

## General Conditions

**Weather:** This was supposed to be a big week of rain, and it depended on where you were at on how much you actually got. I have heard anywhere from just an inch to over four inches. All in all I don't think it was as bad as originally predicted. The forecast for next week looks very promising. We are looking at the first harvest on a lot of hay acres and soybean planting should start soon. This could be the week we finally get several things done.

**Arkansas River:** The Arkansas River has many producers concerned. It was just a year ago that the historic flood crested at 285.4 ft. With the memories of last year still very fresh, everyone is on pins and needles worrying about another flood. Heavy rains to the west during this past week were concerning, but looking at the river forecast it should be back down to 269 by next Tuesday. It sits at 272 today, which is causing some minor problems, but nothing we can't live with. This is causing some back up into the Cadron, but hopefully it will be short lived. I think we dodged a major bullet.

## Row Crop

**Corn:** Corn has moved up to V6 this week. The clouds and rain are making corn look rough. We are having a hard time getting out herbicide applications and now we need to be looking at sidedress fertilizer. Hopefully we can get in and clean up a few of these fields this next week. Sun and warm weather will go a long way on this corn crop. Once you are done with sidedress and herbicide, start getting ready for irrigation. This corn is going to have a shallow root system so it may stress a lot quicker than normal. I know irrigation sounds crazy right now, but it will happen sooner than you think. Make sure pivots are ready to go or polypipe is placed on the rows. Power units need to be ready to start at a moment's notice.

The days are starting to get warmer and the heat units are really starting to add up. We accumulated 164 units this week which is the most in any week this year. If we could add sunshine to these warm days corn will really take off.

Total Heat Units Accumulated Since April 18	Heat Units Accumulated May 23 – May 29
705	164

**Rice:** I don't know what responded to warmer days more this week, the rice or the grass. Grass has jumped and we need to continue herbicide applications. Continue to use your residuals like Prowl and Facet to give us time to get to flood.

Preflood nitrogen rates for Diamond, PLV01 and CLL15 is 105 units of nitrogen which would be 230 pounds of Urea. Remember to add a urease inhibitor if it is going to take a long time to flood the field. This fertilizer needs to go out on dry soil and the flood started right behind it.

**Table 2. Nitrogen management strategies for different water-seeded rice situations.**

Situation	N Strategy
Dry Field prior to planting	Apply ammonium-N source onto dry soil and incorporate (PPI, 2-4 inches).
Field is drained for pegdown	Apply preflood N rate + 30% to account for N loss on muddy soil.
Field is drained at 5-leaf stage (preferred)	Apply normal preflood N rate to dry soil. Highest N use efficiency.
Continuous flood or no-till	Apply 100 lbs urea weekly beginning at 5-leaf stage totaling 3 to 4 applications.

Some of the water-seeded fields may require different strategies, especially if we stay wet. The table on the left gives the scenarios we could be facing with these fields this year.

If we can get the water off, dry the field and then apply the nitrogen that is the most efficient way. If we keep getting rains and the fields stay wet, we should consider 100 pounds of Urea at a time weekly in 3 to 4 applications.

Dr. Jarrod Hardke's 10<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Rice Update: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/Arkansas%20Rice%20Update%205-22-20.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**

**When to Harvest Hay:** No single factor affects the quality of hay or silage as much as the maturity of the forage when the mower is first pulled into the field. As plants mature, stem is increased in the total forage mass, and therefore, the leaf-to-stem ratio is reduced. Increased proportions of stem usually result in higher concentrations of fiber (usually measured as NDF and ADF) and lower concentrations of CP and digestible DM. Unfortunately, the management of forage crops is complicated by the need to allow adequate initial growth, and either adequate regrowth or harvest intervals (depending on the crop) to maintain plant vigor and the health of the stand. Clearly, these competing management concerns require some compromise.

Bermudagrass should generally be harvested in intervals of about four weeks during the growing season. Individuals wishing to market or feed bermudagrass hay of the highest quality may reduce this interval by a few days, but haying intervals of less than 22 days are very rare. The most rapid changes in fiber content and digestibility occur between the late boot and early bloom stages of growth. Producers should make every effort to harvest these crops at the best compromise between nutritive value and yield.

### **Effects of Maturity on Forage Quality (Bermudagrass Hay)**

<b>Growth Stage</b>	<b>Crude Protein</b>	<b>TDN</b>
Early Vegetative	16.0	61
Late Vegetative	16.5	54
15-28 Days Growth	16.0	55
29-42 Days Growth	12.0	50
43-56 Days Growth	8.0	43

**Department of Animal Science Co-Hosting Arkansas Beef Marketing Webinar:** The U of A System, Division of Agriculture, Department of Animal Science is teaming up with the Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association, the Arkansas Farm Bureau and the Arkansas Beef Council to host a webinar on Thursday, June 4, to cover the basics of a few need-to-know ideas for getting started with marketing beef directly off the farm. The webinar, Farm to Freezer – Direct Marketing Arkansas Beef, begins at 6:30 p.m. CST.

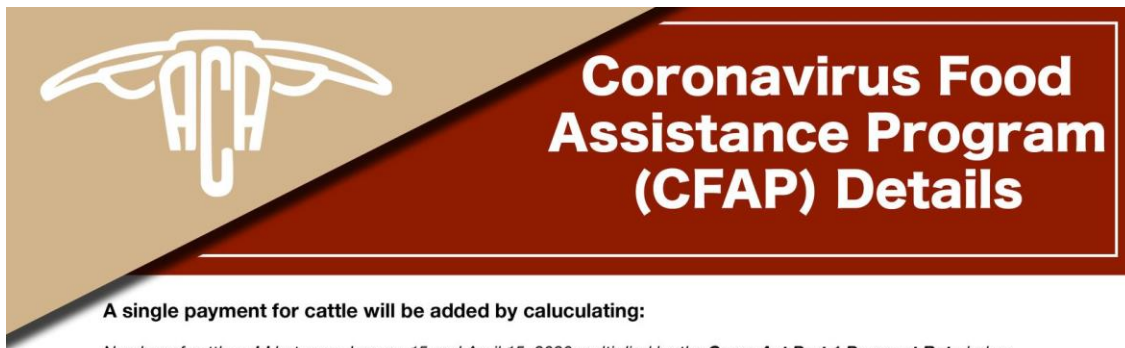
To register, please follow this link: <https://bit.ly/Direct-Marketing-AR-Beef-Webinar>

The webinar features four speakers who will cover information on feeding, inspection requirements for selling cattle versus beef, and developing a happy customer base.

Agenda:

- Shane Gadberry, U of A System, Division of Agriculture, Animal Science – Feeding Farm-Raised Cattle for Local Slaughter
- Janeal Yancey, U of A System, Division of Agriculture Animal Science – Carcass Perspective; how much product should I expect?
- Andy Shaw, CEO at Cypress Valley Meat Company – Do’s and Don’ts of a Processing Facility
- Kenny Simon, U of A System, Division of Agriculture Animal Science - Alternative Production – Pasture-raised Beef from a Producer Perspective

**Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Payments:** This week started the CFAP sign up. I have had a few calls about how to get signed up. 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>



A single payment for cattle will be added by calculating:

Number of cattle **sold** between January 15 and April 15, 2020 multiplied by the **Cares Act Part 1 Payment Rate** below.  
+ (plus)

The highest **inventory** number of cattle between April 16 and May 14, 2020 multiplied by the **CCC Part 2 Payment Rate** below.

Eligible Cattle	Unit of Measure	Cares Act Part 1 Payment Rate	CCC Part 2 Payment Rate
Feeder Cattle less than 600 pounds	Head	\$102.00	\$33.00
Feeder Cattle 600 pounds or more	Head	\$139.00	\$33.00
Slaughter Cattle Fed	Head	\$214.00	\$33.00
Slaughter Cattle Mature	Head	\$92.00	\$33.00
All other Cattle	Head	\$102.00	\$33.00

**\*Producers will receive 80% of calculated payment**

**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.**

## **Soils Lab and Soil Samples**

The soils lab is back open so we are taking soil samples again. The office remains closed to the public but we still have a drop box out front to leave your samples.

## **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](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.



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