

General Conditions

Well it was another week in Faulkner County and another week of rain. We continue to get pounded week in and week out. This one has brought flooding potential that has me worried about crops that may have already been planted. Things are getting worse instead of better and having talked with several producers, there may be a lot of soybeans this year and this first cutting of hay isn't looking promising.

Row Crop

Corn: May 15 will be here next week, and even if the rain stopped today, I don't think anyone could get in the field by then. Corn is going to be interesting from this point on. I have producers saying they will not plant after that date, and others that think there may be a market advantage even though they will be sacrificing yield. I wish I had a good answer but I think both sides have a good point. If the corn can be irrigated, I think it might be worth it to keep it in mind even up to June 1. The corn that is out there now looks really rough. Sulfur deficiencies have really shown up and we can't get the fertilizer out there to fix the problem. Also the grass and pigweeds are almost as big as the corn now. We may have to think about an aerial application of Halex GT and Atrazine to clean these fields up.

Rice & Soybeans: There is still no rice or soybeans planted in the county. The weekly crop report had rice across the state listed as 46% of acres planted as of Monday. That is compared to 75% planted this time last year and a five year average of 79% planted. Talking with producers, it doesn't look good for Faulkner County rice acres. We will probably have a pretty good reduction this year.

Wheat: Make sure to scout wheat for true armyworms.

Beef & Forage

Beef: Make sure to inspect cattle for lice and flies. If lice is a problem there are several methods of control including pour-ons, dust bags and sprays. A complete list is available by clicking here <https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/mp144/b-animals-beef-cattle.pdf>

Forages: Dr. Kelly Loftin sent out an email this week saying that True Armyworms have been found just north of us. Skip Armes in Searcy County reported true armyworms in fescue well above treatment threshold. Skip was seeing an average of 6-7 per square foot. True armyworms prefer to feed on fescue and cool-season grasses. Also with true armyworms, we seldom see re-infestation. With that said, less expensive, short residual pyrethroids such as lambda-cyhalothrin are effective. Control is recommended when you have about 2-3 true armyworms per square foot. If anyone finds armyworms let me know.

Upcoming Events

Spring Brucellosis Schedule: Thursday May 23 & Friday May 24. Please contact the office by May 13 if you have heifers you want to add to the schedule. Call (501) 329-8344 or email Mindy Beard at rbeard@uaex.edu

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training: Thursday May 30, 6:00 pm, Faulkner County Extension Office. Please contact the office by May 24 to register for the class. Call (501) 329-8344 or email Mindy Beard at rbeard@uaex.edu

Signing up for Text Alerts

If you would like to sign up for text alerts from the Extension Office, text the message **uaex FaulkCrop** or **uaex FaulkBeef** to **313131**.



Kevin Lawson
County Extension Agent – Staff Chair, Faulkner County
University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service
Mobile – (501) 889-4575
Email – klawson@uaex.edu