

Faulkner County Agriculture Update

June 12, 2020

General Conditions

Weather: Tropical Storm Cristobal hit us head on, but luckily didn't pack much of a punch. Most areas of the county received 2.5 inches of rain, which given the circumstances was not that bad. With warm weather and blowing wind the rest of the week, things are drying up quickly. The forecast is another week of dry warm weather with rain forecasted the week after next. This will give us time to finish up planting and hay harvest.

Arkansas River: I am surprised at how low the river continues to get. Seems like forever since I have seen it this low. Today it is at 258.8 ft and predicted to fall to 254 by Wednesday.

Row Crop

Corn: Corn is looking great around the county considering all of the rain it has had on it. Early planted fields are up to V11 and have a great deep green color. We have a lot of wavy, uneven fields but that is the hand we have been dealt. Once corn is stunted by water, it doesn't catch up. But we have done everything we can do to promote the best yields. Weather makes or breaks corn and this year weather has decided to be hard on us. Make sure all of your irrigation is ready to go. Starting next week we are going to be in full irrigation mode. Also next week we should start looking at pre tassel nitrogen applications. After about 1100 heat units you should be at V12 to V14 which is perfect pre tassel timing.

Total Heat Units Accumulated Since April 18	Heat Units Accumulated June 6 – June 12
1061	183

Rice: Overall rice in Faulkner County looks pretty darn good. There is a wide range of planting dates anywhere from flooded to just being seeded. Producers are growing Diamond, CLL15, Gemini and PVL01.

We continue to get closer to fertilizing and flooding fields. The earliest planted fields were flooded this week. Remember to go into the flood clean. If you need to make one last herbicide application, then do it. The weed war in rice this year has been a challenge, but we can't give up.

Dr. Jarrod Hardke's 12th Arkansas Rice Update: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/Arkansas%20Rice%20Update%206-5-20.pdf>

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

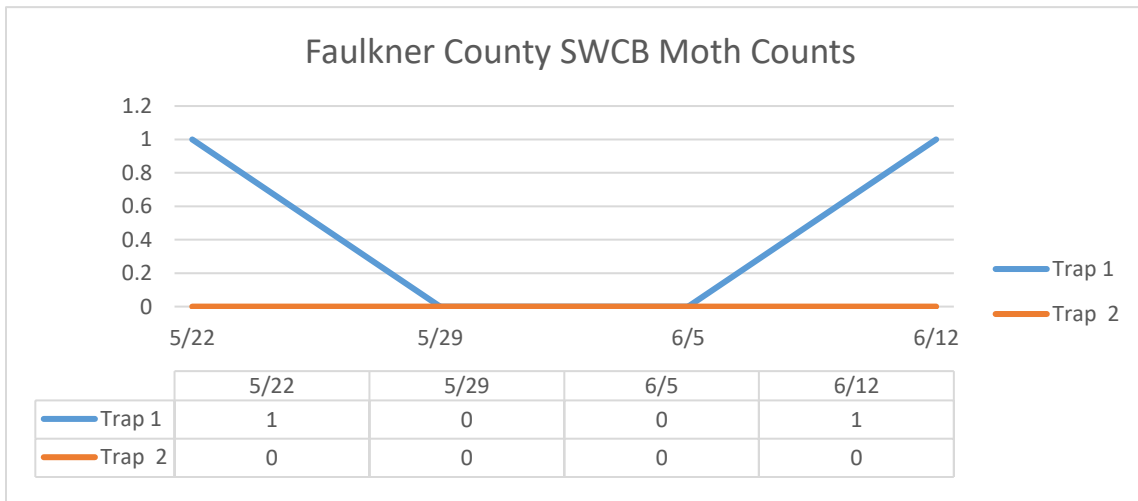
2020 Managing Water-Seeded Rice for Arkansas: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/2020%20Managing%20Water-Seeded%20Rice%20in%20Arkansas.pdf>

Soybeans: We are finally getting some soybeans in the ground. The first planted fields look like they have a pretty good stand. We planted the soybean verification field last week and we are monitoring the emergence. Hopefully next week we can get some stand counts. Go into your soybean crop clean and with a good pre herbicide. If possible use metribuzen. There are several different mixes that include metribuzen, and they all work good. There are already corn earworms in the non Bt corn around the county, so keep an eye out for worms on small beans. I will be establishing some corn earworm moth traps next week to start monitoring populations.

Wheat: Wheat harvest started this week. Yields seem to be decent but not busting the bin. Hopefully we can wrap it up next week and get soybeans planted.

Moth Trap Counts for this week:

SWCB Trap 1: 1



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: Several producers got in their first harvest last week before the tropical storm. I know a few producers that decided to wait until after the storm to harvest. After fields were harvested and the hay was moved you could tell the grass was moving on. That is a good sign for the second cutting. Go ahead and get your fertilizer out once the ground dries up. We need to shoot for the next harvest to be around 28 days after the first.

Hay and Pasture Insects: Even though the tropical storm didn't dump a lot of rain on us we need to be on the lookout for something that it might have moved up here, and that is armyworms. Armyworms don't overwinter in Arkansas, they are usually moved in on storms from the Gulf. We have been armyworm free the last couple of years, but we don't need to relax. Keep an eye on all of your pastures and hay and contact me if you see any suspect worms.

I have several traps out monitoring bermudagrass stem maggot in the county. I have yet to catch any flies, but I will be reestablishing my traps this week. I had to pull them up for harvest. If we do start seeing flies, be ready to spray bermudagrass hay fields.

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.



Kevin Lawson

County Extension Agent – Staff Chair, Faulkner County

University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service

Email – klawson@uaex.edu