



# Field Notes

## Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture E-Newsletter

*E-Field Notes*

April 2019

This month we share some **encouraging news** from the national census of agriculture about how **conservation practices are taking root in Oklahoma**.

Next, we sound a reminder that the **deadline** to sign up to **have Uncle Sam pay you for implementing those practices on your own farm or ranch** is fast approaching.

We've also collected resources to help you figure out **which monarch butterfly host and nectar plants will do best in your region - and where to buy them**.

We do our best to help you find the resources you need to support your efforts toward sustainability. Your [donations](#) do the same for us. [Thank you!](#)

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# Ag Census: Cover Crops on the Rise in Oklahoma



*This photo, taken near Mountain View, Oklahoma, last summer, shows a field with no-till and cover crops on the left and a conventional tillage system on the right. (Photo credit: Oklahoma Conservation Commission)*

via the [Oklahoma Conservation Commission](#):

The 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture - recently released by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) - showed that [Oklahoma is 7th in the nation for the largest decrease in cropland acreage using conventional tillage](#).

The Census of Agriculture also showed that in Oklahoma, compared to 2012, there was:

- \* a **24% increase in the number of farms using cover crops**,
- \* a **51% increase in acres using cover crops**,
- \* and a **29% decrease in intensive tillage practices**.

These findings show that less and less of Oklahoma's soil is whisked away by its powerful winds.

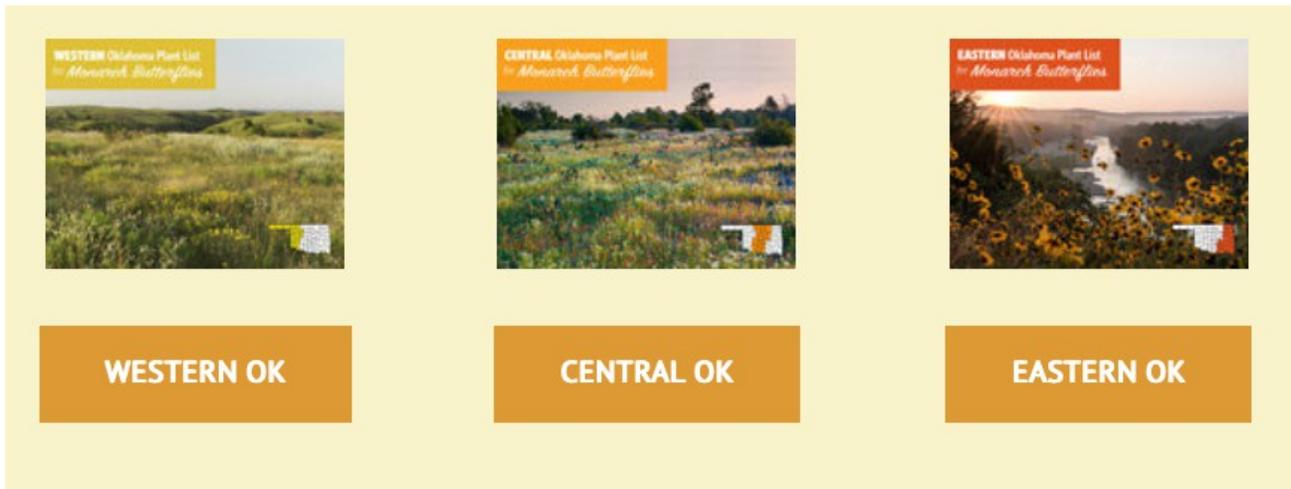
A good anchor will do that.

Anticipating the release of the Ag Census information was reminiscent of report card day back in school. Oklahoma farmers and ranchers, in cooperation with the Conservation Partnership, had put in the time and hard work to increase soil health practices. The Ag Census is the report card on whether all that work paid dividends.

"Reduced tillage and cover crops are two of the primary principles of soil health systems," said NRCS State Conservationist Gary O'Neill. "These data trends show that Oklahoma farmers and ranchers are recognizing the benefits from implementing [soil health](#) systems on their lands."

[Read more...](#)

# Monarch Host & Nectar Plants - Which to Plant & Where to Find Them



No matter where in Oklahoma you live, [Okies for Monarchs](#) has a list of **over 70 host and nectar plants, for monarch butterflies**, that are adapted to your region. There are separate lists for the [eastern](#), [western](#), and [central](#) parts of the state.

The organization also offers a publication on the statewide "[Top 12](#)" host and nectar plants for monarchs - **species that do well all over Oklahoma.**

Found out what to plant, but still at a loss for where to find **seeds or plugs**? Okies for Monarchs has you covered there, too.

The organization's website has an events calendar with a separate category just for [upcoming plant sales](#).

There's also a [list of nurseries and seed houses](#) that sell monarch host and nectar plants and seeds.

## Conservation Stewardship Program Signup Deadline



The **deadline** to sign up for the [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP) is **May 10**.

The CSP is a program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It pays farmers and ranchers for conservation practices on working lands.

"Whether you are looking to **improve grazing conditions, increase crop yields, or develop wildlife habitat**, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals," reads the program website.

"We can help you schedule timely **planting of cover crops, develop a grazing plan that will improve your forage base, implement no-till to reduce erosion or manage forested areas in a way that benefits wildlife habitat.**"

The signup process for CSP is simple. The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition makes it even easier to navigate, with a [free information alert](#) to **help applicants sign up**.

**Producers with existing CSP contracts from 2014 are [eligible for a one-year extension](#) and should [contact the nearest NRCS office](#) for more information.**

[Sign up for CSP.](#)

# Spring Events: Monarch Meetups, CSP Signup, Garden Fest

Okies for Monarchs' slate of **monarch meetups** is in full swing this month and next - [find one near you](#). May 10 is the deadline to **sign up for USDA-NRCS' Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**. May 11 is the **OKC Garden Fest**.

Full details on these and many other upcoming sustainable agriculture events around the state and region can be found on the Kerr Center's online [events calendar](#).

Month	Day	Event
APR	30 Tue	Lunch & Learn: Composting 101 @ Tulsa (Tulsa City County Library) Apr 30 @ 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm
MAY	3 Fri	Application Deadline: Southern SARE 2019 Graduate Student Grant May 3 @ 4:00 pm
MAY	7 Tue	Monarch Meetup: Woodward @ Woodward (Woodward Public Library) May 7 @ 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
MAY	9 Thu	Monarch Meetup: Tishomingo @ Tishomingo (Chickasaw Nation Special Event Center) May 9 @ 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
MAY	10 Fri	Deadline: Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Signup May 10 all-day

The calendar 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.

## Donate Now

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## Quick Links...

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