January 13, 2017

Dear Producer/Ag Industry Personnel:

Now that the holidays are over and hunting seasons are winding down, it will soon be time to turn our thoughts back to the upcoming cropping season. The Arkansas County Extension Service will be sponsoring several programs to bring you up to date on the latest management techniques for the management of your crops. Please read over the following list of opportunities available for you and make plans to attend.

**Crop Production Meeting** – February 7, 2017, Rice Research & Extension Center
Our Annual County Crop Production Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7. The meeting will start at 8 am and conclude with a catfish lunch. Rice, soybeans, corn will be the crops that are covered, along with Dr. Bob Scott reviewing the latest in weed control and Scott Stiles discussing the current financial outlook for row crop agriculture.

**Reservoir/Irrigation Ditch Weed Control Meeting** – February 10, 2017
This meeting will also be held at the Rice Research and Extension Center, starting at 9:30 a.m. and concluding with a hamburger lunch. Following lunch, from 1 to 3 pm, Reservoir Fish Management will be presented. The first of February is the time of the year to start managing weeds in reservoirs so information from this meeting can be put to immediate use.

**PipePlanner meeting** – February 15, 2017, Rice Research & Extension Center
To help you improve irrigation management, a PipePlanner Meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. until noon. No lunch will be provided. If you need an account for PipePlanner, we ask that you arrive at 9:30 to allow time for this to be setup before the meeting starts at 10. PipePlanner is a computer program which designs and evaluates furrow irrigation systems. This program accounts for pipe friction loss, pipe elevations and flow rate, and pressure to calculate the correct hole punch sizes in lay flat tubing. This application can increase your down-row uniformity which means that your rows water out evenly, tail water is reduced, your irrigation efficiency is improved, and water and energy is conserved.

**Soil Fertility/Cover Crop Meeting** March 2, 2017, Rice Research and Extension Center
The program will start with soil fertility at 9:30, break for lunch at noon, and then address cover crops in the afternoon. Weather permitting, we will travel to some local cover crop fields where Dr. Trent Roberts will finish the meeting in the fields addressing cover crops.

**Pesticide Applicator Trainings**
- February 16, 2017 – 9 am – Rice Research and Extension Center
- March 7, 2017 – 10 am – DeWitt – PCCUA – Community Room

Be sure to check your pesticide license card to see if your certification expires this year.
Sprayer Clinic – February 23, 2017, Rice Research and Extension Center
Registration opens at **8:30 am** with large group sessions starting at 9:00. Producers and applicators alike are encouraged to attend to gain valuable information on how to be more productive and efficient in the field. The clinics are free and the day will end with a free lunch. Session topics and demonstrations are listed below.

- New herbicide technology update
- Identifying percent wear in nozzles
- Application tips for matching proper nozzles with chemistries
- Avoiding clean-out issues demonstration
- Electronics in applications demonstration
- Multiple spray table nozzle demonstrations

As in years past, we will be conducting **FREE nozzle tests**. Producers should bring a sample of nozzles from their equipment to be analyzed for % wear (3-5 nozzles and caps). This valuable tool has the potential to save a producer thousands of dollars in the upcoming spray season.

* 3 hours of CCA credit will be available.

Pigposium - Feb. 28 – Forrest City – East Arkansas Community College
Herbicide resistant pigweed, one of the biggest problems Mid-South farmers are wrestling, takes center stage at Pigposium III, set for Feb. 28 at East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City. “Resistant pigweed has really challenged us as scientists to find ways to manage this pest as chemical options wane,” said Tom Barber, extension weed scientist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. “During this full day of learning, you’ll hear from weed scientists from across the Mid-South as well as growers discussing the options they’re using and why.”

Pigposium III opens at 9 a.m. at EACC’s Fine Arts Center. There is no cost to attend and lunch is included in the program. The 2017 lineup:

- 9 a.m. – Introduction – Current Infestations of PPO-Resistant Palmer Pigweed, Jason Norsworthy, weed scientist, Division of Agriculture
- 9:10 a.m. - Why Should I Proactively Manage for Herbicide Resistance in Pigweed? Bob Scott, Extension weed scientist, Division of Agriculture
- 9:40 a.m. - Expectations for PPO-Resistant Pigweed Control with Pre-emergence and Post emergence Herbicides, Tom Barber, extension weed scientist, Division of Agriculture
- 10:10 a.m. - Palmer Amaranth Management Software: A New Tool in Our Fight Against Pigweed, Michael Popp, economist, Division of Agriculture
- 11 a.m. - Covers Crops & Tillage: Do These Really Help Manage Pigweed? Larry Steckel, weed scientist, University of Tennessee
- 11:30 a.m. - What Does Pigweed Control Look Like Five Years from Now? Norsworthy
- 1:15 p.m. - Comparison of Soybean Technologies: Understanding Risk and Reward, Jason Bond, weed scientist, Mississippi State
- 1:45 p.m. - A Season to Remember: Our Experiences with Off-site Movement of Dicamba in 2016, Kevin Bradley, weed scientist, University of Missouri
- 2:15 p.m. - Navigating Dicamba Regulations and Labels: What is Allowed? Ples Spradley, extension pesticide safety coordinator, Division of Agriculture
- 2:45 p.m. – Spray Droplet Considerations: Optimizing Contact and Systemic Herbicides, application technologist, Division of Agriculture
- 3:30 p.m. – Panel discussion: What are we doing and why are we doing it?
  Narrow-windrow burning – Harry Stevens, producer, Helena
  Cover Crops – Adam Chappell, producer, Cotton Plant
  Zero Tolerance – Dane Coomer, producer, Piggott
From the Arkansas County Conservation District and Farm Service Agency we are passing along the following information about two important meetings they are sponsoring:

NRCS will have an Outreach Meeting for the new CSP guidelines on January 19, 2017 at 9:00 at the Grand Prairie Center in Stuttgart. I know most of you will be duck hunting, but this is a VERY important meeting and you will need to attend to understand what is expected of you for 2017. There will be NRCS staff from Little Rock at this meeting and they will be able to answer your questions because this is going to be very different from the previous years. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend. If you have any questions about this meeting, please feel free to call the Arkansas County Conservation District at 870-946-4357.

The Arkansas County and Desha County USDA-Farm Service Agencies will hold an Outreach meeting on Tuesday, January 31, at the Dumas Municipal Building beginning at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held to educate livestock producers of the programs that FSA administers that may benefit them. All interested parties are invited to attend. For more information, please contact the Desha County Farm Service Agency at 870-222-4867, or the office located at 3303 Hwy 65 N, McGehee or Arkansas County Farm Service Agency at 870-946-3331, located at 1015 West 2nd St., DeWitt, AR 72042.

EXTENSION GET FIT
The Extension Get Fit program is a community-based strength training program targeted to midlife and older Arkansans, designed to help increase strength, bone density, balance, and energy while helping us look and feel better. It is an excellent program and we have seen amazing results. For more information, please call the Extension Office. Classes are held at the following locations:

- DeWitt Community Center: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m.
- Phillips Community College, DeWitt: Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 a.m.
- Cooperative Extension Service, DeWitt: Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 p.m.
- Casscoe Community Center: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 a.m.
- Planters & Merchants Bank, Gillett: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- First Baptist Church, Stuttgart: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m.
- Baptist Health Medical Center, Stuttgart: Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 p.m.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your county extension office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

Please contact us with any questions you may have, or to discuss your 2017 cropping plans. We also encourage you to participate in our educational meetings to hear the latest information on managing your crops.

Sincerely,

Grant Beckwith
County Extension Agent - Interim Staff Chair

Phil Horton
County Extension Agent - Agriculture

Alta Lockley
County Extension Agent – 4-H/FCS