

Pesticide Applicator Training

I just wanted to remind everyone that 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. 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.

The Plant Board also released this statement yesterday: “The office of Plant Industries Pesticide Section has received numerous requests from licensees regarding extensions for license renewals, which expire on March 31, 2020. Considering the State’s COVID-19 response and the Governor’s call for social distancing, pursuant to EO 20-06 all Private Applicator license expiring on March 31, 2020, will be extended until April 16, 2020. Private Applicators should continue submitting applications and payment to the Department of Agriculture during this time frame to ensure their license will be renewed on or before April 16, 2020.”

General Conditions

Soil Temperature: 52 degrees. Taken from a silt loam soil on Thursday March 26 two inches deep.

Weather: Similar to last week, we started out really cool then by the end of the week we are having record highs. We had almost an inch of rain early in the week that has kept everything nice and wet. Just as we are getting dry the chance for rain is back in the forecast for tomorrow and Monday. We will only see highs in the 60’s next week which is a big change.

Arkansas River: The river started out at 272 earlier this week then fell to 269 today. With more rain predicted tomorrow and Monday the prediction is for the river to be back up to 270 by Tuesday. This means backwater will still be filling up the Cadron and low lying areas along the river.

Row Crop

Wheat: Wheat this week ranged from Feeke's Growth Stage 7 to 10. The second application of Urea was applied by plane on the majority of the wheat on Thursday. One good thing about the predicted rain is this will incorporate the nitrogen into the ground. All of the fields I looked at are clean from disease and insect pressure. A good rain to incorporate the nitrogen is good, but then we need it to dry up some to keep the disease pressure low.

Rice: The 2nd Arkansas Rice Update of 2020 is available here: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/Arkansas%20Rice%20Update%203-26-20.pdf> It includes information on current conditions, crop insurance coverage for furrow-irrigated rice, herbicide selection at planting, and rice markets. This information will also be posted to the Extension rice page (<http://uaex.edu/rice>) and the Arkansas Row Crops blog (<http://arkansas-crops.com>).

Corn: With these warm days it really makes me want to plant some corn. I am loving these temps and the feeling of being outside. We are getting close but that ground temperature is still just a little too cool for me. We need the ground temperature to be 55 degrees at 9:00 in the morning at 2 inches deep. There is nothing better for your yields than a uniform stand of corn that all comes up within 48 hours. With Bt corn, and good irrigation there is no need to be in a hurry right now to get it in the ground. Let this weather straighten out and be ready in a week or two. This is a good time to get the planters out and make sure everything is working. Also remember we need 20% refuge. Plant your refuge corn first.

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

Lice on Cattle: Lice are potential wintertime pests of several livestock species, especially stressed animals. In some cases, severe direct economic losses in cattle production caused by biting or sucking lice may occur. Heavy louse infestations add to the stress of cold weather, shipping, poor nutrition and internal parasite load. Lice are generally most abundant on animals during the period of greatest winter stress and continue through early spring.

Lice are winter pests because, generally, they do not survive well in the summer because hot temperatures are lethal. However, one or two percent of animals may serve as chronically infested "reservoir" animals. A few lice on the reservoir animals survive on cooler areas of the body such as the ear tips. As temperatures cool, lice may move onto uninfested animals. Crowded conditions that often occur at winter feed troughs exasperate this spread.

Lice are small (1/10 to 1/8 inch), wingless, species-specific external parasites of livestock and poultry. In cattle, one species of biting lice, the cattle biting louse (*Bovicola bovis*) and three species of sucking lice; the shortnosed cattle louse (*Haematopinus eurysternus*), the long-nosed cattle louse (*Linognathus vitula*), cattle tail louse (*Haematopinus quadriptusus*) and the little blue cattle louse (*Solenoptes capillatus*) occur. Sucking lice pierce the skin and suck blood while the biting lice move about on the animal chewing hairs, skin and secretions. Both types of lice are problems during the winter and early spring but as mentioned earlier reproduce year-round at least on some animals. Lice are spread from animal to animal by direct contact such as shipping or feeding. Animals infested with lice will have an unkempt coat, scaly skin and possibly raw areas on the skin. Infested animals will scratch and rub to relieve the itching caused by lice. Often in heavy infestations, clumps of hair will fall off. Weight loss or reduced weight gain can occur with heavy louse infestations.

Lice can produce multiple generations per year, thus allowing numbers to become high if uncontrolled. All louse stages (egg, nymph and adult) are found on the animal. Adult female lice glue eggs (called nits) to hairs, eggs hatch into nymphs in about 10 to 15 days, and after three molts, nymphs become adults. It requires about 1 month for an egg to develop into an adult. In cattle, light louse infestations are easily overlooked. Heavier infestations are easier to recognize by animals' rubbing and loss of hair. A louse population on cattle can be estimated by examining five one inch square areas on the face, face, dewlap, neck, back and base of the tail. Lice populations on cattle are usually categorized as very slight (less than 5 per square inch), slight (5-10 per square inch), moderate (10-20 per square inch), severe (20-50 per square inch) and very severe (over 50 per square inch).

Good nutrition usually reduces the negative effects of lice infestations on livestock and is the foundation of a louse control program. Sufficient nutrition will allow the animal to better deal with blood loss and irritation. Another very important component of lice prevention is to assume that all purchased or "new" animals are infested. With this said, new animals should be isolated from the rest of the herd until a full course of louse treatment is completed.

Insecticides used for louse control are divided into two major categories; systemic products and nonsystemic products for winter treatment of lice on cattle, selection of the right insecticide is crucial. If cattle were treated with systemic products (endectocide) containing doramectin, ivermectin or moxidectin at the appropriate time for cattle grubs, then endectocides can be used to control lice in the winter. Pour-on endectocides will kill both biting and chewing lice while injectable insecticides kill only sucking lice.

However, if cattle were not treated with a systemic insecticide for cattle grubs at the appropriate time, then non-systemic products should be used. Non-systemic insecticides effective against lice include the pyrethroids such as permethrin, cyfluthrin, zeta-cypermethrin, gamma-cyhalothrin, and lambda-cyhalothrin. Pour-on pyrethroids effective against lice include those containing permethrin, permethrin and diflubenzuron (an insect growth regulator), cyfluthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin and gamma-cyhalothrin. In addition, dust bags containing pyrethroids have shown efficacy against lice. Although organophosphate products containing

coumaphos, famphur, fenthion, phosmet and trichlorfon kill lice, they can exhibit systemic activity in treated animals. Remember to follow label directions and that not all insecticides labeled for use on beef cattle are registered for use on dairy cattle. To see a listing of insecticides available for louse control, consult the animal section of MP144, Insecticide Recommendations for Arkansas. <http://www.uaex.edu/publications/mp-144.aspx>

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

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.



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