



**Oklahoma State University – Review & Recommendations for
Regional Research & Extension Centers and Stations
Jonathan Edelson**

Issue: The Oklahoma State University, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources through the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station currently operates 18 research and extension stations or centers throughout the state. Prior to 2005 these stations and centers were maintained and operated through individual disciplinary departments within the Division and therefore had significant disciplinary focus. Operations and maintenance of most of the facilities have now been centralized under the supervision of a director within the Agricultural Experiment Station. For budgetary purposes and due to significant changes in focus for the Division, we have determined that reviews, evaluations and consideration of options for future development of the stations and centers are now appropriate.

What has been done: In consult with the Associate Directors of the Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension, I conducted a review of current facilities throughout the state including staffing, expenditures and on-going projects. I also summarized regional agricultural and other natural resource assets relative to locations of stations and centers. I then summarized significant alignments among facilities, staff and regional agriculture and natural resource assets. Based on results of the review, I developed a set of options and recommendations for realigning location of facilities and staff, realigning research focus at stations/centers based on regional needs, additional investments in station/center infrastructure and/or changes in staffing to better meet regional needs. The document and recommendations were submitted to the Associate Directors and Vice President for consideration and recommendations are being used in continued development of the facilities.

Impacts: A shift in staffing practice has been the most immediate and dramatic recent change. Our new strategy for staffing the head supervisor at all research stations is to hire a Ph.D. level person with field research experience, who can collaborate with campus based faculty members to initiate and implement research projects at stations. Given budget restrictions and increased cost of travel, we believe this will reduce direct travel costs of the campus faculty without reducing regional off campus research efforts and this may act to increase collaborations.

Funding Sources, Cooperators, Partners, Mentors etc.: The primary funding sources are state and federal appropriations through the Experiment Station. The project was completed under the mentorship and in collaboration with the Vice President, and Associate Directors of the Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension.

Contact information: Jonathan Edelson, Professor & Assistant Director, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, 74078.
jonathan.edelson@okstate.edu , 405-744-5398.