



OKLAHOMA PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Volume LV, No. II

Michael Smith, Editor

April, May, June 2015

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SEE YOU IN ARDMORE

Bob Knight, OPGA President

I am looking forward to seeing everyone June 11 – 13 at the OPGA summer conference at the Ardmore Convention Center. The Field day this year will be at the Savage Grove near Madill. This is the fiftieth anniversary of Savage Equipment, so come and see their beautiful orchard and congratulate them for 50 great years.

Earlier in March your president went with a group to the interviews of the candidates for the head of the Horticulture Department at Oklahoma State. We had a chance to listen to presentations by the candidates on their vision for the future of that department. We also had a chance to meet with them in smaller groups so that they could listen to our concerns as an industry.

After this meeting several of us met with Dr. Li Ma and Dr. William McGlynn to update us on the Food Safety and Modernization act. Dr. Ma has done research at our orchard and several others, both grazed and ungrazed, to evaluate the presence of food-borne illness pathogens as it relates to cattle and wildlife in our groves. Dr. McGlynn is up to date on the regulations themselves so we had an opportunity to ask questions about it. Apparently the food safety and modernization act will be in place by this fall but will not have a great deal of impact on our operations for the 2015 crop. After that we will need to be prepared. Mike Spradling, your esteemed vice president, was with us. He is traveling to Washington D. C. this spring and will be meeting, along with other pecan growers, with USDA and legislative people.



Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association is published 4 times per year and is a benefit of being an association member. Contact the Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association c/o Horticulture & Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, 358 Agriculture Hall Stillwater, OK 74078-6027 for further information.

Mike and I are also going to Ag Day at the State Capitol to represent the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association. We will be taking the new pecan trade show both that Dr. Charles Rohla of the Noble Foundation had made and generously loaned us. See you this summer!

Oklahoma – Overdue for Improved Cultivars

Walt Thrun

In last quarter's newsletter, Bob Knight made a great point, i.e., Oklahoma has a natural potential to produce more paper shell pecans. During the previous three-year period, Oklahoma was the fourth largest pecan producer. Furthermore, the improved versus native production ratio is the lowest by far of the five largest pecan producing states. For example: The ratio of improved to native for Texas is approximately 80:20 while Oklahoma is nearly just the opposite, i.e. 20:80. Even though Oklahoma might never reach Texas' production levels, a reasonable goal might be a 25% increase in acreage in addition to converting many existing native orchards to improved varieties. (See *Fig. 1* for a detailed analysis of selected pecan statistics).

Seeing that pecans are not native to New Mexico or Arizona, their production is entirely improved. If pecans are native to a state such as Oklahoma, improved varieties should likewise do very well. Each acre of improved varieties in a normal year would likely produce three to five times the revenue generated from an acre of native pecans.

Pecan production is an excellent way to create wealth similar to oil production and value-added manufacturing. Pecan production is not like typical service industries wherein the same capital is simply pushed back and forth across the table. Also, pecan production is not anything like redistribution which is leading this country down the road to financial disaster. At present cattle prices are very high and it is difficult to make the decision to convert land to pecan production which requires many years of time and investment before a return is realized. A pecan growing operation is generational and is a great family project for the future. It is so much more than simply a business venture..... it must also be a passion.

Oklahomans like pecan pie and other goodies as much as anyone else. Therefore, there will always be a good local market for high quality paper shell pecans. There is absolutely no reason not to satisfy the local market with local production.

Closing thoughts: Agri Star division of Albaugh Inc. now supplying two generic fungicides, i.e. TebuStar Group (3) and AzoxyStar Group (11) to compete with Enable and Abound. Decreased fertilizer and fuel prices combined gives 2015 off to a good start. More details in next newsletter.

Fig. 1: Selected Pecan Production Statistics

Selected Statistics from USDA Pecan Crop Estimates (Millions)				
	Total Pounds	Improved	Native	% Total Production
All 14 Pecan Producing States				
2012	302.8	75.0%	25.0%	
2013	266.3	82.6%	17.4%	
2014	265.4	83.5%	16.5%	
Top 5 Pecan Producing States (Georgia, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Arizona)				
2012	265.0	86.0%	14.0%	87.5%
2013	231.5	87.5%	12.5%	86.9%
2014	238.0	87.8%	12.2%	89.7%
Texas				
2012	55.0	76.4%	23.6%	18.2%
2013	28.0	78.6%	21.4%	10.5%
2014	60.0	80.0%	20.0%	22.6%

	Total Pounds	Improved	Native	% Total Production
Oklahoma				
2012	25.0	20.0%	80.0%	8.3%
2013	20.0	15.0%	85.0%	7.5%
2014	19.0	21.1%	78.9%	7.2%

What Will the 2015 Pecan Season Bring?

Michael Smith, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Will Oklahoma escape spring frost in 2015? In central Oklahoma the chance for a frost on or after April 15 is 10%. This is what most consider our frost-free date, but we are not completely safe until about the 1st of May. In 2014, a frost in mid-April severely reduced what was expected to be an above average crop.

Will there be adequate rainfall to produce a high-quality crop in 2015? Oklahoma's drought monitor on March 31, 2015 indicated that only the southeastern part of the state has received normal rainfall. Drought conditions become progressively more severe traveling westward with exceptional drought (worst category) in the southwestern portion of Oklahoma. This is even more severe than at first glance since the western part of the state's normal rainfall is less and the drought index is based on the percentage of normal for the area. Thus small reductions in rainfall amounts in the west are more severe than in the east. Drought conditions in Oklahoma have persisted for several years affecting crops and in several cases killing trees, causing branch death in the top of trees, increasing sunscald susceptibility and attack by various tree borers.

What will pecan prices be in 2015? Demand and price for high-quality, early-season cultivars has been and will remain robust for the foreseeable future. Oklahoma is currently a net importer of high-quality cultivars to meet consumer demand. Several orchards have been planted and in a few years Oklahoma may produce enough of this pecan type to meet demand. International pecan marketing supported by shellers, producers and the federal government through the Market Access Program (MAP) increased demand for high quality nuts and resulted in higher domestic prices. Pecan marketing efforts need to continue to expand markets for expected nationwide production increases.

Pecan supplies in cold storage have dwindled. The amount of pecans in storage, and the U.S. and Mexico crop have major impacts on native pecan prices. Conclusions from a recent discussion with several Oklahomans involved in various phases of the industry are that Oklahoma can expect an above average crop if spring freeze can be avoided and drought conditions are not too severe. Along with the above average crop, prices are expected to be strong. In recent years, shellers have rejected under sized native pecans or paid less when the nut count was high. This trend may continue since there are greater costs and more milling loss associated with small nuts. Oklahoma's production is about 85% natives and 15% cultivars. Many of the native pecans are custom harvested. When prices are strong many more of the available pecans are harvested than when prices are weak. If predictions for robust prices hold along with benevolent weather Oklahoma's production will be in the 35 to 40 million pound range.

An exciting development in the pecan world is the proposed Marketing Order. Leading industry representatives have been working with USDA representatives to build a framework for the Marketing Order. Mike Adams and others have met the last two years with pecan producer organizations and the sheller group to garner support for this venture. The pecan industry is in dire need of a marketing order. Such an order will allow the industry to move forward with greater marketing efforts, hire lobbyists to represent our industry in Washington D.C., and support research and extension that benefits production and marketing efforts. Clearly marketing orders have allowed other commodities to expand markets, increase production and demand fair treatment from government. Scott Landgraf, a pecan producer located at Madill and member of the American Pecan Board, will update progress on the Marketing Order at the O.P.G.A. meeting at Ardmore on June 11-13.

2015 Pecan Nut Casebearer Monitoring Program

Jackie Lee, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology

Pecan nut casebearer (PNC) larvae can tunnel into nutlets shortly after pollination and potentially destroy all nutlets in a cluster. The most effective control method is a well-timed insecticide spray. The insecticide must be applied after egg hatch but before the larvae tunnel into the nutlets. Insecticides should **only** be applied if the nut load and infestation level warrants a treatment. Monitoring should begin in early May to prepare for PNC adult emergence which can occur anytime between early May and early June. Oklahoma State University has an in depth fact sheet on PNC monitoring, which can be found at the following link: <http://goo.gl/ENUu7P>.

If you plan on monitoring please think about participating in the PNC data collection program. This is a web-based data entry system hosted on the Pecan ipmPIPE. The program rationale is to provide real time PNC data entry from the field to drive a PNC risk assessment model that will appear in a Belt-Wide map in real time to aid producers in making PNC management decisions in the current season. The public map page can also be used to view the results of previous seasons.

To take part as a cooperator in the PNC Data Collection Program of Pecan ipmPIPE:

1. Register online at http://pecan.ipmpipe.org/cooperator_programs/pnc/pidss.cfm as a member of Pecan ipmPIPE, preferably by May 15. You will be sent a unique passcode to your email with instructions to activate your account. **If you registered in previous years this step is not necessary.** If you have forgotten your password, you can retrieve it from the login page.
2. Log into the system. Your username/password is saved in a session unless you log out.
3. Request to be part of the program using the **'Become a Cooperator'** link.
4. Begin Collecting and reporting data from your orchard.

Please note that free PNC traps/ lures are no longer available from the parent program. USDA funds have been expended. However, some local, regional and state coordinators of pecan IPM do include this. **Please contact your local Pecan IPM agent to check availability (Jackie Lee, Jackie.lee@okstate.edu).**

Collecting PNC data:

PNC pheromone traps should be placed in the field and inspected at least 10 days before first moth catch is expected (early to mid-May). This allows firm establishment of the baseline to determine when moths first begin emerging because "zero" moths in the traps provide strong evidence that the PNC is still in the pupal stage and the flight has not yet begun. Then, the first moths (that are found in the traps after the "zero" catch dates are recorded) are known to also be the first moths that are emerging in the flight. The regular tracking of this flight during the few weeks that moths are active provides an accurate picture of how that generation interacted with the pecan crop.

Data entry forms are accessed by logging into the website (http://pecan.ipmpipe.org/cooperator_programs/pnc/pidss.cfm) and selecting the 'enter data' menu item.

The ideal reporting schedule is daily, and if it is convenient for you to do so, we would like to receive daily information. Alternatively, trap checking and reporting schedules of three (i.e. MWF) or even two (i.e. Monday and Thursday) times per week are of value to us.

Regular online reporting of the PNC moth catch data is essential to allow us to produce the real-time PNC Risk Map. Additional data on egg lay, hatch, nut entry, % infestation of nuts by larvae, crop load, etc. is not essential, but very useful for model validation and management evaluation. We would appreciate your recording this as well on the forms provided. Consult the website or contact us if information is needed on how to do this. Such information will assist us in expanding our knowledge about PNC activity and help us serve you better. Participation can also be through your state/local PNC expert. The belt-wide program is designed to facilitate and not replace local expertise. Contact your local Pecan IPM expert (Jackie Lee) as needed.

Photo courtesy of University of Georgia



Figure1. Adult male pecan nut casebearer.

PNC PHEROMONE AND TRAP SUPPLIERS ARE LISTED BELOW

Advanced Pheromone Technologies, Inc.

P.O. Box 417
Marylhurst, OR 97036-0417
Ph: 315-299-2598
toll free: 877-244-9610
fax: 971-327-8407
email: infoatapt@comcast.net

Gempler's

P.O. Box 270
100 Countryside Drive
Belleville, WI 53508
Order by Phone: 1-800-382-8473
Order by Fax: 1-800-551-1128

Great Lakes IPM Inc.

10220 Church Road
Vestaburg, MI 48891-9746
Ph: 989-268-5693 or 989-268-5911
Toll Free: 1-800-235-0285
Fax: 989-268-5693
E-mail: glipm@nethawk.com

ISCA Technologies / Moritor Technologies

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Riverside, California 92517
United States of America
Tel: 951-686-5008
Fax: 815-346-1722
email: info@iscatech.com
Web: www.iscatech.com

Trece, Inc.

P.O. Box 129
Adair, OK 74330
Ph: 918-785-3061
Order Center 866-785-1313
Fax: 918-785-3063
Email: custserv@trece.com
Web: <http://www.trece.com>

Classified ads may be placed in the newsletter for free by OPGA members. Send your ad to Mike Smith at mike.smith@okstate.edu and it will appear in the next newsletter and subsequent newsletters until notification to remove the advertisement.

RECENT PECAN BOOK (2005) --- by Wes Rice., Pecans - Volume II, A Grower's Perspective.

Color pictures and descriptions of over 80 cultivars, including Oklahoma releases. Updates on many facets of pecan culture. Over 350 color pictures. Perfect bound - \$32.00; hard cover, \$45.00. Add \$3.00 S&H for either, plus 8% sales tax or AG or other qualified tax exemption. Rice's 1994 pecan book is out of print. Wes Rice, 580-765-7049, 333 Braden School Rd., Ponca City, OK 74604.

BAMBOO FRAILING POLES

12'-14' \$6.50 each
16'-18' \$8.25 each
20'-22' \$10.00 each

Pecan and Ag, Bristow, OK 918-367-5529 **PARTS, RE**

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Marilyn 972-236-3991
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Call Jim or Deann Smith 405-273-1235

ALMOND STREET COLD

STORAGE, ABILENE, TX

Will finance your storage and transportation cost until you sell your pecans. For more information, please call Larry Jones at 325-673-4801.

PECAN TREES: Baker Pecans has bare root Giles root stock grafted to Kanza, Pawnee, with limited supply of Lakota, Caddo, Nacono, and Maramec. Available beginning Feb. 2015. Advanced orders with Roger Baker, 580-371-5228. Tishomingo, OK. rwjrbaker@sbcglobal.net

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We invite you to become a member of the Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association. Membership includes the OPGA Newsletter, Pecan South and pecan Grower. Make your checks payable to OPGA and mail to:

Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association
Amanda Early, Treasurer
2115 N. Dobi
Stillwater, OK 74075
amanda.early@okstate.edu 405-744-8800

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____RENEW

_____NEW MEMBER

Grower Member--\$75.00

Industry Member--\$150.00

Extension/Research/Student--\$40.00

Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association
c/o Horticulture & Landscape Architecture
Oklahoma State University
358 Agricultural Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078-6027

Return Service Requested