



Insider

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EXTENSION CELEBRATES 100 years

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) has kicked off its celebration of 100 years of extending knowledge and improving the lives of Oklahomans.

The centennial party officially started in January in Stillwater with Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presiding over a cake-cutting ceremony and Oklahoma State University President Burns Hargis reading a proclamation marking the occasion.

“As a land-grant university, our job is to train great talent, do great research and share that with our state, our nation and the world. One of the important ways we share with our state is through the Cooperative

Extension Service,” Hargis said. “For 100 years, Extension has been changing lives by providing research-based expertise in everything from agriculture to health and nutrition to 4-H to community development. So, happy birthday to OSU’s Cooperative Extension and thanks for a century of service.”

Extension is a reliable source of research-based information on anything from managing your money to keeping up with the latest agriculture technology and markets to identifying that plant or insect in your yard.

Back in the days when cellphones, Wi-Fi and the Internet were nonexistent, Extension agents and specialists shouted



Current Extension head James Trapp (from left), retired Extension state directors Ray Campbell and Bill Taggart, Pistol Pete, Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb and Interim Dean/Vice President of the Division of Agriculture Mike Woods kicked off the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service’s 100th anniversary in 2014 with a cake-cutting ceremony in Stillwater.

FLASHBACK

4-H members brought the original rowdy to Gallagher-Iba Arena. The historic facility was constructed in 1938 to serve as the state 4-H building. Today, the program touches the lives of thousands of young people across the state through stock shows, speech contests and many other leadership development activities. The annual State 4-H Roundup is held at OSU each summer.

their expertise from the backs of trains and traveled on foot or horseback to visit farms and towns.

Today, the service uses 21st-century technology to reach Oklahomans of all ages. In addition to a strong social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram, Extension’s two weekly television shows — *SunUp* (agriculture) and *Oklahoma Gardening* — boast more than 2.5 million online views.

“For 100 years, Extension educators and specialists have worked one-on-one, side-by-side with Oklahomans to

solve local issues and assist families with everyday challenges,” said James Trapp, associate director of OCES. “For us, it’s personal. It always has been and it always will be.”

Extension is marking its 100th birthday with a variety of county and statewide events throughout the year, including a feature-length documentary set to premiere on the service’s anniversary date of May 8 on OETA-TV.

In Oklahoma, OSU and Langston University engage in Extension outreach activities.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Extension services benefit all Oklahomans

With a presence in all 77 counties, Extension offers programs that relate to all aspects of life, from financial management and nutrition to youth development and agriculture, in an effort to enhance the lives of all Oklahomans.

Programs are free or low cost through county Extension offices via workshops, classes, webinars and informational fact sheets.

“Extension’s mission is to harness all the research and know-how of land-grant institutions like Oklahoma State University and use it to help Oklahomans live the best lives possible,” said James Trapp, associate director of OCES. “We’re proud of our history of putting that mission into action in Oklahoma.”

The Smith-Lever Act formally established the national Cooperative Extension Service May 8, 1914. The legislation created a unique partnership between county, state and federal governments, and provides funding through land-grant



A 4-H member gets hands-on experience with an ATV in the ATV RiderCourse, which offers lessons in safe riding.

schools to expand vocational, agricultural, and home and family programs beyond the university.

If you want information regarding gardening or ATV safety, Extension can help. Oklahomans who may be in the market to purchase a home can receive research-based information about mortgages and insurance. The service also is a great resource for information regarding technology related to agriculture.

In addition to programming geared toward adults, OCES also offers a youth component. The Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program is designed for

OSU Cooperative Extension small grains specialist Jeff Edwards won the National Excellence in Extension Award, given annually to one Extension professional who excels at programming, provides visionary leadership and makes a positive impact on constituents.

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ages 5 to 18, and it’s a lot more than sows, cows and plows. 4-H offers more than 60 project areas that will pique the interest of just about anyone — whether in a rural, urban or suburban area.

including a database of more than 5,000 downloadable, research-based fact sheets, are free or low-cost and are available at osufacts.okstate.edu.



State Extension specialists and county Extension educators are available to all Oklahoma residents to answer questions and provide information about the vast programming areas available.

For more information about the programs offered by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, contact the Payne County Extension office at 405-747-8320 or the

Extension office in your home county or visit oces.okstate.edu.

Most OCES resources and activities,



Congratulations

Oklahoma’s own **Reba McEntire** celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.



Proclamation

President Burns Hargis reads the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Centennial Proclamation on behalf of the OSU Regents.

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