The McCurtain County Extension Office is currently looking for interested individuals to participate in the OSU Master Cattleman Program.

The Master Cattleman Program was introduced in 2004. The objective of this program is to enhance the profitability of beef operations and the quality of life of beef cattle producers by equipping them with vital information on all aspects of beef production, business planning, risk management and marketing. The Master Cattleman program includes an educational curriculum based on the Oklahoma Beef Cattle Manual and a producer certification process.

To be certified as a “Master Cattleman”, producers must complete a minimum of 28 hours of instruction from the Master Cattleman curriculum plus a final evaluation. The core curriculum consists of 4 hours from each of the following areas:

- Business planning and management
- Marketing and risk management
- Nutrition and management
- Quality assurance and animal health
- Natural resources
- Genetics and reproduction (stocker-only producers may opt out of this section and choose additional hours from other areas)

Additional hours of elective topics are required to meet credit requirements. Electives are additional hours from any chapters for 28 hours total instruction or completion of a project not previously undertaken, such as forage or soil testing, breeding soundness examination, financial plan developed with the assistance of Extension IFMAPS personnel, cow-calf Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA), host a demonstration, etc.

In order for our county to have a Master Cattleman Program, we will need a minimum of 24 individuals to participate. Remember, participants will be committing to complete the entire 28 hours of instruction. Cost of the program will be $100. Fees will pay for the instructional material, a producer certificate, Master Cattleman farm gate sign, a notebook embossed with the Master Cattleman logo, and help defray cost of refreshments for the meetings.

The Extension Office will be taking names of interested individuals now through September and if enough are interested, the program will begin in late October and run through February. Contact the Extension Office at 580-286-7558 to enroll or for any questions.
The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation’s Agricultural Division and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service will host the 19th Southern Plains Beef Symposium from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Ardmore Convention Center in Ardmore, Okla.

Entitled Beyond the Horizon: The Changing Environment Facing Today’s Beef Industry, this year’s symposium brings together six speakers from Oklahoma, Colorado and Kansas who will discuss how they and other agricultural producers are coping with the challenges of today’s ever-changing environment and trends in the beef industry.

“The Southern Plains Beef Symposium is a one-day event that enables beef producers to gain insight and information into current issues and production situations,” said Shan Ingram, who serves as education and special projects manager. “We are fortunate to have sponsors and partners who help with the symposium; this allows us to bring a quality, national-level program to our agricultural producers.

The six speakers are:

• Billy Cook, Sr. Vice President and Director of the Agricultural Division at The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation. Cook oversees the Noble Foundation’s effort to assist regional agricultural producers in meeting their financial, production, stewardship and quality-of-life goals. The Noble Foundation achieves this objective through its consultation, education and outreach, and research programs with an emphasis on forage-based beef cattle production systems. Cook has experience as a livestock consultant and also managed the Agricultural Division’s research efforts prior to becoming the division director.

• Daren Williams, Executive Director for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA). Williams manages the spokesperson development, media relations, public affairs and organizational communications functions for NCBA - the voice of the beef industry and beef producers.

• Ben Wileman, beef cattle clinician and research associate at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Wileman’s research investigates life cycle beef production management with emphasis on animal welfare, vaccine technology development and application, and management effect measurements.

• Tommy Beall, cattle market analyst for Beall Consulting Group. Beall served as director of market research for Cattle-Fax and was an executive at ContiBeef before establishing his own firm. He has more than 35 years of experience in cattle market analysis, risk management, procurement, marketing and feedlot management.

• Dave Lalman, extension beef cattle specialist and professor at Oklahoma State University. In this role, Lalman developed a statewide educational program in beef cattle nutrition and management, focusing on beef production systems. His primary research areas are nutrition and management of beef cattle.

• Scott Dewald, Executive Vice President of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association. Dewald also serves as the Executive Vice President and Treasurer of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Foundation. He is the chief lobbyist for the organization in Oklahoma City and Washington, D.C.

At the conclusion of the presentations, there will be a question-and-answer session with the speakers. Various door prizes will be given throughout the day and a grand door prize will be given at the conclusion of the program.

The Noble Foundation’s Leonard Wyatt Memorial Outstanding Cooperator of the Year Award will be presented at the symposium as well. The award honors one of the 1,700 farmers and ranchers who best exemplifies the cooperative relationship between the regional producers and Noble Foundation’s Agricultural Division. The symposium also will feature a trade show with more than 40 booths.

Registration for the symposium is $25 per person and includes the entire program and a prime rib lunch. For additional information or to register, contact Tracy Cumbie at 580.224.6411 or by e-mail at tlcumbie@noble.org.

Check out beefextension.com

Answers and information related to genetics, reproduction, nutrition, health and disease, forage production, pest management, marketing, facilities, quality assurance, and much, much more.
**Meat Goats: Fact or Fad?**

By James “JJ” Jones, Area Ag Economist, SE District OSU Extension

Many livestock producers look at the meat goat industry and wonder if it is in fact an actually viable agricultural enterprise or is it another fad like the ostriches that will disappear as quickly as it started. In fact, there are several key differences between the meat goat industry and those fad agricultural enterprises of the past. This article will point out the most relevant of those differences.

The biggest factor going for meat goats is there is an actual demand for the product. As the ethnic population in the United States has grown so has the demand for goat meat. Outside the U.S. goat meat is the most consumed meat protein. The graph below shows the amount of frozen goat meat that has been imported into the U.S. since 1999. Imports of frozen goat meat have increased from 7.42 million pounds in 1999 to its highest level of 24.4 million pounds in 2006. In 2008 the U.S. imported 23.7 million pounds of frozen goat meat.

As long as this demand continues there will be an opportunity for producers to have a viable market. If fact since the preference is for fresh meat not frozen, there is still opportunity for expansion to fill the need that is currently being filled by imported goat meat.

Unlike past fads, meat goats are a sustainable production system that has its own set of established infrastructure (markets, packers, retailers, etc.). This is in large part because of the aforementioned demand. Infrastructure was never established with other fad enterprises and that left producers with little options.

Meat goat operations also can be complimentary to an existing livestock operation. The opportunity to have multiple revenue sources from one resource center is appealing to some producers. Meat goat operations can also use land resources that are typically not well suited for other types of livestock operations. This allows producers to utilize more of their land resources that would otherwise be setting idle or underused.

Overall, the meat goat industry is not a fad. It has a market demand and the ability to sustain itself over time. As long as the demand stays and the infrastructure can continue to meet the needs of the consumers, the meat goats should be a viable production system for the foreseeable future.

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**Effects of Deworming and Late Summer Protein Supplements are Additive**

By Dr. Glenn Selk, OSU Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist

Oklahoma State University beef nutritionists studied the effects of deworming and protein supplementation during late-summer on performance of fall-born heifers grazing native warm-season pastures. Forty Angus and Angus x Hereford heifers (average age = 270 days) were assigned to receive one of four treatment combinations: 1) no supplement, no dewormer; 2) supplement, no dewormer; 3) no supplement, dewormed; and 4) supplement, and dewormed. The dewormer treatment (Ivermectin, 1% solution containing 10% ivermectin) was applied on July 25 and again on August 26. Protein supplemented heifers received the equivalent of 1 pound per head per day of cottonseed meal (41% crude protein, as fed basis) for 84 days beginning on July 29. Fecal egg counts were obtained from 5 heifers within each treatment combination at 28-day intervals. Fecal egg shedding was lower in dewormed heifers throughout the treatment period. Both protein supplementation and deworming treatment resulted in improved weight gains during the treatment period.

The effects of protein supplementation and deworming are additive. However, some, although not all, of the additional weight gain due to supplementation was lost during the winter when heifers received a maintenance diet. Added weight gain that was attributed to deworming heifers the previous summer was not lost during the winter.

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| Recommended maximum number of cattle* for trailers of different lengths** | Cattle Weight (lbs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trailer Size | 400 | 600 | 800 | 1000 | 1200 | 1400 | 1600 |
| 16' x 6' | 18 | 12 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 7400 |
| 18' x 6' | 21 | 14 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8400 |
| 20' x 6' | 23 | 15 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 9300 |
| 24' x 6' | 28 | 18 | 14 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 11100 |
| 20' x 7' | 27 | 18 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 10800 |
| 24' x 7' | 32 | 22 | 16 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 13000 |
| 28' x 7' | 37 | 26 | 19 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 15200 |
| 32' x 7' | 43 | 29 | 22 | 17 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 17300 |

These recommendations are from the Beef Quality Assurance Program

*This chart represents the maximum number of polled/dehorned cattle for trailers of different lengths; when hauling horned/tipped cattle, reduce the number of cattle by 5%.

**The number of cattle loaded during hot conditions should be reduced.

***The maximum weight of cattle for each trailer size with these calculations. Do not exceed the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating for your truck or stock trailer.
Livestock

Premise ID for Swine Show Animals, Effective August First

Participants in Oklahoma swine shows and exhibits will be required to have an official premise identification card issued by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry effective August 1.

Officials say the rule will protect both economic and social interests. "This is a very proactive step that lets Oklahomans decide how best to protect the health of our citizens, our livestock industry and our livestock show industry," said Governor Brad Henry. "Suggestions were made earlier by the Centers for Disease Control and some commercial producers to eliminate swine shows completely, but this is a much better alternative that lets our 4-H and FFA members compete in livestock shows."

A large percentage of show swine are kept on school farms. In those cases the school farm will have its own premise identification and the exhibitors will not need additional identification.

“If the animal is always kept at the school, no other premise identification is required," according to State Secretary of Agriculture, Terry Peach. “Also, if an exhibitor shows up at a livestock show without premise identification the new rule does not refuse them to show if they fill out the required identification form immediately.” There is no charge for premise identification and all information is strictly confidential and cannot be released. No other livestock species brought for exhibition are required to have the premise identification at this time.

4-H and FFA members needing assistance in applying for their premise ID should contact the Extension Office at 580-286-7558 as soon as possible.

Poultry and Waste Mgmt.

Poultry House Tips For Avoiding Hot Weather Problems

By: Josh Payne, Ph.D. Area Waste Management Specialist

There are many things that can potentially go wrong in a poultry house during scorching summertime heat. Modern broilers do not perform well when subjected to extreme warm temperatures. Fortunately, modern poultry house technological advances such as evaporative cooling pads and tunnel ventilation help achieve optimal performance even during hot weather. However, equipment malfunctions can quickly escalate to catastrophic bird mortality losses within minutes, wreaking havoc for producers. Conducting simple summertime poultry house maintenance will help to avoid a potential disaster.

Below are a few common tips:

- **Give fans a tune-up.** Fans should be inspected and tuned-up so that they are running at maximum efficiency. Examples include: cleaning dirty fans, replacing worn belts, greasing fan bearings, etc.
- **Clean evaporative cooling pads.** Pads clogged with insects, feathers and dust restrict air flow increasing the work load on tunnel fans and decreasing cooling pad efficiency. Maintain a clean water source to prevent filters and header holes from clogging.
- **Assure adequate water supply.** Test plumbing system for maximum demand use by emptying all water storage tanks and then filling them all at the same time to simulate a maximum demand scenario. If water pressure in the control room drops below 40 psi, the system may be insufficient to perform during maximum use.
- **Maintain electrical systems.** Power loss during hot weather can rapidly lead to mass mortality. Conduct regular testing of the back-up generator, transfer switch and alarm systems. Use an infrared temperature gun to spot overheating breakers before they cause a problem. Test tunnel fans for proper voltage levels.

For more information on these and other poultry house management tips, visit www.poultryhouse.com.
Stockpiled Bermudagrass Can Reduce Winter Feed Costs

Harvested forage costs are a large part of the production costs associated with cow-calf enterprises. A recent OSU trial had the objective to economically evaluate stockpiled bermudagrass. The research found that this practice can reduce cow-wintering costs. Forage accumulation during the late summer and fall is variable from year to year depending on moisture, temperatures, date of first frost and fertility.

The OSU research has found that 50 to 100 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen fertilizer applied in the late summer has produced 1000 – 2000 pounds of forage per acre. In some ideal situations even more forage has been produced.

Studies between 1997 and 2000 found stockpiled bermudagrass protein concentrations were quite impressive, even after frost. In November, the range of protein content of the standing forage was 13.1% to 15.2%. The protein held up in December and ranged from 12.5% to 14.7% and declined to 10.9% to 11.6% in January.

To make best use of the stockpiled forage, supplementation with 2 pounds of 14% to 25% protein feed beginning in early December is recommended.

The following is a list of recommendations for stockpiling bermudagrass pastures for best results and reducing winter feed bills:

- Remove existing forage by haying, clipping, or grazing by late August
- Apply 50 to 100 pounds of actual nitrogen fertilizer per acre.
- Defer grazing until at least late October or early November.
- Control access to forage by rotational or strip grazing to cut waste and extend grazing.
- If cool season forage is available for use in the winter, use the stockpiled bermudagrass first.
- Supplementation (2 pounds of 14 – 25% protein) should begin in early December.
- Provide free-choice mineral (6%- 9% phosphorus and Vitamin A) with a trace-mineral package

Cutworm Damage in Soybeans

By Dr. George Driever, Area Integrated Pest Management Specialist

In the last week I have been receiving calls about soybean plants being broken or cut off close to the ground. Several field visits have confirmed that cutworms are the cause. In the fields I have visited the damage has been light to moderate. Feeding patterns are erratic as the cutworms move across the field. The other comment I have had is that no one can find the cutworms. The larva feed at night and during the day migrate into the ground or under debris. This makes them very difficult to find, but the damage is the evidence of their moving across a field clipping the main stem off at various heights above the soil line.

There are several species of cutworm that can be causing the damage in soybean fields as well as other crops or turf. Most overwinter in the soil as larva and emerge at different times of the year. Army cut worms are an early spring feeder with one generation per year. Clay-backed and dusky cutworms develop later in spring and have one generation per year. The bristly cutworm and bronzed cutworm have one generation per year and cause damage around May. Variegated and black cutworms have several generations per year. The variegated cutworm causes late spring damage while the black cutworm feeds to late summer. These are likely to be the cutworms causing the current damage. Moths of different species can also migrate in to augment local populations.

The adults are medium sized moths of one to two inches of wing spread. Most are brown to gray in color with various markings on the front wings. The larva start out small and grow to 1 ½ inches with various colorations and bristle arrangements.

Scouting fields for damage is important and cannot be done effectively from behind the windshield. If clipped plants are observed, the field should be monitored frequently to determine the level of damage that may be sustained in no treatment is applied. A rescue treatment is suggested when 30% or more of the young plants are lost. If a producer is unsure of the level of damage and wants to apply an insecticide, a field visit by the County Educator may be helpful.
GARDEN TIPS FOR AUGUST!

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. (HLA-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.

Fruit and Nut
Continue protective insect applications on the fruit orchard. A good spray schedule is often abandoned too early. Follow directions on last application prior to harvest. (EPP-7319)

Flowers
Towards the end of the month, divide and replant spring-blooming perennials like iris, peonies and daylilies if needed.

General
Water compost during extremely dry periods so that it remains active. Turn the pile to generate heat throughout for proper sterilization.
Always follow directions on both synthetic and natural pesticide products.
Watch for high populations of caterpillars, aphids, spider mites, thrips, scales and other insects on plant material in the garden and landscape and treat as needed. (EPP-7306)
Water all plants thoroughly unless rainfall has been adequate. It is better to water more in depth, less often and early in the morning.

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

Lawn and Turf
Grassy winter weeds like Poa annua, better known as annual bluegrass, can be prevented with a preemergence herbicide application in late August. Water in the product after application. (HLA-6420)
Areas of turf with large brown spots should be checked for high numbers of grubs. Mid-to-late August is the best time to control heavy white grub infestations in the lawn. Apply appropriate insecticide if white grubs are a problem. Water product into soil. (EPP-7306)
Tall fescue should be mowed at 3 inches during the hot summer and up to 3½ inches if it grows under heavier shade. (HLA-6420)
For areas being converted to tall fescue this fall, begin spraying out bermudagrass with a product containing glyphosate in early August. (HLA-6419 & HLA-6421)
Irrigated warm-season lawns can be fertilized once again; apply 0.5 lb N/1,000 sq ft in early to mid-August.
Brown patch of cool-season grasses can be a problem. (HLA-6420)

*Reference fact sheets can be viewed on the web at http://osufacts.okstate.edu
Early Season Pecan Weevil Situation

By Phil Mulder, Extension Entomologist

The Extension Service has had several calls regarding pecan weevils. The overriding question has been, “with the early rains and recovery of weevils already occurring in traps, should I treat early.” Relatively light populations across the majority of the state have been the norm thus far. Many growers have reported single digit numbers since they began their yearly monitoring and trapping. Heavy rainfall that proceeds the normal emergence period for adult weevils will often lead to early suicidal emergence. This may be likely in several locations that had heavy rainfall through mid to late July. In fact, some pecan producers located in central and south Central Oklahoma, who began trapping in July, noticed heavy peaks in late July. I would suspect that they may recover very few additional weevils after that time but that remains to be seen. Also, remember that sustained flooding in many orchards can adversely affect the weevil population. In some instances this may be possible since flood waters can sit on orchard floors for weeks. Another scenario and the one that concerns me the greatest is the possibility that weevil populations have not peaked and/or may fly in from adjacent untreated areas. In previous studies conducted throughout Oklahoma using Circle traps, we have consistently seen the peak in emergence to occur about the third week in September.

I am hopeful that the first scenario described above is the explanation for the fate of our weevil population in 2009; however, I caution all growers to please continue to monitor and trap in their areas to be certain we do not have a normal September flush of adult beetles. In years past, some growers suspended treatment about the time that the cultivar Pawnee began and consequently got burned on their other varieties or natives. Pecans will continue to be susceptible to weevil attack up to shock split. We must continue to learn from those bad experiences in the past, to avoid falling into the same trap for the future.

After emergence from the soil, adult weevils live for about 2 to 3 weeks, with females surviving longer than males. Female weevils are capable of surviving much longer if nuts are not acceptable for oviposition (egg laying). If the nuts are not ready for oviposition by female weevils, then adults will cause feeding damage on the nuts (on average about 1 nut per weevil every four days). This damage may consist of feeding punctures, prior to shell hardening, which will cause premature drop of the pecan. Feeding by pecan weevil after shell hardening may cause the deterioration of the gel resulting in “sticktight.” If the weevil penetrates only the shuck, then damage may be limited to slight scars, black spots, pits or molds on the kernel near the puncture site.

Oviposition by female pecan weevils can occur as early as 2 days after emergence; however, the majority of egg production occurs 10 - 12 days after emergence. Regardless of how soon oviposition begins, it is initiated on early maturing varieties sooner than on trees that have late maturing nuts. Each female can average around 35 - 55 eggs deposited during her life. She will average about four eggs per nut. With a healthy weevil population, this can account for a great amount of damage.

In relationship to insecticide control, many growers are making a transition from traditional use of Sevin to use of some formulation of pyrethroid insecticide (Warrior, Proaxis, Asana, Mustang - Max, etc.) instead of Sevin. The reasoning behind this change has been economics, with costs for Sevin continuing to rise and pyrethroid costs remaining steady to lower in some cases. While this may be a good choice for some, it could create a potentially greater problem for others. If you do not have a closed cab system, some pyrethroids (the newer ones in particular) could be potentially more toxic than Sevin. The active ingredient in Sevin, known as Carbaryl has an oral and dermal LD50 of around 260 and 4000 mg of chemical/Kg of body weight, respectively, while those same numbers for Warrior (lambda - cyhalothrin) are 68 and 664, respectively. Remember, the lower the number, the more potentially toxic the chemistry. Proaxis, which is simply a different isomer (gamma - cyhalothrin), very similar to Warrior, has an oral and dermal LD50 of 79 and 632, respectively. This suggests that these newer pyrethroids are potentially more toxic to the applicator than Sevin insecticide.

Over the last two years, several combination products have been labeled. These products generally contain some type of pyrethroid and another active ingredient that may or may not be more efficacious on aphids. One such product is Endigo®, which contains a pyrethroid (lambda - cyhalothrin) plus a neonicotinoid (thiamethoxam). The latter ingredient is effective on aphids while the former chemistry is essentially Warrior®, which is an excellent product for weevil control. Some of the other combination products simply contain two pyrethroids (e.g. Hero® or a pyrethroid in conjunction with chlorpyrifos (Cobalt®). While the former type of product may be effective on weevils, it likely has the same limitations of most pyrethroids for aphid control (i.e. – resistance, resurgence or replacement issues). Chlorpyrifos may be somewhat efficacious on aphids, but does not effectively control weevils and is not considered to be translaminar (translocating into peripheral leaf tissue). Thiamethoxam and Imidacloprid are both effective on aphids and have some translaminar activity. The latter product is another neonicotinoid found in the combination product known as Leverage®.

A final word about switching chemicals too quickly before examining the information at hand is when making your choices, carefully examine university trials and ask others about performance of new materials. While many of the newer pyrethroids are similar, their active ingredients may vary in activity on pecan weevil. In OSU trials, Warrior® has proven to be more efficacious than Mustang - Max® or Proaxis® and grower testimonies have borne this out. Different active ingredients may be the answer to this puzzle between Warrior® and Mustang - Max®, but why are the two isomers of cyhalothrin (Proaxis® and Warrior®) different? The answer is on the label. Warrior® contains twice as much active ingredient per gallon than Proaxis® and yet the usage rates for pecan are identical. All of this latter information on chemicals points to the most important aspect of making applications, read the label and know what you’re getting for your money.