

# **OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY**

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**PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Dr. Brett Carver Receives Outstanding Public Service in Agriculture Award**

Gov. Fallin's Excellence in Agriculture Awards ceremony honored Dr. Brett Carver in a March 30 presentation hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry during Ag Day at the state capitol.

Dr. Carver received Gov. Fallin's Outstanding Public Service in Agriculture Award. He is a Regents professor in Wheat Breeding and Genetics at Oklahoma State University. He was nominated by the Oklahoma Wheat Commission for the work he has conducted as a wheat breeder and leader of the OSU Wheat Improvement Team.

Carver began his career as an assistant professor in the OSU Department of Plant and Soil Sciences focusing on increasing yield in dual-purpose wheat. His work led to new varieties such as "Duster" and "Endurance" that were adapted to grazing and now dominate the Oklahoma wheat and stocker cattle industries.

In 1998, Carver became the Wheat Genetics Chair in Agriculture and led development of a comprehensive winter wheat breeding and genetics program. Emphasis was placed on dual-purpose management systems and yielding quality suitable to a broad spectrum of domestic and international customers such as millers, bakers and consumers.

Carver was named a Regents professor in 2002, the highest academic achievement recognition at OSU. He credits everyone on the Wheat Improvement Team, and is always active in educating the public or explaining his work to visiting foreign delegations. His expertise creates public awareness of the importance of world wheat production and the value of science and modern agricultural practices.

Each spring finds Carver traveling the state making presentations at OSU variety trial field days and helping wheat producers learn to be more profitable with increased forage and grain capabilities. He ensures that new varieties are actually tested by farmers in Oklahoma fields. In 14 years, he led the development and release of 18 hard red winter or hard white cultivars. Over 40 percent of the planted wheat varieties in Oklahoma are from the OSU breeding program.

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Photo caption: Dr. Keith Owens, vice president of the OSU Agricultural Experiment Station, accepted the Governor's Outstanding Public Service in Agriculture Award on

behalf of Dr. Brett Carver. The award was presented by Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese in a special Ag Day ceremony March 30 in the state capitol.