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AGRICULTURE



NEW FRONTIERS UPDATE January 2024

Happy New Year! This month marks the fourth anniversary of the Ferguson Family Foundation's historic gift that renamed our college and launched the public campaign to build the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall. It's incredible to see the great strides we have made since that announcement, the completion of the fundraising campaign in record time and plans to move into the facility this fall. We continue to be grateful for Larry and Kayleen Ferguson, and everyone who has supported our mission to help feed the world.

With nearly six months under my belt as vice president and dean of OSU Agriculture, I've had a chance to listen, learn and get acclimated to my role. With the new year ahead of us, I've outlined some priority areas to focus on.

It would be a mistake if we didn't focus on the two most important agricultural commodities in the state — beef and wheat — and make investments to prepare for the future.

We have a world-class wheat breeding program that produces varieties grown on 70% of Oklahoma acres, but we are doing that work on technology and facilities that are more than 50 years old. If we want to work toward a future and use modern science to continue to produce varieties of wheat that are healthy and disease-resistant, we need to think about the future.

In addition, Oklahoma is a vital part of the supply chain concerning cow-calf production, so focusing on research and Extension to allow the state to continue to play a role is essential. We are blessed in this state to have a system with county educators in all 77 counties. We must maintain that presence and continue to take the latest research and translate it for people as it relates to agricultural production, health, STEM education and other things imperative to today's communities.

Finally, we do a great job recruiting students. The current freshman class enrolled at OSU is the largest in the school's history. We attract students from Texas, California, the East Coast and the Midwest because we have a reputation as a school that cares about the student experience and invests in hands-on activities. I want to re-invest in that mindset and leverage it to propel a superior research reputation around the country as a place to find top-notch information, particularly in those areas where we excel in Oklahoma.



Jayson Lusk
Vice President and Dean
OSU Agriculture

Building Progress

Click on each photo for more information and additional building progress images.

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Time-lapse Video

View the progress made during the previous month in the time-lapse video below.



Drone Video

View the drone video below of building construction taken in January 2024.



Building Site Progress

Great strides were made on the construction site for the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall in 2023. The video highlights monthly site pictures and showcases the changes made throughout the year.



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Facility Fast Fact

The New Frontiers Agricultural Hall will include **119 faculty offices** mostly located on upper floors to reduce noise and increase privacy, **5 double post-doctorate offices** and **237 graduate student office spaces**.



Featured Donors

Rodney Jones and Karen Eifert Jones
Major Gift Donors

Named Space: Eifert-Jones Family
Educating for Life (Faculty Office)

"When we decided to contribute to the construction of the new building, we did so to honor the role the college has played in our family history and contribute to what it can be for future generations, including our children who are both current students. After touring the building, we see it will do both of those things. The updated teaching spaces and laboratories, equipped with new technology, and the collaborative spaces for students and faculty show that OSU's Ferguson College of Agriculture teaching, research and Extension roles will continue to develop agricultural leaders in all fields." – **Rodney Jones, OSU faculty member, and Karen Eifert Jones, OSU agricultural economics, '85**

[Read More about the Joneses](#)

Featured News

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Concrete Contributions

Behind the curtain of construction barriers, OSU Ferguson College of Agriculture students have taken center stage in the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall.

[Read More about Contributions](#)


Dairy Bar

The re-envisioned Dairy Bar, named after New Frontiers Cornerstone Donors Larry and Kayleen Ferguson, is set to open this fall in the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall.

[Read More about Dairy Bar](#)


Vision for the Future

Jayson Lusk, vice president and dean of OSU Agriculture, discusses his role and the upcoming move into the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall in 2024.

[Read More about Lusk's Vision](#)


Grand Opening

The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University celebrated the grand opening of its new Horticulture Education Center to enhance community programming.

[Read More about Grand Opening](#)

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NEW FRONTIERS



than \$50 million, reaching the fundraising goal in record time! Click the button below to learn more about New Frontiers, including building features, donor stories, how you can support the project and more.

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