



Kay County Agriculture Newsletter



P.O. Box 430, Newkirk, OK 74647 - (580)362-3194 or (580)362-2200 Fax (580) 362-2268

Website: <http://www.oces.okstate.edu/kay>

May/June 2009

Severe Freeze Injury Across the State

Dr. Jeff Edwards, Small Grains Extension Specialist

As many of you know by now, the entire state of Oklahoma dipped below freezing once again on the nights of April 6 & 7. In fact, many areas fell into the lower 20's or upper teens for several hours. These types of temperatures placed the entire wheat crop in jeopardy. To assess the extent of the freeze injury in the Oklahoma wheat crop, the OSU small grains extension crew traveled across the state on April 13. We stopped at several of the variety trial locations and split stems of the earliest wheat varieties. If significant freeze injury was present, random tiller samples (primary and secondary) were collected from Overlay, OK Bullet, Jagger, Duster, Doans and Endurance. Twenty-five random tillers from each variety were split and checked for injury. First the good news. With the exception of the Cherokee location, there was only minor damage found at Alva, Kildare, and Afton. Rick Kochenower reports similar findings in the Panhandle, with early-sown fields showing injury and later-sown fields showing little to no injury. Once you move out of the northern tier of counties, however, the freeze injury increases dramatically. There were 40 to 88% non-viable (i.e. dead) tillers in our Lahoma samples. Based on spot-checks of fields in the area this is similar to the damage present in most of the crop from Enid to highway 51. Marshall plots had 52 to 92 % non-viable heads and it appears that grazing had little effect on survival. Again, spot checks of fields from Marshall west to Okeene indicate that most fields sustained at least 75% injury. Roger Gribble has indicated similar findings in his travels and has also reported split stems, bent nodes, and mushy stems in many

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fertility after a Lost Wheat Crop-2

Wheat Disease Update-2

Farm Bill Update-3

Pastora Now Available for Sandbur Control-3

Lahoma Wheat Tour-4

Land Purchase Information-4

Cow/Calf Corner-5

Tick and Fly Control-6

Master Gardener Calander-7

IPM Landscape Conference-7

Kay County Wheat Plot Tour-9

tillers that survived the freeze. The impact of this stem damage on final yield remains to be seen, but lodging at harvest is almost a certainty in fields with viable heads but damaged stems. By and large, wheat south of highway 51 all the way to the Red River was devastated by the freeze. The numbers from our Kingfisher and Apache samples clearly illustrate this and match reports from growers in the area. Surprisingly, freeze injury at the El Reno site was not as severe. I have no real explanation for this other than the dry fall and slow wheat development in the area. This further demonstrates that predicting freeze injury is not an exact science. In summary, the 2009 Oklahoma wheat crop will be dramatically impacted by the freeze that occurred on April 6 & 7. Growers that have lost wheat fields to the freeze should not start evaluating their options. Planting a summer crop such as grain sorghum, sunflower, or soybean will be an option for some growers. A

close examination of your wheat herbicide program and the rotation restrictions associated with this program should be the first step in determining whether or not a summer crop should be considered. Producers should also carefully review all government programs and incentives prior to committing to a summer crop.

Fertility after a Lost Wheat Crop

Dr. Brian Arnall

Precision Nutrient Management Extension
Specialist

In some regions of Oklahoma producers may opt to give up on the wheat and plant a summer crop, mostly due to frost damage encountered in late March and early April. One of the things to keep in mind is the fertility needs of this new crop. This is because the wheat that is still in the field has a fertilizer value if it is incorporated. By the time the wheat has reached flowering there is more N above the ground per acre than at any other time in the season. At the Lahoma research station we have seen that plots receiving 100 lbs N/ac can have 130 to 150 lbs of N per acre in the forage at flowering. These plots usually yield 45 bu/ac. The 60 lbs of N/ac plot usually have 80-100 lbs of N/ac in the forage at flowering, and the 0 N plots average 40 lbs of N in the forage at this same stage of growth. When considering P and K uptake in the forage, the concentration of N to K is close to a 1 to 1 ratio and P is usually 1/10 to 1/6 the value of N. For every 100 lbs of N there will be 100 lbs of K and 10-16 lbs of P in the forage. If the wheat was late planted, drought stressed, or just did not produce a great deal of biomass the amount of N, P, and K removed would be much lower. In a poor year at Stillwater, only 50 lbs of N had been removed from the high N plots by flowering for what would end up being a 20 bu crop. What will happen to all of these nutrients? If the wheat is incorporated into the soil, as much as 70% may be made available during the summer crops growing season. This is essentially a "green manure." If wheat is burnt down and left on the surface, about 70% of the nutrients will be made available slowly over the next year.

What to do:

Nitrogen

Give yourself credit for the N you applied in the wheat crop but discount for what has been taken up and a small percentage being lost. Also, if you incorporate the wheat forage give yourself a credit

for the N coming back; about 50% of what was taken up is a safe number. This will be a perfect opportunity to implement the N-Rich strip into your fertilization program. That way you will be able to account for the residual N left behind or the lack thereof for your summer crop.

Phosphorus

If your soil was testing at the medium to high range (Soil Test P of 40+)* and you applied P to the wheat crop having a little P as a starter fertilizer should be sufficient. However if your soil test P levels were low (Soil Test P of 30 or less)* you should consider applying more P even if you put down some for the wheat. In a field with low P values, the fertilizer P is often quickly tied up by the soil.

Potassium

The recommendation for K is similar to P. Medium to high levels for K are 200+* and low could be considered below 150*.

*These soil test values come from procedures used by the Soil Water Forage Analytical Lab at Oklahoma State University and may not be comparable to other labs.

Grain Sorghum Variety Trail Planted

The grain sorghum variety trial was planted on April 24th on the Bill and Louise Rigdon farm on the corner of Hubbard Rd and 13th Street south of Blackwell. Plot plans are available in the extension office. Call or come by and pick one up.

Wheat Disease Update

Bob Hunger, Extension Wheat Pathologist

Oklahoma: Stephanie Rogers (OSU PhD student) and I traveled Apr 21st to Canadian County and visited a field of Endurance infected with wheat streak mosaic virus. No rust was found in it or in an adjacent field of Endurance. We did find light powdery mildew on lower leaves where there was a thick canopy. Brad Tipton found a few scattered septoria pustules and some two spotted mites neither of which was of concern. In the variety demonstration on Banner Road (also in Canadian County), yellowing of foliage and freeze damage was evident. Foliage tested positive for barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) but negative for high plains virus (HPV), wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV), and Triticum mosaic virus (TrMV).

In the variety trial at Kingfisher, we found no rust or powdery mildew - just a lot of white heads. Jen Olson (Plant Disease Diagnostician – OSU) and Dr. Rick Grantham (Asst Research Professional) have analyzed multiple samples from the OK panhandle during the last 10 days. All these samples showed death and yellowing of foliage. All were tested for BYDV, WSMV, HPV and TrMV. Although a few were negative, the majority tested positive for BYDV and/or HPV (but negative for WSMV and TrMV). Also, a couple of the samples were (or had been) heavily infested with aphids, including Russian wheat aphid.

Lahoma Experiment Station (north central OK) (Dr. Brett Carver, OSU Wheat Breeder): In his examination of breeding material on April 23rd, Dr. Carver indicated he could find light powdery mildew and leaf rust on lower leaves of susceptible varieties, but upper leaves and flag leaves were clean.

Reports from other parts of Oklahoma are as follows:

Northwest/northcentral OK (Roger Gribble, NW District Area Extn Agron Spec): Foliar diseases still quite light; powdery mildew on lower leaves is the most common with a scattered leaf rust pustule here and there.

Eastern/northeastern OK (George Driever, Area Extn Pest Management Spec): I visited some wheat fields at the end of last week and this Tuesday (21-Apr). Here is a summary.



Farm Bill Update

Dr. Rodney Jones
NW Area Ag Economist

The Extension Service will soon have a tool to help producers figure out if the ACRE program is right for you. We originally thought we would be on an extremely tight timeframe to get the tool out to producers and implemented, but that has changed recently. FSA has announced that the sign-up

deadline for the DCP and for the ACRE election for 2009 has been moved from June 1 to **AUGUST 14**. This is great news for Oklahoma Wheat producers because they will have much more information upon which to make the decision. (the insurance industry refers to it as "adverse selection", it will be almost like being able to purchase insurance after the house burns down). We will essentially know whether or not ACRE is a better deal or not prior to having to sign up, which was not the original intent of the farm bill. As mentioned, the Aug 14 deadline is great for producers, and my suggestion is that the ACRE election decision should not be made until well after wheat harvest, when more information will be known for each individual farm to plug into the decision tool. Our time is limited, and there will be varying degrees in the amount of time we can spend working with producers one - on - one. However, the spreadsheet will be available directly online, and local educators will be able to help people get a hold of the tool if they can't find it. It will more than likely be located on the OSU ag economics website, and will be fairly simple to operate. This tool will be available in Mid May and at the latest the first of June. Contact your local ag educator for more information.

Pastora Now Available for Sandbur Control

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture and the EPA have declared a crisis exemption to use Pastora in controlling sandburs in bermuda grass pastures or hay meadows. Application of Pastora should be made when the sandbur is less than 1.5 inches tall and is actively growing. Make application to bermudagrass that is less than 4 inches tall following initial green-up in the spring or after cutting for hay. So we are looking at an application date of mid May to first of June. A follow up application of Pastora may be necessary to control subsequent germination of sandbur following the first application. There are no grazing or haying restrictions in livestock when used as directed. However, this product is not recommended for newly established stands of Bermuda. Applicators must have the exemption letter and the pastoral label in their possession when applying the product. Call or come by the Kay County Extension Office for a copy of the letter and label.

Lahoma Wheat Tour

Roger Gribble, NW Area Agronomist

The Lahoma Wheat Tour will be held Friday May 15th at the research station 1 mile west of Lahoma on Highway 412. The station is located on the south side of the highway. The tour will start with registration and doughnuts at 9:00 a.m. with the program starting at 9:30. Producers will have the option of choosing from several different topics that best fit what they are interested in. The topics being offered include:

Nutrient Product Evaluation. Dr. Arnall will be demonstrating products that we all hear about but are not sure if they work or how they work.

Poultry Litter on Wheat. Dr. Chad Penn will review the demonstration of poultry litter and discuss where and when we should look at poultry litter as a fertilizer option.

Oil Seed Crops with wheat. Dr. Chad Godsey will demonstrate his oil seed crop plots and discuss where producers should fit an oil seed crop like soybeans or sunflowers.

Wheat Marketing. Dr. Kim Anderson will provide producers with the current wheat outlook and how to market their wheat crop.

Wheat Varieties. Dr. Jeff Edwards will review the wheat varieties and how they have fared in the 2008 2009 crop production year.

Crop Rotations. Rick Kochenower will review the crop rotation studies at the Lahoma station. This is the second year that the total rotations have been completed. His comments will focus on our 2 crop in 3 year rotation program.

Wheat Improvement Team. Dr. Brett Carver and Dr. Bob Hunger will look at the at some of the candidate cultivars working through the OSU Wheat Breeding program and point out certain properties of wheat that are important to the overall wheat breeding program.

Canola. Heath Sanders will review the 2008 – 2009 Canola production year and point out the success for this production year.

Farm Bill and Insurance. Dr. Rodney Jones will provide producers with an update on the current Farm Bill and how to view the crop insurance provisions available.

Plant Variety Protection Act. Dr. Shannon Ferrell will discuss the Act and how producers should be interpreting the law.

Yield Robbing Insects. Dr. Tom Royer will visit with producers about the insect pressure this year and control measures available for producers use.

Assessing Soil Compaction. Dr. Jason Warren will demonstrate his plot work with the use of a ripper and where he sees benefits to that operation.

Come early and enjoy the few doughnuts that will be available and stay for lunch. Doughnuts are provided by the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association and this year lunch will be sponsored by Farm Credit of Enid. Call the area office at 580-237-7677 or the Kay County Extension Office at 580-362-3194 if you have any questions.

The Kay County Extension Office will be closed on Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day.

Land Purchase Information

Randy True, Extension IFMAPS Center Supervisor

When considering a land purchase to start or add to your farming operation, a thorough, unbiased evaluation of the cost versus the earning potential of the land should be conducted. Also, be sure you have enough labor hours available to maintain the property. The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service has information and specialists available to help Oklahoma agricultural producers analyze land purchases.

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. IFMAPS specialists can develop a financial plan explaining the total cost and potential returns for a particular piece of land and/or for the entire operation. The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers the IFMAPS program as a free and confidential service. Call toll free 1-800-522-3755 to schedule an individual consultation.

COW/CALF CORNER

Better Late than Never...A Rally for Cattle Markets

Dr. Derrell Peel, OSU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

After watching cattle and beef markets collapse counter-seasonally through the first quarter of the year, April has not only brought showers but a slightly delayed rally to markets. Wholesale beef led the rally with a \$12/cwt increase in Choice boxed beef in the past two weeks. Much of this is fueled by seasonal demand for grilling as retailers prepare for beef featuring leading up to Memorial Day. A recent decline in carcass weights has also tightened up beef supplies.

The key, from the broader beef demand perspective, is whether the market will be able to hold most of the recent gains into and past Memorial Day. It appears the rally has likely peaked for now although retailers will continue buying seasonal features for another couple of weeks. It would not be surprising to see boxed beef drop back a bit in the second half of May. The question is how much it will weaken and what happens going into June. If Memorial Day beef movement is strong, there is a much better chance of maintaining market momentum through the summer and into the second half of the year.

As expected, stronger boxed beef translated immediately into higher fed cattle prices. Fed prices have increased roughly \$5/cwt. in the past two weeks. From this point on fed prices will once again take their cue from boxed beef and are likely to follow a more seasonal pattern through the summer. The unusual 2008 midsummer peak in fed prices is not likely to happen again this year, although improvement in the general economic outlook could offset some of the normal summer price seasonality.

In Oklahoma, feeder cattle prices have regained levels similar to this time last year. There has been some seasonal strength building for the past month (except for the unusual snow storm in late March). That seasonal strength advanced solidly this past week on the heels of higher fed cattle and beef prices. More typically we would be on the back side of the spring highs at this time and I do not expect to see feeder prices continuing to increase like the last couple of weeks. However, forage

green up is well underway and recent moisture makes summer forage prospects look reasonably good in many parts of Oklahoma. That may help feeder prices hold onto recent gains. However, most of Oklahoma is still below average on precipitation totals the past six months and the southwest part of the state did not share much of the recent moisture events and remains below average for the past month. Additional moisture is needed to ensure summer forage production.

Calf-working Vaccination News

Dr. Glenn Selk, OSU Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist

It soon will be time to “work” the spring-born calves. New research is available that suggests that the young calves may be vaccinated with products used for protection against the respiratory diseases (IBR and BVDV). By vaccinating the calves now, the first immunization takes place when there is very little stress on the calf, giving the calf an excellent opportunity to begin to develop cell-mediated immunity. The calf then is re-vaccinated at weaning time.

The July, 2008 issue of the Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association contains the results of the study comparing a “calf-working” vaccination with the traditional “pre-weaning” vaccination. Oklahoma State University veterinary scientists cooperating with the Noble Foundation of Ardmore studied the timing of modified-live virus vaccinations in beef calves. For years, the recommendation for the timing of modified-live vaccines called for the vaccine to be given after maternal passive immunity antibodies had disappeared from the blood of the calf. It was thought that maternal antibodies (received in the colostrum) would interfere with the effectiveness of the vaccine. Therefore most viral vaccines were not given until the calves were 4 to 5 months or older. However, the OSU/Noble Foundation research has shown otherwise. They vaccinated calves at 67 days of age and re-vaccinated them at weaning (190 days) and compared that with vaccinating at 167 days of age and boosted at (190 days) weaning. There was no difference in the percentage of calves protected by the vaccine due to the timing of the first vaccination. The result with both vaccination schedules was improved serum antibody titers compared with un-vaccinated control calves. Not

surprising was the fact that the vaccinated calves had lower treatment costs and less mortality in the feedlot than the non-vaccinated control calves. Before the study was initiated, all cows and replacement heifers were vaccinated after calving and 30 days before breeding with a modified live vaccination for IBR, BVD types I and II, PI-3, and BRSV. This research suggests that the first vaccination with a modified live virus vaccine can be given at normal "calf-working" time, if boosted again at weaning. The calves would not need to be gathered at a separate time (approximately 3 - 4 weeks prior to weaning). The cows that nurse these newly vaccinated calves should have already been protected with a modified live vaccine against these same respiratory diseases.

Tick and Fly Control Challenging with Different Peak Seasons

Greg Highfill, NW Area Livestock Specialist

Area livestock producers are reporting higher than normal tick numbers this year. There are a number of tick species found in north central Oklahoma but the Gulf Coast tick is the one that attaches primarily to internal and external ear surfaces plus on the head and neck. Ticks often cluster in large groups causing intense soreness.

The gulf coast tick is a three-host tick. As larva and nymph, it is a common pest of ground-inhabiting birds or small rodents. The adults primarily attack cattle, but other hosts include dog, horse, deer, and humans. Ticks can be readily identified because their bodies are not divided into distinct segments. Adult female hard ticks become very large and visible when she has engorged with blood from the host. The engorged female may often be bluish-gray giving an entirely different appearance from other life stages. After feeding on the third host, the female tick will drop to the ground, lay its eggs, and die.

Control of ticks

Gulf coast ticks are most abundant from mid-March to June. Animals should be treated shortly after the first ticks are observed in the ears, around the first of April. There are many products registered for the control of Gulf Coast ticks. Tick control can be achieved with direct animal applications of pesticides, such as Amitraz (Taktic), Organophosphates (Co-Ral, Prolate, Ravap, etc) or Permethrins (Ectiban, Atroban, Permethrin, etc).

Most of these chemicals should provide control and prevent reinfestation for 3 or 4 weeks. To control gulf coast ticks, apply spray products for good neck, shoulder and ear coverage. For some heavy infestations, some producers apply an aerosol treatment directly into the ear for short term control. OSU researchers used both cows and calves to evaluate several of the pyrethroid pour-on products for control of gulf coast ticks. Using the recommended rate for horn fly control, two milliliters were placed on and around the calves' ears and three to four milliliters were placed on and around the cows' ears, with the remainder of the dose applied on the back line. These rates removed all ticks attached in or on the ears and prevented reinfestation for three weeks. A second application after three weeks provided another three to four weeks of protection.

Long term tick control can be best achieved by using insecticide ear tags in the center of each ear. Tags containing pyrethroid insecticides or the higher concentration of diazinon give the best protection. Most ear tags effective for controlling horn flies should control or prevent infestation of gulf coast ticks. The challenge producers face is timing of tag application. For tick control the tags should be applied in early spring while for horn fly control delaying application will provide more late-summer protection when fly infestation is highest. If cattle are tagged early spring for tick control, some late summer use of back-rubbers or spray application may be needed for horn fly control.

Fly Season Begins

Horn flies can rob valuable weight gain and are the main target of our fly control efforts. A Nebraska study demonstrated that calf weaning weights were reduced by 8% when there were more than 500 horn flies per head on nursing cows. Horn flies are unique because they spend the majority of their adult life on the animal. Other flies spend only a short period of time on each animal visit.

Producers should always tag the bulls, cows and heifers, but tagging the calves is unnecessary due to the fact that some of the insecticide is transferred from the cows to the calves. If controlling horn flies is the objective, try to wait until there are 200 flies per animal to apply insecticide ear tags. Most tags provide effective control for 12 to 14 weeks. Delaying tagging until fly numbers reach threshold levels and placing a tag in both ears will assist in attaining late season fly control during August and September.

An ear tag study conducted by Dr. Justin Talley, Extension Livestock Entomologist at Oklahoma State University, demonstrated that there are differences in the effectiveness of commercially available ear tags. The animals were tagged in May and monitored through August to determine efficacy of three commercially available ear tags. The three tags that were compared were Avenger® (KMG Inc.), Patriot® (KMG Inc.), and Python® (Y-TEX Inc.). These tags were selected because they each represent a different chemical class and thus different modes of action in how they kill horn flies. Avenger® is a chlorinated hydrocarbon, Patriot® is an organophosphate, and Python® is a pyrethroid. As you would expect, all tags performed well the first month of sampling but later in the summer when horn flies can become a problem only the Avenger® tag held the population down below 200 flies per animal. From late-July through August the untreated animals exhibited 1,000 or more horn flies. During that same time period the Patriot® tag averaged more than 400 flies per animal and the Python® tag averaged approximately 500 horn flies per animal. The animals tagged with the Avenger® tag averaged less than 100 flies per animal during that same time period.

To reduce the potential of insecticide resistance, producers should not use the same ear tag two years in a row but rotate with different ear tags. If ear tag control fails, switch to dust bag insecticide application and include a product that is in a different chemical class from the failed ear tag. Research has shown that using dust bags in a force-use system provides up to 80% control of horn fly populations.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the Landscape Professional

On May 21st there will be conference to address the many facets of landscape IPM programs. This conference will benefit pest control operators, professional landscape maintenance personal, nursery and garden center personnel as well as individuals who have a desire to hone their landscape management skills. Discussion topics will include ID of abiotic disorders, ID and control of plant pathogens, ID and control of insects and related pests, low input native and non-native plants, scouting and monitoring methods, weed ID and control, and pesticide container recycling. The program will begin at 8:15 a.m. and run until 4:00 p.m. Registration is \$65 if postmarked by May 12. This will cover handouts and lunch. Late registration is \$90. The workshop location will be the OSU Botanical Garden, 3425 W. Virginia, in Stillwater. For a registration form or more information please contact the Kay County Extension Office at 580-362-3194.

HORTICULTURE TIPS FOR MAY/JUNE David Hillock



MAY

- **Trees and Shrubs**
- Prune and feed azaleas immediately after blooming.
- Soak new transplants and newly planted trees unless rainfall is abundant.
- Pine needle disease treatments are needed in mid-May.

Turfgrass

- Cool-season lawns can be fertilized again. If you did not fertilize cool-season grasses in March and April, do so now.
- Warm-season lawns may be fertilized again in May.

Kay County Master Gardener Calendar of Events

May 7 th	Tour Tree Farm and lunch at "Pops"
June 3 rd 9:00 a.m.	Monthly Master Gardener Meeting at Cann Garden House
June 5 th	State Master Gardener Conference, Bartlesville, OK
June 28 th	Annual Garden Tour

- Seeding of warm-season grasses such as bermudagrass, buffalograss, zoysiagrass and centipedegrass is best performed in mid-May through the end of June. The soil temperatures are warm enough for germination and adequate growing season is present to promote winter hardiness.
- Dollar spot disease of lawns can first become visible in mid-May. Make certain fertilizer applications have been adequate before ever applying a fungicide.
- Nutsedge plants become visible during this month. Post-emergent treatments are best applied for the first time this month. Make certain warm-season grasses have completed green-up.
- The second application of pre-emergent annual grass herbicides can be applied in late-May or early June, depending upon timing of first application. Check label for details.
- Vegetative establishment of warm-season grasses can continue.

Flowers

- Annual bedding plants can be set out for summer color.
- Plant summer bulbs such as cannas, dahlias, elephant ear, caladiums and gladiolus.
- Shake a leaf over white paper to look for spider mites. If the tiny specks begin to crawl, mites are present.

Fruits and Vegetables

- Plant watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumber, eggplant, okra, sweet potatoes, etc.
- Fruit spray programs should be faithfully continued during the next several weeks.
- Late May is the best time to control borers in the orchard. Check for label recommendations and controls.

JUNE

General Landscape

- Find someone to water plants in the house and garden while on vacation. Harvesting vegetables and mowing the lawn are a must and imply that someone is home.
- Mulch ornamentals, vegetables and annuals to reduce soil crusting, and to regulate temperatures and moisture during hot summer months. Mulching will reduce about 70 percent of the summer yard maintenance.
- Remain alert for insect damage. Add spider mite to the list. Foliage of most plants becomes pale and speckled; juniper foliage turns a pale yellowish

color. Shake a branch over white paper and watch for tiny specks that crawl. Watch for first generation fall webworm.

Turfgrass

- Fertilize warm-season grasses at 1 lb. N per 1,000 square feet. Don't fertilize fescue and other cool-season grasses during the summer.
- Dollar spot disease of lawns can first become visible in mid-May. Make certain fertilizer applications have been adequate before applying a fungicide.
- Seeding of warm-season grasses should be completed by the end of June (through July for improved varieties such as Riviera and Yukon) to reduce winterkill losses.
- Brown patch disease of cool-season grasses can be a problem.
- White grubs will soon be emerging as adult June Beetles. Watch for high populations that can indicate potential damage from later life cycle stages as grubs in the summer.

Fruit and Nut

- Renovate overgrown strawberry beds after the last harvest. Start by setting your lawnmower on its highest setting and mow off the foliage. Next thin crowns 12-24 inches apart. Apply recommended fertilizer, preemergence herbicide if needed and keep watered.

Trees and Shrubs

- Vigorous, unwanted limbs should be removed or shortened on new trees. Watch for forks in the main trunk and remove the least desirable trunk as soon as it is noticed.
- Pine needle disease treatments are needed again in mid-June.
- Remove tree wraps during the summer to avoid potential disease and insect buildup.
- Softwood cuttings from new growth of many shrubs will root if propagated in a moist shady spot.
- Protect trees from lawnmowers and weed eaters by mulching or using protective aerated covers.

Flowers

- Pinch back leggy annuals to encourage new growth. Fertilize and water appropriately.
- Feed established mums and other perennials.
- When picking fresh roses or removing faded ones, cut back to a leaflet facing the outside of the bush to encourage open growth and air circulation.
- Stake tall perennials before toppling winds arise.



OSU Wheat Variety Test Plot Tour

Sponsored by:

**Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
and**

Oklahoma Wheat Growers Assoc.

May 18, 2009, 8:00 AM

At the Farm of Don Schieber

(Intersection of "W" St. and Ferguson)

Kildare, OK

A Free Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM followed by the Tour at 8:30 AM of the OSU Variety Test Plots.

Speakers include:

Dr. Jeff Edwards,

OSU Small Grains Extension Specialist

Dr. Bob Hunger,

OSU Extension Wheat Pathologist

Mr. Roger Gribble

OSU Extension NW Area Agronomist

Producers are encouraged to call the Kay Co. OSU Extension Office by May 11th if they plan to attend so we can make plans for the breakfast.

Call the Extension Office at 580-362-3194 for more details and to reserve your spot for the breakfast.

This newsletter is printed by the Kay County OSU Office Agriculture Programs. This is one way of communicating educational information. For subscriptions contact the local office. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, status as a veteran or disability in any of its policies, practices or procedures and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. USDA-Oklahoma State University and County Commissioners Cooperating. This information was produced at a cost of 1 cent per page for a total cost of 8 cents.



Editor, Ryan Sproul, Extension Educator, Agriculture, Kay County