

General Conditions

This week we have two different situations going on in the county.

Situation 1 is very dangerous and serious. The Arkansas River is predicted to crest on Monday at historic levels. This is going to be devastating to all agriculture land along the Arkansas River, the Cadron and Palarm Creek. The few crops that have been planted and any hay ground along these rivers are about to go under water for some time. The key to where we go from here is how long that water stays over the crops. But even if it is a short amount of time and the crops that are planted make it through, we still have many acres of unplanted crops that will be delayed in establishment. This is not a good situation, and we will just have to figure out after the waters go down, where to go.

Situation 2 is much better. The northern part of the county has been helped by the recent dry spell. Hay fields are being harvested and cattle are being worked. A few of the low areas are still soupy, but we are slowly getting there. As long as you aren't along one of the waterways, things are looking up.

Row Crop

Corn: Corn has been sprayed and fertilized but it still looks rough. The sunshine is helping and is our best friend right now. The flood is going to get a few of our fields. If it is just back water with no flow, and it gets on and off within a week, those fields should be fine. The fields that will have moving water over them probably won't make it. We will just have to evaluate each field after the flood comes off to figure out what to do next.

Rice: A few rice fields have been planted. The ones I have been watching are just emerging. This is going to be key if they get flooded. If the rice plants have emerged, they can survive under the flood for a while. It will be stretched and will require some management once it comes off. I am not sure how much more rice will be planted after this flood event. June planted rice is scary.

Soybeans: The soybean fields that have been planted are emerged and look really good. I will try and get some stand counts next week. Keep an eye on the soybeans that have been planted for new weed emergence. Hopefully everyone got out a preemerge herbicide, but we need to be ready to apply the next application in a timely manner. After the flood goes down, I am hoping we can really get into soybean planting. I am not a big fan of wall to wall soybeans, but I am afraid that is the hand we have been dealt.

Wheat: Wheat continues on towards harvest. We will lose some to the flood.

Beef & Forage

Beef: I got to ride around and help with brucellosis vaccinations the last couple of days and I was really impressed with the shape of our cattle. I saw some really nice replacements that producers are keeping from their herds. Our producers are doing a great job with genetics and crossbreeding. Make sure to keep up with fly control. If you have been using pour on's for a while, you may want to switch up to a different form of control. If using fly tags, make sure to switch up the active ingredient from year to year.

I am often asked about the market report. The market report is now kept by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and if you are interested in looking at it, the link is:

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

Forages: Hay harvest is in full swing in the county. As I have been driving around the county, something I have noticed though is there aren't many complete fields being cut. Still a lot of low areas that producers are having to go around because they are wet. One common comment that I have been getting also is "this sure is better hay than the first cutting last year". I have to agree, it is going to be a lot better start. Check pastures and hayfields for horse nettle. I have seen quite a bit already, and it's getting big. Get ready to apply some Grazon P + D.

Upcoming Events

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**.



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