



**CARTER COUNTY
EXTENSION**

Carter County Ag Advisory

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

May 2025

Upcoming Events

- **05/01: Bee Keeping for Beginners**
 - 6p.m. - 8p.m. at Murray County Expo Center
- **05/02: Salsa Gardening**
 - 2p.m. - 3:45p.m. at the Ardmore Public Library
- **05/03: Ardmore Earth 1st Expo**
 - 9a.m. - 1p.m. at Thompson Square in Ardmore
- **05/05: Unwanted Pesticide Disposal Event**
 - 8a.m. - 1p.m. at Stevens County Fairgrounds (Duncan)
- **05/08: Health Risks for Backyard Poultry Webinar**
 - 6p.m. via zoom, call for the registration link
- **05/13: Master Gardener Meeting**
- **05/15: Weed + Brush Control Pesticide CEU Class**
 - 6 - 8p.m. at the Bioscience Building
- **05/17: SINF Community Garden Workday**
 - 11a.m. - 3p.m. at the garden
- **05/17: Murray Co 4-H Trail Ride**
 - See Flyer!
- **05/21: CCJLS Board Meeting**
 - 5:30p.m. at the extension office
- **05/22: Small Poultry Flock Diseases and Biosecurity Tools Webinar**
 - 6p.m. via zoom, call for the link!
- **05/29: Drought Preparedness Field Day**
 - See the flyer!
- **06/05 - 06/07: OK Pecan Growers Association Conference & Trade Show**
 - in Glenpool, OK, check out the OPGA website 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

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

Management to Reduce Horn Flies

Mark Z Johnson, OSU Beef Cattle Specialist

Management To Control Horn Flies

For Horn flies, there are many different options to control this pest. Several measures can be taken immediately to control Horn flies this year.

- Begin feeding an Insect Growth Regulator (IGR) now. Typically used as an additive to a mineral supplement, an IGR passes through the digestive system and into the manure where horn flies lay eggs.
- Pull a drag harrow through pastures to break up manure piles. In areas where cows concentrate or at spots where hay has been fed through the winter, burning (if possible), harrowing or disking can help break up the spots where flies will lay eggs.
- As you observe larger populations of flies on cattle over the next few weeks (over 200 flies per animal), start using additional control strategies. Since Horn flies spend their life on the cattle, insecticides can be highly effective. This fly behavior can also lead to issues with resistance. Resistance to insecticides can develop because Horn flies reproduce multiple generations over the summer months. Use a rotation of insecticides to avoid resistance from year to year.
- Insecticides can be effective as an insecticide ear tag, administered as a pour on or spray on. Self-application devices such as oilers can be effective if you make it a force use system or put multiple oilers out to ensure the whole herd is treated properly. A typical force use system is setting it up where cattle have to go under the oiler to get to water or a feed area.

Making Hay: Fertilizer Update

Scott Clawson, OSU Ag Economics Specialist

From a ranch management perspective, a check that can be difficult to write is the check for our pasture fertility. The check can be big, the pills are small, and when we park the truck, faith in Mother Nature's cooperation is all we have. The Oklahoma Production Cost Report, issued by the USDA Ag Marketing Service on April 4, 2025, lists the average price per ton of Urea, DAP, and Potash as \$555.40, \$772.21, and \$463.05 respectively. The price per pound of nutrient equates to \$0.60 for nitrogen, \$0.60 for phosphorus (with the value of N removed from the DAP), and \$0.39 for potassium. Research tells us that 50 pounds of N will get us an additional one ton of production. That would mean that an additional ton of forage will cost us \$30 per ton, plus fertility application cost (assuming other nutrients are sufficient).

Fertilizer markets have been complicated since Covid. As urea surpassed \$1,000/ton several years ago it highlighted just how volatile these markets could be. Four quick reminders about our fertilizer markets:

- The process to make our nitrogen fertilizers is very dependent on natural gas. Anhydrous ammonia is a parent product of urea.
- The corn and natural gas markets influence nitrogen prices. Correlation coefficients of .46 (2008-2020) for natural gas and .72 for the national average corn price exist between these products and anhydrous ammonia. These coefficients show the strength that these items move together. This means that if the prices of corn and natural gas move higher, it is likely nitrogen fertilizers will too.
- The outlook for corn acres is increasing as trade concerns weigh on the soybean market. Even though corn prices are not particularly strong, increased corn acres could increase nitrogen use.
- Potash is especially susceptible to price issues due to trade disruptions. The United States is very reliant on potash imports.



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Hort Notes

May Horticulture Tips

Pat Neasbitt, Master Gardener

- **WEEDS AND PESTS:** Know your bugs! Indiscriminate spraying with broad-spectrum insecticides does more harm than good and will kill the beneficial insects as well as the bad guys. Using cultural methods can control many insects and weeds, and you should not need to spray at all. Learn to tolerate a few intruders, both weeds and bugs. Your garden, the beneficial insects, and nature will thank you for it. Give natural enemies in the form of birds and beneficial insects a chance to take care of problems for you.
- **COMPOST AND MULCH:** Some weed seeds are “smart” and will germinate only if exposed to sunlight. Any time you disturb the soil, you increase the likelihood that you will have a great crop of weeds show up. Now is the perfect time to add a layer of compost to your soil. When the soil really warms up in June, add mulch to the top of the soil and around all your plants. It will save you more work and be of more benefit than anything else you can do in your garden. Use organic bark mulches for the best benefits. Do not use fake dyed mulches from questionable sources.
- **VEGETABLES:** Make your vegetable garden as small as you can handle. Most vegetable garden failure is due to the gardener becoming overwhelmed by the demands of the garden as the growing season progresses and the temperatures get hotter. Keep it small and manageable, and you will find that weeds won’t take over as rapidly and disagreeable gardening chores are minimized. It will be better to have a small success than a huge disaster. Consider investing in raised beds with drip irrigation, and mixing vegetable plants among ornamental plantings.
- **TRANSPLANTING:** When transplanting anything container-grown, including annuals and perennials as well as trees and shrubs, “massage” the roots. If the plant is very rootbound, use a sharp knife and slice through the roots every few inches all around the root ball. If you disturb the roots and break them up slightly, they will spread out and be the foundation for a strong, well-developed food and water delivery system – the secret to healthy plant growth.
- **FLOWERS:** Deadhead annuals often. An annual’s whole mission in life is to set seed after flowering to ensure the survival of the species. As long as the seeds are in place, the plant can relax and stop blooming. Remove spent blooms from the plant before the seeds have a chance to mature to keep the blooms coming all summer.

Lawn Mowing Heights – What’s Right for Your Lawn?

Stephanie Smith, Ag Educator

Correct cutting height is determined by the type of grass in your lawn as well as the season. Warm season grasses should be cut lower when they’re growing during the summer to promote lateral spread and a “tight” turf. Cutting turfgrasses below their recommended height will discourage deep rooting and reduce ability to withstand heavy traffic and environmental stresses such as low soil moisture and extreme temperatures. Turfgrasses grown under shady conditions should always be maintained at a slightly higher cut in order to increase leaf area to compensate for lower light levels. In the fall, warm season grasses should be maintained as a slightly higher cut to provide insulation for cooler temperatures.

Ideally, turfgrasses should be mowed on a schedule that is based on the amount of plant growth between mowings. This will depend on the level of soil moisture, nutrients, and temperature and the amount of sunlight. Therefore, the ideal time to cut turfgrasses is at a point so that no more than about a third of the leaf area is removed at any one mowing. For example, cut U-3 bermudagrass at 1 inch each time it reaches 1.5 inches tall, so only 1/3 of the grass height is removed.

Check out OSU’s Lawn Management fact sheet for specific mowing heights for all the different grasses!



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Featured Article

4-H'ers Plant Native Demo Garden

Carter County 4-H received a generous grant from the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation and American Plant Products & Services Inc! With this grant, we designed and began installation of a native plant and pollinator demonstration garden at the Carter County Extension office along Broadway Street. Our 4-H'ers worked hard to weed the garden space, plant, and mulch! Special thank you goes to PJ's Plant Nutrition in Ardmore for their attendance as well as their donation of flowers!

Keep an eye on the garden as we add more flowers, the official sign, and for the flowers to bloom later this summer!

We planted the big four prairie grasses: Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, and Switchgrass. We also planted coneflowers, coreopsis, and liatris!



Farmer & Rancher Survey – Chance to Win \$100–\$500!

This survey is for farmers and ranchers in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas that raise cattle, hogs, and poultry, or similar species. Our goal is to assess the region's gaps in available slaughter and processing facilities for area farmers and ranchers and what impact, if any, recent increases in access to slaughter and processing have had on the region's farm operations.

We would like you to participate in an online survey that will take about 20 – 30 minutes to complete.

There are no foreseeable risks in taking this survey. If you are uncomfortable with any question, you do not need to answer it. All responses will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law and university policy. All contact information will be deleted once we have awarded the gift cards. It will not be stored with survey responses.

Participants have a chance to win a \$100 gift card or be selected for an interview and receive a \$500 stipend!

