OWRB, and president of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. The panel provided information on water issues affecting agriculture and rural Oklahoma.

Sanders discussed the Oklahoma Comprehensive 2060 Water Plan. He also talked about the importance of producers being able to get the water they want, the way they want it, and at the price they want to pay.

Strong also went over the comprehensive water plan. The Oklahoma Water Resources Institute, he says, considers public input from Oklahoma citizens and pays attention to issues important to them. He also stressed “the importance of understanding supply and demand plus budgeting today and projections.”

Buchanan provided information on challenges facing the Altus-Lugert Irrigation district. He stated that “adequate water supply is an absolute necessity for any economic endeavor.” Two crucial endeavors, according to Buchanan, are water development and waste water reuse.

Outlook Panel
Following lunch, participants listened to Drs. Shannon Ferrell, agricultural economics associate professor, Kim Anderson, agricultural economics professor and Extension economist, and Derrell Peel, agricultural economics professor and holder of the Charles Breedlove Professorship in Agribusiness, discuss the outlook for specific areas of the agriculture industry.

Ferrell discussed legal issues facing the agricultural industry.

Anderson highlighted the outlook for crops over the next year, specifically focusing on wheat and corn. He predicted U.S. and world corn stocks to be above average in 2014, causing corn prices to drop in 2014. Anderson also predicted wheat prices to drop between now and June 2014.

Peel predicted 2014 to be the start of herd rebuilding as long as weather cooperates, which will lead to reduced beef production and record cattle and beef prices. Cow-calf producers will be in the driver’s seat as feedlot and packer operations face losses in the rebuilding process.

Research Update
Dr. Jayson Lusk, agricultural economics Regents Professor and Willard Sparks Endowed Chair, shared some of his current research after the outlook panel concluded. Lusk is currently conducting the Food Demand Survey (FoODS). This study is a nationwide monthly survey which began in 2013 that is looking to answer the question, how can we stay on top of current consumer food demands? The surveys are tracking consumer meat demand and awareness and concern about food issues over time. With the results, Lusk plans to create demand indices and forecast changes in consumer demand.

State of Rural Oklahoma and Agriculture
The final speaker of the day was Nathan Kauffman, assistant vice president and Omaha branch executive for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Kauffman addressed the issue of falling commodity prices in rural states and the impact it is having on those economies.

His main points were:
• Agriculture and energy are key parts of the Oklahoma economy.
• Softening crop profits, but strengthening livestock profits are causing a transition in the U.S. agriculture industry.
• With this transition comes risks to U.S. agriculture that could reach beyond 2014.
We would like to thank our sponsors for this year’s conference. They included:

- American Farmers and Ranchers
- BancCentral
- Farm Credit Associations of Oklahoma
- InterBank
- Oklahoma Farm Bureau
- Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
- Oklahoma State University Department of Agricultural Economics
- Payne County Bank

An informal reception was held Thursday night before the conference at the OSU Atherton Hotel for casual networking.

Clem Ward Endowed Scholarship

Make a difference in students’ lives.

Dr. Clem Ward joined the Department of Agricultural Economics in 1978 and throughout his time at OSU was active in Extension and research which benefited the agricultural industry, university, and the community. He also advised and mentored numerous graduate students.

Ward is an internationally recognized authority on the competitive structure and performance of the North American meat industry. He published over 200 journal articles, book chapters, Extension bulletins, and factsheets in his career.

Ward’s dedication to his work earned him countless awards. He was recognized as a Distinguished Scholar by the Western Agricultural Economics Association in 2006. He also received awards from groups such as the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

“Clem Ward is an accomplished scholar as is apparent from his record and achievements. He has also been a key leader in the Department of Agricultural Economics, OSU since joining us in 1978. He twice served as acting or interim Head of the department. He is a role model and someone you turn to when something important needs to be done.”

-Michael Woods, Interim Vice President & Dean of DASNR

To make a gift toward the Clem Ward Endowed Scholarship fund, please make checks payable to OSU Foundation. Contributions may be sent to:

OSU Foundation
Attn: Clem Ward Endowed Scholarship
P.O. Box 1749
Stillwater, OK 74076-1749
Give online at: OSUgiving.com
We Need Your Help!

The Department is updating historical records.

We are currently working to compile a more complete history of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. The information will be developed into a simple booklet to share with alumni, friends, and other key supporters. However, we need YOUR help. If you know of any “fun facts” about the department, please share them with us (see contact information below). One area for which we need help is Aggie-X, specifically the president list. Below is the current list of past Aggie-X presidents, but as you can see there are some holes to be filled. A draft booklet is posted at www.agecon.okstate.edu/communications. Any information you have about the department’s rich history is welcomed.

- 2013-2014 Cordell Lloyd
- 2012-2013 Trindle Brueggen
- 2011-2012 Makayla Krick
- 2010-2011 Johnna Rushin
- 2009-2010 Kyle Slagell
- 2008-2009 Carol Cook
- 2007-2008 Lindsey Cheek
- 2006-2007 Allison Foxhoven
- 2005-2006 Jeremy Williams
- 2004-2005 Jeremy Williams
- 2003-2004 Jared Bochs
- 2002-2003 Bart Fischer
- 2001-2002 Bart Fischer
- 2000-2001 Kimberly Stuart
- 1999-2000 Brian Lamoreaux
- 1998-1999 Brian Trzebiatowski
- 1997-1998 Brenda Ball
- 1996-1997 Chris Amburgy
- 1995-1996 David Davis
- 1994-1995 Sheila (Haken) Taylor
- 1993-1994 Gene Heinrich
- 1990-1991 Cathy Sparks
- 1989-1990 Shawn Sparks
- 1988-1989 Brent Garvie
- 1986-1987 Debbie Wedel
- 1985-1986 Darren Alexander
- 1984-1985 Gene Seiter
- 1983-1984 Gene Seiter
- 1982-1983 Jerry Wakefield
- 1981-1982 Mike Burnett
- 1980-1981 Sam Stein
- 1979-1980 Kent Miller
- 1978-1979 Matt Earnest
- 1977-1978 Wayne Walters
- 1976-1977 Al Westfahl
- 1975-1976 Don Riffe
- 1974-1975 Wade Smith
- 1973-1974 Stan Rogers
- 1972-1973 Stephen Mathis
- 1971-1972 ???
- 1970-1971 John Wolfe
- 1969-1970 Lennie Coffey
- 1968 and earlier

Tell us what you know:
405-744-6161
ageconnews@okstate.edu

Oklahoma State University - Department of Agricultural Economics
@OSUAgEcon
Faculty Recognized for Achievements

Faculty members in the department are constantly achieving excellence, as demonstrated by the countless awards and recognition they receive.

Tracy Boyer
• Received 10 year Service Award

Jody Campiche
• Named Southern Agricultural Economics Association Director (SAEA), 2014-2017

Eric DeVuyst
• Received 5 year Service Award

Gerald Doeksen
• Received 35 year Service Award

Shannon Ferrell
• Elected to the American Agricultural Law Association Board of Directors
• Awarded Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Distinguished Teaching: Less than Ten Years’ Experience award
• Named associate professor with tenure

Rodney Jones
• First holder of the Oklahoma Farm Credit Professorship

Jayson Lusk
• Named Regents Professor
• Named Samuel Roberts Noble Distinguished Fellow at Oklahoma Council for Public Affairs (OCPA)

Phillip Kenkel
• Named Regents Professor

Bailey Norwood
• Received DASNR James A. Whatley Award for Meritorious Research in Agricultural Science
• Received 10 year Service Award

Derrell Peel
• Awarded Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program: Individual: Ten or More Years’ Experience

Joe Schatzer
• Received 30 year Service Award

Dave Shideler
• Received the 2013 Bonnie Teater Community Development Early Career Achievement Award from the Southern Rural Development Center
• Received 5 year Service Award

Dan Tilley
• Named Riata Faculty Fellows for the 2013-2014 school year by the Riata Center for Entrepreneurship in the Spears School of Business
• Inaugural recipient of the Barry Pollard, MD/P&K Equipment, Inc. Professorship in Agribusiness
• Received 30 year Service Award

Brian Whitacre
• Awarded Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program: Individual: Less than Ten Years’ Experience

Shannon Ferrell receives Distinguished Teaching Award at AAEA.

Derrell Peel receives Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program at AAEA.

Brian Whitacre receives Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program at AAEA.
As always, the fall semester was a busy time for the Aggie-X Club. The Back-2-School Bash kicked off the school year and was a great hit. Faculty and students gathered to get in touch with the Aggie-X Club as well as enjoy some of Dr. Peel’s hamburgers and hotdogs.

The annual Aggie-X Tailgate, although it was earlier than ever before, was a huge success. Officers, faculty, alumni, and members joined together for lunch before watching our OSU cowboys get a great win over Kansas State. We look forward to having another successful tailgate in fall 2014.

Recently, the club had the great opportunity to help out the Stillwater community by volunteering for “Into the Streets.” Several members and officers participated in the event, which is designed to help those who are in need within the community complete difficult projects or tasks.

As in years past, the Aggie-X Club would like to invite all alumni and club members who attend the men’s basketball games to stop by our concession stand, number 128 (it is right by the giant statue of Pistol Pete in the northwest entrance). The concession stand is the Aggie-X Club’s primary fundraising throughout the year, with funds going to support scholarships for our members and the club in general. All of your support is greatly appreciated.

With the fall semester winding down, we are looking ahead to the spring semester, which promises to be filled with even more great Aggie-X Club activities.

Cordell Lloyd
Aggie-X Club President

The Aggie-X club participated in the window painting contest for Homecoming 2013. Their window was located on the third floor of Ag Hall in the North wing.

The Aggie-X club hosted their fifth annual tailgate October 5th for the OSU vs. Kansas State football game. Pictured from left to right are: Kisten Taylor (assistant administrative vice president), Anna Whitney (agricultural economics student services specialist), Derrell Peel (Aggie-X advisor), Cordell Lloyd (president), Daniel Herndon (secretary/reporter) and Logan Smith (treasurer).
Student Success Leaders

_Agricultural Economics students serve as leaders in CASNR._

Top 20 Freshmen Men

_Three Agricultural Economics students selected as Top 20 Freshmen._

Mortar Board’s Top 20 Freshmen are students selected based on their scholarship, community service, campus involvement, and outstanding leadership during their freshman year. Students from the department selected to receive this honor were:

- Joseph Beck - agribusiness finance; Mulhall, Oklahoma
- Kyle Hilbert - agricultural economics; Depew, Oklahoma
- James Hutson - agribusiness/Ag Com; Burns Flat, Oklahoma

_Pictured from left to right: Dr. Jim Trapp, Dr. Ross Love, Dr. Damona Doye, Joseph Beck, James Hutson, Dr. Joe Schatzer, and Dr. Cynda Clary._
The 86th National FFA Convention and Expo was held Oct. 28th to Nov. 2nd in Louisville, Kentucky. Students from the Department of Agricultural Economics competed during the convention.

Carson Vinyard, freshman agribusiness major from Altus, Oklahoma, won the National FFA Proficiency in Diversified Crop Production Placement. Vinyard said the award “inspires me to be progressive in my farming practices and be as productive as I can while being a good steward of the land.”

Katie Lippoldt, freshman agribusiness major from Kingfisher, Oklahoma, was part of the national winning Parliamentary Procedure team. Lippoldt also received the Outstanding Member honor. She said it is, “an award the judges give after evaluating each individual’s debating skills as well as working knowledge of parliamentary procedure throughout the competition.”

Tyler Schnaithman, freshmen agribusiness major from Garber, Oklahoma, won the Prepared Public Speaking contest. Schnaithman becomes the fifth Oklahoma student to win the competition in the last five years.

Brandon Baumgarten, junior agricultural economics major from Oilton, Oklahoma, served as the Oklahoma National Officer Candidate. Baumgarten advanced to the final round of the interview process, but was not selected as one of the six officers. “The National Officer Candidate Process is one that is both rigorous and yet enjoyable,” Baumgarten said. “Although my dream didn’t come true, I am thankful for the experience, and the journey I’ve been able to have has been such an honor and blessing to be a part of.”

The National FFA Organization is a youth organization with over 570,000 FFA members in 7,570 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The organization focuses on developing premier leadership, personal growth, and career success in its members through agricultural education.
Freshmen Orientation

**Students in Agricultural Economics take part in first orientation class.**

For the first time, the Department of Agricultural Economics is offering a freshmen orientation course.

The purpose of the freshmen orientation course is for students to learn more about their home department and the opportunities available to them. Students also become familiar with teaching, research, and Extension programs within agricultural economics. They connect with alumni and learn about the range of jobs and careers available to department graduates. Finally, they improve personal skills such as communication, networking etiquette, financial management, and professional development.

“My favorite part of the class has been listening to the different avenues people have taken with an agricultural economics degree,” Naomi Lemon, freshmen agricultural economics and accounting major from Palisade, Colorado, said. “I was not sold on this degree, but I am more confident in my decision after taking this class.”

---

Freshmen Social

**Aggie-X hosts first annual freshmen social.**

In an effort to get freshmen students in the department more engaged during the first semester, the department hosted the first freshmen social at the OSU Botanical Gardens in October. Students were encouraged to mingle with fellow students and faculty members outside of the classroom.

Aggie-X helped serve a hamburger and hot dog meal for everyone who attended.

*Pictured from left to right: Naomi Lemon, freshman agricultural economics and accounting major from Palisade, Colorado, and Dr. Damona Doye, acting department head for agricultural economics.*
Ag Econ Goes Global

The department has partnered with China Ag University.

Written by Dr. Damona Doye, Acting Department Head

In December 2011, President Hargis signed an Educational Affiliation Agreement creating a joint undergraduate degree program between China Agricultural University (CAU) in Beijing, China and the OSU Department of Agricultural Economics. This program offers CAU students the opportunity to study in-country for the first two years of their program, then transfer to OSU-Stillwater to complete B.S. degrees. After graduation, they will be conferred dual degrees: the bachelor degree in agricultural and forestry economic management by CAU and the bachelor degree in agribusiness by OSU. Students take all classes in English in both countries and must meet OSU enrollment requirements upon transfer. Course curriculum and contents have been shared to help ensure incoming students’ backgrounds are comparable to freshmen starting at OSU.

This fall 46 students enrolled in the program to become future Cowboys and Cowgirls. If you follow us on Facebook, you’ve seen a picture of the 32 female and 14 male students in the OSU program who plan to come to Stillwater in fall 2015. I had the pleasure of meeting them in a November trip to China to recruit for OSU at three universities in three cities. Because Facebook and Twitter aren’t allowed in China, virtual penpals are being fostered between OSU and CAU students so the Chinese students have an opportunity to ask questions of their peers about college life at OSU. Interestingly, Kevin Durant is the face, and the OKC Thunder is a team, which helps recruits place OSU geographically. So, when KD was at the OSU-Memphis game in Stillwater, I took a picture with my cell phone and sent it to our students in China.

I can recommend China as a fascinating place to visit. I enjoyed cultural side trips to see the Great Wall, terra cotta warriors, a panda research park, ancient irrigation systems, face-changing theatrical and musical performances and Du Fu’s thatched cottage. People were friendly and, as we were on the banquet circuit which included university administrators who had participated in OSU international education programs, we ate very well. I’ve been asked a lot about the food and my analogy is that Chinese food in the U.S. is to Chinese food in China as canned pineapple is to fresh pineapple—there’s a great difference.

We hope to encourage faculty and student exchanges to CAU in the future. Dr. Joe Schatzer plans to visit in May. We are also trying to engage alumni in China with the students there. Brady Sidwell has already met with the students. If you, or alumni you know, will be visiting Beijing and would be willing to meet students to continue to build connections with OSU, please let Joe Schatzer or me know.
New Graduate Students

The department welcomed 18 new grad students this summer and fall.

Summer 2013 M.S.
Lori Allmon, M.S., Oklahoma
Kelsey Conley, M.S., Ohio

Fall 2013 M.S.
Aaron Ates, M.S., Texas
Curtis Dick, M.S., Oklahoma
Brianna Domnick, M.S., Oklahoma
Leon Hounnou, M.S., Benin
Shannon Mallory, M.S., Oklahoma
Jana Walker, M.S., Oklahoma
Tayler Witte, M.S., Oklahoma
Azaz Zaman, M.S., Bangladesh

Fall 2013 Ph.D.
Jasdeep Singh Banga, Ph.D., India
Ahmad Ghaith, Ph.D., Jordan
Jisung Jo, Ph.D., South Korea
JeongSeung Kim, Ph.D., South Korea
Jung Min Lee, Ph.D., South Korea
Trey Malone, Ph.D., Kansas
Eunchun Park, Ph.D., South Korea
Nurul Nadia Ramli, Ph.D., Malaysia

New Graduate Reception

The department hosted its annual welcome reception.

To welcome new graduate students to OSU, the department hosted its annual welcome reception. Drs. Doye, Chung and Clary spoke to the group. Those in attendance were new and current graduate students and various faculty members. Cookies and punch was served while attendees spent time meeting/welcoming/visiting with new people.
Graduate Scholarships

Graduate students awarded scholarships.

The Spielman Scholarship (Jan and Hank Spielman) is awarded annually to the top two scholars in the M.S. program and the top two scholars in the Ph.D. program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choolwe Haankuku</td>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortney Cowley</td>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhepeng Hu</td>
<td>M.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Anderson</td>
<td>M.S.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Haankuku receives Spielman Scholarship from Drs. Chung and Doye.

The Leo and Betty Blakley Graduate Fellowship is awarded annually to student(s) with at least one semester of course work completed and who are currently studying, or plan a career in dairy marketing or agricultural price analysis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cortney Cowley</td>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Anderson</td>
<td>M.S.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anderson receives Leo and Betty Blakley Graduate Fellowship from Drs. Chung and Doye.

The Leonard F. Miller Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in international rural development is awarded annually to students with a strong interest in rural development:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arjun Basnet</td>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monika Ghimire</td>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederic Ouedraogo</td>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basnet receives Leonard F. Miller Distinguished Graduate Fellowship from Drs. Chung and Doye.

The Clem Ward Endowed Scholarship is awarded to a graduate student with an interest in livestock economics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cortney Cowley</td>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cowley receives Clem Ward Endowed Scholarship from Drs. Chung and Doye.
Graduating Students

Fall 2013 commencement ceremonies held December 13th.

Summer 2013 Graduates
Trey Malone, M.S., An Examination of What Might Be Done to Move Modeling Local Foods Forward
Advisor, Dave Shideler

Seongjin Park, Ph.D., Measuring Bilateral Marketing Power Between Processors and Retailers
Advisor, Chanjin Chung

Pilja Vitale, Ph.D., Management Practices and Efficiency of Farms in the Western Great Plains
Advisor, Francis Epplin

Fall 2013 Graduates
Cole Lamson, M.S., Thinking Inside the Box: Essays on the Evolving Mexican Cattle and Beef Industry
Advisor, Derrell Peel

Trent Milacek, M.S., How Much Would It Be Worth to Know the WASDE Report in Advance?
Advisor, Wade Brorsen

Juheon Seok, Ph.D., Calendar Spread Options for Storable Commodities
Advisor, Wade Brorsen

Sarah Ward, M.Ag., The Economic Impact of the Made in Oklahoma Coalition
Advisor, Rodney Holcomb

International Dinner

GSA hosted the 27th annual international dinner.

On Sunday, September 29th, the Agricultural Economics Graduate Student Association (GSA) hosted their 27th Annual International Dinner at the Wes Watkins Center. The GSA is proud to represent students from 16 countries and seven states. The potluck dinner is designed to help students learn about different parts of the world while introducing them to some new types of cuisine. Students and faculty brought traditional dishes from their home state or country. Throughout dinner, a slideshow displayed interesting pictures and facts about each state and country represented. After dinner, GSA’s social chair, Justin Anderson, led guests in a game of Jeopardy, which included questions and answers from the previously mentioned slideshow. The evening was full of good food and fellowship and was made possible with help from the department and Dr. David Henneberry from the School of International Studies. GSA would also like to recognize and thank the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA) for co-sponsoring the International Dinner.
Graduate Students Hold Leadership Positions

Three department graduate students are serving as organization leaders.

- Trey Malone: 2013-2014 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), Graduate Student Section (GSS), President
- Shannon Mallory: 2013-2014 Oklahoma State University Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA), Secretary
- Robert Parrish: 2013-2014 Oklahoma State University Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA), Parliamentarian

Ph.D. Candidate wins competition

McFadden takes home first in WAEA paper competition.

Department of Agricultural Economics, Ph.D. candidate, Brandon McFadden won the Graduate Student Paper Competition at the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) conference this past summer in Monterey, California.

McFadden said he submitted an abstract for presentation at the WAEA meeting and indicated he would like to be considered for the paper competition. The competition was based on the submitted paper as well as a presentation at the meeting. His paper, “Effects of Cost and Campaign Advertising on Support for California’s Proposition 37,” was then published in the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (JARE).

Upon completing his degree in the spring, McFadden will hold a Ph.D. in agricultural economics and a minor in statistics. He has accepted an assistant professor position in the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida.
New Members Join Agricultural Economics Staff

The department is pleased to welcomed five new staff members.

**Lynn Malley**
Lynn Malley is the new assistant state extension specialist for solid waste management in the agricultural economics department. She has been in the position for a little over a year. Malley says she has been a teacher, prosecutor, hearing officer, mediator, and mediator trainer. In her current job, she states that she has returned to teaching and that it is her privilege “to work with other Extension educators around Oklahoma to support Oklahoma’s rural, tribal, and financially challenged, particularly in the area of solid waste management.” Malley is happy that she “gets to 'talk trash' at every level,” which she says is one of her specialties.

Malley has a law degree, a masters in family policy, and an LL.M. in alternative dispute resolution from the University of Missouri School of Law, and she was a Fulbright Scholar and a visiting faculty fellow in Serbia from 2003-2005.

Away from work, Malley is a Sierra Club national outings leader where she heads outings for the national Sierra Club. These outings are typically environmental service outings and have included trips to Myrtle Beach State Park, Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, New Orleans, and other places.

For more information about Malley’s work with waste management, go to page 21 to read about her Grandparent University session this summer.

**Sara Siems**
The new Extension assistant in risk management education is Sara Siems. Siems is an Oklahoma City native, and graduated with her undergraduate degree from OSU’s Spears School of Business in 2006. She then received a masters of agriculture from OSU in 2013.

Her duties include helping plan and implement regional and statewide Women in Agriculture conferences, assisting “faculty, area specialists, and county-based educators plan, develop, and deliver programs on a variety of farm
management topics,” and contributing to departmental publications.

Siems and her husband Tyler are the directors of the Nazarene Student Center. The couple’s favorite pastime is traveling and being outdoors. She also plays the cello in the Stillwater Community Orchestra.

**Cherie Shupert**
The new administrative assistant for the agricultural economics department is Cherie Shupert, an OSU graduate. She received a B.S. in animal science/ranch operations in 2011. Shupert grew up in the Hydro-Eakly area, where she rooted for the “Bobcats.” She states “I come from a family of seven, and I am a middle child. Life for me was loud and crowded, but simply amazing.”

She enjoys reading, singing (“horribly”), and playing with her two dogs, Lilly and Marvin Gaye. She also likes to play softball and basketball whenever opportunities arise. A typical day for her, she says, “includes throwing a lot of sticks for the dogs, working on my many craft projects (that never seem to get finished), and learning to cook.”

Shupert considers herself to be “very blessed to have the opportunity to have attended Oklahoma State University and I hope to continue to be involved in the orange nation with pistols firing.”

**Ruth Stover**
Agricultural economics’ new accounting specialist, Ruth Stover, comes to the department from the Payne County Clerk’s office, where she worked for 16 years in accounts payable and as the purchasing agent. She is an OSU graduate with a degree in elementary education. She taught first, second, and third grades in Cleveland for 11 years before leaving teaching to pursue other interests.

Stover was born and raised in Pawhuska. “I come from a ranching background,” she says. “We currently have five generations of ranchers on our family ranch.”

She has been married “27 years to the same wonderful husband Tom. We are raising our 14-year old daughter Amanda in Stillwater, where she attends Stillwater Junior High.” Stover has lived in Stillwater for 30 years.

She enjoys reading and doing needle work. Her family also consists of one dog and two cats. She states, “I love cats. I had my last cat for 18 years.”

**Annie Anderson**
The new senior administrative support assistant in the agricultural economics student center is Annie Anderson. Anderson is originally from Crescent, Oklahoma, and is a graduate of Oklahoma State University. She received her M.S. in secondary education in 2008, and then taught middle school English/Language Arts for five years. Anderson will finish her M.Ed. in instructional media in May, and her husband, Justin, will finish his M.S. in agricultural economics in May.

Annie said her responsibilities include editing/producing class materials, processing travel requests, and assisting students. She assists Drs. Epplin, Schatzer, Tilley, Norwood, Vitale, Jones, and Henneberry.

In her spare time, Anderson enjoys cooking, reading, working out, and traveling.

**Annual Picnic**

*Picnic kicks off the semester.*
The agricultural economics faculty hosted graduate students, staff, and emeriti faculty and staff and their families at the annual fall picnic at Lake Carl Blackwell in September. Shannon Ferrell and Derrell Peel’s son, Cody, cut up and served the traditional main course of roast pig that was accompanied by side dishes and desserts provided by faculty members.
The 2013 Women in Agriculture and Small Business Statewide Conference was held August 8-9 at the Moore-Norman Technology Center in Oklahoma City. The conference was sponsored by Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) and USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA).

The goal of the conference was to provide agricultural producers and small business owners information they need to manage their business risks through effective, market-based risk management solutions, Sara Siems (Extension assistant, risk management education) said.

The conference opened with a welcome from conference planners and Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, Jim Reese. Jolene Brown, a professional speaker, author, and family business consultant from West Branch, Iowa, kicked off the conference with an upbeat and interactive keynote address.

Throughout the day, attendees had the opportunity to network with other women in agriculture and peruse the educational exhibits and mini-mall featuring Made-in-Oklahoma products.

In conjunction with the speakers, participants had the opportunity to attend concurrent sessions from three different tracks: agriculture, alternative enterprises, or business and finance. The first night of the conference concluded with a Taste of Oklahoma reception and more time for networking.

The second day of the conference opened with a keynote address from Celeste Settrini, owner and operator of CS Connections a PR/advertising and graphic agency from Salinas, California. It continued with more concurrent sessions, and Jolene Brown provided a final wrap-up presentation. A Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program was offered as complimentary post conference training.

The 2014 conference will be August 7-8 at the Moore-Norman Technology Center in Oklahoma City. Visit okwomensinagandsmallbusiness.com or contact Siems, 405-744-9826 or sara.siems@okstate.edu, with questions.

Members of the conference steering committee and conference keynote speakers.
The agricultural economics department was represented with three Grandparent University sessions this past summer: County Government, Solid Waste Management, and Agribusiness Management. Grandparent University is sponsored by the OSU Alumni Association. It provides an opportunity for young people to experience, along with their grandparents, life on a college campus from staying in dorm rooms to attending classes in their “majors.”

**County Government**

Representatives of county government in Oklahoma joined with Ann Embree, local government specialist, and Judy Rudin, local government communication specialist in the County Training Program, to help educate students and grandparents about county government, its history, functions, and impact on citizens’ daily lives. The group visited each Payne County office, met with officers and deputies, and participated in county-related activities.

During a mini land run on the courthouse lawn, students experienced a “sooner” attempt and then captured flags staking their claims. They received patents from the district attorney, filed for homestead, and received their tax statements. Students and grandparents also spent time with the district judge in his courtroom and cast a ballot in the county election board office.

The highlight of the session, for many of the students, was the Payne County Jail tour, where they were able to witness life inside the jail quarters, learn about all of the security measures, and see the inside of a jail cell.

**Agribusiness Management**

Agricultural economics professor, Kim Anderson, and assistant Extension specialist, J. C. Hobbs, once again taught the Farm and Ranch Risk Management
(FARRM) Game to a class of students and their grandparents.

For the sixth year, the grandchildren and their grandparents used the computer game to virtually manage a 1,280-acre wheat, sorghum, cotton, and stocker farm and ranch. They made decisions about planting crops, and buying livestock and insurance to make the greatest profits. See the related article below.

**Solid Waste Management – Talking Trash!**

The object of this session, led by Lynn Malley, assistant state Extension specialist, Solid Waste Management, was to show students and grandparents where “away” is when something is thrown away. Participants were also shown where trash actually goes and discovered better and worse ways to deal with their own trash. The final step was to help students make a plan to deal with their trash back at home.

The group toured a recycling drop-off center, a single-stream sorting facility, and a landfill; prepared a landfill display to eat; and learned how trash can be sorted and why it matters. One particularly educational situation that came about, according to Malley, was that the group watched products going through the recycling center, then witnessed those same types of products being dumped in the landfill.

**FARRM Game 2013**

**Oklahoma Farm and Ranch Risk Management Game released.**

In November FARRM Game 2013, the Oklahoma Farm and Ranch Risk Management game, went live in the Apple App Store. The app is free and can be downloaded for iPads. Agricultural economics faculty members Kim Anderson, J.C. Hobbs and Eric DeVuyst developed the game.

According to the App Store description, “the FARRM Game teaches users about price and risk management using data from Oklahoma farms and ranches. Students decide the mix of crops and cattle to produce, how to price their products, and how to use crop insurance. Tools such as futures, options, and forward contracts are explained and utilized to manage price risk.”

**Media Appearances**

**Faculty were key sources during government shutdown.**

During the 16-day government shutdown in October, several Agricultural Economics faculty members were asked by media outlets to shed light on the impact it was having on agriculture and rural Oklahoma. Those faculty members included:

- Jody Campiche made an appearance on SUNUP TV and Tulsa News Channel 6.
- Kim Anderson was on SUNUP TV, Oklahoma City News 9 and radio.
- Larry Sanders talked with NPR, the Daily Oklahoman, Woodward News, and SUNUP TV.
- Derrell Peel was quoted in the Oklahoma Farm Report.
Alumni Spotlight

Agricultural Economics alumna credits internship for his success.

John Cothren, a 1998 agricultural economics graduate with a degree in agribusiness, credits an internship while at OSU for guiding him along his career path. “I feel like my time at OSU,” he says, “not only opened the door for me, with the internship opportunity, to start my John Deere career, it also helped prepare me for the challenges of the workplace. I feel that my time serving as an Ag Council officer as well as my involvement in Alpha Gamma Rho and other campus clubs and organizations helped prepare me for working with people in leadership roles. I have many fond memories of Homecoming as well as the times spent working on Ag Roundup and Ag Week.”

John currently works as general manager of Grissoms, LLC, a John Deere Dealership organization with six locations in central and eastern Oklahoma, where he oversees “the day-to-day operations of the business.” In his job, he says that he “works with customers and employees to help make sure we are a great place to do business as well as a great place to work. I work with the John Deere Company to ensure we are maximizing our business and market potential. I also work with the ownership group and financial management area to make sure we are a sustainable and profitable business.”

Most of John’s professional career since graduating from OSU has been spent working in the “John Deere Agricultural Business.” He started as a territory representative for the John Deere Company where he covered territories in Missouri and Arkansas. He then moved to the Dallas area to work as a training instructor covering the southern half of the United States. “I worked for the John Deere Company for a total of nine years,” he states, “I also participated in two summer intern programs for John Deere while attending OSU.”

John says he had the opportunity to move to Shawnee and take on the role of sales manager for Grissom Implement in the summer of 2006. At that time, Grissom had four locations in Prague, Checotah, Shawnee, and McAlester. In 2008, they added two more locations in Muskogee and Ada. At that time, John took on the role of general manager, and the name of the company changed to Grissoms, LLC.

John has also stayed active with the College of Agriculture at OSU. “I have had the opportunity to serve on the CASNR Alumni Board, and I was able to have to serve as president for two years. I have also had the opportunity to represent CASNR on the OSU Alumni Leadership Council.”

John states that his “words of wisdom for current students” are to “get involved, and whatever you are involved in, to not just be a member, but take on an active role to make a difference. Listen to others, but do not be afraid to give your input. Take time to enjoy family and what is important to you.”

And now, as John relates, “for the really important stuff: I have a wonderful wife, Leigh-Anne, and we have two wonderful children. Our son Cash is four, and we have a daughter, Charlee, who will be one at the end of December. We had the opportunity to move back to the farm where I was raised at Stratford in 2010. Since that time, we have been able to get back involved in the family cattle and farming operation. I enjoy raising my kids and a few cows.”
CASNR Distinguished Alumni

A CASNR 2013 Distinguished recipient is an alumni of the department.

Department of Agricultural Economics alumni, J.L. “Butch” Meibergen, was named a CASNR 2013 Distinguished Alumni.

Meibergen of Enid, Oklahoma is the fourth generation of the family to operate what is now Johnston Enterprises (JEINC), serving as president and CEO. Johnston Enterprises includes the foundational W.B. Johnston Grain plus Johnston Seed, Johnston’s Ports and bulk handling. W.B. Johnston Grain Company began in 1893 in Enid, Oklahoma focused on service and providing grain, seed, flour, coal, hay, and livestock to Cherokee Strip settlers.

Meibergen was awarded a B.S. in agricultural economics in 1979 and joined W.B. Johnston Grain. He spent two summers working as an intern on the trading floor of the Kansas City Board of Trade for Conti Commodities and following his internship, started the grain company’s risk management program. Johnston Grain is now the oldest and largest privately owned grain company in Oklahoma and in addition to grain-processing and storage facilities JEINC offers inland water transportation services plus sells wildlife feed, turf, wildflower, forage, and native grass seed. It has 24 country elevator locations in Oklahoma and Texas and handles approximately 20 percent of Oklahoma’s annual wheat crop. JEINC is also the owner of water ports in two states, a cotton gin, two grain terminals, a trucking company, five seed-cleaning facilities, a 50,000-bushel-per-hour shuttle rail facility, and an experimental research farm.

Meibergen serves on the OSU Foundation Board of Governors. Johnston Enterprises supports OSU and the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources through scholarships, the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program, the DASNR Dean’s Advisory Council, and the OSU Foundation. Undergraduate scholarship endowments support students in a variety of majors within CASNR.

The Department of Agricultural Economics hosted a reception to recognize Meibergen on Oct. 18.
New Promotional Pieces

*Help us spread the word with new brochures and social media.*

Over the last year, the department has been working to bring our communication efforts up-to-date. One of the changes has been to design new promotional pieces. These print pieces include an undergraduate brochure, graduate brochure, graduate information bookmark, and a department information postcard.

If you are hosting or attending an event where you would like to hand out some of these pieces, contact Joyce Grizzle (joyce.grizzle@okstate.edu). Help us promote agricultural economics!

Another area which has become more active is social media. See the graphic below, and connect with us on the various media platforms to stay current on events and see what faculty, students, and alumni are up to.