



CADDO COUNTY EXTENSION

November 2020

AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

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

405-247-3376

Seagulls in Your Wheat Field

The seagulls are called Franklin's gulls. They are migrating from North Dakota and Alberta down to the Gulf to spend the winter. They are likely already off the field, but there could be more in the next couple of weeks. They are not eating grain or grass, they primarily eat insects. Thousands of them often follow combines with Fall harvested crops, eating grasshoppers that are disturbed by the equipment. They are considered a beneficial bird for agriculture.



Breeding Cows and Heifers on Wheat Pasture

Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist

Many areas of Oklahoma received some moisture this past week, giving hope that wheat pasture may be available for use as a winter feed. Some producers may have questions about the utilization of wheat pasture for growing replacement heifers or cows before, during, and after the breeding season. Anecdotal reports of unsatisfactory breeding performance occasionally surface when replacement heifers have been exposed to bulls or AI while grazing wheat forages. Therefore an Oklahoma State University study was conducted to compare reproductive performance of heifers grazing wheat pasture before, and during breeding, with heifers grazing wheat pasture until approximately 3 weeks before breeding.

In each of two years, 40 spring born Angus and Angus crossbred heifers were placed on wheat pasture in December and randomly assigned to one of two treatment groups in mid March. Group one (Wheat Pasture; n=20) remained on wheat pasture (mean crude protein = 26.6 %) through estrus synchronization and fixed-time AI. Group two (Dry Lot; n=20) was placed in drylot and had free choice access to a corn-based growing ration (11.1% crude protein) through estrus synchronization and fixed time AI. The heifers were inseminated on about April 5 both years. Heifers were exposed to fertile bulls starting 10 days after fixed time AI for 45 more days. Fixed time AI conception was determined at 32 days after AI by ultrasonography.

Upcoming Agricultural Events

Nov. 12	OYE Swine Nominations / Comanche County Fairgrounds / Lawton, OK / 10:00 am
Nov. 12	Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Fall Gathering / Hendricks and Osborn Cattle LLC, Tim Hendricks Ranch / Anadarko, OK / 6:30 pm
Nov. 14	Caddo County 4-H Achievement Awards / Baldwin Building, Caddo County Fairgrounds / Anadarko, OK / 2:30 pm
Nov. 17-	Caddo County 4-H Speech Contest 4th, 5th, 6th Grade/ Caddo County Fairgrounds / Anadarko, OK / Morning Contest 9:30 am, Afternoon Contest 1:00 pm
Nov. 18	Caddo County 4-H Speech Contests / 7th through 12th Grade / Caddo County OSU Ext. Conference Room / Anadarko, OK / by appointment
Nov. 23	West District, South Region 4-H Volunteer Conference / Caddo County OSU Ext. Conference Room, Zoom Optional / Anadarko, OK / 6:00 pm
Dec. 1	Caddo County Fair Board Meeting / Caddo County Fairgrounds, Baldwin Building / Anadarko, OK / 7:00 pm

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Breeding Cows and Heifers on Wheat Pasture *(continued from page 1)*

The percentage of heifers cycling at the start of estrous synchronization was 75% and 55% for Wheat Pasture and Dry Lot, respectively. Weights of Dry Lot heifers were slightly heavier than Wheat Pasture heifers (897 vs. 867 pounds) at the time of AI but were similar at ultrasound (917 vs. 910 pounds). Conception rate to Fixed time AI was similar for Wheat Pasture (53%) and Dry Lot (43%) and final pregnancy rate was similar for Wheat Pasture (95%) and Dry Lot (88%). Reproductive performance of heifers grazing wheat pasture during estrus synchronization and Fixed time AI was similar to heifers consuming a corn-based growing diet. Source: Bryant, et al. 2009 Oklahoma State University Animal Science Research Report.

Kansas State University looked at grazing wheat pasture, before and during breeding with first and second calf cows. They compared the fixed time AI and final pregnancy rates for cows on wheat with cows on native rangeland. Five years of data were summarized in the 2011 KSU Cattlemen's Day Report. The AI pregnancy rates were 51.7% and 57.7% for wheat pasture and rangeland respectively. The final pregnancy rates after a natural breeding clean up breeding season were very similar at 94.4% and 95.9% respectively. They concluded: "This trial showed no evidence that the high protein diet of wheat pasture reduces pregnancy rate of beef cows. However, because timing of the breeding season remained constant, protein content of the diet may have moderated prior to breeding." Source: Johnson, S.K. 2011 KSU Cattlemen's Day Report.

GARDEN TIPS FOR NOVEMBER!

- Fertilize cool-season grasses like fescue with 1pound nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.
- Continue to mow fescue as needed at 2 inches and water during dry conditions.
- Control broadleaf winter weeds like dandelions.
- Keep falling leaves off fescue to avoid damage to the foliage.
- Prune deciduous trees in early part of winter. Prune only for structural and safety purposes.
- Wrap young, thin-barked trees with a commercial protective material to prevent winter sunscald.
- Continue to plant balled and burlapped and containerized trees.
- Watch for arborvitae aphids, which tolerate cooler temperatures in evergreen shrubs.
- Tulips can still be successfully planted through the middle of November.
- Leave foliage on asparagus, mums, and other perennials to help insulate crowns from harsh winter conditions.
- Bulbs like hyacinth, narcissus and tulip can be potted in containers for indoor forcing.
- Gather and shred leaves. Add to compost, use as mulch or till into garden plots.
- Delay pruning fruit trees until next February or March before bud break.
- Harvest pecans and walnuts immediately to eliminate deterioration of the kernel.

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