



# Field Notes

## Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture E-Newsletter

*E-Field Notes*

April 2021

Happy Earth Day!

David Redhage stirs up a hornet's nest this month - with a **review of a new guide to wasps**.

If you raise heritage poultry, the Livestock Conservancy would like to know! It will help the organization set conservation priorities. Fill out their **heritage poultry census!**

**Organic sales have boomed in Oklahoma lately**, but the state has **fewer certified organic farms and acres than the nation as a whole**.

The monarchs have started passing through! Watch a **brand new video about the win-win side of monarch habitat conservation**, highlighting the work of **Okies for Monarchs**.

From poultry to pollinators, your [donations](#) allow us to do the work we do. [Thank you!](#)

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# President's Note: Book Review: *Wasps: A Guide for Eastern North America*

[\*Wasps: A Guide for Eastern North America\*](#). Heather Holm. 2020. Pollination Press, LLC. 416 p.

Most people don't like wasps. I understand. I've been stung by red wasps many times. What many don't realize is the important role wasp species play as beneficial insects and as native pollinators.

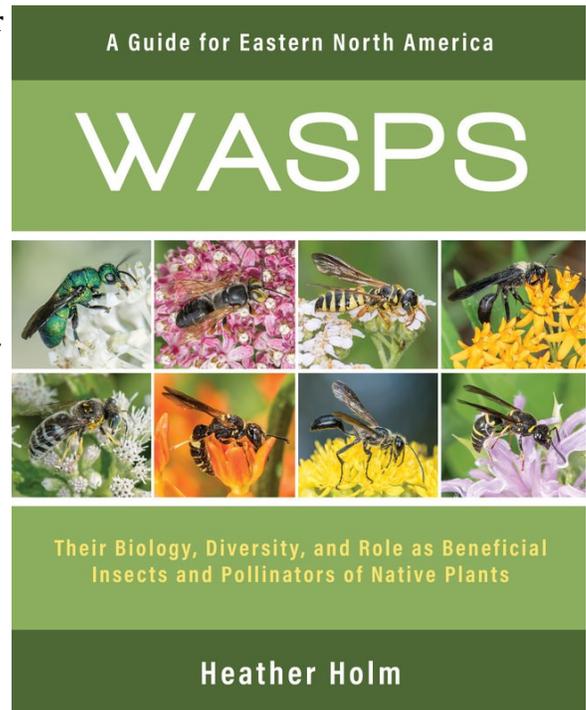
While working with native pollinators, I have been frustrated by the lack of a good I.D. guide for wasps. This book helps fill that gap.

As this book points out, many wasps cannot be readily identified to the species level from a photograph. It requires a microscope in a lab, looking for often subtle characteristics.

The book covers 150 species of flower-visiting wasps. While definitely welcome, the book is not a field guide due to its size. The book is 9 x 11", and 416 pages in length.

Despite the large size, it is still an important publication, filling a gap in the literature on pollinators.

[\*Visit the publisher's website....\*](#)



## Roll Call for Heritage Poultry Breeds!

The **2021 Poultry Census** is a critically important project focused on breeding populations of domestic poultry (purebred breeds or landraces), including chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys. The census will enable The Livestock Conservancy to understand how poultry populations are faring in North America and **guide future conservation efforts**.



FILL OUT THE ONLINE SURVEY TODAY!



THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY  
**2021 POULTRY CENSUS**

Many **heritage breed poultry** are historically significant and represent irreplaceable genetics that may be **essential to the future of agriculture**. Rare and traditional poultry breeds are an important option for small farms, possessing traits such as **foraging, maternal ability, disease resistance, and heat- or cold-tolerance** that are beneficial to small farmers and backyard hobbyists. Even as backyard poultry keeping becomes more popular, many of the less common or more challenging breeds are in real danger of extinction.

The Livestock Conservancy invites you to complete the 2021 Poultry Census. The greater your participation, the more precise the picture of poultry populations in North America. Your **responses will remain anonymous**, but you may opt to share your contact information with The Livestock Conservancy. This will help identify breeders who hold flocks of high conservation value, which are important to the long-term genetic diversity of endangered poultry breeds. A detailed summary of census results will be shared with you following analysis of collected data.

To participate in the 2021 Poultry Census, please [fill out the survey online](#).

## Oklahoma Organics: Sales Soar, But Farm Numbers, Acreage Lag Nation

The [latest USDA data on organic agriculture](#) show continued growth in the number of certified organic farms and acres nationwide, as well as a 31% increase in sales from 2016 to 2019. **In Oklahoma, sales of organic products more than doubled** over the same time interval, to a record \$10.2 million.

However, a closer look at the data shows a more volatile situation than that figure would suggest. In 2017, Oklahoma farm sales of organic products dropped to \$1.2 million, the lowest level since 2002. **Meanwhile, the numbers of organic farms and acres have remained more stable, but low.**

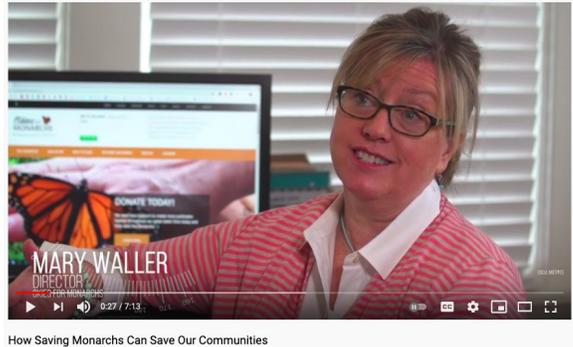
[Learn more....](#)



## Okies for Monarchs Featured in New Short Video Documentary

Did you know that the average suburban yard uses ten times as much pesticide, per acre, as farmland? That's just one of many things you can learn by spending seven and a half minutes to watch a **new video on monarch butterfly conservation in Oklahoma.**

Titled "[How Saving Monarchs Can Save Our Communities](#)," the short documentary is the latest in a series of 50 state profiles in conservation, by film production company Local Motives.



The film features interviews with [Okies for Monarchs](#) Director Mary Waller, and Marci Hawkins, Education and Conservation Director for the Tulsa Urban Wilderness Coalition - like the Kerr Center, a member of Okies for Monarchs.

It emphasizes **habitat loss' role in the monarchs' decline**, underlining milkweed's importance for the species' survival.

[Watch, and learn more....](#)

# Spring Events: Composting, Grant Application Deadlines, Goat Cookery, Mobile Processing....

What better day than Earth Day to learn about **composting**? Other webinar and workshop topics coming up around the state this month include **goat and lamb cookery** (May 1, online), garden success in summer (May 7, online/Oklahoma City), and **mobile processing units for small ruminants** (May 8, online).

Deadlines for many grant applications are also coming up, including:

- USDA Value Added Producer Grants (Apr. 29)
- USDA NIFA Community Food Projects Grants (May 4)
- Southern SARE Graduate Student Grants (May 7)

APR 22 Thu	<b>Home Composting @ online</b> Apr 22 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Tickets +
APR 29 Thu	<b>Application Deadline: USDA Value Added Producer Grants @ online</b> Apr 29 @ 11:59 pm	+
MAY 1 Sat	<b>Goat and Lamb Cookery Demonstration @ online</b> May 1 @ 10:00 am	Tickets +
MAY 4 Tue	<b>Deadline: USDA NIFA Community Food Projects Grant Applications @ n/a</b> May 4 <small>all-day</small>	+
MAY 7 Fri	<b>Deadline: Southern SARE Graduate Student Grants @ n/a</b> May 7 <small>all-day</small>	+
	<b>Success in Summer @ online / Oklahoma City (OSU Conference Center)</b> May 7 @ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Tickets +
MAY 8 Sat	<b>Mobile Processing Units for Small Ruminants @ online</b> May 8 @ 10:00 am	Tickets +
MAY 11 Tue	<b>BY APPOINTMENT ONLY: Tour the Kerr Center @ Kerr Center</b> May 11 @ 9:00 am	+

The Kerr Center's [tour](#) season is also open, by appointment only. [Come visit us!](#)

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.

## Donate Now

Your donation helps  
support the Kerr Center!



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## Support the Kerr Center

Since 1965 the Kerr Center has been reaching out to folks in Oklahoma and beyond. Today, the Friends of the Kerr Center help us continue this vital work! If you enjoy reading this newsletter or visiting our website, please consider [making a gift to the Kerr Center](#) today!

## Quick Links...

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