

State drilling rig count declines by three The number of drilling rigs actively exploring for oil or natural gas in Oklahoma fell by three this week to 185, Baker Hughes Inc. reported Friday. The tally is down by 14 from a year ago, when it was 199. Nationwide, the net number of active drilling units edged down by one this week to 1,799, according to Houston-based Baker Hughes' website. A year ago, the U.S. rig count was 2,019. Of the rigs operating across the country this week, 1,381, or 77 percent of the total, were drilling for oil, while 416 were exploring for gas. Two rigs were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, 59 percent of active rigs were exploring for oil, according to Baker Hughes data. Friday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, benchmark crude oil rose 84 cents to finish the week at \$86.73 per barrel. Natural gas lost 3 cents to end at \$3.31 per 1,000 cubic feet. SUBHEAD: Oklahoma Agriculture Subscribe to Daily Headlines Sign up! * I understand and agree that registration on or use of this site constitutes agreement to its user agreement and privacy policy.