

## Dewey County Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference

Dewey County's Women in Ag Tour was held Tuesday, September 27, 2011. The theme for the conference was 'Farm Women's Day Out'. The conference offered opportunities for both education and networking. Participants were able to engage in sessions that helped them increase awareness of risk management concepts and tools. The conference kicked off with a team of experts presenting 'Agricultural Leasing Issues'. The team consisted of Shannon Ferrell, OSU Ag Law Specialist and Dr. Rodney Jones, OSU Economics Specialist, Northwest District. This aspect of the conference proved to be very beneficial as a participant commented she will use this information to 'make better and more informed decisions regarding leasing.' Additional agricultural presentations included 'Record Keeping: Chore or Change Motivator?' presented by Damona Doye, OSU Regents Professor and Extension Farm Management Specialist, followed by Dr. Jody Campiche's 'Farm Bill Update'. Campiche is an OSU Ag Policy Specialist. After lunch was enjoyed by all, Jamey Allen presented 'Oklahoma Farm to School Program', followed by Brooke Taylor presenting information regarding NRCS Programs and co-presenter Melinda Freeman, FSA programs. The conference was a success among the 16 participant evaluations. Considering the conference as a whole, 81% of the participants rated the information they received as excellent, while the remaining 19% rating the information as good. The event was coordinated by Michael Nichols, Farm Service Agency, Mike Weber, OSU Extension, and Coleta Bratten, Dewey Co. Conservation.