Field Notes

Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture E-Newsletter

E-Field Notes
April 2015

If April showers bring May flowers, now's the time to learn what to watch for - or plant - in your pollinator gardens. Several recent Kerr Center publications can help - **download them all** as an Earth Day treat! Then, pass that treat along to pollinators by putting the information to work, giving them a hand by preserving habitat and planting pollinator-friendly plants, trees and shrubs.

Native Plants for Native Pollinators in Oklahoma compiles our entire series of pollinator plant profiles under a single cover. *Cover Crops as Beneficial Insect Habitat* covers the ways that the Cannon Horticulture Project is using cover crops to support pollinators and other beneficial insects in a farm/garden setting. *Trees and Shrubs for Oklahoma of Value to Pollinators* comes in two parts, and does for woody plants what Native Plants for Native Pollinators does for herbaceous ones, in a more condensed format.

In this issue:

Native Plants for Native Pollinators

Cover Crops as Beneficial Insect Habitat

Trees and Shrubs for Oklahoma of Value to Pollinators

Livestock's Latest

One-Stop Shopping for Kerr Events: Online Events Calendar

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In addition, get the latest news from the livestock program. Please also consider supporting our work!

Native Plants for Native Pollinators

This **full-color guide** collects all 38 of the Kerr Center's native pollinator plant profiles under one cover. For each plant, the profile includes common and Latin names, color photographs, bloom period, pollinators benefited, and environmental requirements, as well as observations from David Redhage, who has headed up the Kerr Center's work with native pollinators in recent years.

The book features several full-page spreads of native wildflower photos from different habitat types found on the stewardship farm and ranch, including the recently established pollinator plant landscape outside the office.

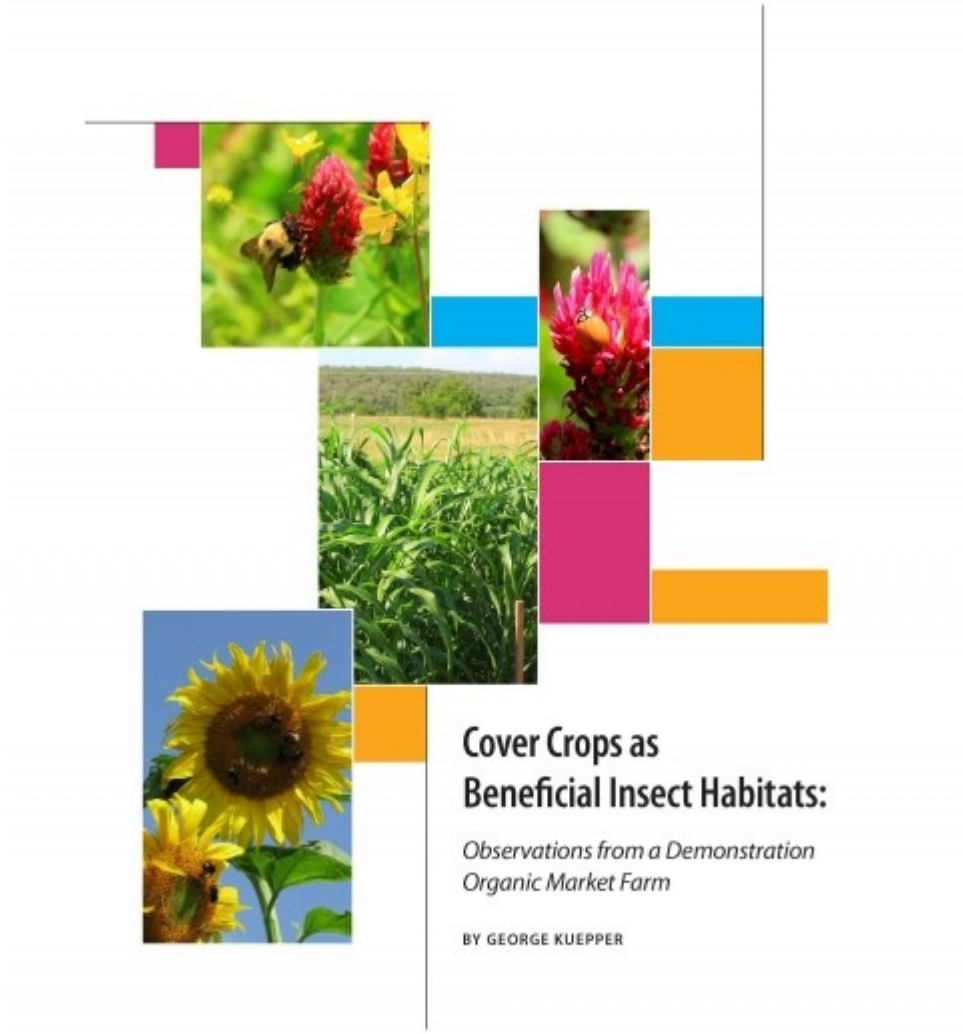
There is also a section with tips from Redhage on selecting species and establishing pollinator plantings.

Upcoming Pollinator Events
The Kerr Center will host a native pollinator workshop on June 6. **Anne Stine from the Xerces Society**, together with Redhage, will cover topics including:

- pollinators and pollinator plants
- how to incorporate pollinator habitat into a home landscape, garden, ranch, or farm.
- beneficial insects in the garden and farm
- monarch butterflies: host and nectar plants.

Register online by May 22.

Cover Crops as Beneficial Insect Habitats



This report, **available free online**, outlines the Kerr Center horticulture program's experiences in using cover crops as beneficial insect habitat in rotational organic market farming.

It begins with an overview of the use of cover crops in the bio-extensive approach to organic market gardening practiced on the Cannon Horticulture plots.

The report then reviews management considerations for cover crops with an eye toward pollinators, including crop selection and termination scheduling. It reports results to date with particular cover crop uses, including green fallow, living mulches, and annual plant refuges.

The report ends with an annotated bibliography of resources.

Upcoming Horticulture Events
To see the Kerr Center's pollinator-friendly approach to horticulture in person, as well as learning about other specialized topics, please join us at one or more of these upcoming events:

Plasticulture Workshop: May 9
Learn about combining plastic mulch and drip irrigation with a demonstration by Micah Anderson, ODAFF Plasticulture Coordinator. Register by April 24.

Twilight Field Day: June 11
This **free evening tour** of the Kerr Center's **certified organic** Cannon Horticulture Project will be hosted by George Kuepper and David Redhage.

Trees and Shrubs for Oklahoma of Value to Pollinators

Trees and Shrubs for Oklahoma of Value to Pollinators provides a condensed listing of woody plants that grow in Oklahoma and support pollinators in some way. Compiled by the Xerces Socieity, the publication is divided into two parts:

Part I lists time of bloom, mature height, water requirements, and commercial sources.

Part II documents which pollinators visit each plant, whether the plant is a host or nest plant, and value to other wildlife.

Livestock's Latest

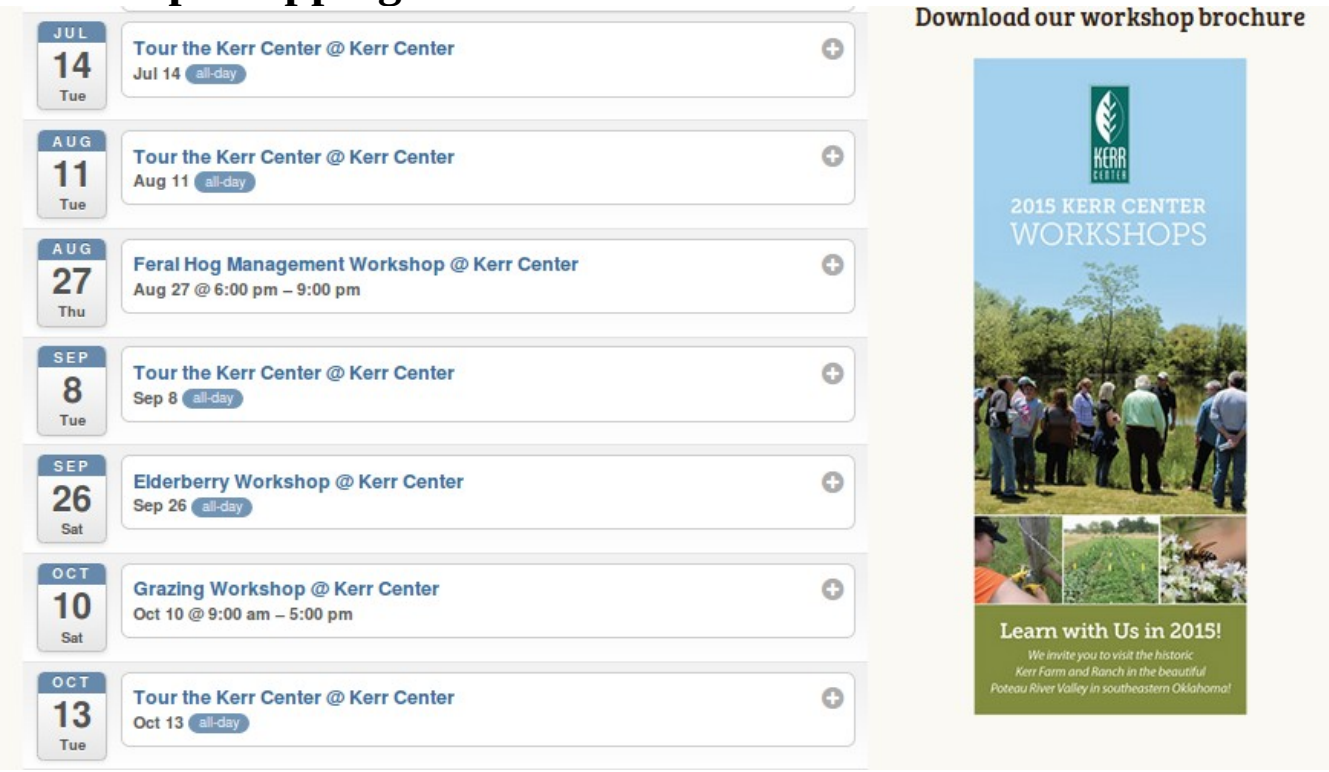
Calving is almost complete, and with pastures greening up, the livestock team is cutting back on hay and feed.There are two new bulls on the ranch. It's time to decide which heifers to sell, and which of the older cows – the herd currently has six older than ten years – to cull.

The process of selecting replacement heifers is an art. A mainstay in the Kerr Center's livestock publication series, "**Heifer Management**," goes over the subject in detail.

Upcoming Livestock Events
Pasture Plant ID: June 25
What's in your pasture? This **free** workshop offers **hands-on experience identifying common pasture plants**.

Livestock Watering Systems and Stream and Pond Conservation: July 11
Kerr Center livestock staff will present this Saturday afternoon and evening workshop, covering **riparian area management, stabilized stream crossings, and livestock watering systems**, with both classroom and tour segments. **Register by June 26.**

One-Stop Shopping for Kerr Events: Online Events Calendar



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.

Support the Kerr Center

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