

## Faulkner County Agriculture Update

March 20, 2020

### **Covid-19**

COVID-19 still remains the topic on everyone's mind. This past week we followed the order of the Faulkner County Judge and closed our office to public traffic. As of today, our agents will be working from home as ordered by our administration. Calls to the office (501-329-8344) will still go through our administrative assistant and she will send those calls on to us. If you have soil samples, we have a drop box in front of the office where you can leave samples. We ask that you use a plastic bag for the samples and make sure you mark your samples. Leave a note with your name and number and we will contact you to get your information.

We are still here to help you with any questions or needs that you may have. Anyone that needs me can call me 501-889-4575 or send me an email [klawson@uaex.edu](mailto:klawson@uaex.edu).

### **Pesticide Applicator Training**

The training that was scheduled for April 2 at the Extension Office has been cancelled. 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. As of right now, the training scheduled for May 19 at Morrilton has not been cancelled. I will keep you updated on that.

### **General Conditions**

This was a good old rainy week that produced around 1.85 inches of rain in the Conway area. We had a couple of really good rains that filled up ditches and water is still standing on several fields. It started off cold but we warmed back up at the end of the week. Things are starting to green up and grow for sure. There are rain chances next week but hopefully we can get a few dry days. With all the rain, the Arkansas River is up to 270 feet and rising. Minor flooding can occur at 275 feet but the prediction for right now is to crest at 272 feet by Saturday. Hopefully there won't be any more rain and it will start falling.

## **Row Crop**

**Wheat:** I walked wheat this week and it ranged from Feeke's Growth Stage 5 to 9. It has definitely taken up the first application of nitrogen. It has a good green color and is growing good. We need that second application soon though. I know most producers are on go to get it out, but we just need to catch a small dry spell.

### **Herbicide Selection at Planting for Rice and Corn Acres:**

By Tom Barber, Extension Weed Scientist

I have had numerous calls and texts over the last week with questions about burndown herbicides and plant-back intervals. Although there is not much we can do about the rain (it will eventually stop), one thing we can do is be prepared and ready to roll when the weather clears. Regardless if early burndown programs were successful, there will likely be some weeds emerged by the time the fields dry out enough to plant. Many options exist for burndown applications just prior to or immediately following planting and recent updates on pre-plant intervals can be found in the MP-519 and sections of the MP-44 or Arkansas Rice Production Guide.

Most questions have been around 2,4-D and clethodim (Select) prior to planting rice or corn. Herbicide combinations containing 2,4-D and glyphosate (Roundup) are very common at burndown because they are cheap and control a wide range of winter annuals. Many 2,4-D labels indicate that plant-back intervals are 90 days or until dissipated for most crops. Some specific 2,4-D products may indicate 7-14 days prior to planting corn and 30 days prior to planting rice, depending upon rate applied. University data agrees that these are accurate for corn and rice to allow for the best crop safety. However, University data does suggest that cutting the interval back to 21 days following an inch of rainfall is sufficient for planting rice following 2,4-D applications. Some growers have said that they spray 2,4-D at planting and haven't seen any issues. I agree, sometimes you can get by with no waiting period, however many times planting prior to 21 days will result in poor, weak rice stands, especially if environmental conditions are already marginal for rice emergence. Every year I walk or get pics of poor rice stands following an application of 2,4-D too close to planting. Alternative herbicides should be considered if you absolutely will not wait to plant rice a minimum of 14 days (after 1in of rain) following a 2,4-D application, keeping in mind you may see some injury then.

FirstShot, Sharpen or Gambit mixed with roundup at planting provide good broadleaf knockdown and are good alternatives to 2,4-D for rice acres. Make selection based off of weeds present and historical weed issues on a field by field basis. For example, Sharpen may get most of these acres because of residual activity on pigweed. FirstShot can provide additional control of broadleaves but will not provide any residual following application. Gambit will aid in controlling a wide range of broadleaves with residual control, but will not help with most of our pigweed populations. It should go without saying that Command should be mixed with any at planting burndown application on all rice acres, for residual grass control.

Numerous options are available in corn, one of my favorites to mix with Roundup for burndown and residual is Verdict. Roundup + 10oz/A Verdict will kill most winter vegetation and provide 3 weeks residual, which sets the crop up nicely for the V3-V4 POST application. Alternatives would be atrazine, Acuron, Corvus, Leadoff and many others, but if a stand of corn fails, it will be more difficult to follow with soybean, especially if herbicides containing atrazine are used.

Gramoxone (paraquat) is a good option prior to planting any crop, if planting corn; atrazine should be mixed in for improved control of grasses and tough to kill broadleaves. If ryegrass is present, Gramoxone is really the best option other than clethodim (Select). Plant-back to clethodim is 30 days to rice and corn following 16oz Select Max (1lb ai/gallon) or 8oz clethodim generic (2lb ai/gallon). Know which formulation you are spraying to apply the appropriate rate. Leadoff (1.5oz/A) may control some populations of ryegrass in the state and is an option at planting for corn acres. Make sure the corn hybrid planted is not sensitive to ALS herbicides prior to using Leadoff at planting.

Always check specific herbicide labels for plant-back restrictions prior to planting.

**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**

**Impacts of COVID-19 on the Cattle Industry:** The University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture and the Arkansas Cattleman's Association have joined together to present a webinar on the impacts of COVID-19 on the cattle industry.

The webinar will be Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm. To register for the Zoom Webinar follow the link below.

Link to register for Zoom Webinar: <http://bit.ly/Impact-COVID-19-Cattlemen-Webinar>

**2020 Southeast U.S. Hay Harvest Survey:** This survey will be available until **March 27**.

**Please click on the link below to access the survey.** It should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. [https://uaex.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cLVmS7buxux288R](https://uaex.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cLVmS7buxux288R)

Arkansas Department of Agriculture Market Report Link:

<https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-market-reports>

## **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.



Kevin Lawson

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# Webinar: March 26 7PM

Register: <http://bit.ly/Impact-COVID-19-Cattlemen-Webinar>

## COVID-19 AND THE ARKANSAS CATTLE INDUSTRY

**UofA** DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
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