

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD AND FORESTRY**

2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4912

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ODAFF Warning Against Hay Sales Scammers

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) would like to warn Oklahomans about a scam being run against individuals who have hay for sale.

A producer recently notified ODAFF about scammers contacting hay sellers. Jack Carson, Market Development Coordinator with ODAFF said that the scams vary, but often share similarities. For example: The supposed hay buyer will send the seller a check in excess of the amount the hay is being sold for and then ask the seller to wire the extra money somewhere else. The scammers explain the overpayment by saying they need to cover taxes or shipping costs; however, then the check bounces and the scammer already has the money wired to them. The hay seller can then be left to pay the money back to the bank.

The Texas Department of Agriculture on Monday, in a press release, stated that Agency has received alerts in a couple of counties about scammers contacting hay sellers.

ODAFF recommends always reaching out to your local law enforcement agency if something seems questionable about a transaction or purchase. In addition, you may use ODAFF's Hay Directories to locate hay sellers and buyers in your area by visiting our website: Go to <http://www.oda.state.ok.us/> and then on the right side of the page under Directories, see Hay In-State, Hay Out-of-State.

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