



# AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

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

Blaine County OSU Extension Service, 212 N. Weigle, Watonga, OK 734772 580-623-5195 July 2004

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## Wheatland Stocker Conference

### Woodward Conference

High Plains Vo-Tech Center  
Tuesday, August 3, 2004  
8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### Enid Conference

Cherokee Strip Conference Center  
Friday, August 6, 2004  
8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### Topics:

Food Safety Advances In Modern Beef Plants  
How Information & Technology in the Modern Beef Industry is Changing the Stocker Business  
Causes of Respiratory Disease, Identifying Sick Cattle & Selecting Antibiotic Treatment  
Stressed Stocker Cattle Nutrition  
Animal ID: The Oklahoma Program  
Beef Market Update

**Pre-register by July 30<sup>th</sup> for Woodward Conference & August 4<sup>th</sup> for Enid Conference by contacting 580-237-7677.**

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## Grapes are a 'Growing' Industry in Oklahoma

When you think about production agriculture in Oklahoma, fields of wheat, cotton or soybeans are most likely what come to mind. A relatively new agriculture venture in Oklahoma is the growing of grapes. To help bring attention to this up-and-coming arena, the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension, along with the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture and OSU's department of horticulture and landscape architecture is hosting the Oklahoma Wine Grape Production Field Day on July 24. The event will begin at 9 a.m. and will take place at the Oklahoma Fruit Research Station near Perkins. The afternoon sessions will be held at Woodland Park vineyard near Stillwater. There is no registration fee for the field day, but attendees are requested to pre-register for the event. The noon meal is sponsored by the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

Oklahoma is an up-and-coming grape growing state and currently has about 500 acres of land devoted to growing grapes, said Dean McGraw, OSU professor emeritus. "This field day will provide an opportunity to observe grape varieties, training systems and pest management practices," McGraw said. "It also will give attendees the chance to gain insight on the feasibility of grape production in Oklahoma." He said the Oklahoma wine Grape Production Field Day will be of interest to people who already are in the grape business or prospective grape growers. The field day will feature a number of talks and demonstrations from industry specialists at OSU and around the state. They will cover topics such as crop estimates, variety performance, training systems and disease and insect management. The grape industry has an impact of \$2 million farm gate value, plus an additional \$2 million of processed products and associated tourism value. The Oklahoma Fruit Research Station is located one half mile north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 177 and U.S. Highway 33, located north of Perkins.

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## Short Feeder Cattle Supply Has Calf Value at Premium

Greg Highfill

OCES Area Livestock Specialist

Cattle markets are again climbing to record levels. Cattle prices have an interesting feature, as the cattle weight increases the market price decreases. This is often referred to as the price “roll-back”. That is why each additional pound of calf sale weight is not worth the current market price but an amount distinctly less than market price. If you do the math, a typical pound of sale weight has historically been worth between 55 and 65 cents per pound. This price is referred to as the “value of gain”. The value of gain fluctuates as demand for different classes of cattle are established, but overall it remains relatively constant.

Over the last few months the value of gain has increased substantially. The current value of gain is over 80 cents per pound. This is uncommonly high. Experts reason that the shortage of cattle for feedlots is so great that there is tremendous demand for the lighter feeder cattle weight classes. With the tight feeder cattle supply, the value of gain could remain strong for some time.

The bottom line for cattle producers is that pounds of sale weight are at a premium. Producers should re-evaluate management options that cost effectively increase sale weight. The Oklahoma Gold feeding program I discussed last month has even greater economic return. Stocker producers should maximize gain by providing plentiful, high-quality forages and utilizing an effective implant program.

Cow-calf producers might want to evaluate creep feeding. Providing creep feed to nursing calves has not been an economically sound practice the last few years. Producers need to consider creep feed cost and expected value of gain.

Two basic options exist for creep feeding calves. The Oklahoma Silver program increases calf weight gain by supplying one pound of a high protein feed to increase forage intake. Given the excellent forage growth in the area, it would seem logical to convert this forage production to calf weight gain. The Silver program involves providing a salt limited, high-protein supplement often fed in mineral feeders placed inside a feeding area accessible to only the nursing calves through creep gates.

The second creep feeding strategy is the traditional feeding of a creep pellet. Usually a grain-based, low protein, self-fed supplement fed at the rate of 4 to 6 pounds per head per day. The expected ratio of pounds of creep feed to pounds of added calf weight gain ranges from eight to one up to twelve to one. Again, given the high value of gain, some producers will be able to economically increase calf sale weight. Contact your local OSU Extension Center for details on the Oklahoma Silver program and information on evaluating your creep feeding options.

## Sudden Oak Death

Mike Schnelle

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is a disease from the causal agent *Phytophthora ramorum*, a type of fungus. Besides this disease causing problems in European nurseries, in the United States both our forests and nurseries (particularly on the West Coast) are being affected. Although oak is mentioned in the disease’s common name, many other ornamental plants are affected. To date, at least 59 ornamentals are known to be susceptible with the list constantly being updated and expanded as scientists better understand this malady. In Oklahoma nurseries, Pieris, Honeysuckle, Rhododendron, Viburnum, Oak, Camellia and others need to be monitored. Just recently a major West Coast nursery, that routinely sells plant materials to Oklahoma, found that some of its stock is infected by the SOD organism. Unfortunately, some of that stock was shipped to eastern points that could have included Oklahoma. Fortunately, while other species of *Phytophthora* were found, *P. ramorum* tests have consistently been negative to date. Plant pathologists from OSU, Stillwater are now underway with their 2004 SOD Survey of Oklahoma nurseries.

## Potential Benefits of Growing Winter Canola in Oklahoma

- ❖ A crop rotation of winter canola and winter wheat may be an economically viable alternative to continuous winter wheat.
- ❖ Rotating winter canola with winter wheat should improve the marketability of the wheat because of improved consistency and quality after a canola rotation.
- ❖ Management of mixed infestations of problem weeds in wheat, such as cheat, ryegrass, jointed goatgrass, rescuegrass, wild oats, and feral rye, will be easier in canola since Assure II, PoastPlus, Select, or glyphosate (only for use in Roundup Ready canola) are all labeled for use on canola and they will control all of these weeds.
- ❖ Canola production would give wheat growers the opportunity to produce a commodity that is tied to a market other than the grain market. Canola would be tied closer to the oil-seed market. This gives farmers the opportunity to spread out their economic risk.
- ❖ Including canola into the cropping rotation will interfere with wheat disease and insect cycles and decrease these problems in the following wheat crop.
- ❖ Crop rotations have long been considered important for sustainable crop production. Recent research by Dr. Gene Krenzer showed a 4-year average wheat yield increase of 7.8 bushels/acre when wheat was rotated with winter field peas. However, unlike winter canola, the peas are not considered a profitable crop on their own.

Crop rotation has the potential to be a major part of the long-term weed management strategy, essential for Oklahoma to be a reliable supplier of high quality wheat.

### Site Location for Planting Winter Canola

Canola grows best in medium-textured, well-drained soils, but it will grow over a wide range of soil textures. A soil pH between 6.0 and 7.0 is optimal, and yields may be significantly reduced when the soil pH is below 5.5. Canola does not tolerate water-logged

conditions and should not be grown in fields prone to standing water, flooding, or poor drainage.

Germinating canola seedlings are very susceptible to many herbicides commonly used in other crops currently grown in Oklahoma. Rotation restrictions of these products are found on the product label and should be followed. Table 1 lists common herbicides used in wheat, corn, sorghum, and soybean crops and the waiting period after their application before canola can be seeded.

Table 1.

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- Ally – 10 months if pH <6.5, 18 months if pH > 6.5
  - Glean – 18 months
  - Finesse – Label not specific (14 to 18 months)
  - Amber – No sooner than 4 months – do a bioassay
  - Maverick – Not listed (10 to 14 months)
  - Harmony Extra – 60 days
  - Express – 60 days
  - Olympus – Field bioassay required
  - Osprey – 10 months
  - Atrazine – Second fall following application
  - Dual/Frontier – 18 months
  - Beyond/Raptor – 18 months

*Excerpt from Fact Sheet F-2130, Producing Winter Hardy Canola in Oklahoma*

This newsletter is one way of communicating educational information to the Citizens of Blaine County in the area of Agriculture. For free subscriptions, contact the Extension Office.

The information given is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

Sincerely,

Alvin Woodruff  
Extension Educator-Ag/4-H & CED  
Blaine County

***National, State Associations to present Risk Management Session in Enid***

“Marketing Your Way to Profitability” to be held Aug. 16

The Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association is teaming up with the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA), Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) to present a new risk management workshop, *Marketing Your Way to Profitability*. The session will be held Monday, Aug. 16, 2004 at the Chisholm Trail Expo Center in Enid, Okla.

The workshop features hands-on training for using futures and options and how to use the marketing tools in their operation. Errol Baxter, CME representative will teach the beginning level

course that includes J. C. Hobbs, OCES Area Ag Economist from Enid, updating the group on the current cattle market situation and outlook.

“Educational activities are just one way your association provides service for you,” says Steve Smola, OCA President. “The risk management session is designed to help cattlemen obtain tools that can help them be more profitable,” added Smola.

Registration is required for this event. Meals and breaks will be provided day with your registration fee. Registration fee will be \$20 if pre-registered by Aug. 10 and \$25 on the day of the meeting. For more information on the sessions and to register, contact Scott Dewald, Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association at 405/256-4391, [sdewald@okcattlemen.org](mailto:sdewald@okcattlemen.org) or Greg Highfill at 580/237-7677, [ghighfi@okstate.edu](mailto:ghighfi@okstate.edu).

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