

Oklahoma State Committee on Appropriations

2015-2016 Performance Report

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry

Agency Mission Statement:

To look at agriculture with vision as to what it will be in the next 100 years. We must increase the value of agriculture products and enhance the value of life in our rural communities. We must develop our state's food and fiber resources in a manner that will always protect consumer health and safety, natural resources, property, and the environment

Lead Administrator:

Jim L. Reese

Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture – President Oklahoma Board of Agriculture

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Governance:

Here a brief description of the agency's governance structure should be provided. Is the agency headed by a Governor appointee? An appointee of an independent board? Who selects the board, and who are the current members of the board.

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) is headed by the Governor's appointee, Secretary Jim Reese. Secretary Reese serves as a cabinet secretary to the Governor as well as the Commissioner and President of the Oklahoma Board of Agriculture. The Board of Agriculture members are appointed by the Governor. The current members are: Jay Franklin of Vinita, OK; Karen Krehbiel of Hydro, OK; Joe Farris of Taloga, OK and Ed Hurliman of Broken Bow, OK.

There are no committees or subgroups of the board.

Governance Accountability:

Please provide copies of the minutes for any Commission/Board meetings the agency has had since July 1, 2010 in electronic format (only in PDF format) Is there an attendance policy for board members/commissioners? If so, is it being followed?

All of the board minutes from the Oklahoma Board of Agriculture are posted on the agency website. All Board of Agriculture members attend monthly meetings unless Secretary Reese is notified in advance. The Board of Agriculture has a very strong attendance record of 99%.

Modernization Efforts:

Please provide a list of all government modernization efforts undertaken by the agency since July 1, 2010. Additionally, please provide any authorizing statutory changes that prompted the modernization efforts and whether those efforts have led to cost savings or additional cost burden.

- Conversion to PeopleSoft Time and Labor –completed
- Information Technology Consolidation with OSF per HB 1304 –completed
- Shared Services for Payroll –completed
- Online Licensing –nearing completion- first annual online license renewal completed December 8, 2015

What steps has the agency taken to cut costs and/or eliminate waste? Are there efforts that have been successful which you believe could serve as a model for other state agencies seeking to keep costs minimal?

- ODAFF is in the process of converting to Alternative Fuel Vehicles to reduce fuel costs
- AEMS division has 2 soil scientists whose salaries are paid by private industry instead of state funds. There are also 2 employees whose salaries and travel are reimbursed by the city of Tulsa for work in the Eucha-Spavinaw watershed.
- AEMS division has increased territories for inspectors due to retirements. One inspector was given 52 additional facilities to inspect in 2011.
- Forestry Division has increased inmate labor at the Goldsby regeneration farm which equals a savings of 100K on temporary labor.
- Divisions have converted to electronic mailings to save costs.
- Market Development and Animal Industry Division have shared the cost and responsibilities of an Ada livestock market reporter instead of filling the vacant position
- Forestry Division has developed relationship with NRCS and Bureau of Reclamation to offset decreases in state funding
- Consumer Protection Services Division developed online monitoring of continuing education for pesticide applicators
- Agency has sold surplus property
- Agency has re-furnished 15 work stations with surplus property
- All divisions have reduced travel expenses
- The forestry division no longer does cost share work with landowners
- The forestry division has suspended its water quality forestry work and watershed improvement programs
- The forestry division now has only 4 people covering the 59 counties in central and western OK.

- The ODAFF pesticide laboratory developed a new analytical method that increases the number of samples tested a day from 6 samples to 150 samples. This method cut costs by 95% and EPA adopted the method for use in all FIFRA labs nationwide.

Core Mission:

What services are you required to provide which are outside of your core mission? Are any services you provide duplicated or replicated by another agency? Are there any services which are core to your mission which you are unable to perform because of requirements to perform non-core services elsewhere?

No

Private Alternatives:

Are any of the services which are performed by the agency also performed in the private sector in Oklahoma? In other states? Has the agency been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency?

No