



Blaine County Agriculture Newsletter

M
A
Y
-
J
U
N
E

2020

Blaine County Cooperative Extension Service
212 N Weigle—Watonga OK 73772
Office: 580-623-5195 <http://oces.okstate.edu/blaine>

Dear Ag Producer,

Please go to Blaine County OSU Extension on Facebook and “like the page”. By doing this you will see information concerning Ag in Blaine County and across the state faster. We will keep the page updated with upcoming events and timely information. At this time the courthouse is still closed to the public, however, the Blaine County OSU Extension Office is still here to serve you. Please don’t hesitate to call the office (580-623-5195) or email me at becky.bedwell@okstate.edu, if you have questions or concerns.

The Wheat Tours are canceled due to COVID-19, however, you can still stop and look at the wheat plot 5 miles south of Watonga on Hwy 270 on the west side of the highway. The signs with the varieties are in place. There is also a wheat plot north of Homestead across from Brook Strader’s home.

Harvest will be here before we know it. Be safe as you get equipment ready, cutting hay down and planting your summer crops. Hopefully, we will get some much-needed rain soon. If you missed Sunup on May 2nd, Dr. Kim Anderson had a very good clip on when to market your wheat. Go to Sunup.okstate.edu and select the May 2 market report. Wishing you a safe and bountiful harvest!

Musk Thistle Control

There are just some places where you cannot control musk thistle by spraying. Below is a link of a story that ran on Sun Up several years ago that shows how to collect the Musk Thistle weevils and re-distribute them to an area that you cannot spray .

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAK_W5LqVQg

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: eco@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.

Blaine County Agriculture Newsletter

Thinking about OQBN this fall? 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 verses 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.

Visit the OQBN website at oqbn.okstate.edu for a complete list of the requirements, the latest premium reports, and more helpful information or call the Blaine County OSU Extension Office.

We had to postpone the OQBN meeting we originally had scheduled for May 19th in Blaine County. We will advertise as soon as one is rescheduled.

This newsletter is one way of communicating educational info to the citizens of Blaine County in the Areas of Agriculture & Rural Development.. For free subscriptions, contact the Extension Office at 580-623-5195. The information given is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service is implied. This information was produced at a cost of 1 cent per page for a total of \$13.20.

Editor—Becky Bedwell, Extension Educator—Ag/4-H & CED

Blaine County Agriculture Newsletter

Unemployment Scams

The Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission (OESC) has reported that at least 3800 fraudulent unemployment claims have been filed by scammers since mid-March of 2020. Unsuspecting businesses and workers who have not filed for unemployment are receiving letters from the OESC either at their homes or at the Human Resources office at their place of work. These letters contain a copy of the unemployment claim either made by a worker who still has a job or perhaps by a person who has never worked at that business.

Scammers are attempting to claim unemployment benefits in someone else's name and can hurt the employment record of the employee as well as hurt the business itself.

If you receive a letter regarding an unemployment claim that you did not file the OESC recommends that you follow the following steps:

- 1) Contact the HR department at your place of work so they can file a fraud claim.
- 2) Call the OESC fraud department at 405-557-7157 or e-mail them at fraud@oesc.state.ok.us
- 3) Contact your area police department to file a fraud report
- 4) Contact major credit bureaus since the breach involves social security numbers, birth dates and other personal information. Major credit bureaus are Experian.com, TransUnion.com, and Equifax.com.
- 5) Contact your bank and make them aware of the situation. Your place of employment may have additional steps for you to take. Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter also recommends that you contact his office to fill out a claim form to help his office investigate fraud claims at unemploymentcomplaint@oag.ok.gov.

Dicamba Training

If you need Dicamba Training, ODAFF has confirmed that these sources are accepted trainings. Contact me if you need more information on training.

BASF

<https://www.ingeniastewardship.com/#/training>

Bayer

<https://training.roundupreadyxtend.com/>

Corteva

<http://cloud01.bader-rutter.com/DAAGFEXA7051/Oklahoma/#/>

Syngenta

<https://syngentaus.docebosaa.com/dicamba/learn>

Blaine County Agriculture Newsletter

Grocery disruptions continue amid beef processing chaos

Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

COVID-19 continues to sweep through packing plant workers leading to severe disruptions in beef processing. Estimated cattle slaughter for the week ending May 2 was 425,000 head, down 38 percent year over year. Total cattle slaughter has averaged 26.4 percent lower than last year over the past four weeks, a decrease of 689,000 head and a little more than one week of cattle slaughter at this time of year. The backlog of slaughter cattle is growing rapidly.

Corresponding to slaughter decreases, beef production was down over 35 percent year over year last week, with average weekly beef production the past four weeks down 25 percent from the same period last year. Over the last four weeks, total beef production was down 520 million pounds year over year. For the first 14 weeks of the year, before the current reductions started, average weekly beef production was 525 million pounds. This means that one of the last four weeks of beef production has been lost due to decreased beef packing capacity.

Grocery consumers first noticed beef supply disruptions in March when the shutdown of food service shifted beef demand largely onto the retail grocery side. The resulting supply chain bottlenecks and surge in grocery demand resulted in temporary shortages in grocery supply. The supply chain bottlenecks continue, though with some time we have seen limited ability to shift some product from food service to retail. In some cases, retail label and packaging requirements have been exempted temporarily and consumers can find food service packages, often in bulk quantities, available at retail grocery.

Consumers may not notice or understand the difference, but the continuing disruptions in beef availability in May are the result of the current decreases in beef production in addition to the continuing supply chain restrictions. The situation may become more acute as food service demand rebuilds when restaurants reopen. While the current shortages are real, it should be emphasized that they are temporary and do not imply an overall lack of beef supply in the country. The annual forecast of beef production for 2020 has not been reduced from the expectation of a record level of 27.9 billion pounds. The current situation simply means a change in the timing of that production over a few weeks.

Given when packing plant workers began to be impacted and the additional attention now focused on protecting worker health, it is likely that we are currently at or very near the worst point of packing plant disruptions. However, it is unclear how fast plants will resume production levels in the coming weeks. It is likely that the effective capacity will be reduced permanently or certainly for the foreseeable future because of the safety changes needed at packing plants. The impacts on cattle markets will linger for many weeks before backlogs are cleaned up and markets are current again.

Blaine County Agriculture Newsletter

Monitor mineral intake closely during summer

Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist

Summer often becomes a busy time of year for ranchers (especially during haying season). Making certain that the cows, heifers, and bulls are receiving the minerals that they require is one of the chores that can be easily overlooked. Don't forget to check the mineral feeders or blocks to be certain that they are supplying the minerals that your cattle need. In some cases, medications may be recommended by your veterinarian to be included in the mineral mix. Cow calf operators will want to monitor mineral consumption closely to be certain that the label-recommended amounts are being consumed by the cattle. A "Veterinary Feed Directive" (VFD) will be necessary for antibiotic feeding in mineral supplements. Contact and work with your local large animal veterinarian about the appropriate VFD for your operation.

Placement of mineral feeders and blocks can aid in achieving optimum mineral intake. Place them in areas where cattle spend a lot of time. Minerals should be placed in loafing areas, near water sources, in shady areas, or any other location that tends to be a popular place for the herd to congregate. A rule of thumb is to provide one mineral feeding station for every 30 to 50 cows. Check feeders at least once a week and keep a clean, fresh supply of minerals present at all times. A good feeder should keep minerals dry, be portable and hold up to abuse and corrosion. Open tubs are not adequate in high rainfall areas. Cattle owners can receive additional help with calculating mineral intake with the "[OSU Mineral Calculator](#)" and the "[OSU Mineral Consumption Record](#)" sheets. To download these aids go to <http://beefextension.com/> and click "Other materials" and then "Calculators".

Choosing a mineral mix requires understanding of the animal's requirements and the minerals available in the forages and feedstuffs available to the animals. Mineral needs tend to be area specific and change with soil type, fertilization rates, rainfall and many other factors. Mineral requirements also will depend on animal age and stage of production. An excellent reference source for Oklahoma beef producers about mineral supplementation can be found in the Oklahoma State University [Extension Bulletin E-861 "Vitamin and Mineral Nutrition of Grazing Cattle."](#)

Industrial Hemp Webinars

OSU Extension partnered with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry to provide education on growing industrial hemp in 2020. There were held in April, the sessions are now on youtube for you to view if interested.

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

- Navigating 2020 Rules – Caroline Nelson, ODAFF

Farm Bill Programs – Amy Hagerman, OSU Extension

<https://youtu.be/uP0R-g47DM8>

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

- Basic Plant Science – Josh Bushong, OSU Extension

Greenhouse Basics – Mike Schnelle, OSU Extension

<https://youtu.be/RaRxvAhcTaY>

Thursday, April 30, 2020

- Basic Field Production – Brian Arnall, OSU Extension

Completing reports, field/site inspections, etc. – Caroline Nelson, ODAFF

<https://youtu.be/KnqBz7hv6A0>

BLAINE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
212 N WEIGLE
WATONGA OK 73772

OSU
OKLAHOMA
STATE
UNIVERSITY

Blaine County Cooperative Extension Service

Oklahoma State University
212 N. Weigle (Courthouse)
Watonga, OK 73772
(580-623-5195)

Website: <http://oces.okstate.edu/blaine>

This newsletter is one way of communicating educational information to the citizens of Blaine County in the area of Agriculture & Rural Development. For a free subscription, contact the office above.

The information given is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service is implied. This information was produced at a cost of 1 cent per page for a total of \$13.20.

Editor:

Becky Bedwell
Extension Educator – Ag/4-H
Blaine County