

OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Findings From A Regional Community
Engagement Forum Hosted In Okfuskee County



Okfuskee County

OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Okfuskee 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 Okfuskee County

Children, Youth and Families

Increase Access to Services to Address Substance Abuse and Addiction

- Provide substance abuse education for non-users
- Provide family counseling

Promote Development of Basic Life Skills

- Encourage local businesses to support training in specific areas
- Recruit volunteer professionals to teach informational seminars

Increase Civic Engagement through Community Services

- No action provided

Support Family Cohesion and Stability

- Offer free parent training courses

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

Promote Agricultural Education and Employment Opportunities

- Hire a marketing organization that provides information to the community
- Strengthen producer and distributor relationships
- Host informational sessions on backyard gardens

Provide Education on Environmental/Land Management

- Provide early education opportunities coupled with elementary and secondary schools
- Focus on field days
- Build pride through activities designed to stimulate community ownership
- Develop a county cleanup campaign

Support the Transition of Land Ownership to Next Generation

- Establish a trust to protect agricultural land from recreational use
- Set up a master program to have seasoned farmers train the novice and pass on tried and true methods
- Provide owner education to transfer land base, starting crops, and LLC to equalize

Bring Arts to the Community

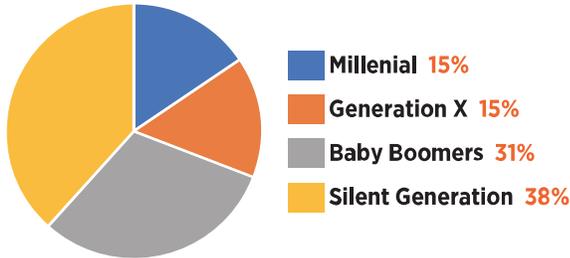
- Engage other agencies to create new cultural activities
- Host food festivals



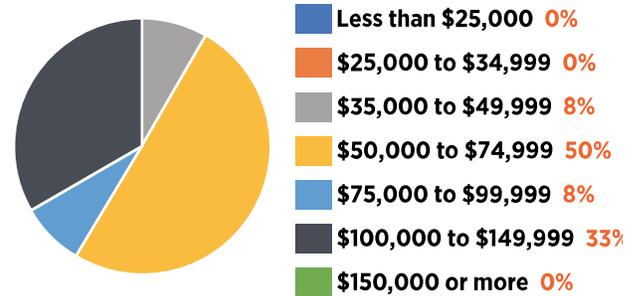
Responses from Regional Forum Hosted by Okfuskee County

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

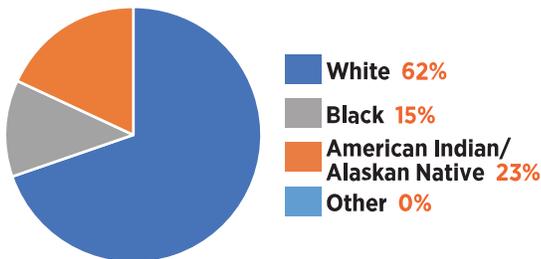
Age Range



Income Range



Race/Ethnicity



Gender



Military Veteran



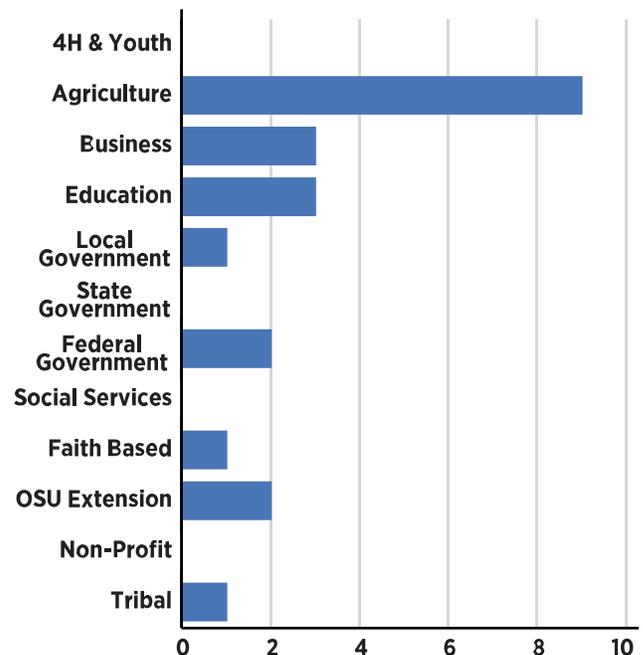
Have a Disability



Attended OSU Extension Program Previously



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