



## AGRICULTURE

Winter/Early Spring 2024 Edition

# Stephens and Jefferson County Newsletter

## Happy 2024!

As I am writing this newsletter, it's hard to believe a New Year will be starting soon! Kids will be going back to school after Christmas break. Basketball, wrestling, weightlifting, and other sports and activities will be in full swing! Jackpot, local, and district shows will be happening as kids will be preparing for their county junior livestock shows and then onto OYE. If you have time, please come out to one of these shows and support these youth. They are learning invaluable skills by working with their animals, showing, and judging. These kids are the future of agriculture, the skills they learn will carry us into the future. Some of them may be the 5<sup>th</sup> generation to farm or ranch, some may have their own show animal operation and raise the next champion, and some may become a geneticist or a doctor and find cures for diseases or cancer. Support your local ag kids!

HAPPY  
*New Year*

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# OSU Extension Offers

## Master Gardening Short Course

Have you ever wondered what that weed in your yard is or how to take better care of the plants in your house? Do you want to expand your knowledge of vegetable gardening or caring for the trees in your yard? Oklahoma Extension has an educational program for you! Starting in January through February, we will be offering a Master Gardening Short Course for anyone who wants to learn about lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, and gardens.

The Oklahoma Extension Master Gardening Short Course will be held on Tuesdays starting January 23<sup>rd</sup> and go for six weeks ending February 27, 2024. The classes will be held from 10:00am to 3:00pm. To be named a Master Gardening Graduate you must attend 12 classes. So, this course is offered once a year receiving half the credit this year and the other half of the classes in 2025.

This year we will be offering 6 classes in Cotton and Stephens Counties. On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will kick off this year's education learning about Plant Pathology at the Cotton County Fairgrounds in Walters. On January 30, we will be covering Botany and Plant Physiology at the Stephens County Fairgrounds in Duncan. Turfgrass will be our topic on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Cotton County Fairgrounds in Walters with the leading turf specialist in the state Dr. Dennis Martin. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be back in Duncan at the Stephens County Fairgrounds to learn about Raised Beds and Organic Gardening with our favorite Horticulture Educator, Julia Laughlin. February 20<sup>th</sup>, we will cover Pesticide Use and Safety at the Cotton County Fairgrounds in Walters. February 27<sup>th</sup> will conclude our classes with the topic about Landscape Design at the Stephens County Fairgrounds in Duncan.

The course is open to area residents with a high school diploma, who are interested in learning the latest Oklahoma State University research-based home horticulture information and practices. The registration fee is \$60/1<sup>st</sup> year participants and \$30 for continuing participants and is nonrefundable. All past Master Gardeners Graduates are welcome, and classes are \$10 for the set. There will be a virtual option for individuals who request that service. Registration Fees cover weekly lecture from experts in the field, master gardener manual comprised of OSU Fact sheets ranging from topics on soils to Oklahoma Proven plants, fertilizers, and pesticides, and much more. For information and registration please contact Kimbreley Davis at the Cotton County OSU Extension Office at 580-875-3136 or [Kimbrey.Davis@okstate.edu](mailto:Kimbrey.Davis@okstate.edu) or Shylan Milligan at the Stephens County OSU Extension Office at 580-255-0510 or [Shylan.Milligan@okstate.edu](mailto:Shylan.Milligan@okstate.edu)

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## Upcoming Events

**Red River Crops Conference** – Planning for Success- Crop Production Information Designed for SW Oklahoma and the Texas Rolling Plains – January 17 – 18, 2024 – Jackson County Expo Center, Contact the Tillman County OSU Extension office at 580-335-2515.

**Master Gardener Course** – January 23 – February 27, 2024 – with Cotton County Extension

**Pecan Crop Course** - Enrollment for the 2024 Oklahoma Pecan Management Course is now open! Enroll early! Last year, the class filled up in a couple of weeks. February 27 will be the first meeting. Other dates are April 2, May 7, July 2, August 6, September 10, & October 15. The class meets one Tuesday afternoon each month from 1-5pm at the Cimarron Valley Research Station near Perkins. We will not meet in June but encourage participants to attend the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Associational meeting. This year it will be held in Ardmore on May 30-June 1. The fee to sign-up is \$250 per person. The course is limited to 35 participants and the deadline for enrollment is February 16. For more information contact Becky Carroll - Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department Oklahoma State University, Stillwater 405-744-6139.

**Stephens County Junior Livestock Show** - February 19 -23, 2024. Swine show Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>; Broilers, Sheep, and Goats show Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>; and Cattle show on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Jefferson County Junior Livestock Show** – February 28 – March 1, 2024. Barns open on Wednesday. Skillathon is Wednesday. Sheep, goats, and cattle show Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00 p.m. Swine show begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Premium sale is on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**OYE** – Gilts = March 12 -15; Does, heifers, and ewes = March 14 – 18; barrows, and wether lambs = March 18 - 21; and Steers and wether goats = March 19 - 21

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