The OSU-KSU Farm Bill Decision Tool is live and can be downloaded using the link below!
http://agecon.okstate.edu/faculty/publications/farmbill%2031Jan2020.xlsm

Like in 2014, this is a 'macro enabled' Excel spreadsheet, so you will need to allow macros when you open it in Excel. The user manual is included in the tool, and is also attached. Please send questions to Eric DeVuyst (eric.devuyst@okstate.edu) or me (amy.hagerman@okstate.edu). Please fill out the survey via the link on the results tab! We need that feedback for our funding agency reports and to justify the continued maintenance of the tool.

2020 Annual RMC Prescribe Burn Association Membership Dinner & Meeting
February 11, 2020, 6 pm, at the Roger Mills County Fair Barn in Cheyenne.
We hope you will join us for dinner and our annual meeting. If you have questions, feel free to contact Greg Allen or Scott Locke. Annual dues will be payable at the meeting. Thanks. Hope to see you there.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Dean of the Division of Agriculture Science and Natural Resources and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of $92.00 for 220 copies

Danny P. Cash

OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

ROGER MILLS COUNTY
OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
P O BOX 9
CHEYENNE OK 73628

February 2020

Roger Mills Ag Newsletter

OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

P. O. Box 9 · Cheyenne, Oklahoma 73628 · (580) 497-3339

Preventing Cold Stress in Calves

Rosslyn Biggs, DVM, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist and Director of Cont. Education

Producers have a tremendous investment in getting a healthy calf on the ground. A well-developed plan to monitor cows and heifers during calving season is crucial, particularly during the weather extremes of the year. Both severe heat and severe cold impact calf survival, and advanced preparation can help address both cow and calf needs. Calves born during the winter have a unique set of requirements.

The first part of a well-developed calving plan begins before calving season. Take a close look at the cows and heifers and evaluate their appropriateness as dams. Age, disposition, history of calving difficulty, ability to maintain body condition and past illnesses are just a few criteria that impact the selection of females.

One way to avoid calf births during extreme weather is to schedule a defined breeding period that leads to a distinct calving season. Plan for calves to hit the ground in months with moderate temperatures if possible.

To help mitigate bad weather, insure that both cows and heifers are well prepared. Ongoing fetal programming research continues to support that maternal health, and in particular, nutrition at all phases of gestation, can have long lasting impacts for calves throughout their lives. Limiting nutrition in the cow or heifer does not decrease the birth size of the calf and does significantly more harm than good. In addition to nutrition, vaccinate dams appropriately and limit stress, especially during the last trimester.

One option to limit stress is to control the environment. Maintain clean, dry calving areas. Consider providing shelters for animals to escape the weather. However, remember that as animals congregate in shelters, there can be an increase in the pathogen load in the area.

Additionally, be prepared if a female presents with calving difficulty. Develop a plan to transport to a veterinary clinic or have excellent onsite facilities to address a dystocia.

Next, monitor pregnant females closely for signs of calving. A calf that is too large relative to maternal size is the most common cause of calving difficulty followed by incorrect positioning of the calf. Early intervention at the first signs of calving is critical for both calf and dam survival. A calf not delivered in a timely manner will need intervention by a skilled individual. Heifers that labor in Stage 2 of parturition for longer than an hour and cows that labor longer than thirty minutes should be examined immediately.

Remember to discuss your calving plan with your veterinarian. Communicate well before there is a calving problem. Your veterinarian can work with you and your team to develop protocols so everyone is on the same page when a problem occurs. Your veterinarian can also help you develop essentials for a calving kit.

Continued on the following page...

Continued from the previous page... **(Preventing Cold Stress in Calves)**

Items to consider in your calving kit may include:

- -Veterinary emergency number in cell phone
- -Breeding dates and due dates with associated sire
- -Calving book
- -Flashlights with batteries
- -Eartags with marker
- -Tag applicator
- -Iodine for navel
- -Catch pen and functional chute
- -Esophageal feeder
- -Colostrum or colostrum replacer
- -Lariat
- -Disinfectants
- -5 gallon bucket
- -Calf puller in working order
- -Obstetrical chains and handles
- -Calf sled
- -Syringes and needles
- -Exam and obstetrical gloves
- -Obstetrical lube
- -Clean towels
- -Straw or hay for bedding
- -Halter
- -Sorting stick
- -Large trash bags
- -Medications prescribed by your veterinarian such as pain medications and sedatives

Following delivery, the goal is to see the calf up and nursing as soon as possible. Delays in a calf receiving colostrum have both short and long-term impact on the immune system. Ideally, a calf should receive colostrum within the first two hours of life. Administering colostrum to calves without a suckle reflex should be done with extreme caution due to the increased risk of aspiration pneumonia. Milking the dam or maintaining a supply of frozen colostrum are the best options for colostrum replacement. Commercially prepared colostrum replacer is acceptable if a cow-derived source is not available.

Weather impacts a calf's ability to thermoregulate. Calves born in extreme cold quickly utilize all body fat reserves, putting them at risk. Exposure to wind can exacerbate cold temperatures. Assess body temperature if a calf appears stressed.

The best way to monitor a calf's temperature is with a rectal thermometer. Inexpensive digital thermometers work well and make it easy to evaluate progress when warming the calf. If a calf's temperature falls below 100 degrees F, gradually raise that temperature. Bring the calf indoors and out of the elements if needed. When used appropriately, warm water baths, blankets and warming boxes are all options to rewarm a calf.

Be careful not to damage the skin of the animal by either rubbing too vigorously or placing them too close to heaters. Additionally, do not to wash off the odor of amniotic fluid. This helps prevent rejection by the dam. Warm oral or intravenous fluids as advised by a veterinarian can also make a big difference. Once a calf is warm and has been fed colostrum, return it to its mother.

Working with your veterinarian to develop protocols before calving season can reduce stress and lead to more successful outcomes if an emergency arises. Your veterinarian can guide and train you and your team on how and when to call for assistance. In the event that resources are unavailable or overwhelmed, Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU CVM) Hospital offers services to assist producers in urgent need. OSU CVM offers 24-hour intensive care provided by a team of food animal specialists.

About the author: Dr. Rosslyn Biggs is an assistant clinical professor at Oklahoma State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. She earned her DVM degree from Oklahoma State University and currently serves as a Beef Cattle Extension Specialist and Director of Continuing Education.

OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

February dates set for OSU Chisholm Trail Beef Improvement Conference

Cattle producers looking to maximize the efficiency of their operations should register now to attend one of two **Chisholm Trail Beef Improvement Conference events set for Feb. 20 in Lawton and Feb. 21 in Fairview.**

Sponsored by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the conference is a merger of two past successful events: The Cattle Trails Wheat and Stocker Conference and the Northwest Oklahoma Beef Conference.

"We will be focusing primarily on herd health this year," said Dana Zook, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension area livestock specialist headquartered in Enid. "A variety of options are available to vaccinate cattle, but the process can be confusing. Every sector of the beef industry is affected by the added costs of treating animal sickness."

Cost is $25 per participant to each of the events, which will begin at 8:45 a.m. and finish by 2:30 p.m. On-site registration with refreshments will start at 8 a.m.

The Feb. 20 event will take place at the Great Plains Coliseum, located at 920 SW Sheridan in Lawton. The Feb. 21 Fairview event will take place at the Major County Fairgrounds, located at 808 E. Highland St. in Fairview. The conference agenda will be the same for both events.

Registration forms for both conference events are available through all OSU Cooperative Extension county offices.

"We are asking participants to pre-register as it greatly aids our planning for meals, refreshment breaks and conference materials, helping us to ensure everyone has the best conference experience possible," Zook said.

Dr. Rosslyn Biggs, OSU Cooperative Extension beef cattle specialist and veterinarian, will kick off the conference sessions with an overview of proper vaccine handling and storage techniques, and basic administration protocols.

Dr. Bruss Horn, veterinarian and owner of the Verden Veterinary Clinic, will then provide the latest insights about stress and pain management in calves. He also will lead a discussion about the importance and ease of testing procedures relative to persistently infected bovine viral diarrhea calves.

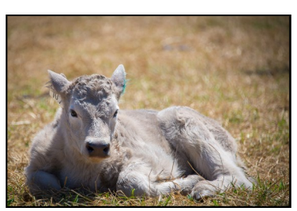
The OSU College of Veterinary Medicine's Dr. John Gilliam will lead participants through discussions about the importance of calf vaccinations, including the impact of modified live and killed vaccines.

Following the sponsored lunch, John Richeson, associate professor of animal science at West Texas A&M University, will highlight how calf health links to feedyard performance.

The final afternoon session will be led by Derrell Peel, OSU Cooperative Extension livestock marketing specialist. Peel will showcase how animal health begins at the ranch.

"It's our hope to not only increase awareness about cattle health, but also showcase how the concerns of individual sectors are linked one to another," said Marty New, OSU Cooperative Extension area livestock specialist headquartered in Duncan.

Additional information about the:
2020 Chisholm Trail Beef Improvement Conference events is available by contacting New by email at **marty.new@okstate.edu** or phone **580-255-3674**, or Zook by email at **dana.zook@okstate.edu** or phone **580-237-7677**.



New OSU Beardless Wheat Released

OK Corral, a new beardless wheat variety, has been released by Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, with seed available through Oklahoma Foundation Seed Stocks.

The variety will introduce greater versatility to farming and ranching operations while ensuring a high-quality crop through the end of the supply chain. It is highly recommended by OSU's Wheat Improvement Team for grain-only, dual-purpose and graze-out or hay production.

"OK Corral is our best all-around beardless variety since Deliver, which was released in 2004, and overall is the most attractive beardless variety in the Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat marketplace today," said Brett Carver, lead wheat breeder and holder of the OSU Wheat Genetics Chair. "The newly released variety is expected to service wheat acres throughout Oklahoma, but especially, western areas of the state as well as northwestern Texas.

" Followers of wheat breeding programs and the extensive testing candidate varieties undergo for many years may recognize OK Corral by its experimental name of OK-12206. OK Corral meets or exceeds the recommended quality targets approved by the Hard Winter Wheat Quality Targets Committee.

Carver said OK Corral is perhaps the strongest OSU-developed variety placed in commercial production since Doublestop CL Plus for diseases common to Oklahoma.

"I like to say what OK Corral does best is corral so many of the diseases wheat producers face in our state: powdery mildew, soilborne mosaic, spindle streak mosaic, Septoria leaf blotch, leaf rust and stripe rust," he said.

The OSU Wheat Improvement Team approaches breeding a beardless variety the same as it approaches the development of a bearded variety. How does the variety perform in the field or pasture, and how does it perform in the mill and, ultimately, at the dinner table?

"Cattle producers who use wheat pasture tend to focus first and foremost on how a beardless variety performs as forage for their animals," Carver said. "At OSU, we like to give growers of a beardless variety the extra option of being able to take advantage of a dualpurpose graze-and-grain opportunity that may enhance the economic bottom line of their operations.

" OK Corral is on an equal level for milling and baking characteristics with Smith's Gold, a HRW wheat appearing consistently on preferred variety lists published by the wheat processing industry. The baking water absorption is no different, although the farinograph did show OK Corral came in less. The farinograph is a tool used for measuring the shear and viscosity of a mixture of flour and water.

"In the period from 2016 to 2018, during which dough strength of hard red winter wheat reached historically low levels in the southern Great Plains states, farinograph peak development time and stability for OK Corral averaged about seven to 15 minutes," Carver said. "OK Corral's overall milling yield, dough strength and baking quality are very good."

Also, beardless wheat varieties typically tend to exhibit a lower test weight than bearded varieties. As an example, OK Corral is about one to two pounds lower in test weight than another popular OSU-developed variety, Gallagher, which is about average for a bearded variety.

OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Continued New OSU Beardless Wheat Released

"If you look at data across the Great Plains, the test weight for OK Corral tends to drop the further you get away from its primary target region of use, which is western Oklahoma and northwestern Texas," Carver said. "The yield stays consistent, but the test weight drops outside the expected primary use area. Looking at just the target region, the test weight stays where it should."

Interestingly, the lower test weight of OK Corral is not linked to a reduction in flour yield or extraction rate, even at the same flour ash level observed in Smith's Gold.

"OK Corral really maximizes what it has to full advantage," Carver said.

The OSU Wheat Improvement Team does not often release a new variety in September. When it does the reason typically is the availability of seed.

"Foundation seed for OK Corral is immediately available, to the tune of several thousand bushels," Carver said.

More information is available at Oklahoma Foundation Seed Stocks.

Not to be overlooked is the lineage of excellence that comes with being an OSU-developed wheat variety. For a number of years, the four most popular varieties planted to wheat acres annually in Oklahoma have been varieties developed by OSU's Wheat Improvement Team.

"Genetically improved cultivars developed by our interdisciplinary Wheat Improvement Team address the growing conditions in Oklahoma and the southern Great Plains, and provide the best opportunity for growers in this region," said Keith Owens, OSU associate vice president of the statewide Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station system, the official research arm of the division.

Owens, Carver and the entire OSU Wheat Improvement Team are excited about the release of the new beardless variety.

"Hessian fly resistance, acid soil tolerance and wide disease resistance, combined with yield potential to allow for grazing and then producing a good grain crop after the cattle are taken off, makes OK Corral a high-quality product that should be attractive to many wheat growers," Carver said.

Only the third scientist to hold the position of wheat breeder at OSU since the 1940s, Carver said part of the staying power of those in the role is because each recognized the importance of the work undertaken.

"More than a major contributor to the state economy, wheat is and has long been vitally important in helping to alleviate hunger, and with a projected 9 billion people on Earth by the year 2050, that capability is more important than ever," he said. "A billion people currently consume fewer than 1,800 calories a day. Wheat provides 21 percent of all food calories consumed in the world."

Control Peach and Nectarine Leaf Curl Now!

David Hillock

It is common to get calls in early summer by homeowners wanting to know what is wrong with their peach or nectarine tree. Infected leaves pucker, become deformed, and turn yellow or reddish-brown. Unfortunately, by that time, when symptoms are most evident, it is too late to spray anything. Leaf Curl is the culprit and is one of the most commonly encountered diseases in unsprayed orchards and home yards during cold, wet springs. Diseased leaves eventually wither and fall from the trees. Although new leaves emerge from dormant buds, their growth requirements reduce yield and may weaken the trees.

To prevent leaf curl disease, spray peaches and nectarines with a fungicide before bud swell (EPP-7319 – Home Tree Fruit Production and Pest Management). Apply when the trees are dormant and temperatures are above 40 degrees F, usually mid-February through March depending on weather and location in the state. Bordeaux mixtures, copper flowable fungicides, chlorothalonil, and lime-sulfur sprays are commonly used for control of leaf curl.

GARDEN TIPS FOR FEBRUARY!

David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist

Trees & Shrubs

- Fertilize trees, including fruit and nut trees and shrubs, according to a soil test. (HLA-6412)
- Most bare-rooted trees and shrubs should be planted in February or March. (HLA-6414)
- Finish pruning shade trees, summer flowering shrubs and hedges. Spring blooming shrubs such as forsythia may be pruned immediately after flowering. **Do not** top trees or prune just for the sake of pruning. (HLA-6409)
- Look for arborvitae aphids on many evergreen shrubs during the warmer days of early spring.
- Gall-producing insects on oaks, pecans, hackberries, etc. need to be sprayed prior to bud break of foliage.
- Dormant oil can still be applied to control mites, galls, overwintering aphids, etc. (EPP-7306)

Fruit & Nuts

- Spray peaches and nectarines with a fungicide for prevention of peach leaf curl before bud swell. (EPP-7319)
- Mid-February is a good time to begin pruning and fertilizing trees and small fruits.
- Collect and store graftwood for grafting pecans later this spring.
- Begin planting blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, grapes, asparagus and other perennial garden crops later this month.
- Choose fruit varieties that have a proven track record for Oklahoma's conditions. Fact Sheet HLA-6222 has a recommended list.

Flowers

- Force spring flowering branches like forsythia, quince, peach, apple, and weigela for early bloom indoors.
- Forced spring bulbs should begin to bloom indoors. Many need 10-12 weeks of cold, dark
- conditions prior to blooming.
- Feed tulips in early February.
- Wait to prune roses in March.

Turf

- A product containing glyphosate plus a broadleaf herbicide can be used on **dormant** Bermuda in January or February when temperatures are above 50 degrees F for winter weed control.

Vegetables

- Cool-season vegetable transplants can still be started for late spring garden planting.
- By February 15 many cool-season vegetables like cabbage, carrots, lettuce, peas and potatoes can be planted. (HLA-6004)

General

- Base any plant fertilization on a soil test. For directions, contact your county Extension Educator.
- Provide feed and unfrozen water for your feathered friends.
- Clean up birdhouses before spring tenants arrive during the middle of this month.
- Avoid salting sidewalks for damage can occur to plant material. Use alternative commercial products, sand or kitty litter for traction.

OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Transitioning the Farm or Ranch

The recent Extension community forums found that transitioning a farm or ranch is a major concern for OSU Extension clients. Educators can learn more about this topic and become better equipped to help clients in this area using the resources found on the Farm Transitions website at:

http://agecon.okstate.edu/farmtransitions/

The resources collected there are designed to provide access to videos, publications, PowerPoints, calculators and websites to assist producers in the farm transition process.

One key resource is the Farm Transition workbook which explains and addresses topics including communication, succession planning, estate planning, and implementing a farm or ranch transition.

Beckham, Washita, Custer , Roger Mills & Kiowa Counties

March 10, 2020

Speakers :
Health Sanders & Josh Bushong - Updates for Pesticide Applicators
Jerry Goodson– Insect Update
Seth Byrd– Cotton Update
Todd Baughman- Weed Update and Dicamba Training

Start at 9:30 a.m - 12:00pm at Western Technology Center Burns Flatt (Conference Center)

***Lunch Provided ***

EXTENSION

RSVP to reserve your spot at the meeting
Contact Greg Hartman @ Beckham County/ Washita County 580-928-2139 or 580-832-3356
Ron Wright @ Custer County 580-323-2291,
Dan Cook @ Roger Mills 580-497-3339 &
Travis Tacker @ Kiowa County 580-726-5643

Feb.10 Oklahoma Farmers Market & Agritourism Conf. Hilton Gardens Inn & Edmond Conference Center, 2833 Conference Dr./Edmond, OK/ Registration: https://bit.ly/38ZwVgO

Feb.13 Oklahoma Crop Improvement Conference /Hilton Gardens Inn Edmond, OK/8:00am Reg. Info/ 405-744-7108

March 3 2020 OK Irrigation Conference/Western Oklahoma State College/Altus< Ok/9:30am/To Register go to: http://oces.okstate.edu/caddo/oklahoma-irrigation-conference

Roger Mills County Spring Livestock Show and Bonus Auction

February 16-18, 2020
Ag Pavilion
Cheyenne, Oklahoma

Thank you for supporting the YOUTH in Roger Mills County !!!

Roger Mills County Spring Livestock Show Schedule:

Sunday, February 16, 2020
Weigh In for All Livestock will be at 6:00pm

Monday, February 17, 2020

Educational Display	9:00 a.m.
Swine Show	9:00 a.m.
Sheep Show	Following Swine
Goat Show	Following Sheep
Food Fair	3:30-4:30 p.m.
Livestock Judging Contest	5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Beef Show	9:00 a.m.
Dairy Show	Following Beef

Tuesday Evening, February 18, 2020 — Cheyenne Ag Pavilion

Bonus Auction Meal (FREE)....5:00 p.m.
BONUS AUCTION.....6:00 p.m.

Oklahoma Irrigation Association will hold its first 2020 meeting on **February 12th** from 12PM to 1:30PM. Anyone working in irrigation or interested in joining the association is invited. The meeting with be held at the Oklahoma County Extension Office, 2500 NW 63rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK.
Election of officers, dues, and goals for 2020 will be discussed. Lunch will be provided by Hunter Industries.
If you have any questions about the meeting or the association, submit your questions through this link:
https://www.oklahomairrigationassociation.net/talk-to-us.html

OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE