



**CARTER COUNTY  
EXTENSION**

# Carter County Ag Advisory

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

**June 2025**

## Upcoming Events

- **06/05 - 06/07: OK Pecan Growers Association Conference & Trade Show**
  - in Glenpool, OK, check out the OPGA website for details!
- **06/07: SINF Community Garden Workday**
  - 11am - 3pm at the garden
- **06/08: Ardmore Beautification Council's 2025 Home Garden Tour**
  - 1pm - 4pm, see ABC's Facebook for details
- **06/13: AgriCultHER Women in Ag Conference**
  - Wilburton, OK, stay posted for details
- **06/13 - 06/14: State Master Gardener Conference**
  - Stillwater, OK, call for registration info
- **06/17: Carter County Junior Livestock Show Board Meeting**
  - 5:30pm at the extension office (Tuesday, NOT Wednesday this month!)
- **06/21: SINF Community Garden Workday**
  - 11am - 3pm at the garden
- **06/23: Herb Garden Class (free!)**
  - 1pm - 3pm at Ardmore Public Library, call them to register
  - taught by OSU Extension
- **06/28: Family Fun Day Community Event**
  - 10am - 5pm at Murray State Campus in Ardmore
  - check out our Facebook for details!

## 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





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## **Ag News**

### **Upsides of a Short Calving Season**

*Mark Z Johnson, OSU Beef Cattle Specialist*

There are several benefits to a short calving season including simplifying cow management, gaining efficiency of labor management, increasing weaning weight and improving uniformity/marketability of the calf crop. Collectively all these advantages lead to one positive potential impact: improved profitability. CattleFax survey data of cow-calf operations sorts participants into three groups: high, average and low profitability. The high profitability group had a shorter calving season with a higher percentage of cows calving in the first 45 days. The shorter calving season creates opportunities to gain efficiency in several areas of management and these operations were able to sell more pounds of while keeping expenses down.

Obviously, more calves born earlier in the calving season equates to more pounds at weaning. What is the value of a single cow calving one heat cycle earlier? If calves gain about 2 pounds a day from birth to weaning, in the current market with a pound of weaning weight valued in excess of \$3, the added 40 pounds of weaning weight is worth at least \$120 per cow. The added benefit of uniformity also improves marketability of your calf crop. Calf buyers prefer to buy load lots of uniform calves so they can be managed similarly. Calf crops with substantial weight variation will be discounted in the market place.

Address the following questions to achieve a shorter breeding season in 2025 and a shorter calving window next spring:

- 1 – Do you have ample bull to female ratios in each breeding pasture?
- 2 - What is the age of your bulls and the number of females they should be expected to cover?
- 3 – Are you managing your 2-year old pairs separate from your mature cows to ensure proper development, body condition and potential to breed back quickly?
- 4 – Have all your bulls passed a breeding soundness exam prior to turn out?
- 5 - Is your cow herd in adequate body condition? Is supplemental feed needed?
- 6 – Have you considered an estrous synchronization protocol to tighten your breeding season?

### **Small Ruminant Dewormer Dosages Matter**

Adavin Rohling, K-State Extension

Using the correct dosage when deworming sheep and goats is critical for effectively treating internal parasites and reducing the likelihood of parasites becoming resistant to dewormers. The American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control has dewormer dosage charts for sheep and goats that are easy to use. Email [stephanie.q.smith@okstate.edu](mailto:stephanie.q.smith@okstate.edu) and she can print these off or send them to you!





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## Hort Notes

## June Horticulture Tips

*Pat Neasbitt, Master Gardener*

### Flowers

- Remove flower stalks on coleus, caladiums, lamb's ear, and basil before buds open. This will promote new leaf growth.
- Houseplants can be moved outside this month. Sink the pots in a cool, shaded garden bed to prevent them from drying out too quickly.
- Water container plants and hanging baskets often. Fertilizing annuals every two weeks with seaweed extract, fish emulsion, compost tea, or water-soluble fertilizer will keep them flowering. A time-release fertilizer is also helpful for container plantings growing in a soilless medium.
- When cutting fresh roses or removing faded ones, cut back to a five-leaf leaflet facing the outside of the bush to encourage open growth, good air circulation, and more flowers. Deadhead for continued blooming.
- Deadhead annuals and perennials to keep them blooming until fall. Their goal is to reproduce by setting seeds, so if you keep them from doing that, they will just keep on blooming.
- Dig, divide, and replant spring bulbs now that have become too crowded.
- During the summer, soil moisture is essential for good plant production. The best way to conserve moisture is mulching. A good mulch not only retains valuable moisture needed for plant growth but also improves overall gardening success. Mulches work best if they are 3 – 4 inches deep, depending on the material used and the type of plants being mulched.

### General Landscape

- Mulch ornamentals, vegetables, and annuals to reduce soil crusting, keep soil cooler, and slow moisture loss during hot summer temperatures and drying winds. Mulching can reduce up to 80 percent of summer yard maintenance. That means more time to enjoy your yard instead of just working in it. The mulch will also help soak up and hold extra moisture when it rains three inches all at once like it did Sunday night.
- Control aphids on crepe myrtles and spider mites on tomatoes with a strong spray of water from the hose instead of spraying with insecticides that will also kill the good bugs. Be sure to get underneath leaves where the creepy crawlies like to hang out. Evidence of spider mite damage can be seen as foliage that becomes pale and speckled. Shake a branch over a piece of white paper and watch for tiny red specks that move.
- Watch for the first generation of fall webworms, and remove the webs with a long stick or pole pruner to break the web and expose the worms for the birds to take care of. Don't stand under the web when you do this!





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## Featured Article

## Feral Hogs are a Costly Problem for U.S. Agriculture

Oklahoma Farm and Ranch Report

### The Pig Problem

Feral hogs are a highly adaptable and invasive species that have been found in more than 35 U.S. states. With reproductive rates that allow populations to double in as little as four months, their geographic range and damage footprint grow rapidly without intensive eradication efforts. These animals cause extensive harm to agriculture by consuming and uprooting crops, degrading pastureland, damaging fences and infrastructure and directly impacting livestock – including through predation on newborn animals and competition for feed and water. They also pose serious disease transmission risks to both domestic livestock and wildlife.

### Predation and Disease Losses – \$85 million (Livestock):

Feral hogs inflicted roughly \$85 million in livestock losses through predation, disease, veterinary costs and medical treatments. Sheep and goat producers suffered the highest percent loss rates from predation, but cattle operations faced the highest absolute dollar losses due to higher production value. Hogs kill or injure newborn livestock, sometimes consuming the evidence, making losses hard to detect or misattributed to other predators. Hogs also spread serious diseases including pseudorabies, leptospirosis, brucellosis and vesicular stomatitis. Farmers spent over \$9.2 million on medical treatment and veterinary services alone.

### Pasture Losses – \$192.9 million (Livestock):

Feral hogs caused an estimated \$193 million in damage to pastureland, a critical resource for livestock producers. Nearly all cattle, sheep and goat operations rely on pasture. This includes reduced forage availability due to rooting, erosion and weed incursion. Approximately 2.5 million hours were spent repairing pasture damage in 2020 alone. Producers also spent nearly \$69 million on supplemental feed to compensate for the lost forage. These costs not only reduce profitability, they can restrict herd sizes and stocking rates, with some producers reporting reduced weights in animals as a direct result of degraded pasture.

### Conclusion

Feral hogs are a persistent and costly threat to U.S. crop and livestock production, inflicting over \$1.6 billion in damages annually. The latest USDA data confirms what many producers have long known: managing wild pig populations requires significant time, money and coordination.

At the same time, certain federal efforts, particularly through the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program and the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program, have demonstrated meaningful results. With the House having passed its reconciliation bill, which includes funding for feral swine management, attention now turns to the Senate to determine the program's future. This new data offers timely insight into the economic stakes of feral swine management and the positive role federal coordination can play in supporting farmers on the front lines of this ongoing challenge.

