



OSU Ag Vice President Speaks to Oklahoma Cotton Council

Blair, Ok.--"We're coming back," was the message given by Dr. Bob Whitson, vice president of the Oklahoma State University Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, to members of the Oklahoma Cotton Council here Tuesday.



Whitson, in his second year as OSU agriculture vice president, was speaking of the ambitious program he and his administrative staff have begun to strengthen OSU's traditional role of leadership in agriculture education, research and extension.

Whitson, accompanied by four OSU agricultural administrators, was touring the university's research and extension facilities in southwest Oklahoma. They were hosted by Dr. J.C. Banks, director of the OSU Southwest Research and Extension Center at Altus and OSU Extension state cotton specialist.

Whitson explained OSU, beginning in 2005 with a \$2.5 million boost from the state legislature, is embarking on a three-pronged program to advance the university's presence as a Land Grant University.

"We will be working with the Noble Foundation at Ardmore to create programs designed to help Oklahoma agriculture," Whitson said. He gave this as an example of many projects the OSU agricultural leaders will be working on in the future. Along with Whitson's remarks, members of his team spoke of intentions to bring on board an OSU Extension area entomologist position to replace Dr. Miles Karner, who died in 2006.

Accompanying Whitson were: Dr. Bob Westerman, Assoc. vice president of the OSU Agriculture Division; Dr. Clarence Watson, assoc. director, OSU Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. Jim Trapp, assoc. director, OSU Agricultural Extension Service; and, Dr. Brent Westerman, senior director, OSU Experiment Station field and research service unit.





