

OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Findings From A Regional Community
Engagement Forum Hosted In Durant



Bryan County

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Durant One of 16 Community Engagement Forums Held Statewide

In spring and summer 2019, OSU Extension hosted community forums at sites across the state of Oklahoma. The forums sought to ensure that a wide range of community members were engaged so that their opinions and perspectives on important issues would be represented in OSU Extension's strategic planning.

About OSU Extension

Oklahoma State University Extension is a thriving, sought-out, science-based educational resource dedicated to improving the lives of all Oklahomans. With a presence in all 77 counties, OSU Extension has the knowledge and leadership to help the state's citizens solve local issues and concerns, promote leadership and manage resources wisely through programs focusing on agricultural enterprises; natural resources and environmental management; food, nutrition, health and safety education; and youth, family and community development.

OSU Extension Community Engagement Statewide Forums

Executive Summary

More than 400 people participated in one of the 16 OSU Extension community forums. They were asked to provide input on what they thought the most important issues facing their communities were going to be over the next 3 to 5 years. They were specifically asked about issues related to Families, Youth and Children, and about issues related to their Community, Economy (Farms and Businesses) and Natural/Environmental Resources. Based on the results of the community forums, researchers at OSU provided site hosts with results specific to their communities, as well as perspective on issues that came up as common themes statewide.

The forum results are summarized in a series of handouts and on the OSU Extension website. Extension educators will be using their results to engage the community in action planning around the identified issues and action ideas. Trainings for follow-up engagement activities are being offered to Extension educators so they will have an even greater ability to engage their communities authentically and effectively.

Results can be found online at extension.okstate.edu/communityforums.

Top Issues and Action Ideas for Regional Forum Hosted by Bryan County

Children, Youth and Families

Reduce Obesity and Encourage Healthy Eating

- Take vending machines out of schools
- Provide food pyramid education for adults
- Provide nutrition classes

Support Family Cohesion and Stability

- Provide financial and parenting education
- Establish community gardens
- Recruit younger adults in extension and OHCE

Promote Development of Basic Life Skills for Families

- Enrich schooling using project-based learning
- Provide 'Leader in Me' School programming K-12
- Provide 'I Cap' Endorsement Education 9-12
- Provide financial management, life skills and soft skills training for low-income families

Provide Opportunities for Vocational Training and Education

- Bring back home economics, woodshop and welding classes in schools
- Create opportunities for job shadowing and internships
- Provide safety classes and training through 4-H

Community, Economy (Farms and Businesses) and Natural/Environmental Resources

Provide Education and Advocacy for Policies on Agriculture Sustainability and EPA Regulations

- Provide education on legislation
- Provide training for proper chemical use and disposal
- Promote programs and provide updates on laws

Train and Educate a Skilled Workforce

- Invest in vocational training
- Provide opportunities for on-the-job training/apprenticeships at companies
- Host free classes at the library
- Host community career fairs
- Facilitate career tours

Support Small Business and Promote Small Business Sustainability

- Encourage shopping locally
- Provide education on starting a new business
- Identify potential locations for new business

Study and Enhance Local Water Infrastructure

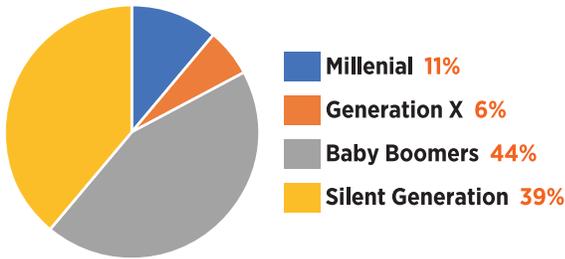
- Conduct inflow studies for surface water



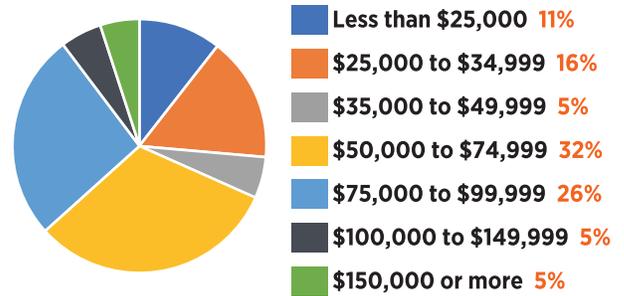
Responses from Regional Forum Hosted by Bryan County

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

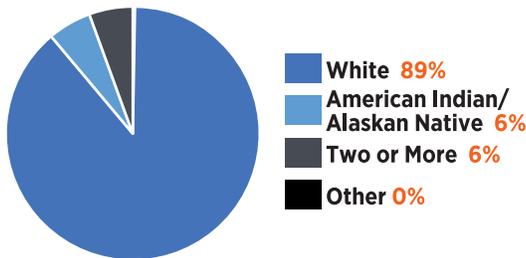
Age Range



Income Range



Race/Ethnicity



Gender



Military Veteran



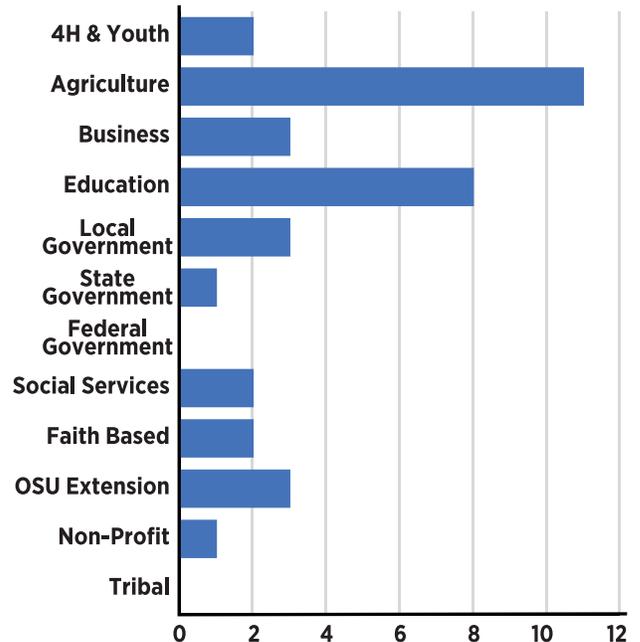
Have a Disability



Attended OSU Extension Program Previously



Affiliation



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