



EXTENSION

Grant County Roundup

April 2022

GARDEN TIPS FOR APRIL

David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist

Vegetables

Wait a little longer for it to warm up before planting cucurbit crops and okra.

Plant vegetable crops in successive plantings to ensure a steady supply of produce rather than harvesting all at once.

Cover cucurbit crops with a floating row cover to keep out insect pests. Remove during bloom time.

Watch for cutworm damage and add flea beetle scouting to your list of activities in the vegetable garden.

Garden Planting Guide for Warm-Season Vegetables

Vegetable	Time to Plant*	Days to Harvest	Method of Planting
Bean, Lima	April 15-30	90-120	Seed
Beans, Green or	April 10-30	50-60	Seed
Beans, Pole	April 10-30	60-90	Seed
Cantaloupe	May 1-20	80-100	Seed or Plants
Cucumber	April 10-30 or later	50-70	Seed or Plants
Eggplant	April 10-30	80-90	Plants
Okra	April 10-30 or later	60-70	Seed
Pepper	April 10-30 or later	90-110	Plants
Pumpkin	April 10-30	90-120	Seed
Southern Pea	May 1-June 10	85-100	Seed
Squash, Summer	April 10-30 or later	40-60	Seed or Plants
Squash, Winter	May 15-June 15	110-125	Seed or Plants
Sweet Corn	Mar. 25-April 30	80-100	Seed
Sweet Potato	May 1-June 10	100-120	Plants
Tomato	April 10-30	70-90	Plants
Watermelon	May 1-20	90-120	Seed

*These dates indicate planting times from southeast to northwest Oklahoma. Specific climate and weather may influence planting dates. For Cool-Season Vegetables, the soil temperature at the depth where the seeds are planted should be at least 40°F.

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April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 OHCE Quilters Meeting	6 CEU Zoon Conference	7	8	9
10	11 Tri-County Poultry Workshop	12 4-H Day at the Capitol	13 SS Practice	14 County 4-H Meeting	15 Extension Office CLOSED	16
17	18	19	20 SS Practice	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 SS Practice	28 Cloverbud Meeting	29	30



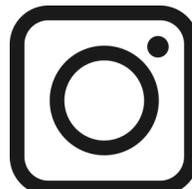
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Every Wednesday - Shooting Sports Practice starting at 5p at Grand National Gun Club Enid, OK

14th - County 4-H Meeting 5:30pm in Pond Creek
28th—Cloverbud Meeting 5:30pm in Pond Creek

6th - CEU Zoom Conference
11th— Tri-County Poultry Workshop

Follow us on Social Media!





GRANT COUNTY
EXTENSION

For more information,
please call the office:
580-395-2134

CEU ZOOM CONFERENCE

Join us at the Expo Center in Pond Creek on April 6th to earn up to 6 CEU Credits for all-day participation. Doors open at 8:30 am.

Individual certified pesticide applicators (private or commercial applicators licensed in category 1A - Agriculture Plant) can choose to attend either session or both.

Morning Program (3 CEU's)

9:00	9:30	Weed Management Options in Cotton
9:30	10:00	Discussing Transgenic Traits in Cotton
10:00	10:30	Dicamba Training
10:30	11:00	New Herbicide Technologies in Grain Sorghum
11:00	11:30	Managing Herbicide Resistance in Winter Wheat
11:30	12:00	Late Season Fungicides on Wheat

Afternoon Program (3 CEU's)

1:00	1:30	Discussion of New Sprayer Technologies and Spray Nozzles
1:30	2:00	Weed Control in Pasture
2:00	2:30	Managing Weeds in Corn
2:30	3:00	Dicamba Training
3:00	3:30	Developing a Weed Management Program for Soybean
3:30	4:00	Weed Control in Peanut

Lunch to follow morning program Sponsored by:



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Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Confirmed in Oklahoma Wild Birds

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. – A wild duck in Payne County is the first wild bird in Oklahoma to be confirmed to be infected with the Eurasian H5 type of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

“While Oklahoma has not seen HPAI in a backyard or commercial poultry flock this year, the finding of this single duck adds Oklahoma to a long list of states with confirmed cases of HPAI,” said Dr. Rod Hall, State Veterinarian for Oklahoma. “I encourage poultry owners of all kinds to continue to remain vigilant, practice good biosecurity and report sick or dying birds immediately.”

Symptoms of HPAI in poultry include: a decrease in water consumption; lack of energy and appetite; decreased egg production or soft-shelled, misshapen eggs; nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing; incoordination; and diarrhea. HPAI can also cause sudden death in birds even if they aren’t showing any other symptoms. HPAI can survive for weeks in contaminated environments.

This type of HPAI virus is considered low risk to people but can be very dangerous to poultry species which is an important part of Oklahoma’s agricultural industry.

“We’re asking that anyone involved with poultry or egg production, from large farms all the way down to backyard flock, review and implement their biosecurity practices to ensure the health and well-being of their flocks,” Dr. Hall said.

There have been no known cases of HPAI in domestic birds in Oklahoma, but the disease is continuing to infect domestic flocks throughout the northern and eastern United States. Since January of 2022, there have been 77 confirmed cases of HPAI in domestic flocks in the US.

Please **report sick wild birds** in Oklahoma to USDA Wildlife Services at 405-521-4039. Death or illness in **domestic poultry species** should be reported to the ODAFF Animal Industry Division at 405-522-6141.

[Understanding Avian Influenza](#) with Extension Veterinarian Dr. Barry Whitworth.

Click the link above to listen on our blog or access the episode via Spotify, Apple Podcast, or Google Podcast apps.

Be sure to check out the show notes for additional information about this week’s topic.

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Extension Experience
INSIGHTS INTO OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURE

ESU | EXTENSION

AN AGRICULTURE PODCAST PUBLISHED ON APPLE PODCAST, GOOGLE PODCAST, AND SPOTIFY



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, is a rapidly spreading viral disease that can infect many types of birds. Avian influenza, often called avian flu or bird flu, can be common but some strains are highly pathogenic, which means they are more deadly.

Introduced by migrating wild birds, HPAI can spread through spring migration and affect all domestic poultry - small and backyard flocks, as well as commercial industries.

Poultry with HPAI do not survive the illness. Vaccines for HPAI are not readily available.

Signs and Symptoms

- Coughing and sneezing
- Difficulty breathing
- Extreme depression
- Lack of energy
- Decrease in feed or water intake
- Swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, wattle and legs
- Decrease in egg production
- Sudden unexplained death
- Quietness among the flock

Biosecurity Guidelines

Keep your Distance

- Restrict visitor access to your birds
- Prevent contact with wild birds (especially waterfowl)
- Refrain from visiting other poultry operation locations

Keep it Clean

- Have dedicated clothing and footwear when working with your birds
- Disinfect footwear before entering your barn or coop
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling your birds

Wildlife Control

- Reduce availability of food, water and any potential nesting areas for wild birds
- Fix holes in roofs, screens and walls of poultry barns or coops

Don't Haul the Virus Home

- Clean and disinfect all wheels on vehicles that have visited a poultry farm
- Clean and disinfect all equipment borrowed from other poultry producers

Know the Symptoms

- Watch for signs and symptoms listed above.

DON'T WAIT TO REPORT SICK BIRDS.

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VETERINARIAN
OR THE OKLAHOMA STATE VET'S OFFICE at 405.522.6141**



Celebrate OHCE members during National Volunteer Month

It's always good to show appreciation to volunteers, and there's no better time to do that than National Volunteer Month, which takes place in April.

[Oklahoma Home and Community Education](#) members know a thing or two about volunteering. Since its origination in 1935, group members have worked hard to make families more resilient, raised money for scholarships for local high-school students, sewed thousands and thousands of face masks in the height of the pandemic and so much more.

Suzette Barta, community engagement coordinator for OSU's College of Education and Human Sciences - Extension, Engagement and Continuing Education, said OHCE members are driven and motivated to volunteer.

"People are motivated to action because they feel a desire within themselves to do something. This is called internal motivation," Barta said. "We do the things we do within our communities, our counties and the state because we know they make a difference to the residents. We are also motivated by friendship, affiliation, and yes, even fun."

Research shows that individuals often seek to volunteer in groups such as OHCE to help fulfill personal needs that can't be achieved alone. Two Harvard professors classified volunteer motivators into three types: achievement, affiliation and power, and there's a place for all three types in the world of volunteering.

Now that cases of COVID are declining, Barta said OHCE groups are getting out more and doing more things in person.



"We obviously weren't meeting in person during the height of the pandemic, but our group members worked hard to not let it slow down their goals for their counties," she said. "It's exciting to hear about all the projects they're working now that they can do more face-to-face activities."

However, some activities are still being done virtually, such as the Valentine party that took place in February. Groups are participating in the virtual Hop into Spring event in April which is designed to get group members in the spring spirit and will include fun information about gardening, backyard bird photography, preparing Easter dinner and even a special surprise that involves deviled eggs.

In 2021, OHCE groups around the state made a big splash with all of their community activities, including volunteering nearly 78,400 service hours valued at more than \$2.1 million; raising \$466,881 for community projects; and completing 25,828 hours of exercise time.

"Oklahoma's OHCE members are top-notch and are such a valuable asset to their communities," Barta said. "They are prime examples of what it means to be a volunteer."



OHCE SPRING MEETING

Grant County Oklahoma Home and Community Education members met for their spring meeting recently at the Grant County Expo Center in Pond Creek. The Quilt group hosted the afternoon with a Mardi Gras theme including Cajun music, traditional King Cake, and festive masks. Pictured are front L-R Sue James, Bianca Cambron, Wanda Bollman, Beth Hendrick; back L-R Beth Peters, Margaret Watsek, Brenda Gaskill, Sherri Eulberg, Fay Gibson, Margene Burnham, Mildred Mitchell, and Linda Wade.



Spring 2022 Replacement Heifer Management Considerations

Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension Beef Cattle Breeding Specialist

With much of Oklahoma in various degrees of drought over the past several months, winter grazing has been generally poor for most of our state this year. If you are selecting yearling heifers as replacements for the cowherd there are several things to keep in mind:

- Typical “best management” goal for development of replacement heifers is to have them at 65% of their mature weight by 14-15 months of age. Research indicates 90% or more of heifers reaching this goal will be cycling at the beginning of breeding season and on target to calve at two-years of age.
- Research also indicates that if heifers are at 55% of their mature weight by 14-15 months of age, only half will be cycling. If this is the situation you find yourself in right now and your planned breeding season is in the near future, adjust your rate of heifer retention up accordingly, pregnancy check heifers as soon as possible after pulling bulls and market the open heifers as yearlings this summer.
- If your heifers are behind on weight right now and your breeding season is still 30 – 60 days away, there is still time to catch them up. Previous research indicates heifers gaining approximately only a half-pound/day for the first 150 days post-weaning can be fed to gain 2.5 pounds/day for the 45-60 days immediately prior to breeding season to meet target weight and still have optimum breeding performance. Recent rains have added to the possibility this could still be done on cool season grass pastures. Regardless of how you plan to feed heifers to get them to target weight, an ionophore in your feeding program will be cost effective, typically adding an additional .1-.2 pound /day of gain.

Fertility is very financially important in cow-calf operations. For spring calving herds, now is the time to implement management practices to keep heifers on track to calve at two and primed to become productive cows.

Reference: Chapter 29, OSU Beef Cattle Manual, 8th edition



Bovine Respiratory Disease in Our Best Cattle during Finishing

Paul Beck, Oklahoma State University Department of Animal and Food Sciences

Bovine respiratory disease (BRD) is still a serious threat to the economics of beef production accounting for \$800 to 900 million in losses from death loss, treatment cost, and reduced production. We have better antibiotics, vaccines, and management to help prevent and treat BRD than we did 25-years ago, even yet from 1999 to 2011 feedlot death loss increased 23% from 1.3% to 1.6% and BRD pull rates have not improved. At the same time, our genetics have gotten better with decreased birth weight, increased growth rate, increased feed efficiency, and increased carcass quality.

There have been observations of increased BRD at later days on feed (after day 45 of finishing) for high-performing, genetically superior cattle, even those going through a preconditioning program. This is a problem because if death occurs there have been more resources invested in the animal during the feeding period than a calf with earlier pulls.

Data from a feedlot in Kansas were evaluated for the timing of BRD pulls in groups of both high-performing and high-risk calves on a lot level at the feedlot in Southwest Kansas. High-performing calves were categorized based on performance potential and carcass characteristics. High-risk calves were categorized based on administration of a mass-treatment antibiotic at arrival processing (which is usually based on

risk-factors such as length of haul, state and salebarn of origin, shrink and bodyweight on arrival and other subjective indicators or stress). The high-risk group averaged 3.15 lb/day average daily gain during finishing with feed efficiency of 6.9 pounds of feed per pound of gain, compared to average daily gains of 3.4 lbs/day and feed efficiency of 6.6 pounds of feed per pound of gain for the high-performing category. The high-risk group had overall BRD morbidity and mortality of 15.1% and 4.8%, respectively, compared with morbidity and mortality of the high performing group of 12.8% and 2.5%, respectively. High-performing calves had BRD occurring later in the feeding period compared with high-risk calves with the percentage of BRD cases before 45 days on feed of 33.7 for high performing and 67.2% for high risk calves. Cattle that developed BRD had lower ADG through the first 30 days on feed compared with clinically healthy cattle.

The authors concluded that morbidity caused by BRD in high-performing cattle is greater than expected and desired. Timing of BRD morbidity occurs at later DOF in high-performing calves compared with high-risk calves. Incidence of BRD occurred at ≥ 45 DOF in all 3 feedlots evaluated. Additional research is needed to identify potential causes of BRD morbidity during the mid to late finishing period. The beef industry must work collaboratively to better understand the health issue and potential implications up and down the supply chain.



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