



EXTENSION

October 2021

Grant County Roundup

Courthouse Hours Are Changing

Starting on October 4, 2021, the courthouse changed their office hours to 8 am to 4 pm. While the main doors of the courthouse will be locked at 4 pm, OSU Extension will continue to remain open until 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday. If you need to do business after 4 pm, please call our office at 580-395-2134 for access.

Fall is for Planting Trees and Shrubs

David Hillock

Fall is an excellent time to plant most trees and shrubs. In fact, research suggests that early fall planting is best for container-grown and B&B shade and ornamental trees and pines, but spring is best for planting bare-root plants and broadleaf evergreens, such as holly and Southern magnolia. Plants planted in the fall have more time for the root system to become established before the onset of summer heat. Plants installed during the growing season are susceptible to high transpiration rates leading to drying of plant tissues.

A perfect example of this was seen at the Oklahoma Gardening© Studio Gardens several years ago when we planted the Edible Landscape

bed. One blueberry shrub was planted in the fall and then several more were planted in the spring. There was a noticeable difference between the one planted in the fall and those planted the following spring. Despite the heat, the fall planted shrub looked awesome and was barely phased by the extreme temperatures that summer. The others struggled, having crispy leaves, dropping many of them, and barely hanging on despite the intense watering provided to keep them alive.

So, if you need to replace a tree or shrub or want to add more to the landscape, now is the time to be looking for that perfect plant.

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Grant County OHCE will be taking new enrollments in October for the 2022 year. Please contact the OSU Extension office for an enrollment form or for more information on Oklahoma Home and Community Education. Fees for enrollment are \$12.50 for State dues and \$3.00 for County dues for a **total of \$15.50 for the year**. Make checks payable to Grant County OHCE.

GARDEN TIPS FOR OCTOBER!

David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist

Turfgrass

- You can continue to replant or establish cool-season lawns like fescue.
- The mowing height for fescue should be lowered to approximately 2 ½ inches for fall and winter cutting.
- Mow and neatly edge warm-season lawns before killing frost.

Ornamentals

- Plant cool-season annuals like pansies, ornamental cabbage or kale, snapdragons and dusty miller when temperatures begin to cool.
- Begin planting spring-flowering bulbs like tulips, hyacinths, crocus and daffodils. Good companion plants for bulbs are ground covers such as ajuga, vinca, English ivy, alyssum, moneywort, thrift, phlox, oxalis and leadwort.
- Peonies, daylilies, and other spring-flowering perennials should be divided or planted now.
- Dig and store tender perennials like cannas, dahlias, and caladiums in a cool, dry location.

- Purchase trees from nurseries and garden centers at this time to select the fall color you prefer. Many perennials can be planted at this time and the selection is quite nice.
- Plant fall mums and asters and keep them watered during dry conditions. Don't crowd since they take a couple of years to reach maturity.
- Plant container-grown trees and shrubs this month.
- Check and treat houseplants for insect pests before bringing them indoors and repot rootbound plants.

Fruits & Vegetables

- Dig sweet potatoes and harvest pumpkins and winter squash.
- Remove green fruit from tomato plants when frost threatens.
- There is still time to plant radishes and mustard in the fall garden.
- Use a cold frame device to plant spinach, lettuce and various other cool-season crops for production most of the winter.
- Plant cool-season cover crops like Austrian winter peas, wheat, clover, and rye in otherwise fallow garden plots.
- Start new planting bed preparations now with plenty of organic matter.

Grant County 4-H is now taking enrollments for 2022. Go to 4h.zsuite.org to enroll in 4-H. Enrollment fees are \$20.00 and can be paid online when you enroll or you can bring a check or cash to the Extension office.

Please contact the OSU Extension office for more information: 580-395-2134.



Representing at the State Fair

It was so great filling out the online form for all of the 4-H entries from the Grant County Free Fair going to the Oklahoma State Fair. We had a good showing with a whole bunch of ribbons coming back from Oklahoma City. Way to go Grant County 4-H!!

Emma Armstrong

- 1st Place Photo "Little Buddy"
- 5th Place Pumpkin Hat

Oakley Armstrong

- 9th Place Chocolate Muffins

Olivia Armstrong

- 9th Place Wax Candle
- 1st Place Blue Bonnet

Noah Crouch

- 2nd Place White Potato
- 2nd Place Red Potato
- 2nd Place White Onion
- 5th Place Red Onion

Maddie Drees

- 5th Place Stuffed Gray Bear

Mason Drees

- 8th Place Wheat

Kennedy McReynolds

- 6th Place Photo "Beauty"
- 3th Place Cinnamon Roles
- 2nd Place Vegetable Relish

1st Place Dried Tomatoes

9th Place Pop-top Belt

2nd Place Acorn Squash

1st Place Zucchini

6th Place Yellow Squash

Levi McReynolds

9th Place Rolled Biscuit

3rd Place Cherry Jam

2nd Place Fruit Leather

1st Place Insect Exhibit

5th Place Butternut Squash

4th Place Food Basket

Reagan McReynolds

3rd Place Photo City of the Dead

5th Place ½ Loaf of Bread

1st Place Jamaican Coco Bread

7th Place ½ Yellow Cake

3rd Place Green Beans

4th Place Canned Tomatoes

4th Place Owl Cold Pack

1st Place Banana Pepper

1st Place Food Basket

Will Muegge

3th Place Corn

2nd Place Sorghum

3rd Place Bell Pepper

Macyn Thomas

8th Place Stuffed Blue Bear

3rd Place Tie-dyed Towel

OSU Ranchers Thursday Lunchtime Series targets wintertime beef cattle management

Donald Stotts , ACS

Oklahoma State University Extension is hosting a new lineup of Ranchers Thursday Lunchtime Series events in October. The group of free Zoom webinars will kick off with insights about how much to cull beef cattle herds and focus on ways to best manage winter feed costs while providing livestock with needed nutrition.

Zoom webinars are scheduled for Oct. 7, Oct. 14, Oct. 21 and Oct. 28. The weekly series is free to the public, but registration is required for each event. Questions and feedback are encouraged. All October webinars will begin at noon and end about 1 p.m.

“Join our Beef Cattle Extension team, experienced ranchers, scientists and others to learn and share useful tips about beef cattle production, management and marketing,” said Dave Lalman, OSU Extension beef cattle nutritionist. “The series is like one-stop shopping. We cover pretty much everything over time. Spending lunch with us is an investment that can provide real-world benefits for ranchers

and their operations.”

Of paramount importance to ranchers this year are ways to manage feed costs, which are 30-40% more compared to 2020, Lalman said. There have been a number of reasons for higher feed prices, from bad crop weather shrinking world harvests, to an increased demand for beef, to supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Anything we can do to help livestock producers mitigate negative effects of higher feed costs translates to benefits for the entire industry, and that includes consumers who have been paying more for their meat products,” Lalman said.

The Zoom webinar format is designed for participants to interact with beef cattle specialists from across the country. October sessions will showcase experts from OSU Extension, Montana State University, the University of Arkansas and more.

Visit OSU Beef Cattle Extension’s Ranchers Thursday Luncheon Series online webinar pages to learn more or watch past Zoom sessions.

For additional information, contact Lalman by email at david.lalman@okstate.edu or by phone at 405-744-6060.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Grants Available

Bizhen Hu, Extension Specialist, Small Farm & Urban Horticulture Vegetable Production

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it will soon publish Requests for Applications (RFAs) for new grant programs - the Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant program and the Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety Block Grant program - to support agricultural stakeholders who haven’t yet received substantial federal financial assistance in responding to the COVID-19 crisis. These grant programs will provide assistance to small businesses in certain commodity areas, including small scale specialty crop producers and processors, shellfish, aquaculture and other select producers, meat and other processors, distributors, farmers markets, seafood facilities and processing vessels. Approximately \$650 million in funding is available for the PRS grants and \$50 million is available for SPRS. All of these new programs are funded by the Pandemic Assistance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

To see the full announcement:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/press-release/usda-invests-700-million-provide-relief-small-producers-processors-distributors>

Basic rules for planting wheat this fall

Donald Stotts, ACS

Although some of Oklahoma received rain showers as October began, many wheat growers in the state are facing drought conditions as they plant their fall crop.

There is always risk involved when planting wheat in dry conditions, both in general and for specific types of operations, said Amanda de Oliveira Silva, Oklahoma State University Extension small grains specialist.

“For example, dual-purpose wheat producers should determine the amount of forage their operations will need when charting out their livestock feed supplies, in addition to concerns every wheat grower may have about planting and crop performance,” she said.

OSU Extension recommendations are that seed depth be between 1 to 1½ inch when planting wheat. Oklahoma doesn’t typically experience the winter kill issues seen in more northerly states.

Producers who choose to “dust in” wheat at an optimum planting date are essentially betting that October will bring sufficient rainfall to their area. The good news is the seed should remain viable in the soil provided it hasn’t germinated. Be cautious with in-furrow nitrogen or potassium fertilizers as they can damage the seed and make it more challenging for the seed to absorb moisture needed for germination.

“The biggest risk for wheat planted into dry soils would be if a light rain occurs and the seed gets just enough moisture to germinate but not enough for the seedlings to emerge through

the soil or to survive very long if dry conditions return,” Silva said. “Also, if a heavy rain occurs in a short period of time, it could peak the seed and cause issues with emergence.”

Silva recently provided additional insights about “dusting in” wheat on the agricultural television show SUNUP.

Wheat that emerges in October may still reach its yield potential but fall forage yield may be reduced.

For grain-only enterprises, the optimum time for planting wheat for most regions of Oklahoma is mid-October. Planting winter wheat in November leaves less time for the crop to develop tillers and roots, which could affect yield potential.

“In this case, producers need to adapt their seeding rate to offset the shorter period between planting and the arrival of harsher weather conditions,” Silva said.

Grain-only wheat growers probably will need to increase seeding rates if planting is delayed to November and December, according to OSU Extension recommendations. Consider using a fungicide seed treatment to help with establishment by preventing diseases caused by fungi. A starter fertilizer may be beneficial as well.

“Be sure to test the soil to assess the potential need of fertilizers and most effectively manage input costs,” Silva said. “Soil testing removes much of the guesswork and is therefore a good risk management tool.”

Fact sheets detailing research-based information and recommendations for planting wheat are available online and through all OSU Extension county offices.

Did you know? 4-H is more than raising and showing livestock. Check out this list of just some of the projects you could participate in as a member of 4-H.

Apparel Design & Construction - The Apparel Design & Construction Project allows youth to gain the skills and knowledge needed to construct, re-purpose and modify clothing and accessories.

Civic Engagement - The Civic Engagement Project encourages and empowers young people to be actively engaged in local, county and state government.

Food Science - The Food Science Project allows youth to learn basic food preparation and preservation skills.

Leadership - The Leadership Project helps youth identify and understand roles, attitudes, tasks and functions of effective leadership.

Public Speaking - The Public Speaking Project allows youth the opportunity to express themselves through verbal communication.

Shooting Sports - 4-H Shooting Sports is a hands-on program using firearms and archery equipment to teach safety, respect and life skills while inspiring participation in lifelong recreational activities.

This is only the beginning. Call the Extension Office and see how 4-H can support your passion.

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