



October 2024

CARTER COUNTY
EXTENSION

Carter County Ag Advisory

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

Upcoming Events

- **October 1: Bat Workshop for All Ages**
 - 6-8pm at the Extension Office
- **October 3-4: State Master Gardener Conference, Enid, OK**
- **October 4: Pecan Management Conference**
 - McCurtain Co OSU Extension Office
 - 3 CEUs available for Private, 10, and 1A
- **October 8-10: OSU Rural Renewal Symposium**
 - Lake Murray Resort, Ardmore, OK
- **October 8: Master Gardener Meeting**
 - 6-8pm, location TBD
- **October 10: Ranchers Thursday Lunchtime Series featuring Minnie Lou Bradley**
 - Call Dr. Lalman at 405-744-6060 for the zoom link
- **October 16: Carter Co Junior Livestock Show Board Meeting**
 - 5:30pm, Extension Office
- **October 24: Unwanted Pesticide Collection Event**
 - 8am-1-m at Atoka Co Fairgrounds
- **Register now for 2024 OSU Winter Crops School with the link below:**
 - December 17-18
 - Limited to first 175 registrants
 - 12 CEUs available
 - Attend Virtually or In Person!

https://secure.touchnet.com/C20271_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=15&CATID=59

Your Local Office

Address:

25 A Street NW, Suite 200
Ardmore, OK 73401

Phone: (580) 223-6570

Website:

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

Follow our Facebook for updates!

@CarterCountyOSUExtension



Field Day and Pesticide CEU Credit Opportunity coming up this month- Stay Tuned!



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Ag News

USDA & FSA Financial Updates for Farmers and Ranchers

Stephanie Smith, Extension Ag Educator

USDA Announces Launch of New Financial Assistance Network

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the launch of the **Distressed Borrowers Assistance Network**, an initiative designed to provide personalized support to financially distressed farmers and ranchers across the nation. Farm Service Agency (FSA) will facilitate this network in collaboration with farm support organizations and land-grant institutions. Network partners include Farm Aid, Rural Advancement Foundation International, the University of Arkansas, the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center at Alcorn State University, and the University of Minnesota.

The Distressed Borrowers Assistance Network will address the immediate needs of distressed borrowers by providing one-on-one support and comprehensive, wraparound services aimed at addressing the unique challenges faced by financially distressed producers and underserved communities.

Other FSA Updates

FSA recently announced significant changes to Farm Loan Programs through the Enhancing Program Access and Delivery for Farm Loans rule that took effect Sept. 25, 2024. These changes are designed to expand opportunities for borrowers to increase profitability and be better prepared to make strategic investments in enhancing or expanding their agricultural operations.

FSA also has meaningful improvements underway to streamline and automate the Farm Loan Program process. These include:

- The Loan Assistance Tool that provides customers with an interactive online, step-by-step guide to identifying the direct loan products that may fit their business needs and to understanding the application process.
- The Online Loan Application, an interactive, guided application that is paperless and provides helpful features including an electronic signature option, the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns, complete a balance sheet, and build a farm operating plan.
- An online direct loan repayment feature that relieves borrowers from the necessity of calling, mailing, or visiting a local USDA Service Center to pay a loan installment.
- A simplified direct loan paper application, reduced from 29 pages to 13 pages.
- A new educational hub with farm loan resources and videos.

Please visit your local FSA office or FSA's website at fsa.usda.gov for more information about how to take advantage of these resources.



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Hort Notes



Hank Baker,
Langston Extension Honey Bee Officer

October Horticulture Tips

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs this month. General rule of thumb is to plant at a depth 2x the bulb's diameter.
- As temps cool, container-grown shade and pine trees can be planted.
- Fertilize cool season lawns about mid-month (fescue, ryegrass, bluegrass). **Do not** fertilize warm season lawns (bermuda, zoysia, St Augustine).
- Apply post-emergent broadleaf weed herbicides to lawns this month if weed control is needed. **Do not** apply to newly planted cool season lawns.

Benefits of Bees from Langston Extension's Hank Baker

Stevie White, Oklahoma Farm Report



To get established as a beekeeper, Baker recommends taking a class first with one of the many beekeeping organizations in Oklahoma. "You can also reach out to someone like me who offers mentorships." In addition to honey, a hive of bees can also provide other marketing opportunities such as beeswax, pollen – which is a strong, healthy protein commonly added to salads and yogurt, and once a hive becomes established and healthy, it will procreate a large number of bees providing bees, themselves, as a marketable product.

Interestingly, honey bees are classified as livestock. "When they are classified as livestock, it means that they are not wild animals, so the beekeeper has a responsibility to care for and manage them properly. You have to make sure that they have food, resources, and diseases are properly cared for as well," Baker shared.

"When hone bees are located next to your crop, you are going to get a lot more pollination to create a lot more produce," Baker said. "Bees have a small footprint and require a very low amount of work to provide for them, but you get a lot of benefits from the bees being on your property; not only for your crops but also for the natural environment around your location. Their role also makes our food less expensive."

Consider the addition of bees to your home garden! Contact the Carter County office for more information.



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Featured Article

Grants Available for Sheep Producers

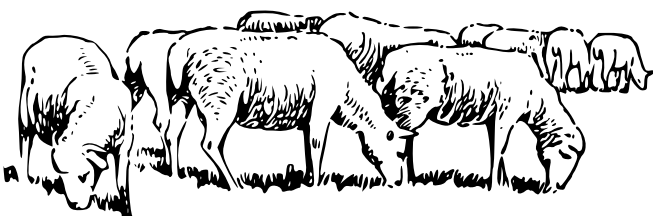
Oklahoma Farm Report

The American Lamb Board (ALB) is looking for 150 sheep producers to participate in its Climate Smart Sheep program. Producers enrolled in the program will be paid up to \$7,000 to develop and implement Climate Smart Sheep management practices and measure and report emissions and life cycle analysis. Applicants that qualify as small or underserved will be given priority. Underserved producers include socially disadvantaged farmers, veteran farmers, limited-resource farmers, and women farmers.

Possible Climate Smart practices to be implemented include prescribed grazing, cover crop planting, range planting, tree or shrub enhancement, silvopasture, cross-fencing and brush and pest (weed) management. Producers accepted into the program will work with a technical assistance provider on environmental enhancements and practices. They will establish operational plans, implement recommended changes and organize farm data necessary to estimate emissions using the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator developed by Michigan State University and ALB.

The producer program application can be found online at LambBoard.com. Please check out their website for additional details.

The application period ends on December 1. Accepted producers will be notified by December 15, and the program will begin on January 1, 2025.



Agriculture & Horticulture Community Needs Assessment

Are you interested in ag, gardening, animals, wildlife, or horticulture?

What kinds of workshops and programs would you like to see offered?

Carter County OSU Extension
Agriculture & Horticulture Needs
Assessment



Please fill out this 5 minute survey so Carter County Extension can better meet your needs!