

**AGENDA FOR 2026  
 SPRING OKVMA CONFERENCE  
 THE CHAMPION CONVENTION CENTER – OKC**

**0MARCH 3, 2026 – APPLICATOR TEST REVIEW**

8:00 –11:30	Test Help / Review Session for OK Commercial Applicator Certification. Offered by: Charles Luper & Kevin Shelton – OSU Extension Services <b>NO TESTING PROVIDED</b>
11:30-1:00 lunch on your own	
1:00 – 3:00	

**MARCH 4, 2026 - GENERAL SESSION**

TIME	SPEAKER	PRESENTATION TOPIC INFORMATION
7:00 – 8:00	<b>REGISTRATION - OSU Conference Services</b>	
8:00	<b>Presidents Welcome – Introduce Conference Sponsors/Vendors, Housekeeping</b>	
8:00 - 9:00	<b><u>Megan Parker</u></b> Pesticide Certification & Training Administrator ODAFF	<b><u>Laws &amp; Rules Update</u></b> Provide updates on proposed laws and rule changes in Oklahoma and discuss EPA’s proposed Certification and Training rules.
9:00 – 10:00	<b><u>Kenny Baccus</u></b> IVM Territory Manager Nutrien Solutions	<b><u>Water Quality – And It’s Value</u></b> Water quality is a critical factor in pesticide application because it constitutes 98% of the spray solution, and poor quality can significantly reduce product efficacy. Key concerns include pH levels and water hardness, which influence chemical solubility and absorption; improper adjustments may even increase herbicide volatility. Utilizing appropriate adjuvants and water conditioners to manage these variables ensures optimal performance, improved weed control, and reduced mixing issues. Proactively testing and correcting water quality before application enhances results, minimizes costs, and prevents unnecessary retreatments.
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>BREAK with Exhibitors</b>	
10:30 – 11:30	<b><u>Dr. Adam Baker</u></b> Research Entomologist Davey Tree Expert	<b><u>Understanding Insecticides</u></b> This presentation will act as a primer for understanding the products that arborists use in the field every day to manage insect pests. We will start with a brief history of pesticide use and the culmination of integrated pest management. This talk will explore important concepts of how these products work, guidance on product selection and labels, minimizing risk to off target organisms, application technology, and safety.
<b>11:30 – 12:30</b>	<b>LUNCH PROVIDED</b>	
12:30 – 1:30	<b><u>Kevin Shelton</u></b> State Pesticide Coordinator Oklahoma State University	<b><u>Reading a Pesticide Label</u></b> This presentation will cover the “ins” and “outs” of reading a pesticide label. I will discuss the different parts of a label and federal registration process of products. I will also discuss the different types of labels such as Section 3, Section 18, and Section 24c designations.
1:30 – 2:30	<b><u>Jim Nesser</u></b> Business Developer Davey Resource Group	<b><u>Key Elements of an IVM Program</u></b> Managing vegetation along utility, gas line, railroad, or road rights-of-way is a critical component to providing safe and easily accessible ROWs. For many years, vegetation management was limited to mowers and chainsaws as the main tools to accomplish this task. This presentation is going to explain the key components of an IVM program and how to determine when to utilize mechanical, herbicide, or other tools.
<b>2:30 – 3:00</b>	<b>BREAK with Exhibitors</b>	

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3:00 – 4:00	<b><u>Dennis Martin</u></b> Professor/Turfgrass Extension & Research	<b><u>Past and Current trends in right-of-way weed control on ODOT-managed roadsides in Oklahoma</u></b> The presentation will review the origins of the ODOT herbicide program from the 1960s and key developments over the last 60 years. It will explain integrated weed control programs used in the past 20 years. The discussion will include herbicide treatments, rates, and timing combined with mowing programs and will stress the importance of compliance and environmental protection.
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