

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2013-14 Performance Report

Oklahoma Wheat Commission

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission statement of the Commission is to develop and expand domestic and international markets for US wheat producers while keeping them technologically competitive. This mission also positions the Commission to address issues which affect the Oklahoma wheat producer and his customer, focus on the wheat industry and keep Oklahoma wheat producers competitive in the world market.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Mike Schulte, Executive Director. Telephone: (405) 608-4350;
Email: mike.schulte@wheat.ok.gov.

GOVERNANCE:

The governing body is a commission. The Oklahoma Wheat Utilization, Research and Market Development Commission is composed of five (5) members appointed by the Governor for a term of five (5) years. Senate confirmation is not required. One member is designated from each of five (5) district defined by Statute. In addition to the appointed members, ex officio non-voting members are the President of the Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture and the Director of the State Extension Service, Oklahoma State University.

Current members: Tom Glazier, Chairman; David Gammill, Vice-Chairman, Don Schieber, Secretary, Kenneth Failes, Member and Tom Stephens, Member. All appointed by the Governor.

Jim Reese, Secretary of Ag – Ex Officio, statutory
Director Mike Woods, Interim Dean of Agricultural, statutory

Does the Board have any committees or subgroups? If so, please provide a detailed listing of the subgroups and their areas of focus. No

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Is there an attendance policy for board members/commissioners? If so, is it being followed? No attendance policy but when meetings occur there must be a quorum of three (3) present.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Please provide a listing 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.

On January 1, 2012, our agency had an increase on our voluntary check-off rate, this rate changed from 1 and 1/2 cents per bushel to 2 cents per bushel. This increase was made so we are able to have more funding available for our public breeding programs at Oklahoma

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State University for wheat research. We also have been using this funding to increase our marketing efforts at a national level with U.S. Wheat Associates. Oklahoma currently has the best public breeding program in the nation for wheat research and in order to stay competitive in this field, this increase was supported by the majority of wheat producers in the state. No cost burden has taken place because of this.

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?

In March 2013 our agency will be completely contracted with OMES for computer and IT services, we are hoping this merger will result in a cost savings to our small agency when buying computer programs and equipment in the future.

CORE MISSION:

What services are you required to provide which are outside of your core mission? None

Are any services you provide duplicated or replicated by another agency? No.

Are there 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? No

In other states? No

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