



# Nuttin' but News

Caddo County OSU Extension Service



## 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://oces.okstate.edu/caddo>

May 2011

### Upcoming Agricultural Events

- May 5 Apache Wheat Variety Plot Tour / Bryan Vail Farm, 2 miles south of Apache/ **Apache, OK** / 5 pm / Sponsor: Apache COOP
- May 24 OSU Wheat College / Caddo-Kiowa Technology Center / **Fort Cobb, OK** / 6:30 pm / Topics: PVP Varieties and Planting Wheat in Acid Soils / Speakers: Dr. Jeff Edwards, Dr. Hailin Zhang, and Roger Osborne / Sponsor: First State Bank of Anadarko & Gracemont
- June 15 Annual Caddo County No-Till Tour / Meet at the Eakly Farmers COOP / **Eakly, OK** / 9:30 am / Sponsor: Helena
- June 21 Caddo County Farmer's Market Begins / 110 West Central, Old Save-A-Lot Parking Lot / **Anadarko, OK** / 8:00 am to 1:00 pm each Tuesday and Friday through September 16th.

### OSU Wheat College

As wheat harvest approaches and wheat yields are low many people have become worried about getting wheat seed for this fall. This year at the OSU Wheat College we will have Dr. Jeff Edwards, OSU Crops Specialist and Roger Osborne from the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association speak about wheat seed availability and plant variety protection issues. Also, we will have Dr. Hailin Zhang, from the OSU Soils Laboratory speak about managing acid soils.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm with a meal sponsored by First State Bank of Anadarko and Gracemont on Tuesday, May 24th at the Caddo-Kiowa Technology Center in Fort Cobb. There is no charge to attend. For more information contact the Caddo County OSU Extension Office at 405-247-3376.

### What Can I Expect From My Wheat Crop?

Coming off a year of record drought, it is amazing that any wheat will be harvested at all, but there are still a few fields that still have some color and look like they are worth harvesting. We are coming out of the bloom stage into the final ripening stage (Stage 11 on the Feeke's scale). When wheat blooms, it starts in the middle of the head and continues blooming in each direction until it reaches the top and bottom of the head at about the same time. So larger kernels are generally located in the center of the head and the smaller seeds (last to fill) will be at the top and the bottom of the head. This year, in many heads you will see small kernels or no kernels at the top and the bottom.

As Stage 11 begins the plants stop pulling additional nutrients from the roots. At this time the flag leaf, flag sheath, and the stem will be tapped as a storehouse of nutrients and will supply materials such as nitrogen to complete the ripening stage. Due to the drought, flag leaves are small and plants are stunted so the amount of stored plant reserves to complete the ripening stage is less than normal. This may cause many fields to mature a week or two early. Farmers can expect to see lower test weights and shriveled grains in these early-maturing fields. Also this year we are seeing fields of grazed wheat that have dried out prematurely or died.

Many producers are trying to decide whether to go ahead and swath for hay or wait and harvest. Estimating yields this year is difficult because many plants have smaller heads that will not produce seed; and if they do produce seed it will be so small that it will probably blow out the combine. Another thing to keep in mind is that the wheat did not tiller out very much due to the drought and even though the heads might be of normal size there are fewer heads.

It all comes down to how much moisture is in the plants. In time, all will be revealed.



Caddo County Cooperative Extension Service  
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### **Farmer's Market to Receive Grant**

The Caddo County Farmer's Market will soon be receiving a grant for \$2000 from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, & Forestry (ODAFF). The grant will be used to buy additional tents for shade and for advertising.

This year the Farmer's Market will begin on Tuesday, June 21st and meet each Tuesday and Friday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm through Friday, September 16th. The Caddo County Farmers' Market will once again be held at 110 West Central (intersection of Central and 2nd Street) in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Vendors will set up in the West Parking Lot and vendor tents may be set up on the north or east side of the parking lot.

The Caddo County Farmer's Market is a certified Farmer's Market through the ODAFF and is also a Certified Oklahoma Grown Market. If you are currently growing vegetables and would like to participate in the Farmer's Market you can get a copy of the 2011 Caddo County Farmer's Market Rules by contacting David Nowlin at the Caddo County OSU Extension Office. Call 405-247-337 or email [david.nowlin@okstate.edu](mailto:david.nowlin@okstate.edu) or check the website at :

<http://oces.okstate.edu/caddo/caddo-county-farmers-market>

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