



Field Notes

Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture E-Newsletter

E-Field Notes

September 2016

Fall is finally just around the corner, but we're casting one eye back over our shoulder to summer, when the crew of OSU's popular TV program "Oklahoma Gardening" visited the Kerr Center to film two short segments, which aired last month.

One covers the Kerr Center's office **landscape pollinator plantings**. The other takes a look at the different **elderberry varieties** growing in the Cannon Horticulture Plots. Both are **available for viewing free online**. Please have a look!

If you're planning on planting **cool season legumes in pastures**, the time is upon us. Our free publication, "**Pasture Legumes: Establishment and Management**," is a tried-and-true resource for that activity. (**Hint for gardeners**: the same principles apply for **cool season legumes as cover crops**!)

But before diving into those offerings, join David Redhage for a look at an aspect of farming and ranching operations that's **as often overlooked as it is crucial: safety**.

As always, if you value our work, please also consider supporting it!

In this issue:

President's Note: Safety on the Farm and in the Garden

Plants for Pollinator Gardens (Oklahoma Gardening)

Exploring Elderberry Varieties (Oklahoma Gardening)

Pasture Legumes: Establishment & Management

Fall Events: Organics, Monarchs, & Native Plants

President's Note: Safety on the Farm and in the Garden

A recent local farm accident prompted me to write this article. I don't want to scare anyone away from farming or gardening, but I do want to point out **how important safety is**, and remind everyone that by not implementing good safety methods in the farm or garden, serious injuries are possible.

Many who grow food don't realize how dangerous farming can be. Due to my experiences, I have been accused of being overly focused on safety, to the point of making some individuals mad at me when I point out what they are doing wrong, because I can be less than tactful. I make no apologies for my attitude on safety. I would rather have you mad at me for the rest of your life than visit you in the hospital – or, worse, at your funeral. If you are mad at me, at least you are alive and uninjured.

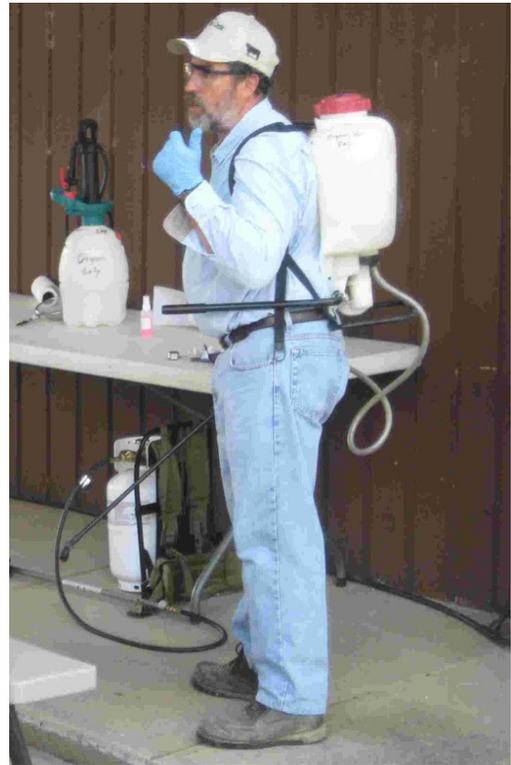
As I have mentioned in the past, I grew up on a farm. I have had my share of close calls, and, in one case, a very serious and potentially life-threatening injury. In most cases, the close calls resulted from one or more of the following errors:

- not paying attention because I was rushing to finish the job
- using equipment in need of repair
- losing focus on the work at hand because I was so familiar with the job (or just so tired).

One spring I was cleaning manure out of the barn with a pitchfork. After working most of the morning, I jabbed the pitchfork into the manure and accidentally shoved a tine through my rubber boot. Fortunately it was at the edge of the boot and missed my foot, but I had a leaky pair of boots for the rest of the spring.

In another case, I was splitting firewood. We heated our house with wood and had a propane furnace for backup. The wood was wet and it was cold. I preferred to split most wood with a double bit axe. On one of my swings, the axe split through the wood faster than I realized and hit a knot. The knot caused the axe to twist in my hand and swing back toward my leg....

[Continue reading – and share your own stories of safety lessons learned....](#)



Plants for Pollinator Gardens (Oklahoma Gardening)

In [this segment](#), from its August 6 episode, "Oklahoma Gardening" takes a look at some of the plants in the Kerr Center's [pollinator conservation landscaping](#).



Exploring Elderberry Varieties (Oklahoma Gardening)

In [this segment](#), from its August 6 episode, "Oklahoma Gardening" takes a tour of the Kerr Center [horticulture program's elderberry plantings](#).



Pasture Legumes: Establishment & Management

This [report](#), by Chris Agee, covers

- site preparation
- lime application
- fertilization
- weed control
- legume selection
- seed inoculation
- estimating establishment costs
- grazing management
- companion grasses
- winter and summer annual and perennial legumes, and
- pasture surveying.



Fall Events: Butterflies, Organics, & Native Plants

The next few weeks offer several nearby sustainable agriculture events: Tulsa's **Monarchs on the Mountain celebration** (Sept. 24); a **tour of backyard butterfly gardens** (Sept. 25) and the **Organic Oklahoma 2016 conference** (Oct. 6), both in Oklahoma City; and the **Oklahoma Native Plant Society's annual meeting** near Lawton (Oct. 7).

The Kerr Center's online [events calendar](#) provides full details on these and many other sustainable agriculture goings-on all around the state and region. It also serves as a reminder for the dates of **monthly Kerr Center tours**, which run all year round, every second Tuesday by appointment.

Don't forget that you can also use our online calendar to **keep yourself and your friends up to date** on these and other upcoming events, including our tours:

- **Subscribe to our feed** and receive **updates to your personal calendar** (Outlook, Google+, etc.) as they are made.
- **Share events on the calendar** via a number of **different social media sites**, including Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest.

The screenshot displays a calendar interface with the following events:

- SEP 24 Sat:** Monarchs on the Mountain @ Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area (Tulsa) | Sep 24 @ 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- SEP 25 Sun:** 10th Annual Farm & Food Leadership Conference @ Bastrop Convention & Exhibit Center (Bastrop, TX) | Sep 25 – Sep 27 (all-day) [Tickets]
- SEP 25 Sun:** Butterfly Garden Tour @ NW Oklahoma City (various locations) | Sep 25 @ 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- SEP 29 Thu:** Plant ID for Soil Health Training @ Bristow | Sep 29 (all-day)
- SEP 30 Fri:** Plant ID for Soil Health Training @ Wilburton | Sep 30 (all-day)
- OCT 6 Thu:** Organic Oklahoma 2016 Fall Conference @ OSU-OKC Student Center | Oct 6 – Oct 7 (all-day) [Tickets]
- OCT 7 Fri:** Oklahoma Native Plant Society Annual Meeting @ Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center | Oct 7 – Oct 9 (all-day) [Tickets]
- OCT 11 Tue:** Tour the Kerr Center @ Kerr Center | Oct 11 @ 9:00 am
- OCT 15 Sat:** Sheep Field Day @ Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center (Booneville, Arkansas) | Oct 15 @ 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Donate Now

Your donation helps
support the Kerr Center!



Join Friends of the Kerr Center

Support the Kerr Center

Since 1965 the Kerr Center has been reaching out to folks in Oklahoma and beyond. Today, the Friends of the Kerr Center help us continue this vital work! If you enjoy reading this newsletter or visiting our website, please consider [making a gift to the Kerr Center](#) today!

Quick Links...

[Kerr Center website](#)

Find us on Facebook 

Contact Information

The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture
24456 Kerr Road
Poteau, OK 74953
Phone: 918.647.9123
Fax: 918.647.8712
mailbox@kerrcenter.com

