

OKLAHOMA



Wheat geneticists at the Wheat, Peanut, and Other Field Crops Research Unit in Stillwater, in collaboration with the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, released a hard red winter wheat germplasm, STARS 0601W (PI 643399), that has the highest level of resistance to the Russian wheat aphid biotypes 1 and 2, found to date. This material has been shared with wheat breeders in states where this aphid has continued to present a serious threat to wheat production.

Researchers at the South Central Agricultural Research Laboratory in Lane developed a low-sugar watermelon selection that can be utilized by those who want the phytochemicals like lycopene and flavor of watermelon without the carbohydrates. The watermelon is now available for breeders and growers.



Researchers at the Southern Plains Range Research Station in Woodward have developed and released for public use a new forage grass variety of eastern gamagrass named Verl. It has been tested extensively throughout the eastern US from Oklahoma to New York and Florida. Verl averages an 11% increase in dry matter compared to other commonly planted eastern gamagrass cultivars. This new variety will offer higher yielding pastures for US agriculture.

Scientists in the Forage and Livestock Production Research Unit in El Reno have developed an innovative method of finishing beef cattle on pasture using less cereal grain. The system allows producers to retain calves on the farm, to utilize warm-season grass pasture more economically, to recycle valuable N, and to increase gross returns to the local economy.



Scientists at the USDA-ARS Great Plains Agroclimate and Natural Resources Research Unit in El Reno evaluated the impact of persistent precipitation variations on watershed runoff and sediment yield of the Fort Cobb reservoir experimental watershed. Persistent precipitation variations resulted in an amplified runoff and sediment yield. These findings provide relevant insights for planning of conservation needs, assessment of conservation effectiveness, and management of water quantity and quality.

The 1930's was a time of extreme erosion due to droughts, floods, and poor conservation practices. In order to improve conservation practices, engineers at the ARS Hydraulic Engineering Research Unit in Stillwater conducted studies on grassed waterways. This research resulted in development of design criteria for grassed waterways used by engineers around the world. The lab was recognized in 1990 as an Historic Landmark of Agricultural Engineering for this work.

