

Kingfisher County Listening Session Report

<http://www.dasnr.okstate.edu/oces/ocls/>



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OKLAHOMA

The mission of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service is to disseminate information to the people of Oklahoma and encourage the adoption of research-based knowledge relating to agriculture, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and community development.



Kingfisher County Listening Session

Eight (8) individuals interested in a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities participated in the Kingfisher County Listening Session. The Listening Session was an effort to get a broad base of citizen input to identify local issues so a plan can be developed to create a better economic, environmental, and social situation for Kingfisher County. Participants from across the county provided input and identified, discussed, and defined their community's needs and opportunities while building on the assets that presently exist.



The purpose of this report is to share publicly the process and the information that was collected from the Kingfisher County Listening Session. The report lists the needs and concerns of the county as identified during the open forum process. This report also will be used as a starting point for the upcoming *Focus Forum*, in which an assembled group of stakeholders will define, discuss, and begin to address the needs and concerns identified in the Listening Session. Many of the needs and concerns of Oklahoma can be addressed through partnerships with other groups and organizations. The report can be found on the Oklahoma Community Listening Session website at <http://www.dasnr.okstate.edu/oces/ocls/>.

The Listening Session revolved around a single, key question: **“Considering the next 3 to 5 years, what are the critical issues in your community and in Oklahoma that need to be addressed to realize a positive future for you, your family, and your community?”** The needs and issues identified by participants reflect several broad areas of interest. Available data do not show that any one area is more significant than another, but they do show that all these issues are vitally important to the people of Kingfisher County.

The Listening Session Process

The eight persons who participated in the Kingfisher County Listening Session took part in a single discussion. The group considered the guiding question (see below) and suggested issues that they felt were of most importance to their families and community. With the assistance of a group facilitator, the group discussed its chosen issues, combined similar issues, and then voted to determine its top five issues.

Considering the next 3 to 5 years, what are the critical issues in your community and in Oklahoma that need to be addressed to realize a positive future for you, your family, and your community?

Group Discussion

The group discussed a number of ideas that were proposed during the session. Those ideas considered to be most important were used to define the five issues of most importance to Kingfisher County.

- **Reduce illegal drug usage and provide access to long-term rehabilitation care facilities**
- **Find new ways of providing income for farmers through diversification and/or alternative enterprises to improve profitability of agriculture**
- **Infrastructure**
 - Improve county roads and bridges
 - 911 – road signage
 - Traffic accident prevention
 - Quality water supply
- **Improve assistance to aging population**
 - Increase availability of senior housing
 - Improve health of baby boomers
- **Improve education**
 - Increase teacher pay
 - Maintain local control of schools
 - Improve juvenile behavior and programs to keep young people in school

In the months following the Listening Session, Kingfisher County Extension Educators will invite community leaders and representatives from organizations and agencies to a *Focus Forum* to consider what the people are saying and to devise action plans for Kingfisher County. As Extension begins its long-range strategic planning process, the involvement of citizens in identifying needs and opportunities in the county and community will be extremely valuable. Through the upcoming *Focus Forums*, education and service providers will learn more about community concerns while forging new partnerships with other groups to address identified issues.

Facts About Kingfisher County

The intent of these data is to provide local perspective and context for discussion. Local circumstances can change the demographic and economic data; the following is the most up-to-date information that is currently available.¹

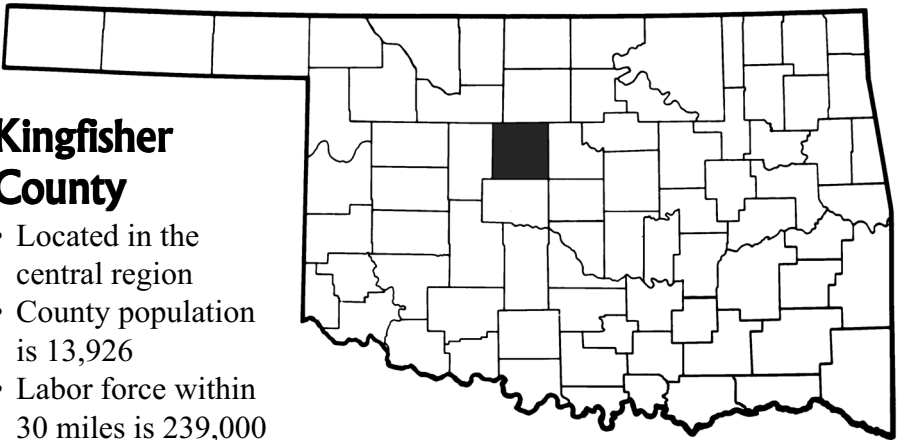
◆ History

Kingfisher County was originally a part of the Unassigned Lands opened for settlement during the Land Run of April 22, 1889. Created at statehood, the county was named for King Fisher, an early-day operator of a stage station.

Kingfisher, the county seat, is the site of the Seay Mansion, the restored home of Oklahoma's second territorial governor, A.J. Seay. Built in 1892, it features furnishings from that period. Also located in Kingfisher is the Chisholm Trail Museum, which traces the history of the Chisholm Trail and features Indian artifacts as well as a restored log cabin, schoolhouse, church, and bank.

Kingfisher County

- Located in the central region
- County population is 13,926
- Labor force within 30 miles is 239,000



¹ County statistics from Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Information Management, May 2000

Facts About Kingfisher County

◆ **Industry**

At one time, oil production in the Cashion area, Dover Field, and East Columbia Field was of significant economic importance. Today, agriculture is central to the economy of the area, with wheat being the major crop.

According to the 1997 Census of Agriculture, Kingfisher County had 998 farms (averaging 556 acres). Average gate receipts were \$99,669 in 1997, and the county had 28 farms with gate receipts in excess of \$500,000. Agricultural production was divided between livestock (79 percent) and crops (21 percent). Contrasted with the 1992 Census of Agriculture, average gate receipts in 1997 increased 21 percent, from \$82,693 to \$99,669; the average farm size decreased 2 percent.

◆ **Profile**

Kingfisher County is located in central Oklahoma. The county is comprised of 906 square miles of wide prairie. The average annual rainfall is 47.1 inches. Average temperatures range from 42 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 80.8 degrees Fahrenheit in July.

According to the 2000 census, the county seat, Kingfisher, had a population of 4,380 residents. The city is located 45 miles northwest of Oklahoma City.

◆ **Households**

Kingfisher County had 5,247 households in 2000. Statistics regarding those households are included in the table on the final page of this report.

◆ **Population Characteristics**

The population density of the county is 14.6 persons per square mile. The median age of the population is 38 years.

Facts About Kingfisher County

◆ County Population - 2000

	<i>2000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
County population	13,926	100
Male population	6,788	48.7
Female population	7,138	51.3
Under 5 years	870	6.2
5 to 9 years	1,025	7.4
10 to 14 years	1,087	7.8
15 to 19 years	1,194	8.6
20 to 24 years	753	5.4
25 to 34 years	1,444	10.4
35 to 44 years	2,293	16.5
45 to 54 years	1,825	13.1
55 to 59 years	669	4.8
60 to 64 years	627	4.5
65 to 74 years	1,088	7.8
75 to 84 years	741	5.3
85 years and over	310	2.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Census 2000

◆ Poverty

Poverty in Kingfisher County increased by 5.2 percent between 1990 and 2000. In 1990 there were 1,399 individuals living below the poverty level. This number increased to 1,472 by 2000. The poverty level for family households with related children under 18 years of age increased 30.5 percent between 1990 and 2000. In 1990 there were 210 such families, but by 2000 the number had risen to 274 families. Poverty-level households headed by women having no husband present and with children under 18 years of age numbered 101 in 1990. By 2000 such households had risen to 112, an increase of 10.9 percent.

◆ Labor Force

The Kingfisher County labor force numbered 6,530 in 2000, with 77.1 percent of males and 51.3 percent of females employed. The

Facts About Kingfisher County

county recorded an average annual unemployment rate of 2.3 percent in 2000. The per capita personal income for the county in 2000 was \$22,423.

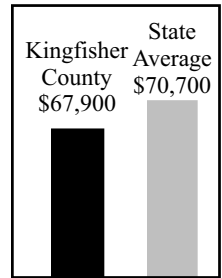
◆ Tourism and Points of Interest

The major waterway in Kingfisher County is the Cimarron River. Also located in the county are the Chisholm Trail Museum and Seay Mansion in Kingfisher.

Annual events include Pat Hennessey Days during late August, a Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) sanctioned rodeo in June, Chisholm Trail Museum Barbecue in April, and Germanfest at Okarche in October.

◆ Housing

The county has 5,879 housing units, and 89.2 percent of these are occupied by owners. Statewide, 68.4 percent of housing units are occupied by owners. The median owner-occupied home value in the county is \$67,900. Statewide, the median owner-occupied home value is \$70,700. The median housing rental contract is \$384 per month in Kingfisher County. Statewide, the median housing rental contract is \$456 per month.



Owner-occupied home value

◆ Tax Structure

The average mill levy for ad valorem taxes in Kingfisher County is 75.15 mills. It generated \$7,064,782 in 2001-2002. Also, Kingfisher County received \$3,273,324 from the state for the county's proceeds from the gas, diesel, and special fuel tax, as well as from the gross production tax and motor vehicle collections.

Facts About Kingfisher County

Kingfisher County collects sales tax at three levels: state, county, and local. The state sales tax rate is 4.5 percent; the county rate is 0.5 percent, generating \$498,857 in 2001-2002. The local sales tax rate varies from city to city, as shown below.

Sales Tax Rates and Revenue, 2001-2002

City	Sales Tax Rate (%)	Revenue (\$)
Cashion	2.00	49,608
Dover	4.00	50,905
Hennessey	3.00	225,763
Kingfisher	4.00	2,219,979
Loyal	2.00	6,844

Source: OTC State Payments to Local Governments FY 2001-2002 and "Oklahoma Ad Valorem Mill Levies, Fiscal Year 2002," by Notie H. Lansford, Jr., and Dondee Payne, Department of Agricultural Economics, July 2002, AE 02136

◆ Education

The county is home to the Chisholm Trail Technology Center in Omega. There are 81.2 percent of Kingfisher County residents over 25 years of age who are high school graduates, compared to 74.6 percent statewide. College graduates 25 years and older number 16.1 percent, compared to 17.8 percent statewide.

Facts About Kingfisher County

◆ Primary Employers in the Area

Major Employers	Products/ Services	Number Employed	City/ Town
Pioneer Telephone Cooperative	communications	520	Kingfisher
Hanor Farms	swine production	400	Hennessey
Temtrol-Okarche	refrigeration	275	Okarche
Kingfisher Public Schools	education services	118	Kingfisher
Center of Family Love	medical/education services	110	Okarche
Briscoe Oil Company	oil production	100	Kingfisher
Louis Dreyfus Oil and Gas	oil production	86	Kingfisher
City of Kingfisher	government services	82	Kingfisher
Kingfisher Regional Hospital	medical services	80	Kingfisher
Kingfisher County	government services	78	Kingfisher
Wal-Mart	retail store	65	Kingfisher
Barry Smith	dozer/trucking	60	Hennessey
Center of Family Love	mentally handicapped care	60	Kingfisher
Cimarron Electric Cooperative	electricity	54	Kingfisher
People's National Bank	financial services	45	Kingfisher
Exxon Company, USA	gas processing	37	Hennessey
Kingfisher Bank and Trust	financial services	31	Kingfisher
Continental Oil Company	gas processing	30	Hennessey
Longhorn Well Service	oil field	30	Hennessey
SJL	oil field	30	Hennessey

Source: Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Information Management, May 2000

Facts About Kingfisher County

◆ County Demographics – 1990 vs. 2000

	1990	2000	% Change
County population	13,212	13,926	5.4
Hispanic/Latino population	407	961	136.1
White population	12,201	12,267	0.5
Black or African American population	305	221	-27.5
American Indian and Alaska Native population	358	420	17.3
Asian population	12	30	150.0
Median age of all persons in the county	34.08	38	11.5
Labor force	6,454	6,530	1.2
Average annual unemployment rate	4.34%	2.28%	---
County per capita income	15,467	22,423	45.0
Poverty - families with related children under age 18	210	274	30.5
Poverty - families with female householder with own children under age 18, no husband present	101	112	10.9
Poverty - individuals	1,399	1,472	5.2
Persons over age 25 with a high school diploma	3,379	3,479	3.0
Percent of persons over age 25 with high school diploma	76.2%	81.2%	6.6
Persons over age 25 with a college degree	1,143	1,450	26.9
Percent over age 25 with at least a Bachelor's degree	13.4%	16.1%	20.1
Households - family household with own children under age 18	1,812	1,860	2.6
Households - married couple family with own children under age 18	1,562	1,497	-4.2
Households - female householder, with own children under age 18, no husband present	190	244	28.4
County housing units	5,791	5,879	1.5
Owner-occupied housing units	3,905	4,103	5.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Census 2000

Notes

Notes

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**Kingfisher County Extension Office
101 South Main, Room 13
Kingfisher, OK 73750-3241
Phone: 405-375-3822
Fax: 405-375-6972**



**Division of Agricultural Sciences
and Natural Resources
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma State University
139 Agricultural Hall
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078-6019
Phone: 405-744-5398
Fax: 405-744-5339
www.dasnr.okstate.edu/oces/**