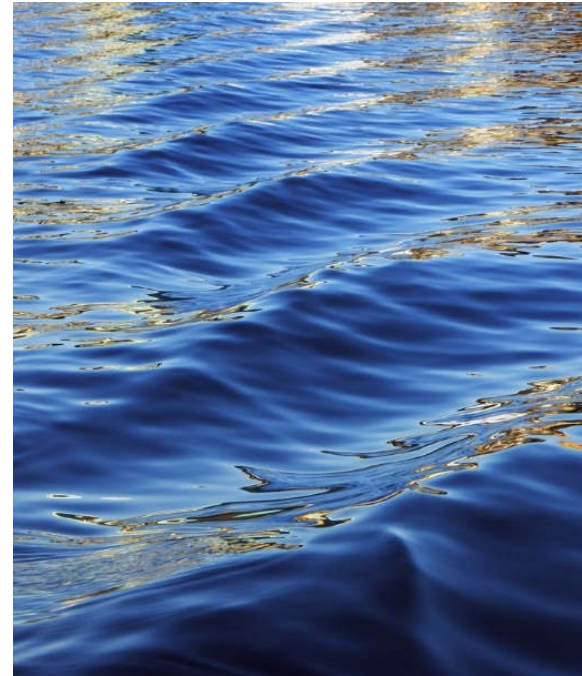




Conservation and Agriculture Reach Everyone

Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts and
Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project Inc. program



Settlement from 1865-1920



All-Black Towns of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Historical Society | www.okhistory.org

- Towns still incorporated today
- Towns & settlements no longer inhabited or without local government

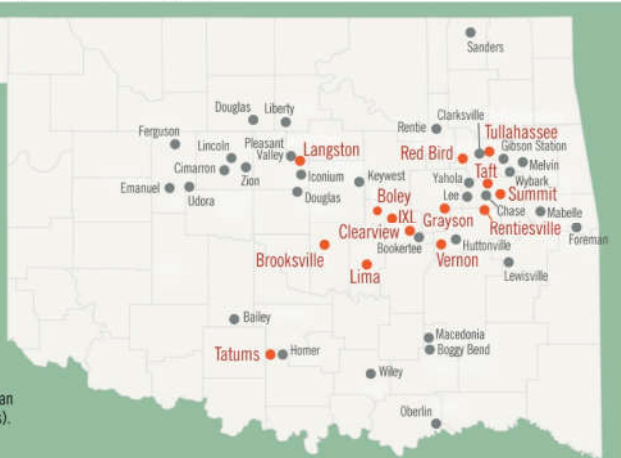
Early towns established before 1880

Tulahassee
Marshalltown
North Fork Colored
Canadian Colored
Arkansas Colored

About All-Black Towns

African Americans who settled in Oklahoma established more than fifty identifiable All-Black towns between the end of the Civil War and 1920. This number is unparalleled in any other region of the United States. Most towns were developed in Indian Territory by freedmen (former slaves of the Five Tribes). Others were established as a result of land openings beginning in 1889.

In these towns African Americans lived relatively free from the prejudices and violence found in many communities. Today, thirteen historical All-Black towns still exist.



- During this time period, all black communities were established throughout Oklahoma
- In 1910, there were 13,000+ farms operated by African Americans in Oklahoma.
- 1910, 176,000+ farms owned by whites

Fast Forward 100 Years – Landownership Today



- Today there are 1,900 farms owned by African Americans in Oklahoma
- There are 14,000 farms owned by Native Americans
- There are over 100,000 farms owned by whites in Oklahoma

USDA and Minority Producers

Reports of Discrimination

- 1965 U.S. Commission on Civil Rights publishes “Equal Opportunity in Farm Programs” detailing discrimination within USDA
- 1983 & 1990 US Commission on Civil Rights reports filed that civil rights abuse was a leading factor in the decline of minority farm ownership

Legal Action

- 1999 Pigford I lawsuit is filed. Settled for \$1.03 billion.
- 2008 Pigford II lawsuit, settlement of \$1.25 billion
- 2011 Keepseagle lawsuit, settlement of \$760 million
- 2011 USDA and DOJ announce \$1.3 billion available for Hispanic and women farmers

USDA Efforts to Repair Relationships with Minority Farmers/Ranchers

Establishment of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach to enhance access to USDA programs.

- Specialized funding pools & financial resources
- Advisory committees
- Outreach efforts
- Learning resources



Community Agriculture Organizations

Why community ag groups should help

- There 246,176 minority farmers in the United States. There are an additional 288,264 female farmers in the U.S.
- Diversity improves the organization

How they can help

- Invite minority farmers/ranchers to attend your organizations events.
- Include leaders of minority farming/ranching organizations in your larger ag community.
- Identify minority landowners who have leadership potential. Nurture those relationships. Encourage those people to seek out leadership roles.

Project Goals

- Build relationships between socially disadvantaged producers, USDA and conservation districts at the local, state, regional and national levels.
- Cultivating leadership of socially disadvantaged producers to increase knowledge of and participation in USDA programs.
- Provide educational information and training opportunities to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in larger geographic areas across Oklahoma.
- Educate non-minority farmers, ranchers and conservation district leaders and employees about the unique barriers that socially disadvantaged farmers/ranchers face.





Ray Penn
LOGAN COUNTY

**“USDA programs
allow people to better
their farms.”**

Stephen Morales
DISTRITO DE CONSERVACIÓN
DE CADDO OESTE

**“La Agencia de servicios para
la adquisición y operación de
préstamos me facilitó a mi la
compra de un muy necesario
equipo y ganado.”**







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