

General Conditions

Weather: The weather cooperated this week for the most part. We had several acres of hay harvested, soybeans planted and some corn fertilized. Rain came in Wednesday, but it depended on where you were on how much you got. I have heard anywhere from a tenth to half an inch. It was just enough to mess things up. Luckily, we missed the big rain yesterday (Thursday). I know the northern part of the county got a shower late Thursday afternoon, but for the most part we missed it. We have a couple more days of good weather then all eyes turn to the tropical storm that looks like it will track right through the middle of Arkansas. This could be a game changer. Hopefully we will be on the side of it that doesn't receive that much rain. Fingers are crossed!

Arkansas River: The river sits at 267.6 feet right now according to the charts, and it is forecasted to drop to 258 by Tuesday. It really looks higher than that to me, but I will go with the experts. If it does drop to 258, that will be the lowest it has been in a long time. Again, fingers crossed!

Row Crop

Corn: Corn is starting to jump and enjoying the hot sunny weather. The water holes are really showing up now and we can see the damage all of the rain caused. There are several acres of drowned out areas and yellow spots where corn is trying to come back. Weed control has been tricky, but producers did a good job cleaning up some messes. The latest planted corn received fertilizer applications this week. Be prepared for irrigation, which is not far off.

Another big week of heat unit accumulation. This is when grass crops like corn and rice take off and start growing.

Total Heat Units Accumulated Since April 18	Heat Units Accumulated May 30 – June 5
878	173

Rice: We have a few fields that are ready for nitrogen, but just when we get ready to fertilize and flood, we get enough rain to mess things up again. We are getting to the point on a few fields that we are going to have to make some tough decisions. Do we put fertilizer on muddy soil? Do we put it in the water? I think these are all field by field decisions and we will do the best we can.

One good thing about this weather is that it grows great rice. Walking fields today reminded me of the great growing conditions we have. We just need to get some herbicide and fertilizer on it and this rice crop is about to take off.

Dr. Jarrod Hardke's 11th Arkansas Rice Update: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/Arkansas%20Rice%20Update%205-29-20.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>

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 Quality Sampling: This week was a big week for hay harvest. Several acres were cut this week and we are hurrying to finish up before the rain sets in next week. If you plan on feeding hay on your farm it is a good idea to get a quality sample from each harvest. When you feed hay that hasn't been tested you are just taking a shot in the dark that the hay by itself will support your cattle's nutritional needs during the winter, or you may be spending money on supplementation that you don't need. It just costs \$20 to get a hay quality test and this could save you several dollars this winter. I would be happy to come and grab a test for anyone that needs it. Just give me a call. I would recommend pulling a sample at each harvest.

Fertilization: If you are done with this cutting and all the hay is off the field, think about getting some fertilizer out ahead of this system coming in next week. 100 pounds of urea plus a 100 pounds of potassium (0-0-60) to replace what you are taking off is a good start if you don't have a soil sample. That is the minimum I would apply. If you want to use triple 19, you need 300 pounds to the acre to get the same amount of nitrogen and potassium you would from just 100 pounds of urea and 100 pounds of 0-0-60.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Payments: CFAP sign up is still going on. All applications will go through the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The office will only be open via phone appointments (501-354-2000), so be sure to call them. For more information visit <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap/livestock>

Brucellosis: Just a reminder that we will not have a spring schedule this year and if you need your heifers vaccinated please call Ebert and he will come to your farm and vaccinated them for you.

If you have heifers that need brucellosis vaccinations call **Ebert McClure at 501-351-1000.**

2020 Census

The Faulkner County 4-H'ers have started a campaign to get as many people as possible in Faulkner County counted. The 2020 Census is very important to our county. The census will have a lasting economic impact on Faulkner County and we need everyone counted. If you haven't done your census yet go to <https://2020census.gov/> and fill it out. It only takes about 10 minutes to get counted.

Follow our 4-H'ers of Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Faulknercounty4H> for more information.

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.



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