

IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE IN OKLAHOMA: AN ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL LEADERS' PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract

The purpose of this qualitative analysis was to gain a conceptual understanding of participants' outlook surrounding important issues facing the Oklahoma agricultural industry. Seventeen themes emerged from the data that focused on a greater need for agricultural literacy, especially among elected leaders and the voting population. Participants detailed a series of connecting variables that would ultimately result in the loss of small farming operations within the United States. Agricultural illiteracy remains a dominant concern among those engaged in farming, in spite of agricultural educators' efforts toward teaching every citizen in and about agriculture. Other educators may wish to present these findings to students in agricultural courses to test the conceptual linkages and explore similar relationships within communities faced with analogous challenges.

Introduction

Production agriculture has faced declining public support among many Americans, in part due to a century of separation from the land. Agriculturalists moved from farms to cities in the early 1900s as the industrial revolution swept the nation. The great depression of the 1930s drew still more farmers into urban areas in search of economic opportunity. Declining income from farming during the 1970s and 1980s claimed the livelihood of many more of those who had remained in production agriculture. Those who continue to farm today face ever-increasing pressures to produce more with less, to accept fluctuating prices for their products, and sell in a buyers market.

In response to the need for a larger impact on agricultural policy issues within the state, the Department of Agricultural Education, Communications, and 4-H Youth Development at Oklahoma State University established the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program (OALP) in 1990. The purpose of the program was to assist potential leaders develop a deeper understanding of the various systems of economics and government and to help

participants increase and utilize their knowledge and skills to solve problems and to explore opportunities for Oklahoma agricultural products (OALP Advisory Council, 2000).

Purpose of the Analysis

The purpose of this analysis was to gain a conceptual understanding of OALP participants' perspectives surrounding important issues facing the Oklahoma agricultural industry upon entry into the program. Knowing how this population perceived agricultural issues served to strengthen the training they received over the following two years, as well as enlightened policy makers as to pressing issues facing farmers and agribusiness persons in a rapidly shifting economy.

Methods

The data gathered for this analysis came from the written applications where candidates were asked to state their perspective of the most important issues concerning the agricultural industry in 200 words or less. Responses were typed verbatim from the application and loaded

into a software program called ATLISTI.ti (available from www.atlisti.de) for analysis.

The grounded theory approach was used for analysis and interpretation of the data. Grounded theory is an inductive approach to data analysis that results in conclusions that are deeply rooted in the data (Strauss & Corbin, 1998). When using grounded theory methods for analysis, theory genesis is taken from the data collected for a specific study; hence no literature review was reported in this study as to not establish a priori cause and effect relationships among the variables. The researchers began this analysis with the intent of better understanding participants' awareness and exposure to issues that influenced their lifestyle and community. When constructing grounded theory, the emphasis was placed on building rather than testing theory through deductive hypothesis testing. The researchers considered alternative meanings of phenomena in a systematic and creative process. No attempts were made to generalize the findings of this analysis to other populations (Merriam, 1998).

Findings were negotiated among the research team to increase credibility. One researcher served on the selection committee for the OALP class 10 and interviewed several participants. During the interviews the researcher checked interpretations of the data with the participants. Another researcher currently serves as the director of the OALP and

had ongoing interaction with participants. Early drafts of the manuscript were shared with participants to confirm emerging hypothesis.

Researcher bias control is the attempt to "limit the influences of unjustified views" (Scriven, 1991, p. 69) and was monitored by comparison of emerging hypothesis within the research team. The perspectives of the individual researchers were examined through peer review (Merriam, 1998) when discussing emerging hypothesis. The fact that one of the researchers was also the director of the OALP served to introduce bias and to control bias by providing a tension that keep the other researchers from wandering too far from the purpose of the study and by causing self-reflection within the team.

Population

The objective of OALP was "to further develop future leaders for the Oklahoma Agricultural industry" (Selection criteria for OALP, April 6, 2000). Official criteria for the program stated that candidates must have "demonstrated leadership potential" and who were between 25 and 45 years of age. Thirty-nine candidates applied for the program and 30 were chosen based on merit and leadership potential documented through an extensive application process and three letters of recommendation (Table 1).

Table 1. Names and Occupations of Participants

Occupation	n	Name
Agricultural production (reported that they earned 100% of their income from farming)	10	Avery, Buck, Chapin, Hawks, Heart, Mathews, Muller, Sweet, Waters, Wilson
Agricultural sales representative	3	Finds, Homer, Larke
USDA specialist	2	Hughes, Overton
Agricultural education instructor	2	Born, Ramsey
Executive director for livestock council	2	Linders, Weather
Farm manager	2	Jorgensen, Trout
Accountant for farm	1	Keith
Farm credit services	1	Shoes
Oklahoma Department of Forestry	1	Stream
Meat scientist	1	Gabriel
Nutrition, physiology corporation owner	1	Raymond
Nursery producer/owner	1	Berkley
Public relations specialist	1	Johns
Senior Appraiser	1	Piaget
Tax services	1	Shawshank
Total	30	

All 30 candidates who were selected for the program agreed to allow the researchers access to their written comments for the analysis. Participants' names were substituted with pseudonyms to protect their identity. The participants' average age was 35.8 years and ranged from 26 to 45 years. Twenty-three participants were male and 7 were female. In order to apply for the OALP participants had to be engaged in agricultural business or production activities. Candidates reported that they worked in a variety of agriculturally based occupations including production agriculture, agricultural sales representatives, USDA specialists, and teaching about agriculture. Participants lived in rural communities throughout Oklahoma, with an average population of 14,860 and a range of 980 to 45,230 people (1998 estimated data, available www.odoc.state.ok.us). The mean and range

were based on 18 towns and cities, as data were not available for 12 towns or cities).

Results and Conclusion

Participants expressed concern over 17 issues facing the agricultural industry. Table 2 displays the categories along with the number (n) and names of individuals whose responses were coded for each category from the data set. Each issue is discussed along with supporting text from the data set. A grounded theory is then presented to summarize the findings, which draws relationships among the 17 variables as reported by the participants.

Advocacy was not the intent of this analysis; however, in presenting the views of the participants an activist tone for greater efforts in agricultural literacy shines through – perhaps the result of a need for self-preservation as agriculturalist.

Table 2. Important Issues, Number, and Name and of Individuals Making Claim

Issue	n	Name of individual making claim
Need for agricultural literacy	11	Blakley, Buck, Finds, Heart, Hughes, Keith, Larke, Linders, Mathews, Ramsey, Wilson
Lack of financial soundness of farming	11	Finds, Hawks, Johns, Larke, Linders, Overton, Piaget, Shoes, Sweet, Trout, Wilson
Lack of sound farm policy	9	Born, Chapin, Hawks, Homer, Johns, Muller, Stream, Trout, Wilson
Loss of family values	8	Gabriel, Hawks, Linders, Overton, Raymond, Ramsey, Shoes, Waters
Centralization of production agriculture	7	Chapin, Gabriel, Heart, Homer, Overton, Piaget, Ramsey
Loss of family farms	6	Buck, Finds, Heart, Ramsey, Trout, Wilson
Lack of rural economic development	3	Avery, Chapin, Gabriel
The graying of farmers	4	Born, Piaget, Sweet, Wilson
Need for education of farmers in production techniques	3	Buck, Jorgensen, Trout
Conflicts with environmentalist groups	4	Blakley, Keith, Muller, Waters
Need for moral leadership	4	Blakley, Buck, Heart, Raymond
Concern over urban sprawl	3	Blakley, Mathews, Sweet
Concern over environmental issues	3	Larke, Raymond, Ramsey
Need for sound tax laws	3	Chapin, Piaget, Sweet
Miscellaneous	2	Weather, Muller

Need for Agricultural Literacy

The majority of participants' comments regarding important agricultural issues centered on agricultural literacy, which was conceptualized as educating and informing the nonagricultural population about agricultural practices. Participants stated that agricultural practices were environmentally neutral, that products were safe and nutritious, and that farmers contributed to balancing world trade with food and fiber exports. They were firm in their stance that American agriculture was beneficial to national security; however, admitted that there was a need for those involved in agriculture to spend more time educating and informing the public about the value of agriculture to the nation.

Blakley stated "it is our duty as leaders in agriculture to educate and inform the public of our practices, about how safe and vital they are in the production of agricultural products, which in turn provides this country with an ample supply of food and fiber". Finds reiterated, "We need to come together as one entity, pool our resources to educate the

consumer as to what goods and services agriculture is providing to the consumer. Agriculture is helping the environment with sound, practical farming and ranching management practices".

Agricultural literacy was linked to sound agricultural policy. Heart stated that legislatures "have the power to change consumers' ideas about agricultural products. We must educate our legislatures about the problems we, the farmers, face. Legislatures need to understand so they can help us correct the glitches in the political system". A lack of agricultural literacy was cited as a reason that "agriculture will continue to struggle as an industry" (Hughes). Mathews stated that consumers "want safe food and a clean environment and demand legislation" that is most often in opposition to farm profitability. "Consumers will be less sympathetic to the plight of the American farmer and more susceptible to the message of the farmer's detractors" in the absence of agricultural literacy efforts (Ramsey).

Participants explained that a lack of agricultural literacy lead to a lack of sound farm policy, which in turn allowed for urban sprawl

and the increase of land values and taxation burdens for farmers. “Hobby farms are driving up farm prices and bringing more complaints about smell, dust, sprays, etc.” (Mathews).

According to several participants, agriculturalists need to become better advocates of their occupations or be left behind as both the public and farmers are mostly uninvolved in matters that affect their livelihood and their country. “The fewer people that know and understand the agriculture industry, the more opposition there is in the form of activist groups who protest how farmers grow crops and raise livestock” (Wilson).

Lack of Financial Soundness of Farming

The inability of farming activities to earn a reasonable rate of return on investment (ROI) was a vital concern to 11 participants. “It is probably over simplified to say that the prices we receive for our commodities are too low and expenses are too high” (Shoes).

Linders expressed a characteristic optimism in finding “new ways for agriculture to be profitable” through seeking “new partnerships between producers and Agribusiness”. However, Overton offered a practical reality in that the current mode of operation is not sustainable. “Many farmers are facing the decision of either to become large enough to compete, leaving agriculture completely, or do as I have done and work away from the farm full-time and farm part-time”. Piaget confirmed this trend. “When I began working for Farm Credit, the majority of our customers were full-time farmers and ranchers. Today, most, particularly those in the 25-45-age bracket, are part-time farmers and must have off-farm employment to support the financial demands of farming and ranching. Unless you have a passion for a rural lifestyle, why would you invest in agricultural operations with common returns of 1% to 5%, when historically, you could invest in other business ventures earning significantly more?”

Many participants were concerned about being “able to make end's meet in the down years” (Finds) when equity accumulated over time has been exhausted with the long downturn of farm commodity prices. “Producers are receiving prices for their products they received

in the 1950s, while struggling to keep up with 2000 production expenses. Those who are holding on are eating into years of equity with guarded optimism. Others are simply getting out” (Johns). Farmers have spent both their parents and their children’s inheritance, leading to the issue of the graying of the farming community. As children of farming families come to understand that little economic opportunity exists on the farm, they exit for employment in urban areas. “There is very little incentive for young people to enter into production agriculture considering the expense of land and capital outlay necessary in regard to the guaranteed returns on their investment. In the near future, most small producers will be gone because of age” (Sweet).

Lack of Sound Farm Policy

Nine individuals raised the issue of farm policy, or governmental regulation, or both. Participants complained about too much government regulation, yet suggested more farm policy to end the current cheap food policy that has kept commodity prices at near depression-era rates. Born asked the question, “How important is it for our country to continue to have a cheap food policy while the average farmer cannot make enough on the farm to care for his family without having an off-farm job?” This dichotomy was express by Chapin when discussing a need for more policy, and more freedom to farm. “We need our government to open up markets around the world so we can sell our commodities without trade tariffs and barriers. We need free trade but also fair trade”.

Inadequate farm policy has lead to the lack of financial soundness of farming in some participants’ minds. Participants drew the relationship between legislators’ inability to create adequate farm policy due to agricultural illiteracy, and the decline of rural communities. “The emergency packages offered by Congress the last couple of years have been a Band-Aid for some to cover the gaping wounds left behind from failed trade and farm policies that do not effectively address fluctuations in prices. Something must be done to establish what has been referred to as a safety net to support American producers when prices are low. I see this as a national food security issue as well as a

debilitating factor for our rural communities and farming and ranching families” (Johns).

Muller pointed out that poor agricultural policy might give special interest environmental groups a power advantage over farmers to determine the fate of our nation’s food supply. “The EPA is illegally trying to regulate non-point source water pollution. They blame agriculture for all non-source water pollution. Their success in regulating it will drastically alter farming forever”. Stream echoed Muller in lamenting that “the programs administered by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service have become cumbersome and out of touch with the purpose and goals with full-time agricultural producers. These agricultural directives have been forced into the USDA programs by nonagricultural producers and other agencies in government that feel they know what is best for the land and the producers living off that land”.

One participant expressed deep concern for legislators’ ineffectual nature in general: “I’m concerned about agricultural export markets being used as pawns by politicians to help them achieve their political objectives with other countries” (Wilson).

Loss of Family Values

The loss of family values, although not directly an agricultural matter, was a pressing issue for eight participants. Concern was voiced over youth drug use and smoking, premarital sex, violence in schools, the lack of values in the home, and a lack of moral leadership on local, state, and national levels. “Leaders need to be an example of positive qualities that our youth can look up to” (Overton). Loss of family values was seen as one result of the loss of the family farm and rural way of life; if the farm is lost, values are also lost (Ramsey).

Working mothers were cited as contributing to the decline of the social fabric as well by Gabriel and Waters. Shoes stressed that the current trend of the decline of the social fabric is a result of a lack of "moral leadership in the home". “If more parents take on the responsibility and become more involved with our children, I would expect that the major problems in our great society would work themselves out with time” (Waters).

Centralization of Production Agriculture

The seven individuals who commented on centralization focused on a noticeable shift in production practices from family-owned and operated farms to corporate owned farms. Although the status of corporation is a business legal classification, not an indicator of business size, participants who discussed this issue equated the term corporation with mega-conglomerates such as Tyson and Cargill. Gabriel discussed the relationship between increasing centralization and loss of the family farm.

Centralization referred to the grouping of production related activities into relatively homogeneous operations, for example, the consolidation of poultry and swine operations within a few regions of the nation. Chapin stated that farmers in the state should diversify production to remain competitive in the marketplace.

A lack of sound farm policy was also woven into the construct and consequences of centralization. Without sound farm policy, large operations are allowed to dominate specific sectors of the production economy, thus driving out smaller, less competitive operations (Heart and Homer). Participants called for better enforcement of specific laws to control the detriments of agricultural centralization.

Loss of family farms

Loss of the family farm was cited by six individuals and was in an inverse contingent relationship with centralization of farming operations, mono-cropping, rural economic development, and receiving profitable prices for farm commodities. Buck linked the loss of family farms with the decline of rural communities. “It brings school closings, loss of businesses, less industry, and a financial crisis for all involved in agriculture”.

Wilson discussed the relationship between low ROI, graying of farmers, and the loss of the family farm along with noting that farming is a lifestyle, versus a job. “Due to increasing costs of farm inputs and low returns on time and dollars invested, it is very difficult for younger people to get started and stay in farming. There is increased pressure to treat

farming only as a business and not a way of life. Yet, with no guarantee of profit farmers must invest long hours, high amounts of capital, and skills. This calls for farm families to be committed to a lifestyle that is no longer appealing to much of society. Most must come to grips with having less leisure time and less disposable capital than non-farmers for many of their farming years”.

Lack of Rural Economic Development

A lack of rural economic development was sandwiched in-between the loss of the family farm and a brain drain of rural communities when youth leave for the economic diversity offered in urban areas (Gabriel). Avery reported a downward spiral effect when jobs leave communities. A lack of economic development decreases the tax base, which in turn leads to decreased development opportunities. “There are fewer landowners to pay taxes, fewer children in the schools, and fewer people to support our towns, churches, businesses, and organizations. This also leads to fewer opportunities for our young people to be exposed to situations that will enhance their lives”.

The Graying of Farmers

The concept of graying of farmers was equated to the aging population of farmers as few young people are entering the profession due to the lack to financial soundness of farming. “I am 32 years old, and probably one of the youngest, if not the youngest cow/calf producer in [my] County that is ranching as a full time occupation. There is very little incentive for young people to enter into production agriculture considering the expense of land and capital outlay necessary in regard to the guaranteed return on their investment” (Sweet).

All four individuals centered on an overall concern of the age of farmers in general and a lack of young people to replace them. Born asked, “Who will step up to feed our nation?” Piaget, Sweet, and Wilson pointed out that the large capital investment required for starting an agricultural operation was a barrier to new farmers entering the business.

Need For Education of Farmers In Production Techniques

Three participants reported that if farmers were more knowledgeable about production and marketing techniques, then they would increase their profit margin. New marketing structures, such as value added products, were seen as a way to increase farm profitability. Jorgensen suggested that adding value to crops was an important aspect of modern farming. Buck stressed that farmers “must research every phase of an operation” and “make smart decisions” to stay in business.

Conflicts With Environmentalist Groups

Four participants noted that environmental groups were contributing to the demise of American agriculture by influencing consumer preferences in the marketplace. Keith suggested that a lack of agricultural literacy among consumers has allowed environmental groups to put forth an agenda that may lead many voters to condemn modern agricultural practices.

Need For Moral Leadership

Four participants discussed the need for moral leadership that was supportive of American agriculture as the general population becomes more agriculturally illiterate over time. If leaders are moral and agriculturally literate, they will set sound agricultural policy that will support family farms, and in turn support family values.

“Our legislatures are the people in our community, state, and nation who have the power to change the popularity of corporate farms and the consumers' ideas about agricultural products. We must educate our legislatures about the problems we, the farmers, face. Legislatures need to understand so they can help us correct the glitches in the political system” (Heart).

Concern Over Urban Sprawl

According to three participants, urban sprawl was a result of poor farm policy that allowed for urban encroachment on fertile

agricultural lands Blakley). Urban sprawl was viewed as a factor leading to conflicts with non-farming populations who complain about smell, dust, and sprays (Mathews) and increases the tax base for farmers (Sweet).

Concern Over Environmental Issues

Three participants discussed clean water and a safe and healthy food supply as urgent issues as the rural-urban interface continues to put pressure on farming practices such as use of animal manure as fertilizer (Larke). Raymond pointed out that farmers “have spent a lot of time on production efficiency but not on areas of consumer concern such as quality of products. We need to do a better job of paying attention to what our customers (consumers) are saying about our products and adapt our production practices to meet what they are asking for”.

Need For Sound Tax Laws

Three participants wrote about the need for sound tax laws in protecting agricultural interests. Chapin demanded that the legislators find alternative ways to fund education as real estate taxes were driving farmers off the land. Piaget suggested “estate tax legislation, beginning farmer incentives, diversification, and profitability all need to be enhanced to keep the next generation in agricultural related production and industries”. The connection between tax legalization and urban sprawl was clearly acknowledged by Sweet, who pointed out that as taxation burdens farmers, “Wealthier populations buy the small farms and ranches and become hobby producers for tax deductions, making it impossible for the dedicated or small or beginning producer to compete with their available cash flow. Year-end losses are welcome situations to [hobby farmers]; whereas, losses to the small operator can be devastating when yield is low”.

Miscellaneous

Weather discussed the burden of international competition upon U.S. agriculture, stating that farmers face “excruciating competition” in the marketplace. Muller mentioned water rights in the context of a

traditional battle over demand for water as surrounding communities grow such a Dallas, TX.

Proposed Solutions To Problems

Three participants discussed solutions to agriculturally related problems. Chapin called for higher paying jobs for rural youth through the value-added products market. Shoes suggested that farmers must come up with new ways to increase the income from their commodities via niche markets, value-added products, marketing associations, or cost-cutting methods such as limited or no-till farming. Weather called for farmers to become knowledgeable about opportunities in the market place, both domestically and internationally.

Summary

Findings of this analysis indicated that agricultural literacy is a legitimate starting point for reversing the current downward trend of small to mid-sized agricultural production facilities in America. This finding is consistent with the National Research Council’s (1988) recommendation that agriculturally literate citizens will be able to “participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad” (p. 2). The 17 themes presented can be strung together as a series of if-then statements that result in the ultimate outcome of a loss of food and fiber production within our national borders.

The starting point is a lack of agricultural literacy among the general population, which in turn leads to a lack of sound agricultural policy. A lack of sound agricultural policy leads to an imbalance of power between agriculturalists and environmental groups, urban sprawl, taxation problems, centralization of commodity production, and the need for adequate leadership in industry and government.

Centralization of commodity production leads to the loss of family farms through a decline in the financial soundness of small-scale farming. Centralized operations have a competitive advantage in the market place and are able to drive down prices for farm

commodities, thus forcing out competition. Loss of family farms and centralization lead to mono cropping, as family farms tend to be more bio-diversified than centralized operations.

The loss of the family farm leads to a lack of rural economic development, as centralized operations tend to hire immigrant and migrant farm labors at minimum wage. As families and communities disintegrate from a lack of economic opportunity, the social structure collapses leading to what participants referred to as a loss of family values. The graying of farmers results from youth leaving rural communities in search of employment in urban and suburban areas as the cost of entering farming as a vocation exceeds a reasonable rate of return on investment.

As farmers age and eventually perish, suburban hobby farmers buy the farms and convert them into gentlemen farms. Once farms are converted to non-farm real estate, property taxes increase serving to permanently remove the land from agricultural production, leaving foreign corporations in control of the American food and fiber supply.

Discussion and Implications

While this analysis of important agricultural issues facing Oklahoma agricultural leaders has served to deepen our understanding of the variables affecting the sustainability of Oklahoma agriculture, much work remains to be done to truly assign causal relationships. Future research should strive to confirm the grounded theory presented with a more diverse population and a more inclusive review of the literature. The relationships that were drawn were based on participants' perceptions, as this was the purpose of this analysis; however, it would allow findings to be more generalizable if other researchers found similar relationships surrounding the 17 themes discussed.

The implications of this analysis can be immediately applied to the OALP in helping participants to unravel the intricate balance between agricultural literacy and the foregone conclusion that foreign corporations will control the American food supply. These logical leaps and factoids have not been proven through a macroeconomic analysis as would be suggested prior to accepting them as facts; however, they

are important in understanding participants current understanding of the state of affairs in agriculture. Other educators may wish to present these findings to students in agricultural courses to test the conceptual linkages and explore similar relationships within communities faced with comparable challenges.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Twelve years after the Committee on Agricultural Education in Secondary Schools (1988) put forth recommendations for increasing agricultural literacy among all public school children there is still a perception in Oklahoma that the majority of Americans are increasingly illiterate about agriculture. Much work remains to be done to turn the tide of a population that continues to distance itself from the food and fiber system.

Igo (1998) conducted a review of the agricultural literacy literature and pointed out that most of the agricultural literacy research documented what individuals did not know about agriculture, rather than focusing on what people should know in order to be considered agriculturally literate. Much of the past research surrounding agricultural literacy has focused on obtaining disconnected facts that people possess regarding agriculture, i.e. how many pounds of beef do Americans eat per year? (Cox, 1994). Future research on agricultural literacy should focus on the nature of people's connection to agriculture from a global conceptual perspective and how it influences their consumer and political behavior.

Terry, Herring, and Larke (1992) studied 4th grade teachers in Texas and concluded that teachers in elementary schools were teaching children about agriculture; however, they were teaching "inaccurate perceptions" and had "limited knowledge of agriculture" (p. 58). According to the authors, the agriculturally illiterate were teaching children about agriculture. The authors recommended, "efforts should be made to improve teachers' perceptions and increase their technical knowledge of agriculture" (p. 58). Who will take responsibility for that task when the only group of teachers currently required to take technical agricultural courses are agricultural education teachers?

Somewhere along the way, agricultural educators have neglected to educate all Americans in and about agriculture, as was the charge when the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 was passed (Moore, 1987). Consequently, the practice of agriculture has lost a significant support base for its continued existence within our national borders. As Moore pointed out, "prior to 1917 agriculture was being taught in every state of the Union" (p. 10); however, in more general terms and with great variation among programs. It could be argued that the Smith-Hughes Act has served to distance the public from agriculture by removing the subject from the general curriculum and giving it specialty status, rather than a *need to know* item for every American. Clearly, asking senior citizens to supplement farming activities with their social security checks is not a sustainable course of action for American agriculture (R. Westerman, personal communication, October 26, 2000 stated that the average age of the Oklahoma farmer was 63 years). It is time for agricultural educators to accept the challenge put forth by the Oklahomans who participated in this analysis to move into leadership roles that will shape sound farm policy that spreads its tentacles into all areas of teacher education, not only that which occurs within the domain of the colleges of agriculture.

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