

OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Findings From A Regional Community
Engagement Forum Hosted In Canadian County



Canadian County

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Canadian County 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 Canadian County

Children, Youth and Families

Promote Early Agricultural Education

- Provide in-service on agriculture for school teachers
- Partner with established youth programs

Reduce Hunger and Food Insecurity

- Promote homestead gardening/farming
- Provide education on nutrition for families
- Establish cooking programs in schools

Provide Basic Life Skills Education for Children in Schools

- No action provided

Enhance Coping Skills Among Youth

- Provide education on effective communication
- Encourage collaboration among agencies and organizations
- Establish a mentorship program
- Teach life skills in high school

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

Educate Public on Agricultural Safety and Promote Agritourism

- Share information and resources using social media
- Create personal, interactive experiences for agritourists

Promote and Provide Education on Responsible Land Usage/Stewardship

- Research and promote soil health/conservation
- Link profitability with stewardship for sustainable agriculture
- Utilize USDA drone footage to provide teachable moments on soil health

Provide Education on Water Usage and Conservation

- Educate and disseminate info on conservation
- Balance between municipalities
- Agriculture recreation and industry

Provide Opportunities and Incentives for Next Generation to Stay in Community

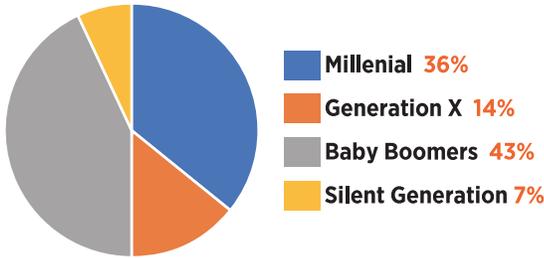
- Build partnerships with veteran farmers
- Establish programs for students to transition to farming
- Establish farmer startup loan program



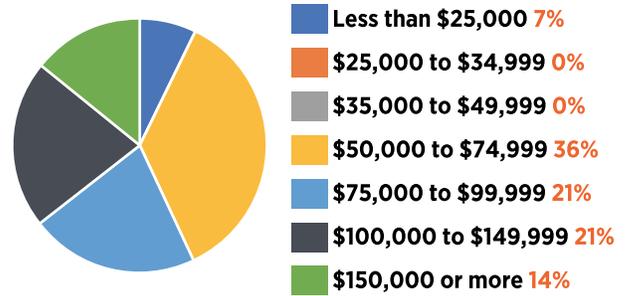
Responses from Regional Forum Hosted by Canadian County

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

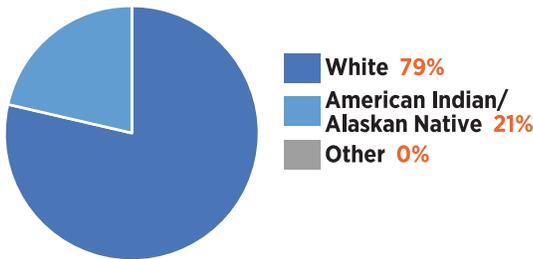
Age Range



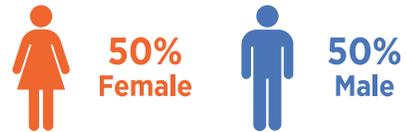
Income Range



Race/Ethnicity



Gender



Military Veteran



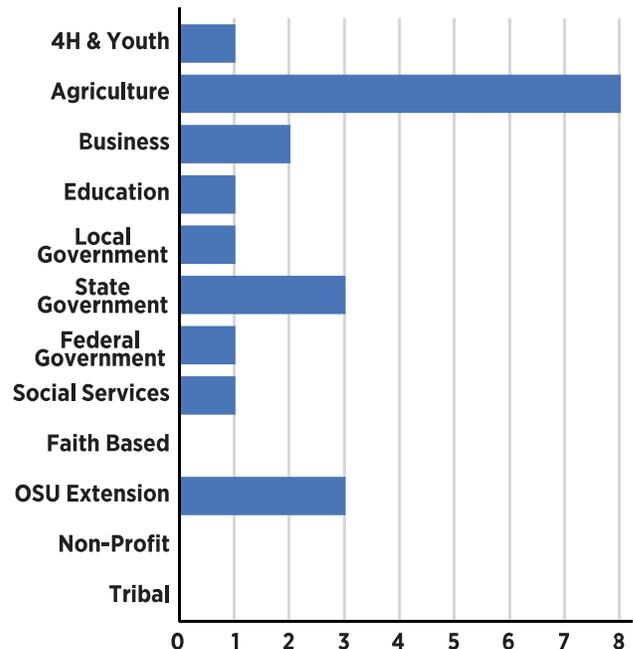
Have a Disability



Attended OSU Extension Program Previously



Affiliation



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