



Field Notes

Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture E-Newsletter

E-Field Notes
July 2018

We're creeping into that time of year when water starts to become even more of a concern than usual. David Redhage gets this month's newsletter rolling with a timely **review of a book on the global water cycle**.

It's also the season when many gardeners are finding their efforts rewarded with too much of a good thing. We point to a report that explains one **profitable way of dealing with surplus harvests**.

We also look back a month to **June's workshops, on beekeeping and grazing**. Even if you attended, you may find something new in these recaps - and if you couldn't make it, this is an excellent chance to catch up.

Speaking of catching up, if you keep meaning to [send us a check](#) to let us know you like the work we're doing - why not now? Help like that from people like you is what keeps us going - and [we appreciate it!](#)

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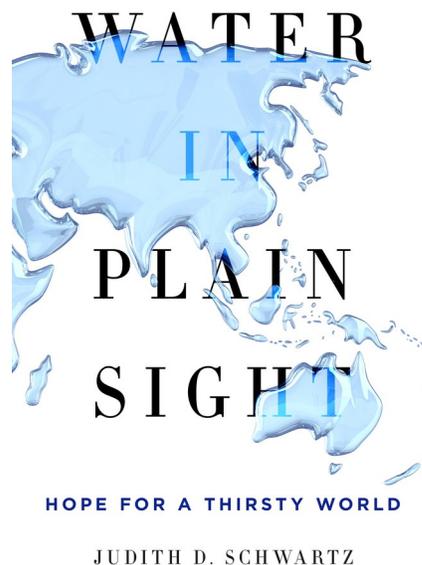
President's Note: Book Review: Water in Plain Sight

I just completed reading the book [*Water in Plain Sight*](#), by Judith Schwartz. I found the overall message interesting, but feel that science has not answered many of the questions about how the global water cycle works.

The book does show me how much work needs to be done. However, it is concerning that we seem more focused on carbon in the atmosphere and its potential effect on the climate than we are on the water cycle and how important it is in relation to the climate.

The basic idea behind the book is how we need to pay attention to the water cycle and soil health. Modern society continues to degrade the natural resource base we all depend on. Soil erosion, deforestation, overgrazing, and poorly managed irrigation systems are just a few of the issues that impact the water cycle both locally and globally.

[Read more....](#)



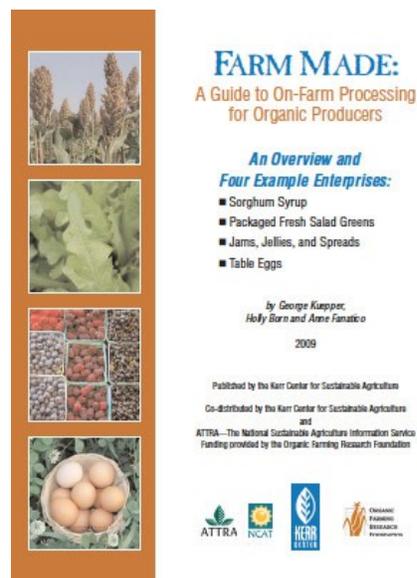
Farm Made: A Guide to On-Farm Processing for Organic Producers

Harvests are rolling in thick and fast from gardens all across the state. If you're at your wits' end for what to do with all that bounty... have you considered processing any of it for sale?

[*Farm Made: A Guide to On-Farm Processing for Organic Producers*](#) explains how to do just that. It describes the issues involved in **adding a value-added processing enterprise to an existing farm business**. As the title indicates, it's written with an **emphasis on organic producers**, but **conventional growers can use it as well**.

It gives an overview of the regulations involved, and goes into **specific detail on four different enterprises: sorghum syrup; packaged fresh salad greens; jams, jellies, and spreads; and table eggs**.

[*Farm Made*](#) is available **free in electronic format**, along with many other how-to guides, from the Kerr Center's [online horticulture library](#).



Beekeeping Workshop Recap

The Kerr Center's free evening [beekeeping workshop](#) on June 12 drew 27 participants eager to learn more about the topic from an instructor with over five decades' worth of experience.

Our website now hosts a [summary of the workshop](#), complete with the reasons why the **need for new beekeepers is stronger now than ever**, as well as links to **resources for further learning**.

The Kerr Center's [pollinator library](#) contains many more **free materials on both pollinators and the plants they need to thrive**.

[Read more....](#)



Grazing Workshop Recap

Fifteen participants absorbed a concentrated dose of education on [sustainable livestock management](#) at the Kerr Center's [grazing workshop](#) on June 9. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma sponsored the workshop.

The Kerr Center's website offers a [summary of the workshop](#), complete with **links to all materials** - both for participants who'd like an electronic copy, and for those unable to attend.

For those looking to learn still more, the Kerr Center's [livestock library](#) contains **many more resources** on sustainable livestock husbandry.

[Read more....](#)



Summer Events: Wildfire Recovery, Women in Ag, Beekeeping, Vermicomposting, Agroforestry...

Conferences and workshops are coming thick and fast through the end of the month and on into August. There are **two separate conferences on women in agriculture and small business** - in McAlester on July 20, and in Oklahoma City on August 9 - as well as one on **plant materials** in Stillwater on August 9. Workshops include **fire and grazing** (Clinton, July 19), **bees** (Bixby, July 21), and **vermicomposting** (OKC, July 21) - and that's only scratching the surface.

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.

The screenshot displays an online events calendar with the following entries:

- JUL 19 Thu:** Workshop: Wildfire Recovery and Managing Grazingland Biological Indicators of Soil Health @ Clinton (Cheyenne & Arapaho Community Center). Jul 19 @ 9:30 am - 1:00 pm.
- JUL 20 Fri:** Conference: Women in Agriculture & Small Business @ McAlester (Eastern Oklahoma State College). Jul 20 @ 8:00 am - 3:30 pm. Includes a "Tickets" button.
- JUL 21 Sat:** Workshop: What's the Buzz About Bees? @ Bixby (Bixby Library). Jul 21 @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am.
- JUL 21 Sat:** Workshop: Worms Make Me Happy - Composting & Vermicomposting @ Oklahoma City (Commonwealth Urban Farms of OKC). Jul 21 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm. Includes a "Tickets" button.
- JUL 22 Sun:** Agroforestry Academy 2018 @ Columbia, MO. Jul 22 - Jul 27 (all-day). Includes a "Tickets" button.
- JUL 23 Mon:** Garden Explorers Camp @ Oklahoma City (Will Rogers Gardens). Jul 23 - Jul 27 (all-day). Includes a "Tickets" button.
- AUG 9 Thu:** Conference: Women in Agriculture & Small Business @ Oklahoma City (Embassy Suites Oklahoma City- Downtown/Medical Center). Aug 9 - Aug 10 (all-day). Includes a "Tickets" button.
- AUG 9 Thu:** OCM Food & Agriculture Conference @ Kansas City, MO (Marriott Kansas City Airport). Aug 9 - Aug 11 (all-day). Includes a "Tickets" button.
- AUG 9 Thu:** Conference: Plant Materials @ Stillwater (OSU Wes Watkins Center). Aug 9 @ 7:45 am - 4:45 pm. Includes a "Tickets" button.

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.

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