

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

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New Made in Oklahoma Store opens with ceremony at the Oklahoma State Fair

One word goes a long ways in telling the story of the new Made in Oklahoma Store at the Oklahoma State Fair – growing.

Naturally, growing is a part of agriculture, but there has also been significant growth in the Made in Oklahoma program and in the Made in Oklahoma Store itself.

The Made in Oklahoma Store began as a 300-square foot store/exhibit space in 2014 then grew to 600 square feet in 2015 and 900 square feet in 2016.

Today, through the efforts of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture (ODAFF) and the Oklahoma State Fair, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of a more than 3,600-square foot Made in Oklahoma Store.

The Made in Oklahoma Store is a structure within the Bennett Event Center, the new 279,000-square-foot expo building. Those participating in today's ribbon cutting ceremony included Betty Thompson, Deputy Commissioner of ODAFF, and Tim O'Toole, President & CEO of Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. Gina Burchfiel, Vice President of the State Fair Division, Oklahoma State Fair, Inc.

The Made in Oklahoma Store is open to companies throughout the state that produce local foods, skincare products, household and home décor items with an emphasis on the agricultural industry. The sales have increased due to the number of Made in Oklahoma products that have been added to the store each year.

“The Made in Oklahoma Store is an amazing opportunity for the companies who want to get their products in front of approximately 900,000 people who visit the Oklahoma State Fair each year,” said Julie A. Sears, Made in Oklahoma Program Coordinator.

The membership of the Made in Oklahoma Program, which began in the late 1980s, has a long-standing tradition of producing quality handmade items that Oklahomans can be proud to support.

“The Made in Oklahoma Store allows the public an easy outlet to purchase these items in one location,” Sears said.

There are close to 50 Made in Oklahoma vendors in the store this year. The store hours are the same as the Bennett Event Center, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The Oklahoma State Fair continues through Sunday, September 24.

Sears said the Made in Oklahoma Program itself has continued to grow throughout the years.

“There are currently 400 agricultural companies in the Made in Oklahoma Program,” Sears said. “There have always been a large number of food manufacturers within the program however the number of other types of items has continued to grow every year. These items include soaps, furniture, home décor, candles, signage, etc.”

Sears added, “The Made in Oklahoma Store has strengthened the partnership between the Made in Oklahoma Program and the Oklahoma State Fair. The Oklahoma State Fair has offered hundreds of Made in Oklahoma companies the opportunity to showcase and sell their products to an audience they have previously been unable to reach.”

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Photo caption: Today was the grand opening and ribbon cutting for the Made In OklahomaStore at the Oklahoma State Fair. Pictured left to right: Julie Sears, Betty Thompson, Tim O’Toole, Gina Burchfiel, Dennis Johnston, Tandy Kidd, and Jamey Allen.



Photo Caption: The 900 square foot Made in Oklahoma Store is located in the Bennett Event Center and is the largest gathering of Made in Oklahoma products in the state of Oklahoma.

