



The Kerr Center

for Sustainable Agriculture

Fall, 2016

Dear Friend,

At the end of last year, my predecessor, Jim Horne, retired after decades as Kerr Center president. Like Jim, I have made a career with the Kerr Center, and I've witnessed plenty of changes across the years.

In the months since I took up the mantle of president and CEO, it's only natural to reflect on those changes – but also on what has held constant:

- the Kerr Center's focus on farmers first,
- our striving to find the ideas and practices that will do the most to move sustainable agriculture forward,
- our willingness to meet its audience wherever and however will best get the message across.

For his first few years, Jim mailed a typewritten newsletter to a few hundred subscribers every month. The monthly mailing schedule hasn't changed, but now the newsletter goes out via email, to nearly two thousand readers.

In the early days of the Kerr Center, specialists might project slides onto a screen in front of a room full of farmers. Nowadays, we post videos online for anyone to watch at anytime, from anywhere in the world. Two of this year's new videos explain how to recycle worn-out tractor tires by turning them into watering troughs for livestock. Another shows how to use a tractor-mounted bed shaper to make raised beds for home and market gardens.

The Kerr Ranch has always showcased the ideas we promote, by spending our money and time demonstrating those ideas on a working ranch. This year, as in most years, we hosted a livestock workshop on the ranch to acquaint people with our idea of how a sustainable cattle operation works.

When someone else has already taken a good idea further, we don't try to reinvent the wheel - we take people to the source. This year, that meant hosting another workshop off the ranch, where an innovative farm family is at the cutting edge of several promising fronts in Oklahoma farming: elderberries, a popular new perennial crop; greenhouse aquaponics, letting fish and vegetables feed one another for a twin harvest; and value-added marketing, turning raw crops into higher-value products like teas and medicinal herbs.

We never know where appreciation for our work will pop up next. This year, the popular TV show "Oklahoma Gardening" ran segments on both our elderberry project and our work with landscaping to support native pollinators. The pollinator work also earned us a mention on the website of the Tulsa Zoo. People have been asking us to tell them about it, as well – from touring 3rd- and 4th-graders around the ranch, to helping set up a teaching garden in our home base of Poteau, to delivering the keynote address at the Oklahoma Native Plant Society's annual meeting near Lawton.

One other thing that hasn't changed about the Kerr Center in all these years is our independence, and the ability it gives us to pursue the ideas we think are important. We're able to exercise that degree of freedom because we operate on the earnings from our endowment – but that only stretches so far. The rest depends on you.

You're receiving this note because you've reached out to us in some way – attending one of our workshops, seeing a presentation by one of our staff specialists, or signing up for our newsletter. If you feel the work we're doing has made a valuable difference to farming, ranching, or gardening, please consider giving something back.

Every gift we receive is meaningful, and will help us to continue reaching out to help sustainable agriculture reach its fullest potential.

Please consider giving your support for 2017! We appreciate it!

Sincerely,

David Redhage
President and CEO

Please see reverse for a mail-in donation form, or donate securely online at www.kerrcenter.com.



Friends of the Kerr Center

Your contribution is important to the future of sustainable agriculture!



Become a Friend of the Kerr Center in 2017!

Together, we can continue Kerr Center's great progress through:

- A **farm and ranch** where visitors and students can see and learn sustainable practices
- **Conservation projects** that benefit wildlife and endangered pollinators
- Meaningful **research** that helps farmers and ranchers improve their land, profits and quality of life
- **Field days, conferences** and **workshops**
- A **comprehensive website, www.kerrcenter.com**, providing evidence-based answers so producers can improve their practices and profitability
- Newsletter and **educational publications**

Won't you help us continue this exciting forward momentum?

Every single gift, no matter the size, will go to provide education to farmers and ranchers.

Our Work in 2016



NEW PUBLICATIONS/RESOURCES

- Tire tank videos
- Bed shaper video
- Fact Sheet: *Grazing Management*

WORKSHOPS

- Elderberry
- Livestock
- Plant Identification
- Soil Health

PRESENTATIONS

- Oklahoma Native Plant Society
- OSU Entomology & Plant Pathology Seminar Series
- Women in Agriculture Conference
- OSU Landscape Architecture Conference

IN THE NEWS

- Tulsa Zoo website
- Oklahoma Gardening (both elderberries and pollinators)



The Kerr Center is a 501(c)(3) private, nonprofit, operating foundation.

Your donation is tax-deductible. You will receive an acknowledgment of your gift.

For more information about our history, programs, and staff visit www.kerrcenter.com.

Please give what you can. We appreciate your support!



Donate Online!

To pay by PayPal or credit card, go to the Kerr Center website, www.kerrcenter.com

I am interested in knowing more about donating assets either now or as an estate-planning tool. Please send me more information or call me at:

() _____

For donations in memory of a friend or family member, please visit www.kerrcenter.com

I do not wish to be listed as a donor in the newsletter or on the Kerr Center website.

Thank you for your generosity. Your gift is tax deductible.

2016 DONATION APPEAL

Yes, I/We want to support the programs of the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture at the following level (check enclosed):

- SOWER: \$20-\$54** **CULTIVATOR: \$55-\$199** **HARVESTER: \$200-\$499**
 STEWARD: \$500-\$999 **SUSTAINER: \$1000 OR MORE** **OTHER** _____
 Please sign me up for *E-Field Notes*, Kerr Center's free monthly email update.

Donations of any amount are gratefully accepted.

Check enclosed for \$ _____ payable to Kerr Center.

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

MAIL TO: Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture • 24456 Kerr Rd., Poteau, OK 74953
For more info: 918-647-9123 • mailbox@kerrcenter.com • www.kerrcenter.com