

Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts

HOMECOMING

One Land; One Legacy



March 1-3, 2026



Where tradition guides us, and the land brings us home

OKANA Resort



Oklahoma City, OK

AGENDA



OACD'S 88th Annual State Meeting

March 1, 2026

On behalf of the OACD Board of Directors, our association staff, and myself, welcome to the 88th gathering of Oklahoma conservationists. We are sincerely grateful you are here.

As I close out my first year serving as President, it's hard to believe it has already been a full year since we gathered in Norman and I accepted the gavel. While the dates are new, the location is new, and portions of the programming reflect fresh energy and perspective, you can expect the same premium, credible, and practical programming OACD is known for during this meeting.

During our OACD board strategic planning session last November, we were reminded that "longevity does not equate relevancy."



Conservation is not static. Land stewardship is not passive.

There is always more work to be done. This meeting reflects that commitment, honoring Oklahoma excellence past and present, strengthening relationships that sustain our work, and equipping us for what lies ahead.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the partners, sponsors, and vendors who have invested in this gathering. Your commitment to Oklahoma conservation and to the people who steward our land makes this event possible. You are not simply exhibitors or sponsors, you are collaborators in ensuring conservation districts remain the most trusted voice in their communities. We encourage attendees to engage with these partners throughout the meeting, as their support and expertise strengthen the work we do across the state.

Over the course of this gathering, we will reminisce with longtime friends, build relationships with new ones, and honor those who helped shape the path before us. Our legacy belongs not only to our ancestors, districts, and communities, but also to one another. This year's agenda is full of engaging sessions aimed at creating intentional dialogue.

This year's theme, *Homecoming: One Land, One Legacy*, reflects our shared responsibility to ensure the next nine decades of conservation in Oklahoma are as strong as the first. *Where tradition guides us and the land brings us home*, is more than a tagline, it is a reminder that our roots in local leadership, practical stewardship, and grassroots solutions remain our greatest strength.

Thank you for recognizing this meeting as an investment, in yourself, in your district, and in the future of this association. Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Bettisu, for her steadfast support throughout this year of meetings, travel, and leadership. Public service in conservation is a family commitment, and I am grateful for hers.

It is an honor to serve as your OACD President.

Thank you,

Ed Casey, OACD President, 2025-2027

"Conservation is a shared Oklahoma Value"



OACD'S 88th Annual State Meeting

NEW
NEW
NEW

Sunday evening | Trade Show Kickoff Reception!

We're kicking off the 88th Annual OACD State Meeting with something brand new! Join us for the Trade Show Kickoff Reception, an informal evening designed to bring the conservation family together before the official agenda begins. Reconnect with longtime conservation partners, meet new vendors and industry friends, and enjoy relaxed fellowship in the trade show hall without a packed schedule pulling you in every direction. This is your chance to start conversations early, explore new ideas, and set the tone for a productive week.

Sponsored by Brush Bullet & Advanced Avigation

Come as you are, bring a colleague, and help us launch the meeting the Oklahoma way:
rooted in relationships.

Monday Afternoon | Area Caucus Meetings!

This year, we're trading one afternoon of traditional breakout sessions for something new and long overdue. During the Monday afternoon program, we will break into Area Caucus Meetings for facilitated, region-specific conversations focused on identifying shared goals, challenges, and opportunities, while beginning to define a clear regional identity. Just as grassroots solutions helped mitigate the Dust Bowl - today's conservation challenges require local voices, honest dialogue, and collaboration from the ground up. This is your opportunity to get down in the weeds with fellow district leaders from your area, be heard, and help shape priorities that will guide conservation work for the next nine decades.

MONDAY LEGISLATIVE EVENING | Golden Hour Reception & Amber Waves of Excellence

More than a dinner, it's an experience. For the first time we are proud to introduce a themed evening that reflects the spirit, heritage, and excellence of Oklahoma conservation.

- *The Golden Hour* (6:00–7:00 p.m.) offers a relaxed opportunity to fellowship with state legislators, elected officials, agency leadership, industry partners, and fellow attendees ahead of the evening's program. *Sponsored by Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever*
- *Amber Waves of Excellence: A Celebration of Oklahoma Conservation Leadership* (7:00 p.m.), banquet and ceremony honoring outstanding leadership and commitment to Oklahoma's land and legacy.



Dress: Guests are encouraged to dress in harvest-inspired hues—gold, wheat, bronze, copper, and warm earth tones and/or embrace western elegance, corporate cowboy, or business-smart attire.

Fence Row Consultations & Flash Sessions | Your one-stop shop for no-bull, practical conversations with agency partners and industry experts, No appointment required. Swing through the Trade Show Hall and meet face-to-face with representatives from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission (Soil Health Team, District Services, Legal Counsel Division, Land Management), NRCS, FSA, and more. Ask questions, talk through challenges, and get straight answers, just like a good conversation across the fence.

Flash Sessions will offer brief 15–30 minute deep dives into focused topics, from managing a single invasive species to exploring emerging technologies. Keep an eye out for session topics and presenters, and plan to stop by when something sparks your interest.



OACD'S 88th Annual State Meeting

Sunday March 1, 2026

1:00 p.m. - Registration Opens for Attendees | *Welcome Pre-function*

1:00 p.m. - OACDE Executive Board Meeting | *Oklahoma River Boardroom*

1:00 p.m. - OACDE & OACD State Speech Contest Sign In Opens | *Dogwood & Loblolly*

1:30 p.m. - OACDE & OACD State Speech Contest Begins | *Division I Cypress & Division II Redbud*

2:00 p.m. - OK Conservation Historical Society Annual Meeting | *Sunrise Ballroom II*

2:00 p.m. - OACD Resolutions Committee, *Chair Ed Casey* | *Red River Boardroom*

3:00 p.m. - OACD Nominations Meeting, *Chair Scotty Herriman* | *Red River Boardroom*

4:00 p.m. - Youth Awards & Auxiliary Scholarship Program, *Lyle Blakley, Presiding* | *Sunrise Ballroom II*
Winners of the poster, essay, and speech youth contests will be announced.

4:00 p.m. - OK Conservation Historical Society Board Meeting | *Ben Pollard, Presiding* |
Oklahoma River Boardroom

OKANA

Supper on Your Own



Before we gather for the reception and games, graze at one of OKANA's 14 dining options. No need to venture off from the herd and trail into town, everything you need is right here. From Smokehouse Social and Bullseye to Chido Tacos x Tequila, Curveball, Jack Rabbit, PieLab and beyond, fuel up before the evening festivities.

5:30- 7:00 p.m. - Trade Show Kickoff Reception | *Sunset Ballrooms I, II, & III*

Sponsored by: Brush Bullet & Advanced Avigation

Let's kick things off with a little fellowship and a lot of good conversation. Come catch up and talk shop before meetings, sessions, and the packed schedule tug you in every direction. Bring your boots for a shine, wet your whistle, and help us launch the week Oklahoma-style: neighborly and relationship driven.

7:00 p.m. - OACDE Games for Guns | *Sunrise Ballrooms I, II, & III*

Purchase tickets and play a variety of games to win guns and gun related items. All proceeds benefit the Employees Association.

SUPPORTING WHEAT RESEARCH, BUILDING MARKETS

and working hard for Oklahoma wheat producers!



Oklahoma Wheat
COMMISSION

BETTER
IS POSSIBLE

YOU'RE PASSING ON MORE THAN LAND.

*Gift the next generation
a bright future on the ranch.*



LEARN MORE
[www.noble.org/
better-is-possible](http://www.noble.org/better-is-possible)



Noble Research Institute is the nation's largest independent nonprofit dedicated to farm and ranch management and has been a leading, trusted resource in agriculture since 1945. We serve farmers, ranchers and landowners with education, research and consultation for regenerating soil health to improve their land, livestock and livelihood. Demonstrating our ongoing commitment to protecting our nation's grazing lands, Noble actively manages 13,500 acres of working ranchlands to provide real-world insights and applications for those we serve.



OACD'S 88th Annual State Meeting

Monday March 2nd, 2026

7:00 a.m. - Registration Opens | *Welcome Pre-function*

7:00 a.m. - OACDE Breakfast and Program, Jennifer Bailey, OACDE President, Presiding | *Dogwood & Loblolly*
Sponsored by: Oklahoma Farm Bureau (OACDE members only)

9:00 a.m. - Opening Session, Ed Casey OACD President, Presiding | *Sunrise Ballrooms I, II, & III*

- **Keynote: Jimmy Emmons**, Assistant Chief, NRCS-USDA | *"Long Live the Soil"* Emmons brings Oklahoma agricultural roots and national USDA–NRCS leadership to this keynote on the future of regenerative agriculture. From his experience as an early adopter of regenerative farming and ranching, he'll share what regeneration looks like going forward, what he's seeing across the country, and how USDA's recent investment in regenerative ag can translate into real opportunities on the ground in Oklahoma.

10:00 a.m. - Concurrent Sessions

1. What Federal Change Means for Producers Who Still Have to Plan, Plant, and Pay Bills |

Panel: *Jimmy Emmons, NRCS-USDA Assistant Chief | Gary Blair, NACD President |*

Randall Rush, EPA Region 6 Senior Ag & Policy Advisor, & Francie Tolle, RMA Deputy Administrator of Compliance, Moderator: Dr. Amy Hagerman, OSU Associate Professor: Depart. of Agricultural Economics | Sunrise Ballroom II

Federal agricultural policy is once again in motion. From the One Big Beautiful Bill and the future of the Farm Bill, to tariffs, pilot programs, and USDA restructuring, producers are left asking what this all means. This session cuts through the headlines to examine what is real, what is still usable, and where opportunities exist right now. Panelists will discuss how conservation districts and partners can help farmers and ranchers make informed decisions, remain adaptable, and stay grounded in practical tools.

2. Watersheds: Making Sense of the Dollars and Cents | *Tammy Sawatzky, Director, Conservation*

Programs, OCC | Cypress | Tammy will break down the current landscape of Oklahoma's watershed program and what it takes to keep these dams functioning safely and effectively in a time of rising costs and limited resources. From practical inspection realities to prioritizing repairs and maintenance, attendees will walk away with a better understanding of how districts can protect infrastructure, lands, and communities and how we can better hone our message to "give a dam."

3. Verified Value: Turning Claims Into Cash. Certification & Value Added Products

Cara Gerken, Senior Program Analyst / Auditor, Where Food Comes From | Dogwood & Loblolly Labels like Grass-Fed, Non-GMO, Organic, Verified Sustainable, Animal Care, and Source Verified can open doors to new markets and premium opportunities but only if producers understand what they mean, what they require, and how to navigate the process without unnecessary cost or frustration. Learn how producers can use them as tools to build value-added products and differentiate what they raise and grow.

10:45 a.m. - Break

About the Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Our Mission

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission works to conserve, protect and restore Oklahoma's natural resources, working in collaboration with the conservation districts and other partners, on behalf of the citizens of Oklahoma.

Our Programs



Our 2025 Impact

- **130** citizen science Blue Thumb volunteers
- **\$3 Million** in cost-share funds administered to producers
- **374** dams were operated and maintained, at an average cost of \$15,560 per dam
- **21,193 Acres** served in the Soil Health Implementation Program
- **19,420+ Acres** burned through Fighting Fire with Fire grants
- **\$18.5 million** in drought funds were provided to 2,185 participants

OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
conservation.ok.gov



ConservationOK



Conservation_OK



Jeff Caskey

(Cherokee Nation -)

Intertribal Agriculture Council

Technical Assistance Specialist

Eastern Oklahoma Region

Tishomingo, OK

(580).371.7869



@ITCHoldingsCorp
ITC Holdings Corp
@ITCGrid

ENERGIZING OKLAHOMA'S FUTURE.

- Energy is essential for the way we live, work and play
- ITC operates, builds and maintains electric transmission infrastructure in the region
- As Oklahoma's only independent transmission company, ITC is dedicated to improving electric reliability and increasing transmission capacity in the Great Plains and Midwest

To learn more about how ITC Great Plains can partner with you, call Ernestor De La Rosa at 620-255-6525



FOR THE
GREATER GRID.

ITC GREAT PLAINS
itcgreatplains.com



THE TEXAS AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST
**CONSERVES THE HERITAGE
OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS**
NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE HABITATS
THROUGHOUT TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA.

Founded by landowners, for landowners, we approach this mission with private landowners seeking to conserve working landscapes with agricultural uses. This includes farmers, ranchers and sportsmen. These landowners are committed to conservation and keeping their land in agricultural use.

**CONTACT OUR TEAM TO DISCUSS IF A
CONSERVATION EASEMENT IS THE
RIGHT TOOL FOR YOUR FAMILY.**



Scan to
download our
landowner guide.

**MORE
INFORMATION**

210-826-0074
www.txaglandtrust.org
info@txaglandtrust.org



OACD'S 88th Annual State Meeting

Monday March 2nd, 2026

(continued)

11:00 a.m. - Concurrent Sessions

1. Needs Assessment Tools to Strengthen Programming & Engagement

Josh Campbell PhD, Assistant Program Specialist, OSU Cooperative Extension Service | Cypress

Explore alternative ways conservation district staff and board members can gather, analyze, and use stakeholder input to improve communication, programming, and partnerships, helping districts stay relevant and responsive to community need.

2. Empowering Landowners to Negotiate for Agrivoltaics through Training and Protections

in Law | *Dr. Shannon Ferrell, Professor of Agricultural Economics & Attorney at Oklahoma State University | Dogwood & Loblolly* | From soybeans to sunbeams and winter wheat to wind turbines, renewable energy is showing up on working lands across Oklahoma. Landowners deserve the tools to negotiate from a position of strength. In this session, Dr. Shannon Ferrell (a Western Oklahoma farm kid and ag attorney) will break down the real-world economics of incorporating solar or other renewable infrastructure into an operation: how much land footprint it really takes, what it means for farm income per acre, and how it economically impacts your community. He'll also walk through best practices for navigating a lease from start to finish so you can protect your property, your operation, and your ability to keep farming and ranching long-term.

3. Real or perceived barriers: Virtual Fencing Panel | *OCC Soil Health Team | Redbud*

Come learn the good, the bad, and the ugly about "vencing" from people who have been there

11:45 a.m. - Networking Break

Visit vendors and fill up your bingo card for a chance to win a prize at lunch Tuesday.

12:00 p.m. - Partnership Awards Luncheon | *Dr. Donnie Nero, OACD Vice President, Presiding* | *Sunrise Ballroom I, II, & III*

-**NRCS Partnership Awards**; Director & Employee Service Awards

- **Keynote: Jeff Starling**, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment,
"From Wind to Wires: Renewable Growth, Data Demands & Local Impacts"

1:30 p.m. - Networking Break

Visit vendors and fill up your bingo card for a chance to win a prize at lunch Tuesday.



OACD'S 88th Annual State Meeting

Monday March 2nd, 2026

(continued)

1:45 p.m. - Area Caucus Meetings *NEW * NEW * NEW*

Area Caucus Meetings are facilitated, region-specific conversations focused on identifying shared goals, challenges, and opportunities, while beginning to define a clear regional identity. Conservation challenges require local voices, honest dialogue, and collaboration from the ground up. This is your opportunity to get down in the weeds with leaders from your area, be heard, and help shape priorities that will guide conservation work for the next nine decades.

Area I - Oklahoma River Boardroom (Yellow Lanyards)

Area II - Sunrise III (Blue Lanyards)

Area III - Dogwood & Loblolly (Purple Lanyards)

Area IV - Cypress (Red Lanyards)

Area V - Redbud (Green Lanyards)

2:45 p.m. - Networking Break

Visit vendors and fill up your bingo card for a chance to win a prize at lunch Tuesday.

3:00 p.m. - NRCS Business Meeting | Cypress

This meeting is for NRCS employees.

3:00 p.m. - OACDE Business Meeting | Sunrise Ballroom III

This meeting is for district employees and OCC employees.

3:00 p.m. - OACD Business Meeting | Dogwood & Loblolly

This meeting is for district directors.

6:00 p.m. - Golden Hour Legislative Reception | Welcome Pre-function & Sunset Ballrooms I, II, & III

7:00 p.m. - Amber Waves of Excellence Banquet & Awards | Sunrise Ballrooms I, II, & III

Announcement of OACD Board

Legislator recognition & Legislator of the Year

The Elmer Maddux Award for Advocacy

Employee of the Year

Yeoman's Award

Conservation Hall of Fame Awards

The Leopold Conservation Award

The War on Cedars is finally winnable.

THE WEAPON:

BRUSH



BULLET



Brush Bullet is a new and innovative way to easily and effectively control undesirable trees and brush on pasture, range land, forestry and non-crop lands.

Contact Wes Avent 806.323.9921

STAR SEED

Proud Sponsor of OACD

Native Grasses | Pollinators | Food Plots | Bedding Cover



1-800-782-7311

101 Industrial Ave | Osborne, KS 67473

www.gostarseed.com

OLD WEST CEDARMILL

Laser Branded Cowhide Art

(405) 353-9491
Tim Vaughan
Oklahoma City, OK
oldwestcedarmill.com



Swing through and see JJ for a quick boot shine!

*Sponsored by Aaron Coffey;
Hargrove Insurance*



Advanced Avigation
Contact Matt Gard





OACD'S 88th Annual State Meeting

Tuesday March 3rd, 2026

7:00 a.m. - Registration Opens | *Welcome Pre-function*

7:00 a.m. - OACD Past Presidents Breakfast | *Oklahoma River Boardroom*

7:30 a.m. - Oklahoma Conservation Commission Board Meeting | *Robert "Bobby" Priess, Chairman, OCC Commissioner Area II, Presiding* | *Dogwood & Loblolly* | Up early & curious? Before the official agenda kicks off, feel free to come see where statewide conservation work turns into real decisions. District leaders and partners will get a front-row seat to how commissioners set priorities each month, manage NRCS and district partnerships, and coordinate conservation efforts across Oklahoma.

8:30 a.m. - Welcome and Overview | *Sunrise Ballroom I, II, & III*

▪ **Keynote: District Relevancy: What Does it Mean to You?**

Kimberly Bartley, Environmental Scientist Advisor, Kentucky Division of Conservation

9:15 a.m. - Networking Break *Coffee Sponsored by Farm Credit Associations of Oklahoma*

Visit vendors and fill up your bingo card for a chance to win a prize at lunch Tuesday.

9:30 a.m. - Concurrent Sessions

1. NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program | *NRCS state staff* | *Sunrise Ballroom II* | USDA's new \$700 million regenerative pilot is one of the biggest conservation investments we've seen in years; Oklahoma is built for moments like this. Come hear directly from NRCS state staff on what's official, what's still developing, and how producers and districts can prepare to capture these dollars through EQIP and CSP. The investment is big but the real story is bigger: it takes trusted local partners to deliver it, and Oklahoma's NRCS–District relationship is the gold standard.

2. Supplement Smarter: Build a Better Grazing System | *Dr. Henry Hilscher*

LNC Livestock Nutrition Center | *Cypress*

Ever looked at cows standing in belly-high grass and wondered why they still aren't holding condition? Having plenty of hay or stockpiled grass doesn't automatically mean you're feeding efficiently or profitably. In fact, low-quality forage can quietly "starve" performance and profits just as quickly as feeding high-dollar bales. If you aren't testing, you're guessing: and you can't manage what you don't measure. Hear from a Livestock Nutrition Center nutritionist as they break down how forage testing and selecting the right supplements, feed products, and protein to compliment your forages can be strategic tools on the way to regenerative grazing.

3. The Future of Farming: Young Farmer & Rancher panel | *OCC Soil Health & District Services team* |

Redbud Young district conservationist and regenerative farmers share their successes, challenges, and operational goals for the future. Come learn, share, and laugh with these panelists. Take home tangible talking points to recruit the next generation of local leaders to your board.

10:30 a.m. - Networking Break

Visit vendors and fill up your bingo card for a chance to win a prize at lunch Tuesday.

Certification. Data. Advisory. Trust. All in One Place.

866-395-5883 info@wherefoodcomesfrom.com wfcf.co

NRCS.USDA.GOV/OK | FIND YOUR LOCAL SERVICE CENTER!

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Help people help the land.

- EQIP**
Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- CSP**
Conservation Stewardship Program
- RPP**
Regenerative Pilot Program

→ FARMERS FIRST

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps American producers adopt practices that improve soil health, enhance water quality, and boost long-term productivity through voluntary programs.

NRCS also offers free conservation technical assistance to help producers plan practices that fit their unique needs and goals.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Proud to Back the Stewards of

Oklahoma Soil

FARM CREDIT
ASSOCIATIONS OF OKLAHOMA

Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma Oklahoma AgCredit American AgCredit
farmcreditloans.com okagcredit.com agloan.com

Halter's solar-powered collars are used to move, monitor and fence cattle from anywhere.

Lane Patton
Oklahoma Territory Manager
(405) 267-8958
lane.patton@halterhq.com

Halter.



OACD'S 88th Annual State Meeting

Tuesday March 3rd, 2026
(continued)

10:45 a.m. - Concurrent Session

1. Audit Ready: A District Staff Survival Guide | *Michael Green, CPA & Team | Redbud*

If the word “audit” makes your stomach drop, this session is for you. This session will break down audits in plain language and share practical tips to help district staff stay organized, avoid common mistakes, and make audit season smoother from start to finish. Come for the shortcuts and real-life advice: leave with more confidence (and fewer headaches).

2. Drought Decision Tools: Practical Herd Metrics for Smarter Management | *Hugh Aljoe, Noble Research Institute | Dogwood & Loblolly*

Drought doesn't start when the grass is gone, it starts when decisions are delayed. In this practical session, Hugh Aljoe will share real-world herd management tools and key metrics producers can use to guide timely decisions before, during, and after drought. Learn how to evaluate forage availability, stocking rate, animal performance, and financial risk so you can act earlier, protect your land base, and recover faster when conditions improve.

3. AI Tool Utilization | *Audrey E. H. King, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Agricultural Communications, Digital Media State Extension Specialist, OSU Extension | Cypress* | AI doesn't have to be intimidating and it's not here to replace the work conservation districts do every day. In this session, Dr. Audrey King will help you cut through the noise and navigate the growing number of AI tools and services available. Attendees will learn how to identify the right platforms for their specific needs and how to use AI to enhance communication, improve efficiency, and better serve cooperators, directors, and their communities. Think of AI as a practical tool —not a crutch, and not a replacement.

11:45 a.m. - Networking Break

Visit vendors and fill up your bingo card for a chance to win a prize at lunch Tuesday.



2026 OACD Board of Directors

Ed Casey, Board President, Nowata County Conservation District
Joe Caughlin, Immediate Past President, Kay County Conservation District
Lyle Blakley, Vice-President, Rogers County Conservation District
Phil Campbell, Vice-President, Oklahoma County Conservation District
Dr. Donnie Nero, Vice-President, Okfuskee County Conservation District

Ginger Emmons, Area I Director, Dewey County Conservation District
Seth Coffey, Area II Director, Arbuckle Conservation District
James Allred, Area III Director, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Conservation District
Bill Lafferty, Area IV Director, South Caddo Conservation District
Phillip Scott, Area V, Pittsburg County Conservation District



OACD'S 88th Annual State Meeting

Tuesday March 3rd, 2026

(continued)

12:00 p.m. - Lunch | HOT ONES! Burning Questions with Fire Ecology Experts

Inspired by the critically acclaimed Hot Ones YouTube series, a panel of fire ecology experts from across the state will tackle your most burning prescribed fire questions... all while eating wings that get hotter by the minute.

Bingo prizes brought to you by:



1:15 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions

1. District Employee Peer to Peer Learning Session** |

Cassandra Ausher, North Fork of Red River CD, Cindy Bierig, Major CCD, Anita Kafuman, Payne CCD, & Jennifer Rojas, Noble CCD | Dogwood & Loblolly |

Join your fellow district professionals for a dynamic, information packed session designed specifically for those doing the work every day. Learn directly from your colleagues on watershed O&M best practices, strategies for finding and securing grants, strengthening annual reporting, and enhancing outreach efforts. This collaborative session is built to foster practical solutions, shared experiences, and actionable ideas you can take back to your district.

**Directors welcome too!

2. Weather outlook | Gary McManus, State Climatologist | Sunrise Ballroom II

Oklahoma's climate and weather patterns directly impact grazing decisions, seed choice, water availability, and infrastructure planning. In this session, the State Climatologist will provide a practical outlook for spring, summer, and the year ahead, helping conservation district directors and staff better anticipate risks, plan for variability, and support cooperators with informed, climate-smart decision-making. Specifically by taking a look at the Equatorial Pacific waters to see if we are finally rid of La Nina, and examining the hopes for the possible El Nino next fall and winter that's being talked about so much.

2:15 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions

1. From Crisis to Continuum: Repositioning Drought Policy in Oklahoma: Will Emergency Drought Relief Return? | Trey Lam, Executive Director, OCC | Dogwood & Loblolly |

Get a clear picture of what's being discussed at the State Capitol, the potential of another emergency drought program, how Oklahoma can move from reactionary relief toward long-term drought mitigation, and what it could mean for district workload and producer questions on the ground.

On to the next stop:

75th National Land & Range Judging Contest

May 5-7, 2026 El Reno, OK



**PROUDLY
STANDING
ALONGSIDE
THOSE WHO
STAND FOR
THE LAND.**



We are rural Oklahoma.®
okfarmbureau.org/join



SHERMAN LEWIS SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE & APPLIED SCIENCES
(SL/SAAS)

4th ANNUAL LANGSTON CONFERENCE ON
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS
INCLUDING GOATS, HAIR SHEEP, AND
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

**REGISTRATION
COMING SOON!**

*"Stronger Together"
Enhancing Agriculture, Food,
Fiber & Agribusiness"*

April 30 - May 2, 2026
LANGSTON, OKLAHOMA





OACD'S 88th Annual State Meeting

Partners



OACD gratefully recognizes these partners whose support makes this event possible and whose investment in conservation is an investment in tomorrow, beginning today.



Land & Legacy



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No-Till Titan



Soil Builder



Seed Starter



AFR * Bamert Seed * Freese and Nichols * Livestock Nutrition Center
Farm Service Agency * US Fish & Wildlife Services * Michael Green, CPA
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) * OSU Water Resources Center
Johnston Seed * Old West Cedarmill * Sure Crop Liquid Nutrition

Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society * Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
OACD Auxiliary * Farm Journal Foundation * Oklahoma Local Ag Collaborative (OLAC)
OSU Natural Resources Department * The Nature Conservancy