



# AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP ALUMNI & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

## WHAT'S NEW WITH AGLE?

Catch up on the latest news from our Agricultural Leadership Program, from new abroad experiences, student successes and alumni highlights.

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Learn more about how to stay connected and future opportunities to get involved with alumni relations.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY AGLE

AGLE turns 20! For two decades, our program has represented the bold spirit of Agricultural Leadership. Here's to celebrating our roots, our growth, and the bright future ahead.



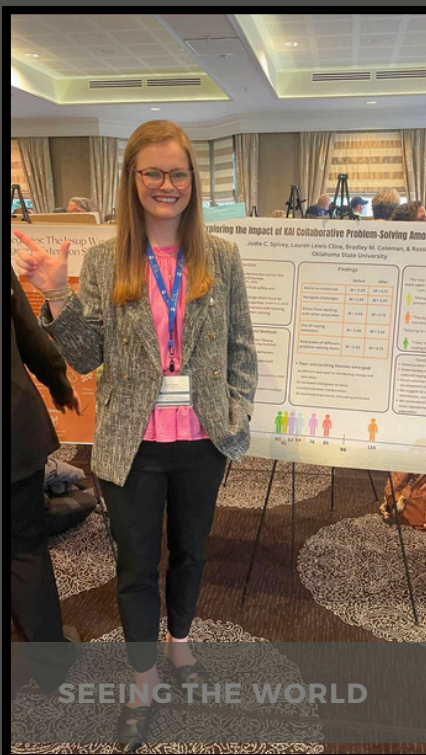
CORE VALUE SENIORS



AGLE UPDATES



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



SEEING THE WORLD



# 20 YEARS

## OF AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP AT OSU

### HONORING A LEGACY, SHAPING THE FUTURE

This year, we proudly celebrate 20 years of Agricultural Leadership at Oklahoma State University, a program that has grown from a visionary idea into a nationally recognized academic home for future leaders in agriculture. On **June 30, 2005**, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education approved what is ***believed to be the first officially recognized undergraduate major in Agricultural Leadership in the nation***. But the seeds of this program were planted even earlier. In the mid-1990s, OSU's Agricultural Education department reimaged its curriculum, transforming the "Professional Service" option into the "Leadership and Service" option. This shift reflected a broader vision: to prepare students for diverse careers in politics, government agencies, non-profits, corporate agriculture, higher education, and small business.

The Agricultural Leadership major was formally launched by **Dr. Penny Pennington Weeks and Dr. Bill Weeks**, whose leadership and dedication laid the foundation for a program rooted in five core values:

COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURE | AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP | DIVERSITY  
CRITICAL THINKING | PROFESSIONALISM



These values continue to guide the curriculum, shaping course objectives, learning experiences, and student development. Today, **the program includes 83 undergraduate students, 34 graduate students, and a growing number of students pursuing minors in Agricultural Leadership**. It also boasts a vibrant student organization, originally known as the Leadership League, now rebranded as the **Agricultural Leadership Club**. The program is now led by a dynamic team of faculty:

**DR. COURTNEY P. BROWN | DR. LAUREN LEWIS CLINE | DR. BRADLEY COLEMAN**

Together, they continue the **legacy of excellence, innovation, and mentorship that defines Agricultural Leadership at OSU**. As we celebrate this 20-year milestone, we honor the past and look forward to the future, one where OSU continues to *shape the next generation of agricultural leaders with integrity, purpose, and passion*.

# GROWTH AND MOMENTUM IN AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP

Welcome to this issue of the Agricultural Leadership newsletter! As we reflect on a year of exciting growth, we are thrilled to share some of the latest developments from our program. August 2025 marks the one-year anniversary of our move into the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall—a 194,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility designed to elevate teaching, research, and Extension at OSU. With collaborative huddle rooms, expanded student spaces, and a modern Student Success Center, the building is already enhancing the learning experience for our students and faculty alike.

This summer also marks the one-year anniversary of Dr. Shane Robinson serving as our department head. A Hollis, Oklahoma native and longtime OSU faculty member, Dr. Robinson brings a deep passion for teaching, mentoring, and agriculture. His vision centers on fostering connectedness among students and faculty and enhancing the impact of our scholarship through collaboration and excellence. Additionally, we celebrate Dr. Courtney Brown's appointment as a Faculty Fellow with OSU's Hargis Leadership Institute, where she is leading efforts to expand undergraduate research in leadership contexts. This initiative provides students with hands-on opportunities to explore leadership through a research lens—further strengthening AGLE's commitment to developing thoughtful, values-driven leaders for the future of agriculture and beyond.

We are proud to recognize the achievements of our students: 23 individuals earned their bachelor's degrees in Agricultural Leadership this summer and fall, and 19 students completed impactful AGLE internships this summer, gaining real-world experience and expanding their professional networks. These accomplishments reflect the strength and momentum of our program as we continue to prepare the next generation of agricultural leaders.

*Go Pokes!*

**Dr. Lauren Lewis Cline, Dr. Courtney P. Brown, & Dr. Bradley Coleman**

*Oklahoma State Agricultural Leadership Program*



# PICTURE THIS AGLE EDITION



## LOOKING BACK: A STRONG START FOR AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP CLUB

Last year, the Agricultural Leadership Club kicked off the academic year with a strong and engaging first meeting. Around 25 students attended, coming together to connect, build community, and learn more about the club's mission and opportunities. The meeting featured pizza, ice cream, and a raffle that brought energy and excitement to the room. Students from a variety of majors and backgrounds spent the evening getting to know one another, many forming new connections that would carry throughout the year.

Club leaders shared their goals and vision, highlighting a focus on leadership development, networking, and building involvement within the agricultural community. Plans were also made for participation in campus events and traditions, setting the tone for a year filled with collaboration and growth. With such a successful kickoff last year, we are excited to see where the Agricultural Leadership Club goes this year and how its members continue to grow as leaders.





**Oklahoma State University****CELEBRATING 20 YEARS****GROWING****leaders****AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP****EST. 2005**

In celebration of two decades of cultivating leaders in agriculture, the Agricultural Leadership program invites you to share your favorite memories, stories, and photos with us! Whether you are an alum, student, faculty member, or friend of AGLE, your reflections help honor the legacy and continued growth of the program over the past 20 years.

**SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE LINK BELOW TO UPLOAD YOUR MEMORIES AND BE PART OF OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**

**SCAN  
ME**link: <https://tinyurl.com/agle20shirts>**SUBMIT HERE!**



## T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

In celebration of two decades of cultivating leaders in agriculture, the Agricultural Leadership program is excited to unveil a limited-edition 20th Anniversary t-shirt! This commemorative design honors the legacy and continued growth of AGLE over the past 20 years.

The shirts are available in four colors—gray, black, turquoise, and white—offering something for every style. Whether you're a current student, proud alum, or longtime supporter, we invite you to celebrate this milestone with us—wear your AGLE pride and help us spread the word!

*Order Yours Today!*



← **SCAN TO  
TO ORDER YOUR SHIRT!**

link: <https://tinyurl.com/agle20shirts>



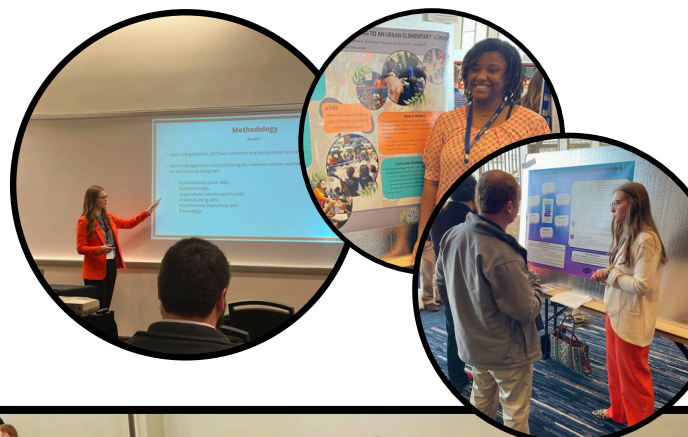
# AGLE HITS THE ROAD

## CONFERENCES, CONNECTIONS, AND NEW IDEAS

Last year was a busy year for Agricultural Leadership students traveling to research conferences. Students from the program got the opportunity to travel to the **Rural Renewal Symposium** in October held in Ardmore, Oklahoma and **The American Association for Agricultural Education Southern Region (SR-AAAE)** in February hosted in Irving, Texas. At these conferences these graduate students got to connect with other students and faculty from universities across the nation. The students also got to listen and talk to other researchers about their research projects to spark ideas for their own projects.

### RURAL RENEWAL SYMPOSIUM

- Delaney Weisend was a part of a poster titled *Analyzing communication channels in Southwest Oklahoma*.
- Dr. Courtney Brown helped advise students on a poster titled *Perceptions of Oklahoma black producers: A Q Methodology study*.
- Dr. Lauren Cline helped advise students on a poster titled *A needs assessment of rural youth leadership skills*.



### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION - SOUTHERN REGION CONFERENCE

- Jodie Spivey and Cari Cearley advised by Drs. Bradley Coleman, Lauren Cline, and Courtney Brown presented a research paper titled *Assessing the competencies needed by Agricultural Leadership graduates at Oklahoma State University: A Delphi study*.
- Delaney Weisend and Rachel Grimes advised by Dr. Courtney Brown presented an innovative ideas poster titled *AgriKids Day: Bringing agricultural programming to an urban elementary school*.
- Jodi Spivey and Ashtyn Humphreys advised by Dr. Lauren Cline presented an innovative ideas poster titled *The Six Conversations Framework to Combat Loneliness*.
- Dr. Bradley Coleman helped advise students on a research paper presentation titled *Programmatic evaluation of the Future Agricultural Education Teachers Academy*.
- Dr. Bradley Coleman helped advise students on a research paper presentation titled *Empowering school-based agricultural education teachers: Perspectives of a purposeful STEM professional development experience*.
- Dr. Bradley Coleman helped advise students on a research paper presentation titled *Twenty-first century agricultural education: Are our facilities keeping up?*
- Dr. Bradley Coleman helped advise students on a research poster titled *Laboratory instructional needs of Oklahoma SBAE teachers based on certification type and career stage*.







## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP: 2024-2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Agricultural Leadership program is proud to recognize outstanding students who exemplify leadership, dedication, and academic excellence. This year, we are thrilled to honor two exceptional individuals whose contributions have left a lasting impact on our program and their communities.

### Outstanding Distance Student in AGLE: Jack Sheaman

Jack Sheaman, a senior in agricultural leadership through our online degree completion program, has demonstrated remarkable perseverance and professionalism. Originally from California and now residing in Ardmore, OK, Jack has balanced full-time work with his academic pursuits. His journey from a junior technician at the OSU Extension and Research Station to a research and ranch technician at the Noble Research Institute is testament to his work ethic and commitment. Faculty and colleagues alike commend Jack for his leadership, both in the workplace and in the classroom. We are proud to recognize Jack as this year's Outstanding Distance Student.

### Outstanding Senior in AGLE: Kate Bond

Kate Bond has set the standard for excellence as this year's Outstanding Senior in Agricultural Leadership. Known for her dependability, drive, and heart for service, Kate has consistently gone above and beyond in her academic and extracurricular endeavors. Her leadership in the Agricultural Leadership Club and her unwavering commitment to supporting others have made her a standout student and role model. We are confident that Kate's future will be as bright as her time in our program has been impactful.

### Huffer Memorial Scholarship Recipients

We also extend our congratulations to the recipients of the Huffer Memorial Scholarship, awarded for academic excellence and leadership: Katheranne Bond, Morley Griffith, and Josie Hilton. *Please join us in celebrating these outstanding students and their achievements!*





*Professionalism***JACKSON HOWELL***Diversity***HUNTER CARSON***Commitment to Agriculture***SETH WAID****FRANNIE YASSERI***Authentic Leadership***COLTON RIPLEY***Critical Thinking*

# Spring 2024 **CORE VALUE SENIORS**

Our Spring and Fall 2024 graduates exemplify the core values of agricultural leadership. Frannie Yasseri embodies Authentic Leadership through her unwavering commitment to her values, passion, and integrity. Seth Waid demonstrates a deep Commitment to Agriculture, dedicating his summer internship to expanding his family's operation and continuously seeking ways to impact the industry. Colton Ripley stands out for his Critical Thinking, applying analytical problem-solving skills to Extension and agricultural challenges, with plans to continue his work in the Extension system.

Hunter Carson champions Diversity, ensuring inclusivity in agriculture through his internship with the American Farm Bureau Federation, where he developed the Breaking Ground: Inclusivity in Farm Bureau curriculum. Jackson Howell represents Professionalism with his entrepreneurial spirit, strong work ethic, and deep appreciation for mentorship. These graduates leave a lasting mark on our program, and we look forward to their future contributions to the field.



# Spring 2025

## CORE VALUE SENIORS

First awarded in 2023, this recognition celebrates graduating seniors who exemplify the Agricultural Leadership program's core values: *Authentic Leadership, Commitment to Agriculture, Critical Thinking, Diversity, and Professionalism.*

Our **Spring 2025 graduates** continue to embody these values in meaningful ways. **Jazmine Auble** represents **Critical Thinking**, applying thoughtful analysis and strategy in both her coursework and leadership roles. Her ability to assess complex issues and contribute meaningful dialogue has made her a standout voice within the program.

**Taytum Kelly** demonstrates **Authentic Leadership** by consistently aligning her actions with her values. Whether volunteering in her hometown or leading through her business and community engagement, she fosters trust and integrity in every space she enters.

**Natali Molina** embodies **Professionalism**, balancing full-time work with full-time academic responsibilities. Her dedication, preparedness, and commitment to excellence make her a role model among her peers and a future leader in the field.

**Alyssa McCord** champions **Diversity**, creating spaces of belonging within the AGLE program. As AGLE Club President, she works to ensure that all voices are welcomed, celebrated, and empowered.

*These graduates leave a lasting mark on our program, and we look forward to their continued contributions to the future of agriculture and leadership.*



**JAZMINE AUBLE**

*Critical Thinking*



**TAYTUM KELLY**

*Authentic Leadership*



**NATALI MOLINA**

*Professionalism*



**ALYSSA MCCORD**

*Diversity*



**BRUCE TRAMMELL**

*Commitment to Agriculture*



## HONORING AG LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE: RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS AT AECL BANQUET

At the 2024 AECL Department Banquet, annual awards were bestowed upon two very deserving agricultural leadership students. **Sarah Knowles**, whose unwavering commitment to academic success and positivity has made her stand out as the **Outstanding Distance Student**. Dr. Courtney Brown, Sarah's advisor, commends her exceptional work ethic and infectious enthusiasm, making her a beacon of inspiration for all.

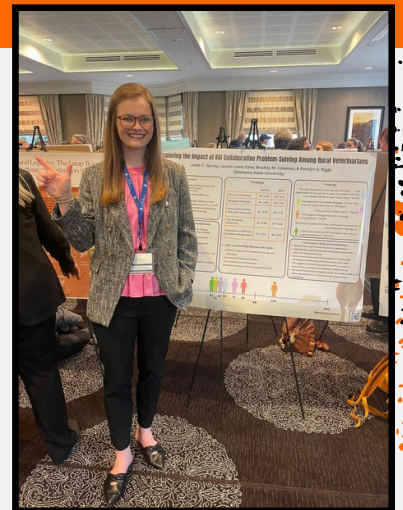
Next, we honored **Shelby Bute** as the **Outstanding Senior**, whose leadership, dedication, and academic prowess have left an indelible mark on our community. From her outstanding coursework to her impactful contributions as the president of the Ag Lead Club, Shelby's commitment to excellence is unparalleled. As she prepares to embark on her next journey in law school, we have no doubt that Shelby will continue to shine brightly, embodying the values of leadership, integrity, and excellence. **Congratulations to both Sarah and Shelby for their well-deserved recognition!**



## TAKING AG LEADERSHIP GLOBAL: STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH ABROAD

This past April, five Agricultural Leadership students traveled to Inverness, Scotland, to attend the 2025 Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) conference, joining over 270 participants from around the world. Accompanied by faculty members from the department, AGLE graduate students Jodie Spivey and Celya Glowacki presented original research on topics such as Indigenous student participation in youth leadership organizations and rural veterinary problem-solving.

Notably, the presentation "Identifying Barriers to Indigenous Students' Participation in School-Based Agricultural Education" by Celya Glowacki, Dr. Bradley Coleman, Dr. Carla Jagger, and Dr. Robert Terry, Jr. received both a Distinguished Abstract award and was named Runner-up for Outstanding Ideas at Work Presentation. This international experience not only showcased the academic excellence of our students but also deepened their global perspectives on leadership, agriculture, and education.





## LEADING WITH PURPOSE: **SARAH THACKER** NAMED 2024 AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

In acknowledgment of her dedication and excellence, Sarah Thacker, a distinguished alumna of the agricultural leadership program, was honored with the prestigious 2024 Agricultural Leadership Distinguished Alumni award at the AECL Department Banquet in April 2024. Sarah's academic journey, marked by her Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Leadership and Master of Agriculture in Agribusiness from Oklahoma State University, laid a solid foundation for her successful career. Dr. Penny Weeks, one of Sarah's former faculty advisors, reminisced warmly about Sarah's early initiatives, citing her adventurous spirit and relentless pursuit of knowledge, which earned her accolades like the Outstanding AGLE Freshman. Sarah's trajectory from her humble beginnings as a Store Manager Trainee to her current role as Director of Advertising and Communications at Harps Food Stores Inc., illustrates her unwavering commitment to leadership, innovation, and progress within the agricultural industry.

Beyond her professional achievements, Sarah's deep-seated commitment to community service shines brightly through her involvement in initiatives like the Springdale Chamber of Commerce, Springdale Kiwanis Club, and the Sonora Elementary PTA. As a devoted wife and mother, Sarah embodies the values of integrity, compassion, and perseverance, balancing her career with her roles at home with grace and dedication. Alongside her supportive spouse, Travis Thacker, and their two sons, Tate and Toby, Sarah's journey serves as an inspiration to all, demonstrating the profound impact of authentic leadership and a steadfast commitment to giving back to both the industry and the community. Congratulations to Sarah Thacker, a shining example of excellence in agricultural leadership and service.





## **HONORING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP: DR. CHARLES COX NAMED 2025 AGLE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

The Agricultural Leadership Program is proud to recognize Dr. Charles Cox as the recipient of the 2025 Agricultural Leadership Distinguished Alumni Award. While Dr. Cox was unable to attend this year's banquet, we are honored to celebrate his remarkable career and enduring impact on agricultural education and leadership.

Dr. Cox's journey began in fourth grade with 4-H and blossomed into a career spanning more than 35 years with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. After earning his degrees from Oklahoma State University, he began his Extension career in 1979, serving as an agriculture and 4-H agent in Woods County and later as county Extension director in Logan County. His dedication to empowering educators, volunteers, and youth defined his work and left a lasting legacy across the state.

In 1988, Dr. Cox joined the State 4-H Office as a curriculum specialist and later became the state 4-H program leader. Known for his motivational leadership, he inspired countless young leaders, famously allowing state officers to shave his head on stage after a successful fundraiser. His visionary efforts helped launch the Cloverbud program, the Extension Internship Program, and numerous initiatives for underserved communities, raising over \$2.6 million in support.

Even after retiring in 2013, Dr. Cox continued to serve, co-chairing the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Centennial Celebration and teaching graduate-level Extension programming courses. His commitment to mentoring future educators and investing in others remains a guiding principle in his life and work.

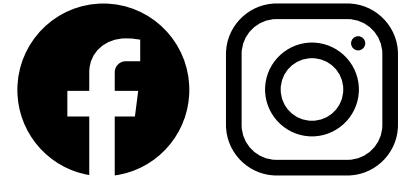
We are deeply grateful for Dr. Cox's contributions and look forward to welcoming him at next year's banquet to celebrate in person. Congratulations, Dr. Cox, on this well-deserved honor!

# ALUMNI, STAY CONNECTED WITH THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP!



We're thrilled to keep you informed about the latest developments in our vibrant Agricultural Leadership community. We have exciting plans in store to enhance alumni engagement and support, including gathering your valuable feedback to shape the future of our program. Keep an eye out for upcoming newsletter issues and communications to stay connected and be part of our journey ahead!

STAY IN THE LOOP



OKSTATEAECL

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS...

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



We're on the lookout for alumni highlights to feature in our newsletter, and we'd love to hear from you. Share your exciting news since graduating from our program – whether it's a career update, a new addition to your family, or any other significant life journey. Please take a moment to visit the link below and tell us all about it. We're eager to catch up and share your successes with our community!

WANT TO BE HIGHLIGHTED? GO TO THIS LINK:  
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/AGLEALUM](https://tinyurl.com/aglealum)

OR SCAN HERE:

