



AGRICULTURE



NEWS AND UPDATES

February 2025

The spring semester is in full swing and buzzing with activities. I've been in the role for about a year and a half, and seeing the positive energy in our faculty, staff and students working together toward our purpose-driven mission has been a joy. Over the past year, we have collectively engaged in a forward-looking planning exercise to position us well for the future. I'm pleased to be able to share the resulting strategic plan, and I am looking forward to working with you all as we put it into action in the years ahead.

[OSU Agriculture's Strategic Position and Alignment](#) outlines the following areas:

- [Who We Are](#)
- [The Need for a Plan](#)
- [Priorities](#)
- [Critical Actions](#)
- [Initiatives](#)

I encourage you to visit the links above to learn how OSU Agriculture is boldly charting a transformative path forward, integrating cutting-edge research, innovative teaching and impactful Extension services to revolutionize agriculture and natural resources.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions.



Jayson Lusk
Vice President and Dean
OSU Agriculture

Dr. Lusk's Lens



CattleCon 2025

Dr. Lusk mingles with Richard Coffey, David Lalman and Andrew Foote in front of the OSU Department of Animal and Food Sciences booth during the Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show in San Antonio, Texas. OSU Agriculture served coffee and donuts and held an afternoon happy hour during CattleCon 2025.

Mission Focus

OSU Agriculture is comprised of the Ferguson College of Agriculture and two state agencies: OSU Ag Research and OSU Extension. Learn the latest from our three mission areas.



Teaching

Megan Janus, academic programs coordinator in the OSU Ferguson College of Agriculture, was recognized with the Leave the Ladder Down Award for her mentorship.

[Read more about Megan Janus](#)



Research

OSU's Oklahoma Water Resources Center welcomes Ali Mirchi, biosystems and agricultural engineering faculty member, as the new associate director.

[Read more about Ali Mirchi](#)



Extension

OSU Extension hired a new cotton specialist. Jenny Dudak found her passion for cotton production in college and is eager to interact with cotton producers.

[Read more about Jenny Dudak](#)

Cultivating Excellence

Sarkeys Award

Craig Edwards, OSU Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Leadership professor, received the Sarkeys Distinguished Professor Award.

[Read More about Sarkeys Award](#)





Whatley Award

Ali Mirchi, OSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering associate professor, received the James A. Whatley Award for Meritorious Research.

[Read More about Whatley Award](#)

Fertile Findings



Rangeland Management Programs

The rangeland ecology and management field emphasizes the need to restore and preserve the ecosystems of U.S. grasslands, shrublands and forests. Kendall Christensen, a senior in natural resource ecology management, examined farmland converted to native range to see how she could increase fertility and production on the land.

[Read More about Christensen's Study](#)

Voices from the Field



“SUNUP” - Increasing Egg Prices and HPAI

Lyndall Stout talks with Amy Hagerman, OSU Extension ag policy specialist, about the sharp increase in egg prices and the broader industry challenges amid the highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak.

Sow & Grow



Best of “Oklahoma Gardening” - Planting Vegetables

Casey Hentges plants a selection of tomatoes and peppers ideal for container gardening, shares colorful tomatoes growing at the OSU Student Farm, shows how to stake and weave tomatoes and demonstrates how to plant summer squash seeds at The Botanic Garden at OSU.

Photo Spotlight



Indoor Archery

A 4-H member participates in the Indoor Archery Invitation Benefit Shoot held at the Payne County Expo Center in Stillwater. 🍀 🏹

News & Events



Law Enforcement Training

OSU Extension is partnering with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Department of



Golden Anniversary

“Oklahoma Gardening” kicked off its 50th season on Feb. 15. The show will continue to provide viewers with the latest horticulture

[Read More about Training](#)

[Read More about Golden Anniversary](#)



Dean's Dialogue

OSU Agriculture held a special edition of its Dean's Dialogue series on Jan. 27 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma City.

[Read More about Dean's Dialogue](#)



FDA Ban

Citing health concerns, the U.S. Drug and Food Administration has banned Red No. 3 dye, also known as E127 or erythrosine, in foods. Companies have until Jan. 15, 2027, to comply with the order.

[Read More about FDA Ban](#)

Give to OSU Agriculture



Help Feed the World

Supporting OSU Agriculture helps further initiatives to positively impact the lives of Oklahomans and the state's economy.

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