



Field Notes

Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture E-Newsletter

E-Field Notes
August 2015

The worst of summer's heat and drought is almost past, and we're looking ahead to two great events in our fall educational lineup:

- a September 26 [elderberry workshop](#), featuring advice from Oklahoma's home-grown expert, as well as other specialists from around the region;
- an October 10 [grazing workshop](#) that will examine the Kerr Ranch's livestock management program from top to bottom.

Speaking of workshops, **today is the last day to [register for our August 27 feral hog management workshop](#).**

Join us in congratulating David Redhage on his selection as the Kerr Center's new Vice President.

Also, check out a new report that describes in detail last year's demonstration market garden on the Cannon Hort Plots, from planning through harvest.

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

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Elderberry Workshop: September 26



One of the **nation's largest elderberry nurseries** is located right here in Oklahoma, on **Brent and Valerie Madding's 360 OK Farm** outside Webbers Falls. The couple raise and breed elderberry plants, filling orders ranging in size from single plants to thousands.

They also **market dried berries and flowers, as well as teas** made from those products. For four years now, they've developed their farm business, focusing on finding and improving elderberry varieties that perform best in Oklahoma.

On September 26, Brent Madding will share lessons from that experience at the Kerr Center's elderberry workshop.

Madding will be joined by **leaders in elderberry research and production from throughout the region**. Their combined expertise will give workshop participants a leg up on diversifying into this promising crop.

In addition to **technical and marketing presentations by regional specialists**, the program will feature two commercial elderberry growers - Madding from Oklahoma, and another from Arkansas - with very different approaches to production and marketing. These **farmer presenters will provide examples of wholesale coop marketing, up-pick, value-added production, and nursery sales.**

The workshop will cover **variety selection, propagation, establishment, production, harvest, marketing, and uses** for this perennial native plant. It includes **both classroom presentations and a field tour** of the Kerr Center's elderberry plantings.

Additional presenters include:

Terry Durham

Durham is an elderberry grower, marketer and promoter from Missouri. He founded the River Hills Harvest Elderberry Producers, a grower-supported group. He and his partner produce American-made elderberry jams, jellies, juices, and medicinal products.

Patrick Byers

Byers is Associate Extension Professional and Horticulture Specialist, serving a 17-county region in Southwestern Missouri. His areas of work include both commercial and home horticulture, and both Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners of Missouri. He co-authored the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry's "Growing and Marketing Elderberries in Missouri."

Bob McCord

McCord is an experienced commercial elderberry grower from Mt. Ida, Arkansas

Jacob Wilson

Wilson is IPM Extension Technician with Lincoln University Cooperative Extension in Jefferson City, Missouri.

George Kuepper

Kuepper is Horticulture Manager at the Kerr Center.

Workshop registration is due by September 18 and costs \$50 per person (\$25 for each additional family member), which includes lunch. (Refunds are available for cancellations made before 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.

Grazing Workshop: October 10



So far this year, the Kerr Center livestock program has hosted workshops on pasture plant identification and livestock watering needs, with another coming at the end of this month (**register by today, August 20!**) on [feral hog management](#). On October 10, the program will cap the year's series of educational events with a comprehensive full-day look at the Kerr Ranch's [holistic approach to livestock management](#).

The historic Kerr Ranch has been raising beef cattle since the 1950s. Learn how we [manage our forages and grazing](#) to make the most of our resources, while preserving forage and soil health.

Kerr Center livestock staff will lead this combined classroom/field workshop, covering **grazing management, forage stockpiling and utilization, and forage measurement**.

The workshop will feature the latest results from the center's **ongoing grazing study**, which

compares forage responses to different stock densities and forage utilization rates within the rotational grazing program.

Advance **registration is due by September 25**. Early registration is encouraged, as space is limited. Registration costs \$20 (\$10 for additional family members), and includes lunch and snacks. (Refunds are available for cancellations made by 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.

Registration Ends Today! Feral Hog Management Workshop: August 27



If you missed the August 13 registration deadline for the feral hog management workshop, don't let this second chance slip by! **The registration deadline has been extended through today, August 20.**

The workshop, intended for land owners, hunters, and extension personnel, takes place in **Poteau on August 27.**

Running **from 6 to 9 in the evening**, the workshop will focus on the basics: **preventing feral hog infestations where possible, and managing them where populations already exist.** It will also review **rules and regulations** governing the management of feral hogs.

Specific topics include agricultural issues, wildlife habitat destruction, population dynamics, disease issues, and population control.

The **presenters'** roster features a trio **experienced both in managing feral hogs, and in educating others** about their management.

Russell Stevens literally wrote the book on feral hogs in Oklahoma - the Noble Foundation's "The Feral Hog in Oklahoma." He is a Strategic Consultation Manager for the Noble Foundation.

Another Noble Foundation employee, Wildlife & Range Consultant **Josh Gaskamp**, will second Stevens. His specialty is trapping methods.

Kerr Center Vice President **David Redhage** will take a turn at the lectern, describing the center's experience with feral hogs on the 4,000-acre Kerr Ranch.

Workshop registration is due by August 20 and costs \$15. (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.

David Redhage Named Kerr Center Vice-President



If you have attended a workshop at the Kerr Center or been shown around the Kerr Ranch, you very likely have met David Redhage.

Redhage has been with the Kerr Center since 1993, and he knows the Kerr Ranch and Farm inside and out. He began as an agricultural economist with the farm management team, and in 2003, became Natural Resources Manager. In 2010 he moved up to Director of Ranch Operations, and in 2014, Chief Program Officer.

In May, he was named Kerr Center Vice-President.

Redhage "has worked his way up and knows every aspect of Kerr Center programs," says Kerr Center President Jim Horne, who made the announcement. "He is well balanced in his approach to sustainability, cares about helping farmers achieve their goals, and has worlds of experience in conducting projects that are of benefit to our natural and human resource base."

"He works well with the many audiences we serve," added Horne. "It will be a pleasure to work with him in his new role."

Redhage grew up on a small livestock farm in eastern Missouri, and it was there that he

developed a lifelong interest in farming, gardening and protecting natural resources. He participated in 4-H and FFA, and then attended the University of Missouri in Columbia, earning a B.S. in agricultural economics and business administration. He went on to earn an M.S. in agricultural economics in 1993.

During his 22 years at the center, Redhage has developed and presented numerous educational programs for farmers and ranchers. These include riparian area management, cold frame/hoop house construction, pesticide safety, safe food handling, organic production techniques, farm budgets/planning, and three years of training beginning farmers and ranchers. He also was assistant director of the center's Producer Grant program.

Over the years, he has secured and managed state and federal grants for conservation/demonstration projects on the Kerr Ranch, including stream crossing points, riparian protection, agroforestry, and the recent native pollinator project. (This past July he was featured in a news report on bees and pollinators on KTUL, News on 6, Tulsa.)

Such projects demand good management over an extended time period, and Redhage has provided it. As Director of Ranch Operations and then Chief Program Officer, he has supervised center staff and managed program budgets.

In addition, since 2003 he has managed the Professional Development Program (PDP) of the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE), Southern Region. In 2012 he became the regional coordinator. In this capacity he manages a grant program of over \$1 million dollars.

A big part of his job at SARE is working effectively with state coordinators and USDA/SARE staff. At the Kerr Center, too, Redhage has worked to develop a strong collaborative relationship with local and state NRCS and OSU Extension.

Redhage and his wife Patty have three daughters. He stays active in the community by serving as a trustee for his church and for a local community garden.

"Working at the Kerr Center with a talented staff is very rewarding," Redhage says. "I look forward to new opportunities to work with farmers and ranchers, addressing their educational needs on sustainable agriculture, in my new position as vice-president."

New Report: 2014 Demonstration Market Garden



The Kerr Center's 2014 Demonstration Market Garden

by Bill Edgar
Horticulture Program Assistant



Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture
2015

Former Horticulture Program Assistant Bill Edgar gave a presentation in a horticulture session of the 2014 Oklahoma Beginning Farmer & Rancher Program. In it, he described the demonstration garden that he'd planted for the program on the Cannon Hort Plots that year, down to the nitty-gritty of planting dates, itemized budgets, and harvest logs.

That presentation has been one of the most sought-after items from the Beginning Farmer Program. Now, it's available in report form, [free from the Kerr Center website](#).

Coming Events: Hot Tips for Fall & Winter

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 10 Thu	Career Fair (Agricultural, Food, Environmental, and Natural Sciences) @ Gallagher-Iba Arena Sep 10 @ 12:30 pm – 5:30 pm	+
SEP 18 Fri	Registration Deadline: Elderberry Workshop Sep 18 <small>all-day</small>	+
SEP 25 Fri	Registration Deadline: Grazing Workshop Sep 25 <small>all-day</small>	+
SEP 26 Sat	Elderberry Workshop @ Kerr Center Sep 26 @ 9:00 am – 4:45 pm	+
	4th Annual Homestead Event @ In a Good Way Farm Sep 26 @ 11:00 am – 6:00 pm	+
OCT 10 Sat	Grazing Workshop @ Kerr Center Oct 10 @ 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	+

< AUGUST – OCTOBER 2015 >

Subscribe

Download our workshop brochure



Learn with Us in 2015!
We invite you to visit the historic Kerr Farm and Ranch in the beautiful Poteau River Valley in southeastern Oklahoma!

Download & print a mail-in registration form

Keep an eye on the Kerr Center's [online events calendar](#) this fall and winter for details about upcoming conferences, including the Horticulture Industries Show and Southern SAWG's annual meeting - as well as the first word on the Kerr Center's 2016 educational lineup.

In addition, [tours](#) are available every second Tuesday by appointment.

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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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

