



June 2024

Carter County Ag Advisory

**CARTER COUNTY
EXTENSION**

OSU is an Affirmative Action, Equal Employment Opportunity, E-Verify Employer.

Upcoming Events

- **June 4th & 5th: SE District Horse Show**
McClain County Fair Grounds
- **June 10-12th: Cattlewomen's Boot Camp**
Stillwater, OK
- **June 11th: Master Gardeners Meeting**
6-8pm at the OSU Biosciences Building.
- **June 11-14th: Carter County 4-H Camp**
Binger, OK
- **June 13th: Carter County Cattlemen Meeting**
Meeting starts at 6pm at Murray on Main (106 E Main St, Ardmore). *Please RSVP by June 10th.*
- **June 19th: Juneteenth Holiday– Office Closed**
The office will reopen at 8am on June 20th.
- **June 21st: AgricultHER Conference**
8:30am-4pm at EOSC Ballroom in Wilburton, OK. You don't want to miss this Eastern OK Women in Ag conference! *Register by June 6th.*
- **June 26th: Carter County Junior Livestock Show Board Meeting**
Meeting starts at 5:30pm at the extension office and is open to the public. Your input is welcome as we discuss updates to show rules and operations.

For more information or to register for these upcoming events, please call the office at
(580) 223-6570.

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter via email? Scan the QR code!

Your Local Office

Address:

25 A ST. NW Suite 200
Ardmore, OK 73401

Phone:

580-223-6570

Website:

<http://extension.okstate.edu/county/carter/>

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Ag News

Nitrate and Prussic Acid Toxicity

As temperatures rise and drought potential increases, don't forget about the serious dangers of nitrate and prussic acid toxicity in your forages.

The extension office can perform quick tests to determine presence of nitrates and prussic acid, allowing you to make informed grazing management decisions for your livestock.

Testing for Swine Brucellosis and Pseudorabies

Reminder that Show Swine may now be tested for Swine Brucellosis and Pseudorabies and that test will allow them to show at the summer jackpots, County Fairs, and through the State Fairs this fall.

The swine must be tagged with an official electronic RFID (840) tag and the tag must be listed on the test chart, and the premises ID of the premises the show pig is housed at must be listed on the test chart. Please try to get the tags as deep in the middle portion of the ear as possible without putting too much pressure on the cartilage ribs to minimize the chances of the tag getting torn out.

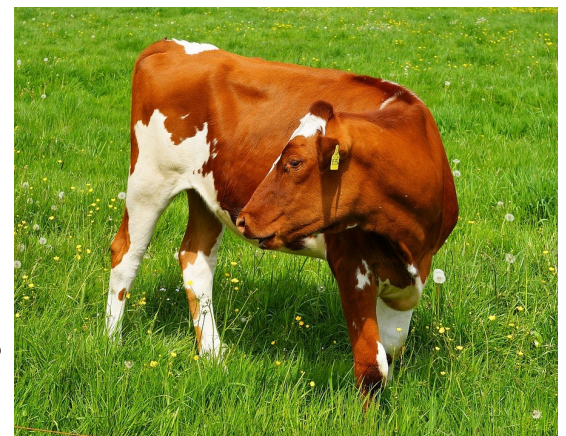
As a reminder, the dates for show swine testing are now May 15 for summer/fall shows, and November 10 for winter/spring shows.

Beef Herd Spring Management Checklist—

Mark Z. Johnson, OSU Extension Beef Cattle

Timely management input is critical to maximizing forage production, shortening the calving season and creating profit potential. The key to capitalizing on the future value of cattle is to run your operation as a business, which means making sound financial decisions and concentrating management and labor into some of the critical control points through the annual production cycle. Here are some things to consider before summer:

- ◇ Have I made a plan for weed control, fertilizer, rotational grazing and proper pasture management? Weed control insures that the grass we intend to grow is making use of the moisture and soil nutrients. Applying an adequate amount of nitrogen fertilizer to Bermudagrass pastures is essential to produce the amount of forage needed to sustain your cow herd.
- ◇ Have my bulls undergone a Breeding Soundness Exam and do I have an adequate number of bulls on hand to get cows bred promptly?
- ◇ Have I given pre-breeding vaccination and dewormed my cow herd?
- ◇ Are my replacement heifers of adequate age and target weight to breed up quick and early ahead of my mature cow herd?
- ◇ Are my cows and bulls in adequate Body Condition for the onset of breeding season?
- ◇ Based on that answer, do I need to continue with supplemental feed?
- ◇ What is my hay and feed plan for this winter?
- ◇ Have I castrated, dehorned, dewormed and given the first round of vaccinations to my spring born calves? Best management practices are to have this done by the time calves are two to four months of age.





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Hort Notes

June Horticulture Tips

Kristine Nichols, Master Gardener

- Have you made a watering plan for this coming summer? Besides a watering hose, some DIY options include drip-irrigation systems, ollas, or recycled 2-liter bottles.
- If you had successful spring crops, like lettuces, etc. consider leaving a few to bolt, flower, and produce seed so that you can collect your own seeds for next year.
- If you haven't already, now is the time to plant pumpkin and okra. Plant flowers, such as marigolds, as companion plants to help improve the life of your vegetables.



Interested in Becoming a Master Gardener?

The next Extension Master Gardener training class is *tentatively* scheduled for Fall 2024 given that we have enough participation.

This is a great opportunity to be a part of OSU Extension, volunteer in your community, learn, and share your passion for horticulture.

If you're interested in participation or would like to learn more, please call the office!

4-H Garden Project Update

A huge thanks goes to the Garden Station in Ardmore for their generous donation of flowers for the 4-H Garden Project! We could not make impacts in our community without this kind of support.

The first section of the garden is coming along nicely! Next step is mulch and planting native grass seed, which was generously donated by Johnston Seed Co!

Thank you to all who have put in the work to help this garden come to life!





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Featured Article

USDA Moves to Electronic ID Tags

Rosslyn Biggs, DVM, OSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Animal disease traceability (ADT), as defined by the USDA, is knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they've been, and when. The primary ADT system in the United States is the National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES). This system has been used for decades and is utilized when USDA official tags are required.

Historically this system used primarily metal visual tags, commonly called "Bangs tags" or "Silver Brite" tags. In more recent years, both the traditional metal visual tags and certain radiofrequency (electronic) (EID) tags have been accepted as official identification. Official USDA EID tags are a 15-digit usually round/button tag that begin the tag number with the digits 840. EID tags can be read visually and with electronic readers.

Recently the USDA finalized a rule that has been under discussion for the last several years. Significant input was received from industry leaders and animal health officials. This rule moves USDA official identification to exclusively EID tags that can be read both visually and electronically starting in November 2024.

It is important to recognize that this rule change does not in any way require the mandatory tagging of all cattle. This rule change only moves USDA official identification tags from the metal option to EID tags. The classes of cattle requiring official identification have not changed. USDA official identification tags are required only under certain conditions and for certain ages and classes of cattle. The two primary situations requiring official identification are program disease testing, (such as that required for brucellosis), and interstate movement. Exceptions to this requirement do apply under unique movement types, such as travel for veterinary care. Feeder cattle and animals moving directly to slaughter do not require official identification for interstate movement.

Classes of cattle requiring USDA official identification for interstate movement include:

- sexually intact and 18 months or older
- used for rodeo or recreational events (regardless of age)
- used for shows or exhibitions
- All female dairy cattle
- Male dairy cattle born after 03/11/23

