

Agriculture Newsletter

July/August 2020



Evaluate Vaccine Requirements Now! **Dana Zook, West Area Extension Livestock Specialist**

As a person that was raised in the Ag industry, I understand that no matter what is going on in the world around us, agriculture continues. Calves will be born and crops will be planted. The grass will grow and cows will be moved to new pastures. Yes, agriculture is definitely affected by the recent climate due to COVID-19 but we have weathered storms like this in the past. In a climate that seems to be out of control, there are some things that we can control. One thing that may be worth your consideration is a vaccination protocol for calves that meets the requirements of a preconditioning program. As an OSU Extension Area Livestock Specialist, much of my time in the fall is spent working with participating producers of the Oklahoma Beef Quality Network (OQBN). The OQBN and others programs like it are designed to aid cattle producers in making preconditioning decisions and capturing value of preconditioned calves at market.

This past fall, the OQBN premium over calves marketed with no preconditioning was \$11.93 per cwt. This average includes steers and heifers for all weight classes. Over all weight classes, individual premiums for steers was \$11.48 per cwt. and \$12.62 per cwt. for heifers. Individual sale summaries can be found at oqbn.okstate.edu; look on the left hand side for "OQBN Sale Results".

To participate in the OQBN, calves must be: 1.) home raised and weaned a minimum of 45 days, 2.) castrated and healed, 3.) dehorned and healed, 4.) tagged with a program compliant ear tag, and 5.) vaccinated according to one of three vaccination protocols. A detailed vaccine protocol is listed at oqbn.okstate.edu; look on the left hand side for "OQBN Vac-45" and select "OQBN Health Protocol" from the list in the center. In addition, starting in fall 2020, all producers selling OQBN cattle must be beef quality assurance (BQA) trained. All of these requirements will be

verified by an Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Educator a few weeks prior to the designated sale.

During past verification visits, I have run into situations where vaccine requirements have not been met. A number of these vaccine errors have to do with modified-live versus a killed respiratory vaccination. In most situations, I am happy to work with producers because keeping vaccines straight can be challenging. However, an additional last minute trip through the chute to correct a vaccine blunder adds stress and is not without cost. While we publically provide our requirements to vaccine dealers and vets, there are too many preconditioning programs for each retailer to keep track of the details of each one. Do yourself a favor and review the requirements with your vet so that you can be sure you are purchasing the correct products. Also, after spring vaccinations, be sure to save those boxes or record the serial number of the vaccines; this is also a step some producers miss. Producers who take time in the spring to plan their vaccination protocols for the program will save money (and time!) in the fall.

I invite you to visit the OQBN website at oqbn.okstate.edu for a complete list of the requirements, the latest premium reports, and more helpful information. Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Ag Educators are well versed in this program, so if you have questions, give them a call. Be safe over the next month and remember that your County Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Office is here to continue to help you with your questions, even if it is over the phone.

Cherokee Wheat Variety Trial 2019-2020

wheat.okstate.edu

Cooperator: Kenneth Failes	Extension Educator: Tommy Puffinbarger
Planting & harvest dates: 11/01/19 & 6/11/20	Previous crop: Wheat
Management: Grain-only	Soil Type: Dale silt loam
Tillage: Conventional	Soil test: pH= 7.2, N= 52, P= 51, K= 655

Licensee	Variety	Grain Yield			Test Weight	Protein
		2019-20	2-Year	3-Year	2019-20	2019-20
		----- bu/ac -----			-- lb/bu --	-- % --
OGI	Showdown	100	78	63	59.3	9.8
WestBred	WB4699	97	-	-	59.8	9.4
PlainsGold	Langin	97	74	61	61.0	9.6
WestBred	WB4269	95	73	-	62.7	9.9
PlainsGold	Crescent AX	92	-	-	62.0	10.1
OGI	Gallagher	92	75	57	62.0	9.9
WestBred	WB4595	90	-	-	61.7	9.6
WestBred	WB4792	90	-	-	59.1	10.3
OGI	OK Corral	89	-	-	59.3	10.0
OGI	Bentley	89	68	56	60.3	10.3
AgriMAXX	AM Eastwood	88	64	-	62.5	9.7
OGI	Smith's Gold	88	69	53	59.9	10.4
PlainsGold	Canvas	87	-	-	58.2	9.9
OGI	Baker's Ann	87	74	59	62.7	10.3
OGI	Doublestop CL Plus	87	75	61	63.4	11.1
AGSECO	AG Icon	86	73	-	60.9	10.2
AgriPro	SY Rugged	86	71	55	60.6	10.2
OGI	Iba	86	69	56	62.5	10.3
AGSECO	TAM 114	85	68	57	61.6	9.9
OGI	Green Hammer	85	73	-	62.5	11.2
KWA	Zenda	84	-	-	61.8	10.7
OGI	Spirit Rider	83	-	-	62.0	10.2
AgriPro	Bob Dole	80	74	59	61.1	10.4
OGI	Duster	77	56	46	59.1	10.2
OGI	Ruby Lee	76	65	52	62.6	10.4
LCS	LCS Chrome	76	66	55	56.7	11.5
Experimentals						
	OK12912C-138407-2	89	-	-	62.2	10.3
	OK168512	86	68	-	61.1	10.1
	OK15MASBx7 ARS 8-1	86	-	-	60.6	10.1
	OK16107117	84	-	-	60.2	10.0
	OK16729W	84	-	-	61.6	10.7
	OK16D101089	81	-	-	61.9	10.6
	OCW04S717T-6W	72	-	-	59.7	10.2
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	Mean	86	70	56	61.0	10.2
	LSD _(0.05)	7	7	6	1.1	1.2

Notes: Grain yield and protein concentration were adjusted to 12% moisture content. Shaded values are not statistically different from the highest value within a column.

Salmonella in Backyard Poultry

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Area Food/Animal Quality and Health Specialist for Eastern Oklahoma

As spring approaches, many of the local farm and garden centers will have their annual “chick” days. This is the time that many backyard poultry producers get excited to buy some new chicks. Unfortunately, another problem seems to coincide with arrival of the new chickens, *Salmonella* outbreaks in humans. *Salmonella* outbreaks associated with backyard poultry have been reported in the United States for many years.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a preliminary report on the 2020 *Salmonella* outbreak associated with backyard poultry. There have been 465 cases of *Salmonella* infections in people in 42 states. One third of the cases were in children under 5 years of age. Oklahoma reported 9 cases of *Salmonella* infections. It should be kept in mind that the CDC believes that for every 1 *Salmonella* case report 29 cases go unreported (Scallan et al., 2011). In interviews, 79% of the sick people reported contact with chicks or ducklings. This should be a warning to backyard poultry owners and young people involved in the exhibition of poultry.

Chicken, ducks, and other poultry carry the *Salmonella* organism. The bacteria do not normally make the birds sick, but when people accidentally ingest the organism, a severe illness may occur. The bacteria are in the droppings of poultry and can be found on the body of the birds. Bacteria contaminate cages, coops, feed and water dishes, and the area where the birds roam. People can be infected when handling poultry, entering poultry areas, handling equipment associated with poultry, and gathering eggs.

Salmonella infections in humans are associated with the digestive tract. Typical clinical signs are diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and abdominal cramps. If the infection goes from the intestinal tract to the blood, the disease will usually become more severe. Most people with severe infections will require hospitalization. According to the CDC, children tend to be overrepresented in *Salmonella* infections associated with backyard poultry. From 1990 to 2014 *Salmonella* infections associated with backyard poultry in children less than 5 years of age accounted for 31% of the cases and 42% of the cases were less than 10 years old (Basler et al., 2016). Although there are many sources of salmonella contamination, animal contact *Salmonella* infections result in more young people

being hospitalized than food borne infections (Marus et al., 2019). This would indicate that children need to be carefully monitored when they are around poultry. Other groups of people that need to be careful around poultry are people over the age of 65 and people with a compromised immune system.

There are two reasons that children may be more at risk than the rest of the population for developing *Salmonella* infections from exposure to backyard poultry. One reason for the increase risk is that children’s immune systems are not fully developed. The other reason stems from the fact that children typically have poor hand hygiene practices (Basler et al., 2016). Coming in contact with poultry increase the opportunity for children to get their hands dirty and be contaminated with *Salmonella*. One practice that might expose young children to *Salmonella* organisms is keeping chickens inside the home. The CDC reported in the 2015 outbreak of *Salmonella* associated with backyard poultry that 41% of those questioned indicated that they kept baby poultry indoors (CDC, 2015). Basler’s analysis reported that sixty-one percent (227/373) of all people that reported getting *Salmonella* from backyard poultry reported touching baby birds. Forty-nine percent (196/400) of the people sickened with *Salmonella* describe snuggling baby birds while 13% (53/400) admitted to kissing baby birds (Basler et al., 2016). Children should be discouraged from doing any of the above practices.

Parents must ensure that children and young people wash their hands after having contact with poultry. The following are some suggestions on how to reduce the chance of getting *Salmonella*:

- Wash hands with soap and water after having any contact with poultry or any area where poultry are located. If soap is not available, use a hand sanitizer.
- Do not allow poultry to enter areas where food and drinks are prepared, served, and stored.
- Do not eat or drink where poultry are located.
- Cook eggs thoroughly.
- Clean equipment associated with poultry outdoors.



EXTENSION

The *Extension Experience* podcast has published a new episode. Click our logo below to listen or access the episode via Spotify, Apple Podcast, or Google Podcast apps.



Access to all other episodes can be found on our Spotlight page <http://spotlight.okstate.edu/experience/podcast/>

Beef Cow Herd

July

Fall Calving

1. Wean calves and vaccinate as recommended in June.
2. If not completed, pregnancy check cows and bred heifers, make culling decisions and vaccinate stockers and replacement heifers.
3. Place weaned calves on good quality pasture and watch closely for health problems.

Spring Calving

1. Remove bulls after 70 to 90-day breeding season.
2. Continue to creep graze calves on sudan pasture.
3. Watch the herd closely for health problems.
4. Continue creep for calves (OK Silver).
5. Deworm intensively grazed cows, if needed.
6. Body condition score cows and if thin, consider weaning calves early and/or supplementing cows.
7. Complete marketing or retained ownership plan for calves.

General Recommendations:

1. Water is extremely important in hot weather. Make routine checks of the water supply.
2. If additional summer grazing or hay is needed, fertilize Bermudagrass with 40 to 60 lbs. N/acre.
3. Harvest sudan and sudan hybrids for hay in the boot stage (normally three to four feet in height). Top dress with nitrogen to promote growth. It is a good idea to run a routine nitrate test on a field before harvesting hay.
4. Treat for cattle grubs after heel fly activity ceases and before larvae reach the back, between July 1 and October 1.
5. Continue fly and tick control program.
6. Continue anaplasmosis control program.
7. Remove intensive early stocking (IES) calves from native grass by July 10.
8. Supplement stockers and replacement heifers with OK Gold feed.

Beef Cow Herd August



Fall Calving

Continue the newly weaned stockers on the highest quality pasture available.

Observe all groups of cattle closely for health problems.

Identify purebred herds and test stations at which you want to look for herd sires. Check sale dates and review performance criteria.

Spring Calving

Continue to creep graze calves on sudan or other high quality pasture, if available. Manage (rotationally graze or hay) sudan so that it does not become mature and of low quality.

Observe the herd closely for health problems such as pinkeye and foot rot.

Continue creep feeding program for calves (OK Silver).

Evaluate body condition of young cows. Wean calves if body condition score is 4 or lower.

General Recommendations:

Continue fly, tick, and anaplasmosis control programs.

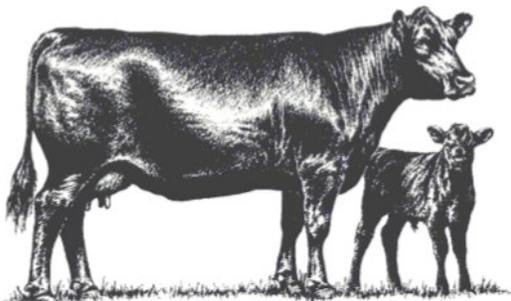
Plan winter pasture program. Prepare seedbeds for small grain pastures and fertilize according to soil test.

Treat cattle for grubs after heelfly activity ceases, between July 1 and October 1, before larvae reach the back.

Identify pasture weed problems to aid in planning control methods needed next spring. Adjust stocking rate and grazing system to control undesirable plants and forage accumulation for prescribed fire.

Evaluate cool-season pastures, commercial supplements or bulk feed commodities as alternatives for supplemental feed in winter.

Continue OK Gold supplementation for stocker and replacement heifers grazing moderate to low quality pasture.



Landscape and Maintenance

July



- Divide and replant crowded hybrid iris (bearded iris) after flowering until August.
- Expect some leaf fall, a normal reaction to drought. Water young plantings well.
- Mowing heights for cool-season turf grasses should be 3" during hot, dry summer months. Gradually raise mowing height of bermudagrass lawns from 1 1/2 to 2 inches.
- Vegetative establishment of warm-season grasses should be completed by the end of July to ensure the least risk of winter kill. (F-6419)
- Brown patch disease of cool-season grasses can be a problem. (F-6420)
- Meet water requirements of turf. (F-6420)
- Fertilization of warm-season grasses can continue if water is present for growth. (F-6420)
- The hotter and drier it gets, the larger the spider mite populations become!

August

- Water all plantings thoroughly

unless rainfall has been adequate.

- The fall vegetable garden is planted now. (HLA-6009)
- Divide and replant spring blooming perennials.
- Irrigated warm-season lawns may be fertilized again. (HLA-6420)
- Hedges and shrubs can be pruned, if necessary, about mid-August.
- Young trees and shrubs may be fertilized again.
- Discontinue dead-heading roses by mid-August to help initiate winter hardiness.
- Brown patch disease of cool-season grasses can be a problem. (HLA-6420)
- Meet water requirements of turf. (HLA-6420)
- For areas being converted to tall fescue this fall, begin spraying bermudagrass with glyphosate products in early-August. (HLA-6419 & HLA-6421)
- White grub damage can become visible this month. Apply appropriate soil insecticide if white grubs are a problem. Water product into soil. (EPP-7306)
- Watch for a second generation of fall webworm in late-August/early-September.
- Pre-emergent herbicides for winter-annual weed control in warm-season grasses can be applied in late-August. Water in the product after application. (HLA-6421)

Census Bureau Completes Delivery of 2020 Census Materials to 96% of Households

JUNE 18, 2020 — Census workers have completed 96% of the 2020 Census “Update Leave” operation- where 2020 Census invitations and paper questionnaires are delivered to households in certain — often rural — areas across the country. In these areas, most households generally do not receive mail at their homes, so census workers drop off census materials in person. As of June 18, 61.5% of households have responded to the census. The U.S. Census Bureau urges households to respond now by completing and mailing back the paper questionnaire, responding online at 2020census.gov, or by phone at 844-330-2020 using the provided Census ID. Census workers resumed delivery on May 4 as part of a [phased restart](#) of 2020 Census operations. In some areas of the country, the operation is complete, and in others it will be completed soon. In addition to delivering census materials, census workers also update the Census Bureau’s address list in these areas to ensure no living quarters were missed. This helps reach people in areas where the majority of households may not receive mail at their home’s physical location, such as small towns where mail is only delivered to post office boxes or areas affected by natural disasters. Currently, nearly four out of 10 households have yet to [respond to the 2020 Census](#), which is why the Census Bureau urges every household to complete it as soon as possible online, by phone or by mail. Households that do not respond to the invitation will be visited by a census taker during the Nonresponse Follow up Operation. Your response shapes decisions about how public funds are spent for schools, fire and emergency services, and health care for your community. If your household has not received an invitation in the mail or at your door, please respond online at 2020census.gov or by phone at 844-330-2020. For more information, visit the [2020 Census COVID-19 operational adjustments](#) page.