



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>

May 2007

Upcoming Agricultural Events

- 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
- May 10 OSU Wheat Variety Plot—Field Day / Jackson Farm / **Apache, OK** / 5:30 PM
- May 17 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan—Local Input Meeting / SWOSU Conference Center / **Weatherford, OK** / 6:30 PM
- May 22 - May 25 4-H Round-Up / OSU Campus / **Stillwater, OK**
- May 29 OSU Wheat College / Caddo-Kiowa Technology Center / **Fort Cobb, OK** / 6:30 PM
- June 17 - June 19 Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association 77th Annual Convention / Best Western Hotel / **Lawton, OK** / Registration form are at the Caddo Co OSU Ext. Office 405-247-3376

OSU Wheat College May 29th

We are having an interesting year of wheat production in Caddo County. Several questions have come up for producers; Did you need to use a fungicide? Did you spray at the right time? Should you be looking at a different variety? How are we going to manage fertility next year with prices as high as they are?

Dr. Jeff Edwards, OSU Wheat Specialist and Dr. Bob Hunger, OSU Plant Pathologist will be speaking on "Wheat Production and Wheat Diseases". There is no charge to attend. The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 29th at 6:30 PM at the Caddo-Kiowa Technology Center in Fort Cobb.

The First State Bank of Anadarko and Gracemont are sponsoring the meeting and the meal; so plan to come, eat, and discuss wheat.

OSU Wheat Variety Plot at Apache - May 10th

Dr. Jeff Edwards, OSU Wheat Specialist and Mark Hodges with the OSU Wheat Commission will be on hand to discuss (you guessed it...) wheat! The field day will be held Thursday, May 10th at 5:30 PM. The Apache COOP is cooking hamburgers again and it should be interesting to see how the wheat varieties look after a year when they actually had some rainfall and some disease pressure.

Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan - Local Input Meeting - May 17th

The Water Research Institute at OSU in conjunction with the Oklahoma Water Resource Board is providing Oklahoma citizens an opportunity to participate in revising the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan. The Comprehensive Water Plan is the state's long-range water use and management strategy. A local input meeting will be held in Weatherford on May 17th. The meeting will be at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Conference Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. Information about the process and comment cards are available at the Caddo County Extension Services office.



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Moisture & Feeder Market Incentives

By Derrell Peel, OSU Ext. Livestock Marketing Spec.

Most of Oklahoma has continued to receive moisture and much of the state is well above normal precipitation totals for the last month. All but the eastern quarter of the state is slightly above average for the total this "water year", which began after the growing season last fall. Spring and early summer forage and hay production is assured now although more precipitation will be required to follow through with anything like a normal complete year. Forage conditions and producer morale have both improved immensely.

National totals suggest that we continue to slaughter large numbers of cows thus suggesting that herd expansion is still on hold. However, I suspect that Oklahoma will begin holding both cows and heifers to recover from last year's drought liquidation. Year to date totals indicate that cows and bulls moving through auctions is down nearly 23 percent from last year. There seems to be enough confidence about summer forage production that producers are beginning to retain both cows and heifers. I would not be surprised to see the national cow slaughter total begin to decline relative to last year over the next few weeks.

Calf prices in Oklahoma are at or slightly above the levels this same time last year. In fact, some people are saying that high-priced corn is not having much impact on cattle markets. The fact is that feeder cattle prices have recovered, despite high corn prices, for other reasons, most notably the strength in fed cattle prices, reduced cattle imports, demand for summer grazing and probably some heifer retention. Feeder prices would be even higher were it not for corn prices.

The impact of high corn prices is exactly as one would expect: the incentive is building to retain stocker cattle to heavier weights before placing them on feed in feedlots. In April 2007, the value of

stocker gain from 475 to 625 was about \$0.65/pound and the value of gain from 625 to 775 was \$0.54/pound. Moreover, there is relatively little rollback on steer prices up to 950 pounds at the current time. The incentive is clear: the market is encouraging more forage-based stocker gains and heavier placement weights for cattle entering feedlots. This has implications for stocker producers and for cow-calf producers who should be evaluating retained ownership through the stocker phase.

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