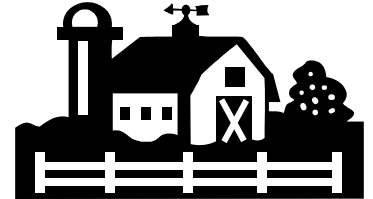




# Kingfisher County Agricultural Newsletter



OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE \* DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES \* OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

October 2006

## Kingfisher County Cattleman's Association Annual Meeting

The Kingfisher County Cattleman's Association Annual Meeting and Equipment Show will be held on Monday, November 6 at the Kingfisher County Fairgrounds. Activities will begin at 4:00 pm for the public to come out and meet the exhibitors and for informational gathering.

Annual Meeting and  
Membership Dues

7:00 pm Meal

Guest Speaker—Tom Tippens,  
West Oak Commodities

### OK STEER FEEDOUT

If you are a small, medium or large cow calf operator and would like to have a chance to evaluate some of your steer calves in the feed yard, the OK STEER FEEDOUT may be the answer for you. The OK STEER FEEDOUT is designed to allow a producer to enter a lot of 5 steers into a feed yard setting. The steers are fed like they would be in a large feed yard and Feeding Data along with Carcass Data is collected on each individual calf.

This could be the opportunity for you to evaluate your breeding

program and see just how well your calves perform in the feed yard. There are several guidelines that must be followed in order to enter a pen in the OK STEER FEEDOUT.

The date to have calves entered in the OK STEER FEEDOUT for 2005-2006 spring born calves is October 25, 2006. Calves will be delivered to the feed yard (Oklahoma Feeders, Inc. Guthrie, OK) on November 1, 2006. Please contact the Kingfisher County OSU Extension Office if you are interested. The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service conducts the OK STEER FEEDOUT.

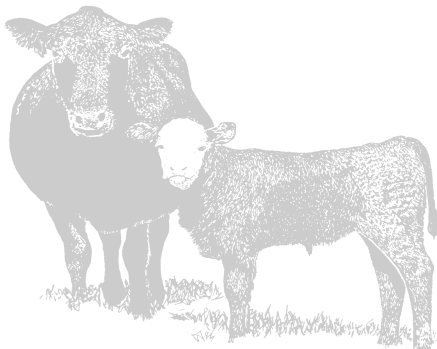
### Landscape Maintenance Schedule

- You can continue to replant or establish cool season lawns like fescue.
- Adjust mowing height to approximately 2 1/2 inches for fall mowing of fescue.
- Plant cool season annuals like pansies, ornamental cabbage or snapdragons and dusty miller.
- Begin planting spring flowering bulbs like tulips, hyacinths, crocus and daffodils.
- Plant container grown trees and shrubs this month.
- Peonies, daylilies, and other

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spring flowering perennials should be divided or planted now.

- Start new planting bed preparations now with plenty of organic matter.
- Take tropical water garden plants indoors when water temperatures near 50 degrees F.
- Close the water garden for the winter by placing hardy plants in the deeper areas of the pool.
- Cover the water garden with bird netting to catch dropping leaves.

## **Fall Armyworm Q & A**

By Tom A. Royer

Fall armyworm can quickly devastate a wheat field and regular scouting is essential to preventing economic damage

Q. "A couple of years ago, fall armyworms seemed to destroy my pasture "overnight", where do they come from?"

A. Fall armyworm is a tropical insect and overwinters only in the warmest areas of the US. As populations build throughout the summer, they move northward on weather fronts, often arriving in Oklahoma in late summer. Because several generations develop during the summer, the generations overlap and effectively create a continuous supply of moths (and eggs). Any fall-planted wheat field that is emerging out of the ground could become infested.

Fall armyworm infestations often go unnoticed for a while because they don't cause obvious damage until they get bigger. The caterpillars shed their skin five times before they quit feeding. To indicate the stage of growth that a caterpillar is in, we refer to them as instars. The first instar is the caterpillar just after it hatches. A second instar is the caterpillar after it has shed its skin for the first time. A sixth instar has shed its skin five times and will feed, bury

itself in the soil, and pupate.

Q. "Once this brood of armyworms is gone, can we quit worrying about them?"

A. The short answer is no. Fall armyworms are likely to be with us until we have a killing frost. However, we are getting late enough in the year that this will probably be the last generation that we see. The bottom line is that producers should remain vigilant.

Q. If I treat for fall armyworm, when can I put my cattle back out to graze?

A. Grazing restrictions are as follows for wheat:

Sevin 7 days

Karate (RUP) 30 days

Lannate (RUP) 10 days

malathion 7 days

methyl parathion (RUP) 15 days

ethyl parathion (RUP) 15 days

Lorsban 4E-SG 14 days - 28 days for harvest

Grazing restrictions for pasture

carbaryl, (Sevin and other names - check label for specific recommendations)

0-14 days

Confirm 0 days malathion 0 days

methomyl (Lannate) bermuda only 7 days

parathion (methyl) 15 days

Q. If I have a wheat field that has been chewed to the ground, will it come back if I control the worms, or should I consider re-planting?

A. The answer to this question involves several considerations. First, if the armyworms are not controlled, they will continue to feed and keep the leaves from getting above ground. At some point, the plants will simply "wear out" and die. If the wheat was very small seedling stage and under stress the plants may not have enough energy reserve to recover. However, if the wheat had some time to develop top growth before the armyworms chewed them down to the base and you have adequate soil moisture, you may see a nice recovery of the stand.

Before you decide on whether to spray or replant, answer the following questions:

- Was your stand marginal to begin with? If

the answer is yes, you might want to consider replanting.

- How much will it cost to replant versus spraying? You should consider the economics of controlling the current infestation with the costs of a replant. If you replant, you might want to delay planting for several days to make sure the armyworms have either pupated or “marched” out of the field.

If you were to ration out a supply of food to feed each instar, you would need to reserve 70% of the total supply just to feed a sixth instar caterpillar. It is similar to trying to feed a hungry teenager. Like a teenager, a sixth instar fall armyworm can eat lots of food in a relatively short period of time, and leave little left over for anyone else.

Q. Is my wheat susceptible to fall armyworm?

A. **YES** - Producers should be monitoring any emerged wheat for signs of fall armyworm feeding.

Q. “How can I recognize a fall armyworm infestation before it causes major injury?”

A. During the first three instars, the caterpillar does not remove much plant tissue. It will scrape off the epidermis of the leaf, leaving a clear, papery membrane that you can see through. This type of feeding is called “windowpaning” or “skeletonizing.” As the caterpillar gets larger, it chews through the leaf and begins eating along the margin of the leaf blade. Fourth through sixth instars chew along leaf margins and eat the entire leaf blade, as well as stems. The key is to look for the “windowpaning” as an early sign that you have an infestation.

Q. How many fall armyworms are too many and how do I control them?

A. In fall seeded wheat, treat if you find two - three armyworms per foot of row. In pasture, no established treatment threshold has been determined; however, a general guideline for fall armyworm control in the southeastern U.S. suggests that if you find two or three large larva per square foot in grass pasture, consider treating. Several insecticides are registered for control of fall armyworm in wheat, including Lorsban SG, methomyl(Lannate), Warrior T, and parathion

(methyl or ethyl). Remember to follow all label restrictions.

In pasture, Sevin , malathion, Lannate (for Bermuda pasture only), Confirm2F, and methyl parathion are labeled for control of fall armyworm.

### **Livestock Assistance Grant Program**

Livestock owners have until Nov. 20 to complete applications for the Livestock Assistance Grant Program that was announced by Gov. Brad Henry last month. Approximately \$6.5 million is available through the program

Only producers who owned grazing livestock for food production as of March 7, 2006 are eligible; a requirement mandated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cattle, sheep, goats, bison and commercial deer and elk are eligible species.

Application forms are available from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Web site at [www.oda.state.ok.us/forms/admin/lagpapp.pdf](http://www.oda.state.ok.us/forms/admin/lagpapp.pdf).

Applications also are available at Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service county offices and Farm Service Agency offices throughout the state. The application form asks producers to indicate if they were forced to sell livestock due to the drought and if they incurred unusual costs of production for transporting or purchasing hay, feed, or water. Even producers who were not forced to sell livestock are eligible for the grants.

You will need the following info to sign up: your farm tax exemption number, social security number, the number of livestock you have as of March 7 of this year, and the legal description of your property where the livestock are located. Grants will be made strictly on the number of animal units owned as of March 7.

