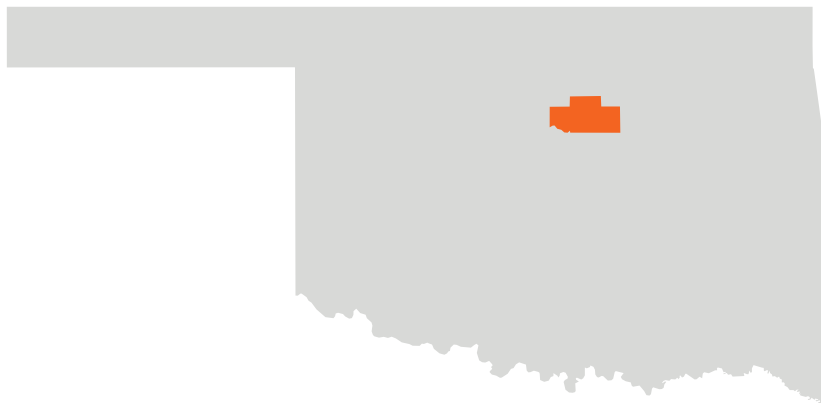


# OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Findings From A Regional Community  
Engagement Forum Hosted In Payne County



Payne County

# OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

## Payne 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](https://extension.okstate.edu/communityforums).

## Top Issues and Action Ideas for Regional Forum Hosted by Payne County

### Children, Youth and Families

#### Improve Health Literacy

- Coordinate community health fairs
- Organize a health resource book
- Host a community poverty simulation
- Establish a program like Farm 2 You
- Work with schools to create healthy shopping lists and meal prep

#### Promote Development of Life Skills and Financial Literacy for Families

- Write a life skills and financial literacy curriculum to make available to 'teachers'
- Offer train the trainer sessions
- Provide more marketing and promotion of programs being offered
- Teach personal finance
- Hold family night at school with booths from locals who provide help and resources
- Create a resource guide

#### Create and Promote After School Activities

- Find volunteers
- Create pre-packets for educators
- Establish more before and after school activities

#### Increase Food and Housing Security

- No action provided

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

#### Provide Education and Support for Improving Rural Infrastructure

- Create information sheets describing the funding streams of local government to specific departments of forums
- Provide community education on ag taxation and reinvestment within the county
- Facilitate specialized programs to address issues concerning rural infrastructure
- Establish rural business incubators

#### Increase Environmental Stewardship

- Offer land management programs
- Educate community on fundamentals of ecology
- Produce better marketing for recycling
- Improve OSU Extension visibility
- Educate the community through social media and Youtube

#### Engage Rural Legislators and Agriculture Organizations

- Host local forums with legislators
- Partner with other ag related organizations

#### Support Farm Commodity Marketing

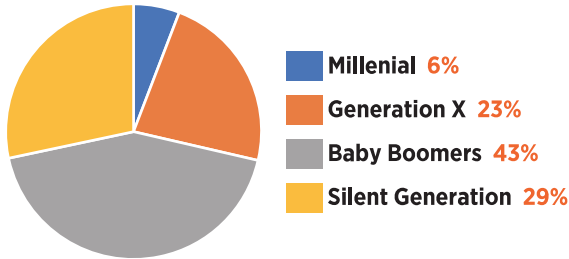
- No action provided



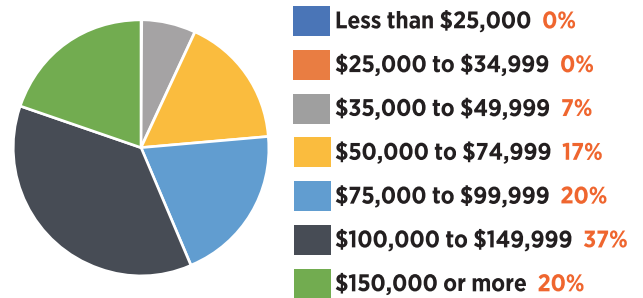
## Responses from Regional Forum Hosted by Payne County

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

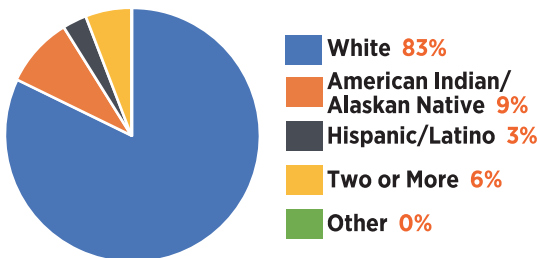
### Age Range



### Income Range



### Race/Ethnicity



### Gender



### Military Veteran



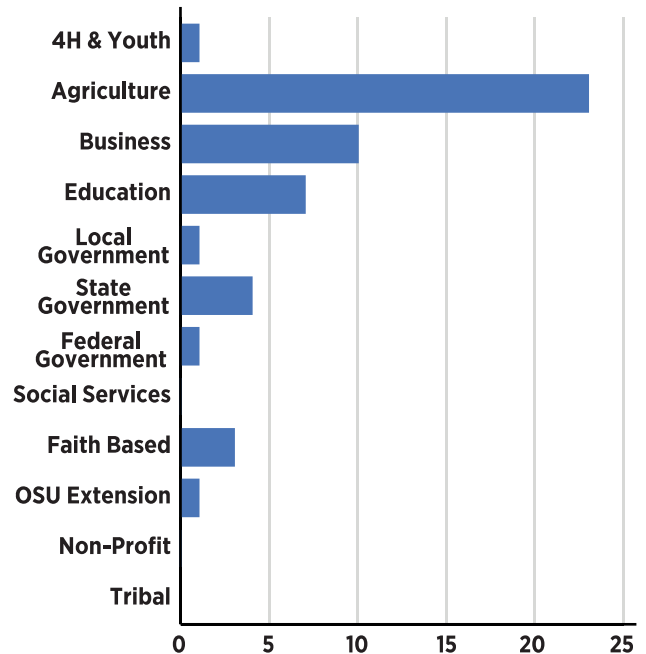
### Have a Disability



### Attended OSU Extension Program Previously



### Affiliation



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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Vice President for Agricultural Programs and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of 20 cents per copy.