



RURAL RENEWAL INITIATIVE

2025 RURAL RENEWAL SYMPOSIUM

Woodward Conference Center

Woodward, Oklahoma

November 3-5, 2025

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

12:30 – 1:30 PM Registration

1:30 – 1:45 PM Welcome, symposium goals, logistics

Audrey King

Oklahoma State University

Main Session 1

1:45 – 2:05 PM – Exploring Resilience & ‘Hometown Pride’ Across Rural Communities

Jason Headrick

Texas Tech University

2:05 – 2:25 PM – A Decade of Rural Voices: Insights from 10 Years of the Survey of Rural Challenges

Becky McCray

SaveYour.Town

2:25 – 2:45 PM – Where Cotton Roots Meet Combat Boots: A Case Study Exploration of Community Resilience in Altus, Oklahoma

Laney Reasner

Oklahoma State University

2:45 – 3:30 PM – Rural Scholars Panel Discussion

Hoyt Nebgen

Oklahoma State University

3:30 – 4:00 PM – Networking Break & Poster Session

Main Session 2

4:00 – 4:20 PM – Rural Resource Gaps: Health Implications of Access Disparities faced by Florida’s Agricultural Community, Insights for Oklahoma

Carrie Baker

Oklahoma State University

4:20 – 4:40 PM – The Feasibility of Implementing a Community Paramedicine Program in Delaware County

Denna Wheeler

Oklahoma State University

4:40 – 5:00 PM – Transforming Rural Health: Strategies for Effective Mobile Health Clinic Deployment

Tao Hu

Oklahoma State University

5:00 – 5:20 PM – Intergenerational Wisdom and Adaptive Capacity: A Qualitative Analysis of Community Resilience Among American Indians

Lana Beasley and Amanda Morris

Oklahoma State University

Dinner and Rural Renewal Champions

5:20 – 6:00 PM – Banquet Welcome and Buffet Line

Tyson Ochsner

Oklahoma State University

6:00 – 6:45 PM – 2025 Rural Renewal Research Prize Winner will be awarded to:

John Green

Mississippi State University

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

8:00 – 8:50 AM Breakfast

8:50 – 9:00 Morning Overview

 **Ed Kirtley**

 *Oklahoma State University*

9:00 – 10:15 AM Breakout Sessions

See details on pages 3 and 4.

10:15 – 11:00 AM – Networking Break & Poster Session

Main Session 3

11:00 – 11:30 AM – Question and Answer Session with 2025 Research Prize Winner

 **John Green**

 *Mississippi State University*

11:30 – 12:15 PM – Rural Climate Resilience Panel

 **Tyson Ochsner**

 *Oklahoma State University*

12:15 – 2:00 PM Lunch on your own

2:00 PM – Tours will start promptly at 2:00 PM



High Plains Tech Center; 3921 34th; Woodward, OK



USDA Agricultural Research Services (tentative)



Woodward Downtown Walking Tour; 816 Main Street; Woodward, OK

5:30 – 7:00 PM – Dinner, panel discussion with rural community leaders, and awarding of the 2025 Rural Renewal Citizenship Prize to:

 **Jamey Mitchell**

 *Mayor, City of Texhoma*

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

RURAL CLIMATE IMPACTS – Meeting Room 1

9:00 – 9:15 AM – Climate Change Adaptability in Rural New Mexico



Sawssan Boufous



New Mexico State University

9:15 – 9:30 AM – The Effects of Extreme Temperature on Downtown Vitality



Andrew Vanleuven



University of Vermont

9:30 – 9:45 AM – Visualizing Resiliency: Aftermath of Hurricane Ida and Recovery Efforts in Bayou Communities



Kashif Rustamani



Louisiana State University

9:45 – 10:00 AM – Nothing to come back to: The Insurance Crisis in Southeastern Louisiana



Linda Bui



Louisiana State University

10:00 – 10:15 AM – Community Forestry and Rural Community Resilience: Insights from Nepal's Community Forestry Program



Mukesh Bhattarai



Kansas State University

EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – Meeting Room 2

9:00 – 9:15 AM – Extending Civic Leadership to Rural Youth: A Guide for Youth to Lead Collaboratively with Their Community



Delaney Weisend



Oklahoma State University

9:15 – 9:30 AM – Rooted in Place, Driven in Purpose: Educator Insights on Engagement-Based Learning



Hoyt Nebgen



Oklahoma State University

9:30 – 9:45 AM – Well Water Education and Testing in Rural Education



Jeff Sadler



Oklahoma State University

9:45 – 10:00 AM – Something EPIC is Going on in Rural Communities



Brittany Williams



College Edu-Nation

10:00 – 10:15 AM – Cultivating Confidence: The Evolution of Scientific Identity in the Rural Scholars Program



Audrey King



Oklahoma State University

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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

COMMUNITY RESOURCES – Meeting Room 3

9:00 – 9:15 AM – Grant Writing for Rural Communities

Sarah Diamond

Diamond Grants

9:15 – 9:30 AM – Unleashing Untapped Rural Entrepreneurial Potential

Andrew Button

Mashup Lab

9:30 – 9:45 AM – Reviving a Cultural Landmark: Community Engagement Strategies at the Woodward Arts Theatre

Candee Brossman

Woodward Arts Theatre

9:45 – 10:00 AM – Water and Wastewater System Sustainability and the Rural Infrastructure Grant Program

Brandon Bowman

Oklahoma Rural Water Association

10:00 – 10:15 AM – Oklahoma Groundwater Nitrate Study

Colin Caso

Oklahoma State University

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DESIGN – Exhibit Hall

9:00 – 9:15 AM – Science Communication and Trust in Times of Outbreaks: A Health Belief Model Approach

Dorcas Sunday

University of Florida

9:15 – 9:30 AM – Bird Flu's Trend Is Taking Flight: A Content Analysis of HPAI Social Media Messaging During an Outbreak

Kayla Braggs

University of Florida

9:30 – 9:45 AM – Navigating the Journey of Latino and Non-Latino Farm and Food Business Owners Through the Food System and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Raquel Taylor

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

9:45 – 10:00 AM – Rural Renewal and Architectural Design: Speculative Methods for Designing in Indian Country

Bailey Brown Mitchell

Oklahoma State University

10:00 – 10:15 AM – Strategies for Engaging in the Process of Team Science

Raquel Taylor

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

8:00 – 8:50 AM Breakfast

8:50 – 9:00 Morning Overview

 **Audrey King**

 *Oklahoma State University*

9:00 – 10:00 AM – Networking Break & Poster Session

Main Session 4

10:00 – 10:20 AM – Buggin' Out: Exploring Tick Talk Across the Urban-Rural Divide

 **Lauri M. Baker**

 *University of Florida*

10:20 – 10:40 AM – Overlooked Assets: Sleezebag Motels, No-Tell Motels, and the Places Our Families Once Stayed

 **Ronald H. Frantz, Jr.**

 *The Frantz Alliance, LLC*

10:40 – 11:00 AM – Perceptions of Medical Marijuana in Rural Oklahoma Communities

 **Josiah Cruikshank**

 *Oklahoma State University*

Closing

11:00 – 11:15 AM – Weckler Prize Awards

 **Paul Weckler**

 *Oklahoma State University*

11:15 – 11:30 AM – Closing Remarks

 **Shane Robinson**

 *Oklahoma State University*

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Poster Presentations

- Building Digital Bridges: Social Capital and Facebook Use in Rural Southwestern Oklahoma Communities
👤 **Laney Reasner** 🏢 *Oklahoma State University*
- Examining Financial Literacy of People with Parkinson Disease (PD) in Oklahoma and Building Sustainable Financial Resources for PD Communities
👤 **Sabiha Parveen and Bidisha Lahiri** 🏢 *Oklahoma State University*
- Connecting to Resources: Training Pharmacy Technicians as Community Health Workers in Rural Oklahoma Pharmacies
👤 **Meri Hix** 🏢 *Southwestern Oklahoma State University*
- Age and Gender Patterns in Oklahoma's Rural and Urban Veterinary Workforce
👤 **Chad Landgraf** 🏢 *OSU Center for Rural Health*
- Integrating Water Yield Modeling with Groundwater Availability in the Red River Basin, Oklahoma
👤 **Sharmin Siddika** 🏢 *Louisiana State University*
- A Decade of Rural Voices: Insights from 10 Years of the Survey of Rural Challenges
👤 **Deb Brown and Becky McCray** 🏢 *SaveYour.town*
- Embedding Security Awareness into IoT-based Smart Agriculture System
👤 **Sharmin Jahan** 🏢 *Oklahoma State University*
- Rural Emergency Planning through Informal & Volunteer Mutual Aid
👤 **Frankie Wood-Black** 🏢 *Northern Oklahoma College*
- Resilience is Built from Community: Exploring Strategies for Communicating Climate
👤 **Rachel Williss** 🏢 *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*
- Summer Stories: Extending the Reach of an OSU Center to Rural Communities
👤 **Suzii Parsons** 🏢 *Oklahoma State University*
- Proactive XSS Attack Detection in Smart Farming via ML/DL Models
👤 **Sharmin Jahan** 🏢 *Oklahoma State University*
- The Relationships Between Plant Available Water, Crop Yields, and Rural Economies: A Case Study from Southwest Oklahoma
👤 **Arturo Flores** 🏢 *Oklahoma State University*
- Igniting Curiosity: STEM Impact on K–12 Students in Jackson County, OK
👤 **Ashley J. Mattison** 🏢 *Oklahoma State University*
- Regenerative Agriculture's Cover Crop Technique's Impact on Water Runoff
👤 **Lindsey Berube** 🏢 *Oklahoma State University*

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- Small Buildings, Big Impact: Rural Renewal and the Accessory Dwelling Unit
 👤 **Blake Mitchell** 🏠 *Oklahoma State University*
- Harvest Rx: Advancing Rural Health Through Food Is Medicine
 👤 **Leo Perez** 🏠 *Oklahoma State University*
- Assessment of Collegiate Rodeo Student-Athletes' Access to Veterinary Services in Southwest Oklahoma
 👤 **Jennifer Hammack** 🏠 *Western Oklahoma State College*
- Hank the Cowdog Student-Directed Research Project
 👤 **Andrew Wilson** 🏠 *Collegiate Edu-Nation*
- A Typical Community Scale Energy Production System to Increase Rural Energy Resilience
 👤 **Ian Forester and Frank Yeboah** 🏠 *University of North Dakota*
- An Exploration of Rural Community and School Engagement with West Texas Superintendents
 👤 **Jason Headrick** 🏠 *Texas Tech University*
- Rural Confluence: Where Science and Community Come Together in Niobrara, NE.
 👤 **Raquel Taylor** 🏠 *University of Nebraska - Lincoln*
- Sustainable Water Solutions: Innovating Solar-Energy-Combined Desalination for Rural Crop Irrigation in Oklahoma
 👤 **Sharad Puri** 🏠 *Oklahoma State University*

Rural Scholar Poster Presentations

- Exploring the Connection Between Civic Pride and Rural Youth Organizations: A Case Study
 👤 **Ashtyn Humphreys**
- Impacts of Oklahoma's Medical Marijuana Industry on Rural Communities: Dispensary and Healthcare Professional Perspectives
 👤 **Greta Hamre**
- Soil Nitrate Concentrations Beneath Irrigated, Non-Irrigated, and Uncultivated Land in Western Oklahoma
 👤 **Charles Lewis, Logan Fraley, and Brayden Buchwald**
- The Reasons Youth in 4-H and FFA Choose to or Not to Pursue Leadership Opportunities
 👤 **Olivia Coody**
- Understanding Rural Health Disparities: A Comparative Analysis of Diabetes, Exercise, and Nutrition in Sequoyah and Latimer Counties, Oklahoma
 👤 **Angelique Robinson**

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- Reclaiming Rural Identity Through Artificial Intelligence and Digital Storytelling
👤 **Leena Gamboa**
- Igniting Curiosity: STEM Impact on K-12 Students in Jackson County, OK
👤 **Isabelle Gloria**
- Evaluation of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Health Disparities regarding Diabetes, Nutrition and Exercise in Rural Wilburton Oklahoma
👤 **Robert Wagner**
- From Harvest to Hashtags: Female Farmers Digital and Social Media Use
👤 **Kierson Reasner**
- Subtle Discrimination and Anxiety in Rural Indigenous Mental Health
👤 **Elizabeth Winn**
- Understanding the Role of Cultural Efficacy on the Relation Between Childhood Adversity and Depressive Symptoms Among American Indians
👤 **Joel Sahmaunt**
- Assessing E. coli and Coliform Contamination in Private Wells in Jackson County, Oklahoma
👤 **Mounika Gopishetty**
- Voices from Oklahoma's Historic Black Towns: A Qualitative Study
👤 **Chyanne Williams**
- Youth Mental Health Literacy, Access to Care, and the Role of Local Media in Rural Oklahoma
👤 **Emma Buchanan**
- Empty Barns, Empty Clinics: The Rural Veterinary Crisis
👤 **Amy Rodriguez**
- Assessing Paramedicine in Delaware County: A Survey-Based Analysis of Community Needs and Service Gaps
👤 **Justin Rein**
- Black Farmers and Agricultural Organization: Insights from a Q Methodology Study
👤 **Tania Peebles**
- Faces Behind the Flicker: Impacts of Energy Instability
👤 **Jada Wilson**

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Local Restaurants

A Touch of Home

- 1824 Main St., Woodward, OK 73801
- <https://orders.cake.net/11163481>

Chase's BBQ Shack

- 1122 8th St., Woodward, OK 73801
- <https://chasesbbqshack.com>

Longshots Bar & Grill

- 810 Main St., Woodward, OK 73801
- <https://longshotgrill.com/menu/>

Polly Anna Café

- 902 Main St., Woodward, OK 73801
- <https://local.ilacfiyati.org/e/polly-anna-cafe>

Rustic Grub & Grill

- 900 Lakeview Dr., Woodward, OK 73801
- <https://rusticgrubandgrill.my.canva.site>

Wagg's Bar-B-Q

- 1223 7th St., Woodward, OK 73801
- https://waggs-bar-b-q.foodjoyy.com/#google_vignette

Walker Mercantile Co.

- 809 Main St., Woodward, OK 73801
- <https://www.walkermercantile.com/food>

Coffee

Twisters Coffee Co.

- 2131 Oklahoma Ave., Woodward, Ok 73801
- <https://twisters-coffee-co.square.site/?location=L4PBHFWQZVSSB#most-popular>

Fast Food

- Arby's
- Braum's
- Dairy Queen
- KFC
- McDonald's
- Sonic
- Taco Bell

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