



TULSA COUNTY EXTENSION

August 2026
Highlights

POVERTY SIMULATION PROVIDES A GLIMPSE INTO THE CHALLENGES OF LIVING ON A LIMITED INCOME

A Poverty Simulation is an interactive educational experience designed to help participants better understand the challenges individuals and families living on a limited income may face. Participants take on the roles of families and work through four 15-minute “weeks,” representing one month. During that time, they must provide food, housing, utilities, transportation and other basic needs while dealing with limited resources and unexpected situations.

In August, Tulsa County OSU Extension coordinated a Poverty Simulation for participants from the Alternative Courts Programs at Chandler Park. Extension educators from Tulsa and surrounding counties worked together to conduct the simulation and guide participants through the experience. The program provided an opportunity for participants to see firsthand how difficult it can be to balance basic needs, employment, transportation and other responsibilities when resources are limited.



Following the simulation, participants discussed their experiences and the decisions they were required to make. Programs such as the Poverty Simulation are one way OSU Extension provides educational experiences that increase awareness, encourage understanding and help strengthen our communities.



Following are some comments received regarding the simulation from the training attendees.

This activity was incredibly impactful.

Great job volunteers, you played your roles really well!

This was amazing and the fact that everyone, including the participants took it seriously really made it hit home just how many struggles are unseen, but also how building community ties could also be an unseen resource.

I loved it! I think it was a very useful tool to help demonstrate the stress poverty can cause and allowing us to see what it is like more firsthand really highlights how pressing their situation is.

Such a great learning tool! I got to be an employee this year, so I got out easy!

It gave good insight for those who don't have a lot of experience with poverty.





OSU EXTENSION FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

From Farm to Shelf: Bringing Research, Extension, and Generations Together

A simple conversation between Tulsa County Horticulture Educator Brian Jervis, the Mingo Valley Research Station, and Family and Consumer Sciences led to a meaningful partnership focused on food preservation. Together, we brought the "farm to shelf" concept to life by teaching participants how to safely

preserve produce using research-based canning methods. Master Gardeners, community members, and multiple generations learned side by side, connecting family traditions with current food safety practices. The workshop showcased the strength of OSU's spirit by bringing together research, Extension, horticulture, and family sciences to create hands-on learning that directly benefits our communities.



Stacey Jones
Family and
Consumer
Sciences/4-H

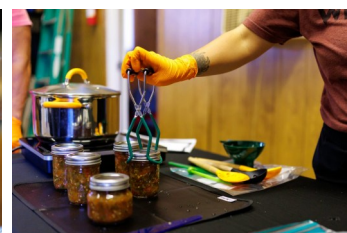
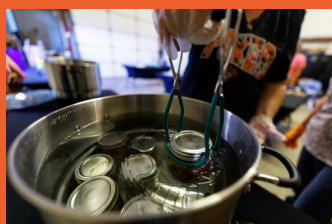


Photo Credit: Mitchell
Alcala/OSU Agriculture



OSU EXTENSION TULSA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

The 2026 Master Gardener Class started September 2 and will run through December 9. This year, we are excited to welcome 43 new class members.

The class will meet each Wednesday and learn about a variety of topics, including soil and fertility, entomology, plant pathology, turfgrass, beekeeping, pesticides, composting, vegetables, trees and shrubs, fruits and nuts, and annuals and perennials.

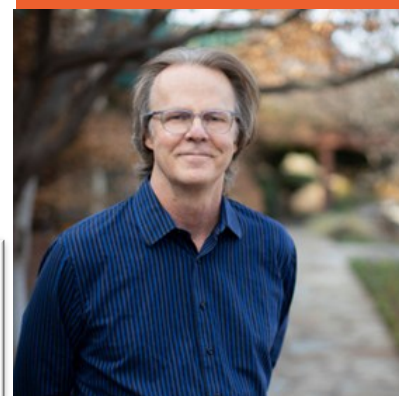


Throughout the class, participants will also take part in a couple of tours and learn more about the many programs, events, and activities Tulsa County Master Gardeners are involved with throughout the year. This training will give them the knowledge and experience they need as they begin volunteering and sharing research-based gardening information with our community.



Brian Jarvis
Horticulture
Educator

Tom Ingram



Horticulture
Program
Assistant



2026 FALL LUNCH & LEARN

with the Tulsa County Master Gardeners

Central Bronson Hardesty

Sep 22	Sep 23	Sep 24	How to Plant & Prune Trees. Best Fall Tree Selections for Oklahoma.
Sep 29	Sep 30	Oct 01	Winter Garden Prep - Remove or Leave the Leaves. You Decide!
Oct 06	Oct 07	Oct 08	Succulents - Choices for Growing Inside & Outdoor Gardens.
Oct 13	Oct 14	Oct 15	Dividing Perennial Bedding Plants. Fall Grasses & Color in Your Garden.



OSU EXTENSION
TULSA COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS

Presented at three locations

Tulsa City-County Central Library
400 Civic Center, Tulsa, OK 74103
Tues, 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm

Bronson Brookside Library
4607 S Madison Pl, Tulsa, OK 74105
Wed, 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm

Hardesty Regional Library
8316 E 93rd St, Tulsa, OK 74133
Thurs, 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm



AGRICULTURE

Tulsa County Wildlife Food Plot Research Project Brings Hands-On Learning to Local Producers

In August, Tulsa County OSU Extension Agriculture Educator Hannah Hough began an exciting new wildlife food plot research and demonstration project designed to bring research-based education directly to local landowners, agricultural producers and wildlife enthusiasts. The project builds on a program Hough has offered virtually since 2024 and represents the next step in expanding that educational effort from the screen to the field.

Wildlife food plots can be an important management tool for landowners looking to improve habitat and provide supplemental forage for wildlife. However, selecting the right seed mix, establishing a successful stand and determining what wildlife actually prefers can present challenges. The new project will provide an opportunity to demonstrate these concepts in a real-world setting while gathering information that can be shared with Oklahoma producers.

Hough was awarded a mini-grant through the Oklahoma Association of Extension Agriculture Agents (OAEAA), providing funding to initiate the research trials at the Oklahoma State University Mingo Valley Research Station in Bixby. The project will compare multiple wildlife food plot seed mixes and observe deer selectivity among the different plots. The demonstration will include several seed mixes planted side-by-side, including commercially available mixes and mixes representing potential OSU Extension recommendations. This approach will allow participants to see differences in establishment, growth and deer use rather than simply hearing about them in a classroom.

The project will also demonstrate different approaches to establishing food plots. Tilled and no-till plots will be positioned side-by-side to allow producers to observe how each method performs under the same general conditions. The no-till plots will utilize an herbicide burndown prior to planting, while seed mixes will be broadcast by hand. The goal is not only to demonstrate what can work, but to provide producers with practical information they can use when making decisions on their own properties.

Another component of the demonstration will focus on managing deer access. Portions of the plots will be protected using a 3D fencing method, giving producers a visual example of how fencing can be used to exclude deer from selected areas. This will also provide an opportunity to compare protected and accessible areas and observe the impact of deer use on the plots.

At its core, this project reflects the mission of OSU Extension: taking research-based knowledge and turning it into practical education that can benefit Oklahomans. Rather than simply presenting recommendations, the project will create a living demonstration where producers can see the results firsthand, ask questions and make informed management decisions based on what they observe.

The Mingo Valley Research Station provides an excellent setting for this effort, connecting Tulsa County producers with Oklahoma State University's broader research and Extension mission. As the plots develop, Hough will monitor establishment and deer use and document observations that can be incorporated into future educational programming.

This project is an exciting expansion of Tulsa County OSU Extension's wildlife programming and creates opportunities for continued hands-on education in the years ahead. By combining research, demonstration and producer education, the wildlife food plot project will help turn questions about seed selection, establishment methods and wildlife preference into practical knowledge that can be applied across northeast Oklahoma.



Hannah Hough

**Urban
Agriculture/
4-H Youth
Development
Educator**

These laid out plots
will be planted 1-2 weeks
after Labor Day





OSU EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Wild Bunch 4-H members ended the summer with a club Cupcake Wars. Cupcake Wars is a statewide 4-H contest where members bring undecorated cupcakes to the competition and decorate them according to a specific theme and present their final display of 3 cupcakes to a panel of judges. This event showcases 4-H members' teamwork abilities, creativeness, and knowledge in food safety while having fun! Cupcake Wars can be held at the local club level, county level, and at the state level at the Tulsa State Fair.



Kim Arnold

Urban 4-H



OSU EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

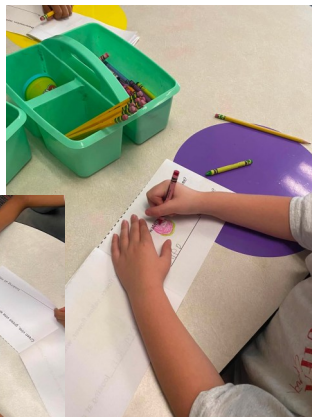
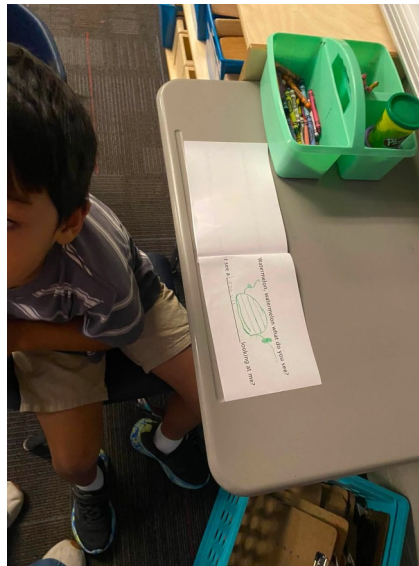
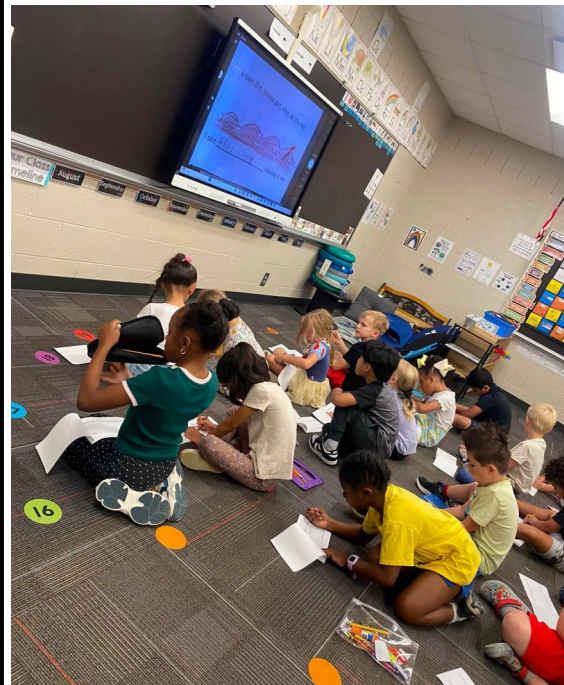
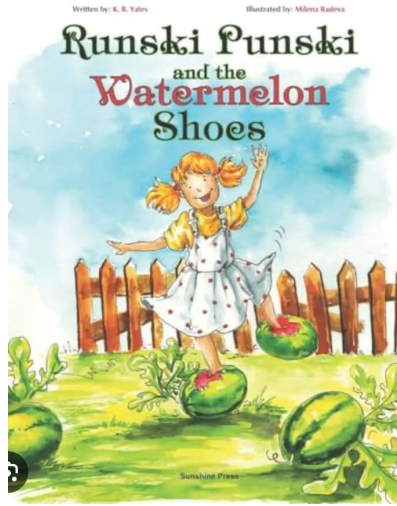
Friday was my first day back to school!!
Yay!!!

In Mrs. Kylie fashion we jumped into a summer favorite where we are learning about Oklahoma's state vegetable (botanically a fruit)
The Watermelon!

We measured and weighed our watermelons....
One was almost 16 pounds!

We then became illustrators where we drew pictures for our class book, Watermelon, Watermelon!

Great first day and excited for the new school year with a new group of first graders!!



**Kylie
Nicholson**

**Ag Literacy/
STEM**





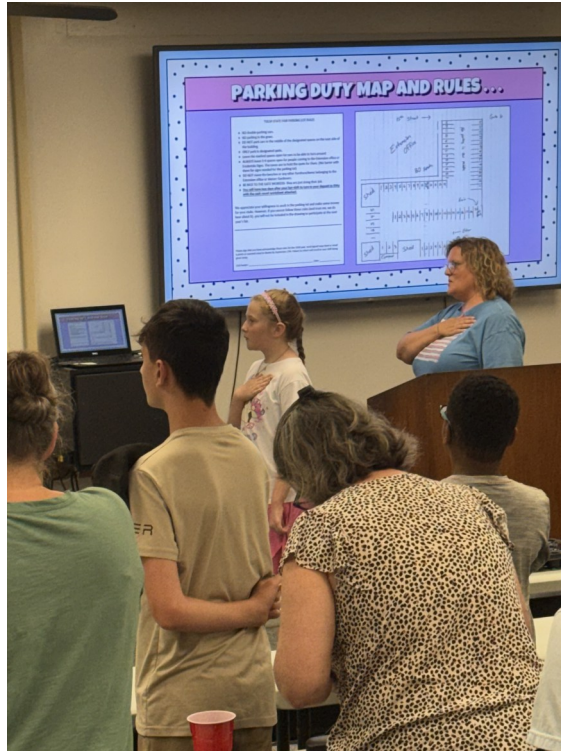
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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

August kicked off with the start of 2026–2027 4-H enrollment! We also held our first volunteer meeting of the year, where county 4-H members Evan Zickefoose of YFR Club and Alayna Campbell of Impact Club led the pledges. Leading the pledges is an easy and meaningful way for 4-H members to add to their citizenship and leadership experiences. We love seeing our members step up and take on leadership opportunities!



I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking
My **HEART** to greater loyalty,
My **HANDS** to larger service, and
My **HEALTH** to better living,
for my club, my community, my country and my world.



Baylee White

**4-H Youth
Development
Educator**



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**I pledge allegiance
to the Flag of the
United States of
America, and to
the Republic for
which it stands,
one Nation under
God, indivisible,
with liberty and
justice for all.**

Extension Staff



Jan Dawson, CED

Jan Dawson
County Extension Director

Kim Arnold
Urban 4-H Educator

Hannah Hough
Urban Agriculture Educator

Brian Jervis
Horticulture Educator

Stacey Jones
Family & Consumer
Sciences Educator

Kylie Nicholson
Ag Literacy/STEM Educator

Baylee White
4-H Youth Development
Educator



September 2026

2	Master Gardener Monthly Meeting
2	Tulsa County Fall Livestock Show
2-3	Oklahoma Farm Bureau Capital Camp
7	Labor Day, Extension Office will be Closed
2,9, 16, 23, 30	New Master Gardener Class, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Extension Office Auditorium
11-12	ZZZ's Under the Seas
12	OHCE Demo Day, 10:00 am, Red Fork Church of God
15	Tulsa County 4-H Banquet
17	OHCE Fall Business Meeting, 10:00 am to Noon, Extension Office Auditorium
22 & 29	Lunch and Learn, Noon to 1:00 pm, Central Library
23 & 30	Lunch and Learn, Noon to 1:00 pm, Bronson Brookside Library
24 & October 1	Lunch and Learn, Noon to 1:00 pm, Hardesty Regional Library
23	Prescribed Fire Workshop, John 3:16 Refuge Farm and Ranch, Registration at 9:30 and Workshop at 10:00, \$25 Registration Fee
24-28	Tulsa State Fair 4-H Entry Drop Off
29	Tulsa State Fair Judging for 4-H exhibits



Contact Information

Tulsa County OSU Cooperative Extension Service
4116 East 15th Street
Tulsa, OK 74112
Phone: 918-746-3700
Fax: 918-746-3704
Website: <https://extension.okstate.edu/county/tulsa/>

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