



CADDY COUNTY EXTENSION

August 2020

AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

<https://extension.okstate.edu/county/caddo/caddo.html>

405-247-3376

Caddo County Fall Fair

All open classes and entries that normally occur in the Baldwin Building have been cancelled for 2020. Also, the Children's Tractor Pull has been cancelled for 2020.

The Fall Livestock Shows are still scheduled to occur in the Hollarn Show Barn. Plans are to show Swine at 9 am and Poultry at 9:30 am on Monday, August 31st, and to show Cattle, Goats, and Sheep on Tuesday, September 1st. The Horse Show is scheduled for Thursday evening at 6 pm at the Grandstands, registration begins at 5:30 pm.

September is the Month to Plant Tall Fescue

Whether you are planting a lawn or a pasture, tall fescue germinates best when soil temperatures near 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. For fall seeding, wait for soil to cool to this range. Hold spring seeding until soil warms. By planting during these optimal seasons of cool temperatures and strong growth, you also take advantage of fall and spring rains. Planting in the fall allows the plants to root down and have a head start on growth when the spring arrives, this allows the plants to better tolerate the summer heat. Summer temperatures put fescue under a lot of stress and it is not unusual to lose a stand in the summer.

Fescue seed require firm soil contact for best germination. A thin soil covering is preferred to get the seed to germinate (1/4 inch is ideal) in a lawn. The percent of germination drops significantly when thrown out on top of the ground, unless a mulch covering or top soil is applied. If over-seeding an established fescue lawn, sprinkling the seed into the thin areas and keeping the soil wet the first few days will increase your germination and give a better chance of success. When planting a pasture a grass seeder or a drill with a grass attachment is required to get a good stand.

Up With the Chickens

Caddo County OSU Extension Radio Program
Saturday mornings / 7 am on KACO Radio 98.5 FM.

September 1

Joyce Richey - Tips: Save More at the Store
Michael Schnelle - Horticulture Landscape

September 8

Barry Whitworth - VSV Disease in Horses
Joyce Richey - Make Celebrations Fun

Upcoming Agricultural Events

Aug. 4	Caddo County Farmers Market / Corner of Central Blvd & SW 2nd / Anadarko, OK / the market meets each Tuesday and Saturday 8 am to 4:30 pm through September
Aug. 5	Caddo County Fair Board Meeting / Caddo County Fairgrounds, Baldwin Building / Anadarko, OK / 7:00 pm
Aug. 6	OSU Rancher's Thursday Lunchtime Series / Intel Based Tools for Rangeland Management / To register go to: https://dasnr.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqeuypzIrHNWh6gRRnkaGtUCA0iGQydi
Aug. 18	4-H Volunteer Leader Meeting / Caddo County OSU Extension Office / Anadarko, OK / 4:00 pm
Aug. 21-Aug. 22	36th Annual OCA Ranch Rodeo / For information and tickets go to: https://oca.memberclicks.net/oca-annual-ranch-rodeo
Aug 30 - Sept 3	Caddo County Fall Livestock Show / Caddo County Fairgrounds / Anadarko, OK /
Sept. 8	Caddo County Fair Board Meeting / Caddo County Fairgrounds, Baldwin Building / Anadarko, OK / 7:00 pm
Sept. 10	Caddo County 4-H & FFA Premium Sale / Caddo County Grandstands / Anadarko, OK / 6:00 pm Buyer's Meeting (snacks) / 7:00 pm Sale
Sept. 17	Virtual Peanut Research Station Tour / Zoom Meeting/ webinar / TBD /plans are tentative

Soil, Forage and Water Samples

We are still accepting soil, water, and forage samples at the Caddo County OSU Extension Office. There is a box behind the building that is set out from 8 am to 4:30 pm on weekdays where samples can be left for processing. There is a form on the inside of the box you will need to complete.

We can allow 1 person at a time in the office if want to bring the samples inside, please call ahead or when you arrive at the office.



CADDOW COUNTY EXTENSION

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The 'Positive Effect' of Protein Supplements

Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist

Oklahoma has substantial standing forage in many, if not most, pastures as we go into late summer. As the day length shortens, plants become more mature and lower in protein content. However, the protein requirements for growth, milk production, and body weight maintenance of beef cattle do not decrease as the "dog days of summer" arrive.

The micro-organisms in the rumen of beef cows and replacement heifers require readily available protein to multiply and exist in large enough quantities to digest the cellulose in low quality roughages. Protein supplementation of low-quality, low protein forages results in a "positive associative effect". This "positive associative effect" occurs as supplemental protein available to the "bugs" in the rumen allows them to grow, multiply, and digest the forage more completely and more rapidly. Therefore the cow gets more out of the hay she consumes, she digests it more quickly and is ready to eat more hay in a shorter period of time. Data from Oklahoma State University illustrates this (Table 1, McCollum and Galyean, 1985, J. Anim. Sci). The prairie hay used in this study was less than 5% crude protein. When the ration was supplemented with 1.75 lbs of cottonseed meal, retention time of the forage was reduced 32% which resulted in an increase in feed intake of 27%. Because hay intake was increased, the animal has a better chance of meeting both the protein and energy requirement without supplementing other feeds.

Table 1. Effect of Cottonseed Meal Supplementation on Ruminal Retention Time and Intake of Low-Quality Prairie Hay

Daily Supplement of Cottonseed Meal

	None	1.75 lb	Change
Rumen Retention Time, Hr	74.9	56.5	-32%
Voluntary Daily Hay Intake, % of body wt.	1.69	2.15	+27%

Because retention time was decreased, one should expect the protein supplementation in this situation also increased digestibility of the hay. This was shown clearly in another OSU trial that indicated that low quality roughage had an increase in estimated digestibility from 38% to 48% when the cattle were supplemented with 1.5 pounds of soybean meal daily.

As producers prepare their late summer, fall, and winter feed strategies, they can see the importance of providing enough protein in the diet of the cows to feed the "bugs" in the rumen. If the forage is low in protein (less than 8 % crude protein), a small amount of supplemental protein such as cottonseed meal, soybean meal, or one of the higher protein by-product feeds, could increase the amount and digestibility of the forage being fed. This strategy requires that ample forage is available to take advantage of the "positive associative effect". As the table above illustrates, properly supplemented cows or replacement heifers will voluntarily consume about 27% more forage if they were provided adequate protein. As long as enough forage is available, this is a positive effect of a small amount of protein supplement. Cows that are already in excellent body condition in late summer will not benefit from the additional expense, however, young thin cows would be candidates for protein supplementation in late summer and fall. The increase in body condition can be achieved with minimal expense, especially if the spring-born calves are weaned in early fall.

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