The Kerr Center
for Sustainable Agriculture

Fall, 2017

Dear Friend,

People are calling 2017 the year of disasters: one hurricane after another, wildfires all over the western U.S. Here in eastern Oklahoma, we've been blessed enough to avoid those misfortunes, though the scars of our own are recent enough to recall: tornado in 2011, flooding in 2015.

At the Kerr Center, we both preach and practice resilience: we recover when we must, and prepare when we can. A dozen tiny steps taken to be ready for the next challenge mean that we won't face such a giant hurdle to get over it when it inevitably comes.

We know the pollinators on which so much of agriculture depends are in peril, first and foremost due to habitat loss. So we've been developing ways to incorporate that habitat into our farming and ranching. Late this summer, I helped to scatter the seeds of that effort well beyond Oklahoma, in a nationwide webinar hosted by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

We know that we're stronger when we combine our strengths with those of our partners. That's why we teamed up with the Choctaw nation this year to offer one of our popular hoop house workshops for tribal members. Hoop houses reduce the risk at both the beginning and end of the growing season – a strategy worth sharing as widely as possible.

We know that looking to the past can be one of the best ways of preparing to face the future. That's why, in preparation for the Choctaw hoop house workshop, we updated and streamlined one of our most popular how-to publications of the past several years. It's also why we curated and renovated our online collection of beginning farmer and rancher resources.

We know that disturbances often carry the seeds of renewal within them. That's why we carried out a prescribed burn on an eight-acre native prairie this spring, and why we've been tracking the recovery of the grasses and wildflowers that hold its soil with their roots.

We also know from long experience that our reach is multiplied by the contributions that we receive from like-minded people around the state, region, nation, and world. That's why we're asking once again for your support this year.

While the Kerr Center has operated throughout its existence on earnings from the endowment conveyed by Senator Kerr's family, we also rely, for both guidance and reinforcement, on the generosity of individual donors like yourself. Your generosity allows us to innovate and expand our educational outreach to help agriculture meet future challenges successfully.

Every gift we receive takes us another step toward readiness for the future – both weathering the disasters, and harvesting the successes. Sustainable agriculture is about developing and encouraging the producers who work so hard to produce the food we eat each day.

Please consider taking another step forward with us by contributing to the Kerr Center in 2017. We thank you kindly!

Sincerely,

David Redhage

David Redhage
President and CEO

Please see reverse for a mail-in donation form, or donate securely online at www.kerrcenter.com.

Friends of the Kerr Center

Your contribution is important to the future of sustainable agriculture!

Become a Friend of the Kerr Center in 2018!

Together, we can continue Kerr Center's great progress through:

- **A farm and ranch** where visitors and students can see and learn sustainable practices
- **Conservation projects** that benefit wildlife and endangered pollinators
- Meaningful **research** that helps farmers and ranchers improve their land, profits and quality of life
- **Field days, conferences** and **workshops**
- A **comprehensive website, www.kerrcenter.com,** providing evidence-based answers so producers can improve their practices and profitability
- Newsletter and **educational publications**

Won't you help us continue this exciting forward momentum?

Every single gift, no matter the size, will go to provide education to farmers and ranchers.

Our Work in 2017

NEW PUBLICATIONS/RESOURCES

- Report: Bio-Extensive Management Revisited
- Fact Sheet: Hoop House Construction Plans (& Materials/Price List)

WORKSHOPS

- Sawmill
- Hoop house

PRESENTATIONS/OUTREACH

- Oklahoma Native Plant Society
- Oklahoma Plasticulture Conference
- Oklahoma No-till Conference
- Tulsa Audubon Society
- Tulsa Perennial Plant Club
- OSU Native Plants Conference
- Oklahoma Master Gardener Conference
- Inter-Tribal Environmental Council Conference
- National NRCS Webinar
- Oklahoma Organics Conference

The Kerr Center is a 501(c)(3) private, nonprofit, operating foundation.
Your donation is tax-deductible. You will receive an acknowledgment of your gift.
For more information about our history, programs, and staff visit www.kerrcenter.com.

Please give what you can. We appreciate your support!

Donate Online!

To pay by PayPal or credit card, go to the Kerr Center website, www.kerrcenter.com

I am interested in knowing more about donating assets either now or as an estate-planning tool. Please send me more information or call me at:
(____) _____

For donations in memory of a friend or family member, please visit www.kerrcenter.com

☐ **I do not wish to be listed as a donor in the newsletter or on the Kerr Center website.**

Thank you for your generosity. Your gift is tax deductible.

2017 DONATION APPEAL

Yes, I/We want to support the programs of the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture at the following level (check enclosed):

☐ **SOWER: $20-$54** ☐ **CULTIVATOR: $55-$199** ☐ **HARVESTER: $200-$499**
☐ **STEWARD: $500-$999** ☐ **SUSTAINER: $1000 OR MORE** ☐ **OTHER** _____

☐ Please sign me up for ***E-Field Notes***, Kerr Center's free monthly email update.

Donations of any amount are gratefully accepted.
Check enclosed for $_____ payable to Kerr Center.

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