

Basic Skills Workshops

Learn valuable skills for farm and ranch!
Hands-on Instruction in Small Groups

Workshop #1, May 12th @ Poteau, OK
Workshop #2, June 11th @ Lawton, OK
Workshop #3, June 30th @ Warner, OK
Workshop #4, Sept 15th @ Enid, OK

- Soil test and forage/pasture I.D.
- Sprayer calibration
- Chainsaw demo and safety
- Fence building
- Trailer backing
- Compost basics
- Small engine repair
- Organic vegetable production
- Tractor maintenance and safety
- Animal care and feed labels
- Garden irrigation

Basic Info for Basic Skills Workshops

- Choose four one-hour sessions
- \$20 for the day includes materials and lunch
- Pre-registration required
- Each workshop limited to 50 participants; register early
- Held rain or shine; bring a lawn chair
- Check-in for 8-9am
- Sessions begin at 9:00am and end at 3:30pm

Visit www.kerrcenter.com for more information or call Kerr Center at 918-647-9123.

BORERS ON PINES?

If you see a row of holes on pine trees, the problem is not borers. Borer holes will be randomly spaced over the trunk. Holes that are in a horizontal (most common) or vertical row are caused by the feeding of the yellow-bellied sapsucker. This woodpecker makes shallow holes and then feeds on the sap released from the wounds or on insects attracted to the site.

Other trees this bird often attacks include maples and Bradford pear, but about any tree species is a potential target. Surprisingly, certain trees may become favorites to the exclusion of nearby trees of the same species. Damage to mature, established trees is usually slight and temporary though small trees may be girdled and killed. To control them, you have a couple of options:

- Wrap the trunk with fine wire mesh in the area of damage. This may discourage them if left in place for several months. The mesh MUST be adjusted every six months or removed when no longer needed. If the mesh is left in place, the tree will likely be girdled.
- Use Tanglefoot on the area of damage. This is a sticky material that is applied to tree trunks to capture insects that crawl up the trunk. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers do not like to put their feet in the sticky material.

This newsletter is published monthly by the Beaver County OSU Extension Office, PO Box 339, Courthouse, Beaver, OK 73932 (580) 625-3464, and is one way of communicating educational information. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied.

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AG NEWS

Division of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Oklahoma State University

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WHEAT VARIETY PLOT TOUR



May 23, 2007 — 9:00am
Kenton Patzkowsky Farm - Highway 412
1 mile South Old Town Balko



May 2007

The tour will begin Wednesday, May 23rd at 9:00am with coffee and donuts brought and sponsored by Bill Goodloe of the White Wheat Producers Alliance of Guymon.

Dr Brett Carver, OSU Wheat Genetics and Breeding Specialist will be present to discuss the varieties and experimental lines represented in the trial.

Rick Kochenower, OPREC Agronomist will be present, as well as Oklahoma Wheat Commission Director Mark Hodges.

North Central Oklahoma Research Station Wheat Tour

Lahoma, Oklahoma May 18, 2007 9:00am—Registration 9:30am—Tour

Tour Schedule

Time	Stop A	Stop B	Stop C	Stop D
9:30 – 9:50	Ramp Fertilizer Strips	Wheat Improvement Team	Wheat Marketing	Fallow System Weed Management
10:00 – 10:20	Ramp Fertilizer Strips	Soybeans in NW OK	Ryegrass Control	Wheat Marketing
10:30 – 10:50	Canola Production	Wheat Improvement Team	Insect Management	Fallow System Weeds Mgt
11:00 – 11:20	Canola Production	Crop Rotations	Wheat Varieties	Ryegrass Control
11:30 – 11:50	Insect Management	Soybeans in NW OK	Crop Rotations	Wheat Varieties


Program Topics and Speakers:

Canola Production	Mark Boyles
Ryegrass Control	Tom Peeper
Soybeans in NW Oklahoma	Chad Godsey
Wheat Varieties	Jeff Edwards
Wheat Improvement Team	Brett Carver & Bob Hunger
Crop Rotation	Rick Kochenower
Wheat Marketing	Kim Anderson & J.C. Hobbs
Ramp Fertilizer Strips	Randy Taylor, Bill Raun, & John Solie
Insect Management	Tom Royer
Fallow System Weed Mgt	Case Medlin

Program Sponsors:

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma Agriculture Experiment Station

Lunch Sponsor:
Farm Credit of Enid

 Beaver County Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma State University
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BEWARE OF EARLY STARTS IN ROSE GARDENS



It's difficult to find motivation to prepare for a summer garden with winter chill still in the air. But, one of the best times to begin a picture-perfect rose garden is while the cold air is still looming.

It's also a good time to review pests and diseases that can present a threat to your rose garden. Common pests that harm roses are aphids, spider mites, and thrips. In fact, most of these pests don't kill roses directly, but instead damage parts of the rose or stunt its growth. The Internet provides a wonderful resource to plan a course of action against these annoyances. Sites such as Gardening123.com provide helpful advice to make your garden free of pests.

Diseases that can cripple rose gardens include black spots, mildew, and rust wilt. Most of these diseases strike in the damp spring months.

- Stay alert for black spots, a disease prevalent in late spring. In the late, damp spring weather, black spot spores, which have overwintered in the soil, are blown or splashed onto the rose by rainwater. When the weather warms up, the disease spreads throughout the entire rose bush. Affected leaves die and fall into the soil for the cycle to begin again.
- Mildew often appears in the spring as light gray powdery patches on the leaves, shoots, and flowers. Mildew is caused by cool and overly damp conditions. To prevent mildew, make sure there is lots of space and air circulation between flowers. Be sure to avoid overhead watering; rather water the root of the plant, and give it plenty of time.
- Rust wilt, a common disease, can be prevented by careful plant hygiene. You can tell rust has entered your rose garden by reddish spots on the leaves. Be sure to remove all fallen leaves from around your roses to ensure the disease isn't transferred from plant to plant as they decompose. Prune the plants to provide free circulation of air.

Once the planning is underway and the chilly air gives way to favorable gardening conditions, avoid working in the garden too early in the season; starting too early can put your roses at risk for disease. However, there are some preliminary steps you can take before warmer weather takes hold.

To create a happy garden, begin by raking and removing debris left over from winter. Clearing your rose garden now lessens your chance of diseases fermenting in the spring months.

When planting rose bushes, make sure to carefully follow soil and light requirements, and pay special attention to plant the rose bush at the appropriate depth. Read the tag on the rose bush for water and fertility requirements.

Another important aspect of proper rose care is mulching. Mulch helps protect roses and plants from a spring freeze. Pine boughs and sawdust are also highly recommended forms of mulch for roses.

Mid-April is an ideal time to begin pruning roses as they start to bud. Prune side shoots to about four inches long. Pruning makes them less vulnerable to strong chilly spring winds, and also helps prevent rust.

Healthy roses benefit from lots of sunshine. On average, roses should receive about six hours of sunlight a day. Not enough sunlight makes roses susceptible to disease.

To recap: Keep an eye out for common diseases, give your roses plenty of nutrients and sunlight, and allow plenty of space for your roses to breathe and grow. The proper steps can ensure roses that are the envy of your neighborhood.

PILL BUGS A.K.A. ROLY-POLIES

Chances are you've overturned a rotting log to come face-to-face with creepy crawly roly-polies. Also known as pill bugs, they resemble tiny armadillos, with a grey armor shell and small legs. They take up residence in dark, damp areas, including beneath stones and in decaying trees.

You've probably never thought that your backyard would be home to crustaceans, but pill bugs are a land-loving member of that class of species that includes lobsters and crabs. Their protective exoskeleton, antennae and jointed legs are distinct signs of crustaceans. And as if they didn't retain enough aquatic qualities in the first place, roly-polies require a moist environment to survive and even have gills.

Roly-polies earned the nickname "pill bugs" from protecting themselves by curling up into a ball when frightened, looking like a small pill. Roly-polies are about five to 15 millimeters long with brown or grayish armor plates and seven pairs of legs. They are often confused with their twin, sow bugs.

Feeding on decaying leaves, tender roots of seedlings, and other vegetation, pill bugs are a generally harmless inhabitant of most states.

However, green house gardeners and people living in Southern states are most affected by large populations of roly-polies, which cause destruction of vegetation, especially hosta plants. They are ubiquitous breeders, with females producing up to 200 eggs at a time.

By feeding on the roots, stems, and leaves of young plants, pill bugs can be detrimental to the survival of plants. They gravitate to the moist soil of potted plants and are known to take residence in dank corners of basements.

While pill bugs are a rather mild pest, they are enough of an irritant and a problem to young plants that gardeners would want to dispose of the population. This can be done, for instance, by spreading and watering into the ground a powder insecticide, such as Sevin.

However, pill bugs can prove helpful because they ingest decayed plant material, ridding the environment of rotting plant matter. They act like worms by helping to loosen the soil as they crawl through it, making more space available for plant roots to grow.

Rose photo courtesy of New York Botanical Garden. Pill bug photo courtesy of Samford University.



WHEN ARE PROTEIN & ENERGY SUPPLEMENTS NEEDED?

Supplementation can dramatically affect performance during all seasons of grazing. Balancing dietary protein and energy in supplements is important to ensure successful response to supplementation. Generally, the nutrient that is most limiting or deficient should be supplied first. The key is to have a good idea of the quality of the forage being grazed and to adjust the supplement used accordingly.

All supplements are a source of energy and protein, however those feedstuffs that are higher in their concentration of crude protein (CP) are classified as protein supplements (i.e., soybean meal, cottonseed meal, corn gluten meal, etc.) and those with lower CP concentrations relative to energy would be classified as energy supplements (i.e., corn, sorghum, wheat).

The ultimate goal of supplementation is to optimize performance or gains, but the value of the gains must be examined from an economic standpoint. The economics of supplementation should be scrutinized within each individual operation as discussed by Brethour (11). The value of added gain needs to be weighed against how that extra weight affects market price and the costs associated with the labor, equipment, etc., it took to feed the supplement, above the cost of the supplement itself. Because many factors can affect the responses, each producer's supplementation program should be tailored to the individual enterprise. The benefits of supplementation can be numerous:

1. Implants will increase gains more in cattle that are supplemented compared to those that are not.
2. More uniform gains are often achieved with supplementation.
3. Feeding a supplement provides the carrier to feed an ionophore.
4. Supplemented cattle often perform better in the feedlot, probably because they are already partially adapted to grain and an ionophore.
5. Hand-feeding tends to quiet the cattle and make them more manageable, particularly at sale time, causing less weight loss.
6. Supplementation forces a closer observation of the cattle, which can be very valuable.

Source: Kansas State

Breeding & Selection

DEVELOP HEIFERS TO 50% OR 55% OF MATURE BODY WEIGHT

For many years, it was recommended yearling heifers be developed to reach 60-65% of their projected mature body weight (MBW) prior to the start of their first breeding season. Recent research indicates this recommendation may be lowered to 55% of MBW without jeopardizing first- and second-calf conception rates.

In a three-year University of Nebraska study, a total of 261 March-born heifer calves were developed to reach either 55% of MBW prior to a 45-day breeding season, or 50% of MBW prior to a 60-day breeding season.

Extending the breeding season by 15 days for the heifers developed to 50% of MBW resulted in pregnancy, calving and weaning rates comparable to heifers developed to 55% of MBW. And reduced development costs in the 50% system more than offset reduced income from lighter weaning weights caused by later calving dates, resulting in lower costs to produce one pregnant yearling heifer or two-year-old cow.

The results suggest developing heifers to 50% of MBW prior to their first breeding season is a feasible alternative for some producers (Creighton et al. 2005. Univ. of Nebraska Beef Cattle Report MP 83-A).

OBSERVE BULLS CLOSELY AS BREEDING SEASON BEGINS

By Glenn Selk

A good manager keeps an eye on his bulls during the breeding season to make sure that they are getting the cows bred. Occasionally a bull that has passed a breeding soundness exam may have difficulty serving cows in heat, especially after heavy service. Inability to complete normal service and low fertility are more detrimental than failure to detect cows in heat to calf crop percent. Such problems can best be detected by observing bulls while they work. Therefore producers should (if at all possible) watch bulls breed cows during the first part of each breeding season. If problems are apparent, the bull can be replaced while salvaging the remainder of the breeding season and next year's calf crop. Likewise a small proportion of bulls can wear out from heavy service and lose interest. These, too, will need to be replaced. The greater the number of cows allotted to each bull in the breeding pasture the more critical it is that every bull be ready to work every day of the breeding season.

Injuries to bulls during the breeding season are relatively common. When a bull becomes lame or incapable of breeding, because of an injury to his reproductive tract, he needs to be removed from the breeding pasture and replaced with another bull.