



Newsline

Summer 2005

Hughes County

Teen Identity Theft Is a Growing Problem

Identity theft continues to be a problem for many people across the country. A 2003 survey by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) estimated that almost 10 million Americans discovered they had been victims of identity theft during the previous year. A growing number of victims – approximately 31 percent – were young people under the age of 29.

Teens who have been victimized may not even realize it until they apply for their first driver's license or credit card, said Joyce Jones, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service personal finance specialist. Identity theft can take many forms. Thieves may use other people's personal information to open new credit card accounts and take out loans, or use their name when being charged with a crime, renting an apartment or obtaining medical care. Identify theft can also involve misuse of existing accounts such as credit cards, checking and savings accounts and telephones.

Identity theft costs both businesses and consumers. The 2003 FTC survey estimated that identity theft cost businesses, including financial institutions, almost \$50 billion last year. When identity thieves misused someone's personal information, estimated losses to businesses averaged \$2,100 for existing accounts and \$10,200 for new accounts and other fraud.

Consumers who were victims of identity theft estimated their average losses at \$500 in addition to a considerable amount of time.

According to Consumer Sentinel, a consumer fraud and identity theft complaint database maintained by the FTC, 1,973 identity theft complaints were reported in Oklahoma between

January and December 2004. The most common types of complaints dealt with credit cards, bank accounts and phones or utilities. Oklahoma City reported the highest number of identity theft complaints with 418 victims.

"Teens need to become more aware of the importance of keeping personal information safe," Jones said.

Some tips for parents include:

Check to see if there is a credit report on your teen and look for unauthorized accounts and requests for cards, especially if your teen is getting unsolicited credit offers in their name or unfamiliar account statements.

If your teen has bank accounts, credit cards or other financial accounts, be sure they check statements frequently for fraudulent activity.

Teens should password-protect cell phones, financial accounts and computers, using a combination of letters, numbers and symbols. Remind teens to protect credit cards and checkbooks at all times.

Stress to your teens the importance of not giving out personal information on the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless they are absolutely sure they are dealing with a legitimate representative of a reputable company or organization. Have teens safeguard their personal information. Shred documents that contain personal information.

For more information about avoiding identity theft, see the FTC Web site at www.consumer.gov/idtheft. Being knowledgeable about identity theft and taking precautions at an early age, can help ensure teens won't be identity theft victims later on.

August Leaders Lesson

The Leaders Lesson for August was received at the State OHCE meeting in July. You had a choice between "Using Humor Effectively" and "Diabetes: Standards of Care & Self Care". The lesson materials will be at the Extension office if your leader has not already received the training in Oklahoma City.

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Women's Biz Connection

Join us during the month of August for the Women's Biz Connection. The meeting will be held in the conference room of the First United Bank in Holdenville at 11:30 am, August 11th. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Guest speaker: Leslie Daugherty, REI Coordinator will be speaking on "Networking".

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Leaders Lesson Rag Quilting

The September Leaders Lesson on Rag Quilting will be held on Tuesday August 16th, 2:00 pm in the commissioner's conference room of the Hughes County Courthouse. Public is invited!

Bring ten - 9" square pieces of scrap fabric with you so you will be ready to demonstrate the art of Rag Quilting to your club.

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Hughes County Free Fair

Yes, it is that time of year again. School will be starting soon and the Hughes County Free Fair won't be far away. I am excited about the fair this year. There are many new things planned for this year and it should be fun for all that attend. Fair books can be picked up (while they last) at all county schools, the Chamber of Commerce, and the libraries. Don't wait until the last minute, start working on those exhibits now! This year's fair will be August 24-27 at the Hughes County Expo Center. See you at the County Fair !!!!

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Leaders Lesson Autumn Make & Take Fun Fair

The October Leaders Lesson on Celebrate Autumn Make & Take Fun Fair will be held on September 20th, 2:00 pm in the commissioner's conference room of the Hughes County Courthouse. There is a \$2.00 charge for this workshop to cover supplies you will be using to make autumn decorations for your home. Educators from five counties will be presenting. Call 379-5470 to pre-register if you plan to attend so supplies can be purchased. **Pre-registration deadline is September 12th.** Public is invited!

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OHCE Tour Questionnaire

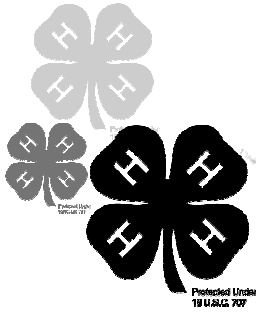
Last November Murray, Hughes, Seminole, Pottawatomie and Pontotoc County OHCE took a two day tour to Granbury, TX. Everyone that attended has been asking what we had planned for this year.

Educators from four of the counties met last week to discuss possibilities and have come up with one, but need to know how many would be interested. Our idea is to visit San Antonio, TX in January. The cost of the three day trip would be around \$150.00. This would include your transportation to Dallas, round trip airline ticket to San Antonio and hotel room for two nights. Meals and site seeing would be extra.

Please let me know by September 1st if you would or would not be interested in this type of trip. If enough are interested, we will make the plans. If not, we will work on a different trip.

Oklahoma Educational Tour Jenks Aquarium & Antiques

The Hughes county HCE and local residents will be traveling to Jenks on September 22nd, to tour the Oklahoma Aquarium, experience the River Walk Crossing-newly established riverfront development, lunch at a local downtown Bistro and then make our way through the many antique stores in downtown Jenks. We will be carpooling to this event. Your cost for the aquarium and lunch should be around \$30.00. Just bring your money with you. Call-in confirmation that you are going is required so that the Bistro will be prepared for our large number. Call-in pre-register @ 379-5470 by September 16th.



Building Positive Youth-Adult Partnerships

Strong partnerships between youth and adults can benefit not only the individual, but also the community. When youth and adults work together in meaningful roles youth have a chance to develop life skills such as planning/organization, decision-making, self-discipline, self-responsibility, teamwork, leadership, accepting differences and cooperation. All of these are skills which help youth mature into well-developed adults who are concerned about giving back to their community.

Adults can form constructive and encouraging partnerships with youth if they remember that young people are still people. They have their own deadlines, pressures and schedules, which can be just as demanding and stressful as those of adults. Here are some tips for forming healthy relationships with youth.

Don't expect more from youth than you would from an adult.

Youth often feel as though they have to do twice the amount of work of an adult to get the same recognition. Remember that both youth and adults have busy lives.

Conversely, don't underestimate youth.

Sometimes adults tend not to expect enough from young people. Set goals for them that are challenging but attainable.

Treat youth as individuals.

The behavior of a few does not represent the behavior of all. Remember that youth come from all kinds of different backgrounds and each person has their own goals, motivating factors and reasons for their behavior.

Be careful about interrupting.

For a partnership to work, young people must feel that they are valued and respected by adults. Youth can get discouraged easily; adults need to be sensitive about interrupting and allow children and teenagers to finish their ideas.

Don't move too fast.

Allow youth to get comfortable in the relationship. Explain the reasons behind what you do within the group or partnership and recognize that everyone moves at a different pace.



Lead Poisoning in Cattle

Dr. Glenn Selk
OSU Extension Animal Reproduction Specialist

Recently a producer suggested that we alert cattle producers of a potential danger to cattle on their operations. He had encountered an unusual, sudden death loss of over 10 young calves and had wisely sought veterinary help. The investigation and diagnosis revealed that old car batteries had been buried in a ditch in one of the pastures. The calves had died from lead poisoning. After an internet search we found several important keys to prevention.

1. Very small amounts of lead can cause poisoning. Calves licking crankcase oil, grease from machinery, lead pipe plumbing, and batteries can be in danger.
2. Small Calves represent the greatest percentage of lead poisoning cases because they are curious eaters. However, other cattle can also be affected.
3. Junk or garbage in pastures can be a source of lead. Example sources include: some crop sprays, putty, lead-based paints and painted surfaces, roofing materials, plumbing supplies, asphalt, lead shot, leaded gasoline, and used oil filters.

Symptoms of lead poisoning are often similar to other diseases and require a veterinary diagnosis to accurately confirm. Clinical signs of poisoning normally precede death, nonetheless, in many cases animals are simply found down or dead in the pasture. Observable signs vary from sub-clinical to very dramatic and take from just a few days to as many as 21 days to develop. Initial signs include depression, loss of appetite, or diarrhea. The central nervous system may be affected and cause cattle to grind their teeth, bob their head, or twitch their eyes and ears. Some animals may circle, press their head or body against objects, or become uncoordinated and stagger. Muscle tremors, excitement, mania, blindness, or convulsions may also be seen.

Treatment of lead poisoning can be costly and ineffective if not started quite early after ingestion of the lead. Successful treatments are usually started before they symptoms begin to appear and are often reserved for very valuable animals.

Prevention is the key. Be aware of any old or new machinery in pastures. Avoid junk or debris that could be a source of lead. (This could really be an issue after a severe thunderstorm or tornado with wind damage which results in roofing debris spread across the pasture). Above all, DO NOT dispose of old car batteries in pastures where cattle have access to them.

Master Cattleman?

Due to the overwhelming success of our last Master Cattleman class we have decided to do another this fall. The class will be taught 2 nights per month at Wes Watkins Area Technology Center in Wetumka. This is an excellent opportunity for any cattleman or woman to gain knowledge of the beef cattle industry. The \$75 enrollment fee will provide you with an excellent resource book and a great deal of instruction. The course will be taught by a variety of individuals that specialize in certain areas of cattle production. Call now to put your name on the pre-registration list as we may have to limit enrollment. More information may be found on the internet at <http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/cattleman/index/.asp>

IFMAPS

The Oklahoma Beginning Farmer Loan Program (OBFLP) helps provide additional credit options for those entering farming. The loan can be used to obtain or improve capital items such as agricultural land and property, depreciable machinery and equipment, and/or breeding livestock. The Oklahoma Development Finance Authority administers the Oklahoma tax-exempt bond program. The program is an incentive for lenders to offer loans to beginning farmers at a generally lower interest rate. The lender, in most cases, is eligible to earn state and federally tax-exempt interest from the loan proceeds. The loan applicant must meet the OBFLP definition of a beginning farmer and certain criteria. Producers interested in finding out if they are eligible for this interest saving program can call IFMAPS toll free at 1-800-522-3755. Intensive Financial Management and Planning Support (IFMAPS) is a program to assist Oklahoma farmers and ranchers in evaluating business plans and analyzing their financial situations. The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers this program as a free and confidential service to Oklahoma farmer and ranchers.



Aug. 24-27 - Hughes County Free Fair
Sept. 3 - 4-H Day @ OSU Cowboys Football
Sept. 9-10 - HCCA Cowboy Camp
Sept. 15-25 - State Fair of Oklahoma
Sept. 20 - County 4-H Officer Elections
Sept. 29-Oct. 9 - Tulsa State Fair
Oct. 1 - Hog Wild Day
Oct. 6 - 4-H Achievement Banquet @ Calvin
Nov. 9 - Impressive Dress / Fashion Revue @ Moss 3:30 p.m.

Successful Summer!

Hughes County 4-H had a very exciting summer. Congratulations to Laramy Wilson and Alex Sherry on being elected SE District officers.

GARDEN TIPS FOR AUGUST!

By: David Hillock

Vegetables

- August is a good month to start your fall vegetable garden. Bush beans, cucumbers, and summer squash can be replanted for another crop. Beets, broccoli, carrots, potatoes, lettuce and other cool-season crops can also be planted at this time. (F-6009).
- Soak vegetable seed overnight prior to planting. Once planted, cover them with compost to avoid soil crusting. Mulch to keep planting bed moist and provide shade during initial establishment. Monitor and control insect pests that prevent a good start of plants in your fall garden.

Trees and Shrubs

- Discontinue deadheading roses by mid-August to help initiate winter hardiness.
- Watch for 2nd generation of fall webworms in late August/early September. Remove webs that enclose branches and destroy; or spray with good penetration with an appropriate insecticide.

Check It Out!!

The 19th Annual Wheatland Stocker Conference will be held August 26, 2005, in Enid, OK. The newest OSU Wheat Pasture Research will be presented as well as many other programs related to the stocker industry. There will be many topics and ideas shared that could be implanted in your Hughes County stocker operation. To register contact the Hughes County Extension Office before August 16, 2005.

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