



ALFALFA COUNTY  
EXTENSION

# Alfalfa County Cooperative Extension News

## 4-H Clover Connection

### Address

502 W. 5th St  
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580-596-3131

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[https://  
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county/alfalfa/](https://extension.okstate.edu/county/alfalfa/)

### Social Media

Facebook: /Alfalfa  
County Oklahoma

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### Volunteerism is big part of Oklahoma 4-H program's success

Did you know volunteering can help with good health? It's no secret that volunteering has a significant role in the 4-H program. Research shows that volunteering creates a sense of purpose, provides mental stimulation, and reduces stress and depression. All of these things are related to health, which is the fourth H in 4-H.

Volunteerism is a practice of sharing one's time and talents for education or other worthwhile activities in the community, said Karla Knoepfli, Oklahoma State University Extension state volunteer specialist in the State 4-H Office.

"OSU Extension understands and relies on volunteers of all ages to partner with us in our mission of positive youth development. Caring adult volunteers provide leadership to clubs, project groups, program planning, event management, and so much more," Knoepfli said. "These same caring adult volunteers serve as role models, mentors, and teachers for 4-H members, instilling in them the importance of volunteering in their club, communities and schools."

April is National Volunteer month, which lends itself to be a great time for clubs and county 4-H programs to reflect upon and share stories about the impact volunteering has on people, places and programs in their clubs and communities. It is a time to celebrate and appreciate the adult volunteer who tirelessly instructs, guides, mentors and leads members.

During this reflection process, Knoepfli said there is an opportunity to learn

more about the language of appreciation and how to use it well. According to Chapman and White, in their book, "The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace," people express and receive appreciation in different ways.

"When appreciation is expressed in ways that isn't meaningful, youth and adults may not feel valued," she said. "This in turn lessens one's sense of purpose, decreasing the drive to value and practice service to others. Engaging volunteers of all ages means understanding motivations and recognition."

Recognition is about acknowledgment of someone's existence, purpose or acceptance. Appreciation must be intentional, sincere and tailored to the individual's motivation for sharing their time and talents.

Recognize the entire team. Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM). It's important for the entire team to know their value. Each team member needs reassurance and encouragement for accomplishing the mission/goal/objective/project through their contribution. There are many people behind the scenes who help ensure the success of all 4-H activities.

"Make recognition a habit that you give generously both privately and publicly. The recognition must be timely – that's very important," Knoepfli said. Keep in mind that it's important to recognize the work/contribution, not just the person."

Recognition shouldn't happen just at the awards banquet. It's something that should be given year-round and should become as natural as saying please and thank you. When someone knows that their steadfast work is recognized and appreciated it helps

counteract feelings of frustration, insecurity and even fear of failure.

The author Voltaire said "Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well."

Annually, county volunteers nominated for the state Salute to Excellence Awards are recognized at an awards luncheon during the State Parent-Volunteer Conference. Last year, Pittsburg County volunteer Sheryl Moore and Cleveland County volunteer Lily Stub received state honors.

This year's conference will take place June 25 in Stillwater. [Check out](#) the diverse set of workshops being delivered in-person and by vodcast.

In addition, a pre-conference training is being held June 24 for the programs LifeSmarts, Ready in the Middle and Traffic University.

Register through **ZSuite**, April 1 - June 10. Choose a delivery method best suited for your schedule. The early-bird discount ends May 25.

Pre-conference and Conference - Early-bird (EB) \$50/\$55

Pre-conference and Hybrid Conference – EB \$40/\$45

Conference Only – EB \$40/\$45

Pre-conference Only – EB \$20/\$25

Hybrid Conference Only – EB \$20/\$25.

Contact Knoepfli at [kar-la.knoepfli@okstate.edu](mailto:kar-la.knoepfli@okstate.edu) for more conference information.



# Dates to Remember

## April

25 State 4-H Record Books  
DUE by NOON

27 Horse certification form  
DUE for the District &  
State Horse Show

29 Alfalfa County Contest  
Day Registration DUE

19 Registration Due for West  
District North Region  
Food Showdown,  
Cupcake Wars &  
Vegetable Sculpting  
Contest

26 Alfalfa County Food  
Show down, Cupcake  
Wars & Vegetable  
Sculpting Contest

4 West District North  
Region Ranch Horse Show

7 Tractor Training

9 Tractor Training

9 Cooking with Kids

20-22 4-H Camp (Vici)

30 County Record Books  
Due

## May

10 State Record Book  
Judging

13 "What About 4-H Con  
test" submission deadline

19 County Food Show down  
entries due

## June

2 West District North  
Region Food Showdown

3 West District North  
Region Horse Show

## July

11 Swimming, Officer  
Election & Roundup  
Orientation



## What About 4-H Contest



Youth can make 4-H promotional videos/clips. They can be entered as an individual or team. Teams can consist of up to 3 individuals. They can have entries in both of the following 2 categories.

- A) 30 second promotional clip to get you excited about joining 4-H or what it has to offer.
- B) One to three-minute video describing or showing a tutorial on any 4-H project or activity.

There are 3 age groups

- ♦ Junior
- ♦ Intermediate
- ♦ Senior

Entries must have a cover page stating names of individuals, club, age group and which category.

Entries must be sent by email to Delana: [Delana.Hansel@okstate.edu](mailto:Delana.Hansel@okstate.edu)

**Deadline is May 13th, 2022 by 4:30 p.m.**



## Alfalfa County Food Showdown, Cupcake Wars & Vegetable Sculpting Contest



The contests will be held on Thursday **May 26, 2022** at the Alfalfa County Fairgrounds. The entries are due **before May 19th**! Please contact our office or your club leader for registration papers and rules for each contest. If you have any questions please call our office. Here is the schedule for the contests:

- Food Showdown - begins at 10:00 am
- Cupcake Wars - Check in at 12:30 pm, begins at 1:00 pm
- Vegetable Sculpting Check in at 2:15 pm, begins at 2:30 pm

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## Horse Shows



The West District North Region 4-H Horse and Ranch Horse Shows will be held Friday June 3rd and 4th, 2022 at the Alfalfa County Fairgrounds located in Cherokee, Oklahoma. The State 4-H Horse Show will be held July 14-16, 2022 at the Grady County Fairgrounds located in Chickasaw, Oklahoma. To be eligible for either show youth must fill out a horse certification form and return it to the Alfalfa County Extension Office by **April 27, 2022**. Please call for the certification form, rules and entry packet.

**Do not wait until the last minute to get your entries in.**



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## County Record Books are Due June 30, 2022

We would like to encourage every 4-H member to create a record book. 4-H'ers do so much during the year with a little more time and effort all this work can be documented in your record book and medal's can be won. Don't forget the other special awards such as; First Year Member and 4-H Hall of Fame. Deadline for County Books is **June 30, 2022.**



## 4-H Officer Election, Roundup Orientation & Swimming



Alfalfa County 4-H members will meet at the Cherokee City Park located next to the swimming pool on **July 11th at 2:00 pm.** County Officers will be elected. Each club is allowed five voting delegates, 2 of which must either be a junior or senior 4-H member. For the voting process, junior members are 4-H'ers who will be entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and down for the coming year. Senior members are 4-H'ers who will be entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up for the coming year. Officer applications are due in the Extension Office by 4:00 pm on June 30th. Immediately after our officer elections, there will be a 4-H Roundup Orientation for those attending 4-H Roundup. Starting after officer elections we will have a swimming party (PENDING). All 4-H members and their families are welcome. The Alfalfa County 4-H is covering the cost to swim!

# **Guidelines for Speech, Illustrated Presentation**

## **& PowerPoint Presentations**

**Prepared Public Speaking:** (No illustrated presentations or props)- The speeches can be on any topic related to Agriculture, current issues or Family and Consumer Science.

Junior 3<sup>rd</sup> (and 8 years old), 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> : Time limit 3-5 minutes

Intermediate (Grades 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>) : Time limit 4-6 minutes

Senior (Grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) : Time limit 5-7 minutes

**Illustrated Presentations:** The presentations can be on any topic related to Agriculture, current issues or Family and Consumer Science.

Cloverbud (5-8 yrs old) : Time limit 1-2 minutes

Junior 3<sup>rd</sup> (and 8 years old), 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>) : Time limit 3-5 minutes

Intermediate (Grades 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>): Time limit 5-12minutes

Senior (Grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>): Time limit 5-12 minutes

**PowerPoint presentation:** The presentations can be on any topic related to Agriculture, current issues or Family and Consumer Science.

Junior 3<sup>rd</sup> (and 8 years old), 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> : Time limit 3-5 minutes

Intermediate (Grades 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>): Time limit 5-7 minutes

Senior (Grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>): Time limit 5-7 minutes

**Special Awards given within the Speech/Illustrated Presentation contest will be presented at the 4-H Achievement Banquet :**

1. Dairy Award
2. Breads Award
3. Peanut Award

\*To qualify for these awards the individual must include nutritional facts about dairy products, wheat products or peanut products in their speech or illustrated presentation.

# Speech/Illustrated Presentation/Power Point Contest

**April 18, 2022**

The Alfalfa County 4-H Speech & Illustrated Presentation / Power Point contests will be held **April 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Alfalfa County Exhibit Building in Cherokee. We will be following the Power Point guidelines used at State 4-H Round-up. However all 4-H

members in Alfalfa County are eligible to participate in the Power Point contest in the county. For the Power Point contest you may pick up the guidelines in the office. Power Point presentations have to be brought into the extension office before April 11 @ 4:00 pm, so we can

make sure everything is compatible with our equipment.

All entries need to be in the Extension Office by April 13th @ 4:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact the extension office at 580-596-3131.

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## ENTRY FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Title \_\_\_\_\_

Contest Category

Speech

Illustrated Presentation

PowerPoint

Age Division: (as of September 1st of the 4-H year)

Cloverbud(5-8)

Junior(8-11)

Intermediate(12-14)

Senior(15-19)

- Cloverbuds are exhibition only, they will not be judged.

Note: Only one entry per form

**Please return to the Alfalfa County Extension Office by April 13, 2022**



# TRACTOR & MACHINERY OPERATORS CERTIFICATON PROGRAM

**Designed to meet labor requirements for 14 and 15 year old Youth**

## BE SAFE BE CERTIFIED



**2022 Dates:**

**Tuesday, June 7th, 2022 8:30am – 4:30pm**

**Thursday, June 9th, 2022 8:30am – 4:30pm**

**Alfalfa County Fairgrounds  
Cherokee, Oklahoma**

**Cost: \$40.00 payable to Alfalfa County OSU Extension Center**

**Pre-registration is required**

**Learn How to be safe**

**Controls for Your Tractor**

**Tractor Safety on the Farm**

**Tractor Safety on the Highway**

**The Instrument Panel**

**Daily Maintenance & Safety Check**

**Starting and Stopping Your Tractor**

**Hitches, PTO & Hydraulic Controls**



**Safe Use of the Farm Machinery**

**For more information contact: Tommy Puffinbarger**

**Alfalfa County Cooperative Extension Service @ 580-596-3131**

Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Higher Education Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal and state laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, genetic information, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, or status as a veteran, in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This provision includes, but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. The Director of Equal Opportunity, 408 Whitehurst, OSU, Stillwater, OK 74078-1035; Phone 405-744-5371; email: [eeo@okstate.edu](mailto:eeo@okstate.edu) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies. Any person who believes that discriminatory practices have been engaged in based on gender may discuss his or her concerns and file informal or formal complaints of possible violations of Title IX with OSU's Title IX Coordinator 405-744-9154.



REGISTRATION FORM  
Alfalfa County 2022 4-H Food Showdown

**Thursday, May 26, 2022**

Pre-register by **May 19, 2022**

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Members - Ages as of September 1, 2021**

\_\_\_\_ Junior Team (ages 8-11) \_\_\_\_ Intermediate team (ages 12-13)  
\_\_\_\_ Senior Team (ages 14-19)

| Member Name | Age<br>On 9/1/21 | M/F |
|-------------|------------------|-----|
|             |                  |     |
|             |                  |     |
|             |                  |     |
|             |                  |     |

Submit registration form to the:

Alfalfa County OSU Extension Office  
602 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street Ste 2, Cherokee, OK 73728  
Phone: (580)596-3131 Fax: (580) 596-3172



OSU EXTENSION  
**ALFALFA COUNTY  
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**



## **2022 Alfalfa County CUPCAKE WARS**

**Thursday, May 26, 2022**

**Alfalfa County Fairgrounds**

**REGISTRATION IS DUE NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, MAY 19**

Mail to:

Alfalfa County OSU Extension

602 W. Fifth Street

Cherokee, OK 73728

or

Email: [susan.holliday@okstate.edu](mailto:susan.holliday@okstate.edu)

Parent or Volunteer in Charge:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Educator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Teams – Grade 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_

Intermediate Teams – Grade 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_

Senior Teams – Grade 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_

*Check in at 12:30 p.m.; begin at 1:00 p.m.*





OSU EXTENSION  
**ALFALFA COUNTY  
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**



**2022 Alfalfa County  
Fruit/Vegetable Sculpting/Arrangements  
Thursday, May 26, 2022  
Alfalfa County Fairgrounds**

**REGISTRATION IS DUE NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, MAY 19**

Parent or Volunteer in Charge:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Educator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Teams – Grade 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_

Intermediate Teams – Grade 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_

Senior Teams – Grade 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_

***Check in at 2:15 p.m.; begin at 2:30 p.m.***

**4-H Camp "Olympic Tryouts"**  
**June 20, 21 & 22**

**2022**  
**"4-H Olympic Camp"**  
 With Alfalfa County 4-H  
 Camper Registration  
 Due: June 10, 2022

|  |       |                         |          |         |  |
|--|-------|-------------------------|----------|---------|--|
| Name   |       | Age                     | Club     |         |  |
| Address  |       |                         | Phone    |         |  |
| City & State   |       |                         | \$ _____ |         |  |
| Zip Code   |       |                         |          |         |  |
| Camp T-shirt Youth ____<br>(check size)                    | Small | Medium                  | Large    | X-large |  |
| Adult ____   |       |                         |          |         |  |
| Camp fee \$75.00<br>(\$15.00 late fee after June 10, 2022) |       | Total enclosed \$ _____ |          |         |  |

**Make checks payable to: Alfalfa County Cooperative Extension Service**

**Send to: 602 W 5<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 2, Cherokee, Oklahoma 73728-2557 by June 10, 2022**

**This year's events and activities will include:**

**Olympic Games**

**Warming Up**

**"How Far is That"**

**"Yes, You Can Do That"**

**It's Your Show**

**Cooling Down**

**And the Favorites: Campfires – Swimming- Great Food – and the Dance!**

Would you like to continue the hydro rockets? (Pop bottle rockets campers make and we launch.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Would you like to present a workshop? Title " \_\_\_\_\_ "

Time Frame: \_\_\_\_\_ 15 minutes \_\_\_\_\_ 30 minutes \_\_\_\_\_ 1 hour

Would you like to apply to be a camp counselor? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Camp workshop suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_



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# Agriculture

## ***Horticulture Tips***

### ***Fruit and Nut***

Don't spray insecticides during fruit tree bloom or pollination may be affected. Disease sprays can continue according to schedule and label directions. ([EPP-7319](#)) Control cedar-apple rust. When the orange jelly galls are visible on juniper (cedar) following a rain, begin treating apple and crabapple trees with a fungicide. ([EPP-7319](#), [EPP-7611](#)) Fire blight bacterial disease can be controlled at this time. Plant disease-resistant varieties to avoid diseases. Continue spray schedules for disease prone fruit and pine trees.

### ***Tree and Shrub***

Proper watering of newly planted trees and shrubs often means the difference between success and replacement. Remove any winter-damaged branches or plants that have not begun to grow. Prune spring flowering plants as soon as they are finished blooming. ([HLA-6404](#), [HLA-6409](#)) Control of powdery mildew disease can be done with early detection and regular treatment.

Many new plant cultivars are resistant. ([EPP-7617](#)) Leaf spot diseases can cause premature death of foliage and reduce plant vigor.

### ***Lawn***

Warm-season grass lawns can be established beginning late April from sprigs, plugs or sod. ([HLA-6419](#)) Fertilizer programs can begin for warm-season grasses in April. The following recommendations are to achieve optimum performance and appearance of commonly grown species in Oklahoma.

- Zoysiagrass: 3 lbs  
N/1,000 sq. ft./year
- Bahiagrass: 3 lbs  
N/1,000 sq. ft./year
- Buffalograss: 2 - 3 lbs  
N/1,000 sq. ft./year
- Buffalograss/grama  
mixes: 3 lbs N/1,000 sq. ft./  
year
- Bermudagrass: 4-6 lbs  
N/1,000 sq. ft./year
- Centipedegrass: 2 lbs  
N/1,000 sq. ft./year
- St. Augustinegrass: 3-6  
lbs N/1,000 sq. ft./year.

When using quick release forms of fertilizer, use one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per application; water in nitrate fertilizers. ([HLA-6420](#))

Mowing of warm-season lawns can begin now ([HLA-6420](#)). Cutting height for bermudagrass and zoysiagrass should be 1 to 1½ inches high, and buffalograss 1½ to 3 inches high.

Damage from Spring Dead Spot Disease (SDS) becomes visible in bermudagrass ([HLA-7665](#)). Perform practices that promote grass recovery. Do not spray fungicides at this time for SDS control.

Grub damage can be visible in lawns at this time. Check for the presence of grubs before ever applying any insecticide treatments. Apply appropriate soil insecticide if white grubs are a problem. Water product into soil. ([EPP-7306](#))

# Ajuga

Ajuga, also known as bugleweed, is a great groundcover that can handle full sun to part shade. It is a low growing plant that quickly reproduces by stolons. In fact, the species 'reptans' means creeping. Each little clump like plant will produce purple flowering spikes in the spring. After they are done blooming, you can trim off these flowers and the plant will continue growing as a groundcover with glossy foliage.

While crown rot may be a problem for it in hot, humid conditions, it doesn't have any other pest or disease problems. Ajuga is a good plant for those slopes you may not want to mow. It is also a good option for deep shade where grass won't grow. While it makes a good ground cover, it is not one that can tolerate much foot traffic and is best not planted adjacent to turfgrass where it would compete for water and nutrients. Being hardy to zone 4, it can handle any of our record setting winters.

Ajuga is a member of the Mint family and have over 50 different species. The following are a few that could be found on the market:

Giant Ajuga, *Ajuga reptans* 'Catlins Giant' is one of the taller cultivars. It has flower spikes that reach up to 8-10" with glossy, dark green leaves.

Bronze Beauty Ajuga, *Ajuga reptans* 'Bronze Beauty' will stay smaller with flowering spike 6-8" tall and brown-bronze foliage.

'Burgundy Glow' has the same flowering and creeping appeal as the others, but instead of a dark foliage, it has a tricolored variegation with white, pink, and green foliage.

Chocolate Chip Ajuga, *Ajuga x tenorii* 'Valfredda' has a dark, almost brown foliage. With its petite foliage and dwarf habit, it is a cute plant that only reaches a 2" height with 3-4" flowers.

A type of chocolate chip was discovered and named 'Dixie Chip'. It has all of the miniature features but offers more year-round foliage interest with its tri-colored foliage.

'Blueberry Muffin' is recognized as a faster and stronger grower than the chocolate chip ajuga. It has a softer blue flower than the traditional purple color. It isn't quite as small as some other cultivars, but it is about 8" tall when in bloom.

Regardless of which ajuga you chose, they are a great low maintenance groundcover that helps fill in the gaps between plants, rocks or prevent soil erosion.

For more information check out this *Oklahoma Gardening* video - <https://youtu.be/EpliesT4VYc>

## Don't Cut Back Spring Flowering Bulbs Too Early!

David Hillock



As spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, etc. finish blooming, if possible, allow the foliage to turn yellow and die back. The leaves should be easily removed by just tugging on them when they have completely died back. Allowing the leaves to remain on the plant until they turn yellow allows the photosynthesis process in the green leaves to replenish the bulb with plenty of energy for next year's blossoms. Removing them too early robs the plant of food needed to produce spectacular blooms.

In Oklahoma, most tulip bulbs are treated as annuals, meaning they are replanted every year. The high heat and humidity along with heavy clay soils makes it difficult to maintain most tulips as a perennial plant in the garden. A gardener interested in a challenge could dig them up after the leaves have turned yellow and store them in a cool, dark area and then replant them in the fall.

Daffodils are one of our most reliable species that is perennial in Oklahoma and typically needs little care. Locating daffodils in an area such as a perennial border or shrub and groundcover area where they can be left to die back after flowering is best. Occasionally they will need to be thinned out to encourage vigorous growth and lots of blooms.

Giving your spring flowering bulbs a light feeding after flowering, but before leaves turn brown will help in developing stronger plants.

## Pruning Hydrangeas

David Hillock

Hydrangeas are one of the more popular plants in the landscape. They have attractive foliage and typically produce large, striking flowers. Hydrangeas are generally easy to grow and tolerate a wide variety of soil. About the only care they need is pruning, however, there are different types of hydrangeas that require different pruning techniques depending on the time of flowering.

Hydrangeas that bloom in the spring, usually before May and June, bloom on last year's growth. Those that bloom later flower from buds formed on the new wood that growing season. Varieties that bloom in spring should be pruned after they flower while those that bloom on new wood can be pruned, if necessary, in late winter, early spring before new growth develops.

So, which are which? The types that bloom on old wood include the mophead, big leaf, and lacecap types, which are *Hydrangea macrophylla* varieties, and the oakleaf hydrangea, *H. quercifolia*. These all produce flower buds on last year's wood.

Types that bloom on new wood include the panicle hydrangea, often referred to as PeeGee types, *Hydrangea paniculata*, and the smooth hydrangea, often referred to as the Annabelle types, *H. arborescence*.

The one exception is the variety 'Endless Summer', which blooms on old and new wood. In all cases it is helpful to remove old blossoms as they fade.

If you're not sure of which type you have, the safest approach is "no pruning is better than the wrong type of pruning." However, you can also take a simplified approach which is suitable for all types. The simplified approach includes removing only winter-killed wood or all dead stems in the spring before or as the buds are opening. You can check for live wood by scratching the stems with your thumbnail or a knife, if it is green, it is still alive, brown, and hard it is dead and should be removed. Rejuvenation is another way to keep your plants healthy by removing dead or very old stems by cutting them back to the ground, this will stimulate new growth and produce more blooms later.

Today there are a wide variety of hydrangeas; make sure you choose a variety that will suit your landscape needs, as well as the site. Most like some water and most prefer a little protection from the hot Oklahoma afternoon sun. With good choices, and correct timing with pruning, your hydrangeas will be the envy of the neighborhood.

# TRACTOR & MACHINERY OPERATORS CERTIFICATON PROGRAM

**Designed to meet labor requirements for 14 and 15 year old Youth**

## BE SAFE BE CERTIFIED



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Cherokee, Oklahoma**

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**Learn How to be safe**

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**Tractor Safety on the Farm**

**Tractor Safety on the Highway**

**The Instrument Panel**

**Daily Maintenance & Safety Check**

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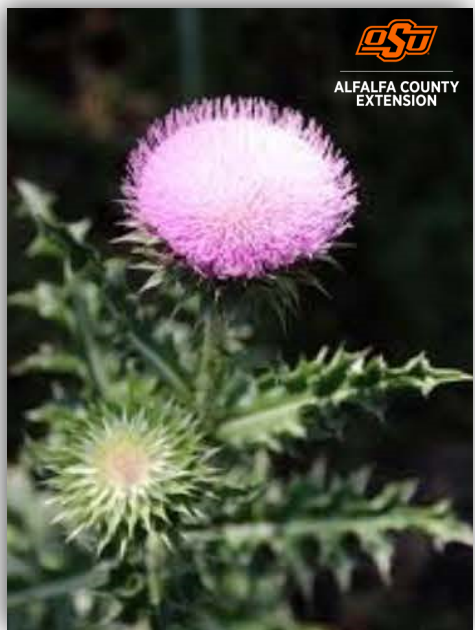


**Safe Use of the Farm Machinery**

**For more information contact: Tommy Puffinbarger**

**Alfalfa County Cooperative Extension Service @ 580-596-3131**

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# **Alfalfa County Musk Thistle Program & Weevil Roundup**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2022**

**9:00 - 11:00 AM, Jet Mini Mart**

***Jet, Oklahoma***

***Tommy Puffinbarger***

***Alfalfa County Extension Educator***

Musk thistle is a noxious weed and state law requires landowners to control it in such a way as to not allow it to go to seed. Integrated management of thistle can be chemical, mechanical and biological.

The success of all control measures include best management practices with the proper selection and timing of a chemical application, mowing or digging or releasing a natural enemy such as musk thistle head weevil.

**Area landowners will have an opportunity to help themselves with the eradication of musk thistle Wednesday May 17, 2022. Participants will meet at the Jet Mini-Mart at 9:00am. From there the group will travel to collection sites to roundup weevils.**

Those participating in the collection will need to bring leather gloves. Containers for weevils and collection nets will be available for participants to use.



To sign up for the collection or for more information, call the Extension Office at **580-596-3131**.

## **EXTENSION**





# **Alfalfa County**

## **Wheat Variety**

### **Plot Tour**



**Monday May 9th, 2022**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Kenneth Failes Farm**

**3 miles north of Cherokee**

*Guest Speaker*

**Dr. Amanda de Oliveira Silva**

**Small Grain Extension Specialist**

#### **Topics Covered**

- ♦ *Wheat Varieties*
- ♦ *Fertility*
- ♦ *Fungicides*
- ♦ *Herbicides*





# Strengthening Oklahoma Families

## Celebrate OHCE members during National Volunteer Month

It's always good to show appreciation to volunteers, and there's no better time to do that than National Volunteer Month, which takes place in April.

[Oklahoma Home and Community Education](#) members know a thing or two about volunteering. Since its origination in 1935, group members have worked hard to make families more resilient, raised money for scholarships for local high-school students, sewed thousands and thousands of face masks in the height of the pandemic and so much more.

Suzette Barta, community engagement coordinator for OSU's College of Education and Human Sciences - Extension, Engagement and Continuing Education, said OHCE members are driven and motivated to volunteer.

"People are motivated to action because they feel a desire within themselves to do something. This is called internal motivation," Barta said. "We do the things we do within our communities, our counties and the state because we know they make a difference to the residents. We are also motivated by friendship, affiliation,

and yes, even fun."

Research shows that individuals often seek to volunteer in groups such as OHCE to help fulfill personal needs that can't be achieved alone. Two Harvard professors classified volunteer motivators into three types: achievement, affiliation and power, and there's a place for all three types in the world of volunteering.

Now that cases of COVID are declining, Barta said OHCE groups are getting out more and doing more things in person.

"We obviously weren't meeting in person during the height of the pandemic, but our group members worked hard to not let it slow down their goals for their counties," she said. "It's exciting to hear about all the projects they're working now that they can do more face-to-face activities."

However, some activities are still being done virtually, such as the Valentine party that took place in February. Groups are participating in the virtual Hop into Spring event in April which is designed to get group members in

the spring spirit and will include fun information about gardening, backyard bird photography, preparing Easter dinner and even a special surprise that involves deviled eggs.

In 2021, OHCE groups around the state made a big splash with all of their community activities, including volunteering nearly 78,400 service hours valued at more than \$2.1 million; raising \$466,881 for community projects; and completing 25,828 hours of exercise time.

"Oklahoma's OHCE members are top-notch and are such a valuable asset to their communities," Barta said. "They are prime examples of what it means to be a volunteer."

More information about OHCE is available online. Anyone interested in joining this organization can contact their [county OSU Extension office](#).



# OHCE News & Notes



## OHCE Week May 1-7, 2022



Be making plans for promoting OHCE Week, including recruiting new members! It can be as simple as inviting a neighbor or a friend from work to your next meeting. Encourage new friends to join our organization by explaining that our organization is educational

and community minded, as well as social.

Each group is encouraged to promote OHCE WEEK with your own plans such as store front windows, posters, teas, or community events. Do your best to promote the OHCE Week!

### May Leader Lesson

**April 22nd - Pick up!**

**District Lesson: "Diet and Inflammation"**

**June—OPEN (No lesson in May)**

### Lunchtime Learning

**April 29th @ 12:00 p.m.**

**"Hexagon Shelf"**

**May 20th @ 12:00 p.m.**

**"Fair Worthy Photographs"**

Cost is \$10, light snacks will be provided. Call the Alfalfa County Extension Office to RSVP!



## Flower Show Wednesday, May 4, 2022



Open to the public (must be a resident or living in the school district of Alfalfa County)

Entries 7:30am – 9:30am

Judging 10:00am – 12:00pm

Dismissal of exhibits 3:00pm

Educational Program is open to the public from 1:00pm – 3:00pm

A lunch open to the public will be served by donations with proceeds going to the County OHCE. Each group is asked to bring a 3 dishes: - side dish, - salad and—a desert for the meal. The Farmerettes will serve the meal and provide the meat.

Each group is also asked to bring a door prize.

Rules & Information can be found in this publication on page 12-13



## **Grooming Tips**

Flowers and plants should be groomed to remove dirt and spray residue. Foliage should be clean, all yellow leaves removed. No oil, dressing or wax should be applied to add an unnatural sheen to the foliage. Specimens may be groomed in any way that does not alter their typical features. Bring your own containers, such as a pop bottle. Exhibit pansies in an aluminum pie pan covered with clear plastic wrap.

1. Cut stems at a slant.
2. Blooms can be held back by putting wax paper over them.
3. Buds should be 2/3 open. They can be opened by blowing warm air on them.
4. Specimen should be cut early in the morning of the show. They may even be cut the day before the show.
5. Stems on peonies should be 15 inches or less.
6. Leaves should be left on flowers for the show.
7. Use a sharp knife rather than shears when cutting, so more water can be absorbed.
8. Lilac stems should be pounded with a hammer for better water absorption.
9. Iris should have 1 to 3 blossoms per stem.
10. To harden: (Open several buds) Immerse flowers up to neck in cool water in a large container overnight.
11. No foil on pot containers.
12. Arrangements should be 1 ½ times taller than their container.
13. Display evergreens flat.

## **Prizes Awarded Horticultural Artistic and Best of Show**

### **Alfalfa County Flower Show Schedule**

- **Entries 7:30am – 9:30am**
- **7:30 am – 3:00 pm Plant Exchange,  
(bring your clippings & seeds)**
- **Lunch – 11:45am – 12:45pm, by donation**
- **1:00—3:00 p.m. Mini Smart Workshops**
- **Exhibits on Display 12 noon to 3:00 pm**

## **MINI SMARTS WORKSHOPS**

**1:00pm – 1:45pm**

**Garden Craft**

**Cost is \$10**

**2:00pm – 3:00 pm**

**Horticulture Workshop  
Tommy Puffinbarger  
No Cost**



## **Alfalfa County Flower Show**

**Wednesday  
May 4, 2022**

**Alfalfa County Exhibit Building**



**Cherokee, Oklahoma**

- **Entries 7:30am – 9:30am**
- **7:30am – 3:00pm Plant Exchange (Bring  
your clippings & seeds)**
- **Judging 10:00am – 12 noon**
- **Lunch – 11:45am – 12:45pm**
- **Exhibits on Display noon-3:00pm**

## **Mini Smarts**

- **1:00pm – 1:45pm  
Garden Craft—Cost \$10**
- **2:00pm – 3:00 pm  
Horticulture Workshop—No Cost**

**Open to the Public—ALL Ages Welcome!  
Must be resident of Alfalfa County or in the  
Alfalfa County School District to enter**



**Sponsored by: EXTENSION**

**Alfalfa County Oklahoma Home and  
Community Education  
&**

**Alfalfa County Cooperative Extension Service**

## General Rules

1. All Classes are open to the general public. Must be a resident or in the school district of Alfalfa County.
2. Horticulture specimens must be grown by the exhibitor. Artistic department materials may be purchased or grown.
3. All house plants must be in the possession of exhibitor for six weeks.
4. Flowers will be displayed in a narrow neck container or pop bottle.
5. All tea roses must be disbudded (remove all buds except the flowers to be judged.) Exhibit on an 8" to 10" stem with foliage.
6. All horticulture must be cleaned, groomed, and be bug free.
7. All arrangements must be made by the exhibitors
8. Accessories may be used in all classes of arrangements.
9. The flower show committee will not be responsible for containers or accessories, but all care will be taken to protect properties.
10. The show will be judged by the standard method of judging.
11. Special awards will be given to the Best of Show in, Artistic, Horticulture Arboreal / Greenery, Iris and Other Blooming Thing.
12. Individuals are limited to 2 entries per class.
13. African Violets should not be entered if they have double crowns.
14. No artificial or painted materials which represent horticulture item will be allowed in any fresh arrangement. (Unless otherwise stated.)
15. To display pansies, fill an aluminum pie plate with water, cover with clear plastic wrap and poke holes to insert pansies.
16. All classes require fresh or live plants unless otherwise stated.

## Artistic Department

Purchased or Grown Exhibitor

**Class I** Nature's Beauty – An arrangement using native material, driftwood, moss, rocks, shells or any material that adds to the arrangements may be used.

**Class II** Breakfast Table Arrangement – A. Fresh B. Silk Horizontal in design, free standing flowers of exhibitors choice for a small breakfast table.

**Class III** Spring Greens – An arrangement using shades of green foliage (monochromatic). (Fresh) No flowers

**Class IV** Cute and Tiny – A small arrangement using miniatures. No more than 5 inches. (Fresh)

**Class V** Tea Cups – A. Fresh B. Silk A circular arrangement in a cup and saucer, use your imagination.

**Class VI** Just for Fun – A. Fresh B. Silk Use your imagination to develop this fresh or silk arrangement.

**Class VII** Religious Interpretation – (Such as a cathedral arrangement using a Madonna, white flowers and green foliage.) (Fresh)

**Class VIII** Decorative Birdhouse Arrangement – Use a birdhouse of your choice or let your imagination flow arranging fresh, dried or silk flowers.

**Class IX** Patriotic Arrangement

A. Fresh B. Silk

**Class X** Arrangement using marigolds, any kind.

### **Horticulture Department Grown by Exhibitor**

**Div. I** Iris Bearded blue, dark blue, light blue, blue blend, white, yellow, dark yellow, light yellow, yellow blend, purple, dark purple, light purple, purple blend, purple yellow, purple/white, intermediate purple, light purple, purple blend, black, black tri colors, pink, dark pink, light pink, pink blend, bronze, bronze blend, peach, peach blend, green & other, Spuria, (all colors) Historical Iris, Dutch blue, white, yellow, other

#### **Div II** Peonies

White (singles, doubles)

Pink (singles, doubles)

Red (singles, doubles)

### **Div III** Roses

Hybrid Tea (exhibit 1)

Peace not to be judged against any others

Floribunda (exhibit 1 spray)

Rambler (exhibit 1 cluster)

Climber (exhibit 1 cluster)

Miniature (exhibit 2)

Rose buds

Other Roses

### **Div IV** General

Day Lily, Water Lily (exhibit 1)

Amaryllis (exhibit 1)

Clematis

Daisy (exhibit 3)

Pansies (exhibit 3, rule 15)

Columbine (exhibit 3 stems)

Herbs, Any other blooming' thing

Water plants blooming & not blooming

Div V House Plants: Foliage Plants

Blooming African Violets, Singles & Doubles

Vines, Begonias, Ferns, Mixed Succulents

Hanging Baskets Other

### **Div VI** Arboreal

Trees, Shrubs and Vines (branch)

Flowering Branch

Broadleaf Evergreens (branch) (display flat)

(Euonymus, Arborvitae, Holly, Japonica, Ivy, other)

Needled Evergreen (branch) (display flat)

(Pine, Spruce, Juniper, Yew, Other)

### **Div VII** Cactus, Any kind, thorns and no thorns