

OSU EXTENSION LISTENS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Findings From A Regional Community
Engagement Forum Hosted In Woodward County



Woodward County

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Woodward 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 Woodward County

Children, Youth and Families

Improve Health and Well Being

- No action provided

Increase OSU Extension Presence in Schools and Policy Activities

- Partner with schools to create more agriculture programs
- Invite OSU Extension educators into classes
- Assist general public in building relationships with policy makers

Fund An Extension Office with 2 Educators and Secretary

- Contact legislators to advocate for appropriate funding
- Work with OSU to allocate more funding to Extension at county level
- Work with county commissioner to designate more funding for OSU Extension

Develop Incentives for Youth to Return to Rural Communities

- Establish partnerships with Vo-Tech outside of community

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

Diversify Employment Opportunities

- Increase involvement with state/local agencies to help with trade skills training
- Establish a partnership with rural hospitals
- Provide education and training on the value of dollar
- Work with businesses to provide mentorships

Promote Small Business Development

- Provide internship and assistantship opportunities
- Educate the community through more effective marketing
- Improve customer service (pride program)
- Create a farmers market

Study Alternatives to Sales Tax for City and County Revenue

- Research alternative income for cities/counties
- Promote programs like agricultural tourism (quilt trail)
- Invest in community building

Improve Broadband Service and Invest in Infrastructure

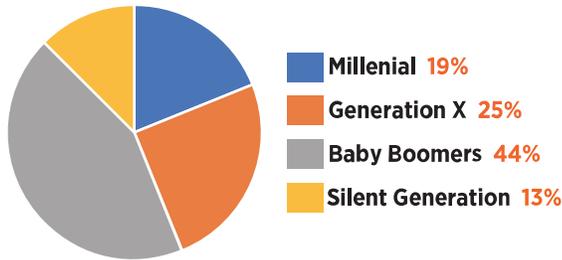
- Improve internet speed and availability
- Have OSU Extension facilitate communication between entities involved and help disseminate info



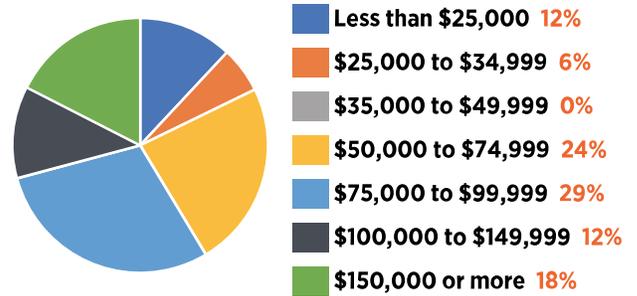
Responses from Regional Forum Hosted by Woodward County

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

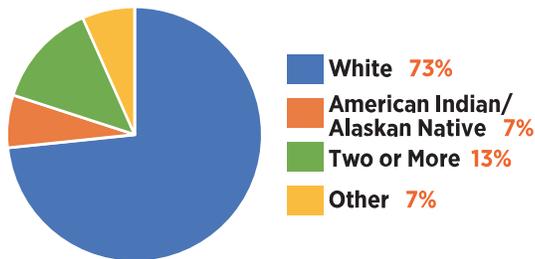
Age Range



Income Range



Race/Ethnicity



Gender



Military Veteran



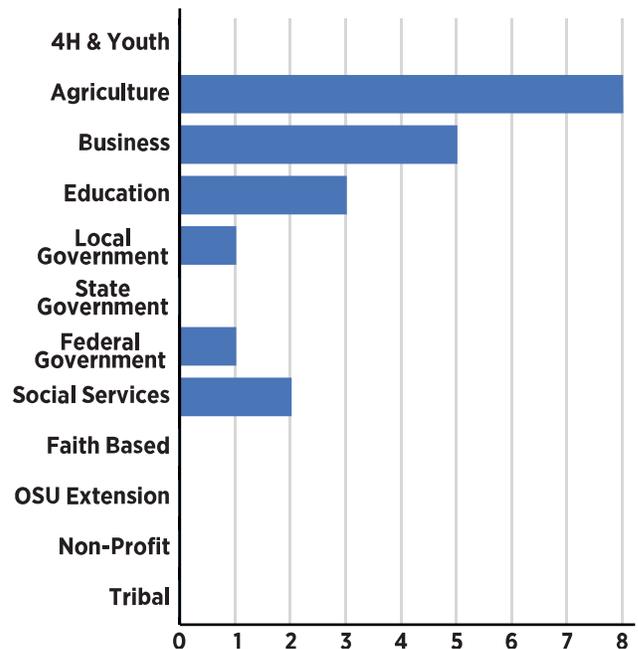
Have a Disability



Attended OSU Extension Program Previously



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