

EVENT PROGRAM

Southern Plains Grasslands Summit

May 27-29, 2026

The Salt Fork Event Center

27251 County Road 460
Alva, Oklahoma 73717

Working Lands | Wildlife | Conservation

Schedule details, breakout sessions, field tours, and attendee information.

With appreciation to our summit sponsors and partners

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

THE BARN GROUP
EST. 2013
GOREIYE. MONITOR. MATTERIV.

Alva
BEER CO

ALVA
OKLAHOMA

**The Southern Plains
GRASSLANDS SUMMIT**

May 27, 28, and 29, 2026 - Salt Fork Event Center

ALVA | OKLAHOMA

PHEASANTS FOREVER

QUAIL FOREVER

Northwestern
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Northwest Technology Center

KGLC

OKACD
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

The Nature Conservancy

CP
Comanche Pool
Prairie Resource Foundation

USDA

High Plains RCD
Resource Conservation and Development

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Summit Overview

<p>WEDNESDAY MAY 27</p> <p>Packet Pick-Up and Social Mixer 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.</p> <p>Alva Beer Company, 327 Barnes Avenue, Downtown Alva</p>	<p>THURSDAY MAY 28</p> <p>Registration, Plenary, and Breakout Sessions 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>The Salt Fork Event Center</p>	<p>FRIDAY MAY 29</p> <p>Bus Tours and Box Lunch 8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Depart from The Salt Fork Event Center</p>
--	--	---

<p>Venue and Contact</p> <p>Location: The Salt Fork Event Center, 27251 County Road 460, Alva, Oklahoma 73717</p> <p>Summit contact: Kay Decker</p> <p>Phone: 580.327.7649</p> <p>Email: KLDecker@nwsu.edu</p> <p>All program activities are scheduled in local time. Thursday sessions take place at the Salt Fork Event Center unless otherwise noted.</p>	<p>Registration and Attendee Notes</p> <p>Full summit registration: \$175.00 per person</p> <p>Single-day registration: \$75.00 per person</p> <p>Scholarships are available for agriculture producers. Contact Kay Decker for details.</p> <p>Continuing education credits through Northwest Career and Technology Center are available. Contact Kay Decker for more information.</p> <p>Participants with dietary restrictions should contact Kay Decker for assistance and information.</p>
---	---

<p>Venue Hours and Vendor Access</p> <p>Wednesday, May 27 Vendor booth set-up: 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, May 28 Event center open: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. for participants, presenters, and vendors.</p> <p>Friday, May 29 Bus tours depart at 8:45 a.m. and return by 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Travel and Lodging</p> <p>Holiday Inn Express & Suites 580.327.1400 1230 East Oklahoma Blvd., Alva, OK</p> <p>Comfort Inn 580.327.0000 1278 East Oklahoma Blvd., Alva, OK</p> <p>OK Welcome Home Hotel 580.609.6291 800 Oklahoma Blvd., Alva, OK</p> <p>The Alva Regional Airport offers general aviation fuel and jet fuel capacity. 580.327.2898 U.S. Highway 281 South, Alva</p>
---	---

Wednesday, May 27

Time	Program Details
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Registration packet pick-up and social mixer with live music, Grasslands Beer, and food. Location: Alva Beer Company, 327 Barnes Avenue, Downtown Alva

Thursday, May 28 - Opening Program

Time	Program Details
7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	On-site registration. Location: The Salt Fork Event Center, Mackey Great Room
8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Welcome by Trey Lam, Executive Director, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, followed by the plenary address from Trey Malone, Ph.D., Boehlje Endowed Chair of Managerial Economics in Agri-Business, Purdue University. Plenary session: "Farm Business Strategies in an Age of Noise: Using AI to Help Make Decisions When Everything Feels Urgent"

Morning Breakout Sessions | 10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Room	Track	Presenters and Topics
Mackey Great Room	Ranching and Working Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lody Black, USDA-NRCS Rangeland Specialist - Meg Greski, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Soil Health Specialist - Cale Hinrichson, Halter Fencing, Chickasha, Oklahoma
Conference Room	Wildlife and Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jacob Yetter, National Audubon Society, Conservation Ranching Program in Oklahoma and Kansas - Anne Bartuszevige, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, and Jennifer Timmer, Bird Conservancy - "Newly Available Decision Support Tools for Grasslands Bird Conservation: Understanding Their Development and Intended Uses" - Josh Richardson with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Expo Room	Conservation and Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Barn Group with Gene T. Miller and Connor Almond - NRCS Programs and Regenerative Agriculture - Adam Ray, Coordinating Wildlife Biologist, and Tanner Swank, Grassland Biome Program Manager (Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever) - Prescribed Burning

Concurrent sessions: choose one room for each breakout block.

Lunch Program | 12:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Lunch panel discussion: Mitigating Eastern Red Cedar - The Terry Peach Watershed Program with Trey Lam, Executive Director, Oklahoma Conservation Commission; Adam Ray, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever; and State Representative Mike Dobrinski, Okeene.

Featured presentation: Karen Hickman, Ph.D., Director of the Environmental Science Program at OSU, presents "Eastern Red Cedar Through the Generations," the story of her family's legacy land ownership in Woods County, Oklahoma.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions | 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Room	Track	Presenters and Topics
Mackey Great Room	Conservation and Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blane Stacy, Rangelands Ecologist with Oklahoma Conservation Commission - Rotational Grazing, Rangeland Ecology, and Cattle Production - Colin Weldon, Texas Ag Land Trust - Conservation Easements - Matt Gard, Advanced Avigation, LLC - "Drone Technology in the Grasslands"
Conference Room	Ranching and Working Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop featuring Trey Malone, Ph.D. - "Bad Strategy, Broke Ranch: Using Strategic Management to Improve Profitability"
Expo Room	Wildlife and Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taylor Linder, North American Grouse Partnership / Lesser Prairie Chicken Landowner Alliance, with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology film "Saving Ranching to Save Wildlife" - The Nature Conservancy with Brian Serpan

Concurrent sessions: choose one room for each breakout block.

Friday, May 29 - Bus Tours

Field Tour Schedule

Load buses at 8:45 a.m. from The Salt Fork Event Center. Return to the event center at 4:00 p.m.

Box lunches will be provided. Please indicate your preferred tour when registering. Maximum bus occupancy is 52.

Participants should dress for field and outdoor walking. Water will be provided on the tours.

Bus Tour 1 | Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Byron Fish Hatchery, and the deVine Water Plant

Participants will tour the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Byron Fish Hatchery, and the deVine Water Plant. The history of the region will be shared throughout the tour.

Bus Tour 2 | Legacy Ranches in Southern Woods County on the Cimarron River

These ranches have used conservation practices to eradicate or mitigate Eastern Red Cedar and brush; improve soil health, water resources, wildlife habitat, and pollinator habitat; and implement programs through USDA-NRCS, Woods County Conservation District programs, and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Each ranch approaches conservation a little differently, and the history of the region will be shared with participants.

Important Participant Reminders

Scholarships for agriculture producers and continuing education credits are available; contact Kay Decker for details.

Registered participants with dietary restrictions should contact Kay Decker in advance for assistance.

Bus tours depart from and return to The Salt Fork Event Center.

Summit Sponsors and Partners

Thank you to the organizations whose support helps make the Southern Plains Grasslands Summit possible.



Hosted at The Salt Fork Event Center | Alva, Oklahoma | May 27-29, 2026