



Field Notes

Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture E-Newsletter

E-Field Notes

June 2015

Things are finally beginning to dry out a little bit on the Kerr Center farm and ranch.

Two important dates are coming up next week:

On [Thursday, June 25, the FREE pasture plant identification workshop](#) runs from 6:30 to 8:30.

The next day, **June 26, is the last day to register** for the [water & livestock workshop](#) on July 11.

The pollinator workshop earlier this month was a big hit. If you missed it, you can still catch a recap both in this issue and [on our website](#).

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

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Pasture Plant ID: FREE Workshop June 25



David Redhage points out common pasture plants at a workshop on the Kerr Ranch.

[Walk out in the pasture in the cool of the evening with Kerr Center experts](#) and see what's growing! **Learn how to identify the grasses and forbs** growing there. It's ideal for beginners, and a useful refresher for the more experienced.

Knowing what is growing in your pasture in every season is an essential part of sustainable management of livestock - whether you're raising cattle, goats or sheep.

This event is free; no advance registration is required.

If weather looks threatening or flooding seems possible, call the center to make sure the event is still on - 918-647-9123.

Water and Livestock: Workshop July 11



Water tank made from an old tractor tire on the Kerr Ranch

Water, water, everywhere - no doubt that's the thought of many an Oklahoma rancher after one of the wettest Mays on record. But whether that water is in the right places, and whether it's clean enough to keep cattle healthy and productive, are questions as important in flood as in drought. A [workshop on July 11](#) will help answer them.

The workshop runs from 3:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Kerr Center ranch near Poteau, beginning with **classroom sessions in the afternoon and concluding with a tour of the Kerr Center watering systems in the evening.** It will outline, step by step, **how the Kerr Center manages its water resources** to keep [clean, abundant drinking water](#) in front of its cattle herd in wet

and dry weather alike.

Fencing cattle out of streams and ponds can [cut erosion and make big improvements in water quality](#). Where livestock and vehicles do need to cross streams, **stabilizing the stream beds** limits the impact.

[Piping water from ponds to tanks in pastures](#) lets **cattle graze more efficiently**. When they don't have to walk as far to water, cattle can spend more time grazing, and use more of the available forage.

Gravity will fill tanks positioned downslope from ponds, eliminating the need for pumps. [Used tractor tires can be converted into cost-effective watering tanks](#) - a Kerr Center practice that consistently draws ranchers' attention.



The Kerr Center ranch uses a mix of earth ponds and aboveground tanks. The difference in quality can be striking. According to Cattle Manager Will Lathrop, cattle "go straight for the

tank after being in a pond pasture." At the workshop, Amber Reece of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service will share results of a study she's conducted on the **quality of water from different sources**, including tractor-tire tanks.

Registration is due by June 26 and costs \$15, which includes sandwiches and drinks. (The fee is refundable for cancellations through the due date.)

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.

3 Bs Workshop a Blooming Success!



Workshop attendees learn about Kerr Center wildflower plantings.

Kerr Center welcomed thirty gardeners, farmers and ranchers from around Oklahoma to the 3 Bs (Bees, Butterflies and Beneficials) Workshop on Saturday, June 6.

Anne Stine from the Xerces Society presented information about bees and other pollinators, Monarch butterflies, and other beneficial insects. Topics included: Pollination Economics, Pollination Biology, Value of Beneficial Insects, Basic Bee Biology and Pollinator Friendly Agriculture.



Anne Stine and David Redhage

David Redhage of the Kerr Center summarized the center's pollinator project and led a tour of our pollinator-friendly landscape. Over the last three years the center tore out its old landscape and planted a variety of native pollinator plants native to eastern Oklahoma in the landscape beds around the Kerr Center offices, labelling them for visitors. Many were started from seeds gathered on the Kerr Ranch.

Josh Ketchum of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) explained some of the agency's programs and distributed information. Scott Thompson from the News on 6 (Tulsa) was on hand to cover the event for his upcoming (July 9) special report on the plight of honey bees.



Scott Thompson interviews David Redhage for a special report to air on Tulsa's News on 6 in July.

Attendees went home with books and other resources to use in planning their own pollinator gardens!

To learn more about pollinators and planting for pollinators and other beneficial insects, visit the Kerr Center's [native pollinator pages](#) and [check out the free resources](#) there.

What's Blooming?

June is a prime wildflower season in Oklahoma. What's blooming in your garden or roadside? [This poster details flowering periods for twelve Oklahoma wildflowers.](#)

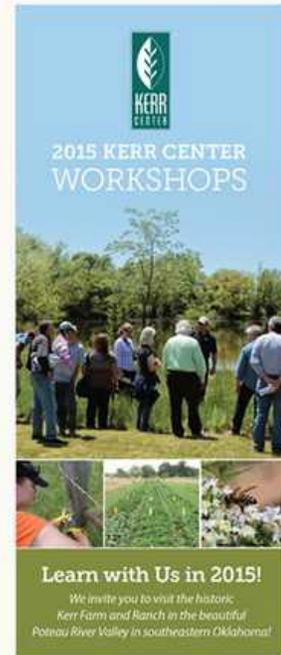


Butterfly milkweed or Butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa) is a showy milkweed native to Oklahoma, except the panhandle counties. Look for it blooming from May-September; it is in bloom now in eastern counties. This plant can be found on roadsides or in woodlands and fits well into a landscape or restored prairie. Monarchs feed on the nectar and use the plant as a host plant, i.e. the monarch caterpillars eat the leaves.

Workshops for Every Interest

JUL 14 Tue	Tour the Kerr Center @ Kerr Center Jul 14 <small>all-day</small>	+
AUG 11 Tue	Tour the Kerr Center @ Kerr Center Aug 11 <small>all-day</small>	+
AUG 27 Thu	Feral Hog Management Workshop @ Kerr Center Aug 27 @ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	+
SEP 8 Tue	Tour the Kerr Center @ Kerr Center Sep 8 <small>all-day</small>	+
SEP 26 Sat	Elderberry Workshop @ Kerr Center Sep 26 <small>all-day</small>	+
OCT 10 Sat	Grazing Workshop @ Kerr Center Oct 10 @ 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	+
OCT 13 Tue	Tour the Kerr Center @ Kerr Center Oct 13 <small>all-day</small>	+

Download our workshop brochure



In addition to the events featured above, the [Kerr Center's 2015 events lineup](#) contains several others worth a look.

Among others, there's the [August 27 feral hog management workshop](#), and [September 26's elderberry workshop](#).

This [brochure](#) lists the rest of the educational events that the Kerr Center is offering this **summer and fall**, from feral hogs to elderberries.

The Kerr Center [events calendar](#) offers **online registration** for all events that require it. Pay electronically there with a credit card or PayPal, or [download a registration form](#) and send a check in the mail.

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 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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