



Field Notes

Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture E-Newsletter

E-Field Notes
October 2020

In this month's column, David Redhage considers the **pros and cons of online workshops**.

The USDA has opened a **second round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP-2) to help farmers and ranchers who've lost money due to the pandemic** - more crops and livestock are eligible, but **apply soon while the funds last!**

The horticulture program has published a **new short report** detailing results from this summer's work with **cherry tomatoes in self-wicking containers**.

If you're looking for a spooky Halloween shiver, here's this last bit of morbid news: **two more pesticides on the EPA approved list have been found to harm honeybees** and other beneficial insects.

Here's an even spookier thought: trying to do what we do without the support of your [donations](#). If you like what we're doing, please [keep them coming! Thank you!](#)

In this issue:

President's Note: Training in the Age of Covid

Second Round for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP-2)

Cherry Tomatoes in Self-Wicking Containers

Two Pesticides Approved for Use in U.S. Found to Harm Bees

Fall Events: Online Conferences, Local Food...

President's Note: Training in the Age of COVID

It has been an interesting year here at the Kerr Center. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we had to stop planning several on-site workshops early in the year, and cancel our ranch tours. Only recently have we opened up to limited tours with proper social distancing. No on-site workshops have been planned yet.

I have participated in several online trainings. To date, all of my committee meetings have been online. It creates some interesting opportunities and challenges. You can reach a larger audience online, and it can be more cost-effective. However, not everyone has good internet access, so the quality of the presentation may not be the same for everyone.



[Read more....](#)

Second Round for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP-2)

via the [Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance](#):

The USDA has launched a second round of COVID-19 relief payments that will hopefully reach more farmers, many of whom were left out of previous aid programs. USDA's revamped Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP-2) will provide \$13.21 billion in aid, and covers more commodities than the first round.



Even more importantly for small and diversified producers, CFAP-2 includes a revenue-based payment program that can help “market farms” raising diversified fruits and vegetables, as well as those raising more types of livestock.

USDA will take applications until Dec. 11, 2020 – but funds will be released on a rolling first-come first-serve basis and are expected to run out fairly quickly.

[Read more....](#)

Cherry Tomatoes in Self-Wicking Containers

As a strategy for coping with increasingly extreme and variable weather, the Kerr Center [horticulture program](#) has been looking more closely at techniques for **growing garden crops in sheltered settings**, such as a cold frame, hoophouse, or greenhouse.

This past summer, we experimented with both [hydroponics](#) and **self-wicking containers**. Last month, we shared our findings on [pepper production in self-wicking containers](#).

We also ran a small variety trial on cherry tomatoes in self-wicking containers. The results of that trial are now available in a **two-page report**, available free from the Kerr Center's online [horticulture library](#).



[Download *Cherry Tomatoes in Self-Wicking Containers*](#)

Two Pesticides Approved for Use in U.S. Found to Harm Bees

The pesticides flupyradifurone (sold under the brand name Sivanto®) and sulfoxaflor (sold under the name Transform® WG) harm bees in ways similar to neonicotinoids, according to a new study from researchers at the University of Texas at Austin. Reviewing 19 studies from the past five years, the study found that these pesticides also harm other beneficial insect species, including wild bumblebees and lacewings. Even in sublethal amounts, the pesticides also reduce both foraging efficiency and reproductive ability.



[Read more....](#)

Fall Events: Online Conferences, Local Food...

Fall's full of conferences! The online **Farm and Food Leadership Conference** closes out October (26 - 27 Oct.). **Regenerate 2020's** virtual incarnation kicks off the same day, but runs for almost a month (Oct. 26 - Nov. 20). Oklahoma County OCES' **Master Composter trainings** and OSU's **Beginning Farmer Workshops** are both ongoing.

Moving into November, you can catch a session on **"Why Local?"** at OSU-OKC (Nov. 6). Don't miss our own David Redhage's free class on [Native Plants that Benefit Native Pollinators](#) at Kiamichi Tech in Poteau (Nov. 10).

Our [tour](#) season has concluded for the year.

Please come and see us again in the spring!

Full details on these and other sustainable agriculture learning opportunities, as always, can be found on the Kerr Center's online [events calendar](#).

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** as they are made.
- **Share events on the calendar** via a number of **different social media sites**, including Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest.

OCT 23 Fri	OSU Beginning Farmer Workshops @ Oklahoma City (Oklahoma County Extension Office) Oct 23 <small>all-day</small>	+
OCT 26 Mon	Farm & Food Leadership Conference 2020 @ online Oct 26 – Oct 27 <small>all-day</small>	+
	Regenerate 2020 @ online Oct 26 – Nov 20 <small>all-day</small>	Tickets +
OCT 28 Wed	Oklahoma County Master Composter Training 2020 Oct 28 @ 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	+
OCT 29 Thu	POSTPONED: Oklahoma Grows Conference & Trade Show @ Broken Arrow (Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center) Oct 29 – Oct 30 <small>all-day</small>	+
OCT 30 Fri	OSU Beginning Farmer Workshops @ Oklahoma City (Oklahoma County Extension Office) Oct 30 <small>all-day</small>	+
NOV 6 Fri	Why Local? @ Oklahoma City (OSU Extension Conference Center) Nov 6 @ 9:30 am	+
NOV 10 Tue	Workshop: Native Plants that Benefit Native Pollinators @ Poteau (Kiamichi Technology Center) Nov 10 @ 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Tickets +

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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

