

Tour #1 – Muskogee County (Rodney King)

Tour Destination#1: Tony Nichols Ranch: Nichols Ranch was founded before Statehood by Tony's grandfather. In 1961 Tony and Linda Nichols took over the ranch and significantly grew its production capacity. It is considered a family enterprise, which now includes the fifth generation to work the farm, as Grandsons Colt and Levi Watson have joined the management team. The Nichols ranch has utilized the Muskogee County Extension Service for many years and is tremendous supporters of 4-H and FFA Members.

Nichols Ranch consists of a fall calving commercial cow/calf herd of 500 Angus/Simmental Cross Cattle. Unique to most commercial herds the Nichols ranch has utilized Artificial Insemination on approximately 90% of the cows annually to produce 100% of replacement heifers on the ranch. Mr. Nichols has retained ownership of steers and a percentage of the heifers for many years and has developed outstanding herd records, including slaughter data that has driven introduction of new sire genetics into the herd. Nichols ranch has also retains 25 to 30 bulls calves annually that are used for clean up sires. After use as clean up, sires are marketed to local producers as commercial bulls. The tour will showcase some of the cows and pasture management with time for discussion, questions and answers.

Tour Destination #2: Bill Shelby is third generation vegetable producer in Muskogee County. He is an honors graduate of Oklahoma State University, in Agriculture Economics with a specialization in Marketing. Bill was fortunate to be Chosen to an elite Scholarship, sponsored by Rotary International, which allowed him to spend a year in Australia studying vegetable production, marketing operations and commerce. He received a Masters Degree while in Australia in Commerce. He has since moved back to the farm and is currently partnered with his grandfather and uncle and is responsible for expansion of the vegetable enterprise on the farm. His dad, uncle and grandfather have been active vegetable producers for many years providing a strong base for production. Bill has assumed a large portion of the management duties and is expanded the opportunities for sales largely due to non-traditional marketing.

The irrigated vegetable farm includes the following crops, sweet corn, spinach, greens, watermelons, cantaloupe and pumpkins. The farm operation also has over twenty five hundred acres of wheat, soybeans and corn. We will tour some of the farm and vegetable commodity storage as well as hear a short presentation about unique new marketing strategies.

Tour Destination # 3: Crop Protection Services has moved to a brand new location in Webbers Falls, Oklahoma. Located in the heart of a vast number of farms that it serves, CPS provides a one stop shopping atmosphere. CPS provides on farm consultation and an array product to meet all farm needs of chemicals, seed and fertilizer. Hayden Henry Location Manager will provide lunch for the participants and briefly describe the new facility and services it provides. Crop Protection Services is a Key partner in providing educational programming through sponsorship of Educational Programs and acquisition of products to conduct on Farm Research Trials through as a participant in the Partners in Research (PIR) project.

Tour Destination #4: The 1500 acre Pearson/Leeds Farm partnership is headquartered in the rich bottom land located in Webbers Falls, Southern Muskogee County. Charles Pearson is the

fourth generation to work the family farm in Webbers Falls. Charles and his Son-In-Law, John Leeds currently operate a very successful row-crop operation of Corn, Soybeans and Wheat in both Webbers Falls and Fort Gibson locations. A large percentage of the farm is pivot- irrigated which has been upgraded in recent years for efficiency and water conservation purposes. John, also a fourth generation farmer, grew up on the family farm in Ft. Gibson, Ok, has tremendous interest in technology and new production practices that improve yields and economic returns. Charles has many years of farming experience, production knowledge and excellent management skills making this a very productive partnership.

The Pearson/Leeds Farm has been part of a cooperative effort including County Extension Staff, State Extension Staff and the Pearson/Leeds farm to conduct on-farm research. The program is Titled Partners in Research (**PIR**). County staff works with producers to identify questions of specific farm production practices to be studied and assist in establishing and harvesting research plots. County staff also provides the link between the Area and State specialist and the farm. Area and State staff provides the protocol for developing on farm trials with repetition in order to get statistically reliable data. The data can be analyzed and published while the producer receives specific farm analysis from State and Area Specialist. Finally, the farm provides the labor, equipment and materials necessary to complete the trial. On the tour you will how the farm uses this program has helped the Pearson/Leeds Farm make research based decisions specific to their farm.

Tour Destination #5: THREE RIVERS MUSEUM is dedicated to preserving the multi-ethnic history and heritage of the American frontier in the Three Rivers area in Eastern Oklahoma where the Arkansas, Grand and Verdigris Rivers meet. The museum is located in the restored Midland Valley Railroad Depot in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

We offer a preview of our museum, plus articles on the history of the Three Rivers region and current museum news.

Three Rivers Museum is a great vacation destination where the story of the American West unfolds before you. We invite you to stop by and see us when you're in Oklahoma!

The Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, located in [Muskogee, Oklahoma](#), honors [Oklahoma](#) musicians for their lifetime achievements in [music](#). The induction ceremony and concert is held each year in Muskogee. Since its establishment in 1997, the Hall of Fame has inducted more than 37 individuals or groups, produced more than 7 concerts, and renovated in part the facility that will educate Oklahomans for generations about those innovators and industry icons from Oklahoma.

Tour #2 – Yukon, OK (Brad Tipton)

Express Ranches, headquartered in Yukon, OK, is the second largest seedstock operation in America based on sales records compiled by Cattle-Fax. The ranch will sell in excess of 4,800 head of Angus, Limousin and Lim-Flex genetics during the coming year. The ranch is renowned in livestock circles for innovations like the development of a “franchise” method to market seedstock with their EXG program. Owner, Bob Funk of Express Personnel Services, also owns Express Clydesdales stabled in a 1936 barn reconstructed by Amish barn specialists from Indiana who rebuilt the barn’s structure using pine wood, walnut trim and brass fixtures throughout. Express Clydesdales have competed nationally and internationally winning numerous world championships and international awards since 1999. The tour will conclude with a stop at OKC West Livestock Auction. This livestock auction sells over 325,000 head of cattle annually.

Tour #3 – Shawnee, OK (Joe Benton)

Valley View Pecan, buyer and sheller of Pecans from Oklahoma and surrounding states sells wholesale and retail. Shawnee Milling buys grains from Oklahoma and surrounding states, manufactures retail products for human consumption and animal feeds all sold nationally

Tour #4 – Okfuskee County (Ron Vick)

GRAPE RANCH The Grape Ranch Vineyard is located on the Whiteman family ranch just south of Okemah. Nestled along the North Canadian River, the Grape Ranch is an award winning vineyard and winery. The Grape Ranch consists of 700 acres with 50 acres available for camping and a 50 acres pecan orchard which attracts hundreds of birds, deer and other wildlife. The Grape Ranch also produces and sale quality hay. The Grape Ranch hosts several festivals and other outdoor musical events.

HAYDON FARMS Haydon Farms is a family operation that consists of cattle and pecans. The Haydon Farms in past years have consisted of five enterprises, which are Commercial Cow/Calf, Replacement Heifers, Yearling Steers and Heifers, Pecans and Forage Hay Production. Presently the operation consists of pecans and marketing their forage with contract stocker cattle.

Paul and Maxine Haydon have worked with the OSU Extension Service through a SARE grant to refine stocker production and pecan production. By replacing commercial fertilizer with nitrogen produced by legumes pastures and developing a customized pest management system based on scouting and weather monitoring.

SPANISH GOATS FOR CASHMERE AND MEAT In 1998, Claud D. Evans, DVM, initiated another three-year study, this time with support from a SARE producer grant, Langston University, and Oklahoma State University Extension, that investigated combing and shearing techniques in obtaining cashmere fiber.

They sheared half of each goat and combed the other half. Over three years, Evans found that combing yielded 73 to 93 percent cashmere, by weight, while shearing yielded 15 to 21 percent cashmere. Evans concluded that the practice of combing minimizes an animal’s risk of shear shock, because it removes the fine cashmere fibers while leaving intact guard hairs that protect

goats against the weather. Compared to shearing, combing also yielded a much cleaner fiber, closer to the quality of market-ready cashmere, and eliminated “second cuts,” short fibers of lesser value that are produced by repeat shearing of the same spot.

Evans’ SARE grant also supported his use of rotational pasturing to reduce internal parasite problems and reduce or avoid costly anti-parasitic drugs and nutrition supplements. Evans has found that rotational pasturing is an effective part of a preventative health care regimen for his animals.

5-STAR PECAN RANCH is a family own Pecan and cow/calf operation by Leon and Judy Bailey. They produce native and paper shell pecans, with 80 to 90 % being paper shell. They also run approximately 200 head of cattle. The 5- Star Ranch has a long history dating back to the 1920’s when the ranch was called Camp Ranch. The Bailey’s sell whole or cracked and blown pecans.

Tour #5 – TOUR CANCELLED!

Tour #6 – Tahlequah Nurseries (Roger Williams)

Tour #7 – Cherokee Prairie (Gage Milliman)

The tour will start out with one of Nowata County’s leading beef producers. The Helm family run a progressive cattle backgrounding operation using by-product feeds. They also produce and train excellent Cutting Horses for use on the ranch as well as for competition. From there you will see one of the regions finest custom saddle makers, Yochum Custom Leather, and learn what goes into making saddles. The next destination is lunch on the Fessler Ranch, where you will learn about the SARE funded on-farm research currently underway to evaluate forage and parasite issues when grazing meat goats, hair sheep, and yearling stocker cattle on native rangelands. The tour will then move to the Hughes Ranch of Osage County’s Bartlesville area. The Hughes Ranch was the first stocker operator to win the prestigious *Stocker Producer of the Year* by NCBA’s BEEF Magazine. The operation utilizes prescribed fire for range management while in a delicate proximity of a major metropolitan area. The ranch is also home to some of the Bureau of Land Management’s wild horses. The tour will conclude with a visit to one of the most progressive breeders of purebred Hereford cattle, Star Lake Hereford Ranch in Skiatook. There you will learn about their efforts to market genetics globally through semen and embryo transfer, as well as producing many show ring champions.

Tour #8 – Bartlesville (Randy Pirtle)

Tour #9 – Osage County (Will Cabbage)

Learn how ranching is done in the Osage part of the Tallgrass Prairie. Ben Pecan & Cattle is a diversified operation utilizing both native and improved forages with many acres under pecan trees and several acres with irrigation available from the Arkansas River basin under a grazing management outline developed with OSU Extension. The Foraker Unit of the Sooner Cattle Company is the Oklahoma division of AgReserves, Inc. This ranch was originally owned by the CEO of Phillips Petroleum and is an excellent opportunity to examine a very progressive player in the yearling stocker industry of the Tallgrass Prairie. The final stop will be on The Nature Conservancy’s *Tallgrass Prairie Preserve*. There you will view bison on native prairie and learn

about diversity of the native plants. The “*Preserve*” is also a valuable partner in research with OSU on Fire Ecology and Range Management. You will be able to view effects of fire on controlling invasive plant species with one of the leading researchers on the effort. Time will also be spent driving through communities of Osage County, once the Osage Indian Reservation, and viewing one of the nation’s largest counties with approximately 1.5 million acres.

Tour #10 – Claremore (Mike Rose)

Learn about the life and legacy of the Great American hero Will Rogers while touring the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore, OK. You will learn about the life, wisdom and humor of Will Rogers, Cherokee Cowboy by viewing his saddles, art, memorabilia and participating in interactive exhibits such as watching one of his 71 motion pictures and listening to radio replays. Then tour the world’s largest private collection of firearms at the J. M. Davis Arms and Historical Museum. This museum contains over 50,000 guns and related items from all over the world. In addition to the guns this museum includes his collection of Native American Displays, Cowboy/Western Memorabilia, Famous Outlaw and Lawmen Guns, German Beer Steins, John Rogers Statuary Collection and Antique Musical Instruments.

Tour #11 – Haskell County (Brian Pugh)

Tour #12 – Illinois River (Josh Payne)

The 2010 NACAA AM/PIC Illinois River Canoe Trip will provide participants an opportunity to explore this Scenic River firsthand through a guided canoe float. The Illinois, said to be the best canoe stream in the state, offers crystal clear water rippling over flint rock with views of high bluffs, rocky islands, river birch and giant sycamore trees. The float, led by Water Quality and Animal Waste experts from Oklahoma State University and Scenic River Staff, will include time to discuss some of the litigation, animal waste and water quality issues that have brought national attention to this watershed. Installed BMPs along the river will also be highlighted. The tour will include shuttle service to and from the hotel, canoes and lunch.

Tour #14 – Pawnee & Kay Counties (Dwayne Skidgel)

Tour #15 – Noble County (Chad Webb)

Out tour will begin at The Charles Machine Works, Inc. facility, manufacturer of Ditch Witch products. Ed Malzahn's, President and Chairman of the Board, idea was to create a compact trencher that would dramatically reduce the time and effort of installing utility services. The Ditch Witch compact trencher has twice been named "one of the 100 best American-made products in the world" by fortune magazine and remains a leader in the industry of underground equipment. The next stop will be at the world renowned M&M Charolais Ranch. Each year prize winning Charolais are bred, raised and sold here. The tour will continue to Brorsen Bluestems "year around grazing" includes Cool & Warm Season grass, Legumes and Hunting Reserve. This family owned farm operation converted from the conventional farming operation into a grass & legume seed company and visualized the natural fit to add a Hunting Reserve to the family operation.

Tour #16 – Oklahoma City (J.J. Jones)

Tour #17 – Tulsa Area Equine (Bruce Peverly)

- Attend the Palomino World Show/Trade Show
- Tour facilities at the Tulsa Expo Square Facilities
- Visit Brewster Ranch, Show Place Cutting Horse Operation and Bucking Bull producer
- Tulsa Boys Home – using horses to assist the development of troubled youth
- Lunch At Tour participants expense

Tour #18 – Fair Meadows - OGHRA (Ray Ridlen)

Tour #19 – Ottawa County (Stan Fimple)

First Stop will be to visit the largest herd of **purebred Tarentaise** in North America. In the early 1980's, Ankenman Ranch started breeding purebred Tarentaise cattle that are noted for their strong maternal traits and are a moderate, mature size, continental, beef breed. We will then visit a centennial farm that was started in Oklahoma Indian Territory in the late 1890's and has remained in operation for 5 generations. **Rendel Farms** currently farm over 4000 dry land acres. Mark and Brent Rendel grow winter wheat, field corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and sunflowers.

You will have the opportunity to visit the **Coleman Theater**. Originally a vaudeville theater and movie palace, the “Coleman Theatre Beautiful” opened to a full house of 1600, at \$1.00 a seat, on April 18, 1929. Built by Georg L. Coleman, Sr., local mining magnate, the opulent structure with Louis XV interior design dazzled the audiences of the day. The Coleman Theatre has become a major stop on Historic Route 66 for visitors from around the world. They are often surprised to discover the “jewel” of Route 66 in the old fashioned downtown of Miami, Oklahoma. Then on to **J-M Farms, Inc.** A family owned company that specializes in growing and marketing 21 million pounds of fresh mushrooms annually. J-M Farms was founded in 1979 and uses several traditional agricultural by-products in the composting process. Included in these by-products are 20,000 tons of wheat straw and 12,000 tons of chicken litter annually of which most is procured locally. After this stop we will go and see a piece of the original “Mother Road” Route 66.

Tour #20 – Enid (Jeff Bedwell)

Tour #21 – McIntosh/Hughes/Muskogee Counties (Randy Burris)

Three ranches will be toured to give participants a look at beef production in East Central Oklahoma. All three are working Commercial Cow/Calf Operations that have been in the business a long time by efficient utilization of ranch resources and changing to meet the needs of their customers. Beyond this, the operations are very different in the way they go about achieving their common goal of sustainability.

At Middle Creek Ranch, most of the 600 cows are bred to calve in the spring. Cows are utilized in a rotational grazing program with stockers (leader/follower) to hold down forage cost. Examples of other manage practices utilized that will be discussed on the tour are prescribed burning, appropriate stocking rates on native range, direct off the ranch marketing of yearlings, and the value of a good ranch horse.

The Andy Wiedel Ranch started from scratch in the mid 80’s. It has been built and paid for with hard work, good decisions, good timing and a willingness to diversify. The ranch has long run cows of Angus and Charolais breeding on Bermuda grass pastures established on land that they cleared. Hereford and Red Angus genetics are now being incorporated into the herd. Custom hay baling and logging on owned land provides additional income.

Nichols Ranch was founded before Statehood with the fifth generation now working on the ranch. The herd consists of 500 fall calving Angus/Simmental cross cows. Artificial insemination (AI) is used on over 90% of the cows annually. Ownership of steers and part of the heifers are retained through the feed yard. Also, 25 to 30 bull calves are retained annually for clean up sires and then marketed as breeding bulls.

Tour #22 – Norman (Al Sutherland)

Tour #23 – Kerr Center (Brian Freking)

This Tour will begin with a visit to a 1895 Historical Farm which serves as a Bed & Breakfast, working farm, and educational facility to demonstrate Agriculture practices during the late 1800’s. Rare breed Cattle called Piney Woods are utilized in their education demonstration during Oktoberfest which also attracts people to view the art of

processing Sorghum into syrup. The next stop will be a visit to the Kerr Museum which was built by Robert S. Kerr, founder of the internationally known governor of Oklahoma, powerful US Senator and conservationist. The conference center is available for public use, and the museum depicts the history and development of eastern Oklahoma. Final stop will be the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture which is a 4000 ac working ranch incorporating techniques to improve sustainable agriculture. Specialists are implementing a number of "best management" or conservation practices. Developing buffer strips along waterways is one such project. Upgrading habitat to benefit waterfowl and fish, instituting cell grazing, building limited access watering points and freeze-proof watering tanks, and building a stabilized stream crossing (the first in Oklahoma) are other efforts. Each year, the Kerr Center teams up with the OSU Cooperative Extension Service to conduct the 2009 Meat Goat Forage Performance Test.

[The Stewardship Ranch](#) won a prestigious Merit Award at the 2000 national meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for its conservation efforts.

The Horticulture Farm is another part of the Stewardship Ranch. The vegetable garden is certified organic by the state of Oklahoma. New and old varieties blackberries, table grapes, Muscadine grapes and blueberries are also being tested at the farm.

Tour #24 – Mayes County (Wayne Shearhart)

Propp Ranch - A fall calving commercial cow herd with Sim-Angus genetics. Bermuda-Fescue pastures are utilized as grazed forage and hay production. Replacement heifers are retained in their herd. Calves are marketed as pre-vac and weaned. The Propp Ranch is on the National Historic Register as a historic ranch. The Ranch has been in the same family since before statehood and deeds trace back to Cherokee Indian allotments.

Smith Land & Cattle - Bar-B-Q Beef lunch with all the fixin's will be served as soon as we arrive. Cost to participant will be \$9.00 each (in an air conditioned barn). This is a registered Angus ranch based on native grass. The ranch uses A.I. and embryo transfer to produce their outstanding seed stock at their annual production sale in the fall. They produce their hay supply of native grass each while also grazing their native pastures. This ranch was once known as the Lowrance Ranch which produced winning thoroughbred running horses along with a commercial Angus cowherd.

Ralph Miller Ranch - A stocker steer operation utilizing by-product supplementation, sod drilled wheat in Bermuda pastures in the winter and early spring. They use Bermuda-fescue pastures in the summer. They fertilize with chicken litter and commercial fertilizer as needed. They produce their hay supply from a native hay meadow and surplus Bermuda pastures. Mr. Miller will only buy pre-vaccinated and weaned steers for his operation. Too much sickness and losses made this an easy decision.