



EXTENSION

Major County OSU Extension

Agricultural Newsletter

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service - Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources - Oklahoma State University

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Dear Ag Producer,

We are definitely in unprecedented times in the USA. As agriculturist we “press on” when adversity shows it’s face. We will continue to try to provide you with the best information and services possible under the current situation and guidelines. If you go to Major County OSU Extension on Facebook you will see information concerning Ag in Major County and across the state. We will keep the page updated with upcoming events and timely information. At this time the courthouse is still closed to the public, however, the Major County OSU Extension Office is still here to serve you. Please don’t hesitate to call the office (580-227-3786) or email me at tgosney@okstate.edu, if you have questions or concerns.

The Wheat Tours are canceled due to COVID-19, however, you can still stop and look at the wheat plot North of Homestead across from Brook Strader’s home.

Harvest will be here before we know it. Be safe as you get equipment ready, cutting hay down and planting your summer crops. Hopefully, we will get some much-needed rain soon. If you missed Sunup on May 2nd, Dr. Kim Anderson had a very good clip on when to market your wheat. Go to Sunup.okstate.edu and select the May 2 market report.

Dicamba Training

If you need Dicamba Training, ODAFF has confirmed that these sources are accepted trainings. Contact me if you need more information on training.

BASF

<https://www.engeniastewardship.com/#/training>

Bayer

<https://training.roundupreadyxtend.com/>

Corteva

<http://cloud01.bader-rutter.com/DAAGFEXA7051/Oklahoma/#/>

Syngenta

Unemployment Scams

The Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission (OESC) has reported that at least 3800 fraudulent unemployment claims have been filed by scammers since mid-March of 2020. Unsuspecting businesses and workers who have not filed for unemployment are receiving letters from the OESC either at their homes or at the Human Resources office at their place of work. These letters contain a copy of the unemployment claim either made by a worker who still has a job or perhaps by a person who has never worked at that business. Scammers are attempting to claim unemployment benefits in someone else's name and can hurt the employment record of the employee as well as hurt the business itself.

If you receive a letter regarding an unemployment claim that you did not file the OESC recommends that you follow the following steps:

- 1) Contact the HR department at your place of work so they can file a fraud claim.
 - 2) Call the OESC fraud department at 405-557-7157 or e-mail them at fraud@oesc.state.ok.us
 - 3) Contact your area police department to file a fraud report
 - 4) Contact major credit bureaus since the breach involves social security numbers, birth dates and other personal information. Major credit bureaus are Experian.com, TransUnion.com, and Equifax.com.
 - 5) Contact your bank and make them aware of the situation. Your place of employment may have additional steps for you to take. Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter also recommends that you contact his office to fill out a claim form to help his office investigate fraud claims at unemploymentcomplaint@oag.ok.gov.
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Industrial Hemp Webinars

OSU Extension partnered with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry to provide education on growing industrial hemp in 2020. There were held in April, the sessions are now on youtube for you to view if interested.

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

- Navigating 2020 Rules – Caroline Nelson, ODAFF
 - Farm Bill Programs – Amy Hagerman, OSU Extension
- <https://youtu.be/uP0R-g47DM8>

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

- Basic Plant Science – Josh Bushong, OSU Extension
 - Greenhouse Basics – Mike Schnelle, OSU Extension
- <https://youtu.be/RaRxvAhcTaY>

Thursday, April 30, 2020

- Basic Field Production – Brian Arnall, OSU Extension

Completing reports, field/site inspections, etc. – Caroline Nelson, ODAFF

<https://youtu.be/KnqBz7hv6A0>

Musk Thistle Control

There are just some places where you cannot control musk thistle by spraying. Below is a link of a story that ran on Sun Up several years ago that shows how to collect the Musk Thistle weevils and re-distribute them to an area that you cannot spray .

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAK_W5LqVQg

Monitor mineral intake closely during summer

Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist

Summer often becomes a busy time of year for ranchers (especially during haying season). Making certain that the cows, heifers, and bulls are receiving the minerals that they require is one of the chores that can be easily overlooked. Don't forget to check the mineral feeders or blocks to be certain that they are supplying the minerals that your cattle need. In some cases, medications may be recommended by your veterinarian to be included in the mineral mix. Cow calf operators will want to monitor mineral consumption closely to be certain that the label-recommended amounts are being consumed by the cattle. A "Veterinary Feed Directive" (VFD) will be necessary for antibiotic feeding in mineral supplements. Contact and work with your local large animal veterinarian about the appropriate VFD for your operation.

Placement of mineral feeders and blocks can aid in achieving optimum mineral intake. Place them in areas where cattle spend a lot of time. Minerals should be placed in loafing areas, near water sources, in shady areas, or any other location that tends to be a popular place for the herd to congregate. A rule of thumb is to provide one mineral feeding station for every 30 to 50 cows. Check feeders at least once a week and keep a clean, fresh supply of minerals present at all times. A good feeder should keep minerals dry, be portable and hold up to abuse and corrosion. Open tubs are not adequate in high rainfall areas. Cattle owners can receive additional help with calculating mineral intake with the "OSU Mineral Calculator" and the "OSU Mineral Consumption Record" sheets. To download these aids go to <http://beefextension.com/> and click "Other materials" and then "Calculators".

Choosing a mineral mix requires understanding of the animal's requirements and the minerals available in the forages and feedstuffs available to the animals. Mineral needs tend to be area specific and change with soil type, fertilization rates, rainfall and many other factors. Mineral requirements also will depend on animal age and stage of production. An excellent reference source for Oklahoma beef producers about mineral supplementation can be found in the Oklahoma State University [Extension Bulletin E-861 "Vitamin and Mineral Nutrition of Grazing Cattle."](#)



Grocery disruptions continue amid beef processing chaos

Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

COVID-19 continues to sweep through packing plant workers leading to severe disruptions in beef processing. Estimated cattle slaughter for the week ending May 2 was 425,000 head, down 38 percent year over year. Total cattle slaughter has averaged 26.4 percent lower than last year over the past four weeks, a decrease of 689,000 head and a little more than one week of cattle slaughter at this time of year. The backlog of slaughter cattle is growing rapidly.

Corresponding to slaughter decreases, beef production was down over 35 percent year over year last week, with average weekly beef production the past four weeks down 25 percent from the same period last year. Over the last four weeks, total beef production was down 520 million pounds year over year. For the first 14 weeks of the year, before the current reductions started, average weekly beef production was 525 million pounds. This means that one of the last four weeks of beef production has been lost due to decreased beef packing capacity.

Grocery consumers first noticed beef supply disruptions in March when the shutdown of food service shifted beef demand largely onto the retail grocery side. The resulting supply chain bottlenecks and surge in grocery demand resulted in temporary shortages in grocery supply. The supply chain bottlenecks continue, though with some time we have seen limited ability to shift some product from food service to retail. In some cases, retail label and packaging requirements have been exempted temporarily and consumers can find food service packages, often in bulk quantities, available at retail grocery.

Consumers may not notice or understand the difference, but the continuing disruptions in beef availability in May are the result of the current decreases in beef production in addition to the continuing supply chain restrictions. The situation may become more acute as food service demand rebuilds when restaurants reopen. While the current shortages are real, it should be emphasized that they are temporary and do not imply an overall lack of beef supply in the country. The annual forecast of beef production for 2020 has not been reduced from the expectation of a record level of 27.9 billion pounds. The current situation simply means a change in the timing of that production over a few weeks.

Given when packing plant workers began to be impacted and the additional attention now focused on protecting worker health, it is likely that we are currently at or very near the worst point of packing plant disruptions. However, it is unclear how fast plants will resume production levels in the coming weeks. It is likely that the effective capacity will be reduced permanently or certainly for the foreseeable future because of the safety changes needed at packing plants. The impacts on cattle markets will linger for many weeks before backlogs are cleaned up and markets are current again.

Horticulture Tips

May 2020

David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist

Trees and Shrubs

Prune and feed azaleas immediately after blooming.

Insect Alert: ([EPP-7306](#))

Bagworms on juniper and arborvitae. (Late May)

Elm leaf beetles and larvae on elms. (Late May)

Mimosa webworms on mimosa and honeylocust.

Lace bugs on sycamore, pyracantha and azalea.

Soak new transplants and newly planted trees unless rainfall is abundant.

Pine needle disease treatments are needed in mid-May.

Flowers

Annual bedding plants can be set out for summer color.

Plant summer bulbs such as cannas, dahlias, elephant ear, caladiums and gladiolus.

Shake a leaf over white paper to look for spider mites. If the tiny specks begin to crawl, mites are present.

Fruits and Vegetables

Plant watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumber, eggplant, okra, sweet potatoes, etc.

Fruit spray programs should be faithfully continued during the next several weeks.

Late May is the best time to control borers in the orchard. Check for label recommendations and controls.

Water Gardens

Clean out water garden and prepare for season. Divide and repot water garden plants.

Begin feeding fish when water temperatures are over 50°F.

Turfgrass

Cool-season lawns can be fertilized again. If you did not fertilize cool-season grasses in March and April, do so now.

Warm-season lawns may be fertilized again in May. ([HLA-6420](#))

Seeding of warm-season grasses such as bermudagrass, buffalograss, zoysiagrass and centipedegrass is best performed in mid-May through the end of June. The soil temperatures

Thinking about OQBN this fall?

Evaluate Vaccine Requirements Now!

Dana Zook, West Area Extension Livestock Specialist

As a person that was raised in the Ag industry, I understand that no matter what is going on in the world around us, agriculture continues. Calves will be born and crops will be planted. The grass will grow and cows will be moved to new pastures. Yes, agriculture is definitely affected by the recent climate due to COVID-19 but we have weathered storms like this in the past. In a climate that seems to be out of control, there are some things that we can control. One thing that may be worth your consideration is a vaccination protocol for calves that meets the requirements of a pre-conditioning program.

As an OSU Extension Area Livestock Specialist, much of my time in the fall is spent working with participating producers of the Oklahoma Beef Quality Network (OQBN). The OQBN and others programs like it are designed to aid cattle producers in making preconditioning decisions and capturing value of preconditioned calves at market.

This past fall, the OQBN premium over calves marketed with no preconditioning was \$11.93 per cwt. This average includes steers and heifers for all weight classes. Over all weight classes, individual premiums for steers was \$11.48 per cwt. and \$12.62 per cwt. for heifers. Individual sale summaries can be found at oqbn.okstate.edu; look on the left hand side for “OQBN Sale Results”.

To participate in the OQBN, calves must be: 1.) home raised and weaned a minimum of 45 days, 2.) castrated and healed, 3.) dehorned and healed, 4.) tagged with a program compliant ear tag, and 5.) vaccinated according to one of three vaccination protocols. A detailed vaccine protocol is listed at oqbn.okstate.edu; look on the left hand side for “OQBN Vac-45” and select “OQBN Health Protocol” from the list in the center. In addition, starting in fall 2020, all producers selling OQBN cattle must be beef quality assurance (BQA) trained. All of these requirements will be verified by an Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Educator a few weeks prior to the designated sale.

During past verification visits, I have run into situations where vaccine requirements have not been met. A number of these vaccine errors have to do with modified-live verses a killed respiratory vaccination. In most situations, I am happy to work with producers because keeping vaccines straight can be challenging. However, an additional last minute trip through the chute to correct a vaccine blunder adds stress and is not without cost.

While we publically provide our requirements to vaccine dealers and vets, there are too many preconditioning programs for each retailer to keep track of the details of each one. Do yourself a favor and review the requirements with your vet so that you can be sure you are purchasing the correct products. Also, after spring vaccinations, be sure to save those boxes or record the serial number of the vaccines; this is also a step some producers miss. Producers who take time in the spring to plan their vaccination protocols for the program will save money (and time!) in the fall.

Visit the OQBN website at oqbn.okstate.edu for a complete list of the requirements, the latest premium reports, and more helpful information or call the Blaine County OSU Extension Office.

We had to postpone the OQBN meeting we originally had scheduled for May 19th in Blaine County. We will advertise as soon as one is rescheduled.

Pond Management for the month of May

Marley Beam Extension Specialist Ponds and Aquatic Ecology



Spring is an excellent time to consider use of aquatic herbicides, especially if you had a problem with excess plant cover last year. Plants are rapidly growing so uptake of systemic herbicides is good.

Do not try to eliminate all pond plants. Ponds in which weeds are completely eliminated may turn muddy, develop shoreline erosion or become covered by mats of floating algae.

Help us help you identify the problem plant. Send a close-up photo of a single plant against a light background. We need this to find a suitable herbicide.

Work with us to identify any possible reasons why the plant is getting overabundant. There may be ways to correct problems like excess nutrient runoff or pond shallowness.

We need to know about other pond uses, including livestock watering, fishing, and swimming. Each herbicide will have different withdrawal times before these uses can be resumed. We will only recommend products that are tested to be safe and effective when properly applied.

Talk to us about where your pond overflows go. If a treated pond overflows soon after application, aquatic plants on neighboring properties may be harmed.

Let us know if your pond fills from the bottom up. Extra caution is needed in these ponds to protect nearby wells from contamination.

Many ponds are being heavily fished this year. Better fishing begins with identifying all fish species you have. Check to see if they are well fed or starved and overabundant. Fish the pond using a variety of lures and baits until you build up a good picture of the fish populations. To learn more about your pond's fish population read [NREM 9209, Improve Fishing in Your Pond](#).

What better way to reduce stress than to walk around your pond? While doing this check the following:

The dam – Is it eroding? Are there trees or woody plants growing on it?

Spring is the most likely time for ponds to be overflowing. Most ponds have a primary spillway pipe and a broad, flat auxiliary spillway. Check both for clogging or signs of damage.

You can't maintain a pond without knowing its parts. For more on this read [NREM 9212, Keep Your Pond in Good Condition](#).

* Relax and de-stress by visiting your pond...often.

** Learn what is normal and good so you can recognize changes that may be the start of something bad.

*** Use it, enjoy it and manage it so you can make memories for your family and friends.

Video resource:

Spring Pond Weed Management – 1:30 <https://youtu.be/jwl4S3CYpsA>

Finding Farm Management Resources Wherever You Are

Brent Ladd, Extension Assistant, Ag Economics

Producers may access information on farm financial management topics along with production, marketing, and risk management through their smartphone on the e-Farm Management website. This site includes videos, tools, and publications for farmers and ranchers to strengthen their farm management skills.

In the Income Statement video, viewers learn the definition of an income statement and ways that it can be used by a producer on their farm or ranch. The video explains the income statement's relationship to other financial statements. Lastly, the video shows the difference between a cash and accrual income statement.

To view this video and find additional information on the farm income statement, visit: <http://agecon.okstate.edu/efarmmanagement/income.asp> .

More information on this and other farm management topics may be found: 1) by contacting your nearest Extension Educator 2) on the e-farm management website (<http://agecon.okstate.edu/efarmmanagement/index.asp>) or 3) on the OSU Ag Econ YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/OkStateAgEcon>).
