

General Conditions

Soil Temperature: 55 degrees taken from a silt loam soil and 55 degrees taken from a sandy soil on Monday March 30 two inches deep at 9:00 am.

Weather: A slow rain of about 2 inches came in earlier this week. This saturated the soil because there wasn't much runoff and really made some muddy nasty conditions. Rain today is not helping the situation. High temperatures got back up to the 70's by the end of this week. Those temperatures are forecasted for all of next week. The lows are staying in the 50's.

Arkansas River: The river came up to 272 but we are down to 270 today. The prediction is for the river to stay about this level the rest of the week. Backwater has land along the Cadron flooded. The rain that came earlier this week has several acres in Lollie under water.

Row Crop

Wheat: Wheat this week ranged from Feeke's Growth Stage 8 to 10.1. The first heads have emerged from the earliest planted fields. All of the fields remain clean from disease, but these conditions are not ideal for that to continue. Wheat does not like wet feet, and the disease loves it. We need drier weather to get good yields. Every day it stays wet like this we are losing yield and increasing possible disease.

Rice: I saw some posts on social media this week of rice getting water seeded in southeast Arkansas. I sure hope it doesn't come down to that for us, but if it doesn't start drying up soon we will be looking at that option. Glyphosate remains a great burndown for rice, but I have seen some trouble getting big ryegrass. When that happens, all we can rely on is paraquat.

Corn: I am ready to plant corn. If conditions were dry right now, I think we would have planters going. Hopefully we will dry up soon and get back in the fields. Remember, we can plant up to May 1st with 100% yield potential with Bt hybrids and irrigation. Once you plant, remember to come back with Dual or Zidua. Don't get in such a hurry that you let these applications get away from you.

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

Warm Season Forages: Just a few things about warm season hay fields and pastures. You still have time to get a soil test done. We don't fertilize warm season pastures until the end of April to early May. You have time to get in a soil test and get the information back if you get it in soon. I know this rain isn't helping with soil sampling. If you do take one and it is wet, just let it air dry a couple of days before bringing to the office. Put samples in a ziplock plastic bag with your information on it and drop it in our soil sample drop box in front of the office.

We still have time for winter weed control. If you have a bermuda based forage field, half an ounce of metsulfuron (Patriot) is the best option for control of many of the winter weeds you are battling. Adding a pint of 2,4-D could help boost weed control. We have enough green up now that glyphosate shouldn't be an option. Also, don't use metsulfuron on bahia. If you have bahia, then a pint to quart of 2,4-D is your best option.

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. 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.

The office of Plant Industries Pesticide Section has received numerous requests from licensees regarding extensions for license renewals, which expire on March 31, 2020. Considering the State's COVID-19 response and the Governor's call for social distancing, pursuant to EO 20-06 all Private Applicator license expiring on March 31, 2020, will be extended until April 16, 2020. Private Applicators should continue submitting applications and payment to the Department of Agriculture during this time frame to ensure their license will be renewed on or before April 16, 2020.

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.

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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