



August 2024

CARTER COUNTY  
EXTENSION

# Carter County Ag Advisory

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

## Upcoming Events

- **August 13: Fair Board Meeting**
  - 5:30pm @ Cook Paint in Ardmore
- **August 13: Master Gardener Meeting**
  - 6pm @ OSU Biosciences Building
- **August 21: CCJLS Board Meeting**
  - 5:30pm @ extension office
- **August 28th: 4 County CEU Meeting**
  - 9:30am @ Western Tech Center
- **August 30: Registration for Carter County Master Gardener Training is due!**
- **September 3-7: Carter County Free Fair**
  - Hardy Murphy Coliseum, Ardmore
- **September 9: Home Gardening & Landscaping Class- Southern Tech**
  - Call (580) 224-8200 to register.  
Taught by current Master Gardeners!
- **September 12: Carter County Master Gardener Training begins!**
- **September 12-20: OK State Fair**
  - OKC Fairgrounds
- **September 19: Fall Pecan Field Day**
  - Cleveland, OK (Save the date!)
- **September 24: Fall Floral Workshop**
  - (Save the date and stay tuned for more info!)

## Your Local Office

### Address:

25 A Street NW, Suite 200  
Ardmore, OK 73401

**Phone:** (580) 223-6570

### Website:

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

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## Ag News

### Nitrate and Prussic Acid Toxicity

Stress conditions, such as drought, can cause accumulation of nitrates in the stems of forages including sorghums, sudangrass, millets, johnsongrass, and corn. Nitrate toxicity persists in forages even when they are dried for hay.

Stress conditions also cause accumulation of prussic acid (HCN) in the leaves of forages including sorghums, sudangrass, and johnsongrass. Prussic acid does not persist in hay, but can be a danger in pastures.

Both of these toxicities inhibit oxygen transport in the blood, which leads to asphyxiation and rapid death in cattle.

As we deal with drought this summer, keep in mind that the extension office can perform free, quick tests to determine presence of nitrates and prussic acid in live forages. Please call the office to schedule a consultation or test. Samples can also be submitted to the OSU diagnostic lab for quantitative results of nitrate levels for only \$6 per sample. Take advantage of these services to make informed decisions when grazing or feeding hay from any of the forages listed above.

### Stockpiling Fall Pastures

*Mike Trammel, OSU Area Agronomist*

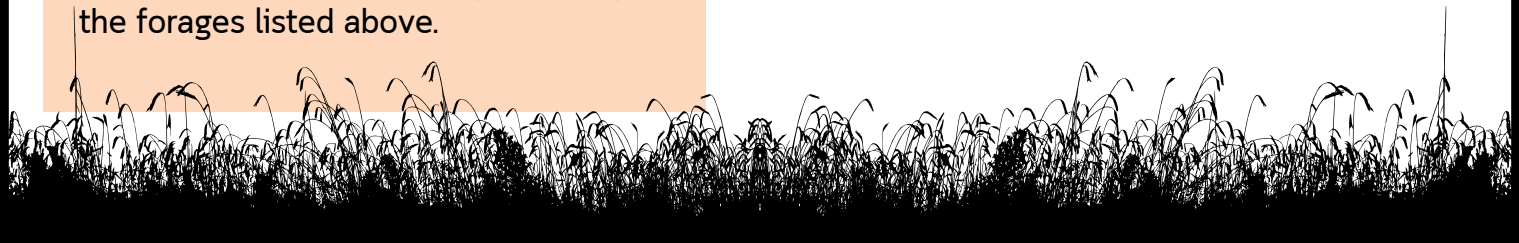
Stockpiling pastures now extends the grazing season, which means reduced dependence on hay over the winter months *and* reduced winter feeding costs. Use these tips to stockpile this fall:

#### Stockpiling Bermudagrass

- Pick a bermudagrass field to stockpile for winter grazing.
- Clip or graze off old Bermuda forage to a 2-3-inch stubble by early August.
- Apply 50-60 lbs./acre of nitrogen fertilizer in mid to late August.
- Defer grazing until late October to allow growth to accumulate.

#### Stockpiling Tall Fescue

- Pick a tall fescue field to stockpile for winter grazing.
- Clip or graze off tall old fescue forage to a 3-4-inch stubble by late August.
- Apply 50-60 lbs./acre of nitrogen fertilizer in early September.
- Defer grazing until late November to allow growth to accumulate.





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## Hort Notes

### August Horticulture Tips

- Plant fall vegies in early August (beans, carrots, cucumbers, lettuce, potatoes, squash, etc.)
- Watch current tomato plants for spider mites and treat quickly if spotted
- Monitor garden soil moisture and water accordingly, the heat and wind will cause soil to dry more quickly
- First application of fall preemergent pesticide/herbicides can be made in late August (do not apply in stressed areas or areas you plan to reseed!)
- Dig, divide, and replant perennials (daylilies, iris, peonies, etc.) in late August



## FALL 2024 Extension Master Gardener VOLUNTEER TRAINING



### Class Schedule:

Thursdays from 1-5:30pm  
Location: Ardmore, OK

- Sept. 12 – Welcome, Basic Botany, Plant Physiology
- Sept. 19 – Soil & Soil Fertility
- Sept. 26 – Diseases & Plant Pathology
- (no class Oct. 3 due to 2024 Master Gardner Conference)
- Oct. 10 – Vegetable Gardening
- Oct. 17 – Insect Pests
- Oct. 24 – Herbaceous Ornamentals
- Oct. 31 – Fruit & Nut Production
- Nov. 7 – Woody Ornamentals
- Nov.14 – Lawns & Maintenance
- Nov. 21 – Pesticide Safety
- (no class Nov 28 due to Thanksgiving)
- Dec. 5 – Review & Final Exam

### Registration:

Contact Stephanie or Lauren for the registration form.

Please submit registration form and \$150 fee to either the Carter or Love County Extension Office by August 30th.

Stephanie: (580) 223-6570  
stephanie.q.smith@okstate.edu

Lauren: (580) 276-3385  
lauren.young@okstate.edu



OSU EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENERS







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## Featured Article

### Prep for Fall Calving

Stephanie Smith, *OSU Extension Agriculture Educator*

As calving season approaches, there are a number of things producers should keep in mind for a smooth and successful season, including cow body condition, pasture management, emergency preparedness, heifer retention, cow culling, and newborn calf care.



As we get closer to calves dropping, it is important that cows maintain body condition of 5-6 so they can support milk production through the winter and maintain health to be bred back. Remember to check cows often throughout the next few months, especially first calf heifers. Cows may be calving early, so have that calving kit ready. Prep your kit with plenty of supplies: buckets, disinfectant, antiseptic soap, OB sleeves, OB lubricant, OB chains/handles/calf puller, etc. Maintain a healthy relationship with your veterinarian- the first time you meet them should not be at 3am for an emergency! Once calves drop, remember newborn care: dip navel, ear tag, castrate bull calves, etc. Consider implementing a preconditioning program, which includes weaning calves at least 45 days to sale, castrating bull calves, dehorning if necessary and a vaccination program. Remember to follow BQA guidelines when giving vaccinations. Preconditioned calves often sell for a higher price, or may be eligible for exclusive sales if your operation is BQA certified.

Now is a great time to evaluate your winter feed supply and consider options. Do you have hay in storage or plan to purchase? If feeding grain or supplements, how? What does your pasture look like? Consider a dry lot if you're mainly feeding hay, or begin stockpiling pastures now. Remember to rotate pastures to keep grass in a vegetative state which maximizes forage utilization and nutrition. First round of preemergent herbicides may be applied in late August, but avoid stressed areas and areas you plan to re-seed. Plant wheat or cereal rye for additional fall/winter grazing.

Calving season is also a good time to start considering heifer retention and select cows to cull. Select replacement heifers based on pre-weaning performance and phenotypic expression. Also select heifers that were born early in the calving season. Pregnancy tests all cows, then cull all open cows and any with physical problems such as bad eyes, poor udders, lameness, missing teeth, etc.

Reach out to your local extension office with any questions regarding fall calving or BQA certification.