



Nuttin' but News

Caddo County OSU Extension Center



AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

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

201 W. Okla., Anadarko, OK 73005 405/247-3376

<http://countyext.okstate.edu/caddo>

April 2007

Upcoming Agricultural Events

- April 5 Risk Management Meeting / Apache Banking Center / **Apache, OK** / Noon / Topic: Grain Sorghum Production
- April 6 Farmer's Market Vendor Meeting / Anadarko Community Library / **Anadarko, OK** / 2:00 PM
- April 14 Family Fun Fair / Caddo County Fairgrounds / **Anadarko, OK** / 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- April 19 Okanola Tour / Location TBA / **Apache, OK** / Noon / Tour no-till Round-Up Ready canola at 1:00 PM
- April 19 Okanola Tour / Location TBA / **Hinton, OK** / 6:00 PM / Tour conventional-till Round-Up Ready canola at 7:00 PM
- April 20 - April 21 Oklahoma Agriculture Sustainability Conference / National Weather Center / **Norman, OK** /
- April 28 Friends and Neighbors Day 2007 / USDA Grazinglands Research Station / **El Reno, OK** / 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM / pre-register by calling 405-262-5291
- May 5 Central Oklahoma Meat Goat Conference / Cleveland County Fairgrounds / **Norman, OK** / 9:00 AM / Register by April 26th by calling Justin Rogers 405-321-4774
- May 8 Grant County Musk Thistle Weevil Round-Up / Lion's Club Park / **Nash, OK** / 9:30 AM / 580-395-2134
- May 9 Alfalfa County Musk Thistle Weevil Round-Up / Mini-Mart / **Jet, OK** / 9:30 AM / 580-596-3131

Bull Soundness Exams, Do They Pay?

by Dave Sparks, OSU Area Animal Health Specialist

Lets look at three popular misconceptions about bull breeding soundness exams. The first is the idea that "He's been getting calves for several years, why would he have a problem now?" Things change. Bulls get infections, tumors, and injuries, all of which can reduce their effectiveness. Even just advancing age can lower a bull's fertility level.

The second thought is "This young bull just came from a production sale and he was guaranteed." Many bull sellers guarantee their bull in lieu of testing, not after testing. He might be guaranteed, but this isn't much help if you are not aware of a problem until next fall when you pregnancy test. In addition, if you don't get back to the seller until you know you have open cows, he may not honor the guarantee. He may feel that the problem is due to something that happened in the several months that the bull was in your possession.

Have new bulls tested soon after you get them home. The third misconception is that the purpose for checking bulls is to eliminate sterile bulls. There are not very many sterile bulls, but there are a lot of bulls with reduced fertility.

Bulls which do not settle their fair share of calves early in the season are contributing to poor reproductive efficiency. This can be even more costly than dead calves, although not as dramatic. A 21 day delay in breed back time costs you 35 pounds of calf at weaning time. With today's prices that can mean \$50.00. When you have several cows that conceive two or three heat cycles behind their optimum time, you have a significant loss of income, even though the costs to keep, breed, and feed that cow are the same. Once a cow becomes a late calver, there is probably never going to be anything you can do to catch her back up, so she will wean young, light calves every year.



Caddo County Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma State University
201 W Oklahoma
Anadarko OK 73005

Caddo County Cattlemen's Association will not meet in April. *We are encouraging members instead to attend the USDA Grazinglands Research Station "Friends & Neighbors Day 2007".*

Friends and Neighbors Day 2007 United States Department of Agriculture

Saturday, April 28, 2007

Sign up & Set up – 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Activities – 9:00 am to Noon

Lunch – Noon to 1:00 pm

Location: Grazinglands Research Laboratory, 4 miles west of El Reno, Exit #119 from I-40, and follow directional signs to Fort Reno Visitor Center. You will need to RSVP (ASAP) by calling 405-262-5291, toll free 1-888-608-2727, fax 405-262-0133, or by email to:

ElReno.Info@ars.usda.gov

It's Time to Check for Insects in Alfalfa.



Above: Spotted alfalfa aphids, an adult and 2 nymphs.

Below: Alfalfa weevil larva with black head and white mid-dorsal stripe.



David L. Nowlin
Ext. Educator: Agriculture, 4-H, & C.E.D.
david.nowlin@okstate.edu

Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. Robert Whitson, 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 Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at a cost of \$6.20 for 300 copies.