



AGRICULTURE



NEWS AND UPDATES

June 2025

Summer is in full swing, and while Agricultural Hall may be quieter than normal, campus is buzzing with prospective students taking tours and incoming students participating in orientation and enrollment. We can't wait to welcome our new students to the Ferguson Family.

After a slow start due to heavy rains, wheat harvest is ramping up in the state. Our Wheat Improvement Team is busy collecting and publishing data from our wheat variety trials. Each year, we test between 20 and 30 cultivars at 20 to 25 sites to deliver timely information to producers on available wheat cultivars that might be well-adapted to Oklahoma. This program, funded by the Oklahoma Wheat Commission and the Oklahoma Wheat Research Foundation, allows producers to choose the best wheat variety for the highest impact on profit.

Finally, earlier this week, we announced the honorees of the [2025 Distinguished Alumni](#) and [Champions for OSU Agriculture](#) awards. Shannon Angle, Bill Clymer, Robert Hodgen, M. John Kane IV and N. Malone Mitchell Jr. are recipients of the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award. In

recipients. These individuals will be recognized for their achievements and contributions during the OSU Agriculture Honors ceremony on Oct. 3.

Until next time.

Jayson Lusk

Jayson Lusk
Vice President and Dean
OSU Agriculture

Dr. Lusk's Lens



Wheat Plot Tours

Dr. Lusk participated in the OSU Wheat Variety Testing Plot Tour in Kildare last month. The wheat variety trial results are being populated and posted online as they are ready.

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

The 2025 Louis and Betty Gardner Outstanding Senior Award for the Ferguson College of Agriculture is awarded to Jared Stone of Chandler, Oklahoma.

[Read More about Jared Stone](#)



Research

OSU partners with entities such as Oklahoma Genetics Inc. to benefit the wheat industry. More than 70% of all wheat acres are planted with OSU-developed varieties.

[Read More about Partnerships](#)



Extension

The OSU Extension Soil, Water and Forage Analytical Lab tests more than 58,000 samples each year to protect natural resources and support ag production.

[Read More about SWFAL](#)

Shaping Tomorrow Today, The Future is Now



Innovate to Responsibly Increase Demand for Ag Products

Long-term viability and sustainability of farming, ranching, agribusiness and food processing require a forward-looking approach that satisfies consumer desires and anticipates changes in consumer demand. Farmer profitability and societal well-being are both enhanced when consumers' willingness to pay for food products rises.

OSU Agriculture will focus resources that increase food, fiber and fuel demand by adding value through enhanced product quality, healthiness, functionality, reliability and safety for agricultural and forestry products.

Agromony Discovery Center



Needs and Opportunities

OSU Agriculture recently met with university Faculty Emeriti to discuss plans for a fundraising initiative to upgrade the Agronomy Research Station. As a multiphase process, the Agronomy Discovery Center will include a new headhouse and research greenhouses that will become the birthplace of all of OSU's new wheat lines. In addition, a dynamic and multipurpose classroom and lab building will elevate OSU Agriculture's research capabilities and create ample opportunities for program growth and impact.

Support the Agronomy Discovery Center

Cultivating Excellence



Ferguson College Alumnus Protects New Mexico Range

A range management education from OSU set Nolan Craun on the path to a career at the Bureau of Land Management. Seven years after earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from the OSU Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Craun is a supervisory realty specialist for the bureau. Craun works responsibly to conserve thousands of acres of rangeland under contract with oil companies, local and county municipalities, Native American tribes and government agencies in New Mexico. The role requires a background in range management and a fair amount of people skills, which Craun has picked up throughout his career.

[Read More about Craun](#)

On the Air

We Are Land-Grant

Dr. Lusk joined the We Are Land-Grant series to talk about how OSU Agriculture is supporting Oklahoma's food economy.



[Listen to We Are Land-Grant](#)

Red Dirt Agronomy

Dr. Lusk sat down with the Red Dirt Agronomy Podcast team to share how OSU Agriculture is tackling tough questions, investing in rural research, and preparing for the future of OSU Agriculture and agriculture in the state of Oklahoma, with topics ranging from beef to AI.

[Listen to Red Dirt Agronomy](#)



Voices from the Field



Past Issue
"SUNUP" - Why are Mosquitoes So Bad This Year?

Jonathan Cammack, OSU Extension livestock entomologist, explains how recent heavy rains and flooding can lead to an increase in mosquito populations.

Sow and Grow



"Oklahoma Gardening" - 2025 Oklahoma Proven Shrub

David Hillock, OSU consumer horticulture specialist, introduces Sweetshrub, this year's Oklahoma Proven Shrub.

Photo Spotlight



Wheat Harvest

Wheat harvest got a slow start in Oklahoma due to heavy rains across the state. As of June 25, the Oklahoma Wheat Commission reports the 2025 harvest is 55% complete. 🌾

News & Events



Building Financial Skills

Financial security is a life goal for everyone, and building the skills to achieve that goal starts at an early age, helping children develop good habits.



Avoid Food Waste

As food insecurity grows and grocery prices climb, OSU Extension encourages reducing food waste. Food storage and meal planning can prevent waste and save money.



Lusk Named to Board

Jayson Lusk has been appointed to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

[Read More about Lusk](#)



Soaklahoma

By June, Oklahoma gardeners usually encounter parched soil begging for a drink, but the last few weeks have delivered an onslaught of rain in nearly epic proportions.

[Read More about Soaklahoma](#)

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.

[Make a Gift](#)





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