



Field Notes

Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture E-Newsletter

E-Field Notes
May 2018

As summer looms, David Redhage takes a look back over the **Kerr Center's three decades of involvement with SARE.**

We've got another **top-notch grazing workshop on the calendar for June 9**, and we're hoping you'll **join us. Register by June 4!**

For those who lean more toward the gardening side of things, we've collected several resources explaining **why and how to make raised beds, using everything from tractors to hand tools.**

We also point to some of our extensive information on the **native wildflowers that will be gracing the state during the summer months: both how to identify them, and how they support pollinators.**

The grazing workshop, and most of our publications, are **free - but only because** our supporters' generous **[donations](#) have already paid for them.** If you've benefited from knowledge we've shared in these ways, please consider **[paying it forward](#).** (If you already have, **[thank you!](#)**)

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President's Note: 30 Years of SARE

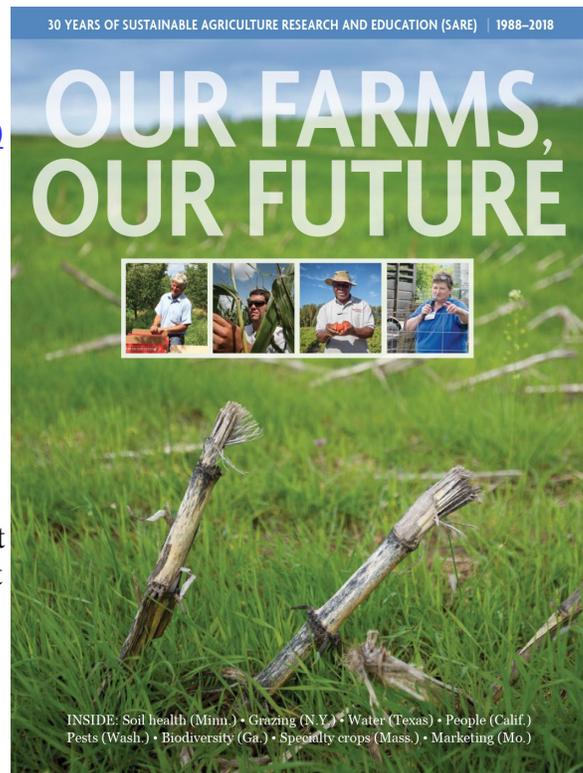
Last month I wrote about a presentation at the [National SARE Conference](#) in St. Louis about [livestock eating weeds](#). This month I want to point to a publication recently released by the National SARE office, entitled [30 Years of SARE: Our Farms, Our Future](#).

The Kerr Center currently is contracted with the University of Georgia to manage the SARE [Professional Development Program](#) (PDP). This program awards competitive grants to train those who ultimately train farmers about sustainable agriculture. We work with all land grant colleges in the Southern United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Many of you may not be aware how SARE was started. It was first funded in the late 1980's as the LISA (Low-Input Sustainable Agriculture) program. Jim Horne, retired president of the Kerr Center, testified before Congress, along with other organizations involved in sustainable agriculture, to secure funding for the program.

The program's name was changed in the 1990 Farm Bill to the SARE, or [Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education](#), program. As an organization, we are proud of the work the SARE program has done over the years, and are happy to have played a role from the beginning.

If you have an opportunity, take a look at the publication for a snapshot of the work SARE has done over the last 30 years.



Grazing Workshop June 9

The trick to raising cattle, the saying goes, is just to make sure they don't run out of grass or water. A [free livestock workshop](#) on June 9 will detail some of the wrinkles behind that simple-sounding prescription, and explain how the Kerr Center's livestock program irons them out.

The **workshop runs from 10 to 3 at the Center's ranch near Poteau.**

The program focuses on **two critical topics for profitable livestock production: grazing management and water systems.**



Proper grazing management helps livestock managers get the most out of their pastures by dividing them into smaller areas using temporary electric fences. On the Kerr Center ranch, this means that any given pasture may be grazed only a few days each year, **giving the plants and soils plenty of time to rest and recover.**

Water systems support grazing management by **taking water to cattle in the pastures.** This encourages them to **graze more evenly**, instead of spending most of their time near a pond. The Kerr Center livestock program uses **gravity flow watering** from ponds where possible, and **turns used tractor tires into low-cost water troughs.**

Kerr Center workshops are **small and informal**, with plenty of time for participants to **ask questions and compare notes.** They feature **both classroom presentations and time out on the ranch.**

There is no cost to attend this workshop, but **registration is required by June 4** to reserve a place. Lunch will be provided.

For more information or to register, visit the events calendar at www.kerrcenter.com, call 918-647-9123, or send an email to mailbox@kerrcenter.com.

The workshop is sponsored by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and led by the Kerr Center.

Late Spring Events: Hunger Workshop, Greens Festival, Pollinator Plant Sale, Sustainable Rangelands Symposium

OSU's **Hunger and Horticulture Workshop** returns May 22, while the Tulsa Zoo's **weekend pollinator plant sales** continue through the end of the month. The NE OKC Farmers Market has its **Festival of Greens** May 27. Moving into next month, there's a **Sustainable Rangelands Symposium** in Lubbock June 7, and a **produce safety training** June 8 in Pawnee. **Don't forget our own [grazing workshop](#) on June 9!**

The Kerr Center's online [events calendar](#) provides full details on these and many other upcoming sustainable agriculture events 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.

MAY 22 Tue	Workshop: Hunger and Horticulture @ Stillwater (OSU FAPC) May 22 @ 12:30 pm – 6:15 pm	Tickets +
MAY 26 Sat	Pollinator Plant Sale @ Tulsa (Tulsa Zoo) May 26 @ 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	+
	NE OKC Farmers Market Festival of Greens @ Oklahoma City May 26 @ 10:00 am – 6:00 pm	+
MAY 27 Sun	Pollinator Plant Sale @ Tulsa (Tulsa Zoo) May 27 @ 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	+
MAY 30 Wed	Webinar: Develop a Forage Chain for Your Livestock May 30 @ 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Tickets +
JUN 7 Thu	Sustainable Rangelands Symposium @ Lubbock, TX (National Ranching Heritage Center) Jun 7 @ 1:00 pm – Jun 8 @ 4:00 pm	+
JUN 8 Fri	Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course @ Pawnee (Pawnee Nation College) Jun 8 @ 8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Tickets +
JUN 9 Sat	Grazing Workshop @ Poteau (Kerr Center) Jun 9 @ 10:00 am – 3:00 pm	+

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