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GARFIELD COUNTY
EXTENSION

AG NEWS



USDA suspends debt collections, foreclosures for ranchers, farmers

USDA has temporarily suspended past-due debt collections and foreclosures for distressed borrowers due to the national public health emergency caused by COVID-19. The agency announced that it is suspending non-judicial foreclosures, debt offsets or wage garnishments under the Farm Storage Facility Loan and the Direct Farm Loan programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). USDA also noted that it will refer foreclosures to the Department of Justice and will work with the U.S. Attorney's Office to stop judicial foreclosures and evictions on accounts that were previously referred to the Department of Justice. USDA has extended deadlines for ranchers and producers to respond to loan servicing actions, including loan deferral consideration for financially distressed and delinquent borrowers. According to USDA data, about 10% of all FSA borrowers, or more than 12,000 farmers, ranchers and producers, are eligible for the relief. Robert Bonnie, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, noted that USDA and the Biden Administration are committed to bringing relief and support to farmers, ranchers and pro-

ducers by ensuring producers have access to temporary debt relief. "We are evaluating ways to improve and address farm related debt with the intent to keep farmers on their farms earning living expenses, providing for emergency needs, and maintaining cash flow," Bonnie said in a press release. The temporary suspension is in place until further notice and is expected to continue while the national COVID-19 disaster declaration is in place. In accordance with a Jan. 20 White House memo that notified government agencies of a regulatory freeze pending review of federal rules in the pipeline, USDA also has suspended processing and payments under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program and stopped implementation of the program until further notice. FSA indicated on its website that the agency's local offices will continue to accept applications during the evaluation period.



Electronic official ID ear tags available through ODAFF

Here is a reminder for cattle producers or veterinarians who do cattle work, there are free (small shipping fee) electronic official ID ear tags available that can be ordered through ODAFF. Currently, there is almost 200,000 tags in stock and ODAFF expects to receive another 350,000 this calendar year and does not have room to store all of them. So, this is an opportunity to utilize the electronic tags without cost as the industry is transitioning from the old metal official ID tags. This is a great opportunity to come into compliance before it is mandated and at almost no cost.

These tags may be ordered by producers (white official ID tags) or veterinarians (orange brucellosis vaccination or white official ID tags). They are intended for use in cattle only and should be restricted to breeding cattle or replacement heifers and bulls.

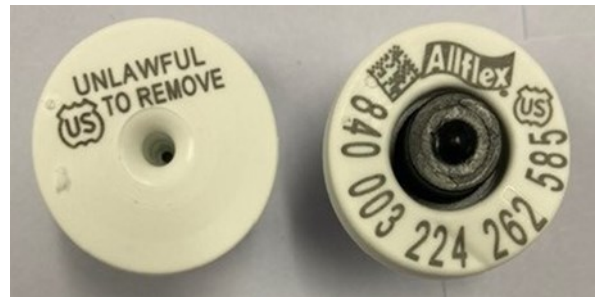
A premises ID number is required to order the tags. If a PIN is needed there is a form attached that can be filled out and sent to ODAFF to get a PIN quickly. I've also attached an order form for the tags as well as photos of the two types of tags available.

Rod Hall, DVM | State Veterinarian Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

Extension Experience – Insights into Oklahoma Agriculture

The Northwest Area Extension Staff would like to announce the creation of our new podcast *Extension Experience*. The *Extension Experience* podcast is brought to you by Josh Bushong, Trent Milacek, and Dana Zook. Each week they provide perspective on Agriculture topics and offer insight from our experience working with Extension Educators and Producers across Oklahoma.

The *Extension Experience* podcast is available on Spotify, Google Podcasts, and Apple Podcast platforms. You can also access the episodes on spotlight, <http://spotlight.okstate.edu/experience/podcast/>.



Link to PIN form

<https://www.ag.ok.gov/ais/animaltrac.pdf>

Link to RFID Tags order form

<https://www.ag.ok.gov/ais/rfidtagsorderform.pdf>

GARFIELD COUNTY OSU EXTENSION

<https://extension.okstate.edu/county/garfield/index.html?Forwarded=oces/garfield>

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Annual Grass Weeds in Bermuda Pastures and Hay Fields

Bermuda can be very competitive if managed properly. Correcting soil pH and nutrient deficiencies accordingly to a soil test is a top priority. For bermuda, nitrogen management is always going to be of main focus but phosphorous and potassium can also be very beneficial. Other cultural weed suppression practices include proper stocking rate and prescribed burning. Leaving 2 to 3 inches is essential for good regrowth for both haying and grazing bermuda.

Prairie threeawn (aka wiregrass, ticklegrass, old-wild threeawn) is an annual warm season grass weed. It usually encroaches into bermuda in less productive soils and over-grazed pastures. Correcting soil phosphorous levels is as important if not more important than nitrogen. Fall prescribed burning has shown to be very effective as shown by some field trials conducted by Kansas State University. Burning in November was effective because the seeds were still attached to the stems and were more easily consumed by the fire.

Field trials conducted by OSU showed good efficacy on threeawn when a tank-mix of Pastora and low rate of glyphosate was applied. Pastora didn't add much to the control, but its label allows for the glyphosate to be legally applied when tank mixed. Glyphosate is no longer labeled to be applied by itself. Some bermuda injury will be expected but the stand should eventually recover with good growing conditions. These field trials also showed that if soil fertility wasn't corrected, threeawn repopulated very quickly.

Sandburs are another annual warm season grass and is often found in sandy acidic (low pH) soils. Correcting soil pH and applying adequate nitrogen will be the most beneficial to improve the stand of the bermuda. Pasture burning can reduce sandbur seed production if executed at the right time and intensity. Fall burns will likely be better, unless there is sufficient fuel for a hot spring burn. If the fire from the burn is not hot enough, it may actually

stimulate germination which can be beneficial if followed by a herbicide program.

Use of a preemergence herbicide (applied before sandburs germinate) like pendimethalin (Prowl H2O) will help reduce half to two-thirds of the largest and early flush of sandburs. Pendimethalin can be applied when the bermuda is dormant and in season between hay cuttings.

Postemergence herbicide (applied after bermudagrass and sandburs are actively growing) options include glyphosate (Roundup Weathermax), imazepic (Plateau), or nicosulfuron with metsulfuron (Pastura). Read and follow label directions for rates, application timings, and surfactants to limit crop injury and to achieve satisfactory sandbur control.

Lack of control is usually due to herbicide application timing. Sandbur growth stage is critical for some products. For instance, after sandburs reach 1.5 inches tall control will be reduced with products like Pastora. If applied correctly, over 90 percent of the sandburs can be controlled with the postemergence herbicides. Keep in mind, sandburs will continue to emerge as the season progresses which may make it appear like the early herbicide application failed.

A multi-year strategy of combining cultural suppression practices and herbicides is necessary. For more information refer to OSU fact-sheet PSS-2596 Sandbur Control in Bermudagrass Pastures or visit your local OSU Extension office.

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