

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

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Oklahoma Department of Agriculture holding regional meetings for input on Pollinator Plan

In an effort to continue to gain input on the proposed pollinator plan, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) is hosting four regional public hearings.

Those meetings, beginning a week from today, are scheduled for: 1 p.m., Aug. 26 at the Garfield County OSU Extension Center, 316 E. Oxford in Enid; 1 p.m., Sept. 2 at the Great Plains Technology Center, Building 600, Rooms 655 and 656, 4500 W. Lee Blvd. in Lawton; 1 p.m., Sept. 9 at the Tulsa Community College Northeast Campus, in the large auditorium, #1470, 3727 E. Apache St., in Tulsa; and 1 p.m., Sept. 23 at the Kiamichi Technology Center, North Seminar Room, 107 S. 15th St., Hugo.

A draft pollinator plan for participants to comment on is posted on ODAFF's website at www.ag.ok.gov.

Pollinators are essential to agriculture in Oklahoma. They are responsible for the success of many of the state's crops like canola, sesame and watermelons. Native pollinators are also necessary for many native plants like redbud, Oklahoma's state tree, and Chickasaw plum.

The Oklahoma Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (OKMP3) is being developed in response to a growing need for a balanced public policy that mitigates risk to pollinator species, while minimizing the impact of that mitigation on production agriculture, according to ODAFF.

The goal is reducing pollinator exposure to pesticides without causing undue hardship or economic damage to Oklahoma's agricultural industry. Additionally, the plan intends to bring awareness of the issues faced by pollinators from pesticides and find a way for everyone to be part of a solution.

Oklahoma's MP3 is a multifaceted plan involving multiple stakeholders.

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