

Field Notes



Protecting Our Farmland: A Workshop

- Maura McDermott

Every day in this nation we lose more than 3,000 acres of productive farmland to sprawling development.

Currently, more than 75 per cent of our fruits and vegetables are produced near urban areas, directly in the path of relentless development.

Every single year, the U.S. loses an area of productive farmland the size of Delaware. In Oklahoma, almost half (46%) of the land developed in the state from 1982-92 was converted from farmland.

Learn what can be done to protect land, especially farmland, in a three-day in-depth workshop, May 21-23 in Poteau. Sponsored by the Kerr Center, the workshop will be small and informal, with plenty of opportunities for participants to ask questions and interact with each other and instructors.

The workshop is designed to educate participants about innovative farmland preservation programs around the country and the best tools and techniques to use in preservation efforts, with special attention paid to conservation easements. The focus will be on real-life examples.

A broad array of topics will be covered, including

- the extent of farmland loss in the U.S., and how to find information about farmland loss in particular areas using the NRI and Ag Census databases
- social, economic, and environmental
- arguments for protecting agricultural land
- the tools and techniques used to conserve agricultural land

- regulatory tools, including right-to-farm laws, ag zoning, and ag districts
- conservation easements: legal steps, appraisal, tax and estate planning, rights and responsibilities of landowners and easement holders
- case studies of innovative land conservation programs.
- land preservation efforts in Oklahoma
 - agricultural land
 - greenways, parks, wildlife preserves
- next steps, strategies for Oklahoma (interactive session)
- step-by-step, the process of protecting a piece of land with a conservation easement

The goal of the workshop is to bring together a variety of people affected by this issue to learn about solutions.

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The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture offers progressive leadership and educational programs to all those interested in making farming and ranching environmentally friendly, socially equitable, and economically viable over the long term.

The Kerr Center is a non-profit foundation located on 4,000 acres near the south-eastern Oklahoma town of Poteau. It was established in 1985.

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PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Oklahoma Producer Grants
- The Stewardship Farm
- Rural Development and Public Policy
- Communications/Education
- Vero Beach Research Station
- Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm

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All articles written by Maura McDermott, unless otherwise noted.

Recommended Reading

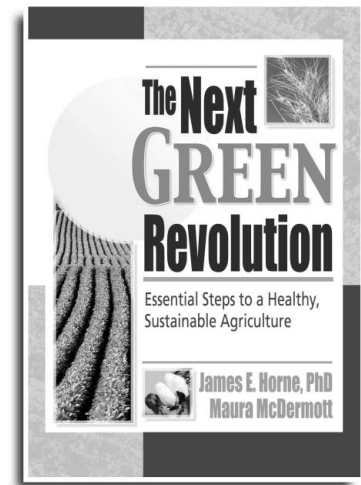
For Extension, NRCS, EPA/DEQ

Instructors and Students in
Agriculture and the
Environmental Sciences

Useful for workshops, professional
development, reference,
individual study, and as a text

"One of the reasons American farmers have been slow to adopt sustainable farming has been the lack of truly credible messengers. Knowledge and sincerity are not enough; farmers need to get the word from other farmers, and from those who, themselves, have faced the challenges of inclement weather and a capricious marketplace. **They need to hear from someone who has gotten his hands dirty. Farmers will find such a messenger in Jim Horne.**

Jim Horne was raised on a family farm in Western Oklahoma. He has spent a lifetime in agriculture as a rancher and advisor to farmers and the agricultural community. Today, he serves as the CEO of the well-respected Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Together with Maura McDermott, Horne has written a book that tells the story of his journey from a believer in and proponent of status quo industrial farming to a leadership role in the sustainable agricultural community.



A well-researched introduction
to sustainable agriculture

But *The Next Green Revolution* is more than a personal story and more than an indictment of modern American agriculture; it provides the reader with eight realistic and comprehensible steps that farmers and ranchers can undertake to make their operations more sustainable--both economically and ecologically. As such, it not only inspires, but gives the farmer practical guidance on how to begin the transition.

The Next Green Revolution is well written and replete with personal experiences, real-farm examples, and technical references. **It is advisable reading not only for farmers, but also for policy makers and for anyone who works with farmers.** It belongs on the reading list of every County Extension Agent and Farm Advisor in the Country."

- George Kuepper, Agricultural Consultant, ATTRA, Fayetteville, Arkansas (reviewed at amazon.com)

264 pages, citations, bibliography,
published by Haworth/Food Products Press

More info at kerrcenter.com or haworthpressinc.com.

Order from Kerr Center or 1-800-HAWORTH for examination,
bulk or review copies or check your local bookstore.

Farmers and ranchers, elected officials and staff, Extension, NRCS specialists, agriculture department staff, rural development officials, community leaders, urban planners, and conservationists as well as those who handle the financial and legal aspects of land ownership such as appraisers, accountants, estate planners, bankers, and attorneys, will gain useful information from the workshop.

Students studying law, agriculture, land-use planning and public affairs will also benefit.

While Oklahoma is the focus, participants from other states will also gain a broad understanding of the most innovative approaches to agricultural land preservation and practical guidance on tools and techniques for land preservation.

Four experts on farmland preservation, two from the American Farmland Trust (AFT) and two from the Trust for Public Land (TPL), will teach the workshop.

Robert Wagner, assistant vice president for field programs for AFT and the author of the AFT guidebook: *Saving American Farmland: What Works* will be an instructor. He has twenty years of experience promoting

and developing state and local farmland protection strategies and programs throughout the country. Also from the AFT, Kevin E. Schmidt, field services manager, will present information. He manages the professional development program and coordinates "train the trainer" workshops in several states.

The AFT is the largest private, nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the nation's strategic agricultural resources. Founded in 1980, AFT works to stop the loss of productive farmland and to promote farming practices that lead to a healthy environment. Its activities include public education, technical assistance, policy research and development and direct land protection projects. (For more information, www.farmland.org)

The Trust for Public Land (www.tpl.org) is also a non-profit national organization. It works to protect land for communities to enjoy as parks, trails, greenways, gardens, and open space. It also works for watershed protection and to protect agricultural land.

Founded in 1972, TPL offers a range of skills to help landowners, citizen groups and government agencies protect land. The organization builds coalitions as well as offers advice

on negotiation, property law, and finance. In Oklahoma, a TPL committee on preservation of farm and ranch land has been formed (see box).

From TPL, Oklahoma State Director Robert Gregory and Project Manager Jack Blair will be presenting. Gregory oversees all aspects of the Trust's work in Oklahoma including project identification and design, public affairs, and development. Blair is an attorney, and he oversees all aspects of conservation real estate transactions, including landowner negotiation, real estate finance, and public agency coordination.

The workshop will be held at the Oklahoma State Regents Conference Center (at the historic Kerr Country Mansion). Cost is \$250 for the workshop, which includes lunches. See application for more information.

Other workshops on this subject are planned. If you would like more information on this workshop, want to be put on a mailing list for future workshops, or need information about continuing education credits, contact Anita Poole at the Kerr Center, 918.647.9123 or email apoole@kerr-center.com. A limited number of scholarships are available. Information is also available at www.kerrcenter.com.

TPL Wins First Farmland Protection Grant for Oklahoma

(reprinted from TPL's *Oklahoma News Bulletin*, Summer 2001)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently approved a request from the Trust for Public Land for a grant through the federal Farmland Protection Program. The \$25,000 award will help TPL acquire a conservation easement over a 100-acre farm in northern Norman that is threatened with conversion to nonagricultural uses as residential and commercial development rapidly approaches.

The grant is the first Farmland Protection Program award made in Oklahoma and the first such grant ever made to TPL. "This grant is very important in several respects," says James E. Horne, director of the Kerr Center and chair of TPL's Farm and Ranch Preservation Committee.

"It will help launch TPL's Farm and Ranch Preservation Initiative and opens the door to federal matching funds for farm and ranch protection."

Earlier this year the Trust for Public Land launched an initiative to preserve the state's working agricultural lands through conservation

easements. Easements are voluntary agreements that restrict residential or commercial development of properties but keep land in private ownership. In December, TPL completed its first project under this initiative, an easement on the Wyckoff Ranch near Barnsdall.

(For a description of this project, go to www.tpl.org, Southwest region, *Oklahoma News Bulletin*, summer 2001).

The Trust for Public Land is working in partnership with the Norman Area Land Conservancy (NALC), which will hold the conservation easement. Established last year, NALC is dedicated to preserving open space in and around Norman.

"The Norman Area Land Conservancy has identified this project as our highest priority," says Pat Copeland, NALC executive director. "We see this effort as the catalyst for other projects to preserve open space in the Norman area."



Protecting Our Farmland Workshop

MAY 21-23, 2002

*SPACE IS LIMITED;
Apply Early!*

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: APRIL 26, 2002

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Will you be commuting? _____ Do you have any special dietary needs? _____

100% refund if notified by April 30, 2002

50% refund if notified by May 16, 2002

Mail check or money order to:

Kerr Center, PO Box 588, Poteau, OK 74953

Confirmation and more information will be mailed May 1.

Check here if you want information on scholarships.

Hotel Information:

Attendees should make their own lodging arrangements.

Rooms have been reserved for May 20, 21, and 22 at the Kerr Country Mansion which is adjacent to the conference center. Rates: single, \$63, double, \$72.45, plus tax.

Includes continental breakfast. Dinner on your own in Poteau or Ft. Smith. Hotel reservations must be made by May 1.

Call the Country Mansion at 918-647-8221, ask for Shannon. Specify you will be attending the Kerr Center workshop.

Other motel accommodations are available in Poteau, a few miles drive from the workshop.

Cost: \$250

Includes lunches.

Please check the one that best describes your occupation

- appraiser
- estate planner
- farmer or rancher
- elected official or staff assistant
- government (Extension, NRCS, ag dept., etc)
- other ag-related profession
- accountant/tax professional
- rural development official
- community leader
- urban planner
- banking
- conservationist/environmentalist
- attorney
- other (describe) _____

Farm Tours Offer Tips for Growers

Just in time for the growing season, two successful small farms in central Oklahoma will host half-day tours of their farming operations on Saturday, March 30.

"This will be a great opportunity for anyone interested in growing or making products for farmers' markets in Oklahoma to get tips from the experts—experienced growers," says Doug Walton, president of the Oklahoma Farmers' Market Alliance.

The morning tour will take place from 9-11:30 at OEI Farm, near Lake Thunderbird State Park, east of Norman. The afternoon tour, from 2-5, will be held at Sunrise Acres near Blanchard, west of Norman. Lunch is slated from 12-2. Tour goers are encouraged to bring their own lunch and eat together at either farm location, where drinks and dessert will be provided. Eating establishments are also available in Norman.

Admission for the day is \$5 per person, with children under 12 admitted free. Admission for members of the Oklahoma Farmers' Market Alliance is \$2 per person. No advance registration is required; people can just show up and register at either farm.

David and Sharon Kill of OEI Farm have grown vegetables, cut flowers, perennials, trees and shrubs for sale at the Norman Farmers' Market for the last nine years. At the market, David is frequently referred to as the "guy with the unusual varieties" of produce and plants.

The Kills consider their farm a very small market gardening operation that is a good example of what can be done at that scale. Tour goers will get to see

early season production of lettuces, cabbages and other cool season vegetables using homemade and improvised row covering methods. David and Sharon will also share some of their hints for starting and growing difficult seeds and plants.

Robert and Barbara Stelle of Sunrise Acres have been growing and selling fresh vegetables, herbs, perennials and other plants for the past six years. The Stelles market their goods through the OSU-OKC Farmers' Market and also directly from their farm near Blanchard. Robert and Barbara use natural fertilizers and pest control on 3 1/2 acres of produce and in nearly 6000 sq. ft. of greenhouse space.

Robert will demonstrate seed starting and transplanting techniques for the market grower and will show his 3-point tractor-mounted planter used for sowing a wide variety of garden seeds. Participants will also see Sunrise Acres' first attempt at container growing of tomatoes, squash and cukes in the greenhouse for winter market.

The tour is being sponsored by the Kerr Center and the Oklahoma Farmers' Market Alliance. The alliance was organized to promote farmers' markets in Oklahoma and help them be successful. Collinsville, Edmond, McAlester, Muskogee, Norman, OSU-OKC, Shawnee, Stillwater and Tulsa-Cherry Street are members. Current members of those markets are automatically members of the alliance, too.

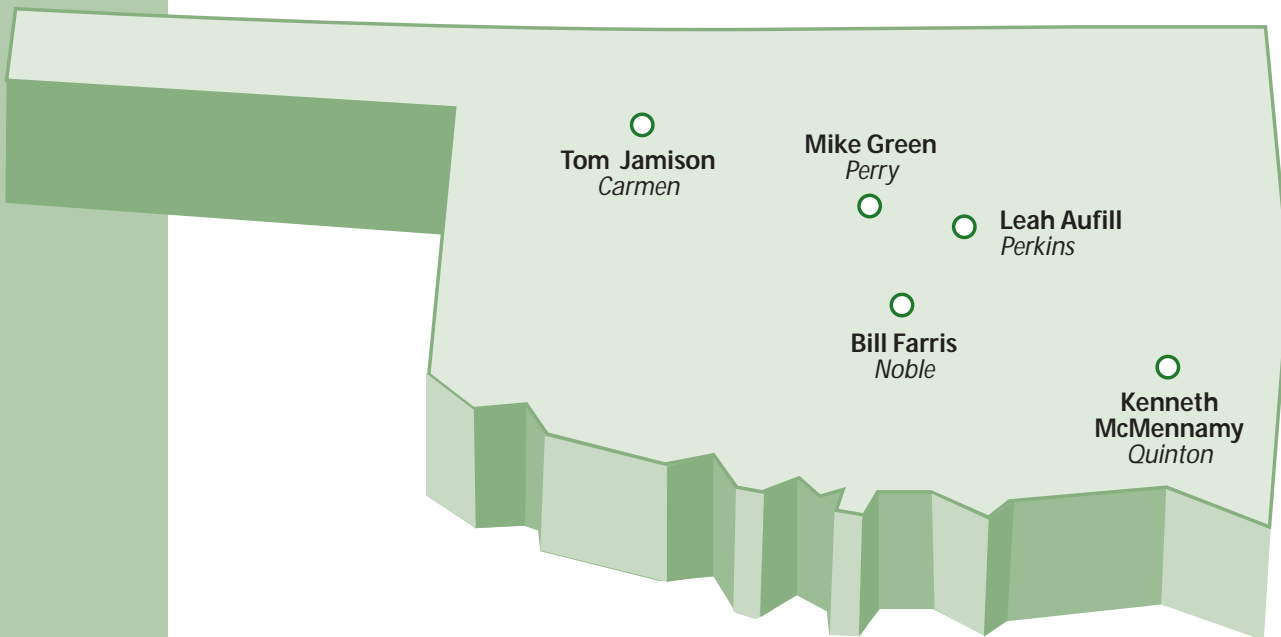
For more information about the tours or alliance, call Doug Walton at 918/686-6939 or Chris Kirby at 405/945-3326.

Directions to the Farms

To reach **OEI Farm** from Norman, go east on Hwy 9 to Lake Thunderbird dam. Turn right on 156th, then take next right. Go south for 2 mi. and look for farm on right side. From I-40, go south on Hwy 102 (exit#178) for 8 mi. to Hwy 9. Turn right (west) on Hwy 9 and proceed to Lake Thunderbird Dam (approx. 10 mi.). At dam, turn left on 156th, then take next right. Go south for 2 mi. and look for farm on right side.

To get to **Sunrise Acres** from OKC, take I-44 south to Hwy. 37 (just south of Canadian River). Go west on Hwy. 37 for 3 mi. Turn south on Hwy. 76 for 4 mi., then west on SW 16th for 1.3 mi. Turn north and follow signs to Sunrise Acres. From Norman, take I-35 south to Hwy 9. Go west for 6 mi. to Hwy 62, then north to Newcastle, turn west on Hwy 130 at the stoplight. Go 3 mi., then south on Hwy 76 for 1 mi. to SW 16th. Go west 1.3 mi.





Leah Aufill <i>Perkins</i>	Mike Green <i>Perry</i>	Bill Farris <i>Noble</i>	Tom Jamison <i>Carmen</i>	Kenneth McMennamy <i>Quinton</i>
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2003 Grants Calendar

Grant Applications
Available:
September 5, 2002

Application Deadline
November 21, 2002

2003 Grants Awarded:
January 9, 2003

For a complete
description of the
grant program go to
kerrcenter.com and
click on Oklahoma
Producer Grants

Or contact Alan Ware
or David Redhage at
918.647.9123

2002

Oklahoma Producer Grants

—David Redhage

In January, the Kerr Center awarded four grants through its Oklahoma Producer Grant Program. This is the fifth year for the program with many excellent grant proposals submitted. The proposals were evaluated by an independent technical committee of farmers, ranchers, and agriculture professionals.

Both research and demonstration projects were eligible for funding during this annual competitive grant program. Money was available for two- and three-year grants. The program focused on the Kerr Center's eight points of sustainability, which address:

- soil health and erosion
- water quality and conservation

- organic waste management
- crops and livestock adapted to Oklahoma
- bio-diversity
- environmentally-safe pest management
- energy conservation
- farm diversification and profitability.

In addition to the four new grants funded for 2002, one 2001 alternative crop trials grant was extended. **Leah Afill** received a two-year grant extension after successfully completing a one year heirloom tomato and specialty cut flower trial in Perkins. Leah has a half-acre market garden in production. The project will continue to document heirloom tomato production information for growers in Oklahoma. Cooperators are Dr. Mike Schnelle, and as a technical resource, Dr. Lynn Brandenberger, both of OSU Horticulture Extension.

Kenneth McMennamy, who owns and operates JKR Ranch near Quinton, received a three-year grant to reclaim native rangeland. The area to be reclaimed was originally a savanna-type ecosystem. The project will use a 100 ft. anchor chain with a six-foot ball in the middle to remove the brush. The project differs from conventional chaining operations because it will only be done in one direction, thereby reducing the cost per acre substantially.

The site will remain this way for one year to allow the native range plants to begin reestablishment. When sufficient fuel is built up the area will be burned, further opening up the stand to sunlight. Rotational grazing and fire will be used to maintain the grassland. McMennamy's project is an example of a way to manage pests (brush) with minimal environmental impact.

Cooperators in this project include Jerry Mathews, NRCS District Conservationist, Terry Bidwell, Professor of Rangeland Ecology at OSU, Mark Ward of Mark's Roustabout Service, and Chris Parrington of the Oklahoma Department of Forestry.

Located near Carmen, **Tom Jamison** received a two-year grant for a project titled "Enhancing Soil Life with Compost Tea." Research on

compost teas has increased of late, and some research suggests that compost tea applications may improve poor soils. The project goal is to determine if poor soils can be improved by compost tea and if it is economical. Creating healthy soil is one way that farms can become more sustainable and is one of the Kerr Center's points of sustainability. Roger Gribble, NW Area Extension Agronomist, Jim Rhodes, Woods County Extension Agent, Walt Davis Rancher/ Consultant and Kim Barker, Rancher/ Consultant are cooperators.

Mike Green is located near Perry and received a two-year grant for his project: "An Alternative Disease-Resistant Crop to Increase Productivity and Profit for the Small Farmer." His project involves developing marigolds as an alternative botanical cash crop for Oklahoma. Marigolds produce oleoresin which will be extracted from the flower petals. Oleoresin is used in the manufacture of salves and lutein ointments. The goal of the project is to determine the feasibility of raising a botanical such as marigolds in Oklahoma. This project may help Green improve profitability on his farm. Professor Neils Maness, Post-Harvest Technology at OSU, is the project cooperator.

"Specialty Bulb Production Possibilities for Oklahoma Growers" is what **Bill Farris** of Noble will be exploring with his three-year grant. The project will explore the growing and marketing of specialty flower bulbs in Oklahoma. Diversifying farming operations can often help farmers improve profitability and decrease risk.

Several bulb production experiments will be conducted over the three-year project. Cooperators are Dr. Mike Schnelle of the OSU Department of Horticulture and L. A. and Bud Hervey of vanBloem Gardens in Dallas.

Sustainable Solutions for Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Sustainability Network (OSN) will hold its first annual conference, "**Sustainable Solutions: Envisioning Oklahoma's Future**," Friday, May 10, at OSU-OKC at 900 N. Portland Ave., in Oklahoma City.

Presentations will cover:

- Building and Construction
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Transportation/Energy
- Waste Reduction
- Water Conservation
- Sustainable Education

"The conference is for all citizens interested in sustainable solutions for Oklahoma," says Jay Yowell of the OSN. This includes business and community leaders, government officials, conservationists, educators and students.

The invited lineup of speakers includes Steve Largent, U.S. Congressman (1st District); Dr. Jim Horne, Kerr Center president; Fenton Rood, Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Michael Patton, Director of the Metropolitan Environmental Trust; Earl Hatley, Director, Tribal Environmental Management Services; Susie Shields, Department of Environmental Quality; Dr. Elise Streitz, EPA; Dave Edwards, OSU-OKC; Dru Meadows, Green Team; Lee Fithian, Atkins Benham; Mike Bergey, Bergey Windpower; Dianne Wilkins, DEQ Pollution Prevention; Jill Scott, psychology professor, UCO; Allan Skouby, GeoPro Inc.; Jay Yowell, Elliott + Associates Architects.

For more information about the conference or the sustainability network, go to www.oksustainability.org or contact Jay Yowell, OSN Coordinator, at 405.232.9554, jyowell@e-a-a.com

What is Happening in the Legislature this Session?

- Anita Poole



The Oklahoma legislature is considering several bills this year which will directly or indirectly affect agriculture in the state. Most bills are currently in committee and are subject to change before final decisions are made as to whether they will become law or not. The following is a brief description of some bills that could directly impact the way that farmers in our state conduct their business.

HOUSE BILL 2349 authored by Representative Mark Liotta (R, Dist. 77) is the "State Waters Protection Act." This bill in its current form restricts the areas where new or expanding poultry feeding operations may be positioned and where poultry litter could be spread. Under this bill as written, no new poultry operations or expansion could be constructed:

- in a 100 year flood plain; or
- within 300 feet of the waters of the state; or
- within 1 1/2 miles of the high water mark of a surface public water supply when the poultry operation is within the same watershed; or
- within 1 1/2 miles of a designated scenic river; or
- within 1 1/2 miles public drinking well; or
- within 1 1/2 miles of another water body specified as Outstanding Resource Water.

Also under this bill, if passed unchanged, no poultry litter could be spread:

- within 300 feet of existing public or private drinking water resources; or
- within 1 1/2 miles of a designated scenic river; or
- within 1/2 mile of the high water mark of a nutrient-limited water body if the poultry operation is located within the same watershed.

Sources say that this bill will probably undergo several changes before it can be made law. However, public outcry has demanded stronger protections for our state's water supplies, so the debate could become heated.

HOUSE BILL 2421 authored by Representative Clay Pope (D, Dist 59) seeks to set specific payment periods for certain livestock purchases. It is currently being amended to specify that when livestock are purchased for slaughter, payment must be made within 24 hours by either a negotiable check or wire transfer of funds. There may be other changes to the bill before it comes up for a vote.

SENATE BILL 920 authored by Sen. Carol Martin (D, Dist. 24) seeks to determine which agency(ies) will be regulating and offering marketing assistance to the private commercial production of fish, otherwise known as aquaculture. The bill as it currently reads would place aquaculture under the direction of the Department of Agriculture instead of the Department of Wildlife Conservation which currently directs those activities. We may see changes that would allow both of these agencies to work together.

SENATE BILL 1348 authored by Sen. Rick Littlefield (D, Dist. 1) relates to corporate farming. The bill seeks to amend the current exemption that vertically integrated poultry companies enjoy by preventing the corporate integrators from owning the land on which they raise poultry for sale. Basically, this means that the companies could not own the poultry farms and hatcheries, but could still own the feed mills, processing facilities and corporate offices. Therefore to grow poultry in Oklahoma, a company would have to contract with local farmers. The bill did pass out of committee and will come up for a vote.

If Senator Paul Muegge's (D, Dist. 20) **SENATE BILL 908** is successful, milk will be designated as Oklahoma's state beverage effective on November 1, 2002.

A House Bill that would have given wind farmers tax credits, as well as other incentives, was struck down in committee and will not be considered.

These bills cover just a fraction of the issues being discussed by the Oklahoma legislature this session. For more information on issues that will affect your operation, you can visit www.lsb.state.ok.us. You can also contact your representative directly.

Food Policy Council Holds First Meeting

"Never before has a group like this been assembled in Oklahoma to work on food and agriculture issues," said Kerr Center President Jim Horne after the first meeting of the Oklahoma Food Policy Advisory Council February 5 at the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture (ODA).

"The group consists of a variety of people, with different opinions and approaches, who are looking at the issues with fresh eyes," he said. "Forming this council gives us an opportunity to gain a wholistic view of Oklahoma's food system."

Council members were welcomed by Agriculture Commissioner and

Secretary Dennis Howard. Rick Maloney, head of the ODA Marketing Division, reported on the programs in his division. One program of interest to the group was the "Made in Oklahoma" (www.madeinOklahoma.net) campaign; another was the Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification project.

The group discussed a number of issues, in particular, the need to research Oklahoma's food system and what such a study should cover.

Jim Horne co-chairs the council with Geni Thomas, executive chef at the Casady School in Oklahoma City. The newly-appointed members of the council are: Kim Barker, rancher,

Waynoka; Rodney Bivens, Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City; Rita Combs, Retired Educators for Agriculture program, Edmond; Bill Ford, Shawnee Mills, Shawnee; Jeannine Hale, Sierra Club, Sapulpa; Rick Jeans, farmer, Tonkawa; Cheryl Jones, food editor, Enid; Chris Kirby, OSU/OKC Farmers'Market; Rita Newton, Oklahoma Conference of Churches, Oklahoma City; Nathan Notah, Indian Tribal Council, Stillwater; J.B. Pratt, Pratt's Foods and Well Market, Shawnee; Dean Smith, farmer, Hydro; Michelle Stephens, agriculture policy and legal expert, Weatherford.

The next meeting will be held in April.

Antique Farm Equipment Sought

Overstreet Farm curator Jim Combs is looking for John Deere haymaking equipment and memorabilia used from 1890 to 1940 to display in the new 38- by 80-foot barn built last summer. The balers will be arranged in ten-year intervals to show how change occurred.

Combs is also looking for grain production equipment from the same time period.

The new exhibit will be unique in that it will help tell the story of farm life in southeast Oklahoma in the early years of the 20th century, helping to educate schoolchildren and others about their farming heritage.



Bill Hardin of Cameron, OK and Jim Combs of the Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm making a turn-of-the-century agreement with a simple handshake. Bill has agreed to place his 1917/18 John Deere hay press on loan for an indefinite period of time at the Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm, located in northern LeFlore County, Oklahoma.

Combs hopes to collect equipment through donations, loans and purchases from the public. Due to time constraints, only easily restorable or already restored equipment will be accepted. Combs has indoor storage space available for pieces to be held until they are restored, and may build another display barn if needed.

Since the Kerr Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, donations of equipment and funds for restoring equipment or developing the educational display are tax deductible. (Donors will be given a receipt to use for tax purposes). Those who donate or loan items will be acknowledged on the display itself.

Don't Miss These Other Events!

OCTOBER 12

Farm-Fest - Includes a tour of the 14-room historical home built by Tom Overstreet and his wife, Elizabeth Krebs. Activities include sorghum milling and cooking (in an antique sorghum pan), basket weaving, soap making, Dutch oven cookery, quilting, food preparation, wood working, blacksmithing, and other early 20th century skills and crafts practiced on American farms. Also heirloom breeds of livestock and demonstrations of antique farm equipment. Lunch is available from vendors.
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fee: \$5 adults - \$3 youth

DECEMBER 14

Christmas Open House - The historical 14-room home will be decorated with both turn-of-the-20th century and modern holiday decorations. Visitors will enjoy home-baked cookies, cakes, candies, cider, and coffee.
Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fee: \$3 per person



Learn a New Hobby at the Historical Farm

This spring the Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm is offering a series of fun, educational, (and inexpensive) Saturday workshops for adults. Instructors are people with a passion for their hobbies and years of experience.

The scenic historical farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The elegant home was built in 1871 by Tom Overstreet and his wife Elizabeth Krebs, and has been restored to its former elegance. Several original outbuildings are still being used and the farm has a number of rare, old-fashioned breeds of farm animals.

The farm is located on highway 59, ten miles south of Sallisaw (I-40).

To register for the spring workshops, or

find out about events for school children or tours of the farmstead, contact Jeremy Henson, Education Program Manager, at 918-966-3396, okhfarm@crostel.net, or mail check (made out to Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm) to Rt. 2, Box 693, Keota, OK 74941. Please include address, phone # and name and date of workshop you are interested in.

For photos and more information on the farm go to www.kerrcenter.com.

SPRING WORKSHOPS 2002

Deadline for registration is five days before the workshop.

MARCH 23 - BLACKSMITHING

Time: 9 - 12.
Fee: \$20 per person
Class limited to 25.
Instructor Von Mead will display and demonstrate the use of blacksmith tools, forge, and blower. He will also show participants how to make an inexpensive,

makeshift forge. Participants will learn the proper techniques in heating, bending, and shaping metal into decorative items. (Please note, this is not a horseshoeing workshop). Von will also display his works.
Von Mead is a member of the Arkansas Valley Antique Tractor Club, a "jack-of-all-

trades," and an enthusiast of antique tractors and tools. Von said he was given an anvil as a child, which caused him to need a forge in order to use the anvil. Von has now been blacksmithing as a hobby for 12 years and is a skilled craftsman in this field.

APRIL 13 - AUDUBON BIRDING

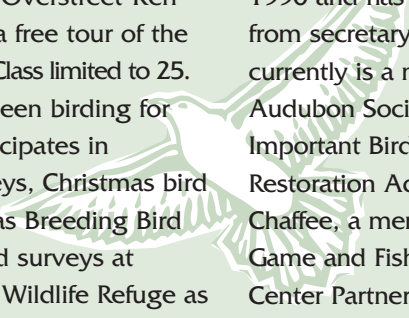
Time: 8:30 - 11:30

Fee: \$15 per person.

Participants will meet at the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge to meet with "Birdlady" Sandy Berger of the National Audubon Society. A slide show and discussion will be given on species of birds, ways to attract them, binocular care and usage, and the best times for birding. Participants will engage in a birding adventure and will be given handouts for use during this time.

Only a limited number of binoculars will be provided, so participants are urged to bring their own. After the session has ended, participants are invited back to the Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm for a free tour of the home and grounds. Class limited to 25. Sandy Berger has been birding for ten years. She participates in breeding bird surveys, Christmas bird counts, the Arkansas Breeding Bird Atlas, and shorebird surveys at Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge as well as doing programs for elderhostel groups at Devil's Den State Park,

civic clubs, schools, and others. Sandy joined the local chapter of the National Audubon Society called Dogwood Trails Audubon Society in 1990 and has served in every position from secretary to president. She currently is a member of the National Audubon Society of Arkansas Important Bird Area committee, the Restoration Advisory Board at Ft. Chaffee, a member of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Nature Center Partners, and a member of the Nature Conservancy and American Birding Association.



APRIL 27 BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY

Time: 9 - 12

Fee: \$15 per person

Instructor Larry Millican of the Fort Smith Photographic Alliance will be discussing and demonstrating various cameras, films, what a picture should include, and techniques needed to capture that "Kodak moment." Participants will take a short walk around the Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm to take pictures and practice their new photographic skills. Bring a camera. Class limited to 25.

Larry Millican is the assistant manager of Bedford Camera & Video, Ft. Smith. He is the former president of the Photographic Alliance and has served as the photo editor of Western Arkansas Wildlife magazine. His works have been published locally and nationally.



MAY 4 - NATIVE AMERICAN COOKING

Time: 9 - 12

Fee: \$20 per person

Instructor Christine Harris of the Choctaw Nation will discuss and demonstrate food preparation techniques used over an open fire by Native Americans. Participants will receive hands-on training and will help prepare a meal for eating at noon. Questions regarding the Indian way of life and cooking techniques will be welcome. Handouts of recipes will also be provided. Class limited to 20.

Christine Harris was born near Howe, Oklahoma, graduated from Howe High School, and married without any knowledge of cooking. After receiving her master's degree, she taught in Odessa, Texas, and Poteau. After retirement, she began volunteer cooking for the Choctaw Senior Citizens and continued there for 13 years. She is now highly skilled in Native American cooking and says her love for cooking has grown continuously over the years.

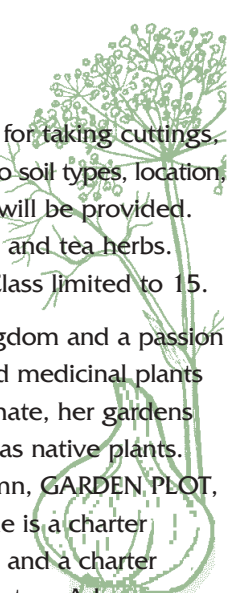
MAY 18 - SEEDS TO SALAD

Time: 9 - 12

Fee: \$15 per person

Instructor Barbara Zieschang will show the proper techniques for taking cuttings, rooting, and growing your favorite herbs. Information pertaining to soil types, location, moisture needs, harvesting, storage, and cooking with herbs will be provided. Participants will tour herb beds to identify and collect culinary and tea herbs. Included will be an herb seasoned lunch with iced herb tea. Class limited to 15.

Barbara Zieschang has a life-long love affair with the plant-kingdom and a passion for growing and knowing as many wild and domestic food and medicinal plants as possible in one lifetime. Though somewhat confined by climate, her gardens and wild-lands still host plants from all over the world as well as native plants. For about 22 years, Barbara has written a Sunday garden column, GARDEN PLOT, for the *Southwest Times Record*, the Fort Smith newspaper. She is a charter member of Oklahoma Herb Growers & Marketers Association, and a charter member of the Herb People Club of eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas.



CALENDAR

**MARCH 23,
APRIL 13, 27,
MAY 4, 18:**

Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm hobby workshops (See page 10-11)

MARCH 30:

Small Farm Tour (see p.5)

APRIL 11:

Wind Power and Bioenergy: Oklahoma Crops of the 21st Century conference, Myriad Convention Center, Oklahoma City. For more info or to register contact Continuing Education Program, University of Oklahoma, 405.325.3760 or 800.203.5494.

MAY 10:

Sustainable Solutions: Envisioning Oklahoma's Future conference, OSU-OKC at 900 N. Portland Ave., in Oklahoma City. (See p. 7).

MAY 21-23:

Protecting Our Farmland workshop, Poteau, (see p. 1).

JULY 11:

Kerr Center Farm Field Day: Heirloom Vegetables and Small Fruit Trials, call 918.647.9123 or www.kerrcenter.com

SEPT. 5: 2003 Producer Grants Call for Proposals released (see p. 6-7)



OCTOBER 11:

Farm-Fest for Kids Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm. For more info: 918.966.3396

OCTOBER 12:

Fall Farm-Fest (general public) Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm, (see p. 10)

Mark your calendars now for
FUTURE FARMS 2002:
A Marketplace of Ideas

to be held November 15 and 16 in Norman. An extensive lineup of workshops on adding value, marketing, and innovative livestock/crop production ideas will be offered as well as a large trade show featuring grown- and made-in-Oklahoma food products. For more information contact the Kerr Center at 918.647.9123 or visit www.kerrcenter.com.



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