



A Century-Old Partnership:

OHCE and OCES

Past, Present and Future

October, 2013 - District Secretaries' In-service

2014: CES Celebrates Centennial Anniversary

An important part of recognizing the field of Family & Consumer Sciences in 2014 during the 100th anniversary year of the passage of the Smith-Lever act that established the Cooperative Extension Service system is honoring...

Oklahoma Home and Community Education



These members have been the driving force for successful implementation of the Family & Consumer Sciences programs throughout the state during the past century...



The early day of the Home Demonstration workers: Late 1800s to the early 1900s

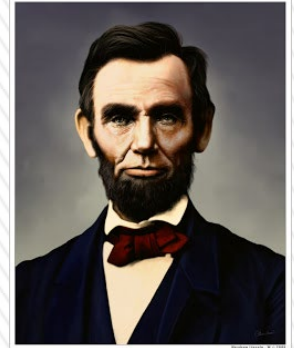


For these pioneer women

- Family was most important
- Formal education was ended early
- No transportation or unreliable transportation
- Married life started at a young age and they were often far from extended family
- Living conditions were primitive



The Land Grant University System



- » **1862: Morrill Act was passed by the US Legislature and signed by President Abraham Lincoln – Oklahoma State University**
- » **1890: A second Morrill Act added black public colleges and institutions in 16 southern states to the land grant system - Langston University**
- » **1994: Legislation passed to fund Tribal Colleges Extension Services**



The Cooperative Extension Service formally arrives across the country

Ms. Coryell worked for 12 months of the year, 6 days a week for \$72.92 or \$ 875.00 per year.

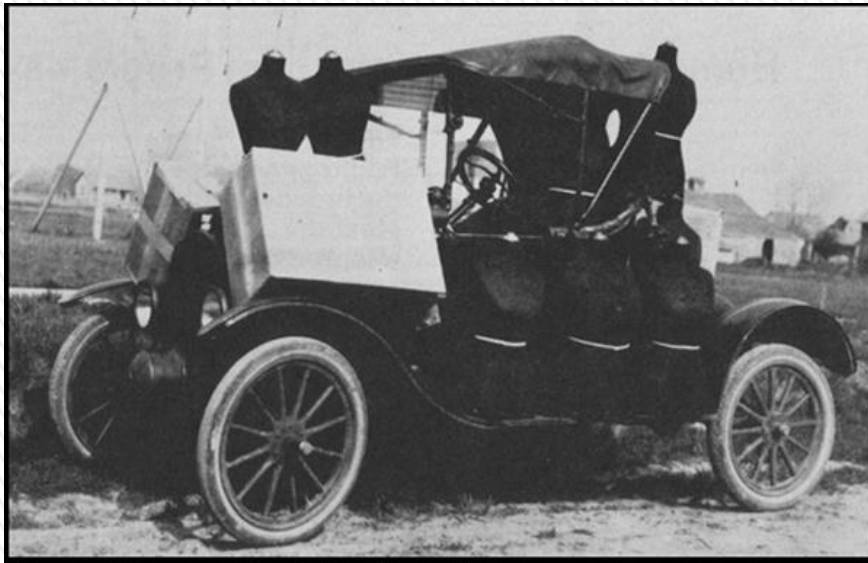
Two-thirds of her salary came from the county each month and there were no funds for traveling expense.



**Nettie Coryell, Grady County
Woman's Agent, 1915**

These agents were challenged with the task of providing vocational education in the areas of agriculture and home economics for individuals not attending college.





Home Demonstration Agent: (From a 1920 annual report)
Hauled her teaching materials over rough roads.



- ❖ Extension Agents traveled all over the country providing research based education to homemakers.
- ❖ Many traveled by train or horse and buggy, then later by car
- ❖ They frequently spent the night with a local family and returned home the next day
- ❖ In 1928, there were 18,956 clubs with 388,197 members across the US

Home demonstration agents in the early days ➤

Home Economics - Early lesson topics for Extension Homemakers

- » Food preservation
- » Mattress making
- » Quilting
- » Kitchen improvement contests
- » Sewing clothing and household linens
- » Involvement in children's education, providing balanced lunches and supporting 4-H clubs.



WWI Era: Late teens and early 1920s >>>

Home Economics Agents and their audiences joined the war effort by:

- Increasing food production, growing gardens and preserving foods
- Making comfort kits for the Red Cross
- During the Great Depression emphasis was placed on maintaining safe diets at a minimum cost
- In 1928 the prevention of pellagra was a major focus



» 1929: Extension Homemakers receiving sewing instructions



An informal partnership and later a formal partnership between OHCE and OCES has been present since the beginning of the Cooperative Extension Service in Oklahoma



- » **Groups that received educational training from OCES Home Demonstration Agents formally organized during Farmer's Week with the establishment of:**

The Oklahoma State Home Demonstration Council



- > **July 24, 1935 in Stillwater**
- > **Formed state council consisting of state officers**
- > **Purpose of state council was to strengthen and unify the program**

Formalization of the Home Demonstration Council



- » Clubs raised money for pressure cookers for all to share and to buy buildings to hold club meetings
- » They raised money to modernize the kitchens in their meeting places
- » In 1935 the state clubs organized to form a national organization for Extension Homemaker clubs. Oklahoma didn't vote to join this organization until 1944.

During the 1930s



- » County Health Departments were established due to pressure from homemakers groups
- » School lunch programs were started by homemakers preparing hot soup to serve to children at lunch time in schools
- » Homemakers groups were responsible for rural reading programs, traveling libraries and the establishment of many community libraries.



Homemaker Groups Accomplishments



» **Club treasuries were financed through the sale of home products including**

- > **Poultry & Eggs**
- > **Needlework**
- > **Rugs**
- > **Fruit cakes**
- > **Jellies and Jams**



» **Family income became supplemented by homemakers who helped members sell surplus farm products at “Curb Markets”**

Homemakers money making efforts to improve the quality of family life.



- » **Recycled men's suits to jackets and skirts for women**
- » **Made soap from surplus fats**
- » **Made mattresses to help use up surplus cotton**
- » **At group meetings Extension Agents provided education on dealing with droughts, dust storms, and grasshopper plagues**



Homemakers were as resourceful in the 1930s as they are today



- » WWII caused a recession felt by all. Homemakers learned from Extension Agents ways to “eat it up, wear it out, make it do, or how to do without.”
- » Rationing of gas and tires reduced members attending state and national meetings.
- » Clubs promoted the training of at least one member of each household in first aid and home nursing because of the health care shortage of the time.



The 1940s brought a new era of issues that were addressed by Homemakers and Extension



» **During the recession, Home Demonstration Agents taught homemakers things like**

- > furniture reupholstering
- > food preservation
- > appliance repair
- > money saving techniques



» **Homemakers supported the war effort**

- > knitting sweaters and socks for service men
- > rolling bandages and sewing for the red cross
- > planting Victory Gardens to help preserve the nation's food supply
- > collecting rubber, iron and other resources to be recycled

» **To make life in this difficult decade more pleasant for the families and to strengthen community friendships homemakers:**

- > planned wiener roasts
- > 4th of July ice cream socials
- > held costume parties
- > sponsored amateur shows
- > provided pie suppers



Homemakers continued to be resourceful in the 1940s



» Home Demonstration Council members

- > Sponsored child immunization clinics
- > Made United Nations flags for schools
- > Taught each other how to improve and remodel homes and to use labor-saving electrical devices
- > Harmon County Council helped to pay the salary for a RN in their county



Homemakers continued to support their communities and each other in the 1940s >

- » Issues for education included polio, flies, raw sewage. Community and home grounds clean up became the emphasis. Roadside parks, road markers, and community signs became the result of club projects.
- » Folks were traveling more and more on highways. Allstate Insurance company provided safety seminars annually until 1975.
- » NATIONAL EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS CLUB was credited for beginning action to get drunk drivers off the road and seatbelt legislation.



Arriving with the 1950s were new issues to be addressed...



- » **Small farmers were moving to town**
- » **Extension Homemaker clubs followed**
- » **Urban clubs were established and began to grow**
- » **City women came to the organization with interests in hat making, upholstering, and interior decorating**



Bridging the 50s and 60s



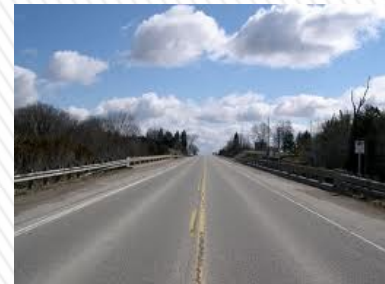
- » Most homes had TVs and more women went to work
- » EH groups were the major force behind county fairs. They provided the food service. Thankfully, they were working in modern kitchens not tents
- » In 1965 the name of the organization changed from State Home Demonstration Council to Oklahoma Extension Homemakers Council.

The 1960s



- » **EH clubs joined in Lady Bird Johnson's beautification contest with clean-up campaigns**
 - > News flash: *Oct 22, 1965*: President Lyndon Johnson signs the Highway Beautification Act
- » **1969 Rubella vaccine was developed and EH clubs began the campaign to convince parents to immunize children.**
- » **New topics for Extension demonstrations emerged including: freeze drying and Teflon**

1960s Continued



- » More women began working outside of the home and EH membership began to decline
- » Drug and alcohol abuse affected highway safety which influenced programming
- » A non-discrimination clause was added to bylaws to meet Affirmative Action regulations. Recruitment of minorities to join EH clubs became a focus.
- » Men began to join EH clubs. Learning sessions began to include topics of interest to men
- » Groups continued to work extensively with 4-H and county fairs..

1970s



- » **1985 was the 50th anniversary of the State Home Demonstration Council (Est.in 1935)**

- » **In 1986 NEHC celebrated it's 50th anniversary**
 - > Charter members were honored
 - > 2867 fifty-year clubs were recognized
 - > Clubs planted marigolds throughout the country to commemorate the golden future on the golden anniversary
 - > Members looked back on their past accomplishments and began building on the future



1980s Celebrations



» Continued and emerging issues to be addressed by OCES and EH included:

- > Playground safety
- > UNICEF
- > Children's fairs
- > Preservation of the art of quilting and other heritage skills
- > Nutrition
- > Finances including wills and estate planning
- > Day care employee training
- > Home hazards
- > Seatbelt use



1980s Issues Addressed



- » **During the 1990's, NEHC was one of the largest adult volunteer education organizations in the country**
 - > 355,396 members
 - > 22,228 organized groups
 - > Active in 43 states

- » **In 1992 NEHC became National FCE and Oklahoma EH became Oklahoma Association for Family and Community Education (FCE)**

Side note: In 1994 Home Economics name was changed to Family & Consumer Sciences to more accurately reflect the complexity of the field.

- » **1996: Oklahoma was #1 in the nation in membership with 5,000 members three years in a row**

- » **Mail fraud: The FCE Sting was carried out when data was delivered to the Attorney General's office**

- » **Family, global, environmental and safety issues were focuses for leader lessons**



1990s

- » 2000 – Oklahoma voted to disaffiliate with NFCE and changed their name to Oklahoma Home and Community Education (OHCE)
- » Focus for adult and community education included: Cemetery indexing, Medicaid/Medicare fraud, walking/exercise programs for members and in schools, support for the military and their families
- » Adopted new and meaningful logo designed by Betty Auld of Grady County



The new century: 2000 - 2010



» OHCE: OCES Family & Consumer Sciences largest and most enduring support group

- > Annually, OHCE raises thousands of \$\$ for support of Family & Consumer Sciences Programs through silent auctions and donations for Ambassadors
- > Strongly and adamantly support county staffing patterns for at least TWO professional positions in each county
- > Disseminate cutting edge, research based education in all subject matter areas of OCES Family & Consumer Sciences through leader lessons, community service projects, and family and neighbor support

» OHCE: 4-H supporter

- > Donate thousands upon thousands of \$\$ and countless **volunteer** hours every year at both the local and state level of OHCE for youth **scholarships**

Why does the OHCE/OCES partnership matter?



- » Honor the proud history of this incredible Extension audience.
- » Be knowledgeable and supportive of the importance of the past, present and future partnership between OHCE and OCES.
- » Provide assistance to OHCE members as necessary during Family & Consumer Sciences Educator absences and vacancies.
- » Resources available for assistance to OHCE members:
 - > <http://ohce.okstate.edu/>
 - + OHCE Handbook – password required
 - + OHCE Policy book
 - + Awards documents
 - + Membership forms
 - > District Family & Consumer Sciences Program Specialist & Support Staff
 - > Neighboring county Family & Consumer Sciences Educators
 - > Jeri Robertson in the State Family & Consumer Sciences Program Leader office on campus

So what can OCES support staff do to continue to foster this partnership?





Thanks for all you do for OHCE and OCES! Your efforts are appreciated!

