

James E. Osborn

November 9, 1936 – September 25, 2026

James Osborn was born west of Tuttle, OK, on November 9, 1936, to Roy and Ida Osborn and passed away on his family's farm on September 25, 2026. He had two siblings: Janis and Leon. After he graduated from Tuttle High School, he enrolled at Oklahoma State University where he earned his bachelor's and doctoral degrees in agricultural economics. He and his high school sweetheart, Mary Ann Hardesty, were married on January 2, 1956, and this union lasted more than 70 years. James began his teaching career at North Carolina State University where he taught Agricultural Economics for one year, after which he taught at Auburn University for one year. He taught at Texas Tech University for 13 years where he held several leadership positions. He then assumed a position at Oklahoma State University where he served as chair of the Agricultural Economics Department. Wherever he taught, James was deeply committed to his students. James is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, his children, Nancy Osborn (Debbie) and John Osborn (Karen) as well as by several grandchildren and great grandchildren. In addition, he is survived by three sisters-in-law and one brother-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Janis, his brother, Leon, as well as by five brothers-in-law and three sisters-in-law.