

General Conditions

The flood continues to recede and we are now getting a clear picture of what we are working with. Rice and corn fields that were flooded are totally gone. These fields will be replanted back to soybeans. With another dry week like this week, that may be pretty soon. Soybean planting along the Cadron is starting today. I have looked at several hay fields and pastures that are just totally covered in sand. This is going to be a major cleanup effort on many farms. On top of all that, we are slowly working our way into a drought. We missed rains all week and only the southern part of the county received rain Wednesday night. Forage and soybean fields need a rain and soon.

Row Crop

Rice: Rice flooding continues this week and a good rain would really help. We will continue until we get the fields completely flooded then we will be looking at some post flood weed control before midseason.

Soybeans: Soybean planting continues at a steady pace. We established a group IV Liberty Link variety plot in Lollie on Friday (June 14) and luckily they got ½ inch of rain Wednesday to help bring it up. Fields just north of there weren't so lucky and we are already seeing uneven emergence where fields were dry at planting. The earliest planted fields are sitting at V6 and growing nicely. Again this may be a common theme in this update, but some of those fields need a rain. We need some more growth to overlap the middles and hopefully be done with weed control. I figure we are around 65% planted in Faulkner County today.

Corn Earworm Moth Traps: I have established two corn earworm moth traps down in the Lollie area. I usually like to spread them out in the county, but that is where all the soybeans are right now, so for this year I have them down there. Trap 1 is located behind Jerry Pearson's shop and trap 2 is located over by the Liberty Link Variety demonstration on the Schaefer's. I will update the numbers weekly and if we get a huge spike in numbers I will be sure to issue scout alerts. Here are this week's numbers.

Trap 1: 55

Trap 2: 8

Beef & Forage

Beef: Arkansas Department of Agriculture Market Report Link:

<https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-market-reports>

Forages: Fields that have been flooded for the last 21 – 25 days are showing signs of recovery. The bermudagrass is really growing and getting green. Hopefully we will get dry enough that some fertilizer can be thrown out soon and get it kicked off. Sand removal is going to be critical in a few of the areas I have seen along the river. I saw two farms this week that are looking at 1 to 3 feet of sand in certain parts of their fields. I am not sure at this point the best way to get rid of all the excess sand, but I hope we can work together and maybe come up with some good options.

I know a few producers have been asking about planting summer annuals on row crop acres. This announcement came out yesterday that might help with that.

RMA Announces Change to Haying and Grazing Date for Prevented Planting Acres Planted to a Cover Crop

WASHINGTON, June 20, 2019 – Farmers who planted cover crops on prevented plant acres will be permitted to hay, graze or chop those fields earlier than November this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today. USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) adjusted the 2019 final haying and grazing date from November 1 to September 1 to help farmers who were prevented from planting because of flooding and excess rainfall this spring.

“We recognize farmers were greatly impacted by some of the unprecedented flooding and excessive rain this spring, and we made this one-year adjustment to help farmers with the tough decisions they are facing this year,” said Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey. “This change will make good stewardship of the land easier to accomplish while also providing an opportunity to ensure quality forage is available for livestock this fall.”

RMA has also determined that silage, haylage and baleage should be treated in the same manner as haying and grazing for this year. Producers can hay, graze or cut cover crops for silage, haylage or baleage on prevented plant acres on or after September 1 and still maintain eligibility for their full 2019 prevented planting indemnity.

“These adjustments have been made for 2019 only,” said RMA Administrator Martin Barbre. “RMA will evaluate the prudence of a permanent adjustment moving forward.”

Upcoming Events

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training: Postponed.

Faulkner County Hay Day: July 11, 2019 at Flying C Ranch. Agenda to come.

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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