

OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Findings From A Regional Community
Engagement Forum Hosted In Texas County



Texas County

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Texas 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 Texas County

Children, Youth and Families

Promote Development of Life Skills for Youth

- Offer financial literacy courses
- Improve technology literacy
- Provide leadership development opportunities
- Encourage healthy decision making
- Offer youth challenge classes
- Offer food and nutrition classes

Provide Resources to Improve Financial Literacy

- Offer education and training using real life scenarios
- Invite business owners to speak on different topics
- Create a financial awareness week

Support Family Cohesion and Stability

- Encourage family dinners
- Encourage families to unplug from their phones and be present
- Promote family as a priority
- Participate in 4-H winter and summer socials
- Offer mentorship opportunities
- Develop educational materials

Promote STEM Education and English Proficiency

- Fund programs such as Extension Scouts
- Support those in community that are working to learn English
- Invest more in STEM programs

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

Educate Blue Collar Workers on Family Budgeting and Finances

- Provide education and training on budget planning
- Provide education on how to balance a check book
- Help people set lifestyle boundaries
- Help people differentiate needs vs. wants

Improve Rural Health

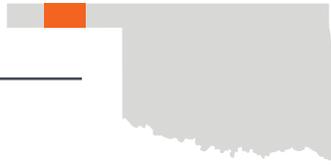
- Identify and apply for grants and funding to support medical student education
- Incentivize Oklahoma's medical school graduates to return to rural communities

Promote and Support Agriculture Education and STEM Programs

- Incorporate agriculture education into traditional STEM programs

Support Community Business & Partnerships

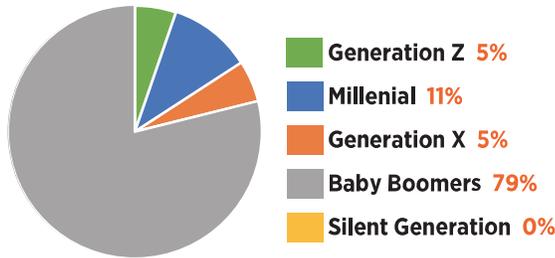
- Host and foster local activities that bring in diverse populations and consumers
- Develop and promote agritourism



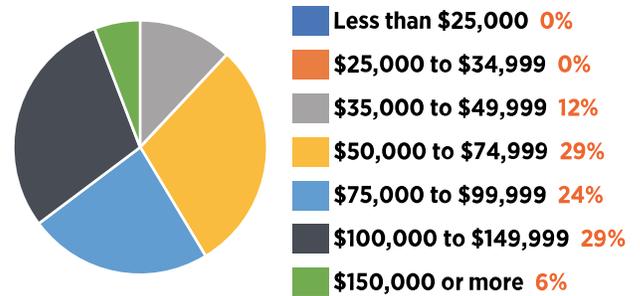
Responses from Regional Forum Hosted by Texas County

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

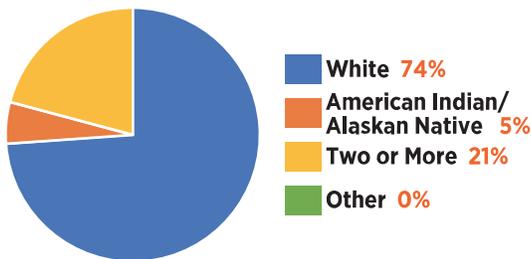
Age Range



Income Range



Race/Ethnicity



Gender



Military Veteran



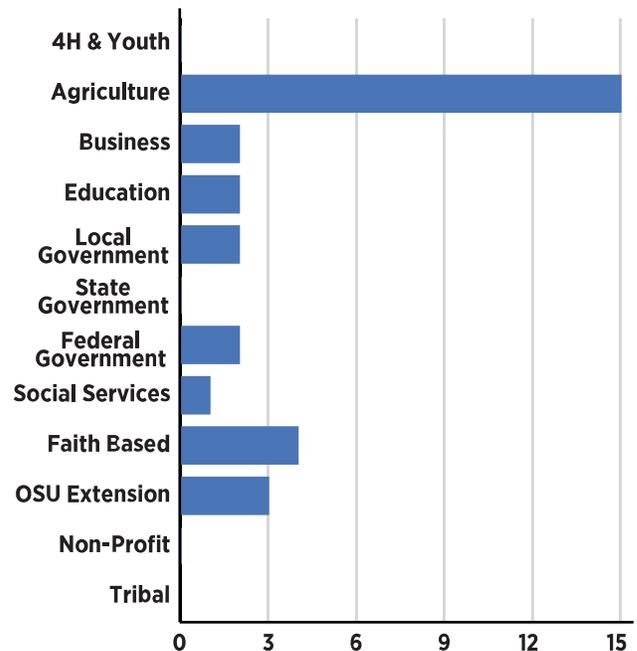
Have a Disability



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.