



# Nuttin' but News

Caddo County OSU Extension Service



## AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

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

1202 E. Central Blvd., Anadarko, OK 73005 405/247-3376 <http://oces.okstate.edu/caddo> December 2013

### Upcoming Agricultural Events

#### Watching for Hessian Fly in Wheat

Hessian fly puparia and larvae have been found this fall in no-till wheat following wheat here in Caddo County.

**Description:** The adult Hessian fly is a tiny gnat-like fly measuring 1/8th of an inch long. Eggs are only 1/50th of an inch long and laid on the wheat leaves. The eggs are often mistaken for leaf-rust. A newly hatched larva is also orange and crawls down the leaf and under the leaf sheath near the crown of the plant. As they continue to feed, the larvae turn whitish-green and look like small rice grains. Full grown larvae form rice-like shiny dark brown puparia commonly referred to as 'flaxseeds'. The flaxseed stage is what we are finding now, mostly in no till wheat fields that were planted in susceptible wheat varieties.

**Management:** In the spring, the damage can be found as wheat matures. When inspecting fields look for broken stems above the first node, and check for flaxseed. Usually only the stems infested with the flaxseed larvae are the stems that lodge or are damaged. If all tillers are infested you can expect some heavy yield loss.

Hessian fly over-summers as flaxseed in the stubble. By plowing stubble to a depth of 4 inches you will kill the larvae and stop the cycle. This is obviously not accomplished in no-till wheat, which gives the Hessian fly the ability to complete it's life cycle.

No-till wheat producers should try one of the following options to control Hessian fly: 1. Rotate with a non-susceptible crop, such as canola. 2. Plant after the first hard freeze. A hard freeze will kill the flies before they can lay eggs. 3. Plant a Hessian fly resistant variety. Resistant varieties include; Duster, 2174, Agri-Pro CJ, Centerfield, and Gallagher.

For more information on Hessian fly see OSU Fact Sheet EPP -7086 Hessian Fly Management in Oklahoma Winter Wheat.

Dec. 3 - Dec. 4	Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show / Wes Watkins Center / <b>Stillwater, OK</b> / 8:00 am / For info call 405-744-5419
Dec. 3 - Dec. 5	Oklahoma Ag EXPO / Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers / <b>Midwest City, OK</b> / For Information call 580-233-9516
Dec. 11 - Dec. 12	OSU Winter Crop School / Wes Watkins Center, OSU Campus / <b>Stillwater, OK</b> / Registration 7:30 am / <a href="http://www.orangehub.okstate.edu">www.orangehub.okstate.edu</a>
Dec. 16	Caddo County Cattlemen Winter Educational Meeting / OSU Extension Office / <b>Anadarko, OK</b> / 6:30 pm / FSA and NRCS Update



Left: Adult Hessian fly

Right: Flaxseed looking puparia near the crown of the wheat plant.





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## 2014 Grape and Pecan Management Courses Available

Brochures are now available detailing the 2014 Grape and Pecan Management Courses. Both courses offer an opportunity for potential new or veteran growers to learn or refresh their basic management skills needed to successfully grow each crop. The classes meet one afternoon a month beginning in February (Grape) and March (Pecan) and continuing for the growing season. Having the classes through the season gives participants the chance to see what management requirements are necessary at specific times. Students learn in both the classroom and in the vineyard or orchard setting. The classes meet at the Cimarron Valley Research Station near Perkins. Classes also travel to a couple of established orchards or vineyards/wineries to learn from other growers.

The cost for enrollment in either course is \$250 per student. Pecan course members are also eligible to use the online pecan management course for no charge. Registration for the grape course is due by February 14 and the pecan course by February 28. If you would like additional information contact Stephanie Larimer at 405-744-5404 or by email at [stephanie.larimer@okstate.edu](mailto:stephanie.larimer@okstate.edu).

## Cattle Markets Take a Holiday Breather

*Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist*

Feeder cattle markets, after an impressive counter-seasonal run this fall, appear to be taking a bit of a break before Thanksgiving. Feeder markets are holding mostly steady with slight gains still noted for lightweight stockers. Some winter grazing demand continues in Oklahoma but highly variable weather which includes cold temperatures and wet conditions has made receiving cattle and maintaining cattle health a challenge the past week or so. The replacement heifer demand that has been very impressive the past month seems to be mostly done for now. I expect breeding female demand to pick again next spring assuming forage conditions look favorable at that time.

Fed cattle prices have dropped back slightly from record levels but are holding close in the \$130-\$131/cwt level. Choice boxed beef prices dropped back \$2-\$3/cwt this past week to the \$199/cwt. level. I expect cattle and beef markets to move mostly sideways for the remainder of the year though boxed beef could rebound slightly in early December. Continued decreases in cattle slaughter and beef production through the end of the year will help support prices near current levels for fed and feeder cattle.

The November Cattle on Feed report included October placements up 9.8 percent from last year's record low levels. Some perspective is important to interpret this report. October placements were down 1 percent from the five-year average that include last year and were down 5.3 percent from the 2007-2011 five-year average. The latest October placement number was slightly smaller than the 2002 level and, with the exception of last year, was the smallest October placement since 1995. By any measure except last year's record low level, it is still a small October placement number. Seasonally, October is the largest placement month as feedlot inventories grow in the fall to a seasonal peak in December before declining to seasonal lows in August. The November 1 cattle on feed inventory was 10.607 million head, down 5.7 percent from one year ago and is the lowest November 1 feedlot inventory since 1996.

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