

## General Conditions

**Weather:** A good rain came through yesterday and provided some good moisture to parts of the county. I have heard anywhere from 0.25 to 1 inch. This was a relief for some of the row crops areas as we were needing rains on some small soybeans. I know several acres of hay was down and got wet, but I am not going to complain about a rain in July. We could see another rain tomorrow, but after that it looks like we are going to be in the summer groove of hot days and little to no rain.

**Arkansas River:** The river continues to sit at 250 feet and is predicted to stay there for the rest of next week.

## Row Crop

**Corn:** Corn is really looking good around the county. We are between R2 and R3 on growth stages. Irrigation started earlier this week and even though we got this good rain, we need to look at starting those pivots back up Monday. I still haven't found any southern rust in the county, but the disease has been found in the state. Dr Travis Faske confirmed fields in Lincoln and Jefferson counties have southern rust at very low levels. I will continue to monitor fields in the county but hopefully if we do get rust it will be late enough in the year that we can out run it.

Total Heat Units Accumulated Since April 18	Heat Units Accumulated July 3 – July 10
1844	206

**Rice:** Most of the fields are hitting midseason with some of the earlier planted fields getting close to mid boot. Mid boot is the stage when we can see the tip of the flag leaf starting to emerge. The head is about middle way up the stalk. At this point we are roughly 2 weeks from 50 percent heading. This is our timing for propiconazole fungicides if you want to control kernel smut and false smut. Diamond and CLL15 are both rated susceptible to kernel smut, while PVL01 is rated very susceptible. Diamond and PVL01 are both very susceptible to false smut. If sheath blight is showing up at this time, you can switch to Quilt Xcel and get both diseases. But if sheath blight comes in late you may be looking at two applications.

Dr. Jarrod Hardke's 16<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Rice Update: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/Arkansas%20Rice%20Update%207-2-20.pdf>

DD50 program: <https://dd50.uaex.edu/>

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>

**Soybeans:** The rain that came through yesterday was a blessing for several acres of soybeans. We had some very small beans out there that needed some moisture and this rain will make them shoot up. This will allow some of the earlier planted beans to go ahead and get enough size on them that they can take irrigation. I have noticed several loopers as I sweep fields, but we are nowhere near enough damage to justify control. I also found a few small corn earworms, but again we are well below threshold.

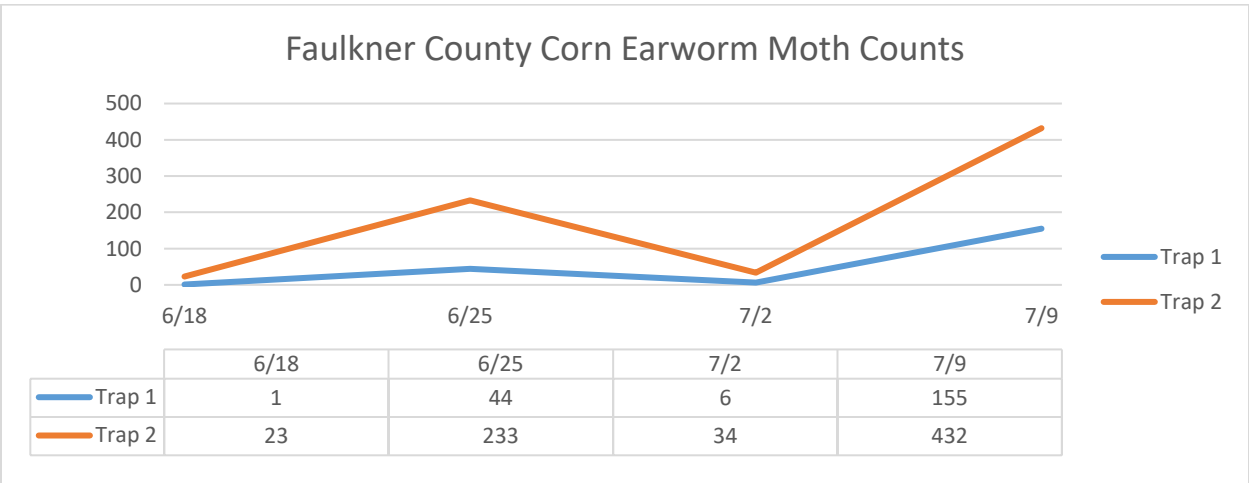
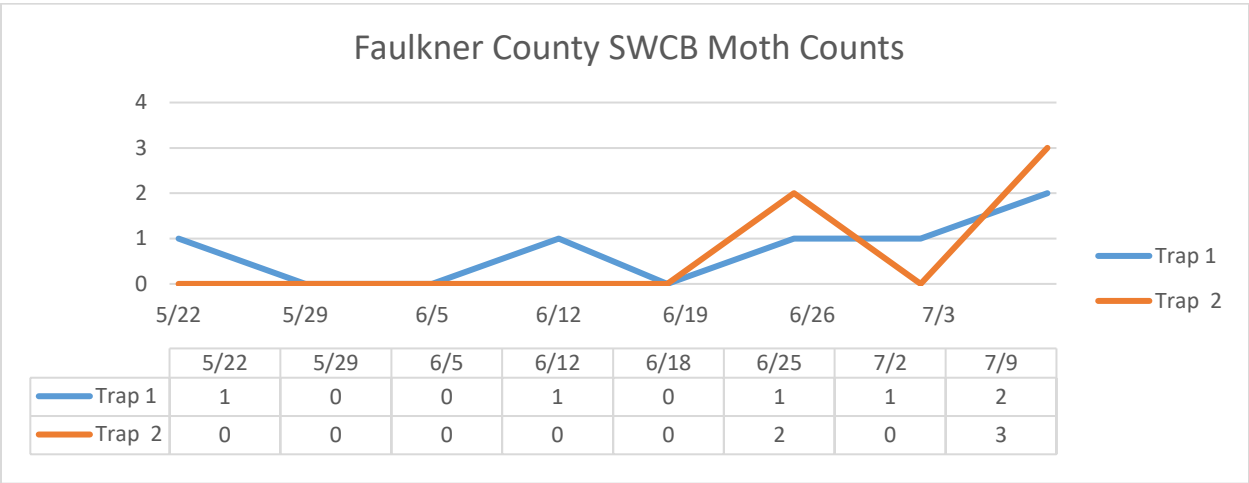
We continue to learn how to use Enlist. We are seeing some burn when Liberty is added to the mix. I have seen fields with just some speckling all the way up to leaves falling off they were burnt so bad. I think something that is contributing to damage is spraying small beans in the heat of the day. That seems to be adding to the damage. The common theme to all this is that the beans have grown out of all that damage. The one thing I think we can all agree on is the weed control is excellent. Cutoffs to remember are Enlist and glyphosate can be applied up to R2 (full flowering), and Liberty up to R1 (beginning bloom). Remember as we spray beans to watch out for surrounding rice fields. Rice is in a sensitive stage to even a drift rate of glyphosate right now.

**SRVP (Soybean Research Verification Program) Field:** We were at V6 this week. The application of Enlist One and Interline worked really well. We killed almost every weed we had out there. It was a short lived victory though, the rain we received last weekend started a new flush of morningglories and coffeebean. We will be looking at an Enlist One plus glyphosate application late next week for control of the new flush of weeds and to finish off a few big pigweeds. This hopefully will get us to lapping. The rain we received yesterday was perfect timing. Our moisture sensors showed we were just a few days from an irrigation but the rain zeroed out all of the sensors.

#### **Moth Trap Counts for this week:**

We had a huge flight of earworm moths this week. Both traps had a huge catch. Most of these moths are coming out of corn, but we need to be on the lookout in soybeans.

<b>SWCB Trap 1:</b> 2	<b>Corn Earworm Trap 1:</b> 155
<b>SWCB Trap 2:</b> 3	<b>Corn Earworm Trap 2:</b> 432



**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**

**Hay:** Hay harvest continues across the county. As we continue with the second harvest, we need to be thinking about fertilization. As far as potash goes, any potash that is applied will stay in the field until it rains. Nitrogen on the other hand could be a problem. As nitrogen lays on the ground you slowly start losing the amount of nitrogen that will be available to that plant. The two main fertilizers used for nitrogen are urea and ammonium nitrate. Urea is 46% nitrogen while ammonium nitrate is 34%. So when you are applying an amount of actual nitrogen you have to use about 30% more ammonium nitrate to be equal to urea. With the

cost of both fertilizers right now that makes urea much more cost effective. Also urea is easier to find at fertilizer suppliers than ammonium nitrate.

One advantage of ammonium nitrate is that its nitrogen will stay available longer than urea if there isn't a rain. Urea's nitrogen is in the form of ammonium. These ammonium molecules are prone to be released and potentially lost to the atmosphere through a process called volatilization. This loss is usually when temperatures are in the mid-70s or above and when there is limited rainfall to dissolve the fertilizer and get it into the soil solution. When the urea remains on the soil surface an enzyme called urease breaks the urea down, releasing the ammonia gas into the atmosphere. Research has shown up to 40% of the nitrogen can be lost through this process if you don't get a rain within about 7-10 days. There are a few things you can do to protect yourself against that loss. If you add an NBPT urease inhibitor like Agrotain to the urea you can get an additional 7-10 days of protection from losing your nitrogen. So instead of needing a rain within 7 days, you can stretch that to 14 to 20 days. Also something else you could do is simply apply more urea. If you lose 40% of your nitrogen, then add another 40 pounds of urea per 100 pounds you are applying. That sounds like a lot but depending on the price of a urease inhibitor or ammonium nitrate, it might be cost comparative.

**Hay and Pasture Insects:** I found the first evidence of bermudagrass stem maggot in the county. I have been monitoring two fields weekly with sticky traps and sweeping with an insect net. I have one field in Lollie and one in the Vilonia area. The field at Lollie had two flies on one of the sticky traps. This means we need to step up the scouting process. As the next cutting of bermudagrass grows, keep an eye out for damage. Damage caused by the bermudagrass stem maggot results from larval stages (maggots) feeding in the shoot causing the top two or three leaves to die. Lower leaves remain alive and unaffected by the maggot's feeding. Because of the death of the top couple of leaves, the plant (and field, if heavily infested) may exhibit a frosted appearance. Damage has been mistaken for armyworms before. If you start seeing the tops of your grass dead, give me a call.

Still no armyworms in the county. Please keep scouting and let me know if you see any.

**Sedges in Pastures and Hayfields:** I am getting several calls on sedges in pastures and hayfields. Sedges love wet and low areas. There are several species of sedges out there but common ones we see are yellow nutsedge and cylindrical sedge. Sometimes people call them nutgrass. An easy way to identify a sedge is by the triangle stem. Sedges are present this year because of the wet spring we had. Some of the sedges I have looked at infested fields after the flood last year. No matter how they got there, they can be a problem and not an easy fix. The two herbicides out there for sedges are Outrider and Permit. Both can be applied at 1 to 1.33 ounces per acre. The thing to remember with these herbicides are that they are very slow. It takes them a while to work.

## **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.



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