



**OKLAHOMA COUNTY
EXTENSION**

REPORT TO THE PUBLIC April 2022

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

April is National Volunteer Month and the OSU Extension staff showed their volunteers how much they are appreciated by hosting a pancake breakfast in their honor.

OSU Extension has many volunteers groups such as the Master Gardeners, Master Composters, Master Wellness, Oklahoma Home & Community Education, and 4-H Adult leaders. All of these wonderful volunteer groups help OSU Extension reach more people in the county with researched based informational programming.





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EXTENSION**

Educators Receive Awards

The Oklahoma Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (OEAFCSS) held their annual conference in April. LaDonna Hines, OSU Extension County Director, was installed as the OEAFCSS President and Taylor Conner, FCS Educator, as the SE District Representative. On the last day of the conference, the awards ceremony was held. Taylor Conner received two OEAFCSS awards: Innovation in Programming and Family Health & Wellness and the Innovation in Programming award for her program The Art of Breading: a 4-series virtual baking class that took place during March and April 2021. The Family Health & Wellness award was for the educational program On the Road to Health, a series of 12-week classes that was in partnership with the Lynn Institute. In receiving this state award, Taylor's application will move on to regional and if selected to national. If she selected as a national winner, she will present her programs at the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences in Raleigh, North Carolina in September 2022.

LaDonna Hines along with her team of educators, Joshua Campbell, Julia Laughlin, Mindy McNeil, Cody Yount(not pictured) and Diana Sansing were also honored and received the OEAFCSS awards in Community Partnership and Environmental Education for their work with water conservation. These award winners will also move onto regional for judging.



LaDonna Hines,
OEAFCSS President



Taylor Conner, OEAFCSS
SE District Representative





OSU EXTENSION
OKLAHOMA COUNTY
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Food Showdown

On April 14th, OK County youth competed for bragging rights and the opportunity to represent Oklahoma County at the SE District Food Showdown in May. Participating youth got to show off their cooking skills, and awe the crowd as they kept cool under pressure. The winning teams did the best job at presentation, and incorporating this year's secret ingredients. Congrats to all of this year's competitors, and to our 2022 Food Showdown winners. Good luck at District!

Junior Division:

Rexton Potter & Jaden Gray

Senior Division:

Mucio Davila, Natalie Teel, & Audra Krischel

4-H Day at the Capitol

For the first time since 2019, the halls of the Oklahoma State Capitol were filled green on April 12 as more than 100 4-H'ers from across the state, as well as Langston University, took part in the 23rd annual State 4-H Day at the Capitol.

Representing Oklahoma County at the State Capitol were Sierra Mitchell, Mucio Davila, Avagrace Spencer, Brea Spencer, Liam Spencer, and Violet Spencer.

“Attending 4-H Day at the Capitol, was a wonderful experience that allowed me to gain new skills and learn about the legislative process here in Oklahoma.” Mitchell said. “Because of this process I will now be able to apply what I have learned to my leadership positions here in Oklahoma County. Thank you for this wonderful experience, I look forward with high anticipation for next year.”



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2022 Master Wellness Volunteers

The 2022 Master Wellness Volunteer training wrapped up on April 5th. During this 6-week training, volunteers learned about a variety of wellness related topics including: nutrition, physical activity, mental health, and more. This year's trainees include Christine Miller, Lyle Henry, Stephen Melsh, Donn Cross, and Randy Henthorn. As Master Wellness Volunteers, they will serve in the community teaching and assisting Taylor Conner, FCS Educator, with wellness-related programs to enhance the lives of Oklahoma County residents.



Campbell & Hines Complete OSU Extension Leadership Academy

LaDonna Hines, Oklahoma County Extension Director and Joshua Campbell, Urban Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator were selected to participate in the first Extension Leadership Academy. This academy was over a 6-month period where they learned various leadership skills, participated in hands-on teamwork experiences, along with developing their own Leadership Project!

In April, LaDonna and Joshua graduated from the program and gave a presentation on their project.





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"Earth Kind, Earth Day" A Huge Success!

On Saturday, April 16, the Oklahoma County Extension Horticulture Educator Julia Laughlin, and the Oklahoma County Urban Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Joshua Campbell, hosted the annual Earth-Kind Earth Day at Will Roger Gardens in Oklahoma City. The event is co-sponsored by the City of Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust, the OKC Parks and Recreation Department, the Friends of Will Rogers Gardens, and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

The all-day event included educational sessions about sustainable gardening methods and tips such as environmentally safe pesticide use, water conservation, tree care and composting. The afternoon demonstrations included vegetable gardening, composting and tours of Will Rogers Gardens. There were also a ladybug release in the gardens along with seed and tree giveaways.

Over 140 attended the event and over 30 volunteers helped make the workshop a success.





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Beekeeping Basics Workshop

Urban Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator Joshua Campbell facilitated a beekeeping workshop teaching the basic information needed to get started with beekeeping for hobby or profit. Topics included, equipment needs and costs, hive care and maintenance, hive health, as well as enterprise planning for developing a hobby or small business. The class was attended by 43 people.



4-H TEAM PLACES AT STATE HORSE JUDGING

Members of the Edmond Light Horse 4-H Club competed at the State Horse Judging Contest, held recently at Totusek Arena, on the OSU-Stillwater campus. Harper Lecluyse, Ava Martinez, and Piper Gann placed 4th overall, 4th in Team Reasons, and 3rd in Team Placing. During the individual competition, Ava Martinez placed 6th in Individual Placing and 8th overall. These first-time competitors learned how to judge horses in both halter and performance classes, and are excited to return again next year.





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Extension Staff:

LaDonna Hines - Extension Director

Lisa Hamblin - Family & Consumer
Sciences Educator

Taylor Conner - Family & Consumer
Sciences Educator

Julia Laughlin - Horticulture Educator

Josh Campbell - Urban Agriculture
& Natural Resources Educator

Cody Yount - 4-H Educator

Mindy McNeil - 4-H Educator

Rachel Morse - 4-H Youth Mental
Health Multi-County Educator

Lori Goodbary - CNEP AC

OSU Extension provides research-based resources you can use to improve your home, workplace and community. We offer programs and services that are specifically designed to solve the problems that county residents face. Please check out our website for the calendar of events <https://calendar.okstate.edu/oces/> to learn of new workshops or programs being offered.

You can follow us on Facebook for a glimpse into how your Oklahoma County Extension Educators and staff are serving you and the community.

Contact Us:



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