

General Conditions

What an interesting week weather wise. All I can say is that it didn't go like I thought! Heavy rains predicted for Sunday and Monday resulted in 70 degree weather with no rain at all. We have had 11 straight dry days around the county. Things are really starting to dry up around here. I talked to some producers yesterday that said their place in northern Faulkner County was still wet, and I took some soil samples around some wet areas, but all in all, we are getting drier. Winds and sunshine go a long way. Now how long will this last? Right now we are looking at a good chance of rain on Monday. This wouldn't be a bad thing. We have some fertilizer out that needs to be incorporated. The Arkansas River stayed steady this week at 258 feet. Predictions are to keep falling the rest of the week.

Row Crop

Wheat: The majority of the wheat in the county received nitrogen fertilizer last Saturday. The intention was to fertilize and get the rain, but here we are still waiting on the rain. Hopefully we will get the one Monday. Tomorrow will be 7 days with no incorporation. With the cooler temperatures, we shouldn't have lost any nitrogen, but a rain sure would make me feel better.

Rice: I have seen a few pictures roaming around showing soil temperatures. I saw one the other day of 58 degrees at a depth of 2 inches. The recommended soil temperature for planting rice is 60 degrees at a depth of 4 inches. I know some people like putting in rice early and also we have a lot of rice to plant, but it is still just a tad early. The optimum planting date is April 1, but the earliest I would look at is March 20. Also, if you start putting out burndown herbicide applications, pay attention to plant back restrictions. Some products like 2,4-D have a 21 day plant back restriction after an inch of rain. We are probably 3 to 4 weeks out from planting, so be careful. I am including a link to the Row Crop Plant Back Intervals for Common Herbicides handout that may help you with any questions you have.

<https://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/MP519.pdf>

Corn: Same thing with corn as rice, the soil needs to warm up. We need to be at 65 degrees to think about planting corn. Also watch out for plant back on burndowns. Things like Select Max have a 30 day plant back. Remember to plant your non Bt corn first to try and avoid corn borer problems later on.

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

Fertilizing Summer Pastures and Hay Fields: It has been really nice out the last few days. It has warmed up and we can see a lot of green growing in the fields. It is still way too early to be thinking about fertilizing our summer pastures and hay fields. We need to save that application until the warm season grass we are targeting greens up. This first application is more historically late April to early May. Our target is when the night time temperatures are at 60 degrees for at least a week. That is when you get maximum use of your fertilizer investment. If you apply any kind of fertilizer right now, you will not have any nitrogen available for your grass when it greens up. What isn't taken up by weeds will be lost.

Weed Control: Weed control is the main input going out on pastures and hay fields right now. I have calibrated a few sprayers and seen several running the last couple of days. If you have bermudagrass I like a mix of 1 quart of glyphosate, ½ ounce of metsulfuron (Patriot) and 1 pint of 2,4-D. This is a relatively cheap mixture that gets a wide range of winter weeds. If you have bahiagrass, then don't use the mesulfuron, just the glyphosate and D. If you have white clover that you want to keep, then you are pretty much down to just 1 pint of 2,4-D per acre.

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training: Conway County will be hosting a BQA Training on March 17 starting at 5:30 at the Morrilton Vet Clinic. I will be teaching the training and if anyone from Faulkner County wants to attend they are more than welcome. Dr. Cy Shurtleff will do some chute side instruction after we go through the course. The program consists of a power point presentation followed by a short test.

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

Extension forage specialists with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and in the Southeast U.S. would like your help in gathering information on hay harvest methods and time required for harvesting hay to help develop more effective forage educational programs.

We would appreciate you taking the time to complete a survey regarding your hay harvest methods. If you do choose to participate, we appreciate your feedback and all information will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by applicable State and Federal law. By completing the survey, you are agreeing to allow the use of your responses for educational purposes. If you do not wish to complete the survey, your refusal to do so will have not any effect on your relationship with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. To opt out of taking the survey, simply do not complete the survey.

If you have questions or concerns about this study, you may contact John Jennings at (501) 671-2350 or by email at jjennings@uaex.edu. For questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please contact Ro Windwalker, the University's IRB Coordinator, at (479) 575-2208 or by e-mail at irb@uark.edu.

Information gathered from the survey will provide direct insights into current hay harvest practices, and allow us to better develop forage educational programs. Additionally, the information provided will be used to prioritize research and Extension outreach efforts moving forward to more effectively address your needs.

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.

Thursday, April 2, 2020

6:00 p.m. at Faulkner County Extension Office (844 Faulkner St, Conway)

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

6:00 p.m. at Workforce Training Center (Timberwolf Drive UACCM Campus, Morrilton, AR)

Complete Beekeeping Short Course: March 9, 16 and 25, 2020 at the First Presbyterian Church in Conway starting at 6:00 pm. Registration is \$30.

BQA Training: March 17, 2020 at the Morrilton Vet Clinic starting at 5:30.

Arkansas Cattleman's Association Area 7 Conference: March 24, 2020 at the Conway Expo Center starting at 5:00.

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.

Signing up for Text Alerts

If you would like to sign up for ag text alerts from the Extension Office go to www.uaex.edu/faulkner and click the sign up for text link or text the message **uaex FaulkCrop** or **uaex FaulkBeef** to **313131**



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