DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Faulkner County Agriculture Update

August 23, 2019

General Conditions

Rain has been spotty this week. The Lollie area got 0.5 inches on Tuesday then 1.5 inches last night, Wooster just got 0.2 inches, Springhill got 2 inches and then over in Enola they only got 0.1 inches. Rain is still forecasted for this weekend so hopefully everyone will get a little. A few more rains will go a long way with our row crops and a last cutting of hay. We could also use a rain on our summer annuals demonstration.

Row Crop

Rice: Rice was sprayed for rice stinkbugs on Monday. One field that I am scouting looks really good when I scouted it this morning. The numbers were extremely low. The other field though that received an application still had treatment level numbers. The field will be sprayed again in the morning to try and get them under control. The heads have flowered and are starting to turn down. We are moving from the milk to soft dough stage.

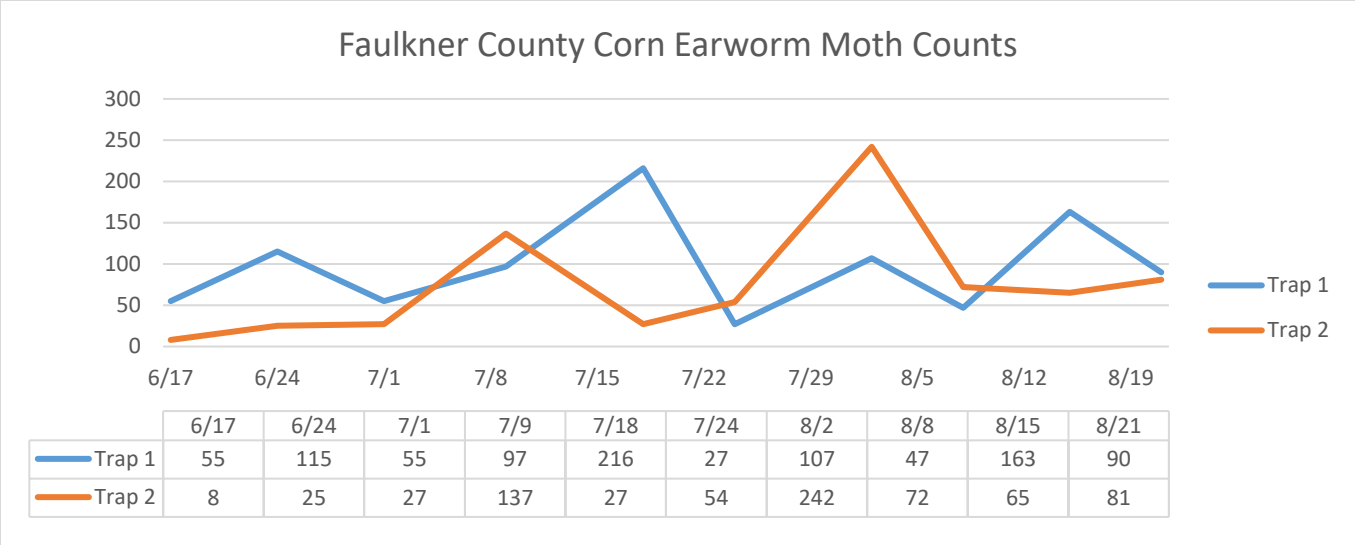
Soybeans: Soybeans continue to just move on along. The earliest planted fields are starting to fill pods. I continue to scout but corn earworms and stinkbugs are still at low levels. Let's just hope it stays that way. Later planted fields are starting to lap the middle but they are going to be short. Most of those beans are either flowering or starting to pod on the bottom of the plant. I have noticed a little increase in loopers, so keep an eye on defoliation.

Grain Sorghum and Corn: The corn that is being grown for silage in the county is starting to be harvested. The corn I have seen looks really good and should make some good silage. I walked a few grain sorghum fields earlier this week that had treatment levels of both sugarcane aphids and corn earworms. Most of the heads are done flowering and are starting to move from milk to soft dough.

Corn Earworm Moth Traps:

Trap 1: 90 **Trap 2:** 81

Trap 1 numbers went down while trap 2 stayed steady. Continue to scout for worms.



	6/17	6/24	7/1	7/9	7/18	7/24	8/2	8/8	8/15	8/21
Trap 1	55	115	55	97	216	27	107	47	163	90
Trap 2	8	25	27	137	27	54	242	72	65	81

Beef & Forage

Beef and Forages: Ergot infection in dallisgrass seedheads is a cause for concern and requires attention under certain circumstances. Ergot infection occurs every year to some degree in Arkansas, especially following summer rainy periods. Prevalence of ergot contamination is the primary reason dallisgrass seed is not commercially produced in the U.S.

Ergot poisoning in dallisgrass can cause a syndrome or toxicosis called dallisgrass staggers when animals consume infected seedheads. The ergot fungus, named *Claviceps paspali,* infects the flowers of dallisgrass, and the growing fungus replaces the seed. The fungus only affects seedheads – the other parts of the plant are nontoxic.

In summer, infected dallisgrass seedheads are often covered in a “honeydew” exudate from the fungus that leaves a sticky film on hands and clothing after walking through fields (Figure 1). As the fungus develops in the seedhead, hard dark or orange colored sclerotia develop from late summer to fall (Figure 2). The sclerotia serve as the overwintering structure and drop to the soil in late fall. When weather warms the following summer, the sclerotia germinate and produce spores which infect dallisgrass seedheads during the blooming period.

The most common scenario of ergot poisoning occurs when cattle that have not been exposed to dallisgrass are brought onto a farm and are turned into a field that is at the full seedhead stage and infected with ergot. Cattle have the tendency to selectively graze seedheads, which leads to a very high dosage of ergot alkaloids. Even on farms where cattle are previously exposed to dallisgrass, poisoning can occur when animals are hungry and are turned into a field full of seedheads. Symptoms are much less common in herds with long-term exposure to dallisgrass in mixed grass pastures.

Visual symptoms associated with dallisgrass staggers involve the animal's nervous system. In the very early stages of toxicosis, the only sign seen may be trembling of various muscles after exercise. As toxicity progresses, muscle tremors worsen so that the animal becomes uncoordinated and may show continuous shaking of the limbs and nodding of the head. When forced to move, the severely affected animal may stagger, walk sideways and display a "goosestepping" gait. Uncoordination can be severe enough that the animal will fall down when attempting to walk. Some animals may be found down and unable to stand. Diarrhea may be noted in some affected animals. Death can occur in severe cases.

There is no cure for ergot poisoning, but removing animals from infected pastures when symptoms are first noticed usually results in recovery in 3 to 5 days. Mowing or shredding stems with a brushhog helps to prevent animals from selectively grazing seedheads. Ergot toxicity from dallisgrass hay is uncommon, probably because the total intake of leaves and stems in hay dilutes ergot content in the diet.

Figure 1. Honeydew on dallisgrass seedhead infected with ergot.

Figure 2. Dallisgrass seedhead infected with ergot. Sclerotia from the ergot fungus turns dark or orange in seedheads in late summer/fall.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture Market Report Link:
https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-market-reports

Signing up for Text Alerts

If you would like to sign up for ag text alerts from the Extension Office go to www.uaex.edu/faulkner and click the sign up for text link or text the message **uaex FaulkCrop** or **uaex FaulkBeef** to **313131**

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Fall Armyworm Management and Recognition

Severe fall armyworm (FAW) outbreaks result in significant forage and hay production losses. Fall-time infestations may also prevent establishment of newly emerged winter annuals Damage often appears quickly because infestations are easily overlooked when caterpillars are small and eating very little. Beginning as early as June damaging fall armyworm populations may occur in Arkansas.

Host Plant preference – FAWs feed on variety of forages but often prefer lush well-fertilized bermudagrass and threaten newly emerged small grains and ryegrass.

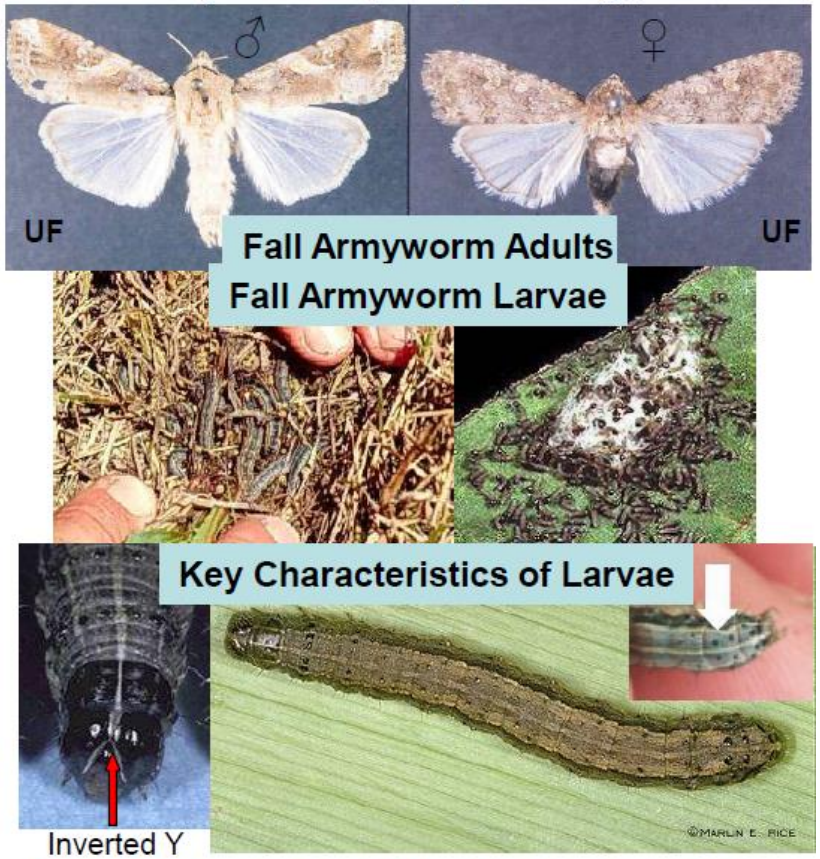
Scouting - Pastures and hayfields should be diligently scouted for FAWs. Examine at least 10 one sq. ft. samples at random across the field. Female FAW moths prefer to lay eggs in areas of abundant growth, be sure to include a few of these areas in your 10 samples.

Insecticide	Form/ Acre	Lb ai/ Acre	Acres / Gal	Comments
Lambda-cy AG & others **(R)** (13% lambda-cyhalothrin, 1lb/gal)	2.5-3.8 oz	0.02-0.03	33-50	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application.
Warrior II & generics **(R)** –22.8% lambda-cyhalothrin, 2 lb/gal)	1.28-1.92 oz	0.02-0.03	66-100	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application.
Mustang Max **(R)** (9.6% zeta-cypermethrin)	2.8-4.0 oz	0.0175-0.026	32-45	No grazing restriction for grass forage or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay).
Baythroid XL **(R)** (12.7% beta-cyfluthrin)	2.6-2.8 oz	0.020-0.022	45.7-49.2	No grazing restriction for grass forage or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay).
Tombstone **(R)** (24.7% cyfluthrin)	1.6-1.9 oz	0.025-0.030	67.4-80	No grazing restriction for grass forage or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay).
Prevathon (5% chlorantraniliprole)	10-13 oz.*	0.034-0.044	10-13	No restriction for grazing or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay). * 2(ee) rate
Besiege **(R)** (9.26% chlorantraniliprole & 4.63% lambda-cyhalothrin)	6-9 oz.	0.059-0.088	14-21	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application
Tank Mix – Lambda-cy **(R)** and Dimilin **(R)** (22% diflubenzuron)	3.8 lc + 2.0 oz. d	0.03 lc 0.031 d	33 64	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application. Dimilin is an IGR. Add crop oil when air temp is high and humidity low.
Intrepid (22.6% methoxyfenozide)	4-8 oz.	0.06- 0.12	16-32	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application.
Sevin XLR Plus (44.1% carbaryl)	2-3 pt	0.5-1.0	2.7-4.0	Allow 2-3 days for control to become effective. Do not apply within 14 days of harvest or grazing.
Blackhawk (36% spinosad) Tracer (44.2% spinosad)	1.1-2.2 oz. 1-2 oz	.033-.066	7-14/lb. 64-128	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 3 days of application.

(R) = Restricted use pesticide. Products in the shaded area of the table provide 2-4 weeks of residual activity.

Control – Chemical control is usually needed when 2 or 3 worms per square foot are present. Read label instructions and follow all harvesting and grazing restrictions. In situations where mixed-sized worms are present, strongly consider using products with longer residual activity. Insecticide options for FAW control are listed in the table. "Managing Armyworms in Pastures and Hayfields" is available at http://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/FSA-7083.pdf and the Insecticide Recommendations for Arkansas at http://www.uaex.edu/publications/mp-144.aspx .

Fall Armyworm - *Spodoptera frugiperda*



Dr. Kelly Loftin, Extension Entomologist.