



COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Richard C. Prather, DVM, Owner, Ellis County Animal Hospital, Shattuck, Oklahoma

Interview: Arrive on Sunday, Feb 1 through Tuesday, Feb 3

Campus Forum: Monday, Feb 2, 3:30 – 4:30 PM, Room 148, Robert J. Panciera Education Center and via Zoom (link will be included in posted itinerary)

Reception: Immediately following in foyer

Dr. Richard Prather is a private, mixed practice owner and international program leader with four decades of service to animal agriculture, rural communities, veterinary education, and international humanitarian service. After graduating from Oklahoma State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1986, he and his wife, Dr. Angie Prather (OSU CVM '87), acquired Ellis County Animal Hospital. Together, they built on Dr. John Kirkpatrick's foundational principles of compassion and science-driven medicine as they developed the practice into a multi-doctor regional veterinary center serving western Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle. Working with OSU extension specialists throughout his career, Dr. Prather focused on applying evidence-based strategies to enhance herd productivity and strengthen the economic viability of rural livestock enterprises.

Beyond private practice, Dr. Prather has extensive experience in administrative leadership, fund raising and program development. Since 1995, he has fostered team leadership for mission initiatives in rural Zambia, Africa—an effort that integrates agricultural development, public health, education, and community welfare. Over the past two decades, Dr. Prather has served as Chief Executive Officer for this multifaceted, complex organization, guiding Zambian management in their beef cow–calf operation, dairy unit, regional hospital with obstetric and surgical services, orphan care programs, radio broadcasting station, and secondary and post-secondary educational system.

Dr. Prather's academic contributions include authorship of peer-reviewed publications and the delivery of original presentations at state and national veterinary conferences. His commitment to the profession extends from serving on multiple veterinary industry boards to mentoring and training the next generation of veterinarians. Together, the Doctors Prather have hosted more than 60 veterinary interns and preceptors from multiple universities.

Grounded in the values of the land-grant mission, Dr. Prather has leadership experience in both domestic and international agriculture with a unique combination of clinical expertise, organizational management, educational commitment and a global perspective to the role of Dean. His career reflects his heart-felt dedication to strengthening rural communities and inspiring young veterinarians to embrace the opportunities of the future.