

General Conditions

The worst case scenario has come about in Faulkner County. The Arkansas River has reached historic flood levels and the effects can be felt all over the county. The river is at the top of the levee at Lollie, but for now it hasn't went over. The water has the Cadron flowing backwards and has led to flooded ground up to Wooster and over to south of Greenbrier. Highway 25 is closed and I hope it doesn't eventually get Highway 65. Tucker Creek is filling quickly and is slowly working its way into Conway. Palarm Creek has backed up over many acres south of Mayflower. We have approximately 70% of our row crop land under water right now. If the river does find its way over the levee at Lollie then we could see 95% of our row crop land under water. This water is covering several acres of hay ground and pastures also. The forecast doesn't look good. We could have this situation for three more weeks or even longer. The weather forecast next week shows more rain on the way. Right now we have to just wait and see how long the flood stays on and then start evaluating the situation after it falls.

Row Crop

Corn: The corn fields I was looking at are all under water right now. I just don't see how the corn will survive this. I do know about 200 more acres was planted earlier this week for silage. So we do still have some acres in the county.

Rice: I know a couple of rice fields that are high enough that they will probably not get flooded out. These fields have emerged and are about 2 leaf. Right now the Command is holding and this last rain helped reactivate it. These fields don't have levees yet, so we are counting on rain to help us out. Hopefully we can get a few more SMALL showers to help us make it for another week then maybe we can spray, fertilize and flood up.

Soybeans: The soybeans that are up look good. Most of the fields are at V1. The fields that used metribuzin as a preemerge seem to be holding pretty good. Zidua didn't hold as well as I would like. Some pigweeds are emerging just 10 days after Zidua was sprayed and activated. The first shot of Liberty has been sprayed on those beans and hopefully we can get a couple of weeks before we have to spray again. Maybe the weather will hold off and we can get a few more beans planted next week where it's dry.

Wheat: Some of our wheat got flooded out. There will not be much to harvest, but we will have a few acres. Fields are turning and harvest should begin soon.

Beef & Forage

Beef: The only good thing I can think of about this flood is that we had enough time for producers to get cattle moved to higher ground. This minimized any losses that we might have faced compared to a flash flood event.

With the fescue and ryegrass heading out and the increase in flies, I have noticed a few cattle with pinkeye. This is an irritation that needs to be addressed as soon as possible. The following link is our publication on the causes and treatments of pinkeye.

<https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/FSA-3087.pdf>

I had to postpone the Beef Quality Assurance Training that was planned this week due to the flooding. Hopefully I will get it rescheduled for next month. I also attended a preconditioning training last week and we are planning on presenting some preconditioning workshops later this year so be on the lookout for that.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture Market Report Link:

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

Forages: A few producers got a first harvest on hay before the flood waters came in. Depending on when the water recedes will depend on when they will get that next harvest. Some producers weren't so lucky and didn't get that first harvest. They will basically be losing two harvests this season. This is going to put these producers in a bind for hay this winter. Hopefully the bermudagrass will make a quick recovery as soon as the flood leaves. First priority as soon as we can get in the fields is cleaning up all logs and debris. Once the grass grows up around this debris it becomes a problem for cutters. When we see how fast grass starts growing will determine any fertilizer recommendations.

For producers that aren't flooded out and have harvested hay for the first time should consider an application of fertilizer before the rain that is predicted in the forecast. Make sure you have some potassium in your mix. If you don't have a soil test, I wouldn't chance anything less than 60 units of potassium. This would be equivalent to 100 pounds of potash (0-0-60) per acre or 300 lbs of 19-19-19. I would really prefer 90 units (150 pounds of potash). I like 130 pounds of Urea plus 150 pounds of potash mixed together and applied at 280 pounds per acre.

Something I want everyone to keep in mind for the future is our upcoming Hay Day. We are still in the planning stages but we do have it planned for July 11 at the Flying C Ranch. This field day will be sponsored by Greenway and they will have equipment there to demonstrate. As we get closer I will give out more details.

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 text alerts from the Extension Office, text the message **uaex FaulkCrop** or **uaex FaulkBeef** to **313131**.



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