

## General Conditions

**Weather:** We had two big weather events in Faulkner County this week. Earlier in the week we received 2.5 to 3 inches of rain in the county. We were predicted to get 1.5, which I didn't want, so the extra inch and a half was really not welcome. The last bit of rain that came through on Easter brought storms which produced wind damage in parts of the county, and that wind and rain was part of a front that dropped temperatures. Luckily we only got down to about 33. I am sure some parts of Faulkner County got lower than that, but that is probably a good average. Luckily we warmed right back up and are drying up again. The problem now is we are facing more rain all of next week. This rain is starting to get serious, we need dry weather to get crops in the ground. Hopefully amounts will be low, and we can get some crops in the ground.

**Arkansas River:** Today the river sets at 263. With all of the rain, it didn't rise that much and is predicted to continue to fall to 259.

## Row Crop

**Corn:** A little corn was planted before the rain set in, and talking to a few producers we may start up again today, unless the rain comes in first. We are still good on planting date, just need a break to get it all in.

**Rice:** Rice is like corn, we are ready to go, just need some dry weather.

Dr. Jarrod Hardke's 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Rice Update: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/Arkansas%20Rice%20Update%204-10-20.pdf>

2020 Managing Water-Seeded Rice for Arkansas: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/2020%20Managing%20Water-Seeded%20Rice%20in%20Arkansas.pdf>

**Wheat:** Temperatures in the bottoms was the major focus this past week. Fields ranged from flowering to just heading. The best I can tell the lowest we got was 33 degrees, which shouldn't have impacted anything. But I will say, I have seen stranger things happen. My best advice is just wait until next week and we will know more.

On Thursday I found the first true armyworms in some fields. They were mostly in areas where *poa annua* was more prevalent. I just found one here and there, so I am not getting too worried just yet. I will scout again about next Tuesday and see where they are then. The main concern from true armyworms is cutting heads or stripping the flag leaf at the wrong stage. I have also seen them move from wheat into small rice or corn, but that isn't a concern this year.

**Enlist Training:** <https://courses.uaex.edu/course/index.php?categoryid=79>

**Paraquat Training:** <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-training-certified-applicators>

## **Beef & Forage**

**True Armyworms in Cool Season Forages:** The same true armyworms that I saw in wheat can also infest cool season forages like ryegrass and fescue. Anyone that has these kind of grasses should start scouting and watch for any damage. On average, the true armyworm doesn't do as much damage as the fall armyworms we see in the summer. They will strip some leaves and if you are growing anything for seed, like fescue, they could clip the heads which is the worst damage possible. Unlike fall armyworms, the true armyworms don't cycle as much and a residual is not needed. Usually just one application of Lambda Cy is sufficient to clean them up. At the end of the update is a fact sheet on true armyworm control. Here is a fact sheet on the difference between fall and true armyworms in forages.

Managing Armyworms in Pastures and Hayfields: <https://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/FSA-7083.pdf>

**Fence Line Weaning:** With weaning of fall calving herds coming up in a couple of weeks, you may want to consider fence line weaning. Fence line weaning is a weaning process in which the calves are removed from their dams but are allowed to see, hear and smell their dams. It has the potential to reduce stress related to transport, changes in environment and diet adaptation. Fence line weaning may also reduce labor demands and costs associated with drylot facilities and weaning.

Fencing should be substantial enough to prevent the calves from nursing and keep the cows and calves separated. Various fencing combinations have been used such as electric and non-electric, and high-tensile, barbed and woven wire fencing. For cattle that have not been exposed to electric fencing, either woven wire or at least five strands of electric fencing will likely be necessary. If the cattle are familiar with electric fencing, three strands will likely be sufficient. Yet another option is to utilize four to five strands of barbed wire combined with a single strand of electric fence offset from the main fence. This system of weaning is generally less stressful on the cow and calf resulting in lower morbidity.

## **Pesticide Applicator Training**

Anyone that needs a private applicators license can use the online course as their required training to obtain a license. The online training is located at [www.uaex.edu/pat](http://www.uaex.edu/pat). The Arkansas State Plant Board has made an exception and will allow producers that are certifying for the first time to be able to use the online training.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Pesticide Applicator Training:** Cost is \$20 for the training.

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

6:00 p.m. at Workforce Training Center (Timberwolf Drive UACCM Campus, Morrilton, AR)

## **Extension Service Voluntary Tax**

Residents of Faulkner County have a chance this year to help the Faulkner County Extension Service. There will be a chance for residents to give to an Extension Service Voluntary tax on their tax statements. The money will be used to support the Faulkner County Extension Service which includes not only agriculture, but also family and consumer science and 4-H. We really appreciate the support of Faulkner County residents.



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# True Armyworm Management and Recognition

The true armyworm (armyworm) can be a serious pest of pastures, hayfields and seed production fields reducing both forage availability, hay yields and seed production. Damage can appear almost overnight and infestations can be easily overlooked when the caterpillars are small and eating very little. Armyworms are a greater problem during spring, after which time, natural controls usually keep the population below threshold level. Armyworms often feed at night and remain hidden in ground litter by day.

**Host plant preference** – Armyworms feed on a variety of forage crops but fescue, oats, rye, etc. are the major forage concerns. This is because these forages are actively growing in the spring when armyworms are active.

**Scouting** - Arkansas producers are encouraged to diligently scout their pastures and hayfields for armyworms. Examine at least 10 one sq. ft. samples at random across the field. Female armyworm moths prefer to lay eggs in areas of abundant growth, be sure to include a few of these areas in your 10 samples.

**Control** – Chemical control is usually needed when 3 or more worms per square foot are found. Read label instructions and follow harvesting and grazing restrictions. Below is list of insecticides used to control armyworms.

## True Armyworm - *Pseudaletia unipuncta*

### True Armyworm Adults



### True Armyworm Larvae



### Key Characteristics of Larvae



Brown net-like pattern on head

Insecticide	Form/Acre	Lb ai/Acre	Acres/Gal	Comments
Mustang Max (R) (9.6% zeta-cypermethrin)	2.8-4.0 oz	0.0175-0.025	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).
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.
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.
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.
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.
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

(R) = Restricted use pesticide