

## General Conditions

**Weather:** The weather was really kind to us this week. Some parts of the county were getting rains here and there, but some places were extremely dry. A system came through Wednesday and a good general rain fell slowly all over the county. I have heard anywhere from 0.7 inches to 3.2 inches of rain fell across the county. This was a lifesaver for the majority of the county. This will allow small beans to lap the middles and will be a good start for a third harvest on hay in the county. Temperatures are forecasted to be a little lower next week with more rain forecasted.

## Row Crop

**Corn:** Most of the corn in the county is between R4 and R5 which is dent. Starting at R5, the starch line will start progressing down the kernel and we can start trying to time irrigation termination. It takes about 24 days for corn to go from R5 to R6 which is black layer. So corn that is sitting at R5 today has about 14 to 21 more days of irrigation left. Fields at R4 are probably looking more at 21 to 28 days. Rains like this week really help, but remember that an inch of rain only lasts three days. Pivots can really get behind this time of year, so I would be starting pivots as soon as the ground dries up and keep them running. If you are row irrigating you have a little more time to get back to it.

Southern rust continues to be the elephant in the room. I feel like we are going to outrun it in most fields, but in some of the late planted fields I am a little nervous. As much as that rain was perfect for most crops, it wasn't a good thing for corn. That kind of weather will blow up southern rust very quickly. Anything between R1 and R3 needs to be monitored closely.

Total Heat Units Accumulated Since April 18	Heat Units Accumulated July 18 – July 24
2269	210

**Rice:** The first heads of the season are starting to emerge from the first planted fields. This is always an exciting time, it seems like you can start to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The majority of the fields are between mid to late boot. So within the next two weeks the majority of the crop will be headed. Sheath blight continues to be a mystery to me this year. I have found a spot here and there but nothing to get too excited about. We are about to get to the

stage where I am not going to be worried about it anymore. I have found blast on some Provisia, and we are treating it with a fungicide, but that is the only place I have seen blast. As we move on from the disease concerns we move into insect season. You never know how it will go, but I have a feeling we are going to battle stink bugs this year. I walked a field yesterday and found stink bug egg masses hatching in three different spots in the field. That's scary to me. The great River Valley Stink Bug War is about to begin!

Dr. Jarrod Hardke's 18<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Rice Update: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/Arkansas%20Rice%20Update%207-17-20.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:** This rain was perfect for the majority of soybeans in the county. We should see a big growth jump allowing small beans to lap the middles and help us with weed control. The Enlist system continues to show amazing results. As I drove around the county this week I noticed the difference between this year and a year ago. You don't see many pigweeds at all compared to last year. We need to finish up these last few applications and get ready for insects. I have established an Enlist Herbicide Demonstration just north of Schaefer's barn. I wanted to make my first application this week, but the rain kept me out of the field. I hope to get it done the next couple of days with follow up applications in two weeks. This same demonstration will be replicated in Conway and Perry County.

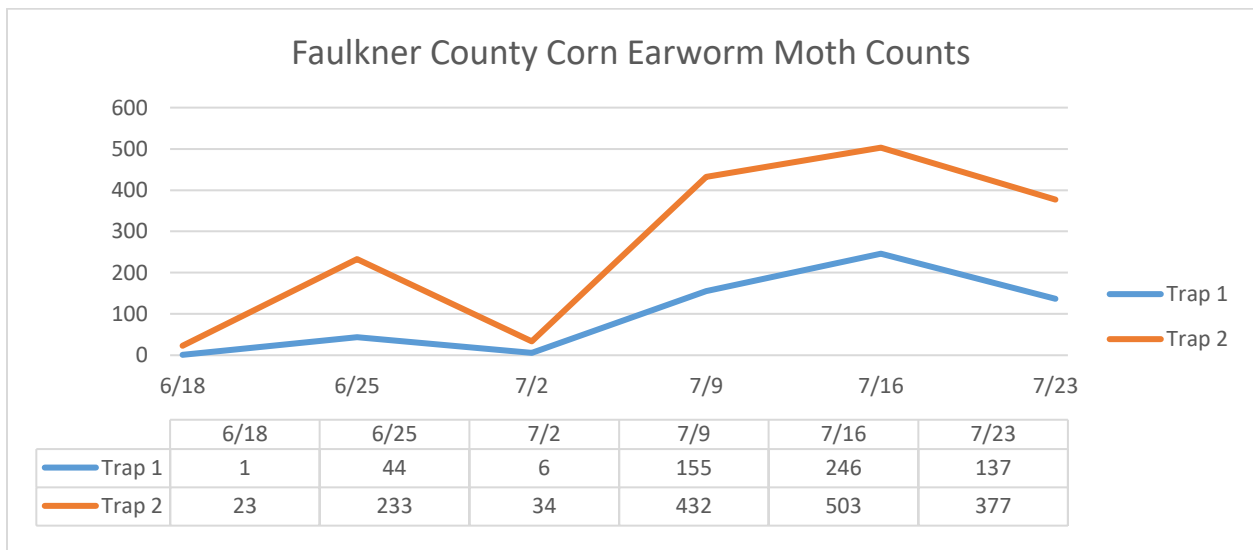
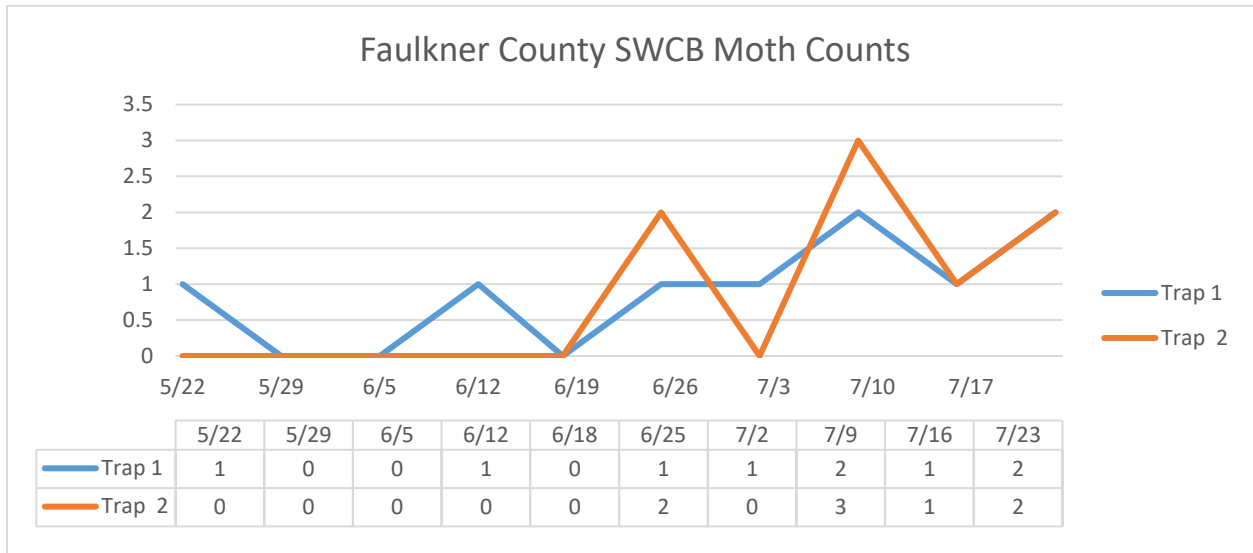
I continue to find corn earworms in small beans that haven't started flowering yet. Treatment threshold for these beans would be 40% defoliation. The most defoliation I have seen so far is 15%, with big worms in the beans. I feel like they should cycle out and this rain will push those beans on past that damage. Also, the damage seems to be contained to certain fields. I had one field that I walked across the turn row and no worms. Moth trap counts fell this week so it looks like we are in a lull in populations. So maybe we missed this first round with little or no damage.

**SRVP (Soybean Research Verification Program) Field:** The verification field was at R1 this week. We received 0.6 inches of rain last Sunday and 3.2 inches Wednesday. This was a great rain, but it did put a wrinkle in our herbicide recommendation. We are currently waiting for the field to dry to apply one last application of Enlist One and glyphosate. If we can get that out before the rains start next week we will be sitting in the driver's seat for sure. Insect and disease pressure continues to be low. We just found a few loopers this week and nothing else.

**Moth Trap Counts for this week:**

After two big earworm moth catches we saw the numbers dip this week. This is good news as early planted beans will start putting on pods before long.

**SWCB Trap 1: 2      Corn Earworm Trap 1: 137**  
**SWCB Trap 2: 2      Corn Earworm Trap 2: 377**



## **Beef & Forage**

**Hay and Pastures:** The rain this week was perfect timing for a lot of hay fields and pastures. I noticed some fields were really starting to be effected by the lack of moisture and heat. A few hayfields had fertilizer waiting to be incorporated. That rain should allow us to have a decent next cutting. Keep an eye on the forecast for next week. If you haven't applied any fertilizer after your last hay cutting, next week may be a good time to get some out. Make sure you add some potash to your mix.

Another thing I would be looking at is extra fertilizer on pastures. When you get a soil test recommendation for summer pastures, there is always a note that says apply 60 pounds of nitrogen every 4 to 6 weeks for higher production. This recommendation is perfect for situations like next week. I would be looking at applying 100 to 130 pounds of Urea on pastures to help boost summer grazing.

**Hay and Pasture Insects:** Armyworm accounts are increasing in the county. I know of two bermudagrass hay fields in the southern part of the county that were sprayed this week. I found just a few very small ones in a hayfield close to Vilonia. I think we are about to see them increase so keep an eye out for them.

Continue to watch for damage caused by the bermudagrass stem maggot. The flies are still on the increase. If you see some kind of damage in your bermudagrass let me know and we can determine if it is from armywroms or stem maggot.

## **Poor hay crop?**

### **John Jennings, Professor and Forage Specialist**

The 2020 hay season has been fickle at best. Early cool weather was great for fescue, ryegrass, and clover, but unfortunately rainy weather caused harvest delays leading to low hay quality due to the advanced forage maturity. Cool temperatures also delayed early growth of bermudagrass and other warm-season forages causing yields to be lower than normal at this point of the summer. Many producers have experienced poor hay yields this year. Conversations eventually turn to options for more hay or to reduce the hay requirement this winter. Based on University of Arkansas research, several options can be considered for fall and winter forage that can stretch that short hay crop. Many of these options have been proven in the 300 Days Grazing Program. Recently a producer commented that he thought the 300 Days Grazing Program only worked in north Arkansas. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Actually, most of the forage practices can be implemented more easily in SOUTH Arkansas due to the forage base and climate. Dr. Paul Beck's research at the SWREC station at Hope conclusively showed that adding three simple practices to a bermudagrass pasture base can

extend a grazing season to well over 300 days. But, each of those practices require advance planning so don't wait until you need forage to realize you didn't start soon enough. Here are ten forage options that can extend the grazing season based on our research and demonstrations. Many of them can be planted in mixtures to gain a longer productive season. For example, spring oats or forage brassica can be mixed with annual ryegrass. The oats or brassica provide fall grazing and the ryegrass provides grazing the next spring. Seeding rates of each species in a mixture can be reduced by 25-50% to achieve a final seeding rate per acre. Generally nitrogen fertilizer should be applied at the time of planting at 50 lbs N per acre. Consider rotational or strip grazing to get more grazing days per acre. To calculate pasture set up for strip grazing or paddock size for your preferred pasture rotation, see our new calculators online at <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/animals-forages/pastures/forage-calculators.aspx>. Check with your county extension office for more details.

### **Warm-season forage options for fall grazing**

1. Stockpiled bermudagrass:
  - Starting date: Clip or graze field by Aug. 1
  - Fertilizer: 50-60 lbs N/acre before Aug. 15
  - Fall Yield: 3,000 to 4,000 lbs/acre
  - Potential grazing start date: Oct. 15
2. Browntop millet (earliest maturing warm-season annual)
  - Planting date: Aug. 20 to Sep. 1
  - Seeding rate: 25 lbs/acre
  - Planting method: Tilled seedbed or drilled into suppressed sod
  - Fall Yield: 2,500 lbs/acre
  - Potential grazing start date: Oct. 1
3. Sorghum/sudan
  - Planting date: Aug. 20 to Sep. 1
  - Seeding rate: 25 lbs/acre
  - Planting method: Tilled seedbed or drilled into suppressed sod
  - Fall Yield: 3,000 to 3,500 lbs/acre
  - Potential grazing start date: Oct. 15
4. Pearl millet
  - Planting date: Aug. 20 to Sep. 1
  - Seeding rate: 25 lbs/acre
  - Planting method: Tilled seedbed or drilled into suppressed sod
  - Fall Yield: 3,000 to 3,500 lbs/acre
  - Potential grazing start date: Oct. 15
5. Corn
  - Planting date: Aug. 20 to Sep. 1
  - Seeding rate: 50 lbs/acre
  - Planting method: Tilled seedbed or drilled into suppressed sod

- Fall Yield: 2,600 to 3,200 lbs/acre
- Potential grazing start date: Oct. 15

### **Cool-season forage options for fall/winter grazing**

#### 6. Stockpiled fescue

- Starting date: Clip or graze field by Sep. 1
- Fertilizer: 50-60 lbs N/acre before Sep. 15
- Fall Yield: 2,000 to 3,500 lbs/acre
- Potential grazing start date: Dec. 1

#### 7. Spring oats

- Planting date: Aug. 20 to Sep. 15
- Seeding rate: 100 lbs/acre
- Planting method: Tilled seedbed or drilled into suppressed sod
- Fall Yield: 2,200 to 3,700 lbs/acre
- Potential grazing start date: Nov. 15

#### 8. Cereal rye or wheat

- Planting date: Aug. 20 to Sep. 15
- Seeding rate: 100 lbs/acre
- Planting method: Tilled seedbed or drilled into suppressed sod
- Fall Yield: 1,200 to 2,000 lbs/acre
- Potential grazing start date: Dec. 1

#### 9. Ryegrass

- Planting date: Aug. 20 to Sep. 15
- Seeding rate: 25 lbs/acre
- Planting method: Tilled seedbed or drilled into suppressed sod
- Fall Yield: 450 to 1,100 lbs/acre
- Potential grazing start date: Dec. 1

#### 10. Forage brassica

- Planting date: Aug. 20 to Sep. 15
- Seeding rate: 5 lbs/acre
- Planting method: Tilled seedbed or drilled into suppressed sod
- Fall Yield: 1,900 to 2,900 lbs/acre
- Potential grazing start date: Oct. 20

### **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**

Rice Field Day - Virtual rice field day on Aug. 20 at 6 p.m. Presentations will be followed by a live Q&A. More information will be available soon.



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## Fall Armyworm Management and Recognition

Severe fall armyworm (FAW) outbreaks result in significant forage and hay production losses. Fall-time infestations may also prevent establishment of newly emerged winter annuals. Damage often appears quickly because infestations are easily overlooked when caterpillars are small and eating very little. Beginning as early as June, damaging fall armyworm populations may occur in Arkansas.

**Host Plant preference** – FAWs feed on variety of forages but often prefer lush well-fertilized bermudagrass and threaten newly emerged small grains and ryegrass.

**Scouting** - Pastures and hayfields should be diligently scouted for FAWs. Examine at least 10 one sq. ft. samples at random across the field. Female FAW moths prefer to lay eggs in areas of abundant growth, be sure to include a few of these areas in your 10 samples.

Insecticide	Form/ Acre	Lb ai/ Acre	Acres / Gal	Comments
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) -22.1% 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.
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).
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 & 4.03% lambda-cyhalothrin)	6-9 oz.	0.059-0.088	14-21	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application.
Tank Mix – Lambda-cy (R) and Dimilin (R) (22% diflubenzuron)	3.8 lc + 2.0 oz. d	0.03 lc 0.031 d	33 64	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application. Dimilin is an IGR. Add crop oil when air temp is high and humidity low.
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.
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.
Blackhawk (20% spinosad) Tracer (44.2% spinosad)	1.1-2.2 oz. 1-2 oz	.033-0.056	7-14lb. 64-128	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 3 days of application.

(R) = Restricted use pesticide. Products in the shaded area of the table provide 2-4 weeks of residual activity.

**Control** – Chemical control is usually needed when 2 or 3 worms per square foot are present. Read label instructions and follow all harvesting and grazing restrictions. In situations where mixed-sized worms are present, strongly consider using products with longer residual activity. Insecticide options for FAW control are listed in the table. "Managing Armyworms in Pastures and Hayfields" is available at <http://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/FSA-7053.pdf> and the Insecticide Recommendations for Arkansas at <http://www.uaex.edu/publications/mp-144.aspx>.

### Fall Armyworm - *Spodoptera frugiperda*



Fall Armyworm Adults  
Fall Armyworm Larvae



### Key Characteristics of Larvae



Dr. Kelly Lottin, Entomologist, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture, and County Governments Cooperating. The University of Arkansas System Office of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and Equal Opportunity Employer. Mention of trade names implies no endorsement of named products or criticism of products not named.